

Council Meeting

Minutes

27 September 2023 at 6:30pm

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



ORDER OF BUSINESS:

1. Opening Declaration.....	4
2. Apologies For Absence.....	4
3. Disclosure Of Interest	5
4. Matters Arising From The Minutes.....	5
5. Confirmation Of Minutes.....	5
6. Public Question Time	6
7. Chief Executive Officer Report.....	9
7.1. Chief Executive Officer Report.....	9
8. Officer Reports.....	10
8.1. Access and Inclusion Implementation Plan	10
8.2. Annual Community Engagement Report	11
8.3. Events Strategy.....	12
8.4. Recommended Budget Carryovers 2022/23.....	13
8.5. Art Gallery of Ballarat Board Appointments	14
8.6. 2023-2024 Council Plan Action Plan	15
8.7. Tender 2022/23-578 - Stage 2 - Part A Ballarat Regional Landfill Capping Construction.....	16
8.8. Contracts Approval Delegated Committee Minutes	17
8.9. S6 Instrument of Delegation - Members of Staff.....	18
8.10. S11A and S11B Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation	19
8.11. Outstanding Question Time Items	20
9. Notice Of Motion	21

10. Reports From Committees/Councillors	21
11. Urgent Business	26
12. Section 66 (In Camera)	26
13. Close	26

1. OPENING DECLARATION

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

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

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 Present

Cr Des Hudson (Mayor)
Cr Daniel Moloney
Cr Ben Taylor
Cr Belinda Coates
Cr Mark Harris
Cr Amy Johnson
Cr Peter Eddy
Cr Tracey Hargreaves

Mr Evan King - Chief Executive Officer
Mr Les Stokes - Acting Director Infrastructure and Environment
Mr Matthew Wilson - Director Community Wellbeing
Mr John Hausler - Director Corporate Services
Ms Natalie Robertson - Director Development and Growth
Mr Jeff Johnson - Acting Director Economy and Experience
Mr Cameron Montgomery - Executive Manager Governance and Risk
Ms Sarah Anstis - Statutory Compliance Officer
Mr Stephen Wright - Administration Assistant Compliance

2.2 Apologies

Cr Samantha McIntosh

RESOLUTION:

That the apology be accepted.

Moved: Cr Amy Johnson
Seconded: Cr Mark Harris

CARRIED
(R137/23)

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION:

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting on 23 August 2023 as circulated be confirmed.

Moved: Cr Belinda Coates
Seconded: Cr Mark Harris

CARRIED
(R138/23)

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

QT94/23 - Bruce Crawford

Question

Town Hall and Lake are city assets - owned by residents and ratepayers. These are other schedules I found as a comparison for you to consider. What reason would council have for keeping the lighting schedule secret?

Answer

John Hausler, Director of Corporate Services, responded that Clock and Fountain "Light Ups" are currently promoted on the Ballarat Council Facebook Page. The current priority is digitising the application process for Clock and Fountain lighting requests to allow for applications to be made through the City of Ballarat Website.

QT95/23 - Ange Elson

Question 1

Will Council fly the trans flag to mark Trans Day of Remembrance on 20 November 2023?

Answer

Matthew Wilson, Director Community Wellbeing, responded that currently Council resources events for 4 days of significance to the LGBTIQA+ community as directed by our LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee. This year the days selected are: Trans Day of Visibility, IDAHOBIT day, Wear It Purple Day and the upcoming World AIDS Day. These observances involve a flag raising and an event. However, community groups can make enquiries and potential application to observe other significant days by flag raising, with applications submitted via Council's email at info@ballarat.vic.gov.au.

Question 2

Will Council hold an event on Coming Out Day on 11 October 2023 in support of the local LGBTIQA+ community?

Answer

Matthew Wilson, Director Community Wellbeing, responded that the answer to the question is the same as the first, in that the same four days of significance are observed.

QT96/23 - Sue Broadway

Question 1

With the Council's commitment to Community net zero by 2030, and the BZE plan item number 2.2 is aimed at assisting households. I was wondering what actions is the Council taking to support households to transition to renewable energy? And is there any plan for a council led public education program to assist residents to understand the move?

