



Minutes

Council Meeting

Monday 14 April 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 14 April 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](#)

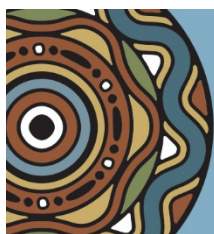
[Cr Isabella Do](#)

[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.



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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 7:00pm.

1.2 ATTENDANCE

Apologies

Cr Rhonda Garad, Cr Loi Truong.

Councillors Present

Cr Jim Memeti, Mayor (Chair)
Cr Sophie Tan, Deputy Mayor
Cr Phillip Danh, Cr Isabella Do, Cr Lana Formoso (remote), Cr Alice Phuong Le,
Cr Bob Milkovic, Cr Sean O'Reilly, Cr Melinda Yim.

Officers Present

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer; Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures; Marcus Forster, Acting Executive Director Community Strengthening; Yuri Guzman, Chief Information Officer & Acting Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy; Michael Tonta, Governance Advisor; Michelle Hansen, Chief Financial Officer.



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 Pannasobhana Thero, a member of the Greater Dandenong Interfaith Network, read the following:

"When we gather here as one human family, bound by the shared desire for peace, harmony, and unity, we do so in the shadow of recent griefs and the light of enduring hope. As fires, floods and droughts have striped across our land, from the very heart of Australia to the coastal edges. Remember those who displaced, grieving and those who rebuilding.

May our faith, beliefs and sacred traditions grant us the wisdom, to honour Earth, and listen to the First People of this land - its ancient custodians. May we see beyond what divides us, to recognise the beauty, diversity and the sacredness of every soul, regardless of the background, race, or creed.

May our heart be filled with compassion, that we may reach across the divides - cultural, political and generational, with kindness, patience and healing. In a world troubled by war and conflict in Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, and so many other concerns, may our minds be guided by understanding, so we choose dialogues over destruction, and justice over vengeance.

Let our hands build bridges, not walls. Let our words uplift and unit, not wound and divide. Let our spirits rise in the pursuit of reconciliation, both here and abroad. In the sacred gathering of many faiths, we affirm our commitment to care for our common home - the Earth we share, and to stand together for truth, dignity, and peace.

May peace prevail in every heart, in every home, and in every land. And may we, together, be instruments of harmony, spreading light where there is darkness, courage where there is fear, and love where it has been forgotten. With humility and gratitude, we bow before the eternal truth, that we are one human family, walking gently together in the shared journey of peace.

Amen. Om Shanti. Salaam. Shalom. Peace be with you. May your leadership continue to reflect the spirit of inclusiveness that makes Greater Dandenong a beacon of multicultural and interfaith community. May all beings in this community and beyond be free from suffering and find peace."



1.5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Meeting of Council held 24 March 2025.

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 24 March 2025 be confirmed.

MINUTE No.91

Moved by: Cr Sophie Tan

Seconded by: Cr Lana Formoso

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 24 March 2025 be confirmed.

CARRIED 9 / 0

1.6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil.



1.7 ADOPTION OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Audit and Risk Committee held a meeting on 6 March 2025 and Minutes of this meeting, as summarised in the following table, are presented to Council for adoption.

Item	Topic
1.	The Audit and Risk Committee reviewed actions arising from previous meetings.
2.	<p>The Audit and Risk Committee reviewed, discussed and noted the following reports with Council officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chief Executive Officer's Report• Risk Management Update• Quarterly Financial and Performance Report - Q2 2024-25• Procurement Development Program Update• Procurement Exemptions• Review of Nominated Officer List – s 132 <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>• Dandenong Market Audit and Risk Update
3.	<p>The Audit and Risk Committee reviewed, discussed and noted the following reports with Council officers and the external auditor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) Audit and Strategy Memorandum for the financial year ending 30 June 2025
4.	<p>The Audit and Risk Committee reviewed, discussed and noted the following reports with Council officers and the internal auditor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HLB Mann Judd - Internal Audit Status Report• South East Leisure – Review of Compliance with Child Safe Standards• Review of Process for Managing and Reporting Sexual Harassment• Integrity Body Reports

Officer Recommendation

That the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 6 March 2025 be adopted.

MINUTE No.92

Moved by: Cr Lana Formoso

Seconded by: Cr Bob Milkovic

That the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 6 March 2025 be adopted.

CARRIED 9 / 0



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 - 2 pages]

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 one (1) joint letter prior to the Council Meeting of 14 April 2025.
 - Council has received a joint letter signed by 42 stallholders. This joint letter has been referred to the appropriate Council Business unit for further action.

MINUTE No.93

Moved by: Cr Bob Milkovic
Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That this report and its attachment be received and noted.

CARRIED 9 / 0



3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Question

Michael Foulsham, Dandenong North

How can Council justify the installation of speed humps on Brady Road, Dandenong North which are typically installed to reduce the average speed of road users and possible end goal to reduce accidents caused by speeding, when the data has shown that the majority of accidents on Brady Road are not speed related.

The data provided for the Blackspot program there were 9 accidents listed:

- 4 were due to turning
- 2 were in a carpark
- 1 was a driver hit a parked car
- 1 car was rear ended that was actually my mother. She was rear ended when pulling into our driveway, the offender apologised and said he was distracted while driving.
- 1 was a pedestrian struck was unfortunately struck, no details of specifically if the driver was turning or driving straight.

As the majority of these accidents have nothing to do with speed or average driving speed, why has Council deemed it fit to install 7 speed humps when they will have zero effect on reducing the risks of the majority of accidents listed above?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

As part of the Federal Blackspot Program, Council was successful in obtaining funding for the installation of road safety treatments along Brady Road between Gladstone Road and Dandenong Valley Highway.

This program only funds treatments in the locations where the highest levels of road trauma have been experienced. The frequency and severity of the accidents which have occurred on Brady Road were considered to be high, due to both high speeds and low driver focus on the road.

The types of treatments installed are determined by independent road safety experts and reviewed and approved by both the Victorian and Federal Governments prior to funding being allocated. The proposed treatments on Brady Road include six raised safety platforms/intersections, upgrade of the existing zebra crossing to a wombat crossing and a speed reduction from 60 km/h to 50 km/h. These treatments typically both reduce speeds and improve driver focus on the road, in turn reduce frequency and severity of accidents. Similar treatments have been extremely effective elsewhere in this municipality and others.

Question

Teresa Rumpf, Noble Park North

With the increasing rubbish dumped around our city, can Council consider increasing the booked hard rubbish to two per year, in line with Casey and Knox who already offer this? There are few alternatives to hard rubbish, and I am sure not all households use the allocated amounts. Surely this would be cheaper than removing dumped rubbish in our neighbourhood.



Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Whilst the idea of a second hard waste collection may seem like an appealing solution to prevent illegal dumping, it is important to understand that those responsible for illegal dumping are usually not the same people who utilise the Council provided hard waste collection service.

Currently only approximately 30% of all residential households use the hard waste collection service and there is no evidence to suggest that the addition of a second hard waste collection would significantly reduce illegally dumped rubbish within the municipality. Over the past few years, the Reuse & Recycle Drop-Off Days have been popular and these have now increased from two to four events per year which provide a more targeted and effective approach.

