

# MINUTES.

## Electors' General Meeting

6 February 2024

### Notice of Meeting

Mayor and Councillors

Here within are the Minutes of the Electors' General Meeting of the City of South Perth Council held Tuesday 6 February 2024 in the Council Chamber, corner Sandgate Street and South Terrace, South Perth.



MIKE BRADFORD  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

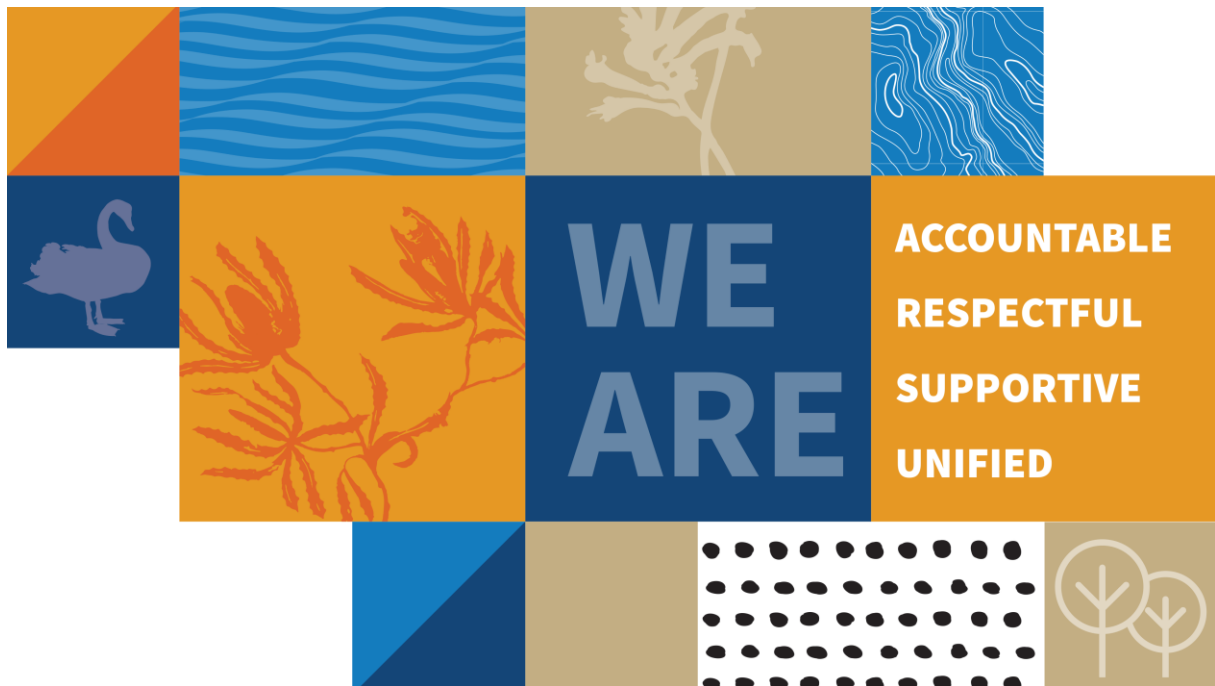
15 March 2024

# Acknowledgement of Country

Kaartdjinin Nidja Nyungar Whadjuk Boodjar Koora Nidja Djining Noonakoort kaartdijin wangkiny, maam, gnarnk and boordier Nidja Whadjuk kura kura.

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the traditional custodians of this land, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation and their Elders past and present.

## Our Guiding Values



## Disclaimer

The City of South Perth disclaims any liability for any loss arising from any person or body relying on any statement, discussion, recommendation or decision made during this meeting.

Where an application for an approval, a licence or the like is discussed or determined during this meeting, the City warns that neither the applicant, nor any other person or body, should rely upon that discussion or determination until written notice of either an approval and the conditions which relate to it, or the refusal of the application has been issued by the City.

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# Electors' General Meeting – Agenda

In accordance with Section 5.27 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996, the Order of Business will be as follows:

## 1. DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 6.04pm and welcomed everyone in attendance.

## 2. DISCLAIMER

The Presiding Member read aloud the City's Disclaimer.

## 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDING MEMBER

The Presiding Member outlined the format of the Electors' General Meeting.

## 4. ATTENDANCE

Mayor Greg Milner (Presiding Member)

### Councillors

Como Ward

Como Ward

Manning Ward

Moresby Ward

Moresby Ward

Mill Point Ward

Mill Point Ward

Councillor Glenn Cridland (Arrived at 6.40pm)

Councillor Bronwyn Waugh

Councillor André Brender-A-Brandis

Councillor Jennifer Nevard

Councillor Hayley Prendiville

Councillor Mary Choy

Councillor Nic Coveney

### Officers

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Director Corporate Services (DCS)

Director Development and Community Services (DDCS)

Director Infrastructure Services (DIS)

Manager Governance (MG)

Manager Finance (MF)

Communications and Marketing Coordinator

Governance Coordinator

Governance Officer

Mr Mike Bradford

Mr Garry Adams

Ms Donna Shaw

Ms Anita Amprimo

Ms Toni Fry

Mr Abrie Lacock

Ms Karys Nella

Mr Morgan Hindle

Ms Jane Robinson

### Gallery

There were approximately 65 members of the public present.

#### 4.1 APOLOGIES

- Councillor Blake D'Souza

#### 4.2 APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

- Nil.

### 5. CITY OF SOUTH PERTH PRESENTATION OF THE 2022/23 YEAR

The Presiding Member read aloud the following:

*“We are here to present the 2022/23 Annual Report, Annual Financial Statements and Auditors Report to you, our people, the Electors.*

*The 2022/23 financial year was a year of very pleasing remarkable achievement at the City, and I am very pleased to tell you all that the City’s financial health continues to strengthen.*

*It’s been wonderful to see the progress that the City has made on a range of fronts to achieve our vision of a city of active places and beautiful spaces, with sustainable financial management setting us up for the future.*

*The 2022/23 Annual Report which Council has endorsed captures the opportunities, the challenges and achievements of the last financial year. It details the extraordinarily diverse range of services, community programs, cultural events, infrastructure works and major projects that the City delivered across the year.*

#### ***Responsible Financial Management***

*During this past year, we have seen our financial health Indicator (FHI) increased to 90 out of 100 for the 2022/23 financial year. That is well above the benchmark score of 70 set for us by the State Government’s Department of Local Government.*

*2022/23 also saw the City generate its first operating surplus in eight years. What that means is that the City is able to improve and restock its financial reserves and make financially sustainable provision for the replacement and renewal of key public assets that we all rely upon on a day to day basis.*

*At the same time, Council is continuing its work to reduce the financial burden on our ratepayers. Council approved a rates movement of 4.5% for the 2022/23 financial year, which was well below the prevailing rate of inflation CPI of 7.6%.*

*This marks the fourth consecutive Annual Budget where the City’s rates movements have either been equal to or below Perth CPI, despite the impact of COVID-19 and also some high inflation.*

*Planning for future population growth remains one of the most important roles of local government. In March 2023, Council resolved to support the City’s new draft Local Planning Scheme No.7. This new planning scheme will provide the framework for the City’s continued growth, on ensuring that we support the City’s economy.*

### **Value-adding**

*The City invested \$5.2 million in roads and pathways to provide safe pedestrian access, as well as a well-maintained road network.*

*James Miller Oval in Manning received four new 30 metre towers with LED lighting, which provides more opportunity for sport, recreation and leisure activities for our community. This project is the latest in a series of lighting upgrade projects in our local parks, reserves and ovals, enabling our community to play for longer.*

*Neil McDougall Park in Como saw a \$1.3 million lake remediation project. These environmentally sensitive works, which were largely funded by a Federal Government grant have substantially improved the water quality of the local ecosystem, as well as reducing the algal blooms and duckweed growths that have plagued the lake for, well, decades now.*

*The City's Elderfield Wetlands rehabilitation project in Waterford has also improved water quality and created habitat for waterbirds and other wildlife. This very important project was funded by the Swan Canning River Recovery Stage Three, managed by Perth NRM through funding from the Federal Government. The \$600,000 redevelopment and revegetation works were completed in line with Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions requirements.*

*In Salter Point a 45-metre steel-framed staircase replaced the former stone and timber Redmond Stairs, making them much safer for people and pets, and ecologically-sensitive LED lighting was fitted to the underside of the handrails to guide night-time visitors without impacting on the local fauna. There is a beautiful viewing platform mid-way down the stairs featuring recycled plastic bench seats. I do encourage you all to head out if you haven't had an opportunity to yet.*

### **Underground Power**

*Our local streets are looking better than ever. Following the successful completion of underground power projects in Como and Manning and works also began in the South Perth and Hurlingham areas in October 2022. These works are expected to be completed in May 2024, delivering better looking streetscapes, increased tree canopy cover, reduced summer heat, enhanced street lighting and improved property values.*

### **Thank you**

*These are just some of the City's achievements in the previous financial year. And I would very much like to thank CEO Mike Bradford and the City's administration for their tireless efforts in working towards our shared vision of a City of active places and beautiful spaces.*

*Speaking on behalf of the Council at large, It is an honour and it is a privilege to serve as your Council. We look forward to working with our entire community to continue to deliver great outcomes for this very special and wonderful City."*

## 6. PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT, ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITORS REPORT OF THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

The Presiding Member advised that two written questions were received prior to the meeting, relating to the Annual Report, Annual Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2023.

**The following questions were asked by Ms Cecilia Brooke of South Perth at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.**

**Ms Cecilia Brooke:** I speak on behalf of the City of South Perth Residents' Association. In your annual report you say "Council continues its work to reduce the financial burden on ratepayers, Council approved a rates movement of 4.5% in the 2022/23 financial year, well below the prevailing Perth CPI"

How can you possibly make this statement when in fact the average residential rate charge has actually increased by 6.4%, fuelled by an increase in GRV, and placing a huge financial burden on ratepayers, who in some cases have been saddled with a rate hike of 15%? This is money going straight from the pockets of ratepayers into the Council coffers.

**Mr Garry Adams (DCS):** Unfortunately, Ms Brooke, I think you might have the financial years confused. The 2022/23 financial year was not a revaluation year, the 2023/24 financial year is a revaluation year, tonight we are considering the 2022/23 report. To be clear the rates increase in 2022/23 was 4.5% against a CPI of 7.6% with no GRV revaluation occurring in that year. The minimum rate did increase by CPI. So that was different to the 4.5% that was applied against the general residential rate.

2023/24 is a revaluation year and on average there has been a 17.7% increment in GRV valuations across the City of South Perth. However, some property values have increased significantly, while others have reduced. It's the redistribution of these valuations against each other that affects what an individual ratepayer's contribution is in terms of rates.

So, for 2023/24 the Council resolved to increase the overall rates revenue by 5%. As result of the GRV increment, to generate the required rate revenue the Council decreased the rate in the dollar. So, we only get a 5% rate increase across the whole rates book, although some people do pay more, some do pay less. That happens every three years. The City's rate increase for 2023/24 was, in fact, 5% and it is still below the March CPI of 5.8%. I hope that clears that up.

**Ms Cecilia Brooke:** According to the Council's financial report the number of residential rateable properties has reduced from 16,869 in 2021/22 to 16,292 in 2022/23. This result seems counter intuitive given the number of apartments that have been springing up over the City. Can you please provide an explanation of how this has occurred?

- Mr Garry Adams (DCS):** There is a problem with the numbers that you have taken as your figures do not consider the residential properties that are on minimum rates. Because the minimum rate changed, there were more residential properties on the minimum rate. So if you look at both figures for the general rate and the minimum rate, looking at it wholistically, including properties on minimum rate, residential properties increased by 117 from 19,940 in 2021/22 to 20,057 in 2022/23.
- Ms Cecilia Brooke:** It might be a similar thing for question three. The number of commercial rateable properties has also decreased from 689 in 2021/22 to 678 in 2022/23. Can you please explain how this has eventuated given that the City's costly Economic Development Plan was supposed to increase commercial rates revenue amongst other things?
- Mr Garry Adams (DCS):** Again, your figures aren't quite correct, but it is similar to the previous answer. It does not take into account the properties that were on the minimum rates. But if you do take into account all those properties, commercial properties reduced minimally from 768 in 2021/22 to 762 in 2022/23 - a reduction of six which is less than one percent and could have been due to any number of reasons.
- Mayor Greg Milner:** Thank you, Mr Adams, and thank you for those questions Ms Brooke, I might just get you to stay there, just because I've got a list of questions from Peter Scott, which I understand that you are reading on his behalf?
- Ms Cecilia Brooke:** I was told that you were reading on his behalf. I don't have the list of questions.



