

Council Meeting

Minutes

28 May 2025 at 6:30pm

**Council Chamber, Town Hall, Sturt Street,
Ballarat**



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1. OPENING DECLARATION

Councillors: *"We, the Councillors of the City of Ballarat, declare that we will carry out our duties in the best interests of the community, and through collective leadership will maintain the highest standards of good governance."*

Mayor: *"I respectfully acknowledge the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung People, the traditional custodians of the land, and I would like to welcome members of the public in the gallery."*

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 Present

Cr Tracey Hargreaves (Mayor)
Cr Ben Taylor
Cr Damon Saunders
Cr Des Hudson
Cr Jay Morrison
Cr Jim Rinaldi
Cr Samantha McIntosh
Cr Ted Lapkin
Cr Tess Morgan

Mr Evan King - Chief Executive Officer
Ms Bridget Wetherall - Director Infrastructure and Environment
Mr Matthew Wilson - Director Community Wellbeing
Mr John Hausler - Director Corporate Services
Ms Natalie Robertson - Director Development and Growth
Mr Martin Darcy - Director Economy and Experience
Mr Cameron Montgomery - Executive Manager Governance and Risk
Ms Rosie Wright - Coordinator Risk, Governance and Compliance
Ms Sophie Brown – Governance Project Officer
Ms Tayla Niblett - Governance Officer

2.2 Apologies

Nil

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION:

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting on 30 April 2025 as circulated be confirmed.

Moved: Cr Jim Rinaldi
Seconded: Cr Ted Lapkin

CARRIED
(R81/25)

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

QT43/25 – Sean Mulcahy

Question

Have the Department of Transport and Planning and V/Line responded favourably to requests from Council to remove graffiti from their assets, including signal boxes, signage, overpasses, and rail corridors, or has Council encountered any difficulties with these entities removing graffiti from their assets and/or considered entering into an agreement that enables the Council's Graffiti Response Unit to clean up vandalism on these entities' assets?

Answer

Bridget Wetherall, Director Infrastructure and Environment, responded that the City of Ballarat have been working with V/Line in relation to the graffiti and have passed on the community feedback regarding this. VicTrack (VLine) will not enter into agreements with local authorities to allow the cleaning of graffiti from its assets on the grounds of safety around a rail corridor.

Although the rail corridors and VicTrack land are not targeted as part of the Graffiti Removal Initiative, the City Of Ballarat will continue to advocate with any third parties where we are not able to gain approval for graffiti removal, for the responsible authority to remove graffiti from their assets.

Question

Why do the provisions against graffiti under Council's Community Local Law 2017 only apply to dilapidated buildings and can the planned review of the Community Local Law consider this matter?

Answer

Natalie Robertson, Director Development and Growth, responded that the City of Ballarat Community Local Law 2017 is due to be reviewed in the next two years which will include community consultation and proposed Council adoption in 2027. The provisions relating to graffiti on dilapidated buildings will be reviewed as part of that process and we do welcome community feedback on any of the provisions with the Local Law, particularly as we enter this review phase.

QT44/25 – Dianne Colbert

Question

How do you plan to advocate for farmers and their mental health given the extra financial burden the state government has placed upon them?

Answer

Evan King, Chief Executive Officer, responded that there is significant strain on the farming community at the moment, a combination of an extended drought and diminishing margins in farming enterprises, and the nature of being asset rich and cash flow poor. Now, a new Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund is certainly putting significant pressure on our farming community. Councillors have asked what sort of advocacy program can be put together to advocate for the farming community. There are a range of existing mental health programs, a detailed list will be provided in the formal question response.

As of May 2025, Ballarat was included in the list of LGAs that have been declared as being drought impacted. Previously this was not the case meaning farmers did not have access to the drought support programs. One of the components of that drought relief package is rolling out a mental health program for farmers. Ballarat Community Health run a program, as well as the National Farmers Federation are looking into what they can do. There are a range of

existing mental health programs and Council will continue to advocate very strongly that they continue and strengthen, as the pressures on farmers are not going to go away for some time.

Question

Has the Ballarat Council considered sponsoring the film "Just a farmer?" If not, can this be discussed.

Answer

Martin Darcy, Director Economy and Experience responded that the City of Ballarat has grants available for application depending on eligibility. These include the Community Impact Grant and the Creative Inspiration Grant. There are also external grants available that may be suitable including grants from Screen Australia including development or production funding, grants from Documentary Australia including Films in Focus and Vox Docs to name a few and Grants from VicScreen including Victorian Production Fund and Screen Culture Funding. Mr Darcy noted that if the submitter hasn't already met the City of Ballarat Creative City team, an introduction can be made, as they are a great source of creative inspiration and action within Ballarat.

QT45/25 – Kriston Nilsson**Question**

With a long term historic average growth rate of less than 2% annually, then 2011 to 2014 an average of 4% annually and a 50% total in increase, using City of Ballarat estimate of a 32% increase in the next 20 years.

How will the City of Ballarat continue to strategically develop the city to maintain its liveability, culture and access requirements for such a large increase?

Is there another locality that the City of Ballarat is using to learn from to manage these issues related to growth?

Answer

Natalie Robertson, Director Development and Growth, responded that Councils play a strong and required role in ensuring adequate supply of land is provided to meet our housing and employment needs. We must demonstrate we have a 15-year land supply under the legislation. While housing is ultimately delivered by the private sector, City of Ballarat is well positioned and has adopted both a Housing Strategy, which has regard to the projected population growth rate, and a Growth Area plan, which provides a framework to accommodate our future population while balancing growth in both infill and greenfield. Whilst we have already adopted several future growth areas to give certainty on where our growth will be, there are also a number of other planning strategies to ensure we are prepared for future growth such as the existing residential zones review, urban renewal strategies and a draft employment land strategy. Links to these key strategic documents can be found via our website and will be included in the written response from this evening's questions.

There are very few examples of cities that have grown at the rate projected, particularly the rate currently set within the State Governments Plan for Victoria of 46,900 dwellings across 60% infill and 40% greenfield, however we have positioned ourselves well to accommodate this growth over time. However, all of the community will play a role in continuing to make the city liveable including advocating for greater public transport access, housing options that meet diverse needs and are located near jobs and community infrastructure together with more urban greening and open spaces.

Question

What initiatives are in place to future-proof Ballarat's workforce particularly in skills development for youth, new migrants, and vulnerable groups as the region grows into a key economic contributor?

