

Melbourne City Council

**Meeting No 15
Tuesday 24 February 2026
5:30 pm**

**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 (Zoom)
Councillor Philip Le Liu
Councillor Gladys Liu
Councillor Kevin Louey
Councillor Andrew Rowse
Councillor Mark Scott

1 Commencement of meeting and apologies

The meeting commenced at 5:31 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.
- Councillor Dr Owen Guest joined the meeting remotely via Zoom.

Statement on Milan Winter Olympics

Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece read out the below statement:

*Before we commence, I would like to formally extend my congratulations to one of our **Sister Cities, the City of Milan**, and in particular to **Mayor Giuseppe Sala**, on their outstanding success in hosting the recent Winter Olympics.*

Councillor Camillo was recently in Milan and had the opportunity to meet with city officials and hear firsthand about the extensive preparations undertaken for the Games.

I would also like to acknowledge and congratulate the athletes from Australia, and especially those from Melbourne, who represented us with distinction.

I would also like to wish Australia's Paralympians every success as they prepare to compete in the upcoming Winter Paralympics.

The City of Melbourne warmly congratulates the City of Milan and is very proud of the remarkable success of their Games

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 Liu

That the minutes of Council meeting No 14 held on Tuesday 9 December 2025 be confirmed.

Seconded: Cr Griffiths

The motion was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

4 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

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

5 Reports from Committee

There were no reports from Committee.

6 Reports from management

There were six reports from Management.

Procedural Motion – Change of Order of Business:

Moved: Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece

That Council resolve to change the order of business to consider agenda item 6.5, Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly June 2026 as the first report from management.

Seconded: Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell

The motion was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly, June 2026

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 23 and 25 June 2026.
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 participation in the 2026 NGA and lodgement of four motions on behalf of the City of Melbourne (CoM).

Items of correspondence were received from:

- Jewish Advocates for Understanding Antisemitism
- Anny Mokotow
- Rebecca Parker
- Dr Tilman Ruff

The motion was split into two parts.

Motion 1:

Moved: Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece

1. That Council resolves to:

1.1. Approve submission of the motions included in Attachment 1 of the report from management for consideration at the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly, subject to the following changes:

1.1.1. The motion titled: Current and future productivity of Australian Capital Cities, being changed to read as follows:

That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government's Productivity Commission to investigate the current and future productivity of Australia's major economic activity centres, capital cities and regional communities, and their competitiveness compared to

global peers. Specifically, this should include the efficiency and appropriateness of current finance and governance arrangements as it relates to infrastructure and service delivery.

- 1.1.2. The motion titled: Responsible utilisation of AI infrastructure, including data centres, being changed to read as follows:

That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a nationally consistent, performance-based policy and regulatory framework for data centres that supports best-practice siting and design, renewable energy integration, fit-for-purpose water use, innovation in low-water and non-water cooling technologies, measurable community benefits, and transparent reporting of energy, water and emissions. The National General Assembly recognises that artificial intelligence and digital infrastructure are critical to Australia's future productivity, research excellence, sovereign capability and global competitiveness, and that local government is a key partner in delivering sustainable digital infrastructure.

Strengthened national coordination will support outcomes in advanced manufacturing, medical research, climate modelling, defence capability, smart cities and small business productivity, while protecting community amenity, supporting mandatory emissions reduction and water security, enabling innovation, attracting investment, strengthening sovereign compute capability and supporting high-value job creation across metropolitan and regional Australia.

- 1.3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to prepare revised national objective and key arguments to support amended motions and make minor editorial changes to Attachment 1 of the report from management prior to submission to the Australian Local Government Association.

Seconded: Cr Scott

The motion was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece 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*. The Lord Mayor is one of the beneficiaries of this business trip to Canberra. The Lord Mayor left the meeting at 6.09pm prior to discussion taking place.

Cr Rowse 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 Rowse is one of the beneficiaries of this business trip to Canberra. Cr Rowse left the meeting at 6.09pm prior to discussion taking place.

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 is one of the beneficiaries of this business trip to Canberra. Cr Scott left the meeting at 6.09pm prior to discussion taking place.

Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell declared a material conflict of interest in this matter pursuant to section 128(3)(h) of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Governance Rules*. The Deputy Lord Mayor received a disclosable gift in the form of a campaign donation from Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Cr Mark Scott in the 2024 election. The Deputy Lord Mayor left the meeting at 6.09pm prior to discussion taking place.

Cr Louey declared a material conflict of interest in this matter pursuant to section 128(3)(h) of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Governance Rules*. Cr Louey received a disclosable gift in the form of a campaign donation from Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Cr Mark Scott in the 2024 election. Cr Louey left the meeting at 6.09pm prior to discussion taking place.

Procedural Motion – Temporary Chair:

In the absence of the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor a Temporary Chair was required to be elected.

Moved: Cr Dr Ball

That Cr Le Liu be elected Temporary Chair.

