

Confirmed minutes



CITY OF MELBOURNE

Future Melbourne Committee Minutes

**Meeting Number 67
Tuesday 21 November 2023
6.00pm**

**The Opera Centre, Melbourne
Southbank**

Present

Lord Mayor Sally Capp AO (Chair)
Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece
Councillor Dr Olivia Ball
Councillor Roshena Campbell
Councillor Jason Chang (via Zoom)
Councillor Elizabeth Doidge
Councillor Davydd Griffiths
Councillor Jamal Hakim
Councillor Rohan Leppert
Councillor Kevin Louey

Apology

Councillor Philip Le Liu

Confirmed at the meeting of the Future Melbourne Committee
On Tuesday 5 December 2023

C o n f i r m e d m i n u t e s

1. Commencement of meeting and apologies

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm.

The Chair Lord Mayor Sally Capp, 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 Le Liu.

2. Disclosures of conflicts of interest

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

3. Confirmation of minutes of the previous meeting

Moved: Cr Campbell

That the minutes of meeting No 66 held on Tuesday 14 November 2023 be confirmed.

Seconded: Cr Dr Ball

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Councillors Dr Ball, Campbell, Chang, Griffiths, Hakim, Leppert and Louey.

4. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meetings

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

Presentation for Southbank community

The Lord Mayor asked the Committee to temporarily suspend the Governance Rules to allow for a presentation from officers.

Moved: Cr Griffiths

That the Governance Rules be suspended to enable presentations from officers on the Southbank neighbourhood priorities.

Seconded: Lord Mayor Sally Capp

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Councillors Dr Ball, Campbell, Chang, Griffiths, Hakim, Leppert and Louey.

The Governance Rules were suspended at 6.07pm.

The Committee received a presentation from Michelle James, Manager Neighbourhoods; Jonathan Kambouris, Acting General Manager Property, Infrastructure and Design; and David Callow, Director Parks and City Greening.

Cr Doidge arrived at the meeting at 6.10pm.

Moved: Cr Dr Ball

That the Governance Rules be resumed.

Seconded: Cr Hakim

C o n f i r m e d m i n u t e s

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Councillors Dr Ball, Campbell, Chang, Doidge, Griffiths, Hakim, Leppert and Louey.

The Governance Rules were resumed at 6.18pm.

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/about-council/committees-meetings/meeting-archive/pages/Future-Melbourne-Committee-21-November-2023.aspx>

Red stairs at Queensbridge Square

Tim Bracher asked if Council has any plans to refurbish the red stairs in Queensbridge Square, citing the decline of the amenity of the public realm in this precinct. Tim also requested that Council proceed with the redevelopment of Southbank Promenade without waiting for the completion of private developments along the promenade, which Tim noted could take up to a decade.

The Lord Mayor, City Transport, Infrastructure and Operations Portfolio Lead thanked Tim for the question and acknowledged that Queensbridge Square would benefit from revitalisation and advised that Council will investigate various options regarding the red stairs. The Lord Mayor further advised that Council is in the preliminary stages of the Annual Plan and Budget process for 2024–25 and will have a look at what is possible in the precinct.

New open space in Southbank

Jennifer Fletcher requested Council's commitment to create new open space on a parcel of land located on the corner of Haig and Clarendon Streets.

The Lord Mayor, City Transport, Infrastructure and Operations Portfolio Lead thanked Jennifer for the question and advised that Council is committed to providing more open space in priority precincts of Southbank and will look into the particular land parcel referred to.

Road Safety on City Road

David Hamilton of Southbank3006 asked if Council can remove parking on the southern side of City Road, between Fanning Street and Southbank Boulevard, in order to improve road safety. David stated that the current parking arrangements on City Road, outside of peak periods, force heavy goods vehicles excluded from the CityLink tunnel, to switch lanes in the section of City Road between Fanning and Power Streets to enable a left turn into Power Street.

The Lord Mayor, City Transport, Infrastructure and Operations Portfolio Lead thanked David for the question and advised that the Southbank Neighbourhood Parking Review is currently being conducted and noted that David has engaged with Council staff. The Lord Mayor further advised that once the Review is complete an update will be provided to David.

Traffic on Fanning Street, Southbank

David Hamilton referred to the closure of Sturt Street between City Road and Southbank Boulevard which has resulted in Fanning Street becoming a rat run for traffic accessing the Arts Centre and Ballet Centre car parks, as well as for traffic avoiding City Road to access Power Street via Kavanagh Street. David noted that Fanning Street is not designed for a lot of two-way traffic and asked if Council could remove parking on this street to better facilitate the flow of traffic.

