

Future Melbourne Committee

**Meeting No 7
Tuesday 6 May 2025
5.30pm**

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

Confirmed Minutes



Present

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

Apologies

Councillor Kevin Louey

1 Commencement of meeting and apologies

The meeting commenced at 5.31pm.

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 Cr Louey
- Alison Leighton, Chief Executive Officer was joining 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 6 held on Tuesday 15 April 2025 be confirmed.

Seconded: Cr Camillo

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 Camillo

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

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-06-may-2025>

City Road Master plan

Tony Penna, Southbank Residents Association asked for an update on the 20 August 2024 resolution regarding the City Road Master Plan. Tony queried whether the budget submission was sent in November, if it was shared with the Minister for Albert Park, whether advocacy had been maintained, and if the 3 June 2025 Future Melbourne Committee report was on track. Tony also asked whether the full implementation of the Master Plan would be included in the 2025–26 Annual Plan and if the new Council understood the risks posed by the current road design.

The Lord Mayor as Infrastructure Portfolio lead thanked Tony for the questions and tireless advocacy for City Road. It was advised that the Lord Mayor had hand delivered the City Road Master Plan budget submission to the Premier and had spoken with the Member for Albert Park on the submission. The Lord Mayor outlined that in doing so, it had been a fulsome advocacy exercise. The Lord Mayor advised that the newly elected Councillor cohort continue to be briefed on all existing Council Major Initiatives, including the City Road Master Plan. The Lord Mayor indicated Council will continue to advocate until progress is made on City Road, acknowledging that it is not currently fit for purpose.

Racecourse Road Strategic Improvements Plan (RRSIP)

Chris Thrum asked a question regarding the RRSIP, seeking an update on how the plan is progressing highlighting in particular the introduction of low floor trams, changes to the tree canopy, improvements to bike lanes, and pedestrian safety.

The Deputy Lord Mayor as Planning Portfolio Lead thanked Chris Thrum for the question and advised that City of Melbourne officers are working closely with partners, particularly the City of Moonee Valley, to develop an implementation approach for the RRSIP. The Deputy Lord Mayor indicated that an update is expected to be provided to Council and the public on the progress of the RRSI, by July 2025.

Extension of the private security guard trial

Felicity Gibon submitted a written public question asking why the City of Melbourne extended the use of private security guards to support Local Laws Officers, without evaluating the effectiveness of the trial period.

Cr Camillo as Safety and Cleaning Portfolio Lead thanked Felicity for the question and explained that a report would be presented to the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) in June 2025 to evaluate the trial. Cr Camillo noted that the decision of Council to extend the trial at the FMC meeting on 15 April 2025 as a matter of urgent business, was based upon the positive view of the trial up until that point.

Kensington Association - seeking updates to local matters

A written question was received by Dr Kate Kennedy, Kensington Association. Kate enquired about a number of matters that the Kensington Association had expected to see decisions made on the Racecourse Road Strategic Implementation Plan (RRSIP), a consultation plan for a 'Moonee Ponds Creek Macaulay Road to Arden St linear park', and the 'Drainage Land' abutting Moonee Ponds Creek, before the 2025/26 Budget was released. Kate sought clarification on when these matters would return to Council or the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) for decision and asked for assurance that the matters would be adequately reflected in the 2025/26 Annual Plan.

The Deputy Lord Mayor as Planning Portfolio Lead thanked Kate for the question and for the work she does on behalf of the residents of Kensington. The Deputy Lord Mayor provided an update that while more time had been required by officers to complete the work, all three matters were scheduled to be considered at FMC in July prior to the Draft Council Plan being considered in August. The Deputy Lord Mayor explained that while the Draft Budget would be considered on 13 May, the Council Plan would be considered later in the year and there would be an opportunity consider these matters.

Cr Griffiths as Environment Portfolio Lead encouraged the community to be involved in the upcoming consultation process on the Draft 2025/26 Budget.

Public Toilet #177, Bellair Street, Kensington

Sheila Byard submitted a written public question seeking an explanation as to why public toilet #177 on Bellair Street, Kensington had not been repaired and reopened after six weeks of closure.

The Lord Mayor referred the question to Rick Kwasek, General Manager Infrastructure and Amenity who explained the delay was due to Council awaiting a locking mechanism order to be fulfilled. Repairs would proceed as soon as parts were available.

Parking Fees for SUVs and light trucks

Anton Diradji submitted a written question asking what the process would be to increase parking fees for larger vehicles.

The Lord Mayor as Infrastructure Portfolio Lead noted that whilst the City of Melbourne does not currently set parking fees based on vehicle type, other cities are exploring policies similar to what Anton had suggested. The City of Melbourne would look to understand the costs, benefits and lessons learned from the work undertaken by other cities, to inform any future policy considerations.

6 Reports from management

There were three reports from Management.

