



City of **Perth**

Notes

Agenda Briefing Session
23 July 2024

Approved for release
Michelle Reynolds
Chief Executive Officer
30 July 2024

Information

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	Nil.	
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	Nil.	
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1. Declaration of Opening

The Presiding Member declared the Agenda Briefing Session for the City of Perth open at 5.01pm.

2. Acknowledgement of Country/Prayer

The Presiding Member gave an Acknowledgement of Country:

I respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet, the Whadjuk Nyoongar people of Western Australia, and pay my respects to Elders past and present. It is a privilege to be standing on Whadjuk Nyoongar country.

The Chief Executive Officer recited a prayer:

Almighty God, under whose providence we hold responsibility for this City grant us wisdom to understand its present needs, foresight to anticipate its future growth, and grace to serve our fellow citizens with integrity and selfless devotion. And to Thee, be all blessing and glory forever. Amen.

3. Attendance

Members in Attendance

Lord Mayor

Deputy Lord Mayor

Councillors

Basil Zempilas

Clyde Bevan

Raj Doshi

Liam Gobbert

David Goncalves

Viktor Ko (*arrived at 5.15pm*)

Catherine Lezer

Bruce Reynolds

Officers in Attendance

Chief Executive Officer

General Manager Corporate Services

General Manager Commercial Services

General Manager Infrastructure and Operations

General Manager Planning and Economic Development

Acting General Manager Community Development

Alliance Manager Council Governance and Policy

Council Governance and Policy Coordinator

Council Governance and Policy Officer/Minute Taker

Michelle Reynolds

Wendy Attenborough

Steve Holden

Allan Mason

Dale Page

Louise Vescovo

Charlie Clarke

Ebony Mackey

Stacey Johnson

Public Gallery

There were five members of the public in the gallery.

3.1 Apologies

Councillor Brent Fleeton.

3.2 Leave of Absence

Nil.

3.3 Applications for Leave of Absence

This item will be dealt with at the Ordinary Council Meeting.

4. Announcements by the Lord Mayor

4.1 Sister City Delegation – Kagoshima, Japan

The Lord Mayor expressed great pleasure in hosting a delegation from Perth's Sister City, Kagoshima, Japan. He welcomed Mayor Shizuru and the visiting group, noting the 50-year celebration of the sister city relationship, which is the longest-standing in Perth's history. The Lord Mayor highlighted the importance of cultural exchange and the strong friendships between the cities. He emphasized the significant contributions of Japanese businesses, which are based in Perth and greatly benefit the local and Western Australian economy.

The Lord Mayor expressed pride in the role of the sister city relationship in fostering these business connections. It was stated that the delegation has enjoyed various functions and will attend a lunch with one of the Japanese businesses, Impex, before departing. The Lord Mayor mentioned that the delegation appreciated Perth's hospitality and extended an invitation for a reciprocal visit to Kagoshima later in the year to continue the 50th-anniversary celebrations, which is currently being considered.

4.2 Councillor Brent Fleeton - Resignation

The Lord Mayor advised that Councillor Brent Fleeton has resigned, effective from 5:30 pm on August 31, 2024. Although Councillor Fleeton was not present, it was stated that he will continue to serve until the end of August. The Lord Mayor noted that Councillor Fleeton's term is in its third year and is not covered by the new backfill provisions in the Local Government Act 1995, meaning the City of Perth must hold an extraordinary election to fill the casual vacancy. The Lord Mayor stated that the election must occur within four months of the vacancy, which is dated from July 15, when the City was informed of the resignation.

The Lord Mayor mentioned that the Council needs to decide whether the election will be conducted by post or in person, with this decision to be made at the next Council meeting. He stated that the administration is currently coordinating with the Electoral Commission to seek the Commissioner's agreement to oversee the election. He also stated that a report on this matter will be presented at the July Ordinary Council Meeting. The Lord Mayor emphasized the importance of filling the vacancy promptly to maintain the full operation of the Council with all nine seats occupied.

4.3 Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer

The Lord Mayor commended WALGA for their stance on the Shot Hole Borer, which he considered the most significant biosecurity emergency currently facing Western Australia. The Lord Mayor explained that the infestation is causing long-term damage to iconic green spaces across the metropolitan area, including the City of Perth, which has approximately 16,000 trees. The Lord Mayor warned that up to 60% of these trees could be lost due to the infestation. He stated that the City's gardening team is actively working to mitigate the damage, but the potential loss is substantial. The Lord Mayor stated that the City of Perth Administration estimates that the lost value of trees in Supreme Court Gardens alone could amount to around \$766,000 in ecosystem services, not accounting for the visual impact.

The Lord Mayor expressed concern that the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development has not responded quickly enough to the issue. The infestation is not limited to the City of Perth, as trees in Kings Park and Hyde Park are also at risk. The Lord Mayor highlighted that Perth's tree canopy is already the lowest of any Australian capital city and expressed hope for a change in approach and quicker action to address the problem.