The Lord Mayor, City Transport, Infrastructure and Operations Portfolio Lead thanked David for the question and advised that David's feedback will be incorporated into the Southbank Neighbourhood Parking Review that finished at the end of November.

C o n f i r m e d m i n u t e s

Kavanagh Street footpath open space development

Jannine Pattison noted that Southbank 3006 has flagged the need for Council to develop strategies to deliver liveable open space across the neighbourhood adjacent to where people live, and suggested that Council should work with Owners Corporations (OCs) in strata buildings to develop partnerships to enable OCs to assume a greater role in the refurbishment, care and maintenance of the footpaths in order to create community-based garden areas.

Jannine stated that residents of three towers in Kavanagh Street, between Power and Balston Streets, wish to examine making changes to the footpath with Council, to deliver more liveable open space and asked if Council will commit to establishing a partnership model with the OCs.

The Lord Mayor, City Transport, Infrastructure and Operations Portfolio Lead thanked Jannine for the question and advised that there a number of funding streams, for example the Urban Forest Fund, for Council to co-fund greening projects in the municipality that are then delivered by the applicants. The Lord Mayor noted that Council will come back to Jannine with any existing options for partnering with OCs, and if there are none, build that into the current investigation of how Council can co-invest into projects with citizens and private developers for mutual benefits.

At this point in the meeting the time for consideration of public questions expired.

6. Reports from management

The Lord Mayor advised that the following submissions had been received.

Submissions/Correspondence

In relation to Agenda item 6.1, **Ministerial Planning Referral: TPM-2022-10 5-17 Flemington Road, North Melbourne (RMIT Village):**

Request to speak:

- Andrea Zohar, UPco.

In relation to Agenda item 6.2, **Ministerial Planning Referral: TPM-2023-3 899-913 Collins Street, Docklands:**

Requests to speak and items of correspondence:

- Simon Haussegger, Cox Architecture
- Sarah Macklin, Urbis.

In relation to Agenda item 6.3, **Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal Key Precinct Projects Engagement Plan Update:**

Items of correspondence:

- Cheryl McKinna
- B McNicholas
- Mary-Lou Howie, Friends of Queen Victoria Market Inc.
- Anne Taib
- Bob Evans
- Claire Feain
- The Reverend James Brady & Ann Brady.

C o n f i r m e d m i n u t e s

In relation to Agenda item 6.5, **Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal Quarterly Report:**

Item of correspondence:

- B McNicholas
- Mary-Lou Howie, Friends of Queen Victoria Market Inc.

In relation to Agenda item 7.1, **Post travel report by Councillor Jamal Hakim, London, Vienna and Montpellier - July, August 2023:**

Request to speak and item of correspondence:

- Chris Thrum.

In relation to Agenda item 7.2, **Notice of Motion, Cr Dr Olivia Ball: Improving access to naloxone, a medicine that reverses opioid overdose:**

Requests to speak and items of correspondence:

- Suzanne Nielsen
- Dean Membrey
- Sione Crawford (via Zoom)
- Greg Denham, cohealth.

Planning Section

The Deputy Lord Mayor assumed the role of Chair to consider two reports from management where Council exercises its responsibilities under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

6.1 Ministerial Planning Referral: TPM-2022-10 5-17 Flemington Road, North Melbourne (RMIT Village)

The purpose of this report was to advise the Committee of a Ministerial planning permit application seeking approval for the staged redevelopment of the land at 5-17 Flemington Road, North Melbourne, including a 19 storey student housing building (Stage 1) and built-to-rent apartments over two buildings of 19 to 22 storeys (Stage 2).

Andrea Zohar, UPco, addressed the Committee.

Moved: Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece

That the Future Melbourne Committee resolves to advise the Department of Transport and Planning that the Melbourne City Council does not object to the application, subject to the conditions outlined in the delegate report (refer to Attachment 4 of the report from management).

Seconded: Cr Leppert

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Councillors Dr Ball, Campbell, Chang, Doidge, Griffiths, Hakim, Leppert and Louey.

6.2 Ministerial Planning Referral: TPM-2023-3 899-913 Collins Street, Docklands

The purpose of this report was to advise the Committee of Ministerial planning permit application PA2302206 seeking approval for the development of land located at 899-913 Collins Street, Docklands.

The following people addressed the Committee:

- Simon Haussegger, Cox Architecture
- Sarah Macklin, Urbis.

