

Council Meeting Minutes

3 March 2025

Our Vision

*A City which values its heritage, cultural diversity,
sense of place and natural environment.*

*A progressive City which is prosperous, sustainable
and socially cohesive, with a strong community spirit.*

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City of
Norwood
Payneham
& St Peters

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VENUE Council Chambers, Norwood Town Hall

HOUR 7.00pm

PRESENT

Council Members Mayor Robert Bria
Cr Kester Moorhouse
Cr Claire Clutterham
Cr Garry Knoblauch
Cr Hugh Holfeld
Cr Kevin Duke
Cr Connie Granozio
Cr Victoria McFarlane
Cr Scott Sims
Cr Grant Piggott
Cr Sue Whittington
Cr John Callisto
Cr Christel Mex

Staff Mario Barone (Chief Executive Officer)
Carlos Buzzetti (General Manager, Urban Planning & Environment)
Andrew Hamilton (General Manager, Community Development)
Lisa Mara (General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs)
Jenny McFeat (Manager, Governance)
Allison Kane (Manager, Strategic Communications & Advocacy)
Claire Betchley (Manager, Marketing & Place Activation)
Navian Iseut (Manager, Arts, Culture & Community Connections)
Tina Zullo (Administration Assistant, Governance & Civic Affairs)

APOLOGIES Cr Josh Robinson

ABSENT Nil

1. KAURNA ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

2. OPENING PRAYER

The Opening Prayer was read by Cr Grant Piggott.

3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 FEBRUARY 2025

Cr Sims moved that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 3 February 2025 be taken as read and confirmed. Seconded by Cr Callisto and carried unanimously.

4. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATION

Monday, 3 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Presided over a Council meeting, Council Chamber, Norwood Town Hall.
Tuesday, 4 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Attended a meeting to assess and make recommendations of the candidates for the role of Independent Members of the Council's Audit & Risk Committee, Mayor's Office, Norwood Town Hall.
Saturday, 8 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Attended the 'Jazz in the Park' Concert, Koster Reserve, Trinity Gardens.

Monday, 10 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presided over a meeting of the Audit & Risk Committee, Mayor's Parlour, Norwood Town Hall.
Thursday, 13 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participated in a Mainstreet SA Committee meeting.
Sunday, 16 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attended an on-site meeting with a resident, St Peters.
Monday, 17 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attended a meeting with a resident, Adelaide.
Tuesday, 18 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presided over a meeting of the Business & Economic Development Advisory Committee, Mayor's Parlour, Norwood Town Hall.
Thursday, 20 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attended a dinner with the Chief Executive Officer and Mr Theo Maras AM, Ambrosini's Restaurant, Norwood.
Saturday, 22 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attended the Norwood Greek Festival, Greek Orthodox Parish of Prophet Elias for Norwood and the Eastern Suburbs, Norwood.
Monday, 24 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attended the Elected Member Portal Launch and Training, Mayor's Parlour, Norwood Town Hall.
Tuesday, 25 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attended a meeting with Ms Cressida O'Hanlon MP, Member for Dunstan, Mayor's Office, Norwood Town Hall.
Thursday, 27 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attended the Australian Citizens of the Year Awards, Government House, Adelaide.
Friday, 28 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attended the Adelaide Fringe Exhibition Opening, St Peters Town Hall Complex, St Peters.

- Mayor Bria welcomed Ms Allison Kane, Manager, Strategic Communications & Advocacy, to the meeting.

5. DELEGATES COMMUNICATION

Nil

6. ELECTED MEMBER DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

7. ADJOURNED ITEMS

Nil

8. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Nil

9. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

9.1 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE – PUBLIC ART POLICY – STOBIE POLE ART - SUBMITTED BY CR SCOTT SIMS

QUESTION WITH NOTICE: Public Art Policy – Stobie Pole Art
SUBMITTED BY: Cr Scott Sims
FILE REFERENCE: qA1040
ATTACHMENTS: Nil

BACKGROUND

Cr Sims has submitted the following Question with Notice:

1. Could the administration please advise when the Council will be presented with a policy that supports stobie pole art in the City?
2. In the interim, is there a process that residents can undertake to have stobie pole art approved?

REASONS IN SUPPORT OF QUESTION

Nil

**RESPONSE TO QUESTION
PREPARED BY GENERAL MANAGER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

1. Could the Administration please advise when the Council will be presented with a policy that supports stobie pole art in the City?

The Council's 2024-2027 Arts & Culture Plan concluded its first year of implementation in January 2025. A review of the implementation has been completed and a progress report is contained in Item 13.1 of this Agenda.

A revised program of planned actions for the second year of the Plan's implementation is also included within the report. This program includes the development of stobie pole art guidelines for the Council's consideration. It is anticipated that this will be presented to the Council by July/August 2025, subject to workload.

2. In the interim, is there a process that residents can undertake to have stobie pole art approved?

Stobie poles are owned by SA Power Networks (SAPN). Whilst SAPN typically allow citizens to apply art to stobie poles, SAPN requires a letter of support from the relevant Council.

In this regard, citizens can seek a letter of support from the Council to instal art on a stobie pole.

In providing a letter of support, consideration would be given to the interests of the immediate neighbours, amenity (e.g. the art is not offensive), safety and maintenance of the proposed treatment.

The Council's web-site has been updated to reflect this process.

**9.2 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE – EMERGENCY VEHICLE NOISE – AMBULANCE STATION –
CORNER MAGILL AND PORTRUSH ROADS, MAYLANDS - SUBMITTED BY CR SCOTT SIMS**

QUESTION WITH NOTICE: Emergency Vehicle Noise - Ambulance Station – Corner Magill and Portrush Roads, Maylands
SUBMITTED BY: Cr Scott Sims
FILE REFERENCE: qA1040
ATTACHMENTS: Nil

BACKGROUND

Cr Sims has submitted the following Questions with Notice:

1. Could the administration please provide the service standards for siren noise associated with the new Ambulance Station located at the corner of Magill and Portrush Road?
2. Could the administration clarify what information regarding siren usage was presented to the Council prior to the construction of the Ambulance Station?

REASONS IN SUPPORT OF QUESTIONS

Reason in support of Question 1:

Noise generated by Emergency Vehicle sirens is exempt from being classed as a local nuisance under the *Local Nuisance & Litter Control Act 2016*. According to information contained in an Ambulance Stations Fact Sheet prepared by the SA Ambulance Service, which is publicly available on the SA Ambulance Service website, the SA Ambulance Service has a standard practice of only using sirens when departing their facility for urgent cases, such when someone is experiencing cardiac arrest. In most cases, dispatches occur when ambulances are not on station, but already out in the community. Traffic control features, such as Keep Clear Zones and traffic light control, help to minimise the noise impact from sirens by expediting ambulance departures.

Reason in support of Question 2:

An information briefing session regarding the then proposed Ambulance Station was held with Elected Members, on Wednesday 19 July 2023. At that briefing session, SA Ambulance representatives advised of their standard practice, to use sirens when departing their facilities only for urgent cases.

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

PREPARED BY GENERAL MANAGER, URBAN PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

1. Could the administration please provide the service standards for siren noise associated with the new Ambulance Station located at the corner of Magill and Portrush Road?

Noise generated by Emergency Vehicle sirens is exempt from being classed as a local nuisance under the Local Nuisance & Litter Control Act 2016. According to information contained in an Ambulance Stations Fact Sheet prepared by the SA Ambulance Service, which is publicly available on the SA Ambulance Service website, the SA Ambulance Service has a standard practice of only using sirens when departing from their facility for urgent cases, such when someone is experiencing cardiac arrest. In most cases, dispatches occur when ambulances are not at a station, but already out in the community. Traffic control features, such as Keep Clear Zones and traffic light control, help to minimise the noise impact from sirens by expediting ambulance departures.

2. Could the administration clarify what information regarding siren usage was presented to the Council prior to the construction of the Ambulance Station?

An Information Briefing Session regarding the then proposed Ambulance Station was held with Elected Members, on Wednesday 19 July 2023. At that Briefing Session, SA Ambulance representatives advised of their standard practice namely, to use sirens when departing their facilities only for urgent cases.

10. DEPUTATIONS

10.1 DEPUTATION – QUADRENNIAL PUBLIC ARTWORK COMMISSION

REPORT AUTHOR: General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs
GENERAL MANAGER: Chief Executive Officer
CONTACT NUMBER: 8366 4568
FILE REFERENCE: qA1041
ATTACHMENTS: Nil

SPEAKER/S

Mr Roger Bryson

ORGANISATION/GROUP REPRESENTED BY SPEAKER/S

Kensington Residents Association

COMMENTS

Mr Roger Bryson has written to the Council requesting that he be permitted to address the Council in relation to Item 12.1 of the Agenda, regarding the Council's Quadrennial Public Artwork.

In accordance with the *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013*, Mr Roger Bryson has been given approval to address the Council.

Mr Roger Bryson addressed the Council on this matter.

10.2 DEPUTATION – QUADRENNIAL PUBLIC ARTWORK COMMISSION

REPORT AUTHOR: General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs
GENERAL MANAGER: Chief Executive Officer
CONTACT NUMBER: 8366 4568
FILE REFERENCE: qA1041
ATTACHMENTS: Nil

SPEAKER/S

Mr David Cree

ORGANISATION/GROUP REPRESENTED BY SPEAKER/S

St Peters Residents Association Inc.

COMMENTS

Mr David Cree has written to the Council requesting that he be permitted to address the Council in relation to Item 12.1 of the Agenda, regarding the Council's Quadrennial Public Artwork.

In accordance with the *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013*, Mr David Cree has been given approval to address the Council.

Mr David Cree addressed the Council on this matter.

10.3 DEPUTATION – QUADRENNIAL PUBLIC ARTWORK COMMISSION

REPORT AUTHOR: General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs
GENERAL MANAGER: Chief Executive Officer
CONTACT NUMBER: 8366 4568
FILE REFERENCE: qA1041
ATTACHMENTS: Nil

SPEAKER/S

Mr Mackie Eaton

ORGANISATION/GROUP REPRESENTED BY SPEAKER/S

Norwood Residents Association

COMMENTS

Mr Mackie Eaton has written to the Council requesting that he be permitted to address the Council in relation to Item 12.1 of the Agenda, regarding the Council's Quadrennial Public Artwork.

In accordance with the *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013*, Mr Mackie Eaton has been given approval to address the Council.

Mr Mackie Eaton addressed the Council on this matter.

10.4 DEPUTATION – QUADRENNIAL PUBLIC ARTWORK COMMISSION

REPORT AUTHOR: General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs
GENERAL MANAGER: Chief Executive Officer
CONTACT NUMBER: 8366 4568
FILE REFERENCE: qA1041
ATTACHMENTS: Nil

SPEAKER/S

Ms Trish Hansen

ORGANISATION/GROUP REPRESENTED BY SPEAKER/S

Not Applicable.

COMMENTS

Ms Trish Hansen has written to the Council requesting that she be permitted to address the Council in relation to Item 12.1 of the Agenda, regarding the Council's Quadrennial Public Artwork.

In accordance with the *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013*, Ms Trish Hansen has been given approval to address the Council.

Ms Trish Hansen addressed the Council on this matter.

11. PETITIONS
Nil

12. WRITTEN NOTICES OF MOTION

12.1 WRITTEN NOTICE OF MOTION – QUADRENNIAL PUBLIC ARTWORK COMMISSION – SUBMITTED BY CR GRANT PIGGOTT

NOTICE OF MOTION: Quadrennial Public Artwork Commission
SUBMITTED BY: Cr Grant Piggott
FILE REFERENCE: qA1039
ATTACHMENTS: Nil

Pursuant to Regulation 12(1) of the *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013*, the following Notice of Motion has been submitted by Cr Grant Piggott.

NOTICE OF MOTION

That the following resolution made by the Council at its meeting held on 3 February 2025 (Item 13.5, page 67 of the Minutes):

That the Council:

1. *Notes that the Council's Public Art Policy 2023, will be updated to reflect alternate funding mechanisms as part of the Policy's review process.*
2. *Endorses the fifth Quadrennial Public Artwork being installed at Osmond Terrace Norwood.*

be revoked.

If the above resolution is revoked, it is the intention of Cr Piggott to move the following Motion:

That the Council:

1. *Notes that the Council's Public Art Policy 2023, will be updated to reflect alternate funding mechanisms as part of the Policy's review process.*
2. *Resolves not to instal a fifth Quadrennial Public Artwork during this term of the Council.*

REASONS IN SUPPORT OF MOTION

During the Council meeting held on 3 February 2025, the Council considered a report recommending that the \$300,000 Quadrennial Public Artwork be placed in Hardman Reserve, Kent Town. During the debate, it became clear that this is not an ideal placement of the public art. As a result, the decision was made to place the artwork in the median of Osmond Terrace, Norwood.

This would seem an unnecessary indulgence given the City's financial challenges. Osmond Terrace is already a beautiful street, featuring a manicured median strip, two (2) public artworks, the War Memorial and the cycling tribute to Nino Solari. It does not need a further adornment of public art.

This Motion proposes not to spend the \$300,000 committed to the Quadrennial Public Artwork. This is against a background of the Local Government Finance Authority (LGFA), placing restrictions on the Council in respect to borrowings beyond those anticipated in our current Long-term Financial Plan (LTFP), a Plan which includes:

- debt levels in 2034 still remaining at \$95+ million;
- Net Financial Liabilities Ratio in 2034 still at 122%;
- Rate increases averaging 6% **every** year of the LTFP; and
- up to 16% of the City's income being needed in some years to meet the interest payment requirements.

The budget commitment to the Quadrennial Artwork is not significant (0.7% of rates) but its discontinuation would be symbolic that this Council is responsibly addressing the financial needs of the City.

STAFF COMMENT

Nil

Cr Piggott moved:

That the following resolution made by the Council at its meeting held on 3 February 2025 (Item 13.5, page 67 of the Minutes):

That the Council:

- 1. Notes that the Council's Public Art Policy 2023, will be updated to reflect alternate funding mechanisms as part of the Policy's review process.*
- 2. Endorses the fifth Quadrennial Public Artwork being installed at Osmond Terrace Norwood.*

be revoked.

Seconded by Cr Sims.

Cr Whittington left the meeting at 7.36pm.

Cr Whittington returned to the meeting at 7.39pm.

The motion was put and lost.

Division

Cr Mex called for a division and the decision was set aside.

Those in favour:

Cr Piggott, Cr Sims, Cr McFarlane, and Cr Moorhouse.

Those against

Cr Whittington, Cr Holfeld, Cr Knoblauch, Cr Duke, Cr Granzio, Cr Mex, Cr Callisto and Cr Clutterham.

The Mayor declared the motion lost.