6.1 Northern Undercroft and City Road Park - Concept Design

The report from management included the following Executive Summary:

1. The Northern Undercroft and City Road Park, part of the City Road Masterplan, aims to transform a neglected space beneath the Kings Way overpass into a vibrant, accessible, and sustainable urban open space area with multi-purpose courts, a bouldering wall, skateboarding elements, place spaces, seating and green plant elements.
2. In December 2024, the project successfully secured \$4.05 million through the Federal Government's Thriving Suburbs Program (TSP). The remaining funding required has been referred to the 2025-26 draft budget where an appropriate allocation has been made.

Requests to speak and items of correspondence were received from:

- David Hamilton and Roy Byrnes, Southbank3006
- Tony Penna, Southbank Residents Association

Moved: Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece

1. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
 - 1.1. Changes the project name from "Northern Undercroft and City Road Park" to "City Road Undercroft Park"
 - 1.2. Approve the City Road Undercroft Park concept design and proceed to finalise the design.
 - 1.3. Notes a report will come back to Council once a preferred principal contractor is recommended in line with our procurement policy and delegations and including final detailed design.
 - 1.4. Authorise the General Manager Infrastructure and Amenity to make any further minor changes to the City Road Undercroft Park concept design.

Seconded: Cr Camillo

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 Camillo

6.2 City of Melbourne submission to Victoria's draft 30-year infrastructure strategy

The report from management included the following Executive Summary:

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Future Melbourne Committee's approval of the City of Melbourne's submission (Submission) (Attachment 1) to *Victoria's draft 30-year infrastructure strategy* (draft Strategy) (Attachment 2) released by Infrastructure Victoria for public consultation in March 2025.
2. Across six themed objectives, the draft Strategy establishes 43 recommendations, and seven future options.
3. There is strong alignment between City of Melbourne policy and the draft Strategy. The Submission focusses on strengthening the draft Strategy across five key themes:

3.1. Population growth.

3.2. Affordable housing.

3.3. Community infrastructure.

3.4. Climate change.

3.5. Transport infrastructure.

4. The Submission highlights the City of Melbourne as a proven and ongoing growth area. In addition to the unique challenges in delivering infrastructure in our capital city, where land is finite, infrastructure supports a daily population well beyond our resident population, and parts of our city will be amongst the most densely populated areas in the world.
5. Unlocking housing and employment capacity while maintaining our liveability is contingent on the delivery of catalytic major infrastructure, such as public transport, including the soon to be completed Melbourne Metro, planned Melbourne Metro 2, and direct tram connections into urban renewal areas.
6. This must be complemented with community infrastructure, including land and facilities for sport and recreation, parks and open spaces, schools and kindergartens that are critical to facilitate more people living and working in the City of Melbourne while maintaining and enhancing our liveability as a leading global city.

Moved: Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell

1. That the Future Melbourne Committee resolves to:

- 1.1. Note that the submission has been prepared by City of Melbourne Officers representing existing City of Melbourne policies and strategies developed over previous terms of Council.
- 1.2. Approve the City of Melbourne's Submission (Attachment 1) to Victoria's draft 30-year infrastructure strategy, subject to the following changes to City of Melbourne commentary:
- 1.3. Recommendation #13: to define off-peak as being days or times with lower than average commuter patronage, consistent with previous Council advocacy.
- 1.4. Recommendation #36: to include reference to infrastructure contributions being spent in their entirety within the local government area from which they were levied.
- 1.5. Authorise the General Manager, Strategy, Planning and Climate Change to make any minor editorial changes to the submission prior to it being submitted to Infrastructure Victoria.
- 1.6. Request the Lord Mayor write to the Minister for Planning to request an update on the Victorian Government's current work to implement statewide infrastructure contributions and express Council's position that infrastructure contributions should be spent within the local government area from which they are levied.

Seconded: Cr Le Liu

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 Le Liu, Cr Scott and Cr Camillo

Voted against Cr Dr Guest

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

6.3 Proposed Travel, City of Sydney, May 2025

The report from management included the following Executive Summary:

1. As part of on-going engagement and exchange between Cities of Melbourne and Sydney, a program of meetings and site visits with the City of Sydney is proposed for 29 and 30 May 2025 to consider issues of mutual interest.
2. As the most comparable capital city, Sydney deals with issues and challenges similar to those faced by Melbourne in providing for and balancing the needs of residents, businesses and visitors. There is an opportunity to further develop the strong relationship between the two cities on respective approaches and strategies.
3. The Lord Mayor (LM) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) propose to lead engagements with City of Sydney counterparts in late May 2025. One of the key topics of discussion will be approaches to major events programming and delivery. This report proposes participation by Councillors Mark Scott as the Portfolio Head, Tourism and Events and Philip Le Liu as Portfolio Head Creative and Arts.

Cr Scott declared a material conflict of interest in this matter pursuant to section 128(3)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 and the Governance Rules. Cr Scott has a material conflict of interest as he is the beneficiary of this business trip to Sydney. Cr Scott left the meeting at 6.37pm prior to discussion taking place.