Seconded: Cr Griffiths

The motion was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

Cr Le Liu assumed the role of Temporary Chair at 6.10pm.

Split Motion 2:

Moved: Cr Le Liu

1. That Council resolve:

1.2. Councillors Mark Scott, Andrew Rowse and Nicholas Reece represent the City of Melbourne at the National General Assembly to be held in Canberra between 23 and 25 June 2026 at an estimated cost of \$3600 per participant.

Seconded: Cr Camillo

The motion was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece, Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell, Cr Louey, Cr Rowse and Cr Scott returned to the meeting at 6.12pm.

6.1 Quarterly Performance Report – Council Plan Key Activities, Finances and Capital Program - Q2 2025-26

The report from management included the following executive summary:

1. This report provides an overall view of Council performance and delivery against the Council Plan 2025–29, Council Works Program and the Budget 2025–26 as at 31 December 2025.
2. Of the 31 key activities in the Budget 2025–26, thirty (97%) are on track and one (3%) has been put on hold and unlikely to be completed by 30 June 2026.

3. At the end of the second quarter, delivery of the 2025–26 Council Works Program is tracking well, with \$86.3 million delivered against a planned \$99.4 million, representing 87 per cent of planned budget.
4. Underlying surplus variance is \$0.4 million favourable, with an actual of \$4.1 million compared to a budget of \$3.7 million. This was mainly due to better-than-expected performance of \$5.1 million in parking fee income that has been offset by \$3.8 million overspend in Material and Services expense.
5. As at 31 December 2025, City of Melbourne's total cash balance was \$146 million, comprising of \$26 million Available Cash and \$120 million in Investment Cash. Current borrowings total \$110 million. As per the Budget 2025–26, City of Melbourne's borrowing limit is capped at \$212 million
6. The net effect of supplementary valuations for the July to December 2025 period is an increase of \$3.68 million in general rates and waste service charges.

Moved: Cr Le Liu

1. That Council resolves to:

- 1.1. Note the progress against the Council Plan key activities as included in the Budget 2025–26 and the Strategic Indicators in the Council Plan 2025–29. (Attachment 1 of the report from management).
- 1.2. Note the 2025–26 second quarter Financial Performance Report and supplementary valuations information (Attachments 2 to 4 of the report from management).
- 1.3. Note the 2025–26 Council Works program quarter two summary report (Attachment 5 of the report from management).
- 1.4. Approve the program adjustments in the Council Works Program (Attachment 6 of the report from management)

Seconded: Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece

The motion was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

6.2 Queen Victoria Market Pty Ltd Annual Report FY2024-25

The report from management included the following executive summary:

1. The Queen Victoria Market Pty Ltd (QVM) audited Annual Report 2024–25 is being presented to Council for noting.
2. The audited QVM financial result for the year ended 30 June 2025 was approved by Council at the 30 September 2025 Council meeting as part of the Melbourne City Council annual financial report 2024–25, under note 6.3a Subsidiaries.

Cr Dr Guest left the meeting at 6.16pm and returned at 6.18pm.

Moved: Cr Le Liu

That Council notes the Queen Victoria Market Pty Ltd audited Annual Report for the financial year 2024-2025 (attachment 1 of the report from management).

Seconded: Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece

The motion was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

6.3 Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal Program Quarterly Report

The report from management included the following executive summary:

1. The Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal (QVMPR) program is progressing well. The program is part of an ongoing Council Plan priority to build a city for people, shaped by heritage and the delivery of urban renewal precincts with high-quality design outcomes, adequate community infrastructure and open space.
2. Since the program commenced in 2013, total expenditure is \$212 million with the breakdown available in Attachment 1.
3. Construction of the new seven-level Trader Shed has reached a major milestone with structural works now complete.
4. Upgrades to Market water mains have commenced and planning for telecommunications enhancements is progressing.
5. The Deli Lane enhancement is nearing completion, with only minor elements remaining.
6. Momentum continues with planning and engagement progressing on the Queen Street Public Realm, historic Market Buildings, and a waste solution in the next phase of precinct transformation.
7. Preparation of the Gurrowa Place State planning permit amendment application is underway.

Cr Dr Guest returned to the meeting at 6.18pm.

Moved: Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece

That Council resolve to accept the Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal Program quarterly report, which confirms a total program expenditure of \$212 million as at 31 December 2025.

Seconded: Cr Camillo

The motion was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

6.4 Additional Instrument of Delegation - Council to Members of Council Staff - Planning and Environment Act 1987

The report from management included the following executive summary:

1. The purpose of this report is to present to Council a new additional Instrument of Delegation to Members of Council Staff (Instrument) (**Attachment 1**) for adoption.
2. Council subscribes to the Maddocks Delegations and Authorisations Service, which provides template Instruments and advice. Since the last Instrument of Delegation - Members of Council Staff was adopted by

Council on 30 September 2025, Maddocks have advised of recent changes to the Planning and Environment Act 1987 as amended by the Consumer and Planning Legislation Amendment (Housing Statement Reform) Act 2025, which commenced on 25 November 2025.

