

Statement of Elders and Community Leaders

As elders and leaders in this community, we are very proud of Thomas Street Dandenong. It is a thriving commercial and cultural centre.

Government and Councils did not create the Thomas Street precinct. Hardworking people from different backgrounds chose to start businesses and work alongside each other.

It is a credit to all the traders who created this special place over more than 20 years. Thomas Street shares the diverse food and culture of the peoples of Afghanistan generously with visitors from across Melbourne. It is a wonderful example of the entrepreneurial spirit and resilience of migrant and refugee communities.

We must remember and celebrate this.

We also appreciate living in Melbourne's southeast. We enjoy peace, safety and security. We are equal before the law. We have democracy and the freedom to have our say.

Sadly, recent discussion about Thomas Street has divided our communities.

It is OK to have a strong opinion about an issue.

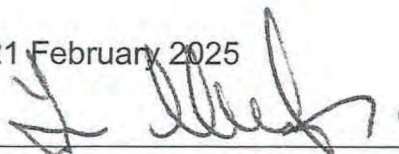
It is not OK to threaten others, online or in person. Decent people don't threaten others with violence or try to frighten and intimidate others.

Standing together, as community leaders and members of government, we call for calm. Everyone has the right to feel safe.

We want to show wider Australia that our migrant communities in southeast Melbourne are hardworking, peaceful people with good morals.

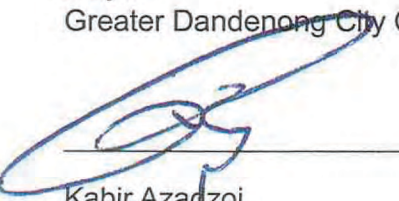
Any consultation about the name for the Thomas Street area will take many months. Nothing will happen suddenly.

Friday 21 February 2025

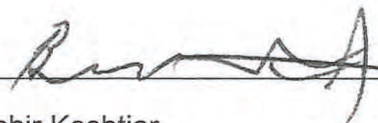

Cr Jim Memeti
Mayor
Greater Dandenong City Council


Pacha Noori


Muredali Mada


Kabir Azadzoi

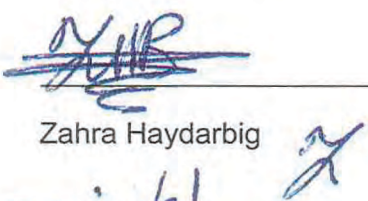

Gula Bezhan

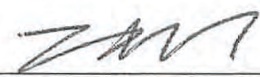

Bashir Keshtiar

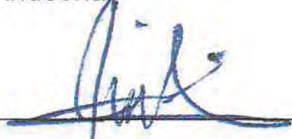

Ajab Noor Sameem

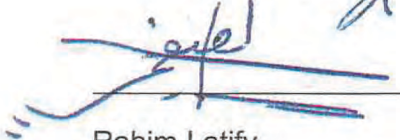

Saied Rezawi


Reza Andesha

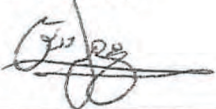

Zahra Haydarbig


Zabi Mazoori

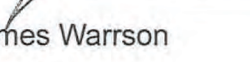

Yasin Hazara

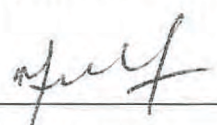

Rahim Latify


James Warrson


M H Danesh


Muftulah Babakerkhil

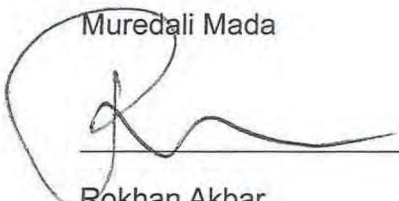

Vicpol

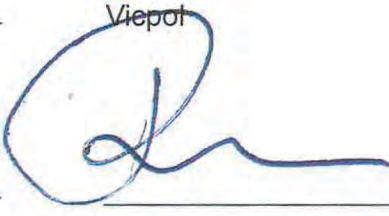

Mohib Iqbal

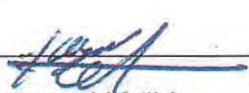

Jacqui Weatherill
Chief Executive Officer
City of Greater Dandenong

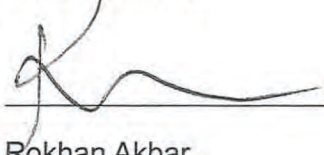

Rob Colcott

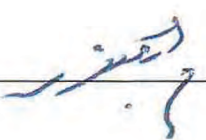

Hussain Rohani

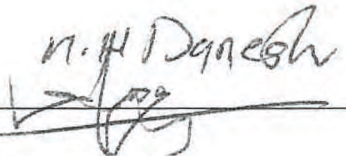

Muredali Mada


Vicpol


Mohammad Latihi


Rokhan Akbar


Faraidoun Isfaria


M. H. Danesh

General Murad Ali

Reza Andesha

Pacha Noori

Mohamad Latifi

Gula Bezhai

Muftahudin Babackerkhil

Bashir Keshtiar

James Waterson

Yasin Hazara

Zahra Haydarbig

Zabi Mazoori

Hussain Rohani

Mohib Iqbal

Stan Nassiokas

Saied Rezawi

Rob Colcott

Ajab Noor Sameem

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