



**COUNCIL MEETING OF
THE HUME CITY COUNCIL**

MONDAY, 25 AUGUST 2025

7.00PM

**COUNCIL CHAMBER - HUME GLOBAL LEARNING CENTRE
BROADMEADOWS**

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

It should be noted that these minutes are not in their final form until Council has formally resolved to confirm them.

These minutes will be presented to Council for confirmation on Monday, 8 September 2025.

HUME CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the

COUNCIL MEETING OF THE HUME CITY COUNCIL

held on Monday, 25 August 2025

at 7.08PM

at the Council Chamber - Hume Global Learning Centre Broadmeadows

Attendees:	a: Council	Cr Jarrod Bell Cr Naim Kurt Cr Steve Gagen Cr John Haddad Cr Kate Hamley Cr Sam Misho Cr Carly Moore Cr Jim Overend Cr Karen Sherry Cr Ally Watson	Mayor Deputy Mayor Online
	b: Officers	Ms Sheena Frost Ms Rachel Dapiran Ms Kristen Cherry Mr Fadi Srouf Ms Danielle Prentice Ms Holly De Kretser Ms Joanne Grindrod	Chief Executive Officer Director City Planning and Places Director City Services & Living Chief Financial Officer Acting Director Infrastructure and Assets Manager Governance Senior Governance Officer

Proceedings to be Recorded

The Mayor reminded Councillors and members of the Gallery that an audio and video recording of the Council meeting will be made and published to Council's website within 2 working days of the meeting.

Gallery Behaviour

The Mayor advised that they will invite members of the gallery to speak, for up to three minutes either in support of or against an officer's recommendation.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Mayor read the following:

Hume City Council would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on Country for which the members and Elders of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people and their forebears have been custodians for many thousands of years. The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, which includes the Gunung-Willam-Balluk clan, are the Traditional Custodians of this land. Hume City Council would also like to pay its respects to their Elders, past and present, and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who may be here today.

MINUTES

2. PRAYER

The Mayor read the following:

Hume City's religious diversity strengthens and enriches community life and supports the well-being of the citizens of Hume City. Hume City Council acknowledges the importance of spiritual life and the leadership offered by the Hume Interfaith Network (HIN). In recognition of the religious diversity of residents in Hume City Council has invited the HIN to take responsibility for the opening prayer at Council meetings. This evening's prayer will be led by Clayton Williams, from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, on behalf of the HIN.

Clayton Williams read the meeting prayer.

3. APOLOGIES

Cr Daniel English was an apology for the meeting.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

The Mayor read the following:

Councillors' attention is drawn to the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Governance Rules in relation to the disclosure of conflicts of interests. Councillors are required to disclose any conflict of interest immediately before consideration or discussion of the relevant item. Councillors are then required to leave the Chamber during discussion and not vote on the relevant item.

Nil.

5. CONGRATULATIONS AND CONDOLENCES

Nil.

6. CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11 August 2025, including Confidential Minutes.

Moved Cr Carly Moore, **Seconded** Cr Ally Watson

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11 August 2025, be confirmed.

CARRIED

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

PQ1305 PUBLIC QUESTION - TED BAJJALI

When can we expect enhancements to Mickleham Road closer to the freeway, specifically the removal of the roundabout at Mickleham Rd and Johnstone St.

Replacing this roundabout with traffic lights will be even more beneficial than the transformation of Mickleham and Somerton Rd's

25/8/2025

Response: Acting Director Infrastructure & Assets

Mickleham Road is a State Arterial Road. The Department of Transport and Planning is responsible for the long-term planning and development of Victoria's arterial road network.

Council regularly advocates on behalf of the community for improvements to our arterial road network. We will raise your question with the Department of Transport and Planning at our next available opportunity.

PQ1306 PUBLIC QUESTION - KEVIN BALAAM

I would appreciate if Council Officers could explain the process of identifying and repairing (or replacing) damaged infrastructure, particularly what expense does Council spend and expect to spend on repairing and replacing roadside infrastructure?

Response: Acting Director Infrastructure & Assets

Council has three full time officers whose role is to inspect roads and paths in line with the Road Management Plan. These inspections include roadside infrastructure such as signs and barriers. The inspections follow the schedules in the Road Management Plan, with repairs based on the intervention levels outlined in the Plan.

In the 2025/26 budget, there is \$6.2 million allocated to recurrent maintenance of roads and paths. There is also additional capital funding for renewal, including more than \$5 million for footpaths. Roadside infrastructure is not budgeted separately.

PQ1307 PUBLIC QUESTION - KEVIN BALAAM

Many items of damaged road side infrastructure such as signs, barriers and fences are a highly-visible reminder of the danger posed and expense incurred by the driving of motor vehicles. How many items of infrastructure would be replaced each year?