13. STAFF REPORTS

Section 1 – Strategy & Policy

Reports

13.1 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE 2024-2027 ARTS & CULTURE PLAN - YEAR 1

REPORT AUTHOR: Manager, Arts, Culture & Community Connections
GENERAL MANAGER: General Manager, Community Development
CONTACT NUMBER: 8366 4550
FILE REFERENCE: A1089949
ATTACHMENTS: A

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To report on the progress of implementing the 'Year One' actions of the *2024-2027 Arts & Culture Plan* and to outline the intended actions for 'Year Two' of the Plan.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on 22 January 2024, the Council endorsed the *2024-2027 Arts & Culture Plan*. The *2024-2027 Arts & Culture Plan* outlines the Council's initiatives and actions that underpin the achievement of *City Plan: 2030: Shaping our Future*, Cultural Vitality Objectives.

At its meeting held on 3 February 2025, the Council resolved the following:

1. *That staff prepare a progress report on the implementation of the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters Arts and Culture Plan 2024-2027 ("the Plan") to be presented to the Ordinary Council meeting scheduled for 7 April 2025, and that the report includes examples of Council's updates to and communications with the local arts and culture community as part of the implementation of the Plan.*
2. *That the Council be presented with additional progress reports on the Plan in October 2025 and April 2026, prior to the review and development of a new Arts and Culture Plan, beginning in 2027.*

This report provides an update on the progress of actions as identified as Year 1 priorities within the Plan and summarises actions to be progressed during 2025, reflecting the identified Year 2 actions as approved by the Council.

RELEVANT STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS & POLICIES

The relevant Strategic Outcomes and Objectives as set out in the Council's Strategic Management Plan *City Plan 2030: Shaping Our Future - update 2024* are as follows:

Outcome 2: Cultural Vitality

Objective 2.1: An artistic, creative, cultural & visually interesting City.

Strategy 2.1.1 Use the arts to enliven public spaces and create 'a sense of place.

Strategy 2.1.3 Attract and support cultural and creative organisations, businesses, and individuals.

Objective 2.2: A community embracing and celebrating its social and cultural diversity.

Strategy 2.2.1 Acknowledge, protect, and celebrate local Aboriginal heritage.

Strategy 2.2.2 Work with cultural groups to support cultural inclusion and opportunities for cultural expression and celebration.

Strategy 2.2.3 Promote understanding of and respect for our cultures and heritage.

Objective 2.5: Dynamic community life in public spaces & precincts.

Strategy 2.5.2 Host and facilitate community events and activities.

Strategy 2.5.3 Provide features or experiences in public spaces, that surprise, encourage reflection or celebrate our community and heritage.

FINANCIAL AND BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The Council approved the following budget allocations as part of the 2024-2025 budget process to support the implementation of the Plan:

TABLE 1: 2024-2025 ARTS & CULTURE PLAN BUDGET

What	Expenditure	Progress
Consultants & Contractors Projects: - Public Art Masterplan (Stages 1 to 3) - Digitisation Project (external scanning)	\$45,000	Budget on track to be expended in 2024-2025
Minor Equipment (Digitisation Project)	\$23,874	Budget on track to be expended in 2024-2025

EXTERNAL ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Art and culture are significant contributors to the development of civic pride, supporting a City where people want to live and visit. Cities with high levels of civic pride typically experience improved social capital, urban amenity, and economic opportunity.

SOCIAL ISSUES

The development and implementation of the *2024-2027 Arts & Culture Plan* recognises the vital role art, culture and creativity continue to play in the social, economic, cultural and health and wellbeing outcomes of the City's citizens.

CULTURAL ISSUES

Through fostering innovation, imagination, and creative expression across all areas of arts and culture, the Plan seeks to engage and challenge new audiences to connect with local arts and cultural experiences. In addition, through genuine collaboration with both First Nations people and the City's strong multi-cultural community, the Plan assists the Council to bridge gaps and cultivate authentic cultural experiences and connection.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

There are no environmental issues associated with the implementation of the Plan.

RESOURCE ISSUES

Implementation of the Plan is led by the Arts, Culture and Community Connections Unit through the adoption of a 'whole-of-Council' approach, working in collaboration with staff across the organisation to deliver the Actions of the *2024-2027 Arts & Culture Plan*.

CONSULTATION

- **Elected Members**

At its meeting held on 3 February 2025, the Council considered a Notice of Motion and resolved the following:

1. *That staff prepare a progress report on the implementation of the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters Arts and Culture Plan 2024-2027 ("the Plan") to be presented to the Ordinary Council meeting scheduled for 7 April 2025, and that the report includes examples of Council's updates to and communications with the local arts and culture community as part of the implementation of the Plan.*
2. *That the Council be presented with additional progress reports on the Plan in October 2025 and April 2026, prior to the review and development of a new Arts and Culture Plan, beginning in 2027.*

- **Community**
Not Applicable.
- **Staff**
Not Applicable.
- **Other Agencies**
Not Applicable.

DISCUSSION

The implementation of the *2024-2027 Arts & Culture Plan* commenced in January 2024. An important aspect of the Plan included acknowledgement of a need to monitor progress through annual reporting on achievements and an evaluation of planned activity for the year ahead.

The tables below outline progress against the Actions specified under each of the ‘Year 1’ Objectives of the Plan. A copy of the *2024-2027 Arts & Culture Plan* is included as **Attachment A**.

TABLE 2: 2024-2027 ARTS & CULTURE PLAN - YEAR 1 ACTIONS

Action	2024 Target	Tracking	Comment
Objective: An artistic, creative, cultural & visually interesting City.			
Arts & Culture Exhibitions at St Peters Town Hall Complex	Trial four (4) open calls for contemporary artists to exhibit as part of the 2024 exhibition program.	✓ Completed	Exceeded target, 16 contemporary arts exhibitions delivered in 2024. Ongoing annual program.
Program of interactive arts, culture activities to complement and activate the gallery	Artist and co-led activations	✓ Completed	32 artist led activations delivered in 2024. Ongoing annual program.
Curate Eastern Health Authority (EHA) Gallery Wall	Extend gallery to EHA area	✓ Completed	7 exhibitions were delivered in 2024. Ongoing annual program.
St Peters Fair Market Stall for young emerging artists	Increase representation of young makers and creatives at the St Peters Fair	✓ Completed	5 young makers and artists were provided a stall at the 2024 St Peters Fair (various artforms from jewellery to visual art). Ongoing initiative in 2025.
Support accessibility best practice.	Accessible exhibition initiatives	✓ Completed	Ongoing consideration. Arts & Culture staff attended an <i>Access All Areas</i> 2-day workshop to support adopting inclusive measures. Initiatives that have been implemented include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhibition descriptions and labels written in easy/ plain language and font (18 to 36 pt sans serif, dark text on light background). • Auslan interpreter at 2 exhibitions. • Braille and audio descriptions at 2024 Adelaide Fringe Exhibition.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnered with Access2Arts to develop a St Peters Town Hall access guide for sharing on the Council's website or social media (currently being developed. Trial and consider rolling out to all Council facilities).
	Stage extensions at either side of the Norwood Concert Hall Stage to cover stairs and enable an access ramp to be temporarily installed to the stage.	✓ Completed	Stage covers are available for hirers to use (upon request).
Implement equitable application processes	<p>Advertise opportunities through diverse networks and include equity, diversity, and inclusion statements on application information.</p> <p>Ensure assessment criteria is transparent and available to applicants.</p>	✓ Completed	<p>Ongoing initiative.</p> <p>As appropriate, opportunities promoted via various arts networks.</p> <p>Selection processes are made transparent by providing detailed information on selection criteria in the artist brief and an equitable decision-making expression of interest process has been adopted that aligns with the Council's Procurement Guidelines.</p> <p>Access statement included in artist briefs.</p>
Collaborations and partnerships with artists, historians, and arts and cultural practitioners	Support program planning and implementation of actions contained within the Plan.	✓ Completed	<p>Ongoing initiative to identify further collaborative opportunities with the arts sector to achieve shared goals.</p> <p>2024 organisational partners included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 100 Artists Helpmann Academy KU Arts Iwiri Arts Adelaide Fringe (artist fundraiser at St Peters Town Hall) South Australian Living Artists Festival (SALA).
Ensure Council provides fair remuneration to artists and cultural practitioners	Align payment rates to National Association for the Visual Arts Code of Practice for the delivery of arts and cultural services, commissions, and initiatives in partnership with the Council.	✓ Completed	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Artist contracts and commissions are checked against and aligned with the Code of Practice.</p>

Seek opportunities to attract live music performance to the City.	Open access festival subsidy and/or promotion	✓ Completed	Adelaide Fringe registration subsidy supported various live music events. In November 2024, Library Services hosted 14 Good Music Month activations, offering a range of music genre experiences within the Payneham and St Peters Libraries. Open access festival registration subsidies will be offered in 2025.
	Review the Council's busking guidelines	Commenced	Final stage on hold during formation of new business unit, Marketing and Place Activation.
		Completed review and draft busking guidelines.	Move final stage of project to 2026 to ensure alignment with broader place activation objectives currently being developed by Marketing & Place Activation Unit.
Enable risk taking and experimentation with digital and emerging artforms	Explore collaborative partnerships to develop and expand audience access and engagement with emerging artforms.	Commenced	Ongoing initiative. Outcomes to date include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs for ages 10 to 18 years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 robotic workshops (make a soccer player robot). - 2 Gaming Development workshops (created own game design). • Virtual Reality (VR) interactive experience at St Peters Fair 2024. • 4 Artists have exhibited digital artworks as part of the 2024 exhibition program. • The projector in The Gallery has been updated and currently exploring additional flexible projection options to support digital activations.
Identify opportunities for artists to be commissioned to create original artwork for Council marketing campaigns		✓ Completed	2024 opportunities included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebranding of Three D Radio mentor program by artist, Leah Grant. • Four (4) Volunteer birthday card artwork designs created by artist Rosalie Day. • Ongoing identification of suitable marketing projects for artist involvement.
Facilitate and promote networking events for local creatives	Promote existing networking opportunities on the Council's website and directly to our creative community.	Commenced	Established an artist database (currently 365 members). Emailed eight (8) e-newsletters to database in 2024, promoting arts and culture opportunities. Next stage of project delayed during formation of the Marketing & Place Activation Unit and appointment of two (2) Co-ordinators, Marketing & Place Activation.

Council staff representation on and/or membership of arts and culture peak bodies and associations.		✓ Completed	Ongoing Member Australian Museum and Galleries Association of Australia (AMAGA). Member History Council of South Australia Member of Creative Community Network (LG and arts sector)
Continue the Council's OneMusic Licence annual subscription	Support playing music at Council events and community facilities.	✓ Completed	Ongoing annual subscription.
Identify opportunities to integrate public art within streetscape designs and Council owned land.	Scheduled to commence in 2026	Commenced	Commissions delivered in 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mural and 3D artworks commission by First Nations artist Tania Taylor at Dunstan Adventure Playground. • Mural Commission by Pia Gynell-Jorgensen on the Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre construction hoarding and visible from inside the library.
Objective: A community embracing its social and cultural diversity.			
Review the Council's Community Grant Program	Grants that support all artforms, neighbourhood activations and cultural celebrations.	Commenced Completed review (last 3 FY years), developed draft grant guidelines, and presented guidelines to the Council's Executive Leadership Team.	14 arts grants (total value of \$48,740) were awarded in the 2023-2024 financial year across the following artforms: murals; youth orchestra performance; drawing workshop; glass art; cultural performance; 3D artists in residency; film; and music composer. Maintaining current grant program guidelines in 2025-2026.
Investigate and devise solutions to enhance participation outcomes for multicultural arts	Increase usage of Council owned community facilities to ensure a diverse program of multi-cultural workshops and participatory experiences.	✓ Completed	Numerous new multi-cultural workshops and programs were introduced in 2024 (data will be collated at the end of the 2024-2025 financial year and included in the next annual progress update).
Heritage Collection Digitisation Project	Digitise at risk assessment registers. Purchase scanning equipment to support ongoing digitisation of the collection.	Completed the following project stages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stage 1 discovery. - Stage 2 priorities collection for digitisation. - Stage 3 confirm software systems complete. 	Ongoing multi- year project. Third party scanning of at-risk Kensington and Norwood Assessment Books. Purchased and trialling scanning equipment and recruited volunteers to support scanning of the collection. Collaborating with Libraries SA to align project with the digital platform, Spindle, an online searchable catalogue of photographs, artworks, maps, publications, oral histories, and objects.

- Stage 5, commence digitisation, year 1. The project will be further informed by the Cultural Heritage Review in 2025.

Objective: A City which values and promotes its rich cultural and built heritage.

Develop an annual program of cultural heritage initiatives	Annual program of exhibitions, workshops, projects, and events across a broad range of topics.	✓ Completed	<p>Ongoing project that will be further informed by the Cultural Heritage Review in 2025.</p> <p>Key deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History Month program – Art of Glass (16 community activations) • Interactive community experience: Photo competition and exhibition Point of View- local stories of places people love. • NAIDOC week – month long activations.
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Objective: Dynamic community life in public spaces & precincts.

Support our community to deliver and participate within open access festivals	Adelaide Fringe SALA NAIDOC week	✓ Completed	<p>During 2024, eighteen (18) arts events across various media (including painting, ceramics, printing, photography, textiles, digital media, workshops, and artists talks) were supported via an open access festival fee registration subsidy program.</p> <p>Open access festival registration subsidies will be offered in 2025.</p>
Support local artists to deliver activations, workshops, and events	Artist led workshops and activations within the Council's Libraries and community facilities	✓ Completed	<p>Ongoing initiative.</p> <p>20 New artist led community programs and workshops were delivered at the St Peters Library, Payneham Library and Payneham Community Centre (excludes the 32 artist activations captured in the afore-mentioned Action: <i>Program of interactive arts, culture activities to complement and activate the gallery.</i>)</p>

MONITORING PROGRESS

Continual monitoring of the progress of the Plan and a review of progress to date and intended 2025 Actions, has considered capacity and resource allocation to ensure effective delivery, identification of emerging opportunities, and prioritisation.

Table 3 below identifies Actions where the implementation date has been amended where the commencement of actions has revealed complexity, dependencies and/or resource considerations not visible during development of the Plan. The table below outlines those actions that have required an amendment to their forecast implementation timing.