Answer

Les Stokes, Acting Director Infrastructure and Environment, responded that the City of Ballarat is committed to climate action. The Climate Action programs proposed in '23/'24 that support improved sustainability outcomes for households include:

- Sustainability Incentive Scheme Pilot. That's a pilot that provides financial incentives for sustainable technology and reducing residential and business emissions;
- Support for pop up pocket gardens improving food security that'll be supported this year;

- The implementation of Environmentally Sustainable Design, or ESD, in new planning applications and suburbs;
- We also have our reusable nappy, period, and sanitary products rebate for residents;
- A compost bin and worm farm rebate for residents;
- We're also commencing planning for the next financial year, the '24/'25 financial year, and the actions within the plans that you mentioned; and
- We have an 'Electrify Everything Campaign' that's proposed and that will assist residents to make the switch from gas to electricity and renewable energy.

And each of those programs will have a communications component with them to help residents understand and deal with the switch themselves.

Question 2

Particularly in relation to the electrification programs: I presume you'll have to go to budget to get an allocation and everything, so when will we be likely to see it completed? Are you going to work on that program and when the budget comes through, and then you have the money, and you're right to go? Or is this going to be a long process and we're not going to see anything for quite some time?

Answer

Les Stokes, Acting Director Infrastructure and Environment, responded that the proposal is to initiate that program next financial year, so '24/'25, it will be subject to budget approval. The budget process internally, we've, as mentioned, commenced planning for. We intend, therefore, to have that money available and commence the program starting July 1.

QT97/23- Shane Broadway**Question 1**

With the impending summer period predicted to have some excessive temperature days, how is the City of Ballarat planning on managing the attendance at the Eureka pool if larger numbers attend due to the closure of the Brown Hill pool? I.e., if the Eureka pool reaches capacity what's the Council's plan?

Answer

Matthew Wilson, Director Community Wellbeing, responded that our Aquatic Services team are currently working through the detailed planning for the upcoming season with outdoors pools, and they are planning for the hotter summer temperatures as you indicated. In terms of resourcing, the lifeguard team will be increasing from its current level at 54 to approximately 90-100 staff to allow for additional flexibility when the demand is at its greatest. We've also appointed additional Duty Managers in preparation for the upcoming summer season to give that flexibility when needed. The Point-of-Sale system at the Eureka Pool has been updated to allow better flow through the point of sale, the entry point into the pool and, importantly to your question, the opening hours of the pool can be extended during extreme temperature days where that demand is greater.

Question 2

Can you please advise the timelines and budgetary details about the installation of the replacement facilities at the Brown Hill Reserve, now that the pool is being dismantled?

Answer

Matthew Wilson, Director Community Wellbeing, responded that the decommissioning of the services at the outdoor pool is complete and the appointment of a demolition contractor is being finalised with a view to having them commence on site in late October, or possibly early November, subject to the relevant approvals to permit the works required. The design

consultant for the splash park precinct, that redevelopment to replace the pool at the Brown Hill Rec. Reserve, will be appointed in the coming months. The design process will include community consultation in partnership with the Brown Hill Progress Association. State Government election commitment funding of \$1,000,000 has been announced towards the master plan implementation and this project has been prioritised in the implementation of that master plan so those funds will be committed towards that project. Council has also contributed \$660,000 from the 2023/2024 budget towards this project as the initial priority item identified in the master plan implementation. So, in summary, once the design and the consultation is completed, tender documents will be finalised for project commencement in 2024.

Cr Tracey Hargreaves commented on the wear and tear at the Eureka Pool, such as on the grassed areas that turn to mud. She asked about the maintenance at the pool and whether it was regularly undertaken, and could it be addressed before we get into the busy period? Director Wilson said he would take it on notice and provide a detailed response to Cr Hargreaves and circulate to the rest of Council.

QT98/23 - Sean Mulcahy

Question 1

The first was around getting an update on the inclusion of an LGBTIQA+ section on the Visit Ballarat website, particularly in the lead up to the ChillOut Festival next year. There's a good opportunity for us to attract more tourists towards Ballarat in line with the inclusion plan.

Answer

Matthew Wilson, Director Community Wellbeing, thanked Mr Mulcahy for the suggestion and advised that it does align very well with the item 3.2 in the implementation plan for the LGBTIQA+ inclusion plan. Director Wilson noted though, that that particular action is for implementation over years 1 and 2 and that they will be bringing a report on progress to date on the implementation plan in February 2023. What he could confirm for you is that officers are now looking at that particular item and essentially how we can make information and resourcing available so that LGBTIQA+ visitors to Ballarat feel visibly and fundamentally welcome to the community when they visit.