Answer

Martin Darcy, Director Economy and Experience, responded that the City of Ballarat Economic Development team engages with existing businesses and businesses proposing to operate in Ballarat to understand their current and future workforce needs. The Economic Development team works closely with various organisations aligned to workforce training to enable supply of skilled workers but also to provide opportunity to a diverse range of people from our Ballarat community and surrounding regions. These include Federation University, Highlands LLEN, the Victorian Jobs Taskforce. Additionally, the City of Ballarat also financially support Commerce Ballarat and Tourism Midwest Victoria to deliver a range of programs designed to assist Ballarat businesses to remain viable and thrive. Of course, business and industry itself also directly source and train their own workforce specific to their own needs.

QT46/25 – Denise Butler**Question**

I live approximately 110m north of the existing hockey pitch situated at Prince of Wales Park. When our curtains and windows are open, noise from the hockey pitch can be clearly heard and light from the light towers shines into our main bedroom. Clearly, current noise and light pollution levels will increase substantially for residents living less than 30m from the proposed two new hockey pitches.

Is this an acceptable situation for those residents?

Answer

Matthew Wilson, Director Community Wellbeing, responded that in the adopted Prince of Wales Park (POWP) Masterplan, a number of potential controls have been identified to mitigate and reduce the noise impact on surrounding residents which include:

- Noise attenuation at the North end of the precinct.
- Baffling of the backboard in the goal ends (for example, triple layer buffer pads).
- A fully designed landscaping plan to mitigate and baffle noise from the pitch.
- Operational control around the hours of operation, days of operation, type of activities (games versus training).

These options will be further investigated with an acoustic engineer throughout the detailed design phase of the project to ensure compliance with Environment Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines.

Regarding lighting controls, the future lighting system on the new pitches will be designed to comply with the relevant Australian standards to ensure compliance. These standards include:

- AS 2560.1:2018 – Sports Lighting Part 1: General Principles
- AS 2560.2:2021 – Sports Lighting Part 2: Specific Applications
- AS 4282:2019 – Control of the obtrusive effects of outdoor lighting

In addition, and as previously mentioned, it is intended to implement operational control around the hours of operation, days of operation, type of activities (games versus training) which will further reduce the impact on surrounding residents.

Question

The *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* (Victoria) states that "Every person has a right to enjoy their private life free from interference.....and to not have your privacy, family life, home... interfered with" (Section 13).

How is the proposal for two additional hockey pitches in such close proximity to homes and the inevitable disruption to residents' daily lives compatible with and not in breach of Section 13 of this Charter?

Answer

Matthew Wilson, Director Community Wellbeing, responded that the City of Ballarat consider a variety of inputs related to decision making such as human rights, including section 13 regarding the resident's concerns of disruption to daily lives of residents.

Reading section 13 of the charter, it stipulates under section 7(2), that rights may be limited in certain circumstances, but it must be reasonable, necessary, justified, and proportionate. It is considered that the provision of controls identified in the Masterplan are reasonable and proportionate in context to the development.

The Masterplan provides a commitment to consider operational controls related to the hours of operation, potentially days of operation, and type of activities within the sporting facilities. This approach takes into account the rights to participate in public life whilst minimising the impact and disruption to residents.

QT47/25 – Dr Laurie Prosser**Question**

Harvard University Medical School researchers have shown that noise pollution not only drives hearing loss but can also cause or exacerbate cardiovascular disease; type 2 diabetes; stress; mental health, and cognition problems. WHO states for optimal sleep, the level inside your house at night should not exceed 30 dB. Noise from current Ballarat hockey matches exceeds 80 dB this has been recorded and photographed.

Given this knowledge, why has the Council continued to propose two hockey fields within 30 meters of residents' homes?

Answer

Matthew Wilson, Director Community wellbeing thanked Dr Prosser for the question and for raising concerns of the risk of chronic health problems identified as a result to exposure to noise pollution. He then noted that sedentary lifestyles and lack of physical activity is also a driver for chronic disease and other serious health conditions and this one of the reasons that City of Ballarat invests in sporting infrastructure.

POWP is a significant sport and recreation precinct that offers both active and passive recreation opportunities for residents and provides facilities to enhance community health and wellbeing. The development of this reserve aims to further enhance the offering of recreation opportunities for Ballarat residents to be active and engage in physical activity.

Regarding the specific concern identified relating to optimal sleep, it is not proposed that hockey will operate during the hours for optimal sleep. The EPA assess noise and deems that not all noise is classified as 'unreasonable' noise. The advice received by officers from the EPA stated that the night period commences at 10pm. There will be no sporting activities on the pitches after 10pm and, in all likelihood, controls would limit activity earlier than that.

In the adopted POWP Masterplan, a number of potential controls have been identified to mitigate and reduce the noise impact of the new Hockey fields on surrounding residents which will be provided in the written response. These controls will be further investigated with an acoustic engineer throughout the detailed design phase of the project to ensure compliance with EPA guidelines and to act to minimise the impact on human health. Furthermore, it is intended to implement operational control around the hours of operation, days of operation,

type of activities (games versus training) which will further reduce the impact on surrounding residents.

Question

The impact of Noise and Light on Human Health emanating from the proposed hockey fields within 30 metres of homes may well force many Lake Gardens residents to sell their homes. However, devaluation of homes has been quoted to be between \$100,000 - \$200,000. Given the POWP will create both noise and light problems for residents, has Council considered possible litigation costs to Council and compensation costs for residents' financial loss in their POWP planning?

Answer

Matthew Wilson, Director Community Wellbeing, responded that the proposed developments identified in the POWP Masterplan and in line with Public Park and Recreation Zoned (PPRZ) land and in accordance with the Ballarat Planning Scheme. Further to the alignment of the proposed land use, a number of controls will be explored and implemented throughout the detailed design phase to ensure compliance with relevant standards and guidelines to minimise any future noise and light spill on surrounding residents.

The risk of litigation was not considered to the proposed buffer zone and other mitigation controls proposed to control noise and light emission. It is considered that these controls are reasonable and proportionate to the proposed development and are consistent with the provision which are in place across other reserves in Ballarat and similar facilities across the state where similar offsets are in place between sporting facilities and residential properties.

RESOLUTION:

That Council extends public question time in accordance with section 3.7.1 of the City of Ballarat Governance Rules.

Moved: Cr Ben Taylor

Seconded: Cr Jim Rinaldi

CARRIED

(R82/25)

QT48/25 – Allen Harvie

Question

Now the dialog is completed with Breaze, can the Council clarify who supplied the information as in the images of the tweets in question?

