

MINUTES

Meeting of Council

Held at the
Civic Centre
511 Burwood Highway
Wantirna South
On
Monday 28 July 2025



The Agenda for the Meeting of Council, Monday 28 July 2025, forms part of these Minutes and is attached in full at the end of the Minutes.

These Minutes are considered draft until adopted and confirmed at the next Meeting of Council

The meeting commenced at 7:06 pm.

PRESENT:

Cr Lisa Cooper (Mayor)
Cr Glen Atwell (Deputy Mayor)
Cr Chris Duncan
Cr Robert Williams
Cr Meagan Baker
Cr Parisa Considine
Cr Peter Lockwood
Cr Susan Pearce
Cr Paige Kennett

Scott Ward
Tirhatuan Ward
Collier Ward
Dinsdale Ward
Dobson Ward
Friberg Ward
Baird Ward
Taylor Ward
Chandler Ward

Bruce Dobson
Grant Thorne
Matt Kelleher
Judy Chalkley
Greg Curcio
Navec Lorkin
Andrew Dowling
Saskia Weerheim

Chief Executive Officer
Director – Infrastructure
Director - City Livability
Director - Connected Communities
Director - Customer and Performance
Chief Financial Officer
Manager, Governance and Risk
Head of Governance

THE MEETING OPENED WITH A STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND A STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people and Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation as Traditional Custodians of the land, and meets on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people. We pay our respects to elders both past and present.

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1 Apologies And Requests For Leaves Of Absence

Nil.

2 Declarations Of Conflict Of Interest

Councillor Lockwood foreshadowed declaring a conflict of interest in Item 8.5, Minor Grants Program and Emergency Relief Fund 2025-26 Monthly Report and Individual Excellence Grants Update (Quarter 4).

Councillor Duncan foreshadowed making a transparency statement for Item 8.1, Leasing and Licensing Policy.

3 Confirmation Of Minutes

The Chairperson, Mayor Lisa Cooper invited Councillors to raise any opposition to the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on Monday 23 June 2025. There being none, the Chairperson declared the Minutes be confirmed.

4 Presentations, Petitions And Memorials

4.1 Memorial – David Rose

Councillor Pearce extended her condolences to the family of David Rose including his wife, Deb, daughter Isabelle and her partner Hamish and their granddaughter Scarlett as well as many students, colleagues and friends. She acknowledged he was a Principal at three government schools in Knox, one where her daughter attended.

David's teaching career started in 1986 at Croydon Community School, where he later became Principal. He then moved into the Primary School sector and became Assistant Principal at Eastwood Primary School. In 2004, he was appointed as Principal at Upper Ferntree Gully Primary School. Subsequently, he was appointed at Heany Park Primary School as Principal. Councillor Pearce reflected on working with him on the Heany Park Primary School Committee and noted he was enthusiastic and very helpful. She said he was dedicated, supportive and displayed a relentless commitment to young people. He was much loved in the education community.

In memorial, David's three friends are riding in the Tour de France in his memory, which he had planned to do.

4.2 Memorial – Robert Van Stockrom

Councillor Lockwood acknowledged the passing of former Scott Ward Councillor, Robert Van Stockrom. He was a Knox Councillor from 1997 to 2000 and was in the people placement business, working at Forstaff before setting up his own recruitment business which was very successful. He passed away at the age of 71.

Encouraged anyone struggling to connect with the Black Dog Institute or Lifeline for support.

5 Reports By Councillors

5.1 Councillor Baker

Councillor Baker reported attending the following:

- ALGA's National General Assembly of which she submitted a report to this Council Meeting
- Mandatory Councillor personal development session earlier this month
- Meeting with St Joseph's College in relation to My Town presentation
- Knox Active Ageing Advisory Committee

Councillor Baker also:

- Attended the Community National Tree Day at Koolamara Waters with the Deputy Mayor, Glen Atwell and planted 3,000 plants with about 150 volunteers. She acknowledged and extended her thanks to the Knox City Council Biodiversity Team and the volunteer groups who donated their time towards the event. Councillor Baker acknowledged there were volunteers who attended from Wangaratta and Broken Hill to participate in the event.
- Attended the Ferntree Gully CFA Awards Presentation evening.
- Upwey Tecoma Football Club NAIDOC Round that was located at Talaskia Reserve in Upper Ferntree Gully.
- Attended Pathway for Carers Knox walk.

5.2 Councillor Kennett

Councillor Kennett reported attending the following:

- A meeting with one of the Coordinators at St Joseph's College, with Cr Baker, Cr Atwell and Cr Duncan, who presented to Council on behalf of the Year 9 cohort. A Year 9 program at St Josephs is investigating the local area and interviewing locals. The students will then prepare solutions and recommendations for the issues they have identified in the area. This year the focus was on youth, and they presented 27 ideas across five different themes. She extended her thanks to St Joseph's College for bringing these ideas to Council.
- Early Years Advisory Committee with Councillor Considine. The committee provided feedback about the Domestic Animal Management Plan and the views of children regarding that plan. They discussed the impact of open space and dogs off-lead and the impact it can have on children.
- A neighbouring Council's winter program, Stable One. The program offers people a place to have a meal, hot shower and a place to sleep for people who are homeless. It is run by volunteers. Councillor Kennett noted that Knox has a lower homelessness rate than the metropolitan Melbourne, however higher than adjoining Councils. Councillor Kennett also noted that Council's emergency relief fund aims to support people in need.

Councillor Kennett also:

- Attended Chatham Reserve with the volunteers of Froggie, who did a tree planting event on the 28th of June where they planted 1,000 plants with 25 residents. She extended her thanks to the volunteers, Melbourne Water and Knox City Council for supporting the tree planting event.

- Met with residents who raised concerns about parking, streets and bike paths of which she is progressing through Council.

5.3 Councillor Atwell

Councillor Atwell reported attending the following:

- ERG Committee meeting at Maroondah City Council with members of the State Opposition and Knox City Council's CEO. He highlighted it was a good opportunity to talk to Opposition Leader, Brad Battin, and David Davis about Knox and ERG issues and contribute to some of the thinking that is going into State Election platforms for next year. Community safety, planning and housing were some of the issues discussed.
- The Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly.

Councillor Atwell also:

- Attended Koolamara Waters with the Councillor Baker and noted it there was a wonderful family friendly vibe. He highlighted that it was great to chat to the environmental and wildlife groups including Gardens for Wildlife, KES, Friends of Koolunga, Friends of Dandenong Creek and the Heany Park Scout group.
- Attended the Knox business National Tree Planting event where approximately 200 people attended including Cummins from Scoresby. Councillor Atwell noted it was wonderful to see the networking that happened during this event.
- Attended the State Basketball Centre in Knox to see the women's and men's Knox Raiders basketball competitions. The women played against the Dandenong Rangers and the men against the Eltham Wildcats and both won.
- Highlighted the Scoresby Football and Netball Club who will be celebrating their centenary event on 2 August 2025, encouraging people to attend the event they will have on the date. They will compete against the Donvale Magpies for their centenary celebrations
- Spoke to Warrick Long on ABC Radio Melbourne about Knox City Council's approach to EV charging infrastructure.

