



Minutes

Council Meeting

Monday 24 March 2025, 7:00 pm

Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street,
Dandenong, Victoria 3175

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



Council Meeting Details

At the time of printing this Agenda, the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 24 March 2025, will be open to the public to attend in person but will be subject to venue seating capacity. This will be a hybrid meeting consisting of Councillors attending in person and remotely.

If we are unable to accommodate you indoors, you will still be able to watch the webcast live on the Urban Screen in Harmony Square. To view the webcast and stay informed about the status of Council Meetings please visit Council's [website](#).

The Civic Centre basement carpark will be opened to all members of the public during library opening hours. Any parking in this area will be subject to availability and time limits as notified by any signage posted.

Your Councillors

[Mayor Jim Memeti](#)

[Cr Bob Milkovic](#)

[Deputy Mayor Sophaneth \(Sophie\) Tan](#)

[Cr Sean O'Reilly](#)

[Cr Phillip Danh](#)

[Cr Loi Truong](#)

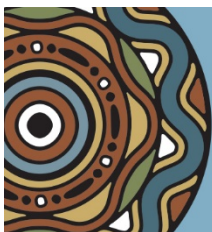
[Cr Isabella Do](#)

[Cr Melinda Yim](#)

[Cr Lana Formoso](#)

[Cr Rhonda Garad](#)

[Cr Alice Phuong Le](#)



We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land, the Bunurong People, and pay respect to their Elders past and present.

We recognise and respect their continuing connections to climate, Culture, Country and waters.



(03) 8571 1000



council@cgd.vic.gov.au



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Acknowledging
Bunurong Country

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COUNCIL OBLIGATIONS AND AGENDA REPORTS

Council has several obligations in relation to its Community Vision, Council Plan, Instruments of Legislation and Council policy. These are summarily considered in each Agenda report and further details are added as required. The obligations are as follows:

Community Vision 2040 (Community Vision | Greater Dandenong Council)

After consultation with the Greater Dandenong community on what kind of future they wanted for themselves and our city, the Greater Dandenong People's Panel developed a new Community Vision for 2040:

*The City of Greater Dandenong is a home to all.
It's a city where you can enjoy and embrace life through celebration and equal opportunity.
We harmonise the community by valuing multiculturalism and the individual.
Our community is healthy, vibrant, innovative and creative.
Our growing city is committed to environmental sustainability.
Welcome to our exciting and peaceful community.*

Reports in this Agenda will identify when any of the above principles are relevant.

The Council Plan 2021-25 (Council Plan 2021-25 | Greater Dandenong Council)

The Council Plan describes the kind of future the Council is working for, and how Council will do this over four years. The Council Plan has the following key strategic objectives:

- *A socially connected, safe and healthy city*
- *A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts*
- *A city of accessible, vibrant centres and neighbourhoods*
- *A green city committed to a sustainable future*
- *A city that supports entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes*
- *A Council that demonstrates leadership and a commitment to investing in the community.*

Reports in this Agenda will identify when any of the above principles are relevant.

The Overarching Governance Principles of the Local Government Act 2020

Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that a Council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles. These are:

- a) Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law;
- b) priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;
- c) the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted;
- d) the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making;
- e) innovation and continuous improvement are to be pursued;
- f) collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought;
- g) the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured;
- h) regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making;
- i) the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

Also, in giving effect to the overarching governance principles above, a Council must take into account the following supporting principles:

- a) the community engagement principles (section 56);
- b) the public transparency principles (section 58);
- c) the strategic planning principles (section 89);
- d) the financial management principles (section 101);
- e) the service performance principles (section 106).

Reports in this Agenda will identify when any of the above principles are relevant.



The Gender Equality Act 2020

The *Gender Equality Act 2020* came into operation on 31 March 2021 and requires councils to take positive action towards achieving workplace gender equality and to promote gender equality in their policies, programs and services. The objects of the Act are as follows:

- a) to promote, encourage and facilitate the achievement of gender equality and improvement in the status of women; and
- b) to support the identification and elimination of systemic causes of gender inequality in policy, programs and delivery of services in workplaces and communities; and
- c) to recognise that gender inequality may be compounded by other forms of disadvantage or discrimination that a person may experience on the basis of Aboriginality, age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, race, religion, sexual orientation and other attributes; and
- d) to redress disadvantage, address stigma, stereotyping, prejudice and violence, and accommodate persons of different genders by way of structural change; and
- e) to enhance economic and social participation by persons of different genders; and
- f) to further promote the right to equality set out in the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Council is obligated to think about how its programs and services affect different people and different communities and how we can avoid reinforcing unintentional inequalities. Reports authors must consider the requirements of the *Gender Equality Act 2020* and Council's Diversity, Access and Equity Policy when asking Council to consider or review any issues which have a direct or significant impact on members of the Greater Dandenong community.

Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities

Council, Councillors and members of Council staff are a public authority under the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and, as such, are all responsible to act in accordance with the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006* (the Charter). The Charter is founded on the following principles:

- human rights are essential in a democratic and inclusive society that respects the rule of law, human dignity, equality and freedom;
- human rights belong to all people without discrimination, and the diversity of the people of Victoria enhances our community;
- human rights come with responsibilities and must be exercised in a way that respects the human rights of others;
- human rights have a special importance for the Aboriginal people of Victoria, as descendants of Australia's first people, with their diverse spiritual, social, cultural and economic relationship with their traditional lands and waters.

Given this municipality's diversity and inclusiveness, when developing or preparing a report for Council consideration, report authors are required to ensure their report is consistent with the standards set by the Charter.



Consideration of Climate Change and Sustainability

One of the overarching governance principles of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

In January 2020, this Council joined a growing number of cities around Australia and declared a “Climate and Ecological Emergency” and committed this Council to emergency action on climate change. Council has developed a Climate Change Emergency Strategy and Action Plan 2020-30 to help the City of Greater Dandenong become a resilient, net zero carbon emission city with an active community prepared for the challenges of changing climate.

When developing or preparing a report for Council consideration, report authors are required to consider what impacts their issue has on Council's Declaration on a Climate and Ecological Emergency, Council's Climate Change Emergency Strategy and the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* in relation to the overarching principle on climate change and sustainability.

Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks

Report authors will consider how their report aligns with existing Council policies, strategies, frameworks or other documents, how they may affect the decision of this report or are relevant to this process.



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1 MEETING OPENING

1.1 OPENING OF MEETING BY CHAIR

Cr Jim Memeti opened the Meeting at 7:00 pm.

1.2 ATTENDANCE

Apologies

Cr Alice Phuong Le.

Councillors Present

Cr Jim Memeti, Mayor (Chair)
Cr Sophie Tan, Deputy Mayor
Cr Phillip Danh, Cr Isabella Do, Cr Lana Formoso, Cr Rhonda Garad, Cr Bob Milkovic,
Cr Sean O'Reilly, Cr Loi Truong, Cr Melinda Yim.

Officers Present

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer; Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures; Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening; Yuri Guzman, Chief Information Officer; Michael Tonta, Governance Advisor; Marjan Hajjari, Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy.



1.3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF LAND

Those who wish to stand for the acknowledgement to country are welcome to do so.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land, the Bunurong People, and pay respect to their Elders past and present.

We recognise and respect their continuing connections to climate, Culture, Country and waters and we also pay our respect and acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their Elders present here today, in acknowledging their journey.

1.4 OFFERING OF PRAYER, REFLECTION OR AFFIRMATION

All remained standing as Cr Bob Milkovic read the following on behalf of Ursula Aruma, a member of the Greater Dandenong Interfaith Network:

***"You are all embodiments of Divine Love, share it with everyone!
Express Divine Love in kind words, and acts of service filled with compassion.. "***



1.5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Meeting of Council held 11 March 2025.

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 11 March 2025 be confirmed.

MINUTE No.79

Moved by: Cr Phillip Danh

Seconded by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 11 March 2025 be confirmed.

CARRIED 10 / 0

CEO Explanatory Note, In accordance with 4.17.2 part (n) of the Governance Rules 2022

During consideration of Item 5.2, *Notice of Motion No. 5 - Towards Unity: A Motion for Inclusive, Respectful and Peaceful engagement in the Thomas Street naming issue*, there was a procedural irregularity which saw a procedural motion '*that the matter now be put*' moved, seconded and then carried, contrary to the provision of Clause 4.9.3 of the Governance Rules. Council then voted on the Notice of Motion and the motion was defeated.

1.6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil.



2 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 1

2.1 PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

2.1.1 Petitions and Joint Letters

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance, Legal & Risk
Attachments: 1. Petitions Joint Letters [2.1.1.1 - 1 page]

Officer Recommendation

That this report and its attachment be received and noted.

Executive Summary

1. Council receives a number of petitions and joint letters on a regular basis that deal with a variety of issues which have an impact upon the City.
2. Issues raised by petitions and joint letters will be investigated and reported back to Council if required.
3. A table containing all details relevant to current petitions and joint letters is provided in Attachment 1. It includes:
 - a) the full text of any petitions or joint letters received;
 - b) petitions or joint letters still being considered for Council response as pending a final response along with the date they were received; and
4. the final complete response to any outstanding petition or joint letter previously tabled along with the full text of the original petition or joint letter and the date it was responded to.

Petitions and Joint Letters Tabled

5. Council received no new petitions and no joint letters prior to the Council Meeting of 24 March 2025.

MINUTE No.80

Moved by: Cr Sophie Tan

Seconded by: Cr Lana Formoso

That this report and its attachment be received and noted.

CARRIED 10 / 0

Date Received	Petition Text (Prayer)	No. of Petitioners	Status	Responsible Officer Response
7/02/2025	<p>Petition to City of Greater Dandenong to Rename “Afghan Bazar” to “Little Bamyan”</p> <p>https://www.change.org/p/petition-to-city-of-greater-dandenong-to-rename-afghan-bazar-to-little-bamyan</p>	-	In Progress	Responsible Officer: Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy
7/02/2025	<p>Petition to keep the name “Afghan Bazar”</p> <p><i>NB Small extract of prayer from one petition only:</i></p> <p>We, the undersigned business and property owners in Dandenong, strongly oppose the proposed renaming of Afghan Bazar to Bamyan Bazar. Afghan Bazar is an established name that holds significant cultural, historical, and economic value for our businesses and the wider community.</p>	-	In Progress	Responsible Officer: Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy



2.2 STATUTORY PLANNING APPLICATIONS

2.2.1 Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – February 2025

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures
Attachments: 1. Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – February 2025.doc [2.2.1.1 - 10 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That the listed items in Attachment 1 to this report be received and noted.

Executive Summary

1. This report provides Council with an update on the exercise of delegation by Council officers.
2. It provides a listing of Town Planning applications that were either decided or closed under delegation or withdrawn by applicants in February 2025.
3. It should be noted that where permits and notices of decision to grant permits have been issued, these applications have been assessed as being generally consistent with the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme and Council's policies.
4. Application numbers with a PLA#, PLN#.01 or similar, are applications making amendments to previously approved planning permits.
5. The annotation 'SPEAR' (Streamlined Planning through Electronic Applications and Referrals) identifies where an application has been submitted electronically. SPEAR allows users to process planning permits and subdivision applications online.

MINUTE No.81

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly
Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That the listed items in Attachment 1 to this report be received and noted.

CARRIED 10 / 0

Planning Delegated Decisions Issued from 1/02/2025 to 28/02/2025

City of Greater Dandenong

Application ID	Category	VicSmart	Property Address	Applicant Name	Description	Notes	Authority	Decision	Decision Date	Ward
PLA24/0037	PlnAppAmd	No	37-39 Lawn Road NOBLE PARK VIC 3174	Abacus Design & Planning	AMENDMENT TO: Development of the land for five (5) double storey dwellings and to construct a 1.8m high front fence (PLN18/0355)	Amend endorsed plans	Delegate	AmendPerm	24/02/2025	Springvale Central
PLA24/0078	PlnAppAmd	No	27 Nicholas Drive DANDENONG SOUTH VIC 3175	D Farrington	AMENDMENT TO: The use and development of the land for Materials Recycling (motor car wrecking, salvage and recycling), the variation of a restriction from Title (Item (i) of Covenant P795726P) and a reduction of the car parking requirement (PLN21/0090)	Amend endorsed plans	Delegate	AmendPerm	24/02/2025	Dandenong
PLA24/0089	PlnAppAmd	No	97 Assembly Drive DANDENONG SOUTH VIC 3175	Quality First Designs Pty Ltd	AMENDMENT TO: Development of the land for two (2) warehouse buildings and a reduction in the car parking requirements (PLN22/0403)	Amend endorsed plans	Delegate	AmendPerm	14/02/2025	Dandenong
PLA24/0098	PlnAppAmd	No	66-70 Thomas Murrell Crescent DANDENONG SOUTH VIC 3175	CS Town Planning	AMENDMENT TO: Use and development of the land for Materials Recycling (PLN19/0252)	Amend permit preamble and conditions	Applicant	Withdrawn	05/02/2025	Dandenong
PLA24/0101	PlnAppAmd	No	8 Clive Street SPRINGVALE VIC 3171	Bill Klemmer & Associates	AMENDMENT TO Planning permit PLN18/0246 to allow the use an existing building for motor vehicle sales, development of the land for a warehouse, display one (1) internally illuminated business identification sign and one (1) business identification sign and reduce the car parking requirements	Amend permit preamble and conditions	Delegate	NOD	20/02/2025	Springvale North

ATT 2.2.1.1 Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – February 2025.doc

Application ID	Category	VicSmart	Property Address	Applicant Name	Description	Notes	Authority	Decision	Decision Date	Ward
PLA24/0102	PlnAppAmd	No	Mt Hira College 185 Perry Road KEYSBOROUGH VIC 3173	MSM & Associates Pty Ltd	AMENDMENT TO: To construct buildings and works associated with Stage 3 of development for the purpose of extensions to the existing education centre and ancillary sporting facilities and to display advertising signage (PLN19/0199)	Amend endorsed plans	Delegate	AmendPerm	27/02/2025	Keysborough South
PLA24/0104	PlnAppAmd	No	170 Foster Street DANDENONG VIC 3175	Havkon Pty Ltd	AMENDMENT TO: Development of the land for four (4) triple storey dwellings and alteration of access to a road in a Road Zone Category 1 DECLARED AREA (PLN18/0220)	Amend endorsed plans	Delegate	AmendPerm	10/02/2025	Dandenong
PLA24/0108	PlnAppAmd	No	194-204 Ordish Road DANDENONG SOUTH VIC 3175	Quality First Designs Pty Ltd	AMENDMENT TO: Use (Materials Recycling) and buildings & works (PLN07/0784)	Amend endorsed plans	Delegate	AmendPerm	27/02/2025	Dandenong
PLA24/0119	PlnAppAmd	No	908 Princes Highway SPRINGVALE VIC 3171	L Lazarevski	AMENDMENT TO: Convenience Restaurant (PLN09/0838)	Amend endorsed plans	Delegate	AmendPerm	27/02/2025	Springvale North
PLA24/0121	PlnAppAmd	No	71 Kelvinside Road NOBLE PARK VIC 3174	Mudher Architects Pty Ltd	AMENDMENT TO: The construction of two (2) double storey attached dwellings (PLN15/0692)	Amend endorsed plans	Delegate	AmendPerm	25/02/2025	Springvale South
PLA24/0124	PlnAppAmd	No	8 Prince Street SPRINGVALE VIC 3171	J Pakdeethai	AMENDMENT TO: The construction of four, two-storey dwellings (PLN20/0594)	Amend endorsed plans	Delegate	AmendPerm	28/02/2025	Springvale North

ATT 2.2.1.1 Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – February 2025.doc

Application ID	Category	VicSmart	Property Address	Applicant Name	Description	Notes	Authority	Decision	Decision Date	Ward
PLA24/0130	PlnAppAmd	No	25 Birdwood Avenue DANDENONG VIC 3175	Ogee Architects Pty Ltd	AMENDMENT TO: Construction of four (4) new dwellings (two (2) three story and two (2) double storey to the rear) (PLN15/0191)	Amend endorsed plans	Delegate	AmendPerm	07/02/2025	Yarraman
PLA25/0004	PlnAppAmd	No	46 Darren Road SPRINGVALE SOUTH VIC 3172	46 Darren Pty Ltd	AMENDMENT TO: Use and development of the land for a childcare centre, display business identification signage and development of the land for dwellings (PLN22/0464)	Amend permit to allow signage	Delegate	AmendPerm	25/02/2025	Springvale South
PLN23/0219	PlnApp	No	467 Springvale Road SPRINGVALE VIC 3171	MB Design Studio Pty Ltd	Use of Lot 1 TP 586026W for an education centre, buildings and works, the display of business identification signage and to alter access to a road in a Transport Zone 2	General Residential 1 Zone	Delegate	PlanPermit	28/02/2025	Springvale Central
PLN23/0294	PlnApp	No	2 Maxwell Street DANDENONG SOUTH VIC 3175	AusForm	Development of the land for a warehouse building	Proposal fails to produce outcome consistent with SPPF and LPPF and does not meet with objectives of Clause 15.01-1S (Urban Design), Clause 15.01-2S (Building Design), Clause 22.03 (Urban Design in Commercial and Industrial Areas), Clause 52.06 (Car Parking) and Clause 65, proposal will result in significant amenity impacts to surrounding area and does not contribute to orderly planning of area	Delegate	Refusal	28/02/2025	Dandenong
PLN23/0457	PlnApp	No	36-46 Jalta Court KEYSBOROUGH VIC 3173	M & D Town Planning Pty Ltd	Earthworks, buildings and works, the use and development of a small second dwelling and the construction, use and illumination of a private tennis court	Green Wedge A 1 Zone	Delegate	PlanPermit	07/02/2025	Keysborough South

ATT 2.2.1.1 Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – February 2025.doc

Application ID	Category	VicSmart	Property Address	Applicant Name	Description	Notes	Authority	Decision	Decision Date	Ward
PLN24/0050	PlnApp	No	63 Dunblane Road NOBLE PARK VIC 3174	GU Sharma	Development of the land for three (3) dwellings (two (2) double storey dwellings and one (1) single storey dwelling to the rear)	General Residential 1 Zone, 900sqm	Delegate	NOD	13/02/2025	Yarraman
PLN24/0118	PlnApp	No	141 Springvale Road SPRINGVALE VIC 3171	R Ryniuk	Development of the land for four (4) double storey dwellings and alter access to a road in a Transport Zone 2	General Residential 3 Zone, 697sqm	Delegate	NOD	25/02/2025	Springvale North
PLN24/0140	PlnApp	No	13 Morwell Avenue DANDENONG VIC 3175	Kiara Designs	Development of four (4) double storey dwellings	General Residential 1 Zone, 1168sqm	Delegate	PlanPermit	26/02/2025	Dandenong
PLN24/0141	PlnApp	No	20 Alma Crescent NOBLE PARK VIC 3174	A Zukovic	Development of the land for two (2) double storey dwellings	General Residential 1 Zone, 585sqm	Delegate	NOD	04/02/2025	Yarraman
PLN24/0142	PlnApp	No	17 Sheales Street DANDENONG VIC 3175	MSM Gerges	Development of the land for three (3) new dwellings (two double-storey dwellings and one single-storey dwelling) to the rear of an existing single-storey dwelling and alterations and additions to the existing dwelling, and the subdivision of the land into four (4) lots	General Residential 1 Zone, 994sqm	Delegate	PlanPermit	14/02/2025	Cleeland

ATT 2.2.1.1 Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – February 2025.doc

Application ID	Category	VicSmart	Property Address	Applicant Name	Description	Notes	Authority	Decision	Decision Date	Ward
PLN24/0231	PlnApp	No	1 Barton Street DANDENONG NORTH VIC 3175	Universal Planning	Development of the land for three (3) double storey dwellings	General Residential 1 Zone, 584sqm	Delegate	PlanPermit	13/02/2025	Cleeland
PLN24/0263	PlnApp	No	3 Apoinga Street DANDENONG SOUTH VIC 3175	St-Wise Pty Ltd	Use of the land for materials recycling and the variation of restrictive covenant N660673R 2.(a) (i), (ii), (iv) and (v)	Proposal does not comply with Clause 52.02 (Easements, Restrictions and Reserves) and Section 60(5) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987	Delegate	Refusal	27/02/2025	Dandenong
PLN24/0287	PlnApp	No	260 Corrigan Road NOBLE PARK VIC 3174	KD Vu	Development of the land for two (2) double storey dwellings	Neighbourhood Residential 1 Zone, 546sqm	Delegate	NOD	26/02/2025	Springvale South
PLN24/0299	PlnApp	No	First Floor 1 Langhorne Street DANDENONG VIC 3175	P Nyathi	Use of the land for a place of worship and a reduction in the car parking requirements DECLARED AREA	Comprehensive Development 2 Zone	Delegate	PlanPermit	26/02/2025	Dandenong
PLN24/0313	PlnApp	No	40 Narellan Drive KEYSBOROUGH VIC 3173	Y Chand	Development of the land for two (2) double storey dwellings	No response to further information request	Delegate	Lapsed	05/02/2025	Keysborough
PLN24/0323	PlnApp	No	59 Willow Avenue SPRINGVALE VIC 3171	Bayside Town Planning Pty Ltd	Use of the land for a food and drink premises	Industrial 1 Zone	Delegate	PlanPermit	21/02/2025	Springvale North

ATT 2.2.1.1 Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – February 2025.doc

Application ID	Category	VicSmart	Property Address	Applicant Name	Description	Notes	Authority	Decision	Decision Date	Ward
PLN24/0355	PlnApp	No	1 Tyree Avenue SPRINGVALE VIC 3171	Abacus Design & Planning	Development of the land for two (2) double storey dwellings	General Residential 1 Zone, 594sqm	Delegate	PlanPermit	25/02/2025	Springvale Central
PLN24/0360	PlnApp	No	367A Springvale Road SPRINGVALE VIC 3171	M Adam	Use of the land for a Shisha Lounge, buildings and works (façade alteration), to display business identification signage, a reduction in the car parking requirements, and a waiver of the bicycle facilities pursuant to Clause 52.34	No response to further information request	Delegate	Lapsed	26/02/2025	Springvale Central
PLN24/0378	PlnApp	No	13 Marlene Court SPRINGVALE VIC 3171	S Liyana Arachchige	Development of the land for two (2) single storey dwellings	General Residential 1 Zone, 835sqm	Delegate	PlanPermit	11/02/2025	Springvale North
PLN24/0389	PlnApp	No	Lease Area 74 11 Queens Avenue SPRINGVALE VIC 3171	VicTrack	Buildings and works (Internal alterations)	Transport 1 Zone	Delegate	PlanPermit	18/02/2025	Springvale North
PLN24/0392	PlnApp	No	845-847 Princes Highway SPRINGVALE VIC 3171	SMP Architects	Use of the land for a restricted retail premises, buildings and works, the display of floodlit business identification signage, floodlit sky signage, floodlit promotion signage, business identification signage and promotion signage, and alteration of access to a road in a Transport Zone 2	Industrial 1 Zone	Delegate	PlanPermit	26/02/2025	Springvale North

ATT 2.2.1.1 Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – February 2025.doc

Application ID	Category	VicSmart	Property Address	Applicant Name	Description	Notes	Authority	Decision	Decision Date	Ward
PLN24/0402	PlnApp	No	1 Gwent Street SPRINGVALE SOUTH VIC 3172	Architekton Ltd	Subdivision of the land into three (3) lots	Residential	Applicant	Withdrawn	12/02/2025	Keysborough
PLN24/0407	PlnApp	No	1 Frances Drive DANDENONG SOUTH VIC 3175	Lifelong Link Group	To display two (2) business identification signs	No response to further information request	Delegate	Lapsed	07/02/2025	Dandenong
PLN24/0421	PlnApp	No	141 Buckley Street NOBLE PARK VIC 3174	C Hout	Development of the land for one (1) double storey dwelling to the rear of an existing single storey dwelling	No response to further information request	Delegate	Lapsed	06/02/2025	Noble Park
PLN24/0445	PlnApp	No	468-472 Princes Highway NOBLE PARK NORTH VIC 3174	BLVCK&CO	Development of the land for a food truck	No response to further information request	Delegate	Lapsed	20/02/2025	Noble Park North
PLN24/0474	PlnAppVic	Yes	120 Nathan Road DANDENONG SOUTH VIC 3175	Australian Postal Corporation	Buildings and Works (Facility alterations) VICSMART	Commercial 2 Zone	Delegate	PlanPermit	14/02/2025	Dandenong
PLN24/0481	PlnApp	No	5 Celtic Court KEYSBOROUGH VIC 3173	United Energy Distribution Pty Ltd (Site ID.O3539), FL Property Investments Pty Ltd	Staged subdivision of the land SPEAR	Industrial	Delegate	PlanPermit	24/02/2025	Keysborough South

ATT 2.2.1.1 Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – February 2025.doc

Application ID	Category	VicSmart	Property Address	Applicant Name	Description	Notes	Authority	Decision	Decision Date	Ward
PLN24/0482	PlnAppVic	Yes	4 Regal Drive SPRINGVALE VIC 3171	P.L Group (VIC) PTY LTD	Development of the land for a warehouse VICSMART	Industrial 1 Zone	Delegate	PlanPermit	05/02/2025	Springvale North
PLN24/0498	PlnApp	No	1-29 National Drive DANDENONG SOUTH VIC 3175	Devcon Group Pty Ltd	To display internally illuminated business identification signage and business identification signage, comprising two (2) internally illuminated business identification signs and five (5) business identification signs	Industrial 1 Zone	Delegate	PlanPermit	25/02/2025	Dandenong
PLN24/0499	PlnApp	No	Dwelling 13 Nicole Avenue DANDENONG NORTH VIC 3175	M Girtton	Buildings and Works (Carport and Roller Door)	Commercial 1 Zone	Delegate	PlanPermit	25/02/2025	Cleeland
PLN24/0507	PlnAppVic	Yes	7/578-598 Princes Highway NOBLE PARK NORTH VIC 3174	Sachdeva Architects and Developers	Buildings and Works (Mezzanine) and a reduction of the car parking requirement VICSMART	Commercial 2 Zone	Delegate	PlanPermit	18/02/2025	Noble Park North
PLN24/0508	PlnAppVic	Yes	8/578-598 Princes Highway NOBLE PARK NORTH VIC 3174	Sachdeva Architects and Developers	Buildings and Works (Mezzanine) and a reduction of the car parking requirement VICSMART	Commercial 2 Zone	Delegate	PlanPermit	18/02/2025	Noble Park North
PLN24/0509	PlnAppVic	Yes	Keysborough Kinder & Child Care Centre & MCH 364 Cheltenham Road KEYSBOROUGH VIC 3173	Mark Bennett Design Studio	Buildings and Works (Shade structure) VICSMART	General Residential 1 Zone	Delegate	PlanPermit	06/02/2025	Keysborough

ATT 2.2.1.1 Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – February 2025.doc

Application ID	Category	VicSmart	Property Address	Applicant Name	Description	Notes	Authority	Decision	Decision Date	Ward
PLN24/0510	PlnApp	No	First Floor 343-345 Springvale Road SPRINGVALE VIC 3171	Blur Architecture	Use of the land as a Place of Worship and reduce the car parking requirements	No response to further information request	Delegate	Lapsed	27/02/2025	Springvale North
PLN24/0514	PlnApp	No	5 Langold Court NOBLE PARK VIC 3174	VS Sapna	Subdivision of the land into three (3) lots SPEAR	Residential	Delegate	PlanPermit	21/02/2025	Yarraman
PLN25/0016	PlnAppVic	Yes	5 View Road SPRINGVALE VIC 3171	International Reformed Evangelical Church Inc	Buildings and Works (Shed) VICSMART	General Residential 1 Zone	Delegate	PlanPermit	13/02/2025	Springvale Central
PLN25/0018	PlnApp	No	2A Christine Court NOBLE PARK VIC 3174	J Chea	Use of the land for a Home based business (tutoring)	A planning permit is not required for the use of the land for a home based business (tuition)	Delegate	NotRequire	25/02/2025	Springvale South
PLN25/0020	PlnApp	No	Springvale Reserve 1A Ericksen Street SPRINGVALE VIC 3171	City of Greater Dandenong	Building and Works (external alterations)	Public Park and Recreation Zone, Industrial 1 Zone	Delegate	PlanPermit	20/02/2025	Springvale North
PLN25/0033	PlnAppVic	Yes	11 Commercial Drive DANDENONG SOUTH VIC 3175	Axiom Plus Pty Ltd	Development of the land for an extension to an existing industrial building VICSMART	Mixed Use Zone	Delegate	PlanPermit	20/02/2025	Dandenong

ATT 2.2.1.1 Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – February 2025.doc

Application ID	Category	VicSmart	Property Address	Applicant Name	Description	Notes	Authority	Decision	Decision Date	Ward
PLN25/0039	PlnAppVic	Yes	9 Kingswood Crescent NOBLE PARK NORTH VIC 3174	Nilsson Noel & Holmes (Surveyors) Pty Ltd	Subdivision of the land into two (2) lots SPEAR (VICSMART)	Residential	Delegate	PlanPermit	18/02/2025	Noble Park North
PLN25/0040	PlnApp	No	1/1 Upwey Avenue SPRINGVALE VIC 3171	Beyond Green Homes Pty Ltd	Subdivision x 3 SPEAR	Residential	Delegate	PlanPermit	25/02/2025	Springvale Central

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3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Question

Dom Boccari, Keysborough

We, the rate payers, see no leadership and direction within this municipality. There are serious issues such as favourable decisions made to major Council and government buildings that created unwanted media attention, and a community in Thomas Street continuing conflicts over a name. These serious issues need to be resolved along with others. Why can this Council not take guaranteed ownership over these matters?

Response

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

We note your views about Council leadership and direction. This Council is taking leadership and direction. I remind the public that Councillors make strategic decisions for this municipality, including the issues you mentioned that Council has made decisions on. Staff members and the CEO are responsible for the operational side of Council and the implementation of these decisions.

Cr Lana Formoso left the Chamber at 7:07 pm.

Question

Dom Boccari, Keysborough

The New Community Hub on Chapel Road in Keysborough is near completed and looking great. Why is our Council promoting the new building as “The Keysborough South Community Hub”?

Why does our Council Keep making costly and incompetent errors in naming buildings and allowing developers in Keysborough to introduce different name to our suburb such as “South”?

When will this Council get things right and help us trust our rates are managed correctly and in good safe/trustworthy hands not dirty hands after the building is complete?

Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

The Keysborough South Community Hub is a working title for the project. At the last Council meeting on 11 March 2025, Council endorsed proceeding to community consultation and engagement regarding the naming of the Keysborough South Community Hub. The consultation will commence in April, which I encourage you to take part in and provide your feedback.

Cr Lana Formoso returned to the Chamber at 7:09 pm.

Question

Dom Boccari, Keysborough

Why must this go through the community consultation process rather than keeping the name as “Keysborough Community Hub”, similar to the Springvale Community Hub? We should not waste more money on this matter.



Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

We did go through the same consultation process for Springvale, and we are following the same process. We have a community consultation process as we know there are different views on what the name should be, and we wish to understand the different perspectives from the community before coming up with a name that is meaningful for the whole community.

Question

Dom Boccari, Keysborough

I saw on the 730 Program on Thursday night that the Council officer could not respond to the question of why the Council meeting was closed to the public. This interview did not reflect well on the Council. Is this because the Council had no justification for closing the meeting to the public?

Response

Marjan Hajjari, Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy

As is always the case with such stories, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) aired a few moments from an hour-long interview. The decision to close the gallery during our last Council meeting was based on all the available information at the time, including from police sources. This includes information that is not appropriate to share in the public domain or while active police investigations are underway.

Question

Yasin Hazara, Dandenong

On 10 March 2025, one Councillor unilaterally decided to exclude the public from question time and conduct the Council meeting behind closed doors due to a TikTok video which involved a homeless man being bullied by Afghan teens and adults.

Could that Councillor explain the basis for this decision, why it was made without consulting other Councillors, and how it was justified when the TikTok video was unrelated to any Council matter?

Does Council acknowledge that some of its members are acting in bad faith, and what actions will other Councillors take to address such conduct beyond remaining silent observers?

Can that Councillor confirm whether Dandenong is a safe place, given that they are now openly inviting people to the Dandenong Night Market just a week after contemplating the cancellation of a Council meeting and ultimately locking out the public from question time, citing safety concerns over a TikTok video.

Response

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

The decision to close the gallery during our last Council meeting was based on all the available information at the time, including from police sources.

Some of the questions asked specifically referred to the Councillors. I wish to clarify that Councillors do not make decisions about closing a Council meeting.

The responsibility for making this decision lies with the CEO. In this instance, the decision was made by the acting CEO and occurred in response to workplace health and safety considerations and concerns. This includes information that it is not appropriate to share in the public domain, or while active police investigations are underway.



Question

Susan Smith, Dandenong

I participated in the Dandenong Community Hub Co-design workshop in February. When is the next Co-design session?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Thank you for your participation on the Co-design workshop, Susan. The next co-design session is scheduled for 6 and 8 May. Participants will be provided with a revised design beforehand, so they have time to review and be well prepared for the meeting. Invitations and details for the session will be made available in April.

Question

Susan Smith, Dandenong

The State Government have announced that the parts of Dandenong, Noble Park and Springvale are going to be subject to greater heights and greater density. It was only 7 years ago that Greater Dandenong Council completed their own residential zones review that culminated in the C182 Planning Scheme Amendment which determined the density in those activity centres including the density around railway stations.

That was a process where Greater Dandenong Council engaged many hundreds of residents in a well-publicised consultation which involved multiple Australia post letters and face to face meetings.

Anyone affected knew what was going on because Council did such a great job of informing residents. Similarly, the Council did significant consultation of the Springvale structure plan and Noble Park structure plan.

It seems now that all the results of this hard work by council and by residents may be washed away. And if similar consultations by the State Government are any guide the Dandenong, Noble Park and Springvale will be drastically rezoned under residents' noses.

What can Greater Dandenong Council tell residents about what the State Government are planning? What is Greater Dandenong Council going to do to make sure that if a consultation happens on this plan, it will be genuine and well publicised?



Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

As part of the recent State Government housing announcements, 50 new activity centres were identified across Melbourne. Of these 50 centres, four were from this Council, being Dandenong, Springvale, Noble Park and Yarraman.

Council understands that the State Government will be developing structure plans for these centres, along with rezoning them to allow for increased densities. The government have also stated that they will be undertaking consultation with Council's and the community for each of these activity centres.

However, the exact nature of these structure plans and zones for these four centres, and what impact they will have on existing planning documents is unknown at this stage, as is the extent of consultation that will be undertaken.

Council officers will be meeting with the State Government in the next few months regarding these proposed activity centres, and will be strongly advocating for a thorough and meaningful consultation to be undertaken for each of these centres.

Question

Phillip Lamaro, Dandenong

The Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 advised that "Council should endeavour to improve its community consultation and engagement and invite residents to provide input into Council decisions".

With this clear feedback to Council, I am confused why Council has not created community advisory groups to give advice to both Council-owned corporations: South East Leisure and the Dandenong Market.

These two organisations manage most of Council's facilities and residents have no clear method to provide input into decision making about these community facilities.

Due to the clear feedback Council received by this survey, will Council consider creating community advisory groups to provide community opinions of the management of these Council-owned corporations?



Response

Marjan Hajjari, Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy

While South East Leisure (SEL) and Dandenong Market Ptd Ltd (DMPL) are Council owned, once formed, their entity structure is such that they have independent boards who are governed by the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth).

Under the *Corporations Act*, the Boards of Directors are responsible for the overall governance and strategic direction of an organisation. They oversee both performance and compliance in accordance with the organisation's purpose and objectives. Hence it is for them to determine how they go about fulfilling their duties, including around ensuring compliance with legislative obligations.

Council work closely with these entities and their operating performance, strategy and budgets are reviewed and approved by Council each year. The Boards are skills-based and Directors are appointed to both of these companies by Council.

Council is also represented by nominated liaisons to each of the Boards, comprising both a nominated Councillor and senior officer, who are often consulted for Council's policy or position on matters at hand. If need arose, DMPL and SEL can also seek advice through the nominated liaisons from any of Council's established advisory committees.

Question

Pamela Naylor, Noble Park

Council recently approved its Federal Election Advocacy agenda. Have all currently known candidates in Bruce, Hotham and Isaacs been contacted to get their position on them?

Response

Marjan Hajjari, Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy

Once Council endorsed the Federal Election Advocacy Priorities, the document was made publicly available and shared with known candidates. The Mayor and CEO have been meeting with candidates when possible.

Question

Pamela Naylor, Noble Park

What is Council doing along with other members of the Back Your Neighbour campaign to challenge candidates in the Federal electorates in their areas regarding their positions on the Back Your Neighbour advocacy asks?



Response

Marjan Hajjari, Executive Manager Strategic Growth and Advocacy

The Back Your Neighbour Campaign encourages all Taskforce member councils, endorsing Community Organisations, and members of the public to reach out to their local Federal Members of Parliament (MPs) and candidates to highlight the specific priority asks of the Back Your Neighbour Campaign and provide the support rationale that accompany these asks.

Greater Dandenong City Council provides secretariat support to the Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum. Member councils have been provided template letters to support securing a meeting engagement with their local MPs or candidates, and evidence-based campaign collateral that can be presented at any secured meetings.

The Back Your Neighbour Campaign website provides advocacy collateral that can be utilised by any member of the public, a QR coded template email for individuals to write to the Minister of Immigration and their local Federal Member, and a Back Your Neighbour petition. This inclusive “all of community” approach is strategic, and members of the public are strongly encouraged to utilise the material provided on the website to reach out to their local Federal members or candidates.

Question

Kim Handley, Clyde

In November 2023, Melbourne Water responded to former mayor Lana Formoso’s public letter enquiring about Dandenong’s waterways. In the response, Melbourne Water advised Council that they were interested in investigating the section of Mile Creek along the Ross Reserve in Noble Park to determine feasibility of returning it to its natural form.

Dandenong Council’s Manager of Transport & Civil Development advised in writing that a feasibility report would be made on this. As this was over a year ago, I would like Council to please explain what this feasibility report has advised and what is the next stage of this project?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

The project mentioned in your inquiry is called “Reimagining Your Creek Program”, which is a Melbourne Water’s initiative aimed at enhancing urban waterways.

In 2024, Melbourne Water conducted an investigation into the potential naturalisation of a section of Mile Creek. Following this assessment, Melbourne Water determined that due to soil conditions, estimated costs, and other influencing factors, this project will not be prioritised in the near future.

Should you require further information, Council officers can provide the contact details of the Melbourne Water officer overseeing this program, along with a link to the official program webpage.



Question

Kim Handley, Clyde

I have noticed that the speed limit of Hammond Road Dandenong, between Webster Street and Dandenong Bypass, is 60km/h. I do believe this road fits all requirements to be reduced to 50km/h.

Can Council please advise if this road should be lowered to 50kms an hour as per state law and when will this be introduced?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Hammond Road plays an important function as a local collector road, collecting traffic from both the Dandenong Bypass and Cheltenham Road and distributing it into the local network. It also provides direct access to many adjacent residential properties. The current 60km/h speed limit is considered appropriate for this dual function.

However, with the impending changes to the road network associated with the Webster Street level crossing removal, this will provide the opportunity to reconsider its function, lane configuration and speed limit, once these works are nearing completion.

Question

Kim Handley, Clyde

Last month, the Planning of Waterways updated their Planning for Our Waterways Policy, placing protections on 17 creeks in Melbourne. They aim to have protections to build a better environment, improving the quality of life for society and nature.

None of the creeks in Greater Dandenong were included in these 17 creeks. This means Dandenong Creek, Mile Creek and Eumemmerring Creeks do not deserve the same protections and improvements as the 17 creeks named in the policy. As a result, the residents of Greater Dandenong will not enjoy the same quality of life for society and nature as those residents in the areas of the 17 creeks named may have.

Will the Mayor and Councillors please write to the Minister of Waterways and ask for creeks in Greater Dandenong to be included into the policy?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

The draft Planning for our Waterways proposes to add planning controls on properties near 17 waterways throughout Melbourne. This was exhibited by the Department of Transport & Planning (DTP) during February and March 2025.

With this exhibition now having closed, Greater Dandenong does not appear to have been consulted during this period. Council officers will review the draft plan. If it is considered appropriate, Council will make a submission to DTP.