Answer

John Hausler, Director Corporate Services, responded that in accordance with the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*, personal information relating to complaints raised with the City of Ballarat is treated as confidential.

Question

Given there was an embargo on sharing these tweets due to privacy concerns, was the council involved in sharing them with Joe McCracken who went on to raise in State parliament?

Answer

John Hausler, Director Corporate Services, responded that City of Ballarat is unable to comment on where the Member of Parliament obtained this information. This would be a question for that Member of Parliament.

QT49/25 – Lisa Jones**Question**

A number of councillors campaigned for their positions on the premise of keeping geopolitical issues out of local council. How can we, the people of Ballarat, be assured that no further blacklisting of local organisations or individuals will occur based on people's global political views that the newly elected councillors previously claimed were irrelevant to Ballarat and the Ballarat Council?

Answer

John Hausler, Director Corporate Services, responded that funding agreements are a contract between City of Ballarat and a provider to deliver a product or service. City of Ballarat will continue to monitor the performance of contracted entities and address issues as and when they arise.

Each application to grant processes is assessed independently of the Council, against pre-determined and publicly available criteria. All Councillors are required to approach decision making with an open mind and consider the matter on the merits.

QT50/25 – Ben Nunquam**Question**

Given the conclusion of the review of the City of Ballarat Executive decision on May 8th, and now that rule §3.7.1 of the City of Ballarat Governance Rules 2024 no longer applies, can Council and or/the Chairperson give a full account of the events that led to the termination of the BREAZE city partnership to the people of Ballarat that we are told began in late 2024?

Answer

John Hausler, Director Corporate Services, responded that the funding agreement with BREAZE was terminated after the BREAZE Board declined to respond appropriately to concerns raised about statements made by a then-board member.

These statements were assessed by the City of Ballarat as antisemitic and as a result of inaction of the board the agreement was terminated.

Question

Since terminating the BREAZE contract, what assurances can City of Ballarat Councillors do to demonstrate to the people of Ballarat that the City of Ballarat Executive team are following good governance practices by consulting with elected Councillors before deciding to terminate Council approved grants?

Answer

John Hausler, Director Corporate Services, responded that Council makes decisions to enter into contracts, which include agreement terms. City of Ballarat officers work within their delegated responsibility to manage and monitor contracts in accordance with those terms.

QT51/25 – Dominique Houzet**Question**

Will the Council apologise to BREAZE and the community for their kneejerk decision to terminate their contract, in breach of their obligations to due process, and in contravention of the motion passed by Council on 28/2/24 (R5/24) which committed the Council to recognising the humanitarian crisis for Palestinians and advocating for the human rights of Palestinians?

Answer

John Hausler, Director Corporate Services, responded that City of Ballarat has a duty to monitor the performance of those contracted to deliver a product or service and act in response to any complaints received regarding the contracted service. The City of Ballarat engaged in good faith with BREAZE on at least three separate occasions to seek a resolution. As part of the contract terms, the City of Ballarat sought to proceed to mediation with an independent mediator. BREAZE advised they did not wish to proceed and accepted the termination of the agreement.

Question

Does the Council stand by the motion passed on 28/2/24 in support of Palestine (R5/24)?

Answer

John Hausler, Director Corporate Services, responded that the motion passed on 28 February 2024 has been actioned. In brief, the resolution (1) noted that the City of Ballarat is an intercultural and welcoming city (2) acknowledges that Council condemns all forms of vilification, discrimination, antisemitism, islamophobia and racism in all forms and (3) authorised the Mayor to write to the Federal Government to advocate for international action to be taken regarding the conflict in Gaza – which has been completed.

QT52/25 – Grant Robinson**Question**

Does the Council agree that the termination of BREAZE's contract has required replacing their services with a Geelong-based businesses?

Answer

Bridget Wetherall, Director Infrastructure and Environment, responded that this is incorrect. BREAZE was provided funding to help support the communication and engagement for the Electrify Your Homes Program only. In addition, the City of Ballarat put out a request for quote for an organisation to run the bulk purchasing component of the program. Geelong Sustainability has the most experience in Victoria delivering these types of programs, and they were the successful bidder.

City of Ballarat, in accordance with our Procurement Policy, engaged Geelong Sustainability through a purchase order and agreement.

Electrify Your Home Ballarat is a pilot program that is running for 4 months in September 2025.

Geelong Sustainability did not replace Breaze. They were always a project partner.

Question

Does Council intend for those services to return to Ballarat-based vendors and workers?

Answer

Bridget Wetherall, Director Infrastructure and Environment, responded that, as part of this program, Geelong Sustainability ran an expression of interest process to ensure local providers had the opportunity to participate in the Electrify Your Home program. The list of the preferred providers is on the City of Ballarat website, and includes the following;

- Castleman Plumbing (Hot water – Ballarat based)
- Enfort (Home energy audits – Ballarat based)
- Enviroflex (Draught proofing and insulation – Melbourne based, our only applicant for insulation)

- Reclaim Energy (Hot water unit supplier – Australia-wide)
- Too Hot To Handle (Heating and cooling – Geelong based, utilising Ballarat installers where possible)
- Winki Energy (Solar, Battery and EV charging – Torquay/Melbourne based)

QT53/25 – Joe Boin**Question**

Council declared a climate emergency in 2018. Last February, you terminated the partnership with BREAZE which was designed to run a three-part program promoting community energy efficiency. You have thereby chosen not to work with Ballarat's most effective organisation which has nearly 20 years local experience in the field. How are you now implementing the 3 parts of the program aimed at helping community members to address the climate emergency?

Answer

Bridget Wetherall, Director Infrastructure and Environment, responded that the 21 November 2018 Council resolution noted a motion passed by the Municipal Association of Victoria recognising a climate emergency and action by all levels of government and this was acknowledged by Council, but no declaration was or has been made by Council declaring a climate emergency.

The three parts of the program are:

1. Electrify your Home campaign – BREAZE were undertaking the communications component of this program only. This is now being undertaken by CoB staff. Geelong Sustainability, who were a program partner before the termination of the contract with Breaze, are leading the retrofit component of the program. Geelong Sustainability and City of Ballarat are running webinars for the program. Rebate provided by City of Ballarat.
2. Ballarat ZNet Awards – Will not be run by City of Ballarat.
3. Home energy efficiency workshops – To be conducted by City of Ballarat in 2025/26.