5.4 Councillor Considine

Councillor Considine reported attending the following :

- Knox Emergency Relief Network meeting with Councillor Kennett, noting it was wonderful to see all the agencies working together to better support the Knox community with food for emergency relief. Councillor Considine extended her gratitude to the hardworking members who help each other and work together to support our community.
- Early Years Advisory Committee with Councillor Kennett.
- Knox Active Advisory Aging Committee with Councillor Baker.

Councillor Considine also:

- Attended the Hands Off Foundation Annual Gala Dinner on behalf of Council, along with Councillor Kennett and Mary Doyle MP, Member for Aston. The inspiring guest speaker was Rosie Batty. Councillor Considine reflected that it was an amazing night to celebrate the non-for-profit organisation that supports victims of domestic and sexual violence and their

dedication to help people heal and find strength. She extended her thanks to the Foundation for their work and Donna Jordan and her wonderful team for all the hard work they

5.5 Councillor Duncan

Councillor Duncan reported attending the following:

- St Joseph's College *My Town* presentation. He reflected that it was great to see the work of budding film makers and see the courage of the young people who interviewed strangers at Boronia Mall to gain their feedback on the suburb and the interview they conducted at the Knox police station.
- Councillors Professional Development session with fellow Councillors.

Councillor Duncan also:

- Received several resident enquiries about parking issues and noted it was generally blatant disregard for road rules of which he will discuss with the officers.
- Received safety concerns about an issue at Milpera Reserve. This matter has been raised with officers.
- Wantirna South Football Club for the Mighty Mo Shave to raise awareness for suicide prevention. One of the members, Chris, arranged the night in memory of his brother, Tim, whom he lost two years ago. The event was supported by AFL legend Geoff Farmer. The event raised nearly \$9,000 for LifeLine.
- Noted there was a VCAT Compulsory Conference for 276 Wantirna Rd, with a secondary session being held on 31 July 2025.
- Highlighted the Victorian School of Student Leadership program where Year 9 students live and work with their peers for eight weeks. The program has been running for 16 years and is designed to foster connectedness and social awareness. Five young people have been selected to participate from Knox. Councillor Duncan encouraged young people in the Knox community to consider applying for this program.

5.6 Councillor Williams

Councillor Williams reported attending the following:

- Meeting with Fairpark Junior Football Club to discuss opportunities for growth of the club and changes with the President, Andrew Kennedy.
- Meeting with Jon from 1st 2nd 3rd Bayswater Scouts.
- National Business Tree Planting Day with Cr Atwell, Cr Pearce and Cr Lockwood,
- Chaired the Knox Community Gardens AGM. They had an election for the President and their team. He congratulated the successful appointees.
- Youth Forum

Councillor Williams also:

- Visited Stable One in Wandin with Councillor Kennett to explore strategies for supporting the homeless community in Knox.
- Highlighted he will attend the Youth Advisory Committee on 30 July 2025 and the Youth Advisory Forum on 13 August 2025.

- Attended the Bayswater Makers Market on the weekend and highlighted that it is an event that is run once a month at the Bayswater Senior Citizens and is a great opportunity to support local makers.
- Attended the Knox Brigade Group 60 year birthday party and extended his congratulations to them.
- Attended the Fairhills High School Hydrogen car challenge with Councillor Duncan.
- Attended the National Business tree day with Councillor Atwell, Councillor Pearce and Councillor Lockwood and noted that it was a great networking event while planting trees.
- Watched the Fairpark and Bayswater Junior Football Club play a game under the new lighting at the Bayswater Football Club.
- Attended the opening of the State Pickle Ball Stadium on behalf of Cr Lockwood. He noted that Council has funded this facility and it was great to see the new facilities.
- Expressed his condolences to the families of the persons who passed away at Coleman Parade recently. He also highlighted there have been several motor vehicle fatalities across the municipality and cautioned people to take care on the roads. He acknowledged the Knox SES attended the incident at Coleman Parade and passed on his thanks to them after attending the event.
- Raised awareness that there has been serious crime in Studfield over the past couple of weeks.
- Condemned the recent graffiti attacks at the Kingsland Chinese Restaurant and the Shree Swaminarayan Temple.

5.7 Councillor Lockwood

Councillor Lockwood reported attending the following:

- Night trail visit with Councillor Kennett to explore issues.
- Eastern Transportation Coalition met where they reviewed the rules for the meeting and reduced the meeting frequency. The coalition also developed lobbying plans for the next State Election.
- Business National Tree day where hundreds of trees were planted by dozens of enthusiastic planters.
- Your Library Board meeting

Councillor Lockwood also:

- Attended the Fairpark Presidents lunch where they played against the Knox Football club.
- Noted the Inquiry into Local Government Funding.
- Condemned the recent graffiti attacks at the Kingsland Chinese Restaurant and the Shree Swaminarayan Temple.
- Attended the MAV Regional Board Meeting, reporting on:
 - Update on the fire and volunteer levy- rates notices
 - State budget- \$20m in 2025-26 to deliver community sports infrastructure, including support for the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund; \$2m pilot program for councils to increase the speed of planning approvals for businesses; 976 million road maintenance blitz in 2025–26 to address resurfacing and potholes on state roads.
 - Reforming Victoria’s Planning System Sector submission
 - Homelessness in Victoria – summary report. It’s time to recognise local government’s efforts in ending homelessness. 30,000 people were homeless in the 2021 census.

Rough sleepers are 7% of the homeless; 25% aged 12-24; 86% of councils reported an increase; councils are left out of the policy and funding mix yet are at the front line of homelessness; capacity building needed. Solutions like: Several communities, in Australia and internationally, have seen real impact from specialist roles like library social workers, community connectors and public space liaison officers.

- Make Good Happen campaign. Federal campaign.
- Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services –Government response in the context of MAV submission

5.8 Councillor Pearce

Councillor Pearce reported attending the following:

- ALGA's National General Assembly of which she submitted a report to this Council Meeting.
- National Tree Planting Day with Councillor Lockwood, Councillor Williams and Councillor Atwell.
- Waverley Retirement Village to discuss the space at the front of their retirement village of which they are seeking to renovate.
- A meeting with Scouts Victoria, Simon Gilford - Ministerial Advisor and Council officers.

Councillor Pearce also:

- Has been contacted by residents raising concerns about footpaths, trees, waste and birdlife of which she has raised with the relevant officers.

5.9 Councillor Cooper

Councillor Cooper reported attending the following:

- Australian Local Governance Association National General Assembly
- Knox ARC Member Recruitment Interview Candidates
- Councillor Professional Development session
- Mayor's Radio Eastern Segment
- GSEM Mayors - Manufacturing Briefing
- Parliamentary Inquiry into Fraud and Corruption Control in Local Government

Councillor Cooper also:

- Expressed deep gratitude for the support she has received after her father's passing. She specifically thanked the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Atwell and Councillor Baker for standing in for her at events and meetings.