5. Disclosures of Interests

Name	Councillor Catherine Lezer
Item number and title	11.2 Draft Northbridge Character Area Local Planning Policy
Nature of interest	Impartiality
Interest description	<i>"For consistency and completeness, I am a Councillor on the Heritage Council of WA".</i>

Name	Councillor Catherine Lezer
Item number and title	11.3 Draft St Georges Terrace Character Area Local Planning Policy
Nature of interest	Impartiality
Interest description	<i>"For consistency and completeness, I am a Councillor on the Heritage Council of WA".</i>

Name	Councillor Catherine Lezer
Item number and title	11.4 Proposed Designation of Goderich Street Heritage Area and draft Goderich Street Heritage Area Local Planning Policy
Nature of interest	Impartiality
Interest description	<i>"For consistency and completeness, I am a Councillor on the Heritage Council of WA".</i>

Name	Councillor Catherine Lezer
Item number and title	12.1 Business Improvement Grants
Nature of interest	Indirect Financial
Interest description	<i>"A close relative and Australian Venue Co Ltd both own separate lots at 60 Royal Street, East Perth."</i>

Name	Councillor David Goncalves
Item number and title	12.1 Business Improvement Grants
Nature of interest	Impartiality
Interest description	<i>"I have previously attended performances at the Actor's Hub theatre".</i>

Name	Deputy Lord Mayor Clyde Bevan
Item number and title	12.1 Business Improvement Grants
Nature of interest	Proximity
Interest description	<i>"Within 30m of my apartment at 380 Murray Street, Perth".</i>

6. Public Participation

6.1 Public Questions

This item will be dealt with at the Ordinary Council Meeting.

6.2 Deputations

5.14pm Councillor Catherine Lezer disclosed an indirect financial interest in Item 12.1 (as detailed in Item 5) and departed the meeting accordingly prior to 6.2.1.

5.15pm Councillor Viktor Ko arrived at the meeting prior to Item 6.2.1.

6.2.1 Riley White representing Ambassador Bar Pty Ltd spoke AGAINST the Officer Recommendation in item 12.1 Business Improvement Grants 2024/25.

5.28pm Deputy Lord Mayor Clyde Bevan disclosed a proximity interest in Item 12.1 (as detailed in Item 5) and departed the meeting accordingly prior to Item 6.2.2.

6.2.2 Justin Palmer representing Public House Perth spoke FOR the Officer Recommendation in item 12.1 Business Improvement Grants 2024/25.

5.33pm Deputy Lord Mayor Clyde Bevan and Councillor Catherine Lezer returned to the meeting.

7. Confirmation of Minutes

This item will be dealt with at the Ordinary Council Meeting.

8. Questions by Members which due Notice has been Given

This item will be dealt with at the Ordinary Council Meeting.

9. Correspondence

This item will be dealt with at the Ordinary Council Meeting.

10. Petitions

This item will be dealt with at the Ordinary Council Meeting.

Reports

A series of questions were raised by elected members which were responded to prior to the Agenda Briefing Session. A summary of the responses will be included under 'Further Information' located at the end of each report in the Ordinary Council Meeting agenda.

The audio recording of this Agenda Briefing Session is available on the City's website.

11. Planning and Economic Development Alliance Reports

11.1 Hay Street (William to Elder) - Streetscape Revitalisation

Councillor Catherine Lezer disclosed an impartiality interest in Item 11.2 (as detailed in Item 5).

11.2 Draft Northbridge Character Area Local Planning Policy

Councillor Catherine Lezer disclosed an impartiality interest in Item 11.3 (as detailed in Item 5).

11.3 Draft St Georges Terrace Character Area Local Planning Policy

Councillor Catherine Lezer disclosed an impartiality interest in Item 11.4 (as detailed in Item 5).

11.4 Proposed Designation of Goderich Street Heritage Area and draft Goderich Street Heritage Area Local Planning Policy

12. Community Development Alliance Reports

5.35pm *Councillor Catherine Lezer disclosed an indirect financial interest in Item 12.1 (as detailed in Item 5) and departed the meeting accordingly prior to Item 12.1.*

5.35pm *Deputy Lord Mayor Clyde Bevan disclosed a proximity interest in Item 12.1 (as detailed in Item 5) and departed the meeting accordingly prior to Item 12.1.*

5.35pm *Councillor David Goncalves disclosed an impartiality interest in Item 12.1 (as detailed in Item 5).*

12.1 Business Improvement Grants 2024/25

5.57pm Deputy Lord Mayor Clyde Bevan and Councillor Catherine Lezer returned to the meeting.

13. Infrastructure and Operations Alliance Reports

Nil.

14. Commercial Services Alliance Reports

Nil.

15. Corporate Services Reports

15.1 Monthly Financial Statements - May 2024

15.2 Schedule of Accounts Paid - May 2024

15.3 Corporate Business Plan 2023/24-2026/27 Quarterly Progress Report 4

16. Chief Executive Officer Reports

16.1 Local Government Act 1995 Reform - Caretaker Period Provisions

17. Committee Reports

Nil.

18. Motions of which Previous Notice has been Given

This item will be dealt with at the Ordinary Council Meeting.

19. Matters for which the meeting may be closed

Nil.

20. Urgent Business

This item will be dealt with at the Ordinary Council Meeting.

21. Closure

There being no further business, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 6.05pm.