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Moved: Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece

That the Future Melbourne Committee resolves to advise the Department of Transport and Planning that the Melbourne City Council does not object to the application, subject to conditions outlined in the delegate report (refer to Attachment 4 of the report from management).

Seconded: Cr Leppert

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Councillors Dr Ball, Campbell, Chang, Doidge, Griffiths, Hakim, Leppert and Louey.

The Lord Mayor resumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

6.3 Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal Key Precinct Projects Engagement Plan Update

The purpose of this report was to present the Committee with the results of the recent community engagement on the Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal Program, including Market Square, Queen's Corner Building and the Franklin Street Transformation Project, and to seek approval to proceed to the next phase.

Moved: Lord Mayor Sally Capp

1. *That the Future Melbourne Committee:*

- 1.1. *Notes the engagement summary report for the Franklin Street Transformation Project (Attachment 4 of the report from management) and requests that a final concept design be presented to a future meeting of this Committee.*
- 1.2. *Notes the engagement summary report for the Market Square and Queen's Corner Building projects (Attachment 3 of the report from management) and requests the commencement of the concept design process.*

Seconded: Cr Griffiths

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Councillors Dr Ball, Campbell, Chang, Doidge, Griffiths, Hakim, Leppert and Louey.

6.4 The Greenline Project Quarterly Report

The purpose of this report was to provide the Committee with a progress update on the Greenline Project program of works for the period ending 30 September 2023.

Moved: Lord Mayor Sally Capp

That the Future Melbourne Committee accepts the Greenline Project quarterly report which confirms a total program expenditure of \$10.2 million as at 30 September 2023.

Seconded: Cr Griffiths

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Councillors Dr Ball, Campbell, Chang, Doidge, Griffiths, Hakim, Leppert and Louey.

6.5 Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal Quarterly Report

The purpose of this report was to provide the Committee with a progress update and expenditure breakdown of the Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal Program for the period July to September 2023.

Cr Hakim left the meeting at 7.28pm, and returned at 7.30pm.

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Moved: Lord Mayor Sally Capp

That the Future Melbourne Committee accepts the Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal Program quarterly report which confirms a total program expenditure of \$127.2 million as at 30 September 2023.

Seconded: Cr Griffiths

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Councillors Dr Ball, Campbell, Chang, Doidge, Griffiths, Hakim, Leppert and Louey.

7. General business

There were two items of general business.

7.1 Post travel report by Councillor Jamal Hakim, London, Vienna and Montpellier - July, August 2023

The purpose of this report was to provide the Committee with information on commitments undertaken by Councillor Jamal Hakim in a number of European cities whilst on private travel in July and August 2023.

Moved: Cr Hakim

That the Future Melbourne Committee notes the report by Councillor Jamal Hakim on commitments undertaken in London, Vienna and Montpellier in July and August 2023 whilst on private travel.

Seconded: Cr Louey

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Councillors Dr Ball, Campbell, Chang, Doidge, Griffiths, Hakim, Leppert and Louey.

7.2 Notice of Motion, Cr Dr Olivia Ball: Improving access to naloxone, a medicine that reverses opioid overdose

The following people addressed the Committee:

- Suzanne Nielsen
- Dean Membrey
- Sione Crawford
- Greg Denham, cohealth
- Peter Wearne.

Cr Chang left the meeting at 7.54pm, and returned at 7.58pm.

Moved: Cr Dr Ball

1. *That the Future Melbourne Committee,*

1.1. *Noting:*

- 1.1.1. *that there were 24 heroin-involved deaths in the City of Melbourne in 2022, the highest fatality rate of any municipality in Victoria;*
- 1.1.2. *the World Health Organization's call to make naloxone and training in its use available to people likely to witness an opioid overdose;*
- 1.1.3. *that naloxone is now widely available in many health systems including in the United Kingdom, Canada, United States, France, Italy and others; and*
- 1.1.4. *that everyone has a right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;*

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- 1.2. *Asks management to:*
 - 1.2.1. *host a sector roundtable inviting representatives of the emergency services, relevant academic, medical, pharmaceutical, government and non-government bodies, and people who use drugs and their representative organisations, to identify the benefits of naloxone in the Melbourne context and, if effective, to explore opportunities to ensure naloxone is easily and freely available to people likely to witness an opioid overdose; and*
 - 1.2.2. *review current best practice worldwide and recommend actions by CoM, other level(s) of government and/or relevant agencies to improve access to naloxone in the Melbourne context;*
- 1.3. *Asks the Lord Mayor to write to the Victorian Minister for Mental Health urging the government to publish, implement and resource without delay final guidelines for approved services, and their trained staff, to provide naloxone.*

Seconded: Cr Doidge

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Councillors Dr Ball, Campbell, Chang, Doidge, Griffiths, Hakim, Leppert and Louey.