Question

Phillip Malone, Noble Park

Recently parking signs were put up at Park Field Reserve car park. What was the cost of installing these signs, including material, installation cost and planning cost?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

The recently installed parking signs in Parkfield Reserve car park cost approximately \$1,000 supply and install for all three (3) signs.

Question

Phillip Malone, Noble Park

With parking limits now enforced at Parkfield Reserve, how often is the Car park being checked, what is the cost of this checking, and how often is the car park full during these checks?

How many fines have been handed out at Parkfield for parking that goes against the rules set out on the signs, has the council been successful in collecting the fines, and what will the fine revenue be used for? Could I suggest it go to charities supporting homelessness in the Noble Park area?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

As with the introduction of any new restrictions, the first 28 days are an education period to give the community an opportunity to understand the new restrictions.

Given the restrictions came into effect at the beginning of March, we will move to commence enforcement in the coming weeks.

Revenue generated through parking and other fines goes directly to supporting a range of Councils' programs, services, and amenities. These include Dandenong Zero, which is a program directly supports rough sleepers within our community to access services.

Question

Zabih Rezai, Narre Warren

Dandenong Council has recognised the genocide of the Hazara people. Can the Council confirm whether the Hazara community has the right to choose and celebrate its identity? If so, why is the Council disregarding the wishes of the Hazara people?

Response

Marjan Hajjari, Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy

City of Greater Dandenong is the one of the most multicultural communities in Australia. At City of Greater Dandenong, we are proud of our community and everyone should be able to celebrate their culture.



Question

Mohammad Akram Yusofi, Dandenong

I refer to the Council's meeting on 11 March 2025, and the motion presented to cease the use of marketing name "Afghan Bazaar", until the matter is settled.

According to Rule 4.9.3, the procedural motion should not have been put to vote since the seconder did not speak, there was no first opposition speaker, and the Councillor who moved the procedural motion did not oppose it.

Can Council explain why was the procedural motion accepted by the Chair when Rule 4.9.3 states that such a motion may not be put until the mover, seconder, and first opposition speaker have spoken?

Can Council clarify how this was not an intentional misuse or improper application of the Governance Rule?

Response

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

This matter was addressed through a CEO Explanatory Note in the minutes of the meeting. It was not an intentional misuse or improper application of the Governance Rules.

Question

Phillip Lamaro, Dandenong

When the Afghan Bazaar was in development, many First Nations people contacted Council and the Mayor to advise they did not feel comfortable that Council proposed naming a section of land after a country that had recently been part of a genocide, similar to the First Nations people here in Australia.

Council advised then that the word "Afghan" was to represent the people and not the country. However, council recently advised the "Afghan" is indeed representing a country and not the people.

Can Council please explain why when Council was advised that the Bunurong and Wurundjeri people did not want their land named after a country guilty of genocide, it ignored their requests?

Now that Council has admitted this, will Council be making a public apology to giving incorrect information to the First Nations people and respect their views and change the name of the Afghan Bazaar?

Response

Marjan Hajjari, Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy

Question taken on notice.



Question

Liaquat Ali, Lynbrook

On 11 March 2025, all of the Labor Councillors voted against the motion to cease the use of the marketing name "Afghan Bazaar".

Can the Labor Councillors clarify whether they are acting independently or prioritising party affiliation over the community's will, given that majority of the residents have clearly expressed their opposition to the imposed name?

Response

Marjan Hajjari, Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy

This is a matter for individual Councillors to respond.

Question

Abulfazl Zaki, Narre Warren

On 24 February 2025, in a general response to our questions, Council noted that it is seeking funding to start a consultation and to bridge divisions and enhance links to the broader Australian community by engaging youth, women, community leaders and wider public participation in its consultation process. Can Council answer the following three questions:

What specific divisions is Council referring to, and on what basis has it determined that such divisions exist. Does Council believe that the Hazara community is not already linked to the broader Australian community? If so, what evidence supports this view?

How does Council reconcile this statement with its commitment to social cohesion and the recognition of the Hazara community's contributions to the City of Greater Dandenong and Australia more broadly?

Clause 7 of the Naming Rules requires consultation with immediate community which includes people who live and work within Thomas Street, owners of properties or businesses, and in particular residents, ratepayers and businesses within the immediate area directly affected by the proposal. Please confirm why Council has not included these stakeholders and is running behind youth, community leaders and wider public instead?



Response

Marjan Hajjari, Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy

The name attached to the Thomas Street precinct has been a hotly contested topic. Through social media and the petitions, we saw tens of thousands of people engaged on the issue. Unfortunately, not everyone expressed their views respectfully, and there were threats of violence. This reflects that it was a divisive topic, or a topic that exposed divisions.

We believe that the Thomas Street precinct is a wonderful example of how Hazara people and other people from Afghanistan have settled and engaged with our wider Australian community. Thomas Street is a place where food and culture has been generously shared and enjoyed with the wider community.

However, most Australians would probably expect that the term “Afghan” represents all people from Afghanistan. There is probably not a nuanced understanding of the history of the different peoples of Afghanistan and what brought them to Australia at different times. There remains an opportunity to build on our social cohesion and community resilience, to deepen connections and strengthen trust.

Regarding the question of community consultation, as stated in previous meeting, Council has not started any consultation with the community on this matter.

Question

Namatullah Kadrie, Narre Warren South

On 24 February and 11 March 2025, the Council stated that it was "working with state and federal governments to secure funding for a series of community discussions [regarding the renaming of Afghan Bazaar]"

Can the council confirm the date of this funding request, specify the state and federal departments contacted, and advise whether a response has been received?

Why is the Council proceeding with a consultation process before determining whether the name "Afghan Bazaar" complies with the relevant principles outlined in the Naming Rules for Places in Victoria? There is a clear breach of the law.

Response

Marjan Hajjari, Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy

Council is still in conversation with State and Federal Government departments to seek their support. As stated before, Council has not started any consultation with the community on this matter.

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer tabled a listing of responses to questions taken on notice/requiring further action at the previous Council meeting. A copy of the responses is provided as an attachment.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE/REQUIRING FURTHER ACTION

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
03/11/25 PQT1	Ms & Mr Gonsalvez, Dandenong	Parking issues, Dandenong Could we please have 2 permanent signs put at the entrance and exit ends of the red bricked section of Power Street, Dandenong?	Acting Executive Director City Futures		Initial response provided 11/03/2025: Question taken on notice. FURTHER RESPONSE REQUIRED
03/11/25 PQT2	Ms & Mr Gonsalvez, Dandenong	Parking issues, Dandenong Could residents on our street have the opportunity to input ideas with Council's Parks and Open Space team for future considerations with respect to the landscaping plans for our nature strip?	Acting Executive Director City Futures		Initial response provided 11/03/2025: Question taken on notice. FURTHER RESPONSE REQUIRED
03/11/25 PQT5	Rokhan Akbar, Berwick	Afghan Bazaar renaming Has the council considered to end the matter of Afghan Bazaar for once and all to stop the escalation of hatred, division, conflicts and potential violence? Is the Council going to take any steps, ensuring the wellbeing of the public in Dandenong Park and other areas in Dandenong, after the release of a video clip on social media by a Hazara individual seriously threatening to stab Pashtuns with a knife? Will the council consider naming a different precinct/street in the vicinity of Afghan Bazaar as Little Bamyar, leaving the Afghan Bazaar as is,	Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy		Initial response provided 11/03/2025: Question taken on notice. FURTHER RESPONSE REQUIRED

Question Time Public – Questions Taken on Notice & Requiring Further Action

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Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
		ending the matter for once and all?			
03/11/25 PQT9	Namatullah Kadrie, Narre Warren South	<p>Afghan Bazaar renaming Has the Council's position changed since its registration, and will it now voluntarily revoke the trademark, given that it no longer meets the registration criteria and poses reputational and legal risks?</p> <p>Under Section 43 of the Trade Marks Act, a trademark must not mislead the public. Given that the majority of businesses in the precinct are Hazara-owned, and Hazaras do not and cannot simultaneously identify as both "Hazara" and "Pashtun," how does the trademark "Afghan Bazaar" not create a misleading impression of the precinct's cultural and ethnic makeup?</p>	Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy		<p>Initial response provided 11/03/2025: Question taken on notice.</p> <p>FURTHER RESPONSE REQUIRED</p>



4 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 2

4.1 POLICY AND STRATEGY

4.1.1 Green Wedge Management Plan - 5 Year Review of Action Plan

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

Attachments: 1. Greater Dandenong Green Wedge 5 Year Review 2025
[4.1.1.1 - 62 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES** the Green Wedge Management Plan Five Year Review, 2025 per Attachment 1; and
2. **CONTINUES** to implement the Green Wedge Management Plan 2015-2035 (Revised 2017) in accordance with the recommendations included in this report and in Attachment 1.

Executive Summary

1. As part of the monitoring of the implementation of the *Greater Dandenong Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP) (revised 2017)*, a report is required to be presented to Council every five years which reviews the appropriateness of the objectives and actions contained in the plan.
2. This is the second five-year review conducted for the GWMP.

Background

3. The Greater Dandenong Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP) is the critical strategic document to guide land use, the environment, transport and access, and built form and heritage considerations within the Greater Dandenong section of the south-east Green Wedge.
4. It sets out the Council, community and stakeholder vision for the Green Wedge and details a series of objectives and actions to be achieved over the life of the plan. The GWMP was adopted by Council at its 8 December 2014 Ordinary Meeting of Council.
5. The GWMP has 18 objectives across five themes, with a total of 94 actions listed.
6. The accompanying *Green Wedge Management Plan Action Plan 2015-2035 (Revised January 2017)* sets out the framework for achieving these objectives and implementing the actions.
7. The Action Plan has been designed to ensure ongoing monitoring and review of the plan which includes:
 - An annual progress update on the implementation of the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge Management Plan, which will be made public on Council's website and at Customer Service locations as appropriate;
 - A desktop review of the appropriateness of the objectives and actions of this Action Plan be presented as a formal report to Council every five years (this report); and
 - A full review of the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge Management Plan in 2034.



8. This report addresses the second dot point above. Detail relating to each individual objective and action is found at Attachment 1 to this report.
9. This is the second five-year review of this type conducted for the GWMP, with the previous review considered by Council for noting at its Ordinary Meeting of Council on 24 February 2020.

Key Issues and Discussion

10. The appropriateness of the objectives and actions across the five themes has been reviewed and their progress tracked.
11. The following criteria was used to determine the 'appropriateness' (relevance) of an objective (this criterion remains unchanged from the previous review):

Objective	Criteria
Relevant	Implementation remains important to the ongoing progression of the GWMP.
Not relevant	Implementation and the focus of the objective has shifted since the 2014 plan/2020 review and is no longer important to the ongoing progression of the GWMP. This could be due to State Government policy, Council policy or external factors.

12. All 18 of the objectives are still considered to be of relevance to the GWMP and all have seen progress in the last five years.
13. Ten years into the GWMP, more short- and medium-term actions have been able to be addressed, particularly for the complex themes of 'Water' and 'Natural Environment'.
14. All themes have had good progress, with the 'Natural Environment' theme gaining good traction in the past five years, with the focus for Council moving from the 'protection' of existing ecological values to 'enhancement'. A large plant giveaway in late 2024 was keenly received by green wedge residents who are seeking to make improvements to their land.
15. The review has found that as other areas of Council devise their strategies, the GWMP is being considered and actions from it are feeding through. For example, several objectives such as B2 and B3 are now gaining traction through the *Greater Dandenong Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2025*.
16. The GWMP has staged timelines for implementation as follows:
 - Immediate actions – to commence within 18 months (before 2017);
 - Short-term actions – to commence within 18 months to five years (before 2021);
 - Medium-term actions – to commence within five to 10 years (before 2026);
 - Ongoing actions.
17. Of the 94 actions:
 - 42 per cent have been completed (up from 35 per cent in 2020);
 - 6 per cent have been completed and are ongoing (up from 4 per cent in 2020);
 - 51 per cent have commenced/have commenced and ongoing/are ongoing (unchanged from 2020);
 - 1 per cent have had no action to date (down from 10 per cent in 2020).
18. All bar one action has either commenced, or being completed. The unactioned item relates to the formation of the Landcare Group in Greater Dandenong.



19. All actions in the GWMP have been reviewed for their appropriateness and all remain relevant.
20. The review does make the following recommendations regarding the implementation of the Action Plan:
21. Objective B2 - *Enhance ecological values and improve connectivity* and Objective C5 - *Facilitate better land management to remain the priority objectives for their themes.*
22. Further review the current Siting and Design Guidelines for buildings and works in the green wedge to see if further guidance regarding earthworks and contractor depots is needed.
23. Refer to Attachment 1 to this report for detailed comments regarding each action.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

24. This item does not have an impact on existing human resources.

Financial/Asset Resource Implications (consider Service Statements, Budget, Long Term Financial Strategy and Asset Plan)

Operating Budget Implications

25. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Asset Implications

26. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

27. There are no legal / risk implications relevant to this report.

Environmental Implications

28. There are no environmental implications relevant to this report.

Community Consultation

29. There was no requirement for community consultation.

Links to Community Vision, Council Plan, Strategy, Notice of Motion

30. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:

- Sustainable environment.

31. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan

32. 2021-25:

- A green city committed to a sustainable future.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

33. This report has considered Council's legislative and policy obligations (where applicable) as outlined in the Report Considerations section detailed in the front of this Agenda. The applicable obligations considered and applied are:

- Not Applicable



Cr Isabella Do left the Chamber at 7:40 pm and returned at 7:42 pm prior to the voting of this item.

MINUTE No.82

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That Council:

- 1. NOTES the Green Wedge Management Plan Five Year Review, 2025 per Attachment 1; and**
- 2. CONTINUES to implement the Green Wedge Management Plan 2015-2035 (Revised 2017) in accordance with the recommendations included in this report and in Attachment 1.**

CARRIED 9 / 1

For - Cr Phillip Danh, Cr Isabella Do, Cr Lana Formoso, Cr Jim Memeti, Cr Bob Milkovic, Cr Sean O'Reilly, Cr Sophie Tan, Cr Loi Truong and Cr Melinda Yim.

Against - Cr Rhonda Garad.

Five-year desktop review of the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge Management Plan

Executive Summary

The Greater Dandenong Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP) is the critical strategic document to guide land use, the environment, transport and access, and built form and heritage considerations within the Greater Dandenong section of the south-east Green Wedge.

The GWMP sets out the Council, community and stakeholder vision for the Green Wedge and details a series of objectives and actions to be achieved over the life of the plan (the next 20 years).

The accompanying *Green Wedge Management Plan Action Plan 2015-2035 (Revised January 2017)* sets out the framework for achieving these objectives and implementing the actions.

The GWMP has 18 objectives across five themes, with a total of 94 actions listed.

The Action Plan has been designed to ensure ongoing monitoring and review of the plan which includes:

- A desktop review of the appropriateness of the objectives and actions of this Action Plan be presented as a formal report to Council every five years.

The GWMP was adopted on 8 December 2014 and has now been in place for ten years. This is now the second desktop review to be carried out on the Action Plan, with the previous report presented to Council in 2020 for noting.

The appropriateness of the objectives and actions have been reviewed and their progress tracked. An examination of whether any priorities have shifted in this time has also been conducted.

All objectives remain relevant and of the 94 actions:

- 39 have been completed (up from 32 in 2020)
- 6 have been completed and remain ongoing (up from 4 in 2020)
- 48 have been actioned and are ongoing (unchanged number from 2020)
- 1 has had no action to date (down from 10 in 2020)

The GWMP continues to progress well, and its objectives and actions remain appropriate.

Background

The Greater Dandenong Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP) was adopted by Council on 8 December 2014 and sets out the Council, community and stakeholder vision for the Green Wedge.

The Plan is summarised in Figure 1 and Map 1 below and consists of a 20-year vision for the future of the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge.

Below this overall vision are the five themes of the Management Plan. These themes are:

- Water (Theme A)
- Natural Environment (Theme B)
- Land Use (Theme C)
- Transport & Access (Theme D)
- Built Form & Heritage (Theme E).

Underneath each of these themes sit the objectives and actions of the Management Plan which seek to achieve the vision and implement the GMWP. Each of the five themes has a nominated 'priority objective' for achievement over the next five years.

The *Green Wedge Management Plan Action Plan 2015-2035 (Revised Jan 2017)* was developed to implement these objectives and actions and detail the Council role, timeframe for action, the responsible Council directorate, and how its achievement can be measured.

Ongoing monitoring and review of the implementation of the Action Plan involves:

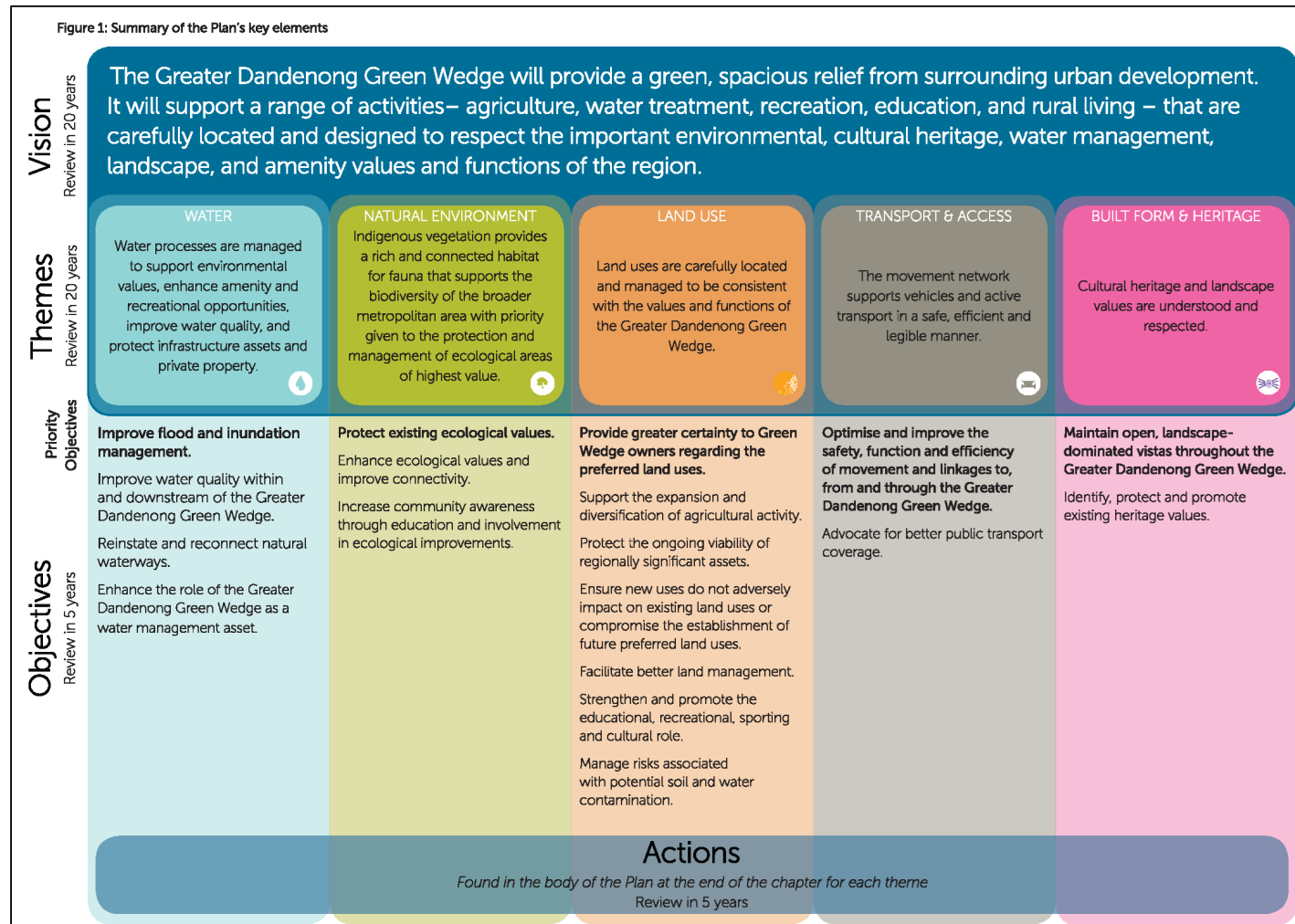
- An annual progress update which is made available to the public on Council's website and at Customer Service locations as appropriate.
- A desktop review of the appropriateness of the objectives and actions of the Action Plan to be presented as a formal report to Council every five years.
- A full review of the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge Management Plan in 2034.

In 2020 the first desktop review of the appropriateness of the objectives and actions of the Action Plan was presented to Council. It found that overall, the GWMP was progressing well, with work commencing, or being completed, across all five themes.

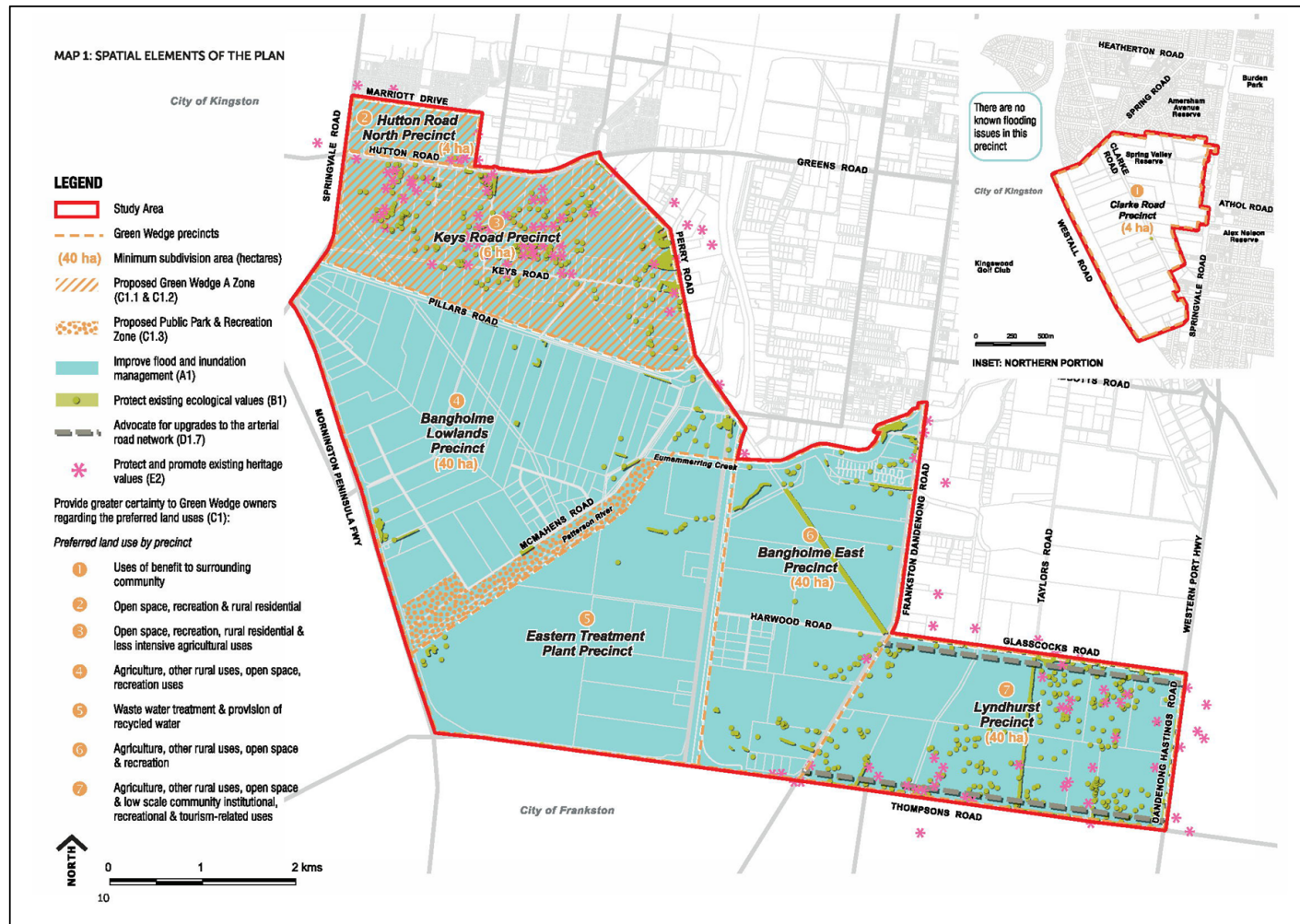
All but 10 per cent of actions had commenced in some way. It found that over the next 5 years (to 2025), the implementation focus should adjust from applying planning controls and policy, to education and advocacy.

As a further 5 years has now elapsed, a second desktop review is due, which is the subject of this report.

Figure 1: Summary of the GWMP key elements



Map 1: Spatial elements of the GWMP



Desktop review of the Green Wedge Management Plan

A desktop review of the appropriateness of the objectives and actions of the Action Plan has been conducted, in line with the monitoring requirements of the GWMP.

Each of the 18 objectives and 94 actions have been reviewed for their appropriateness and progress to completion.

As part of the implementation of the GWMP, a monitoring and review program was developed.

This involves:

Action	Progress comment (since 2020)
An annual progress update on the implementation of the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge Management Plan, which will be made public on Council's website and at Customer Service locations as appropriate.	Progress update May 2020 Progress update August 2021 Progress update August 2022 Progress update June 2023 Progress update March 2025
A desktop review of the appropriateness of the objectives and actions of this Action Plan will be presented as a formal report to Council every five years.	First review occurred in 2019/2020. Second review (this project) occurred in 2024/2025
A full review of the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge Management Plan in 2034.	To commence in 2034

It is important to note that the GWMP has staged timelines for implementation. These consider the complexity and nature of each action, some of which require further investigation or collaboration with other parties before they can be implemented.

The timing of the GWMP actions is:

Immediate actions – to commence within 18 months (before 2017).

Short-term actions – to commence within 18 months – 5 years (before 2021).

Medium-term actions – to commence within 5 – 10 years (before 2026).

Long-term actions – to commence within 10 – 20 years (before 2036); and

Ongoing actions

Please note that there are no long-term actions listed in the GWMP.

Summary of achievements to date

Immediate actions

Immediate Actions were to commence before 2017. Of the 28 Immediate Actions, 19 have been completed and all have commenced.

Action A1.4 which for the past decade has been cost prohibitive, has now commenced. South East Water is now planning the Dingley Recycled Water Scheme, which will deliver recycled water from the Eastern Treatment Plant to 40 sites across Greater Dandenong, Kingston, Monash and Bayside Local Government Areas.

Short-term actions

Of the 27 short-term actions (which were to commence before 2021) twelve have now been completed. This is up from seven completed actions five years ago. A further 15 have commenced and there are no actions that are yet to commence (there were four at the time of the last review).

Medium-term actions

The medium-term actions are scheduled to commence before 2026. Of the eight actions, one has been completed and is ongoing and the other seven have all commenced.

Ongoing

Of the 31 'ongoing' actions, all bar one has commenced. This action relates to the creation of the Land Care group in the green wedge, which to date has had no traction.

Overall, of the 94 actions:

- 42per cent have been completed (up from 35per cent in 2020)
- 6per cent have been completed and are ongoing (up from 4per cent in 2020)
- 51per cent have commenced or have commenced and are ongoing (unchanged from 2020)
- 1per cent have had no action to date (down from 10per cent in 2020).

Appropriateness of the objectives

A desktop assessment of the 'appropriateness' of the objectives has been conducted and is based on the table below.

Objective	Criteria
Relevant	Implementation remains important to the ongoing progression of the GWMP.
Not relevant	Implementation and the focus of the objective has shifted since 2014 plan/2020 review and is no longer important to the ongoing progression of the GWMP. This could be due to State Government policy, Council policy or external factors.

Each of the five themes was given a 'priority objective' for achievement in the first five years of the GWMP.

The following table lists each theme, its vision and objectives (with the priority objective highlighted).

An observation regarding that objectives' appropriateness and a progress comment is given for each.

GWMP Objectives and progress to date

Theme	Vision	Objective	Appropriateness	Action Progress	Comment
Water	Water processes are managed to support environmental values, enhance amenity and recreational opportunities, improve water quality, and protect infrastructure assets and private property.	A1 Improve flood and inundation management	Relevant	2 complete 6 commenced	Remains the priority objective for this theme and is progressing well. Council's knowledge of flooding in the green wedge has increased greatly and several major flood mitigation measures have been implemented. Further flood modelling and mapping is currently being undertaken and is expected to be completed by mid-2025.
		A2 Improve water quality within and downstream of the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge	Relevant	1 complete 4 commenced	Improvements in water quality are occurring and there is greater monitoring of water quality. Several actions regarding water quality monitoring and advocacy actions for Melbourne Water remain ongoing.
		A3 Reinstate and reconnect natural waterways	Relevant	3 commenced	Some progress is being made with Council having discussions regarding the naturalisation of creeks across the municipality.
		A4 Enhance the role of the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge as a water management asset	Relevant	2 complete 2 commenced	South East Water is currently planning the Dingley Recycled Water Scheme, which will deliver recycled water to around 40 sites in the Greater Dandenong, Kingston, Monash and Bayside Local Government Areas. The scheme involves the design and construction of a transfer main to bring recycled water from the Eastern Treatment Plant to these sites.
Natural Environment	Indigenous vegetation provides a rich and connected	B1 Protect existing ecological values	Relevant	3 complete 3 commenced	Remains the priority objective for this theme and progress on it continues. Council now has the <i>Greater Dandenong Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2025</i> which

Theme	Vision	Objective	Appropriateness	Action Progress	Comment
	habitat for fauna that supports the biodiversity of the broader metropolitan area with priority given to the protection and management of ecological areas of highest value.				includes a deliverable to protect existing ecological values, including the facilitation of a weed management program and ways to encourage private landowners to protect existing remnant flora and fauna.
		B2 Enhance ecological values and improve connectivity	Relevant	6 complete 6 commenced	<p>This objective has progressed very well over the past five years as the focus has shifted from 'protecting' to 'enhancing'.</p> <p><i>The Greater Dandenong Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2025</i> has actions such as tree giveaways for landowners through the Gardens for Wildlife program.</p> <p>In late 2024, 3600 free indigenous plants were given out to green wedge property owners by Council for planting.</p>
		B3 Increase community awareness through education and involvement in ecological improvements	Relevant	4 complete 1 no action	<p>Council's Environmental Education Electric Van was purchased in 2023 and is taken to most Council-run events and visits schools.</p> <p>There remains no Landcare group in Greater Dandenong.</p>
Land Use	Land uses are carefully located and managed to be consistent with the values and functions of	C1 Provide greater certainty to Green Wedge owners regarding the preferred land uses	Relevant	5 complete	Completed

Theme	Vision	Objective	Appropriateness	Action Progress	Comment
	the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge.	C2 Support the expansion and diversification of agricultural activity	Relevant	3 complete 4 commenced	There has been good progress for this objective with several actions ongoing – such as continuing to support the Regional Food Strategy.
		C3 Protect the ongoing viability of regionally significant assets	Relevant	1 complete 1 commenced	There has been good progress for this objective. Council continues to cross reference pipeline mapping to ensure the best possible information is used.
		C4 Ensure new uses do not adversely impact on existing land uses or compromise the establishment of future preferred land uses	Relevant	3 complete 1 commenced	There has been good progress for this objective. Council has ongoing contact with Cornish College and the Bunurong Cemetery.
		C5 Facilitate better land management	Relevant	1 complete 1 commenced	This should remain the 'new' priority objective for this theme. Council provided a simple land management plan to green wedge residents in 2020.
		C6 Strengthen and promote the educational, recreational, sporting and cultural role	Relevant	5 commenced	Many of these actions relate to other Council strategies or are advocacy actions that are ongoing as they arise.
		C7 Manage risks associated with potential soil and	Relevant	5 complete 1 commenced	Progress has been made in this area. The planning application for a solar farm at Clarke Road has been approved. Melbourne Water has mapped Groundwater Dependent

Theme	Vision	Objective	Appropriateness	Action Progress	Comment
		water contamination			Ecosystems across its operational area to understand groundwater connectivity.
Transport & Access	The movement network supports vehicles and active transport in a safe, efficient and legible manner.	D1 Optimise and improve the safety, function and efficiency of movement and linkages to, from and through the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge	Relevant	3 complete 5 commenced	This priority objective is progressing well with the current Greater Dandenong Green Wedge Trails (Walking, Cycling, Equestrian) Network Planning and the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge Road Network Planning projects covering off on many of the actions.
		D2 Advocate for better public transport coverage	Relevant	1 commenced	This is a public transport advocacy action that remains ongoing.
Built Form & Heritage	Cultural heritage and landscape values are understood and respected.	E1 Maintain open, landscape-dominated vistas throughout the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge	Relevant	3 complete	Complete and ongoing.
		E2 Identify, protect and promote existing heritage values	Relevant	2 complete 3 commenced	Council is currently developing its 3 rd <i>Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)</i> and many of the actions listed for this objective are being considered.

Summary of desk top review of objectives

All 18 of the objectives are still considered to be of relevance to the GWMP and all have seen progress in the last five years.

Ten years into the GWMP, more short- and medium-term actions have been able to be addressed, particularly for the complex themes of 'Water' and 'Natural Environment'.

The review has found that as other areas of Council devise their strategies, the GWMP is being considered and actions from it are feeding through. For example, several objectives such as B2 and B3 are now gaining traction through the *Greater Dandenong Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2025*. Objective A4 is no longer cost prohibitive (as it was five and ten years ago) and this action is now underway.

Water

This theme continues to progress well and updated flood modelling and mapping for the entire municipality (including the green wedge) is to be completed by mid-2025.

Natural Environment

There has been good progress for this theme over the past five years, with the focus for Council moving from the 'protection' of existing ecological values to 'enhancement'. A large plant giveaway in late 2024 was keenly received by green wedge residents and it would be beneficial to check in with these properties to see how the trees are progressing.

Land Use

Due to the consistent approach from Council over the past 10 years regarding preferred land uses in the green wedge, this theme continues to progress well with the shift in priorities continuing to be towards Objective C5 'Facilitate better land management'. This objective sits neatly in conjunction with Objectives B2 and B3 of the Natural Environment theme and it is recommended that the focus remains on these objectives for the next 5 years.

Transport & Access

Both Objectives D1 and D2 remain appropriate, and work continues achieving both of them. The Walking, Cycling and Equestrian Trails Plan has been developed and is anticipated to be delivered over the next ten to fifteen years.

Built Form & Heritage

A review of the Siting and Design Guidelines occurred in 2024. It found the guidelines are working well. Further guidance regarding bulk earthwork and contractor depot planning applications should be investigated before the next review. Objective E2 is mostly covered by Council's Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), with Council continuing to liaise with the Bunurong Land Council as appropriate.

Appropriateness of actions

A desktop review of the 'appropriateness' (progression and relevance) of the actions has been conducted.




Overall, of the 94 actions:


- 42per cent have been completed (up from 35per cent in 2020)
- 6per cent have been completed and are ongoing (up from 4per cent in 2020)
- 51per cent have commenced/have commenced and ongoing/are ongoing (unchanged from 2020)
- 1per cent have had no action to date (down from 10per cent in 2020).



Timing	No. of actions	Completed	Completed & Ongoing	Commenced	Commenced and ongoing	Ongoing	No Action
Immediate	28	19	-	3	6	-	-
Short	27	10	2	4	11	-	-
Medium	8	-	1	-	7	-	-
Ongoing	31	10	3	1	9	7	1
Total	94	39	6	8	33	7	1
% of total by status	100%	42%	6%	9%	35%	7%	1%



The following table provides a summary of the individual action's progress to date and includes the 2020 progress comment for comparison.





Assessment of Theme A: Water actions of the Green Wedge Management Plan




Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2025 update)
A1.1 Undertake detailed flood inundation mapping for the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge, with consideration for climate change (increased rainfall intensity and increased sea level rise) and projected upstream development.	Commenced 	This action is considered complete as while the entire green wedge has not been mapped, the areas where the worst flooding occurs have been. Mapping has been undertaken for the Keys Road Precinct and Soden Road. Council's knowledge of the constraints of these areas due to flooding has increased greatly.	Council is working with Melbourne Water to update the flood modelling and mapping for the entire municipality, including the green wedge. This mapping is expected to be completed by June 2025. The City's of Monash, Frankston, Knox and Kington are also undertaking a flood mapping program as some catchment areas overlap municipal boundaries. The modelling considers climate change and the base data for rainfall has already been implemented into the model.
A1.2 Advocate for Melbourne Water to review and update the geographical extent of the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge.	Commenced 	Melbourne Water has commenced a review of the flooding controls (zoning and overlays) and been in contact with Council with a view to commencing the Planning Scheme control aspect of this project imminently.	See response to Action 1.1 above.
A1.3 Advocate for Melbourne Water to undertake a risk assessment associated with levee failure in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge.	Completed 	Levee inspections are undertaken on a regular basis as part of Melbourne Water's routine condition monitoring program. The frequency of inspection is based on the hazard consequence rating and are conducted every five years.	Melbourne Water provided no further update.


Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2025 update)
<p>A1.4 Identify mitigation opportunities within the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge which may reduce flood and inundation mitigation in the Green Wedge area and / or adjacent catchments (including retarding basins and other drainage infrastructure).</p>	<p>Commenced and ongoing</p> 	<p>Several major upgrades and improvements have been made to the drainage situation in the Green Wedge since 2014.</p> <p>The construction of a triple pipe outfall from the industrial estates to Mordialloc Creek has been completed.</p> <p>Extensive works have been undertaken alongside Mordialloc Creek. Namely, the removal of the north levee bank that has been replaced by increased retention alongside Mordialloc Creek. This has substantially mitigated flooding immediately north of Mordialloc Creek.</p> <p>Drainage upgrades have also been carried out by Melbourne Water, including the construction of a “low flow” pipe under Springvale Road and Soden Road and a flood warning system for Willow Lodge. Smythes Drain is also no longer connected to Mordialloc Creek, reducing floodwater entering the catchment. Additionally, Council has re-profiled existing open drains and constructed additional open drains to provide additional storage and conveyance capacity in the area. These drainage upgrades will reduce local flood risk.</p>	<p>The flood modelling and mapping project has commenced.</p> <p>Council will continue to collaborate with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change (DEECA) and Melbourne Water to identify opportunities to manage flood impacts in the Green Wedge.</p> <p>There are several projects proposed within the green wedge (subject to funding and prioritisation), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mordialloc Creek Levee – Rehabilitation - Patterson River Levee - Rehabilitation - Eumemmering Creek Levee – Rehabilitation - Patterson River Jetty – Renewal - Patterson River Weir – Rehabilitation




Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2025 update)
		<p>Significant cleanout works of drains have also been undertaken by Council and Melbourne Water since 2011.</p> <p>The Greater Dandenong Integrated Water Management Plan project which commenced in 2013 has not progressed. However, Council is a member of the DELWP Dandenong Integrated Water Management Forum which discusses and prioritises integrated water planning and management in this area.</p>	
A1.5 Advocate to identify flood management requirements in catchments adjacent to the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge, consistent with flood management predictions.	<p>Commenced and ongoing</p> 	<p>The construction of a triple pipe outfall from the industrial estates to Mordialloc Creek has assisted with reducing upstream flooding.</p> <p>The retention system south of Lyndhurst and the Thompson Road retarding basin has also assisted with flood mitigation. Council will continue to advocate for flooding improvements.</p>	<p>The flood modelling and mapping project has commenced.</p> <p>Council will continue to collaborate with Melbourne Water to identify flood mitigation, water quality or any other integrated water management opportunities.</p>
A1.6 Develop local stormwater drainage master plans consistent with the land use and development objectives of the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge Management Plan. These	<p>Commenced and ongoing</p> 	<p>The <i>Greater Dandenong Sustainable Stormwater Strategy, 2017-37</i> (adopted in January 2018) outlines a 20-year framework for Council and the community to work together to identify, protect and improve Greater Dandenong's stormwater assets, reduce flood risk while welcoming sustainable growth and investment. The</p>	<p>The <i>Greater Dandenong Sustainable Stormwater Strategy, 2017-37</i> action plan was reviewed in 2023.</p> <p>Melbourne Water has developed a <i>Flood Management Strategy Port Phillip and Westernport 2021-31</i>. It sets out the 10-year direction for flood management in the region. It</p>


Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2025 update)
plans should, at a minimum, consider: - structural and non-structural mitigation options to alleviate flood risks in the catchment; and - an integrated approach to water management that includes: water quality improvement and / or alternative water supply opportunities; and cost-benefit analysis of the proposed options.		strategy contains actions in relation to the development of local stormwater drainage master plans. This plan will be reviewed in 2023.	takes a collaborative approach where local and state government, water authorities and emergency services work together to plan for, avoid and reduce flood risks while supporting emergency preparation and response.
A1.7 Apply planning controls (e.g. overlays) for flood-prone areas in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge where appropriate (following A1.1 and A1.2).	Commenced 	Melbourne Water have commenced the mapping for this project and ongoing discussions are occurring between Melbourne Water and Council.	Refer to Action 1.1.
A1.8 As part of information distributed regarding the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge, educate the community about flooding and inundation issues and drain ownership (distribute with B3.4, C5.2, D1.8, E1.3 and E2.6).	Completed 	Information distributed and available on Council's website.	Information distributed and available on Council's website.
A2.1 Investigate methods for funding of future	Commenced	Funding and grants are discussed with Melbourne Water as they arise.	Melbourne Water provided no further update.

Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2025 update)
improvements to water management and quality in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge.			
A2.2 Advocate for the identification of suitable locations for additional water course gauging stations to monitor water flows and quality in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge.	Completed 	The installation of the eastern contour drain water gauge has been completed and is the only location appropriate.	Litter traps are in the Lower Dandenong Creek to monitor the amount of type of litter.
A2.3 Advocate for Melbourne Water to undertake regular monitoring of pollution in creeks and waterways within the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge and in industrial estates upstream of the Green Wedge.	Ongoing 	Melbourne Water report that monitoring is undertaken on a periodic basis – including at Patterson River. Data is collected and uploaded onto the Yarra and Bay website. Council has conducted some monitoring in industrial estates sampling industrial estate water flows.	Melbourne Water monitors water quality at the National Water Sports Centre on a bi-monthly basis throughout the year, with frequency increased to weekly over summer months. Melbourne Water have 5 additional sites across Greater Dandenong which are monitored from bi-monthly to monthly.
A2.4 Continue to support works undertaken by Melbourne Water to improve waterway health in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge.	Ongoing 	Melbourne Water continues to undertake capital projects and maintenance works within the green wedge and this is an ongoing advocacy action for Council.	Melbourne Water continues to undertake capital, maintenance and corrective works within the green wedge to support waterway health improvements.
A2.5 Encourage best practice stormwater management practices within and further	Ongoing	Best practice stormwater management practices were introduced in to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme at Clause	Council will continue to advocate for flooding and water quality improvements in the Green Wedge.

Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2025 update)
upstream of the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge through local policy and Council public space (roads, verges, public land) management techniques.		<p>22.06 in October 2018 (via Planning Scheme Amendment GC110).</p> <p>Funding from the Melbourne Water 'Living Rivers' program has been received to test discharge from industrial areas.</p> <p>Kerbside Irrigation design and Water Sensitive Urban Design guidelines are being implemented through the planning permit process.</p>	
A3.1 In partnership with Melbourne Water and local land owners, investigate options to improve the concrete-lined sections of channels and other in-stream structures in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge to accommodate natural riverine processes so that the appearance and function of the waterways is ameliorated e.g. by removing the concrete lining.	Commenced and ongoing 	Mile Creek has commenced this naturalisation process.	Council is working collaboratively with Melbourne Water to identify opportunities for naturalisation and removal of concrete-lined sections of channels in the Green Wedge.
A3.2 Investigate, with Melbourne Water and local land owners, opportunities to enhance open spaces and pathway linkages in association with waterway	Commenced and ongoing 	Melbourne Water has developed a website portal called <i>Our Space Your Place</i> . The portal outlines Melbourne Water's land holdings across the greater metropolitan area and is a platform for groups to apply to use Melbourne Water owned land for a range of purposes.	<p>The Patterson River concept plan and the Masterplan for the National Water Sports Centre have been completed and involve both Melbourne Water and Council representatives.</p> <p>Council will continue to advocate for open space opportunities within the Green Wedge.</p>

Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2025 update)
improvements in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge (including as part of A3.1).		<p>Various sections of the open space and pathway network are Melbourne Water owned and various pathway linkages are being considered.</p> <p>The Patterson River concept plan and the Masterplan for the National Water Sports Centre have been completed and involve both Melbourne Water and Council representatives. An example of a new connection is the cycling connection through to Kingston along Thames Promenade.</p> <p>Further engagement between Council and Melbourne Water is required to actively identify open space opportunities within the Green Wedge.</p>	Melbourne Water has developed a process to activate Melbourne owned land holdings, including prioritisation of options for partnerships with Council pending further assessment of public safety (e.g. flooding) risks and impact on services.
A3.3 Advocate for beneficial social, recreational and environmental outcomes to be achieved through the design and management of new and existing waterways in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge (refer to A1, B2, C6 and D1).	Commenced and ongoing 	<p>Drainage schemes have been completed for the Mordialloc Creek and the Eastern Contour Scheme.</p> <p>Melbourne Water recommenced the Healthy Waterways Strategy in the Dandenong Catchment in 2017. As part of this process, active consideration will be provided for beneficial social, recreational and environmental outcomes for waterways in the catchment.</p>	Melbourne Water's <i>Healthy Waterways Strategy 2018-28</i> sets a long-term vision for managing the health of rivers, wetlands and estuaries in the Port Phillip and Westernport region, to protect and improve their value to the community.
A4.1 In partnership with Melbourne Water and local land owners, investigate alternative water	Commenced and ongoing	Discussions have been undertaken regarding recycled water from the Eastern Treatment Plant (ETP) without success as it	South East Water is currently planning the Dingley Recycled Water Scheme, which will deliver recycled water to around 40 sites in the Greater Dandenong, Kingston, Monash and

Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2025 update)
management and supply options in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge including stormwater harvesting and recycled water infrastructure (refer to A1.4).		<p>is currently cost prohibitive for Melbourne Water (due to pumping requirements). The ETP supplies recycled water to the nearby Sandhurst estate in Frankston. This has proven to be cost effective as the water is pumped 'down' from the ETP, not 'up' as is required for properties in Greater Dandenong.</p> <p>Water harvesting within the Lyndhurst industrial estate has been discussed but currently there is very low incentive to harvest roof water.</p> <p>This may change in the future as costs come down. Council will continue to advocate for these alternative water supply options.</p>	<p>Bayside Local Government Areas. The scheme involves the design and construction of a transfer main to bring recycled water from the Eastern Treatment Plant to these sites.</p> <p>Council will work with South East Water and DEECA to identify any opportunity to have a stormwater harvesting system along Pillars Road or have recycled water pipes extended to Councils Parks and Reserves.</p>
A4.2 Ensure that transport infrastructure projects are supported by Environmental Management Plans that address localised impacts on water and environmental resources.	Ongoing 	<p>Environmental Management Plans are prepared for these types of projects.</p> <p>The Mordialloc Freeway upgrade project has considered local impacts on water and environmental resources.</p>	Environmental Management Plans are prepared for these types of projects.
A4.3 Investigate opportunities for Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR), via designated stormwater collection areas, infiltration ponds or galleries to improve water quality and availability.	Completed 	This was investigated in 2017 and opportunities for this type of storage have not yet presented themselves.	Opportunities for this type of storage have not yet presented themselves.

Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2025 update)
A4.4 Investigate incentives and controls to encourage individual land owners to install on-site water storage infrastructure.	Completed 	This is encouraged and implemented through the planning permit process which has Environmentally Sustainable Development requirements via the introduction of Planning Scheme Amendment GC110 in October 2018.	Completed.

Summary observations for the Water Theme


Of the 20 actions, all have commenced, been investigated, or have been completed.


Action A1.4 which for the past decade has been cost prohibitive, has now commenced. South East Water is now planning the Dingley Recycled Water Scheme, which will deliver recycled water from the Eastern Treatment Plant to 40 sites across Greater Dandenong, Kingston, Monash and Bayside Local Government Areas.




Recommendation


Continue to monitor progress of actions within Theme A.



Assessment of Theme B: Natural Environment actions of the Green Wedge Management Plan


Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2025 update)
<p>B1.1 Facilitate the undertaking of further flora and fauna assessments, building on Biosis' and others' past work, to enable a greater understanding of the extent of remnant flora and fauna within the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge. This should include consideration of aquatic habitats, significant species and communities, weeds (to determine their presence, distribution, threat and therefore priority for removal) and areas and reserves where biodiversity management plans should be prepared (refer to B1.2 and E2.4). It should also determine how vegetation and threatened species should be monitored and consider</p>	<p>Commenced and ongoing</p> 	<p>Further work by Biosis was undertaken in 2018 looking at the presence and general condition of native vegetation and fauna habitat in the green wedge. Incidental observations of notable weed infestations and areas of eucalypt regeneration were also documented.</p> <p>The final report formed part of Planning Scheme Amendment C205 – making the interim Vegetation Protection Overlay permanent. The <i>City of Greater Dandenong Green Wedge Biodiversity Management Planning Controls: Advice for ongoing protection (2018)</i> is a reference document in the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme. However, there are several issues that require further investigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A detailed assessment of the distribution of weeds to definitively characterise the threats and management constraints associated with weeds throughout the Green Wedge, as per implementation of Action B1.5 in the Green Wedge Management Plan. This needs to include the management of both existing weeds (such as Gorse) but 	<p>Weed management continues to be an issue in the Green Wedge.</p> <p>Action 3.1 of the Greater Dandenong Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2025 is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to implement and support the actions in the Green Wedge management plan <p>Deliverables at 3.11 include to protect existing ecological values, including the facilitation of a weed management program and ways to encourage private landowners to protect existing remnant flora and fauna. Council manages all of its public land through weed control, mowing, bushland management, reactive tree management and ad hoc observations and monitoring, including during routine maintenance of public land.</p> <p>Council's <i>Greening Our City – Urban Tree Strategy 2018-2028</i> seeks to increase the canopy cover across the municipality to 15 percent by 2028. There are limited opportunities for tree planting on public land in green wedge (due to the lack of public land). On private land</p>



Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2025 update)
recommendations for protection (refer to B1.7).		<p>also of emerging weeds (such as Alligator weed).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The threat posed by Brushtail Possums – previous work by Biosis Research (2011) recommends to 'Monitor the condition of the large trees and take action as appropriate, for example by installing tree guards to prevent possum damage.' <p>Further monitoring and education for the community is needed to inform that if 'x' weed is present, they should contact 'x' person. There are also fire risks associated with high gorse fuel loads and Council can issue notices for noxious weed infestations.</p> <p>Council should develop a fact sheet for land owners on enhancing the resilience of red gums from pests.</p>	<p>this is encouraged through the Gardens for Wildlife program.</p> <p>A fact sheet on looking after river red gums was developed in 2020 and is available on council's website.</p>
B1.2 Facilitate where appropriate the development of biodiversity management plans in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge for specific areas and reserves identified (following B1.1).	<p>Commenced and ongoing</p> 	<p>Bowmans Reserve on Chapel Road (Council reserve) have a management plan and Council will facilitate these where appropriate as they arise.</p> <p>Council will write to all landowners providing a sample of a simple management plan that could be applied to properties to protect and enhance biodiversity and increase local amenity.</p>	<p>A simple land management plan was devised in 2020 and is available on Council's website.</p>



Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2025 update)
B1.3 Apply planning controls (e.g. overlays, local planning policies) to areas of existing significant ecological value and associated values in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge (following B1.1 and B2.2 and revising controls applied in B1.6).	Completed 	Planning Scheme Amendment C205 to replace the interim Vegetation Protection Overlay with permanent vegetation controls for native vegetation above a certain size was approved and gazetted on 4 October 2019.	Completed.
B1.4 Identify, assess and implement appropriate methods (for example grants, advice, incentives and information sheets) to encourage private land owners to protect existing significant remnant flora and fauna biodiversity, and measures to enhance what remains through natural regeneration and revegetation.	Commenced and ongoing 	Council has registered its interest in the 'Gardens for Wildlife' Program which was started by Knox City Council and is designed to encourage residents and businesses to create an area in their garden to support local wildlife. This can be done by providing habitat planted with locally indigenous, Australian native or suitable introduced species. When grant opportunities come up for Council land in the Green Wedge, Officers will seek to take advantage of that.	Council formally established the Greater Dandenong Gardens for Wildlife Group in 2022. So far there have been over 30 visits to resident's gardens and 1890 indigenous plants provided to residents to be used in their garden. In late 2024, all green wedge properties were invited to collect free indigenous plants from Council. 24 properties took up this offer, with 3600 trees given away to be planted on green wedge properties.
B1.5 Facilitate a weed eradication and management program for the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge including works on private land,	Commenced and ongoing 	Council actively manage weeds on Council owned reserves and roadsides. Landowners are required under the Catchment and Land Protection Act, 1994 to manage noxious weeds on their properties.	A managing weed species fact sheet was developed in 2020 and is available on Council's website. Council actively manages weeds on Council owned reserves and roadsides.



Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2025 update)
incentives, education and advice (following B1.1; refer to B1.7).		<p>The management of noxious weeds is enforced through Council's local law. However, most enforcement is reactive (through reports from the community).</p> <p>Further public engagement is required in the Green Wedge to advise and educate landowners about weed eradication and management programs. This could be linked to the information distributed yearly to properties on Council's Fire Prevention List which explains what fire prevention measures should be taken and by what date. This includes information regarding what kind of weeds and grasses are a fire danger.</p>	
B1.6 Apply an interim Vegetation Protection Overlay to protect existing native vegetation, particularly remnant River Red Gums (with an exemption for trees below 2m or single trunk circumference of less than 0.5m at 1m height above ground level) (update these controls and seek to make them permanent as part of B1.3).	<p>Completed</p> 	Amendment C143 introduced an interim Vegetation Protection Overlay in to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme in August 2017.	Completed.



Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2025 update)
B1.7 Monitor vegetation and threatened species (following B1.1).	Commenced and ongoing 	The <i>City of Greater Dandenong Green Wedge Biodiversity Management Planning Controls: Advice for ongoing protection (2018)</i> included a desktop review of vegetation coverage for the Green Wedge which provides a baseline for future monitoring.	Canopy coverage across Greater Dandenong, including the green wedge is now being measured every 2 years. Land in the Green Wedge Zone and Green Wedge A Zone is being measured. The 2020 data showed a canopy coverage of 7% for rural land (Green Wedge and Green Wedge A Zoned land), with the 2023 data showing a growth in this coverage to 11%. Council promotes the use of the iNaturalist app so residents can record sightings of flora and fauna in Greater Dandenong. Council also participates in the 'Biodiversity Blitz' each September.
B1.8 Undertake other measures to protect important flora and fauna (following B1.1 and B1.7; to complement B1.3).	Commenced and ongoing 	Amendment C205 to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme has introduced a permanent Vegetation Protection Overlay over the main portion of the Green Wedge which requires a planning permit to remove native trees of a certain size. Other measures are ongoing advocacy and Clause 52.17 Native Vegetation of the Planning Scheme.	Advocacy in this space is ongoing regarding Clause 52.17. In December 2023, Council endorsed the Tree Protection on Private Land Local Law 2023. A permit is now required for the removal of any tree with a trunk diameter equal to or greater than 40cm measured at 1.4 metres above ground level and/or any tree planted because of a replanting condition of a permit issued for the removal of a protected tree.




Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2025 update)
<p>B2.1 Identify opportunities and methods to create and/or enhance habitat links that increase connectivity in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge, particularly for aquatic species and mobile canopy-dwelling native fauna in collaboration with local land owners (refer to B2.2 for follow-up action).</p>	<p>Commenced and ongoing</p> 	<p>Amendment C143 introduced Clause 22.02-3 Green Wedge Policy 'Environment' in to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme which states it is policy to encourage the creation of an integrated network of public open space and conservation experiences that link to and through the Green Wedge.</p> <p>Council adopted its '<i>Greening Our City Urban Tree Strategy 2018-2028</i>' in July 2018 which aims to increase canopy coverage across Greater Dandenong to 15% (from the current 9.9%) by 2028. The Green Wedge currently sits at 6% coverage. An action of this Strategy is to investigate opportunities for establishing wildlife corridor links where appropriate.</p> <p>Council has signed up to the <i>Living Melbourne: our metropolitan urban forest</i> strategy which focuses on increasing canopy coverage across Greater Melbourne.</p> <p>Council continues to advocate to Melbourne Water (as a major landholder) in the Green Wedge. Melbourne Water manage the Dandenong Creek, an area where further habitat connections could occur.</p>	<p>As per the Living Links Mapping the Gaps 2020 report, Melbourne Water is working on a significant section of Mordialloc drain within the Green Wedge, replacing extensive sections of woody weeds with appropriate habitat.</p> <p>Melbourne Water is also currently initiating tree canopy projects along Dandenong creek as part of its Vegetation for Amenity program.</p> <p>There has been significant habitat corridor enhancement work upstream along the Dandenong Creek over the past 5 years as part of Peri-Urban Weed Management Partnership Grant and as part of the State Government's 'Our Catchments, Our Communities' program.</p> <p>Council planners continue to examine habitat links as relevant planning permit applications arise.</p> <p>Council's Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2025 has actions such as tree giveaways for landowners through the Gardens for Wildlife program.</p> <p>In late 2024, 3600 indigenous plants were given out to green wedge property owners by Council for planting.</p>




Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2025 update)
		Council planners will continue to examine habitat links as relevant planning permit applications arise.	
B2.2 Assess and implement methods to create and/or enhance identified habitat links in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge (e.g. land acquisition, leasing) (refer to B1.3).	Commenced 	This has not been actioned to date. As it is a 'Short term' action it is not due to commence until 2021.	Council's Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2025 has actions such as tree giveaways for landowners through the Gardens for Wildlife program. In late 2024, 3600 indigenous plants were given out to green wedge property owners by Council for planting. Appendix 7 of the Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2025 has identified locations across Greater Dandenong for potential connectivity sites and areas. Only a small area in the north of the green wedge has been identified at this stage.
B2.3 Identify opportunities in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge where new and existing wetlands/ billabongs, watercourses and retarding basins could be established and improved, specifically to improve fauna habitat (e.g. for native fish and amphibians) (refer to A1.4).	Commenced and ongoing 	Amendment C143 introduced Clause 22.02-3 Green Wedge Policy 'Environment' in to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme which states it is policy to encourage the creation of an integrated network of public open space, wetlands/billabongs and other conservation experiences that link to and through the Green Wedge. As part of the Enhancing Our Dandenong Creek project, Melbourne Water are enhancing or creating 20 wetland or Billabong habitats along the Dandenong Creek Corridor, between Heathmont and	The second stage of Melbourne Water's <i>Enhancing Our Dandenong Creek</i> project is now underway, and ponds continue to be stocked with native fish. Melbourne Water continues to identify opportunities for the inclusion and creation of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) elements through our offsets program and offer funding for works through our incentives program. Council planners and the Council drainage engineers will continue to identify further opportunities as relevant planning permit applications/public works arise.



Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2025 update)
		Dandenong. The purpose of these works is to aid the recovery of threatened native fish (dwarf galaxias and Yarra pygmy perch). The project includes sites within the City of Greater Dandenong area along Dandenong Creek, south of Brady Road. The ponds have been installed but do not yet have fish in them as levels and conditions need to be right before the release of such threatened species. Maintenance, monitoring and modification will take place throughout 2019/2020. Council planners and the Council drainage engineers will continue to identify further opportunities as relevant planning permit applications/public works arise.	
B2.4 Facilitate the design, creation and management of retarding basins and wetlands in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge (following A1.4 and B2.1).	Commenced and ongoing 	In collaboration with Melbourne Water, the north levee bank along the Mordialloc Creek is to be removed and replaced with increased retention system. Council planners and the Council drainage engineers will continue to identify further opportunities as relevant planning permit applications/public works arise.	Council will continue to advocate for the creation and management of retarding basins and wetlands in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge. Once the flood modelling and mapping for the area is complete, it will be clearer as to where retarding basins and wetlands should be located.
B2.5 Apply planning controls to encourage appropriate revegetation along areas identified to provide habitat links and	Completed 	Amendment C143 introduced Clause 22.02-3 Green Wedge Policy 'Environment' in to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme where it is policy to encourage the creation of an	Completed.

Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2025 update)
connectivity in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge (refer to B2.1 and B2).		integrated network of public space, wetlands/billabongs, recreational, conservation and cultural facilities and experiences that link to and through the Green Wedge Amendment C205 to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme has also introduced a permanent Vegetation Protection Overlay over the main portion of the Green Wedge.	
B2.6 Investigate the use of native vegetation offsets within the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge to establish permanently protected areas of native vegetation.	Completed 	There are limitations to achieving offsets under the current State Government criteria and are therefore unlikely to be achieved. This Action and Action B2.9 both relate to climate mitigation and should be implemented in tandem. As it is a 'Short term' action it is not due to commence until 2021.	There are limitations to achieving offsets under the current State Government criteria and are therefore unlikely to be achieved. Refer to Action B2.9.
B2.7 Investigate the acquisition of land to increase the extent of public open space reserves within the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge and improve habitat links as well as pedestrian, cycle and equestrian	Completed and ongoing 	Council is currently undertaking a review of the <i>Greater Dandenong Open Space Strategy (2009)</i> . As part of this work Public Open Space Selection Guidelines are being developed to provide guidance on the purchase of land for public open space purposes, including land within the green wedge. Consideration of matters including land size, location, demand and constraints will ensure the expenditure of Council funds and the expansion of the public open space network are undertaken appropriately.	Council adopted its Public Open Space Acquisition and Improvement Policy in 2020 which provides guidance on the purchase of land for public open space purposes, including land within the green wedge. An equestrian trail is proposed adjacent to Pillars Road on Melbourne Water land. A usage agreement between Council, Melbourne Water and South East Water is currently being drafted for this purpose.

Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2025 update)
connections (refer to B1 and C6.5).		Council is investigating the feasibility of Ordish Road Reserve being used for horse float storage for the green wedge. All other pedestrian, cycle and equestrian links will be contained in Council's road and drainage reserves.	As roads within the green wedge are renewed, Council continues to consider pedestrian and shared path facilities.
B2.8 Continue to facilitate habitat connectivity improvements through the South East Green Wedge (coordinating with the City of Kingston, City of Frankston and the City of Casey) and the Living Links project by the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (refer to C6).	Commenced and ongoing 	Council is an active member of the Living Links. Council will write to the other green wedge council's and the Catchment Management Authority to gauge interest in wider habitat connectivity improvements.	Council is an active member of the Living Links. Council is also a member of the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (AABR), Eastern Regional Pest Animal Network (ERPAN), and the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA).
B2.9 Investigate opportunities for carbon sinks in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge.	Completed 	A large piece of land will be required in order to achieve a carbon sink. This action and Action B2.6 both relate to climate mitigation and should be implemented in tandem. As it is a 'Short term' action it is not due to commence until 2021.	SECCCA in 2023 commissioned a carbon sink study. The aim of the study was to investigate cost-effective carbon sequestration opportunities and co-benefits for the SECCCA region. Greater Dandenong was found to have limited eligible land for new environmental planting projects and soil carbon projects had a poor viability. It was recommended that Council could collaborate with other members of SECCCA for more viable carbon sink projects in

Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2025 update)
			neighbouring local government areas (such as Bass Coast and Mornington Peninsula Shires).
B2.10 Encourage the exploration of renewable energy opportunities, particularly in association with major infrastructure, water treatment and land rehabilitation activities (refer to Clarke Road Precinct on Map 1).	Completed 	Current planning application (PLN18/0688) is being assessed for a solar farm on this site.	Planning permit PLN18/0688 for the use and development of the land for a renewable energy facility (solar energy facility) was issued at the direction of VCAT in September 2021.
B2.11 Investigate methods for funding ecological improvements in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge.	Commenced 	Investigations remain ongoing but there is no funding available at this stage. Council's Parks team will continue to advocate to Melbourne Water to carry out further ecological improvements on their land. The Gardens for Wildlife Program offers a further opportunity in this area.	The Gardens for Wildlife Program offers a further opportunity in this area. In late 2024, 3600 indigenous plants were given out to green wedge property owners by Council for planting.
B2.12 Work with local indigenous nurseries to establish and source plants for revegetation of private and public land.	Completed 	Ongoing role for council owned land. The Gardens for Wildlife Program offers a further opportunity in this area. As it is a 'Short term' action it is not due to commence until 2021.	All the Gardens for Wildlife plants provided to residents are sourced locally and grown by Greenlink Sandbelt Indigenous Nursery in Clayton South.
B3.1 Continue to actively support community participation in major	Completed	There has been no event held in the Green Wedge.	There has been no event held in the Green Wedge.

Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2025 update)
environmental programs (e.g. Clean up Australia Day, National Tree Day, World Environment Day, National Biodiversity Month) in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge.			However, Council's Environmental Education Electric Van was purchased in 2023. The van is taken to most Council-run events and will be visiting schools in 2024. It is a brightly decorated van to draw attention to Council's environmental outreach.
B3.2 Facilitate community participation in managing environmentally significant areas in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge, such as through the establishment of friends' groups and Landcare programs.	No action to date 	There is no Landcare group in Greater Dandenong. A TAFE group is doing some work in the Perry Road Reserve South East (which sits just outside the green wedge).	There is no Landcare group in Greater Dandenong.
B3.3 Encourage community activities and events based around the environment in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge, such as Waterwatch, frog census and wildlife tours.	Completed 	A TAFE group is doing some work in the Perry Road Reserve South East (which sits just outside the green wedge). They will be requested to do a bird watch.	Council promotes the use of the iNaturalist app so residents can record sightings of flora and fauna in Greater Dandenong. Council also participates in the 'Biodiversity Blitz' each September.

Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2025 update)
<p>B3.4 Prepare and distribute information (e.g. Council publications, website, interpretive signage) regarding the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge (distribute with A1.8, C5.2, D1.8, E1.3 and E2.6) that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifies its biodiversity values and the vision for the region; - Discusses regulatory roles and controls; - Includes preferred plant guidelines; and - Identifies ways to protect and enhance biodiversity values and to minimise the impacts of pest plants and animals on local biodiversity. 	<p>Completed</p> 	<p>Information prepared and distributed to owners and occupiers in the green wedge. Fact sheet available on Council's website.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>
<p>B3.5 Investigate the feasibility of establishing an environmental and agricultural centre in the same vein as CERES, Brunswick East or Edendale Farm, Eltham.</p>	<p>Completed</p> 	<p>Council is investigating the purchase of a portable trailer which the waste, parks and sustainability teams can take to events to promote broader sustainability issues.</p>	<p>Council's Environmental Education Electric Van was purchased in 2023. The van is taken to most Council-run events and will be visiting schools in 2024.</p> <p>It is a brightly decorated van to draw attention to Council's environmental outreach.</p>

Summary observations for the Natural Environment Theme

Of the 25 actions, all have either been completed, or have commenced and are ongoing.




There were 8 actions in the last review (in 2019) that had not had any action, with all but one of these now having commenced or being completed. The remaining action relates to the creation of the Land Care group in the green wedge, which to date has had no traction.



The focus for Council over the past five years has been to enhance the ecological values of the Green Wedge. A large plant giveaway in late 2024 was keenly received by green wedge residents and it would be beneficial to check in on these properties over the coming 5 years to track the progress of these plants.




Recommendation




Continue to monitor progress of actions within Theme B.



Assessment of Theme C: Land Use actions of the Green Wedge Management Plan




Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2025 update)
<p>C1.1 Rezone the Hutton Road North Precinct to Green Wedge A Zone, maintaining the existing 4ha minimum lot sizes.</p> <p>Further investigation to determine whether the land should transition to an urban residential use.</p>	<p>Completed</p> 	<p>Implemented by Amendment C143 to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme in August 2017.</p> <p>Council is yet to hear from the Keysborough Golf Course regarding the investigation into whether the land is appropriate to transition to an urban residential use.</p>	<p>Completed.</p> <p>Council is yet to hear from the Keysborough Golf Course regarding their future plans.</p>
<p>C1.2 Rezone the Keys Road Precinct to Green Wedge A Zone maintaining the existing 6ha minimum lot size.</p>	<p>Completed</p> 	<p>Implemented by Amendment C143 to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme in August 2017.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>
<p>C1.3 Rezone the National Water Sports Centre to Public Park and Recreation Zone, reflecting its existing role, land use and ownership.</p>	<p>Completed</p> 	<p>The Planning Panel for Amendment C143 recommended that this rezoning did not proceed until ownership issues were resolved.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>



C1.4 Include the vision, objectives and relevant actions for the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge in the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme (for the vision and objectives refer to Figure 2).	Completed 	Implemented by Amendment C143 to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme in August 2017.	Completed.
C1.5 Revise the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge precincts in the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme including a map of the precinct, the recommended precinct objectives and each precinct's preferred land uses (refer to Map 1 and Figure 5).	Completed 	Implemented by Amendment C143 to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme in August 2017.	Completed.



C2.1 Maintain the 40ha minimum subdivision lot size in the Bangholme Lowlands, Bangholme East and Lyndhurst Precincts.	Completed 	Implemented by Amendment C143 to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme in August 2017.	Completed.
C2.2 Investigate specific agricultural opportunities for the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge (e.g. considering market assessment, access, soil and water quality and water availability including recycled water from the Eastern Treatment Plant).	Commenced and ongoing 	Council has a Dandenong South food focus and makes enquiries concerning wholesale, manufacturing, processing and retail which are all occurring in proximity to the Green Wedge. The State Government is currently reviewing the protection of agricultural land around Melbourne. Following consultation in February and March 2019 DELWP are currently developing a consultation paper outlining potential planning responses to protect and support Melbourne's agricultural land and strengthen green wedge planning controls more broadly. This is due in early 2020.	Council continues to have a food focus in Dandenong South. In March 2024 the State Government released the Planning for Melbourne's green wedges and agricultural land action plan 2024. The plan outlines 20 actions to protect Victoria's green wedges and agricultural land. The actions are grouped under six themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protecting Melbourne's food bowl - Planning for future farming - Securing the right to farm - Establishing stronger protections - Adopting smarter land use - Setting tighter controls.
C2.3 Actively encourage the establishment of niche and specialised agricultural activities in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge, particularly those supporting food security.	Completed and ongoing 	Implemented by Amendment C143 to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme in August 2017. Council provides business development support to retain and attract businesses in Bangholme (for example Craft & Co, the Water Cable Park and the Chinese Equine Centre).	Council continues to provide business development support to retain and attract businesses in the Green Wedge.





C2.4 Support the Greater Dandenong Regional Food	Commenced and ongoing	Continue to support the initiatives in the Regional Food Strategy.	Continue to support the initiatives in the Regional Food Strategy.
C2.5 Facilitate land aggregation and leasing in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge to assist operations needing more land for agricultural viability.	Commenced and ongoing 	Council wrote to all landowners and occupiers offering to act as a go between for any would-be landlords or tenants. To date, there has been no response received. Council remains committed to assisting where possible.	Council remains committed to assisting where possible.
C2.6 Investigate options for assistance and advice to agricultural operators (to work in conjunction with information pack distribution) (refer to A1.8, B3.4, C5.2, E1.3 and E2.6).	Commenced and ongoing 	Benefits from the Greater Dandenong Food Enterprise Program are offered to Green Wedge landholders and producers. Achievements and the activities of Green Wedge food and beverage producers have been featured in the <i>Talking Business</i> magazine and through other Council publications and promotions. Council has representation on the Board of Agribusiness Gippsland to better integrate Gippsland producers with Greater Dandenong food processors/manufacturers and supply chains. Introductions are provided to agribusiness contacts and networks on request. Assistance and advice to agricultural operators remains ongoing.	Assistance and advice to agricultural operators remains ongoing.
C2.7 Include policy statement in the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme to discourage further subdivision of lots in areas where agriculture is established and viable.	Completed 	Implemented by Amendment C143 to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme in August 2017.	Completed.




Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2020 update)
C3.1 Continue to apply planning policies and controls to ensure that land use and development within the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge does not compromise the operation of the regionally significant Eastern Treatment Plant and Dandenong South Industrial 2 Zone.	Completed 	Implemented by Amendment C143 to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme in August 2017.	Completed.
C3.2 Advocate to the State Government to review the major pipeline infrastructure mapping and confirm the applicable measurement length/buffer distances in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge.	Commenced and ongoing 	<p>Council made a submission to the Major Hazards Advisory Committee in 2015 requesting they consider amending the Victoria Planning Provisions to formalise the requirement to refer planning applications to the major pipeline licensees.</p> <p>Since 2013, Council has regularly requested the State Government make corrections to their mapping of major pipeline infrastructure and requested Energy Safe Victoria to continue to advocate to the State Government to revise and update the major pipeline infrastructure mapping. Officers will again request this of the State Government before the next review in 2024.</p>	Council officers continue to cross reference the pipeline mapping on Council's internal mapping software with the mapping shown on the Australian Pipeline Database (APD) to ensure the best possible information is used.




Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2020 update)
C4.1 Include policy statement in the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme to guide appropriate land use and minimise potential for land use conflict in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge.	Completed 	Implemented by Amendment C143 to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme in August 2017.	Completed.
C4.2 Continue to engage with Cornish College and Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (operator of Bunurong Memorial Park) regarding expansion plans so any potential impacts on the operations of the Eastern Treatment Plant and the future of other parts of the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge are minimised.	Commenced and ongoing 	Council continues to have ongoing communication with Cornish College and Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust as appropriate.	Council continues to have ongoing communication with Cornish College and Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust as appropriate.
C4.3 Include policy statement in the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme to ensure that new uses are adequately protected from potential off-site impacts from the legitimate operation of the Eastern Treatment Plant and the Industrial 2 Zoned area.	Completed 	Implemented by Amendment C143 to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme in August 2017.	Completed.

Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2020 update)
C4.4 Include policy statement in the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme to ensure that new residential uses provide adequate protection from the legitimate operations of nearby and future potential activities such as agriculture, recreation, equestrian and sporting activities.	Completed 	Implemented by Amendment C143 to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme in August 2017.	Completed.
C5.1 Assist with the appropriate use of unused and poorly maintained land by establishing and sustaining a database of land owners and interested agricultural, education, recreational, sporting and cultural operators (refer to C2.5 and C6.2).	Commenced 	<p>Council wrote to all landowners in September 2017 to see if there was any interest in this and there has been no response to date.</p> <p>Now that Objective C1 has been satisfied, of providing certainty to landholders regarding the future of the green wedge, Council can concentrate on improving the quality of the land.</p>	Council will write to all landowners to see if there is any interest in this.

Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2020 update)
<p>C5.2 Provide advice and assistance to land owners (refer to B3) regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - methods to maintain and improve land management practices including weed management, appropriate revegetation and options for food production and animal agistment that may compliment residential activities; and - regulations about land fill and the consequences of poor-quality fill. 	<p>Completed</p> 	<p>Information distributed and available on Council's website.</p> <p>Further information to be prepared and distributed in line with Objective B2 and B3.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>
<p>C6.1 Strengthen the passive open space function and cultural role of the Spring Valley Reserve by tree planting and identifying infrastructure upgrades to improve the interface, access, amenity, safety, signage, parking, dog areas and linkages to other open space and active transport routes.</p>	<p>Commenced and ongoing</p> 	<p>The Spring Valley Reserve is currently undertaking a study and works on the ground to deal with the fill and capping layer of the reserve. This needs to occur prior to any tree planting works.</p> <p>The Dog Off-Leash Strategy, 2019 proposes turning the whole reserve in to an off-leash area.</p>	<p>The Spring Valley Reserve has now been capped. The site continues its ongoing post closure monitoring.</p> <p>A new neighbourhood level playground was constructed on the eastern side of the reserve in 2023.</p> <p>Pending Council budget approval, a Masterplan for the whole reserve is proposed for 2024/2025.</p>

Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2025 update)
C6.2 Continue to engage with existing sporting clubs and organisations within the area regarding their ongoing viability and any future plans for expansion or relocation (refer to C5.1).	Commenced and ongoing 	Several clubs have engaged with Council and are either being encouraged to develop a Masterplan (Gaelic Park) or are using Council facilities (White Eagle). Council's <i>Activate Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2014-2019</i> requires review next year which can factor in this Action.	Council continues to engage with the local sporting clubs and have completed a soccer, cricket and AFL club health analysis to understand the health and sustainability of clubs and their respective sporting codes.
C6.3 Continue to engage with Keysborough Golf Club to discuss any future land use changes and opportunities for the development of shared recreation facilities.	Ongoing 	Ongoing as arises.	Ongoing as arises.
C6.4 Continue to engage with Golf Victoria regarding possible merging of golf clubs in the area and the potential for long-term, sustainable use of Green Wedge land for a stand-alone or merged golf club / course.	Ongoing 	Ongoing as arises.	Ongoing as arises.
C6.5 Investigate options to increase the provision of public open space (refer to B2.7 and D1.3).	Commenced and ongoing 	Council is currently undertaking a review of the <i>Greater Dandenong Open Space Strategy (2009)</i> . As part of this work, options to increase the provision of public open space are being investigated.	Council's Open Space Strategy 2020-2030 was adopted in 2020 and provides the following actions for the green wedge: A-1 Implement improved connectivity in the Green Wedge through improved commuter, equestrian and recreational trails and shared paths (including Pillars Road, Riverend Recreational Loop, Patterson River loop).

			<p>A-2 Facilitate opportunities to improve open spaces, connectivity and waterway improvements (in conjunction with Melbourne Water).</p> <p>A-3 Facilitate sustainable transport connection along Perry Rd reserve.</p>
C7.1 Maintain the 4ha minimum subdivision size in the Clarke Road Precinct.	<p>Completed</p> 	Implemented by Amendment C143 to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme in August 2017.	Completed.
C7.2 Engage with the EPA and the former Clarke Road landfill site operators regarding the ongoing management of the site and the Post Closure Pollution Abatement Notice (PC PAN) process.	<p>Completed</p> 	<p>Current planning application PLN18/0688 (Clarke Road) has been referred to the EPA for comment – had no objections</p> <p>PC PAN process ongoing.</p>	<p>Completed.</p> <p>PC PAN process ongoing between site operator and EPA.</p>
C7.3 Engage with the former Clarke Road landfill site operators regarding opportunities for alternative uses such as renewable energy generation (e.g. solar) and passive open space, as compatible with EPA requirements.	<p>Completed</p> 	Current planning application PLN18/0688 (Clarke Road) is being considered by Council for a solar farm.	<p>Completed.</p> <p>Planning permit PLN18/0688 for the use and development of the land for a renewable energy facility (solar energy facility) was issued at the direction of VCAT in September 2021.</p>

C7.4 Ensure that, wherever possible, prior to any earthworks on land identified by the Department of Environment and Primary Industries or Council as having the potential to contain Coastal Acid Sulfate Soils, appropriate soil testing is undertaken.	Completed and ongoing 	Implemented by Amendment C143 to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme in August 2017.	Completed and ongoing. Continue to request soil testing of relevant planning proposals.
C7.5 Engage with Southern Rural Water and Melbourne Water to further the understanding (and knowledge and evidence) of groundwater connectivity, the nature of the water table and its proximity to the land surface, and develop appropriate management actions that respect the groundwater influence on the region.	Commenced and ongoing 	As part of the Planning Permit process, compliance with Council specifications in relation to landfill is strictly enforced. <i>The City of Greater Dandenong Design Manual for the Subdivision of Land (Rev. G August 2017)</i> outlines the procedures to be followed and refers to most standards and requirements when the Engineering department are assessing planning permit applications for subdivision. Council will engage with Southern Rural Water and Melbourne Water before the 2024 review.	Melbourne Water has mapped Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems across its operational area to understand groundwater connectivity. The Dandenong Creek Flow Study includes a groundwater understanding. Southern Rural Water develop resource management plans for groundwater and the Bureau of Meteorology also have resources regarding groundwater.
C7.6 Establish and apply minimum distances between waterways and other land uses (refer to the information contained in Melbourne Water's <i>Waterway Corridors: Guidelines for greenfield development areas within the Port Phillip and Westernport Region</i> (2013) as a guide).	Completed 	Implemented by Amendment C143 to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme in August 2017. Council planners and Council drainage engineers will assess as relevant planning permit applications/public works arise.	Completed

Summary observations for the Land Use Theme

Of the 31 actions, 17 have been completed and the remainder have all commenced.



As part of the last review, it was recommended that Objective C5 'Facilitate better land management' should be the priority objective of this theme for the next five years and for this to be in conjunction with Objectives B2 and B3 of the Natural Environment theme.



Recommendation




Objective C5 to continue to be the priority objective for the next five years.



Continue to monitor progress of actions within Theme C.