TABLE 3: ACTIONS WITH DEPENDENCIES THAT REQUIRE TIMING ADJUSTMENTS

Action	Original projected Commencement Year	New Target Commencement Year	Dependency
Utilise smart technology and digital tools to promote public art places	2025	2026	Requires additional scoping to determine appropriate and sustainable solution.
Conduct an annual review of the Council's events program	2024	2026	Project on hold during formation of the Marketing & Place Activation Unit in 2024.
Curate live music event(s) to fill gaps in live music experiences across the City.	2025-2026	2026	Project on hold during formation of the Marketing & Place Activation Unit in 2024. Provide time for an inter-departmental working group to collectively scope the project from a place making, economic development, community development and arts lens.
Review relevant Council policies (Public Art; Live Music & Busking)	2024	2026	Action deferred to 2026 to ensure policy updates capture relevant considerations and opportunities that emerge as the Council progresses the Plan.
Review and update local heritage interpretive signage across the City.	Multi-year project 2024-2027	TBC	Due diligence processes associated with the management of the Council's Cultural Heritage collection revealed a significant body of work. Resources were prioritised to address a range of associated risks e.g. storage of vulnerable artefacts. Supporting the implementation of the Cultural Heritage Service Review has also required prioritisation of resources.
Heritage Collection Management: two-way caretaking of First Nations cultural material.	2025-ongoing	TBC	Project will be further informed by the Cultural Heritage Service Review in 2025.
Explore being part of Play Streets	Multi-year project 2024-2025	2026	Project deferred due to appointment of new Manager, Traffic and Integrated Transport in 2025.

2025 DELIVERABLES

Table 4 below summarises the intended priority Actions scheduled for delivery in 2025 and incorporates timing changes as discussed earlier within this report.

TABLE 4: YEAR 2 ACTIONS SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE IN 2025

Action	Status	Projected Completion	Comment
Develop a Public Art Masterplan	Commencing February 2025.	Multi-year project due for completion in 2027.	2025 Stages: Stage 1 Discovery Stage 2: Foundation Stage 3 Analysis
Develop stobie pole art guidelines.	To be commenced	2025	Options to be presented to the Council in 2025.

Review and update the artist register on the Council's website.	Commenced on 5 December 2024	2025.	New look and improved interface. Lists artists working with media - visual, performing, public, literary, moving image or digital art.
Investigate Artists in residence program, including, collaborative partnerships with arts and culture organisations and businesses to co-deliver the program.	✓ Completed	Exhibition outcomes for first 3 Artists in Residence in February 2025.	Partnership with Helpmann Academy and local studios (Fab Studio and 215 Magill Studios) to co-deliver the program.
Encourage local music in businesses and at Council funded events.	Commenced	2025	In 2024, the following Council events featured SA musicians: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerts in the Park (Jazz, Melodies & Symphony) • St Peters Fair • Australia Day + Citizenship Ceremony • Gather Round Acoustics • Norwood Splash.
Identify and support participatory literary arts opportunities.	To be commenced	2025	
Provision of rehearsal spaces for hire to develop new theatre productions.	To be commenced	2025	
Collaborative cultural heritage programming partnership with First Nations cultural workers and artists.	Commenced	2025	NAIDOC 2024, Partnered with 20 First Nations Artists and organisations, KU Arts and Iwiri Arts. In 2025, to celebrate the National NAIDOC theme, ' <i>The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy</i> ', partnerships with contemporary First Nations artists to lead various activations are currently being explored.
Showcase contemporary First Nations artists.	To be commenced	2025	Explore ways to continue to learn and engage with First Nation peoples and their cultures beyond NAIDOC week.
Build connections with established and emerging cultural organisations.	Commenced in 2024	Multi-year project to 2027	Passata experience in 2024, in partnership with Fogolar Furlan. A skill development, intergenerational and cultural experience to increase exposure of the Cultural Centre and engagement of the local community.

EMERGINING OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to the actions identified within the Plan, the Arts, Culture & Community Connections staff are supporting the implementation of two key review processes as outlined in the Table 5 below.

TABLE 5: NEW 2025 PROJECTS

Action	Description	Projected Completion	Endorsed by
Service Review of the Cultural Heritage Program	Strategic review of the Council's Cultural Heritage program.	2025	Endorsed by the Council at its meeting on 2 September 2024
Develop a 3–5 year Norwood Concert Hall Business and Implementation Plan	Conduct a review of the Council's Concert Hall operations and develop a 3–5-year business plan which aims to achieves growth, improved community, and economic impact, and delivers a financially sustainable outcome.	2025	Supported by the Executive Leadership Team

Business as Usual Projects

In addition to the aforementioned 2025 Actions, the following “business-as-usual” initiatives have commenced in 2025:

- *The Quadrennial Public Art Commission* - at its meeting held on 3 February 2025, the Council endorsed the location of the fifth Quadrennial Public Art Commission project. The Project has commenced and is scheduled for completion in June 2026.
- *Art on Parade* - collaborative initiative with The Parade precinct to activate The Parade with art to attract visitation during the South Australian Living Artists Festival (SALA) 2025. This project has commenced and is scheduled for completion in August 2025.

OPTIONS

Nil.

CONCLUSION

The *2024-2027 Arts & Culture Plan* reflects the Council's commitment to leverage, promote and foster arts, cultural development and cultural vitality within the City to build civic pride and prosperity.

Cultural vitality in communities is not achieved by one large action, rather, through a range of inter-related activities that create, disseminate, validate, and support arts and culture as a dimension of everyday life for our community.

Through forming positive collaborative relationships with the arts community, testing ideas, creating the enabling environment, activating spaces, providing diverse opportunities for cultural participation, and supporting community led outcomes, enhance our identity and reputation as ‘a culturally rich and diverse City, with a strong identity, history and sense of place.’ *CityPlan 2030: Shaping our Future, Cultural Vitality Aspiration*.

Actions achieved within the first year of implementing the Plan have formed a strong foundation for successful execution of ‘year two’ (2) Actions.

COMMENTS

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the report be received and noted.
 2. The Council notes and endorses the following:
 - a. revised timing of actions due to resource or other considerations; and
 - b. the revised list of actions to be progressed during the second year of implementation.
-

Cr Sims left the meeting at 8.15pm.

Cr Moorhouse moved:

1. *That the report be received and noted.*
2. *The Council notes and endorses the following:*
 - a. revised timing of actions due to resource or other considerations; and*
 - b. the revised list of actions to be progressed during the second year of implementation.*

Seconded by Cr Callisto.

Cr Sims returned to the meeting at 8.17pm.

The motion was put and carried unanimously.

Section 2 – Corporate & Finance
Reports

13.2 ERA WATER 2024-2025 SECOND BUDGET REVIEW

REPORT AUTHOR: General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs
GENERAL MANAGER: Chief Executive Officer
CONTACT NUMBER: 8366 4549
FILE REFERENCE: qA87866
ATTACHMENTS: A

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present to the Council, the ERA Water 2024-2025 Second Budget Review for endorsement.

BACKGROUND

ERA Water is a Regional Subsidiary which has been established pursuant to Section 43 of the *Local Government Act 1999*, for the primary purpose of implementing the Waterproofing Eastern Adelaide Project (the Scheme), which involves the establishment of wetland bio-filters, aquifer recharge and recovery, pipeline installations and water storage facilities. ERA Water manage the Scheme on behalf of the Constituent Councils and provide recycled stormwater for the irrigation of parks and reserves to Constituent Councils. The City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, together with the City of Burnside and the Town of Walkerville make up the Constituent Councils of ERA Water.

Pursuant to Clause 5.1.1 of the ERA Water Charter (the Charter), prior to 31 March of each year, ERA Water must prepare and submit the ERA Water Draft Budget to the Constituent Councils for approval.

The Draft Budget can only be adopted by the ERA Water Board, following unanimous approval of the Constituent Councils.

Upon completion of the Draft Budget, pursuant to Clause 6.1 of the Charter, ERA Water must prepare and provide the draft Annual Business Plan to Constituent Councils. The Annual Business Plan can only be adopted by the ERA Water Board, once absolute majority is provided by the Constituent Councils.

To this end, the ERA Water Board adopted the ERA Water 2024-2025 Budget on 26 June 2024.

In accordance with Clause 5.1.6 of the Charter, ERA Water must reconsider its annual Budget in accordance with the Act at least (3) times at intervals of not less than three (3) months between 30 September and 31 May (inclusive) in the relevant Financial Year and may with the unanimous approval of the Constituent Councils amend its annual Budget for a Financial Year at any time before the year ends.

RELEVANT STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS & POLICIES

Not Applicable.

FINANCIAL AND BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

As part of the ERA Water 2024-2025 Budget, an Operating Deficit of \$791,456 was projected and adopted for the 2024-2025 financial year.

As part of the ERA Water First Budget Review the 2024-2025 Budget indicated an Operating Deficit of \$697,000 with budgeted Capital expenditure of \$63,000.

The revised forecast for 2024-2025 based on the Second Budget Review is an Operating Deficit of \$636k, with Capital expenditure budgeted at \$63, 000.

For the period 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024, ERA Water is reporting an Operating Deficit of \$276k, which is favourable by \$195k to the current 2024-2025 Budget which forecasts a year-to-date Operating Deficit of \$472k.

EXTERNAL ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable.

SOCIAL ISSUES

Not Applicable.

CULTURAL ISSUES

Not Applicable.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Not Applicable.

RESOURCE ISSUES

Not Applicable.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Not Applicable.

CONSULTATION

- **Elected Members**
Cr Grant Piggott is the Council's appointee on the ERA Water Board.
- **Community**
Not Applicable.
- **Staff**
Nil
- **Other Agencies**
Not Applicable.

DISCUSSION

The ERA Water 2024-2025 Second Budget Review Financial Statements, set out the revised Budget forecast compared to the adopted 2024-2025 Budget.

As set out above, ERA Water is reporting a favourable variance of \$195,000 compared to the forecast Operating Deficit for the period ending 31 December 2024, for the reasons set out below.

Income

- a proportion of income that was budgeted to be received from Constituent Councils in the third quarter of this financial year was received in the second quarter of 2024-2025, due to the timing of the commencement of this irrigation season;
- approximately \$21,000 in income (which was unbudgeted income), was received from the Local Government Finance Authority as part of its annual distribution; and
- unbudgeted insurance claim recoveries to the value of \$18,000 (income) for reimbursement for repair works undertaken in 2023-2024 was received in the reporting period.

Expenditure

- favourable electricity variance of \$21,000, as a result of lower electricity usage for the same period when compared to previous years; and
- favourable maintenance and operations costs for the period.

The ERA Water Second Budget Review was considered by the ERA Water Board at its meeting held on 30 January 2025 and no amendments were proposed to the 2024-2025 Budget as a result of the review.

A copy of the ERA Water 2024-2025 Second Budget Review Financial Statements are contained in **Attachment A**.

OPTIONS

The Council can choose to endorse or not endorse the ERA Water 2024-2025 Third Budget Review. There are no specific issues or activities which present a financial or risk management issue for this Council which warrant the Council choosing not to endorse the ERA Water 2024-2025 Third Budget Review.

CONCLUSION

Not Applicable.

COMMENTS

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION

The Council advises ERA Water that pursuant to Clause 5.1.1 of the ERA Water Charter, the Council has considered and hereby approves the ERA Water 2024-2025 Second Budget Review, as contained in **Attachment A**.

Cr Sims moved:

The Council advises ERA Water that pursuant to Clause 5.1.1 of the ERA Water Charter, the Council has considered and hereby approves the ERA Water 2024-2025 Second Budget Review, as contained in Attachment A.

Seconded by Cr Duke and carried unanimously.

13.3 RECENT THEFT AND VANDALISM OF COUNCIL OWNED PUBLIC ARTWORKS

REPORT AUTHOR: General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs
GENERAL MANAGER: Chief Executive Officer
CONTACT NUMBER: 8366 4549
FILE REFERENCE: qA61370
ATTACHMENTS: Nil

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise the Council of the recent thefts of Council owned public artworks.

BACKGROUND

In October 2024, the first of a series of thefts of Council owned public artwork installed in Linde Reserve, Stepney, took place.

In addition, in October 2024, the artwork which is located at the Old Mill, Reserve, Hackney, *Seed Mix*, was vandalised – metal of value (ie copper) was removed from the artwork.

These incidents have been reported to the South Australia Police (SAPOL) and a claim for the loss and/or damage has been lodged with the Council's insurers.

RELEVANT STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS & POLICIES

The relevant Goals contained in *CityPlan 2030* are:

Outcome 2: Cultural Vitality

Objectives 2.1 An artistic, creative, cultural and visually interesting City.

Strategy 2.1.1 Use the arts to enliven public spaces and create a 'sense of place'.

FINANCIAL AND BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications of this matter are discussed in the Discussion Section of this report.

EXTERNAL ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable.

SOCIAL ISSUES

It is generally accepted that public art attracts the community to our public spaces as public art is recognised for its ability to enhance perceptions of community well-being and 'sense of place' and is inextricably linked to the culture of a City.

CULTURAL ISSUES

Public art helps create a sense of place and can help express and celebrate issues relevant to a variety of cultural groups and can enhance the unique character of the City.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Not Applicable.

RESOURCE ISSUES

Not Applicable.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Not Applicable.

CONSULTATION

- **Elected Members**
Not Applicable
- **Community**
Not Applicable
- **Staff**
Manager, Arts, Culture & Community Connections
- **Other Agencies**
Not Applicable

DISCUSSION

Seed Mix, Old Mill Reserve

In 2022, the Council commissioned its fourth Quadrennial Public Art Commission, *Seed Mix*, which is located at the Old Mill Reserve, Hackney.

Seed Mix is made up of three (3) sculptural forms which celebrate the natural attributes of the Old Mill Reserve and the mixed history of the location which includes Kaurna and early colonist grain processing - *Parrot Gumnut* with millstone circle, *Germinating Wheat Grain*, and the Kaurna diet staple, *Golden Wattle Seed* (Mirnu).

The artworks are currently insured for \$246,150.

Damage has occurred to the *Parrot Gumnut* as a result of the removal of the copper from the artwork.

This is the fourth vandalism incident since the artwork was installed in 2022.

On this basis, staff have worked with the artist to consider an alternative material to prevent future theft/vandalism to the artwork. The artist will be removing the remaining copper elements from the artwork and will be replacing the copper cladding with a textured stainless steel with an applied finish which will provide a patina effect.

The cost to repair the recent damage to the *Parrot Gumnut* is \$9056. The costs to repair the artwork have been approved by the Council's insurers (less the excess amount of \$1,000) and the repairs to the artwork have subsequently been approved and are progressing.

However, the artist has also recommended replacing the remaining copper on the *Parrot Gumnut* at the same time to avoid a similar occurrence in the future. The cost to undertake this work is \$13,507.

This work is not covered by the insurance claim and would need to be funded by the Council and therefore included in the 2024-2025 Budget.

German Heritage Commemorative Artwork, Linde Reserve

In 2008, the Council embarked on a major redevelopment project for the recreational space known as Dunstone Grove and Linde Reserve.

Following community consultation, conducted as part of the release of the draft Master Plan for the Dunstone Grove/Linde Reserve Project, the Council resolved that the 19th century German heritage of the precinct be appropriately recognised with respect to the Master Plan.

The intent of the artwork was to:

- *embrace the concepts of arrival in a new country and the process of settlement; and*
- *celebrate the 19th Century German migration to and settlement in Stepney.*

Liquid Metal Studios was commissioned to create and install the artwork which comprises a bronze sculpture of a mother and baby and a young boy. The artwork was installed and launched as part of the official opening of the reserve in 2011. In 2012, Liquid Metal Studios were commissioned to incorporate a small bronze trunk as part of the artwork to enhance the story of “migration”.