The following questions were received from Mr Peter Scott of Como at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024. The Presiding Member read the questions on his behalf.

**Mayor Greg Milner:**

These questions are from Peter Scott of Como, who I understand couldn't be here today. There is a short preamble, I'll read that first. So, the preamble from Mr Scott reads as follows:

Regarding the Collier Park Golf Course, The Council's Annual Report states, "the course generated a \$795,000 profit for 2022/23, a 124% increase from the previous year. Included in this figure are the results of the Mini Golf facility, the newest addition to the course. Mini Golf profit increased by \$16,000 or 9% year on year, collectively providing a significant contribution to the achievement of the City's strategy to diversify and optimise non-rate income." The July 2023 Monthly Financial Statement provided by the Council covering the full year to 30 June 2023 showed as follows: YTD Revenue \$5,224,614, YTD Expenses \$3,525,935.

The difference I would expect represents the profit of \$1,698,679. So how is it the profit reported in the Annual Report is only \$795,000? I asked this question last year and was told that the difference was due to the deduction of corporate overheads. The question is can you please provide a detailed account of the deductions made from the July report to arrive at the profit of \$795,000. A deduction of \$903,679 seems somewhat excessive for a corporate overhead to oversee golf course management.

**Mr Abrie Lacock (MF):**

The corporate overhead is that of the City's and may directly or indirectly be associated with the activities related to oversight of the Golf Course. Functions included in that corporate overhead are the CEO, Executive and Management Structures, Customer, Communications and Engagement, Finance, Information Technology, Records Management, Governance (which includes Council), Human Resources, Organisational Performance and Work Health and Safety. These corporate overheads are applied across all non-corporate business units within the City.

**Mayor Greg Milner:**

There is an entry in the Borrowing section of the Financial Report at page 109 that shows an amount of \$2,079,401 (4.97% interest) was borrowed in 2021 and it is shown as "227 Collier Park Golf Course." The detail is not specified as to what this money was borrowed for. Given the timing it is reasonable to surmise that this was for the construction of the mini golf course. Can you please confirm this?

**Mr Abrie Lacock (MF):**

Borrowing by local government can only be done in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995*, which mandates Council approval as part of a budget or specific approval if not part of the budget. Loan 227 Collier Park Golf Course is a 15-year loan originally drawn for \$4.76m in the 2011/12 financial year. It was approved and correctly disclosed in the 2011/12 budget and every budget and annual financial report since. The loan funds were utilised to fund the upgrade of the Collier Park Golf Course Island nine holes and the course reticulation systems.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** The Financial report shows that in 2022/23 a total of \$373,564 of the principal was paid in that year for the Collier Park Golf Course loan. In the borrowings cost section on page 109 it shows that \$89,255 was paid in interest on that loan. It would appear that of the \$1,698,697 profit that the Golf Course made (as shown in the July Monthly Financial Statement) the City deducted the cost of repayment of the principal and interest cost. This would leave a profit of \$1,235,860 as opposed to the profit reported in the Annual Report of \$795,000. The difference being \$440,860. Can you please confirm that both the payment of the loan principal and the cost of borrowing are related to the construction of the Mini Golf?

**Mr Abrie Lacock (MF):** Again, there seems to be a bit of confusion here, as well, because we are not certain which July Monthly Financial Reports are being referred to as the July Monthly Financial Report will only report one month's worth of results (i.e. the 1st month of a new financial year) and therefore will not have a profit figure of \$1.6m. As explained, the City can only borrow funds with Council approval in accordance with the *Local Government Act*, the Mini Golf as per many previous clarifications and in accordance with the Council Resolution approving its Business Plan was funded from the Community Facilities Reserve. No borrowed funds have been utilised for the Mini Golf project. The additional revenue generated by the Mini Golf is being paid back into the Community Facilities Reserve every year in accordance with that Council Resolution.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Thank you very much, Mr Lacock, and that was the conclusion of the questions from Mr Scott.

The Presiding Member called for any further questions relating to the Annual Report, Annual Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2023.

There being no further questions, the Presiding Member called for a mover and seconder to receive the 2022/23 Annual Report, Annual Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2023.

#### **DECISION**

**Moved:** Mr Les Ozsdolay of Como.

**Seconded:** Mr Bill Gleeson of South Perth.

That the 2022/23 City of South Perth Annual Report, the 2022/23 Annual Financial Statements and the 2022/23 Auditor's Report, be RECEIVED.

**The Motion was put and declared CARRIED.**

*Councillor Glenn Cridland arrived at 6.40pm during consideration of Item 7.*

## **7. GENERAL BUSINESS**

The Presiding Member advised that 12 written submissions were received prior to the meeting, and questions received in advance were invited to the microphone first.

**The following questions were asked by Ms Veronica McPhail of Kensington at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.**

**Ms Veronica McPhail:** Thank you everyone, My name is Veronica McPhail. I am a member of Wildlife Advocacy South Perth. Our group was established to advocate for the protection and safety of the wildlife along the South Perth foreshore. We aim to work collaboratively with stakeholders to ensure current and future generations will be able to enjoy the wildlife of this unique environment. My questions for Council are regarding the dog review:

Has the December 2023 'workshop with Councillors' concluded and will the outcomes/findings be shared with the wider community?

**Ms Toni Fry (MG):** Thank you for the question, following the workshop with Elected Members in December the internal working group has identified options for an enclosed dog area. Officers are currently looking at locations and costings and will provide this information to the Elected Members at the follow up workshop which is scheduled to be held in March. This will then form part of the stakeholder engagement process.

**Ms Veronica McPhail:** Thank you, the community engagement was scheduled to start February/March of 2024. Is this still the intention and has a formal date been set for this to commence?

**Ms Toni Fry (MG):** The stakeholder engagement process and timelines will be developed following the Elected Members workshop in March.

**Ms Veronica McPhail:** Will participation in this community engagement be by invitation or will any member of the community be welcome to attend?

**Ms Toni Fry (MG):** The City will be engaging with stakeholders and the community in a number of ways throughout the process. This will include meeting with individual community members and groups and more formalised stakeholder engagement.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Thank you, Ms Fry and thank you very much, Ms McPhail for your questions.

**Ms Veronica McPhail:** Thank you.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** I'd now like to invite Ms Georgina Wilson of Como, if you would like to come to the microphone.

**The following questions were asked by Ms Georgina Wilson of Como at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.**

**Ms Georgina Wilson:** Thank you for the opportunity, like Veronica before me, I represent a community group called Wildlife Advocacy South Perth (or WASP), and we are concerned about the management of the Black Swan Habitat on Djirda Miya Island. This habitat was officially opened in September 2021, more than two breeding seasons ago. We have submitted questions to the City on several occasions about the management and responsibility for this area, but it seems unclear whether the City or the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) is responsible. In the meantime, our observations indicate that while cygnets are hatching on the island, the survival rate is very low.

So, my first question is what monitoring of swan numbers has been done by the City to evaluate the success of the substantial investment in the Black Swan Habitat?

**Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS):** The Djirda Miya Island has a dual function in that it protects the foreshore against water erosion, while creating a safe area for wildlife to find respite, forage and breed. The City does not have an ongoing funded monitoring program for Black Swans, and it is the DBCA that is responsible for managing native wildlife in Western Australia. Two years post completion of the project is still a very short timeframe to attribute success or failure of the project but there were seven pairs of nesting Swans this spring, confirmed sightings of the "vulnerable" Fairy Terns and the regionally "threatened" native Water Rat would suggest the project has been an outstanding success.

**Ms Georgina Wilson:** From your records over two breeding seasons, how many cygnets have survived to maturity after hatching on the island?

**Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS):** As noted in the response to question one, the City does not have an ongoing funded monitoring program for Black Swans, and this is something that will be the responsibility of the DBCA as they manage native wildlife in Western Australia.

**Ms Georgina Wilson:** Okay, final question. If the survival rate is very low, as various observers believe, what will be done to improve this?

**Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS):** I will just refer you to the answer to the previous question. We do not have an ongoing funded monitoring program, so we have no intervention there.

**Mayor Greg Milner** Thank you Ms Amprimo and thank you Ms Wilson for the questions. I'd now like to invite Dr Mark Brogan of Kensington, if you would like to come to the microphone. Welcome to you and we look forward to your questions.

**The following questions were asked by Dr Mark Brogan of Kensington at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.**

**Dr Mark Brogan:** Thank you, Mayor, Councillors, members of staff. In June 2023, I coordinated with other electors in Kensington, the delivery of a petition relating to underground power, and the provisioning of underground power. Councillors and members of the City of South Perth staff will be aware that 500 electors is a highly significant number of signatures to obtain in a community of only 1700 households. The resident action group that collected signatures for the petition found overwhelming support for underground power, with a prevailing sentiment that after 25 years, Kensington has waited long enough. The City of South Perth's Annual Report for 2022/23 (page 32) reports that Western Power has delivered its design study for provision of a solution.

My questions are as follows: now that Western Power has completed its design study, and presumably its costing. Firstly, would the City outline the project timeline for provisioning of underground power to Kensington inclusive of projected dates?

**Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS):** Western Power has now completed the detailed design for undergrounding powerlines in the Kensington project area. That is different from the piece of work that you referenced. So, they have completed the next stage of the project. The design has now been issued to their contractor for a constructability review. Following this, a report will be presented to Council for the endorsement of the project and subsequent charges. The milestones of the project are:

- Completion of the detailed design, which has already been done;
- Constructability review, which is underway;
- The Draft Funding Agreement review, which is also underway;
- The Final Funding Agreement and Council Endorsement of that which is estimated to be prior to the end of the current financial year (2023/24);
- The current estimates are that construction should commence early in the 2024/25 financial year, and they would last in the region of 12-15 months.

**Dr Mark Brogan:** Thank you, I have some follow-up questions, question 2: I think you have answered this question already, maybe you could repeat the projected schedule. When can Kensington residents expect works to commence on provisioning of underground power?

**Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS):** The current estimate is for works to commence in the early part of the 2024/25 financial year.

**Dr Mark Brogan:** Finally, when will Kensington residents receive notices of fees and charges payable?

**Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS):** Given the estimated timing of a Council resolving to proceed with the project, we would likely be adopting the charges as part of the 2025/26 budget so we would be looking at that being confirmed in July 2025.

**Dr Mark Brogan:** Thank you very much.

**Mayor Greg Milner:**

Thank you, Dr Brogan, and thank you Ms Amprimo. I would now like to invite Ms Amanda Coldham of South Perth, if you would like to come to the microphone. Welcome and we look forward to your questions.

**The following questions were asked by Ms Amanda Coldham of South Perth at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.**

**Ms Amanda Coldham:** The bridges over Lake Douglas are utilised by many far and wide local residents, the greater Perth, international and interstate visitors. This area is also a wildlife environmental habitat and breeding node, providing refuge and breeding ground for many wildlife including our endangered long neck turtles. For the elderly, disabled or children, the bridges provide an opportunity for them to enjoy short walks and wheelchair access opportunities. Enhancing their and their carers day to day lives. The lakes and bridges walk provide a tranquil area for individuals, groups and schools to educate and observe, read and photograph the surrounding wildlife and habitat. One of the visions was to provide natural walks and connectivity in this node. Our bridges allow this for all walks of life near and far in a beautiful way. These lakes and bridges, that we have all enjoyed for decades should be a priority to maintain and repair in the 2024/25 budget. So that future generations can continue to enjoy them as we have.

Is it the Council's intention to retain and maintain Lake Douglas, Lake Hurlingham and Lake Tondut for the enjoyment of future generations?

**Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS):** The City currently maintains Lake Douglas, Lake Hurlingham and Lake Tondut as part of Sir James Mitchell Park. The City has no plans to cease doing this work.

**Ms Amanda Coldham:** Is it the Council's intention to repair and maintain the bridges and pathways leading to the bridges on both sides of the lake in the upcoming 2024/25 budget?

**Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS):** The City is preparing options, including high level costings, for the refurbishment or replacement of the bridges for Council's consideration during the budget setting process. It will be a decision of Council if any of these options are included in the 2024/25 Annual Budget.

**Ms Amanda Coldham:** Does the Council have any commercial buildings or zoning changes planned for the Lake Douglas, Lake Hurlingham and Lake Tondut precincts?

**Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS):** The City has none planned.

**Ms Amanda Coldham:** Okay, thank you for your time.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Thank you for your questions. I'd now like to invite Mr David Coldham of South Perth.

The following questions were asked by Mr David Coldham of South Perth at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.