8. Urgent business

There were no items of urgent business.

9. Public questions

A further opportunity to ask public questions was provided. 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/about-council/committees-meetings/meeting-archive/pages/Future-Melbourne-Committee-21-November-2023.aspx>

Protected bike lanes

Aaron Moon expressed gratitude for Council's work to implement concrete barrier-protected bike lanes across the city. Aaron outlined that many of these barriers are broken, damaged or misaligned, compromising the safety of these bike lanes, and asked if there is an auditing system in place to regularly assess and address the condition of these protected bike lanes. Aaron also asked if there was an understanding from Council on why and how these damages occur and what can be done to prevent these damages from reoccurring in the future.

The Lord Mayor, City Transport, Infrastructure and Operations Portfolio Lead thanked Aaron for the question and his interest in the bike lane trial and advised that there is a team at Council who undertakes regular checks of the bike lanes. The Lord Mayor noted that sometimes the checks are not regular enough particularly if a car or truck runs over the protective barrier. The Lord Mayor further advised that Council is in discussion about a sturdier replacement material for the protective barrier.

Docklands Social Fishing Club

Katy Send stated that Docklands Neighbourhood House used to run weekly Social Fishing sessions, and that more recently the sessions are being run fortnightly by an external provider chosen by Council. Katy noted that these fortnightly sessions have not attracted any participants and suggested a stronger approach to community development in Docklands.

Cr Dr Ball, Health, Wellbeing and Belonging Portfolio Lead thanked Katy for the question and advised that the Social Fishing program is continuing to be run by the volunteer who previously ran it, now with the support of Reclink Australia (a not-for-profit group). The volunteer previously ran this program through a pop-up Neighbourhood House (which had a part time Community Development Officer) that was run temporarily out of a Neighbourhood House based in North Melbourne.

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Cr Dr Ball acknowledged that such activities enhance community connection, and this summer Council is looking to run a holiday program to increase the numbers and encourage more regular participation throughout 2024.

Docklands Toy Library

Katy Send stated that in June, Council closed Docklands' independently run non-for-profit community toy library and integrated it into Council's libraries network. Katy stated that she ordered a toy through 'click and collect' however is still waiting to receive the toy after 13 days. Katy also expressed disappointment regarding the lack of signage and communication about the ability to borrow toys from Library at The Dock. Katy asked about what benefits the Docklands community received, beyond the savings of membership fees.

Cr Dr Ball, Health, Wellbeing and Belonging Portfolio Lead thanked Katy for the question and advised that Melbourne Community Toy Library was run by volunteers who approached City of Melbourne with challenges around their service model and sustainability of their operations. Council worked collaboratively over a number of months to transition the service to be delivered through City of Melbourne to ensure continuity of this important service for community.

Cr Dr Ball further advised that Library at The Dock provides the ability for people to order toys from the library catalogue to be picked up at that location. Unfortunately, the courier service to move toys from other toy libraries in Carlton and North Melbourne to Docklands has been unpredictable. Cr Dr Ball noted that this issue has since been resolved and a weekly Wednesday service will commence imminently. This will be in addition to the existing weekly pre-school storytime session held on Thursdays.

Chatty Café at Kensington Neighbourhood Centre

Sheila Byard referred to the Chatty Café program run at the Kensington Neighbourhood Centre and asked if Council could provide a report in relation to expenditure on the current program that shows both levels of participation from the relevant client groups during the trial period, and also catering costs and fees paid to the Chatty Café entity by the City of Melbourne compared with other municipalities. Sheila also asked about the extensive indemnity form participants had to sign before taking part in the program.

Cr Dr Ball, Health, Wellbeing and Belonging Portfolio Lead thanked Sheila for the question and advised that Chatty Café is a four-month pilot program that started in August and provides weekly social connection opportunities, with around 30 people attending each week (50 different people overall). Cr Dr Ball further advised that program costs were initially \$200 per week which has been increased to \$500 per week, due to increased numbers.

Cr Dr Ball advised that the question about the indemnity form will be taken on notice and a response provided after the meeting.

Extension of Public Question Time

Due to the number of public questions received prior to the meeting, a procedural motion was considered to extend Public Question Time for a further 15 minutes.

Moved: Lord Mayor Sally Capp

That public question time be extended for 15 minutes.

Seconded: Cr Griffiths

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Councillors Dr Ball, Campbell, Chang, Doidge, Griffiths, Hakim, Leppert and Louey.