It is also worth noting that most of the illegally dumped rubbish collected such as tyres, building waste, general household rubbish and green/garden waste are not accepted items in the hard waste collections.

Question

Gaye Guest, Keysborough

Congratulations to City of Greater Dandenong (CGD) event staff for staging a successful Keysborough Big Picnic at our neighbourhood park. Despite the warm weather many families attended reserving spaces for their group under the shade of the established trees that offered welcome relief. In the Wachter Reserve Master Plan, there was money set aside for additional tree planting. Has that budget been expended yet or will more trees be planted once this drought breaks?

I notice some of our established trees in the municipality are succumbing to the drought conditions that our area is experiencing and know we must work hard to protect our tree stock to increase our tree canopy coverage which takes a hit every time a resident gets their household trees cut down. When will an official tree canopy survey be conducted to establish how we are tracking as part of our sustainability and greening our city-urban tree strategy? We must work harder and faster to future proof CGD against these climatic phenomena on a local and global level.

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

The Frederick Wachter Reserve Master Plan was adopted by Council in January 2019. The 2018/19 adopted budget included \$50,000 for the planting of trees in 2019. This was undertaken. Tree planting was also an important component of the new playground project that was completed in 2023. Funding of future tree planting is subject to future capital improvement bids being supported through Council's annual budget process. The 2025 canopy cover audit will be conducted later this year.



Question

Emily Sloan, Dandenong

Council's report suggests that not enough South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCA) projects are relevant to Greater Dandenong. This surprises me, given that climate change does not respect Council boundaries. My family living here benefit from reduced emissions in other Council areas.

Can you please explain to me, and to our community, how Council determined that we would not benefit from these projects:

- Asset Vulnerability Assessment Phase 2,
- BriefEzy,
- EV/ Hydrogen Heavy Duty Truck Investigation,
- Business Energy Support Project,
- Residential Resilience Ratings Pilot Project,
- Small Business Climate Adaptation Toolkit, and
- Climate Risk Project and Carbon Sink Project.

Surely Council understands that we need to collaborate across self-imposed government borders to solve these wicked problems?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Greater Dandenong City Council's involvement in SECCCA, or any regional alliance, does not change its overriding commitment to action on climate change. As detailed in Attachment 1 of the Council report in tonight's Agenda 4.3.2 *South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA) - Membership*, the projects referred to do not deliver a targeted approach for Greater Dandenong.

Question

Emily Sloan, Dandenong

Our Council area has been recognised as one of the most diverse in the country, and yet your report seems to suggested we are only interested in supporting climate change activities that take place within our land borders. Our community is connected to people and places far beyond the confines of this jurisdiction, with our hearts and minds regularly taking us beyond the 129 square kilometers that you have temporary responsibility for. Climate Change is a global issue.

Council's report says Greater Dandenong can benefit from the Greater South East Melbourne (GSEM) Net Zero Roadmap project without being a SECCCA member. But the Zero Roadmap project is a joint project with SECCCA, Why does Council think this community wants to free load?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Council is committed to its role in the GSEM and is supportive of the Roadmap to Net Zero Emissions. Council will remain an active participant of GSEM and are fully supportive of this guide that has been developed to help local governments, businesses and households reach net-zero emissions while achieving substantial cost-savings.

Question



Isabelle Nash, Keysborough

Greater Dandenong Council is being narrow-minded and only thinking of the benefits to Greater Dandenong Council and not the broader benefits to the whole region in considering a withdrawal from SECCCA. Climate change does not end at the boundaries of Greater Dandenong. Should Greater Dandenong City Council change its name to Lesser Dandenong because it does not think of the bigger picture?

Response**Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures**

Greater Dandenong City Council's involvement in SECCCA, or any regional alliance, does not change its overriding commitment to action on climate change.

Question**Isabelle Nash, Keysborough**

The Council report paints a positive picture of the previous model that SECCCA followed, which allowed councils to opt in and out of projects and only pay for the projects that interested them. However, collaborations like this are weak because they are not collaborations at all: large-scale projects that make a significant collective impact require commitment, not shopping around. The new model sets up SECCCA to be more successful than in the past. Why does the report only cover the disadvantages of the new funding model, not the advantages?

Response**Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures**

Council officers are not denying the value and significance of SECCCA's work over the last 21 years. We have been active participants and advocates for SECCCA. However, Council's decision on our ongoing membership of SECCCA is now based on the 2024-28 Strategic Plan and delivering good value for money to our residents. As detailed in attachment 1 of the report, the projects referred to do not deliver a targeted approach for Greater Dandenong.

Question**Isabelle Nash, Keysborough**

The Council report does not mention that other councils are thinking of withdrawing from SECCCA. In fact, we have heard that other councils are very happy with the quality of SECCCA projects. As all SECCCA councils have representatives at the SECCCA Management Committee, why has Greater Dandenong City Council not used that mechanism to sort out its grievances rather than just taking its bat and walking home?

Response**Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures**

Council has been working with SECCCA over the past 12 months to resolve this matter. Council's decision on our ongoing membership of SECCCA is now based on the 2024-28 Strategic Plan and delivering good value for money to our residents.



Question

Aloma Davis, Dandenong

What impact will our withdrawal from the SECCCA have on its viability, since you are not contributing the \$118,000 to keep it going? Remembering that \$118,000 is just 0.05% of our Council's budget, but at least 10% of the funding for SECCCA?

The report states that the recruitment of a new CEO, and soon a new Communications Lead is a step in the right direction. Why isn't Greater Dandenong City Council allowing these changes to settle in before ceasing its membership?

Why is there no community consultation occurring on this decision to end 12 years membership of an important regional collaboration on a topic, climate change, that Greater Dandenong's own community feedback of many years shows is of high public interest, and when Council has acknowledged that climate change has a disproportionately large impact on our economically disadvantaged community?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Council is unable to make a comment on SECCCA's budget. It is acknowledged that a further Council withdrawing from SECCCA would create financial challenges for SECCCA and its remaining members.

Greater Dandenong gave in-principle support for the SECCCA 2024-28 Strategic Plan to provide SECCCA a 12-month period to demonstrate changes to its structure and how the project priorities would be beneficial to Council. This benefit has not been demonstrated in the last year. As per the Council report the projects in the 2024-28 Strategic Plan are not considered value for money for Greater Dandenong City Council.

Council's involvement in any external memberships is an operational matter and is subject to budget considerations. It is not Council procedure to consult on external memberships.

Question

Scott Peters, Dandenong South

Last week multiple banners containing homophobic hate speech were hung up around Greater Dandenong. These were so offensive that public statements from the Prime Minister Albanese, the opposition leader Peter Dutton and Victorian Premier Jacinta Allen have all called these out, condemning these with one saying this ideology of hate has no place in Australia.

Sadly, the Mayor and Council have made no public comments on this. When hate speech is made and put on banners in central Dandenong and the Council and mayor makes no statements it indicates they are not against it. That Their silence supports this. Why has not the Mayor and Council made a public statement condemning this homophobic hate speech, and will they do this now?