Assessment of Theme D: Transport & Access actions of the Green Wedge Management Plan

Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2025 update)
D1.1 Prepare a 'whole of route' way finding strategy to improve connections to key destinations such as the National Water Sports Centre, Jim Harkin Reserve (Gaelic Park), Keysborough Golf Course and Eastern Sward Golf Course.	Commenced and ongoing 	Council has undertaken an exercise to develop a plan for Walking, Cycling and Equestrian Trails within the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge. The Walking, Cycling and Equestrian Trails Plan details the trails proposed to help facilitate this vision. These trails are anticipated to be delivered progressively over the next ten to fifteen years.	The Walking, Cycling and Equestrian Trails Plan details the trails proposed to help facilitate this vision. These trails are anticipated to be delivered progressively over the next ten to fifteen years. An equestrian trail is proposed adjacent to Pillars Road on Melbourne Water land. A usage agreement between Council, Melbourne Water and South East Water is currently being drafted for this purpose.
D1.2 Review the effectiveness of and give recommendations for the improvement of navigation signage associated with the existing trails and paths to, from and through the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge.	Commenced and ongoing 	This project has commenced (see D1.1 above). The effectiveness of the navigation signage has been reviewed and recommendations given which will be the subject of community consultation.	This project has commenced (see D1.1 above).

Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2025 update)
D1.3 Develop recreation walking, cycling and equestrian trails through the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge, linking to the surrounding areas including Kingston and Frankston's Green Wedge areas (refer to C6.5).	Completed and ongoing 	This project has commenced (see D1.1 above) Kingston and Frankston City Councils have been part of the project, and some projects have been completed such as the underpass along Thames Promenade in to Kingston. Bicycle Victoria are aware of project and it also links in to the Greater Dandenong Bicycle Strategy.	This project has been completed and is ongoing as the trails are developed. The Draft Patterson River Concept Plan, 2023 is a holistic plan for the river and its surrounds and is in partnership with the State Government, Greater Dandenong and Kingston Councils. Relevant actions include to widen the existing trails along the river and to create a network of blue and green pedestrian trails to provide interaction with the river and the parklands and provide connectivity to the surrounding residential streets.
D1.4 Plan and commence implementation of an off-road network of shared paths to complete the VicRoads Principal Bicycle Network (PBN) and better connect the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge to surrounding residential areas and activity nodes such as Dandenong, Mordialloc and Carrum.	Commenced and ongoing 	Pillars Road will be included within a Strategic Cycling Corridor (formerly known as the PBN). This project is a priority deliverable and likely to occur at the same time as Pillars Road is to be reconstructed (likely in 2020-2021). State Government grants will be available for this project.	The Pillars Road reconstruction has not yet commenced as it is waiting for a recycled water main to be built underneath the road. When the road is reconstructed, it is envisaged that the road will still be included within a Strategic Cycling Corridor. Pedestrian and shared paths will be delivered alongside identified road renewal areas. Upgrade works to the northern side of Perry Road have commenced. These works include a shared path providing access into the green wedge.

Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2020 update)
D1.5 Investigate the feasibility of an on-road bicycle circuit utilising the Greater Dandenong, Kingston and Frankston Green Wedges, the National Water Sports Centre and Beach Road.	Completed and ongoing 	Have investigated an on-road link between the three Councils of Greater Dandenong, Kingston and Frankston but it is not feasible as it would involve cyclists having to travel along Thompsons Road with its associated industrial traffic. An internal loop within the Green Wedge is an option (Project as detailed in Action D1.1 will look at this).	Refer to 2020 comments
D1.6 Continue to reinforce the hierarchy of the road network, in particular taking care to mitigate any intrusion of through traffic onto local roads.	Completed and ongoing 	Implemented by Amendment C143 to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme in August 2017. As outlined at Action D1.1, road design options are being examined to mitigate through traffic. This is due to the proposed Mordialloc freeway upgrade which is likely to increase through traffic onto local roads in the green wedge.	The road hierarchy continues to be reinforced. Road renewal projects for green wedge roads continue to consider the design and hierarchy of the road to ensure it aligns with the vision for the green wedge.
D1.7 Advocate for upgrades to the arterial road network, initially focussed on addressing capacity constraints on Thompsons Road in the eastbound direction.	Completed and ongoing 	The Thompsons Road upgrade is complete and traffic in the eastbound direction has improved. The Glasscocks Road upgrade is next in partnership with the State Government.	Glasscocks Road continues to be slated for an upgrade which will occur at the appropriate time in line with the industrial development of the wider area.

Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2025 update)
D1.8 Develop and promote publish maps to promote key pedestrian, bicycle and horse riding routes within the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge and wider area (distribute with A1.8, B3.4, E1.3 and E2.6).	Commenced 	Real time maps, which can be easily updated, will be available on Council's website.	This project remains ongoing.
D2.1 Continue to advocate for improved public transport services (frequency and coverage) to service existing and new land uses within the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge, as part of the broader public transport advocacy being undertaken for the municipality by Council.	Ongoing 	<p>The <i>Draft Greater Dandenong Public Transport Advocacy Statement</i> is to launch later in 2019.</p> <p>While the Green Wedge is not a focus, the statement does seek a public transport (bus) route down Perry Road.</p> <p>The statement seeks to link Keysborough South and Dandenong South which will encompass improvements to public transport services through the green wedge.</p>	Council continues to advocate to the State Government regarding its regional bus reviews and continues to advocate that the next region for review should be Melbourne's south-east.

Summary observations for the Transport & Access Theme

All nine actions have commenced for this theme.



Council's Traffic Department has commenced two large projects; *Greater Dandenong Green Wedge Trails (Walking, Cycling, Equestrian) Network Planning* and the *Greater Dandenong Green Wedge Road Network Planning* projects in the past five years. These projects cover off on many of the actions contained in Objective D1.

Objective D2 remains an ongoing advocacy action for Council.

Recommendation




Continue to monitor progress of actions within Theme D.




Assessment of Theme E: Built Form & Heritage actions of the Green Wedge Management Plan


Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2025 update)
E1.1 Include Siting and Design Guidelines for buildings and works in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge as policy in the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme (refer to Siting & Design Guidelines on page 37).	Completed 	Implemented by Amendment C143 to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme in August 2017. Measure effectiveness of controls in 2024 review.	The Green Wedge Management Plan continues to be used to assess applications, as well as provide certainty to applicants through planning advice and pre-application meetings. The built form guidelines are included as appendices in delegate reports for most development applications. In addition, the recent changes to the Planning Scheme to introduce the VPO and Clause 22.06 have also supported the policy objectives and guidelines relating to vegetation protection and sustainable design measures. Council officers reviewed the effectiveness of the Siting and Design Guidelines in 2024, with a commentary on this provided in the Summary observations for the Built Form & Heritage Theme section of this document (see below).
E1.2 Consider applying an overlay to the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge to require a permit for all buildings and works in order to assess the suitability of the proposal in regard to built form, water management and environmental factors (refer to A1 and B1).	Completed 	Local policy 22.02-2 of the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme requires all proposals in the Green Wedge to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to the siting and design guidelines for buildings and works. • Show how development will apply floodplain management measures where relevant. 	Completed.

		<p>The Vegetation Protection Overlay (which covers the main portion of Green Wedge) seeks to protect existing ecological values and create additional habitat and connectivity.</p> <p>An additional overlay was considered but is not required at this stage.</p>	
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Green Wedge Management Plan Five Year Review, 2025

E1.3 As part of information distributed regarding the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge, educate the community about rules regarding rubbish dumping and littering including likely enforcement actions in the event of non-compliance (distribute with A1.8, B3.4, C5.2, D1.8 and E2.6).	Completed 	Information distributed and available on Council's website.	Completed,
E2.1 Encourage Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessments to be undertaken in the highly archaeological sensitive sand bodies located in the north-west and east of the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge through the use of a local policy.	Completed 	Implemented by Amendment C143 to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme in August 2017.	Completed.
E2.2 Work with traditional owners to develop a cultural heritage trail that links the different landforms inhabited and utilised by the traditional Aboriginal owners. Install interpretive signage at designated points along the trail.	Commenced and ongoing 	Action 8: Respect and preserve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage of the <i>Greater Dandenong Reconciliation Action Plan 2017-2019</i> has specific deliverables concerning the mapping of significant sites, a heritage walking trail, bush tucker garden, signage and self-guided tours.	The Dandenong Creek Art Trail has been developed in consultation with the Wurundjeri and Bunurong Land Councils. Council is currently developing its 3 rd Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), and this action will be considered as part of this.

E2.3 Work with Office of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria to develop a database of places and sites of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Significance which can be recognised in educational material.	Commenced and ongoing 	See Action E2.2 above.	<p>Council liaises with the Bunurong Land Council to access this information.</p> <p><i>The Victorian Aboriginal and Local Government Strategy 2021-2026</i> outlines how local government needs to engage with traditional custodians.</p> <p>Within the strategy there are certain deliverables that need to be achieved by Councils.</p> <p>Council is looking to embed this into the development of its latest Council Plan.</p>
E2.4 Undertake a targeted survey of known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites to assess their current condition, including an audit of registered scarred trees.	Commenced and ongoing 	See Action E2.2 above.	<p>Council is aware of the location of some scarred trees. The trees are also protected by the Vegetation Protection Overlay and Local Law.</p> <p>As part of developing the latest RAP, Council will consult with the Bunurong Land Council for their views on this action and to determine if there are further opportunities to increase the protection of these trees.</p>
E2.5 Retain heritage protection for identified post-contact heritage sites, assisting in the presentation and promotion of heritage values.	Commenced and ongoing 	Ongoing as arises.	Ongoing as arises.

Actions to Achieve	Action Progress	5-year review (2020 update)	5-year review (2025 update)
<p>E2.6 Compile and distribute an 'Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Fact Sheet/Booklet' to all land owners and occupiers within the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge (distribute with A1.8, B3.4, C5.2, D1.8 and E1.3), containing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basic information on the 2006 Aboriginal Heritage Act and its implications for developments within the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge. - Information on the site types to be found within the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge using information provided in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge: Aboriginal Heritage Assessment (Benchmark Heritage Management, 2013). - Links to online cultural heritage resources at Office of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria. - Details of the local indigenous communities and organisations who may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Provide advice on cultural matters; · Provide general advice on Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) requirements including a preliminary assessment of the level of cultural heritage assessment required; · Undertake site inspections for land owners within the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge; · Undertake cultural heritage inductions; · Provide education opportunities to local schools; · Provide display materials to the City of Greater Dandenong for use at community/ educational events. These may include stone artefacts, wooden artefacts, old photographs of the area; information about Aboriginal life within the area and cultural practices. 	<p>Completed</p> 	<p>Information distributed and available on Council's website.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>

Summary observations for the Built Form & Heritage Theme

All actions have commenced, with five being completed and the remainder having commenced.

A review of the existing Siting and Design guidelines also occurred through this review period with the following observations:

- The Green Wedge Management Plan continues to be used to assess applications, as well as provide certainty to applicants through planning advice and pre-application meetings.
- The siting and design guidelines are included as appendices in delegate reports for most relevant development applications.
- Areas of potential improvement include:
 - Strengthening current references to 'minimising bulk earthworks and impacts on flooding' and providing further guidelines in the Schedule on the level of information required from an applicant and what the planners need to consider.
 - Possible outcomes of flood mapping data currently being undertaken with Melbourne Water and Council could further inform this.
 - Review preferred land uses in the Green Wedge Management Plan and uses listed in the Zone particularly in relation to contractor depots and vehicle stores. Applications proposing these uses are becoming more frequent, and greater certainty regarding what is acceptable would be beneficial.

Recommendation

Once the Melbourne Water flood mapping has been completed, it would be beneficial to re-examine the current planning scheme references to bulk earthworks and the associated impacts on flooding.

Conduct a desktop study as to how other Council's are managing contractor depots and vehicle stores and look to see if further policy guidance is required in this space from either Council or the State Government.

Continue to monitor progress of actions within Theme E.

Green Wedge Management Plan Five Year Review, 2025

Conclusion

The GWMP has now had its second five-year desktop review examining the appropriateness of its objectives and actions.

Ten years on from its adoption by Council, the GWMP is progressing well, with work commencing, or being completed, across all five themes.

All objectives and actions are still considered relevant, with all but 1 action commencing in some way.

Council will continue to provide a yearly progress update on matters concerning the green wedge, which to date has taken the form of a newsletter, with the next formal report to Council being the next five-year review which will occur in 2030.



4.1.2 Councillor Interstate and Overseas Travel Policy

Responsible Officer:	Chief Executive Officer Manager Governance, Legal & Risk
Attachments:	1. Draft Councillor Interstate and Overseas Travel Policy 2025 [4.1.2.1 - 12 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council ADOPTS the Councillor Interstate and Overseas Travel Policy as per attachment 1 of this report.

Executive Summary

1. The policy if adopted will contribute to Council's good governance framework and ensures interstate and overseas travel undertaken by Councillors remains transparent, accountable and in the best interest of the Greater Dandenong Community.
2. The policy clarifies the approval process, class of travel and accommodation, incidental costs and reporting requirements associated with interstate and overseas travel undertaken by Councillors.

Background

3. Council recognises that on occasions Councillors may need to undertake interstate or overseas travel for official business pertaining to the function of Council and to meet mandatory training requirements as outlined in the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020.
4. The matters set out in this policy supports the Council to comply with the following provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020*:
 - section 42 (Resources and facilities for the Mayor and Councillors);
 - section 40 (Reimbursement of expenses of Councillors).
 - section 57 (Public Transparency Policy), which requires Council to maintain a register of interstate and overseas travel.

Key Issues and Discussion

5. At the Council meeting held 8 April 2024 in the context of considering Councillor attendance at the Local Government Association 2024 National General Assembly council resolved:

"4. officers review associated policies in line with best practice in early 2025 after a new Council term commences."
6. The Councillor Interstate and Overseas Travel Policy has been prepared and is now presented to Council for adoption.



7. The Policy is intended to ensure:

- a transparent approval process for Councillors undertaking interstate or overseas travel;
- all interstate and overseas travel contributes to the achievement of Council objectives and the Council Plan;
- effective reporting mechanisms are in place; and
- the process for reimbursement of expenses associated with travel is clearly outlined.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

8. This item does not have an impact on existing human resources.

Financial/Asset Resource Implications (consider Service Statements, Budget, Long Term Financial Strategy and Asset Plan)

Operating Budget Implications

9. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Legal/Risk Implications

10. There are no legal / risk implications relevant to this report, however if adopted this policy will contribute to Council's good governance framework, specifically in the areas of transparency and accountability.

Environmental Implications

11. There are no environmental implications relevant to this report.

Community Consultation

12. There was no requirement for community consultation.

Links to Community Vision, Council Plan, Strategy, Notice of Motion

13. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:

- Not Applicable

14. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan

15. 2021-25:

- A Council that demonstrates leadership and a commitment to investing in the community.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

16. This report has considered Council's legislative and policy obligations (where applicable) as outlined in the Report Considerations section detailed in the front of this Agenda. The applicable obligations considered and applied are:

- The Overarching Governance Principles of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
- Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.



MINUTE No.83

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Seconded by: Cr Loi Truong

That the item be deferred to the Council meeting on 14 April 2025 so that Council officers can provide further information to Councillors as requested.

CARRIED 10 / 0



Councillor Interstate and Overseas Travel Policy

Policy Endorsement:	Council		
Policy Superseded by this Policy:	Formerly contained in the Greater Dandenong Travel Policy		
Directorate:	Corporate Service		
Responsible Officer:	Manager, Governance Legal and Risk		
Policy Type:	Discretionary		
File Number:		Version No:	01
1 st Adopted by Council	Minute No.	Last Adopted by Council:	Minute No.
Review Period:		Next Review:	

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1. POLICY OBJECTIVE (OR PURPOSE)

This policy has been developed to ensure that interstate and overseas travel undertaken by Councillors in their official roles as Elected Members remains transparent, accountable and in the best interests of the Greater Dandenong community.

This Policy ensures:

- Transparent approval process for Councillors undertaking interstate and overseas travel;
- That all travel contributes to the achievement of Council objectives and the Council Plan;
- Effective reporting mechanisms are in place; and
- Outlines the process for reimbursement of expenses associated with such travel.

2. BACKGROUND

Changes to the *Local Government Act 2020* (LGA2020) made in 2024 require Councillors to participate in ongoing annual professional development (s33A). To achieve this, on occasion, it may be necessary for Councillors to undertake interstate and overseas travel.

Council also recognises that on occasions, Councillors may need to undertake interstate and overseas travel for official business pertaining to the function of Council and Local Community.

The matters set out in this policy, link to s42 of the LGA2020 (Resources and facilities for the Mayor and Councillors) and s40 of the LGA2020 (Reimbursement of expenses of Councillors). A register showing the details of Councillor interstate and overseas travel is published under the provisions of Council's Public Transparency Policy, which is required under s57 of LGA2020.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to all Greater Dandenong City Councillors undertaking interstate or overseas travel in their official capacity as an Elected Member.

4. DEFINITIONS

In this policy:

Official Business means business conducted on behalf of, and approved by Greater Dandenong City Council, to either fulfil a legislative requirement or to achieve a benefit for the municipality.

Interstate Travel means travel within Australia.

Overseas Travel means travel outside of Australian and New Zealand.

5. POLICY

5.1 Advance Approval Prior to Travel

Pre-approval for all interstate and overseas travel by a Councillor seeking to attend events such as Councillor development opportunities (i.e. training, conferences and seminars) and representation at other events that provide significant benefits to the City, should be by resolution of the Council.

The Governance Business Unit will prepare a Council Report which must identify the following:

- Background;
- Purpose of the travel;
- Type of travel (interstate or overseas);
- How the travel meets Council objectives in line with the Council Plan;
- How the travel meets the requirements of ongoing professional development for the Councillor;
- Benefits to Council and/or Community or legislative requirements;
- Transferability of relevant learning outcomes that will occur by undertaking the travel;
- Proposed cost of travel (airfare, accommodation, event registration, meals etc); and
- Name(s) of Councillor(s) to undertake the travel.

Where interstate travel is to be undertaken and timeframes do not permit for approval in advance by resolution of Council, written approval must be sought from the Mayor in consultation with the CEO. In the case of travel by the Mayor, joint written approval must be sought from the CEO and Deputy Mayor.

Councillors must seek approval for all interstate and overseas travel in a timely manner to allow Council to take advantage of early bird discounts.

Where a Councillor undertakes interstate or overseas travel of their own accord, they must not represent Council in any official capacity, without the prior approval via a Council resolution.

5.2 Principles for Approving Travel

When considering the appropriateness of interstate and overseas travel requests, the Council or where appropriate the Mayor in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer must consider:

- Advice from the Commonwealth Government Smart Traveller service regarding any safety or security matters for the destination;
- Whether it is appropriate for Council to be funding the travel;
- Will the travel contribute to the achievement of Council objectives and the Council Plan; and
- Is the proposed means of travel cost effective, with due consideration given to lower emission travel.

5.3 Air Travel

When travelling for official business travel arrangements must represent best-value to Council.

Class of Service - Interstate

Air travel will be by economy class for all Councillors, unless otherwise determined by way of Council resolution or as per Workplace Adjustment Guidelines.

Councillors may upgrade the class of travel at their own expense.

Councillors may accept offers to upgrade by airlines provided there is no extra cost to Council.

Council's, Coordinator Mayor and Councillors Office will be responsible for booking interstate travel.

Airline tickets are not transferable and cannot be used for defraying or offsetting any other costs, including the costs of other persons accompanying a Councillor.

Class of Service - Overseas

When travelling overseas Premium Economy or where this is not available or appropriate business class travel is permitted subject to the best available airfare options being sourced.

Councillors may upgrade the class of travel at their own expense.

Council's, Coordinator Mayor and Councillors Office will be responsible for booking all overseas travel.

Rewards and Loyalty Programs

Councillors are not permitted to use flights paid for by Council to accrue personal travel or loyalty rewards.

5.4 Ground Travel and Transfers

For transfers between the airport and accommodation, the most cost-effective option should be taken (e.g. airport/hotel bus, train or other form of public transport) wherever possible.

For interstate travel, taxi vouchers can be obtained from the Coordinator Mayor and Councillor Office. Any unused taxi vouchers must be returned to the issuing officer immediately after the proposed travel event, including where part or all the proposed travel has not taken place.

Rideshare services may be used if they are determined to be the most practical and cost-effective mode of transport. The cost of travel for rideshare service will need to be paid up front by the Councillor and costs will be reimbursed on presentation of a tax invoice.

Rental Car

If a rental car is required, a car is to be arranged bearing in mind cost and travel requirements.

Parking Fees

Where costs for parking are less than the cost of a return taxi or rideshare fare from the Councillor's private residence to the Airport, Council will meet the cost of airport parking, including the travel cost of the Councillor's private vehicle for the duration of the trip based on Council's travel expenses reimbursement practices.

Use of Private Vehicle

Where a Councillor uses their private vehicle to attend an approved interstate meeting, conference, seminar or engagement the total reimbursement for use of the vehicle shall not exceed the cost of air travel at the specified class including transfers.

Use of Council Vehicle

Permission will be required for use of Council vehicles to travel interstate so long as the cost of the use of the Council vehicle does not exceed the cost of air travel at the specified class including transfers.

Use of Council vehicle must be in accordance with Council's Motor Vehicle Code of Practice.

Where practical it is preferred that Councillors use public transport to move around the area they are located in.

Infringements

The cost of any penalties incurred by the Councillor for road, traffic or parking infringement, or other similar penalties or fines, will not be reimbursed by Council and remain the personal responsibility of the relevant Councillor.

Councillors are also responsible for ensuring they hold the appropriate licenses to drive a vehicle whether hire or personal and must adhere to the local laws both interstate and overseas in relation to driving including blood alcohol limits and drug use etc.

5.5 Accommodation

When travelling for official business travel arrangements must represent best-value to Council.

Accommodation will be at standard hotel/motel business class/4 star in single room accommodation where reasonably possible.

Where possible all accommodation must be pre-booked prior to Councillor travel, with the accommodation venue to charge expenses back to Council.

The cost of non-essential room extras such as the mini bar or in-house movies will not be reimbursed by Council. Refer to section 5.8 *Non-Allowable Expenditure* of this policy.

Where deemed appropriate one (1) additional night's accommodation pre or post event may be approved.

5.6 Meals

Reasonable daily meal costs will be reimbursed by Council on presentation of a tax invoice.

Reasonable daily meals would be considered breakfast lunch and dinner and a light refreshment for morning and afternoon tea, where not otherwise provided.

Reasonable daily meal costs will be based on the Australian Taxation Office's annual determination for Meals and Incidentals when undertaking business related domestic or overseas travel.

5.7 Reimbursement of Incidental costs

All reasonable out-of-pocket expenses will be reimbursed by Council on presentation of a tax invoice. No reimbursement will be made without a tax invoice. Guidelines for the reimbursement of costs to Councillors is detailed in the Councillor Support, Reimbursement and Accountability Policy.

Reasonable expenses include:

- Ground Transfers
- Accommodation
- Meals
- Parking
- Event Registration
- Immigration visa entry and exit fees
- Immigration departure taxes
- Laundry expenses where the travel period exceeds 5 days

Where a Councillor has incurred additional cost not covered by this policy, the Councillor must reimburse Council within 14 days upon return.

5.8 Non-Allowable Expenditure

Council will not reimburse expenditure in relation to the following items:

- Passports associated with overseas travel
- alcohol
- Snacks (except items in 5.6 of this policy)
- Costs associated with accommodation that are outside room and breakfast (ie mini bar, tips and gratuities, (except items in 5.6 of this policy)
- Laundry where the period of travel is less than 5 days,
- Excess baggage claims that are for personal use
- Lost or stolen items (not covered under Council's Travel Insurance Policy)
- Tourism related costs (i.e. Day trips, Sightseeing)
- Reading materials (including newspapers and magazines)
- Traffic, parking or speeding infringement and the like.
- Travel costs not associated with the approved travel
- Entertainment
- Personal gifts, goods, services or souvenirs
- Any cost incurred for family or other persons travelling with the Councillor

5.9 Spouse, Partners and Carers

In instances where a spouse or another family member accompanies a Councillor on an approved trip, the Councillor shall meet the full cost incurred for the accompanying party. These costs should be paid for in full to Council prior to the trip being undertaken, if practicable. Any additional costs incurred by the Councillor, spouse or family member shall be reimbursed to Council within 14 days of return from travel.

Exceptions

If there is no additional accommodation cost for the spouse/family member then Council will bear the full cost of the accommodation.

Where the accompanying person is a person who provides fulltime carer support to the Councillor, council will cover the costs of the accompanying person in accordance with the conditions outlined in this policy and the Councillor Support and Reimbursement Policy.

5.10 Passport and Visas

Councillors travelling overseas are responsible for ensuring they have a current passport and relevant visas.

Costs associated with obtaining and maintaining individual passports will not be reimbursed by Council.

Immigration visa entry and exist fees will be reimbursed by Council.

5.11 Travel Insurance

Council provides comprehensive business travel insurance through JLT Risk Solutions Pty Ltd for all Councillors.

Individual Councillor are responsible for checking the applicability of the travel insurance provided by Council against their personal needs. If a Councillor requires additional coverage the cost will be borne by the Councillor.

5.12 Injury or Illness

Councillors who suffer from injury or illness preventing them from attending pre-approved travel, should notify the Mayor and CEO in writing immediately, preferably with enough notice for Council to either substitute an alternative Councillor or to cancel the intended travel and accommodation arrangement and any associated fees.

Failure to inform Council of non-attendance may result in Council seeking reimbursement from the Councillor.

5.13 Council Owned Devices and Network Access

In accordance with Council's Information Security Policy, Council owned devices (iPhones, iPads, Laptops etc) must not be taken overseas. Councillor not located in Australia will be blocked from accessing the Council network remotely.

In accordance with Council's Mobile Device Policy global/overseas roaming for international calls will NOT be enabled for Council issued devices.

Exemption to this directive may be granted on a case-by-case basis. Requests for exemptions must be submitted in writing to the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Information Officer. The request will be reviewed based on necessity and security measures in place. Approval must be obtained prior to taking any Council owned device overseas. Failure to comply may result in a breach of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct.

5.14 Reporting Requirements and Public Register Compliance

A post detailed written report must be submitted to Council by the Councillor(s) who have travelled interstate or overseas on official business within three (3) Council Meetings upon return. The report shall provide comment on the following:

- Summary of the purpose of the travel;
- How the travel contributed to the achievement of Council objectives and the Council Plan;
- Contribution to Councillor's professional development;
- Contribution to the Local Community;
- Learning Outcomes; and
- Recommendations for further action (if relevant).

Where a Councillor has attended an interstate training, conference or seminar (professional development) the Councillor must give a verbal report at an open meeting of Council during Reports from Councillors/Delegates and Councillor Questions at the first available Council Meeting upon their return, noting a report will be submitted to a subsequent Council Meeting.

Where more than one Councillor has attended the same interstate training, conference or seminar a nominated Councillor may speak on behalf of all Councillor attendees.

Councillors who have undertaken interstate or overseas travel are responsible for submitting a Travel Register form within 14 days upon return, including all supporting documentation and tax invoices (or equivalent for overseas travel) relating to the cost of the travel to the Governance Business Unit for inclusion in Council's Travel Register.

The date and minute number of the resolution of Council approving interstate or overseas travel must be recorded in the Interstate and Overseas Travel Register. Where travel has been approved by the Mayor, CEO and/or Deputy Mayor the approving authority and date approved must be recorded in the Interstate and Overseas Travel Register.

5.15 Remote attendance

Where available and appropriate Councillors are encouraged to attend interstate and overseas training, conferences and seminars remotely to reduce costs to Council.

6. RESPONSE TO THE OVERARCHING GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020

The overarching Governance Principles of the Local Government Act 2020 have been considered and addressed in the development of this Policy.

7. HUMAN RIGHTS, GENDER EQUALITY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND CHILD SAFE COMPLIANCE

Greater Dandenong City Council policies comply with the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities, the Gender Equality Act 2020, the Climate Change Act 2017 and the Child Safe Standards contained in the Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Amended).

Response to Climate Change

When making transport arrangements for all interstate and overseas travel strong consideration must be given to offsetting carbon emissions in line with Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan.

8. RESPONSIBILITIES

Councillors are responsible for:

- Ensuring they understand and comply with the requirements of this Policy;
- Providing relevant information to the Co-ordinator Mayor and Councillors Office to assist with the preparation of a report to Council seeking approval for travel;
- Ensuring they have the relevant current travel documents (passport, visa);
- Ensuring the applicability of Council's travel insurance against their personal needs;
- Ensuring they confirm all flights before travel and arrive in a timely manner to proceed through check-in and security procedures;
- Submitting a post travel report to Council outlining the outcomes and benefits of the travel within three (3) Council Meetings of returning; and
- Submitting a Travel Register form to the Governance Business Unit within 14 days upon return.

Governance Business Unit is responsible for:

- The maintenance of the Interstate and Overseas Travel Register on behalf of the Chief Executive Officer.

Co-ordinator Mayor and Councillors Office is responsible:

- Preparing a report to Council seeking pre-approval for Interstate and Overseas travel to be undertaken by a Councillor; and
- For booking all pre-approved interstate and overseas travel and accommodation for Councillors.
- Co-ordinating the reimbursement of any costs between Council and Councillors.

9. BREACH OF THIS POLICY

A breach of this policy may constitute a breach of the *Local Government Act 2020* and/or the Model Councillor Code of Conduct.

Penalties apply for false or incomplete travel expenses, and for failing to lodge within the time frames.

10. REPORTING, MONITORING AND REVIEW

Reporting A Councillor who has undertaken interstate or overseas travel in an official capacity must complete and submit a Travel Register Form within 14 days of returning.

A Councillor who has undertaken interstate or overseas travel in an official capacity must provide details of their travel by way of a verbal and then written report to Council on their attendance, in accordance with section 5.14 *Reporting Requirements and Public Register Compliance* of this policy.

Monitoring The Manager Governance Legal and Risk is responsible for the monitoring of this policy.

Review This policy will be reviewed by the Manager Governance Legal and Risk 6 months prior to a Local Government Election or because of changes to applicable legislation.

11. REFERENCES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

Legislation

- *Carers Recognition Act 2012*
- *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*
- *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005*
- *Child Safe Standards*
- *Gender Equality Act 2020*
- *Local Government Act 2020*
- *Model Councillor Code of Conduct*

Related Council and Other Policies, Procedures, Strategies, Protocols, Guidelines

- Greater Dandenong City Council Access, Diversity and Equity Policy
- Greater Dandenong City Council Climate Change Emergency Strategy and Action Plan 2020-30
- Greater Dandenong City Council Councillor Expenses, Support and Accountability Policy
- Greater Dandenong City Council International Relations Policy
- Greater Dandenong City Council Mobile Devices Policy
- Greater Dandenong City Council Motor Vehicle Code of Practice

- Greater Dandenong City Council Public Transparency Policy
- Greater Dandenong City Council Travel Register Form
- Greater Dandenong City Council Workplace Adjustment Guidelines
- Greater Dandenong City Certificate of Currency - Travel

Administrative Updates

It is recognised that from time to time, circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this document. Where an update does not materially alter this document, such a change may be made administratively. Examples include a change to the name of a Council department, the change to an existing policy or document referred to in this policy and minor updates to legislation and the like which does not have a material impact. All changes or updates which materially alter this policy must be made by resolution of Council.



4.2 OTHER

4.2.1 Advocacy Priorities FY2025-2026

Responsible Officer:	Executive Manager Strategy Growth & Advocacy
Attachments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Strategic Advocacy Framework [4.2.1.1 - 16 pages]2. Attachment 2_proposed advocacy priorities aligned to campaigns [4.2.1.2 - 1 page]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **CONTINUES** the current planned activities of the Mayoral Taskforce Back Your Neighbour campaign until the result of the Federal Election is clearly known and the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly is complete. Then, if deemed appropriate, revisit the current 1.0 EFT allocated to this campaign;
2. **CONTINUES** the current planned activities of the Anti-Poverty Campaign until the result of the Federal Election is clearly known, then, if deemed appropriate, revisit and adjust the current 0.5EFT allocated to this campaign;
3. **ALLOCATES** 1.0 EFT Advocacy Officer resource to commence a Housing Campaign for FY2025-2026; and
4. **CONTINUES** opportunistic advocacy activities for the other listed FY25-26 campaigns. This occurs through collaboration by Community Advocacy officers with specific Departmental leads. This may include, Budget and Inquiry submissions, application for specific grants, MP and Minister letters/meetings, organised State or Federal Departmental correspondence/Departmental meetings.

Executive Summary

1. At the 22 July 2024 Council Meeting, Council approved the Strategic Advocacy Framework which outlined guiding principles and recommended approach to setting Council's future advocacy priorities. Refer to Attachment 1 pages 10-11.
2. This process has been utilised to formulate the 40 suggested advocacy priorities for FY25-26 to be aligned against the current draft Council Plan Objectives and Priorities. Each identified priority requires differing levels of effort and engagement required.
3. To assist with operationalisation of the priorities they have been further grouped under nine 'campaign' titles as related priorities can have similar stakeholders and overlapping methods of advocacy (see Attachment 2). This method improves efficiency, enhances stakeholder relationship management and reduces administrative processes.
4. These campaigns are:
 - a. Taskforce Back Your Neighbour (currently 1.0EFT resource allocated),
 - b. Anti-Poverty (currently 0.5EFT resource allocated),
 - c. Housing,
 - d. Transport,



- e. Sport and Open Space,
 - f. Business and Employment,
 - g. Sustainability,
 - h. Major Projects, and
 - i. Community Safety.
5. Once campaign and their associated priorities are chosen by Council, an individual action plan will be developed for each of the priorities under their respective campaign titles and presented to Council at the same time as the new Council Plan (2025-29).

Background

6. The Strategic Framework outlines three steps to setting Advocacy Priorities and the associated action plan for each priority. This Councillor Meeting report relates to Steps 1 and 2 of the three-step process and covers, Advocacy Identification and Advocacy Prioritisation, for the 2025-26 Financial Year.
7. **Step 1. Advocacy Identification** – this process involves identifying current and emerging opportunities, trends and issues.
- a. To achieve this, a scan of Council's current strategies and plans was undertaken where the words 'advocate', or words to that effect, were recorded as 'actions' in these primary Council documents.
 - b. These actions were collated into a table and consultation taken with the relevant department to ascertain whether the action was still applicable and a continued desirable advocacy action.
 - c. Over 150+ advocacy actions were subsequently retained for analysis from this scan. Preliminary analysis grouped the action into themes/topics linked to the department/unit responsible for its actioning.
 - d. Additionally, recently approved Federal Election Advocacy Priorities were also considered in the listing of priorities to be considered.
8. **Step 2. Advocacy Prioritisation**
- a. **First phase** - check alignment of the actions against the Community Vision and draft Council Plan priorities.
 - i. The Council Plan 2025-29 is in its later draft form, pending Council discussion and endorsement in June. Advocacy actions were aligned under the draft objectives and associated priorities.
 - ii. Where possible advocacy actions were grouped thematically under the relevant priority to observe overlaps or redundant actions.
 - b. **Second phase** - discussions had with Department/Unit leads responsible for the delivery of specific actions to ascertain the urgency of the advocacy issues and if still relevant for actioning in FY25-26.
 - i. Actions were either kept, deleted, updated or conflated.
 - ii. New actions were also suggested for inclusion.
 - c. **Third phase** – level of effort and engagement required.
 - i. Each suggested advocacy priority in Attachments 2 requires differing levels of resourcing and engagement.
 - ii. While priorities are specifically for the 25-26 Financial Year overall timelines for the advocacy outcomes to be achieved could range from short (<1 year),



medium (1-3 years) and long term (3+ years). For each suggested advocacy priorities, a rough assessment has been made as to overall timeline for each.

- iii. Effort and resourcing can also be variable across a priority's chosen lifecycle, ranging from high intensity, high resourced campaigns to those priorities requiring less effort and resourcing.

d. **Fourth phase** – tools use for Advocacy Campaigns.

- i. The identification of the most effective methods and approach for each advocacy campaign is linked to type of priority being considered.
- ii. For example, the methods and approaches utilised for priorities that require substantial movement in national policy or guidelines at Federal level (e.g. the Back Your Neighbour campaign of the Mayoral Taskforce) will look very different to the method and approach utilised for smaller advocacy priorities pertaining to local initiatives. (e.g. Robert Booth batting cage renewal).

Key Issues and Discussion

- 9. One of the key issues in the selection of advocacy priorities by Council will be ensuring appropriate resources are available to ensure that advocacy activities are coordinated and responsive to the political and social opportunities that will present themselves within the next financial year and following.
- 10. Advocacy priorities are constantly changing, based on political cycles, successful advocacy efforts, and new and emerging priorities. Advocacy priorities will need to be responsive to the outcome of the Federal election and prepare well for the opportunities available with the upcoming Victorian State election in 2026.
- 11. Attachment 2 outlines the specific aspects that should be considered for each campaign and its associated priorities. They include: EFT allocation, Scope, Timeline, Impact, Method, Broad Action, and Political alignments. These aspects have already been developed for the Back Your Neighbour and Anti-Poverty campaigns.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

- 12. This item does not have an impact on existing human resources for the required outcome of this report. Strategic Advocacy EFT allocation is currently fixed at 2.5EFT available for the strategic implementation of campaigns and their associated advocacy priorities. Individual Departmental teams have the ability to provide resourcing towards advocacy efforts, but this will be episodic and dependent on other workflow constraints and priorities. The Community Advocacy Unit will provide guidance and support for this episodic work and provide strategic oversight of all advocacy efforts undertaken.

Financial/Asset Resource Implications (consider Service Statements, Budget, Long Term Financial Strategy and Asset Plan)

Operating Budget Implications

- 13. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Asset Implications

- 14. This item does not affect any existing assets.



Legal/Risk Implications

15. There are no legal / risk implications relevant to this report.

Environmental Implications

16. There are no environmental implications relevant to this report.

Community Consultation

17. There was no requirement for community consultation.

Links to Community Vision, Council Plan, Strategy, Notice of Motion

18. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:

- Safe and peaceful community.
- Education, training, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.
- Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.
- Sustainable environment.
- Mind, body and spirit.
- Art and culture.

19. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan

20. 2021-25:

- A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
- A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts.
- A city of accessible, vibrant centres and neighbourhoods.
- A green city committed to a sustainable future.
- A city that supports entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes.
- A Council that demonstrates leadership and a commitment to investing in the community.

21. This report relates does not link to any Council Notice of Motion.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

22. This report has considered Council's legislative and policy obligations (where applicable) as outlined in the Report Considerations section detailed in the front of this Agenda. The applicable obligations considered and applied are

- Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.



MINUTE No.84

Moved by: Cr Sophie Tan

Seconded by: Cr Lana Formoso

That Council:

- 1. CONTINUES the current planned activities of the Mayoral Taskforce Back Your Neighbour campaign until the result of the Federal Election is clearly known and the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly is complete. Then, if deemed appropriate, revisit the current 1.0 EFT allocated to this campaign;**
- 2. CONTINUES the current planned activities of the Anti-Poverty Campaign until the result of the Federal Election is clearly known, then, if deemed appropriate, revisit and adjust the current 0.5EFT allocated to this campaign;**
- 3. ALLOCATES 1.0 EFT Advocacy Officer resource to commence a Housing Campaign for FY2025-2026;**
- 4. CONTINUES opportunistic advocacy activities for the other listed FY25-26 campaigns. This occurs through collaboration by Community Advocacy officers with specific Departmental leads. This may include, Budget and Inquiry submissions, application for specific grants, MP and Minister letters/meetings, organised State or Federal Departmental correspondence/Departmental meetings.**

CARRIED 10 / 0

Greater Dandenong Council

Strategic Advocacy Framework





Acknowledgment

Greater Dandenong City Council acknowledges and pays respects to the Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation, as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters in and around Greater Dandenong.

We value and recognise local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures, heritage, and connection to land as a proud part of a shared identity for Greater Dandenong.

Greater Dandenong City Council pays respect to Elders past and present and recognises their importance in maintaining knowledge, traditions, and Culture in our Community.

Greater Dandenong City Council also respectfully acknowledges the Bunurong Land Council as the Registered Aboriginal Party responsible for managing the Aboriginal Cultural heritage of the land and waters where Greater Dandenong is situated.