Question

In last month's meeting, Council voted for transparency in future partnerships. At the same meeting a community petition was presented, and transparency was requested. With that in mind, can you please explain the processes involved in the termination of the partnership with BREAZE?

Answer

Cameron Montgomery, Executive Manager Governance and Risk, responded that the resolution passed at the 30 April Council meeting was to receive and note the petition, and also refer it to the CEO for response. This response has been provided.

As per the previous answer this evening, the funding agreement with BREAZE was terminated after the BREAZE Board declined to respond appropriately to concerns raised about statements made by a then-board member.

These statements were assessed by the City of Ballarat as antisemitic.

QT54/25 – Heidi Johnson**Question**

What steps will Council take to rebuild Community trust in our democratic representatives and Council officers to always act in the best interests of the entire community, granting full procedural fairness in its dealings with community organisations, and respecting contracts and agreements, regardless of any differing political or cultural stances?

Answer

John Hausler, Director Corporate Services, responded that funding agreements are a contract between the City of Ballarat and a provider to deliver a product or service.

They include compliance, conduct, financial, and reporting obligations.

City of Ballarat has a duty to monitor the performance of those contracted to deliver a product or service and act in response to any complaints regarding the contracted service.

Following receipt of the complaint, City of Ballarat approached the contracted entity to request that action be taken on the conduct which was determined to be anti-semitic. The board did not respond appropriately to these concerns and the agreement was terminated.

Following the termination, BREAZE requested a review of the City of Ballarat's decision. This activated the dispute resolution clauses of the funding agreement. The City of Ballarat engaged in good faith with BREAZE on at least three separate occasions to seek a resolution.

As part of the contract terms, the City of Ballarat sought to proceed to mediation with an independent mediator. BREAZE advised they did not wish to proceed and accepted the termination of the agreement.

The City of Ballarat remains committed to partnerships that reflect its values, creating a safe, sustainable, innovative, and inclusive community.

Question

What guarantee can Council give to any community group considering having any dealings whatsoever with City of Ballarat that their treatment by Council will not be negatively impacted by any public expressions of personal opinions or beliefs as an individual rather than as a representative of that community group? What guarantee can Council give that membership or affiliations with other groups, unrelated to the group addressing City of Ballarat, will not negatively impact their relationship with City of Ballarat?

Answer

John Hausler, Director Corporate Services, responded that, as per the previous response, funding agreements are a contract between City of Ballarat and a provider to deliver a product or service. City of Ballarat will continue to monitor the performance of contracted entities for all City of Ballarat services and address issues as and when they arise. In terms of interaction with Council, each application to grant processes and relationships are assessed independently of the Council against predetermined and publicly available criteria. When Councillors make decisions they are required to do so with an open mind and considered the matter on its merits.

QT55/25 – Chris Meagher**Question**

Regarding the executive's decision to strip funding from BREAZE, can the Council ensure that the fringe beliefs of individual Council members will not subvert the democratic process of council in the future?

Answer

John Hausler, Director Corporate Services, responded that Council has transparent processes that are used to assess arrangements that it enters into. Councillors are required to approach decision making with an open mind and consider the matter on the merits and information presented. This is how the democratic process works and it is the expectation put upon this group of Councillors.

QT56/25 – Annette McMaster**Question**

I am a private resident on the north side of the substation site which is 2 metres lower than 203 York Street and the reserve corner of King and Callow Street which is now roughly built up by roughly 2 metres and has 26 units. I would bet that you have never stood on the back of Carboni's and viewed our beautiful valley because I get the impression that everywhere in Ballarat is important with the exception of the residents of this zone substation. With regard to transformer explosion and resulting fire, as seems to be happening frequently in Australia and around the world, landfill will heighten the possibility of the worst scenario for us. Flooding, burning oil in storm water and our homes. Powercor say they work close with Council, and Council say they don't. Corangamite water catchment say storm water is council control. Are you going to allow Powercor to bring in landfill which will make our flooding situation a reality because we are 2 metres lower in Callow Street and to the base of the Eureka Street hill?

Answer

Natalie Roberston, Director Development and Growth, responded that she will take some of this on notice but will also provide a response to part of the question. Any development, even if it doesn't require a planning permit, requires building approval and to meet compliance. Any development must meet a certain criteria that stems from footing through to the development phase. If there is to be fill, it has to demonstrate that the property is being developed so that it mitigates flood.

Director Robertson advised she will gather more information on this to provide, but advised that if they are bringing in fill, this development has to be developed on concrete and underneath there has to be a retarding basin or a retention basin for flooding or storm water. There also has to be the proper mechanisms in place to trap waterflow and other things. There is a whole complex scenario as to how it needs to be developed, and a number of components that could lead to something out of the ground like a substation. Director Robertson stated she was satisfied that any fill would relate to establishing the ground for the foundations of the development.

Question

At the moment, there is only a temporary fence. We were told there would be a solid fence. We were told it would be a solid fence, I would imagine a high solid fence so we can't see this thing, of brick or bluestone so as to contain contaminants. Has Council had any input into this solid safety fence because it is only 9mm with gaps under it? When are you going to enlighten us as you promised you would?

Answer

Natalie Roberston, Director Development and Growth, responded that she is of the understanding there are draft plans and these plans have been given to officers. A briefing is scheduled for 11 June to provide that information to Councillors. Powercor declined to attend that meeting.

Director Roberston advised she would not encourage a solid fence for a substation, as it would be better for the fence to have gaps for the design and how that would interface with the street. Council will be giving some feedback on how this should present to the street, in regard to landscaping, external bunding and those types of things. Once the briefing has occurred on 11 June and there is more detail, Councillors and the community will then be provided with better insights. Powercor also generally release these at the same time.

7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

7.1. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Division: Executive Unit
Director: Evan King
Author/Position: Evan King – Chief Executive Officer

PURPOSE

1. The CEO's Operational Report highlights issues and outcomes affecting the organisation's performance as it delivers services and implements the Council's strategies and policy decisions.

RESOLUTION:

17. That Council:

17.1 Receive and note the CEO's Operational Report.

Moved: Cr Samantha McIntosh
Seconded: Cr Jim Rinaldi

CARRIED
(R83/25)

RESOLUTION:

That item '9.1 Notice of Motion' be brought forward.

Moved: Cr Ben Taylor
Seconded: Cr Des Hudson

CARRIED
(R84/25)

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

9.1. NOTICE OF MOTION

Public representation was made by Bruce Crawford, representing the Ballarat Residents and Ratepayers Association, and Stuart Robinson.