6 Planning Matters

6.1 Report of Planning Applications Decided Under Delegation 1 June 2025 to 30 June 2025

SUMMARY

Details of planning applications considered under delegation are referred for information. It is recommended that the items be noted.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the planning applications decided under delegation 1 June 2025 to 30 June 2025 as set out in the officers' report.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Williams

SECONDED: Councillor Baker

That Council note the planning applications decided under delegation 1 June 2025 to 30 June 2025 as set out in the officers' report.

CARRIED

7 Public Question Time

Question Time commenced at 7:44 pm.

The following questions were raised with Council:

7.1 Question One - Bernie Hoefer

Given we are experiencing much development whereby residents' cars are spilling onto the streets as permanent parking (even though planning ought to cater for enough parking) this is now on public land at no cost to the car owner (private parking in CBD can cost \$100k per park space. Has the Council considered permit parking and secondly will bylaws police respond to increasing illegal parking on corners and other dangerous blind spots where a solid white line is marked hence making it illegal to park there?

It is causing accidents as per recent incident on Western Rd we want our roads to be safe to navigate on.

The Director City Liveability, Matt Kelleher responded:

- There are a number of points that have been included in the question, so the response focusses on parking permit schemes, whether Council patrols Western Road and whether that leads to changes in line marking, and parking restrictions.
- As noted, the car parking requirements for new developments (including new residential developments) are statewide controls set by the State Government in the Planning Scheme. Knox Council (like all other councils) is not in a position to require more car parking than specified by the Planning Scheme.
- Residents can currently park on-street for free in Knox. Council is unlikely to introduce a fee or permit system to allow residents to park in their street where it is otherwise legal and safe.
- Council does patrol Western Road in Boronia, noting it has a crest and a further crest at a bend. Officers periodically patrol Western Road and also attend the area in response to complaints. For the previous financial year, Council received 9 service requests to attend to illegal parking. It has subsequently issued 20 infringements for a variety of offences.
- Western Road is on Council's Local Area Traffic Management Program for future traffic management devices. However, there are quite a few streets ahead of it on the priority list. The Traffic and Transport team will continue to monitor Western Road and if traffic circumstances change, its priority on that program will be reviewed.
- Council's Parking Enforcement and Traffic & Transport teams meet regularly and share feedback about what they encounter in delivering their services to continuously improve parking and traffic management across Knox.

7.2 Question Two - Lisa Crljenkovic

Will Knox please insist that the recent report to Animal Aid's Board, cited by the Herald Sun, be released to Council, and to the public?

Welfare concerns were reported by residents in the Herald Sun, July 6th, 2025. Also in the Ferntree Gully Star Mail, July 15th, 2025.

Animal Aid has reported \$322,774 (three hundred and twenty-two thousand, seven hundred and seventy-four dollars) current debt, with contracts to eight Councils.

If Knox accepts Animal Aid denials, I am very concerned - as a registered Knox dog and cat owner, and as an animal-lover.

The Director City Liveability, Matt Kelleher responded:

- Council is aware of the allegations that have been made against practices in the management of cats and kittens at the Animal Aid shelter in Coldstream.
- Council takes these allegations seriously and is engaged with the Animal Aid Board and Management to seek a satisfactory response. As part of its assurances, Animal Aid is currently completing an internal audit in response to the allegations and has advised they will act on any improvements that are identified. Council is awaiting the outcome of the audit and its next steps.
- Animal Aid have also requested Yarra Ranges Council to undertake an independent audit of their cattery operations, as they are the responsible regulator. As the issuer of Animal Aids Domestic Animal Business licences, it is appropriate that Yarra Ranges Council undertake this review. It should be noted however that an audit and renewal of the Domestic Animal Business licence occurred recently in April, with no issues raised at that time.
- Given that the allegations made were addressed to the Board of Directors at Animal Aid, requests for a copy of the allegations should be made to Animal Aid directly.

7.3 Question Three - Lisa Crljenkovic

In the last financial year, how much has Knox paid to Animal Aid, including separate itemised totals for euthanasia of cats; of dogs; and the cost charged per animal?

The Director City Liveability, Matt Kelleher responded:

- For the 2024 – 2025 Financial Year period, Knox paid Animal Aid \$173,600 (GST exclusive) for the pound services contract, which is the minimum annual value of the contract. This figure excludes animals held for seizure and our afterhours collection service.
- Animal Aid charged Knox \$186.50 per impounded animal (GST exclusive - cats and dogs). This fee is per incoming animal. There are no separate charges relating to euthanasia or other animal outcomes.

7.4 Question Four - Timothy Cincotta

How can the Council actively engage local community groups to get their feedback and thoughts on the topic of Christmas spirit and decorations this year?

The Director City Liveability, Matt Kelleher responded:

- Council will consider a report later this evening that has been prepared in response to a Notice of Motion adopted by Council. Council's Governance Rules set some limitations for how much officer time can be dedicated to responding to a Notice of Motion so engagement to date has needed to be targeted.
- As the focus of the Notice of Motion was to support Knox's local businesses and activity centres, officers have engaged with the Experience Knox Business Working Group Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to seek their views on a potential pilot initiative for 2025 in response to the Notice of Motion and to support Council's deliberations. The Experience Knox Business Working Group was established in late 2024 and represents local traders and activity centres in Knox. The Working Group has been established to support and lead promotion and activation of Knox's activity centres as part of an initiative of the Knox Retail Activation Strategy. Council officers have also engaged with some community groups and associations such as the Men's Sheds and Lions Clubs about their interest and capacity to support the rollout of any potential Christmas Decoration Program if that is what it resolves to do.
- The Notice of Motion is also intended to present options for a Christmas Decoration Program only. Council has not yet made a decision or allocated budget towards a program for this year or as an ongoing program. Further engagement may be something Council considers in the future.

Question Time Concluded at 7.58 pm.

8 Officer Reports

8.1 Leasing and Licensing Policy

SUMMARY

The Knox City Council Leasing and Licensing Policy (the Policy) was presented to Council for endorsement to progress to public consultation on 14 April 2025.

A revised Policy was endorsed by Council for the purposes of community consultation on 14 April 2025. Community engagement occurred from 23 April 2025 to 28 May 2025, with 2 late submissions received by 14 June 2025. A total of 12 submissions were received, however two of those submissions were wholly outside the scope of the engagement. This report summarises the feedback received and outlines minor adjustments made in response to the consultation and seeks endorsement of the Leasing and Licensing Policy. Verbatim community feedback is included in Attachment 1.

The revised Leasing and Licensing Policy provides a clearer, more consistent, equitable, and transparent approach to formal agreements with tenants occupying Council-owned facilities. The revised policy sets out guiding principles for the effective management, allocation, and use of Council land and buildings, aiming to maximise community benefit. It is designed to support current tenants, prospective tenants, and Council officers in navigating lease and licence agreements with confidence and clarity. This includes simplifying annual increases, clearer and more defined tenant categories and updating limits upon the CEO's delegation. This report presents the revised Leasing and Licensing Policy at Attachment 2 for adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Note the feedback received on the draft Leasing and Licensing Policy (Attachment 1); and
2. Adopt the revised Leasing and Licensing Policy as set out in Attachment 2.

