



City of Stirling

2022/2023 Electors' General Meeting

18 March 2024

Minutes

To: The Mayor and Councillors

Here within the Minutes of the Electors' General Meeting of the City of Stirling held Monday 18 March 2024 in the City of Stirling Council Chamber, 25 Cedric Street, Stirling.

Stevan Rodic | Chief Executive Officer

Our Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

A sustainable City with a local focus.

Mission

To serve our community by delivering efficient, responsive and sustainable service.

Values

The City of Stirling's core values are:

- Approachable
- Responsive
- Transparent
- Innovative.

Disclaimer

Members of the public should note that in any discussion regarding any planning or other application that any statement or intimation of approval made by any member or officer of the City during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not to be taken as notice of approval from the City. No action should be taken on any item discussed at a Council meeting prior to written advice on the resolution of the Council being received.

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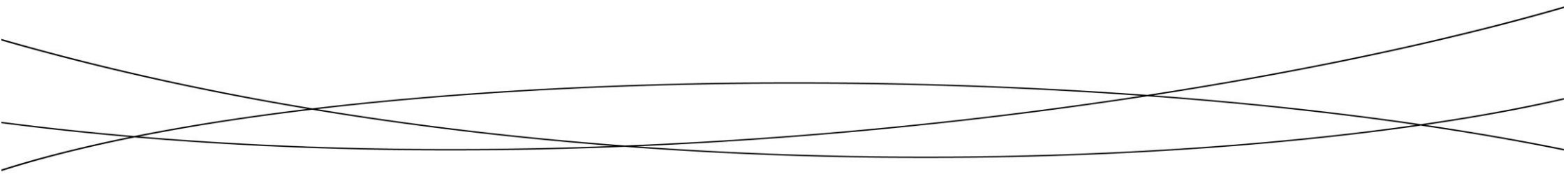


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**MINUTES OF THE 2022/2023 ELECTORS' GENERAL MEETING OF MONDAY 18 MARCH 2024
HELD IN CITY OF STIRLING COUNCIL CHAMBER, 25 CEDRIC STREET, STIRLING**

1. OFFICIAL OPENING

The Mayor welcomed the public and attendees to the City of Stirling 2022/2023 Electors' General Meeting and declared the meeting open at 6.00pm.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

ATTENDANCE

Mayor

Mayor Mark Irwin

Councillors

Councillor Andrea Creado
Councillor Michael Dudek
Councillor Joe Ferrante
Councillor Damien Giudici
Councillor Chris Hatton
Councillor Tony Krsticevic
Councillor David Lagan
Councillor Suzanne Migdale
Councillor Teresa Olow
Councillor Rob Papparde
Councillor Karlo Perkov
Councillor Stephanie Proud JP
Councillor Elizabeth Re

Employees

Chief Executive Officer - Stevan Rodic
Director Community Development - Michael Quirk
Director Corporate Services - Ingrid Hawkins
Director Infrastructure - Andrew Murphy
Director Planning and Development - Amanda Sheers
Manager Strategy and Performance - Michelle Wolsoncroft
Acting Manager Governance - Candice D'Castro
Service Lead Marketing and Communications - Caitlin Tiller
Communication and Content Officer - Scott Stirling
Community Engagement Coordinator - James Murphy
Lead Governance Officer - Regan Clyde
Lead Governance Advisor - Jackson Mawby
Senior Governance Officer - Daniel Govus
Senior Governance Officer - Amorette Kerklaan
Governance Officer - Katya Bennett

Guests

Office of the Auditor General - Renuka Venkatraman
Ernst & Young - Fiona Drummond

Public

28

Press

Nil

APOLOGIES

Councillor Lisa Thornton

3. APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

4. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mark Irwin read the Mayor's report for the Financial Year ended 2023.

5. ANNUAL REPORT INCORPORATING ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

The Director Corporate Services presented the following extract to the meeting regarding the Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023.

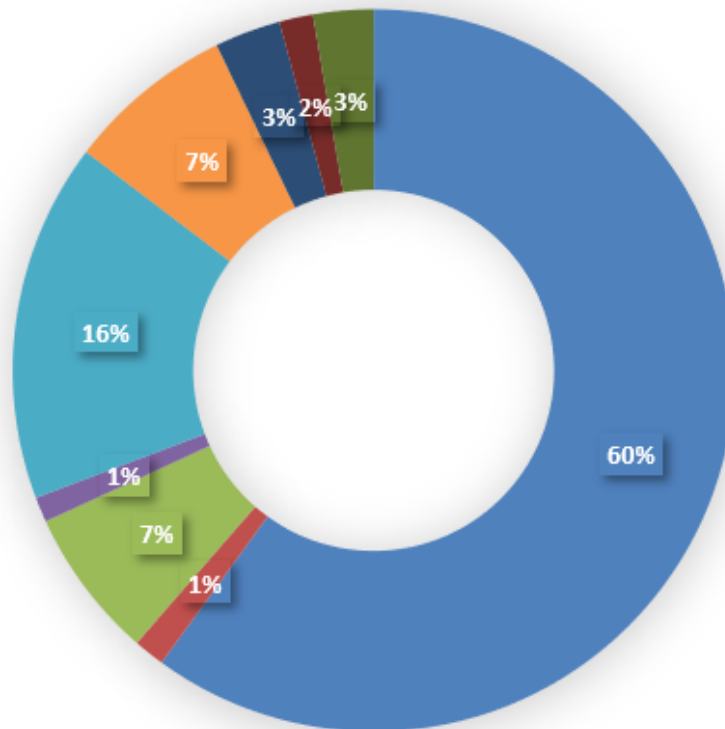


Summary Overview

Where we collect the money from	\$'m
Rates	154.3
Operating revenue	102.8
Capital grants	16.0
Proceeds from disposal of assets	2.0
Share of profit and equity of associates	6.8
Revenue	281.9
Where we spend the money	\$'m
Operating expenditure excluding non-cash amounts	(278.8)
Capital expenditure	(49.3)
Expenditure	(328.1)
Reserves, Town Planning Scheme, Trust monies and other movements	\$'m
Net transfers to Reserves, Town Planning Scheme and Trust	(24.2)
Other balance sheet movements	68.7
Net movement	44.5
Net opening and closing funds	1.7
Balanced Bottom line	0.0



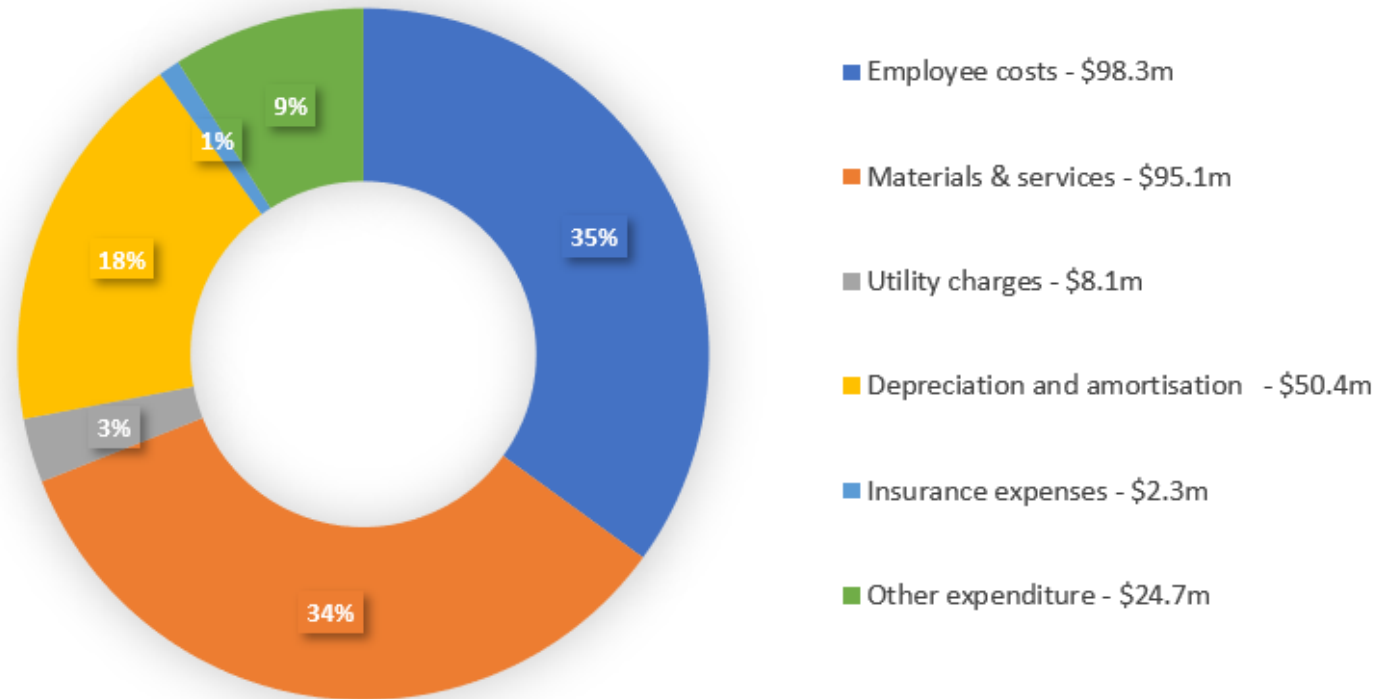
Operating Revenue



- Rates - \$154.3m
- Security service charge - \$3.6m
- Grants & subsidies - \$17.3m
- Contributions, reimbursements & donations - \$2.9m
- Waste service charge - \$41.3m
- Fees & charges - \$19.3m
- Interest revenue - \$7.6m
- Registrations/licences & permits - \$3.9m
- Other revenue - \$6.9m