Introduction

Located in Melbourne's south-east, Greater Dandenong is a vibrant and culturally diverse community of 165,000 people. A centre of regional industry, more than 113,000 people work within our city, with the manufacturing sector providing the most jobs.

Our city is vibrant and diverse, but not without its challenges. This is where Council can play a role that goes beyond roads, rates and rubbish.

Greater Dandenong City Council is committed to strengthening the wellbeing of our residents and supporting our community to reach their ambitions and aspirations. Faced with complex issues and service gaps, Council cannot address our community's needs alone.

This Greater Dandenong Strategic Advocacy Framework will help Council take a coordinated and strategic approach to representing the varied voices and concerns of our community. This Framework will direct our advocacy efforts towards other levels of government and organisations, providing Council with the tools to achieve positive change, secure funding and investment opportunities, and influence policy reforms for the benefit of our whole community.

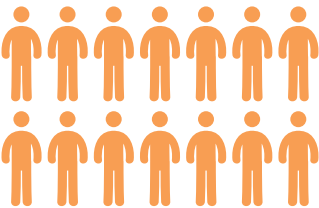
This document will ensure the unique knowledge we have of our community is being shared with key decision makers as we take a seat at the table and seek to influence, negotiate and advocate for better outcomes for our community.

Common challenges in Greater Dandenong include low levels of income, high levels of unemployment and high levels of financial hardship, including the rising cost of housing. These and other conditions are matters of concern for Council and are key opportunities for us to advocate to different levels of government to improve circumstances for our residents.



Community Snapshot

Population



165,000
residents in 2024.
Predicted to grow
over the next decade
to **185,000**



615
residents are of
Aboriginal and
Torres Strait
Islander Heritage



over **154**
birthplaces



2/3
of people are
born overseas

24,000
migrants have
arrived since 2016



5,500
immigrants settled
in 2022–23



860
asylum seekers

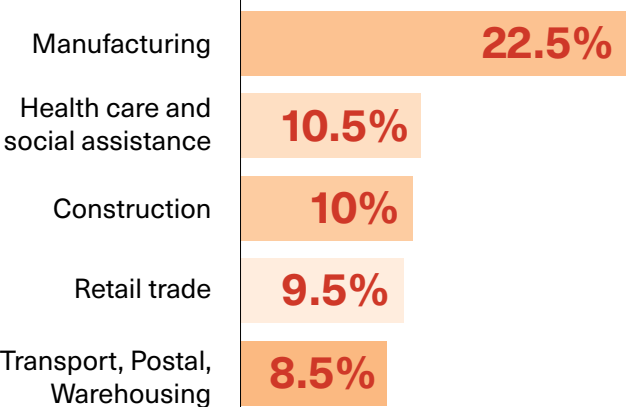
Employment

Unemployment rate
6.5% (2023)



113,000
people work within
CGD, mostly people
living outside the
municipality

Industry Type



Source: Census 2021

Housing



62%

owned or being purchased



2,400

people are homeless or living in severely overcrowded dwellings



1/5

of renting households are at risk of housing related financial stress or homelessness



36%

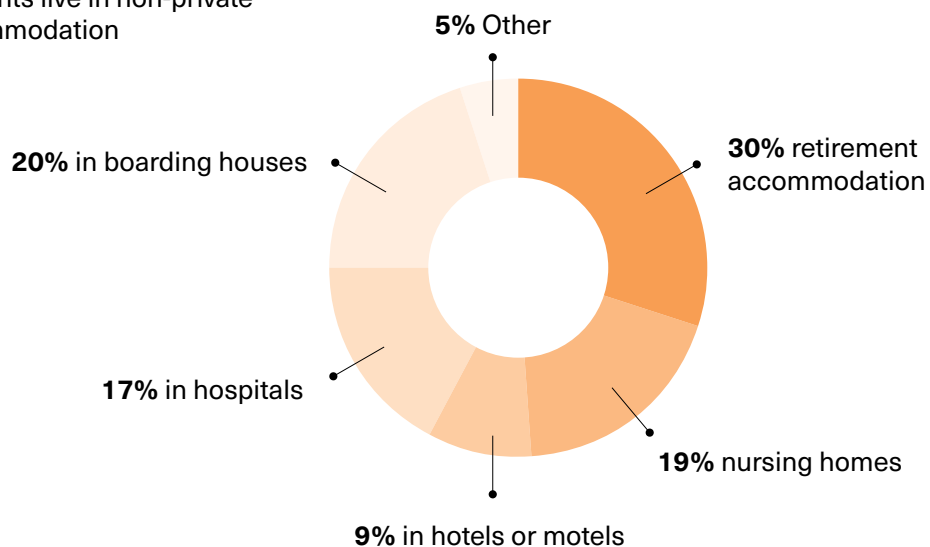
rent



Since 1999 the average cost of a home has increased from **3.2 to 10.4** times the median annual household income

3,390

residents live in non-private accommodation





What is Advocacy?

Advocacy involves representing the views and needs of Council and its community to decision-makers, in order to achieve agreed-upon outcomes. Strategic advocacy is dedicated to pursuing short, medium and long-term results that align with Council's goals and objectives.

Council-led advocacy is key to driving change that not only meets community priorities but can enable a deeper engagement in the ongoing transformation of neighbourhoods and cities.

Why do we Advocate?

The *Victorian Local Government Act (2020)* confirms the role of councils as:

“Requir[ing] to give priority to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.”

Although Council has always striven to do so, achieving best results for the community has become more challenging as local governments adapt to rate capping and cost shifting by state and federal governments.

Working towards the *Greater Dandenong Community 2040 Vision* and the *Council Plan 2025–2029* requires Council to avoid reactive and ad hoc advocacy in favour of a more strategic and tactical approach.

Scope and Objectives

The Framework lays out the foundation for prioritising advocacy goals and developing advocacy strategies and associated action plans to generate best outcomes to:

- **Shape** public policy
- **Secure** funding and resources
- **Increase** visibility and understanding of issues impacting everyday lives
- **Participate** in matters impacting community



A successful Framework will enable Council to:

- ✓ **Better influence policy and legislation**
 - Ensure Greater Dandenong City Council has a seat at the table with decision makers
 - Ensure community voices are being heard by state and federal governments when forming policy and legislation.
- ✓ **Secure more funding and resources**
 - Raise awareness of Council-led projects with funding bodies and different levels of government
 - Undertake grant submissions that help achieve the goals of the Council Plan and Community 2040 Vision.
- ✓ **Foster greater partnerships and collaboration**
 - Consult and work with the community in our advocacy priorities
 - Form strategic partnerships with other councils on issues affecting the region
 - Connect with politicians and policy-makers, encouraging and assisting them to advocate for our community.
- ✓ **Continue to empower the community**
 - Elevate the voice of grassroots advocacy initiatives that align with the Council Plan.

The objectives of the Framework are to strengthen the planning, coordination, efficiency and effectiveness of Council advocacy to maximise its success and deliver the most favourable outcomes for the community.

The Framework aims to ensure Council undertakes:

- ✓ a **strategic approach** instead of a reactionary approach
- ✓ an **evidence-based approach** in identifying advocacy priorities
- ✓ better **engagement with stakeholders** and community on advocacy issues
- ✓ **centralised and targeted actions** for advocating across different levels of government
- ✓ a more **coordinated and collaborative approach** that makes use of all opportunities, while considering resource requirements and risks associated with advocacy.



Guiding Principles in Developing Council's Advocacy Priorities

Evidence-based decision-making: ensuring actions are based on comprehensive data and research, to address community needs and respond to emerging trends with informed and strategic intention.

Transparency: ensuring processes and decisions are open and pro-actively shared with all stakeholders. By maintaining transparency, Council leads from the front to build trust and accountability, enabling our community to understand and support our advocacy efforts.

Responsiveness: ensuring advocacy is flexible and responsive to emerging issues and stakeholder feedback. This involves being prepared to adjust strategies as new information arises, by listening to, and addressing, the concerns of our community and key stakeholders. Effective responsiveness ensures advocacy remains relevant, timely and impactful.

Community-focused: by engaging and consulting with our community, we place the needs and aspirations of residents at the heart of our advocacy.

Collaborative: partner with stakeholders to ensure support and a consistent voice in advocacy efforts.

Building Strategic Partnerships to Address Advocacy Priorities

Council's advocacy efforts will be focused on addressing the needs and aspirations of the community who live, work or play in the City of Greater Dandenong. These needs may arise from various sources:

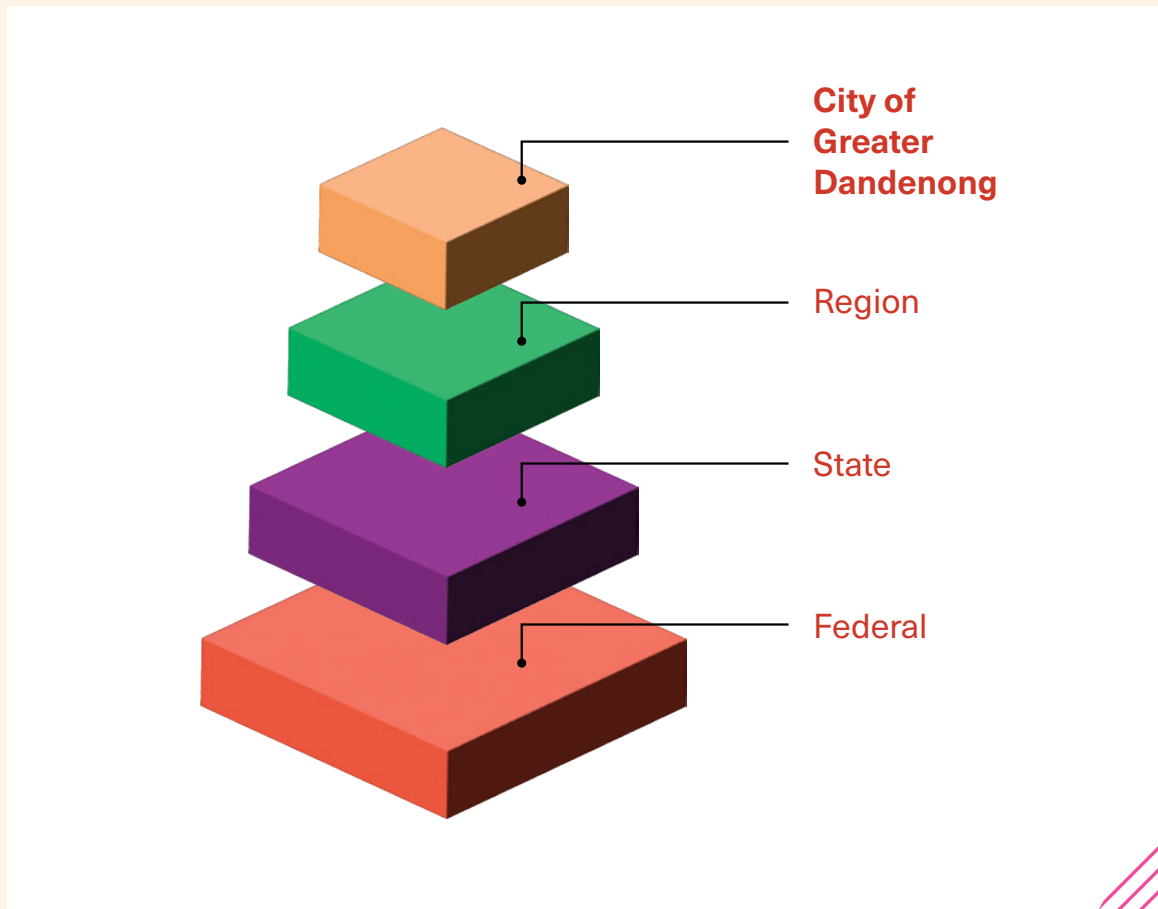
Local needs: Specific requirements of Greater Dandenong residents and businesses including local issues such as infrastructure, health and wellbeing, community priorities, public services and economic development.

By developing strong ties with local community groups, residents and businesses, Council will tailor its advocacy to represent local voices. Evidence shows story-telling has the power to create connections to things that matter and motivate people to take action. Advocacy campaigns are at their most effective when councils activate communities, mobilising them on issues that affect their everyday lives.

Regional issues: Conditions which affect the southeast region, including regional transportation, environmental sustainability and collaborative initiatives with neighbouring municipalities.

By partnering with other councils and regional organisations, Council aligns its advocacy efforts with regional priorities and helps Council and its partners to form cohesive strategies.

State and federal policies: Issues related to interventions or policies of state and federal governments. This involves advocating for or against legislative changes, funding allocations and policy decisions that impact the local community. Council will foster channels of communication with state and federal government officials and agencies to influence state-level decisions and secure funding.





Approach to Setting Advocacy Priorities

Council's Advocacy priorities and corresponding plans will be defined through three main steps:

1. Advocacy Identification

In this step, the issues that need to be advocated to different levels of government or other stakeholders will be identified. The identification process involves:

- **Identifying current and emerging opportunities, trends and issues:** Problems raised in research or by the community will be collected and analysed.

2. Advocacy Prioritisation

Once identified, all advocacy issues will be assessed against comprehensive criteria to determine:

- **Alignment with Community Vision and Council Plan Priorities:** Ensuring that the issues align with the community's vision and the priorities outlined in the Council Plan as well as the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.
- **Urgency of Advocacy Issues:** Establishing which issues need immediate attention.
- **Level of Efforts and Engagement required:** Determining the resources required and the extent of stakeholder engagement necessary.
- **Tools Used for Advocacy Campaigns:** Identifying the most effective methods and approach for each advocacy campaign.

3. Develop Action Plans for Each Advocacy Priority

After prioritising the advocacy items, a detailed action plan will be developed for each issue. The action plan will outline:

- **Asks, framing and messaging:** Creating consistent messaging that frames the advocacy priority as a relevant issue with clear and realistic asks.
- **Tactics:** Specifying the tools and resources needed for effective advocacy.
- **Stakeholders:** Mapping key stakeholders and their roles in the advocacy process.
- **Stages:** Breaking down the advocacy process into distinct stages with clear objectives, timelines/engagement and communications schedule.
- **Cost estimations:** Resource allocation for required activities while taking into consideration resource availability and project length.
- **Risks:** Identifying potential risks involved in each advocacy campaign, and mitigation strategies.

Such a process will help to ensure advocacy is strategic, focused and aligned with the goals of the community and Council.



Identify



Prioritise



Advocate

Evaluation and Review

The advocacy process is incremental, making it important to monitor progress along the way. This can help to determine whether we are achieving our intended outcomes and whether advocacy is being conducted in an effective and sustainable manner.

Monitoring advocacy efforts requires flexible benchmarks because successful advocacy activities can be “measured” in a range of ways, from changed lives to improved public policies, from enhanced engagement with stakeholders to secure funding for council projects.

To ensure the advocacy activities are delivered efficiently, the following aspects should be assessed:

- **Effectiveness of advocacy activities:** Monitor the success of advocacy activities in achieving the desired outcomes and influencing policy or securing funding.
- **Capacity building:** Assess the improvement of skills and knowledge within the team and among stakeholders involved in advocacy efforts. Including the number of residents who become involved with or support our campaigns.
- **Relationship development:** Document the quality and number of new relationships or partnerships developed with different levels of government and other stakeholders. It is also important to assess the expansion of advocacy networks, feedback from stakeholders and the ability for additional partnerships.
- **Cost-effectiveness:** Consider the time and cost of advocacy campaigns to ensure they are being conducted in the most efficient way to achieve their goals.

*The Advocacy priorities and the action plans will be reviewed annually to ensure ongoing relevance and effectiveness. Reporting back to the community and to Council is a crucial aspect of this process, as it closes the feedback loop, provides continuous improvement and maintain engagement.

To keep Council informed and aligned, regular briefings will be held to discuss progress and encourage dialogue, ensuring that everyone is on the same page and aware of key connections and stakeholders.

For the community, updates will be provided through annual and quarterly reports, as well as via Council's communications platforms. This transparent communication will help maintain trust and demonstrate our commitment to addressing the community's needs and priorities.



 (03) 8571 1000		TTY: 133 677		Acknowledging Bunurong Country
 council@cgd.vic.gov.au		Speak and listen: 1300 555 727		
 greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au		Online: relayservice.gov.au	Follow us:	
		TIS: 13 14 50		
				
				

ATT 4.2.1.2 Attachment 2_proposed advocacy priorities aligned to campaigns

Blue Text = priorities from Federal Government Advocacy Pack
Green Text = proposed advocacy priorities FY25-26 from Managers

Rank	Advocacy Priorities aligned as Campaigns	Current Strategic Advocacy EFT allocation	SCOPE Shape - public policy Secure - funding Visibility - increase Participate - community	TIMELINE Years Short 0-1 Med 1-3 Long 3+	URGENCY Low Med High	IMPACT	METHOD	ACTION	POLITICAL ALIGNMENT
	Taskforce Back Your Neighbour Campaign	1.0 EFT							
	Advocate for the rights of people seeking asylum and refugees as part of the 'Back Your Neighbour' campaign		Federal - Shape	Short	High	National	MP meetings Letter writing campaigns writing/petitions	Recruit councils, peak bodies, community groups	Immigration is a disputed federal issue across both major parties. Support by Greens and individual Teal & some other independents MPs
	Anti-Poverty Campaign	0.5 EFT							
	Poverty Alleviation in Greater Dandenong \$2million annually for 5 years - suite of integrated placed-based initiatives		State-Federal - Secure, Visibility, Participate	Short-Med	High	Local-Regional	Local MP and Departmental meetings. Letter writing campaign. Grant applications	Anti-Poverty Consortium Steering Committee. Broader AP Consortium agencies. Empowered community members.	Addressing cost of living pressure is high on the political agenda of both major parties.
	Housing Campaign								
	Advocate to State Government for an affordable and social housing project in central Dandenong utilising State Government land		State - Shape	Short-Med		Local			
	Housing - funding for upfront costs of constructing underground carpark infrastructure - \$5million Springvale site.		State-Federal - Secure	Short-Med		Local			
	Advocate to State and Federal Governments for a single clear definition of affordable & social housing to aid achieving housing development targets.		State-Federal - Shape	Short		State-Federal			
	Advocate to State Government for the inclusion of a mandatory provision in the Planning Scheme to require residential developments to provide a contribution towards affordable housing.		State - Shape	Short		State			
	Advocate to State Government for greater flexibility in the Planning Scheme to allow for a variety of housing stock that can be utilised as affordable/social housing e.g. tiny homes		State - Shape	Short		State			
	Transport Campaign								
	Road Safety Infrastructure and Improvements on the Jacksons Road / Eltona Road / Chandler Road corridor - \$2million ask.		State-Federal - Secure	Short-Med		Local			
	Construction of the Djerring Trail cycling corridor between Yarraman Station and Dandenong		State-Federal - Secure	Short-Med		Local-Regional			
	Advocate for public transport and road infrastructure improvements that allows access to businesses and employment areas, improving residents' access to employment and market access for business.		State-Federal - Shape, Secure	Short-Med		Local-Regional			
	Strongly advocate for the signalisation of the Heatherton Rd/Douglas St roundabout and the lowering of the speed limit along the section of Heatherton Rd that passes through the centre.		State-Federal - Secure	Short-Med		Local			
	Advocate for more consistent, reliable and accessible transport options for people with a disability, and older people when using taxis and other ride sharing providers.		State - Shape, Secure	Short-Med		State			
	Sport and Open Space Campaign								
	Revitalising Springvale : Multicultural Place Upgrade \$5million		State-Federal - Secure	Short-Med		Local			
	Revitalising Springvale : Springvale Boulevard project \$5million		State-Federal - Secure	Short-Med		Local			
	Greaves Reserve – Alan Carter Pavilion Social Room extension, carpark & interface \$2.4million		State-Federal - Secure	Short-Med		Local			
	Greaves Reserve - Oval One - Lighting Installation \$450,000		State-Federal - Secure	Short-Med		Local			
	JC Mills Reserve - Hockey Pitch Surface, Fencing & Lighting Renewal \$2.1million		State-Federal - Secure	Short-Med		Local			
	Robert Booth Reserve - Batting Cage Renewal \$380,000		State-Federal - Secure	Short-Med		Local			
	Ross Reserve - Athletics Change room amenities and accessible change renewal. \$1.2million		State-Federal - Secure	Short-Med		Local			
	Warner Reserve – Southern Precinct Soccer Field \$2.0million		State-Federal - Secure	Short-Med		Local			
	Council will continue to advocate and support all the places where people gather, as well as any community hubs in the future as necessary in response to local emerging needs.		State-Federal - Shape, Secure, Visibility	Short-Med		Local			
	Advocate for the establishment and renewal of key cultural spaces, including Dandenong New Art, a new creative space (DNA Lab) and Walker Street Gallery (interim use).		State-Federal - Secure	Short-Med		Local			
	Champion the expansion and renewal of public art installations to ensure they continue to enrich public spaces and reflect the cultural diversity of the community.		State-Federal - Shape, Secure, Visibility, Participate	Short-Med		Local			
	Business and Employment Campaign								
	Advocate to Government, agencies and other influential stakeholders, to identify, support, and deliver targeted renewal initiatives for improved economic and social outcomes in Springvale, Noble Park and Dandenong activity centres.		Local-Regional State-Federal - Shape, Secure, Visibility	Short-Med		Local			
	Raise awareness of English Language Skill resources and programs for residents by promoting local English as a Second Language (ESL) training and services.		Local-Regional - Visibility	Short-Med		Local-Regional			
	Engage with industry and government partners to promote and support business attraction, including through investment in enabling/catalyst infrastructure.		Local-Regional State-Federal - Shape, Secure	Short-Med		Local			
	Ensure the municipality is 'investment ready' and can support business investment, as well as increased demand for services, through advocating for infrastructure investment and ensuring sufficient supply of zoned land across the GSEM area.		Local-Regional State-Federal - Shape, Secure	Short-Med		Local-Regional			
	Reinforce the role of the Southern State Significant Industrial Precinct (SSIP) as a key economic hub connecting metropolitan Melbourne to export markets, including development of underutilised/brownfield sites – and leveraging the proposed Dandenong South Intermodal Terminal.		Local-Regional State-Federal - Shape, Secure	Short-Med		Local-Regional			
	Undertake investment attraction and advocacy activities that promote CGD as a destination of choice for investment in key industries.		Local-Regional State-Federal - Shape, Secure	Short-Med-Long		Local-Regional			
	Attract high quality education, health and aged care service providers to cater to the growing population and improve socio-economic outcomes and liveability for residents.		Local-Regional- State - Shape, Secure, Visibility	Short-Med-Long		Local-Regional			
	Sustainability Campaign								
	Advocate to state and federal governments and other relevant stakeholders for increased programs, education and activities to promote a circular economy by reducing waste and improving opportunities for reuse.		State-Federal - Shape, Visibility	Short-Med		Local-Regional			
	Advocate for increased investment in climate resilient infrastructure that reduces the impact of climate change on the community.		State-Federal - Shape, Secure	Short-Med		Local			
	Advocate to, and support the business sector and wider community regarding the importance of reducing emissions through electrification, energy efficiency upgrades and other methods.		Local - Visibility, Participate	Short-Med		Local			
	Major Projects Campaign								
	Upgrading Dandenong Station - 1. Commitment to funding and undertaking a Business Case for the redevelopment of Dandenong Station. 2. Commitment in the short term to a designated range of disability access improvements.		Local-Regional State - Shape, Secure, Visibility, Participate	Short-Med-Long		Local-Regional			
	Dandenong Community Hub		State-Federal - Secure	Short-Med		Local			
	Selective Entry High School in Dandenong		Local-Regional State - Secure, Visibility	Short-Med		Local			
	Advocate for the establishment of an education anchor/Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) work in Greater Dandenong		Local-Regional State - Secure, Visibility	Short-Med		Local-Regional			
	Development of a Greater Dandenong Employment Hub - mixed employment and study hub		Local-Regional State - Federal - Secure, Visibility	Short-Med		Local-Regional			
	Noble Park Library		Local - Secure	Short-Med		Local-Regional			
	Community Safety								
	Crime Prevention Initiatives - \$500,000 to increase perceptions of safety across Dandenong Activity Centre through infrastructure upgrades employing CPTED principles.		State - Secure	Short-Med-		Local			
	Other crime prevention initiatives \$500,000		State - Secure	Short-Med-		Local			



4.2.2 Burbank High Density Apartment Lots - Variation to S 173 Agreements

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

Attachments:

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Joint Burbank & Launch Letter [4.2.2.1 - 2 pages]
2. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - 1 Hornsby Street Launch Housing Advice [4.2.2.2 - 1 page]

This report contains an attachment which is deemed confidential under S 3(1)(g) of the Local Government Act 2020. It contains private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that relates to trade secrets; or, if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** a request by Burbank to vary the existing agreements under s 173 of the Planning & Environment Act 1987 entered into between Council and Burbank Land Corporation Pty Ltd in respect of the following sites:
 - i. 21 Hornsby Street, Dandenong; and
 - ii. 64 Cheltenham Road, Dandenong,
2. **EXTENDS** the date by which Burbank is required to substantially commence the development on each parcel from 1 July 2024 to 1 July 2026;
3. **NOTES** a corresponding variation to the Call Option agreement between the parties in respect of the sites identified in item 1 above to incorporate an operative date by which the developer must obtain finance for their proposed development; and
4. **AUTHORISES** the Chief Executive Officer or her delegate to execute the replacement section 173 agreement and deed of variation of call option to give effect to the changes.

Executive Summary

1. Burbank has sought to amend dates in the Section 173 Agreements applicable to two lots purchased from Council located in the Metro Village 3175 estate. This report provides an overview of the history including a current proposal to progress development on one of the lots and recommends support to execute the required legal documentation.

Background

2. Council via Places Victoria (now Development Victoria) sold the high density lots which are the subject of this report to Burbank in 2015 (*part of larger super lots at the time that were subsequently subdivided – the balance of the lots having been fully developed*).



3. Both lots are subject to separate Section 173 Agreements which included Owner Covenants for:
 - Substantial Commencement
 - Practical Completion
 - Compliance with Urban Design Guidelines
 - Compliance with Approval Process
4. Both lots are also subject to a Call Option in favour of Council, which gives Council the option to purchase the land back from Burbank at a fixed price (less than current market value), if Burbank:
 - *Seeks to sell, transfer or dispose of the land to a third party, including but excluding a sale to any purchaser which will settle on or after completion of the development of that part of the land sold; or*
 - *Fails to obtain finance for any part of the Development on the Land by the date agreed between parties.*
5. Burbank wrote to Council seeking a request for a two (2) year extension to the Section 173 Agreements for commencement and completion of the development for both lots. Their reason for the extension is that past market conditions have not supported the viability of the developments, however, changing market conditions should support their viability.
6. The Department of Transport and Planning under delegation from the Minister for Planning recently extended dates for commencement and completion for the relevant planning permits for both lots following a similar request from Burbank.

Key Issues and Discussion

7. The Department of Transport and Planning under delegation from the Minister for Planning recently amended permit PA1600190-3 in respect to 1-21 Hornsby Street, Dandenong. The following dot points provide a summary of s72 Amendment officer report:
 - Proposal seeks to change approved apartment development from build-to-sell private dwellings to instead facilitate delivery of social and affordable housing, managed by Launch Housing (registered community housing provider).
 - The office space (approx. 48sqm) is proposed at the eastern side of the ground floor. The office will be used by Launch staff to undertake general administrative functions associated with managing housing.
 - The proposed 'social enterprise' tenancy (116.5sqm) is proposed in northern area of the ground floor plan, with direct access to Cheltenham Road. The space will be leased at below market rate to a social enterprise business selected by Launch Housing and will seek to provide a community benefit.
 - The proposal seeks to replace the second level of approved podium carparking with apartment spaces, therefore reducing the overall provision of car parking spaces for the apartment building from 89 to 57 spaces.
 - A detailed traffic impact assessment prepared by Traffic Group has been provided with the application, providing detailed justification for the additional reduction sought.



- The permit allows for “Construction of a twelve-storey mixed use development comprising townhouses, an apartment building, shop and a reduction in the standard car parking requirement and waiver of the loading bay requirement.”
8. It is widely considered that the parking requirement for Social Housing is considered to be lower than that of privately owned or rented apartments. The approved parking reduction is consistent with previous approvals for social housing granted by the Minister (approx. 0.6 car parking spaces per dwelling).
 9. A permit condition number 36 requires that “Prior to the occupation of Stage 2 of the development, a Social and Affordable Housing Management Plan must be approved and endorsed by the responsible authority. The plan must be prepared to the satisfaction of the responsible authority and respond to the following requirements:
 - a. The accommodation provided on the land (Lot B on Plan of Subdivision 804735T) is to be used for the purpose of social and affordable housing only.
 - b. The building must at all times be operated by a single registered housing provider.
 - c. The selection of tenants and allocation of car parking spaces must be managed to ensure residential car parking demand is fully met by on-site car parking.
 - d. All common areas must be appropriately managed and maintained by the registered housing provider”.
 10. We understand that Burbank is pursuing a potential sale of the vacant site at 1-21 Hornsby Street, Dandenong to Launch Housing. A “confidential” joint letter from Burbank/Launch” outlines relevant information for Council’s consideration – attachment 1.
 11. Launch housing has provided further details in respect to this proposal, however, this information is deemed “confidential” - attachment 2.
 12. The current section 173 agreements do not detail agreed dates for obtaining finance, Burbank has agreed to document these dates for both lots as part of securing Council support to update the changes to the Section 173 agreement dates for substantial commencement and practical completion.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

13. This item does not have an impact on existing human resources.

Financial/Asset Resource Implications (consider Service Statements, Budget, Long Term Financial Strategy and Asset Plan)

Operating Budget Implications

14. There are no financial implications associated with this report.
15. Should Council wish to explore the potential purchase at market value of these two lots – it is estimated that Burbank would seek amounts exceeding their current valuation amounts which is not budgeted for in Council’s Long Term Financial Plan.

Asset Implications

16. The two lots are owned and maintained by Burbank.
17. Burbank as a requirement of a Section 173 is required to undertake Improvement Works at no cost to Council to construct a Pocket Park on the Council Reserve located adjacent to 64 Cheltenham Road, Dandenong. This would occur when the adjacent vacant development site is constructed.



Legal/Risk Implications

18. Maddocks has provided the following legal advice in respect to this matter:

- Council is under no obligation to extend the dates for substantial commencement and practical completion in the S173 Agreements.

19. Council may only exercise the Call Option in the circumstances referenced in paragraph [4] above.

- Council may make application to Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) for an enforcement order under the *Planning and Environment Act*. However, proceedings are unlikely to aid development of the land and move this matter forward.
- If Council is unable to exercise its option, Council may seek to purchase the Lots back from Burbank on the open market (*presumably Burbank would insist on a price reflecting their current market value*).

Environmental Implications

20. There are no environmental implications relevant to this report.

21. There was no requirement for community consultation.

Links to Community Vision, Council Plan, Strategy, Notice of Motion

22. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:

- Education, training, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.
- Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.
- Sustainable environment.

23. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan

24. 2021-25:

- A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
- A city that supports entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

25. This report has considered Council's legislative and policy obligations (where applicable) as outlined in the Report Considerations section detailed in the front of this Agenda. The applicable obligations considered and applied are:

- The Overarching Governance Principles of the *Local Government Act 2020*.



Cr Lana Formoso left the Chamber at 8:03 pm and returned at 8:06 pm prior to the voting of this item.

MINUTE No.85

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council:

- 1. APPROVES a request by Burbank to vary the existing agreements under s 173 of the Planning & Environment Act 1987 entered into between Council and Burbank Land Corporation Pty Ltd in respect of the following sites:**
 - i. 21 Hornsby Street, Dandenong; and**
 - ii. 64 Cheltenham Road, Dandenong,**
- 2. EXTENDS the date by which Burbank is required to substantially commence the development on each parcel from 1 July 2024 to 1 July 2026;**
- 3. NOTES a corresponding variation to the Call Option agreement between the parties in respect of the sites identified in item 1 above to incorporate an operative date by which the developer must obtain finance for their proposed development; and**
- 4. AUTHORISES the Chief Executive Officer or her delegate to execute the replacement section 173 agreement and deed of variation of call option to give effect to the changes.**

CARRIED 9 / 1

**For - Cr Phillip Danh, Cr Isabella Do, Cr Lana Formoso, Cr Rhonda Garad,
Cr Jim Memeti, Cr Sean O'Reilly, Cr Sophie Tan, Cr Loi Truong, Cr Melinda Yim.**

Against - Cr Bob Milkovic.



4.2.3 Australian Local Government Association 2025 National General Assembly, Canberra ACT

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance, Legal & Risk
Attachments: Nil

Officer's Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** the attendance of all interested Councillors, at the Australian Local Government Association 2025 National General Assembly to be held in Canberra from 25 to 27 June 2025;
2. **APPROVES** the attendance of the Chief Executive Officer (or her nominated delegate) at the Australian Local Government Association 2025 National General Assembly to be held in Canberra from 25 to 27 June 2025; and
3. **RECEIVES** a report from the Councillor delegates on their attendance at the Australian Local Government Association 2025 National General Assembly.

Executive Summary

1. This report seeks approval of all interested Councillors plus the Chief Executive Officer (or their nominated delegate) to attend the Australian Local Government Association 2024 National General Assembly to be held in Canberra from 25 – 27 June 2025.

Background

2. The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is the national peak advocacy body for Local Governments. The ALGA's work includes, but is not limited to, the establishment of national policy and extensive liaison and lobbying with departments, Ministers and other parliamentarians at the Commonwealth level to achieve better outcomes for local communities.
3. Council has been represented at previous National General Assemblies (NGA) in Canberra. Previous attendees have found the conference insightful and valued the networking with national inner-city municipalities and access to Federal Members and Ministers.

Key Points / Issues / Discussion

4. The NGA presents an opportunity to learn and share experiences from Local Governments across Australia. The focus for the 2025 NGA is National Priorities Need Local Solutions. This theme acknowledges the critical importance of trust in democracy at different levels of the government, its institutions, and amongst its citizens. The conference program features a range of high profile and engaging speakers who will explore ideas about what creates trust, and how trust can be nurtured.
5. Further information can be found at [NGA 2025](#).

Financial Implications



6. The estimated cost per delegate is approximately \$3,400, consisting of
 - a. Early Bird Registration (by 23 May 2025): \$979
 - b. Attendance at General Assembly Dinner: \$175
 - c. Accommodation for 3 nights (4 star): \$1000
 - d. Flights (economy): \$700
 - e. Incidentals (taxis/meals): \$500

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

7. No community or stakeholder consultation is required.

Links to the Community Vision and Council Plan

8. This report is consistent with the principles in the Community Vision 2040.
9. This report is consistent with the Council Plan 2021-25 strategic objective of “A Council that demonstrates leadership and a commitment to investing in the community.”

Legislative and Policy Obligations

10. This report has considered Council's legislative and policy obligations (where applicable) as outlined in the Report Considerations section detailed in the front of this Agenda. The applicable obligations considered and applied are:
 - Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.

Cr Loi Truong left the Chamber at 8:06 pm and returned at 8:10 pm prior to the voting of this item.

MINUTE No.86

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That Council:

1. **APPROVES the attendance of all interested Councillors, at the Australian Local Government Association 2025 National General Assembly to be held in Canberra from 25 to 27 June 2025;**
2. **APPROVES the attendance of the Chief Executive Officer (or her nominated delegate) at the Australian Local Government Association 2025 National General Assembly to be held in Canberra from 25 to 27 June 2025; and**
3. **RECEIVES a post-attendance report from participants detailing key learning, outcomes, and recommendations from the 2025 Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly.**

CARRIED 10 / 0



4.2.4 Springvale Reserve - Community Function Room

Responsible Officer:	Executive Director Community Strengthening
Attachments:	1. CM Minutes 240722 - Extract Minute. 1127. [4.2.4.1 - 24 pages] 2. Options for Consideration [4.2.4.2 - 3 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES** the outcomes of the community and stakeholder consultation regarding the re-evaluation of the meeting space for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club (SDFNC);
2. **NOTES** the financial impacts of the exclusive use allocation;
3. **REAFFIRMS** the preferred option for meeting space allocation endorsed at Council Meeting 22 July 2024;
4. **APPROVES** exclusive use allocation for the 2025 winter season; and
5. **ESTABLISHES**, prior to commencement of the 2026 winter season, options for council consideration that enable multi-user use of the facilities.

Executive Summary

1. On Council Meeting 22 July 2024, a resolution was passed relating to Notice of Motion No. 37 – Re-evaluation of Meeting Space for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club (SDFNC). The resolution being that Council:
 - a. Acknowledges the significant contribution of the Springvale Districts Football Netball Club (SDFNC) to the local community, providing valuable sporting opportunities and fostering community spirit;
 - b. Endorses 'Option 1: Exclusive Use through seasonal allocation' in the attached report, allowing SDFNC sole access to the Community Function Room during the football season;
 - c. Recognises that this arrangement will enable SDFNC to maintain their setup throughout the season, thereby eliminating the burden on volunteers to set up and pack down their club memorabilia and furniture;
 - d. Directs officers to initiate community and stakeholder consultation to assess the impact of this exclusive use on other potential users of the Community Function Room, in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Planning Framework;
 - e. Requests officers discuss with the club appropriate fees and charges for the exclusive use arrangement; and
 - f. Reports back to Council on the outcomes of the community and stakeholder consultation, and the financial implications of the exclusive use arrangement for final approval.
2. The purpose of this report is to provide the outcomes of the community and stakeholder consultation, including financial and organisational risks associated with the exclusive use arrangement.



3. Community and stakeholder consultation was conducted from Monday 18 November to Sunday 22 December 2024 through a variety of methods including:
 - a. An online survey,
 - b. Letterbox drops,
 - c. Community pop-up sessions, and
 - d. Direct correspondence with community groups and sporting clubs.
4. The consultation was not positioned as a vote or poll of allocation options but as an opportunity to review the impact and implications of exclusive use on the wider community from other potential users.
5. 292 responses were received with seven community organisations represented including SDFNC.
6. Key outcomes of the consultation have been summarised into two categories:
 - a. Feedback from members of SDFNC and people associated with the club, and
 - b. Feedback from other community organisations.
7. 50.1% of respondents disclosed they were associated with SDFNC, with 42.6% also living outside of the municipality.
8. Of respondents excluding SDFNC, 71% did not support exclusive use arrangement, mainly due to the following reasons:
 - a. The function room should be available to the whole community not just one group.
 - b. There is a lack of community facilities catering to 150 people within the municipality.
9. 22% of respondents were also unaware of the opportunity to make casual bookings at the facility highlighting an opportunity to improve promotion of the space to increase utilisation from more community groups.
10. In addition to community consultation, Council consulted with SDFNC on the fees and charges for exclusive use arrangements including a draft lease agreement.
11. A 6-month / winter season lease, with the terms of exclusive use from April to September, has been proposed with a rent of \$4,350 plus GST in line with Council's existing rates (price per square metre) and standard leasing terms and conditions, to allow completion of planned upgrades to the Clubs social room, toilets, kitchen and canteen.
12. No precedent has been established for exclusive use arrangements in comparable facilities and reserves.
13. The proposed costs provide a significant discount compared to the casual community function room costs outlined in Council's Fees and Charges.
14. The estimated loss of community booking revenue is \$15,174 per annum.

Background

15. On Council Meeting 22 July 2024, a report outlining a review of the SDFNC social space allocation was presented with key findings and options to be considered by Council. (See Attachment 1).
16. The report provided a detailed overview of the site context, venue, utilisation data and a decision-making framework to consider allocation.
17. The report presented four options of space allocation including the financial, community and club impacts/ risks associated with each (See Attachment 1).



