

# **Future Melbourne Committee**

**Meeting No 5  
Tuesday 1 April 2025  
5:30 pm**

**Town Hall Commons  
Melbourne Town Hall Administration Building**

## **Unconfirmed Minutes**



### **Present**

Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece (Chair)  
Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell  
Councillor Dr Olivia Ball  
Councillor Davydd Griffiths  
Councillor Owen Guest  
Councillor Philip Le Liu  
Councillor Gladys Liu  
Councillor Kevin Louey (Zoom)  
Councillor Andrew Rowse  
Councillor Mark Scott

### **Apology**

Councillor Rafael Camillo

## 1 Commencement of meeting and apologies

The meeting commenced at 5:30 pm.

The Chair, Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece, welcomed attendees to the meeting, acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land governed by the City of Melbourne, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong / Boon Wurrung peoples of the Kulin, and advised that:

- the meeting was being streamed live and a recording will be made available on the City of Melbourne website.
- an apology was received from Councillor Rafael Camillo.
- Councillor Kevin Louey joined the meeting remotely via Zoom.

## 2 Disclosure of conflicts of interest

The Lord Mayor advised that conflicts of interest should be disclosed as they arise.

## 3 Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

Moved: Cr Griffiths

That the minutes of meeting No 4 held on Tuesday 18 March 2025 be confirmed.

Seconded: Cr Liu

The motion was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Voted for Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece, Cr Dr Ball, Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell, Cr Dr Guest, Cr Griffiths, Cr Rowse, Cr Liu, Cr Le Liu, Cr Scott and Cr Louey

## 4 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

## 5 Public Questions

There were four public questions.

Below is a summary of public questions and responses. The full question time can be heard in the live stream recording of the meeting on Council's website at <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/meeting/future-melbourne-committee-01-april-2025>

### **Miles and Dodds Street Pocket Park Expansion**

Julian Foo asked a question relating to the decision for a third consultation on the Miles and Dodds Street Pocket Park expansion, expressing concern over the previous data. Julian noted that the expansion received more responses than a similar project and highlighted the abundance of nearby parks. Julian asked if Council will abandon the expansion if community feedback continues to express concerns.

Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece thanked Julian for the question and referred it to Cr Griffiths, Environment Portfolio Lead.

Cr Griffiths thanked Julian for the question and provided context for the meeting that took place last week regarding the Miles and Dodds Street Pocket Park expansion. Cr Griffiths explained that Council passed a unanimous motion to address concerns about potential anti-social behaviour and other negative impacts, as well as to give Southbank residents more opportunities to voice their opinions. Council has asked management to explore ways to mitigate these concerns and to conduct further consultation, with the results to be presented on 3 June 2025. Cr Griffiths encouraged everyone to participate in the ongoing consultation process and emphasised the importance of finding the best way to provide public green space in Southbank.

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### **Emergency Services**

Chris Thrum asked a follow up question to a previous question of his relating to the Cheltenham fire in late January, noting equipment failures and concerns raised by United Firefighters Union Secretary regarding aging equipment. Chris requested to know if Council has engaged with Fire Rescue on this matter.

Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece thanked Chris for the question and referred it to Cr Liu, Safety and Cleaning Deputy Portfolio Lead.

Cr Liu thanked Chris for the question and acknowledged his follow-up. The Cheltenham fire was discussed at the March Municipal Emergency Management Committee Meeting, and it was concluded that there were no new learnings for Council. Regarding the equipment failures, this matter falls under the jurisdiction of Fire Rescue Victoria and it is recommended to contact Fire Rescue Victoria via their website.

### **Earthquake Preparedness**

Chris Thrum asked a question relating to Council's oversight on building design and earthquake resilience. Concerns were raised regarding the adequacy of current buildings and the need for retrofitting. Chris asked if Council could discuss potential improvements to building codes and consider retrofitting measures for future earthquake preparedness.

Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece thanked Chris for the question and referred it to Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell, Planning Portfolio Lead.