**Mr David Coldham:** Just on those bridges, to give you an idea as I've cut the preamble down, but basically, the walk around the lakes with the bridges in place is about 700 metres. Take the bridges out, and it becomes about one and a half kilometres. So that is a substantial increase. The question that I have is that: Is it the Council's administrations department recommendation to remove the bridges and extensive concrete pathway leading to the bridges on both sides?

**Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS):** I'll refer to my previous response. The City is preparing options, including high level costings, for the refurbishment or replacement of the bridges for Council's consideration during the budget setting process. It will be a decision of Council if any of these options are included in the 2024/25 Annual Budget. There are currently no plans to modify the path network in the location.

**Mr David Coldham:** Just another question, will the Council prioritise the repair and upgrade of those bridges in the 2024/25 budget?

**Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS):** That will be a decision of Council.

**Mr David Coldham:** Just one other question, is it the Council's intent to replace the bridges with some commercial structures incorporating a café or accommodation?

**Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS):** The City is not aware of any proposal to install commercial structures incorporating a business or accommodation.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Thank you Ms Amprimo and thank you Mr Coldham for the questions, I'd now like to invite Ms Annie Harris of South Perth, if you'd like to come to the microphone. Welcome to you, and we look forward to your questions.



**The following questions were asked by Ms Annie Harris of South Perth at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.**

**Ms Annie Harris:** Thank you, my name is Annie, and I am a speech pathologist working in disability. I am speaking today to alert the Council to the importance of the Lake Douglas bridges for the public's access to wildlife and surrounding areas of the lake. The bridges are very well used by the public, in particular people with access requirements such as wheelchair users, people with poor vision and people with a range of other disabilities, in addition to families with prams and elderly. The bridges provide safe access to the lakes and enable the community to gain a vantage point of endangered turtles, birds and other wildlife. The risk of not having access to the bridges is extensive, for example increasing the risk of falls trying to navigate grass rather than solid surfaces, people taking preventable risks to get close to wildlife in the lakes, and reduced visibility of vulnerable community members viewing the lakes. For some people with disability it removes their access to the lakes entirely. This has additional risks of reducing exercise options and community access, social isolation, and flow on impacts to mental health. Section 23 of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* compilation no.38. Access to premises states that: It is unlawful for a person to discriminate against another person on the ground of the other person's disability: by refusing to allow the other person access to, or the use of, any premises that the public or a section of the public is entitled or allowed to enter or use. The whole community have access to the lakes via the bridges. Removing the bridges removes access to the lakes for people with disability. In the Council's Strategic Community Plan for 2021-2031 they state the key strategic directions are Community: Our diverse community being inclusive, safe, connected and engaged. Why are council removing access for people with disability when this is point one of the Council's Strategic Community Plan.

Why when the Council states that their strategic direction is to have an inclusive community are they removing access to Lake Douglas for people with disability?

**Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS):** The bridges are closed for all users on the grounds of public safety.

**Ms Annie Harris:** Yes, but if they don't be put back in that removes access for people with wheelchairs.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Ms Harris, I appreciate the passion but it's not really a forum for debate back and forth between the officers, but please do ask your second question.

**Ms Annie Harris:** Yes, sure, but I just wanted to show that that's not the question I was asking. Is the Council's intent to retain Lake Douglas and surrounding foreshore for all people in future generations and wildlife?

**Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS):** So, the City currently maintains Lake Douglas as part of Sir James Mitchell Park, and there are no plans to cease doing that work.

**Ms Annie Harris:** How has the Council made the complaints and feedback regarding the bridges being closed, accessible to people with disability so they can express their thoughts on the matter and show their support for the bridges?

**Mr Mike Bradford (CEO):** I'm not sure I quite understand the question completely, but I will have a go at answering it. If I get it wrong, please correct me. We have various mechanisms by which anyone can make contact with the City and provide feedback at any time. By email, by phone, by letter, or Make a Request, and also, something that is localised like this, I would encourage you to reach out to your ward Councillor as well. So they are the mechanisms by which people, and we do receive feedback, about the bridges, and particularly other matters, so they are the mechanisms that are available. I don't know if that answers your question though.

**Ms Annie Harris:** That's fine thank you.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Thank you for your questions, I'd now like to invite Ms Vicki Redden of South Perth, if you would like to come to the microphone, welcome to you and we look forward to your questions.

**The following questions were asked by Ms Vicki Redden of South Perth at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.**

**Ms Vicki Redden:**

Thank you everybody, and welcome to 2024, so I'm Vicki Redden and I'm representing the South Perth Peninsula Action Group. For those unfamiliar, the Peninsula down near the Old Mill is persistently being inundated with hoons in heavily modified cars. Which cause excessive noise – often from 8pm to 2am in the morning, and not just on weekends. The situation is not improving, it's getting worse.

This issue is far from novel to just South Perth, its worldwide. The vehicles, modified for maximum sound, repeatedly backfire, creating a nuisance that echoes through the Mill Point area. The hoons further aggravate the situation by speeding back onto the freeway, then exit again to the car park for spins and burnouts, cheered on by a crowd of 20 to 30 people. This anti-social behaviour is unacceptable, it's turning our local streets into racetracks and it's putting people's lives at risk. As confirmed by the EPA, prolonged exposure to loud noise adversely affects health and well-being. The impact is further heightened when the noise disrupts sleep, causes difficulty falling asleep or frequent awakenings during the night. Our neighbours are reporting experiencing these symptoms multiple times a week. It is crucial that this matter is resolved promptly to safeguard our collective well-being. Some work has been done and I am grateful for the City's initiatives—installing speed humps, CCTV cameras, and a speed display sign. We are also deeply appreciative of the recent meeting with the CEO, Mayor Milner, our local representative Councillor Mary Choy, MLA Geoff Baker, and Superintendent Beer where local residents were able to chat and share the impact that this is having on them. This is not just a frivolous concern; it's a serious issue that is ingrained in the City's Strategic Community Plans, which emphasise community protection, safety, and well-being.

So, the perplexity:

- Businesses are required to control workers' noise exposure and the duration.
- Local City Laws regulate the noise emanating from our residences.
- Events, whether a carnival, a concert, or even the Wanneroo Racetrack, are bound by stringent State Government Laws.
- Cities worldwide have regulations curbing vehicle noise.

My question is, why can't the City do something unique and enact laws or regulations to quell this antisocial behaviour at least, if nothing else, in its own car parks?

**Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS):**

The City is well aware of the problem and has been working on behalf of residents to stop this behaviour, however noise emissions from the propulsion and braking systems of motor vehicles operating on a road is exempt under the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997. It is captured under the *Road Traffic Act 1974* and the Road Traffic Code 2000 which falls under the jurisdiction of the Police.

The City does not believe it has the power to make a local law or issue infringements with regard to this behaviour, however, we will be seeking further advice on the matter in order for Council to be fully informed as to what actions can be taken.

**Ms Vicki Redden:**

Impacted residents are frequently advised that they need to document number plates and record video evidence of hooning incidents to subsequently make a report for the Police. I can assure you that this is no mean feat. Given that this issue has persistently plagued our community for more than four years, we presume that comprehensive data collection has been undertaken to evaluate the magnitude of the problem. Can you tell us how many cars were in and around Millers Pool car park between 8pm and 2am on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights this past weekend?

**Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS):**

The City's equipment monitors and records information, however, the City only releases data and CCTV footage to the Police where requested to manage privacy requirements. To give an indication however, between 8pm on Friday and 2am on Saturday morning, an average of 21 vehicles were in the Millers Pool car park, with Police present at 11pm. Significantly less vehicles were in the car park on Saturday night and Sunday night.

Hooning is reported to the Police and at the community meeting last Friday, the Police advised that it can be reported on 131 444 number if it is occurring right at that moment, and online if reporting an incident later. The Police also advised that you only need the information you have to hand to make a report.

**Ms Vicki Redden:**

Those reports, if you don't have all of that information, mean nothing. This is a serious safety issue, our hearing is at risk if you have to raise your voice to be heard by someone only a metre away. Your hearing is going to be damaged eventually. Depending on the length of time – say 85 db for 8 hours, your hearing will be damaged. At a level of 140db your hearing will be damaged immediately. What is the peak level of noise that these hoons' cars producing along Mill Point Road during the last weekend?

**Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS):**

Vehicles on the road are not captured by the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997, which is the legislation that the City's Environmental Health Officers are qualified to utilise and enforce for noise complaints. We don't capture this information.

The Regulations do not apply to certain noise emissions, including the noise of vehicles which you mentioned, and that is something that is captured by the Police. So we don't monitor that noise.

**Mayor Greg Milner:**

Thank you Ms Amprimo, and thank you Ms Redden for the questions. I'd now like to invite Mr Luke Terri of South Perth, if you would like to come to the microphone. Welcome to you, and we look forward to your questions.

The following questions were asked by Mr Luke Terri of South Perth at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.

**Mr Luke Terri:**

Thank you everyone. The Lake Douglas bridges were built in 1987 to allow accessibility in and around the lakes precinct. To date, the bridges have been used by many people near and far. They allow people with mobility impairments, prams, bird watchers, event photographers and even the local schools to access and enjoy the natural beauty of the landscape and wildlife habitat without directly disturbing the nesting grounds for both the water birds and now the endangered long neck turtles. This was further confirmed in the South Perth Foreshore Management Plan of 2015 where one of the endorsed actions includes improved pedestrian access and bridge connections back to the adjoining street and as a current plan this is what the Council should still be working towards. My first question is:

Can the City administration please explain what transpired between the repairs to the Lake Douglas bridges and reopening earlier last year and the subsequent closure again due to apparent safety concerns, what is the actual problem with the bridges and how much will it cost to rectify those problems versus replacing the bridges?

**Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS):**

Thank you. The initial assessment of the bridges was high level and identified some repairs that were required. The initial repairs were carried out and a detailed assessment of the bridges was also commissioned. Following the more detailed assessment of the bridges, the City was advised that the bridges should be closed to the public on safety grounds. The detailed assessment identified key structural elements of the bridges that were beyond repair.

The City has investigated options to replace both bridges with the cost estimates in the region of between \$800,000 to \$1,000,000. Repairs to the bridge, whilst slightly cheaper would require significant design work before we can get a more accurate cost estimate on that option. However the high-level estimate that we have, even without that design in place doesn't indicate that there would be a significant reduction in the investment that would be required.

**Mr Luke Terri:**

Will the City administration be recommending to Council to repair and/or replace the two Lake Douglas bridges on the South Perth foreshore as part of the upcoming Annual Budget workshop deliberations, and if not why?

**Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS):**

The City will include options for replacement and repair in the list of capital works for Council's consideration through the draft budget process.

**Mr Luke Terri:**

What is likely to happen to the Lake Douglas bridges if the City administration does not recommend their repair or replacement in the next financial year or Council does not prioritise it in the next budget, and what will be the cost of no action compared to repairing or replacing the bridges?

- Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS):** Based on the feedback that the City receives from Council from the budget workshops, the City may need to scope and cost some other options. But at this stage, we have limited what we are proposing to Council to be the replacement options, pending that feedback, we may look at other options.
- Mayor Greg Milner:** Thank you Ms Amprimo and thank you Mr Terri for the questions.
- Ms Michelle Terri:** I'd like to move a motion.
- Mayor Greg Milner:** We will get through the questions first. I would now like to invite Ms Helen Tomsic of South Perth, if you would like to come to the microphone. Welcome to you, and we look forward to your questions.

**The following questions were asked by Ms Helen Tomsic of South Perth at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.**

- Ms Helen Tomsic:** Firstly, I'd like to thank everyone for attending that is supporting the investigation with Sir James Mitchell Park. Back on the 11 December, I actually sent a letter to the Lord Mayor and all the Councillors here tonight, and obviously there is one missing. I would like to thank two in particular for their responses. Councillor Mary Choy, and also the other Councillor is I don't know how to pronounce her name, but I will try, Jennifer Nevard, and just a short normal one from Councillor Nic Coveney just a one liner, nothing more than that. My first question is I don't know who will answer, I will read it out to you it is: Why weren't the residents that will be impacted by this proposal, I don't know if the rest of the people here are aware they're planning to do sporting grounds for Wesley College, the actual thing is called 10.3.1 Sport Spaces Investigation/Feasibility for Sir James Mitchell Park. So why weren't the Mayor, this is actually addressed to you, why weren't they informed in writing, maybe my standards are a bit high but in my former Council where I used to reside for 23 years, anytime there was anything, any changes to the street, or any works done, everybody involved in that street, were always notified.
- Mayor Greg Milner:** Can I please get you to clarify the question, please?
- Ms Helen Tomsic:** It is, why were the residents that will be impacted by this proposal not informed in writing by the Mayor/Council?
- Ms Donna Shaw (DDCS):** Thank you for your question. The City sought Council approval to proceed with a feasibility study in the first instance, as it requires a budget allocation to commence the investigation. Given Council has approved consideration of an allocation in the mid-year budget review, once this is adopted the City can commence the feasibility study. The feasibility study will include public consultation. So at that point in time, we will be writing to the adjacent and affected land owners and occupants seeking their comments on the proposed feasibility.
- Ms Helen Tomsic:** Right okay, if that is the way you want to do it, that's fine. Question 2, can I have a copy of the brief once it is done, if it hasn't been done, given to the business that is going to be handling this investigation or feasibility study, please? As you know, sometimes, this is just my opinion things are left out and then you are out of budget, you might say this is going to cost \$1 million, and then there are add ons. It always blows the budget, hence we have to get the right information to them first.
- Mayor Greg Milner:** Thank you, I might just cut you off there because it is for public questions, there is opportunity to make statements but for the time being, we will answer the question. Ms Shaw?

