



City of
Melville

MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS

6:00pm Monday, 25 March 2024

Held in the Kambarang, Melville Civic Centre,
10 Almondbury Road, Booragoon

The City of Melville acknowledges the Bibbulmun people as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the lands on which the City stands today and pays its respect to the Whadjuk people, and Elders both past, present and emerging.

Minutes to be confirmed at the next Ordinary Council Meeting

These minutes are hereby confirmed as true and accurate

Deputy Mayor G Barber

Glynis Barber

Date

16 April 2024



Contents

1	Official Opening	3
1.1	Manner of Conduct & House Keeping	3
2	Attendance and Apologies	4
3	Introduction of Elected Members and Officers	5
4	Purpose and Conduct of the Meeting	5
4.1	Notice of Annual General Meeting of Electors	5
5	Presentation of the City of Melville Community Annual Report 2022-2023	6
6	General Business	6
6.1	Public Question Time	6
6.1.1	Questions on the City of Melville Annual Report	6
8.1.1.1	Ms E Cole, Melville	6
6.1.2	Questions Received at the Meeting	8
8.1.2.1	Mr D Macphail, Bateman	8
8.1.2.2	Mr M Burns, Applecross	8
8.1.2.3	Mr D Manier, Attadale	8
8.2	Motions from the Community	9
8.2.1	Motion 1 – Ms E Cole, Melville – WALGA Tree Policy	9
7	Closure	9

1 OFFICIAL OPENING

The Presiding Member welcomed those in attendance to the meeting, officially declared the meeting open at 6:00pm and invited Ms G Bowman, Chief Executive Officer to read the Acknowledgement of Country.

1.1 Manner of Conduct & House Keeping

Welcome to the City of Melville Annual Elector's Meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the City of Melville Annual Report and any other general business pertaining to the business of the City of Melville. In accordance with the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*, the Mayor is to preside at a general or special meeting of electors and is to determine the procedure to be followed and will give regard to the City of Melville *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Local Law 2022*.

1. In the event of an emergency, everyone should take direction from officers who will guide you to the exit points of the building.
2. Toilets are located immediately before the entry to the Council Chambers.
3. All physically present are required to sign the attendance register at the entry to the meeting.
4. Each person who participates in a vote or speaks must be an Elector of the City of Melville.
5. The proceedings are being recorded for the purpose of production of the Minutes and speakers are requested to use the microphones each time they speak. The Minutes will include a summary of any questions asked and a summary of the responses provided.
6. Speakers are asked to clearly give their name and address each time they speak and are required to address the Mayor as the Chair of the meeting.
7. Only Electors of the City of Melville may move or second a motion. Motions are to be submitted in writing prior to the commencement of the meeting.
8. All addresses are to be limited to a maximum of five (5) minutes. Extension of time is permissible only with the agreement of a simple majority of Electors present (*Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 Regulation 17*).
9. The community are welcome to participate in the meeting. To ensure the efficient conduct of the meeting, please participate in a concise and respectful manner.
10. All Elected Members and officers attend this meeting to observe the proceedings and hear comments from Electors. All questions and comments should be directed to the Mayor who may invite a response from the Chief Executive Officer, Presiding Members of Committees or Elected Members.

2 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

In Attendance

<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Ward</u>
Mayor K Mair	Mayor
Cr T Fitzgerald	Palmyra - Melville - Willagee Ward
Cr S Green	Central Ward
Cr S Hong (from 6:03pm)	Bateman - Kardinya - Murdoch Ward
Cr T Lee	Central Ward
Cr D Lim	Applecross - Mount Pleasant Ward
Cr J Spanbroek	Bull Creek - Leeming Ward
Cr K Wheatland	Palmyra - Melville - Willagee Ward (<i>electronic attendance</i>)

Officers

Ms G Bowman	Chief Executive Officer
Mr M McCarthy	Director Environment & Infrastructure
Mr P Varelis	Director Planning
Ms C Newman	Head of Governance
Mr S Curulli	Senior Governance Officer
Ms M Smith Poulton	Governance Officer
Ms N Wu	Acting Governance Officer

Apologies

Cr G Barber	Bicton - Attadale - Alfred Cove Ward
Cr J Edinger	Bicton - Attadale - Alfred Cove Ward
Cr N Robins	Bateman - Kardinya - Murdoch Ward

