

MINUTES.

Electors' General Meeting

4 February 2025

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 4 February 2025 in the Council Chamber, corner Sandgate Street and South Terrace, South Perth.



MIKE BRADFORD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

12 March 2025

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.

Contents

- 1. DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS 4
- 2. DISCLAIMER 4
- 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDING MEMBER 4
- 4. ATTENDANCE 4
 - 4.1 APOLOGIES 5
 - 4.2 APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE 5
- 5. CITY OF SOUTH PERTH PRESENTATION OF THE 2023/24 YEAR 5
- 6. PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT, ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITORS REPORT OF THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024 7
- 7. GENERAL BUSINESS 8
- 8. CLOSURE 42



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 6.01pm and welcomed everyone in attendance. The Chair formally acknowledged and welcomed the State Member of Parliament, Mr Geoff Baker MLA.

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

Manning Ward

Manning Ward

Moresby Ward

Moresby Ward

Councillor Glenn Cridland

Councillor Blake D'Souza

Councillor André Brender-A-Brandis

Councillor Jennifer Nevard

Councillor Hayley Prendiville

Officers

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Director Corporate Services (DCS)

Director Development and Community Services (DDCS)

Director Infrastructure Services (DIS)

Manager Finance (MF)

Manager Customer, Communications and Engagement

A/ Manager Governance

A/ Governance Coordinator

Governance Officer

Mr Mike Bradford

Mr Garry Adams

Ms Donna Shaw

Ms Anita Amprimo

Mr Abrie Lacock (Retired at 7.00pm)

Ms Danielle Cattalini

Mr Morgan Hindle

Ms Christine Lovett

Ms Jane Robinson

Guests

Mr Geoff Baker MLA (Retired at 6.38pm)

Gallery

There were approximately 33 members of the public present.

4.1 APOLOGIES

- Councillor Nic Coveney
- Councillor Mary Choy

4.2 APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

- Councillor Bronwyn Waugh for the period 28 January 2025 to 10 March 2025, inclusive.

5. CITY OF SOUTH PERTH PRESENTATION OF THE 2023/24 YEAR

The Presiding Member read aloud the following:

“Good evening. Tonight, we are here to present the 2023/24 Annual Report, Annual Financial Statements and Auditors Report to you, the Electors.

The 2023/24 financial year has been one of significant progress for the City, as we continue to implement our community’s vision of a City of active places and beautiful spaces. I am pleased to report that the City’s financial position remains strong and continues to improve. It’s exciting to witness the advancements being made in various areas as we work towards making our City an ever-better place to live, work and play, all the while safeguarding sustainable financial management to secure our future.

The 2023/24 Annual Report, which was endorsed by Council last year, provides a comprehensive overview of the year’s progress, the challenges faced, and the achievements delivered. The report details the broad range of services, community programs, cultural events, infrastructure works and major projects that the City delivered across the year.

The City’s financial health continues to strengthen over the past financial year. The City has calculated, on the same basis as set by the State Government in previous years, a Financial Health Indicator of 87 out of 100 for 2023/24. Which was well above the financial benchmark score of 70 set by the Department of Local Government.

The 2023/24 financial year also saw the City generate its second consecutive operating surplus. This improved financial management means that we can deliver more for our community. To put that into context, in the previous 2022/23 financial year, the City reported four consecutive operating losses from the 2010/11 financial year through to the 2013/14 financial year. There was a single operating surplus in the 2014/15 financial year, followed by another seven consecutive operating losses from the 2015/16 financial year through to the 2021/22 financial year. Coming back to consecutive operating surpluses is really a big deal.

The City has added \$11.1m to its financial reserves since the 2019/20 financial year (including \$9.4m during the last financial year). This is making responsible provision for the replacement and renewal of long-term community assets when they reach their end of useful life. I cannot emphasize enough the significance of this financial turnaround or how important this is for the City’s future. This Council, sitting around the table today, won’t necessarily see the benefit of this work, but future Councils certainly will, and more importantly, our future community certainly will.

All of this has been achieved without a single rates increase in excess of inflation over the last six financial years. In fact, we have given 7% back to our ratepayers in real terms over the same period.

The last financial year marked a significant milestone for Collier Park Village. After more than 30 years of operation, the City transferred Collier Park Village to not-for-profit aged care provider, Amana Living with the approval and the support of village residents.

The City recognised that the continued operation of retirement villages has increasingly become a specialised sector and one that did not form part of the City's core business. Amana Living has the expertise and experience to cater for the evolving needs and expectations of retirees and they are equipped to provide the high-quality amenity and accommodation that the village residents deserve. We are grateful for the support of the Village residents, Amana Living and the State Government in reaching a successful outcome.

The City has also heard our community's call for enhanced transport options and has continued working towards a more connected and accessible place to live, work and play. 2023/24 saw the completion of the new Canning Bridge to Curtin University Bike Link. This Bike Link provides safe and convenient alternatives to driving with upgraded shared paths and a pocket park –which is ideal for those who walk, wheel or ride each day.

Another significant milestone included the approval of the Local Planning Scheme No. 7, which will chart the course towards a more connected and accessible City. The major five-year project marks a crucial step towards meeting our growing housing demands over the next two decades.

The City has continued to represent our community by consistently advocating for increased State and Federal Government funding for much-needed improvements for our recreational facilities and spaces. In 2023/24, we secured \$5.5m to upgrade changerooms and sports lighting at local reserves.

We have also secured a further \$500,000 for the Hurlingham Living Steam project, which is a transformative conservation initiative that will turn the existing Hurlingham Drain into a biodiverse planted stream, which in turn will enrich our local environment.

Our crime prevention efforts were also ramped up in 2023/24 with the introduction of a state-of-the-art mobile CCTV trailer. Deployed in partnership with Kensington Police, the proactive measure targets crime 'hotspots' in the community in real time.

We also successfully advocated for a 40km/hr speed limit to curb 'hooning' around the South Perth Foreshore, ensuring that this very popular and much-treasured spot remains family friendly.

These are just some of the City's achievements in the proceeding financial year. I would very much like to thank the City CEO Mike Bradford and the City of South Perth's administration for their tireless efforts in working towards our shared vision of a City of active places and beautiful spaces. It is an honour and a privilege to serve as your Council. We very much look forward to working with our entire community to continue to deliver great outcomes for this wonderful City."

6. PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT, ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITORS REPORT OF THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

The Presiding Member called for any questions relating to the Annual Report, Annual Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2024.

The following questions were asked by Mr Roger Reynolds of Manning at the Electors' General Meeting held 4 February 2025.

Mr Roger Reynolds: I have one quick question and it is probably contained in here but I was not going through to find it. What was the headcount at the previous financial year and the headcount of the previous financial year?

Mayor Greg Milner: In terms of the total population?

Mr Roger Reynolds: The headcount for the staff - the employees, full time total equivalent.

Mr Garry Adams (DCS): We normally report on it on an FTE-basis in the Annual Report and I just have to find the section. From memory, it was around 232. I might have to get back with the exact number. Do you want the actual headcount?

Mr Roger Reynolds: Yes, I was just looking what the headcount was the previous year, and the headcount?

Mr Garry Adams (DCS): I know that it hasn't increased by a lot, maybe you know, one or two in it. But I will get back to you with the exact number.

Mr Roger Reynolds: That's fine, I was just curious. I have some other general questions, but I will come back to those after.

Mayor Greg Milner: Of course, Mr Reynolds.

Additional information:

Mr Garry Adams (DCS): The headcount for City employees as at 30 June 2023 was 248 compared to the headcount as at 30 June 2024 which was 253 (a rise of 5). This is a different measure than the Full Time Equivalent method which takes into account the hours worked by each employee and converts to the full time equivalent number.

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 2024.

There being no further questions, the Presiding Member called for a mover and seconder to receive the 2023/24 Annual Report, Annual Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2024.

DECISION

Moved: Ms Cecilia Brooke of South Perth.

Seconded: Mr Warwick Boardman of Salter Point.

That the 2023/24 City of South Perth Annual Report, the 2023/24 Annual Financial Statements and the 2023/24 Auditor's Report, be RECEIVED.

The Motion was put and declared CARRIED.

Councillor Hayley Prendiville left the meeting at 7.22pm and returned at 7.24pm during consideration of Item 7.

Councillor Blake D'Souza left the meeting at 7.36pm and returned at 7.38pm during consideration of Item 7.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

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

The following questions were asked by Ms Alexandra Jones of Como at the Electors' General Meeting held 4 February 2025.

Ms Alexandra Jones: My questions relate to the motions that I will be proposing and the relevant statements. In light of the City's Public Health Plan and the lawful Role of Councillors to represent community interests as well as the power of Local Governments to enact Public Health Local Laws. My questions relate to protection of community health and prevention of the known and suspected causes of harm.