18. The Officer recommendation was to endorse Option 4 of the report 'Access as per current arrangement, with additional storage and ongoing investment as per reserve Master Plan' in consideration of the financial and community impacts.
19. Several other factors were considered in determining the Officer recommendation including:
 20. Community Facility Provision,
 - b. Change of Purpose to Community Facility,
 - c. Sports Facility Provision,
 - d. Comparisons to other Sporting Clubs within Council,
 - e. Springvale Reserve Master Plan 2023, and
 - f. Springvale Districts Football and Netball Club.
21. Community consultation was not included as part of the report or Officer recommendation and hence this was subsequent step.
22. In response to the report, on Council Meeting 22 July 2024, a resolution was passed relating to Notice of Motion No.37 –Re-evaluation of Meeting Space for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club (SDFNC). The resolution being that Council:
 - a. Acknowledges the significant contribution of the Springvale Districts Football Netball Club (SDFNC) to the local community, providing valuable sporting opportunities and fostering community spirit;
 - b. Endorses 'Option 1: Exclusive Use through seasonal allocation' in the attached report, allowing SDFNC sole access to the Community Function Room during the football season;
 - c. Recognises that this arrangement will enable SDFNC to maintain their setup throughout the season, thereby eliminating the burden on volunteers to set up and pack down their club memorabilia and furniture;
 - d. Directs officers to initiate community and stakeholder consultation to assess the impact of this exclusive use on other potential users of the Community Function Room, in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Planning Framework;
 - e. Requests officers discuss with the club appropriate fees and charges for the exclusive use arrangement; and
 - f. Reports back to Council on the outcomes of the community and stakeholder consultation, and the financial implications of the exclusive use arrangement for final approval.
23. The purpose of this report is to provide the outcomes of the community and stakeholder consultation, including financial and organisational risks associated with the exclusive use arrangement prior to Council reaffirming its decision.

Key Issues and Discussion

Outcomes of Community and Stakeholder Consultation

24. Community and stakeholder consultation was conducted from Monday 18 November to Sunday 22 December 2024 through a variety of methods including:
 - a. An online survey,
 - b. Letterbox drops,
 - c. Community pop-up sessions, and
 - d. Direct correspondence with community groups and sporting clubs.



25. The consultation was not positioned as a vote or poll of allocation options but as an opportunity to review the impact and implications of exclusive use on the wider community.
26. 292 responses were received with seven community organisations represented servicing the Springvale Reserve area. These included:
 - Afri Aus-care,
 - Australian Sri Lanka Welfare Guild,
 - Cordillera Victoria Igorot Organisation,
 - Springvale Neighbourhood House,
 - The Cambodian Association of Victoria,
 - United Melbourne Muslim Alliance Inc, and
 - Springvale Districts Football Netball Club.
27. Key outcomes of the consultation have been summarised into two categories:
 - a. Feedback from members of SDFNC and people associated with the club.
 - b. Feedback from other community organisations.
28. 50.1% of respondents disclosed they were associated with SDFNC, with 42.6% also living outside of the municipality.
29. Of respondents excluding SDFNC, 71% did not support exclusive use arrangement, mainly due to the following reasons:
 - a. The function room should be available to the whole community not just one group.
 - b. There is a lack of community facilities catering to 150 people within the municipality.
30. 22% of respondents were also unaware of the opportunity to make casual bookings at the facility highlighting an opportunity to improve promotion of the space to increase utilisation from a wider range of community groups.

Proposed Fees and Charges for the Exclusive Use Arrangement

31. In addition to wider community consultation, Council consulted with representatives of the SDFNC on the fees and charges for exclusive use arrangements on Tuesday 14 January 2025 and Tuesday 5 February 2025.
32. A 6-month / winter season lease has been proposed with a rent of \$4,350 plus GST in line with Council's existing rates (price per square metre) and standard leasing terms and conditions. This will allow building works to be completed to the Clubs existing social space.
33. More specifically, standard Council lease agreements require the tenant to be responsible for the following:
 - All rates and taxes
 - Maintain, service and repair fixtures in the facility
 - Furnish and fit out of the facility for your use.
34. The club will be responsible for utility charges (water & electricity), cleaning and sanitary bins for the period of use.
35. The estimated loss of community booking revenue is \$15,174 per annum.
36. In addition, the proposed costs are significantly discounted compared to the casual Community Function Room costs outlined in Council's Fees and Charges to the value of \$26,989 for FY 2024/25.



37. The proposed exclusive use arrangements limit Council's ability to maximise potential revenue and provide greater access to the space for more community groups.

Community Impacts and Risks

38. The provision of available and accessible community spaces will become increasingly important for the area with Springvale's population forecast to grow 17% between 2025 and 2038.
39. While Springvale City Hall and Supper Room cater to larger groups, the Springvale Reserve Community Function Room is considered more accessible in terms of cost, availability and ability to cater to smaller groups (up to 200 or sectioned use of smaller areas or kitchen)
40. No precedent has been established for exclusive use arrangements in comparable facilities and reserves.
41. Currently, the function room is only being used by SDFNC on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and every second Saturday.
42. The proposed exclusive use arrangements limit Council's ability to maximise potential revenue and provide greater access to the space for more community groups.
43. Maximising the performance and utilisation of Council's facilities remains a key priority for the organisation led by the Cultural and Community Hub business unit. Three significant priorities have been identified which aim to increase venue utilisation across all facilities over the next 6 months:
- a. Improve the Customer Experience for the hiring of venues.
 - b. Implement a new Booking System, enabling direct bookings and statistical reporting.
 - c. Full marketing plan to promote venues for hire.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

44. This item does not have an impact on existing human resources.

Financial/Asset Resource Implications (consider Service Statements, Budget, Long Term Financial Strategy and Asset Plan)

Operating Budget Implications

45. Refer to Attachment 2 which details the financial implications of the four options considered by Council on 22 July 2025.
46. The estimated loss of community booking revenue is \$15,174 per annum.
47. The proposed lease costs are significantly discounted compared to the casual Community Function Room costs outlined in Council's Fees and Charges to the value of \$26,989 for FY 2024/25.

Asset Implications

48. The Springvale Reserve Master Plan 2023 was adopted by Council on 23 October 2023 and establishes the long-term vision and Council investment into Springvale Reserve. Extensive community and stakeholder consultation was undertaken in the development of the Master Plan, with the consultation process structured to inform Councillors and to seek the views of user groups, stakeholders, and the wider community. This process ensured that all viewpoints could be assessed and responded to, alongside an understanding of Council policies and strategies.
49. The Springvale Reserve Master Plan identifies a range of opportunities for future investment to improve the park. One area of focus and improvement is around the provision and inclusion of informal recreational activities and spaces offered to the community.



50. Another area of focus and improvement outlined in the masterplan is to enhance wider community access to spaces for non-sporting community groups.
51. In accordance with the Master Plan (and with funding support from the State Government) over the past two years Council has invested over \$3.7 million in infrastructure improvements at the reserve. This has included includes upgrades to the sports facilities change rooms, sports oval fencing, coaches' boxes, and oval floodlighting.
52. Given this, consideration should be given to continuing the endorsed Master Plan and the site being returned to its intended purpose once the Master Plan is delivered.

Legal/Risk Implications

53. Associated risks are outlined in Attachment 1, as considered by Council on 22 July 2025.

Environmental Implications

54. There are no environmental implications relevant to this report.

Community Consultation

55. Community and stakeholder consultation was conducted from Monday 18 November to Sunday 22 December 2024 to measure the impacts of the proposed change of purpose on other potential users and to collect feedback from the community. The purpose of the consultation was aimed at gathering diverse perspectives, feedback and impacts. It was not a vote or poll, therefore any decision should be viewed according to the impacts across the whole community, rather than viewing the percentage of survey respondents who responded one way or another.



56. The below table outlines the specific methodology and activities of the consultation:

Purpose	The purpose of the consultation was to measure the impact of the proposed change of purpose on other potential users and to collect feedback from the community.
Engagement period	Monday 18 November to Sunday 22 December 2024
Level of Influence:	Consult
Engagement Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promotion on Council's Have Your Say platform on the Council website.• Promotion on Council's Social Media platforms.• Letterbox drop of all residents and businesses located within a 500-metre radius of Springvale Reserve. A total of 999 properties/letters. The letters were sent where in English and translated into two languages (Vietnamese & Khmer), which reflects the local population.• Posters and flyers were posted at the pedestrian access points to the Springvale Reserve and at Council and community buildings. These included the Springvale Neighborhood House, Springvale Learning and Activity Centre, Springvale Hub, Springvale Reserve Sports Pavilion, Dandenong Library and Civic Centre.• Two community pop-up sessions were conducted at:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Multicultural Place, Springvale on Friday 29 November 2024, 11.30am-1.30pm.◦ Springvale Neighborhood House on Monday 9 December 2024, 5.30pm-7.30pm.• Correspondence sent to all previous bookings of the function room over the past three years, including 49 different community organisations, and the two tenant sporting clubs.
Communication reach and engagement numbers:	292 responses were received to the survey, with 914 views of the page on Social Pinpoint.
Summary of feedback:	<p>There is two perspectives or positions to consider when reviewing the community feedback:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The position of the club and people associated with the club. Which is in support of the proposal to provide exclusive use of the function room. <p>OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. The position of other community groups is that it is desirable to provide a rentable, casual space of this size for casual hires. That exclusive use for the club would mean there is limited opportunity of a similar size and quality for the rest of the community.



Links to Community Vision, Council Plan, Strategy, Notice of Motion

57. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:

- Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.
- Mind, body and spirit.

58. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan

59. 2021-25:

- A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
- A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts.
- A city of accessible, vibrant centres and neighbourhoods.

60. This report relates to Council Resolution as per minute no. 1127 from the Council Meeting conducted on 22 July 2024 relating to Notice of Motion No. 37 – Re-evaluation of Meeting Space for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

61. This report has considered Council's legislative and policy obligations (where applicable) as outlined in the Report Considerations section detailed in the front of this Agenda. The applicable obligations considered and applied are: Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.

MINUTE No.87

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That Council:

- 1. NOTES the outcomes of the community and stakeholder consultation regarding the re-evaluation of the meeting space for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club (SDFNC);**
- 2. NOTES the financial impacts of the exclusive use allocation;**
- 3. REAFFIRMS the preferred option for meeting space allocation endorsed at Council Meeting 22 July 2024;**
- 4. APPROVES exclusive use allocation for the 2025 winter season; and**
- 5. ESTABLISHES, prior to commencement of the 2026 winter season, options for council consideration that enable multi-user use of the facilities.**

CARRIED 7 / 3

**For - Cr Phillip Danh, Cr Lana Formoso, Cr Jim Memeti, Cr Bob Milkovic, Cr Sean O'Reilly,
Cr Sophie Tan, Cr Loi Truong.**

Against - Cr Rhonda Garad, Cr Isabella Do, and Cr Melinda Yim.



4.3.2 Response to Notice of Motion No 37 - Re-evaluation of Meeting Space Allocation for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club

Responsible Officer:	Executive Director Community Strengthening
Attachments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Notice of Motion No 37 - Re-evaluation of Meeting Space for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club [4.3.2.1 - 1 page]2. Officer Report in Response to Notice of Motion No. 37 - Re-evaluation of Meeting Space Allocation for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club [4.3.2.2 - 13 pages]3. Springvale Reserve - Final Master Plan September 2023 [4.3.2.3 - 1 page]4. Springvale Reserve Master Plan - Implementation Plan [4.3.2.4 - 4 pages]

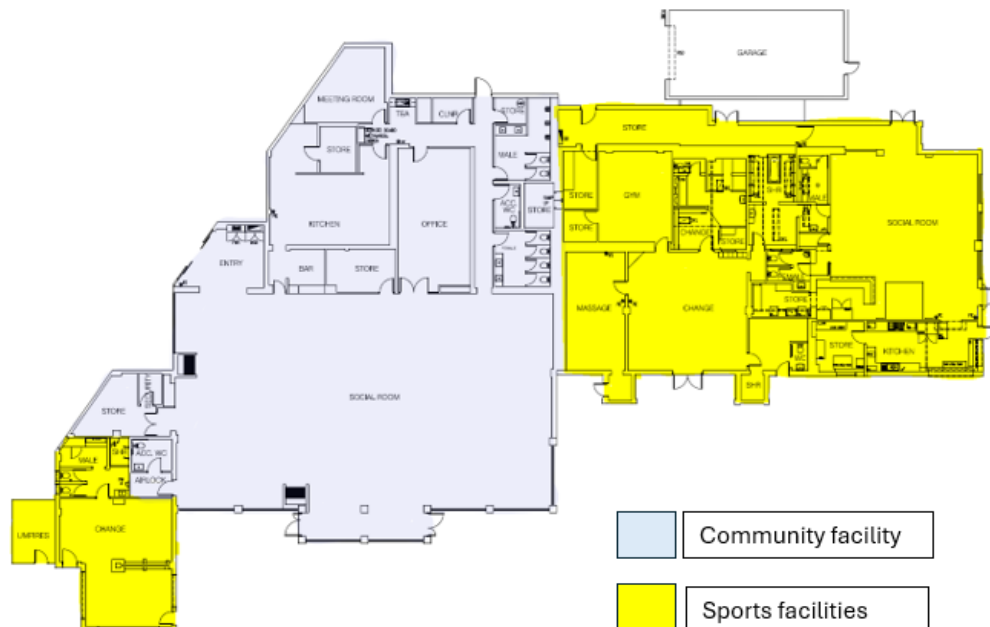
Executive Summary

1. This report responds to Notice of Motion No. 37 - Re-evaluation of Meeting Space Allocation for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club (Attachment 4.2.0.1) which was endorsed at the Council Meeting on Monday 24 June 2024.
2. In establishing options for alternate space allocation Springvale Districts Football Netball Club (SDFNC), this report summarises the history of the facilities at Springvale Reserve, the current arrangement in place with SDFNC and other comparable reserves.
3. It also details Council's current approach to:
 - Community Facility Provision
 - Sports Facility Provision
 - Springvale Reserve Master Plan 2023.
4. While several options are presented for Council consideration, officers recommend 'Option 4', which reduces the current challenges faced by SDFNC (through the provision of additional storage), while also continuing community access to facilities and investment in reserve infrastructure that benefits both the club and broader community.



Background

5. Springvale Reserve is a district-level recreation reserve which caters for a wide range of both formal and informal recreational activities to the community. It is located on the corner of Newcomen Road, Ericksen Street and Harris Street in Springvale. The reserve is approximately 1.0km from Springvale Station and the Springvale Activity Centre.
6. The Springvale Reserve Master Plan 2023, endorsed by Council on 23 October 2023, establishes the long-term vision and direction for the park. The master plan aims to guide future investment into the ongoing provision of sport's infrastructure while aiming to diversify the informal recreational activities and community facilities offered to the community.
7. Two (2) key components of the built infrastructure at Springvale Reserve are the Community facility (sometimes referred to as the function room) and the adjacent sports facilities (sometimes referred to as the sports pavilion and/or social space).
8. To provide clarity to this report, please refer to the below floor plan which highlights the two (2) specific areas referenced in this report.





9. The sports facilities managed by Council's Sport and Recreation department consists of two (2) change rooms with amenities, storages spaces, umpires change rooms, kitchen/canteen, bar, and a 120sqm social space. While not shown in the above floor plan, a heritage listed grandstand sits above the sporting facilities, limiting the scope of any future alterations to the building footprint.
10. The Community facility, which is managed by Council's Civic and Community Facilities department comprises a large function space (290sqm), commercial kitchen, bar, and small meeting room spaces. This is a high-quality facility available for community hire which caters for weddings, dinner dances, private parties, meetings, and education training. The venue is equipped with audio visual and sound equipment, a large dance floor and other equipment to accommodate the various hirers within the community.
11. Due to its multi-purpose functionality and its location in Springvale, the community facility is maintained and serviced at a higher standard when compared to a sporting facility, enabling it to service a range of community needs, including those that sit outside sport and recreation.
12. The sports facilities are allocated to the SDFNC for the winter season and Silverton Cricket Club for the summer season, in line with Council's Sporting Grounds and Pavilions Allocation Policy.
13. **Full historical context and timeline of events can be found in Attachment 2: Officer Report in Response to Notice of Motion No. 37 – Re-evaluation of Meeting Space Allocation for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club.**

Key Points / Issues / Discussion

14. Several factors should be considered in determining Council's preferred future allocation approach for SDFNC. These include:
 - Community Facility Provision
 - Change of Purpose to Community Facility
 - Sports Facility Provision
 - Comparisons to other Sporting Clubs within Council
 - Springvale Reserve Master Plan 2023
 - Springvale Districts Football and Netball Club.
15. **Key considerations relating to each of these factors can be found in Attachment 2: Officer Report in Response to Notice of Motion No. 37 – Re-evaluation of Meeting Space Allocation for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club.**

Financial Implications

16. The financial implications associated with this report are dependent on the option adopted, as outlined in **Attachment 2: Officer Report in Response to Notice of Motion No. 37 – Re-evaluation of Meeting Space Allocation for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club.**
17. It is noted that in the past two years, in line with the Council endorsed Master Plan, Council, with support from the State Government, has invested over \$3.7 million in infrastructure improvements at the reserve, most of which has been to the benefit of the sporting clubs.
18. As part of the Master Plan implementation, Council also has \$740k allocated in the current financial year (FY 2024-25) to deliver upgrades to the sports facility canteen and social room as well as \$140k for detailed design works for the upgrade of the Umpire changing rooms, additional toilets and storage spaces by the newly constructed netball courts and an extension of the car parking provision.



19. Should a decision be made to include the Community function room in the SDFNCs' seasonal allocation, a subsequent report regarding the planned \$740k to upgrade the canteen and social room facilities will be presented to Council for decision.

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

20. No consultation has been conducted regarding this Notice of Motion, except for discussions with the SDFNC.
21. Community and Stakeholder consultation regarding the current use of the community/function room was undertaken in FY 2009. This consultation was a significant factor in Council receiving funding from the State (\$200k) and Federal (\$310k) governments to re-develop the building to make it a multi-purpose community facility, capable of supporting a wide range of local community groups and social events. Council also contributed \$442k to the refurbishment.
22. Officers note that should a change to the existing use of the community/function room facility be preferred, Community and Stakeholder consultation should first be undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Planning Framework.

Links to the Community Vision and Council Plan

23. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan
24. 2021-25:
- A socially connected, safe and healthy city
 - A Council that demonstrates leadership and a commitment to investing in the community.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

25. The applicable obligations considered and applied are:
- Make Your Move Greater Dandenong Physical Activity Strategy 2020-2030
 - Springvale Reserve Master Plan 2023
 - Multipurpose Use of Community Facilities Policy
 - Sporting Grounds and Pavilions Allocation Policy
 - Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.

Conclusion

26. The current purpose of the Springvale Reserve Community Facility is to provide a multi-use, multi-access social and meeting space, which can support a wide range of local community groups and social events. The building is one (1) of two (2) like facilities located in Springvale and one (1) of six (6) that can accommodate over 150+ people in the municipality.
27. While outdated and undergoing upgrade per the endorsed masterplan, the existing sports facilities allocated to SDFNC as part of their seasonal allocation is 120sqm. When comparing this with other like facilities that service only one (1) oval, SDFNC has more space than other like clubs in the municipality.
28. Should a change to the existing use of the community/function room facility be preferred, Community and Stakeholder consultation should first be undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Planning Framework.



Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **REAFFIRMS** the commitment to ongoing improvement in reserve infrastructure benefits for the club and broader community;
2. **ENDORSES** 'Option 4' in the attached report, being that current arrangements with Springvale Districts Football Netball Club (SDFNC) remain in place, with the additional club storage;
3. **CONTINUES** investment in Springvale Reserve per endorsed masterplan; and
4. **DIRECTS** officers to commence 'next steps' as outlined for 'Option 4' in the attached report.

MINUTE No.1127

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Seconded by: Cr Tim Dark

That Council:

1. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the significant contribution of the Springvale Districts Football Netball Club (SDFNC) to the local community, providing valuable sporting opportunities and fostering community spirit;
2. **ENDORSES** 'Option 1: Exclusive Use through seasonal allocation' in the attached report, allowing SDFNC sole access to the Community Function Room during the football season;
3. **RECOGNISES** that this arrangement will enable SDFNC to maintain their setup throughout the season, thereby eliminating the burden on volunteers to set up and pack down their club memorabilia and furniture;
4. **DIRECTS** officers to initiate community and stakeholder consultation to assess the impact of this exclusive use on other potential users of the Community Function Room, in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Planning Framework;
5. **REQUESTS** officers discuss with the club appropriate fees and charges for the exclusive use arrangement; and
6. **REPORTS** back to Council on the outcomes of the community and stakeholder consultation, and the financial implications of the exclusive use arrangement for final approval.

CARRIED 11 / 0

ATT 4.3.2.1 Notice of Motion No 37 - Re-evaluation of Meeting Space for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club



5.1 Notice Of Motion No. 37 - Re-evaluation of Meeting Space Allocation for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club

5 NOTICES OF MOTION

5.1 NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 37 - RE-EVALUATION OF MEETING SPACE ALLOCATION FOR SPRINGVALE DISTRICTS FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Community Strengthening
Author: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Preamble

1. The Springvale Districts Football Netball Club (The Club) is an integral part of our community, offering valuable sporting opportunities and fostering community spirit.
2. For several years, the Club has expressed concerns regarding the adequacy of the meeting spaces allocated to them, which will not support their current and growing needs and activities. It is important to ensure that the facilities provided meet the requirements of the Club and support its continued growth and contribution to the community. The Club's substantial growth also includes the impending addition of several netball teams, which will further highlight the inadequacy of the Club's current allocated meeting space.
3. The Club has clearly communicated to Council that the small size and inadequate quality of its current allocation require the Club to lease the Function Room. Consequently, volunteers at the Club are required to spend several hours setting up and packing up the Function Room under limited time restrictions.

Motion

That Council:

1. reviews the current meeting space allocation for the Springvale Districts Football Netball Club to assess its adequacy in meeting the Club's needs and considers the seasonal allocation of the Function Room to better support the Club's activities and growth, without the requirement to set up and pack up the Function Room; and
2. prepares a report with findings and options to be presented at a future Council meeting, expected to be on 22 July 2024, for a decision.

MINUTE No.1102

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly
Seconded by: Cr Tim Dark

That Council:

1. reviews the current meeting space allocation for the Springvale Districts Football Netball Club to assess its adequacy in meeting the Club's needs and considers the seasonal allocation of the Function Room to better support the Club's activities and growth, without the requirement to set up and pack up the Function Room; and
2. prepares a report with findings and options to be presented at a future Council meeting, expected to be on 22 July 2024, for a decision.

CARRIED 10 / 0

ATT 4.3.2.2 Officer Report in Response to Notice of Motion No. 37 - Re-evaluation of Meeting Space Allocation for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club

Officer Report in Response to Notice of Motion No 37- Re-evaluation of Meeting Space Allocation for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club



- City of Greater Dandenong
- July 2024

ATT 4.3.2.2 Officer Report in Response to Notice of Motion No. 37 - Re-evaluation of Meeting Space Allocation for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club

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SITE CONTEXT

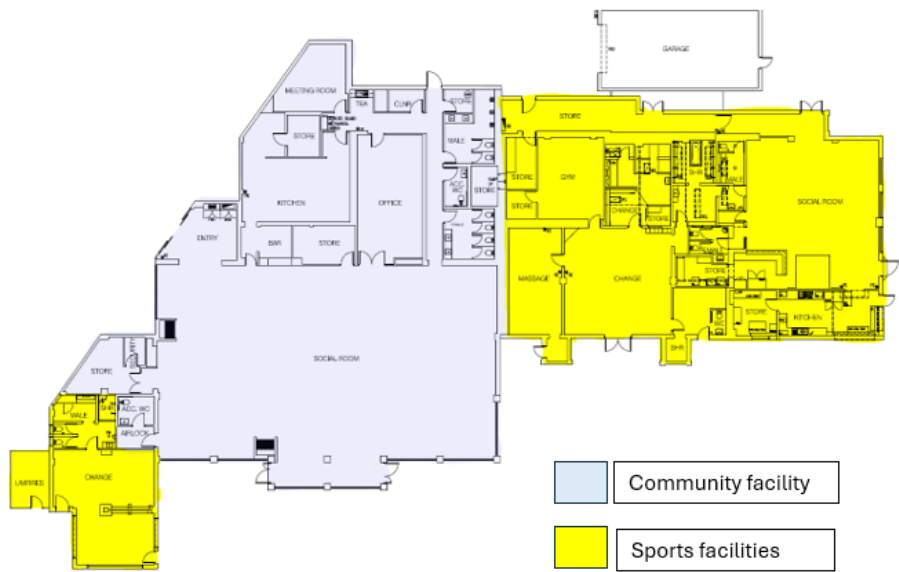
Springvale Reserve is a district-level recreation reserve which caters for a wide range of both formal and informal recreational activities to the community. It is located on the corner of Newcomen Road, Ericksen Street and Harris Street in Springvale. The reserve is approximately 1.0km from Springvale Station and the Springvale Activity Centre.

The Springvale Reserve Master Plan 2023, adopted by Council on 23 October 2023, establishes the long-term vision and direction for the park. The master plan aims to guide future investment into the ongoing provision of sport’s infrastructure while aiming to diversify the informal recreational activities and community facilities offered to the community.

Refer to Attachment 3 to view the Springvale Reserve Master Plan 2023 for further site context.

Two (2) key components of the built infrastructure at Springvale Reserve are the Community facility (sometimes referred to as the function room) and the adjacent sports facilities (sometimes referred to as the sports pavilion and/or social space).

To provide clarity to this report, please refer to the below floor plan which highlights the two (2) specific areas referenced in this report.



The sports facilities managed by Council’s Sport and Recreation department consists of two (2) change rooms with amenities, storages spaces, umpires change rooms, kitchen/canteen, bar, and a 120sqm social space. While not shown in the above floor plan, a heritage listed grandstand sits above the sporting facilities, limiting the scope of any future alterations to the building footprint.

The Community facility, which is managed by Council’s Civic and Community Facilities department comprises a large function space (290sqm), commercial kitchen, bar, and small meeting room spaces. This is a high-quality facility available for community hire which caters for weddings, dinner dances, private parties, meetings, and education training. The venue is equipped with audio visual and sound equipment, a large dance floor and other equipment to accommodate the various hirers within the community.

ATT 4.3.2.2 Officer Report in Response to Notice of Motion No. 37 - Re-evaluation of Meeting Space Allocation for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club

Due to its multi-purpose functionality and its location in Springvale, the community facility is maintained and serviced at a higher standard when compared to a sporting facility, enabling it to service a range of community needs, including those that sit outside sport and recreation.

The sports facilities are allocated to the Springvale Dandenong Football Netball Club (SDFNC) for the winter season and Silverton Cricket Club for the summer season, in line with Council's Sporting Grounds and Pavilions Allocation Policy.

This report provides a history of the facilities, current community utilisation and options for consideration in the future allocation of the facilities to SDFNC.

BACKGROUND

The following is a historical summary of key events relating to Springvale Reserve:

1980-2008

- Construction of the original community facility, known as the Springvale Sports Club Building, was completed by the Springvale Recreation Club in the 1980's. The Springvale Recreation Club was originally home to the Springvale Football Club (Springvale FC), who commenced at Springvale Reserve in 1915, after originally forming in 1903.
- The facility was initially used for Cabaret and club functions, dinners, and social activities, visiting player change rooms and committee meetings until the club closed. When the club closed the club agreed to surrender its lease on the land (and building) from Council, as the club were no longer using it.
- In 2001, Springvale FC aligned with the St Kilda Football Club until 2008. During this time, the club played at several venues, including Waverley Park, Moorabbin, and Dandenong.
- In 2005, Springvale FC came to an arrangement with the City of Casey, which saw it transfer to the newly-development Casey Fields in Cranbourne East. The club then took on the name of the Casey Scorpions for the 2006 season, which ultimately become the Casey Demons, the reserves team for the Melbourne Demons Football Club in the AFL.
- In 2008, Springvale Districts FC returned to Springvale Reserve and entered a two-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Council for the use of the original building.

2009 - present:

- In 2009-2010, Council was successful in obtaining State and Federal Government funding (\$200,000 and \$310,000 respectively), to reinvigorate the old and disused community facility infrastructure into a new multi-use, multi-access social and meeting space.
- Council contributed \$442k to the upgrade.
- A significant factor in Council receiving funding from the State and Federal government was to re-develop the building to make it a multi-purpose community facility, capable of supporting a wide range of local community groups and social events.
- The need for these works was based on community and stakeholder engagement, which identified that Springvale needed multi-purpose community facilities for medium sized groups. The key findings from this engagement were:
 - High demand for larger meeting spaces (particularly up to 200 people).
 - The existing local community spaces/facilities were too small and consistently booked out.
 - Kitchen facilities needed to be tailored to allow a range of uses from light refreshments to community-based functions and celebrations.
 - Need for disability access to community and meeting facilities.

ATT 4.3.2.2 Officer Report in Response to Notice of Motion No. 37 - Re-evaluation of Meeting Space Allocation for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club

- Need for indoor areas that can be opened to outside spaces.
- In 2010, the MOU lapsed between Springvale FC (incl. Springvale Recreation Club) and Council for the use of the building. This MOU acknowledged the club's contribution to the construction of this building and provided access to the club at no cost.
- At the conclusion of the MOU, Council provided the club with limited access to the building for a further twelve (12) months. Once the MOU expired, it was understood the club would be required to meet the costs for future use of this space.
- At the start of 2021, SDFNC approached Council to request that Council and the club enter into a new MOU to reinstate free access to the building, providing them access for a total of seven (7) home games and four (4) functions throughout 2021.
- The club's justification for this request is to generate further income to support their operations, particularly considering the impact of COVID-19 and the space restrictions in place at the time to their existing sports social space.
- Given the multi-use intention of the function room, a further MOU was not entered into with the Club, however, Council agreed to provide access to the building for home games at a significantly reduced rate compared to other community groups. This level of access has continued to the present.

CONSIDERATIONS IN DECISION MAKING

Several factors should be considered in determining Council's preferred future allocation approach for SDFNC. These include:

- Community Facility Provision
- Change of Purpose to Community Facility
- Sports Facility Provision
- Comparisons to other Sporting Clubs within Council
- Springvale Reserve Master Plan 2023
- Springvale Districts Football and Netball Club.

ATT 4.3.2.2 Officer Report in Response to Notice of Motion No. 37 - Re-evaluation of Meeting Space Allocation for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club

Community Facility Provision

- The community facility at Springvale Reserve is one (1) of six (6) community facilities with a capacity catering to 150+ people with the municipality. The Springvale Reserve community facility is one (1) of two (2) like facilities located in Springvale, with the other being the Springvale City Town Hall (600+ people). The community facility at Springvale Reserve is of strategic importance to the overall provision of community facilities within Springvale. As highlighted below, there are limited facilities owned by Council available to the community to hire for social gatherings or events.



- The main function room is 290sqm and has higher quality components, compared to standard sporting facilities, which includes a commercial kitchen, enabling it to be a facility where cooking is permitted, sound system, projectors and screens and furniture.
- Only one (1) booking per day is accommodated to allow for the cleaning of the facility between bookings to ensure the building is maintained to a high standard to prospective community users and bookings and to allow set-up and pack down time between user groups.
- Council's Civic and Community Facilities team currently manage the function room bookings. In 2023, the function room accommodated 72 community events and activities. At time of this report, the function room has 62 bookings for FY 2024, encompassing a range of community events and activities.

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- Consistent with other Civic Facilities, 83% of bookings are on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. The below table summarises the type of usage per category, with the seasonal data based on an average from 2023 and 2024. The data includes all bookings, including the SDFNC's bookings.

	2023 # of Bookings	2023 Average Booking size	2024 # of Bookings (YTD)	2024 Average Booking size (YTD)	% Summer Bookings	% Winter Bookings
Birthday Parties	8	150	6	107	14%	7%
Council Events	3	4*	0	0	2%	3%
Cultural Events	35	142	23	142	64%	22%
Religious Events	9	158	12	145	14%	18%
SDFNC	13	88	11	117	0%	35%
Training/ Education Events	2	100	6	70	2%	10%
Funeral Events	0	0	2	110	3%	0%
Weddings/ Engagement Events	2	180	3	137	3%	5%
Total	72	129	62	128	51%	49%

*2023 Council booking size small, however large space was required for sorting and packing goods.

Change of Purpose to Community Facility

Council's Multipurpose Use of Community Facilities Policy states that Council has a responsibility to derive maximum community benefit from its current and future stock of community facilities.

As detailed above, in 2009 Council received funding support from the State and Federal Government that changed the purpose of the community facility from a sports club building to a new multi-use, multi-access social and meeting space, capable of supporting a wide range of local community groups and social events.

If a decision to change the purpose of the facility from a multi-purpose community facility to a dedicated sports club building for the winter season, community consultation is recommended.

Sports Facility Provision

- Council's Sports Facilities Plan provides guidance for the level of provision provided to sporting clubs across the municipality. This plan recommends that each sports pavilion or multi-purpose space provides 100sqm per sporting ground.
- The Australian Football League Preferred Community Facility Guidelines 2024 recommends that 100sqm social space is provided for local level pavilions.
- The existing sports pavilion social space at Springvale Reserve is currently 120sqm and is allocated to SDFNC as part of their seasonal allocation. When comparing this with other like facilities used for AFL that service only one (1) oval, SDFNC has more space than other like clubs in the municipality, as per the below table.

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Reserve	Springvale Reserve (Sports Pavilion)	Greaves Reserve (Monohan Pavilion)	Rowley Allan Reserve (Sports Pavilion)
Club	Springvale SDFNC	Dandenong West FNC	Keysborough FNC and Keysborough JFC
Social Space Size	120m ²	85m ²	96m ²
No. of Change rooms	2	2	2
Change room size	Home: 64m ² Away: 30m ²	Home: 26m ² Away: 26m ²	Home: 36m ² Away: 24m ²
No. of Umpires Change rooms	1	1	1
No. of Storage Space	2	2	1
Covered Spectator Viewing	Grandstand Large spectator shelters on northern boundary	Veranda in-front of pavilion only	Veranda in-front of pavilion only
Meeting Room/ Office	Yes	No	Yes
First Aid Room	No	Yes	No
2024 Number of Teams	3 Men's AFL Teams 9 Women's Netball Teams Auskick Program	3 Men's AFL Teams 3 Women's Netball Teams Auskick Program	2 Men's AFL Teams 3 Mixed Junior AFL Teams 2 Women's Netball Teams Auskick Program

- There are numerous pavilions in the municipality which have two (2) or more sporting grounds that have significantly smaller sized social spaces, compared to the 100sqm space which Council aspires to provide. This includes Alan Carter Pavilion (Greaves Reserve) which is 64sqm and the sports pavilions at Lyndale Secondary College and Norman Luth Reserve which are both 84sqm.
- It is noted that club participation trends and rates can fluctuate from season to season, and that sports pavilions within CGD do not aim to provide a social space for an entire club membership, which is consistent with pavilions in other municipalities.

Comparisons to other Sporting Clubs within Council

- Council has several community facilities which are shared between sporting clubs and community user groups. Of these there is a limited number of community facilities which are adjacent to sporting facilities, like Springvale Reserve. Examples include:
 - a. Ian Tatterson Pavilion at Ian Tatterson Leisure Park (Keysborough):
 - The ground floor of the pavilion is dedicated to sport only, with clubs on seasonal allocations or spaces used on a casual basis. The first floor is a large modern function space which is available to book for community use.
 - The sporting clubs which tenant the pavilion have no seasonally allocated access to the function space and are required to casually book and cover costs consistent with other community groups.
 - b. Frederick Wachter Reserve (Keysborough):
 - Tenanted by South East United Football Club. The club are one of the larger soccer clubs in the municipality with over 150 participants across ten (10) teams and the mini-roo's program.

ATT 4.3.2.2 Officer Report in Response to Notice of Motion No. 37 - Re-evaluation of Meeting Space Allocation for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club

- The club are seasonally allocated to the northern pavilion which has a smaller social space (56sqm).
- This is despite the southern pavilion, on the opposite side of oval one (1), having a significantly larger social space (140sqm) which the club do not have access to.

Springvale Reserve Master Plan 2023

- Council acknowledges that the sports facilities allocated to SDFNC need upgrading to make them fit for purpose and bring them up to modern day standards.
- The Springvale Reserve Master Plan 2023 was adopted by Council on 23 October 2023 and establishes the long-term vision and Council investment into Springvale Reserve.
- Extensive community and stakeholder consultation was undertaken in the development of the Master Plan, with the consultation process structured to inform Councillors and to seek the views of user groups, stakeholders, and the wider community. This process ensured that all viewpoints could be assessed and responded to, alongside an understanding of Council policies and strategies.
- In line with the Council endorsed Master Plan, Council has invested over \$3.7 million over the previous two (2) years, with funding support from the State Government, in infrastructure improvements at the reserve, most of which has been to the benefit of the sporting clubs.
- This includes upgrades to the sports facilities change rooms, sports oval fencing, coaches' boxes, and oval floodlighting. In addition to this, the construction of a new local level playground and two (2) netball courts have been included in the reserve.
- As part of the Master Plan implementation, Council has \$740,000 allocated in the current financial year (FY 2024-25) to deliver upgrades to the sports facility canteen and social room as well as \$140,000 for detailed design works for the upgrade of the Umpire changing rooms, additional toilets and storage spaces by the newly constructed netball courts and an extension of the car parking provision. (Attachment 4.2.0.4: Springvale Reserve Master Plan - Implementation Plan)
- Council intends to put in a submission to the FY 2025-26 annual plan to upgrade the Sports Facilities toilets/amenities, in line with the Council endorsed Master Plan.

Springvale Districts Football and Netball Club

SDFNC are a growing club, committed to creating a unified culture across all teams.

From 2021 to 2024, SDFNC have had a total of three (3) men's AFL teams participating per year. In 2024, the club introduced an AFL Auskick program for this first time, with plans in place to obtain/increase junior members.

From 2021 to 2023, the club have had eight (8) female netball teams, increasing to nine (9) in 2024.

SDFNC booked the community facility/function room at Springvale Reserve eleven (11) times in the 2023-24 financial year for home games and other club functions.

In recognition of the club's growth and ageing facilities, Council has worked in collaboration with the club to assist them with additional bookings throughout the year and has several operational arrangements in place to reduce the financial impact to the club. These include:

- The club is charged a reduced fee of \$300 **per full day** booking/event. The 2023-24 Council Fees and Charges, states that the fees for a community group is \$322.50 **per hour** for the first five (5) hours, then \$64.50 **per hour** after this. The club books the building all day Saturday.
- This is a saving of over \$1764 per event, or \$34k per year based on a booking of twelve (12) hours (8am-8pm).
- If there are no other bookings prior to and/or after the clubs booking, then the club are provided access to set up on a Friday and/or pack down on a Sunday. Council do not charge the club for this time, which is normally charged for all other group bookings.

ATT 4.3.2.2 Officer Report in Response to Notice of Motion No. 37 - Re-evaluation of Meeting Space Allocation for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club

- The \$300 per event charged to the club covers Council's costs for cleaning.

While the club have been appreciative of these concessions, due to the shared nature of community facility, the club are still required to set-up and pack down their club memorabilia* after each home game or event to allow the community facility to be appropriately cleaned for use by other community groups/hirers.

This is physically burdensome and time consuming for Club Volunteers who, between bookings, transport their memorabilia and furniture approximately 45m between the sports pavilion and the community/function rooms.

* It is noted that the club have full ability to display their memorabilia in the sports facility/social rooms that they are allocated, these restrictions relate to the multi-use community/function room only to enable all hirers to set the room up / decorate per their own requirements.

ATT 4.3.2.2 Officer Report in Response to Notice of Motion No. 37 - Re-evaluation of Meeting Space Allocation for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club

OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

There are various options available for Council consideration. This report provides five (5) primary options to consider, taking into consideration the interdependencies and strategic context outlined above. These options are detailed in the table below.