Response: Acting Director Infrastructure & Assets

In 2024/25, the Road Management Plan inspections identified 31,360 defects on Council infrastructure which have been assessed and either repaired or replaced.

PQ1308 PUBLIC QUESTION - ATHIYA ZAMEER

My question is to the Mayor, Councillors and executive team of Hume City Council.

Did any of the aforementioned receive an invite to attend a conference on the Gold Coast between the 3rd and 5th of September and if so, can you elaborate on the invite details and what is the purpose of the conference including if there will there be any costs associated with attending such conference?

Response: Chief Financial Officer

The Mayor received an invitation to attend the Combat Antisemitism Conference on the Gold Coast. No officers have received an invitation. No one is attending on behalf of Hume City Council.

Questions about the conference itself should be directed to the conference organisers directly.

PQ1309 PUBLIC QUESTION - KAYLENE WILSON

Why is Hume spending \$7.6 million at Jackson's Hill to protect the heritage of an asset it doesn't own, but won't spend anything to restore or find a solution for the Shire Hall in Westmeadows?

Response: Director City Planning & Places

The investment in the Jacksons Hill site is grounded in its longstanding role as a vibrant hub for community arts and cultural expression. Previously owned by Victoria University and subsequently acquired by the Victorian Government, the site already had a well-established presence of community arts organisations, theatre groups, heritage organisations, and 3NRG radio. This rich cultural activity formed the foundation for the Victorian Government's master plan to repurpose the former university campus as a community arts precinct.

In 2018, Hume City Council partnered with the Victorian Government to co-fund the development of a community arts facility at Jacksons Hill, building on this existing arts ecosystem. In 2022, Council secured a long-term lease over part of the site, including Building 22 (the former Female Refractory Ward) and Building 24 (a former workshop), which are now being refurbished to become the new Sunbury Community Arts and Cultural Precinct.

This facility was identified as a key district-level arts infrastructure priority within Hume City Council's *Creative Places and Spaces Plan*, adopted by Council in 2022.

Regarding the former Broadmeadows District Roads Board Office (Shire Hall) in Westmeadows, while Council acknowledges its heritage significance and community interest, this site remains in private ownership and is not currently identified within the *Creative Places and Spaces Plan* as a priority for arts infrastructure investment. Previous opportunities to acquire or restore the building have been explored, but without clear community-led arts infrastructure needs or budget allocation, Council has not pursued purchase or redevelopment.

Council remains committed to working with the community on heritage and cultural priorities across Hume and will continue to evaluate opportunities that align with strategic plans and available resources.

PQ1310 PUBLIC QUESTION - KAYLENE WILSON

What is the process required for Council to consider a similar opportunity that exists at 17 Ardlie St Westmeadows to restore heritage and community pride and the development of a community asset? This old period building is a perfect site for an arts precinct & so much more.

Response: Director City Planning & Places

This site is privately owned land and Council has no plans to purchase the site. There have been recent and planned investments in Westmeadows Village, including the pedestrian footbridge, open space enhancements, mural and outdoor dining areas on Grundy Street, streetscape works on Fawkner Street, and the war memorial upgrade on Raleigh Street.

PQ1311 PUBLIC QUESTION - MICHELLE FORDE

Where is the value for money in spending \$45 million of ratepayers money to advocate for what we want, you should know what we want already it doesn't cost any money to know that?

Response: Chief Financial Officer

We understand that every dollar counts, especially in today's economic climate, and we're committed to spending ratepayer funds wisely.

In the 2025/26 Budget, Council has included a cost-of-relief package to help households under financial pressure. This includes flexible payment plans and hardship support. We encourage anyone experiencing difficulty to contact us early so we can work through the best option together.

The amount referenced aligns to Council's fourth Strategic Priority in the Council Plan: a well-governed Council that is strategic and trusted and Strategic Objectives 4.1: A high performing organisation that prioritises improvement and accountability. 4.2 An organisation that demonstrates leadership and strong advocacy and 4.3 a responsive and engaged organisation that works with the community.

The amount includes the annual operational costs of running many essential support services – such as governance, finance and procurement, asset management, customer experience, communications and advocacy, information technology, and planning and development. These functions might not always be visible, but they are critical to ensuring Council can deliver frontline services efficiently, support our community service providers, maintain local infrastructure, and respond effectively to the needs of residents.

It also covers costs associated with a major digital transformation project which invests in building systems and capabilities to better understand and respond to community needs, now and into the future. Like most Australian Councils, this means moving away from outdated manual processes to a modern platform. Everyday services – like paying rates, booking venues or reporting issues – will be faster, simpler and more accessible for our residents.

These changes will:

- improve service delivery and reliability,
- reduce long-term costs, and
- make it easier for residents to access Council services anytime, anywhere.