PURPOSE

1. A Notice of Motion was lodged by Cr Lapkin, Cr Hargreaves, Cr Rinaldi, Cr McIntosh, Cr Taylor and Cr Saunders on 22 May 2025.
2. In accordance with rule 3.8.2 of the Governance Rules, the Notice of Motion was received and assessed by the Chief Executive Officer then approved to proceed to the 28 May 2025 Council Meeting Agenda.
3. Formal notice was provided to Councillors on 23 May 2025 which was then recorded in the Notice of Motion Register by the Governance team.

Cr Ted Lapkin sought leave of Council to amend the wording of the proposed motion, which was granted.

RESOLUTION:

4. **That Council:**
 - 4.1 **Formally opposes the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) and the mandated requirement for local councils to collect it on behalf of the State Government;**
 - 4.2 **Condemns the significant financial burden the ESVF will place on all Victorian ratepayers, including primary producers, businesses, and residential households – particularly during the current cost-of-living crisis;**
 - 4.3 **Commits to provide clear information about the ESVF, and the Victorian State government's collection mandate, accompanying rate notices provided to ratepayers;**
 - 4.4 **Advocate for the responsibility of ESVF collection to be transferred from local councils to the Victorian State Government Treasury; and**
 - 4.5 **Write to relevant Victorian State Government Ministers and local Members of Parliament to communicate Council's condemnation of the ESVF.**

Moved: Cr Ted Lapkin
Seconded: Cr Jay Morrison

CARRIED
(R85/25)

RESOLUTION:

That Council adjourn at 8:34pm for a comfort break.

Moved: Cr Tracey Hargreaves
Seconded: Cr Des Hudson

CARRIED
(R86/25)

RESOLUTION:

That Council resumes at 8:44pm.

Moved: Cr Des Hudson
Seconded: Cr Samantha McIntosh

CARRIED
(R87/25)

8. OFFICER REPORTS

8.1. 2024 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS REPORT

Division: Corporate Services

Director: John Hausler

Author/Position: Cameron Montgomery – Executive Manager Governance and Risk

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to present Council with the 2024 Local Government Election Report for Ballarat City Council as required by section 83 of the *Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020* (the Regulations).

RESOLUTION:

20. That Council:

20.1 Accept the 2024 Local Government Election Report for Ballarat City Council.

Moved: Cr Des Hudson
Seconded: Cr Jay Morrison

CARRIED
(R88/25)

8.2. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT - 31 MARCH 2025

Division: Corporate Services
Director: John Hausler
Author/Position: Jason Clissold – Executive Manager Financial Services

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to present the quarterly performance report for the quarter ending 31 March 2025.

RESOLUTION:

44. That Council:

- 44.1 Receive the Quarterly Financial Management Report – Period Ending 31 March 2025 and note the financial matters contained within the report.**
- 44.2 Endorse the 2024/25 Quarter 3 Budget Review adjustments.**
- 44.3 Resolve to fund the LED street lighting replacement project with a combination of unallocated savings and operating cash, removing the need to borrow in 2024/25. This will leave an unallocated saving balance of zero.**
- 44.4 Receive the Council Plan 2021-2025 – Annual Action Plan 2024/25 Quarter 3 Progress Report.**
- 44.5 Receive the City of Ballarat metrics – March 2025.**
- 44.6 Receive the Outstanding Council resolutions report – March 2025.**

Moved: Cr Ben Taylor
Seconded: Cr Jay Morrison

CARRIED
(R89/25)

8.3. RECOGNITION OF BALLARAT'S OLYMPIANS POLICY

Division: Corporate Services

Director: John Hausler

Author/Position: Cameron Montgomery – Executive Manager Governance and Risk

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of the report is to present Council with the Recognition of Ballarat's Olympians Policy for consideration and adoption.

RESOLUTION:

7. That Council:

- 7.1 Adopt the revised Recognition of Ballarat's Olympians Policy, which supersedes the Recognition of Ballarat Olympians Policy adopted by Council on 24 May 2023 (R66/23).

Moved: Cr Des Hudson

Seconded: Cr Samantha McIntosh

CARRIED

(R90/25)

8.4. COMMITTEE POLICY

Division: Corporate Services
Director: John Hausler
Author/Position: Sophie Brown – Governance Project Officer

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to present Council with the updated Committee Policy for consideration and adoption.

RESOLUTION:

9. That Council:

- 9.1 Adopt the attached Committee Policy, which supersedes the Committee Policy adopted by Council on 24 May 2023 (R66/23).**

Moved: Cr Des Hudson
Seconded: Cr Ben Taylor

CARRIED
(R91/25)

8.5. ESTABLISHMENT OF DELEGATED COMMITTEES

Division: Corporate Services
Director: John Hausler
Author/Position: Sophie Brown – Governance Project Officer

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is for Council to consider:
 - a. Adoption of the C4 Instruments of Delegation (Delegated Committees), as attached; and
 - b. Adoption of the revised Terms of Reference for Council's delegated committees, as attached.

RESOLUTION:

11. In exercise of powers conferred by section 63 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) Council resolves that, from the date of this resolution:
 - 11.1 The Community Impact Grant Allocations Delegated Committee be dissolved, and the Community Impact Grant Allocations Delegated Committee Terms of Reference and Instrument of Delegation, adopted by Council at its meeting on 28 July 2021 (R147/21), be revoked.
 - 11.2 The Tourism Events Grant Allocations Delegated Committee be dissolved, and the Tourism Events Grant Allocations Delegated Committee Terms of Reference and Instrument of Delegation, adopted by Council at its meeting on 28 July 2021 (R147/21), be revoked.
 - 11.3 There continue to be established the:
 - a. Planning Delegated Committee made up of nine Councillors, one of whom is nominated by Council or the Mayor as Chairperson;
 - b. City Partnerships Delegated Committee made up of nine Councillors, one of whom is appointed by Council or the Mayor as Chairperson;
 - c. Her Majesty's Theatre Board Delegated Committee made up of three Councillors, one of whom is nominated by Council or the Mayor as Chairperson; and
 - d. Contracts Approval Delegated Committee made up of three Councillors, one of whom is nominated by Council or the Mayor as Chairperson.
 - 11.4 There be established as a delegated committee the Grant Allocations Delegated Committee:
 - a. made up of all Councillors, and the Mayor be appointed as the Chairperson;