	Description	Financial Impact	Community Impact/Risks	Club Impact Risks	Next Steps
1	Exclusive Use through seasonal allocation (Club preference)				
	<p>The club has sole access to the facility from April to September through a seasonal allocation.</p> <p>The Community Function room would not be managed by Council as a multi-use facility as Club would leave their setup in place throughout the season.</p>	<p>Loss of Community booking revenue (\$15,174 in FY 2024) (this is in addition to the \$34k discount currently provided to the club p/a).</p> <p>Need to consider cost to club for usage, in-line with Council's Fees and Charges.</p>	<p>Change to current Facility use / reduction in overall Community Amenity. (Function/Community room no longer available for community use during winter months.)</p> <p>Community and Stakeholder consultation required in accordance with Community Engagement Planning Framework.</p>	<p>Club would be fully responsible for cleaning as has sole access.</p> <p>No restriction on club always displaying memorabilia and leaving furniture set-up during season.</p>	<p>Progress to community and stakeholder consultation.</p> <p>Officers to consider appropriate fees and charges for future Council approval.</p> <p>Officers to prepare a report outlining options relating to current planned upgrades to existing social space and canteen (\$740k allocated in FY 2024-25).</p>

ATT 4.3.2.2 Officer Report in Response to Notice of Motion No. 37 - Re-evaluation of Meeting Space Allocation for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club

2	Access as per current arrangement with club memorabilia displayed at all times				
	Club can book function room, per current arrangement. Club memorabilia always installed during the winter season.	Existing impact with Council subsidising access for the club by \$2749 per booking. The standard Community fee for a twelve (12) hour booking is \$3149. (\$34k based on 2023-24 bookings.)	Potential loss of community bookings if space is not neutral for booking - specific setup.	Club to cover the cost for cleaning based on existing (discounted) arrangement.	Progress to stakeholder consultation (previous users re: impact of not having 'neutral' space for individual setup).
		Could consider 'curtain' type covering, however costs would need to be determined (and/or this could be at clubs cost).		No restriction on club displaying memorabilia at all times during season. Furniture still to be setup/packed down.	Seek quotes for possible 'curtain' solution for future Council approval.
				Potential risk to memorabilia damage or theft from other users, with the club to be liable for any loss/damage.	
3	Access per current arrangement with additional storage				
	Club can book function room, per current arrangement. Provide a storage space inside the community facility for the club to store memorabilia and furniture when not using community facility. (Note: the existing arrangement requires club to transport between sports pavilion and function room.)	Existing impact with Council subsidising access for the club by \$2749 per booking. (\$34k based on 2023-24 bookings).	No significant impact.	Club would need to set up and pack down for each booking, however, would not need to transport back and forth from sports pavilion, saving time and club resources.	Establish storage opportunities and related costs for future Council approval.
		Provide a storage space inside/in closer proximity to the Community facility for the club to store their memorabilia and furniture when not using Community facility. Costs would need to be determined (and/or this could be at clubs cost).		No risk to memorabilia from other users.	

ATT 4.3.2.2 Officer Report in Response to Notice of Motion No. 37 - Re-evaluation of Meeting Space Allocation for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club

4	Access as per current arrangement, with additional storage and ongoing investment as per reserve Master Plan (OFFICER RECOMMENDATION)				
	Current arrangements remain in place (with additional storage); and Council continues investment per endorsed masterplan.	Council invests capital funding into sport facilities as per endorsed Master Plan.	Per endorsed Master Plan and related process.	Club would need to set up and pack down for each booking, however, would not need to transport back and forth from sports pavilion, saving time and club resources.	Establish storage opportunities and related costs for future Council approval.
		Plus - per option 3, possible storage space inside / in closer proximity to the facility for the club to store their memorabilia and furniture when not using facility.		Ongoing improvement in reserve infrastructure benefits for the club and broader community.	
				No risk to memorabilia from other users.	
5	Access to be charged in line with Council's Fees and Charges for the building				
	Club to cover full cost of use based on Council's approved Fees and Charges.	Approximately \$34k additional revenue (based on 2023-24 bookings).	Provides consistency across the municipality for the use of community facilities by sporting clubs.	Significantly increased cost to club with decreased access (i.e. currently pre and post event access is provided free of charge when there are no community bookings.)	Provide Club with updated Fees and Charges agreement.
				No risk to memorabilia from other users.	

NEXT STEPS

As per Notice of Motion 37: Re-evaluation of Meeting Space Allocation for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club, Council will consider the above options at the public Council meeting on Monday 22 July 2024.

ATT 4.3.2.3 Springvale Reserve - Final Master Plan September 2023

Final Master Plan September 2023



Springvale Reserve

Opportunities to improve the park include:

- 1. Constructing a new local playground
- 2. Providing more informal recreational facilities, such as fitness equipment, picnic facilities, shelters and seating
- 3. Introducing more walking paths to link all areas of the reserve
- 4. Improving the dog off-leash park with a shelter and tree planting
- 5. Greening the park with new tree planting
- 6. Providing a new car park to service the netball courts, cricket nets and match day games
- 7. Constructing two new netball courts for training and competition with lighting and a public toilet
- 8. Upgrading the sports oval lighting to 150lux
- 9. Installing boxes for coaches and players
- 10. Upgrading the Springvale social pavilion, the Springvale Reserve grandstand and change-rooms
- 11. Undertake review of pedestrian safety lighting throughout

Legend:



Proposed tree canopy coverage

- 1 Proposed local playground and picnic area - includes: shelter and BBQ, picnic tables and seating
- 2 Proposed car park expansion - 12 new spaces & 13 existing spaces. To be fenced 1.2m High
- 3 Proposed shared path around perimeter of oval - improved pedestrian connections with priority to safer pedestrian access over parking
- 4 Proposed picnic tables and seats outside kiosk area
- 5 Existing players box
- 6 New coaches box
- 7 Proposed new car park - 31 spaces
- 8 Proposed new storage shed
- 9 Proposed new park entry - new signage and improved access
- 10 Proposed fitness precinct - new ninja warrior circuit, half court with basketball and soccer
- 11 Existing cricket nets - proposed improvements including: new pedestrian connections, safety fence between cricket nets and other facilities
- 12 Proposed netball courts - 2 x courts with player and coach boxes and lighting to both courts
- 13 Existing dog park - proposed improvements including: shelter, path connections, seats and tree planting
- 14 Existing oval - Proposed improvements including: shade to grass embankment, 8m high fence behind goals at each end, upgrade sports lighting to 100lux
- 15 Existing spectator shelters 1 and 2 - proposed improvements including: new bar tables and seats, seal all surfaces and replace back of shelters with semi-transparent screens
- 16 Springvale social pavilion - proposed improvements including: upgrade and renovate social room, canteen and toilets
- 17 Existing Springvale Reserve grandstand and change-room
- 18 Existing public toilets
- 19 New public toilets - proposed to include: ambulant toilet, small change room and store
- 20 Existing and new umpires rooms - upgrade for male and female facilities
- 21 Warm up areas - allows for two teams to warm up separately on game day



ATT 4.3.2.4 Springvale Reserve Master Plan - Implementation Plan

SPRINGVALE RESERVE, SPRINGVALE			
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN WITH OPC AND PROJECT JUSTIFICATION			
September 2023			
The Opinion of Probable Cost is preliminary only to guide the preparation of CIP projects for each of the projects outlined below. The final cost is subject to final design being undertaken for each project.			
ITEM NO.	PROJECT NAME	PRIORITY (years) High (1-4) Medium (5-9) Low (10 plus)	OPINION OF PROBABLE COST (current net value 2022-23)
	OPEN SPACE AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS		
	ROADS, CAR PARKING AND SHARED PATH NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE		
	Newcomen Road - new eastern carpark Design of Newcomen Road vehicular entry road and new carpark (31 spaces) to service the new netball courts, the existing cricket net, and maintenance access to the sports ground oval.		
1		High	\$30,000.00
2	Newcomen Road - new eastern carpark construction	High	\$360,000.00
	Sub-total Newcomen Road carpark		\$390,000.00
3	Ericksen Street carpark upgrade and expansion - Design	High	\$30,000.00
4	Ericksen Street carpark upgrade and extension	High	\$250,000.00
	Sub-total Ericksen Street carpark upgrade and extension		\$280,000.00
5	Eastern perimeter Pedestrian path lighting (Newcomen Rd to Harris St)	High	\$100,000.00
6	New perimeter gravel path around oval	Medium	\$300,000.00
7	Harris St concrete footpath and entries (2) to connect with oval perimeter path circuit and new Ericksen Street carpark	Medium	\$30,000.00
8	New south eastern path connection New concrete pedestrian path from the south eastern corner of the park connecting to the new carpark, the cricket nets, fitness area, netball courts and the dog off-leash area	Medium	\$100,000.00
9	Path improvements to southern shared path area below cypress trees	Medium	\$50,000.00

ATT 4.3.2.4 Springvale Reserve Master Plan - Implementation Plan

	Sub-total pedestrian path network		\$580,000.00
	Sub-total Roads, Car Parking and Shared Path Network Infrastructure		\$1,250,000.00
RECREATIONAL, LEISURE AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES			
10	Cricket Nets - new fence at northern end.	High	\$10,000.00
	Sub-total Cricket Net		\$10,000.00
11	Two New Netball Courts with lighting and supporting infrastructure	High	\$740,000.00
	Sub-total Netball		\$740,000.00
12	Oval Floodlighting - Design and Construction of Sports Ground Floodlighting (upgraded to meet training standard of 100 lux LED)	High	\$430,000.00
13	Coaches and Players Boxes renewal including installation of 2x coaches boxes	High	\$50,000.00
14	Oval high protective fencing behind goals	High	\$50,000.00
	Sub-total Oval Upgrades		\$530,000.00
15	Fencing Renewal Harris St (northern) chain mesh (~1.8m) fencing and gates including along the playground frontage and a section of the dog-off-leash frontage	Low	\$50,000.00
16	Fencing Renewal Newcomen (southern) chain mesh (~1.8m) fencing and gates	Low	\$70,000.00
	Sub-total Perimeter Fencing Renewal		\$120,000.00
17	New Local Playground and Picnic Area	High	\$300,000.00
18	New Picnic Area around the new local playground	Medium	\$120,000.00
	Sub-total Neighbourhood Playground and Picnic Area		\$420,000.00
19	New half-court and ninja warrior Design and Installation of half-court and ninja warrior circuit next to the existing cricket net	Medium	\$350,000.00
	Sub-total Fitness Station and Parkour Zone		\$350,000.00

ATT 4.3.2.4 Springvale Reserve Master Plan - Implementation Plan

20	Open Space improvements to south east corner Design and Installation of new landscaping, seating, picnic tables and shelter to south east corner of the park	Medium	\$100,000.00
	Sub-total Fitness Station and Parkour Zone		\$100,000.00
21	Pavilion Canteen outdoor area improvements	Medium	\$100,000.00
	Sub-total canteen outdoor table and seats		\$100,000.00
22	Dog Off Leash Park Improvements	Medium	\$80,000.00
	Sub total		\$80,000.00
23	Park Furniture - seats	Medium	\$40,000.00
	Sub-total Park Furniture		\$40,000.00
24	Wayfinding signage - vehicle and pedestrian Design	Low	\$40,000.00
25	Wayfinding signage - vehicle and pedestrian Construction	Low	\$100,000.00
	Sub-total Wayfinding Signage		\$140,000.00
26	Landscape Tree Planting Plan	Medium	\$5,000.00
27	Landscape Tree Planting Implementation	Low	\$150,000.00
	Sub-total Landscape works		\$155,000.00
	Sub-total Recreational, Leisure and Community Facilities Parks, Open Space and Streetscapes		\$2,785,000.00
BUILDING WORKS			
28	Springvale Social Pavilion - Social Room Renewal	High	\$50,000.00
29	Springvale Changerooms and Grandstand - Renewal of social male, female and accessible toilets	High	\$140,000.00
30	Springvale Changerooms and Grandstand - Canteen/ Kitchen upgrade	High	\$390,000.00
31	Springvale Changerooms and Grandstand - Umpires room upgrade (female friendly)	High	\$150,000.00
32	Springvale Changerooms and Grandstand - meeting room and first aid room upgrade	Medium	\$100,000.00
	Sub-total Community and Sports Pavilion Building		\$830,000.00
33	Ticket Box Building at Entry Refurbishment	Medium	\$50,000.00
34	New ticket box at the secondary pedestrian gate (optional)	Medium	\$50,000.00

ATT 4.3.2.4 Springvale Reserve Master Plan - Implementation Plan

	Sub-total Outbuilding and Service Infrastructure		\$100,000.00
35	New 2 cubicle public toilet with small change room/storage area - netball court area	High	\$400,000.00
	Sub-total new public toilet / change area		\$400,000.00
36	Spectator Shelters 1 and 2 refurbishment and maintenance	Low	\$200,000.00
	Sub total shelters 1 and 2		\$200,000.00
	Sub-total Building Works		\$1,530,000.00
	TOTAL 10 YEAR INVESTMENT		\$5,565,000.00
	SUMMARY BREAKDOWN		
	Roads, Car Parking and Shared Path Network Infrastructure		\$1,250,000.00
	Recreational, Leisure and Community Facilities & Parks, Open Space and Streetscapes		\$2,785,000.00
	Building Works		\$1,530,000.00
	TOTAL 10 PLUS YEAR INVESTMENT		\$5,565,000.00

ATT 4.3.2.2 Officer Report in Response to Notice of Motion No. 37 - Re-evaluation of Meeting Space Allocation for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club

OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

There are various options available for Council consideration. This report provides five (5) primary options to consider, taking into consideration the interdependencies and strategic context outlined above. These options are detailed in the table below.

	Description	Financial Impact	Community Impact/Risks	Club Impact Risks	Next Steps
1	Exclusive Use through seasonal allocation (Club preference)				
	<p>The club has sole access to the facility from April to September through a seasonal allocation.</p> <p>The Community Function room would not be managed by Council as a multi-use facility as Club would leave their setup in place throughout the season.</p>	<p>Loss of Community booking revenue (\$15,174 in FY 2024) (this is in addition to the \$34k discount currently provided to the club p/a).</p> <p>Need to consider cost to club for usage, in-line with Council's Fees and Charges.</p>	<p>Change to current Facility use / reduction in overall Community Amenity. (Function/Community room no longer available for community use during winter months.)</p> <p>Community and Stakeholder consultation required in accordance with Community Engagement Planning Framework.</p>	<p>Club would be fully responsible for cleaning as has sole access.</p> <p>No restriction on club always displaying memorabilia and leaving furniture set-up during season.</p>	<p>Progress to community and stakeholder consultation.</p> <p>Officers to consider appropriate fees and charges for future Council approval.</p> <p>Officers to prepare a report outlining options relating to current planned upgrades to existing social space and canteen (\$740k allocated in FY 2024-25).</p>

ATT 4.2.4.2 Options for Consideration

ATT 4.3.2.2 Officer Report in Response to Notice of Motion No. 37 - Re-evaluation of Meeting Space Allocation for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club

2	Access as per current arrangement with club memorabilia displayed at all times				
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		Could consider 'curtain' type covering, however costs would need to be determined (and/or this could be at clubs cost).		No restriction on club displaying memorabilia at all times during season. Furniture still to be setup/packed down.	Seek quotes for possible 'curtain' solution for future Council approval.
				Potential risk to memorabilia damage or theft from other users, with the club to be liable for any loss/damage.	
3	Access per current arrangement with additional storage				
	Club can book function room, per current arrangement. Provide a storage space inside the community facility for the club to store memorabilia and furniture when not using community facility. (Note: the existing arrangement requires club to transport between sports pavilion and function room.)	Existing impact with Council subsidising access for the club by \$2749 per booking. (\$34k based on 2023-24 bookings).	No significant impact.	Club would need to set up and pack down for each booking, however, would not need to transport back and forth from sports pavilion, saving time and club resources.	Establish storage opportunities and related costs for future Council approval.
		Provide a storage space inside/in closer proximity to the Community facility for the club to store their memorabilia and furniture when not using Community facility. Costs would need to be determined (and/or this could be at clubs cost).		No risk to memorabilia from other users.	

ATT 4.2.4.2 Options for Consideration

ATT 4.3.2.2 Officer Report in Response to Notice of Motion No. 37 - Re-evaluation of Meeting Space Allocation for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club

4	Access as per current arrangement, with additional storage and ongoing investment as per reserve Master Plan (OFFICER RECOMMENDATION)				
	Current arrangements remain in place (with additional storage); and Council continues investment per endorsed masterplan.	Council invests capital funding into sport facilities as per endorsed Master Plan.	Per endorsed Master Plan and related process.	Club would need to set up and pack down for each booking, however, would not need to transport back and forth from sports pavilion, saving time and club resources.	Establish storage opportunities and related costs for future Council approval.
		Plus - per option 3, possible storage space inside / in closer proximity to the facility for the club to store their memorabilia and furniture when not using facility.		Ongoing improvement in reserve infrastructure benefits for the club and broader community.	
				No risk to memorabilia from other users.	
5	Access to be charged in line with Council's Fees and Charges for the building				
	Club to cover full cost of use based on Council's approved Fees and Charges.	Approximately \$34k additional revenue (based on 2023-24 bookings).	Provides consistency across the municipality for the use of community facilities by sporting clubs.	Significantly increased cost to club with decreased access (i.e. currently pre and post event access is provided free of charge when there are no community bookings.)	Provide Club with updated Fees and Charges agreement.
				No risk to memorabilia from other users.	

NEXT STEPS

As per Notice of Motion 37: Re-evaluation of Meeting Space Allocation for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club, Council will consider the above options at the public Council meeting on Monday 22 July 2024.



4.2.5 Response to Notice of Motion No. 1 - Addressing Cleanliness and Odour Issues in Springvale Activity Centre

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures
Attachments: 1. Key Issues Report [4.2.5.1 - 11 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** the recommendations to the Notice of Motion (Minute No. 35 from the Council meeting on 9 December 2024) to address cleanliness and odour problems in Springvale Activity Centre;
2. **LIASES** with traders and the business community as part of the Springvale Revitalisation Action Plan implementation consultations to reinforce the need for appropriate waste management practices and methods to improve the presentation of Springvale Shopping Precinct; and
3. **CONTINUES** existing enforcement and education activities with the community and businesses to better manage waste and odour issues.

Executive Summary

1. Council Officers have undertaken extensive internal stakeholder engagement and have identified a suite of possible actions outlined in the recommendations section (attachment to this report).
2. It should be noted that the ability to address many of the concerns will require additional resources (both funding and staff time) to satisfactorily make inroads into these complex matters. Significant engagement and potentially partnerships/collaborations will be required with key stakeholders to change current behaviours and to invest in the required infrastructure and process changes required.

Background

3. The preamble to the Notice of Motion stated the following:
 - Recent complaints have highlighted the growing issue of cleanliness and odour problems in the Springvale Activity Centre, particularly around Springvale Market and its interface to Multicultural Place and Buckingham Avenue area. This motion aims to address the concerns raised by both residents and traders by developing a structured approach to mitigate these issues.
 - Ongoing cleanliness and odour issues have significantly impacted local businesses, residents, and visitors, leading to financial losses, potential health hazards, and a decline in the area's overall place experience. Springvale Market, which is Greater Dandenong's busiest activity areas, is central to this issue. Both residents and traders have expressed concerns about the persistent odour and cleanliness problems.
 - By preparing this report, the Council demonstrates its commitment to resolving these problems through a well-informed approach, ensuring the well-being of the community and the sustainability of local businesses.



4. It has been requested that officers prepare a comprehensive report detailing costs and strategies necessary to enhance cleanliness and assist odour mitigation within the Springvale Activity Centre, encompassing Springvale Market. This report includes but not be limited to:
- **1. Investigation of Sources:** Identification of the primary contributors to cleanliness and odour problems, including improper waste disposal practices by local businesses and any infrastructure deficiencies.
 - **2. Enforcement Measures:** Evaluation of current enforcement efforts and recommendations for enhancing compliance with waste disposal regulations and public health standards.
 - **3. Infrastructure Improvements:** Assessment of existing drainage and waste management systems, with proposed upgrades or maintenance plans to prevent future occurrences.
 - **4. Council Cleaning Activities:** Analysis of the current frequency and effectiveness of Council's cleaning activities in the area, with recommendations for potential recalibration to better address cleanliness concerns. This includes a comparison of the resources allocated to the Springvale Activity Centre with those allocated to the Dandenong Market, to identify any disparities and ensure comparable distribution of cleaning services.
 - **5. Community Engagement:** This should include the engagement of key stakeholders such as local traders, business associations and residents to ensure comprehensive participation and feedback.
 - **6. Measurement:** Metrics may include periodic cleanliness audits, surveys of community satisfaction, and analysis of reported incidents. Measurements should also track compliance with waste disposal standards and the effectiveness of trader engagement efforts to provide a well-rounded view of progress. The metric score may be publicly reported on Council's website.
 - **7. Cost Analysis:** Detailed breakdown of the financial implications associated with the proposed strategies, including potential funding sources or budget allocations. This should also include a cost-benefit analysis to show the potential savings or benefits from mitigating these issues.

Key Issues and Discussion

5. A detailed investigation report outlining the key findings of the above-mentioned key issues and recommendations based on the internal consultation across the various business units and external sector benchmarking is attached for further consideration by Council. (Refer to Attachment 1: Key Issues Report).

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

6. For some recommendations, resources required for this item/project are not able to be absorbed within the current arrangements and more resourcing will need to be sought over coming years.



Financial/Asset Resource Implications (consider Service Statements, Budget, Long Term Financial Strategy and Asset Plan)

Operating Budget Implications

7. This report gives an outline of issues and presents recommendations for consideration, including a cost estimate. Due to the complexity of some of the issues and uncertainty around the level of buy-in from external stakeholders it has been difficult to accurately estimate project costs. These recommendations will require further project scoping, including detailed cost analysis, from the relevant areas of Council.

Asset Implications

8. This item increases the use of Council assets. The ongoing maintenance costs have not yet been considered.

Legal/Risk Implications

9. There are no legal / risk implications relevant to this report.

Environmental Implications

10. The impact of poor environmental hygiene affects human health and has severe consequences for the environment.
- Contaminated water sources, including polluted storm water systems.
 - Increase rodents in the centre, compromising public safety.
 - Decreased public amenity and trade, with people not spending time outside and connecting with one another.

Community Consultation

11. There is no requirement for community consultation at this stage.

Links to Community Vision, Council Plan, Strategy, Notice of Motion

12. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
- Safe and peaceful community.
 - Sustainable environment.
 - Mind, body and spirit.
13. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan
14. 2021-25:
- A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
 - A city of accessible, vibrant centres and neighbourhoods.
 - A green city committed to a sustainable future.
 - A Council that demonstrates leadership and a commitment to investing in the community.
15. This report relates to Notice of Motion No 1 Addressing Cleanliness and Odour Issues In Springvale Activity Centre.



Legislative and Policy Obligations

16. This report has considered Council's legislative and policy obligations (where applicable) as outlined in the Report Considerations section detailed in the front of this Agenda. The applicable obligations considered and applied are:

- The Overarching Governance Principles of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
- Climate Change and Sustainability.
- Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.

MINUTE No.88

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** the recommendations to the Notice of Motion (Minute No. 35 from the Council meeting on 9 December 2024) to address cleanliness and odour problems in Springvale Activity Centre;
2. **LIASES** with traders and the business community as part of the Springvale Revitalisation Action Plan implementation consultations to reinforce the need for appropriate waste management practices and methods to improve the presentation of Springvale Shopping Precinct; and
3. **CONTINUES** existing enforcement and education activities with the community and businesses to better manage waste and odour issues.

CARRIED 10 / 0

Response to Notice of Motion (Minute No. 35 from the Council meeting on 9 December 2024) addressing the waste/odour issue in Springvale Activity Centre

1. Investigation of Sources: Identification of the primary contributors to cleanliness and odour problems, including improper waste disposal practices by local businesses and any infrastructure deficiencies.

Sources of waste across the Springvale Activity Centre relates to:

- Unknown and possible illegal private sewer connections into Council's drainage infrastructure
- Improper waste disposal practices from community and business resulting in the misuse of public bins and surrounds
- Issues with poor private waste collection practices
- Illegal Dumping - Cost of landfill levy's tripled – subsequently contributing to illegal dumping
- Cigarette Butts from a high proportion of the community smoking in public areas
- Littering, overflowing bins
- Contaminated recycling bins
- Waste generated from roughsleeping
- Excessive single use plastics in the centre

Current activity to investigate sources (business as usual) includes:

- Routine waste audits are regularly conducted, both internally through Council and externally through Envirocom
- Audit of public place recycling bins contamination late 2024 revealed that more than 80% are contaminated, resulting in high contamination costs from Council waste management contractor
- CCTV around illegal dumping site (limited to the Salvation Army opportunity shop)
- Snap, Send Solve reporting – noting delay of 48 hours to reach relevant departments
- Merit requests
- Officer/s on the ground (limited)

2. Enforcement Measures: Evaluation of current enforcement efforts and recommendations for enhancing compliance with waste disposal regulations and public health standards.

Issues:

- (a) Observations have confirmed the inappropriate wash out of trucks and other materials into Council drains by meat and seafood businesses outside the loading zone within the Balmoral 8 laneway and Multicultural Place shopping area. This has resulted in odour complaints from community and surrounding businesses.

ATT 4.2.5.1 Key Issues Report

Response to Notice of Motion (Minute No. 35 from the Council meeting on 9 December 2024) **addressing the waste/odour issue in Springvale Activity Centre**

- (b) Poor waste disposal practices and public health standards
- (c) Illegal dumping, particular outside public litter bins.

Response to Notice of Motion (Minute No. 35 from the Council meeting on 9 December 2024) **addressing the waste/odour issue in Springvale Activity Centre**

Past, and current (business as usual), enforcement activity includes:

- Officer presence and caution letters alongside proprietor education has resulted in positive behaviour change.
- Planning Compliance continue to monitor and enforce the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme.
- Alongside regular inspections to food businesses, the Environmental health team have responded to 5 community complaints over the last 5 years raising health issues relating to the toilets or business operations.
- Building compliance has also issued notices on body corporate and owners for breaches to the building act for alterations to the building, blocked fire exits, inadequate records keeping for Essential Safety Measures and general fire safety breaches.
- In April 2024 Council issued education and caution letters in relation to the waste bin areas, and this was rectified. In October 2024 Council issued an Official Warning to one seafood shop proprietor.
- CCTV footage for illegal dumping is currently only located outside the Salvation Army opportunity shop on Springvale Road.
- Enforcement from (limited) on the ground local laws officers on average occurs (minimum) 3 times per week. Scope for proactive education, or on the spot enforcement is limited with the volume of jobs they are responding to in the centre.

Response to Notice of Motion (Minute No. 35 from the Council meeting on 9 December 2024) addressing the waste/odour issue in Springvale Activity Centre

3. Infrastructure Improvements: Assessment of existing drainage and waste management systems, with proposed upgrades or maintenance plans to prevent future occurrences.

Council officers suspect that the current underground sewer infrastructure doesn't support the growth in the space, or the types of business operating in the area. The volume of waste has increased due to the changes in products and businesses.

Council drainage systems in this area are working properly, however Council officers suspect that there are additional illegal sewer and drainage connections into Council's underground stormwater network.

4. Council Cleaning Activities: Analysis of the current frequency and effectiveness of Council's cleaning activities in the area, with recommendations for potential recalibration to better address cleanliness concerns. This should include a comparison of the resources allocated to the Springvale Activity Centre with those allocated to the Dandenong Market, to identify any disparities and ensure comparable distribution of cleaning services.

Cleansing within Dandenong Market is not conducted by Council. Council cleansing teams clean the areas around the market as part of standard cleansing activity within Dandenong activity centre.

The footprint of Dandenong CBD is larger than Springvale, subsequently there are more ground resources to cover cleansing in Dandenong as opposed to Springvale. This methodology does not take into consideration the density in the centres. Springvale is a far denser city centre in terms of business and pedestrian activity than Dandenong. Ground resources for Springvale should be re-considered based on the number of people in the centre, business mix and density.

There are 3 people in Dandenong CBD, compared to 2.5 in Springvale.

A recent business case put forward to have an extra person (from 2.5 to 3) around the Multicultural Place, Balmoral 8, Toilet, Buckingham Avenue area was not supported. Multicultural Place sees 8 – 10k people per day move through this space alone.

Council cleansing staff also report issues for rectification within Springvale Activity Centre that are related to other business units, they also monitor and report issues regarding homelessness and anti-social behaviour. Complaints from community and traders around waste generated from homelessness or rough sleeping has increased, with resources stretched in the cleansing team to address this issue. Cleansing and Community Advocacy work closely together in identifying rough sleepers/homeless persons to identify and provide support through the Dandenong zero initiative.

Response to Notice of Motion (Minute No. 35 from the Council meeting on 9 December 2024) **addressing the waste/odour issue in Springvale Activity Centre**

The public bins in the centre are almost full by 11am, getting a large truck through the centre with the traffic congestion is extremely difficult. Council recently purchased a smaller collection truck that will increase the capacity to conduct additional public bin collections in the centre throughout the day. Noting that additional waste collection is unlikely to address the core behavior contributing to the issue.

Currently cleansing activity (business as usual) in Springvale Activity centre includes:

Council cleansing teams undertake multiple cleaning programs within Springvale Activity Centre that are a mix of in house works & contracted works, these works are undertaken throughout the year and the programs below indicate the level of service provided.

In-house - daily:

- Public litter bin clearing
- Footpath sweeping
- Road sweeping
- Litter collection/street cleaning
- Multideck cleaning
- Trader waste dumping
- Toilet cleaning (twice daily between contractor cleans)

In-house - as required:

- Footpath scrubbing
- Reactive street furniture washing
- Reactive pressure washing

Dumped Rubbish at identified hot spots proactively occurs 2 days per week. Teams also respond reactivity when required, with requests increasing.

Contracted Services:

- Graffiti removal – asrequired
- Stained footpath program - quarterly (includes Multicultural Place)
- Public recycle bin emptying - 5 days per week
- Street furniture washing - fortnightly
- Public litter bin surround washing - weekly

Response to Notice of Motion (Minute No. 35 from the Council meeting on 9 December 2024) **addressing the waste/odour issue in Springvale Activity Centre**

- Public Litter bin insert (Wheelie Bin) sanitising - quarterly
- Toilet cleaning - Daily (3 times per day)
- Syringe collection Multideck & Civic Centre - weekly
- Public Litter bin insert (Wheelie Bin) deep wash - quarterly

5. Community Engagement: This should include the engagement of key stakeholders such as local traders, business associations and residents to ensure comprehensive participation and feedback.

Community engagement on proper waste disposal practices and maintaining good environmental hygiene sits across multiple departments, with Council staff, regardless of their department, often assisting with issues after being approached by traders and members of the public. Council departments could be working closer on addressing these issues as a collective.

Council's Waste Education is directly responsible for waste engagement and currently:

- Delivers environmental education programs for schools and communities including in person, digital and social media platforms
- Coordinates special waste education events, i.e Plastic Free July, Clean Up Australia Day, Sustainability Festival.
- Develops educational and promotional materials including the coordination and delivery of community workshops.
- Communicates state government requirements and initiatives (i.e single use plastic policies)
- Undertakes community surveys, street intercepts and behavioural observations
- Conducts focus group and qualitative data collection
- Undertakes bin inspections and waste audits
- Conducts desktop and literature research

Community engagement must be collaborative with local traders, business associations and residents community and business working alongside Council to take responsibility in the centre.

Leveraging actions in the Springvale Revitalisation Action Plan, a "pride in place" approach is encouraged. The Springvale Revitalisation for Multicultural Place, loading zone and laneway is currently in development with pending community engagement of the draft concept. The draft concept includes improved amenity and above ground infrastructure with instil a sense of pride in the space, this also includes a bin enclosure for businesses using the laneway for collection. However, this will require significant capital investment.

Response to Notice of Motion (Minute No. 35 from the Council meeting on 9 December 2024) addressing the waste/odour issue in Springvale Activity Centre

- 6. Measurement: Metrics may include periodic cleanliness audits, surveys of community satisfaction, and analysis of reported incidents. Measurements should also track compliance with waste disposal standards and the effectiveness of trader engagement efforts to provide a well-rounded view of progress. The metric score may be publicly reported on council's website.**

A detailed measurement and evaluation plan will be developed pending approved actions and initiatives should further funds become available for suggested new project/program opportunities.

Potential measures may include:

- **Litter Monitoring:**
Counting and categorising litter in specific areas can provide data on the amount and type of waste present.
- **Waste Management Costs:**
Analysing the costs associated with waste collection, disposal, and recycling
- **Cleanliness Grades:**
Explore implementing grading streets and public spaces based on their cleanliness, allowing for objective comparison and tracking of improvements.
- **Green Infrastructure Assessment Tools:**
Explore how we assess environmental and social benefits of green infrastructure, which can contribute to a cleaner and more liveable city.
- **Resident/Business Surveys:**
Asking residents about their perceptions of cleanliness and their satisfaction with the cleanliness efforts
- **Measuring Perceptions:**
Explore ways to measure residents' perceptions of street quality and cleanliness

Metrics to provide longitudinal data to address the two most evident issues now:-

- a. Dumped commercial waste (adjacent to public litter bins)
Gross tonnage can be measured on a determined frequency and cycle
- b. Solid waste (Council's drainage system)
Gross tonnage can be measured – cycle to be confirmed (min 5 pits).

- 7. Cost Analysis: Detailed breakdown of the financial implications associated with the proposed strategies, including potential funding sources or budget allocations. This should also include a cost-benefit analysis to show the potential savings or benefits from mitigating these issues.**

Detailed business cases will occur depending on which considerations are to be further explored. Business cases will breakdown the financial implications associated with the agreed action, including potential funding sources, budget allocations and any cost benefits that would arise from the implementation of actions and initiatives.

ATT 4.2.5.1 Key Issues Report

Response to Notice of Motion (Minute No. 35 from the Council meeting on 9 December 2024) addressing the waste/odour issue in Springvale Activity Centre

ACTIONS						
Action	Outcomes	Estimated Cost	Department/s	Priority	Impact	Ease
Survey drainage and possibly the private sewer systems	Provide evidence around the legal and possible illegal cross connections between stormwater and sewer network Detailed mapping of underground drainage services and connections	\$100k to \$200k	Works	Low	Medium	Difficult
Rationalise the laneway, as per SRAP action, to have less truck activity in the space	Evidence based rationalisation of the loading zone and laneway, reduce capacity of trucks in the space. Begin to reframe the laneway as pedestrian areas, which is an action of the SRAP. Audit of laneway usage and potential alternative loading zones.	\$3 000 000.00 (OPC)	Placemaking Traffic Management	High	High	Medium
Install small traps in drainage network.	Trial with Tangaroa Blue where small traps are installed in our drainage network and then manually sort through the rubbish collected. They then provide us with a report of findings so we can target education and infrastructure improvements based on type and quantity of waste coming down	Existing grant/partnership	Works & Fleet Waste Education Cleansing	Medium	High	Easy
Improve area around bins through soft landscaping	Interrupt behaviour, deterring dumping or misuse of bins. Improve precinct amenity, green space and connection to natural world, instilling pride of place	\$30 000	Parks Placemaking	Low	High	Medium
Pilot program of smart bins as part of the Multicultural Place redevelopment	Launching pilot program to evaluate the performance and effectiveness of smart bin solutions before assessing further deployment. Noting that smart city technology was an action item for SRAP	\$10 - \$15k per bin	Works & Fleet Waste and Cleansing Placemaking	Medium	High	Easy
Improve infrastructure to support direct messaging/education on bins	Fix messaging boards on bins to support printed messaging. Noting that Snap Send Solve takes up to 48 hours to reach Council departments develop an alternative method to report bins that are full	\$10 000	Waste Education Works & Fleet	Medium	Medium	Easy
Use of existing CCTV footage for enforcement action – particularly around “hot spot” dumping sites	When/if new CCTV usage policy is endorsed, litter and illegal dumping are allowable reasons for local laws officers to request footage from Public Safety. Noting that all criminal offences need to be reported to Victoria police in the first instance.	Use of existing CCTV footage	Regulatory Services Public Safety	Medium	High	High

ATT 4.2.5.1 Key Issues Report

Response to Notice of Motion (Minute No. 35 from the Council meeting on 9 December 2024) addressing the waste/odour issue in Springvale Activity Centre

Under the Tobacco Act declare a ban on smoking and vaping in spaces where members of the public gather i.e Multicultural Place	Reduce problematic litter caused from cigarette butts in Springvale (the highest in all the centres). Protect the community from exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke, and the aerosol from e-cigarettes. Make smoking and vaping in the community less acceptable. The less people see smoking and vaping in public places, the less they will think it is okay, and instead, harmful Support people who have quit or are trying to quit smoking and vaping.	\$8000 for public education, marketing and communication.	Public Health Regulatory Services Placemaking Waste Education	High	Medium	Medium
Additional resources through an increase in an on the ground cleansing and enforcement presence	Reduction of visible waste, and increase in behaviour change. Given the density and high foot traffic in Springvale, revisit the business case to support resourcing increase from 2.5 to 3 people. Have the additional resource on site until 7pm would also help to reduce, and report, anti-social behaviour and illegal dumping.	Business Case to be developed if supported	Cleansing Local Laws	High	Hugh	Easy
Waste Collection Zones	Communal garbage compactors and recycling bins (predominately for cardboard) would be provided for businesses Reduce the amenity and environmental problems arising from the collection and on-street storage of waste bins. The zones would help alleviate issues related to noise, dumped rubbish and overflowing bins as well as road congestion, greenhouse gas emissions and pedestrian safety. A fee would be charged for businesses to use the communal garbage compactors via an endorsed fee-paying model	Business Case to be developed if supported	Cleansing Waste Management Works &Fleet	Medium	High	Difficult
Introduce special charge levy scheme under the LGAAact for commercial waste collection in Springvale Activity Centre	Eliminate private waste collection. Private waste collection in the centre is problematic. Providers require bills to be up to date before collections are made. Often the cause of excess rubbish in the centre. Council often collects this waste when it gets to the point of public nuisance. This will also decrease misuse of public bins from traders	Business Case to be developed if supported		Low	High	Difficult

ATT 4.2.5.1 Key Issues Report

Response to Notice of Motion (Minute No. 35 from the Council meeting on 9 December 2024) addressing the waste/odour issue in Springvale Activity Centre

Rebrand / Refresh of Litter Action Task Force	<p>Potentially co-led with Placemaking under a place management approach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing of knowledge, grant opportunities, education programs, key messages and collateral across all departments Empowering departments to conduct conversational audits and behaviour change Supported by the development of a business engagement program <p>Feeding into the internal working, adopt a collaborative model with a supporting community reference group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging shared responsibility Schools, traders, community leaders - this methodology has proven successful in Springvale. 	Operating under existing resources	Waste Education, Statutory Planning, Environmental Health, Cleansing, Community Advocacy, Regulatory Services, Placemaking, Business Development and Investment	High	High	High
Community Events	<p>Plastic free July initiatives i.e installation in Multicultural Place similar to the very successful illegal dumping campaign in Harmony Square</p> <p>'Borrow-a-bag' initiative similar to that run in Dandenong Market.</p> <p>Have Lily Litter Bug roaming Springvale at key times to engage families and traders - 'Tidy Springvale'.</p>	\$15 000 - \$20 000	Sustainability Waste Education	Medium	Medium	Easy
Single Use Plastic initiatives- specifically bubble tea initiatives	<p>Fun, Springvale branded keep cups for bubble tea – engage artist for design, community engagement process</p> <p>Option for giveaway of CGD/ Springvale branded reusable straws</p> <p>Single Use Plastic – could possibly provide CGD/ Springvale branded reusable straws for customers (perhaps as a promo / first 100 customers for the first day of Plastic Free July)</p> <p>Use Lily Litterbug as a mascot roaming Springvale to engage with community and traders. Perhaps even photos on shopfronts to promote recycling / responsible waste disposal / 'tidy Springvale'.</p>	\$15 000 - \$20 000	Sustainability Waste Education	Medium	Medium	Easy

ATT 4.2.5.1 Key Issues Report

Response to Notice of Motion (Minute No. 35 from the Council meeting on 9 December 2024) addressing the waste/odour issue in Springvale Activity Centre

Explore Ignite partnership with Melbourne University	The Ignite program takes innovation concepts - including student innovation projects conceived in Innovation Practice Program subjects - and further develops the opportunity through prototyping, testing and validating hypotheses of the innovation. Funded internships for prototyping, testing and validating hypotheses of innovation concepts Support of specialist mentors in human-centred and customer-driven design and innovation City of Melbourne worked with Ignite in 2022 as part of the “what if there was no such thing as waste” initiative.	Partnership	SustainabilityWaste Education Cleansing Placemaking	Low	Low	Medium
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4.2.6 Report on Matters Discussed at Councillor Briefing Sessions and Pre-Council Meetings

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance
Attachments: Nil

Officer Recommendation

That:

- a. the information contained in this report be received and noted; and
- b. the information discussed at the above listed Councillor Briefing Session that was declared confidential under section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* in Items 14 & 15 below remains confidential until further advisement unless that information forms the subject of a subsequent Council report.

Executive Summary

1. As part of Council's ongoing efforts to improve transparency in Council processes, matters discussed at Councillor Briefing Sessions & Pre-Council Meetings (other than those matters designated to be of a confidential nature) are reported on at Council meetings.
2. The matters listed in this report were presented to Councillor Briefing Sessions & Pre-Council Meetings during the period 24 February – 17 March 2025.