- Ms Donna Shaw (DDCS):** Thank you, and I actually agree. Given the mid-year budget review is yet to be considered by Council, the City has not yet finalised a detailed brief for the project. Notwithstanding, as outlined in the December 2023 report to Council on the matter, the feasibility study will include investigating all relevant considerations such as geotechnical, environmental, operational and financial implications, as well as community and stakeholder engagement. The City will determine which components require an external consultant, in respect to expertise, and which elements can be completed by the City in house, and we will certainly be considering all the detailed financials around each of the individual components.
- Ms Helen Tomsic:** Okay, but can ratepayers get a copy of what you propose, please?
- Ms Donna Shaw (DDCS):** Yes.
- Ms Helen Tomsic:** The name of the person or Councillor involved in handling and managing the investigation, with the person that is going to do the feasibility study, and are the ratepayers that are interested, are they able to be notified in writing of the full outcome once it is done?
- Ms Donna Shaw (DDCS):** Yes, the City's Community Culture and Recreation Services will be responsible for the project itself. So they will be preparing the detailed brief for a future consultant. A consultant has yet to be appointed given a brief has yet to be prepared, once that is available we will be able to provide that information as to what is contained within the brief.
- Mayor Greg Milner:** Thank you, Ms Shaw and thank you Ms Tomsic for the questions.
- Ms Helen Tomsic:** My question was, will we be notified of the result?
- Mayor Greg Milner:** Ms Shaw?
- Ms Donna Shaw (DDCS):** Thank you Mr Mayor, yes, once the feasibility study has been completed. A report will be presented back to Council. Anyone that has put in a submission, during the feasibility study will be notified of the dates of that matter will be considered by Council, and you will be welcome to attend that meeting.
- Ms Helen Tomsic:** Okay, that is what I wanted to know. Thank you.
- Mayor Greg Milner:** Thank you very much for your questions. I've received a submission here for a statement by Ms Cecilia Brooke of South Perth. I invite you to the microphone. Welcome again and I'm looking forward to hearing your statement.



The following statement was read out by Ms Cecilia Brooke of South Perth at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.

**Ms Cecilia Brooke:**

Thank you, Mr Mayor. Reading this year's Annual Report certainly provides us with a general overview of how the City has managed our finances and outlines the many projects that are underway and are in the planning stage for future implementation. This sounds all very positive, and if the report is referred to in coming years, it will portray a positive, well-managed Council. For those of us who have been interested and actively involved in commenting on some of the decisions made by Council, we see things a little differently:

One - During the last October Election, there was evidence of significant campaign donations to some Elected Members, while permissible within the Local Government Guidelines, Elected Members need to be mindful of public perceptions.

Two - Lessons should be learnt of how to progress with large infrastructure projects without generating significant badwill in the community, and not denigrating organisations such as COSPRA, for pointing out significant financial shortcomings in a project like the RAF. Concerns that were well and truly vindicated when the project was abandoned. As a consequence of the overlap of this issue, a Code of Conduct complaint was raised against a fellow Elected Member. Our organisation has also been named and criticised for being outspoken against the project, when our issue was financial reality and the false expectations were being sold to the community. COSPRA believes that the City needs to strengthen its project management process. The City has a checkered history of managing major capital projects, and has spent millions of dollars on projects, that either did not result in an asset for the community, or in assets that may not be providing a return on investment as good as could have been achieved projects that we might have benefited from a more rigorous process, include the RAF, the Westralian Centre, Mini Golf, and the Manning Hub, even though the project was successfully executed.

The City has several major projects planned over the next decade, including a Challenger Master Plan, George Burnett facilities, and the Hockey Stadium at Sir James Mitchell Park. The use of a careful, honest, and comprehensive project development process, would ensure that these and future projects do not get in front of themselves, have an increased risk of becoming financially unviable or fail to consider options or alternatives in the cheaper, earlier stages of the project.

Fortunately, the RAF is now a distant memory, and Council composes of new faces. Some of the angst that existed over the last couple of years between the City and the community will be behind us, and we are looking forward to working with a positive, progressive Council, and wish you all the very best for the coming year. Thank you all.

**Mayor Greg Milner:**

Thank you very much for your statement, Ms Brooke.

**Mayor Greg Milner:**

I'd now like to invite Mr John Bassett of Como, I understand that you have got a motion that you'd like to move.

Welcome, Mr Bassett.

Just before we get into the first motion of the evening, or the second, I guess, I'm going to ask the mover and seconder to clearly state their name and their address.

First we will have a motion moved, then we will have a motion seconded. Then the mover will be given an opportunity to speak for three minutes in favour of that motion.

I will allow questions to be asked, if there is any need for interpretation or clarification of the motion at hand, and after that we'll put the motion to a vote by a show of hands, which will be resolved by simple majority.

With that, Mr Bassett, if you would like to read your motion, as mover, and I will seek a seconder, then you will be given an opportunity to speak for three minutes to that motion.

**The following motion was read out by Mr John Bassett of Como at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.**

**Mr John Bassett:**

I've had the chance to rethink the motion, so the motion that I am putting today is:

That the City of South Perth prioritises the review of the 2018-2023 Urban Forest Strategy to incorporate a tree canopy target of 30% by 2040, this should be supported by appropriate planning, policy changes, funding, monitoring, education strategies and annual reporting; in addition to that.

**Mayor Greg Milner:**

Mr Bassett, that is a bit of a mouthful over and above of what we have originally got on the screen. Governance, is there any chance that if Mr Bassett reads that slowly we'll be able to get the revised version on the screen?

Is that possible, or if you have a copy of the new motion there if that could be provided to Governance, and we will get that on the screen?

Actually, Mr Bassett, if you don't mind, what I might do, is to give Governance a chance to properly type out your motion and give everyone an opportunity to see it on the screen. I might move to the second motion on this, is it alright if I call you back after they've had a chance to type that up?

**Mr John Bassett:**

Yes.

**Mayor Greg Milner:**

Thank you very much, I really appreciate your cooperation.

**The following motion was read out by Ms Vicki Redden of South Perth at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.**

**Mayor Greg Milner:** So I will invite the South Perth Peninsula Action Group forward.

Now I understand there are five motions here that are effectively all relating to the same issue, what I am going to propose, if I've got that correct, is that we get all five of those motions up on the screen at the same time, I'll allow each speaker who is going to speak, each one of those five motions to speak for three minutes a piece. Assuming they are all moved and seconded, which I assume they will be. Then we will vote on them as a group. Is that acceptable to your group?

**Ms Vicki Redden:** Yes that is what we agreed to, to save time.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Fantastic, that will save everyone a bit of time.

**Ms Vicki Redden:** I'm Vicki Redden and the Chair of the South Perth Peninsula Action Group and I'll just start talking because we moved it around to save time and then I'll hand it over to Cindy in a moment.

That the City of South Perth:

- 1) Trial closing the Millers Pool Carpark area and the adjacent water ski carpark on the opposite side of the Narrows Bridge every night between 9:30pm and 5am, for a 4-week trial period, so that the City can determine if there is a reduction in hooning and a consequential change to the noise and impact on residents.
- 2) CEO follow up with the Police Department - specifically the Traffic Police to look at what speed cameras could be installed along Mill Point Road to curb the incessant hoons and motorbikes who drive at speed, creating excessive noise.
- 3) Conduct a trial on the South Perth Peninsula using 'Noise Cameras', like the devices being trialled on the East Coast. These are believed to be operational and effective in at least half a dozen cities worldwide.
- 4) Work strenuously with Main Roads to have the speed limit reduced to 40kph in the South Perth Activity Plan area - that being all the Peninsula, the South Perth Esplanade and Mends Street area.
- 5) Co-ordinate a more effective and comprehensive 'Blitz on Hoons' for a month. This would require an enthusiastic participation of not just the City and City Rangers, but Mains Roads and the WA Police Department.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** So you are moving that Ms Redden?

**Ms Vicki Redden:** Yes.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** I'll just chase a seconder. Have we got a seconder for that block of motions?

If you could stand up Sir and please give us your name and address.

Mr Douglas Minchin of South Perth seconded the motion.

**Ms Vicki Redden:**

For years now, members of the South Perth Peninsula Action Group have been reporting large gatherings of hoons at the car park under the Narrows Bridge, who then speed around the neighbourhood, make as much noise as possible.

An obvious move would be to reduce the overall speed in the South Perth Activity Plan, that being the Peninsula area. Mill Point Road North is a local distributor and was never designed for the current level of traffic as we know and now know it should also never have been an exit from the freeway but that's what it is and that's what we've got.

With the imminent arrival of another couple of thousand cars per day arriving and leaving Civic Heart, the traffic on this end of Mill Point Road will rarely get above 20 km/hour if it's moving at all.

Even though this reduction will likely annoy legally abiding residents and visitors, it will allow visitor violators to be apprehended and fined with very serious fines exceeding it, when they exceed the limit.

The only way we're going to stop this aggressive dangerous hooning behaviour, is to make it very inconvenient for them. At the moment, they openly flaunt their illegal behaviour and have even been seen to give the finger to Police. More and more people are reporting that their friends will not visit, overseas visitors are horrified that this behaviour is allowed to continue in our beautiful setting, the Manager from the Peninsula Apartments told me this morning that they've had record complaints from guests about hooning and noise this summer.

These hoons regularly travel at 80km/hr to 100km/hr, well and truly above 100 km/hr along the foreshore, for the Esplanade and Mill Point Road in the middle of the night. A fine for more than 19 km/hr over the limit, I believe it is only \$400 but if it's 40 km/hr it's \$1200 and that's only 80 km/hr, if it's reduced to 40 km/hr an overall reduction in speed would also cut down on the noise of the wombat crossings by trucks and trailers which is also something that they don't really speed, but when they're not used to it, their trailers and trucks do bounce over it causing excess noise but the less speed will reduce the hooning. It won't stop the hooning but if we get some serious Police presence down there it may start to hit them in their back pocket and with any hope it may remove their licence.

So I'll hand over to Cindy Tondut who's going to talk through the trial of closing Millers Pool.

**Mayor Greg Milner:**

Thank you very much.

The following statement was read out by Ms Cindy Tondut of South Perth at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.

**Ms Cindy Tondut:**

Thank you, Mr Mayor and Councillors for giving me this opportunity. My name is Cindy Tondut and I live at Mill Point Road in South Perth. I've resided there for the past nine years. I've talked to lots of people living in South Perth Peninsula who would like to see Millers Pool car park, as well as the waterski car park near the Narrows Bridge closed at night to stop the hoons having a convenient meeting place.

When I moved to South Perth in 2015, I thought my new home on the South Perth Peninsula was one of the best places to live in Perth, if not the world, but over the last few years as the hoons targeted the Narrows Bridge, as their meeting place my enjoyment has progressively diminished to the point that I have days where I want to leave my lovely home and community. I fear the danger of speeding cars, I can't stand the revving and the backfiring, the hoons are now causing me to lock us into our apartment in the early evening rather than enjoy our balcony and the wonderful outdoor life and worse there are many nights that I can't get to sleep because of the noise from the hoons. I get woken by the hoons that are backfiring and revving their high-powered vehicles right outside our apartment block at midnight. What I have described is no longer an occasional Saturday night. It is now every night as well as the weekend and that's increased over the last few years. It is so persistent that I'm really angry it is stopping my family from visiting me. My daughter is too scared to drive along Mill Point Road in the late evening, for fear of encountering one of these high-powered speeding cars. I sometimes feel people think I'm exaggerating but I know I'm not. My husband and I drove down to the Narrows Bridge last Saturday at 10 pm and the Millers Pool car park was overflowing, with some cars parked on the grass verge. There were around 80 cars and there were high powered vehicles arriving and leaving in droves. When we drove around to the adjacent water ski car park which is not well lit, we saw another dozen cars parked in a group, a few with their bonnets up, so there were nearly 100 cars in total. I know that closing the car parking near the Narrows Bridge would inconvenience some law-abiding citizens from enjoying that section of the river after dark but sadly since the hoons have arrived very few people other than car clubs visit the area after dark. Closing the car parks at 9:00pm or 9:30pm would allow families to stay a while after their picnic dinner, the fishermen can park a bit further up, but they won't have to put up with the hoons.