Will Mayor Milner and Councillors acknowledge and record in Council Minutes the Town of Port Hedland Motion that was sent to Councillors in Australia, bringing to their attention evidence of harmful synthetic DNA contamination in Australian vials of experimental COVID-19 vaccines, as detailed in the letter from P.J O'Brien and Associates to Hon. Russell Broadbent and to our Prime Minister?

Ms Donna Shaw (DDCS): On 8 November 2024, the City received correspondence related to the resolution made by the Town of Port Hedland at its Special Council Meeting on the 11 October 2024 related to COVID-19 vaccines, including the letter from the Hon. Russell Broadbent to the Prime Minister. This response will be provided in the minutes tonight.

Mayor Greg Milner: For what it is worth, Ms Jones, I appreciate that this question was directed to the Elected Members, just so that everyone knows that the minutes and any decisions made tonight will be included in the agenda for consideration at the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 25 March.

Would you like to proceed with your second question?

Ms Alexandra Jones: Will Councillors exercise their lawful role to represent community concerns and prevent further vaccine injury by supporting an independent Inquiry to be undertaken by experts in the Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee, and enact a local law if required to immediately suspend COVID-19 experimental vaccines and other known or suspected biopharmaceutical poisons?

Ms Donna Shaw (DDCS): The City does not have the ability to determine if the risks of taking the vaccines are greater than the risk of refraining, particularly as this suspension would impact the entire population of Australia.

The onus is on the relevant health organisations such as the Department of Health and Aged Care, the Therapeutic Goods Administration, and the National Health and Medical Research Council to ascertain if these concerns are valid. These organisations have the medical and research capabilities and the official authority to carry out such an investigation.

For these reasons, the City would not recommend that Council make a local law in relation to this matter. It is important to note that when a local law is made by a Council, it is submitted to Parliament. If the local law is determined to be inappropriate, Parliament can disallow it, meaning that the local law would cease to have effect.

Ms Alexandra Jones: Thank you.

Mayor Greg Milner: Would you like to ask your third question?

Ms Alexandra Jones: Will Mayor Milner and Councillors also acknowledge and action my emails regarding the need to ban unacceptable spraying on our public land of unmonitored environmentally polluting and toxic agricultural poisons, including Glyphosate-based products, containing the world's most commonly used cancer-causing and endocrine-disrupting systemic poison that is listed by the International Agency for Research on Cancer as a Class 2 A Probably carcinogen?

Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS): The City has received multiple items of correspondence from Ms Jones relating to pesticides and herbicides over a period of years and has responded accordingly. The City uses products that are approved for use in Australia by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, via the approving body.

Mayor Greg Milner: Thank you, Ms Jones for the questions. I understand that you have submitted a motion that you would like to move tonight and thank you for submitting that in advance in writing. It does make it much easier for our officers.

I'll get you to read out the text of your motion, which I think is on the second page of the material that you have forwarded to us. If you would like to read that out and then we will see if someone would like to second your motion.

Ms Alexandra Jones: May I ask a question please?

Mayor Greg Milner: Of course.

Ms Alexandra Jones: I have a statement prior to the motion, would I be able to read that statement?

Mayor Greg Milner: Up to a limit of three minutes, but yes I will allow that.

The following motion and statement were read out by Ms Alexandra Jones of Como at the Electors' General Meeting held 4 February 2025.

Ms Alexandra Jones:

Three minutes - that should do me.

This statement is in support of the proposed motion.

That Councillors, in accordance with the Role of Councillors (*Local Government Act (LG Act)* section 2.10), the Legislative Power of Local Governments (LG Act section 3.5,4B) and the City of South Perth Public Health Plan 2020-2025, take Action to Prevent a Known Risk of Serious Injury and Suspend COVID-19 Vaccines pending an Independent Inquiry or Royal Commission into the Evidence of Harmful Synthetic DNA-contamination in Australian vials.

By way of background: On the 23 October 2024, Town of Port Hedland Councillor Camilo Blanco (in his personal capacity) sent all Councils in Australia the Letter outlined in the Motion that informed them of the DNA contamination in Australian vials and Hon. Russell Broadbent's letters to the Prime Minister. Councillor Camilo Blanco sent a further follow up Letter on 14 November 2024, again to all 537 Councils and their Councillors throughout Australia. This information included a video presented by Councillor Dr. Julie Sladden of West Tamar in Tasmania. As a resident and ratepayer of the City of South Perth whose many family members and friends have been vaccinated due to the WA McGowan Government's Roll Up for WA campaign and workplace vaccine mandates.

I am deeply concerned about the Federal and State Governments' censorship of the public debate over unprecedented vaccine injuries and the long-term implications of the experimental COVID-19 vaccines that are now scientifically proven to be contaminated with fragments of synthetic DNA. In the knowledge that millions of Australians were not informed of the risks to their health when they were injected with experimental mRNA COVID-19 vaccines that were neither safe nor effective. It would now be unreasonable, unethical and potentially medical negligence to inject anyone in our community with COVID-19 vaccines. I urge Councillors and the Community of South Perth to support the following motion.

Mayor Greg Milner:

Thank you, and would you like to read your motion now and then I will see about a seconder?

Motion

Moved: Ms Alexandra Jones of Como.

Seconded: Ms Dianne Cudby of South Perth.

1. That Councillors, in accordance with the Role of Councillors (LG Act s.2.10), the Legislative Power of Local Governments (LG Act s.3.5,4B) and the City of South Perth Public Health Plan 2020-2025, take Action to prevent a known risk of serious injury and suspend COVID-19 vaccines pending an independent inquiry or Royal Commission into the evidence of harmful synthetic DNA-contamination in Australian vials, and
2. That Councillors and the Mayor acknowledge receipt of the Port Hedland Motion and scientific evidence informing them of DNA contamination in Australian vials of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines and all letters from Hon Russell Broadbent and Councillor Camilo Blanco; and
3. That Councillors and the Mayor represent concerned electors, residents and ratepayers including myself by supporting the Port Hedland Motion and taking action to suspend administration of these harmful experimental vaccines within the City of South Perth jurisdiction in accordance with the Public Health Plan 2020-2025 and the *Local Government Act 1995* sections 2.10 and 3.5 (4B); and
4. That Councillors introduce a local law in accordance with section 3.5 (4B) *Local Government Act 1995*, to restore ethical medical standards including:
 - a. Trust in the doctor-patient relationship and Public Health authorities by preventing an ongoing risk of harm to the community from the State Government's Pandemic Response that promoted and mandated experimental COVID-19 vaccines that have caused unprecedented vaccine injuries (including death) as revealed in numerous credible scientific sources, official data and the Forest of the Fallen Memorials.
 - b. Children's and parental rights to protection from harm, bodily autonomy and informed consent to any medical intervention.
 - c. Freedom from medical coercion, medical mandates, false and misleading claims of product safety and efficacy, including the enforcement of children or adults with offers of free drinks, choc bomb ice creams or other forms of enforcement for the purpose of facilitating a potentially harmful medical intervention as occurred under the Roll Up for WA campaign and the promotion of COVID-19 vaccines for children at Perth Zoo in the City of South Perth.

The Motion was put and declared LOST.

The following motions and statement were read out by Ms Cecilia Brooke of South Perth at the Electors' General Meeting held 4 February 2025.

Ms Cecilia Brooke:

Mr Mayor and Councillors, our association believes it is appropriate on the tenth anniversary of the defeat of the Barnett Government's attempt to amalgamate several metropolitan local governments, to outline some history surrounding this period as our City was one of the targets of this move.

On Friday 7 February 2025, it is ten years since the vote was taken by the residents of the City of South Perth and the Town of Victoria Park, the Town of East Fremantle (The City of Fremantle did not vote) and the City of Kwinana and the City of Cockburn – all came back with a resounding no to the proposals.

In March 2014, the City of South Perth Council held a special residents meeting to discuss the forthcoming amalgamation proposals. At the end of the meeting during question time I put my hand up and said 'the only way Colin Barnett was going to take any notice was to have a meeting on the steps of Parliament House.' Several weeks later, former Mayor Doherty rang me asking if I was the person who suggested the rally. I said 'yes' and she asked me to contact Mr Malcolm Mummery, while he was not a resident of the City, he had an active involvement in the anti-amalgamation initiative.