Question 2

The second one, similarly, around a section on the myCommunity website, which I think was part of the first-year actions under the inclusion plan.

Answer

Matthew Wilson, Director Community Wellbeing advised that they are currently in the process of replacing the myCommunity website with a more robust system. And once this new community directory system is in place, there will be an LGBTIQA+ section created in accordance with that priority identified in 4.1 of the Inclusion Plan.

7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

7.1. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

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

PURPOSE

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

RESOLUTION:

10. That Council:

10.1 Receive and note the CEO's Operational Report.

Moved: Cr Amy Johnson
Seconded: Cr Peter Eddy

CARRIED
(R139/23)

8. OFFICER REPORTS

8.1. ACCESS AND INCLUSION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Division: Community Wellbeing
Director: Matthew Wilson
Author/Position: Bernadette Duffy - Community Inclusion Officer

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of the report is to update Council on the progress made against actions in the first year of the implementation of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2022 – 2026.

RESOLUTION:

12. That Council:

- 12.1 Receive and note the report on the work undertaken in year one to progress the actions in the City of Ballarat Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2022-2026.

Moved: Cr Amy Johnson
Seconded: Cr Belinda Coates

CARRIED
(R140/23)

8.2. ANNUAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Division: Community Wellbeing
Director: Matthew Wilson
Author/Position: Nicky Davidge - Coordinator Community Development

PURPOSE

1. Present the Annual Community Engagement Report for FY 2022/23.

RESOLUTION:

12. That Council:

12.1 Note the Annual Community Engagement Report 2022/23.

Moved: Cr Ben Taylor
Seconded: Cr Tracey Hargreaves

CARRIED
(R141/23)

8.3. EVENTS STRATEGY

Division: Economy and Experience
Director: Martin Darcy
Author/Position: Jeff Johnson - Executive Manager Arts and Events

PURPOSE

1. The Ballarat Events Strategy 2018 – 2028 (the Strategy) report card provides an evaluation of the outcomes from the 2022/2023 period against the Strategy's primary objectives and the progress toward completing tasks allocated within this timeframe.

RESOLUTION:

17. That Council:

- 17.1 Note the results of the 2023 Ballarat Events Strategy Report Card, noting the progress completed towards execution of the Ballarat Events Strategy 2018 – 2028.**

Moved: Cr Tracey Hargreaves
Seconded: Cr Peter Eddy

CARRIED
(R142/23)

8.4. RECOMMENDED BUDGET CARRYOVERS 2022/23

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

PURPOSE

1. This report sets out those items that are required to be carried forward to the 2023/24 Budget from the previous financial year due to timing issues relating to:
 - a. Funded projects still in progress as at 30 June 2023;
 - b. Grants being received in advance; and
 - c. Additional unbudgeted grants received.

RESOLUTION:

8. **That Council:**
 - 8.1 **Approve the \$24.175 million of funds to be carried over to the 2023/24 adopted budget.**
 - 8.2 **Approve the proposed accounting adjustments totaling \$15.086 million. relating to new and unexpended grants as at 30 June 2023.**
 - 8.3 **Approve the allocation of funds to the following items which have previously been committed to undertake by Council:**
 - **\$150k - Botanical Gardens Master Plan.**
 - **\$300k - Irrigation Renewal at the Botanical Gardens.**
 - 8.4 **Note that after approving the funds to be carried over to the 2023/24 adopted budget and allocating funds to the items in 8.3 above, that \$105,000 remains which will be allocated to Councils retained earnings and set aside for future debt repayment.**

Moved: Cr Mark Harris
Seconded: Cr Peter Eddy

CARRIED
(R143/23)

8.5. ART GALLERY OF BALLARAT BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Division: Economy and Experience
Director: Martin Darcy
Author/Position: Louise Tegart - Director Art Gallery of Ballarat

PURPOSE

1. For Council to consider the Art Gallery of Ballarat Board recommendation to re-appoint two Board Members whose one-year terms have come to conclusion on 30 August 2023.

RESOLUTION:

11. That Council:

- 11.1 Endorse David Constantine and David Herman be appointed to the Art Gallery of Ballarat Board for a three-year term concluding 30 August 2026.**

Moved: Cr Mark Harris
Seconded: Cr Ben Taylor

CARRIED
(R144/23)

8.6. 2023-2024 COUNCIL PLAN ACTION PLAN

Division: Corporate Services
Director: John Hausler
Author/Position: Michael Riseley - Coordinator Customer Experience

Mary Debrett, Paul Gordon-Smith, and Stuart Kelly made public representations.