3. The Instrument (Attachment 1) has been prepared for Council's consideration in accordance with the latest update from Maddocks and in consultation with the Planning and Building Branch and the City Strategy Branch.
4. Council is requested to adopt the Instrument of Delegation to Members of Council Staff (Instrument) (Attachment 1).

Moved: Cr Dr Guest

1. In the exercise of the powers conferred by the legislation referred to in the attached Instrument of Delegation to Members of Council Staff (Attachment 1), Melbourne City Council (Council) resolves that:
 - 1.1. There be delegated to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the attached Instrument of Delegation to Members of Council Staff (Instrument) (Attachment 1), the powers, duties and functions set out in that Instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument.
 - 1.1.1. The Instrument:
 - 1.1.2. be sealed;
 - 1.1.3. comes into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to the Instrument; and
 - 1.1.4. remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it.
 - 1.2. The duties and functions set out in the Instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the Instrument must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.
2. That Council note this delegation only affects the current S6 Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff (authorised by resolution of Council passed on 30 September 2025) to the extent that the provisions in the Schedule of the Instrument are marked as 'amended' or 'repealed' as appropriate.

Seconded: Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece

The motion was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

6.6 Referred Documents from 14 November 2025 ARC

The report from management included the following executive summary:

1. This report informs the Council about the outcomes of the City of Melbourne Audit and Risk Committee (the Committee) meeting held on 14 November 2025.
2. The Committee is an advisory committee of Council established in accordance with section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

3. It is a requirement under the Audit and Risk Committee Charter to forward the unconfirmed minutes from the Committee meeting to Council.

Cr Dr Guest left the meeting at 6.24pm.

Moved: Cr Griffiths

That Council resolve to receive the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 14 November 2025.

Seconded: Cr Le Liu

The motion was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

7 General Business

There was one item of general business.

7.1 Notice of Motion, Cr Dr Olivia Ball: Maintain VicHealth, its independence and funding

Cr Dr Guest returned to the meeting at 6.25pm.

Moved: Cr Dr Ball

1. That Council:

1.1. Notes

- 1.1.1. the critical role played by VicHealth – the world-first and world-renowned independent health promotion foundation, established in 1987 with support from across the political spectrum – in keeping communities in the City of Melbourne healthy, active and well;
- 1.1.2. the community health initiatives the City of Melbourne has been able to deliver thanks to partnerships with VicHealth, including alcohol harm prevention, tobacco and vaping prevention, support for healthy food environments and systems, along with professional development opportunities for staff;
- 1.1.3. that for every dollar spent on public health, early intervention and prevention, \$14.30 is saved on future healthcare; and
- 1.1.4. the vital importance of maintaining the independence of public and preventive health bodies, because health promotion can be subject to competing, vested interests;

1.2. Calls on the Victorian Government to maintain VicHealth, its independence and funding and requests:

- 1.2.1. the Lord Mayor write to the Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Health to: express the City's strong support for VicHealth, its independence and funding; and request genuine and adequate consultation with local

governments and their peak bodies prior to any future changes to VicHealth's role, funding or focus; and

- 1.2.2. the CEO write to state MPs representing electorates that include the City of Melbourne municipality (the state electoral districts of Melbourne, Albert Park, Prahran, Essendon and Brunswick) to: express the City's strong support for VicHealth, its independence and funding, and seek their support for it; and

1.3. Requests management:

- 1.3.1. submit a motion to the next meeting of MAV State Council on behalf of Melbourne City Council conveying the same; and
- 1.3.2. add support for VicHealth, its independence and funding to the City of Melbourne's advocacy plan.

Seconded: Cr Liu

Cr Le Liu left the meeting at 6.28pm and returned at 6.30pm.

The motion was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

8 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

9 Closure of Meeting

Moved: Cr Camillo

1. That pursuant to section 66(1) and section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 (Act), the meeting of the Council be closed to members of the public for the consideration of the agenda items titled:
 - 14.1 Council Business Information
 - 14.2 Private Commercial Information
 - 14.3 Private Commercial Information
 - 14.4 Private Commercial Information
 - 14.5 Personal Information
 - 14.6 Personal Information
2. These agenda items are confidential information for the purposes of section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 because:
 - a. Agenda items 14.1 contains council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released (section 3(1)(a)).
 - b. Agenda items 14.2, 14.3 and 14.4 contain private commercial information being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that relates to trade secrets or if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage (section 3(1)(g)).

- c. Agenda items 14.5 and 14.6 contain personal information, being information which if released would result in unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs (section 3(1)(f)).

Seconded: Cr Rowse

The motion was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell retired from the meeting at 6.32pm.

The Lord Mayor declared the meeting closed to the public at 6:32 pm.

Confirmed at the meeting of Council on Tuesday 31 March 2026.



Chair
Council