- b. appointment of members is by resolution of Council; and**
 - c. meetings will occur monthly on the second Wednesday of the month at 1:00pm, at a location to be determined by the delegated committee.**
 - d. That the committee structure will be reviewed by Councillors in 12 months to ensure that it is functioning effectively.**
- 11.5 The purpose of each delegated committee is as per the Terms of Reference.**
- 11.6 The Councillor representatives for each delegated committee will remain as resolved by Council at its meeting on 27 November 2024 (R192/24), with the following addition:**
 - a. all Councillors be appointed by Council to the Grant Allocations Delegated Committee; and**
 - b. Mayor Hargreaves be appointed as the Chairperson**
- 11.7 The powers, duties and functions of the committee in the Instruments of Delegation for the following delegated committees, as attached, be adopted:**
 - a. Grant Allocation Delegated Committee;**
 - b. Planning Delegated Committee, which supersedes the Instrument of Delegation adopted by resolution of Council at its 24 March 2021 meeting (R60/21);**
 - c. City Partnerships Delegated Committee, which supersedes the Instrument of Delegation adopted by resolution of Council at its 22 February 2023 meeting (R13/23);**
 - d. Her Majesty's Theatre Board Delegated Committee, which supersedes the Instrument of Delegation adopted by resolution of Council at its 24 March 2021 meeting (R60/21); and**
 - e. Contracts Approval Delegated Committee, which supersedes the Instrument of Delegation adopted by resolution of Council at its 24 March 2021 meeting (R60/21).**
- 11.8 There be delegated to the members of the delegated committee the powers, duties and functions set out in the attached Instruments of Delegation.**
- 11.9 The Instruments of Delegation:**
 - a. come into force immediately upon resolution of Council; and**
 - b. remain in force until Council determines to vary or revoke them.**
- 11.10 The powers, duties and functions conferred on the members of the delegated committee must be exercised in accordance with the Instruments of Delegation, Terms of Reference and any guidelines or policies Council may from time to time adopt.**

Moved: Cr Des Hudson
Seconded: Cr Ted Lapkin

CARRIED
(R92/25)

8.6. ESTABLISHMENT OF STAKEHOLDER REFERENCE GROUPS

Division: Corporate Services
Director: John Hausler
Author/Position: Sophie Brown – Governance Project Officer

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is for Council to consider adoption of the revised Terms of Reference for Council's stakeholder reference groups, as attached.

RESOLUTION:

9. That Council:

9.1 From the date of this resolution, resolves that:

- a) The Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility Advisory Committee be dissolved and be re-established as the Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility Stakeholder Reference Group;
- b) The Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, adopted by Council at its meeting on 23 June 2021 (R126/21), be revoked;
- c) Cr Des Hudson, having previously been appointed as Councillor representatives to the dissolved Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility Advisory Committee, be appointed as Councillor representative to the Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility Stakeholder Reference Group.
- d) There continue to be established the:
 - i) Arch of Victory / Avenue of Honour Stakeholder Reference Group, with community members as follows:
 - (1) Grant Donald
 - (2) David Grant
 - (3) Bruce Price
 - (4) Garry Snowden
 - (5) Frank Nuccio
 - (6) Carol Holding
 - (7) Yvon Davis
 - ii) Ballarat Airport Stakeholder Reference Group, with community members to be determined following an Expression of Interest process;

- iii) **Ballarat Major Events Precinct Stakeholder Reference Group, with community members as follows:**
 - (1) **Matt Hustwaite**
 - (2) **Lee Morton**
- iv) **Ballarat West Precinct Structure Plan and Development Contributions Plan Review Stakeholder Reference Group, with membership to remain as resolved by Council at its meeting on 26 February 2025 (R23/25);**
- v) **Lake Learmonth Stakeholder Reference Group, with community members as follows:**
 - (1) **Fon Ryan**
 - (2) **Mal Pearce**
 - (3) **Tamara Wills**
 - (4) **Siobhan Rogan**
- vi) **Lake Wendouree and Gardens Stakeholder Reference Group, with community members as follows:**
 - (1) **Samantha Davies**
 - (2) **Sarah Jane Hall**
 - (3) **David Miller**
 - (4) **Matt Teasdale**
- e) **The Terms of Reference for the following stakeholder reference group, as attached, be adopted and supersede any previously adopted versions of the same:**
 - i) **Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility Stakeholder Reference Group;**
 - ii) **Arch of Victory / Avenue of Honour Stakeholder Reference Group;**
 - iii) **Ballarat Airport Stakeholder Reference Group;**
 - iv) **Ballarat Major Events Precinct Stakeholder Reference Group;**
 - v) **Ballarat West Precinct Structure Plan and Development Contributions Plan Review Stakeholder Reference Group;**
 - vi) **Lake Learmonth Stakeholder Reference Group; and**
 - vii) **Lake Wendouree and Gardens Stakeholder Reference Group.**
- f) **The purpose of each stakeholder reference group is as per the Terms of Reference;**

- g) The Councillor representatives for each stakeholder reference group will remain as resolved by Council at its meeting on 27 November 2024 (R192/24) and amended by resolution of Council at its meeting on 26 March 2025 (R55/25); and**
- h) Each stakeholder reference group must conduct itself according to, and within the provisions of, the Terms of Reference and any guidelines or policies Council may from time to time adopt.**

Moved: Cr Jim Rinaldi

Seconded: Cr Samantha McIntosh

CARRIED

(R93/25)

8.7. COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Division: Community Wellbeing
Director: Matthew Wilson
Author/Position: Natalie Grero – Community Development Officer

PURPOSE

1. This report is presented to Council for endorsement of revised membership of the Buninyong Town Hall Community Asset Committee, the Brown Hill Hall Community Asset Committee and the Warrenheip Memorial Hall Community Asset Committee, noting that the membership has changed since it was last endorsed.

RESOLUTION:

10. That Council:

10.1 Endorse the revised membership of the Buninyong Town Hall Community Asset Committee with the addition of John Clark and Claire McKenna.

- Miranda Donald
- Sonya Sutcliffe
- Mark Jones
- Sharon Develyn
- Adam Turnbull
- Ann Gooding
- Leonie Everdeen
- Susan Pilbeam
- Ron Gilchrist
- John Clark
- Claire McKenna

10.2 Endorse the revised membership of the Brown Hill Hall Community Asset Committee with the addition of Ken Nicholls.

- Marilyn Harlock
- Reg Eden
- Kevin Norman
- Karen Norman
- Miles Hingston
- John Morris
- David Eden
- Ken Nicholls

10.3 Acknowledge the outgoing Committee member of the Warrenheip Memorial Hall Community Asset Committee - Catherine Gill and thank them for their contribution to their relevant Community.