**Mayor Greg Milner:**

I'm so sorry that is three minutes, but I do have to be fair to everyone. You've got a third speaker though for, effectively the third motion?

Welcome to you and if you could please state your name and address and we're looking forward to hearing your thoughts as well.

**The following statement was read out by Ms Carrie Jones of South Perth at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.**

**Ms Carrie Jones:**

We all believe that Police need to install or set up speed cameras in the area regularly. We have not seen a speed camera in this area, even though this ongoing problem is incessant. These hoons have hotted up vehicles, modified chassis lowered with massive exhausts and the ability for vehicles to backfire loudly at will.

Most recently extremely loud motorcycles are joining in. Some of these motorcycles seem to be just making as much noise as possible, which is considerable and some joining in the racing around the streets and using the circuit of Mill Point Road, the onramp to Mitchell freeway, back to Millers Pool car park at excessive speed and noise. This is causing potentially very dangerous and what I would think, illegal activity. Which is having a massive and ongoing impact on the residents.

The stationary camera checking and displaying the speed of all vehicles which is already installed near Scott Street was effective for a time, until the hoons realised there was no penalty or fine associated with breaching the posted speed limit. We believe a permanent camera would also soon be avoided once the location of the camera was identified by the hoons. Therefore we suspect a mobile camera would be preferential.

The 50km/hr speed limit is currently being exceeded every day and every night of the week. We believe concealed cameras in vans and irregular visits by Police with handheld speed detection devices, particularly between nightfall and midnight would be more effective and successful in catching offenders and hopefully the word would soon spread within the hooning community.

If these practices could be supplemented by Traffic Police stopping excessively noisy cars and motorcycles for inspection, we feel sure we would witness a rapid decrease in both speed and noise. Another issue in the same vein is the noise and behaviour generated by tow trucks, which use the same area of Mill Point Road for quick access to the freeway.

This is convenient for them, should they receive a callout. An accident on the freeway, these tow trucks frequently sit along Mill Point Road, in no standing zones and in peoples' private driveways. If the trucks have been traveling in the opposite direction, they will come off the freeway usually at high speed, continuing down Mill Point Road to make a U-turn at the first possible opportunity, and race back out onto the freeway. All of these Manoeuvres are executed in a very dangerous and aggressive manner.

Thank you, Mayor and Councillors, very much for the opportunity to speak on this matter.

**Mayor Greg Milner:**

Thank you very much, is that all the speakers?

Welcome, if you could please state your name and address, and you will have three minutes.

**The following statement was read out by Mr Alan Scott of South Perth at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.**

- Mr Alan Scott:** My angle on this problem is noise cameras. These cameras exist, they're operating in numerous cities around the world, maybe not numerous, but at least half a dozen that I know of. They're being tested on the East Coast. They're expensive but they work because they take video and audio of any vehicle that's in excess of the decibel limit that's allowed. Now we don't have a decibel limit that's allowed, but that's got to be part of what's coming, because the more buildings we get, the worse this problem gets, because it's the noise as they're going through the larger buildings just reverberates and accentuates.
- So my view is that and my proposition is that as expensive as they are, a noise camera is an important trial that should be looked at hard by the various authorities. It's not just the Council, but it needs to be the Police and the State Government and although we have a situation where until there is legislation at a State Government level, fines wouldn't be able to be issued. One unit strategically placed and these are big units these can't be mobile, this would be on a pole and permanent.
- One unit placed in the right place, which I think but others might think differently, would be at the intersection of Mill Point Close and Mill Point Road to be able to monitor the underbridge car park. The first 200-250 metres of Mill Point Road which is a bad area and also Mill Point Close, which is part of the racetrack that someone referred to earlier. As a community, numerous people I've spoken to and the wider SPPAG group has spoken to more. They feel so strongly about this, that there is a willingness to consider contributing, participating in a funding of such a test unit. Now one of the reasons, people are so, even keen, to put their hand in their pocket is that they, and it's an important one, they don't believe the reporter hoon system that the Police have is either fair or equitable. It's not fair for the reasons, I think Vicki said earlier.
- Mayor Greg Milner:** Mr Scott, again, I'm very sorry to interrupt but that is three minutes.
- Mr Alan Scott:** I'm happy to go.
- Mayor Greg Milner:** We have one more speaker.

The following statement was read out by Mr Douglas Minchin of South Perth at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.

**Mr Douglas Minchin**

I want to encourage the City to coordinate a far more energetic campaign, that is a blitz on hoons for approximately a month. This would require the enthusiastic participation of not just the City and its' Rangers, but probably include Main Roads and the Police department.

This insidious hoon problem has to be stopped. The World Health Organisation considers average road traffic noise levels above 53 decibels to be associated with adverse health outcomes. Currently we knowingly are allowing this damage to happen. We have to stop talking and start doing, and it was great to see you and others at the meeting last Friday. That's the first step.

This insidious hoon problem is really annoying so many people in South Perth that a number have already left. Somebody has left our apartments in the Riviera, and others are considering leaving because of the hoon problem and we don't want this to continue right up the street and put a bad reputation on the Peninsula, or at South Perth.

The Traffic Police need to be involved to conduct car checks on the legality of modifications that have been done to these cars. Issuing Infringement Notices (or 'yellow stickers') and hopefully confiscating cars of habitual hoons. This could involve blocking the entrance to Millers Pool car park for a period of time, after say 10.00pm.

While several police checked the vehicles and motorbikes within the car park and talk to the drivers about the problems caused by hooning. This blitz could also include regular booze and drug buses and involve police roaming in and around the area on the same nights with speed guns and speed traps. Perhaps place a confiscated crushed car down at Millers Pool car park that would get the message across. Where these hoons congregate with a large poster or electric sign something like 'Blitz on hoons, is your car next'. If there's further room you might add 'if you don't want your car to be next, then go to Wanneroo Raceway! Race it legally, not on South Perth built up roads!'

It is an issue; I frequently watch them. I went down there last night and observed it. There was like gunshots going on, reverberating through Mill Point Road and it must scare a lot of people. It doesn't scare me, as such but it does keep me awake and just finally I'll conclude Cindy Tondut's final sentence which summarises what she was saying.

During the four-week trial of closing those car parks, the City can gather accurate data that either supports or disproves what she and many others believe will have a big impact on reducing the hooning. closure of these car parks after dark would help achieve that.

**Mayor Greg Milner:**

That is three minutes and thank you very much for the presentation there.



## DECISION

**Moved:** Ms Vicki Redden of South Perth.

**Seconded:** Mr Douglas Minchin of South Perth.

That the City of South Perth:

- 1) Trial closing the Millers Pool Carpark area and the adjacent water ski carpark on the opposite side of the Narrows Bridge every night between 9:30pm and 5am, for a 4-week trial period, so that the City can determine if there is a reduction in hooning and a consequential change to the noise and impact on residents.
- 2) CEO follow up with the Police Department - specifically the Traffic Police to look at what speed cameras could be installed along Mill Point Road to curb the incessant hoons and motorbikes who drive at speed, creating excessive noise.
- 3) Conduct a trial on the South Perth Peninsula using 'Noise Cameras', like the devices being trialled on the East Coast. These are believed to be operational and effective in at least half a dozen cities worldwide.
- 4) Work strenuously with Main Roads to have the speed limit reduced to 40kph in the South Perth Activity Plan area - that being all the Peninsula, the South Perth Esplanade and Mends Street area.
- 5) Co-ordinate a more effective and comprehensive 'Blitz on Hoons' for a month. This would require an enthusiastic participation of not just the City and City Rangers, but Mains Roads and the WA Police Department.

**The Motion was put and declared CARRIED.**

The following motion was read out by Mr John Bassett of Como at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.

**Mr John Bassett:**

The Motion is:

That the City of South Perth

- a) Prioritises the review of the 2018-2023 Urban Forest Strategy to incorporate a tree canopy target of 30% by 2040, supported by appropriate planning, policy changes, funding, monitoring, education strategies and annual reporting; and
- b) Presents to the March 2024 Council meeting a report that includes a project outline and timeline for the review of the Urban Forest Strategy, which reflects the urgency of its review.

**Mayor Greg Milner:**

Thank you, Mr Bassett, I'm now going to ask if there's anyone that would like to second Mr Bassett's motion?

Ms Vicki Redden of South Perth seconded the motion.

Thank you so much. Mr Bassett, you have three minutes.

**Mr John Bassett:**

I'm sure I won't take that long because really the reason for continuing the Urban Forest Strategy is fairly obvious it's stated in the previous 2018-2023 Strategy, but briefly, it's reasonably well recognised that the increase of tree canopy in any region will reproduce a reduction in heating within that region and the consequent reduction in the need for artificial cooling and so on. Despite several inquiries from residents, Council has not updated the strategy when after it expired last year and has given no indication of when the strategy will be reviewed.

As I said, the benefits have already been well documented but the next five years are critical in extending the existing canopy. In fact, currently we don't know what the state of the existing canopy is but it is worth noting in the previous report/strategy, Council is to be commended in increasing the canopy by 20% but at the same time there was a reduction of 20% on private properties. So in that regard, the suggestion of a 30% canopy coverage by 2040 is ambitious and I would suggest not achievable by Council. Really, we need to engage in an education strategy that allows people to realise the reasons for an increase in the canopy and the advantages to the whole community by increasing the canopy. It's worth noting that the Strategic Community Plan for 2021-2031 recognises in sections 3.31 that we maintain and improve the ecosystem by diversity of the City and in 3.3.2 we enhance the City's Urban Forest.

Without an Urban Forest Strategy what I suggest is that the City is failing to address the objectives of its own strategic community plan, by not having a current strategy. So that is the background to my motion.

**Mayor Greg Milner:**

Thank you very much, Mr Bassett.

## DECISION

**Moved:** Mr John Bassett of Como.

**Seconded:** Ms Vicki Redden of South Perth.

That the City of South Perth:

- 1) Prioritises the review of the 2018-2023 Urban Forest Strategy to incorporate a tree canopy target of 30% by 2040, supported by appropriate planning, policy changes, funding, monitoring, education strategies and annual reporting; and
- 2) Presents to the March 2024 Council meeting a report that includes a project outline and timeline for the review of the Urban Forest Strategy, which reflects the urgency of its review.

**The Motion was put and declared CARRIED.**

The following motion was read out by Ms Michelle Terri of South Perth at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.

**Ms Michelle Terri:** I'd like to move a motion that the City of South Perth undertake to do all things necessary to repair or replace the two Lake Douglas bridges for the reasons mentioned in our Preamble earlier this evening and these works to be prioritised in 2024/25 financial year.

Thank you.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Mr Terry did you want to second that motion?

**Ms Michelle Terri:** He's 16, is he allowed to?

**Mayor Greg Milner:** We do need another adult.

Name and address please Sir?

Mr Mario Terri of South Perth seconded the motion.

**Ms Michelle Terri:** I won't take the full three minutes but my concerns are the bridges, which we really don't know what's wrong with the bridges and why they're been closed for the majority of nearly 12 months. As you would have heard this evening, everyone has pointed out that they're used by everyone in the community, near far and we're all here because we're concerned about the bridges. So that's why my motion is to move it that you do take it as a priority. There was a surplus in 2023 with the Council. So I'd like them to take this is a priority. Before, like there's one thing to start new projects but why not maintain the things that need money spent on them first before looking for new and better things.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Thank you very much.

#### DECISION

**Moved:** Ms Michelle Terri of South Perth.

**Seconded:** Mr Mario Terri of South Perth.

That the City of South Perth undertake to do all things necessary to repair or replace the two Lake Douglas bridges for the reasons mentioned in our Preamble earlier this evening and these works to be prioritised in 2024/25 financial year.

**The Motion was put and declared CARRIED.**

**The following motion was read out by Dr Mark Brogan of Kensington at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.**

**Dr Mark Brogan:**

I'm moving a motion, Mr Mayor. Thank you for the introduction.