Councillor Duncan declared that he is a member of the Executive Management Team of a club who leases a building from Council. Councillor Duncan advised Council that on reviewing the report, he did not believe he has a conflict of interest but made a statement for the purpose of transparency.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Atwell

SECONDED: Councillor Pearce

That Council

- 1. Note the feedback received on the draft Leasing and Licensing Policy (Attachment 1); and**
- 2. Adopt the revised Leasing and Licensing Policy as set out in Attachment 2, subject to updating Section 7, Delegations, to require any agreements with a tenancy exceeding four years be referred to Council for decision.**
- 3. To receive a report to a Council meeting no later than 24 November 2025 (unless deferred to a later date in consultation with the Mayor) summarising the advantages and disadvantages of establishing ground leases where other parties own a building, what**

alternative approaches could be considered, including a review of other council approaches.

CARRIED

8.2 Stormwater Asset Management Plan (SWAMP)

SUMMARY

The Stormwater Asset Management Plan (SWAMP 2025) has been produced as an update to the Drainage Asset Management Plan 2010. The purpose of the Stormwater Asset Management Plan is to guide continuous improvement in Council's stormwater asset management practices and outcomes. The quality of these practices directly influences our ability to keep the city green, liveable, resilient and sustainable

The Stormwater Asset Management Plan once endorsed will be accompanied by online content, which will provide current stormwater asset information, enabling efficient future updates of the plan. This plan is the first to be developed under the Asset Management Plan Refresh Strategy (June 2023), which aimed to standardise and streamline Council's approach to asset management.

A positive reception of the SWAMP 2025 format will lead to its adoption as the standard template for all subsequent asset management plans, ensuring uniformity and efficiency.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council resolve to:

1. Endorse the Stormwater Asset Management Plan (as set out in Attachment 1) for community consultation.
2. Note that following the community consultation the feedback will be assessed and the Stormwater Asset Management Plan modified, where appropriate, with the final draft Stormwater Asset Management Plan to be presented to at a future Council meeting for approval.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Baker

SECONDED: Councillor Pearce

That Council resolve to:

1. Endorse the Stormwater Asset Management Plan (as set out in Attachment 1) for community consultation.
2. Note that following the community consultation the feedback will be assessed and the Stormwater Asset Management Plan modified, where appropriate, with the final draft Stormwater Asset Management Plan to be presented to at a future Council meeting for approval.

CARRIED

8.3 Road Management Plan

SUMMARY

The Knox Road Management Plan (RMP) sets out Council's approach to the inspection, maintenance and repair of its public roads and road related assets. If complied with, the RMP provides Council with a policy defence against civil liability claims associated with its management of the road network.

Under the Road Management (General) Regulations 2016, Council is obligated, following the election of a new Council, to formally review its Road Management Plan by 31 October 2025. The regulations state that the purpose of the review is to assess the appropriateness of levels of service for inspection, maintenance and repair of Council's Road related assets. To achieve this purpose Council has:

- Benchmarked its levels of service against other Councils,
- Investigated its level of service performance for inspection, maintenance and repair of its public roads and road related assets during the past four years, and
- Considered recommendations from its insurers.

When endorsed by Council the Road Management Plan review report – 2025 will be made available for public consultation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council resolve to:

1. Endorse the Road Management Plan Review Report – 2025 (as set out in Attachment 1) as a draft for public consultation.
2. Note that following feedback from the community, the draft Road Management Plan Review Report – 2025 will be presented to a future meeting of Council for final approval.
3. Note that any amendment of the Road Management Plan will be managed in accordance with Road Management Act General Regulations.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Pearce

SECONDED: Councillor Williams

That Council resolve to:

1. **Endorse the Road Management Plan Review Report – 2025 (as set out in Attachment 1) as a draft for public consultation.**
2. **Note that following feedback from the community, the draft Road Management Plan Review Report – 2025 will be presented to a future meeting of Council for final approval.**
3. **Note that any amendment of the Road Management Plan will be managed in accordance with Road Management Act General Regulations.**

CARRIED

8.4 Draft Mobility and Access Action Plan

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report to seek endorsement of the Draft Knox Mobility and Access Action Plan (KMAAP) and its Background Report to be released for public exhibition. KMAAP represents a refresh of the 2012 Mobility Study, which highlighted the crucial role of the footpath and shared path networks for individuals facing mobility challenges, especially in the context of limited public transport and a high reliance on private vehicles in Knox. Over the past 13 years, most of the new works identified in the original 2012 Mobility study have been built/addressed. It is therefore timely that a revised plan be prepared, acknowledging the increasing mobility needs of an ageing population.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorses the Draft Knox Mobility and Access Action Plan (attachment 1) and Background Report (attachment 2) as final drafts for public consultation.
2. Note that following the public consultation period and review of feedback received, the Knox Mobility and Access Action Plan will be presented to Council for final endorsement at a future Council meeting.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Baker

SECONDED: Councillor Atwell

That Council:

1. **Endorses the Draft Knox Mobility and Access Action Plan (attachment 1) and Background Report (attachment 2) as final drafts for public consultation.**
2. **Note that following the public consultation period and review of feedback received, the Knox Mobility and Access Action Plan will be presented to Council for final endorsement at a future Council meeting.**

CARRIED

8.5 Minor Grants Program and Emergency Relief Fund 2025-26 Monthly Report and Individual Excellence Grants Update (Quarter 4)

SUMMARY

This report summarises the grant applications recommended for approval in July 2025 for the 2025-26 Minor Grants Program and Emergency Relief Fund. All applications have been assessed against the criteria set out in the Knox City Council Community Grants Guidelines 2025-2026 (Guidelines).

Applications under the Minor Grants Program are limited to a maximum of \$2,500.00 within the current financial year.

Applications under the Emergency Relief Fund are limited to \$20,000.00 within the current financial year.

This report also summarises the Excellence Grants for Individuals awarded in Quarter 4 of the 2024-2025 financial year. Under the Excellence Grants for Individuals Program, applicants who are selected to represent either Victoria or Australia in a competitive endeavour or an elite performance may receive funding assistance of \$150.00 for events within Victoria, \$250.00 for interstate events and \$400.00 for international events.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolve to:

1. Approve nine applications under the Minor Grants Program for a total of \$15,539.83 (excluding GST) as detailed below:

Minor Grants Program			
Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested (inc. GST)	Amount Recommended (excl. GST)
Wantirna South Cricket Club	Wet Weather Roller and Ground Marking Paint	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
One Hope Community Church	Coffee Plus - Art Sessions 2025-26	\$500.00	\$454.55 (lesser amount due to GST)
Fijian Indian Seniors Association Inc.	Purchase of Sound System	\$999.00	\$999.00
Waverley City Soccer Club Inc.	Cricket Pitch Cover Spindle Applicator	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Wantirna South Football Club	Gazebos - portable	\$2,400.00	\$2,181.82 (lesser amount due to GST)
Boronia Road Uniting Church	ADT Security Duress Pendants	\$2,500.00	\$2,272.73 (lesser amount due to GST)
Life Activities Club Knox Inc.	Upgrade Laptop	\$1,297.00	\$1,297.00
St John the Baptist Parish	Defibrillator for Church Use	\$2,500.00	\$2,272.73 (lesser amount due to GST)