On Approved Leave of Absence

Cr C Ross	Applecross - Mount Pleasant Ward
Cr M Woodall	Bull Creek - Leeming Ward

At the commencement of the meeting:

Public Gallery	13
Electronic	11
Press	0

3 INTRODUCTION OF ELECTED MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

At 6:02pm, the Presiding Member welcomed the following Elected Members to the meeting:

- Cr T Fitzgerald
- Cr S Green
- Cr T Lee
- Cr D Lim
- Cr J Spanbroek
- Cr K Wheatland

At 6:03pm, Cr S Hong entered the meeting.

At 6:03pm, the Presiding Member welcomed Ms G Bowman, Chief Executive Officer, and the Executive Leadership Team to the meeting.

4 PURPOSE AND CONDUCT OF THE MEETING

4.1 Notice of Annual General Meeting of Electors

The following Notice of Meeting was advertised:

- on the City's website;
- on public notice boards at the Civic Centre and all the City of Melville libraries;
- in Fremantle Herald on Saturday, 9 March 2024; and
- in the City's electronic Newsletter; and
- via the City's social media platforms.

The notice read:

"We invite City of Melville residents to the City of Melville Annual General Meeting of Electors (AGM) to receive the Community Annual Report 2022-2023.

Date: Monday 25 March 2024

Time: 6.00pm

Venue: Conference Room, City of Melville Civic Centre,
10 Almondbury Road, Booragoon
and live-streamed via Zoom.

The AGM will be delivered in an in-person and live-stream format.

In line with our sustainability policy, limited printed copies of the Community Annual Report 2022-2023 will be available at the meeting. You can pick up a copy at our libraries and the City of Melville Civic Centre or read it online at <https://www.melvillecity.com.au/our-city/city-management/annual-reports>."

5 PRESENTATION OF THE CITY OF MELVILLE COMMUNITY ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

At 6:05pm, the Presiding Member presented the City of Melville Community Annual Report for 2022-2023, adopted by the Council at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 20 February 2024 to the meeting, and advised that the Annual Report for 2022-2023 is available to members of the public on the City's website page [Annual Reports](#) and copies can be obtained from the City of Melville Civic Centre.

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Public Question Time

At 6:05pm, the Presiding Member opened Public Question Time.

6.1.1 Questions on the City of Melville Annual Report

8.1.1.1 Ms E Cole, Melville

Preamble

This question is in regards to tree canopy not being reported on in the City's latest Annual Report.

***Town of Victoria Park** has a KPI of Increased Verge and Tree Canopy and within their Urban Forests docs they have a target to achieve by the end of this year. I am also aware that this tiny council put \$1 million into this project. (City of Melville mentions \$660K for Melville which is a far larger land area)*

***Town of East Fremantle** has a Strategy 4.1.3 Improve and Protect the urban forest canopy and Strategy 3: Built Environment and specifically 3.1.3 Plan for improved streetscapes, of which there are sub actions are a priority*

4.1.3.1 Continue with annual street planting program.

3.1.3.1 Implement a Verge Policy and Urban Streetscape Guidelines.

4.1.2.1 Prepare and implement an Urban Streetscape and Public Realm Style Guide

***City of South Perth** reports on a number of street trees, and the state underground power project which will allow existing trees to grow to their potential and new trees to grow without being misshapen. South Perth also commits to their Urban Forest Strategy as a key driver to achieving Enhanced Environment and Open Spaces and participated in the WA Tree Festival and National Tree Day.*

In contrast, the City of Melville Annual Report acknowledges adaptation to Changing Climate as a Megatrend but does not amplify the work being done nor what still needs to be done particularly in regard to a very important part of that solution, tree canopy.

The Melville Urban Forest Strategy Part A has a low-ball goal of no net loss of canopy on council land. I say low-ball because the necessary infill situation has meant there is inability to protect mature trees on private land, so the only place to guarantee protection and the unhindered opportunity to grow canopy is on verges, parks and council owned sites.

I also note that for our disabled community there is a program to widen paths which is commendable. However, if those paths are not shaded, residents won't be able to utilize them to their optimum because of how hot it gets in the sun, reflection of light from the paths and the heat sink caused by the black asphalt. Place those paths under the shade of trees as you will have wheelchairs, strollers, and the elderly being able to use them throughout the day.