Malcolm invited me to his place for a coffee and suggested that I form a resident's association in South Perth. Mr Mummery and others including, Mr Ian Kerr and the late Professor Colin Latchem supported me throughout the formation of the association for which I was and still am extremely grateful. A rally was organised and 2,000 people attended with the then Minister for Local Government, Mr Tony Simpson also attended. While initially, the intention was for widespread amalgamations, in the end it came down to the three Councils, as I said earlier. The first task in setting up the association was in drafting and printing a short flyer to hand out to the public, announcing a meeting with the purpose of setting up a residents' group. A small number of people attended our first meeting and from there it was voted on to have a formal meeting to officially form the association to fight to save the City of South Perth from the amalgamation with the Town of Victoria Park. This meeting was held 26 June 2014, and the City of South Perth Residents Association, as we know it today was formed. At the meeting, a committee was formed with me being elected Chairperson, Mr Robin Mulder (Secretary), and Mr Ali Salvandi (Treasurer) and a handful of committee members. Following on, a meeting at the Como Bowling Club was organised for the public with Mr John McGrath and Councillor Glenn Cridland taking questions from the floor. A total of 3,000 flyers were printed and delivered to let the community know of the meeting. The meeting was well attended.

A motion was passed from the floor to draft up a Petition to send to the Government requesting that they abandon their plans for the amalgamation of any Councils. In just two weeks we had 2,000 signatures and in August 2014, our then-Local Member John McGrath tabled the Petition in Parliament on behalf of the community.

By now, it became apparent that money was needed to run the campaign, and a letter went out to every household within the City on 23 December 2014 requesting donations. The response was amazing: some people donated \$1,000 or more, others \$5 to \$10. Amazingly, we raised just over \$11,000 which enabled a widespread advertising campaign. The vote was originally to be held on the 31 January 2015. I was advised to write to Minister Simpson, because this was in the school holidays and the date was changed to the 7 February 2015.

We had banners and corflutes designed by the former Councillor Colin Cala with skits from the TV show South Park, as we were to be the City of South Park and over a period of three weeks, we also advertised in the Southern Gazette. The City of South Perth's contribution was by way of banners around the City urging people to vote, as the Council had resolved to take an impartial position - was still very much appreciated.

A total of 27,000 flyers (all printed from separate donations) were distributed to homes, etc across the City and were handed out at shopping centres. Despite the summer heat our wonderful volunteers achieved the impossible over one week and all were delivered.

The voting outcome was amazing: there were 50.83% returned ballots with 77.6% voting no. An incredible result, given 30% of the voters in South Perth were living in rental accommodation and many owners living overseas. East Fremantle and Kwinana ran campaigns, but Victoria Park and Cockburn chose to not run any.

Mayor Greg Milner:

Ms Brooke, I am so sorry, but that is time. I do need to be fair to everyone. Would you like to proceed to your first motion? If so, I would ask you to read out the text of it and then I will see about a seconder.

Ms Cecilia Brooke:

The background: It is very heartening to see government grants flowing to the City of South Perth for work along Sir James Mitchell Park Foreshore. Particularly, the recent \$2,107,048 Government Funding for a major riverbank restoration project.

However, the former CEO, Mr Geoff Glass, made the comment during the time the Westralian Centre was being considered by Council that the flagpole area of the foreshore was looking tired, however nothing was done following the decision to not progress with this project. Several years later, the Council of the day came to the same conclusion and a proposed scheme to upgrade the area was prepared but faltered due to the cost associated with the proposal. It is the view of the City of South Perth Residents' Association Incorporated that this issue needs to be re-visited by Council, and an appropriate budget allocated. The flagpole area is still looking tired and unimposing for such a significant site and the centre point for the Australia Day Celebrations and Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony.

Decision

Moved: Ms Cecilia Brooke of South Perth.

Seconded: Mr Roger Reynolds of Manning.

1. The City of South Perth makes a budget adjustment at the next Budget Review to engage appropriate consultants to provide a design that enhances and respects the significance of the South Perth Flagpole area within reasonable budget parameters.
2. Once approved, in principle by Council, the scheme is advertised for public comment for an appropriate period and then returned to Council for final endorsement with any modifications that have come through feedback from the public consultation.

The Motion was put and declared CARRIED.

Mayor Greg Milner: Ms Brooke, if you would like to read the background to your second motion and then the motion itself? We will follow the same process.

Ms Cecilia Brooke: Thank you.

My second motion is, the background: For many years prior to the life of this Council, there was an informal practice in place at the December Ordinary Council Meeting that allowed a member of the public at the completion of business to wish all Elected Members and City officers compliments of the season and to thank them for their good services to the residents of the City.

I have regularly attended Council Meetings for more than 10 years in the capacity of the foundation chair of the COSPRA. For eight years I was allowed to provide such a message, but strangely for the past two years have not been granted permission to do so. I was told by a former Director of the City that it was genuinely appreciated as it was not a common practice in other Local Governments.

Another common practice was to invite members of the Gallery to join Elected Members after the meeting for some refreshments in the Reception Room in the spirit of the season and an opportunity for members of the public to mingle and speak informally with Councillors and senior staff members. Sadly, this practice has also fallen away over the years.

Decision

Moved: Ms Cecilia Brooke of South Perth.

Seconded: Ms Alexandra Jones of Como.

1. At the December Ordinary Council Meeting and at the completion of Council business, that any resident of the City who provides their name and address or organisation that they are representing shall be allowed to wish all Elected Members and City officers compliments of the season and to thank them for their good service to the residents of the City.
2. Also, that following the completion of Council Business that members of the Gallery be invited to join Elected Members for refreshments in the Reception Room in the spirit of the season.

The Motion was put and declared CARRIED.

The following questions were asked by Ms Veronica McPhail of Kensington at the Electors' General Meeting held 4 February 2025.

Ms Veronica McPhail: The Black Swan Habitat has its origins in the year 2000 'Bring back the Swan' report which had the objective to increase the numbers of black swans in the Swan/Canning River system and in particular to the Perth Waters. The Black Swan Habitat or Djirda Miya was completed in September 2021, yet in 2023 the survival rate for Black Swans Cygnets in the area was only one from 33 and in 2024 (last season) the survival rate was a mere two from 32. At the moment today, it is just two. In my opinion these are high mortality rates by any measurement. Hence my 3 questions are:

A City media release 19 September 2023 states that Djirda Miya has been a success. Noting the cygnet high mortality rate over recent years, how can the City make such statements and indeed what is the City monitoring to make such a claim of success?

Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS): The noted number of nests and resulting cygnets supports the City's position that the project has been a success. The City does not have any evidence that would support the suggested survival or death rates in the juvenile swans.

Ms Veronica McPhail: The City has released a media statement regarding the Riverbank restoration project near Coode Street. Can the City confirm or otherwise that an objective of the restoration will be to increase the environment for the Black Swan Cygnets in order to improve their survival rate and how and when will the City detail to the community how this will be achieved?

Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS): The City has received grant funding through the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program. The overall objective of this program is to improve the ecological health of waterways in urban, outer urban/peri-urban and regional centres. The project seeks to restore significant habitat for both terrestrial and aquatic fauna including the vulnerable Fairy Tern, locally threatened Rakali and Western Australia's iconic Black Swan. It is also anticipated that the habitat creation will be of benefit to other native species.

The City is currently working with DBCA, who are also contributing funds to the project, and other specialist consultants to develop the design. Further details of the project will be made available as the design is developed.

Ms Veronica McPhail: Does the City or State Government perform any specific monitoring of wildlife prior to and post any City project such as the riverbank restoration and Hurlingham Living Stream to understand if indeed wildlife is being improved?

- Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS):** The City does not undertake any formal monitoring of wildlife, but staff make observations on activity within parks and reserves. When designing habitat restoration projects, the City consults with relevant government agencies and experts within the field, to inform the design in a way that will maximise habitat creation balanced with the aspirations of the broader stakeholders.
- Mayor Greg Milner:** Thank you, Ms Amprimo and thank you, Ms McPhail for your questions.
- Ms Veronica McPhail:** Can I move a motion now?
- Mayor Greg Milner:** I will give priority to those who have submitted their motions in advance, but I will come back to you and invite you to move a motion.

The following statement and motion were asked by Ms Bronwyn David of South Perth at the Electors' General Meeting held 4 February 2025.

Ms Bronwyn David:

Thank you, Mr Mayor. Good evening, Councillors, good evening members of City staff. Here we are again. I have a motion, and I am not sure that the motion will be displayed while I am speaking.

My motion is that the City of South Perth reconsiders the adoption of the Model Tree Retention Policy developed by the Western Australian Local Government Association.

I am not sure that it is possible right now, but I would like to slightly amend the motion by adding 'as amended by this Council' to the end of it. We are aware that the last time you considered the Model Tree Retention Policy, Councillor Brender-A-Brandis significantly amended it so is that appropriate that I amend the motion right now?

Just add the words 'as amended by this Council' at the end of it, thank you very much.

Did anyone feel the heat today? What if I was to say that there is a way to feel cooler, improve our mental and physical health, promote community connection, and increase the value of our homes – trees. The answer is trees, and given that their importance to the liveability of the City of South Perth, why wouldn't you want to have as many as possible?