PURPOSE

1. To present Council with the proposed 2023-2024 Council Plan Action Plan that will progress delivery of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

RESOLUTION:

8. That Council:
 - 8.1 Endorse the 2023-2024 Council Plan Action Plan.
 - 8.2 Note that updates on progress of delivery of the 2023-2024 Action Plan will be provided on a quarterly basis.

Moved: Cr Belinda Coates
Seconded: Cr Ben Taylor

CARRIED
(R145/23)

8.7. TENDER 2022/23-578 - STAGE 2 - PART A BALLARAT REGIONAL LANDFILL CAPPING CONSTRUCTION

Division: Infrastructure and Environment
Director: Bridget Wetherall
Author/Position: Les Stokes - Executive Manager Waste and Environment

PURPOSE

1. To award a schedule of rates contract, Contract Number 2022/23-578 for the provision of Ballarat Regional Landfill Construction Works – Landfill Capping/ Rehabilitation Works 2023/2024 to Shamrock Civil Engineering Pty Ltd for the schedule of rates as submitted in the tender.
2. To authorise the expenditure of up to \$2,072,232.50 (excl. GST) on Contract Number 2022/23-578.

RESOLUTION:

14. That Council:

14.1 Resolve to enter into a schedule of rates contract - Contract Number 2022/23-578 for the provision of Stage 2 - Part A - BRL Capping Construction with Shamrock Civil Engineering Pty Ltd for the schedule of rates as submitted in the tender, excluding GST, up to a maximum of \$2,072,232.50 (excl. GST). The contract Term is for seven months with the provision of a four month extension.

14.2 Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:

- a. finalise the terms of Contract Number 2022/23-578 with Shamrock Civil Engineering Pty Ltd, provided that those contract terms are consistent with this Resolution; and
- b. execute Contract Number 2022/23-578 on behalf of Council.

Moved: Cr Ben Taylor
Seconded: Cr Mark Harris

CARRIED
(R146/23)

8.8. CONTRACTS APPROVAL DELEGATED COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Council with copies of minutes of Council's Contracts Approval Delegated Committee in accordance with the adopted Terms of Reference. This report provides a copy of the minutes of the meetings held on 28 June 2023, 19 July 2023, and 16 August 2023 and provides a summary of information in relation to these minutes.

RESOLUTION:

4. That Council:
 - 4.1 Note, in accordance with Section 66 of the *Local Government Act 2020* that the material contained in the Contracts Approval Delegated Committee agendas have been designated confidential.
 - 4.2 Receive the Contracts Approval Delegated Committee minutes of the meetings held on 28 June 2023, 19 July 2023 and 16 August 2023.

Moved: Cr Ben Taylor
Seconded: Cr Mark Harris

CARRIED
(R147/23)

8.9. S6 INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION - MEMBERS OF STAFF

Division: Corporate Services
Director: John Hausler
Author/Position: Sarah Anstis – Statutory Compliance Officer

PURPOSE

1. To review and update the S6 Instrument of Delegation, Members of Staff for Council's consideration.

RESOLUTION:

6. That Council exercise the powers conferred by the legislation referred to in the attached instrument of delegation at Attachment 2, and that:
 - 6.1. There be delegated to members of Council staff, holding, acting in or performing the duties of the officers or positions referred to in the attached Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff, the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that instrument.
 - 6.2. The Instrument comes into force immediately upon resolution.
 - 6.3. On the coming into force of the instrument, all previous S6 delegations to members of Council staff are revoked.
 - 6.4. The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.

Moved: Cr Tracey Hargreaves
Seconded: Cr Mark Harris

CARRIED
(R148/23)

8.10. S11A AND S11B INSTRUMENT OF APPOINTMENT AND AUTHORISATION

Division: Corporate Services
Director: John Hausler
Author/Position: Sarah Anstis - Statutory Compliance Officer

PURPOSE

1. The report is to revoke the S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* for Donna Perera and Katherine Gertners. Additionally, to revoke the S11B Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation under the *Environment Protection Act 2017* for Roy Russell.
2. The purpose of the report is to also endorse the S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisations under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* for Linda Gray and Andrea Nino.