The Deputy Lord Mayor thanked Chris for the question and advised that Melbourne is not on a fault line, but earthquake risks are considered. The Building Code of Australia has been updated since the 1990s to address seismic activity. Older buildings must improve their seismic response when modified. These measures ensure Melbourne's construction codes address earthquake risks.

### **Queen Victoria Market**

John O'Brien asked a question relating to the development of the Queen Victoria Market, including staffing, rents and costs to stall holders.

Lord Mayor Nicholas Reese thanked John for the question and advised that he shared John's passion for the Queen Victoria Market. The Lord Mayor acknowledged challenges from market renewal but noted positive public response to completed developments. The Lord Mayor emphasised adapting to changing consumer behaviour and mentioned that fees and charges will be discussed in the upcoming Queen Victoria Market Annual Plan and Budget meeting, inviting further questions then.

## **6 Reports from management**

There were two reports from Management.

### **6.1 Review of Cat Management**

The report from management included the following executive summary:

1. This report responds to the Future Melbourne Committee's (FMC) resolution from 19 March 2024, requesting an update and advice on the role of cat containment in Council's next Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP).
2. Given the strong support from the community for new cat management controls, this report also seeks endorsement for proposed cat management controls across the municipality, including mandatory desexing and containment orders.
3. The proposed cat management controls are informed by extensive community engagement conducted in July and August 2024, which received 1,758 contributions and six written submissions.

4. The feedback indicates strong community support for cat containment, particularly for night-time curfews (85 per cent support) and prohibitions in environmentally sensitive areas (81 per cent support).
5. Additionally, mandatory desexing is recommended to address the issue of unowned and semi-owned cat colonies. At the same time, 134 of the 5,454 registered cats in the municipality are not desexed – 84 per cent of the community supported mandatory cat desexing.
6. The report recommends that new Municipal Orders are issued that relate to mandatory desexing of cats, containment of cats to their premises and prohibiting cats from environmentally sensitive areas. The report also outlines the process for publication, communication, and enforcement.
7. The proposal aligns with guidance from the Victorian Government agency Animal Welfare Victoria and the Victorian Cat Management Strategy, published in December 2024.
8. Any work associated with the proposal can be delivered within existing resources and there will be no financial implication to the City of Melbourne.
9. Management note that City of Melbourne is one of the 'Metropolitan 9' (M9) councils. Of the 'M9' cohort, Port Phillip City Council and Yarra City Council have introduced cat curfews and mandatory desexing. Darebin City Council and Stonnington City Council have introduced a cat curfew but not mandatory desexing. Management acknowledges the importance of collaborating with neighbouring councils, especially those with like policies already in place, when introducing and enforcing the proposed orders.

Items of correspondence were received from:

- Lisa Hasker OAM
- Valmae Walsh
- Graeme Smith
- Ann Enright
- Michael Johnston
- Jenny Cotterell
- Sharon Valducic

The following people addressed the Committee:

- Valmae Walsh
- Michael Johnston (Zoom)
- Gillian Basnett (Zoom)
- Emeritus Professor Jaquie Rand (Zoom)
- Sharon Valducic

### **Motion**

Moved: Cr Dr Ball

1. That the Future Melbourne Committee resolves to:
  - 1.1. Make a municipal order under Section 25(2) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 (the Act) requiring cats to be contained to their property at all times;
  - 1.2. Make a municipal order under Section 10A(1) of the Act requiring the mandatory desexing of cats (unless exempted by the Act);
  - 1.3. Make a municipal order under Section 26 of the Act prohibiting cats from all public places within the municipal district, unless under effective control by means of a purpose-built carrier, or harness and leash, and in the presence of the owner at all times;
  - 1.4. Apply these orders from 1 October 2025, allowing for communication campaign notifying cat owners of these orders and allowing time for them to comply;

- 1.5. Publish a notice of the municipal orders in the government gazette; and
- 1.6. Request management report back to FMC or Council on the effectiveness of these municipal orders in mid-2026.