Cr Chang left the meeting at 8.37pm, and did not return.

C o n f i r m e d m i n u t e s

Play equipment in St Kilda Road 3004 precinct

Alison White submitted a written question requesting improvements to the local recreational areas in the St Kilda Road 3004 precinct to include play equipment for local families. Alison's question drew attention to a number of nearby reserves in Southbank and urged Council to review the facilities provided, noting they are not large enough to cater to families with young children in the St Kilda Road 3004 precinct.

Cr Leppert, Environment Portfolio Lead thanked Alison for the question and advised that Council's key priority for open space in Southbank is to provide additional open space in those neighbourhoods which have limited access to parks and open spaces, as outlined in the neighbourhood update earlier in the meeting. Cr Leppert further advised that Grant Street Reserve, including the playspace, was developed to support the play needs of young children in the St Kilda Road precinct of Southbank; and Sturt Street Reserve provides picnic facilities and open lawn areas for informal games.

Cr Leppert outlined that whilst Council has no immediate plans for upgrades at either Grant Street Reserve or Sturt Street Reserve, the provision of play facilities will be considered in the design of any new or expanded open space in the area.

Open space in Southbank

Rozilah Kamarudin submitted a number of written questions pertaining to open space with Southbank, drawing comparisons to open space in Kensington. Rozilah's questions included a request for a cost benefit analysis regarding the purchase of land in Chelmsford Street, Kensington; enquired about a similar purchase of land in Southbank; and asked if Council would fund a feasibility study on a new Futuristic Urban Iconic Park that meets all United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Cr Leppert, Environment Portfolio Lead thanked Rozilah for the questions and advised that the Southbank population is currently at 30,000 and is forecasted to reach 50,000 by 2040. Cr Leppert noted that the Macaulay renewal area in Kensington is entirely a City of Melbourne led project, whereas the planning controls in Southbank rest with the state government, therefore the challenges presented in these two areas are different but equally important for Council.

Cr Leppert noted that due to the detail in the questions, they will be taken on notice and a response provided after the meeting.

Transparency and M9

Marion Attwater submitted a written question asking what the City of Melbourne intends to do to improve the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework transparency indicator which is at 27.68 per cent, and how decisions made by the M9 alliance of councils are reflected in City of Melbourne reporting as the M9 group is not a delegated committee.

The Deputy Lord Mayor, Finance, Governance and Risk Deputy Portfolio Lead thanked Marion for the question and advised that the M9 is a collaborative partnership among nine inner Melbourne councils that aims to address shared concerns by advocating for projects of mutual interest through a unified voice, noting that each council retains its decision-making autonomy. Including the M9's resolutions within the transparency indicator would not be representative and would mislead the metric's intent and accuracy.

The Deputy Lord Mayor further advised that Council's reported indicator is shaped by the necessity to keep certain Council meetings private, often to protect commercial or private personal data, and noted that Council is currently reviewing its approach to transparency in decision-making, for example, by amending its report templates to ensure contract and tender reports are considered at open meetings of Council.

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Southbank Promenade Bluestone

Tony Penna, Southbank Residents Association submitted a written question asking about the delivery of Stage 1 of the Southbank Promenade transformation which was recently declared by Council as complete, in particular asking about new bluestone paths which cannot be located. Tony requested clarification on the status of the project, citing disappointment that it had not been completed as promised.

The Lord Mayor, City Transport, Infrastructure and Operations Portfolio Lead thanked Tony for the question and advised that Council has partnered with the state government to deliver a \$3.8 million transformation of Southbank Promenade. Stage 1 works between Princes Bridge and Evan Walker Bridge have delivered a more spacious promenade including the new bluestone paving, lighting upgrades, upgraded seating and new trees.

The Lord Mayor further advised that the remainder of the Southbank Promenade upgrade, between Evan Walker Bridge and Queensbridge Street, was paused to allow the redevelopment of Southgate, with works due to resume following its completion. Council has since been advised of unacceptable delays with the redevelopment, and has allocated budget to more works on the future stages of the transformation of Southbank Promenade. The Lord Mayor advised that it was a misstatement to say that all works were completed to Queensbridge Square.

Staffing at the City of Melbourne

B McNicholas asked a number of questions relating to staffing at the City of Melbourne.

The Lord Mayor advised that as staffing is a matter for the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), the CEO will respond as appropriate.

10. Closure of meeting

The Lord Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.52pm.

Confirmed at the meeting of the Future Melbourne Committee on Tuesday 5 December 2023.



Chair
Future Melbourne Committee