Cr Le Liu declared a material conflict of interest in this matter pursuant to section 128(3)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 and the Governance Rules. Cr Le Liu has a material conflict of interest as he is the beneficiary of this business trip to Sydney. Cr Le Liu left the meeting at 6.37pm prior to discussion taking place.

Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell declared a general conflict of interest in this matter pursuant to section 127 of the Local Government Act 2020 and the Governance Rules. The Deputy Lord Mayor received a campaign donation in the 2024 election from Cr Scott. The Deputy Lord Mayor left the meeting at 6.37pm prior to discussion taking place.

Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece declared a general conflict of interest in this matter pursuant to section 127 of the Local Government Act 2020 and the Governance Rules. The Lord Mayor received a campaign donation in the 2024 election from Cr Scott. The Lord Mayor left the meeting at 6.37pm prior to discussion taking place.

Procedural Motion:

In the absence of both the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor, Council was required to elect a temporary Chair.

The Director Governance and Legal called for nominations for the position of temporary Chair.

Moved: Cr Dr Ball

That Cr Davydd Griffiths be elected temporary Chair of the Future Melbourne Committee meeting for the consideration of agenda item 6.3

Seconded: Cr Rowse

The motion was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Voted for Cr Dr Ball, Cr Griffiths, Cr Dr Guest, Cr Rowse, Cr Liu and Cr Camillo

Motion:

Moved: Cr Griffiths

That the Future Melbourne Committee approves participation by Councillors Mark Scott and Philip Le Liu in a City of Melbourne visit to the City of Sydney between 29 and 30 May 2025 to explore issues and programs of mutual interest at an estimated cost of \$2,350 per participant.

Seconded: Cr Camillo

The motion was put and CARRIED.

Voted for Cr Dr Ball, Cr Griffiths, Cr Rowse, Cr Liu and Cr Camillo

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

The Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor, and Councillors Le Liu and Scott returned to the meeting at 6.41pm.

The Lord Mayor resumed the role of Chair.

Cr Dr Guest retired from the meeting at 6.41pm.

Cr Rowse left the meeting at 6.41pm.

7 General Business

There was one item of general business.

Notice of Motion, Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece: Safe City Camera Program (SCCP)

Cr Rowse returned to the meeting at 6.42pm.

A request to speak and item of correspondence was received from:

- Bill Horman AM APM, SCCP CCTV Audit Committee.

Moved: Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece

1. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
 - 1.1. Notes the resolution of Council dated 30 May 2023 relating to the Safe City Camera Program.
 - 1.2. Resolves to allocate new capital expenditure to upgrade the existing Safe City Camera Program, and the purchase and installation of new cameras to expand the network and refers this expenditure to the 2025/26 draft Budget.
 - 1.3. Requests City of Melbourne management undertakes a review of the Safe City Camera Program policies and manual which will include consulting with the SCCP Audit Committee, Victoria Police and similar stakeholders involved in advising the program at its inception and in the 2010 policy review, to consider:
 - 1.3.1. permitting the use of camera footage by Council authorised officers for the investigation and enforcement of incidents involving:
 - damage to public or private property and infrastructure
 - defacement or destruction of the natural environment

- acts of public nuisance, and
- other enforcement issues that result in costs to the organisation and ratepayers.

- 1.4. Requests City of Melbourne management review options regarding the use of video analytics to enhance the effectiveness of the Safe City Camera Program.
- 1.5. Requests management seek expert assistance in assessing whether the above proposals are reasonable and consistent with the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities and include this assessment in its report to Council.
- 1.6. Requests Management prepare a report to Council on the outcomes of the review by July 2025.

Seconded: Cr Camillo

The Deputy Lord Mayor left the meeting at 6.49pm and returned at 6.53pm.

The motion was put and CARRIED

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

8 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

9 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-06-may-2025>

Follow up question on City Road Masterplan

Tony Penna asked a further question reiterating his previous question and again requested to see the budget submission that was submitted to the Premier in relation to the City Road Master Plan.

The Lord Mayor referred the question to Rick Kwasek, General Manager Infrastructure and Amenity who took the question on notice.

Correspondence to Urgent Business item at Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) on 15 April 2025

Karl Hessian asked a question relating to items of correspondence that were verbally referred to during the discussion on the urgent business item 8.1 Security Officers Trial, at the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting held on 15 April 2025. Following receipt of officer advice that the correspondence did not meet the criteria to be considered submissions under the Governance Rules and therefore would not be included in the minutes, Karl asked if the correspondence could still be included in the minutes.

The Lord Mayor referred the question to David Thompson, Director Governance and Legal who confirmed the correspondence did not meet the criteria to be considered submissions under the Governance Rules and that they would not be included in the minutes.

10 Closure of Meeting

The Lord Mayor declared the meeting closed to the public at 7.32pm.

Confirmed at the meeting of the Future Melbourne Committee on Tuesday 20 May 2025.



Chair
Future Melbourne Committee