Minor Grants Program			
Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested (inc. GST)	Amount Recommended (excl. GST)
Knox Obedience Dog Club Inc.	Loop for Leaps	\$1,062.00	\$1,062.00
Total		\$16,258.00	\$15,539.83

2. Defer one application under the Minor Grants Program requesting a total of \$2,500.00 as detailed below:

Minor Grants Program		
Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested
Knox Infolink Inc.	IT Equipment Upgrade	\$2,500.00
Total		\$2,500.00

3. Refuse three applications under the Minor Grants Program requesting a total of \$6,500.00 as detailed below:

Minor Grants Program			
Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested	Reason for ineligibility
Australian Nagarathar Cultural Education Foundation	Healthy Walk for Knox Community	\$3,000.00	This project is ineligible per the Community Grants Guidelines, which states funding will not be provided for retrospective payments or expenses for activities or expenses undertaken before Council approval.
Glengollan Village	Replacing Roof on Community BBQ Gazebo (fixed asset)	\$2,500.00	This project is ineligible as it relates to maintenance works on a fixed asset.
Guy Turner Reserve Tennis Club Inc.	Tennis Lighting Repairs	\$1,000.00	This project is ineligible as it relates to maintenance works and is the responsibility of the tenant as per their license agreement
Total		\$6,500.00	

4. Note that should the recommended Minor Grants be approved by Council, the remaining budget for 2025-26 will be \$141,156.17 after GST adjustments.
5. Approve one application under the Emergency Relief Fund for a total of \$18,181.82 (excluding GST) as detailed below:

Emergency Relief Fund			
Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended

		(inc. GST)	(excl. GST)
Foothills Community Care Inc.	Foothills Community Casserole	\$20,000.00	\$18,181.82 (lesser amount due to GST)
Total		\$20,000.00	\$18,181.82

6. Defer one application under the Emergency Relief Fund requesting a total of \$18,181.82 as detailed below:

Emergency Relief Fund			
Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested (inc. GST)	Amount Recommended (excl. GST)
The Salvation Army	The Pantry (Extended Food Relief)	\$20,000.00	\$18,181.82 (lesser amount due to GST)
Total		\$20,000.00	\$18,181.82

7. Refuse one application under the Emergency Relief Fund requesting a total of \$20,000.00 as detailed below:

Emergency Relief Fund			
Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested	Reason for ineligibility
Our Village Network Inc.	Emergency Crisis Support for Vulnerable Families in Knox	\$20,000.00	This project is ineligible per the Community Grants Guidelines, which states grant funds cannot be used for organisations, projects or programs outside Knox unless they offer clear benefits to Knox residents. Benefit to Knox residents not sufficiently demonstrated.
Total		\$20,000.00	

7. Note that should the recommended grant be approved by Council, the remaining Emergency Relief Fund budget for 2025-26 will be \$81,818.18 after GST adjustments.
8. Note the Excellence Grants for Individuals awarded in Quarter 4 of the 2024-2025 financial year as set out in Attachment 3, with a total value of \$1,050.00.

The Chairperson, Mayor Cooper, with leave of Council and in accordance with Rule 34 of Council's Governance Rules, proposed Council consider separate motions as suggested by Councillor Lockwood to enable Council to debate and vote separately on:

- *The Minor Grants Program*
- *Emergency Relief Fund 2025-26 Monthly Report and Individual Excellence Grants Update (Quarter 4)*

Councillor Lockwood declared a material conflict of interest in relation to the Minor Grants aspect of this Item for reasons disclosed to the CEO.

Councillor Lockwood left the Council Chamber at 8.26pm prior to the consideration and vote on this item.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Baker

SECONDED: Councillor Pearce

That Council resolve to:

1. Approve eight applications under the Minor Grants Program for a total of \$13,039.83 (excluding GST) as detailed below:

Minor Grants Program			
Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested (inc. GST)	Amount Recommended (excl. GST)
Wantirna South Cricket Club	Wet Weather Roller and Ground Marking Paint	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
One Hope Community Church	Coffee Plus - Art Sessions 2025-26	\$500.00	\$454.55 (lesser amount due to GST)
Fijian Indian Seniors Association Inc.	Purchase of Sound System	\$999.00	\$999.00
Wantirna South Football Club	Gazebos - portable	\$2,400.00	\$2,181.82 (lesser amount due to GST)
Boronia Road Uniting Church	ADT Security Duress Pendants	\$2,500.00	\$2,272.73 (lesser amount due to GST)
Life Activities Club Knox Inc.	Upgrade Laptop	\$1,297.00	\$1,297.00
St John the Baptist Parish	Defibrillator for Church Use	\$2,500.00	\$2,272.73 (lesser amount due to GST)
Knox Obedience Dog Club Inc.	Loop for Leaps	\$1,062.00	\$1,062.00
Total		\$13,758	\$13,039.83

2. Defer one application under the Minor Grants Program requesting a total of \$2,500.00 as detailed below:

Minor Grants Program		
Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested
Knox Infolink Inc.	IT Equipment Upgrade	\$2,500.00
Total		\$2,500.00

3. Refuse four applications under the Minor Grants Program requesting a total of \$9,000 as detailed below:

Minor Grants Program			
Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested	Reason for ineligibility
Australian Nagarathar Cultural Education Foundation	Healthy Walk for Knox Community	\$3,000.00	This project is ineligible per the Community Grants Guidelines, which states funding will not be provided for retrospective payments or expenses for activities or expenses undertaken before Council approval.
Glengollan Village	Replacing Roof on Community BBQ Gazebo (fixed asset)	\$2,500.00	This project is ineligible as it relates to maintenance works on a fixed asset.
Guy Turner Reserve Tennis Club Inc.	Tennis Lighting Repairs	\$1,000.00	This project is ineligible as it relates to maintenance works and is the responsibility of the tenant as per their license agreement
Waverley City Soccer Club Inc	Cricket Pitch Spindle Cover Applicator	\$2500	This project is ineligible as it is retrospective funding. It was purchased on 3 rd July, therefore it is ineligible as per guidelines
Total		\$9,000	

4. Note that should the recommended Minor Grants be approved by Council, the remaining budget for 2025-26 will be \$ \$143,656.17 after GST adjustments.

CARRIED

Councillor Lockwood returned to the chamber at 8.38 pm in time for consideration of the second part of this item, relating to Emergency Relief Fund 2025-26 Monthly Report and Individual Excellence Grants Update (Quarter 4).