Response

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

Council is committed to a safe and inclusive Greater Dandenong, where everyone belongs. We stand against homophobia, as we also stand against racism and other forms of hate. However, during Federal and State elections, we generally don't provide commentary on matters involving candidates or related to the Election, apart from welcoming election commitments to improve our city. Council stands ready to work with whoever is elected.

Question

Phillip Lamaro, Dandenong

In 2020 Dandenong Council endorsed the Activities Centres – 10-Year Tree Planting Plan. In this council supported Plan, the central Dandenong area has been recognized that 196 trees are required and in the past 5 years only 33 of them have been planted. Can Council please advise how many of the remaining 163 plots will be planted this year?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Council's activity centre planting plan is a high-level document to guide tree planting over the next decade. We are in the process of delivering year four of the 10 year plan. A recent audit of canopy cover in Greater Dandenong revealed coverage has increased from just 9 per cent in 2018 to 14 per cent in 2024, which puts us on track to reach our goal of 15 per cent by 2028.

This increase is a result of significant efforts and investment by Council and the community, including the planting of 20,000 semi-mature trees over the past 10 years and the provision of an additional annual funding of \$280,000 for the past two financial years, to accelerate planting across the municipality.

The number of trees planted within each of the activity centres, including Dandenong CBD are subject to change each year depending upon available funding, State Government and Council led major projects, site assessments and the ability and potential to strategically plant trees within Dandenong's CBD. The final number is still to be confirmed for this year. However, we anticipate that approximately 12 additional trees will be planted in the Dandenong Activity Centre in this planting season (May – October 2025).

Question

Phillip Lamaro, Dandenong

In 2017, Dandenong was only one of two Melbourne areas that voted no to marriage equality and, since then, homophobia and transphobia has grown in Greater Dandenong. Example is that Greater Dandenong City Council has received complaints from multiple residents advising them that they were refused entry to the Dandenong Oasis pool by South East Leisure, owned by Council, for being transgender. They advised Council that they were refused service and entry for being transgender in a Council-owned facility.

Both Casey and Monash councils have started to battle this increase by allocating 0.8 equivalent full time (FTE), equalling 4 days a week, for a Council employee whose sole position is to work with the LGBTQIA+ community to battle these issues and help create a safe place for all the queer community. Due to the high levels of violence, transphobia and homophobia in greater Dandenong, what is Council's current FTE for the LGBTQIA+ community and will it be risen to match both Casey and Monash councils?



Response

Yuri Guzman, Acting Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy

Apart from our resource dedicated to the LGBTIQA+ portfolio, it is the responsibility of all officers to contribute to a safe and inclusive Greater Dandenong where everyone feels safe and belongs. In our Libraries and Arts portfolio, we have specific programming to promote inclusion and improve representation. As part of every policy recommendation or decision across Council, officers are expected to consider if there are human rights implications and if they have been assessed appropriately.

In practice, there are many officers working to improve inclusion. I note that recently the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee recommended that Council increase the full-time equivalent (FTE) to allow for an LGBTIQA+ Action Plan to be developed by Council. A report is being developed in response to this recommendation for consideration of resources allocated to the portfolio. The current FTE for our Council is 0.2 FTE.

Question

Jannali Barty, Collingwood

Upon watching a Facebook highlight of the Council's last meeting I am very concerned with the question about the Afghan Bazaar. Myself and many other First Nations people from the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation and the Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association have concerns in naming a street in Dandenong after a country guilty of genocide similar to the First Nations people endured with colonisation. Will Council immediately remove the Afghan name?

Response

Yuri Guzman, Acting Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy

Council is currently investigating the concerns raised about the naming of the Afghan Bazaar. At this stage, no final decision has been made regarding the immediate removal of the name. Council is committed to a thorough and inclusive consultation process, which will involve engaging with all relevant stakeholders, including First Nations people, to ensure their views are respected and taken into account.

Question

Khalid Amiri, Narre Warren South

How can the Council and the Office of the CEO clarify which individuals or community groups were consulted before proposing the resolution to change or remove the name "Afghan Bazaar"? Widespread feedback from the broader Afghan community suggests that many were unaware of this process. Why was there no open, transparent community consultation before progressing such a significant change?

Is Council aware of the cultural and economic repercussions if this divisive name change proceeds – specifically, the calls for a community-wide boycott of Thomas Street (Afghan Bazaar) by the broader Afghan and multicultural community? Additionally, how did members of the Hazara community appear to know about this change, sharing videos on TikTok and celebrating its outcome, before the Council made any formal announcement? Who assured them, and how confidently could they make such claims? Many members of the wider Afghan community feel disrespected and sidelined, especially when their national identity is being challenged by individuals, some of whom were not born in Afghanistan but in Pakistan or Iran, while politicians remain silent or use this issue for political gain. Does Council acknowledge the risk of eroding trust in democratic and civic institutions, especially among younger generations, if their identity and voice continue to be dismissed in such processes?



Cr Melinda Yim left the Chamber at 7:37 pm.

Question

Liaqat Khan, Hampton Park

Why does the CEO Jacqui Weatherill introduced the non-inclusive, contradictory, unjust and unfair unilateral recommendations to cease the marketing name Afghan Bazaar? The CEO justified this by "significant community feedback", while it is mentioned in paragraph 13 on page 38 that "Council will initiate a community engagement process to seek feedback on an inclusive trading name for the area currently referred to as 'Afghan Bazaar'. Details of this engagement process will be announced by mid-May 2025".

How come on the one hand, Council seeks feedback on the trading name Afghan Bazaar through initiation of community engagement process in mid-May while on the other hand, it was already recommended that Council to cease the name Afghan Bazaar because Council has already received the "significant feedback"?

Who has given Council the "significant feedback"? Because the broader Afghan community is unaware of this feedback and we all wait for your mid-May engagement process announcement. But, if Council calls the feedback from a few individual significant, it is unfair and unjust!

Question

Liaquat Ali, Lynbrook

Can Council please provide an update on the matter concerning the trading name "Afghan Bazaar"? Specifically, has the Council reached any decisions, held discussions with any third parties (such as with state or federal members of parliament), or received any developments regarding funding related to this issue?

Question

Esmat Barakzai, Narre Warren

Why will Council consider the claim that Afghan is alternative to Pashtun tribe? If so, based on what authentic sources or books? What are Council's reasons if Council decides to keep Afghan Bazaar name? This name will not give Afghan community more sense of belonging to this area and country. Does Council consider changing the name Afghan Bazaar? This name has caused division amongst communities and affect businesses/shops on this street.

Cr Melinda Yim returned to the Chamber at 7:46 pm.



Question

Muftahudin Babakarkhail, Narre Warren South

I would like to draw your attention to the peace deal agreement in which I was involved, where it was clearly stated that any decisions regarding the Afghan Bazaar must be made through proper consultation. With that in mind, could you please clarify who you consulted regarding the Afghan Bazaar, with whom these consultations were held, and which community leaders or representatives provided feedback? Clear answers to these questions are essential to ensure transparency and uphold the commitments made in the agreement.

Would Council support the formation of a youth-led advisory or cultural unity panel as part of this process, to ensure the next generation is part of the conversation and learns constructive community leadership rather than polarisation?