10.4 Endorse the revised membership of the Warrenheip Memorial Hall Community Asset Committee with the resignation of Catherine Gill.

- Julie Blackmore

- **Angela Beattie**
- **Emma Carter**
- **Malcolm McCann**
- **Julian Prendergast**

Moved: Cr Ben Taylor

Seconded: Cr Ted Lapkin

CARRIED

(R94/25)

8.8. S5 INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION

Division: Corporate Services
Director: John Hausler
Author/Position: Stephanie Hosking – Statutory Governance Officer

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of the report is for Council to adopt the S5 Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer.

RESOLUTION:

14. That Council, in the exercise of the power conferred by s 11(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), resolves that:
 - 14.1 There be delegated to the person holding the position or acting in or performing the duties of Chief Executive Officer the powers, duties and functions set out in the attached Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument.
 - 14.2 The instrument comes into force immediately upon this resolution being made and is to be signed by the Council's Chief Executive Officer and the Mayor.
 - 14.3 On the coming into force of the instrument, all previous delegations to the Chief Executive Officer are revoked.
 - 14.4 The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.

Moved: Cr Ben Taylor
Seconded: Cr Des Hudson

CARRIED
(R95/25)

8.9. CONTRACTS APPROVAL DELEGATED COMMITTEE MINUTES

Division: Corporate Services
Director: John Hausler
Author/Position: Lorraine Sendall – Executive Assistant Director Corporate Services

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Council with minutes of Council's Contracts Approval Delegated Committee in accordance with the adopted Terms of Reference. This report provides minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2025 and provides a summary of information in relation to these minutes.

RESOLUTION:

6. That Council:
 - 6.1 Note, in accordance with section 66 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, that the material contained in the Contracts Approval Delegated Committee agendas has been designated confidential.
 - 6.2 Receive the Contracts Approval Delegated Committee minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2025.

Moved: Cr Ben Taylor
Seconded: Cr Jay Morrison

CARRIED
(R96/25)

8.10. OUTSTANDING QUESTION TIME ITEMS

Division: Corporate Services
Director: John Hausler
Author/Position: Stephen Wright – Governance Support Officer

PURPOSE

1. This report provides Council with an update of responses to questions taken on notice and outstanding unanswered questions from public question time.

RESOLUTION:

5. That Council:
 - 5.1 Endorse the Outstanding Question Time Report.

Moved: Cr Des Hudson
Seconded: Cr Ted Lapkin

CARRIED
(R97/25)

10. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES/COUNCILLORS

10.1. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Division: Corporate Services
Director: John Hausler
Author/Position: Sophie Brown – Governance Project Officer

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Councillors with records of meetings held under the auspices of Council for noting from Council advisory committee and stakeholder reference group meetings that took place during March and April 2025.

RESOLUTION:

6. That Council:
 - 6.1 Note the records of meetings held under the auspices of Council from Council advisory committee and stakeholder reference group meetings that took place during March and April 2025, attached to this report.
 - 6.2 From henceforth, publish written records of Council advisory committee and stakeholder group meetings such as minutes or summaries of meeting outcomes, in appropriate and easily accessible location on the Council website to enable greater transparency for the Community.

Moved: Cr Jay Morrison
Seconded: Cr Tess Morgan

CARRIED
(R98/25)

10.2. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

GB19/25 Cr Tess Morgan

Cr Tess Morgan highlighted that this past Monday was National Sorry Day, and this week is National Reconciliation Week. This is a very positive opportunity for us to stand together with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. There are activities at the Bridge Mall and at libraries that people can get involved in.

GB20/25 Cr Tess Morgan

Cr Morgan noted that while buses are not directly a Council responsibility, they still impact the local community in terms of safety access to transport and the City of Ballarat does a lot of incredible advocacy in this space. Cr Morgan noted the review of the Ballarat Bus Network was confirmed and highlighted how important this is.

Cr Morgan also noted that the live bus tracking for Ballarat is back on via the Public Transport Victoria (PTV) app. She highlighted the importance this has in relation to safety for the community when having to wait for a bus.

GB21/25 Cr Damon Saunders

Earlier this month, Cr Damon Saunders was invited to be a guest speaker at the Sienna Catholic Primary School in Lucas for the Ballarat Malayalee Association for the Easter Vishu Eid Celebration. The event was very well attended with over 280 people.

GB22/25 Cr Damon Saunders

Cr Saunders participated in the Citizenship Ceremony on 22 May with Mayor Hargreaves. This was held at the Ballarat Civic Hall and involved 88 people becoming new Australia citizens. Cr Saunders noted attendance was very high and the ceremony was run very well by City of Ballarat staff.

GB23/25 Cr Damon Saunders

On 22 May, Cr Saunders presented awards for National Volunteer Week for volunteers of the City of Ballarat aged between 13 to 25 years of age. This was held at Xtreme Bounce in Delacombe.

GB24/25 Cr Damon Saunders

As a result of several complaints received focused on Dorset Drive in Alfredton around speeding and volume, on 23 May Cr Saunders spent an hour conducting traffic observation with Charlie Cahill, Coordinator Traffic and Transport. This was during peak school pick up time, so they were able to observe the traffic and discuss various solutions.

GB25/25 Cr Damon Saunders

On 30 June, Cr Saunders will be holding his Let's Chat Ballarat at the Alfredton Recreation Reserve Pavilion at 89 Cuthberts Road, Alfredton.

GB26/25 Cr Des Hudson

Cr Des Hudson mentioned how fantastic it is to see the Ballarat Bus Review has been completed and that the local member had been able to lobby which resulted in the Minister releasing funds for this. Cr Hudson thanked the local member for doing this and mentioned others who have worked behind the scenes working towards this as well, including:

- Communications team who created the Amazing Race video.
- Robbie Cullenward and Marcus Power in the Advocacy and Lobbying who wrote multiple letters to local members, ministers and the Premier calling for the Bus Review specific to Ballarat.