It's concerning street tree management. I have a copy of it.

Just a little bit of preamble, just a couple of sentences. This really relates to the kinds of objectives that Mr Bassett was talking about and the need for us to do things definitively on tree canopy and preserving our valuable trees.

The motion is that:

The City of South Perth Street Tree Management Plan be updated to reflect current issues and new practices and to maximise community benefit. The update should specifically provide for:

- a) mandated street tree provision on all verges where trees can physically and practically be accommodated (that is not optional or opt in);
- b) a move away from the traditional street tree theme approach in order to provide biodiversity and resilience to pests and diseases;
- c) maximisation of the canopy that street trees provide, aiming for continuous canopy coverage after 20 years of moderate growth and the combined value of all trees on a verge to be 1.5 x the verge area;
- d) that the street tree species list including default street tree species that are large trees native to the local government area that provide food and habitat for our local fauna and are not susceptible to Polyphagus Shot Hole Borer;
- e) tree species susceptible to forecast rising temperatures in our warming climate and know pests and disease be removed from the street tree species list;
- f) street tree removal to facilitate private development being more strongly discouraged through policy, and where removal of a street tree to accommodate development cannot be avoided the amenity value for the tree paid by the adjoining land owner being allocated to the street tree budget;
- g) authorisation for removal of street trees to facilitate private development or street parking be removed from the Chief Executive Officer's Delegations and instead being a decision of the Council;
- h) where a street tree has been vandalized signage being installed in its place to notify the community of the vandalism (in the past the City has done this); and
- i) developers to pay a bond of sufficient amount to cover the cost of remediating damage to a street tree resulting from building activities.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Thank you, Dr Brogan and just before I seek a seconder on that motion, I hadn't realised how long that motion was when we passed it up. We're not going to be able to get that on the screens right now.

It's going to take a while for Governance to type that out then they've got to make sure they've got it correct.

I'm happy to read it one more time I have your hard copy here, if anyone in the gallery doesn't feel like they they've got the gist of what you're proposing?

**Dr Mark Brogan:** Thank you Mr Mayor I'm happy for you to do that, I do have a statement of rationale.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Yes, we'll get to that after we've got a seconder.

This is the reason why we get people to submit things in advance so that we can have the screens available rather than having our officers running around and doing that. I will read it one more time just for the purposes of clarity but perhaps this is a reminder for everyone for next time.

It really does help us a lot if you if you get the questions, the statements, the motions to us ahead of time so that we can facilitate showing everyone on the screen what the motions are.

So I'll read this one more time, then I'll see about a seconder for you, Dr Brogan and then we'll proceed as normal.

Can I call for a seconder on Dr Brogan's motion?

Ms Bronwyn David of South Perth seconded the motion.

Dr Brogan you have three minutes.

**Dr Mark Brogan:** Thank you, Mr Mayor.

Really the rationale for this is fairly plain from the comments previously been made by Mr Bassett in relation to the Urban Forest Strategy, in essence these planned changes to the South Perth Street Tree Management Plan, will assist with the Urban Forest Strategy in securing the goals for tree canopy that the City of South Perth desperately needs.

The tree canopy of the City of South Perth has actually decreased by 50% since the 1960s. We know this from satellite imaging, so we're looking at a significant problem which needs multiple pathways and approaches to address in a significant way.

Trees are highly valuable community assets to deliver multiple environmental, social, and economic benefits. Not least of which, bring shade and cooling in our warm climate. They are critical to the green and leafy character of our streets for which our streets are often so louded.

Just on the matter of urban heat islands and the effects of global warming and climate change. Do we really want to see children in our parks exposed to park equipment and playground equipment where the ambient temperature is in a vicinity of 70°C. These issues are looming and we need multiple approaches to deal with these kinds of effects. This is the urban heat island problem, which is another issue that goes with climate change and our inability to protect our surfaces and facilities from the loss of tree canopy and the extreme heating that arises.

As street verges are public land and street trees are valuable community assets and a joining landowners should not be able to influence whether or not a street tree is planted, as is currently the case. If a verge can physically and practically accommodate a street tree it should, for the greater good. Increasing community awareness when street trees are vandalised can act as an effective deterrent to reduce vandalism of trees and should be utilised by the City and as I've mentioned this has happened in the past. The best way to do this is with use of signage at the location of vandalised trees and publication of locations of vandalised trees. Given that one of the more important roles of street trees is to help to cool our suburbs through shading and transpiration. It is critical that the canopy cover they deliver is maximised. It is also important that the other benefits of street trees are maximised particularly the food and habitat that they provide for our local fauna. The City's street tree list should be updated to better reflect these factors. The City's street tree list should also respond to increased pressure from rising temperatures and new pests and diseases such as the Polyphagus Shot Hole Borer. Which is recently, as many people will be aware being a problem in Hyde Park with the Moreton Bay Figs.

The street tree theme approach is no longer appropriate under these circumstances and biodiversity should be prioritised. For example, many Perth local governments are now choosing to no longer plant WA Peppermints as they will struggle in the hotter temperatures we will experience in Perth in future decades. Provisions to ensure that street trees are not removed unless all alternatives have been exhausted need to be strengthened. Where approval to remove a tree is supported the costs paid by the land owner to compensate the community for the tree must be used to plant replacement trees. Similarly developers should be required to adequately compensate.

**Mayor Greg Milner:**

Dr Brogan, I'm sorry to interrupt but I've got to be fair to everyone. I am sorry, but I will throw it open now, if anyone has any questions?

**Dr Mark Brogan:**

Thank you, Mr Mayor.

## DECISION

**Moved:** Dr Mark Brogan of Kensington.

**Seconded:** Ms Bronwyn David of South Perth.

That the City of South Perth Street Tree Management Plan be updated to reflect current issues and new practices and to maximise community benefit. Including:

- a) mandated street tree provision on all verges where trees can physically and practically be accommodated (not optional or opt in);
- b) a move away from the traditional street tree theme approach in order to provide biodiversity and resilience to pests and diseases;
- c) maximisation of the canopy that street trees provide, aiming for continuous canopy coverage after 20 years of moderate growth and the combined value of all trees on a verge to be 1.5 x the verge area;
- d) that the street tree species list including default street tree species which are large trees native to the local government area that provide food and habitat for our local fauna and are not susceptible to Polyphagus Shot Hole Borer (ie. Tuart, Jarrah, Flooded Gums);
- e) tree species susceptible to forecast rising temperatures in our warming climate and know pests and disease be removed from the street tree species list;
- f) street tree removal to facilitate private development being more strongly discouraged through policy, and where removal of a street tree to accommodate development cannot be avoided the amenity value for the tree paid by the adjoining land owner being allocated to the street tree budget
- g) authorisation for removal of street trees to facilitate private development or street parking be removed from the Chief Executive Officer's Delegations and instead being a decision of the Council;
- h) where a street tree has been vandalized signage being installed in its place to notify the community of the vandalism; and
- i) developers to pay a bond of sufficient amount to cover the cost of remediating damage to a street tree resulting from building activities.

**The Motion was put and declared CARRIED.**



**The following motion and statement were read out by Mr Bill Gleeson of South Perth at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.**

- Mr Bill Gleeson:** Mr Mayor, and Councillors.
- My motion refers to a letter that I sent to all Councillors back on 9.1.2024, regarding honour boards in the City of South Perth.
- Mayor Greg Milner:** If you could please read the motion?
- Mr Bill Gleeson:** That the CEO Mike Bradford instruct the Local History Librarian Anthony Styan to prepare a report to Council on how best to display the revived honour boards and photos of former Elected Members of the City of South Perth and place them in an appropriate place.
- Mayor Greg Milner:** Thank you Mr Gleeson.
- Would anyone like to second Mr Gleeson's motion?
- Mr Laszlo Ozsdolay of Como seconded the motion.
- Thank you very much.
- Mr Gleeson, you have three minutes to give your reasons.
- Mr Bill Gleeson:** Thank you. I have here, Mr Mayor, Councillors, two medallions one was given to all the school children in the City of South Perth back in 1959. It states on the back 'In commemoration of the elevation to the title of the municipality of the City of South Perth' and it has the City of South Perth logo crown on the front.
- 15 years ago, the City put a medallion out celebrating 50 years of the City of South Perth becoming a City and on the back it states: 'celebrating the history and caring and the opportunity in the future'.
- I'll read my letter: the City of South Perth laid the foundation stone, to be the City in 1904. This means this year, 2024 will be 120 years old anniversary for that event.
- 1902 - South Perth became a municipality
  - 1904 - Laying the foundation stone of the municipality office corner of Mends Street and Mill Point Road
  - In 1905 - the municipality was divided the City into three wards
  - In 1922 South Perth became a District Road board
- All the above events became due to the administration and the Elected Members. The City of South Perth employ a local history librarian Anthony Styan who collects and records the history of the City of South Perth.
- Some time back the CEO, at the time, Geoff Glass undertook to renovate part of the City's administration building. In doing so, all the honour boards going back close to 100 years and photos of previous Councillors were removed from the Councillor's function room.
- It is now 2024 and they still now remain gathering dust in the basement of the City library.

Whilst I agree for those that are not aware, that the honour boards were not very functional to view and read the names of the former Councillors to begin with.

The South Perth, Civic, Manning Bowling Clubs, South Perth Football Club, Rugby Clubs, Tennis Clubs, Cricket Clubs, Golf clubs and even the Croquet Club all have honour boards display it seems to shame that all the other clubs.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Mr Gleeson, I'm so sorry that is three minutes and I do have to be fair to everyone.

#### DECISION

**Moved:** Mr Bill Gleeson of South Perth.

**Seconded:** Mr Laszlo Ozsdolay of Como.

That the CEO Mike Bradford instruct the Local History Librarian Anthony Styan to prepare a report to Council on how best to display the revived honour boards and photos of former Elected Members of the City of South Perth and place them in an appropriate place.

**The Motion was put and declared CARRIED.**

**Mr Bill Gleeson:** Mr Mayor, just on a good note.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** You can make a statement or a question.

**Mr Bill Gleeson:** A statement.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Yes, fire away. You have three minutes.

**Mr Bill Gleeson:** I wish to congratulate the City of South Perth for holding Australia Day on the 26 January 2024. The Governor of Western Australia and you, Mr Mayor, both said 'we live in the best country in the world, free of conflict, we are democratic and we're very Multicultural.'

101 people became Australian citizens on the day. If we change the flag, change the national anthem, and change the date. Those same people will complain about something else. God bless Australia.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Thank you, Mr Gleeson.

Is there anyone else who would like to, yes the gentleman in the blue shirt if you'd like to come to the microphone. Name and address again, and if you could please let us know if you're making a statement asking questions or moving a motion?

The following question was asked by Mr Douglas Michin of South Perth at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.

**Mr Douglas Michin:** With the increased traffic pressure on Mill Point Road caused by predominantly larger apartment blocks being built, for example: Civic Heart and we have many others in the pipeline (Lumiere and potentially other developments).

Has the Council, in conjunction, probably, I think with Main Roads and the State Government, or other involved bodies, considered an alternative access to the South Perth Peninsula and surrounding areas from the freeway for the traffic heading north? Potentially other options would be to look at a flyover or tunnel, flyover is probably cheaper coming through at Judd Street or South Terrace and there may be other options.

The question is: has the Council considered this, looking at traffic going into the future (and if they haven't I suggest they do) and will they?

**Mayor Greg Milner:** It's a pretty big question so I'd forgive the officers if they took that one on notice, but Ms Amprimo should I send that in your direction?

**Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS):** Yes, thank you for the question.

The off ramps of the freeway are the domain of Main Roads WA so they're not actually part of the City's road network. So any changes to the freeway would be something that would be instigated and determined by Main Roads, not the City.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Thank you Ms Amprimo and thank you Mr Minchin for your question. Ms David, yes, if you'd like to come to the microphone, state your name and address and let us know if you're making a statement, asking a question, or moving a motion.

**The following motion was read out by Ms Bronwyn David of South Perth at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.**

**Ms Bronwyn David:** Thank you Mayor, thank you Councillors.

My motion is that:

The City of South Perth urgently present to the Council alternative options for the protection of large trees on private land, for the Council to progress as a priority when the Planning Minister announces his rejection of the Draft Local Planning Scheme No.7 Tree Protection Provisions.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Thank you very much, Ms David.

Is there anyone that would like to second that motion?

Dr Brogan, Thank you.

Dr Mark Brogan of Kensington seconded the motion.

You have three minutes, Ms David.