Question

Massi Ahmadzay, Hallam

The Council is a public authority for the purposes of the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act* (the Charter). Has the CEO considered the implications of the Charter in formulating the recommendation in Item 4.3.1? How does the recommendation comply with the Council's Charter obligations, considering the long history of dialogue between members of Council, and traders and business owners in Dandenong?

Public commitments have been made to consult before any change is made to the status quo in both public statements (for example, on 13 February 2025) and in meetings with traders and business owners. The CEO's recommendation flies in the face of those commitments and fails to afford business owners, traders and residents procedural fairness. Why will the council not defer its decision until after the promised community consultation has occurred?

How can the Council justify elevating the concerns of one aspect of the community over the objections of others (for example, the petition submitted in February 2025, and my letters of 10 April 2025 and 11 April 2025) without having undertaken its promised consultation process. On what basis does the Council say that this is not discriminatory?

Cr Isebella Do left to the Chamber at 7:57 pm and returned at 7:57 pm.

Question

Harris Faiz, Lyndhurst

What frameworks or principles is Council using to ensure that changes to cultural place names are not made reactively or under pressure from any single group, thus avoiding a precedent that could destabilise multicultural naming practices across the City of Greater Dandenong and beyond?

How is Council ensuring the consultation process actively engages the full breadth of the Afghan-Australian community, including Pashtun, Hazara, Tajik, Uzbek, broader Muslim and non-Muslim voices, rather than relying solely on those who are most vocal online or politically active?



What measures is Council taking to ensure this process remains insulated from political exploitation or media sensationalism, and instead fosters respectful dialogue, transparency, and long-term harmony?

Question

Saed Faisal Najibi, Narre Warren South

Why was the name Afghan Bazaar initially chosen, how was it named Afghan Bazaar, and what processes were followed at the time? Can you refer to the original decision-making process before allowing a platform for the name change group who are Pakistani-Hazara's to divide our wider-Afghan community in Australia?

This recommendation is validating the arguments of separatist mentalities within our Australian diasporic communities. On what basis does the CEO make the racist recommendation to have the name "Afghan Bazaar" removed?

How does the Council plan to ensure the cultural and historical contributions of all Afghan groups continue to be acknowledged if the name were to change, including the legacy of the Afghan Cameleers, who contributed significantly to building the Overland Telegraph, Central Australian Railway, and transportation of goods across Australia during early stages of Australia's development.

Question

Rohan Akbar, Berwick

The Council, through all correspondence and communication, has clearly indicated that a genuine community consultation would take place before any change of name. The last motion carried out by Cr Rhonda Garad for temporary removal of the Afghan Bazaar name, which was voted against by majority of the Councillors is one of the testimonies for the Council's stance. So, what suddenly triggered the motion by the CEO to cease the Afghan Bazaar name?

The current motion by the CEO states that significant community feedback was received by the Council due to which recommendation is made to temporary cease the Afghan Bazaar name. Can you please advise what is the significant community specifically refers to as the broader Afghan-Australian community members have not been consulted on the cessation of the name at all?

Has the council considered and made any assessments that the cessation of the Afghan Bazaar name could cause the traders significant economic setback, as the broader Afghan-Australian community would consider boycotting to shop at the precinct should the Afghan Bazaar name be ceased or changed?

Question

Nisar Ahmad, Narre Warren South

If the CEO, Mayor and Councillors decide to remove the Afghan Bazaar name because some individuals do not like it as the broader Afghan Community has some doubts about their real identity, what will happen to those shops that have the Afghan word on their signboards? Will they be forced to get rid of the Afghan word from their signboards?

If that happens, would we still call Australia and specifically Dandenong the performer of democracy, or can we say that everyone in Australia specially in Dandenong municipality have the same rights or air go and if not, then how can they justify that Afghan word do not bother them there?



Those that they say to you that they have problem with the word Afghan, and yet their Associations and Organisations are registered under the same word and they have been benefiting from it for decades and getting huge funding from the government of under the same name, would the councillors ask them to remove the word Afghan from their names and bring all the funding that has been allocated to them under the same word?

Question

Fakhrodin Timore, Hampton Park

How and what was the process to adopt the term "Afghan" which is a national identity of all resident of Afghanistan to Thomas precinct for the marketing and economic development purposes?

As CEO recommended that the term of Afghan Bazaar to be ceased or temporarily removed while council in last meeting by 8 votes rejected such kind of motion, will the CEO and council have the courage to apologise from the entire Afghan nation if they cease or remove the term Afghan Bazaar, and telling them that "We are sorry that we used your national identity for marketing purpose, and now we are removing it by a proposal put to Council by Pakistani Hazara"?

Question

Marzia Hussaini, Narre Warren South

As a proud Hazara Tajik, I request why does Council not consider naming it "Little Afghanistan" or "Afghanistan Bazaar"? If some individuals have concerns about using a national or ethnic name, isn't it unfair to disregard an entire community's country of origin, and depriving them of their identity?

Question

Parwez Akbar, Berwick

Separatist Hazara groups are insulting the intelligence of this Council and the broader community by claiming that "Bamyan" is more inclusive than "Afghan". You can dress it up how you like, but the stink still gives it away.

Given that these demands are fuelling ethnic division and unrest, will the Council now take firm and responsible steps to reject this divisive agenda, uphold the integrity of the name "Afghan Bazaar", and refocus on preserving shared history, restoring unity, and protecting the true purpose of local governance?



Response

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

There are many questions with slightly different elements. I propose to give one answer. However, it also is the answer to all these questions. Many of the questions contain assumptions that Council has already made decisions or will take a certain position. I hope this answer will help to clarify matters for the people who have asked questions tonight. I want to emphasise that no decision has been taken on the use of the name “Afghan Bazaar” or the possible use of other terms for the Thomas Street precinct.

We appreciate that this is an important topic which many people feel passionately about. We are committed to taking a thoughtful, methodical approach to this matter. We will not rush it, and we will ensure all perspectives and issues are taken into consideration. This includes Victoria’s *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*. When there are diverse views on a topic as in this case, it is always a matter of balancing the concerns and interests of different groups carefully. Everyone in our community matters.

There is an item on tonight’s Agenda about the marketing name “Afghan Bazaar” at Item 4.3.1. This is an officer’s report with some recommended actions. Most of the recommendations are to NOTE the different community perspectives we have heard, the issues as we understand them and the lack of community consensus on this issue. The agenda recommends that Council NOTES a commitment to working with neighbouring councils and other levels of government.

The recommendations include that Council NOTES the plans to initiate a community consultation process with businesses and traders to gather all views and perspectives on whether we retain the current name, choose a new name, or whether we use any name at all for the precinct, or just refer to it as Thomas Street. We are going to bring a considered, careful approach to our consultation plan – to make sure it is a balanced, fair and careful process, where everyone has the opportunity to be heard and listened to respectfully, including people of different ages, genders, ethnic groups and faiths.

The report makes clear that no decision has been made, and that irrespective of any marketing reference, the formal and legal name of the street has been and would continue to be Thomas Street. There is one recommendation in the agenda that Council CEASES using the name “Afghan Bazaar” for now. However, this is not a decision. This is a report and a recommendation. At tonight’s meeting, Councillors will consider this matter. They may decide to pass this motion, or an amended version, or not to pass it at all. This is simply a proposal at this moment.