RESOLUTION:**10. That Council:****10.1 Exercise the powers conferred by s224 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) and the other legislation referred to in the attached instrument of appointment and authorisations (the instruments), and that;**

- a. Linda Gray, Andrea Nino, Chris Duckett be appointed and authorised as set out in the instruments.
- b. The instruments come into force immediately upon resolution and remain in force until Council determines to vary or revoke them.

10.2 Revoke the S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (*Planning and Environment Act 1987*) for Donna Perera effective immediately.**10.3 Revoke the S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (*Planning and Environment Act 1987*) for Katherine Gertners effective immediately.****10.4 Revoke the S11B Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (*Environment Protection Act 2017*) for Roy Russell effective immediately.**

Moved: Cr Mark Harris
Seconded: Cr Peter Eddy

CARRIED
(R149/23)

8.11. OUTSTANDING QUESTION TIME ITEMS

Division: Corporate Services
Director: John Hausler
Author/Position: Stephen Wright - Administration Assistant Compliance

PURPOSE

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

RESOLUTION:

4. That Council:

4.1 Endorse the Outstanding Question Time Report.

Moved: Cr Belinda Coates
Seconded: Cr Tracey Hargreaves

CARRIED
(R150/23)

9. NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

10. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES/COUNCILLORS

GB65/23 - Cr Daniel Moloney

Requested leave of absence for the month of October.

RESOLUTION:

That leave of absence be granted for Cr Daniel Moloney from 1 October 2023 to 31 October 2023 inclusive.

**Moved: Cr Daniel Moloney
Seconded: Cr Mark Harris**

**CARRIED
(R151/23)**

GB66/23 - Cr Daniel Moloney

Cr Daniel Moloney raised ahead of the upcoming referendum and asked the people of Ballarat to please consider voting Yes. He advised that two Sundays ago he was joined by about 1000 locals to walk along Sturt Street through the Gardens to Alfred Deakin Place in support of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander local residents. He advised that there is a wide range of views among the broader community and in First Nations communities as well, but consistently more than 80% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people want a constitutional recognition and want a Voice to represent them on the issues that affect them.

He noted that we are simply being asked on October 14 if we do or don't accept that simple request, a request from a meeting of modern people across the nation represented in the form of the Uluru statement of the heart. That statement finishes with the words "we invite you to walk with us, the movement of the Australian people, for a better future". The Reconciliation has been extended and it would be a shame to slap it away or pretend that the denial of a request has no impact on our nation's identity.

For those of us who are not Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander People, there is no cost to voting yes. We will experience no damage, nor loss. However, we have the chance to be a part of something positive, and we have the chance for our First Nations people to be finally recognised in our Nations founding document.

Cr Moloney called on the city leaders to be visible during the few weeks of uncertainty – that's what leaders do. They don't shy away from debate because of different views, they offer a way forward. They represent those views, they represent a positive future for their city, their state, and their nation. He mentioned that he's not just talking about the city's nine Councillors and the Directors, he's talking about leaders across the community from business, education, health, social services, sports, the arts to provide visible representation of the people who live here in Ballarat, our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community. It's easy to say it's not relevant to our organisations, but the welfare of all of our residents should be important to us all. Cr Moloney stated that is what he loves about Ballarat.

Back in 2017 we were asked as a nation if we supported giving same sex couples the opportunity to marry, Ballarat overwhelmingly said yes with 70.5% voting in favour, demonstrating to the rest of the nation that we are one of regional Australia's most welcoming and inclusive cities.

Together locally, the Ballarat District and Aboriginal Cooperative has come out in clear support of recognition. So, if you are waiting for a local Aboriginal Representative to come out strongly, they have. They have come out and very clearly said their statement. Now is our time to stand up and be counted to continue the work of our predecessors and work toward a better future for the next generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

Thank you to the 1,000 Ballarat locals who showed up to be counted at the recent walk of support and thank you to those that have already lent their voices in support. He encouraged our city leaders once again to show up to support progress. Whatever your view, even if the view is No, that's ok, as long as we continue to be kind to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People because they're doing it tough right now and we have to call out racism, inconsiderate language, and just as we did during the pandemic, we need to be kind to each other. During these next few weeks, he encouraged all to go forward with that in mind.