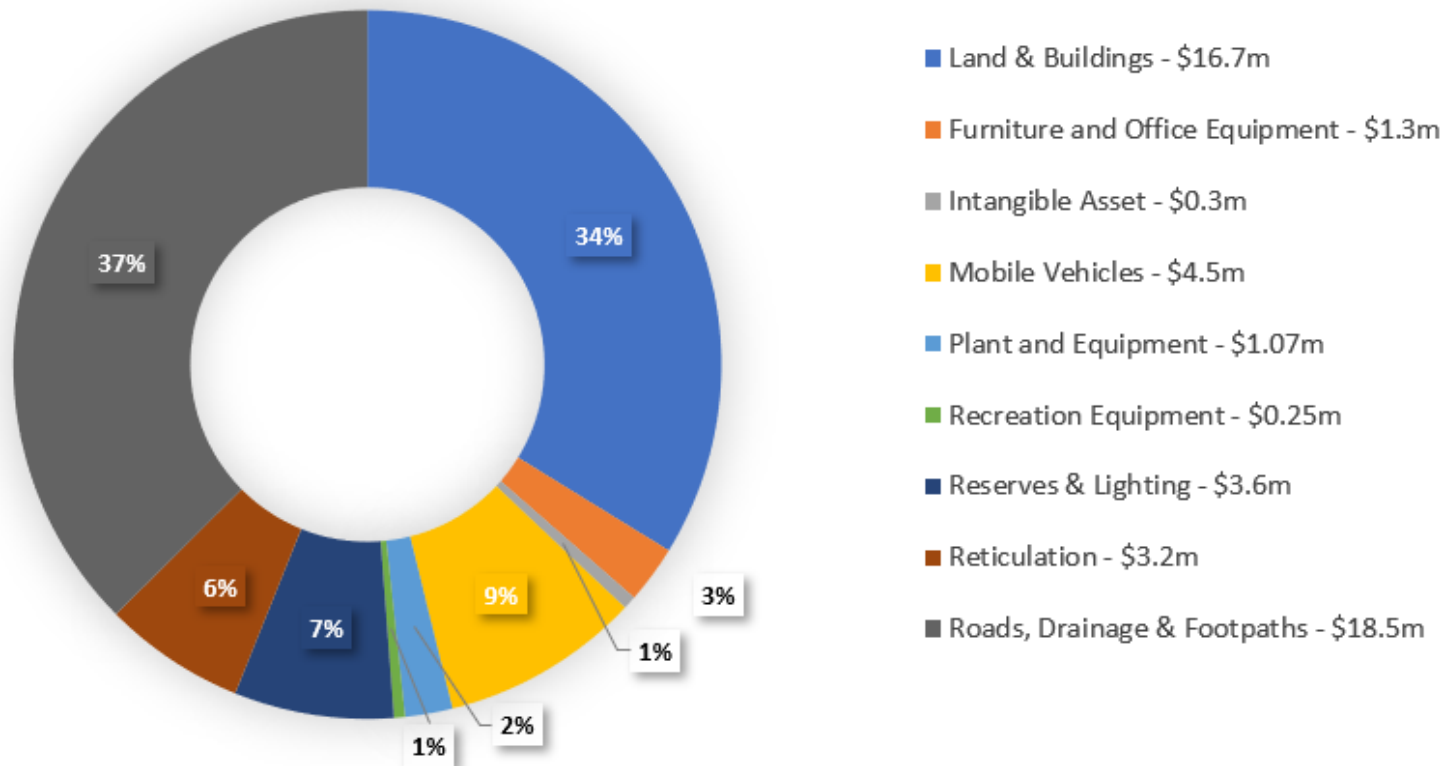


Operating Expenditure



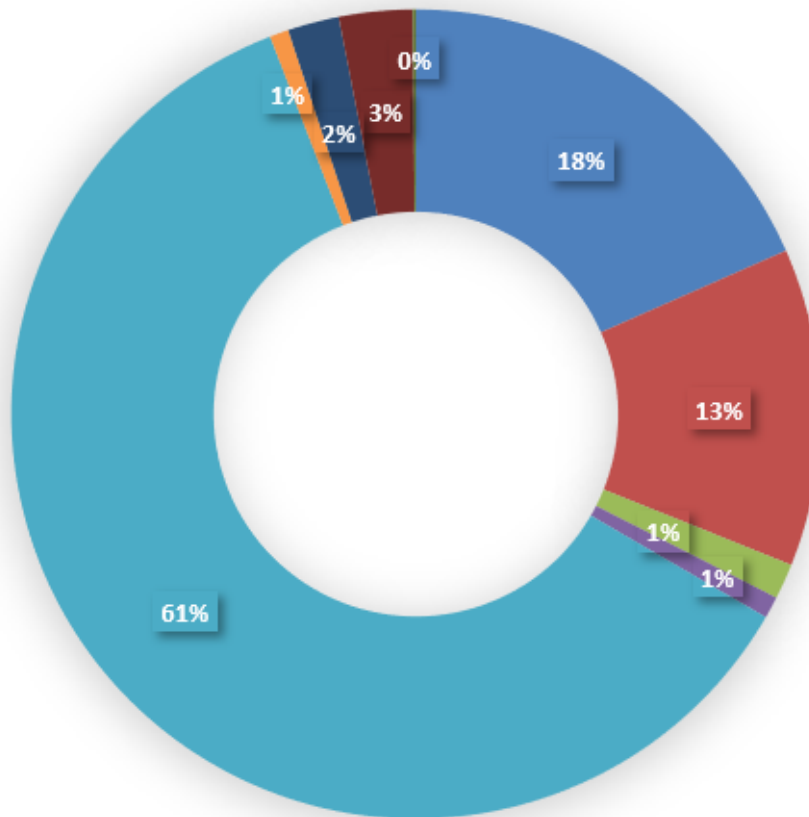


Capital Expenditure





Assets – What we own



- Land - \$446.5m
- Buildings - \$308.4m
- Plant, furniture and vehicles - \$34.5m
- Assets under construction - \$21.1m
- Roads, drainage and footpaths - \$1476m
- Other engineering infrastructure - \$18.4m
- Reserves - \$49.9m
- Reticulation & other parks infrastructure and lighting - \$71.2m
- Intangibles - \$3m

6. AUDITOR'S REPORT

Renuka Venkatraman from the Office of the Auditor General provided a summary of the Auditor General's Report regarding the City of Stirling Annual Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023.

7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Chief Executive Officer's report was included within the 'Year in Review' presentation, outlining the City's achievements and projects for the 2022/2023 Financial Year.

8. ACCEPTANCE OF THE ANNUAL REPORT INCORPORATING ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

The Mayor advised that no written questions had been received in relation to the 2022/2023 Annual Report or Financial Statements.

The Mayor then called for any questions related to the Annual Report and the Financial Statements.

8.1 L JACK

The following questions and comments were put forward by L Jack, of Karrinyup 6018 at the Electors' General Meeting held 18 March 2024.

- L Jack:** My first question is about the financial statements. I note in your Annual Report, question one, I note in your Annual Report, it's 286 pages and very comprehensive. I refer to you the statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 30th of June 2023, the profit and loss statement on page 212. You'll note on that page that the profit and loss has a significant number of financial information referenced to notes in the financial statement which are explained transactions. You'll note that the loss of disposal of assets is \$21.4 million. It's a material transaction or transactions that turned the profit of \$22.4 million into a significantly smaller profit of just under \$1 million. So, my question is, given the amount is material to the profit and loss, why was no explanation provided on how this loss occurred?
- Director Corporate Services:** With regards to that entry, that is a non-cash entry with regards to adjustment on the City's reserves and actually related to two things; \$13.7 million which related to reserves and then the other adjustment, which was actually related to our golf course and clubhouses. But that doesn't affect the profit. It is around the revaluation, and we have our revaluation reserve and further information on that is available in note eight. But that's certainly something that we've worked through with our Audit Team.
- L Jack:** Second question, related to this, question two, can you please explain how the City lost \$21.4 million on assets disposed and details behind this transaction, sorry you explained that. Now the, so you say golf club, these were obviously assets that have been devalued, right? Was a golf course devalued? Which golf club is it?
- Director Corporate Services:** It's the Hamersley Public Golf Course. With the redevelopment there in terms of the demolition of buildings, and that impacts the City's non-cash, so that's the adjustment that's going through the accounts.
- L Jack:** So why was there no explanation for that figure of material significance?
- Director Corporate Services:** The requirements through the accounting standards require that the City have that information through its note eight and that's where the City provides the breakdown of that detail of that \$21 million.
- L Jack:** Sorry I couldn't find it anywhere.

Director Corporate Services: The City can certainly provide that to you in writing, Ms Jack.

Additional Information

The \$21.4M loss on asset disposals relates to Reserves at \$13.7M and Buildings at \$6.7M. Notes 8(a) and (c) provide the figure against the asset class. The Reserves adjustment is related to an opening balance from 1995. The City is currently implementing a new Enterprise Asset Management module, consolidating asset registers and restructuring and reconciling asset data. This adjustment is an outcome of the review of all Reserve assets as they are moved to the new asset register. This is a one-off adjustment, and the City agrees that more information should have been provided in Note 8(c) to provide clarity. As noted below, the City will ensure that this is done in future years should such an adjustment be made.

L Jack: Yeah, but I couldn't find it anywhere in the Annual Report, any explanation of what that was. Going forward could figures like that have an explanation? Because, you know, you go over and above you, you know, the audience for this Annual Report are the public, as well as Councillors, who aren't all necessarily in the industry of financial management. So, could you, you know, provide that information next time as an explainer for them?

Director Corporate Services: Yes absolutely, Ms Jack. The City can always look to improve on the information it's providing. So yes, the City is happy to look at that.

L Jack: Look, this Annual Report, the CEO, former CEO, Mr Jardine, has once again given himself a near-perfect performance rating of 96%. In the corporate sector, if a CEO has a performance rating of 75%, it's considered pretty good. 96% would be virtually unheard of, maybe Qantas, that would be about it. To achieve these performance ratings, he sets very low KPIs and very high budgets that can't be missed. A company board of directors would never sign off on an annual report like this. The shareholders would riot, and the CEO would be sacked.

The Mayor: Have you got a question, Ms Jack?

L Jack: Yes. The duty of the CEO is to provide relevant, concise information that's understandable. The State Government's Annual Report, this is 286 pages, the State Government's Report is 174 and Main Roads with all their massive portfolio of projects is only 190 pages. This is full of basically self-congratulatory gloating green wash. It is, I can prove it's green washed, so I don't have a problem saying that.

The Mayor: That is a very serious allegation, Ms Jack, as you're aware.

L Jack: My question is this, will the new CEO set a higher standard of reporting, and will the Mayor and Councillors make sure that he does before signing off on Annual Reports?

The Mayor: Let's be very clear that I disagree with many of your statements there, and to be very clear it's the Council that set the KPIs for the CEO. The prior CEO has not performed at 96% at all his metrics, it was one metric that was mentioned, the customer satisfaction you saw on the video. Other metrics in there, which are KPIs set by this Council, are measured and they certainly weren't 96%.

I utterly reject any green washing in the Annual Report. I will say that the Annual Report incorporating the Annual Financial Statements has been measured against the sector through an independent Australasian Reporting Awards and was awarded best in sector. So, I beg to differ. The Council certainly will set the KPIs for the new CEO. Your next question?

L Jack: The Million Trees Initiative is a false and misleading title. Can you please change that back? Last time I complained about that years ago you changed it back to the Million Trees and Plants, or sorry, Million Trees and Shrubs Project. That would be great if you could do that. My question, is will you change that back to the Million Trees and Shrubs Initiative?

The Mayor: Thank you, the City will take that on notice and consider it.

Additional Information

For the past decade, the City has used the banner title of 'Million Trees' for the program's promotion. When the program was first initiated, the mix of vegetation was decided as follows: *"The 'million trees' will consist of a mixture of native and exotic species of varying vegetation types (mainly trees, large shrubs but with some small shrubs and groundcovers) to ensure that maximum vegetation cover across the City can be achieved."*

In this current financial year (2023/2024), the Million Trees Initiative is now referred to as the 'City Greening Initiative' to be more reflective of the planting of trees and other plants to improve biodiversity across the City.

The City reports planting numbers of both trees and shrubs each year in its annual report. The City will reach its program target next year – 2025. It has been very successful in increasing the City's greening efforts for the past 15 years.

L Jack:

Once again, sorry this is just about the Annual Financial Report and Statements, so my other questions relate to this meeting which is a separate thing.

The Mayor:

You will be asked back for those later on.

8.2 P COLLINS

The following questions and comments were put forward by P Collins, of Dianella 6059 at the Electors' General Meeting held 18 March 2024.

- P Collins:** I think it's good that you have the Financial Statements in a separate document because it is a very long Annual Report. Since 2019, Mr Mayor, the Council has had deficit after deficit after deficit on net operating activities, and as a Council watcher going back since about 2005, I'm not aware that we ever had net operating deficits prior to that. So, we had a \$3 million deficit in 2019, a \$10 million deficit in 2020, a \$13 million deficit in 2021, a \$6.4 million deficit in 2022 and a \$1 million deficit in 2023. My question to the Auditor is, does the Auditor have any concerns regarding the continued run of deficits from an operating perspective?
- The Mayor:** Mr Collins, you will be passed to the Director Corporate Services to start, then maybe across to the Auditor.
- Director Corporate Services:** With regards to the deficit, particularly you mentioned the 2020 year with COVID as well, what the City looks to do is to fund through the reserves. So that's why we do see years where we have what you're considering an operating deficit, but that is being funded through reserves and a decision of Council with regards to that. So, year on year the City is making that decision, but there's not a deficit. It is just in terms of how Council determines to fund the expenditure within that particular year.
- Fiona Drummond, Ernst and Young:** No, we don't have any concerns with respect to the deficit. As the CFO said, there is funding through the reserve accounts as well. Some of those years you referred to included COVID and obviously some relief through that process as well and you can see that there is a small operating loss this year. You wouldn't expect that the Council would be making significant profits from ratepayers.
- P Collins:** I think that's a very important metric, Mr Mayor, through you, for Councillors to focus on the operating activities of Council, and it is pleasing to see that it is back down to a negative \$1 million and given our budget, but it would be nice to get back into surplus so that we can be pumping some money into reserves rather than taking away from reserves.
- So, then you ask yourself, well, why is it that the money still keeps growing at the bank? And when I look at the investing activities, I see that there was a budget of capital expenditure this year of \$82.5 million, but we only spent \$49.3 million. Why is that?