A report will be provided to Council in May 2025 outlining the proposed community consultation process. We appreciate your interest and will keep the community informed as we progress with this important initiative. We reiterate earlier community leaders’ calls for calm, respectful discourse on this issue. We understand that there are passionately held views, and we want to hear them. However, we ask that people try to avoid inflammatory or insulting language in relation to other groups.

Finally, I understand that many questions have been asked tonight. We will provide individual answers to everyone that has asked questions.

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 below.



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?	Executive Director City Futures	31/03/2025	Initial response provided 11/03/2025: Question taken on notice. Further response provided 31/03/2025: Regarding seeking the installation of permanent 'No Public Parking' signage at either end of the red brick paved section of Power Street, whilst I appreciate this may have had an impact for one event where attendees appear to have also received additional information by the organisers, I'm not confident this solution would have the same impact more generally. As you will be aware, there are existing No Stopping signs installed along this section of road and some drivers continue to ignore these. Instead, we will continue to focus our enforcement activities in the area to encourage parking compliance. The parking management officers will be reporting back at the monthly Parking Review Committee meetings on their observations regarding parking behaviours in the area. Should they



Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
					<p>identify limited improvements in parking compliance after a period, we will then consider options for additional signage at that time, which will assist with enforcement.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>
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?	Executive Director City Futures	31/03/2025	<p>Initial response provided 11/03/2025: Question taken on notice.</p> <p>Further response provided 31/03/2025 With regards to the option for further landscaping to deter parking on the nature strip, Council officers from the Conservation & Horticultural Services team will be assessing potential actions to determine priority for future funding. Should you have any suggestions or ideas you'd like to be incorporated into any proposed landscaping works, please feel free to share them by emailing the team via the Council@cgd.vic.gov.au address.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>
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,	Executive Manager Strategic		<p>Initial response provided 11/03/2025: Question taken on notice.</p>



Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
		<p>division, conflicts and potential violence?</p> <p>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?</p> <p>Will the council consider naming a different precinct/street in the vicinity of Afghan Bazaar as Little Bamyar, leaving the Afghan Bazaar as is, ending the matter for once and all?</p>	Growth & Advocacy		FURTHER RESPONSE REQUIRED
03/11/25 PQT9	Namatullah Kadrie, Narre Warren South	<p>Afghan Bazaar renaming</p> <p>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</p>	Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy		<p>Initial response provided 11/03/2025:</p> <p>Question taken on notice.</p> <p>FURTHER RESPONSE REQUIRED</p>



Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
		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?			
24/03/25 PQT1	Phillip Lamaro, Dandenong	<p>First Nation People and Afghan Bazaar Renaming</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><u>Question 1</u> Can Council please explain why when Council was advised that the Bunurong and Wurundjeri people did</p>	Executive Manager Strategic Growth and Advocacy		<p>Initial response provided 24/03/2025: Question taken on notice.</p> <p>FURTHER RESPONSE REQUIRED</p>



Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
		<p>not want their land named after a country guilty of genocide, it ignored their requests?</p> <p><u>Question 2</u> 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?</p>			



4 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 2

4.1 PROCUREMENT

4.1.1 2425-11 Pillars Rd Reconstruction - Springvale Rd to Perry Rd (Stage One & Two)

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

Attachments: 1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Contingency Allowance Pillars Road Reconstruction Stage 1 2 2425 11 [4.1.1.1 - 1 page]

Purpose

1. To seek approval to award Contract No. 2425-11 for the Pillars Road Reconstruction to Prestige Paving Pty Ltd (ABN 84 140 970 912).

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **AWARDS** Contract No. 2425-11 for the Pillars Road Reconstruction to Prestige Paving Pty Ltd (ABN: 84 140 970 912) for a fixed lump sum price of Two Million Five Hundred and Eight Thousand, Nine Hundred and Forty-One Dollars and Forty-Eight Cents (\$2,508,941.48) including GST of \$228,085.59;
2. **AUTHORISES** the Chief Executive Officer to execute the contract agreements and any associated documentation; and
3. **DELEGATES** the Chief Executive Officer to make expenditure variations up to and not exceeding the contract contingency amount as specified in the confidential attachment.

Executive Summary

2. This report recommends that Council awards **Contract 2425-11 to Prestige Paving Pty Ltd ABN: 84 140 970 912** for a fixed lump sum price of Two Million Five Hundred and Eight Thousand, Nine Hundred and Forty-One Dollars and Forty-Eight Cents (\$2,508,941.48) including GST of \$228,085.59.
3. This is a Lump Sum Contract and not subject to rise and fall. Council will receive a saving of \$25,000 including GST by awarding Stages 1 and 2 to Prestige Paving Pty Ltd.

Background

4. This Contract is for the reconstruction of Pillars Road, between Springvale and Perry Roads, Bangholme.
5. Council carried out a geotechnical investigation of Pillars Road to analyse the condition of the existing pavement. The investigation concluded that the existing pavement surface and subgrade are in poor condition. The subgrade consists of reactive swamp and lake deposits coupled with inadequate pavement thickness, crocodile cracking and scattered patching, these issues necessitate the reconstruction of the road.



6. The area's general topography is flat with a commercial and industrial district to the east and residential areas to the west of the site. The immediate vicinity along Pillars Road is primarily rural in character.
7. Followed by the investigation the pavement design was completed with two distinctive stages;
 - a. Separable Portion - Stage 1 (CH 0.00 to 1880.00), and
 - b. Separable Portion - Stage 2 (CH 1880.00 to 3752.65).
8. Tenderers were requested to provide their lump sum price per stage using Council provided Bill of Quantities (BOQ) for Stages 1 and 2 of the project. Tenderers were also invited to offer a discount for the award of both stages 1 and 2.
9. The reconstruction of Pillars Road also coincides with South East Water's (SEW) Dingley Recycled Water Scheme project, which involves installing a recycled pipeline beneath Pillars Road. We are coordinating closely with SEW to ensure the project is executed efficiently, avoiding any duplication of efforts and maintaining high-quality standards. Consequently, the project will be delivered over the current and next fiscal year.

Tender Process

This tender was advertised in The Age Newspaper and on Council's website on Saturday 7 December 2024 and at the close of tenders at 2.00pm, Wednesday 29 January 2025, eight (8) tender submissions were received as follows:

- a. **The Trustee for Blue Peak Constructions Family Trust – ABN 88 660 064 079**
 - b. **CDN Constructors Unit Trust – ABN 62 884 294 341**
 - c. **Etheredge Mintern Pty Ltd – ABN 36 006 521 151**
 - d. **Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd – ABN 54 000 538 689**
 - e. **Mocon Construction Group Pty Ltd – ABN 25 623 601 436**
 - f. **Parkinson Group (Vic) Pty Ltd – ABN 8 168 742 925**
 - g. **Prestige Paving Pty Ltd – ABN 84 140 970 912**
 - h. **Crete Concrete Contractors Pty Ltd – ABN 40 055 492 683**
10. Tenderers were requested to provide lump sum pricing per stage using Council's Bill of Quantities issued with the tender documents.
 11. Tenderers were also required to be registered with Rapid Global (Council's Workforce Management Software – Health and Safety Compliance) prior to the tender closing date at risk level one (1).