Seconded: Cr Griffiths

The motion was put and LOST

Voted for Cr Dr Ball, Cr Griffiths, Cr Rowse and Cr Scott

Voted against Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece, Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell, Cr Dr Guest, Cr Liu, Cr Le Liu and Cr Louey

Cr Le Liu left the meeting at 7.12pm and returned at 7.13pm.

### **Motion**

Moved: Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece

1. That the Future Melbourne Committee resolves to:
  - 1.1. Make a municipal order under Section 25(2) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 (The Act) requiring cats to be contained to their property between 6pm and 8am;
  - 1.2. Make a municipal order under Section 10A(1) of the Act requiring the mandatory desexing of cats subject to the exemptions set out in Section 10B of the Act;
  - 1.3. Make a municipal order under Section 26 of the Act that prohibits cats from the City of Melbourne's waterways, riverine environments and 14 major parks and gardens as listed below, unless under effective control by means of a purpose-built carrier, or harness and leash, and in the presence of the owner at all times:
    - Alexandra Gardens, Melbourne
    - Birrarung Marr, Melbourne
    - Carlton Gardens, Carlton
    - Docklands Park, Docklands
    - Domain Parklands, Melbourne
    - Fawkner Park, South Yarra
    - Fitzroy Gardens, Melbourne
    - Flagstaff Gardens, Melbourne
    - JJ Holland Park, Kensington
    - Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne
    - Princess Park, Carlton
    - Queen Victoria Gardens, Melbourne
    - Royal Park, Parkville
    - Treasury Gardens, Melbourne
  - 1.4. Apply these orders from 1 October 2025, allowing for a communication campaign notifying cat owners of these orders and allowing time for them to comply.
  - 1.5. Publish a notice of the municipal orders in the government gazette; and
  - 1.6. Request management report back to FMC or Council on the effectiveness of these municipal orders in mid-2026

Seconded: Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell

Voted for Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece, Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell, Cr Dr Ball, Cr Louey and Cr Scott  
Voted against Cr Griffiths, Cr Dr Guest, Cr Liu, Cr Le Liu and Cr Rowse

The motion was put and CARRIED on the casting vote of the Chair, Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece

## **6.2 ALGA National General Assembly**

The report from management included the following executive summary:

1. The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA) will be held in Canberra between 24 and 27 June 2025.
2. The NGA provides an annual forum for local government to discuss and advance issues of national significance to local government. Member councils have the opportunity of submitting motions for consideration and debate in a forum involving local government representatives from across Australia.
3. This report proposes City of Melbourne participation in the 2025 NGA and lodgement of a motion on the topic of current and future productivity of Australian Capital Cities.

### **Motion A:**

Moved: Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece

1. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
  - 1.2. Approves the submission of the motion included in Attachment 1 for consideration at the National General Assembly.
  - 1.3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make minor editorial changes to Attachment 1 prior to submitting it to the Australian Local Government Association.

Seconded: Cr Griffiths

The motion was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Voted for Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece, Cr Dr Ball, Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell, Cr Dr Guest, Cr Griffiths, Cr Rowse, Cr Liu, Cr Le Liu, Cr Scott and Cr Louey.

### **Motion B:**

Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece declared a material conflict of interest in this matter pursuant to section 128(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Governance Rules*, as he may be a beneficiary of Council's decision to represent the City of Melbourne at the National General Assembly in Canberra. Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece left the meeting at 7.46pm prior to discussion taking place.

Cr Rowse declared a material conflict of interest in this matter pursuant to section 128(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Governance Rules*, as he may be a beneficiary of Council's decision to represent the City of Melbourne at the National General Assembly in Canberra. Cr Rowse left the meeting at 7.46pm prior to discussion taking place.

The Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell assumed the role of Chair.

Moved: Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell

1. That the Future Melbourne Committee:

- 1.1. Nominates Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Councillor Andrew Rowse to represent the City of Melbourne at the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly to be held in Canberra between 24 and 27 June 2025 at an estimated cost of \$3800 per participant.

Seconded: Cr Griffiths

The motion was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Voted for Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell, Cr Dr Ball, Cr Dr Guest, Cr Griffiths, Cr Liu, Cr Le Liu, Cr Scott and Cr Louey.

Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Cr Rowse returned to the meeting at 7.50pm.

The Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece resumed the role of Chair.

## **7 General Business**

There were no items of general business.

## **8 Urgent Business**

There was one item of urgent business.

Cr Le Liu declared a material conflict of interest in this matter pursuant to section 128(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Governance Rules*, as he may be a beneficiary of this business trip to Chengdu, China. Cr Le Liu left the meeting at 7.58pm prior to discussion taking place.

### **Procedural Motion**

Moved: Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece

1. That the matter of proposed travel by Councillor Philip Le Liu to visit Chengdu, China in mid-April meets the criteria for consideration as an item of urgent business as it cannot safely or conveniently be deferred until the next meeting of the Future Melbourne Committee or Council.

Seconded: Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell

The motion was put and CARRIED.

Voted for Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece, Cr Dr Ball, Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell, Cr Dr Guest, Cr Griffiths, Cr Rowse, Cr Liu, Cr Scott and Cr Louey.

### **Motion**

Moved: Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece

1. That the Future Melbourne Committee:

- 1.1. Approves the proposal by Councillor Philip Le Liu to travel to Chengdu, China to participate in Chengdu International Friendship Cities Cooperation and Development Conference to be held between 15 and 18 April 2025 at a cost to Council of \$1100; and

1.2. Notes that Councillor Le Liu will provide a post travel report within 60 days of return from travel.

Seconded: Cr Louey

The motion was put and CARRIED.

Voted for Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece, Cr Dr Ball, Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell, Cr Griffiths, Cr Rowse, Cr Liu, Cr Scott and Cr Louey.

Cr Dr Guest, being present but having abstained from voting, was taken to have voted against the motion.

Cr Le Liu returned to the meeting at 7.58pm.

## **9 Public Questions**

There were three public questions.

Below is a summary of public questions and responses. The full question time can be heard in the live stream recording of the meeting on Council's website at <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/meeting/future-melbourne-committee-01-april-2025>

### **Mayoral Functions**

John O'Brien asked a question relating to whether Council has considered hosting winter or spring Mayoral functions or Mayoral balls.

Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece thanked John for the question and advised consideration to hosting functions is being given.

### **E-Scooter Scheme**

Aaron Moon asked a question relating to the cancellation of the e-scooter scheme in Melbourne last year and if major events in Melbourne, like the F1 and MCG Grand Final, causing public transport delays and overcrowding, could be alleviated with an e-scooter scheme in the City of Melbourne and the City of Yarra.

Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece thanked Aaron for the question and explained that Council decided to end the e-scooter trial due to safety concerns. Despite the transport benefits, the high number of injuries and rule violations, such as riding on footpaths and without helmets, led to the decision. Promises from e-scooter operators about improvements were not met to the Council's satisfaction, hence, Council chose to prioritize safety and discontinue the trial.

### **Availability of Bicycle Parking**

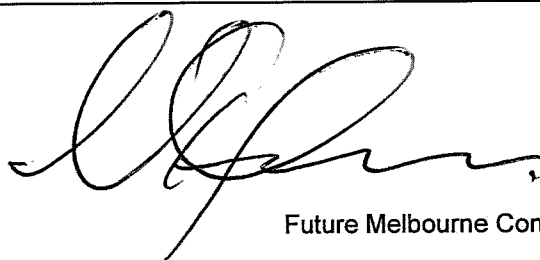
Aaron Moon asked a question relating to availability of bicycle parking in the municipality, especially at activity centres and pubs, such as the Lincoln Hotel in Carlton.

Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece thanked Aaron for the question and also acknowledged Aaron's suggestion. As the new Infrastructure Portfolio Lead, the Lord Mayor will look into the ongoing investment in transport and infrastructure.

## **10 Closure of Meeting**

The Lord Mayor declared the meeting closed to the public at 8:04pm.

To be confirmed at the meeting of the Future Melbourne Committee on Tuesday 15 April 2025.



Chair  
Future Melbourne Committee