-
- Director Corporate Services:** Mr Collins, I just go back to your comment there about the reserves. When the City does its budgeting Council does make a determination to put money into the reserve each year. So, the City is ensuring that within its budget process it continues to top up the reserve so that the City can deal with those major corporate projects, so it's not pulling on rates in a particular year. I just wanted to touch on that. With regards to the investments, sorry, let me have that question again?
- P Collins:** So, you go down the Financial Statements. We've looked at operating activities, and then you go down to financing, which is a nothing line. There's no financing activities because we're not borrowing any money. And then you go over the page, and I think we're going down to page 217, and we're at investing activities. Can that be seen there?
- Director Corporate Services:** Yes.
- P Collins:** So, we had a budget this year of—sorry, beg your pardon, last financial year, of spending \$82.5 million, but I noticed that only \$49 million was spent. That's a significant shortfall to me. Why was that shortfall there?
- Director Corporate Services:** In terms of investing activities, again, part of that is due to the City's multi-year projects as well. So, within budgeting, the City is allowing for those major capital projects that go over multi-years, and therefore is looking at pulling down money from reserves. Now, some of those timelines have shifted, which then means that the City has a difference in terms of its investing activities that happen year on year. The City continues to look at ensuring that cash flow is appropriate for those projects.
- P Collins:** It does, would you agree, it does seem a significant, compared to previous years, a significant discrepancy, and would it suggest that perhaps the Council is biting too many capital projects than it can really chew?
- The Mayor:** This year, and the last few years, the Inglewood Aquatic Centre, the Hamersley Golf Course, and the Recycling Centre Balcatta are indeed three very significant projects with very significant budgets. The timeline has a real material effect on those figures you see. The City is confident it's not biting off too many projects, there are just some really big significant projects.
- P Collins:** But if you're not spending \$30 million on capital projects, so I'm just wondering that capital expenditure, would, for instance, road resurfacing, would that fall under capital expenditure?
-

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- Director Corporate Services:** Yes, the City's road program falls under capital. So yes, Mr Collins.
- P Collins:** So, it's not really clear, is it, where the shortfall is under capital expenditure? Is the shortfall, as the Mayor is explaining, on not being able to deliver projects? I can understand in the building industry at the moment, if you're delivering new projects. Or is it a failure to deliver our bread and butter, say, for example, road resurfacing?
- Director Corporate Services:** What the City provides each year when it sets the budget is the capital program, but it also shows the carry forwards there. So, if you go to the City's budget document for 2022/2023 and equally 2023/2024, you'll see the capital program and there it notes what the carry forward is. You'll be able to see the majority of that are these multi-year projects with significant amounts. So, we make that available when we set the budget.
- P Collins:** Okay, and may I please have an update, Mr Mayor, on the progress in relation to accrued leave, staff leave, compared to the previous financial year?
- Director Corporate Services:** Yes, the City continues to work on its leave liability. The City has seen a significant reduction in staff annual leave. Long service leave tends to fluctuate down but has gone back up. With regards to overall leave, excess annual leave is down now to a matter of five weeks. Long service leave is now under 800 weeks.
- The City continues to work on planning those longer breaks with its Teams. But, yes, certainly the City has had an impact on those, and you will have noted from the Auditor's Report that that's no longer a finding or a recommendation.
- P Collins:** That's very pleasing, that's good. And, Mr Mayor, just on relation, going back as I was thinking there, on that page 217, and I'm talking of the Annual Report because, is it possible to get a breakdown on that short fall of capital expenditure?
- The Mayor:** Yes, the City will provide that to you in writing, Mr Collins.

Additional Information

The main areas of underspend against the capital program were as follows:

- \$13.3M fleet replacement associated with extended lead times
- \$7.4M major and strategic multi-year projects such as Hamersley Public Golf Course, Recycling Centre Balcatta and Terry Tyzack Aquatic Centre redevelopment
- \$6M commercial property acquisition which is dependent on market and appropriate investment
- \$3.5M drainage program related to material and resource supply
- \$2.6M building renewal program related to material and resource supply.

This is reflected in the City's 2023/2024 Annual Budget which can be found on the City's [website](#).

P Collins:

Well, thank you very much and thank you for the opportunity, always in sufficient time in providing the Annual Report and providing ratepayers who generally regularly attend these meetings with a note that they are available and also mentioning it in the Stirling Scene they're available. I very much appreciate it, it's sufficient time.

The Mayor:

Thank you.

8.3 S WHEELER

The following questions and comments were put forward by S Wheeler, of Scarborough 6019 at the Electors' General Meeting held 18 March 2024.

- S Wheeler:** Mayor Irwin, I only have one quick question on the Annual Report. On page 173, under wildlife recovery, the pest control program resulted in removal from our natural areas of 25 cats. The question is, what happened to those 25 cats and how many were returned to the environment?
- Director Community Services:** Mr Wheeler, I would have to get confirmation on each of those cats. None of them would have been returned to the environment. They would have most likely gone to the Cat Haven. If it was a registered cat, it would have been returned to its owner.
- The City will have clear advice on what happened to each and every one of those cats and will provide you with a response in writing.
- S Wheeler:** Thank you. Mayor Irwin, I'm sure this is the case, but the City doesn't undertake trap and release in any form, does it?
- The Mayor:** No, it doesn't.
- S Wheeler:** One more question on that, Mayor Irwin. Does the figure of 25 include multiple trappings of the same cat or are these unique cats? Or have—sorry, more to the point—has the same cat been caught several times?
- The Mayor:** I'm guessing we can't answer that tonight, but the City does have that information. Council were provided with a workshop recently, and there's some detailed information sitting behind on those figures. The City is happy to provide all that to you in writing.

Additional Information

Of all the cat captures, one cat was a repeat capture, none were returned to the environment, one semi-feral was euthanised, seven were reclaimed by their owners and the remaining were processed by the Cat Haven for adoption.

- S Wheeler:** Fantastic. Just quickly, Mayor Irwin, with regard to something Ms Jack said about the Annual Report talking about the 96% overall community satisfaction figure.
- If I were to stand on the corner of Scarborough Beach Road and Brighton and give out free money, I wouldn't get a 96% satisfaction rating. Some people would think I'm not giving enough. Some people would think that I'm stark raving mad. Some people would think I'm giving more to others, and not to them. Mayor Irwin, only those who have had all of their critical faculties surgically removed, believe that there's a 96% customer satisfaction survey in the City of Stirling. And I think Ms Jack's comment should be taken in line with that. That's more of a statement.
- The Mayor:** Happy to take your statement. My comment was around it certainly wasn't on all the metrics for the CEO, as was intimated in the comment.
- S Wheeler:** I understand that Mayor Irwin, but its lies, damn lies and statistics, and if one of them is wrong, what faith can we have in the rest of them?
- The Mayor:** Happy to provide you that in writing, but it certainly is an independent statistic. Whilst we all know that you may stand on the corner, and that may be the case, it is a metric that the City is proud of and will use because it is independently certified.

Additional Information

Each year the City conducts an Annual Residents' Satisfaction Survey to measure resident satisfaction with various City services and facilities. The survey is conducted by an independent agency to provide an unbiased opinion of the City's performance in line with Standard ISO 20252 which is the international standard for market, opinion and social research.

The result of 96% satisfaction rating is not in reference to the performance of the CEO. It is in relation to the question in the survey that asks 'How satisfied are you overall with the service provided by the City of Stirling.' In 2023, 96% of respondents were found to be either satisfied or very satisfied.

This question has been included in the City's Annual Residents' Satisfaction Survey for the past 22 years. The result in 2023 was the highest result that the City has received since the survey commenced.

8.4 R MURPHY

The following questions and comments were put forward by R Murphy, of Karrinyup 6018 at the Electors' General Meeting held 18 March 2024.

- R Murphy:** I have a question in relation to the Annual Report, or to the Report that was made tonight by the CEO in relation to tree canopy. As I understood, the Report said that there's an aim for 18% tree canopy in the City of Stirling by 2040.
- The Mayor:** Yes.
- R Murphy:** So that is the correct figure?
- The Mayor:** Yes, that is still the correct figure.
- R Murphy:** Okay, can I ask the question then, does this include any tree protection orders to achieve that rather low figure? Is there anything that the City is doing to protect trees on private property? Is the City considering, when it's looking at tree canopy, public health issues in relation to that? And could we please know what the percentage will be on an annual basis leading up to 2040, which seems to be an extraordinarily low tree canopy for that period of time, considering that the City of Sydney currently has 20% tree canopy? I really think the City has to lift its game in relation to that, but perhaps my questions could be answered.
- The Mayor:** I'll get a brief response from the Director Planning and Development; the City may have to respond to some of these in writing. Whilst the perception is it's a low target, it's still an extremely large target in terms of being realistic. The City is still very concerned it will not reach that target. It's a hard comparison with the City of Sydney; the City of Stirling is a very different make up and 100km².
- Director Planning and Development:** With regard to any particular controls on private land, the City is unable to do that at this stage. The City does try and work through with development applications that come through the door, so it offers a number of services to try and incentivise applicants keeping trees on their properties. But there's nothing the City can do at this stage to mandate them to retain trees. The City often finds that they might keep them through a subdivision process and then, unfortunately, when they come to lodge a development application for a house, those trees are removed. Sometimes the trees are located in unusual spots on the block as well, which makes them difficult to retain.

The City has a number of initiatives it offers applicants to try and retain trees. This includes a free arborist service as well as working with applicants to help them design around a particular tree on a property. The City also will prioritise assessment of applications that do retain trees. The City is doing what it can in the space that's limited in terms of what it can mandate with tree protection. Additionally, at the moment the City has a scheme amendment with the State Government for consideration which is a voluntary tree protection register. It enables people to put their own trees on that register for protection. Tree protection is very difficult to control on private land at this stage.

R Murphy: My other question was in relation to tree protection orders. Are there any plans to put those into effect? I know they can be done.

Director Planning and Development: Unfortunately, no, that's not something the City can do at this stage on private land.

R Murphy: I would appreciate, Mr Mayor, a more thorough response in writing. I'd also like to know, it's easy to say we can't do it, but I'd like to know why.

The Mayor: Sure. The City is happy to provide you any of the recent Council motions and any information around those and the discussions that happened around those private tree orders.

Additional Information

The City is aware there a number of local governments in Western Australia that use tree protection orders to retain tree canopy, however, the City's Local Planning Scheme does not contain such a provision.

To clarify, the City's officers acknowledge the ability to include Tree Protection Order provisions into a Local Planning Scheme, however, the ability to do so relies on State Government approving such changes. It is the City's officers' experience that there are significant delays in State Government considering changes to Local Planning Schemes relating to tree protection.

A recent example is the City's attempt to introduce a Protected Tree Register provision into its Local Planning Scheme. This change dates back to a decision of Council in November 2022 relating to introduce a voluntary Protected Tree Register and highlights current difficulties in introducing tree protection controls into Local Planning Schemes.

The announcement by the State Government of its decision to prepare a Perth and Peel Urban Greening Strategy, the purpose of which is to develop an urban greening strategy to help make Perth and Peel greener, cooler and more liveable into the future, may result in a consistent State Government approach to tree canopy protection being implemented across the Perth and Peel area, allowing local government to better address tree canopy loss.

The City's Urban Forest Plan is the City's strategic document prepared to maintain and seek to grow the City's urban tree canopy, and which recognises that tree canopy is essential for human health and wellbeing.

Before this plan was adopted by Council, the City had already begun to implement changes to grow the City's tree canopy. In October 2017, the City introduced requirements into its Local Planning Scheme requiring trees to be planted on private land and was one of the first local governments in Western Australia to do so. This change also sought to minimise the removal of significant trees on private land as a consequence of development.

The City has also proactively engaged with the development industry to try and identify what planning incentives might be attractive to encourage trees to be retained on private land. The City has also introduced a priority assessment programme which allows development proposals that retain significant trees to be prioritised, as well as providing information and professional services to identify options for tree retention, planting and canopy growth when planning a development.

Most recently, the City has commenced an amendment to its Local Planning Scheme to allow the City to establish a Voluntary Protected Tree Register. Once established, trees on the register would be protected through the City's Local Planning Scheme. In placing a tree on the register, owners would agree that to having a notification placed on the Certificate of Title of any property that notifies future owners that the tree is protected, and to care for the Protected Tree.

R Murphy: May I ask a second question?

The Mayor: Yes, you may.