Tender Evaluation

12. The evaluation panel consisted of Council's Coordinator Civil Projects, Project Engineer (Civil), Drainage Planning Officer and the Procurement Officer with Occupational Health & Safety and Environmental Management consultants providing specialist advice via Rapid Global. The Tenders were evaluated using Council's Weighted Attributed Value Selection Method. The advertised evaluation criteria and the allocated weightings for evaluation are as follows:



	Evaluation Criteria	Weighting
1	Price	40%
2	Relevant Experience (Past Performance & Similar Work)	25%
3	Capability - (Methodology and Program)	10%
4	Capability - (Resources)	10%
5	Social Procurement	5%
6	Local Industry	5%
7	Environmental	5%
8	OH&S Systems (Pass / Fail)	Pass / Fail
9	Environmental System (Pass / Fail)	Pass / Fail

The Evaluation Criteria 1-7 are given a point score between 0 (Not Acceptable) and 5 (Excellent) as detailed in the following table.

13. Evaluation Criteria 8 and 9 are given a Pass or Fail via the Rapid Global (Council's Workforce Management Software – Health and Safety Compliance).

14. Tenders were ranked by panel members against each criterion. Points were awarded on a scale 0 to 5 based on the score parameters listed below.

Score	Description
5	Excellent
4	Very Good
3	Good, better than average
2	Acceptable
1	Marginally acceptable (Success not assured)
0	Not Acceptable

15. Each submission was assessed against all evaluation criteria, to ensure that the tenderers met the standards required for Council contractors. Having a fail in any criterion would automatically exclude tenderers from further consideration for this contract.

16. Tender submissions were assessed against all evaluation criteria to ensure that the tenderers met the standards required for Council contractors. The weighted attribute points scores resulting from the assessment are shown in the following table:

Tender Name	Price Points	Non-Price Points	Total Score	OH&S	EMS	Rapid Global
Prestige Paving	1.46	2.12	3.58	PASS	PASS	Compliant
Fulton Hogan	1.05	2.28	3.33	Assessed	Assessed	Documents to be verified
Etheredge Minter	1.28	1.87	3.15	PASS	PASS	Compliant
CDN Constructors	0.98	1.86	2.84	PASS	PASS	Compliant
V Crete Contractors	1.02	1.64	2.66	PASS	PASS	Compliant
Blue Peak Constructions	0.73	1.83	2.56	PASS	PASS	Compliant
Parkinson Group	0.13	1.36	1.49	PASS	PASS	Complaint
Mocon Construction	0.08	0.00	0.08	Not Assessed	Not Assessed	Not Registered



17. At the completion of the tender evaluation process described above, the Evaluation Panel agreed that the tender submission from **Prestige Paving Pty Ltd ABN: 84 140 970 912** would provide the best value for money outcome to Council for these works.

The Company

18. **Prestige Paving Pty Ltd** has been a trusted contractor for Council for 21 years, specialising in asphalt reinstatement and civil works. Their extensive experience includes successful collaborations with over 10 regional and metropolitan local councils. They have a proven track record in asphalt paving, premix concrete, road reconstruction, and traffic management.

Relevant Experience/Track Record

19. Rehabilitation of South Park Drive Dandenong South, successfully delivered recently. Project value is approximately \$800,000.
20. Prestige has successfully completed various resurfacing and road rehabilitation projects for the City of Greater Dandenong this recently, with a total value exceeding \$2 million. Their quality of works, workmanship and worksite management have consistently met acceptable levels in the past.
21. Prestige has delivered similar projects for other local government including, Queens Ave Road and Shared Path Construction (Glen Eira City Council), Maddens Lane Road Rehabilitation (Yarra Ranges City Council), Cheddar Road Reconstruction and Traffic Signals (City of Darebin), etc.
22. As part of assessing safety, Prestige Paving were noted as fully compliant with Rapid Global and demonstrated to have the appropriate safe working systems in place.
23. It is noted that Prestige Paving experienced a worksite incident in February 2024 within Greater Dandenong. The outcome of this incident was determined by WorkSafe that there was no adverse findings or offences under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*.
24. Since this time, Prestige Paving have continued to carry out works for the Greater Dandenong City Council in a safe and appropriate manner.
25. The evaluation matrix and other supporting documents have been placed on the relevant tender file.
26. Note:
- The higher the price score – lower the tendered price.
 - The higher the non-price score – represents better capability and capacity to undertake the service.

Corporate Scorecard and Due Diligence

27. A report was run through our third-party corporate scorecard due diligence process. No major risks were found, and the reference checks were completed. A pass was noted on the scorecard with these recommendations:

Bank guarantee

28. In view of the contract size, consideration should be given to obtaining security in the form of an appropriate Bank Guarantee or Unconditional Performance Bond, for the duration of the contract and any warranty/defects liability period.



Counterparty risk

29. Consideration should be given to obtaining a director's personal guarantee from the subject's sole Director, covering all contractual and financial obligations undertaken by the subject. If this option is taken up, verification of assets owned by Director should be undertaken.
30. **Please Note:** Rapid Global is a third-party pre-qualification and verification system used by Council and ten (10) other Victorian Councils enabling the sharing of OH&S data. It is a Risk and OH&S system where contractors can upload their Occupational Health & Safety, Risk and Environment Plans and Policies as well as up to date insurances.
31. As a result of the above findings from the Corporate Scorecard, Council will be seeking an appropriate Bank Guarantee at 5% of the contract value.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

32. 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

33. The resource requirements associated with this report total \$2,508,941.48 including GST (\$2,280,855.89 excluding GST), which is within the approved budget allocation of \$6,446,941.00 for the Road Reconstruction Program for the financial year 2024/25.
34. Please note that the year-to-date expenditure and commitments under this program are approximately \$3,800,000.00, allowing Council to fully fund the project with the remaining program funds.

Asset Implications

35. This item relates to a current CIP project and does not change the scope, timeframe and budget for the project.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Community Consultation

38. There was no requirement for community consultation.

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

39. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
 - Not Applicable
40. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan
41. 2021-25:
 - Not Applicable



Legislative and Policy Obligations

42. 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*.

Social Procurement

43. **Prestige Paving Pty Ltd – ABN 84 140 970 912** - Provided good responses to all questions in Council's Social Procurement Questionnaire.
44. They have policies and company statements covering Social Procurement, Equal Employment Opportunity, Indigenous, Modern Slavery, Prohibition of Child & Forced Labour, an Anti-Bullying Harassment and Local Content First.
45. They engage with Social Enterprises and have demonstrated their diverse workforce, ranging from gender type to disadvantaged groups.

Local Industry

46. **Prestige Paving Pty Ltd – ABN 84 140 970 912** are a business operating from their office in Bayswater North. They have two (2) staff members who reside within the Council boundary. Prestige Paving have estimated the following types of expenses that may be spent within Greater Dandenong, should they be the successful tenderers for this Contract.
47. Prestige Paving anticipates allocating approximately 13% of the contract value to local expenditures. Additionally, the company plans to procure concrete and quarry materials, amounting to 8.5% of the contract value, from businesses within Greater Dandenong.