In response to the increasing recognition of the value of trees to our lives, the Western Australian Local Government Association has drafted a Model Tree Retention Policy, to enable Councils to protect the trees on private land. Private land, after all, makes up about two-thirds of the land area in the City of South Perth and that means that it's the place where the most trees are being lost. In fact, it is the only place where trees are being lost. The City, understanding the value of trees intensely plants and nurtures trees in its own domain, such as parks and verges. The Model Tree Retention Policy proposes that private land owners need a Development Application (DA) before they can cut down or prune to within an inch of its life, a healthy thriving suitable tree. This is to protect those large trees which are an asset to the community. In the same way that before you would do something on your land that will affect your neighbours, such as running a business, or building a second story - you have to have a DA. This is because we empower our City and Councillors to protect the amenity of our neighbourhoods. Now we need you to protect the 'ameni-tree' too.

The last time that the Tree Retention Policy came before this Council, it was amended to make it easier to implement, but then at the last minute, Council decided not to vote on the policy. So, it hasn't been defeated at Council. The same night that it was not voted on in South Perth, a similar policy was passed in the City of Nedlands. Since then, the Councils in Bassendean, Peppermint Grove, and Cambridge have adopted the Model Tree Retention Policy. Nedlands is considering extending the scope of the policy that they adopted.

Bassendean will consider a version of the policy in March, Victoria Park has just closed its consultation on the policy, Fremantle is presently surveying their residents about the model policy, Claremont is tonight considering proceeding to consultation with residents, Mosman Park and Cockburn Councils have commenced scheme amendments to enable them to consider the policy. Melville City Council has committed to considering the policy this year. After all, similar rules to those proposed by the policy exist in most East Coast Australian States and are easily understood, well-accepted, worked within and not surprisingly – Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne have a much greater tree canopy cover than Perth has. I would hope that our Council understand the natural beauty of our local government area (surrounded by water and wildlife).

Mayor Greg Milner: I'm so sorry, Ms David but that is time. I do have to be fair to everyone.

Ms Bronwyn David: I've got 12 more words.

To keep our City green and cool, valued, and valuable.

Mayor Greg Milner: Thank you. If you would like to read your motion, which is now on the screen there, then I will see about a seconder.

Ms Bronwyn David: That the City of South Perth reconsiders the adoption of the Model Tree Retention Policy developed by the Western Australian Local Government Association, as amended by this Council.

Mayor Greg Milner: The motion has been moved by Ms David, I'll now see if there is a seconder.

If you could please stand and state your name and address?

Thank you very much. So, the motion has been moved and seconded – I am about to call the vote. For all those people who are electors of the district and would like to support this motion, please raise your hands and keep them raised.

Councillor Brender-A-Brandis, are you trying to ask a question?

Cr Brender-A-Brandis: I think that the motion might need to be amended slightly. The amendment didn't actually occur with Council but to be clear, it was the proposed amendments that I made to the Local Planning Policy for Tree Retention.

Mayor Greg Milner: Yes, I had the same thought, Councillor Brender-A-Brandis, but I am pretty sure that the Council understands what Ms David is trying to say.

Yes. So I have counted all those in favour. All those opposed? please raise your hands. That motion was carried, thank you.

DECISION

Moved: Ms Bronwyn David of South Perth.

Seconded: Ms Heidi Schmidt of South Perth.

That the City of South Perth reconsiders the adoption of the Model Tree Retention Policy developed by the Western Australian Local Government Association, as amended by this Council.

The Motion was put and declared CARRIED.

The following questions were asked by Ms Hazel Murray of Como at the Electors' General Meeting held 4 February 2025.

Ms Hazel Murray: Thank you for taking my questions, my agenda tonight is about Manning Road and the abysmal state of Manning Road and associated verges for the last two years - weeds out of control and dead vegetation. My first question is: the Salter Point Action Group, The Manning Community Association and concerned rate payers have all consistently made approaches to representatives of the City of South Perth regarding the neglected state of Manning Road and associated verges. Sadly, these complaints appear to have fallen on deaf ears, and as rate payers this is totally unacceptable. Are there plans in place to address these valid complaints?

Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS): The maintenance of this area is managed by a contractor and the City is working to rectify the performance issues with the quality of the work. In addition to liaising with the contractor, the City will organise for contract staff to remove dead material and old tree stakes from Manning Road.

Ms Hazel Murray: My second question is: Manning Road is an embarrassment, mulching of the area would be a vast improvement, would this be possible?

Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS): Yes, following previous requests the City is obtaining quotes to install air blown mulch on the central median island of Manning Road between Ley Street and Central Avenue. Once that has been received, it will be included in the 2025/26 Budget considerations for Council's information.

Ms Hazel Murray: For the last two years I personally have been in regular contact with representatives of the City of South Perth regarding the ongoing problems of Manning Road, the worst of it being between Ley and Elderfield Streets. My question is in 2025 and onwards when will a reliable and regular maintenance program be put in place to address this serious issue?

Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS): I haven't been able to locate those requests in our requests system but I would refer you to my previous two answers, because I believe that they address your concerns.

Ms Hazel Murray: Thank you for taking my questions.

Mayor Greg Milner: Now those were the motions, questions and statements that we were given prior notice of.

Ms McPhail would you like to come back to the microphone?

The following statement and motion were read out by Ms Veronica McPhail of Kensington at the Electors' General Meeting held 4 February 2025.

Ms Veronica McPhail: Wildlife Advocacy South Perth was formed out of public frustration over the Council's perceived lack of action in protecting local wildlife, particularly along the South Perth Foreshore. The community expects stronger leadership, transparency and proactive measures to safeguard the area's natural environment. I move a motion that:

- 1. Council addresses the threat of dogs-off-lead in areas deemed to be wildlife sensitive habitats by providing clear unambiguous dogs-on-lead signage and for Council to enforce this by increasing ranger presence in these areas.*
- 2. For the benefit of our children and our future community, Council prioritises in their operating and capital budgets the support and protection of all wildlife within the City by increasing and improving their habitats to ensure a sustainable cohabitation with the community.*

Mayor Greg Milner: Thank you, Ms McPhail, now I appreciate that was a fair bit for people to retain at short notice. Have you got that written down somewhere? Governance, is there any chance we might be able to grab the written motion from Ms McPhail, so we can type it up on the screen? While we are waiting for that, I might ask if anyone else was intending to move a motion this evening and they've got it, and they are intending to move it. Perhaps, if you can indicate to the City staff (Ms Cattalini on the side there). We will do our best to get those written up and put up on the screens. So that people can look at what is being moved before they are being asked to vote on it.

Ms McPhail, you can stay there for the time being, we're just typing up your motion, so that people can see it on the screen. Once that's available and people have had an opportunity to read it for themselves, I will then ask for a seconder and then I will put your motion to the vote.

While that is happening, Ms Jones, you have raised your hands a couple of times. Did you have a question? Or wish to make a statement or motion?

Ms Alexandra Jones: Yes, I do. I actually presented it along with my first one. I have two statements and two motions. The first one has been rejected, but I would like to make a statement and read out my second motion.

Mayor Greg Milner: Alright, I will allow that. Has the City been given prior written notice of the second motion?

Ms Alexandra Jones: Yes.

Mayor Greg Milner: Okay, after we have dealt with Ms McPhail's motion, I will invite you back to the microphone, and we will deal with that then.

I suppose that to fill in the time while that is being typed up - the lady in the second row in the blue and white dress in the corner there. I am so sorry I don't know your name, did you have a question that you would like to ask in the meantime?

Mayor Greg Milner: Councillors are here to listen tonight. I think Ms Amprimo might have answered that question? Would you like to ask a question now while we are waiting, I will give you that opportunity.

Note: A member of the Public Gallery asked for clarification on a previously answered question in relation to monitoring wildlife which cannot be heard on the audio recording.

Mayor Greg Milner: Was that the second question that was asked previously?

Alright, Ms Amprimo, do you know the question that is being referred to there and the answer?

Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS): I believe it was question three. I'm not quite sure what doesn't make sense about it but I will repeat my answer and if clarification is required then I am sure that someone can ask.

The City does not undertake any formal monitoring of wildlife, but staff make observations on activity within parks and reserves. When designing habitat restoration projects, the City consults with relevant government agencies and experts within the field, to inform the design in a way that will maximise habitat creation balanced with the broader aspirations of stakeholders.

Mayor Greg Milner: I will allow further public statements, public questions and for that matter motions – but under the circumstances we might get through what Ms McPhail has put up, then Ms Jones, then I will throw it open to the floor for more questions, statements or motions.

Ms McPhail, can you confirm that is the motion that you'd like to move?

Ms Veronica McPhail: I can't really read it, but yes. I'm taking that if you have copied it that it should be the same, yeah.