R Murphy: It relates to staff at the City of Stirling. Is there a requirement to the City of Stirling for reporting on a gender pay gap? I note that the national gender pay gap is 12%, in Western Australia it's 21.7% and this is on full time adult, average, weekly and ordinary time earnings and that gap is obviously between male employees and female employees. Does the City report on that?

Director Corporate Services:

With regards to the Annual Report, on page 59 the City provides the male-female split with regards to certain bandings. So, from \$130,000 up to give a feel for what the split is. The City doesn't have to report on the actual gender pay difference, but it does set targets with its equal opportunities plan and that's one of the things that it will look at going forward.

R Murphy:

I wonder if I could also receive a reply in writing in relation to the gender pay gap and what the City's policies are in relation to that? I thought it was mandatory to report actually, but perhaps I'm wrong.

The Mayor:

Yes, the City will respond to you in writing. Thank you for your questions.

Additional Information

The Gender Equality Reporting program is managed by the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA), with the Public Sector excluded from this requirement. In relation to remuneration, the majority of the City's employees are covered by industrial agreements which determine a level of pay associated with a role. For those employed under the industrial agreement their pay would be the same regardless of gender – it would be determined by the role and therefore the pay attached to that role. The City can have multiple people in the same role, and all would be paid the same regardless of gender.

Positions within the City that are not covered by the industrial agreements are employed under Common Law Contracts. These are for individual, specialist roles where the City does not have more than one person in the same role and therefore no pay gap between any individual occupying the same role. The remuneration for these roles is based on a work value points system determined by several factors including complexity and responsibility of the role. The City's remuneration strategy for these common law contracts is based on this points system along with factors such as market movement and performance.

8.5 R MITCHELL

The following question and comment were put forward by R Mitchell, of Karrinyup 6018 at the Electors' General Meeting held 18 March 2024.

R Mitchell: On the annual financial statements, I'd like to ask a question in relation to insurance. I'd like for it to be included in the Annual Report, what the differential is between the purchase of insurance for built form and general equipment and things for the City of Stirling, separate and distinct from anything to do with workers compensation. What I want to know is the differential between 2019, the gross cost of the insurance that year and what it is for this year? And I'd just like to know those two things in relation to the Council's finance.

The Mayor: The City will provide you all the details and updates in writing.

Additional Information

The expenditure on insurance for 2018/19 and 2022/23, and the budgeted amount for 2023/24 is shown in the table below.

Category	Actual		Budget
	2018/19 \$	2022/23 \$	2023/24 \$
Workers Compensation	1,327,998	1,186,748	1,163,286
Public Liability	919,587	1,023,847	1,123,651
Property	357,455	502,539	577,903
Motor Vehicle	327,704	315,912	363,298
	2,932,744	3,029,045	3,228,138

There being no further questions relating to the Annual Report and Financial Statements, the Mayor called for a mover and seconder to accept the 2022/2023 Annual Report.

Moved Councillor David Lagan, seconded Councillor Suzanne Migdale

That the Annual Report for the City of Stirling for the year 2022/2023, incorporating the 2022/2023 Annual Financial Statements and the 2022/2023 Auditor's Report, be ACCEPTED

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

The Mayor called for any items of general business from the floor.

The Mayor also advised that while any motions moved by electors are non-binding on the Council, the City will ensure that each motion is addressed within a report for Council's consideration.

9.1 S WHEELER

The following comments and motions were put forward by S Wheeler, of Scarborough WA 6019 at the Electors' General Meeting held 18 March 2024, on behalf of the Stirling Tree Canopy and Advocates Association.

S Wheeler

Mayor, I have six motions that I want to put forward. I'm putting them forward on behalf of the Stirling Tree Canopy and Advocates Association, who are part of the West Australian Tree Canopy Advocates Association who will probably not agree with my first sentence. The Honourable Minister, who you were talking about earlier, for Planning, John 'Chainsaw' Carey as some have now branded him, has recently knocked back the proposed Medium Density Codes which would have required more open space for tree retention, planting and outdoor living space in order to provide a healthier, more sustainable and more amenable environments, which mostly would have applied to infill development where most tree loss occurs. The Minister has also refused to accept the Western Australian Planning Commission's approved Scheme amendments for Nedlands and South Perth that include protections designed to stimulate counter-protection in those districts; and is currently in the process of stripping other Local Government Area's proposed Planning Schemes of anything that may protect the urban forest.

Listening to an answer earlier from the Director Planning and Development, I understand the position that the Council finds itself in. The current State Government's clear Policy of 'somewhere to live' rather than 'somewhere one might want to live', or indeed even 'somewhere liveable', is problematic when it comes to the Council putting policy, that may have to go through the Minister, only to be refused. I urge you all to do the right thing regardless. You may not want to do something, but something must be done.

The Scheme of the Local Government Elected Members Association notes in their Canopy Policy the statutory obligations under the *Local Government Act 1995* specify that the general function of a Local Government must be performed, in regard to a list that includes the need to promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the district to plan for mitigating risks associated with climate change and in making decisions to consider potential long-term consequences and impacts on future generations.

The City has accepted, quite openly and honestly, that its Urban Forest Strategy has not worked in the past, is not working now, and is not going to work in the future. You have been upfront with that. I do not think I need to go into the benefits of the urban canopy, or trees in general, or the health and the benefit of the urban canopy for the community. Your own policies already do that.

The following motions should be addressed with reference to Council's responsibilities as prescribed in the Act, and bear in mind that neither Local Laws nor Local Policy are subject to ministerial approval. In saying that, Mayor, my first motion would be subject to ministerial approval, but I will move it nonetheless.

MOTION 9.1/1

Moved Simon Wheeler, on behalf of the Stirling Tree Canopy and Advocates Association, seconded Felicity Farrelly

That the City of Stirling includes in its draft Local Planning Scheme No.4 provisions to achieve tree protection on private property through the insertion of the following into Schedule A: Supplemental Provisions to the Deemed Provisions:

Clause 60A:

No person shall remove a tree (which includes ring barking, cutting down, topping, lopping, removing, pruning, transplanting, filling or excavating around, injuring, or wilful destruction) that meets the following criteria unless development approval has been granted in accordance with Part 8 of the Deemed Provisions:

- a. Tree height of 8m or greater; or***
- b. Canopy width of 6m or greater; or,***
- c. A total trunk circumference of 1.5m, and where the tree has multiple trunks average trunk circumferences of 625mm, measured at 1.4m above ground level; or***
- d. Is on a Significant Tree Register.***

And to add the relevant additions to Clause 61 for circumstances where Clause 60A can be bypassed.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

S Wheeler:

Mayor, the City will be aware of the Western Australia Local Government Association Model Local Planning Policy for Tree Retention that has been distributed to Western Australia Local Government Association members. It is far too long for me to read out today, but for the benefit of the members of the public who I'm hopeful will vote for this motion, Western Australia Local Government Association policy aims to encourage and facilitate the protection of trees and canopy by: providing a clear definition of a regulated tree; clarify when a development application is required for tree damaging activity; prioritise retention, protection, and the provision of trees on private land; promote and facilitate tree preservation; enhance neighbourhood amenity, character and sense of place; mitigate the urban heat island effect; reduce air pollution; improve groundwater quality and contribute to biodiversity and other environmental benefits. I note that the Western Australia Local Government Association have managed to write a whole daft policy on Tree Retention without using the phrase 'climate change'. Nonetheless, I wish to raise the motion on behalf of the Stirling Tree Canopy Advocates.

MOTION 9.1/2

Moved Simon Wheeler, on behalf of the Stirling Tree Canopy and Advocates Association, seconded Felicity Farrelly

That the City of Stirling adopt WALGA's Model Local Planning Policy for Tree Retention in its entirety which has the effect of defining a regulated tree as works that require development approval.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

S Wheeler:

I will skip the pre-amble for the next one, Mayor. You have already spoken about how the City accepts that there's a problem with the tree canopy. Overall, canopy cover in Perth is 16%, the hottest city in the hottest state with the least canopy of any major Australian city, with the City of Stirling sitting at 12%. The Western Australia Local Government Association supports a 30% minimum canopy cover for Perth and Peel regions by 2040. The Local Government Elected Members Association also supports 30% minimum targets by 2040. Doctorates in Environment, and other experts in this field state that the optimal tree canopy target for housing areas is 30%. The Annual Report on page 175 itself states that the value of tree canopy is not simply the number of trees in the area and it cannot be overstated.

MOTION 9.1/3

Moved Simon Wheeler, on behalf of the Stirling Tree Canopy and Advocates Association, seconded Leisha Jack

That the City of Stirling commits to a tree canopy target of 30% by 2040 supported by appropriate planning and policy changes, funding, monitoring and annual reporting.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

S Wheeler:

Mayor, a motion of mine from last year at the Electors General Meeting was noted in Council as potentially being problematic in regard to private property rights. The private property rights go both ways, Mayor. I'm aware of a Stirling landowner who has a healthy significant tree, a forty-year-old mature gum on their own property, which all parties agree will become unstable and require removal due to building work from an approved development at an adjacent block. The ratepayer was told correctly by City staff that the City cannot help protect the tree in those circumstances, if the work was to affect a structure on their property, then yes, they could do something about it – that's verbatim. But currently privately owned trees do not count even when they are on their own land. And if my soon-to-be regurgitated final motion fails at any point due to concerns over private property rights, then logically this motion should be adopted without issue.

MOTION 9.1/4

Moved Simon Wheeler, on behalf of the Stirling Tree Canopy and Advocates Association, seconded Katie Madden

That Council resolves, subject to officer reports and the outcomes of public consultation, that the City disallow via a local law, building or demolition permits or building or demolition work to commence where such works will - in the opinion of an authorised officer - adversely affect other land to the extent that those works will kill or cause the death of significant trees on adjoining private property.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

S Wheeler: My motion from last year, Mayor. This is the same motion, but with a few extra words, and resolves the clear-felling in the City of Stirling

MOTION 9.1/5

Moved Simon Wheeler, on behalf of the Stirling Tree Canopy and Advocates Association, seconded Felicity Farrelly

That Council resolves, subject to officer reports and the outcomes of public consultation, to implement via a Local Law a City-wide ban on the clear-felling of development sites or the removal of significant trees on such sites in the absence of a development approval and a building permit - linked to that development approval.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

S Wheeler: Last one, Mayor Irwin

The Mayor: You've said that twice now!

S Wheeler: At least my counting is better than Roland Hadley. It's the same way he gets on. Mayor, the City on 30 May 2023 had voted to give the authority for tree removals on golf courses under the Street Trees Policy to the tree delegates. Previously referred to as the Tree Committee, despite appearing only to consist of the tree delegates and I assume a mirror. Now, the City of Stirling has some very good Tree Policies, and it's very sensible. And obviously, when a tree is diseased or dying on a verge or on reserves and stuff like that, it needs to come down. That's not the sort of thing that needs to come to Council every single time, I perfectly accept that. However, in the case of the Mount Lawley Golf Club, 94 trees were removed with the knowledge of the tree delegates that were not reported to Council. I do not think that one person should have the power to do that. So again, it wasn't a single dying tree, it was 94 trees. So my motion, Mayor Irwin, is that...

MOTION 9.1/6

Moved Simon Wheeler, on behalf of the Stirling Tree Canopy and Advocates Association, seconded Leisha Jack

That approvals for tree removal from all City managed reserves including Class A reserves, other than those requiring removal due to death or disease or in the case that a tree presents some actual physical danger - be subject to Council for approval and/or that a list of notifications of requested removals be made available to Council prior to any authorisation being given by the tree delegate with a `call in` process being made available to Councillors for proposed tree removals.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

9.2 P COLLINS

The following comments and motions were put forward by P Collins, of Dianella WA 6059 at the Electors' General Meeting held 18 March 2024.

P Collins: Mr Mayor, I've been to other Cities' and Local Authorities', Annual Electors Meetings, and this is one of the most organised and civil, so thank you very much.

Just a small pre-amble. Being in Mount Lawley, the really only theatre in the City of Stirling is the Astor Theatre. The City of Stirling is, I understand, one of the largest local authorities in Australia, and what it lacks is a performing arts theatre, hence the following motion.