MINUTE No.94

Moved by: Cr Sophie Tan

Seconded by: Cr Bob Milkovic

That Council:

1. **AWARDS Contract No. 2425-11 for the Pillars Road Reconstruction to Prestige Paving Pty Ltd (ABN: 84 140 970 912) for a fixed lump sum price of Two Million Five Hundred and Eight Thousand, Nine Hundred and Forty-One Dollars and Forty-Eight Cents (\$2,508,941.48) including GST of \$228,085.59;**
2. **AUTHORISES the Chief Executive Officer to execute the contract agreements and any associated documentation; and**
3. **DELEGATES the Chief Executive Officer to make expenditure variations up to and not exceeding the contract contingency amount as specified in the confidential attachment.**

CARRIED 9 / 0



4.2 POLICY AND STRATEGY

4.2.1 Councillor Interstate and Overseas Travel Policy

This item was deferred at the Council Meeting of 24 March 2025 for so that further clarification could be sought, and is now being tabled again for consideration.

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer
Manager Governance, Legal & Risk

Attachments: 1. Draft Councillor Interstate and Overseas Travel Policy
2025 [4.2.1.1 - 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); and
 - 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.95

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Seconded by: Cr Lana Formoso

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

CARRIED 9 / 0



4.3 OTHER

4.3.1 Resolving Naming Issues for the Precinct around Thomas Street Precinct (Afghan Bazaar)

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: Nil

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES** that significant feedback from the community indicates that the terms ‘Afghan Bazaar’ or ‘Afghan Precinct’ does not fully align with the principle of fostering a shared sense of belonging and inclusion for all, and does not align with the Geographic Names Victoria (GNV) naming rules;
2. **NOTES** the formal name of Thomas Street, Dandenong will remain unchanged, regardless of the outcome of any Council’s consideration of a potential marketing name for a part of the Thomas Street area;
3. **CEASES** to use any marketing term/s to refer to the precinct within Thomas Street Dandenong, formerly referred to as the ‘Afghan Bazaar’ or ‘Afghan Precinct’;
4. **NOTES** a future report will be provided for Council’s consideration in May 2025 outlining the proposed initiation of a community consultation process with businesses and traders regarding a potential marketing name (including if any precinct name is required) for the area in Thomas Street Dandenong based on Geographic Names Victoria (GNV) naming rules; and
5. **NOTES** that Council will continue collaborating with the Australian and Victorian Governments and other local municipalities to strengthen the South-East Social Cohesion initiative.

Executive Summary

1. Central Dandenong is home to a diverse and growing community from Afghanistan, representing a wide range of ethnic, cultural, and linguistic backgrounds. This diversity enriches the local area and contributes to the vibrancy of Central Dandenong. However, recent concerns and tensions surrounding the naming of the precinct around Thomas Street, commonly referred to as the “Afghan Precinct”, have underscored the need for a structured and collaborative approach to fostering relationships, strengthening community cohesion, and promoting inclusivity.
2. The term “Afghan Bazaar” has never been formally registered with the Geographic Names Victoria, and the area remains officially designated as Thomas Street, Dandenong. The term was originally adopted for marketing and economic development purposes to attract visitors and tourists to the area.
3. On 11 March 2025, Council endorsed Notice of Motion No.6 – “Stronger Together: Towards Peace and Cohesion in Our Community”, reaffirming that every resident in the City of Greater Dandenong should feel a sense of belonging and inclusion. Council recognises that the formal naming of public places should seek to build consensus rather than divide the community.
4. Feedback from the community over several months has indicated that there does not appear to be community consensus about the alternative names proposed to fully align with the principle of fostering a shared sense of belonging and inclusion for all.



Consideration of a Formal Naming Process

5. Council has the option to initiate a formal renaming process for Thomas Street, Dandenong. However, based on advice from Geographic Names Victoria (GNV), renaming a road is generally discouraged unless the existing name is offensive or poses challenges for emergency services. Names are expected to be enduring.
6. Furthermore, changing a street name can cause logistical challenges, as updates to addresses for essential services—including emergency services (000), the State Government, and Australia Post—may take time. While some updates occur quickly, others can take 6 to 12 months. Given these factors, any decision to rename the street must be based on a robust and well-justified rationale.

Exploring an Alternative Approach

7. Instead of renaming Thomas Street, Council can reconsider the trading name of “Afghan Bazaar” through community engagement. This would allow for broader consultation and a more inclusive approach to reflecting the identity of the area. Council can also seek GNV’s approval to register the name as a legacy name, ensuring formal recognition while maintaining continuity.

Broader Community Development Initiative

8. As part of Notice of Motion No.6, Council has also committed to providing further advice on a long-term community development initiative. This initiative aims to facilitate dialogue and positively engage Australians from diverse ethnic backgrounds across South-East Melbourne on broader community issues.
9. Initial discussions have taken place with the Department of Home Affairs, the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC), Casey City Council, and Cardinia Shire Council.
10. The Australian Government, Department of Home Affairs has indicated its willingness to contribute Commonwealth resources to support this partnership, ensuring a coordinated and well-resourced approach to strengthening social cohesion in the region.
11. Council remains committed to fostering a sense of unity, respect, and inclusion for all residents of Greater Dandenong.

Next Steps

Recognising Community Perspectives

12. Council acknowledges the diverse and strong held views concerning the marketing name for Thomas Street. Any resolution should foster a sense of belonging and inclusion for all. Council also reaffirms that the formal name of Thomas Street will remain unchanged.

Community Engagement on a Trading Name

13. Council will initiate a community engagement process to seek feedback on an inclusive trading name for the area currently referred to as “Afghan Bazaar”. Details of this engagement process will be announced by mid-May 2025.

Ongoing Collaboration on Strengthening Social Cohesion

14. Council will continue working with state and federal governments to advance the Social Cohesion in South East initiative, ensuring a coordinated and collaborative approach to strengthening community connections.



Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

15. 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

16. The financial implications associated with this report will involve the estimated costs of the proposed community consultation, which will be the subject of a separate report for Council consideration in May 2025. The other costs associated with this report are minimal and can be absorbed within existing operating budgets and staff resources.

Asset Implications

17. This item does not materially affect any existing assets at this time. The removal of signage will be minimal. The effects if a new precinct name is decided by Council would be considered in a subsequent report following detailed community consultation with nominated stakeholders.

Legal/Risk Implications

18. The deep community concerns about the issues contained within this report represent significant reputational risk to Council. The proposed approach is designed to minimise these risks and proposes a high-quality community engagement and consultative approach, guided by the Naming Rules for Places in Victoria to achieve an outcome which is acceptable to the various stakeholders.

Environmental Implications

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

Community Consultation

20. The proposed community consultation approach will be the subject of a separate report in May 2025, for Council consideration and approval.

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

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

- Safe and peaceful community.
- Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.