This isn't just a technology upgrade – it's a transformation that will help us meet growing community expectations, improve efficiency and deliver better outcomes for ratepayers.

PQ1312 PUBLIC QUESTION - CHRIS O'NEILL

The indoor pool at SALC has a number of safety cones in the kids section of the indoor pool. When will this problem be fixed?

Response: Director City Services & Living

Contractors will be on site later this week. Following their assessment, we will be able to provide an update on estimated timing for repairs.

PQ1313 PUBLIC QUESTION - CHRIS O'NEILL

In what decade can the Sunbury community expect adequate facilities at the SALC?

Response: Director City Services & Living

Council is currently developing the Active Living Plan and the Sunbury Aquatic and Leisure Centre Master Plan. These documents will guide the future of Aquatic and Leisure facilities in Hume.

The draft report is scheduled for presentation to Council late 2025. This will consider next stages and timing for planning and funding opportunities.

PQ1314 PUBLIC QUESTION - MANJIT SINGH

Why didn't the Hume Council think ahead and build Aitken Boulevard and Forrest Redgum drive double lanes when it's cheaper and quicker before the housing is made with developer, not after it becomes the 20,000 car movements?

Response: Acting Director Infrastructure & Assets

Council agrees our road network requires constant investment to keep up with the demands. Unfortunately with the impacts of almost a decade of rate capping and cost escalations mean it is not possible for Council is fund all these projects upfront.

Regarding Aitken Boulevard, planning is in place to enable this to be duplicated to four lanes when required. There is sufficient road reserve available, and the alignment has been planned to enable a second carriageway to be constructed without impacting the initial carriageway.

Forest Red Gum Drive was initially developed as a low volume, semi-rural road and functioned as such for many years, until it was connected to the Merrifield West Precinct Structure Plan. It does not have sufficient road reserve to allow it to be duplicated. However, Council is planning for a significant upgrade of this road with construction expected to commence in 2026/27. There will also be the future Brossard Road north-south connection further to the west, which will be constructed through the Lindum Vale Precinct Structure Plan.

In addition to the arterial network which includes the Hume Freeway to the east and Mickleham Road to the west, the combination of Aitken Boulevard, Forest Red Gum Drive and Brossard Road should provide sufficient north-south capacity.

PQ1315 PUBLIC QUESTION - MANJIT SINGH

How can the honourable Council members say we need better Vicroads but are not building their own roads first, instead waiting until traffic becomes nightmare before building the double roads?

Response: Acting Director Infrastructure & Assets

State arterial roads such as Donnybrook Road, Mickleham Road and the Hume Freeway are the roads that are intended to carry the majority of through traffic across the metropolitan area.

As outlined previously, the financial pressures mean it is not possible for Council to fully duplicate our road network and deliver on broader infrastructure requirements. Additionally duplication of additional local Council roads should not and cannot make up for a lack of capacity on the arterial network.

8. OFFICERS' REPORTS

Report No.	Report	Page in Agenda
8.1	Adoption of 2025/26 Council Annual Action Plan	4

Moved Cr Naim Kurt, **Seconded** Cr Carly Moore

That this item be deferred to a later meeting.

CARRIED

Report No.	Report	Page in Agenda
8.2	Road Management Plan 2025	13

Councillor Ally Watson left the meeting prior to discussion on item 8.2 *Road Management Plan 2025*, the time being 7:33pm.

Moved Cr Sam Misho, **Seconded** Cr Karen Sherry

Councillor Ally Watson returned to the meeting during discussion on item 8.2 *Road Management Plan 2025*, the time being 7:36pm.

That Council:

1. **Notes the six submissions received and thanks the community members who submitted them.**
2. **Adopts the Hume City Council Road Management Plan V8, 2025 (Attachment 1).**

CARRIED

Report No.	Report	Page in Agenda
8.3	Strategic Property Management Framework	56

Moved Cr Karen Sherry, **Seconded** Cr Naim Kurt

That Council:

1. **Endorse the draft Strategic Property Management Framework (Attachment 1) for the purpose of community engagement, as outlined in this report.**
2. **Note that the engagement process, scheduled to commence in September 2025, will include a four-week public consultation period and targeted workshops, as outlined in the Community Engagement Plan Summary (Attachment 2).**
3. **Note that a final version of the Strategic Property Management Framework will be presented to Council in late 2025, incorporating feedback received through the community engagement process.**
4. **Note that the draft Framework provides a strategic methodology for assessing vacant and underutilised land owned in freehold by Council and does not commit Council to any individual property outcome at this stage.**

5. Note that the next stage of the SPMF implementation will include strategic property acquisitions.

CARRIED

Report No.	Report	Page in Agenda
8.4	Awarding of Conserving our Rural Environment Grant and Primary Producer Rate Rebate Applications for 2025-26	77

Moved Cr Kate Hamley, **Seconded** Cr Sam Misho

That Council:

1. Awards 50 Conserving our Rural Environment (CoRE) grants with a total spend of \$370,579.14 (Attachment 1).
2. Endorses the provision of the Primary Producer Rate Rebate (PPRR) to 79 properties for the 2025-27 rating years, with a total loss of rate revenue equalling \$147,265.60 (Attachment 3).