Mayor Greg Milner: Yes, hopefully it has captured the gist of it.

So, Ms McPhail has moved the motion on the screen before us. Would anyone that is an eligible elector of the district like to second this motion?

I think the lady in the black top in the third row, could you please stand and state your name and address?

Thank you very much. I will give everyone another 30 seconds just so everyone has had the chance to read the motion and then I will call the vote on this motion.

Mr Boardman?

Mr Warwick Boardman: Can we have it provided it into two parts and vote on it separately?

Mayor Greg Milner: I will allow it, are you happy with that Ms McPhail, that each part gets voted on separately?

Ms Veronica McPhail: Yes.

Mayor Greg Milner: Okay then, I assume that everyone's had time to read it now, so I'll put section (a) to the vote now. This is only section (a), we will then have a subsequent vote on section (b).

DECISION

Moved: Ms Veronica McPhail of Kensington.

Seconded: Ms Bridget Herbert of Como.

For the benefit of our children and our future community, Council prioritises in their operating and capital budgets the support and protection of all wildlife within the City by increasing and improving their habitats to ensure a sustainable cohabitation with the community.

The Motion was put and declared CARRIED.

DECISION

Moved: Ms Veronica McPhail of Kensington.

Seconded: Ms Bridget Herbert of Como.

Council addresses the threat of dogs-off-lead in areas deemed to be wildlife sensitive habitats by providing clear unambiguous dogs-on-lead signage and for Council to enforce this by increasing ranger presence in these areas.

The Motion was put and declared CARRIED.

The following motion and statement were read out by Ms Alexandra Jones of Como at the Electors' General Meeting held 4 February 2025.

Ms Alexandra Jones: That Councillors, in accordance with the role of Councillors (*Local Government Act* (LG ACT) section 2.10) and the legislative power of local governments (LG Act section 3.5 4B) enact a local law for the Protection of Community Health and Well-being, Mature Urban Trees, Air Quality, Surface Water, Ground Water and Soil Fungal Communities from applications of Glyphosate weed killer and other Unmonitored Pollution from Herbicides and Pesticides that are routinely released into our public open spaces under operational practices. Over many years, I have joined numerous community efforts to protect public trees from senseless removal under local government tree replacement policies, and the lack of protection for trees on development sites, including tree decline and death associated with lawful, as well as unlawful herbicide applications. The City as well as other local governments has a focus on the protection of trees on private land however, by showing strong leadership in the protection of our public trees, there would be many benefits to the whole community, particularly to children who do not have access to private gardens.

I note that my correspondence with the Council and the City officers regarding the routine herbicide applications has largely been ignored. The City to my knowledge continues to apply a variety of agricultural poisons for the control of weeds and has yet again called for tenders to apply herbicides and pesticides on our public land. Most people are aware that the world's most widely used herbicide is a listed Class 2A Probable Carcinogen and is the subject of numerous class actions both in Australia and abroad involving sufferers of Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. Not only is this herbicide harmful to humans, it is a chelator according to plant pathologist Don Huber, preventing nutrient uptake by trees, leading to disease and ultimately death of off target vegetation. Many areas of heavily sprayed bushland show signs of herbicide damaged trees, and independent laboratory sample testing of foliage has confirmed the presence of Glyphosate or its metabolite AMPA. Scientific studies show an overall negative effect of Glyphosate on soil fungal communities, and the shikimate pathway that is adversely affected by Glyphosate is also present in non-target organisms such as bacteria, fungi and algae.

Mayor Greg Milner: Thank you for that, so we've got the motion up on the screen. You are moving that motion?

Ms Alexandra Jones: Could I read the motion now please?

Mayor Greg Milner: Yes, I was about to invite you to.

Ms Alexandra Jones:

1. That Councillors, in accordance with the role of Councillors (*Local Government Act* (LG Act) section 2.10) and the legislative power of local governments (LG Act section 3.5 4B) enact a local law for the Protection of Community Health and Well-being, Mature Urban Trees, Air Quality, Surface Water, Ground Water and Soil Fungal Communities from applications of Glyphosate weed killer and other unmonitored pollution from herbicides and pesticides that are routinely released into our public open spaces under operational practices, and
2. That the City explores alternatives to toxic agricultural chemicals for the management of public land and ceases the spraying of footpaths, verges, children's parks and sports fields with toxic agricultural chemicals, including Glyphosate-based products for the control of grasses or weeds;
3. That residents and ratepayers also be advised not to apply agricultural poisons on public verges, including weed and feed type fertilizers that contain selective poisons such as MCPA;
4. That public trees, green ground cover and soil microbes be protected from routine applications of herbicides such as Glyphosate that prevents nutrient uptake by plants and promotes plant diseases and susceptibility of trees to attack from bugs and borers including Polyphagous shot-hole borer;
5. That Mayor Milner and Councillors acknowledge scientific research into the adverse effect of Glyphosate on soil fungal communities and Glyphosate's apparent role in promoting the spread of Fusarium Fungus that is harmful to trees having a symbiotic relationship with the reportedly widespread Polyphagous shot-hole borer, resulting in the controversial State Government directive to pre-emptively destroy many hundreds of our most healthy and beautiful shade-bearing trees.

Mayor Greg Milner:

Thank you, Ms Jones.

Is there anyone who is an eligible elector who would like to second that?

DECISION

Moved: Ms Alexandra Jones of Como.

Seconded: Ms Dianne Cudby of South Perth.

1. That Councillors, in accordance with the role of Councillors (*Local Government Act* (LG Act) section 2.10) and the legislative power of local governments (LG Act section 3.5 4B) enact a local law for the Protection of Community Health and Well-being, Mature Urban Trees, Air Quality, Surface Water, Ground Water and Soil Fungal Communities from applications of Glyphosate weed killer and other unmonitored pollution from herbicides and pesticides that are routinely released into our public open spaces under operational practices, and
2. That the City explores alternatives to toxic agricultural chemicals for the management of public land and ceases the spraying of footpaths, verges, children's parks and sports fields with toxic agricultural chemicals, including Glyphosate-based products for the control of grasses or weeds;
3. That residents and ratepayers also be advised not to apply agricultural poisons on public verges, including weed and feed type fertilizers that contain selective poisons such as MCPA;
4. That public trees, green ground cover and soil microbes be protected from routine applications of herbicides such as Glyphosate that prevents nutrient uptake by plants and promotes plant diseases and susceptibility of trees to attack from bugs and borers including the Polyphagous shot-hole borer;
5. That Mayor Milner and Councillors acknowledge scientific research into the adverse effect of Glyphosate on soil fungal communities and Glyphosate's apparent role in promoting the spread of Fusarium Fungus that is harmful to trees having a symbiotic relationship with the reportedly widespread Polyphagous shot-hole borer, resulting in the controversial State Government directive to pre-emptively destroy many hundreds of our most healthy and beautiful shade-bearing trees.

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 4 February 2025.

Ms Heidi Schmidt: Is it going to be up there? Because I don't have my note now.

Mayor Greg Milner: Have we typed it out and can we return the note to Ms Schmidt?

Alright, if you would like to give a short preamble or statement in favour, no more than three minutes. Again, I have to be fair to everyone, then I will ask you to read the motion.

Ms Heidi Schmidt: I was compelled to quickly write this motion and put it to the meeting by hearing about the swans yet again. We have seen on Facebook, the beautiful photos that the Wildlife Advocates take and post of the swans and other birds – and there are only two left.

From 30-something that were born on our beautiful swan habitat, and it is crushing. I have also wondered - when I have had issues that I have needed a Ranger for, that we only have four Rangers for seven suburbs with all this waterfront? It seems a bit strange to me. So, my motion is that: That Council seriously consider budgeting for an additional full FTE Ranger in the 2025/26 Budget, with the focus of this position being wildlife protection.

Mayor Greg Milner: Alright, thank you, Ms Schmidt. That's the motion that you've moved?

If there is anyone in the gallery who is an eligible elector who would like to second that motion?

DECISION

Moved: Ms Heidi Schmidt of South Perth.

Seconded: Ms Bronwyn David of South Perth.

That Council seriously consider budgeting for an additional full FTE Ranger in the 2025/26 Budget, with the focus of this position being wildlife protection.

The Motion was put and declared CARRIED.

The following questions were asked by Ms Sue Gillieatt of Salter Point at the Electors' General Meeting held 4 February 2025.