MOTION 9.2/1

Moved Paul Collins, seconded Kieran Kelly

That the City of Stirling INITIATE the planning and construction of a performing arts theatre with a stage large enough for an orchestra as a Western Australian Bicentenary Project to open in 2029.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

P Collins: Number two, that the City of Stirling investigate options, sorry, one of the largest regional reserves in the eastern side of our City and heavily used is Yokine Reserve. However, Alexander Drive is impossible to sometimes cross as a pedestrian.

MOTION 9.2/2

Moved Paul Collins, seconded Felicity Farrelly

That the City of Stirling INVESTIGATE options for an underpass or overpass across Alexander Drive to connect the Terry Tyzack Aquatic Centre with Yokine Reserve.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

P Collins:

Mr Mayor, I'm finding that a lot of our local parks, near where I live and as I travel around the city, are becoming tree museums. The grass is being removed, the reticulation is being lifted and is now, even with a public playground, very little opportunity to picnic, sit under a tree, entertain oneself on grass under a shady tree. Even the ability to sit under a tree at Breckler Park and watch a premier grade cricket match, which includes some of our state representatives, is now impossible because all the grass was removed, and it was completely mulched. So, the motion is hence this...

MOTION 9.2/3

Moved Paul Collins, seconded Simon Wheeler

That the City of Stirling ENSURES before the end of Financial Year 2024/2025 every local park or reserve under its responsibility has sufficient green grass suitable for sitting, picnicking, or entertaining under shady trees.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

P Collins:

Mr Mayor, one of the busiest roads in our local authority is Hutton Street, crossing the freeway. And there's a simple solution, and hence the following motion...

MOTION 9.2/4

Moved Paul Collins, seconded Felicity Farrelly

That the City of Stirling EXTENDS the Mitchell Freeway southbound entry lane off Hutton Street all the way to the intersection with Hamilton Street to reduce traffic congestion.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

MOTION 9.2/5

Moved Paul Collins, seconded Simon Wheeler

That the City of Stirling RETICULATE and MAINTAIN arterial median reserves under its responsibility such as Alexander Drive to a greater standard than has been occurring by at least ensuring sufficient grass coverage.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

9.3 M ZACZEK

The following questions and comments were put forward by M Zaczek, of Scarborough WA 6019 at the Electors' General Meeting held 18 March 2024.

M Zaczek:

My first question was about pedestrian crossing in West Coast Highway from Pearl Parade to Ventnor Street. It is really hard for residents to cross it, especially in the rush hour in the morning and afternoon. There's a problem as well during the Sunset Markets. It is very busy and it is really hard, especially with all those visitors parking on the other side of West Coast Highway. So, the question is, is there any plan or idea how to help with that? And I understand there is this maybe an idea, not planning it, for the sinking of West Coast Highway, but there's no timeline really and we have to cross the highway today. So, it is quite important to, especially with those new developments that are happening on both sides of West Coast Highway, there will be much more residents crossing and very busy.

The Mayor:

Thank you. I will give you a quick response. Then the Director Infrastructure can add some extra comments. At the moment, as you're probably aware, there is an all-side pedestrian crossing at the main intersection, which is really the only safe way, at grade to do that. The City is currently investigating into Pearl Parade, at that end, to have a look at how that can be safer, because there are some big developments there that are creating danger trying to cross that particular road. In one of the previous development applications that went through for the corner site there, there was a proposed overpass, which was unfortunate that it did not get up. In the end that development has not occurred anyway, but something along those lines would certainly be supported by the City. Currently, the planning framework for the future sinking of West Coast Highway, whilst the City is supportive of that, one of the key components we envisage is that it needs connectivity across both sides to create that whole Scarborough environment. So, we're certainly concerned with how it is active at the moment.

Director Infrastructure:

The first thing to say is that West Coast Highway is not under the control of the City, it's under the control of Main Roads Western Australia, unfortunately. So, the City's understanding at the moment, is there are no plans to improve pedestrian crossing points, or, your question also mentions cycling, so there's no specific plans to improve either those crossings or cycling infrastructure. Having said that, the City does have an ongoing conversation with Main Roads Western Australia, and the City is happy to take your question to them and see if they have anything to add. The City certainly supports any improvements; we understand the difficulties in crossing between those two intersections.

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- M Zaczek:** Can I add as well to that question, the landscaping of West Coast Highway on this? There is no trees, so there is no shade, really, and it is not really aesthetic to go there.
- The Mayor:** Thanks for that comment, I think that was alluded to with Mr Collins' comment. Interestingly, Council had a strategic planning day on Saturday, and it was probably a common theme. All Councillors brought up, in terms of those main arterial roads leading into our districts, whether it be into Mount Lawley, Yokine, Hamersley or Scarborough, because often they are under the control of Main Roads Western Australia. Even the ones that the City has, just trying to work out how we can better look after those to show some pride in those areas.
- M Zaczek:** Great. And the second question was about the Scarborough Sunset Market and understanding the benefits and costs for the City of Stirling and ratepayers. Living there and working there every day, I can see how it impacts the location itself for residents from their perspective of traffic noise and rubbish. I would like to ask about what the metrics are for measuring the success of the Sunset Market and what's the costs of it and benefits for the residents?
- The Mayor:** Thank you for that. I will get the Director Community Development to provide a response. It is important to note that whilst the City provides a small amount of funding for that event, it is led by the community. We can probably take some of it offline too, maybe have a chat to you about it. And also, just from the point of view, as a community member, you have the ability to join that group or be a part of that group and maybe provide that feedback.
- Director Community Development:** As the Mayor correctly mentioned, it is a community-driven event. So it is actually delivered by the Scarborough Beach Association. The only direct cost that the City incurs is a \$40,000 community grant that they get awarded every year. It is acknowledged that it does have a significant impact on Scarborough on Thursdays. However, the Scarborough Square, as part of the Scarborough Beach Redevelopment was actually specifically designed to accommodate large market type events. So it certainly is consistent with the plan for Scarborough. In terms of the impacts from events such as noise and rubbish, we do deal with that through our event management approval process. So the Scarborough Beach Association are required to comply with certain event aspects, but certainly more than happy to have more of a conversation with you about that.
- M Zaczek:** Can I ask another question?
- The Mayor:** Yes, you may.
-

M Zaczek:

You gave me a microphone. So, I just wanted to ask if we can add some more robust policies around constructions that are happening, especially the big residential constructions that are happening in Scarborough. When it comes to parking for workers and rubbish that is there, so around where I live is at least two, three developments now. And the one on Filburn Street, for example, there is no grass around anymore because of the parking for the two years of workers coming and parking on the grass and the verges, plus the rubbish that is there. The problem with the coast side is when you have a skip that is open, the rubbish just flies because of the wind. So maybe a little bit more robust policies around that or requirements for construction companies.

The Mayor:

Certainly, and they are fair comments, happy to take those on board.

9.4 F FARRELLY

The following comments and motions were put forward by F Farrelly, of Scarborough WA 6019 at the Electors' General Meeting held 18 March 2024.

F Farrelly:

As you know, at the Council, I raised Scarborough so many times I think you were distressed by the repetition. But I have put motions forward. I'm going to put that the hubs workshop which I did raise as a motion and I understand it is going to go somewhere. If you haven't held it, you are going to hold it.

Motion 9.4/1

That the City of Stirling be requested to update the community in the next six months in regard to the Council Workshop outcome for the wood chipped hubs on Scarborough main beach, which includes Scarborough Square, an iconic and cultural vista for the community in Scarborough. In the update the timeline for community consultation be given with concurrent letterbox drop and digital communication for a community meeting on this matter.

F Farrelly:

I put that forward as a motion. I know I should have done preamble so I will just give you a preamble now. This is one of those, well I'm on the video at the moment so I can say why. I have always promoted the fact that this is the main beach for Scarborough. I think we have got one of the most iconic beaches in the world in terms of having a population nearby and we should really keep that. This as we come into Scarborough to see that makes a huge difference. We lost Pearl Parade and if you ever used to travel down Pearl Parade, we don't see the ocean now and it does make a difference. This is the last really beach opening from the hills of Doubleview and Scarborough so I'd like to put that as a motion.

MOTION 9.4/1

Moved Felicity Farrelly, seconded Paul Collins

That the City of Stirling be requested to update the community in the next six months in regard to the Council Workshop outcome for the wood chipped hubs on Scarborough main beach, which includes Scarborough Square, an iconic and cultural vista for the community in Scarborough.

In the update the timeline for community consultation be given with concurrent letterbox drop and digital communication for a community meeting on this matter.

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

F Farrelly:

The next one is in regard to the coastal advisory group which was just commenced as I was leaving attending one meeting, the consultation was done with the community. In this group there are decisions and there's a whole plethora of information that comes with it and one of them is the expectations and the role of the group members are mentioned and abilities discussed with appropriate organisations with also the general aims of objectives and business of the group, and of course I'm reading the wrong section! To assist the City with decision making; and in the coastal areas for the sharing of valuable local knowledge of history; to obtain comments and perspectives prior to the progression of City proposals and projects within coastal areas; to participate in the review and evaluation of City coastal management activities, plans and strategies where required; to access the key link to the local community; and to identify any of the coastal maintenance and management matters that may require attention.

I think this is a great group by the way, but I am concerned about the membership. I think we've got a lot of the surf clubs. We've got, which is nice to see, is the Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare in WA. Scarborough Boardriders, Trigg Point Surf Boardriders, Trigg Junior Boardriders and the Scarborough Beach Association. But in that we do miss out on the environmental context, we miss out on the community that are not necessarily in those beach associations but very much have the ability and will be interested to contribute more fully. I'm particularly concerned about the urban context and environment in Scarborough and we need to ensure that any decisions made on the beachfront are not going to be decisions that will impact on a huge part of the Coastal Ward that lives in that area compared to the rest of the Coastal Ward. So, I've got a motion to coastal advisory group consultation with Scarborough community.

F Farrelly:

I particularly noticed, that's the end of my motion, but I've noticed that there are things like the public interest groups such as Sunsets not Skyscrapers are not represented, and we don't have urban planning expertise. We've got some marine engineers that reside in the areas where we should have a great input into the way the impact of wave and ocean on the coast and we need to look at the tourism objectives of Scarborough as well which don't seem to be considered in that. Those people are not from those groups who have that capacity so I won't repeat the motion but it's basically.

MOTION 9.4/2**Moved Felicity Farrelly, seconded Simon Wheeler**

That the City of Stirling review the membership of the Coastal Advisory Group and ensure there is a broad spectrum of community members across all beachfront suburbs, especially where parking, shadowing of the beachfront and wind impact concerns are as important as the expertise and professional knowledge of coastal management and beach activities.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

The Mayor:

To assure you, the commitment is that the Coastal Advisory Group is certainly not a decision-making group and it's not done as an aside to community consultation. It is very much about the built infrastructure and just making sure that the groups are aware of what is happening because obviously they are large club membership groups right from surfing to surf lifesaving to the Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare on the ground so I'm happy to take your motion.

F Farrelly:

I think everything like that can become much better if we have across the board abilities. Look, I might just include, this is not a motion, but the significant trees on private land we've asked that tree protection orders to be registered. In 2003 I did a masters preliminary thesis on what happens when we allow bulldozing into a bush. Actually, the CEO is still holding on to it, I lent it to him about eight months ago. So, if anyone is, you know, you notice I put up my hand to second things at that one. I am really quite concerned about it, and I have done a bit of research on it, so I just want to add that to the thing and also. But the real thing is that down south, down in Mandurah where they had farmland section registered trees and there is a little like penny size marker on the trees and they can't knock them over. So, the blocks are developed around that and we do have some blocks in Scarborough still near the old primary school on Bazaar Terrace, and I notice that some of the Tuarts are disappearing from there. I think that's just a comment but there are ways to do things particularly on Shire owned land. I know we've got Catalina estate group and things like that, and I know we've got the president of Catalina, is that right? Chair, sorry Chair. That should be something pushed forward in the bushland of Catalina because it does make a difference to the community.