- Passengers who engaged with Cr Hudson regarding the frustrations of the hub and spoke model.
- 800 residents that participated in the survey.
- Previous Mayors and Councillors who had a voice on this issue that has been going on for 5-6 years.
- Committee for Ballarat and Commerce for Ballarat who advocated for the campaign.
- Local media who supported the campaign and spread it throughout the community.
- Representatives of the Public Transport User Group.
- Heidi Biggin, a disability advocate with a guide dog that was advocating for a bus route to her local street where there was a pad but not bus route.
- Everyone else along the line that advocated for this.

GB27/25 Cr Ben Taylor

Cr Ben Taylor attended the Buninyong Senior Citizens 50th Anniversary, which was a great celebration.

GB28/25 Cr Ben Taylor

Cr Taylor noted it is a busy time in Ballarat with the Heritage Festival and the Harvest Festival that happened this past weekend, which he attended at Sovereign Hill. Cr Taylor highlighted it was a great event that brings together local produce and creators.

GB29/25 Cr Ben Taylor

Cr Taylor was a part of the Thailand delegation with a city in Thailand that is also a UNESCO city that aligned to City of Ballarat around art and folk. Cr Taylor noted they were looking at sustainable tourism and learning from Ballarat does in this space. This group spent one day in Ballarat.

GB30/25 Cr Ben Taylor

Cr Taylor met with Peter Veal, a manufacturing advocate in Ballarat and noted an email had been sent to the Councillor group regarding statistics and information on what happens around manufacturing from an economic point of view and where it is sitting at the moment. Cr Taylor noted that Peter had a great deal of insights from being in Ballarat for so long as well as the opportunities around advanced manufacturing and what that could mean for Ballarat.

GB31/25 Cr Jay Morrison

Cr Jay Morrison spoke at the launch of the Queer Goldfields Project which shares the many stories of the queer community in the gold rush era. This project is fully online and has been undertaken as a partnership between City of Ballarat and Federation University. Cr Morrison encouraged everyone in the community to view this project online.

GB32/25 Cr Jay Morrison

Cr Morrison attend the Ballarat Performing Arts Community Gala (BPAG) which showcased the impressive talent within the community and what has the potential to be a wonderful community asset if the community support the appeal.

GB33/25 Cr Jay Morrison

Cr Morrison thanked the Victorian Men's Shed Association for their invitation to the event held on 28 May. He noted 19 sheds were represented of the 330 sheds across the state. While he was there, Ambulance Victoria were giving a very informative session on the serious issue of cardiac arrest.

GB34/25 Cr Jay Morrison

Cr Morrison met with the Foto Biennale today to discuss about the plan for this year but also the importance of engaging community volunteers. Cr Morrison shared his excitement for the

upcoming program later this year which attracts tens of thousands of visitors to the city and is a strong economic driver.

GB35/25 Cr Jay Morrison

Cr Morrison has an upcoming Cuppa with a Councillor on Sunday 1 June in Ballarat North. These are now occurring bi-monthly and Cr Morrison noted it has been great to meet so many people at these events. Cr Morrison noted if anyone is interested in attending, they can reach out via social media for the details.

GB36/25 Cr Ted Lapkin

On 13 May, Cr Ted Lapkin was invited to the Community Clubs of Victoria (CCV) Forum at the Ballarat Golf Club in Alfredton. Cr Lapkin explained that in many communities the CCV serves as a social cultural lynch pin and is very important.

GB37/25 Cr Ted Lapkin

On 16 May, Cr Lapkin spoke at the National Trust Heritage Awards at Haymes Paints, noting it was a very wonderful event that recognised and celebrated achievements by individuals and groups.

GB38/25 Cr Ted Lapkin

On 22 May, Cr Lapkin participated in the Western Highway Action Group, a group of councils and community representatives along the Western Highway from Melton to the border with South Australia. Cr Lapkin noted his focus of this is the Old Melbourne Road junction.

GB39/25 Cr Ted Lapkin

Cr Lapkin attended the Men's Shed Association and noted the session he witnessed on prostate cancer was very good, and highlighted how good it was for the community to have this framework for socialisation.

GB40/25 Cr Samantha McIntosh

Cr Samantha McIntosh mentioned the Master Plan for the Ballarat Station and the importance of protecting the buildings and not letting them dilapidate. Cr McIntosh noted they must be protected and have a Master Plan that incorporates and collaborates with the rest of the heritage in the centre of town.

GB41/25 Cr Samantha McIntosh

Cr McIntosh highlighted the challenges of the Public Toilet Strategy and the Women and Girls Strategy in terms of the Eastern Oval and White Flat Oval and the public toilet facilities there. She noted community concerns are coming through on this, and in relation to women's football and disability football and a grandstand that the community deserve to access and use. Cr McIntosh highlighted the community safety and the homeless people are protected and said there was space for work to be done with the strategies.

GB42/25 Cr Samantha McIntosh

Cr McIntosh discussed public art in new development areas and noted that, in Seoul, any new development must have a public art presence. She noted that when the developer contributions come through with playgrounds and sporting ovals, art could also be considered.

GB43/25 Cr Samantha McIntosh

Cr McIntosh attended the Ballarat Performing Arts Community Gala (BPAG) and is charmed with what they are doing. She noted there is a whole group of the community that love performance in all different genres but cannot afford to hire Her Majesty's Theatre, Civic Hall

or the Mining Exchange and the solution they have come to and what more can be done to work with them.

GB44/25 Cr Samantha McIntosh

Cr McIntosh spoke about the Heritage Festival, how many people love this event, and how much more can be done to improve it in the future.

11. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

12. SECTION 66 (IN CAMERA)

RESOLUTION:

That Council resolve, pursuant to section 66 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, that the meeting be closed to members of the public at 9:38pm whilst the Council is dealing with the following matters:

Moved: Cr Ben Taylor
Seconded: Cr Ted Lapkin

CARRIED
(R99/25)

8.9 CONTRACTS APPROVAL DELEGATED COMMITTEE MINUTES

Division: Corporate Services
Director: John Hausler
Author/Position: Lorraine Sendall – Executive Assistant, Director Corporate Services

(Confidential attachments)

Pursuant to sub rule 3.13.2 of the Governance Rules, the information contained within this document is designated as confidential information for the purposes of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act). That is “confidential information” that in accordance with section 3 of the Act, is:

- (g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—
 - (i) relates to trade secrets; or
 - (ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

(Confidential report)

(g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—

- (i) relates to trade secrets; or
- (ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

That Council move out of closed Council at 9:46pm and adopt the resolutions made therein.

**CARRIED
(R101/25)**

13. CLOSE

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9:46pm.

Confirmed this **day of** **2025.**

Mayor