- Ms Sue Gillieatt:** I was just seeking clarification from Ms Amprimo about the third answer to the question on the Manning median strip. Which was when might we expect in 2025? That's at least what I understood to be the question. When might we expect action on the median strip on Manning Road in 2025?
- Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS):** My answer to the second question was that a sum would be included in the draft budget for Council's consideration, so depending on what Council decide would be what action we might take.
- Ms Sue Gillieatt:** So there is no plan in place right now? We are waiting on the next Budget? Is that right?
- Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS):** For the improvements, yes. Question number two was around mulching.
- Ms Sue Gillieatt:** Yes, it was question number three, that I was speaking to – the performance of the contractor. Is that?
- Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS):** Yes, question one. I addressed. I said that we are working with the contractor to improve their performance, but we are also getting additional contract resources to make some improvements.
- Ms Sue Gillieatt:** Okay, thank you.
- Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS):** Yes, in terms of the improvements in mulching, that would be dependent on the Budget.
- Ms Sue Gillieatt:** Yes, the Budget. So, we're not sure when things are going to improve, but hopefully?
- Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS):** We're currently working with the contractor to improve that, so we would hope to see some improvement fairly shortly. We are also procuring additional resources to do that. So, we should see that work happening soon.
- Ms Sue Gillieatt:** Thank you.
- Mayor Greg Milner:** One thing I might add to that, just for context and so people understand Ms Amprimo's answer a little bit more fully. The City of South Perth is currently carrying out in this financial year, the single largest Capital Works Budget that I think that we have ever passed. Available resources is one thing, but it is also the availability of contractors and City staff to perform various works. Good questions, I really appreciate that, but yes, we are doing a lot at the moment. There are multiple constraints on what we can do and when.
- But with that, is there anyone else? Ms Jones – did you have another statement, or motion or questions you would like?
- Ms Alexandra Jones:** A question, if I may?
- Mayor Greg Milner:** If you would like to come to the microphone, and we look forward to your question.

The following question was asked by Ms Alexandra Jones of Como at the Electors' General Meeting held 4 February 2025.

Ms Alexandra Jones: Would there be more wood chipping of areas? My concern is that I have observed, where there are wood chips, there seems to be ongoing application of herbicides for the control of weeds. So how does the Council deal with those areas – when weeds come through and is there any evidence that the Council has that those areas are not hotter and drier having a negative impact on our suburbs?

Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS): Weed removal does vary depending on the location and the context throughout the entire City. In terms of the temperature, probably one of the hottest treatments is bare sand. Temperatures do vary, depending on the treatment. For example, brick is not as hot as bare sand. Ideally, you would have lowline vegetation, but the cost of maintaining that on a road (particularly some of the larger roads –like Manning Road) is very significant because there's extensive traffic management costs involved. I wouldn't recommend that as a good use of rate payer money. I think that the funds can be spent better elsewhere.

Mayor Greg Milner: Thank you, Ms Amprimo, and thank you, Ms Jones for your question.

Ms Alexandra Jones: I didn't quite understand the difference in the response, between not having green on the verges. My question was about wood chip. Are the verges hotter when they are covered with wood chip? Because grass, even if it is not attractive, is green and retains some moisture. I am just wondering, does the Council have any evidence that the increased wood chipping in the City isn't making the City hotter and also increasing the applications of herbicides to control the weeds?

Mayor Greg Milner: Thank you for the question - Ms Amprimo? I would forgive you if you wanted to take that one on notice.

Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS): Thank you, Mr Mayor.
Grass, unless it is maintained to sports turf standards, in Summer, becomes dry and is very hot. The amount of water that we require to maintain - it is like passive recreation of verges to sports turf standard - is not something that we have the allocation for. So, the dry grass that you experience during Summer is incredibly hot.

So, in terms of whether or not we'll be better off putting brick there (from a heating point of view), than having grass on verges. Obviously, there are other issues with having bricks there, but in terms of the heat that they produce. Grass unless it is maintained to an active turf standard is very hot during the Summer.

Ms Alexandra Jones: Thank you, I wasn't suggesting bricks or anything like that, just ordinary grass, even if not turf standard.

Mayor Greg Milner: I think that Ms Amprimo has the gist of what you are saying, thank you for your question.

The following questions were asked by Ms Mary Wolfla of Como at the Electors' General Meeting held 4 February 2025.

Ms Mary Wolfla: I just have two questions, one is regarding McDougall Park. I sent in a request around this time last year about the suspicion of foxes in the area. I got a message back saying that they were going to trap for foxes, and I was just wondering if anything came to that, because we do have neighbours who have gotten video footage of fox in the area?

Mayor Greg Milner: Thank you for the question. Ms Amprimo, is that one I should send in your direction?

Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS): Thank you, Mr Mayor.
We do have an ongoing program that looks at non-native pest animals. We are quite happy to take any reported sightings and look into them.

Ms Mary Wolfla: Okay, I might then resubmit it because there is a suspected fox in the area. My other question is also about the swans and the rangers – if it would be possible for them to keep some statistical data themselves, especially since the City put so much money into building a habitat. That information might be very good for the City to have for future grants and applications from different organisations from the State Government and the Federal Government.

Mayor Greg Milner: Thank you for the question. Mr Bradford?

Mr Mike Bradford (CEO): Thank you for the question, I will answer the question. I might just go back to the foxes one. We actually do have a contractor that we use to target foxes, and we react to sightings. Now I am not sure about Neil McDougall Park specifically, but down around Salter Point is an area that we have in the past. We get a report after a period of activity, and we typically find one or two a year.

Ms Mary Wolfla: That's exactly what I wanted to know.

Mr Mike Bradford (CEO): We will respond to sightings where we can. With regards to collection of data, it is not our role to collect data around wildlife, as Director Amprimo said. We make observations and we anecdotally collect that. Certainly, the discussions that I have had with DBCA – DBCA doesn't collect data directly on swans, either. They really rely on not-for-profit groups that do the data collection.

Because, as I understand it, swans are not an endangered species. So DBCA's focus is on species that are subject to a higher threat. I'd be encouraging local groups to work together on data collection, as what happens across the metropolitan area.

Ms Mary Wolfla: Alright, that is wonderful to know, can I just say one thing back about that? I live next to Neil McDougall Park, I have also noticed a lot our native birds, many young species not surviving to adulthood in the past two seasons. So, there is clearly something happening there, maybe that is something that the wildlife group could get together and start collecting some data for the use of the City.

Mayor Greg Milner:

Thank you, Ms Wolfla for your questions and your points. Thank you, Mr Bradford, did you want to say anything?

Mr Mike Bradford (CEO):

I just wanted to add that the DBCA also observes that wildlife fatalities across the metropolitan area. They will respond to any particular outbreak or anything like that. The City has actually made a number of changes over the years, like we have amended our Cats Local Law, we have attempted to trap cats in certain areas, and our Dogs Local Law. We have actually made a number of changes.

Mayor Greg Milner:

Thank you, Ms Wolfla and thank you, Mr Bradford.

The following questions were asked by Ms Veronica McPhail of Kensington at the Electors' General Meeting held 4 February 2025.

Ms Veronica McPhail: Mr Bradford, you have just mentioned Wildlife Groups, who may or may not collect data. As you are probably aware, Wildlife Advocacy South Perth (which has been going now for about 18 months, longer than that, actually) has collected data, which the City of South Perth doesn't seem to be anything interested in. I have done it every single day, with the help from other photographers. Not only do we have the data, we have photographic evidence. We've got the help from all the people that are part of Wildlife Advocacy South Perth that have supported us. Citizen science is what it is – they have been crucial to joining the dots to finding out what has been happening.

Mayor Greg Milner: Ms McPhail, I might give Mr Bradford the opportunity to answer your question first.

Ms Veronica McPhail: Okay.

Mr Mike Bradford (CEO): I appreciate the work of your group, and the information that you may collect, I haven't seen it. I have seen a reference to it on Facebook – that is the only place that I have seen it. My observation of our wildlife groups is a coordinated, rigorous collection of data that can feed to outcomes. We all know that birds, swans, and other wildlife swim and fly – so point data collections around one area is useful but not necessarily informative about what is happening to the population.

Certainly, the DBCA advice is that the population of swans is steadily increasing across the Perth metropolitan area.

Ms Veronica McPhail: I hear what you are saying but I have actually photographed – I have watched them being born on Djirda Miya and I have watched them sail off over to Elizabeth Quay, because they can't get onto the lakes – there are too many there.

What Djirda Miya is actually doing, yes - it creates a lot of nests. They are coming to nest on the island, but once they come off that island, they can't go onto the lakes because there are too many there. We have created something that sounds good, and yes, it is bringing the swans there to nest – but then we can't support them. We don't have the area to support them. Can I just say one more thing?

Mayor Greg Milner: I might cut in there.

Ms Veronica McPhail: Just one more thing that is really important and involves the City of South Perth?

Mayor Greg Milner: Please do keep it brief, because I saw other hands go up.

Ms Veronica McPhail: Okay. In 2024, this last breeding season, where we now have two from 33. When the swans had their cygnets and they come off Djirda Miya – they walk onto the land and they come onto the three lakes but this season, for some reason, the City of South Perth decided to do major works around Lake Tondut. It was fenced off, so no swans could go there. Three lakes was not enough, but this season there was only two lakes! They had even less places to go. Is it any wonder we are losing these birds, these cygnets? So I say to you what are we bringing the black swans back to? What are we bringing them back to? Their peril.