The German Migration artwork at that time cost \$100,000.

In addition to this artwork, Liquid Metal Studios were commissioned by the Council to create several other artworks for Linde Reserve, which included:

- spider (\$18,000);
- owl pole(\$25,000
- waterbirds (\$50,000);
- tree spirits (\$1,000);
- cat (\$3,400);
- wolf (23,000); and
- turning fork (gifted to the Council by the artist – value not known).

The following artworks have been stolen from Linde Reserve:

- German Migration artwork (the trunk component of the artwork has not been stolen and remains in place);
- owl pole and
- tuning fork.

This is the second occasion that the German Migration Artwork has been vandalised. In 2015, the little boy was stolen.

In addition to the artworks set out above, in 2022, the waterbirds, together with a number of bronze plaques from various locations in the City, were stolen.

The bronze plaques have been replaced with an alternative material to bronze and reinstated in the original locations.

At that time, the waterbirds were insured for approximately \$55,000, based on the original commissioned cost of \$50,000.

However, the cost to replace the waterbirds based on a quotation which was provided by the original artist (Liquid Metal Studios) is \$137,000.

The waterbirds have not been replaced.

At this stage, the artist has provided an estimate only in terms of the costs associated with replacing the stolen artwork.

The estimated cost to replace the German Migration artwork (ie Mother, baby and little boy), is \$120,000 however this does not include the repairs to the bronze base, plinth and installation of the artwork.

The estimated cost to replace the Owl Pole is \$80,000 and the Tuning Fork is \$50,000.

The insurance valuation for each of the artworks is as follows:

- German Migration Artwork - \$110,768;
- Owl Pole - \$38,646; and
- Tuning Fork - \$23,138.

An insurance claim has been lodged with the Council's insurers, however a formal quotation to replace the artworks has not yet been provided to the Council by the artist.

This means that the insurance claim has not yet been finalised.

Notwithstanding this, the artist has advised the Council that Liquid Metal Studios will **not** replace the artworks.

This is a disappointing and frustrating response as the insurance claim cannot be finalised until a formal quotation is received.

Staff are continuing to request that the artist provides a quotation and a further report will be presented to the Council to advise of the outcome of these discussions.

In the meantime, the Council's insurers are aware of this situation.

Other Incidents

- Platypus, St Peters Townhall Complex

In addition to the incidents as set out above, an attempt, albeit unsuccessful, was made to remove the platypus sculpture from the water feature at the St Peters Townhall Complex.

The platypus is currently being kept in storage whilst contact with the artist can be made to obtain a quotation to reaffix the platypus.

- Lightning Conductor, Norwood Town Hall

A section of the Lightning Conductor (approximately 2 metres), which is made of copper was also stolen in late 2024.

An assessment of the extent of the repairs required to the Lightning Conductor is in progress and depending on the costs associated with the repair or replacement of the Lightning Conductor, a claim for these works may also be lodged with the Council's insurers.

Please note that photographs of all the artwork will be provided at the Council Meeting.

OPTIONS

This report has been prepared to update the Council in respect to the recent issues associated with the Council's public artworks.

However, as part of addressing the issues, staff have identified an opportunity to work with the artist, Nicholas Uhlman, who was commissioned to create *Seed Mix* to amend the artwork by replacing the copper with an alternative material, without detracting from the artwork, which is intended to act as a deterrent for similar incidents in the future.

It is therefore proposed that the Council amends the 2024-2025 Budget to include the funding required to undertake this work.

Whilst the Council can determine not to allocate the funding, this is not recommended as taking a position of doing nothing to protect the artworks could potentially jeopardise any insurance claims in the future if the artwork is once again targeted.

CONCLUSION

This situation (vandalism and theft of artwork and public property generally) is not unique to this Council. The recent spate of thefts involving bronze and copper has been widespread across the State. Recent data provided by the State Government has highlighted that there were more than 2,000 instances of metal theft during 2023-2024. As such, the State Government has announced that it is intending to introduce a suite of new laws to deal with the theft of scrap metal.

It is hoped that the introduction of new laws will deter further incidents to valuable pieces of public art located in the City, however it could be some time before these laws are passed.

Staff will, over the next few months, assess the opportunities to introduce improved lighting, install CCTV cameras, etc, to assist, at the very least, in acting as a deterrent to vandalism.

COMMENTS

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Council notes that a further report will be presented to the Council regarding the outcome of the insurance claim for the artworks located at Linde Reserve, Stepney.
 2. That the 2024-2025 Budget be amended to include funding of \$13,507 for the replacement of all copper components of the artwork located at Old Mill Reserve, Hackney.
-

Cr Duke moved:

1. *That the Council notes that a further report will be presented to the Council regarding the outcome of the insurance claim for the artworks located at Linde Reserve, Stepney.*
2. *That the 2024-2025 Budget be amended to include funding of \$13,507 for the replacement of all copper components of the artwork located at Old Mill Reserve, Hackney.*

Seconded by Cr Sims and carried unanimously.

13.4 CONTINUATION OF THE SEPARATE RATE FOR THE NORWOOD PARADE PRECINCT

REPORT AUTHOR: Manager, Marketing & Place Activation
GENERAL MANAGER: Chief Executive Officer
CONTACT NUMBER: 8366 4582
FILE REFERENCE: A1103562
ATTACHMENTS: Nil

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek the Council's endorsement to continue to apply a Separate Rate on The Parade Precinct for one (1) financial year (2025-2026). If endorsed, the proposal to continue the collection of the Separate Rate will be released for consultation with the key stakeholders (The Parade Precinct business and property owners / managers).

BACKGROUND

The Parade Separate Rate has been applied by the Council since 2008 and the practice has been to implement the Separate Rate for three (3) year terms. At the end of each three (3) year term, the situation is reviewed and a decision made to extend or not extend the Separate Rate. For the 2024-25 financial year, on the advice and recommendation of the Norwood Paade Precinct Committee, the Separate Rate was only extended by a further term of one (1) financial year.

It is important to continue the Separate Rate to support the Precinct and embed its position as Adelaide's Premier Mainstreet. To achieve this, there is a need for coordinated marketing and promotion, together with implementing initiatives for The Parade.

In this respect, unlike major 'box' shopping centres such as Westfields or the Burnside Village, where there is one single property owner responsible for the marketing and coordination of the Centre, The Parade has numerous landowners and as such, in these situations, the best mechanism to promote, market and coordinate activities is for the local Council to assume this role. As with all major 'box' shopping centres, tenants pay a fee for marketing and promotion and in the case of mainstreets such as The Parade, the Separate Rate is ostensibly akin to a marketing fee.

RELEVANT STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS & POLICIES

The relevant Objectives and Strategies contained in *CityPlan2030* are outlined below:

Outcome 3: Economic Prosperity

A dynamic and thriving centre for business and services.

- **Objective 3.1 A diverse range of businesses and services.**
 - *Strategy 3.1.1*
Support and encourage local small, specialty, independent and family-owned businesses.
- **Objective 3.2 Cosmopolitan business precincts contributing to the prosperity of the City.**
 - *Strategy 3.2.1*
Retain, enhance and promote the unique character of all our City's business precincts.
 - *Strategy 3.2.3*
Promote the City as a visitor destination.
- **Objective 3.5 A local economy supporting and supported by its community.**
 - *Strategy 3.5.1*
Support opportunities for people to collaborate and interact in business precincts.
 - *Strategy 3.5.2*
Retain accessible local shopping and services.

The relevant Strategies contained in the *2021-2026 Economic Development Strategy* are outlined below:

Dynamic & Diverse City

A City with thriving and resilient business sectors that drive employment and deliver growth.

- **Objective: Support the growth and viability of the City's business sectors that drive employment and deliver growth.**
 - *Strategy 1.1*
Focus on the support and growth of the City's priority sectors.
 - *Strategy 1.3*
Identify emerging trends and support opportunities for economic growth.
 - *Strategy 1.4*
Promote opportunity and collaboration across the sectors.
 - *Strategy 1.5*
Identify and promote local competitive advantage.

Destination City

A destination with dynamic, cultural, vibrant and attractive precincts.

- **Objective: Increase the number of people who live, work and visit the City and enhance the community well-being of existing residents, workers and visitors.**
 - *Strategy 2.1*
Showcase and promote the City's attractions and events to facilitate growth and visitation.
 - *Strategy 2.2*
Support the City's vibrant mainstreet precincts.
 - *Strategy 2.3*
Facilitate the activation of key spaces and precinct in the City.
 - *Strategy 2.4*
Work with local business operators to strengthen the viability of precincts and enhance the customer experience.

Innovative City

An innovative City that supports business and attracts investment.

- **Objective: Attract and maintain competitive businesses with the capacity for resilience and ongoing sustainability, innovation and growth.**
 - *Strategy 3.2*
Recognise businesses and business sectors that make a significant contribution to the City.
 - *Strategy 3.3*
Facilitate communication, education and networking programs to support businesses.
 - *Strategy 3.5*
Encourage sustainable working methods in all aspects of business.

Business Friendly City

A City that understands the needs of business.

- **Objective: Remove barriers and make it easy for business owner to start, run and grow a business.**
 - *Strategy 4.1*
Ensure that Council processes are business friendly and contribute to a well-functioning City.

FINANCIAL AND BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Historically, the rate revenue that is collected through The Parade Separate Rate was increased in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) annually. However, to simplify the process and provide The Parade businesses and property owners with a level of certainty, the decision was made to apply a fixed rate of \$215,000 for the three (3) financial years of 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. This was increased to \$225,000 for the 2024-2025 financial year.

To assist the Council, **Table 1** below sets out a comparison of the Separate Rate for similar mainstreet precincts within Metropolitan Adelaide, noting that the amount collected by the City of Holdfast Bay for Jetty Road, includes the payment of employee costs for two (2) Staff Members.

TABLE 1: COMPARISON OF THE SEPARATE RATE COLLECTED FOR SIMILAR MAINSTREET PRECINCTS IN METROPOLITAN ADELAIDE

Year	Mainstreet	Separate Rate Revenue
2024-2025	The Parade, Norwood	\$215,000
2024-2025	Goodwood Road, Goodwood	\$60,658
2024-2025	Unley Road, Unley	\$146,440
2024-2025	King William Road, Hyde Park	\$159,940
2024-2025	Fullarton Road	\$16,500
2024-2025	Jetty Road, Glenelg	\$707,115

This comparison demonstrates that the quantum of the Separate Rate that is collected from The Parade Precinct, is commensurate for the size of the Precinct and the number of businesses that are located within the Precinct.

Should the Council resolve to extend the Separate Rate, it is recommended that the Separate Rate be maintained at \$225,000 for the 2025-2026 financial year.

The application of a Separate Rate for The Parade has been designed to ensure that the Precinct can continue to remain viable in the increasingly competitive mainstreet and indoor shopping centre markets. Despite The Parade Precinct having the reputation of being South Australia's Premier Mainstreet and delivering the best performing occupancy rate across all metropolitan mainstreets. The redevelopment of Burnside Village is likely to impact The Parade in the short term. However, it is important for the Council to focus on promoting the uniqueness of The Parade and its diverse offering and identify ways in which to capture the increased number of visitors that are expected to visit and shop at Burnside Village.

A Separate Rate revenue of \$225,000 would ensure that the Council, is able to continue to deliver initiatives for the size and diversity of the businesses, properties and visitors to the Precinct. The reasons for proposing an increase to the amount that is collected is explained in the Discussion section of this report.

EXTERNAL ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

The success of the *2025-2026 Norwood Parade Precinct Annual Business Plan* may be impacted by external broader economic conditions such as interest rates and inflation.

SOCIAL ISSUES

Economic development and social issues are invariably intertwined. Business and economic development impacts on both the business sector and the local community, and the future development of key business precincts such as The Parade also impacts on the broader community. The collection of a Separate Rate that enables a range of incentives to be delivered will not only assist in delivering economic benefits but will also assist in developing social capital and substantially contribute to the ongoing development of a vibrant local community.

Administration work to maintain and enhance The Parade as the Premier Mainstreet in South Australia, providing a single precinct where residents and visitors can access a variety of services including major banks and credit unions, employment agencies and a Centrelink office, amongst the extensive commercial and retail offerings. One of the greatest challenges for the Precinct in the short to medium term will be the potential closure of retail banks, which will represent a significant gap in the business offering along the street. The need for banking institutions to be retained in the Precinct and for them to re-invent themselves and remain as key anchors within the Precinct will be a critical factor in their survival and in their contribution to Community Well-being.

CULTURAL ISSUES

Many of the initiatives that are delivered as part of the Annual Business Plan aim to enhance the unique character of The Parade and its sense of place, reinforcing its cultural significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Not applicable.

RESOURCE ISSUES

All of the revenue that is raised through the Separate Rate is used to deliver various initiatives and programs that are contained in an Annual Business Plan. The Council provides all of the required staffing to deliver various initiatives and programs that the Committee has approved within its funding from the Separate Rate levy of The Parade Precinct. The resourcing provided by the Council includes Economic Development Staff, Marketing & Events Staff and Communications Staff.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Prior to implementing a Separate Rate, the Council must comply with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1999*, in respect to the consultation requirements regarding a Separate Rate. For this reason it is important that the Council undertakes comprehensive consultation with the business and property owners regarding the extension of the Separate Rate and the proposed increase in revenue collected prior to resolving to extend the application of a Separate Rate.

CONSULTATION

If the Council resolves to continue to collect a Separate Rate, consultation is required to be undertaken with the key stakeholders (The Parade businesses and property owners) as required by the provisions set out in the *Local Government Act 1999*.

To ensure that all affected stakeholders are informed of the Council's proposal to apply the Separate Rate, a variety of different platforms will be used to communicate with the key stakeholders, including written letters sent to all businesses located within the Precinct and information posted on both The Parade and Council websites. In addition, the monthly eNewsletter, *Business on The Parade*, will also be used to inform The Parade businesses of the Council's intentions.

It should be noted that in addition to the consultation regarding the Separate Rate, the business and property owners within The Parade Precinct are consulted annually on the development of the Annual Business Plan for the Precinct. The *Draft 2025-2026 Norwood Parade Precinct Annual Business Plan* will be released for consultation at the same time as the Separate Rate, to demonstrate what the Council proposes to do with the revenue which is collected through the Separate Rate.

- **Staff**
Manager, Economic Development & Strategy
Chief Financial Officer
Finance Business Partner
- **Other Agencies**
Not Applicable.