The only strategies I can see is "We became a member of the WALGA tree group", and subsequent that "we will make application to the Dept of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions to fund match foreshore projects".

I am sure more is happening in the City of Melville, or I sincerely hope that there is, but the work the council is doing is not transparent. In that void you get criticism from the community about lack of initiative in comparison to other councils.

I know that the diminishing tree canopy in Melville is a significant concern for many community members. We need to know that it is measures and there are specific strategies to mitigate loss.

Question

Will the City of Melville consider reporting on strategies to mitigate the loss of tree canopy, set targets and appropriate budgets for 2023-2024 and provide a progress report in the next Annual Report, and every report thereon after?

Response

The City of Melville has significantly expanded its tree planting program over the last five years as part of our Urban Forest Strategy and last year planted 4,000 trees.

- 1,500 being park trees, requested verge trees and verge tree succession;
- 1,500 trees in revegetation projects in bush reserves;
- 1,000 on verge tree expansion program.

The Urban Forest tree expansion program is our major residential verge planting program.

Since 2020, including our upcoming planting season this winter, the City has planted trees in Bateman, Murdoch, Kardinya, Bull Creek, Leeming, Booragoon, Murdoch, Winthrop, Alfred Cove, Bicton, Myaree, Palmyra and Willagee.

The City is also a member of the WALGA Urban Forest Group, where staff participate in several events throughout the year including the WA Tree Festival and National Tree Day. The City also hosts many community education sessions at the Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre which raise awareness of the importance and benefits of trees, as well as encourage residents to plant trees and get involved in replanting activities.

The City recognizes the importance of keeping the community updated on the progress of our Urban Forest Strategy and tree canopy cover data, noting that this information will be included in the 2024-2025 Annual Report and in future reports.

Further information can be found on the City of Melville website page [Trees and our Urban Forrest](#).

6.1.2 Questions Received at the Meeting

8.1.2.1 Mr D Macphail, Bateman

Question

Has the City recently undertaken any ariel urban heat mapping of the whole City to have a scientific baseline which we can identify where are the most significant heat islands and effects from?

Response

The City has undertaken some ariel digital mapping in 2023-2024. This identified a number of factors. One factor was a change in tree canopy cover over that period. It showed an approximate loss of about 80 hectares over a five-year period. During this time, the City also completed thermal mapping and showed that areas had experienced elevated thermal temperatures, particularly in the eastern part of the City, which is largely due to topographical and other factors. It also showed concentrations of heat around areas that had a lot of hardstand areas. We are monitoring this information and are proposing to do another fly over in another year or so time and compare the data to see what has changed since then.

8.1.2.2 Mr M Burns, Applecross

At 6:12pm, Mr M Burns addressed the meeting. However, the Presiding Member determined that was it was a statement, and not a question.

8.1.2.3 Mr D Manier, Attadale

Question

Does the City keep and make available comparative statistics of tree canopy, tree canopy increase and tree canopy loss in comparing the city of Melville with some of our adjoining and similar local governments?

Response

The City of Melville has data of our own City in terms of tree canopy cover, both on public land and private land. Additionally, the City is also a member of the WALGA Urban Forest Group, which is made up of different local governments. As part of this group, they complete comparative analysis of their respective tree canopy coverage.

At 6:17pm, the Presiding Member closed Public Question Time.

8.2 Motions from the Community

The Presiding Member advised that members of the community online were able to participate in the voting process.

8.2.1 Motion 1 – Ms E Cole, Melville – WALGA Tree Policy

MEETING RESOLUTION

At 6:18pm Ms E Cole moved, seconded R Luche, Melville

That the Council adopt the WALGA Local Planning Tree Retention policy, released March 2024 with the purpose of:

- 1. Clarifying whether tree removal, or tree damaging activity, is works that requires developmental approval and**
- 2. Supports consistency across councils within the Perth metropolitan areas in relation to protecting trees on private property.**

At 6:19pm, the Presiding Member declared the motion.

CARRIED (16/2)

The vote result includes online votes from 6 participants.

7 CLOSURE

There being no further business to discuss, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 6:22pm.