Mayor Greg Milner: Thank you, Ms McPhail. I appreciate your thoughts and feedback.

Ms Veronica McPhail: It is what it is.

Mayor Greg Milner: Ms Amprimo, do you wish to respond to any of that?

Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS): Yes, thank you, Mr Mayor.

Firstly, on the works around Lake Tondut – they are essential works to maintain the irrigation system in St James Mitchell Park and we have no option around the time of the year that we conduct that work. We have to do it when the irrigation system is switched off, otherwise we will lose all of the vegetation on that park. So, whilst I appreciate that the smaller of the lakes on the park was fenced off in part, there was other ways that they could access the lake. There is no option as to when we could do that work; because there is no option as to when we could do that work it has to be done during the time of year when the irrigation system is turned off. The alternative is that we would not have an irrigation system there - because it was well beyond the functioning life of the irrigation system.

I would also like to comment on the fact that not all of the swans that have hatched out in the area can be maintained in the area. The purpose of that is to provide a safe breeding ground. If swans then leave and go to other areas on the Swan and Canning Rivers, then I think that is a success story. We are still contributing to increasing the swan numbers in the vicinity.

The fact that they don't happen to stay immediately in the surrounding area of Djirda Miya – the fact is that there are too many birds there for them all to be accommodated. I think that is a good problem to have. We have done significant amount of work, and we have secured significant external funding to continue developing habitat on the South Perth Foreshore.

Mayor Greg Milner: Thank you, Ms Amprimo and thank you, Ms McPhail.

I did see a couple of hands go up previously, Mr Reynolds, if you would like to come to the microphone? Please, if you could state your name and address and let us know if you would like to ask a question, make a statement, or move a motion?

The following questions were asked by Mr Roger Reynolds of Manning at the Electors' General Meeting held 4 February 2025.

Mr Roger Reynolds: I have two questions. The first is: do we have a start and finishing date for the Kensington Underground Power Project that is going on? The reason that this is important is because we have discussed trees tonight, the overhead power damages trees and we need to do that as a matter of urgency.

Mayor Greg Milner: Yes indeed, thank you for the question. Ms Amprimo?

Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS): Thank you, Mr Mayor. I can confirm that the update in, I think it was around 18 December that is on the City's website is the current information that we have from our liaising with Western Power. We are still aiming to have the information prepared for Council's consideration during the 2025/26 Budget deliberations.

Mayor Greg Milner: I suppose that I will just add to that because not everyone in the gallery will necessarily know all about what is happening with underground power. All of the Council's motions, I should say (at least during my time as Mayor) have been very positive of rolling out underground power across the City of South Perth district. But of course, it is a State Underground Power Program and we're very much dependent on Western Power for time frames when it comes to infrastructure and getting the project done. I completely respect the question, and I think that everyone is keen to see it happen.

Mr Roger Reynolds: Well, I was going to say the bottom line is that we don't have a start and finishing date for it at the moment.

Mayor Greg Milner: Yes. Ms Amprimo?

Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS): The estimated start date is in quarter three of 2025 calendar year, that is the best estimate that we have from Western Power at this point in time.

Mayor Greg Milner: Thank you, Ms Amprimo, and your second question, Mr Reynolds?

Mr Roger Reynolds: My second question was: does the Council have any involvement in the Polyphagous shot-hole borer issue (that's a problem that's around at the moment)? If the Council doesn't and if it is a State Government issue? Is the Council working closely with the State Government to make sure that it doesn't get out of hand here and we don't start losing trees in South Perth?

Mayor Greg Milner: Ms Amprimo, should I send that your way?

Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS): Thank you, Mr Mayor. We currently work with DPIRD who are the government agency that are responsible for the response on any infestation that is on City owned or controlled land. We are not privy to any activity that happens on private land.

Mr Roger Reynolds: Sorry, could I just ask one more? Do we have an issue with the shot-hole borer in South Perth?

Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS): We have a number of reported cases on City land, and we do put out notices around those when they occur.

The following questions were asked by Mr Mike Banning of South Perth at the Electors' General Meeting held 4 February 2025.

Mr Mike Banning: I have a question. The Council has addressed the hooning that we've had in the problem area there on the Peninsula, however, we are having excessive vehicle noise that is continuing. It seems like it is an attraction for a certain group of people to hoon around the area and I'm wondering whether or not the Council is doing anything – in addition to the speedbumps?

Mr Mike Bradford (CEO): Thank you for the question, I am pretty familiar with the issue and what we have done. The issue of noise from vehicles is not covered by the Noise Regulations or for the Police to act on, unless there's a very specific circumstance. So, the noise from vehicles is actually a bit of an issue across the metropolitan area, I appreciate where you live, but it is an issue across the metropolitan area. The City has done absolutely what it can (within its powers) around the traffic calming measures, that now, I think we have just about finished in the Mill Point Road area, closing of the Millers Pool Car Park, the reduction in the speed limit across the entire Mill Point area. Whilst a reduction in a speed limit, might not sound like it doesn't do much, but what it does do is in the event that someone exceeds the speed, by I think about 30km/hr, and they are caught by the Police that puts them into having their vehicle seized territory. So those measures will add up to a reduction. I appreciate that there still might be issues. In regard to noise and hooning, I would encourage you to report it to the Police. I appreciate that becomes frustrating to do that, but the Police base their resourcing on reports they receive and then take action accordingly. We will continue to do what we can do but there are limits in our powers on what we can do.

Mr Mike Banning: I understand that, however, the City can go to the Police and put pressure on them to attend to this. All it would take is an officer down there on a Friday, or even a Thursday night to ticket a few of those people and it wouldn't happen.

Mr Mike Bradford (CEO): You might find this hard to believe, but I think the Police are more inclined to listen to you who lives there, than someone from the City. We work closely with the Police and report them, and I appreciate that it's frustrating but if you have hooning or noise report it to the Police. If it's dangerous then go down the path of requiring immediate Police assistance. The Police, of course, prioritise their efforts and we have on occasion managed to get them to apply resources to the area. We do make contact with them; we do pressure them - but I actually think that your words to the Police are more powerful than ours.

Mayor Greg Milner: Thank you, Mr Bradford and thank you, Mr Banning.

Ms Ord, I think I saw your hand go up before. Would you like to ask a question, make a statement or move a motion?

The following motion and statement were read out by Ms Joanne Ord of Como at the Electors' General Meeting held 4 February 2025.

Ms Joanne Ord: So today, I just happened to do a random search on the City's website because I am a lover of black cockatoos and I've just noticed the last few seasons the way that they've been frequenting EJ Reserve, which I live very close to has, become a lot more prolific. You know that they are in the Cape Lilacs by the barbeques, they are in the gums behind the City offices, they are even next door to me in a neighbour's lovely tree. They create a ruckus but they are just lovely birds and we know that they are all threatened. In fact, I think that the latest stats were, that they will be gone in 20 years if we don't do something for them. I'm also a regular visitor to Collier Reserve which we know is adjacent to one of the largest roost sites in the metro area. I think we should all be quite proud of that, and as a City and a community do our utmost to support them. I just did a random search on the City's website today and put in 'cockatoo' and I couldn't find a single resource on the City's website that promotes these birds. There was just one article about updating of some inaccurate information that was provided, in terms of macadamia and that was corrected by Murdoch University in a previous Your Say magazine article. That was all I could find. I guess that my motion is that if we could have something on the City's website in the appropriate location, whether it be wildlife or something like that, that really addresses like a Black Cockatoo factsheet and why it is important for us to do our bit here in this locality: a list of their food sources, what trees they like, what can the community do to plant, provide information and measures that the community can implement to support their plight, and perhaps hold information sessions with BirdLife for the community to learn more, maybe even consider a water trough at EJ Oval, given that they are there in huge numbers (and Galahs and other birds as well), and perhaps even reissue the article that was corrected by Murdoch Uni, just to keep that updated information at the forefront of the community's mind. So that is my motion, and I hope that the community and the Council will support it, and the City can do something to implement that on their website to really inform the community of these birds and the help that they need.

Mayor Greg Milner: Thank you, Ms Ord. I suppose just for the purposes of putting it up on the screen, so everyone can have a look at it before they vote. Is there any particular form that you would like to instill your motion into?

Ms Joanne Ord: Sorry?

Mayor Greg Milner: Any particular form, such as, you know, the City of South Perth add a resources/fact sheet to the City of South Perth website about Cockatoos?

Ms Joanne Ord: If someone would like to decode my scribble, they're welcome to.

Mayor Greg Milner: It's your motion, I will give you the opportunity.