I'll get back to it on track now, motion three. This is planning for the master plan and parking and I think most people are aware of how long it took me to get in and I do appreciate, I really do appreciate the fact that Council supported, the legislation to move DevelopmentWA out of Scarborough to make planning decisions. However, with the high-rise development, I think we need to look at what are the real concerns and where we put our sustainability objectives and I just picked up my phone on Saturday morning. there is a group that meet one of them says, *"looks like I won't catch you"*, they say *"no parking"* at 8.22am, I know I parked at the Indie across the road at 8.23am. *"No parking, I give up. Hey girls, no parking, I'm home."* So that's, you know, in a spate of about four minutes, 8.30am on a Saturday morning, that's not untypical, there was a surfing carnival but the last one was coming down to watch the surfing carnival. So, the motion is...

Councillor Michael Dudek left the meeting at 7.27pm after Motion 9.4/2 and returned to the meeting at 7.30pm during Motion 9.4/3.

Councillor Joe Ferrante left the meeting at 7.30pm during Motion 9.4/3.

MOTION 9.4/3

Moved Felicity Farrelly, seconded Arriadne Bradley

That the City of Stirling hold a community consultation within the next six months to review the master plan of Scarborough and including this the outcome of the planning policy for public parking for Scarborough beach front and suburb. Included in that, is that the Coastal Ward will be first of the mark for implementation of parking and transport recommendations of the planning parking policy.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

Councillor Joe Ferrante returned to the meeting at 7.32pm prior to Item 9.5.

9.5 E WALKEMEYER

The following questions and motion were put forward by E Walkemeyer, of Wembley Downs WA 6019 at the Electors' General Meeting held 18 March 2024.

E Walkemeyer:

I've been living in Wembley Downs since early 2000 for a very long time and in the current location since 2017. I've got a problem that with the access on my driveway to the house, to the property, I'm at the back, the block has been subdivided and I bought the back part of the block. 10cm from the driveway is a trunk of the large Tuart tree. So, I've been talking to the Council for a number of years asking to possibly trim the branch that is overhanging over the driveway. So I've been talking to Parks Department, I've been talking to the verge people and someone else but so far I didn't get really much help.

So, what I want to say is that the part of the tree that is obstructing my driveway contributes to lowering the value of my property and impacts negatively on security of my property and normal access to my property. For normal cars, passenger cars, the access is no problem but for removal trucks, for service trucks, for large motor home, it's not quite possible. The neighbours make it more difficult because to somehow make the way would be possible to via the side of the driveway and go onto the neighbours' verge, but I don't have permission to do that. So, to drive, just drive up the driveway is not quite possible. So, I've got a question, who is responsible for the problem with clear access on my driveway to the house and what do I need to do to have this problem solved?

The Mayor:

The buck stops with me. So, I will commit, I will bring an officer out to your house and we'll have a look at it.

E Walkemeyer:

Okay, can I put a motion also please?

The Mayor:

You may.

E Walkemeyer:

I'm not an expert but I thought perhaps I would try to put a motion.

MOTION 9.5/1**Moved Ewa Walkemeyer, seconded Paul Collins****That the issue with clear access to the house are considered by the Council and solution is found to allow unobstructed access to the house.****The motion was put and declared CARRIED.****The Mayor:** Just make sure we do have all your details before you leave tonight.**E Walkemeyer:** Okay, thank you.**The Mayor:** We'll see you later on this week.

9.6 R LINGAM

The following questions and motion were put forward by R Lingam, of Woodlands WA 6018 at the Electors' General Meeting held 18 March 2024.

R Lingam: My first question is, why is the Council permitting inappropriate street verge trees like fig trees to exist in residential verge areas against the wishes of local residents when it is evident that fig trees will create structural damage to both houses, street curbs, Council property and streets due to their invasive route structure? That's the first question.

Director Infrastructure: The City will take that question on notice and provide a written response.

Additional Information

The City is committed to increasing its canopy cover to 18% by 2040. The contribution of large mature trees, such as Ficus, to the City's canopy cover is quite significant and would take many decades to replace through new plantings. The removal of these trees for the potential damage they may or may not cause in the future is contrary to the City's objective. Therefore, the City's approach is to implement one or several treatments at the first signs of superficial damage to nearby private property, thus mitigating the risk of structural damage.

The Mayor The City is aware that there are a significant amount of them throughout the suburbs and to be fair they certainly wouldn't be planted today in some of those locations, but they are very significant trees.

R Lingam: The second question is, why is the Council stating that they will only take action once structural damage has already occurred to residential housing and even state that even then there are treatments that can be done rather than removing the problem trees?

Director Infrastructure: The City would remove trees as a last resort. There are a number of measures that can be taken like route barriers. So, every tree is looked at on a case-by-case basis. It sounds like you have a specific case that you want to be looked at.

R Lingam: We do.

Director Infrastructure: The City can look into that particular case.

R Lingam: And just to be clear, we're not opposed to verge trees or Council trees. We actually support the Council putting trees, which leads to my third question. Why is the Council not removing fig trees on residential verge areas when requested by local residents and replaced by other verge trees, which will not cause structural damage, particularly long-term structural damage?

The Mayor: Thank you for that question. Quite simply, as previously alluded to, the significant canopies that are provided by those trees would take 20, 30-plus years to regain by planting a new verge tree. So, it's a last resort to remove a verge tree. In your particular case, the City is happy to get your details.

R Lingam: Well, there's two fig trees on the verge and that's the concern. And already the driveway is being damaged, the curb is being damaged, probably also the street. And the concern is that it will cause foundation damage over time, which leads to my motion.

MOTION 9.6/1

Moved Ramesh Lingam, seconded Sharmini Lingam

That if there are fig trees in residential verge areas, if a local resident requests that they be removed and just replaced with other type of trees that will not cause structural damage, would the Council please do that?

The motion was put and declared LOST.

The Mayor: I'm sorry, your motion isn't carried tonight, but we will follow up with you and make sure we get your details and visit that particular site.

Councillor Suzanne Migdale retired from the meeting at 7.39pm prior to Item 9.7.

9.7 N PHILLIPS

The following questions and comments were put forward by N Phillips, of Balcatta WA 6021 at the Electors' General Meeting held 18 March 2024.

N Phillips: My first time over here and it's amazing. It's quite well done. Very, very cleverly managed.

The Mayor: We've got good residents, many who have been here before.

N Phillips: Good practice. I've got some simple questions here. The first one I'm concerned about, I've only been in Balcatta since August. I've come out of Scarborough. I traded Scarborough for Balcatta, but it's okay. It was for good reasons. My concern is walking around Balcatta, I observe that there's people using their sprinkler system and a lot of the times they're just randomly running loose and it's just like water pouring all over the roads. And I'm just wondering, who manages that? Is it because they've got bores, and nobody cares? Or is it run by the system that we all pay into? A lot of people I've spoken to say...

The Mayor: I'm sorry, can I just clarify, are you talking about private properties or the City's parks?

N Phillips: I'm talking about the private. That's what I'm concerned about. I know the City must be managing its parks beautifully, I hope so.

The Mayor: We try. So the simple answer is that the individual residents manage their own water usage and it needs to be in requirement to the legislation around water. There are significant penalties in place. It's not something that's proactively policed. There aren't people who drive around looking, but certainly if you report any of them, they will be looked into.

- N Phillips:** Well, I did I speak to some guy a while back and he wasn't actually involved in these. I went to speak to your Councillor or speak to your, go to the office of the front of this office here. And I said, you know, I'll give you an example, I'm not going to name or number, give the number of the place, but I walked around Amelia Street when I first came here in August/September. And there is a property, and this particular property, I went on a 20-minute walk towards Balcatta High School, which is all the way down... and on the way back the sprinkler was still going and there was water everywhere on each side of the crossing. So that's really crazy. I mean, that's why I'm concerned. People are, the water table is way down the bottom there underneath us. It's actually sucking water out the land. Common sense. Okay. That's my concern.
- The Mayor:** The City can provide you with information on a quick easy way where you can go online, if you don't mind going online, there are some simple ways you can just report it and it will get actioned.
- N Phillips:** But will it get actioned? Who acts on it? That's the question, who's responsible for that?
- The Mayor:** The City would normally liaise with the owners or go to the Water Corporation.
- N Phillips:** Okay, so I'm not speaking to the right people, I should go to the Water Corporation.
- The Mayor:** The City would be happy to still take the complaints.
- N Phillips:** The next question I'm going to ask you, I know I only put one on the table there, but I'm going to add a few more, what is the purpose of the tram that you got going? Is that under the jurisdiction of Council or is it under the jurisdiction of Transport WA?
- The Mayor:** The Public Transport Authority run any transport within Western Australia. The trackless tram was a trial here, our intent is not to run a trackless tram. The City is happy to provide you with all the details of that in writing.

Additional Information

In accordance with the *Public Transport Authority Act 2003*, the Public Transport Authority (PTA) oversees all public transport in Western Australia. In relation to the Trackless Tram project, the City of Stirling has no intention of being responsible for the operation of this public transport. The role of the City is to advocate for improved public transport for our community and our future vision is to see this innovative and sustainable technology fully integrated into Western Australia's public transport network.

- N Phillips:** I'm getting the message that it's like, wow, it's doing well and we're actually going to take this on.
- The Mayor:** Hopefully one day.
- N Phillips:** Is that just to encourage the transport department or just to see that the City of Stirling are doing a fabulous job?
- The Mayor:** It is certainly to advocate for better transport solutions. As you've heard tonight, areas that are congested with traffic. Currently the state government has its Metronet, as you're probably all very aware of, and there are buses. We believe that the mid-tier transit network that is proposed by the state government needs to be accelerated and we need to fact check those different solutions that can be done in a cost-effective way and a timely way.
- N Phillips:** The last one I'm going to ask you, and it's a very general one, I suppose everybody wants to know, you obviously look at your rates, look at what you're spending. Is our rates equitably being used? Is my rates equitably being used to cover areas around the concerns me and every other member of the City of Stirling? How do I know?
- The Mayor:** Yes, the City certainly does. One of the reasons Councils are made up of elected representatives from each area is that they spend a lot of their time, especially through this period right through to June, advocating for their areas on what needs to be done. If you have issues within your area and you believe that needs more investment, your local Councillors, Councillor Perkov and Councillor Hatton are sitting over there, they will be happy to take your cases on. You may have heard me talk before about the prior year. Sometimes you will see a couple of major buildings in one area. I think there are a couple this year, Scarborough, and Hamersley. Prior years, there might have been a big investment over in Balga or there might have been a big project over in Mount Lawley. So, every year, there's not the same amount of spend on big projects, but overall, with road networks, etc. it is based on priority needs, but also equity across the whole area.
- N Phillips:** Okay. I'll keep an eye out for that, and I'll speak to some of those guys. Thank you very much.

9.8 R ABRUTAR

The following comments and motion were put forward by R Abrutar, of Wembley Downs WA 6019 at the Electors' General Meeting held 18 March 2024.

R Abrutat: I have a motion and only one. So as a background very quickly and intentionally, I live pretty close to the border with the Town of Cambridge and there is a spot high-rise proposed and my motion is about consultation. And I want to draw your attention to an association, which is called International Association for Public Participation. And I will quote for you one of their documents. Let me just find it quickly.

The Mayor: The spot development you're talking about, is it in the Town of Cambridge or the City of Stirling?

R Abrutat: Unfortunately, it's in the Town of Cambridge, so my motion is...

MOTION 9.8/1

That the City of Stirling is going to liaise with the Town of Cambridge and keep ratepayers informed.

R Abrutat: Just to give an idea, this is not about "not in my backyard", but this high-rise is proposed in what's called Ocean Village Park. I'm also a member of that park and there's what is referred to as threatened ecological communities, which are not people, which are trees and nature. So, this high-rise is proposed to be put in the middle of it.

Just for your benefit, because we are all here to a degree about democracy and participation, I, as a ratepayer, have no idea and I'm not the only one. And I invite anybody of you to ever stroll the Ocean Village Park and talk to anybody that comes past your way and ask them what they know about this development. There's lots of secrecy about it. The Mayor knows stuff and doesn't share with Councillors, Councillors asking questions don't get an answer. So, I pretty much request in my motion that you provide some leverage to the Town of Cambridge and inform us what's actually proposed. Thank you.

One last thing. I'd like to read out what this International Association of Public Participation talks about, which is the number one core value; "public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process". And just for your benefit, there's none of that in the Town of Cambridge about that proposal. I mean, none. Thank you.