DISCUSSION

By way of context, following discussions with the Norwood Parade Precinct Committee, it was agreed that the current Committee structure approach to dealing with marketing and promotions of The Parade required review, as it was resource intensive and did not offer all business owners and importantly property owners, the opportunity to contribute to discussions. As such, it is proposed that a new Committee will not be established. Rather the proposed approach will be to engage with business and property owners through forums and 'round table' discussions, as this approach will at least provide the opportunity for all stakeholders to be involved in future planning of The Parade with the operational matters being left with staff. Importantly, the new approach will allow a forum for discussion with property owners who are fundamental to issues such as the land-use mix and the future of The Parade.

In this context therefore, prior to the Council determining whether or not to apply a Separate Rate, historically the process would involve the former Norwood Parade Precinct Committee considering the matter and making a recommendation to the Council in respect to whether to apply the Separate Rate and the quantum of the Separate Rate. In the absence of a Committee, the matter is now presented directly to the Council for decision.

Following the Council's decision and on the assumption that a Separate Rate will again be applied, consultation with all relevant stakeholders will again be undertaken

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999*, the revenue that is collected by the Council as part of The Parade Separate Rate, is required to be used expressly for the benefit of the area from which it is raised and for the benefit of the ratepayers in that area.

More specifically, the revenue raised through the Separate Rate, is used to perform the following functions:

- to develop and recommend to the Council in each financial year, an Annual Business Plan and budget for The Parade Precinct;
- to have oversight of the implementation of the Annual Business Plan as approved by the Council;
- to deliver initiatives as set out in the Annual Business Plan that contribute to the development and promotion of The Parade as a vibrant shopping, leisure and cultural destination for businesses, residents and visitors, and
- to initiate and encourage communication between businesses within the Precinct.

A draft budget must be considered in conjunction with the Norwood Parade Annual Business Plan and the amount recommended to the Council for approval, is required to meet the objectives set out in the Annual Business Plan.

In general, the Norwood Parade Precinct Annual Business Plan contains strategies to promote and market The Parade with the overarching objective of attracting more people to The Parade, which will ultimately enhance the prosperity and sustainability of The Parade. This in turn is likely to attract additional business opportunities, which contributes to the diversity of the businesses and services available and has the spinoff effect of increasing local employment opportunities.

Through the collection of the Separate Rate the Council is ensuring that The Parade continues to maintain its status as South Australia's Premier Mainstreet. Achieving a dynamic and thriving commercial centre, which in turn creates a community hub and a sense of pride for residents, business owners and employees.

In considering whether to recommend an extension of the Separate Rate and to increase the revenue that is collected, the Council must consider whether it supports the proposal of a Separate Rate in the first instance. A summary of these reasons along with some of the successful outcomes which have been achieved as a result of charging a Separate Rate, are set out below:

- The Parade is constantly facing increased competition from master planned, shopping centres, in particular Burnside Village, which is currently undergoing a multi-million dollar redevelopment. Other centres such as Westfields and Rundle Mall (with the Rundle Mall through the Adelaide Development Agency having a budget of more than \$2 million for marketing, promotion and initiatives) are also in competition with The Parade. These centres enjoy coordinated management, which includes a compulsory marketing levy along with maintenance of centre infrastructure and management of tenancy mix. While the charm and unique character of mainstreets like The Parade act as a significant drawcard, they simply cannot continue to compete in this increasingly competitive retail environment without applicable budgeting and strategic approach. It has been determined that a clear Strategy for The Parade needs to be developed to help define The Parade's role and determine the priorities for investment. With the redevelopment of Burnside Village currently underway, defining and promoting The Parade's uniqueness will be critical;
- continuous and consistent marketing and the delivery of various initiatives has resulted in expenditure increasing throughout the Precinct as highlighted by *Spendmapp by Geografia* data. While it can be argued that there may be a number of factors that have contributed to this increase in expenditure (ie inflation), given the scale of the overall increase in overall expenditure on The Parade it is clear that The Parade Precinct is attracting more customers. Even more importantly is that the average value of each transaction has remained consistent at around \$100 per transaction, which suggests that there are more transactions occurring each year – more transactions means more people spending money;
- other Council's in Metropolitan Adelaide are continuing to implement a Separate Rate to ensure they are able to implement new initiatives and strong marketing and promotional campaigns to encourage visitation and expenditure (i.e. Jetty Road, Glenelg, Unley Road and King William Road, Hyde Park). Without a separate rate, the Precinct will be unable to implement new initiatives and invest in an integrated marketing and promotion strategy;
- each financial year, a shopping competition is conducted within The Parade Precinct to encourage greater visitation and expenditure within the Precinct. An attractive prize is often successful at achieving an increase in visitation and expenditure and is generally the reason why mainstreets around Australia run an annual shopping competition. Through these competitions, staff are able to monitor the number of entries, which provides insights into the effectiveness of specific campaigns. The information collected also enables staff to determine the level of interest, the amount of each transaction, the age group of the entrants, The Parade's main catchment areas (suburbs), as well as people's shopping habits.

OPTIONS

The Council has a number of options available to it, including determining that a Separate Rate no longer be collected. However, given that a Separate Rate has now been collected since 2008, each time following consultation with The Parade business community and property owners, the option of no longer collecting the Separate Rate is **not recommended**. Not applying the Separate Rate would be detrimental to the long-term survival and sustainability of The Parade. In the absence of a single owner or single managing entity, the collection of a Separate Rate is the only way to provide a unified brand and consistent marketing.

The Council can increase the revenue that is collected through the Separate Rate. Whilst this is an option, it would add an additional cost to the businesses and property owners. Given the current cost of living pressures and the current state of interest rates, an increase is **not recommended**.

It is **recommended** that the Council endorses that it supports the proposal to extend the Separate Rate for the 2025-2026 financial year at a rate of \$225,000 and that The Parade business community be consulted with regard to again declaring a Separate rate for the Precinct.

CONCLUSION

The Separate Rate enables the Council to raise sufficient revenue to ensure integrated marketing and promotion and the implementation of initiatives for The Parade Precinct can occur. This year, with the proposal to only extend the Separate Rate for one (1) financial year, the Council will once again have the opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of the Separate Rate, and business and property owners will also be given the opportunity to once again determine its value to their business.

COMMENTS

The Separate Rate model for The Parade has been designed to ensure that the Precinct remains viable in Metropolitan Adelaide's increasingly competitive market. Nearby centres are undergoing, or have recently undergone, major redevelopments and The Parade's mainstreet peers have all implemented a Separate Rate for many years.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the continuation of the Separate Rate for The Parade Precinct for one (1) financial year, be endorsed 'in principle'.
 2. That the revenue raised by the Separate Rate for The Parade Precinct to be set at \$225,000 for the 2025-2026 financial year.
 3. That consultation with business and commercial property owners located within The Parade Precinct be undertaken on the proposal to extend the application of a Separate Rate for The Parade Precinct into the 2025-2026 financial year, for a period of twenty-one (21) days.
-

Cr McFarlane moved:

1. *That the continuation of the Separate Rate for The Parade Precinct for one (1) financial year, be endorsed 'in principle'.*
2. *That the revenue raised by the Separate Rate for The Parade Precinct to be set at \$225,000 for the 2025-2026 financial year.*
3. *That consultation with business and commercial property owners located within The Parade Precinct be undertaken on the proposal to extend the application of a Separate Rate for The Parade Precinct into the 2025-2026 financial year, for a period of twenty-one (21) days.*

Seconded by Cr Callisto and carried unanimously.

Section 3 – Governance & General Reports

13.5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (LGA) 2025 ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING – APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL DELEGATE

REPORT AUTHOR: General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs
GENERAL MANAGER: Chief Executive Officer
CONTACT NUMBER: 8366 4549
FILE REFERENCE: qA2219
ATTACHMENTS: Nil

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to advise the Council of the Local Government Association of South Australia's (LGA) 2025 Ordinary General Meeting and the requirement, in accordance with the LGA Constitution, to appoint a Council Delegate to represent the Council and vote at the General Meeting.

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Association (LGA) 2025 Ordinary General Meeting will be held on Friday, 23 May 2025. The agenda will be issued to all Councils in the near future.

Pursuant to the LGA Constitution, Councils are required to appoint a Council Delegate to represent the Council and vote at the LGA General Meeting, if the Council wishes to be represented and have voting rights at the Local Government Association 2025 Ordinary General Meeting. The Council may also appoint a Proxy Delegate in the event the Delegate is unable to attend the Ordinary General Meeting.

A Council Officer cannot be a Delegate, however, they can attend the LGA Ordinary General Meeting.

Traditionally, Mayors are appointed as the Delegate for the LGA Ordinary General Meeting.

It is considered appropriate that the Council also appoints a Deputy Council Delegate in the event that the appointed Delegate is unable to attend the Ordinary General Meeting.

RELEVANT POLICIES & STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Not Applicable.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Mayor Robert Bria be appointed as the Council Delegate for the Local Government Association 2025 Ordinary General Meeting.
2. That Councillor _____ be appointed as the Deputy Council Delegate for the Local Government Association 2025 Ordinary General Meeting.

Cr Duke moved:

That Mayor Robert Bria be appointed as the Council Delegate for the Local Government Association 2025 Ordinary General Meeting.

Seconded by Cr Clutterham and carried unanimously.

Cr Clutterham moved:

That Cr Grant Piggott be appointed as the Deputy Council Delegate for the Local Government Association 2025 Ordinary General Meeting.

Seconded by Cr Duke and carried unanimously.

**13.6 2025 AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
& NOTICES OF MOTION**

REPORT AUTHOR: General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs
GENERAL MANAGER: Chief Executive Officer
CONTACT NUMBER: 8366 4549
FILE REFERENCE: qA2190
ATTACHMENTS: A

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise the Council of the 2025 Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly.

BACKGROUND

The ALGA holds a National General Assembly (the NGA), each year. The NGA will be held in Canberra from 24-27 June 2025.

The purpose of the National General Assembly is to bring together delegates from Local Government to debate issues of national significance to Local Government. It provides an opportunity for Local Government to develop and express a united position on core issues affecting their communities, with access to influential decision makers (ie Federal Government), at both the political and staff level.

As well as providing planning sessions and workshops, the National General Assembly provides an opportunity for Councils to put forward motions for debate.

As such, a significant component of the NGA, comprises of discussion, debate and voting on motions which are submitted by Councils from across Australia.

RELEVANT STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS & POLICIES

Not Applicable.

FINANCIAL AND BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

\$13,000.00 has been set aside for Elected Member training and attendance at conferences and seminars each financial year as part of the Council's Operating Budget.

At the time of writing this report, a total of \$6,795 has been spent on Elected Member attendances at conferences and seminars.

EXTERNAL ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable.

SOCIAL ISSUES

Not Applicable.

CULTURAL ISSUES

Not Applicable.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Not Applicable.

RESOURCE ISSUES

Not Applicable.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Not Applicable.

CONSULTATION

- **Elected Members**
Elected Members were previously advised of the date of the ALGA National General Assembly and invitation to submit a Notice of Motion to the ALGA via a Memorandum from the General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs, dated 10 January 2025.
- **Community**
Not Applicable.
- **Staff**
Not Applicable.
- **Other Agencies**
Not Applicable.

DISCUSSION

The theme of the 2025 NGA is *National Priorities Need National Solutions*. This theme aims to explore opportunities for Councils *to work with the Federal Government to deliver local solutions that will help them deliver on their vision for the nation*.

In accordance with the Council's *Elected Member Training & Development Policy*, Elected Members wishing to attend an Interstate or International conference and/or seminar are required to complete and submit an Expression of Interest to the General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs.

Cr McFarlane has lodged an Expression of Interest to attend the 2025 NGA.

Crs Moorhouse and Sims have lodged a joint Expression of Interest to attend the 2025 NGA.

A copy of the Expressions of Interest is contained within **Attachment A**.

Notices of Motion

As stated above, the NGA also provides an opportunity for the NGA to consider matters of national significance via Notices of Motion which are submitted by Councils across the country. The ALGA has advised that Notices of Motion must be submitted to the ALGA by 31 March 2025.

Once again, the ALGA has advised that all motions which are submitted for consideration at the NGA, will undergo strict assessment against the criteria of national significance. This is to ensure that Councils do not submit motions which deal with specific local issues, have no relevance to other Councils or are not of national importance.

All motions that do not meet the criteria will be forwarded to the relevant State association for consideration.

The areas of priority for the ALGA in terms of Notices of Motions are:

- Intergovernmental Relations;
- Financial Sustainability;
- Roads and Infrastructure;
- Emergency Management;
- Housing and Homelessness;
- Jobs and Skills;
- Community Services;
- Closing the Gap and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reconciliation;
- Data, Digital Technology and Cyber Security;
- Climate Change and Renewable Energy;
- Environment; and
- Circular Economy.

To be eligible for inclusion in the National General Assembly Business Papers motions must:

1. fall under one of the themes of the NGA;
2. be relevant to the work of Local Government nationally;
3. propose a clear action and outcome; and
4. complement or build on the policy objectives of State or Territory association.

Motions which are submitted will be reviewed against these principles by the General Assembly Review Committee and State/Territory associations, as to their eligibility for inclusion in the General Assembly Business Papers.

A Memorandum dated 10 January 2025, was forwarded to all Elected Members inviting them to contact the General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs, if they wished to submit a Notice of Motion to the Assembly to enable the matter to be investigated and, if required, a report to be prepared for the Council's consideration of the matter.

At the time of writing this report, the General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs has not been contacted by any Elected Member wishing to submit a Notice of Motion.

OPTIONS

The Council can choose to submit a Notice of Motion to the Australian Local Government Association for consideration at the 2025 National General Assembly or decline the invitation to submit a Notice of Motion.

CONCLUSION

Notices of Motion must be submitted to the Australian Local Government Association by 31 March 2025, if the Motions are to be considered at the National General Assembly.

COMMENTS

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council approves the attendance of _____ at the 2025 Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly in Canberra from 24-27 June 2025, be approved.

Cr Moorhouse declared a material conflict of interest in this matter as he has lodged an Expression of Interest to attend the 2025 NGA and left the meeting at 8.31pm.

Cr Sims declared a material conflict of interest in this matter as he has lodged an Expression of Interest to attend the 2025 NGA and left the meeting at 8.31pm.

Cr McFarlane declared a material conflict of interest in this matter as she has lodged an Expression of Interest to attend the 2025 NGA and left the meeting at 8.33pm.

Cr Clutterham moved:

That the Council approves the attendance of Cr Victoria McFarlane, Cr Kester Moorhouse and Cr Scott Sims at the 2025 Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly in Canberra from 24-27 June 2025.

Seconded by Cr Piggott and lost.

Cr Duke moved:

That the Council approves the attendance of Cr Kester Moorhouse at the 2025 Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly in Canberra from 24-27 June 2025.

Seconded by Cr Mex and carried.

Cr Moorhouse returned to the meeting at 8.46pm.

Cr Sims returned to the meeting at 8.46pm.

Cr McFarlane returned to the meeting at 8.46pm.