RESOLUTION**MOVED:** Councillor Lockwood**SECONDED:** Councillor Baker

That Council resolve to:

1. Approve one application under the Emergency Relief Fund for a total of \$18,181.82 (excluding GST) as detailed below:

Emergency Relief Fund			
Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested (inc. GST)	Amount Recommended (excl. GST)
Foothills Community Care Inc.	Foothills Community Casserole	\$20,000.00	\$18,181.82 (lesser amount due to GST)
Total		\$20,000.00	\$18,181.82

2. Defer one application under the Emergency Relief Fund requesting a total of \$18,181.82 as detailed below:

Emergency Relief Fund			
Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested (inc. GST)	Amount Recommended (excl. GST)
The Salvation Army	The Pantry (Extended Food Relief)	\$20,000.00	\$18,181.82 (lesser amount due to GST)
Total		\$20,000.00	\$18,181.82

3. Refuse one application under the Emergency Relief Fund requesting a total of \$20,000.00 as detailed below:

Emergency Relief Fund			
Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested	Reason for ineligibility
Our Village Network Inc.	Emergency Crisis Support for Vulnerable Families in Knox	\$20,000.00	This project is ineligible per the Community Grants Guidelines, which states grant funds cannot be used for organisations, projects or programs outside Knox unless they offer clear benefits to Knox residents. Benefit to Knox residents not sufficiently demonstrated.
Total		\$20,000.00	

5. Note that should the recommended grant be approved by Council, the remaining Emergency Relief Fund budget for 2025-26 will be \$81,818.18 after GST adjustments.

- 6. Note the Excellence Grants for Individuals awarded in Quarter 4 of the 2024-2025 financial year as set out in Attachment 3, with a total value of \$1,050.00.**

CARRIED

PROCEDURAL MOTION

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED: Councillor Cooper

SECONDED: Councillor Atwell

That Council resolve to take a 10 minute break from 8:40 pm to 8:50 pm.

CARRIED

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm and resumed at 8:53 pm with all Councillors present except for Councillor Pearce.

Councillor Pearce returned to the Chamber at 8.54 pm during the discussion and before the vote for Item 8.6 Leisure Minor Capital Works Grant Scheme 2025-2026.

8.6 Leisure Minor Capital Works Grant Scheme 2025-2026

SUMMARY

This report presents the recommendations of the Leisure Minor Capital Works Grant Scheme (LMCWGS) Panel for Council's 2025-2026 program allocation for funding. The annual LMCWGS supports local community sporting and leisure organisations to undertake facility improvements on land owned or managed by Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolve to:

1. Approve a funding allocation of \$62,722.45 (including GST) from the 2025-2026 Leisure Minor Capital Works Grant Scheme Program to the applicant clubs nominated in Attachment 1.
2. Specify that additional grant conditions are required for the sporting organisations listed in Attachment 2.
3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or such person as the Chief Executive Officer selects) to inform applicant Clubs of Council's decision.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Atwell

SECONDED: Councillor Williams

That Council resolve to:

1. Approve a funding allocation of \$62,722.45 (including GST) from the 2025-2026 Leisure Minor Capital Works Grant Scheme Program to the applicant clubs nominated in Attachment 1.
2. Specify that additional grant conditions are required for the sporting organisations listed in Attachment 2.
3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or such person as the Chief Executive Officer selects) to inform applicant Clubs of Council's decision.

CARRIED

8.7 Knox City Council Attendance at the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly 2025

SUMMARY

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA) was held in Canberra from 24-27 June 2025. Over 1,300 local government leaders from across Australia attended the NGA, including representation from Knox City Council.

This report provides an overview to Council of the activities, learnings and outcomes from the 2025 NGA and will be complemented by Councillors' verbal reports to be provided at the meeting (during Item 5, Reports By Councillors).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note:

1. This report on the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly 2025.
2. Reports provided by Councillors at the Meeting on 28 July 2025.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Atwell

SECONDED: Councillor Pearce

That Council receive and note:

1. This report on the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly 2025.
2. Reports provided by Councillors at the Meeting on 28 July 2025.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

MOVED: Councillor Atwell

SECONDED: Councillor Cooper

That Council resolve to suspend standing orders.

CARRIED

STANDING ORDERS WERE SUSPENDED AT 8.58PM

8.7.1 Councillor Atwell

Cr Atwell reported the following:

- The diversity of perspectives among attendees, with each identifying different themes, priorities, and areas of interest.
- This year's NGA theme was *National Priorities Need Local Solutions*. The session reinforced that all Councils are facing significant challenges.

- The engagement with Councillors from both neighbouring and interstate Councils, noting that many of Knox's challenges and priorities are shared nationwide.
- That there is strong support for ALGA's advocacy to restore and increase Financial Assistance Grants, which is a primary source of Council funding, to at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue.
- The conference discussions which included:
 - Housing affordability and planning – emphasising the need for Local Government to have a more direct and responsive role in shaping housing growth that aligns with local context and respects community needs.
 - Climate action – calls for a dedicated Local Government Climate Fund to support investment in energy efficiency, disaster resilience, and environmental sustainability.
 - Digital transformation – focusing on cyber security and the emerging impacts of generative AI.
 - Community health and wellbeing – including emergency food relief initiatives.
- Attending Parliament House and meeting with a representative from the Office of the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Katherine King MP. Discussed Knox's key infrastructure priorities, including roads and transport upgrades, the trackless tram proposal, and local sporting group facility needs.
- Councillor Atwell thanked Council and the Knox community for the opportunity to attend the conference on their behalf.

8.7.2 Councillor Pearce

Cr Pearce reported the following:

- Highlighted it was the largest gathering of Councillors they had seen in a long time.
- The theme of the event was *National Priorities, Local Solutions*.
- Reflected that Councils across the board are feeling significant financial pressures being to balance the delivery of community-expected services while managing budget constraints and noted it was encouraging to see practical, innovative solutions being developed to address complex challenges.
 - For example, Simco, a Scoresby-based business, provides communication equipment enabling field staff to remain in contact with their office. This is particularly valuable for staff who work alone, ensuring they can call for assistance in emergencies or other situations requiring immediate support.
- Councillor Pearce reflected the event was a valuable opportunity to network with other Councillors and exchange ideas on addressing challenges currently faced at Knox.
- Councillor Pearce expressed her appreciation to the community and advised that she took this as part of her Councillor training allowance.

8.7.3 Councillor Lockwood

Cr Lockwood reported the following:

- Attended networking events including NGA Welcome Reception, MAV reception, Knox Future Mayor's Dinner, and ERG Dinner with neighbouring councils.
- Day 1 highlights: Welcome to Country, addresses from ALGA President, Kristy McBain, Opposition representatives, Governor-General, and sessions on the geo-economic landscape and local action.

- Day 2 highlights: Climate leadership panel, concurrent sessions on housing and community infrastructure, and General Assembly Dinner.
- Day 3 highlights: Ministerial panel, final motions, and close of NGA.
- Exhibition provided valuable contacts (approx. 20 councillors) and insights, including pre-fab parklets, new banner options, and the “e-ferret” data search tool.
- Ideas generation session emphasised a four-step process: Identify idea - Plan - Assess risks - Act.
- Concurrent Sessions:
 - Debate on Motions- more illuminating debate.
 - General Assembly Dinner (APH). Sat with Griffith Regional Council and Darwin City Council. Great conversations. We all have similar but different challenges.
 - Housing and Community Infrastructure – key themes:
 - Need for increased funding for social housing, enabling works for development, improved awareness of funding programs, and better coordination between government levels.
 - Barriers discussed: material and trade shortages, inconsistent planning systems, infrastructure delays, and lack of funding certainty.
 - Opportunities and reforms proposed: co-housing, modular builds, increased medium-density housing, active transport integration, and more flexible, place-based funding models.