Ms Joanne Ord: It's really that the City provides relevant information, I just find it somewhat disturbing that, for instance, the City of Armadale has this lovely plant list on there for Black Cockatoos, and other Cities have that as well. Yet, we are the ones with this really important roost location, and flocks of these visiting birds as they migrate every year. I just think that we could do more, as well, on our website to inform the community.

Mayor Greg Milner: Alright, Governance - have we got the gist of that?
Members of the Gallery - has everyone got the gist of that?

Ms Joanne Ord: Sorry to spring it on you.

Mayor Greg Milner: Alright, we have got something up. I will give everyone 30 seconds to read that, it's pretty short and succinct.

Ms Joanne Ord: Can you add, you know, the planting list, so if people want? Food sources?

Mayor Greg Milner: Can we accommodate that, Governance?

Ms Joanne Ord: Birdlife workshops and the watering station at EJ, I know that they are expensive, maybe there is a cheaper option you can investigate.

Mayor Greg Milner: A short motion is a good motion, but I know that we have been installing bird watering troughs in other projects, Godwin Sump was the most recent one, wasn't it? Yes.

Alright, Ms Ord has moved that motion that's on the screen in front of us. Is there anyone in the gallery, who is... I think Ms Brooke's hand went up first there.

DECISION

Moved: Ms Joanne Ord of Como.

Seconded: Ms Cecilia Brooke of South Perth.

That the City of South Perth website is updated with a Black Cockatoos fact sheet (including food life sources) and reissue the article on the website.

The Motion was put and declared CARRIED.

Additional Information provided by Ms Joanne Ord:

Website to include in an appropriate location:

- Black Cockatoos factsheet;
- List of food sources/tree habitat;
- Provide information/measures that the community can implement to support the Black Cockatoos plight;
- Hold information sessions with Birdlife regarding the Black Cockatoos;
- Consider a water trough at Ernest Johnson Reserve;
- Reissue an article on Black Cockatoos in Your Say to keep the Black Cockatoos relevant in the community awareness;
- Nursery giveaway signage for Black Cockatoo plants.

The following questions were asked by Ms Christine Throssell of Kensington at the Electors' General Meeting held 4 February 2025.

Ms Christine Throssell: I would just like to know is there actually a policy about kerbside pavement, because there is one in our street – the bricks were there one day and they were just there on the verge the next day laid. I am quite concerned about it really, I wouldn't like to dob anyone in, but I just wondered if there is a policy? They are already down so they don't do anything about them.

Mayor Greg Milner: Just to clarify, are you talking about, I think I heard you say bricks on the side of the road?

Ms Christine Throssell: Yes, sorry they have laid the bricks. They have laid brick paving on the verge.

Mayor Greg Milner: I see. Is that Ms Amprimo?

Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS): Yes. The short answer is we do have a policy on it, if you are concerned about a verge treatment, then please submit a request through our Requests System and we will look into it.

Ms Christine Throssell: I have actually talked to someone about it, and I don't want to dob anyone in, but I just wondered why? I didn't think that was allowed. I think once it's down there's not much you can do about it.

Mayor Greg Milner: I may have have misunderstood, so I'm just going to ask for a little bit of clarification. Are you talking about the Council's verge treatment (that has been performed by the Council) or are you talking about something that has been done by a private landowner?

Ms Christine Throssell: The resident of a house.

Mayor Greg Milner: Probably the best suggestion I can give you, and I suppose it applies to most things in the City. On our website, if you go to our home page you will find on the right-hand side, there's a series of options in blue boxes. The first of which is 'Make a Request'. If you were to put your request in there, you will be given a tracking number, which you'll then be able to pop in at your convenience in the future to see where your request is at. We anticipate that you would get a response from the City – unless it is a complex matter – usually within 10 business days.

Ms Christine Throssell: I have done this, I'm very pleased with the Council. I have put in two or three requests, because on the corner of our street is the Gwenyfred Road Reserve and I think that the two or three requests I've made there have been responded to very quickly. Other people in the street have said just talk to Christine, she will fix it. So I am very pleased with that, but I think when I rang the Council at the time, I spoke with somebody when the bricks were already laid. I am presuming that there's not a lot that you can do but I just wonder, well, if it happens in the future - what will I do?

Mayor Greg Milner: Well, Ms Amprimo, should I send that to you?

Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS): If it is an unauthorised treatment on the verge then, even though they are already laid, we can require the property owner to remove them.

The following motion and statement were read out by Ms Alexandra Jones of Como at the Electors' General Meeting held 4 February 2025.

Ms Alexandra Jones: Just a brief motion that I have just thought about, regarding the Polyphagous shot-hole borer and the removal of trees.

I would like to propose a motion: that the City engages two independent arboriculture consultants before the removal of any mature public tree for the alleged presence or pre-emptive.

Mayor Greg Milner: I might just jump in here and ask a question, because I'm not sure that we are the ones that actually do remove it. I think it might be the State Government, but Ms Amprimo, can you clarify that?

Ms Anita Amprimo (DIS): When it is identified, we are requested to either approve that DPIRD remove it at their cost or confirm that we will remove it at the City's cost. We do not remove it at the City's cost because I do not believe that is an effective use of ratepayer money. We also do discuss with them what options are available, but ultimately, they do have the power to remove a tree, if that is what they wish to do.

Ms Alexandra Jones: I suppose that it goes back to what I was saying before that the local governments do have some legislative powers to take action on these sorts of things and do have local laws for the protection of trees. I have been quite devastated at the removal of some of our most beautiful, green large trees under the directions of DPIRD. My understanding is that it is controversial within local governments, and I think also with WALGA. So, I feel that it is only right that the community looks at this and engages independent arboriculture consultants.

I go back a long way with South Perth, many years ago I know there was controversy over the removal of the Cape Lilacs, and I think that about 500 (or more) were removed. Only later, we found out that they were actually quite popular with the Red-Tailed Cockatoos. Sometimes we do things as a knee-jerk reaction and then we look back with hindsight and realise that we shouldn't have done that. So that is why I would like to put a motion: that the City engages independent arboriculture advice prior to going along with the directive to remove beautiful large trees, because some of them have been very green, beautiful and healthy. So, I really question why they were removed, other than that they were exotic.

Mayor Greg Milner: I might interject here, Ms Jones, I certainly have the gist of what you are saying. I think what Ms Amprimo is saying is that we don't remove the trees, it is the State Government that does. We do not have the ability to countermand the State Government. I think, subject to what Mr Bradford is about to say, I think that your motion might be futile, you're very welcome to move it, and if it is passed it will be considered at the March Ordinary Council Meeting. Subject to what Ms Amprimo and Mr Bradford are about to say, it might be futile and unnecessary. Have I got that wrong, Mr Bradford?

It is your right to move the motion.

Ms Alexandra Jones: I understand what is happening at the State level; however, I really would like to push the power of the local governments to protect our amenity, our wildlife and our trees. If we do that, we set an example and we counteract that kind of knee-jerk reaction that we are seeing at the moment, where there is very little evidence.

Mayor Greg Milner: If you would like to state the motion, then I will see about a seconder.

Ms Alexandra Jones: Right, thank you.
Simply put, ‘that Council engages two independent arboriculture consultants prior to agreeing to the removal of its’ public trees for the alleged presence of the Polyphagous shot-hole borer.

Mayor Greg Milner: Alright, I will give Governance a moment to get that up on the screen for everyone.

Perhaps if you could read it one more time slowly, just giving people a chance to catch up?

Ms Alexandra Jones: I’ll read it, okay.

Mayor Greg Milner: Slowly, please.

Ms Alexandra Jones: ‘That the City engages two independent arboriculture consultants prior to agreeing to the removal of any large public tree due to the alleged presence of the Polyphagous shot-hole borer.’

Mayor Greg Milner: Thank you very much.
Ms Jones has moved that motion, if there’s anyone in the gallery, who is an eligible elector, who would like to second that motion now is your chance?

Yes, if you could please stand and state your name and address?

Thank you, Ms Cudby.

The motion has now been moved and seconded. I am about to put it to the vote, all those in the gallery who would like to support this motion (as long as you are an eligible elector in the district) if you could please raise your hands and keep them raised?

All those opposed – please raise your hands and keep them raised?

That motion has been defeated.

Motion
Moved: Ms Alexandra Jones of Como.
Seconded: Ms Dianne Cudby of South Perth.

That Council engages two independent arboriculture consultants prior to agreeing to the removal of its’ public trees for the alleged presence of the Polyphagous shot-hole borer.

The Motion was put and declared LOST.



Mayor Greg Milner:

Thank, Ms Jones.

Is there anyone else who has any questions, or would like to make a statement, or would like to move a motion at this time?

That's a no.

8. CLOSURE

The Presiding Member thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.56pm.