**Ms Bronwyn David:** Thank you very much.

I'm aware that this Council cares deeply for the urban canopy and is very concerned about it. I know that because you inserted into your draft Local Planning Scheme 7, protections for trees on private property and even when those provisions were thrown out and had to come back and be resubmitted, you then sort the residents and ratepayers views, and I know you have an overwhelming majority of people in favour of those provisions, and you reinserted them and went back to the Planning Commission with the draft Local Planning Scheme.

I understand that the draft Local Planning Scheme has come before the State Planning Commission and now is in the Planning Minister's inbox. The word on the street is that similar provisions put forward by Nedlands City Council have been refused and so it stands to reason that in due course, the provisions for tree protection that the City of South Perth put forward will also be refused.

Now I don't think I have to elaborate on how vital trees are to our urban environment and I would like the City to think hard and to give appropriate recommendations to the Council about what we can do next to protect trees on private property.

Thank you.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Thank you, Ms David.

## DECISION

**Moved:** Ms Bronwyn David of South Perth.

**Seconded:** Dr Mark Brogan of Kensington.

That the City of South Perth urgently present to the Council alternative options for the protection of large trees on private land, for the Council to progress as a priority when the Planning Minister announces his rejection of the Draft Local Planning Scheme No.7 Tree Protection Provisions.

**The Motion was put and declared CARRIED.**

The following motion was read out by Ms Heidi Schmidt of South Perth at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.

**Ms Heidi Schmidt:** I will read the motion part slowly:  
That the City of South Perth forthwith, determine, budget for and implement an audit of tree species known to provide food and or roosting places for Black Cockatoo species within the City of South Perth as a matter of priority and; that this data be made available to the public (us).

Specifically requiring audit are the Pinus Pinaster and Macadamia trees within the City as they're proven to be a premium core food source species and roosting sites for these endangered birds (as documented by researchers at Murdoch University - the known National researchers for our birds that live here). Endemic species, including Marri, Jarrah, Banksia and Hakea are also critical food sources.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Is this all one motion?

**Ms Heidi Schmidt:** Yep, I've got a clock here, I'm not going over.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** The clock isn't for the motion itself, I'm just wondering.

Hold on Ms Schmidt, I'm just asking if you're going into your reasons rather than the actual motion

**Ms Heidi Schmidt:** No, it's a specific motion.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** So, this is the motion?

**Ms Heidi Schmidt:** Endemic species including Marri, Jarrah, Banksia and Hakea are also critical food sources as they provide additional nutrients, and so must also be audited.

This audit data should be mapped and include:

- Location of trees by species
- Numbers of each species per location
- Age of trees; and
- Any intended removal of such trees within five years including stating the reasons for intended removal, so like, aging or whatever, plus what species and numbers of trees will be planted to replace them including any timing for any removal'.

So it's specific we need to know this data because right now.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Ms Schmidt, what you are saying right now is clearly reasons not an actual motion.

Please stop talking over the top of me, this will go much better if you listen when I'm gently trying to help you. Perhaps if you could please recast your motion in terms of what it is you want the City to actually do. Don't include the rationale for it in your motion. You can say that in your reasons as to why the gallery should pass your motion.

**Ms Heidi Schmidt:** In a snapshot because we're unable to quickly scan this to put it on the screen, it must be retyped.

That the City undertake an audit of all food and roosting trees including Pinus Pinaster and Macadamia and endemic species within the City of South Perth in a timely manner.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Much better thank you.

Would anyone like to second Ms Schmidt's motion?

Mr Trevor Ridgeway of Como seconded the motion.

Thank you so much Ms Schmidt, you have three minutes to provide us with your reasons.

**Ms Heidi Schmidt:** Okay rationale, I'm going to go fast.

Undertaking this audit in a timely manner is critical to ensure the ongoing provision of both food and roosting sites the endangered Carnaby's and the Red-Tailed Black Cockatoos (the Red Tail is likely to be listed as endangered in the near future with only 15,000 Birds left at 2015). So we have less than that now, and any Baudin's Cockatoo that may traverse the City.

We see and hear these birds in our backyards as they are literally starving - they are looking for food among Cape Lilac and other exotic trees in people's gardens and on street verges.

Carnaby's Cockatoos are listed as endangered at both state and federal levels. They rely heavily on Pine as a food source - given that there is not enough native food left for them in Perth. This is pivotal.

It takes nine hectares of endemic tree species, like Marri and Jarrah, to provide the same food as one hectare of Pine, or Macadamia trees. Adequate forward planning for regeneration of both species is pivotal to the survival of these much-loved birds. The only way to halt and reverse the decline of the Black Cockatoos is to safeguard their remaining food sources and roosts and plant additional high value food sources such as Pine and Macadamia.

Pinus Pinaster is drought tolerant and does not affect water usage like some other species may. The City tells us that nothing grows under Pines, but Pine trees do grow under Pines.

All three Black Cockatoos have suffered a sharp and massive decline in recent decades as noted by Murdoch University. Bird Life Australia said if this continues, we're likely to see the extinction of the Perth population in the next 15 years and that clearing of any Pine would contribute to this.

Taking this action is not a choice or something to be put off for another time or another budget. It's an obligation to both the birds and the people of South Perth.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Thank you, Ms Schmidt.

## DECISION

**Moved:** Ms Heidi Schmidt of South Perth.

**Seconded:** Mr Trevor Ridgeway of Como.

That the City of South Perth forthwith, determine, budget for and implement an audit of tree species known to provide food and or roosting places for Black Cockatoo species within the City of South Perth as a matter of priority and; that this data be made available to the public.

Specifically requiring audit are the Pinus Pinaster and Macadamia trees within the City as they're proven to be a premium core food source species and roosting sites for these endangered birds (as documented by researchers at Murdoch University).

Endemic species including Marri, Jarrah, banksia and Hakea are also critical food sources as they provide additional nutrients, and so must also be audited.

This audit data should be mapped and include:

- Location of trees by species;
- Numbers of each species per location;
- Age of trees; and
- Any intended removal of such trees within 5 years including stating the reasons for intended removal, plus what species and numbers of trees will be planted to replace them including any timing for any removal.

**The Motion was put and declared CARRIED.**



**The following motion was read out by Ms Ellen Miller of South Perth at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.**

**Ms Ellen Miller:** My motion is retraction of misinformation stated in the *MySouthPerth* Magazine. I am putting the motion:

That the City of South Perth ensure that the printed misinformation sent to 40,000 residents in the *mySouthPerth* magazine stating that 'Black Cockatoos become too heavy to fly after eating pine nuts' be visibly and transparently retracted and corrected in the next issue of that magazine and on the City's website.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Thank you, Ms Miller.

Is there anyone who would like to second Ms Miller's motion?

Ms Heidi Schmidt of South Perth seconded the motion.

Ms Miller, you have three minutes to give your reasons.

**Ms Ellen Miller:** Thank you. My rationale is the first issue of *MySouthPerth* Magazine contains these statements:

1. The City plans to replace non-native trees such as Pine and Macadamia with Banksia, Eucalyptus, Hakea and Grevillea endemic to the area.
2. Pine and Macadamia provide very fat-rich foods and that can lead to the birds becoming too heavy to take off the ground quickly, contributing to frequent bird injuries or fatalities from predator attacks and collisions with cars.

In urban areas these birds feed especially on Pine plantations, since the endemic food species namely Jarrah and Marri are so very scarce. Many are struggling to find enough food and have even taken to feeding on exotic trees such as Cape Lilac in peoples' gardens.

Out of necessity, these birds have adapted to and now rely on feeding on both Pinus and Macadamia; both of which are much higher in nutrients than endemic species; with endemic species providing additional nutrients but lesser quality in food. Rather than replace Pinus and Macadamia, the City should be adding endemic trees such as Marri, Jarrah, Hakea and Banksia to non-native trees. Thereby giving the birds a greater food source, more choice and a greater chance at survival as endangered species.

After extensive communications with Birdlife Australia, Murdoch University, and a variety of expert wildlife organisations there is no evidence that suggests that these birds get too heavy to fly if they eat Macadamia or Pinus nuts. In fact, Carnaby's and Red-Tailed Black Cockatoos do not get too heavy to fly from what they eat. They are large and powerful birds that can fly long distances. They can eat up to 10% of their body weight per day but they also burn a lot of calories during flight and digestion therefore they do not gain excess weight that would affect their ability to fly.

Under enquiry and scrutiny, the City cannot substantiate the information in the article; nor provide any reliable source for the false statements, other than one officer's mere hearsay or misinterpretation of facts. Thank you for listening.

**Mayor Greg Milner:**

Thank you, Ms Miller.

**DECISION**

**Moved:** Ms Ellen Miller of South Perth.

**Seconded:** Ms Heidi Schmidt of South Perth.

That the City of South Perth ensure that the printed misinformation sent to 40,000 residents in the mySouthPerth magazine stating that 'Black Cockatoos become too heavy to fly after eating pine nuts' be visibly and transparently retracted and corrected in the next issue of that magazine and on the City's website.

**The Motion was put and declared CARRIED.**

The following motion was read out by Ms Silvia Serra of South Perth at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.

**Ms Silvia Serra:** I would like to move a motion.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** If you could please read your motion?

**Ms Silvia Serra:** I would like to move a motion:

That the City of South Perth amends the workforce structure in the next budget to include a full-time equivalent position responsible for coordinating and managing all matters pertaining to the urban forest across the seven suburbs of the City of South Perth.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Thank you very much.

Is there someone who'd like to second Ms Serra's motion?

Ms Loanne Castle of Como seconded the motion.

Thank you very much, Ms Serra, you have three minutes.

**Ms Silvia Serra:** Thank you.

Large councils may have several work units and officers that each have a role that impacts on the protection and management of the urban forest. This is significant when staff might be located at different sites or offices - limiting interactions and the ability to coordinate appropriate responses.

The City of South Perth canopy cover has been declining steadily for some time. In 2020 it was only 17% and it is much likely lower now as a consequence of ongoing removal of trees on private land for development. Plus now also as a consequence of the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer. If our suburbs are to remain liveable and retain their green leafy character, we urgently need the City to prioritise our urban forest.

A full-time Urban Forest Coordinator at the City of South Perth would be responsible for overseeing and coordinating the City's Urban Forest actions and initiatives including the urgent review of the Urban Forest Strategy, and implementation of its identified objectives and actions. It would provide community and other key stakeholders with a focal point, and foster community engagement and education. This role will be a great filter to deal with tree issues to enable other staff within the City, to work more efficiently and effectively at their core business, adding to the City's productivity and responsiveness. Thank you.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Thank you very much.

## DECISION

**Moved:** Ms Silvia Serra of South Perth.

**Seconded:** Ms Loanne Castle of Como.

That the City of South Perth amends the workforce structure in the next budget to include a full-time equivalent position responsible for coordinating and managing all matters pertaining to the urban forest across the seven suburbs of the City of South Perth.

**The Motion was put and declared CARRIED.**

The following motion was read out by Ms Valmae Stonehouse of South Perth at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Please proceed, if you could read your motion.

**Ms Valmae Stonehouse:** That the City of South Perth ensure that the past practices regarding tree vandalism on the City of South Perth land are reinstated.  
This should include large, obvious signage stating what has occurred as well as replanting of two trees, per tree that's been vandalised.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Thank you.  
Is there someone who would like to second that motion?

Ms Silvia Serra of South Perth seconded the motion.

Thank you, you now have three minutes if you would like, Ms Stonehouse.

**Ms Valmae Stonehouse:** In the past, the City of South Perth installed large metal signage stating that a tree had in this location had been vandalised and two trees were replaced for the one that was vandalised by the City. This practice has ceased yet the trees are still being vandalised - poisoned, pulled out, cut down, ring barked, etc. in an increasing and alarming rate.

A couple of recent examples include along the nature strip in Salter Point to create views for a property yet to be built, and in the street verge outside Columbus Church. Without any repercussions, this vandalism will only increase. It is, therefore, a matter of urgency that the successful practice of publicly stating vandalism and replacing trees quickly to reinstate as a matter of urgency.

A note: large metal trees exist in the South Perth Depot and can be used for this purpose, moved from site-to-site as needed, along with additional signage, and trees to be procured for the purpose.

Note: large banners are used in Sydney suburbs to both combat and shame tree vandals. Thank you.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Thank you very much.

**DECISION**

**Moved:** Ms Valmae Stonehouse of South Perth

**Seconded:** Ms Silvia Serra of South Perth

That the City of South Perth ensure that the past practices regarding tree vandalism on the City of South Perth land are reinstated.

This should include large, obvious signage stating what has occurred as well as replanting of two trees, per tree that's been vandalised.