13.7 NOMINATION TO EXTERNAL BODIES – STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

REPORT AUTHOR: Governance Officer
GENERAL MANAGER: General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs
CONTACT NUMBER: 8366 4533
FILE REFERENCE: qA90077
ATTACHMENTS: A

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to advise the Council of the call for nominations by the Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA), for appointment to the Stormwater Management Authority (SMA).

Stormwater Management Authority

The SMA is a Committee established under Schedule 1A of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

The SMA implements the *Agreement on Stormwater Management* between the State of South Australia and the LGA. Its role is to facilitate and co-ordinate stormwater management planning by Local Government and to ensure relevant public authorities co-operate in respect to facilitating this outcome.

The Minister for Climate, Environment & Water, has written to the LGA requesting nominations for the appointment of three (3) representatives (one being Presiding Member) to the Stormwater Management Authority (SMA) for a three (3) year term.

Previous members nominated by the LGA are eligible for reappointment.

A person nominated for appointment to the SMA must have appropriate qualifications or experience in public administration, water resources, stormwater management, mitigation of flood hazards, environmental management or infrastructure development.

Appointments to the SMA are for a period not exceeding three (3) years.

Sitting fees, allowances and expenses approved by the Governor are applicable.

A copy of the Selection Criteria and Nomination form is contained within **Attachment A**.

All nominees must provide an up-to-date Resume, together with the Nomination Form which are required to be forwarded to the LGA **by 21 March 2025**.

The Chief Executive Officer has expressed an interest in being nominated.

RELEVANT POLICIES & STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Not Applicable.

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Council notes the report and declines the invitation to submit a nomination to the Local Government Association for the Stormwater Management Authority.

or

2. The Council nominates _____ to the Local Government Association for the Stormwater Management Authority.
-

Cr Whittington moved:

The Council nominates the Chief Executive Officer to the Local Government Association for the Stormwater Management Authority.

Seconded by Cr Piggott and carried unanimously.

13.8 ERA WATER – FUTURE OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS OF THE LINDE RESERVE ASR SCHEME

REPORT AUTHOR: General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs
GENERAL MANAGER: Chief Executive Officer
CONTACT NUMBER: 8366 4549
FILE REFERENCE: qA87866
ATTACHMENTS: A

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present a request to the Council which has been received from ERA Water, regarding the arrangements between ERA Water and the Council for the management of the Linde Reserve ASR Scheme.

BACKGROUND

ERA Water is a Regional Subsidiary which has been established pursuant to Section 43 of the *Local Government Act 1999*, for the primary purpose of implementing the Waterproofing Eastern Adelaide Project (the Scheme), which involves the establishment of wetland bio-filters, aquifer recharge and recovery, pipeline installations and water storage facilities. ERA Water manage the Scheme on behalf of the Constituent Councils and provide recycled stormwater for the irrigation of parks and reserves to Constituent Councils. The City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, together with the City of Burnside and the Town of Walkerville make up the Constituent Councils of ERA Water.

ERA Water has written to the Council seeking the Council's approval to enter into discussions regarding potential opportunities for the management of the Linde Reserve ASR by ERA Water.

The Linde Reserve Aquifer Storage and Recharge (ASR), operates through the extraction of water from Second Creek and treated water is then injected into the aquifer for subsequent extraction. The scheme supplies water to reserves, the Linde Community Garden and several public fountains.

The Linde Reserve ASR Scheme is located at Linde Reserve, Nelson Street in Stepney.

A copy of the letter dated 3 February 2025 from Mr Jeff Tate, Independent Chair, ERA Water Board is contained within **Attachment A**.

RELEVANT STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS & POLICIES

Not Applicable.

FINANCIAL AND BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable.

EXTERNAL ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable.

SOCIAL ISSUES

Not Applicable.

CULTURAL ISSUES

Not Applicable.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Not Applicable.

RESOURCE ISSUES

Not Applicable.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Not Applicable.

CONSULTATION

- **Elected Members**
Cr Grant Piggott is a member of the ERA Water Board.
- **Community**
Not Applicable.
- **Staff**
Nil
- **Other Agencies**
Not Applicable.

DISCUSSION

In January 2025, the ERA Water Board resolved to seek approval from the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, to undertake discussions with the Council regarding the future management arrangements of the Linde Reserve ASR Scheme.

The intent of the ERA Water Board is to consider opportunities for the future of ERA Water, particularly on the basis of the independent review of ERA Water that was commissioned by the Town of Walkerville and the City of Burnside in 2024, which recommends that ERA Water achieves ongoing levels of income over the next three (3) year period.

On this basis, there is a potential opportunity for ERA Water to enter into discussions with the Council regarding the future management of the Linde Reserve ASR Scheme.

The Linde ASR Scheme operates by pumping water from Second Creek into two (2) biofilters located on Linde Reserve. There is a single 168 metre deep managed aquifer recharge bore extended to a fractured rock aquifer. Native groundwater salinity is approximately 1100 mg/L. Water is passed through disc filters and then UV treated prior to injection into the aquifer. From the aquifer, water is extracted into a 200kL underground storage tank. Water is intercepted from the tank by distribution pumps and then filtered by disk filters and UV disinfected before entering the irrigation pipe network.

Water quality is monitored by the online instrumentation including turbidity of the water, redox, pH and conductivity. The Scheme was designed to inject up to 30 ML/y but since the first injection in 2012, it has only been able to inject up to 10 ML/y. The performance of this Scheme is constrained by high turbidity in Second Creek which is caused by upstream quarrying activities as well as limited capacity of the bore.

Treated water distributed from the Linde Reserve pump station has a quality suitable for restricted irrigation of public spaces. Water salinity ranges from 350 to 1,100 mg/L and turbidity is below 2 NTU. Water extracted from Second Creek is UV disinfected before aquifer injection and then secondary UV disinfected before distribution. The quality of the water produced at Linde Reserve is similar to the quality of water produced at Felixstow Reserve and Hamilton Reserve by ERA Water. There are no water quality issues if both water sources are combined and used to supply reserves.

As part of the recent upgrade to St Peters Street, an extension of the recycled water pipe from the Linde Reserve ASR was undertaken to Eighth Avenue.

There is a potential to supply additional reserves within St Peters and Norwood if the network is further extended to the east and south. The Linde ASR capacity is limited due to a single, low-capacity bore. If the ERA Water network is extended to St Peters, water reliability will improve as water can be supplied from two (2) sources.

Currently, maintenance of the Linde Reserve ASR is undertaken by Field Development Planning Pty Ltd (FDP) at an annual cost of \$15,750.

Given that ERA Water operates a much larger stormwater re-use scheme, it makes logical sense to at least explore the opportunity of the Linde Reserve ASR Scheme being incorporated into the ERA Water Scheme and the management (operations) of the Linde Reserve ASR Scheme being undertaken by ERA Water.

OPTIONS

The Council can choose not to support the request from ERA Water to enter into discussion regarding the Linde Reserve ASR Scheme, however, there are no specific issues or activities which present a financial or risk management issue for the Council to commence discussions in the first instance.

It is in the Council's interest that any opportunity to improve the financial performance of ERA Water be explored and assessed as well as potentially divesting the operations of the Linde Reserve ASR Scheme to ERA Water.

CONCLUSION

There are a number of opportunities that ERA Water are considering to ensure the future growth and financial performance of ERA Water, including the Linde Loop opportunity. ERA Water is therefore hoping to commence discussions with the Council regarding these opportunities to determine if they are in fact viable before proceeding any further or discounting other opportunities.

COMMENTS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to enter into discussions with ERA Water regarding the future arrangements between ERA Water and the Linde Reserve ASR Scheme.
2. That the Council notes that a report on the outcome of these discussions will be provided to the Council.

Cr Sims left the meeting at 8.49pm.

Cr McFarlane left the meeting at 8.50pm.

Cr Duke moved:

1. *The Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to enter into discussions with ERA Water regarding the future arrangements between ERA Water and the Linde Reserve ASR Scheme.*
2. *That the Council notes that a report on the outcome of these discussions will be provided to the Council.*

Seconded by Cr Moorhouse.

Cr McFarlane returned to the meeting at 8.51pm.

The motion was put and carried unanimously.

13.9 RICHARDS PARK LEASE AND RIGHT OF WAY

REPORT AUTHOR: Manager, Governance
GENERAL MANAGER: General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs
CONTACT NUMBER: 8366 4593
FILE REFERENCE: qA159668
ATTACHMENTS: A

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek the Council's endorsement to enter into a new Lease with the South Australia Department for Education, for the use of a portion of Richards Park, Norwood for the operation of the Margaret Ives Community Children's Centre. Associated with the Lease negotiations, is a request to extinguish the existing 'Right-of-Way' that the Council has in place over the walkway which connects Vernon Avenue with Richards Park.

BACKGROUND

The Margaret Ives Community Children's Centre (the Centre) located at 19 Edward Street, Norwood, has used a section of Richards Park as a play area, since the Centre was established in 1977. The Centre was initially under the ownership of the Kindergarten Union (KU) of South Australia which no longer exists as it was absorbed into the State Government. The land the Centre is located on, is therefore owned by the Department for Education (the Department) and the property is then leased to the Centre (which is a separately incorporated association).

In 2014, the Council resolved to enter into a Lease with the Minister for Education and Child Development (the Minister), to formalise the use of a portion of Richards Park for a play area for the Centre. Without this area, the Centre does not have access to a designated play area. It was also determined that a lease fee of \$6,400 per annum would be phased in over a five (5) year period in recognition that there had previously been no rent charged for the use of the land.

In 2015, the Council subsequently determined that no rent would be required to be paid until such time as the Council adopted a policy for rent and lease related costs charged to community groups using open space owned by the Council. At a later meeting in 2015, the Council resolved that an annual rent of ten dollars (\$10) should be paid and the Centre would be required to meet all costs associated with the annual inspections and any subsequent costs involved with pruning of two (2) trees located in, and adjacent to, the leased area. This requirement is reflected in the current Lease.

The current Lease expires on 30 June 2025 and the Department has contacted the Council seeking to enter into a new Lease from 1 July 2025. The Department has also requested to extinguish the Right-of- Way that exists in the Council's favour on the State Government land which is used as an unsealed laneway to Richards Park from Vernon Street.

An image of the current leased area relative to the whole of Richards Park, Norwood, as well as the laneway from Vernon Street, is contained in **Attachment A**.

RELEVANT STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS & POLICIES

Not Applicable.

FINANCIAL AND BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The Margaret Ives Community Children's Centre provides long day care and preschool services and operates on a 'not for profit' basis and the leased land forms an important part of the Centre's operations.

It is proposed that the Lease be negotiated with a rental amount based on the Council's previously adopted position from 14 June 2011, where the base rent of a property being leased by the Council for community purposes be set at 20% of the market value of that land.

The percentage is considered representative of the costs that the Council is likely to incur as landlord of the rented property and provides a consistent base for the levying of rent. It is intended that this rent model will be included in a broader Leasing & Licensing Policy (or similar) which is currently in development. The Council will approve the final Lease, including rent at the time the Lease is being finalised.

While the new Lease will not be directly with the Centre, but rather with the Minister, it is relevant to considerations that the Centre operates as a 'not for profit' community organisation. It is therefore appropriate that any rent recognises this distinction from say other Council land leased to the State Government.

EXTERNAL ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable.

SOCIAL ISSUES

Not Applicable.

CULTURAL ISSUES

Not Applicable.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Not Applicable.

RESOURCE ISSUES

Not Applicable.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Legal agreements (ie, leases and/or licences) are required to be in place for Council owned land and facilities that are used by third parties, to ensure legislative compliance and reduce exposure to claims from third parties who may suffer injury or loss, whilst using the Council owned land or facilities.

It is proposed that the new Lease will address responsibilities for the maintenance of trees that are located within the leased area. It is also proposed that the Centre will be responsible for the inspection and maintenance of all the trees within the boundary of the Centre, which will include any trees that are located in the leased area (ie. on Council land).

CONSULTATION

- **Elected Members**
Nil.
- **Community**
In accordance with Section 202(2) and (3) of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act), where a lease or licence for *Community Land* is proposed to be for a period over five (5) years, the Council is required to undertake community consultation before granting that lease or licence. However, Regulation 22(1) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2013*, provides an exemption to this requirement where the lease or licence is being granted to a Minister and there is no substantial change in the use of the land.

As the Lease will be between the Council and the Minister and there is no change to the use of the land, given it will continue to be used by the Centre as outdoor space, there is no requirement for community consultation on the draft lease.

- **Staff**
General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs
Acting General Manager, Infrastructure & Major Projects
City Arborist
- **Other Agencies**
Leasing & Property Project Manager, Department for Education
Director, Margaret Ives Community Children's Centre

DISCUSSION

Richards Park is owned by the Council and is classified as *Community Land* in accordance with Section 193 of the Act. The Council's Parks and Gardens *Community Land* Management Plan (updated in May 2022) includes Richards Park and allows for the land to be Leased consistent with the arrangements in place at the time the *Community Land* Management Plan was first adopted in 1 June 2020.

It is proposed that the new Lease will be prepared in an updated format in line with contemporary governance principles and for consistency with other recent Council leases. The terms and conditions will remain the same as the current Lease except for the following minor changes:

- updating responsibility for tree maintenance; and
- including the payment of rent consistent with that for a 'not for profit' community entity.

a. Tree Maintenance

In recognition of the proximity of two (2) large trees in the vicinity of the Centre play area (one of which is within the leased area and one which is adjacent to the leased area), the current lease includes special conditions that requires the Council inspect the trees and recover the cost from the Centre. Given one of the trees is well outside of the leased area and there are other trees located on the land occupied by the Centre that is not owned by the Council, a more practical approach reflecting the current safety requirements is suggested.

It is proposed that the significant tree on Council land which is within the leased area be included in the inspection and maintenance regime the Centre has in place for all trees within the boundaries of the Centre site. This is a more practical and effective solution to minimise the risk to safety as it will form a standard part of the operation of the Centre and allow access requirements to be appropriately managed as per the Centre's operating guidelines. It is envisaged that copies of the inspection and maintenance reports for the tree on Council land will be provided to the Council.

Following preliminary discussions with the Department and the Centre, this is the preferred approach to managing the risks with the trees.

b. Rent

Staff have made progress towards preparing a leasing, licensing and hiring policy framework which will include a consistent approach to rent and other lease related costs. This progress has included a review of previous decisions of the Council to identify policy positions and similar policies in use by other Councils.

It is proposed that a model rent / lease fee structure will be incorporated into a *Leasing & Licensing Policy* (or similar) to ensure consistency and transparency for the Council and potential and current tenants of Council's land and facilities. Any changes to the current arrangements in place with tenants which arise out of the adopted policy will be communicated in advance to tenants and transition arrangements made as required.

It is likely that categories of tenants will be proposed based on their status eg. Commercial, not for profit / community, government etc. Based on the category a model fee structure will be developed.