CARRIED

Report No.	Report	Page in Agenda
8.5	Hume 2025 Young Leaders Awards	124

Moved Cr Ally Watson, **Seconded** Cr Carly Moore

That Council:

1. Approves a \$500 award to each of the eight winners of the Hume 2025 Young Leaders Award categories as outlined in table 1 of Confidential Attachment 1.
2. Approves a \$100 award to each of the five Emerging Leaders award recipients, as outlined in table 2 of confidential Attachment 1.

CARRIED

A division was requested: The result of the division was as follows:

For	Against
Cr Jarrod Bell	
Cr Steve Gagen	
Cr John Haddad	
Cr Kate Hamley	
Cr Naim Kurt	
Cr Sam Misho	
Cr Carly Moore	
Cr Jim Overend	
Cr Karen Sherry	
Cr Ally Watson	

Report No.	Report	Page in Agenda
8.6	Response to NOM25/24 - Cr Steve Gagen - Shade and UV Protection in Play Spaces	131

Moved Cr Steve Gagen, **Seconded** Cr Karen Sherry

1. That council note the current approach taken to providing shade and UV protection in play spaces
2. That Council endorse the proposed project plan.

CARRIED

Report No.	Report	Page in Agenda
8.7	Monthly Capital Works Update	136

Moved Cr Carly Moore, **Seconded** Cr Ally Watson

1. That Council receive and note the report.

CARRIED

Report No.	Report	Page in Agenda
8.8	Correspondence received from or sent to Government Ministers or Members of Parliament - July 2025	138

Moved Cr Ally Watson, **Seconded** Cr Naim Kurt

That Council:

1. Notes this report on correspondence received from or sent to Government Ministers or Members of Parliament in July 2025.
2. Notes the list of matters that have not been responded to as outlined in Table 4.

CARRIED

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

Report No.	Report	Page in Agenda
9.1	NOM25/46 - Cr John Haddad - Old Sydney Road	194

Moved Cr John Haddad, **Seconded** Cr Ally Watson

That Council:

1. Note the funding received by Mitchell Shire Council to upgrade Old Sydney Road to the Hume City Council boundary
2. Requests a report on the costs, timeframes and potential funding opportunities for Council to upgrade Old Sydney Road from the Hume City Council boundary to Donnybrook Road

CARRIED

The Mayor moved item 9.3 to next on the agenda to allow members of the public to speak to this item.

Report No.	Report	Page in Agenda
9.3	NOM25/48 - Cr Naim Kurt - Tullapark Scout Hall Parking	197

Ms Deborah Clow addressed the gallery prior to the item being moved.

Moved Cr Naim Kurt, **Seconded** Cr Karen Sherry

1. That officers prepare a report for consideration in next year's budget, outlining options to improve parking, access, and amenity at Tullapark Scout Hall at the bottom of Cooper's Hill Drive, including potential expansion or reconfiguration of car parking, safe pedestrian access, new fencing, landscaping or garden beds, and placemaking signage to identify the hall to the wider community.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

8:24pm **Moved** Cr Ally Watson, **Seconded** Cr Karen Sherry

That the meeting be adjourned for five minutes.

CARRIED

The meeting resumed at 8:30pm

Report No.	Report	Page in Agenda
9.2	NOM25/47 - Cr Naim Kurt - Data Centres in Hume	195

Moved Cr Naim Kurt, **Seconded** Cr Karen Sherry

That Council:

1. Requests officers to prepare a briefing note for a future Councillor Briefing Session outlining issues and considerations associated with data centre applications, including environmental impacts, employment, electricity consumption, water usage and implications on local infrastructure and housing.
2. Requests officers to develop guidelines to guide Council's assessment of data centre applications, ensuring sustainability, responsible resource use, and alignment with long-term community needs.
3. Identifies opportunities for advocacy to State and Federal Government and other authorities to strengthen regulatory frameworks and planning controls relating to data centres, with particular reference to environmental impacts, energy efficiency, and water security.

CARRIED

MINUTES

10. ITEMS TO BE TABLED

Nil.

11. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

12. DELEGATES REPORTS

Cr Ally Watson provided an update from the Advisory Board of the Northern Suburbs Study Hub launch celebration and usage details.

Cr Karen Sherry provided an update on the Victorian Local Government Grants Commission.

13. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 8:43pm.