**The Motion was put and declared CARRIED.**



The following motion was read out by Ms Selena Hughes of Como at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.

**Ms Selena Hughes:** I'm stating a motion.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Please read your motion.

**Ms Selena Hughes:** That the City of South Perth lobby the Western Australian Local Government Association (or WALGA) via a motion at the next South East Metropolitan WALGA Zone Meeting to urgently procure updated tree canopy and heat mapping data for the Perth and Peel area. In order to provide a better understanding of the current canopy situation and informed planning policy changes, funding, and monitoring.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Thank you very much for that.

Is there anyone who would like to second Ms Hughes' motion?

Thank you, Ms David.

Ms Hughes, you have three minutes.

**Ms Selena Hughes:** The West Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) is the umbrella organisation for all Councils. Allowing Councils to cooperate and share costs for projects wider than an individual town or city councils. We need the data because if we can't measure what is happening with the trees then we can't fix the problems.

All policy and activities by all levels of government should be informed by accurate information, and you can only get that information by getting up to-date accurate data. Particularly, I have been noticing a lot more raising of blocks in recent years. So that would be part of the reason why. There is a general understanding that tree canopy is necessary for quality of life: cooling, and obviously habitat for native animals. In order to inform policy and activities in relation to tree canopy, we need to know how much there is, where it is, and where we need more of it.

By working with WALGA and other councils the cost of obtaining this data will be rationally spread over a number of bodies. So we will get quality information and we will get value for rate payers as well.

That's it, thank you very much.

**DECISION**

**Moved:** Ms Selena Hughes of Como.  
**Seconded:** Ms Bronwyn David of South Perth.

That the City of South Perth lobby the Western Australian Local Government Association (or WALGA) via a motion at the next South East Metropolitan WALGA Zone Meeting to urgently procure updated tree canopy and heat mapping data for the Perth and Peel area. In order to provide a better understanding of the current canopy situation and informed planning policy changes, funding, and monitoring.

**The Motion was put and declared CARRIED.**



**Mayor Greg Milner:**

Now ladies and gentlemen, we have had a record number of motions at this Annual General Meeting. We've had, if I'm counting it correctly, we've had seven alone on trees. So I am going to suggest that we don't have any further motions from the floor about trees. You are absolutely welcome to contact your Elected Members. You express your views, there is clearly some strong views in this room, but I think your Council and your City has well and truly got the message as to what the people in this room are advocating for.

Is there any other, questions, statements? Yes, the gentleman at the back.

Perhaps, if you could give us your name and address and let us know if you're asking a question, making a statement, or moving a motion?

**The following motion and question were read out by Mr Oliver Crosthwaite of South Perth at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.**

**Mr Oliver Crosthwaite:** Motion firstly and then a question, if I may, on another matter.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Name and address please.

Thank you very much, and what is your motion?

**Mr Oliver Crosthwaite:** Mayor, Councillors, thank you for the opportunity to put the following motion:

That the City of South Perth Council amend Policy P210 Street Verges and the City Street Tree Verge Landscape Guidelines to exclude artificial turf from a list of permitted verge treatments and encourage other treatments that are environmentally friendly and sustainable.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Well, it's not trees I'll give you that.

**Mr Oliver Crosthwaite:** Thank you.

**Mayor Greg Milner:** Is there anyone that would like to second, Mr Crosthwaite's motion?

Ms Heidi Schmidt of South Perth seconded the motion.

Thank you, Ms Schmidt.

Mr Crosthwaite, you have three minutes.

**Mr Oliver Crosthwaite:** Currently, the City's provisions provide for the laying of synthetic turf on verges, where permission has been obtained. This allows for anywhere from 50% to 100% of the verge, depending on its width, to be covered with this product. Euphemistically referred as 'Turf' - this product is a man-made synthetic plastic harmful to the environment. With declining rainfall, increasing temperatures, greater urban density and the loss of vegetation from private property. Trees and plants on verges play an increasingly important role in maintaining cooler, greener and leafier streetscapes in an environmentally sustainable way. Artificial turf does none of this, for the following reasons:

- 1) It affects the microbiology and prevents the effective take up of nutrients by surrounding trees, while depriving our native fauna, such as Magpies and Mudlarks of a food source;

- 2) It deprives street trees and other plants of water that is sheeted off into the gutter to their detriment;
- 3) It is around 85% hotter than natural grass, and astonishingly 28% hotter than bitumen and can cause severe burns especially to children, and dramatically add to the 'urban heat island effect';
- 4) It doesn't filter pollutants like animal faeces and urine, whose breakdown takes considerably longer than on natural grass, risking serious infection following a grazed injury;
- 5) Damage to it is comparatively harder to repair and where poorly laid or loose, it becomes unsightly and a tripping hazard;
- 6) It has a limited lifespan which may be shortened under abnormal wear and tear before ending up in landfill;
- 7) It is non-biodegradable, difficult to dispose of, or recycle, where it is compact, where its compacted-foundation makes it difficult to re-establish trees and other plants;
- 8) It does not absorb carbon dioxide or produce oxygen; and
- 9) It makes accessing service infrastructure difficult.

Thank you.

**Mayor Greg Milner:**

Thank you, Mr Crosthwaite.

#### **DECISION**

**Moved:** Mr Oliver Crosthwaite of South Perth.

**Seconded:** Ms Heidi Schmidt of South Perth.

That the City of South Perth Council amend Policy P210 Street Verges and the City Street Tree Verge Landscape Guidelines to exclude artificial turf from a list of permitted verge treatments and encourage other treatments that are environmentally friendly and sustainable.

**The Motion was put and declared CARRIED.**



- Mayor Greg Milner:** That motion is carried, and I understand you've got a question as well?
- Mr Oliver Crosthwaite:** Mayor, Councillors, with regards to the Sir James Mitchell Park at Ellam Street end. Could the City please explain why it asserts that making 'deals' with entities like Wesley College for the exclusive use of up to 10 hectares of this prime riverfront parkland overlooking Heirisson Island and owned freehold by the City, should consider the risk to its reputational damage as low.
- Given that:
1. The land is worth far more than the poultry quote '\$1.5 Million that the College has confirmed it is willing to contribute to the land's development for sporting activities;
  2. Wesley, an elite private school, has resources and financial leverage obtained from its private and government sources to outbid the use of this priceless piece of foreshore by much less well-resourced government-run schools, and other institutions;
  3. The use of this land by the College will be 'required' which will, during these times, exclude others that are perhaps more needy and deserving. Shared use must be allocated on an equitable basis;
  4. The land is prime public open space overlooking Perth water and is owned by the City on behalf of all its inhabitants to enjoy on an equitable basis. That it should be set aside for use by a private and privileged entity runs counter to a local government's obligations to ensure equity and fairness to all; and, given that,
  5. Wesley together with Penrhos College is attempting to obtain further land adjoining its current boatshed that would more than double its current footprint to build a new boatshed on the South Perth foreshore overlooking Perth water. The shed itself is intended to take up 1059m<sup>2</sup>, an excessive size that will be close to twice the average size of an ordinary residential block of land within the local government area of the City of South Perth.
- To repeat the question: In view of the above
- Mayor Greg Milner:** Actually I don't think you need to repeat the question. That's perfectly fine.
- Mr Oliver Crosthwaite:** Thank you.
- Mayor Greg Milner:** Officers might have to take that one on notice, because I must admit I lost the thread of it after the first minute, but Mr Bradford? Ms Amprimo?
- Mr Mike Bradford (CEO):** The City is doing a feasibility study on Ellam Street fields. There are no agreements on who will use it, or how it will be used – to determine its feasibility. All other aspects of your question, we have to take on notice, I'm afraid.

### **Additional Information:**

**Ms Donna Shaw (DDCS):** The South Perth Foreshore Strategy and Management Plan identifies this land for development as sports spaces. The Community Recreation Facilities Plan 2019-2033 includes shared-use sporting facilities to be explored, as well as further detailed analysis on demand for sports spaces.

There are various competing projects and priorities, however, the City is aware of the current and growing demand for sports spaces. The City seeks to optimise non-rate income and maintain a culture of fiscal efficiency in delivering projects for the community and as such, the City seeks to partner with both private (including private schools) and government organisations in acquiring funding to deliver community infrastructure.

The City has a needs and demand analysis, with the findings included in the Community Recreation Facilities Plan 2019-2033. This plan identifies that the City will need to spend approximately \$88m (\$65m on buildings and \$23m on sports spaces) on community recreation facilities over the next 20 years to maintain the existing amount of facilities (\$2,014/resident). Further, it recommends that the City develop a Shared Use Agreement for access to playing fields at local schools (private and public).

The estimated project cost to undertake a feasibility study was \$50,000. Whilst Wesley College was prepared to make a financial contribution towards the study, at its December Ordinary Meeting, Council resolved to fund the entire cost of the feasibility study.

The ultimate development costs for sports spaces are unknown until such time the feasibility study is complete, and no project costs have been established by either Wesley College or the City. Whilst Wesley College has advised that it is prepared to contribute up to \$1.5 million, this would need to be considered against the total project cost following the feasibility study when determining whether to proceed with the development of this site for sports spaces.

The times requested by Wesley College were their preferred times for access should the space be developed for sports spaces, and it would be open to Council to negotiate the actual usage should the site be developed for sports spaces to allow for maximum community use. It is also noted that any lease or licence would have a fixed term, following which the land could remain solely as complete public access at all times, or Council could consider whether it leases or licences the land to another interested party.

The City understands the Swan River Trust board will be considering the application for the Wesley Boatshed in the near future. Given the land is within the Swan Development Control Area, the City does not determine the application. The City referred the application to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, and has provided a recommendation on the application which is available on the City's website.

**Mr Oliver Crosthwaite:** Thank you.

**Mayor Greg Milner:**

Thank you, Mr Bradford, and thank you, Mr Crosthwaite.

Folks, we certainly weren't expecting this many questions, statements, and motions tonight. We can probably accommodate one more is there anyone? Mr Russell?

If you could please state your name and address and let us know if you're asking a question, making a statement, or moving a motion?

**The following question was read out by Mr Stephen Russell of Como at the Electors' General Meeting held 6 February 2024.**

**Mr Stephen Russell:**

I'm asking a question.

Good evening, everyone. In October 2023 Mayor Milner was re-elected for an additional four-year term. Post the Election, Mayor Milner went on the public record stating: "To the people of our City, thank you once again for putting your trust and faith in me". Fair enough, the community had re-elected the Mayor back into office and they would rightly expect and trust him to get on with the job for a full Mayoral term. However media has reported that Mayor Greg Milner has nominated as a candidate for the Liberal Party for South Perth for the upcoming State 2025 Elections, and in effect snubbing the Office of Mayor. I'm sure the community is having difficulties reconciling this action with his campaign to be re-elected as Mayor.

Hence, my question is to Councillor Nic Coveney. Noting what I have just said and that you and Mayor Milner had a mutual endorsement running up to the Election. Do you believe it is fair for the electors that voted for Mayor Milner as Mayor, that he now wants to be a State Member of Parliament soon, so soon after being re-elected?

**Mayor Greg Milner:**

Mr Russell. As you would know from your own time on Council, you can ask the question of the City, but you can't ask questions of individual Councillors.

**Mr Stephen Russell:**

Actually, at the Special Electors' Meeting, there were questions.

**Mayor Greg Milner:**

Mr Russell. No, you're not the Presiding Member. I've told you what the rules are.

**Mr Stephen Russell:**

On the record, at the Electors' Special Meeting.

**Mayor Greg Milner:**

Mr Russell. Interrupt me one more time, and I will turn off your microphone. Don't make me do that, please. The rules are the rules. You can ask a question of the City, but not of individual Councillors.

**Mr Stephen Russell:**

So we have a rule for the Electors' Special Meeting.

**Mayor Greg Milner:**

Governance, can you please turn off Mr Russell's microphone.

Mr Russell, please resume your seat. You are warned.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would ask that everyone please be respectful, and please follow the rules as they're set out. They are consistently applied. We allow these meetings to allow people to have their say, to put forward their motions, to make statements, to ask questions.

We do that very happily, but rules are rules and I'm not going to tolerate discourtesy, so with that. Mr Russell, please resume your seat.

Ladies and gentlemen, I'm adjourning the meeting.

Councillors, I'll meet you all in the Councillors' Lounge. We will resume when Mr Russell has left the building.

Mr Russell left the facility before the meeting could be adjourned. The Presiding Member then continued the meeting with the next item on the agenda.

## **8. CLOSURE**

The Presiding Member thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.45pm.