An Information Briefing Session will be held with Elected Members to discuss policy principles ahead of the consideration of the Policy which is likely to be at the Council Meeting to be held on 5 May 2025.

The likelihood of a rent amount being applied has been raised with the representative of the Department for Education during preliminary discussions.

c. Right of Way

Preliminary discussions with the Department of Education indicate that the Centre needs to expand to accommodate more preschool students as part of the State Government's Office for Early Childhood Development implementation of preschool for three (3) year olds.

Following a site inspection, the status of the laneway adjacent to the Centre which runs between Vernon Street and Richards Park (as shown in Image 1), was identified as an opportunity for expansion. The Council currently has a Right-of-Way over the laneway which is owned by the Department for Education.

The laneway at the Vernon Street entrance is designed for vehicle access to the rear of the Centre as shown in Image 1 below.



Image 1 – Vernon Street entrance to laneway access to Richards Park

At the point where the Centre's outdoor area commences, there is another gate into the rear of the Centre (refer Image 2 below).



Image 2 – vehicle access to the rear of the Centre

This vehicle access is used by the Centre to facilitate the delivery of Softfall (for use in play areas) to the rear of the Centre.

The laneway then narrows after that point to pedestrian width as visible in the image below taken from the Richards Park entrance to the laneway. This narrow section runs the length of the side of the outdoor play area of the Centre.

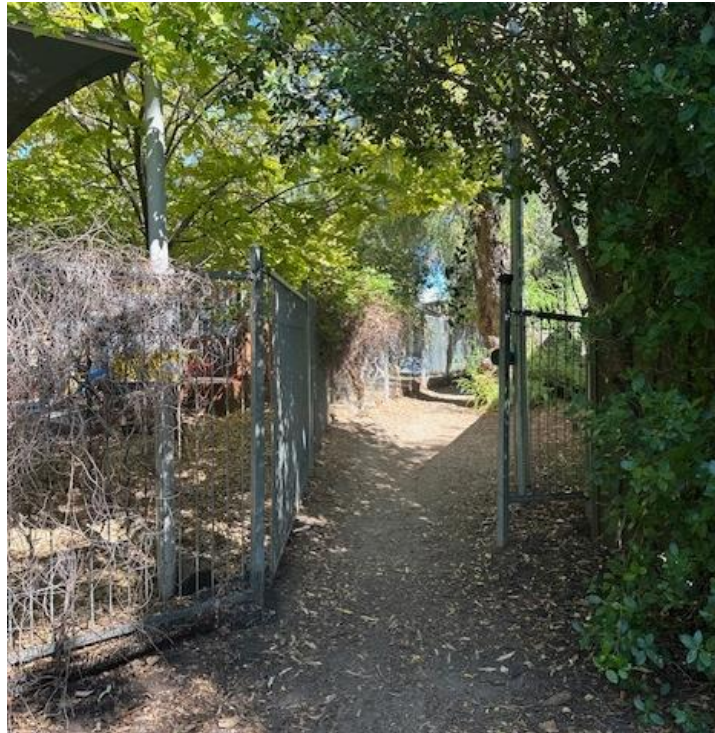


Image 3 – View of laneway from Richards Park

The laneway does not have a formed surface either at the Vernon Street vehicle entrance or the Richards Park pedestrian entrance. The surface consists of soil, sand and leaf matter as evident in the image below.



Image 4 – view of laneway surface

Further investigations which have been undertaken by the Department, indicates that the laneway dates back to around 1977, when the City of Kensington & Norwood and the Kindergarten Union, negotiated the transfer of land at the site and a portion was set aside presumably to provide continued community access to Richards Park from Vernon Street.

The exact access and maintenance arrangements in place for the Right-of-Way are not clear. While it is owned by the State Government and it allows for vehicular access to the rear of the Centre (eg for softfall deliveries), the Council undertakes routine maintenance as part of the overall maintenance program for Richards Park.

While discussing the preference to incorporate the laneway into the Centre grounds to allow for expansion, the Department indicated that it is preferred to not have the laneway adjacent to the Centre from a safety perspective for the children. Absorbing the laneway into the grounds of the Centre would not only allow the Centre to expand but also the Centre would have a more secure boundary.

From the Council's perspective, removing any expectations of maintenance or liability on the Council for the laneway is an advantage from a cost and liability perspective. This somewhat mitigates the disruption to those who use the laneway to access Richards Park, particularly given the proximity of the main entrances to Richards Park from both Osmond Terrace and Magill Road which are both safe and suitable options for accessing the Park.

In addition, the growth of the Centre which would be enabled by removing the walkway will assist the broader community to access child care and preschool education services.

The process to extinguish the Right-of-Way is straight forward based on both parties agreeing. Should the Council resolve to extinguish the Right-of-Way, staff will take the necessary steps to implement this decision including facilitating communication with local residents.

OPTIONS

The Council can determine not to enter into a new Lease with the Minister, however that is not recommended, given the need for the continued and expanded operation of the Margaret Ives Community Children's Centre.

It is recommended that the payment of rent be included in the negotiations with the Department and that this should be in line with an adopted policy position of the Council. However, the Council can decide that such payment is not required. It is strongly recommended that the rent be negotiated based on the established position of the Council.

The Council can resolve not to extinguish the Right-of-Way, however this is not recommended. The laneway land is owned by the State Government who are keen to ensure the Centre can expand, as it is required to do in order to accommodate more children, as well as provide a safer environment by limiting public access to one of the Centre's boundaries. The positive outcomes for the Council will be in removing the responsibility for maintaining the laneway land and the associated liability risks.

CONCLUSION

From an administrative perspective, the current Lease arrangements have worked well and the proposed changes to be incorporated into a new Lease will enhance the arrangement.

COMMENTS

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Council approves entering into a Lease with the Minister for Education and Child Development for the use of a portion of Richards Park, Norwood, for a ten (10) year period commencing on 1 July 2025 and expiring on 30 June 2035 and notes that the draft Lease will be presented to the Council for approval.
 2. That the Council approves extinguishing the Right of Way for the laneway connecting Vernon Street to Richards Park and notes that local residents will be advised in advance.
-

Cr Sims returned to the meeting at 8.52pm.

Cr Sims moved:

1. *That the Council approves entering into a Lease with the Minister for Education and Child Development for the use of a portion of Richards Park, Norwood, for a ten (10) year period commencing on 1 July 2025 and expiring on 30 June 2035 and notes that the draft Lease will be presented to the Council for approval.*
2. *That the Council approves extinguishing the Right of Way for the laneway connecting Vernon Street to Richards Park and notes that local residents will be advised in advance.*

Seconded by Cr Piggott and carried.

Cr Whittington left the meeting at 8.56pm and did not return.

13.10 REPORT OF THE AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

REPORT AUTHOR: Manager Governance
GENERAL MANAGER: General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs
CONTACT NUMBER: 8366 4593
FILE REFERENCE: qA162025
ATTACHMENTS: A - B

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present the Council with the report and Minutes of the meeting of the Audit & Risk Committee held on 10 February 2025.

BACKGROUND

Section 126(8)(a) of the Act requires that a Council Audit & Risk Committee must:

‘provide a report to the council after each meeting summarising the work of the committee during the period preceding the meeting and the outcomes of the meeting’.

To implement the above requirement and noting that the Council's Audit & Risk Committee (the Committee) undertakes its work during its meetings, the Committee resolved that the Committee's Work Plan will form the basis for such reports to the Council.

In addition to the above, this report also presents the Committee Meeting Minutes to the Council for noting and provides the opportunity for Council decisions based on recommendations from the Committee, where the matter has not been dealt with by way of a separate report to the Council.

RELEVANT STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS & POLICIES

Not Applicable

FINANCIAL AND BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The provision of this report to the Council ensures compliance with the Council's legislative obligations. Supporting the Committee to meet its legislated purpose, functions and activities will provide the required independent assurance and advice to the Council.

CONSULTATION

- **Elected Members**
Elected Members receive the Agenda and Minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee and consider recommendations made by the Audit & Risk Committee to the Council at Council meetings.
- **Community**
Meetings of the Committee are open to the public to attend in accordance with legislative provisions.
- **Staff**
The preparation of the Work Plan which informs this report and the Committee Meeting agenda (with reports) is informed by collaboration between personnel from the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters Governance, Finance and other relevant departments.
- **Other Agencies**
Not Applicable.

DISCUSSION

a. General Report

The current Work Plan of the Committee is contained within **Attachment A**.

A summary of items considered by the Committee at its meeting held on 10 February 2025, is provided below.

Based on the Work Plan, Elected Members will note that the February 2025 meeting of the Committee was scheduled to receive a report on actions arising from previous audits. This is to facilitate compliance with Section 126(4)(c) of the Act, which requires the Committee to monitor the responsiveness of the Council to recommendations for improvement based on previous audits and risk assessments, including those raised by the Council's Auditors.

While actions arising from previous audits have regularly been reported to the Committee in the past, this has occurred on an ad-hoc basis and often as part of other reports. As part of the new legislative requirements, a tracking process for future audits that combines recommendations arising from both the External Audits and Internal Audits so that progress can be effectively monitored by the Committee will be implemented. This process commenced from 1 January 2025 and there have been no audits undertaken since that time. In working through the process, outstanding audit actions from previous audits will be included as part of the report.

Section 126(4)(h) of the Act requires that the Committee review and evaluate the effectiveness of policies, systems and procedures established and maintained for the identification, assessment, monitoring, management and review of strategic, financial and operational risks on a regular basis. This requirement aligns with the other risk management function related changes to the Act for the Council and the Chief Executive Officer which commenced on 30 November 2023.

The Committee's Work Plan shows that there will be a report scheduled for each meeting of the Committee reporting on risk management, including at the February meeting of the Committee. This was preliminary scheduling based on the Strategic Risk Management Services program (the Program) with Local Government Risk Services. This Program will assist with enhancing embedded, effective and sustainable risk management principles and processes to assist with strategic and operational planning and decision making and include the appropriate reporting processes.

As the outcomes of the Program are determined and processes become embedded, discussions will be held with the Committee on the most appropriate form of regular reporting. It may be that reporting every six (6) months is preferable. The Work Plan will be updated once the reporting structure is determined.

The Work Plan identifies that the Committee would be provided with the Budget Review report that had been presented to the Council. This is to assist the Committee meet the requirements of Section 126(4)(f) of the Act which requires that the Committee review the adequacy of the accounting, internal control, reporting and other financial management systems and practices of the council on a regular basis. The primary way the Committee will undertake this function is in reviewing financial management policies which will be presented as needed prior to Council adoption, and the Internal Controls Report (scheduled for the July meeting of the Committee).

The Council was presented with the 2024-2025 Mid-Year Budget Review at the meeting held on 3 February 2025, however the report was not included for the 10 February 2025 meeting of the Committee. However, the Committee received and noted the 2025-2026 Annual Business Plan and Budget Objectives and Parameters report which had been endorsed by the Council at the meeting held on 20 January 2025.

The Committee also received an update on the Council's Internal Audit function which included both consultation on the person assigned responsibility for the Internal Audit function and the presentation of the *Internal Audit Plan 2025-2027* (Internal Audit Plan).

As Section 125A of the Act requires the Chief Executive Officer to consult with the Committee when assigning the primary responsibility for the Council's Internal Audit function, the Committee noted that this role has been assigned to the General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs.

Section 126(4)(g)(i) of the Act also requires the Committee to provide oversight of the planning and scoping of the Internal Audit Work Plan which was therefore presented to the Committee. As advised to the Committee, the work being done through the Strategic Risk Management Services program with Local Government Risk Services will also influence the alignment of the Internal Audit Work Plan.

Noting this is a work in progress, the current Internal Audit Plan was reviewed with a focus on fundamental aspects of the Council's operation and well recognised risks across Local Government (eg contractor management). While the Committee's endorsement of the Internal Audit Plan was sought, the Committee noted the Plan with the intention the Plan will be presented to the next meeting of the Committee on 14 April 2025 which will be the first meeting of the new Committee.

The Committee also received an update on the development of a Service Efficiency Review Framework (SERF) which will be facilitated by Bentleys (Consultants). The SERF provides a high-level assessment of existing Council services, including their purpose (ie, legislated, strategic, community benefit etc.) and resource allocation, This is a framework that will be used in multiple ways across the organisation, including in the identification of Internal Audit and Service Review opportunities, as well as planning and budgeting conversations within the Council and with the community.

To support the delivery of the SERF, only one (1) Internal Audit has been scheduled before the completion of this financial year.

b. Minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 10 February 2025, including the reports presented are contained in **Attachment B**.

c. Recommendations to the Council

There were no recommendations made by the Committee to the Council at the Meeting held on 10 February 2025 that need to be considered by the Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and noted.

Cr Clutterham moved:

That the report be received and noted.

Seconded by Cr Callisto and carried unanimously.

14. ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

REPORT AUTHOR: General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs
GENERAL MANAGER: Chief Executive Officer
CONTACT NUMBER: 8366 4549
FILE REFERENCE: Not Applicable
ATTACHMENTS: A

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to present to the Council the Minutes of the following Committee Meetings for the Council's consideration and adoption of the recommendations contained within the Minutes:

- Business & Economic Development Advisory Committee – (18 February 2025)
(A copy of the Minutes of the Business & Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting is contained within **Attachment A**)

ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Business & Economic Development Advisory Committee**

Cr Holfeld moved that the Minutes of the meeting of the Business & Economic Development Advisory Committee held on 18 February 2025, be received and that the resolutions set out therein as recommendations to the Council are adopted as decisions of the Council. Seconded by Cr Knoblauch and carried unanimously.

15. **OTHER BUSINESS**
Nil

16. **CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS**

16.1 AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

REPORT AUTHOR: Manager, Governance
GENERAL MANAGER: General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs
CONTACT NUMBER: 8366 4593
FILE REFERENCE: qA162025
ATTACHMENTS: A - C

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek the Council's endorsement to appoint the new Members of the Council's Audit & Risk Committee.

BACKGROUND

As Elected Members are aware, several amendments to the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act) and Regulations, which commenced in November 2023, focus on Audit & Risk Committees, including membership of the Committees.

In accordance with Section 126(2) of the Act, the majority of Members of the Audit & Risk Committee (the Committee), must now be independent from the Council and the membership of the Committee (when taken as a whole), must have skills, knowledge and experience relevant to the functions of the Committee, which includes financial management, risk management and governance.

In accordance with Regulation 17 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*, the Committee must have between three (3) and five (5) members (inclusive).

In progressing the implementation of these changes, at the Council Meeting held on 2 December 2024, the Council determined by resolution to adopt the Committee Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference contain the membership requirements for the Committee which now includes three (3) Independent Members (one of whom will be the Presiding Member of the Committee) and two Elected Members (one of whom will be the Mayor).