MOTION 9.8/1**Moved Raoul Abrutat, seconded Felicity Farrelly****That the City of Stirling is going to liaise with the Town of Cambridge [regarding the Ocean Village Development Application] and keep ratepayers informed.****The Motion was put and declared CARRIED.**

9.9 R MADDEN

The following comments and motion were put forward by R Madden, of Innaloo WA 6018 at the Electors' General Meeting held 18 March 2024.

R Madden:

As many of you will be aware, last year the Responsible Cat Ownership Stirling group stood here and presented five motions to the Council regarding the effective management of cat ownership in the City of Stirling. And in the year that has followed, a large cross section of the City of Stirling's residents, interested organisations, leading scientists, animal welfare groups, and indeed other local government areas have called on the City of Stirling to do better, not just for our wildlife and community, but also our pets.

The residents of the City of Stirling and ourselves have written to the City and its Councillors and provided factual statements on the issues surrounding free-roaming domestic cats. These facts are still of relevance. And we urge the City's Officers and Councillors to reappraise themselves to the content within. Most notably, we remind the City and its Councillors that roaming, owned pet cats kill 390 million animals a year in Australia. And from the City themselves, a few weeks ago, we were told there were an estimated 30,000 owned cats in the City of Stirling. Cats have already contributed or been directly responsible for 27 native animal extinctions that we're aware of. We also know that free-roaming cats have an average life expectancy of just three years compared to 13 for those kept safely at home. And in 2019, a statutory review of the *Cat Act 2011* demonstrated 73% of people support the confinement of cats' their own as properties.

Together, facts such as these supported default position that the impacts from roaming pet cats are serious and they should be reduced. We also recognise that the City, action by the City rather, on important topics must be led by the residents. So, we are fortunate in that regard that the City Administration canvassed City of Stirling residents in July 2023 for feedback on the motions we put forward last year. 143 written responses, 85% of those indicate strong support for cat containment. The 2019 statutory review of the *Cat Act 2011* provides the recommendation and the basis to confine cats to premises.

In 2019 and 2022, the Shires of Northam and Narrogin respectively passed Local Laws that mandate the effective control of cats in public spaces. These Shires are leading the state with proactive solutions to a systemic problem. Independent legal advice that has been provided to the City of Stirling identifies these Local Laws as consistent with the *Cat Act 2011*. Additionally, the Town of Bassendean, Shires of Esperance, Cuballing, Wyalkatchem and Cities of Bayswater, Bassendean, Wanneroo, Kalamunda, Kwinana, and City of South Fremantle are all simultaneously seeking similar changes to Local Laws.

The City of Stirling then stand to boost their reputation not only with residents but also their local government area peers through advocacy for such Local Law reform. It is noted that Clause 82 of the *Cat Act 2011* clearly articulates that a Council can gazette Local Laws that use the wording of any other gazetted Local Law in WA, for example, Northam. In keeping with the documented community, scientific and government-led recommendations for the effective control of cats and with a view to better animal and social wildlife outcomes, we would like to submit the following four motions to Council.

MOTION 9.9/1

Moved Robert Madden, seconded Leisha Jack

That the City of Stirling Council resolve to create and adopt a policy statement acknowledging the significant adverse effects on both cats and native wildlife, where cats are allowed to roam freely in the City of Stirling, referencing the overwhelming evidence that cats confined to premises live longer and healthier lives and that confining cats to premises, unless under effective control, will have a significant positive impact on supporting biodiversity, promoting a natural and healthier urban environment and amends the City's Strategic Community Plan under the natural environment category to reference the intent of this policy as a priority and amends any other policies to reference that intent of this policy where applicable.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

MOTION 9.9/2

Moved Robert Madden, seconded Arriadne Bradley

That the City of Stirling Council writes to the new Minister for Local Government and the Minister for the Environment requesting immediate amendments to the *Cat Act 2011*, to require that cats be under effective control at all times when in public places.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

MOTION 9.9/3

Moved Robert Madden, seconded Simon Wheeler

That the City of Stirling Council seek external, independent legal advice on the legitimacy of the Joint Standing Committee for Designated Legislation's recent decisions in regard to the control of cats in public places, where such is inconsistent with the gazetted Local Laws of the Shires of Narrogin and Northam, in order to guide and inform Council's decision making during the upcoming review of the City's Keeping and Control of Local Cats Law.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

MOTION 9.9/4

Moved Robert Madden, seconded Simon Wheeler

That the City of Stirling Council amends the Keeping and Control of Cats Local Law 1999 to include an effective control of cats provision for cats in public places.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

9.10 S WHEELER, ON BEHALF OF R MITCHELL

The following questions and motion were put forward by S Wheeler on behalf of R Mitchell, of Karrinyup WA 6018 at the Electors' General Meeting held 18 March 2024.

S Wheeler: I hope you don't mind, Mr Mitchell had to go and he had asked me if I can put his motion.

The Mayor: Happy to.

S Wheeler: On behalf of Mr Mitchell, I don't, many of us don't, like picking at the bones of last year's annual electors', ratepayers meeting and Audit Report in March of any given year. We would rather be able to pick at the meat of the issues that affect us earlier than March each year. Matters audit can still be debated and presented at any regular Council Meeting throughout the year. Mr Mitchell would like to raise a motion.

MOTION 9.10/1

Moved Simon Wheeler, on behalf of Robert Mitchell, seconded Leisha Jack

That the State Government Audit Report, or annual contracted Council Audit Report sanctioned, by the Auditor General for a financial year, be held over in the succeeding year and the State Government Audit Report or sanctioned approved report held over for when delivered to a regular City of Stirling monthly Council meeting for Council vetting and or approval and that the annual electors' ratepayer meeting be held no later than October in any given year.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

The Mayor: That's actually a good motion, Mr Mitchell. Thank you very much.

9.11 L JACK

The following questions, comments and motions were put forward by L Jack, of Karrinyup WA 6018 at the Electors' General Meeting held 18 March 2024.

- L Jack:** Once again, we have a very, very big Council, huge population, and yet we look around and there's very few people here in the gallery. The City has a very competent Marketing and public relations Team and they do a wonderful job of advertising and promoting anything the City wants to promote in the way of events. As we've seen in the video earlier and in this Annual Report, but when it comes to this meeting, how would people know it was there?
- On Friday, I had to contact the CEO and ask him if he would put it on the homepage of the website of the City of Stirling. People, events for public participation, community participation are well advertised by the City. There's a controlled environment where questions have been, the events orchestrated, the questions are very carefully put to the people, but this is a forum where the public can actually raise concerns or other issues. So next year, can the City please use the marketing department to promote this event to the electors?
- The Mayor:** Yes, happy to provide some information on what was done. It's certainly not the intent, it's widely promoted on the City's social media channels through Marketing, and the date is publicized a year in advance.
- L Jack:** Would you explain where, please? How?
- The Mayor:** Yes, I'll get the Lead Governance Advisor to provide you with the details.
- Lead Governance Advisor:** The EGM was advertised on the City's website, and I do note your feedback that you provided on Friday and the City did action that.
- L Jack:** Yes, it did.
- Lead Governance Advisor:** Notes were placed in the City's Recreation Centres and Libraries, and it was advertised on the City's social media accounts. It was also advertised through an electronic mail out to all of our regular attendees of Council meetings and advertised in the City of Stirling's Stirling Scene newsletter. The date was also included in the Agenda and the Minutes of the 13th of February 2024 Council meeting.

L Jack: I also note that a lot of the events include, and the cover of this page include young, hip-looking groovy people. I did note that the advert that was put up for this meeting was really looked like it was a senior's event, and it often is, but we do get young people here too. I just don't think that the City advertises this event as well as it could. I just ask, my motion is...

MOTION 9.11/1

Moved Leisha Jack, seconded Felicity Farrelly

Could the City please do more to promote this particular event [the Electors' General Meeting] going forward.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

The Mayor: Happy to look into that.

L Jack: This is a really important one. It is related to the urban forest, the City's Public Health Plan. Some Cities have them, City of Bayswater, a few others, have Public Health Plans. I'm aware that the State Government Department of Health, is currently working on guidelines for Councils, for local governments, to put together Public Health Plans. But it's stalled. It's reached stage five of five, but it's stalled since last June. It's hit the built environment and it doesn't seem to be progressing. I'm only assuming that maybe public trees and public health are a very important issue for Western Australia and urban areas. As I've mentioned before, The Lancet, and there's been more articles recently that have said that are saying that the Australian Bureau of Statistics are not providing the true figures for heat-related deaths and hospitalisations. The number of people dying from heat or heat-related deaths are as much as 50-fold worse. That was in The Lancet, you can look that up.

MOTION 9.11/2**Moved Leisha Jack, seconded Raoul Abrutat****That the City create a Public Health Plan, like other Cities have, other Councils have, and that it includes extreme heat and the importance, the preventative measure of protecting and planting trees to reduce urban heat.****The motion was put and declared CARRIED.**

L Jack: I'd just like to note, Mr Mayor, that you didn't really have a comment on that. This is a question, is there a Public Health Plan being put together at the moment? What's happening there at the City of Stirling?

The Mayor: Yes, it is in draft form. I'll get the Director Planning and Development to provide some comment on it.

Director Planning and Development: Yes, that's correct. There is one being drafted internally with the City's Environmental Health Team. It's in its early stages, so it's not something that will be completed quickly. That's something the City is working through at the moment.

L Jack: When was the last time the City had a Public Health Plan, please? I think you attempted this in 2017, if I'm right.

The Mayor: I believe that was the start of the consultation and work on it. Now that your motion is up, the City will provide all that information in a report and that information will come into the public realm.

L Jack: Sorry, I should have said this one in the first part of the meeting. But on page, under the Liveable Neighbourhoods, it says that the City of—I think it's page 164, Liveable Neighbourhoods—the City of Stirling is “renowned for its tree-lined streets”. Really? How is that possible? Here we are. The City of Stirling is “recognised for its tree-lined streets and well-planned neighbourhoods”. Page 143, under Liveable City. The City is “recognised for its tree-lined streets”. Is that the case in Balga? For some of those suburbs in the Balga Ward? Maybe Osborne Park? What about Glendalough, some of those areas? I don't think that's really very accurate. So my motion is...

MOTION 9.11/3

That the City not repeat that [the City of Stirling is recognised for its tree-lined streets] in the next Annual Report.

The Mayor: I quite like that one, Ms Jack!

MOTION 9.11/3

Moved Leisha Jack, seconded Felicity Farrelly

That City not repeat that [the City of Stirling is recognised for its tree-lined streets] in the next Annual Report.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

L Jack: Well, at least you can't sue me for green washing now because that's a glaring example.

The Mayor: There was no intent to sue anyone.

L Jack: Good, you wouldn't be able to so that's why I said it. Look, tree species. As we've said many times before, and I think the City of Stirling have said it themselves, it's the size and density of the canopy of a tree that creates the shade. If it's a big tree with a dense canopy, it creates a lot of shade. But I'm getting really concerned about the size of some of the species that I see being planted on verges and also, the number of jacarandas that are being planted. Personally, I like Jacarandas in the right place, and when they're healthy, they're beautiful, especially in November when they flower. But they have a very thin canopy, and many of them are struggling. They don't thrive. Some of them just seem to be saplings and half-dead. They just don't go anywhere. So my motion on that one is...

MOTION 9.11/4**Moved Leisha Jack, seconded Raoul Abrutat****That they [the City] plant the biggest possible tree species in the space available.****The motion was put and declared CARRIED.****L Jack:**

Another question and motion. I'm very, very concerned about a lot of business car parks. Now, I know the City asks, makes, businesses plant trees. But they're not planting really big trees. Again, a lot of them are planting very small species, just maybe barely three-metre species, some of them seem to be. And they're not watering them, they're not maintaining them. So, there's no point in forcing businesses to plant trees if those trees are not going to be maintained.

I mean, I can say this because it's true, if you go to the Ikea car park, for example. They're really struggling, those trees are struggling. Bunnings in Balcatta. A lot of half-dead trees in that car park, I don't know whether they're watering them or what they're doing with them. Is there anything the City can do to make businesses look after the trees and make sure they understand why they're planting them and that shade trees attract customers and that's a proven fact in retail associations around the world. So, my motion would be...