GB67/23 - Cr Tracey Hargreaves

Cr Tracey Hargreaves described her visit to the Western United Cup at the Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility on the weekend where she was invited to present medals and give a short speech. The Cup involved girls and young women from ages of approximately 9 to 21 years old. Cr Hargreaves described the great atmosphere, and she praised the hard work of the organisers and the athletes.

GB68/23 - Cr Ben Taylor

Cr Ben Taylor advised that he had the opportunity to attend the National Roads Conference in Canberra. He found it interesting and advised one of the big things he got out of it was that when we see big natural disasters, if the data is not there and the images of them before aren't taken, it puts a whole lot of pressure on trying to get the money to repair it afterwards which is a real challenge.

Cr Taylor raised that there is not a national standard in relation to roads and advised that Council's set their own standards as to what their expectations are from a maintenance point of view and said how this isn't consistent across Victoria or Australia. Cr Taylor stated they talked about how the switch to electric cars will affect roads funding since we are reliant on fuel excise and what this will mean to Council with no tax or money coming back to the local roads.

Cr Taylor then discussed roundabouts and traffic flow in the vicinity and the case studies around that. He mentioned that it was very informative and advised that Minister Bowen attended and was involved in a discussion on the transition to renewables. He also commented on his conversation with the CEO, Evan King, while at the conference on the possible cost savings of bundling tenders which would allow us to get a larger contractor and allow for more cost efficiencies.

GB69/23 - Cr Belinda Coates

Cr Belinda Coates declared her support for the Yes vote in the upcoming Voice referendum. She stated that the status quo is not nearly good enough, and that much more needs to be done in regard to all aspects of human rights, health, and social justice for indigenous people in this country. The referendum on the Voice won't be a silver bullet, but a step towards following through on the request made as part of the Uluru Statement of the Heart. She advised that so much change is needed and that a step towards truth and treaty is needed at all levels of Government.

Cr Coates stated she is mindful of the difficult position that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members are in at the moment, that they are at the forefront of bigotry and abuse that is a result of some of this public discussion happening. She urged people to call out this behaviour and to be respectful and kind regardless of their views. She highlighted the devastating impact of colonisation on first nations people in both Australia and worldwide, and advised that it can't be denied that poor environmental stewardship has lead us to the brink of an ecological collapse. She reiterated that the status quo in this country is not good enough and we need to do better and work harder to address this.

GB70/23 - Cr Belinda Coates

Cr Belinda Coates congratulated the valued Ballarat community members Neil Para, his wife Sugaa, and their three children, who have been granted permanent residency after 10 years as asylum seekers. She commented on the cruelty that they and other refugees have been subjected to. There will be a civic reception for them. Cr Coates lauded the impact that the late Kath Morton had on their lives. She advised how lucky we are to have them in our community here in Ballarat.

GB71/23 - Cr Belinda Coates

Cr Belinda Coates described the recent delegation to Ainaro, Timor Leste, to re-sign the agreement after 20 years and to lay the stone for the playground that the City of Ballarat made a small contribution for, which was matched by community fundraising as well. She mentioned that this puts our privilege into perspective, being in a community and seeing a preschool and the facilities that they have and don't have. This is the first playground of this scale in the district and was warmly received. It was great to have a few self-funded community members there as well. Cr Coates outlined the depth and breadth of the relationship and the genuine friendship between Ainaro and Ballarat and that around 200 students had been to Ainaro because of this over the 20 years. We learn so much and receive a lot back in our connection with this community. It's great to have this long-term relationship and genuine friendship. She mentioned the disaster response work following the cyclone last year and how incredible it was. It's disheartening that this community, with such a small consumption, was so severely impacted by the more frequent climate change disasters.

GB72/23 - Cr Belinda Coates

Cr Belinda Coates attended the National Climate Summit as a Councillor. The increased frequency and severity of climates disasters were top of the agenda. She mentioned local governments' involvement in the disaster response and to climate action and mitigation.

GB73/23 - Cr Amy Johnson

Cr Amy Johnson attended the Daughters of the West graduation, which was a 10-week program involving the 41 graduates and delivered in partnership with the Western Bulldogs and a number of other groups and sponsors. The overarching message of the night was that women are less likely to find the time for their health and wellbeing from being in caregiver roles and helping others in need and how important it is for women to take care of themselves first. This program helped inactive women get back into exercise to improve their overall health and wellbeing. She also congratulated Rosie who won the club championship award for her effort and support of others.