The Elected Members currently on the Committee, Mayor Bria, Cr Clutterham and Cr Piggott, were appointed for the term of the Committee at the Council Meeting held on 5 December 2022. However, as the Council can only appoint two (2) Elected Members (one of whom is the Mayor), one (1) Councillor must now be appointed to the Committee.

At the Council Meeting held on 2 December 2024, the Council was also advised that an Expression of Interest process would commence to recruit the requisite Independent Members for the Committee given the two (2) current Independent Members did not seek reappointment and a third Independent Member is required.

To progress the appointment of the Independent Members, a Selection Panel was established to interview the candidates and determine the three (3) preferred candidates to recommend to the Council for appointment. In accordance with the Terms of Reference for the Committee, Cr Christel Mex and Cr Josh Robinson, were appointed to the Selection Panel together with Mayor Bria and the Chief Executive Officer.

The Expression of Interest process was conducted between 11 December 2024 and 17 January 2025, with applications sought from interested persons with qualifications and/or experience in financial management, risk management, or governance, with preference given to those familiar with Local Government operations.

Interviews have now been conducted and this report seeks the Council's decision on the appointment of the Independent Members to the Committee based on the recommendation of the Selection Panel.

The Council is also now required to appoint a Councillor to the Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council has determined that the Independent Members will receive a sitting fee of \$450 per meeting and the Independent Member who is appointed as the Presiding Member of the Committee will receive \$650 per meeting. These Sitting Fees are included in the 2024-2025 Budget.

SOCIAL ISSUES/IMPACT

Not Applicable.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Not Applicable.

RESOURCE ISSUES

Not Applicable.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Pursuant to Section 126 of the Act, the Council must have an Audit & Risk Committee to assist in the performance of its functions. The Act prescribes certain requirements in respect to the membership and the functions of an Audit & Risk Committee.

Appointment of Independent Members to the Committee will ensure that the Council complies with the provisions of the Act.

To ensure the proper discharge of responsibilities, the Committee will be required to operate within the parameters of its Terms of Reference, as established and approved by the Council.

CONSULTATION

- **Elected Members**
Mayor Bria and Councillors Mex and Robinson were appointed to the Selection Panel. Due to other commitments, Cr Robinson could not attend all the interviews, however he was provided with the details of all shortlisted applicants.
- **Community**
Not Applicable.
- **Staff**
Chief Executive Officer.
- **Other Agencies**
Not Applicable.

DISCUSSION

Recruitment and Selection Process

Expressions of Interest were invited from suitably qualified persons via notices in The Advertiser, Linked In and the Council's website and social media channels from 11 December 2024 to 17 January 2025.

A total of six (6) applications were received by the closing period.

A summary of the applications received (with personal information not relevant to the Council's decision redacted) is contained within **Attachment A**.

Following a review of the applications and an assessment against the criteria for membership of the Committee (qualifications and/or experience in the areas of financial management, risk management, or governance, with a particular focus on Local Government experience), the following five (5) applicants were shortlisted for interview:

1. Ms Cate Hart;
2. Ms Tami Norman;
3. Ms Ingrid Valente;
4. Mr Kym Holman; and
5. Mr Ben Watkins.

The Selection Panel conducted interviews at various times between 13 and 30 January 2025. The interview questions focussed on key aspects of the role and were aimed at ascertaining how each candidate would contribute to the effective operation of the Audit & Risk Committee.

A summary of the Selection Panel's assessment of the candidates that were interviewed, is set out below:

- Ms Cate Hart

Ms Cate Hart held a career in Local Government spanning over thirty (30) years, including as Chief Executive Officer of the City of Prospect and the Wakefield Regional Council. Cate has completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors course and is a Registered Planner with the Planning Institute of Australia.

Ms Hart has broad and extensive experience in Council related financial management, risk management and strategic planning responsibilities.

Ms Hart is currently employed as the Executive Director, Environment Heritage and Sustainability in the Department of Environment and Water and has served on and chaired many boards and committees over her career.

Ms Hart presented well at the interview and in response to the questions, displayed a mature and in-depth understanding of the role of Audit & Risk Committees and how Ms Hart would add value to the work of this Council's Committee.

Ms Hart has considerable management experience across both Local Government and State Government and has an excellent understanding of finance at a strategic as well as at a budgetary level and an excellent understanding of how the functions of risk, finance and governance interact, to ensure that the Council discharges its legislative obligations.

Given the breadth and depth of Ms Hart's experience and knowledge, the Selection Panel agreed that Ms Hart is a preferred candidate for appointment to the Audit & Risk Committee and the preferred candidate for appointment as the Presiding Member of the Committee.

- Ms Tami Norman

Ms Tami Norman has fifteen (15) years' experience in Local Government in a range of roles with a specific focus on governance including responsibility for internal audit and risk management functions and other activities relevant to the Audit & Risk Committee. Whilst working at the Local Government Association of South Australia, Ms Norman updated the current guide in use by all Councils to support the operation of all Council Audit & Risk Committees to support legislative compliance obligations following extensive reforms.

Ms Norman has a Bachelor of Business and Post-graduate Management certificates.

Ms Norman is currently providing governance services on a consulting basis for State and Local Government organisations.

Ms Norman presented well at the interview and was able to articulate considered and well-structured responses to the questions that clearly highlighted Ms Norman's experience and understanding of the governance components of an Audit & Risk Committee's responsibilities.

Ms Norman would complement the skills of both Ms Hart and Mr Holman.

On this basis, the Selection Panel agreed that Ms Norman be recommended for appointment on the Council's Audit & Risk Committee.

- Ms Ingrid Valente

Ms Ingrid Valente has qualifications in Economics and is currently undertaking the Australian Institute of Company Directors course.

Ms Valente has experience in leading financial projects and analysing financial risks. As a Board Coordinator with 'Spirit of Woman' Ms Valente has gained insight into Council decision-making processes, governance structures and risk management frameworks.

Ms Valente is currently employed as a Commercial Advisor and Analyst with Adbri (formerly Adelaide Brighton).

Ms Valente presented well at the interview, however, Ms Valente's responses to the questions highlighted her lack of experience in the key functions of the Audit & Risk Committee – finance, risk and governance, when compared to Ms Hart, Mr Holman and Ms Norman.

- Mr Kym Holman

Mr Kym Holman has forty-six (46) years' experience in banking, finance and risk management and has recently retired.

Mr Holman has a Master of Business Administration and is a Fellow of both CPA and the Institute of Public Accountants.

Mr Holman has held senior roles in banking including as Head of Finance and Financial Controller.

Mr Holman is an experienced finance professional and has held senior financial positions.

Mr Holman presented well at the interview and in response to the questions, Mr Holman was able to articulate his in-depth understanding of not only finance matters at a strategic level, but specifically of this Council's finances in terms of its Long-Term Financial Plan and budgets.

Mr Holman possesses the strengths, experience and understanding of the financial components of the Audit & Risk Committee's work and scope of responsibilities.

The Selection Panel agreed that Mr Holman be appointed to the Council's Audit & Risk Committee.

- Mr Ben Watkins

Mr Ben Watkins has experience in risk management, governance and financial oversight and has a Master of Accounting and a Bachelor of Commerce.

Mr Watkins is currently employed as a Senior Manager with Scyne Advisory and provides risk advisory and internal audit services to South Australian Government clients, including SA Health and the SA Housing Trust.

Mr Watkins presented well at the interview and whilst Mr Watkins was able to provide answers to the questions, Mr Watkins was not able to demonstrate the same breadth of knowledge and experience as Ms Hart or Mr Holman in terms of financial matters or indeed, the role and function of an Audit & Risk Committee.

Skills Matrix

In addition to the interviews, the Selection Panel used a Skills Matrix approach to assist in determining the preferred and most suitable candidates. In this respect, the Skills Matrix assisted to manage the requirement to ensure that the membership of the Committee (when taken as a whole), must have skills, knowledge and experience relevant to the functions of the Committee, which includes financial management, risk management and governance.

The *Skills Matrix Results Assessment Table* is contained within **Attachment B**.

Recommendation of the Selection Panel

The Selection Panel has recommended the appointment of Ms Cate Hart, Ms Tami Norman and Mr Kym Holman as the Independent Members of the Audit & Risk Committee. It is also recommended that Ms Cate Hart be appointed as the Presiding Member of the Committee.

In accordance with Clause 5.3 of the Committee's Terms of Reference it is recommended that the Independent Members be appointed for a period of three (3) years which will provide for continuity of the Committee membership across the end of Council term.

A copy of Ms Cate Hart's, Ms Tami Norman's and Mr Kym Holman's applications, noting that personal information not relevant to the Council's decision has been redacted, are contained in **Attachment C**.

The Selection Panel considers that Ms Hart, Ms Norman and Mr Holman will add significant value to the Committee and that the Council will benefit from their respective skills and experience.

OPTIONS

The Council has the following options in respect to this matter:

- **Option One**

The Council can determine to endorse the appointments of Ms Hart, Ms Norman and Mr Holman to the Audit & Risk Committee as Independent Members.

- **Option Two**

The Council can determine not to endorse the appointments as per the recommendation of the Selection Panel or it may determine to alternate candidate(s).

Option Two is not recommended on the basis that the selection process has been undertaken in accordance with the Committee's Terms of Reference and the legislative requirement to ensure candidates are appointed who have the required skills, knowledge and for appointment to the Committee.

The three (3) candidates recommended for appointment have exceptional skills and experience which will add significant value to the Committee and the Council will benefit from their skills and experience.

RECOMMENDATION 1

That pursuant to Section 90(2) and (3)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that the public, with the exception of the Council staff present, be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the Council will receive, discuss and consider information, the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead).

RECOMMENDATION 2

1. That the Council notes the report and the *Skills Matrix Results Assessment Table* as contained in Attachment C to this report.
2. That Ms Cate Hart, Ms Tami Norman and Mr Kym Holman be appointed as the Independent Members of the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters Audit & Risk Committee, for a period of three (3) years commencing from 4 March 2025.
3. That Ms Cate Hart be appointed as the Presiding Member of the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters Audit & Risk Committee, for a period of two (2) years commencing from 4 March 2025.
4. That Cr _____ be appointed to the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters Audit & Risk Committee from 4 March 2025 until 31 October 2026.

RECOMMENDATION 3

Under Section 91(7) and (9) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that the discussion and attachments to the report be kept confidential for a period of five (5) years expiring on 3 March 2030 and that this order be reviewed every twelve (12) months.

Cr Sims moved:

That Cr Grant Piggott be appointed to the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters Audit & Risk Committee from 4 March 2025 until 31 October 2026.

Seconded by Cr Duke and carried unanimously.

Cr Knoblauch moved:

That pursuant to Section 90(2) and (3)(a) of the Local Government Act 1999 the Council orders that the public, with the exception of the Council staff present [Chief Executive Officer, General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs, General Manager, Urban Planning & Environment, General Manager, Community Development, Manager, Governance and Administration Assistant, Governance & Civic Affairs], be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the Council will receive, discuss and consider information, the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead).

Seconded by Cr Holfeld and carried unanimously.

Cr Duke moved:

- 1. That the Council notes the report and the Skills Matrix Results Assessment Table as contained in Attachment C to this report.*
- 2. That Ms Cate Hart, Ms Tami Norman and Mr Kym Holman be appointed as the Independent Members of the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters Audit & Risk Committee, for a period of three (3) years commencing from 4 March 2025.*
- 3. That Ms Cate Hart be appointed as the Presiding Member of the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters Audit & Risk Committee, for a period of two (2) years commencing from 4 March 2025.*

Seconded by Cr Mex and carried unanimously.

Cr Piggott moved:

Under Section 91(7) and (9) of the Local Government Act 1999 the Council orders that the discussion and attachments to the report be kept confidential for a period of five (5) years expiring on 3 March 2030 and that this order be reviewed every twelve (12) months.

Seconded by Cr Clutterham and carried unanimously.

16.2 ERA WATER SUSTAINABILITY REVIEW REPORT

RECOMMENDATION 1

That pursuant to Section 90(2) and (3) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that the public, with the exception of the Council staff present, be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the Council will receive, discuss and consider:

- (d) commercial information of a confidential nature (not being a trade secret) the disclosure of which—
 - (i) could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a third party; and
 - (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest;

and the Council is satisfied that, the principle that the meeting should be conducted in a place open to the public, has been outweighed by the need to keep the receipt/discussion/consideration of the information confidential.

RECOMMENDATION 2

Under Section 91(7) and (9) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that the report, discussion and minutes be kept confidential for a period not exceeding 12 months, after which time the order will be reviewed.

Cr Granozio moved:

That pursuant to Section 90(2) and (3) of the Local Government Act 1999 the Council orders that the public, with the exception of the Council staff present [Chief Executive Officer, General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs, General Manager, Urban Planning & Environment, General Manager, Community Development, Manager, Governance and Administration Assistant, Governance & Civic Affairs], be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the Council will receive, discuss and consider:

- (d) commercial information of a confidential nature (not being a trade secret) the disclosure of which—
 - (i) could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a third party; and*
 - (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest;**

and the Council is satisfied that, the principle that the meeting should be conducted in a place open to the public, has been outweighed by the need to keep the receipt/discussion/consideration of the information confidential.

Seconded by Cr Knoblauch and carried unanimously.

Cr Clutterham moved:

Under Section 91(7) and (9) of the Local Government Act 1999 the Council orders that the report, discussion and minutes be kept confidential for a period not exceeding 12 months, after which time the order will be reviewed.

Seconded by Cr Holfeld and carried unanimously.

16.3 STAFF RELATED MATTER

RECOMMENDATION 1

That pursuant to Section 90(2) and (3) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that the public, with the exception of the Council staff present, be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the Council will receive, discuss and consider:

- (a) information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead).

and the Council is satisfied that, the principle that the meeting should be conducted in a place open to the public, has been outweighed by the need to keep the receipt/discussion/consideration of the information confidential.

RECOMMENDATION 2

Under Section 91(7) and (9) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that the report, discussion and minutes be kept confidential for a period not exceeding 12 months, after which time the order will be reviewed.

Cr Holfeld moved:

That pursuant to Section 90(2) and (3) of the Local Government Act 1999 the Council orders that the public, with the exception of the Council staff present [Chief Executive Officer, General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs, General Manager, Urban Planning & Environment, General Manager, Community Development, Manager, Governance and Administration Assistant, Governance & Civic Affairs], be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the Council will receive, discuss and consider:

- (a) information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead).*

and the Council is satisfied that, the principle that the meeting should be conducted in a place open to the public, has been outweighed by the need to keep the receipt/discussion/consideration of the information confidential.

Seconded by Cr Knoblauch and carried unanimously.

Cr Piggott moved:

Under Section 91(7) and (9) of the Local Government Act 1999 the Council orders that the report, discussion and minutes be kept confidential for a period not exceeding 12 months, after which time the order will be reviewed.

Seconded by Cr Duke and carried unanimously.

17. CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.11pm.

Mayor Robert Bria

Minutes Confirmed on _____
(date)