8.7.4 Councillor Duncan

Cr Duncan reported the following:

- Reflected on the value of the conference as an opportunity for personal development to ensure that as elected representatives, Councillors can make informed, strategic decisions on behalf of the Knox community that also accounts for best practice.
- Highlighted that professional development gives Councillors an opportunity to learn more about legislation, financial management, climate resilience, and social issues. With this information, Councillors are better able to make decisions that are well informed, grounded and reflective of current best practice. This translates to better outcomes for the Knox community.
- Noted that attending conferences not only allows attendees to hear from a vast array of professionals, but also to build relationships with other Councils, State and Federal representatives and other industry experts. Building relationships helps when advocating for funding, and responding to customers with practical and accurate advice.
- By attending professional development training, Councillors are better equipped to question and evaluate to ensure that ratepayers money is managed responsibly, efficiently and transparently. That Councillors are exposed to best practices that come from elsewhere around the country and fresh thinking.
- Noted that when Councillors show a commitment to learning, it builds community trust within the municipality. Residents can feel confident that their leaders are not only engaged, but are continually developing their knowledge and skills to ensure we are serving people effectively.

8.7.5 Councillor Baker

Cr Baker reported the following:

- Highlighted that in addition to her written report, with the exception of the regional forum that was on the morning of their arrival, she attended all the sessions throughout the day and the session about emergency management capability and capacity.
- Acknowledged the theme of funding and the challenges faced by many Councils in a rate capped environment.
- Expressed that while she found her attendance to be beneficial from a professional development perspective that she couldn't justify attending the conference every year.
- Noted she has communicated some of the information outlined in her report to the organisation.
- Councillor Baker also expressed her thanks to the community.

8.7.6 Councillor Cooper

Cr Cooper reported the following:

- This was her second attendance with her last being in 2015. Reflecting that in 2015, it was an eyeopener into the sector for her.
- Reflected that attending 10 years later, it was still an eye-opener and beneficial from a personal development experience.
- Although there were many motions that went through uncontested, the debate on remaining items was helpful and interesting. She reflected that hearing debate as an experienced Councillor was insightful.
- Councillor Cooper also agreed with some of the Councillors in relation to the comments about visiting the exhibitors in attendance promoting the products and services they have available.
- That while it may not be necessary for every Councillor to attend every year, there is value in attending at least once during their term.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

MOVED: Councillor Cooper

SECONDED: Councillor Baker

That Council resolve to resume standing orders.

CARRIED

STANDING ORDERS WERE RESUMED AT 9.23PM

The Substantive Motion was put and CARRIED

8.8 Response to Notice of Motion 176 - Service Planning Information

SUMMARY

At the Council Meeting on 24 March 2025, the Council determined in response to Notice of Motion 176 - Service Planning Information:

That Council resolve to receive a report to a Council meeting no later than June 2025 (unless deferred to a later date in consultation with the Mayor) including:

- a. Details of actions taken or not taken in all Service Reviews produced over the past 3 years; and*
- b. For any Service Reviews not acted upon that an explanation be provided along with a schedule for implementation.*

This report provides the information requested in the Notice of Motion.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes this report in response to Notice of Motion 176 - Service Planning Information.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Lockwood

SECONDED: Councillor Pearce

That Council receives and notes this report in response to Notice of Motion 176 - Service Planning Information.

CARRIED

8.9 Response to NoM.177 - Christmas Decorations

SUMMARY

This report has been prepared in response to Notice of Motion No. 177 adopted by Council at its meeting of 24 March 2025 (Attachment 1) which resolved:

That Council, as part of recognising the importance of enhancing civic pride and role our local retail traders play in Knox, resolve to receive a report by July 2025 (or a later date in consultation with the Mayor if further time is required) that provides options for how Christmas could be celebrated within our local retail activity centres, with the following parameters:

- *Options are to be accommodated within maximum potential annual budget of \$50,000 and could include opportunities for a window display program to engage with our local retail traders that leverages the Experience Knox platform and simple decorations such as bin wraps that provide for visual impact at a reasonable cost; and*
- *Options are to recognise available resource capacity and seek to achieve value for money.*

In accordance with Notice of Motion No.177, options have been developed and quotes obtained for decorations, based on the notional budget of \$50,000 indicated. These quotes explore a range of options that offer varying levels of festive coverage including Festive Bin Wraps, Festive Red Bows and a Festive Trader Window Decorating Initiative. The options are noted within the discussion section of the report.

In addition to the proposed options, in a meeting between Council officers and Cr Williams (who raised the NOM) on 31 March 2025, Cr Williams highlighted an opportunity of allowing traders to display their own Christmas trees on footpaths during business hours without permit fees, which would require processing through the existing Local Law Permit system. While this approach could support the Festive Decoration Program, it would significantly increase administrative and compliance workloads, potentially requiring additional staffing and impacting service delivery as outlined in the discussion section of this report.

This report has been prepared in response to the Notice of Motion No.177 and does not include a formal officer recommendation. It is provided to assist Council in understanding the potential costs and considerations associated with implementing a Festive Decoration program.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note, in response to Notice of Motion No. 177:

1. The five options within this report for a one-off pilot Festive Decoration Program with a notional budget of \$50,000, plus staff resource costs.
2. That budget is not allocated to deliver the one-off pilot program and \$50,000 will need to be allocated by Council in the 2025/26 Council budget for the pilot program to be delivered.
3. An ongoing Festive Decoration Program would need to be considered and identified in the 2026/27 budget process if it were to be ongoing program.
4. A Festive Decoration Program has not been factored into Service Planning for any Council Services involved, particularly the Economic Development service, and delivery of existing programs will be impacted and prioritisation will be required.

MOTION

MOVED: Councillor Williams

SECONDED: Councillor Pearce

That Council:

1. Notes the officer report in response to Notice of Motion 177 – Christmas Decorations.
2. Acknowledge the support from the Experience Knox Working Group, Wantirna Mall Traders Association and other traders and community associations engaged to date that builds on the positivity that a Christmas Decorations program would bring to Knox and traders.
3. Acknowledges the importance of celebrating the festive season of Christmas, as an all-inclusive festival for everyone to enjoy, with a Christmas decoration program marking the season while enhancing civic pride and activity centre visitation, whilst being responsive to Council's budget constraints.
4. Endorses an amended Option 3 as contained in the Officers' report to focus only on the installation of red bows in the seven medium activity centres (Refer Attachment 2) as part of a Pilot Program to be rolled out for the 2025 Festive Period (i.e. 1 – 31 December 2025), at an estimated cost of \$15,000 (excl. GST).
5. Authorise officers to undertake a procurement activity to engage a suitable supplier(s)/contractor(s) to procure, install and remove the red bows as endorsed at Point 4 in time for the 2025 Festive Period.
6. Request officers to present a report to Council no later than end of February 2026 to enable consideration as part of the 2026/27 budget process outlining options for an ongoing Christmas Decorations Program, commencing from 2026/27 providing the following:
 - a) Learnings from the 2025 Pilot Program;
 - b) For the purpose of informing the 2026/27 budget planning process, indicative costs (from more than one supplier where possible) for the provision of red bows, corflute bin wraps and other Christmas decorations as required;
 - c) A more detailed overview of a potential Festive Shop Window Decorating program, including promotions and trader engagement, that could be included as part of the program for 2026/27;
 - d) A process to support community groups to assist in the installation and removal of red bows and other Christmas decorations as part of any ongoing program;
 - e) Consultation with the Knox Multicultural Advisory Committee on its feedback for the 2026/27 program; and
 - f) Recommendations for the rollout of an annual Christmas Decorations Program for all activity centres from 2026/27.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

MOVED: Councillor Williams

SECONDED: Councillor Pearce

That Council resolve to suspend Standing Orders.