GB74/23 - Cr Amy Johnson

Cr Amy Johnson attended the Western United Cup and highlighted its positive contribution to the local economy after it brought in 4000 visitors from outside of Ballarat.

GB75/23 - Cr Amy Johnson

Cr Amy Johnson described "The Little Things" exhibition, which is one of the Photo Biennale exhibitions that people should see delivered in partnership with Centre for Multicultural Youth. The exhibit asks young people to think about the little things that contribute to their overall health and wellbeing and features photos from young people related to Health and Wellbeing.

GB76/23 - Cr Amy Johnson

Cr Johnson asked for a briefing back to Council on the achievements/progress made since the Black Hill Master Plan was adopted in 2014. She also requested that it potentially be updated. She highlighted the amount of effort that went into the original master plan from user groups, community groups and individuals, state government, and Council staff. Cr Johnson wished to know the status of the Black Hill Reserve Management plan, which was updated in 2012-2013, and whether it has been updated since then. She mentioned the pressing need for public toilets in the Black Hill Reserve area. She requested that information be provided in regard to public safety risk management in that area (such as in relation to the viewing platform and stairs), which was mentioned in the original master plan as needing to be done. What can we do to improve the overall safety of the precinct?

GB77/23 - Cr Amy Johnson

Cr Amy Johnson congratulated Council's Social Media Team and Tara from the Ballarat Animal Shelter for their story.

GB78/23 - Cr Amy Johnson

Cr Amy Johnson said that it was fantastic that Council is a major sponsor of the Let's Go Ballarat campaign. This involves inviting friends and family to visit and stay with them, which means that they are more likely to spend more money in Ballarat. She mentioned that 68% of money that is spent in Ballarat remains in Ballarat.

GB79/23 - Cr Mark Harris

Cr Mark Harris asked if Council was going to get together to form a position on the housing strategy that was released by the Victorian government, since the community might want to hear what Council has to say on it. Evan King, CEO, replied that we would be bringing a report to Briefing in October and noted that it is an extensive package of work.

GB80/23 - Cr Peter Eddy

Cr Peter Eddy asked the CEO if we, as a Council, have an opportunity to provide a response or feedback to the Victorian Government regarding its housing strategy. Evan King, CEO, replied that the Victorian Government has not sought any input from the Councils thus far, but MAV is calling for local government to be involved in future components, particularly around planning scheme reform.

GB81/23 - Cr Peter Eddy

Cr Peter Eddy asked for Council officers to proactively look at safety in 100 km/h roads on the outskirts of Ballarat before a fatality occurs, rather than waiting and only reacting after an accident occurs.

GB82/23 - Cr Peter Eddy

Cr Peter Eddy declared that he will be voting Yes in the upcoming Voice referendum. He stated that efforts to support our indigenous community to date hasn't worked. He recognised and respects that there are two sides to this debate and asked that everyone look at the facts and make up their own minds rather than listening to throwaway lines and make an individual decision.

GB83/23 - Cr Des Hudson

Cr Des Hudson, Mayor, described their trip to Ainaro, Timor Leste. He commented on the fantastic work that community groups are doing and noted how much can be achieved by relatively small donations and efforts. He mentioned that they visited a school that was devastated by the cyclone last year and commended Cr Coates and her partner who played a significant role in donating funds that was used to construct a new building.

GB84/23 - Cr Des Hudson

Cr Des Hudson, Mayor, mentioned that he had written to the new premier and deputy premier to congratulate them. He believes Premier Jacinta Allan will honour the Commonwealth Games legacy but will continue to advocate to her and Minister Shing (the new Minister for Housing) to progress the promised projects.

11. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

12. SECTION 66 (IN CAMERA)

Nil

8.7 TENDER 2022/23-578 - STAGE 2 - PART A BALLARAT REGIONAL LANDFILL CAPPING CONSTRUCTION

Division: Infrastructure and Environment

Director: Bridget Wetherall

Author/Position: Les Stokes - Executive Manager Waste and Environment

(confidential information)

8.8 CONTRACTS APPROVAL DELEGATED COMMITTEE

Division: Corporate Services

Director: John Hausler, Director Corporate Services

Author/Position Lorraine Sendall - Executive Assistant, Director Corporate Services

(confidential information)

13. CLOSE

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8:15 pm.

Confirmed this day of 2023.

Mayor