MOTION 9.11/5**Moved Leisha Jack, seconded Noel Phillips****Could the City please do more to encourage businesses to look after the trees to create more shade in their car parks.****The motion was put and declared CARRIED.**

9.12 K KELLY

The following comments and motions were put forward by K Kelly, of Scarborough WA 6019 at the Electors' General Meeting held 18 March 2024.

K Kelly: I have four motions on behalf of Sunsets not Skyscrapers and one from myself. So, I'll start with the Sunsets. Okay, the motion...

MOTION 9.12/1

Moved Kieran Kelly, on behalf Sunsets not Skyscrapers, seconded Robyn Murphy

That the City prepare a report to Council addressing the known issues contained in the Scarborough Special Control Area Master Plan, Design Guidelines and Development Policies inherited in 2023 through a process known as normalization of the DevelopmentWA Scarborough Redevelopment Area Planning Framework, which since its adoption in 2016, has resulted in ad hoc planning and unacceptable and inequitable outcomes, contrary to the expectations of Scarborough and the City of Stirling residents and ratepayers. The report is to include, but not limited to consideration and recommendations of changes for incorporation into the Local Planning Scheme No.4 as follows:

- Building height restrictions;
- Overshadowing calculations that take into account the context and character of Scarborough Beach;
- The Public Open Space requirements;
- Definition of what represents the community benefit in referencing to awarding bonus heights;
- How build-to-rent applications should be addressed and how they will fit into the scheme;
- More equitable developer contribution;
- Public art contributions;
- Affordable housing components;
- Parking and traffic issues;
- Disallowance of made-up provisions such as gross floor area transference, which do not, nor ever have been part of the applicable planning scheme; and
- Definitions of design excellence that include amenity to the public and beach uses best practice architecture and aesthetics compatible with coastal environment.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

K Kelly:

Okay, whilst partially addressed in the first motion, the following two motions are specific. The first relates to the use of discretion in relation to bonus heights routinely awarded to developers contrary to the original planning framework and design guidelines. Noting that discretion is a sensible inclusion in any planning scheme, we are seeking the following in relation to the use of planning discretion by the City in the adoption of the Scarborough Special Control Area Master Plan.

MOTION 9.12/2

Moved Kieran Kelly, on behalf Sunsets not Skyscrapers, seconded Simon Wheeler

That the City of Stirling amend the Scarborough Special Control Area Master Plan design guidelines and develop policies to specify maximum limits on building heights to match the base and bonus heights already considered within the original Master Plan and design guidelines. So, it's maximum building heights of 12 storeys. And amend the discretionary clause 1.7 in the building guidelines to remove the words "including any height provisions" to ensure this clause does not apply to building heights over and above the base and bonus heights described by the scheme.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

K Kelly:

Okay, motion three, bonus heights.

MOTION 9.12/3

Moved Kieran Kelly, on behalf Sunsets not Skyscrapers, seconded Robyn Murphy

That the City of Stirling amend the Scarborough Special Control Area design guidelines to remove the five-star energy rating from the criteria required to the awarding of bonus heights and make a required six-star green energy rating as an absolute minimum to qualify determination of the development in the Special Control Area.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

K Kelly: And motion four, the Council has no doubt heard of the concerns over traffic and parking in the Scarborough Foreshore Area.

MOTION 9.12/4

Moved Kieran Kelly, on behalf Sunsets not Skyscrapers, seconded Robyn Murphy

That the City conduct an integrated traffic management study in order to create a traffic management strategy specifically to guide building development in the Special Control Area and that the City suspend consideration of development applications in the Special Control Area until such time as a traffic management strategy is in place to guide responsible planning.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

K Kelly: Okay and this is just for myself, this one. My concern is that the City is failing to uphold the higher standards of openness and transparency by not requiring Councillors to declare any membership of political parties. Failure to declare political party membership encourages Councillors to pursue party political agendas, sometimes for the personal ambition and often at the expense of public interest.

Such a public declaration is therefore necessary to ensure any actual or perceived conflict of interest are properly addressed and an annual declaration should be required and should include not only political party memberships but also any membership interest or positions in any corporation, trade union, professional or business association or community and sporting organisation. Further noting that there is no statute preventing the adoption of such a register, and other Councils in Western Australia such as Bayswater and South Perth have already adopted registers of political party membership. I therefore propose the following motion...

MOTION 9.12/5**Moved Kieran Kelly, seconded Simon Wheeler**

In the interest of openness and transparency, the City require all Councillors to make an annual declaration of all membership, interest and positions in any political parties, corporations, trade unions, professional or business association or community and sporting organisations. Further all such annual declarations be published online to be available for public scrutiny and should be updated as required.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

9.13 R MURPHY

The following comments and motion was put forward by R Murphy, of Karrinyup WA 6018 at the Electors' General Meeting held 18 March 2024.

R Murphy: Mr Mayor, this actually follows on from a question that I asked during the reporting stage for the Annual Report. It is about the gender pay gap at the City of Stirling employees.

MOTION 9.13/1

Moved Robyn Murphy, seconded Felicity Farrelly

That the City include in its future Annual Report the gender pay gap, that is the difference between women and men's average weekly fulltime earnings for its employees, using the same criteria and method as used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

R Murphy: I just wanted to make the point really that the City of Stirling has in the past had an overwhelmingly male-dominated workforce, particularly at senior levels. It's been obvious to me with my involvement with Council over many, many years. And I would point out that the statistics actually appear in the Annual Report that the Executive Team is 80% male. The Business Unit managers are 67% male, first tier supervisors are 65% male. And in the senior salary band, those earning over \$130,000 a year, 59% are male and 41% are females. The workforce coming up under the age of 24, 53% male and 47% female. So, unless we start doing better at the City of Stirling at those younger age groups' recruitment, I can't see that it's going to change too much in the future. I'd really appreciate if this City would take this more into consideration.

The Mayor: I appreciate those comments. You'll certainly see a change in next year's reporting. The City is happy to provide that information in the 2023/2024 Annual Report.

9.14 L CARROLL-VIANNA

The following comments and motion were put forward by L Carroll-Vianna, of Hamersley WA 6022 at the Electors' General Meeting held 18 March 2024.

L Carroll-Vianna:

I'd like to ask the City of Stirling to consider following the example set by Water Corporation and the Town of Cambridge. They've partnered together and the treated water from the Water Corporation is being pumped into the Perry Lakes. And for the first time in over a decade the large pond or lake area, Perry Lakes from the smaller one is full. So, if that's something that the City of Stirling could consider for Carine. As you can see, currently Carine wetlands is drylands. And we are losing, that water loss is causing trees to be stressed. If you have a look around the trees at Carine, you'll see they're very stressed. So, we're losing them and in relation to what was mentioned earlier about trees in car parks, that's also why we're seeing loss of trees there as well to go to the water table dropping. So that's my motion.

The Mayor:

Do you want to put that as a motion?

L Carroll-Vianna:

Yes.

MOTION 9.14/1

Moved Leonie Carroll-Vianna, seconded Felicity Farrelly

That the City considers partnering with the Water Corporation to pump treated water into Carine Wetlands.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

9.15 K MADDEN

The following question, comments and motion were put forward by **K Madden, of Innaloo WA 6021 at the Electors' General Meeting held 18 March 2024.**

K Madden:

I just had some curiosity lately about the FOGO waste management system for food waste and garden waste. I moved to City of Stirling from a Council that had a two-bin system. I got rid of my compost bin thinking I'd be able to put all my organic waste into the green bin and then very quickly learnt it's the garden waste only. So, my question to Council, is there any consideration or plans to introduce the FOGO waste management system within the City of Stirling?

The Mayor:

Council just had a workshop last week. So, if Council hasn't made a resolution yet to do it, but in April, so if you want to put a motion forward that we do investigate, we'll basically be able to put in that report of when the Council dates are coming back. And Council certainly has had workshops on it and the report will come to Council on the implications of moving to FOGO and it will be a Council decision whether we do.

K Madden:

Okay, great. Thank you. In that case, I'd like to put a motion forward.

MOTION 9.15/1

Moved Katie Madden, seconded Robert Madden

That the Council consider implementing a FOGO waste management scheme.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

9.16 L JACK

The following comments and motion were put forward by L Jack, of Karrinyup WA 6018 at the Electors' General Meeting held 18 March 2024.

L Jack: Before I ask my question, I just want to inform everyone that I have cats that I keep in my property and they're very, very happy and healthy. And it's all working out very well, I've made a cat run and we've got lots of things for them to play with in the house and it's all working out beautifully. The cats are very well. They have survived.

The Mayor: You might get yourself a shirt if you keep that up!

L Jack: So are the birds in my garden. The question, I noted today, I've been going down to Scarborough a lot for a Pilates class and I listened to Felicity Farrelly, about the parking. I missed a class one Saturday morning at 8.30am because I just couldn't get parking and it was just terrible.

But anyway, I noticed the trees, the pine trees along Scarborough Beach, many of them are looking very unwell. They're in decline, which means they're dying, or probably going to die. It's been long known in Perth, probably for a couple of decades, that there is a disease, maybe a phytophthora style disease, I'm not sure of type disease, that is killing conifers, hedges, trees and pine trees are conifers from that plant species group. Why is the City continuing to plant so many pine trees when it is actually against the monoculture resilient urban forest train of thought that you have to have a variety of trees, just in case one variety gets sick and dies, you're not left with no trees. But there seems to be too many pine trees and many of them, as I said, are dying on Scarborough Beach. So, they can't be treated. I know that from ArborCarbon. I'd just like to say that the motion is...

MOTION 9.16/1

Could the City please consider a more diverse range of species on Scarborough Beach, along Scarborough Beach?

- The Mayor:** I will just mention though, they're not a favoured planting throughout the City. There were some planted in Scarborough to match the existing ones during the redevelopment for theming the area.
- L Jack:** They look gorgeous, I love them, they look like Cottessloe, I can understand why you plant them.
- The Mayor:** The City is happy to look into it because it certainly hasn't noticed a significant decline.
- L Jack:** They're going to die.
- The Mayor:** That's a sad thought to leave us with tonight!

MOTION 9.16/1

Moved Leisha Jack, seconded Raoul Abrutat

Could the City please consider a more diverse range of [tree] species on Scarborough Beach, along Scarborough Beach.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

9.17 L CARROLL-VIANNA

The following questions, and comments were put forward by L Carroll-Vianna, of Hamersley WA 6022 at the Electors' General Meeting held 18 March 2024.

- L Carroll-Vianna:** Just in reference to FOGO, so I know that the State Government required all local governments to go to FOGO by 2025. So, is that still a State Government requirement?
- The Mayor:** It's not a requirement that you have to. It's certainly an encouragement with funding attached to it. All of that information will form part of that report and Council will make a decision, it's got to weigh up all the benefits and implications of moving to FOGO and then make a decision on it.
- L Carroll-Vianna:** And the Neerabup Recycling Rail Refuge Facility, which is currently not operating, would that actually start operating since it comes under Mindarie Regional Council?
- The Mayor:** I'm not aware of a plan for that to be a FOGO recycling. I might get the Director Infrastructure to provide some updates if he can.
- Director Infrastructure:** The Neerabup facility owned by Mindarie Regional Council did close a couple of years ago. It was designed to compost the organics in a mixed bin, so from a tubing system. For a lot of reasons, that plant was closed and the contract was ended. That facility is currently subject to a public tender, which is being run by Mindarie Regional Council for it to potentially be an organics processing plant for processing materials such as FOGO. So there's no decision as yet, but it is part of a public tender as an option. So that's the current state.
- L Carroll-Vianna:** It's actually owned by Mindarie Regional Council, which means all the Councillors that come under Mindarie Regional Council so why would you put out public tender?
- The Mayor:** It's complicated, but all of the regional Councils, who are members of the Mindarie Regional Council, made a decision to close that plant as it was no longer operational or fit for purpose. Member Councils would have to decide to either run that facility or put it out to a tender process to see if it was to be run as a FOGO facility. There are significant cost implications in changing and upgrading the facility to do that. This Council's decision isn't necessarily based on that being up and running as a FOGO facility. There are plenty of other facilities within Western Australia that can take FOGO.
- L Carroll-Vianna:** Okay, thank you.

10. CLOSURE

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.29pm.

These minutes were confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings on:

...../...../ 2024

SIGNED:

Presiding Member Name:

PRESIDING MEMBER