CARRIED

STANDING ORDERS WERE SUSPENDED AT 9.34PM

PROCEDURAL MOTION

RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

MOVED: Councillor Cooper

SECONDED: Councillor Duncan

That Council resolve to resume Standing Orders.

CARRIED

STANDING ORDERS WERE RESUMED AT 9.54PM

PROCEDURAL MOTION

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED: Councillor Williams

SECONDED: Councillor Cooper

That Council adjourn the Meeting for 15 minutes.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

MOVED: Councillor Duncan

SECONDED: Councillor Cooper

That the Motion to adjourn the Meeting for 15 minutes be put.

CARRIED

The Procedural Motion to adjourn the Meeting was put and LOST

Councillor Williams requested that the alternate motion be withdrawn by leave of Council, in accordance with Rule 33.1 of Council's Governance Rules.

Leave of Council was not granted.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

MOVED: Councillor Lockwood

SECONDED: Councillor Duncan

That this matter be adjourned until the August 2025 mid-Month Council Meeting.

LOST

A Division was called by Councillor Williams

For the motion: Councillor Pearce, Councillor Lockwood, Councillor Williams, Councillor Duncan

Against the motion: Councillor Baker, Councillor Cooper, Councillor Kennett, Councillor Williams, Councillor Considine, Councillor Atwell

Abstention: Nil

LOST 4:5

PROCEDURAL MOTION

MOVED: Councillor Cooper

SECONDED: Councillor Baker

That the meeting be extended until 11.30pm.

CARRIED

Debate resumed on the substantive Motion moved by Councillor Williams and seconded by Councillor Pearce.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

MOVED: Councillor Baker

SECONDED: Councillor Cooper

That Councillor Atwell be permitted an extension of time to speak under Section 42 of the Governance Rules of Knox City Council.

CARRIED

A Division was called by Councillor Atwell (for the Procedural Motion)

For the motion: Councillor Duncan, Councillor Baker, Councillor Cooper, Councillor Considine, Councillor Kennett and Councillor Atwell

Against the motion: Councillor Williams, Councillor Lockwood, and Councillor Pearce

Abstention: Nil

CARRIED 6:3

The substantive motion moved by Councillor Williams and seconded by Councillor Pearce was put and LOST

A Division was called by Councillor Williams

For the motion: Councillor Williams, Councillor Lockwood, and Councillor Pearce

Against the motion: Councillor Duncan, Councillor Baker, Councillor Cooper, Councillor Considine, Councillor Kennett and Councillor Atwell

Abstention: Nil

LOST 3:6

Councillor Lockwood left the Council Chamber at 11.12 pm prior to the vote on the following resolution for Item 8.9 Response to NoM.177 - Christmas Decorations.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Cooper

SECONDED: Councillor Baker

That Council note, in response to Notice of Motion No. 177:

- 1. The five options within this report for a one-off pilot Festive Decoration Program with a notional budget of \$50,000, plus staff resource costs.**
- 2. That budget is not allocated to deliver the one-off pilot program and \$50,000 will need to be allocated by Council in the 2025/26 Council budget for the pilot program to be delivered.**
- 3. An ongoing Festive Decoration Program would need to be considered and identified in the 2026/27 budget process if it were to be ongoing program.**
- 4. A Festive Decoration Program has not been factored into Service Planning for any Council Services involved, particularly the Economic Development service, and delivery of existing programs will be impacted and prioritisation will be required.**

CARRIED

9 Supplementary Items

Nil.

10 Notices Of Motion

Nil.

11 Urgent Business

Nil.

12 Questions Through the Chair

Nil.

13 Confidential Items

13.1 Knox Central Program Working Position Update

A confidential report was circulated under separate cover as it contains confidential information pursuant to Council's Governance Rules and Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to:

- Land use planning information regarding property zoning or likely property sales that might encourage or enable speculation in land values if prematurely released.
- Private commercial information, that if released, would unreasonably expose a business to disadvantage because it would release information about the business that is not generally available to their competitors.
- Confidential meeting information, being the records of the Strategic Planning Committee held on 10 March 2015; along with the subsequent purchase price of land that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Baker

SECONDED: Councillor Atwell

That Council resolve to close the meeting to the public in accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2020 and Council's Governance Rules to consider Item 13.1 Knox Central Program Working Position Update, as it relates to:

- Land use planning information regarding property zoning or likely property sales that might encourage or enable speculation in land values if prematurely released.
- Private commercial information, that if released, would unreasonably expose a business to disadvantage because it would release information about the business that is not generally available to their competitors.
- Confidential meeting information, being the records of the Strategic Planning Committee held on 10 March 2015; along with the subsequent purchase price of land that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.

CARRIED

Cr Lockwood returned to the Council Chamber at 11:15 pm following the vote on the Motion to close the meeting, and prior to consideration of Item 13.1 Knox Central Program Working Position Update.

Cr Duncan left the Council Chamber at 11.15 pm prior to consideration of Item 13.1 Knox Central Program Working Position Update.

The meeting was closed to the public at 11:15 pm to consider Item 13.1 Knox Central Program Working Position Update.

The Officer's recommendation was adopted and as per the Council Resolution, is included in the public Minutes.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Lockwood

SECONDED: Councillor Williams

That Council:

- 1. Adopts a renewed 'working position' to enable Council's vision for the Heart of Knox project to continue to be developed, as follows:**
 - a. the location of a future civic/community/cultural precinct should be generally located within the Central Junction and/or Burwood Highway sub-precincts as shown in the adopted Central Precinct Land Use Plan (August 2024);**
 - b. the future services and facilities that Council may seek to deliver in the civic/community/cultural precinct are to be assessed;**
 - c. the infrastructure required for the site to be developed is to be assessed; and**
 - d. options for development of the balance of the site are to be assessed.**
- 2. Notes that development, planning and legal advisory services will be procured to support these assessments, and to support future Council decisions.**
- 3. Resolve to include these resolutions within the public minutes.**

CARRIED

MEETING CLOSED AT 11.18PM

Minutes of Meeting confirmed at the
Meeting of Council
held on Monday, 25 August 2025

.....

Chairperson

The Agenda for this meeting is attached in full at the end of the Minutes