Background

3. The Executive Team and associated staff at Greater Dandenong City Council host Councillor Briefing Sessions and Pre-Council Meetings on a regular basis (weekly) to inform Councillors about the work officers are undertaking, share information, obtain feedback and discuss strategies and options for current and future work.
4. To ensure transparency in this process, matters discussed at Councillor Briefing Sessions and Pre-Council Meetings (other than those matters designated to be confidential under the *Local Government Act 2020*) are reported on at Council meetings. This report represents matters discussed at the Councillor Briefing Sessions & Pre-Council meetings during the period 24 February – 17 March 2025.

**Matters Presented for Discussion**

Item		Councillor Briefing Session/Pre-Council Meeting
1	General Discussion Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Update on important emergencies within the Municipality;b. Burbank development update; and Agenda items for the Council meeting of 24 February 2025.	Pre-Council Meeting (PCM) – 24 February 2025
2	Statutory Planning Update – Zoning/Second Dwelling Councillors were briefed on current Zoning and Second Dwelling rules and regulations.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 3 March 2025
3	State Government Housing Update Councillors were updated with details regarding the latest State Government Housing announcements - particularly focused on impacts on Greater Dandenong.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 3 March 2025
4	South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCA) Membership Councillors were presented with rationale to withdraw its membership of SECCA. This proposal will form the basis of a Council meeting report.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 3 March 2025
5	Keysborough Golf Club Update Councillors were briefed on planning schematics in relation to the Keysborough Golf Club development.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 3 March 2025
6	Afghan Bazaar Precinct Update Councillors were briefed on the latest activities and developments related to the Afghan Bazaar precinct.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 3 March 2025
7	Keysborough South Community Hub – Strategic Update Councillors were briefed on the outcomes of the community consultation relating to the draft Keysborough South Community Hub (KSCH) Strategic Plan and endorsement sought for related actions, including the development of an overarching Community Hub Strategic Framework, the establishment of a combined Hubs' Advisory Committee Terms of Reference and further consultation regarding the Hub's naming.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 3 March 2025
8	ALGA State Motions Councillors were presented with proposed draft motions to be submitted to both the upcoming Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 3 March 2025



Item		Councillor Briefing Session/Pre-Council Meeting
	Meeting and the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly.	
9	Digital Technology Policies Review Councillors were briefed on the following policies: Access Control Policy; Information Security Policy; and Mobile Device Policy. These policies are essential for enhancing the security and management of Council's digital assets and ensuring compliance with relevant standards and regulations.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 3 March 2025
10	Dandenong Wellbeing Centre Update Councillors were presented with further information regarding the proposed tenderer for the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre project.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 3 March 2025
11	General Discussion Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: a. Update on Afghan Bazaar Precinct matter; b. Upcoming attendance at the ALGA National Assembly in Canberra; Agenda items for the Council Meeting of 11 March 2025.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 3 March 2025
12	General Discussion Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: a. Update on Afghan Bazaar Precinct matter; b. Agenda items for the Council Meeting of 11 March 2025.	Pre-Council Meeting (PCM) – 11 March 2025
13	Parking Meter Renewal Scope of Works and Procurement Councillors were briefed on the outcomes of a Community Engagement period targeted at gathering business feedback on how Council can ease transition to modern parking technologies.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 17 March 2025
14	South East Leisure (SEL) Draft Budget and Annual Plan (CONFIDENTIAL under section 3(1)(g) of the Local Government Act 2020)	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 17 March 2025
15	Notice of Motion No. 1 Addressing Cleanliness and Odour issues in Springvale Activity Centre (CONFIDENTIAL under section 3(1)(g) of the Local Government Act 2020)	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 17 March 2025
16	Dandenong Market Precinct Master Plan Councillors were presented with the proposed project methodology, timeframes and engagement approach.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 17 March 2025



Item		Councillor Briefing Session/Pre-Council Meeting
17	Springvale Reserve – Community Function Room Councillors were presented with the outcomes of the community and stakeholder consultation regarding the re-evaluation of the meeting space for Springvale Districts Football Netball Club (SDFNC).	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 17 March 2025
18	Draft Council Plan 2025- 29 Priorities Advocacy Priorities Councillor feedback was sought on the draft priorities developed for the Council Plan 2025-29.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 17 March 2025
19	Advocacy Priorities Councillors were provided details of the process for identifying advocacy priorities for FY2025-26.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 17 March 2025
20	Capital Improvement 2025-26 and Asset Plan Councillors were provided information in this briefing in preparation for the Budget sessions in April.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 17 March 2025
21	General Discussion Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Upcoming ALGA National Assembly attendance;b. Councillor Travel Policy; Agenda items for the Council Meeting of 24 March 2025.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 17 March 2025

Apologies

5. Councillor Phillip Danh, Councillor Alice Phuong Le and Councillor Loi Truong submitted apologies for the Councillor Briefing Session on 17 February 2025.
6. Councillor Phillip Danh submitted an apology for the Pre-Council Meeting on 24 February 2025.
7. Councillor Phillip Danh submitted an apology for the Pre-Council Meeting on 11 March 2025.
8. Councillor Jim Memeti submitted an apology for the Councillor Briefing Session on 17 March 2025.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

9. Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (LGA2020) states that a Council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles.
10. Reporting on matters discussed at Councillor Briefing Sessions and Pre-Council Meetings gives effect to the overarching governance principles (in particular, section 9(i) of the *Local Government Act 2020*) in that the transparency of Council actions and information is ensured.



MINUTE No.89

Moved by: Cr Sophie Tan

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That:

- a. the information contained in this report be received and noted; and**
- b. the information discussed at the above listed Councillor Briefing Session that was declared confidential under section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* in Items 14 & 15 below remains confidential until further advisement unless that information forms the subject of a subsequent Council report.**

CARRIED 10 / 0



4.2.7 List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance, Legal & Risk
Attachments: 1. List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors [4.2.7.1 - 2 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That the listed items for the period 3 – 14 March 2025 provided in Attachment 1 to this report be received and noted.

Executive Summary

1. Subsequent to past Council resolutions in relation to the listing of registered incoming correspondence addressed to the Mayor and Councillors, Attachment 1 to this report provides a list of this correspondence for the period 3 – 14 March 2025.

MINUTE No.90

Moved by: Cr Lana Formoso

Seconded by: Cr Loi Truong

That the listed items for the period 3 – 14 March 2025 provided in Attachment 1 to this report be received and noted.

CARRIED 10 / 0

Objective

CONNECTED. COLLABORATIVE. COMMUNITY.

Correspondences addressed to the Mayor and Councillors received between 03/03/25 & 14/03/25 - for officer action - total = 0

Correspondence Name	Correspondence Dated	Date Record Created	Objective ID	User Currently Assigned
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NB: Users assigned may have changed by the time of the Council Meeting. Correct at time of report production only.

Objective

CONNECTED. COLLABORATIVE. COMMUNITY.

Correspondences addressed to the Mayor and Councillors received between 03/03/25 & 14/03/25 - for information only - total = 2

Correspondence Name	Correspondence Dated	Date Record Created	Objective ID	User Currently Assigned
An Invitation from the Dandenong Cranbourne RSL Sub Branch to Mayor Jim Memeti for ANZAC Day Services.	11-Mar-25	11-Mar-25	A11829324	Mayor & Councillors Office
An Email from the General Manager of the Heart Foundation Providing an Introduction to the Foundation.	12-Mar-25	12-Mar-25	A11837024	Mayor & Councillors Office

NB: Users assigned may have changed by the time of the Council Meeting. Correct at time of report production only.



5 NOTICES OF MOTION

5.1 NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 7 - DIRECT ELECTION OF THE MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR BY DANDENONG COMMUNITY

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance, Legal & Risk

Author: Cr Rhonda Garad

Preamble

1. The purpose of this motion is to investigate and outline the pathway to transitioning to a community-elected mayor and deputy mayor model.
2. Allowing the community to directly elect the mayor and deputy mayor enhances accountability by ensuring that these leaders are directly answerable to the people they serve. This system increases transparency, strengthens the legitimacy of leadership, and fosters greater public engagement, ensuring that the leadership reflects the community's priorities and concerns. By directly electing both the mayor and deputy mayor, the Council can build stronger trust and ensure more responsive governance that prioritises the needs and desires of the community and would position our Council as a leader in building responsive democratic representation.
3. Mayors and Deputy Mayors of the City of Greater Dandenong should allow for new leadership that reflects the diverse and evolving demographics of the community they serve. Labor-aligned mayors have held the office for the past two decades, with the exception of one year. Allowing the community to directly elect the mayor would increase representation and ensure that the leadership better reflects the interests and values of the entire population.
4. Direct election would provide voters with a stronger voice in local governance and ensure that the mayor is more accountable to the people.
5. Several councils in NSW have adopted the model of directly electing mayors such as Wollongong, Shellharbour, Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla, Bega, Uralla, Bellingen, and Dungog. These councils transitioned to this model following adjustments to the *Local Government Act* in the 1990s, which allowed for direct election of mayors.

Motion

1. That a report be **PREPARED** outlining the following:
 - a. **Direct Election by Community** – where both the mayor and deputy mayor are elected entirely by the community through a popular vote.
 - b. **Hybrid Model** – where the mayor and deputy mayor are elected through a combination of community vote and Council vote (e.g., 50% each).
2. The report should include:
 - a. The required steps and legal considerations for holding a plebiscite or public vote to change the method of election for both mayor and deputy mayor.
 - b. The process for overseeing the plebiscite, including who would run it and the legal and procedural requirements involved.



- c. Australian precedents for directly elected mayors and deputy mayors, including examples of councils that have transitioned to this model, the results of those changes, and including the legislative changes adopted in NSW to the Act.
- d. This report will be combined with a previous Notice of Motion on opening up Councillor Briefing Sessions to the public.

MINUTE

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Isabella Do

1. That a report be PREPARED outlining the following:

- a. **Direct Election by Community** – where both the mayor and deputy mayor are elected entirely by the community through a popular vote.
- b. **Hybrid Model** – where the mayor and deputy mayor are elected through a combination of community vote and Council vote (e.g., 50% each).

2. The report should include:

- a. The required steps and legal considerations for holding a plebiscite or public vote to change the method of election for both mayor and deputy mayor.
- b. The process for overseeing the plebiscite, including who would run it and the legal and procedural requirements involved.
- c. Australian precedents for directly elected mayors and deputy mayors, including examples of councils that have transitioned to this model, the results of those changes, and including the legislative changes adopted in NSW to the Act.
- d. This report will be combined with a previous Notice of Motion on opening up Councillor Briefing Sessions to the public.

LOST 3 / 7

For - Cr Isabella Do, Cr Rhonda Garad and Cr Bob Milkovic.

**Against - Cr Phillip Danh, Cr Lana Formoso, Cr Jim Memeti, Cr Sean O'Reilly,
Cr Sophie Tan, Cr Loi Truong and Cr Melinda Yim.**



5.2 NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 8 - EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF BRIEFING MEETING AGENDAS

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance, Legal & Risk
Author: Cr Rhonda Garad

Preamble

1. To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of briefing meetings by ensuring that Agendas are manageable, prioritised, and allow for sufficient time for Councillors to review materials and ask questions, ultimately leading to better outcomes for the community.
2. The current practice of overloading briefing meeting Agendas with too many items has led to insufficient time for Councillors to properly review all materials and ask meaningful questions. This has resulted in meetings running late into the evening, which is not productive and risks making rushed decisions that are not fully considered. Such practices undermine the quality of governance and can negatively impact the community.
3. To ensure the best outcomes for the community, it is essential that briefing meetings are properly managed, allowing Councillors the time needed to carefully consider each item on the Agenda, ask questions, and make well-informed decisions.

Motion

That:

1. **officers will show due consideration for the number and complexity of Agenda items, ensuring that the workload is manageable and that there is enough time for Councillors to fully review the material;**
2. **Agendas will be designed to allow sufficient time for Councillors to ask questions and engage in meaningful discussion, and meetings will be run on time, with clear start and end times to avoid running late into the evening;**
3. **the Agenda be restructured to allow for Councillor questions at the beginning of each item, followed by brief officer reports. This will ensure that all Councillors have the opportunity to engage early in the discussion;**
4. **presentations and supporting materials will be sent to Councillors in advance to allow adequate time for review prior to meetings;**
5. **if a meeting is running overtime, a vote will be required to extend the meeting time, or items may be carried over to the next session. Items will be prioritised on the Agenda from most urgent to least urgent to ensure that critical matters are addressed in a timely manner;**
6. **officers must respect that Councillors have other professional commitments and personal obligations, and that continuous overtime risks making decisions that are rushed and not properly considered;**
7. **overloading Agendas with too many items risks poor decision-making, undermining the quality of governance and impacting the community by not allowing adequate time for deliberation; and**



8. the response to this Notice of Motion be incorporated into the response to Notice of Motion No. 3 - *Opening Councillor Briefing Sessions to the Public* (tabled at 10 February 2025 Council Meeting) via a report to be presented to Council by 31 May 2025.

MINUTE

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Isabella Do

That:

1. officers will show due consideration for the number and complexity of Agenda items, ensuring that the workload is manageable and that there is enough time for Councillors to fully review the material;
2. Agendas will be designed to allow sufficient time for Councillors to ask questions and engage in meaningful discussion, and meetings will be run on time, with clear start and end times to avoid running late into the evening;
3. the Agenda be restructured to allow for Councillor questions at the beginning of each item, followed by brief officer reports. This will ensure that all Councillors have the opportunity to engage early in the discussion;
4. presentations and supporting materials will be sent to Councillors in advance to allow adequate time for review prior to meetings;
5. if a meeting is running overtime, a vote will be required to extend the meeting time, or items may be carried over to the next session. Items will be prioritised on the Agenda from most urgent to least urgent to ensure that critical matters are addressed in a timely manner;
6. officers must respect that Councillors have other professional commitments and personal obligations, and that continuous overtime risks making decisions that are rushed and not properly considered;
7. overloading Agendas with too many items risks poor decision-making, undermining the quality of governance and impacting the community by not allowing adequate time for deliberation; and
8. the response to this Notice of Motion be incorporated into the response to Notice of Motion No. 3 - *Opening Councillor Briefing Sessions to the Public* (tabled at 10 February 2025 Council Meeting) via a report to be presented to Council by 31 May 2025.

LOST 3 / 7

For - Cr Isabella Do, Cr Rhonda Garad and Cr Bob Milkovic.

Against - Cr Phillip Danh, Cr Lana Formoso, Cr Jim Memeti, Cr Sean O'Reilly,
Cr Sophie Tan, Cr Loi Truong and Cr Melinda Yim.



6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

Question

Cr Phillip Danh

Recently, the Noble Park Tennis Club were experiencing some trouble with accessibility and maintenance in their toilet facilities. Is there an update on this?

Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

I am not familiar with this matter. I will investigate and provide a response.

Question

Cr Phillip Danh

I met with traders on Ian Street, Noble Park to discuss issues along a strip of shops next to Noble Park Station adjacent to Heatherton Road, and how we can continue to improve that precinct following some recent revitalisation works. Given our discussions on place making recently, that is something that is of interest to many people.

One issue that needs to be addressed quickly is the laneway on the western side of the shops. I have been informed there are safety concerns, including allegations of drug dealing and other antisocial behaviour in the evenings. One key factor is the lack of lighting. Given its proximity to the train station, there are Protective Services Officers (PSO) patrolling in the evenings. Is it possible for Council to contact the relevant authorities and ask if PSOs can help patrol in the evenings?

Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

Officers will investigate and make contact for advocacy.

Question

Cr Phillip Danh

I wanted to raise another issue with the laneway itself. There is wear and tear. It is complex given that it is hard to indicate which part of the laneway belongs to Council and which is private property. As a result, there have been parking problems.

Sometimes cars trying to park on the private part of the land infringe onto the Council pavement, making it difficult for traders to drive in and out.

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Council's traffic engineers will review that.



Question

Cr Bob Milkovic

I have received calls from residents and seen Facebook posts regarding complaints about barking dogs in neighbourhoods. Could Council perhaps run an online information campaign through Facebook to inform residents who they can refer to when they have complaints?

Due to language barriers, people are not well informed about where to go or who to talk to. If we could provide information via electronic media advising which course of action they can undertake for those sorts of complaints.

Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

We can do that. We are also going to have information stands at upcoming events to discuss animal management and how people can best respond in those situations. One of the biggest issues we see when we receive complaints is that people do not follow through with the noise diaries, which are required as evidence for us to progress anything beyond an informal conversation. We want the residents to understand that although it can be frustrating, it is a key part of the process in relation to animals and noise.

Cr Bob Milkovic and Cr Phillip Danh left the Chamber at 9:07 pm.

Comment

Cr Loi Truong

Last week, I attended the Alex Wilkie Reserve, Springvale South with Meng Heang Tak MP. People attended to make suggestions for changes to our plan in Springvale South.

Comment

Cr Sean O'Reilly

Myself, Councillor Isabella Do, Councillor Melinda Yim, and Councillor Alice Phoung Le attended the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Victorian Convention of Councillors this weekend. It was informative. We had scheduled sessions where we learned about governance and heard an address from the Minister.

Another benefit of conferences is talking with people from other Councils and comparing notes. Myself and the other participants are currently compiling a comprehensive report that we will submit to Council for inclusion in the minutes. We will submit that in due course.



Cr Bob Milkovic and Cr Phillip Danh returned to the Chamber at 9:10 pm.

Comment

Cr Sophie Tan, Deputy Mayor

On Wednesday 12 March 2025, I attended the Greater Southeast Melbourne meeting with Colin Brooks MP, alongside the Mayor of the City of Casey Councillor Stefan Koomen, Greater South East Melbourne's (GSEM) Independent Director and Chair Simon McKeon, the GSEM Secretary Damien Mannix, and Executive Manager for Growth & Advocacy Marjan Hajjari. We discussed some of the challenges of GSEM and the future plan for manufacturing investment in the South East region.

GSEM advocates for jobs, infrastructure investments, liveability, sustainability, and wellbeing for the Southeast and everyone who lives and works in the region. Currently, we have at least 1.5 million people living in the region, 83,000 businesses, 500,000 jobs, and generate around \$85 billion in Gross Regional Product. It is great to see the Minister interested in the future plan.

On Thursday 13 March 2025, I attended the Victoria Police Meeting with Cardinia, Casey, and Greater Dandenong Councils' CEOs and Mayors to discuss challenges and opportunities to strengthen our relationship with Victoria Police for the three Councils.

On Friday 14 March 2025, I attended the launch of the Grayce International branch in Dandenong. Grace International provides migration and education services to international students. They currently operate in eleven countries globally including Australia.

On Saturday 15 March 2025, I attended the Day Zero Cricket for Climate project launch. This is a collaboration between Dandenong Cricket Club, the Cricket Climate Program, and our Council. We are proud to support them in this green power station project, which includes solar panels and two large batteries. The project cost around \$100,000 and is a prime example of how a community can benefit from being green. The club could save at least \$10,000 each year on electricity bills. The investment will also be spent on women's sports groups and other important initiatives.

On Tuesday 18 March 2025, I attended the staff memorial event to pay our condolences to families and friends of departed colleagues who are no longer with us. It was a time to reflect and share memories, acknowledging those who meant so much to us at work.

On Wednesday 19 March 2025, I attended the Harmony Week Awards, hosted by the Interfaith Network. The keynote speaker was Jana Favero, Deputy CEO and Head of Domestic Change at the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre. They are currently helping at least 7,000 people seeking asylum with basic needs like food, medicines, and processing visa applications. Some people have been in detention for up to twelve years, so it is great to see any policy changes being processed.



Deputy Mayor Sophie Tan presented Mayor Jim Memeti with a signed certificate from Harmony week.

On Friday 21 March 2025, I attended the launch of the exhibition hosted by the Noble Park Community Centre titled "I Do What They Think I Do" by Verne Krastin. Congratulations to Verne for sharing his work with us. He is a busy creative artist currently working on many projects, including narrative poems, short stories, a collection of mini poems, and developing a website for caption craft.

Over the weekend, I attended the Pulari Annual Stage Show, a huge event with many people enjoying multicultural talent. It is an annual celebration organised by the Pulari Victoria to provide a platform for community members and Indian artists to showcase their talents. On the night, they raised approximately \$3,000 for Monash Health.

Question

Cr Sophie Tan, Deputy Mayor

A Noble Park resident has concerns about drainage issues affecting around six units. They wish to get in touch with our officer to help provide some cost-effective solutions. They need to get a permit from Council and have work done. Can an officer contact the resident to get the process moving?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

I will have a staff member contact the resident.

Comment

Cr Lana Formoso

I attended many Iftar dinners these last two weeks. Thank you to all of our community that have invited me to those dinners with delicious food and celebrating the holy month of Ramadan.

On Saturday 22 March 2025, I attended the opening of Afghan Mums Restaurant at 301-303 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong, which has delicious food and is run by a wonderful family. Many years ago, that location was a McDonald's restaurant. It is great to see a family restaurant now opened there. I look forward to taking my children there. I wish them all the best of luck with this opening. It is decorated with beautiful food and can seat approx. 200 people. For anyone with upcoming events, I recommend Afghan Mums Restaurant.

I attended the monthly South East Leisure (SEL) Board meeting. We discussed the exciting news, about the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre (DWC) project starting in the coming week. Everyone is



excited about this wellbeing centre finally being built and opening its doors to our community who deserve this state-of-the-art facility.

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

I met with a local resident who had a public question at the last Council meeting. The resident wants to start a running club for young women and asked about lighting at Ross Reserve, Noble Park. Due to the lack of lighting in our municipality and safety concerns, the resident was interested in how we could get the lights on at night for this running club. I believe this is a great idea and it aligns with our "Make Your Move" strategy. How can we make that happen as quickly as possible to ensure people can get moving, particularly this running group?

Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

As mentioned in the last Council meeting, we are aware of the program. We are working through the operational impacts as this involves costs, technical aspects of programmability of the lights, and the impact on neighbouring residents. We need to conduct some consultation as having bright lights in the evening requires consideration for neighbours.

We completely agree it aligns with our Make Your Move strategy. I am happy to provide you an update in the coming week with a timeline.

Comment

Cr Lana Formoso

I mention, with a heavy heart, the horrible nightclub fire that took place on 16 March 2025 in Kochani, North Macedonia. This killed 59 people and injured 196. This is an absolute tragedy. Our prayers are with everyone affected by this devastating event. I send my deepest condolences to our Macedonian community here in the City of Greater Dandenong and globally. I am sure that someone would know people affected by this fire.

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

I note that Council was going to light up the Drum Theatre over the weekend in Macedonian colours to pay our respects. The Mayor and I both walked down to the Drum Theatre and found that did not happen. I hope we could make that happen in the coming weeks, perhaps this weekend?



Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

Our intention was that the Drum would be illuminated Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night. It was illuminated on Friday night. However, there was a technical issue with the programming that meant it was not illuminated on Sunday night, and we are very sorry for that. We have looked at what other nights are available, as we have some other illuminations booked.

As soon as we have another gap in the illumination schedule, we will make up for those nights that were not illuminated over the weekend.

All in the Chamber acknowledged a minute of silence in respect of those who lost their lives.

Comment

Cr Jim Memeti, Mayor

I was contacted by the Macedonian community to light the Drum Theatre. Thank you to Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening for that being done on the Friday night. I hope we will have it lit for another two nights. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all Macedonian residents in Greater Dandenong, throughout Melbourne, Victoria, Australia and the world in these terrible circumstances.

Comment

Cr Melinda Yim

On Saturday 15 March 2025, I attended the Day Zero event with Deputy Mayor Sophie Tan at Shepley Oval, Dandenong. It was great to see how the Dandenong Cricket Club are taking measures to be more energy efficient and prepare for the changing climate.

On Tuesday 18 March 2025, I volunteered for the Kindness Committee with the President Danielle Ashley at the Hemmings Skate Park. With the help of Kindness Community, we were able to provide free meals to many homeless and disadvantaged people in the City of Greater Dandenong. The Kindness Community is a brilliant charity, and I applaud Danielle and the volunteers who are serving one of our more vulnerable community groups. I will be doing my best to volunteer every Tuesday and encourage anyone else to volunteer or donate if they are able to.

Comment

Cr Rhonda Garad

I want to acknowledge the South East Community Links, who held a "Bring Your Bill Day" that attracted 300 residents. They were able to resolve over half a million dollars of debt, which is remarkable and shows the level of financial stress our residents are under.



Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

On Sunday 23 March 2025, there was an article in the Star Journal where our acting CEO, along with some other Councils, are pushing back against the introduction of the purple bin for glass. When will Councillors be informed about this decision to push back?

As mentioned in the article, there is a high level of contamination of our general waste with glass. What is the current level of contamination, and what would be the projected gain in having the purple bin, as opposed to a contaminated waste bin? Can we please have those figures?

Response

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

Regarding Recycling Victoria, they have mandated that all Councils throughout the state introduce the purple glass bins from 1 July 2027. This Council is committed, along with our other 78 Councils, to doing that. Greater Dandenong Council is not pushing back against the introduction of these bins. We are trying to seek additional information from the State Government to better understand the costs and benefits.

Given it is an entirely new service, the exact cost to ratepayers is yet unknown. There is a current timeline in place to have the glass service rolled out and we are working towards that date. Several Councils have already undertaken the purple bins initiative. However, we need to understand the costs a better, given our current financial pressures.

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation's (ABC) 7:30 Report last Thursday 20 March 2025 was regarding the removal of the Council's trading name from Thomas Street. A Council spokesperson was unable to explain why the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and Home Affairs have been called into our city, or why the last Council meeting was closed to the public. What impact does the Council believe this response has had on public confidence in our commitment to openness and transparency?

Response

Marjan Hajjari, Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy

I was interviewed by ABC for more than an hour, and what they aired was just a few moments from the session. Their question was related to some information we had at that time from the police. This information was not appropriate to be aired for the public, considering the situation we had in our community. We did not know which part would be aired. What you saw in that show was a few moments of the one-hour conversation where I deliberately did not wish to disclose certain information for the sake of our community.

In terms of the AFP and the police, the way the report was put together gave the perception that we invited the police to our public meeting. In my interview, I emphasized that our meetings were peaceful. We never had the police or AFP present, and they were invited as stakeholders as part of the peace talks we had. Unfortunately, due to the nature of media editing, it provided the perception that we invited them to the Council meeting, which was not true.



Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

Whilst it is encouraging to see the Council's commitment to local procurement in the \$108 million project for the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre (DWC), as called for by South East Management Advisory Committee (SEMAC), can you provide details on how the local procurement in this project will be measured, verified, and reported to the public?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

The City of Greater Dandenong's procurement policy emphasises fairness, transparency, and the promotion of local and social procurement. Council works with contractors on local procurement and job creation in all its contracts. In relation to the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre, the contract was awarded at the last Council meeting. We will work with the contractor on the details of local procurement and job creation in the coming months. Once the details are worked out, we will measure and monitor the progress.

In terms of how we report that, I need to consider once we know the details. I would be happy to consider how we report on this and all other contracts.

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

About our progress in opening up our meetings to Facebook. What process is currently being undertaken to decide that?

Response

Yuri Guzman, Chief Information Officer

We are finalising our technical assessment. As I was informed, the two different media channels require different resolutions. We are looking at a technical assessment for the cameras, ensuring that we do not degrade one for the other. I would like to think that over the next two weeks, we will bring some good news to Council.

Comment

Cr Isabella Do

I echo with what Councillor Sean O'Reilly and Councillor Melinda Yim mentioned about the MAV Victorian Convention we recently attended. It was the first convention we have of this type, and it was an excellent opportunity as a first-time Councillor to connect with Councillors from different municipalities. The workshops provided were extremely insightful, and I came away with many contacts and much advice and guidance. I would recommend Councillors to attend next time if it were to run again. It was amazing to see how many first-time Councillors present, and having that support was fantastic.

I have caught up with Tim Richardson MP to raise issues regarding road and community safety. We are working in a collaborative way, and I hope there will be more information in the coming weeks and months with good outcomes.



Comment

Cr Jim Memeti, Mayor

On Monday 10 March 2025, I attended the launch of the Australian Multicultural Organisations Network (AMON) Business Council Australia. It is a multicultural business group focused on business not only in Victoria and Australia but also around the world. It was great to be invited.

On Saturday 22 March 2025, I attended the grand opening of Afghan Mums Restaurant in central Dandenong which is run by an inviting and pleasant family. They have fresh, homemade cooking and amazing food. I strongly recommend people visit this new restaurant on Lonsdale Street, Dandenong.

On Sunday 23 March 2025, I attended the Taha Annual Ramadan Iftar dinner. Gabriel Williams, Minister for Public and Active Transport, also attended, and it was great to hear feedback from the community. There were approx. 500 people in that room, making it a great evening.

The Ramadan Night Market, which is the first night market of this kind in Melbourne will be commencing on Tuesday 25 March 2025. You have probably heard of the Lakemba night market, which is extremely successful with a great number of visitors over Ramadan. This is something that Victoria has never seen at this scale. This is the first time for the organisers running an event like this. It will be held in Harmony Square and the surrounding area, including Walker Street, Thomas Street, and Lonsdale Street. There will be many food vans, and restaurants in central Dandenong will be full. I urge you all to visit. I think it will be a great event bringing together not only the Muslim community but the multicultural community to share and experience. I look forward to supporting the organisers to grow this into an annual event. Congratulations to the organisers.

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer tabled a listing of responses to questions taken on notice/requiring further action at the previous Council meeting. A copy of the responses is provided as an attachment.

COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE/REQUIRING FURTHER ACTION

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
24/02/25 CQT7	Cr Sean O'Reilly	QR Codes for rubbish bins I have noticed that in the City of Melbourne they have big QR codes on the side of rubbish bins. Could we put QR codes of the Snap Send Solve app on our rubbish bins to promote its use? It is a relatively painless way for residents to report issues to Council, which is a critical information source for this Council.	Chief Information Officer/ Media & Comms		Initial response provided 24/02/2025: Question taken on notice. FURTHER RESPONSE REQUIRED
24/02/25 CQT9	Cr Rhonda Garad	Livestreaming Council meetings via Facebook I noticed that City of Casey now live stream their meetings through Facebook and get incredibly high level of engagement. Has or will Council consider doing the same?	Chief Information Officer/ Governance Manager/ Media & Comms	24/03/2025	Initial response provided 24/02/2025: I was not aware that they did that, but I will investigate and see whether that is possible for us. Further response provided on Council meeting 24/03/2025 We are finalising our technical assessment. As I was informed, the two different media channels require different resolutions. We are looking at a technical assessment for the cameras, ensuring that we do not degrade one for the other. I would like to think that over the next two weeks, we will bring some good news to Council.
11/03/25 CQT1	Cr Sophie Tan	Survey link malfunctioning Residents are advising that the survey link to physical activity on Greater Dandenong website and social media is malfunctioning. Can this please be investigated and fixed?	Executive Director Community Strengthening	18/03/2025	Initial response provided 11/03/2025: I know it was raised over the weekend, and I believe it was fixed but we will double check that again and make sure that it is working. Further response provided 18/03/2025: Staff have checked the back end of the online survey platform to ensure it is operational and

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					<p>can confirm that the platform is working and receiving online survey responses. We have received over 700+ online responses to the survey already and we have staff that are entering paper/ hard copy versions of the survey online on a daily basis.</p> <p>Some parts of the survey have mandatory fields where the survey cannot progress or be submitted until the user has entered a response. If they don't, then it may seem like it is not working, and we suspect that this is the feedback some of the users are experiencing. To help address this issue, we have made some instructions to the wording of the survey to inform users to complete all sections of the survey as some data entry fields are mandatory.</p> <p>Thanks for your support for the Physical Activity Survey and please advise if officers can assist further.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>
11/03/25 CQT2	Cr Sophie Tan	Damaged Signage, Noble Park There is signage on Corrigan Road toward Heatherton Road, Noble Park that needs repairing as it is currently facing the wrong way. Can this please be fixed?	Acting Executive Director City Futures	21/03/2025	<p>Initial response provided 11/03/2025: Traffic engineers will assess repair.</p> <p>Further response provided 21/03/2025: Council Officers have inspected the signs along Corrigan Road near Heatherton Road. The damaged signs are a DTP (VicRoads) owned asset and maintenance responsibility. These signs have been reported to DTP for them to action with the reference number ETS6049044.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>
11/03/25 CQT3	Cr Sophie Tan	Dumped rubbish, Noble Park Can we get someone to monitor the dumped rubbish and clothes from the charity bin at Frank Street, Noble Park	Executive Director Community	18/03/2025	<p>Initial response provided 11/03/2025: We will investigate what can be done to ensure that the area around the bins is cleaned and how we can help address that.</p>

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		pocket park because it is a mess?	Strengthening		<p>Further response provided 18/03/2025: I can confirm that Local Laws officers have attended the location at Frank Street, Noble Park, and noted that this charity bin is on private land. The bins may remain on private land as long as they are kept in a clean manner. Generally, if a mess is created by community members, the company addresses it within 24-36 hours and ensures the area is cleaned.</p> <p>Local Laws officers will continue to include this area in their patrols. However, if you notice that the mess remains for more than 36 hours, please contact Council, and Local Laws officers will follow up with the company.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>
11/03/25 CQT4	Cr Sophie Tan	<p>Rough sleeping, Noble Park There is a homeless man sleeping behind the Australia Post parking lot. Could we get the relevant officer to please approach him? He is in Springvale all the time but keeps re-locating.</p>	Executive Director Community Strengthening	24/03/2025	<p>Initial response provided 11/03/2025: We will follow that up and try to link this person to some support services.</p> <p>Further response provided 24/03/2025: Our team has followed up on the report of a man sleeping rough at the rear of the Australia Post car park in Noble Park. We have reached out to our partner local homelessness support service, Launch Housing, who attended the location on the 18 March 2025 to engage with the person and offer appropriate assistance. We can confirm that Launch Housing will continue to attend to this person to offer case management services.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>
11/03/25 CQT6	Cr Phillip Danh	<p>Road safety concerns, Noble Park I have been notified of some road safety concerns along Fintonia Road, Noble Park. I spoke to a constituent</p>	Acting Executive Director City	25/03/2025	<p>Initial response provided 11/03/2025: I am not familiar with this request, but I will follow that up as a matter of priority and advise.</p>

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		who's fence has been hit by hooning drivers' multiple times in the past. I have sent through correspondence previously, is there an update on that?	Futures		<p>Further response provided 25/03/2025: Our officers are investigating this matter further. We do not have any recent traffic data captured for Fintonia Road and will collect this in the coming weeks to determine the nature and extent of any speeding issues on the street.</p> <p>When Council funding is available for road safety infrastructure, it is allocated through a prioritization program to ensure that the limited funding is spent at the locations where the greatest road safety risk is present. This typically does not fund infrastructure where the issue identified is hooning (intentional high risk driving). In such instances, traffic calming tends not to eliminate the issue, but simply shift it to another street nearby.</p> <p>Where hooning is identified, the best and most effective course of action is enforcement through Victoria Police. Our officers will raise this location with the police. It is also strongly recommended that any residents experiencing hooning also contact the police. This can be done easily by calling 1800 333 000, or online (link below).</p> <p>Crime Stoppers Victoria - Report Crime Information</p> <p>For further information on road safety which may be of interest to residents, feel free to recommend the information on our website.</p> <p>Road Safety Greater Dandenong Council</p> <p>Other than through yourself, we have not received any recent direct correspondence from residents. We will ensure that the residents</p>

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					whose correspondence you have forwarded are updated directly by our traffic engineers. COMPLETED
11/03/25 CQT10	Cr Rhonda Garad	<p>Compensation protocols at GDCC Are we disadvantaging the lower income persons within our community through our structural compensation systems? There is a case of an elderly resident in my ward who woke one night at 3am to a Council tree that had fallen through their house and caused over \$900 worth of damage. When they approached Council asking to be reimbursed, they were advised they would have to go through their insurer and if the insurer determined there was a negligence on the part of Council, then Council would reimburse the insurer.</p> <p>The resident is on a fixed low income and has increased their insurance policy excess to \$2000 to lower their premiums. Claiming is likely to increase the cost of their premium. If they cannot claim insurance, they cannot have a case of negligence determined. If there cannot be a case of negligence determined, there is no compensation paid.</p> <p>If this resident was adequately insured, and one in five Australians are inadequately insured and everybody is ramping up their excess, they would not need compensation as they would receive the full reinvestment from their insurer, so they are doubly</p>	Manager Governance, Legal & Risk		<p>Initial response provided 11/03/2025: We will review and provide feedback on this matter.</p> <p>FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED</p>

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		<p>disadvantaged.</p> <p>Council would not consider compensation when needed from Council, because they cannot get reinvestment from their insurer. This seems like structural disadvantage to low income persons. It deeply concerns me. Will you review this urgently?</p>			
11/03/25 CQT11	Cr Lana Formoso	<p>Community waste education officer role</p> <p>Could the relevant officer please respond regarding what is happening with the Community Waste Education Officer? What is their role? What value for money are we getting? I am yet to see anything in this space.</p>	Acting Executive Director City Futures	21/03/2025	<p>Initial response provided 11/03/2025:</p> <p>We support the events and the locations run for Clean Up Australia Day. However, we do not run or coordinate those activities as part of Clean Up Australia Day. We do support the promotion of it, encourage attendance and promote the day through social media and communication. We also encourage businesses' involvement as part of that day.</p> <p>In terms of the Waste Education Officer role, I am happy to provide some further information. I will note that specific role is an operational matter, but there is a large number of education programs that take place through schools and promotion of other waste programs. I am happy to bring more information to you around how we are actively promoting waste and clean-up, or how we can continue to improve on improving waste clean-up.</p> <p>Further response provided 21/03/2025</p> <p>The role of our Waste Education Officers and programs is to develop and implement waste minimisation, resource recovery, recycling and litter educational and promotional programs incorporating;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and maintenance of strategic alliances for waste

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					<p>minimisation, resource recovery, recycling, and litter educational and promotional campaigns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building effective partnerships with key stakeholders to deliver an effective waste minimisation resource recovery, and recycling program and service • Promoting a positive waste minimisation culture by facilitating awareness and education to staff, contractors, and line management <p>Throughout the 2024-25 financial year Council's Waste Education Officers have facilitated or participated in the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 education school sessions ranging from Early Learning Centres through to Year 6 • 42 community engagement sessions • 5 engagement sessions with CALD community groups • Provided waste education at Council run events (Sustainability Festival, Snow Fest, Re-use Recycle Drop Off Days, etc...) • Promotion of targeted waste campaigns and initiatives (Keep it Clean, Bin it) <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>
11/03/25 CQT12	Cr Lana Formoso	<p>Stud Road, Dandenong Road upgrades</p> <p>Could you please provide some clarity regarding what is happening with that project and how Council plans to deliver it with VicRoads?</p>	Acting Executive Director City Futures	21/03/2025	<p>Initial response provided 11/03/2025: Question taken on notice.</p> <p>Further response provided 21/03/2025: The Department of Transport and Planning are leading the delivery of this project as it is an arterial road project. They currently have the construction tender open for submissions until</p>

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					<p>Wednesday (26 March).</p> <p>Once a contractor is appointed, we will look to meet with them as soon as possible to be able to get clarity around exact construction dates.</p> <p>We expect to continue to have regular meetings with their project team, and to commence meetings with their comms team prior to works commencing.</p> <p>We expect the majority of construction to occur between May and November this year. This will include the traffic signals at McFees Road and a path connection from the signals to the Stadium along Stud Road. We are assisting DTP through approvals with Melbourne Water for an additional path connection from the signals into the wetlands, alongside our own investigation and design work on additional vehicle access to the stadium car park at the signals. At this stage, we expect those components to be delivered after the signals</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>
11/03/25 CQT13	Cr Lana Formoso	<p>Letter of thanks from Mayor to Senator Hon. Anthony Chisholm</p> <p>Mayor, could you please provide some clarity regarding what is happening with that project and how Council plans to deliver it with VicRoads? Can we also send a letter of thanks to Senator Anthony Chisholm and the Federal government for this incredible and imperative initiative?</p>	Mayor/Mayors EA	27/03/2025	<p>Initial response provided 11/03/2025:</p> <p>I will arrange a letter to be sent.</p> <p>Further response provided 27/03/2025</p> <p>A letter has been drafted and sent to Senator Anthony Chisholm.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>



7 URGENT BUSINESS

No urgent business was considered.



8 CLOSE OF BUSINESS

The Meeting closed at 9:34 pm.

Signature