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

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



MINUTE No.96

Moved by: Cr Phillip Danh

Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That Council:

- 1. NOTES that significant feedback from the community indicates that the terms ‘Afghan Bazaar’ or ‘Afghan Precinct’ does not fully align with the principle of fostering a shared sense of belonging and inclusion for all, and does not align with the Geographic Names Victoria (GNV) naming rules;**
- 2. NOTES the formal name of Thomas Street, Dandenong will remain unchanged, regardless of the outcome of any Council’s consideration of a potential marketing name for a part of the Thomas Street area;**
- 3. CEASES to use any marketing term/s that to refer to the precinct within Thomas Street Dandenong, formerly referred to as the ‘Afghan Bazaar’ or ‘Afghan Precinct’, and suspends the use of any other marketing name for the Thomas Street precinct;**
- 4. NOTES a future report will be provided for Council’s consideration in May 2025 outlining the proposed initiation of a community consultation process with businesses and traders regarding a potential marketing name (including if any precinct name is required) for the area in Thomas Street Dandenong based on Geographic Names Victoria (GNV) naming rules; and**
- 5. NOTES that Council will continue collaborating with the Australian and Victorian Governments and other local municipalities to strengthen the South-East Social Cohesion initiative.**

CARRIED 6 / 1

For - Cr Phillip Danh, Cr Isabella Do, Cr Alice Phuong Le, Cr Bob Milkovic, Cr Sophie Tan and Cr Melinda Yim.

Against - Cr Sean O'Reilly.

Abstained - Cr Lana Formoso and Cr Jim Memeti.

MINUTE

Moved by: Cr Phillip Danh

Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

Council moves to adjourn the Meeting for five (5) minutes.

CARRIED 9 / 0

The Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm and resumed at 8:19pm.



4.3.2 South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA) - Membership

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

Attachments:

1. SECCCA Priority Projects [4.3.2.1 - 4 pages]
2. SECCCA Strategic Plan 2024-28 [4.3.2.2 - 13 pages]

Purpose

1. This report outlines the rationale for Greater Dandenong City Council proposing to withdraw from its membership of the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA) from 1 July 2025, due to the increasing costs associated with annual membership and the limited benefits the membership offers the Council.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** the cessation of the Greater Dandenong City Council's membership of South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA) from 1 July 2025;
2. **WRITES** to SECCCA to formally confirm that it will be ceasing its membership from 1 July 2025; and
3. **NOTES** that Council should:
 - a. focus on its own climate change priorities, including transitioning from gas to renewable electricity, the installation of solar panels, increasing Council's tree planting program, and/ or improving support to residents and businesses to adapt to the challenges of climate change; and
 - b. continue to participate in the Greater South East Melbourne (GSEM) climate change initiatives.

Executive Summary

2. SECCCA have developed its 2024-2028 Strategic Plan. To support the plan, SECCCA have introduced an additional mandatory \$75,000 project contribution that each Council is required to pay annually, in addition to the membership fee.
3. Council officers have held concerns regarding the quality and relevance of projects undertaken by SECCCA historically. In addition, officers are of the view that the Strategic Plan will have limited benefit to Greater Dandenong City Council.
4. Council now needs to determine whether to continue its membership with SECCCA for the final three (3) years of the Strategic Plan (and fund it accordingly) or withdraw from the alliance.
5. Officers recommend that Council ceases its membership due to increasing costs and the limited benefits being achieved, and rather focuses on its own priorities.



Background

6. SECCCA is an alliance of currently eight Councils in south-east Melbourne. SECCCA began as the Westernport Alliance for Greenhouse Action in 2004 before pivoting to its current model and name in 2009. Greater Dandenong has been a member of SECCCA since 1 July 2013.
7. Prior to 1 July 2024, SECCCA primarily operated on the basis of each member Council paying a membership fee, and then opting in or out of projects. For those projects Council's opted into, they paid an additional fee, if required.
8. In 2023, SECCCA developed its 2024-2028 Strategic Plan. This plan sets out, among other matters, nine priority projects that SECCCA and its member Council's will undertake during the four-year period. It also changes the funding model to retain the membership fee, and add a mandatory project contribution of \$75,000 per annum for each Council. Each member Council was then required to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the four-year period.
9. Council officers have noted concerns about the historical quality and relevance of projects undertaken by SECCCA. Additionally, officers questioned the relevance of the nine priority projects outlined in the Strategic Plan to the Council, with only two of the nine considered to potentially benefit Greater Dandenong. Although these two projects may provide some advantages, officers are concerned that the associated costs may significantly exceed the potential benefits.
10. In 2024, SECCCA made a number of staffing changes, including the recruitment of a new CEO, and are now currently seeking a new Communications lead. These changes have been seen as a positive, and a step in the right direction.
11. In 2024, Council considered whether to continue its membership with SECCCA in light of the new Strategic Plan and fee structure. Council determined to continue the membership and sign the MoU for a period of one year only to allow time for the new staff to establish themselves, and for Council to consider the outcomes achieved in the first year of the new Strategic Plan.
12. It is now time for Council to consider whether to continue its SECCCA membership for the remaining three years of the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan. If Council determines to continue its membership, it will also need to allocate \$353,249 in the budget over this three-year period, which is \$225,000 more than is currently in the budget. It will also have to continue to allocate staffing resources. Alternatively, Council could withdraw from SECCCA and continue to focus on CGD beneficial climate change activities, while also continuing to be involved in GSEM climate initiatives.

Key Issues and Discussion

13. As stated above, the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan sets out nine priority projects as follows (more information on each of these projects can be found in Attachment 1):
 - Asset Vulnerability Assessment Phase 2 Support
 - BriefEzy
 - EV/ Hydrogen Heavy Duty Truck Investigation*
 - Business Energy Support Project
 - Residential Resilience Ratings Pilot Project
 - Small Business Climate Adaptation Toolkit*
 - Climate Risk Project
 - Carbon Sink Project*



- Financing Flood Resilient Infrastructure*

14. Of the nine projects, only five are now fully funded through project fees required. The remaining four (4), are subject to separate funding.
15. Only the Business Energy Support Program and the Financing Flood Resilient Infrastructure projects are considered to have some benefit to Greater Dandenong. However, with each of these projects there are concerns with the cost and likely outputs achievable (see Attachment 1 for further details).
16. In terms of activities occurring over the last year, officers note the staffing changes that have occurred recently, and the benefits these have brought. Other key activities in the past year include the delivery of the Enhancing Community Resilience Project, creating Net Zero Roadmap for the GSEM/ SECCCA region, and expanding the BriefEzy tool, along with various advocacy actions.
17. However, of this work, only the Net Zero Roadmap is considered to be of benefit to Greater Dandenong. Given this is a GSEM project, Council would still be involved in this even if it was not a member of SECCCA.
18. Officers have also had concerns regarding the quality and relevance of some of the work undertaken by SECCCA in previous years. These projects included the first round of Asset Vulnerability Assessments (AVA's), Enhancing Community Resilience and Regional Community Climate Change Action Plan projects. Council provided various forms of support for these projects, however the projects did not achieve the expected outcomes.
19. In terms of financial implications of retaining the SECCCA membership, the following table sets out the costs over the three-year period (more detail can be found in the 'Governance Compliance' section below):

Cost Requirements	Currently Budgeted	Not Currently Budgeted	Total
Membership Fee	\$128,249		
Project Contribution		\$225,000	
Staff Salary Cost	\$55,000		
Total	\$183,249	\$225,000	\$408,249

20. If Council is to continue its membership, it will need to allocate an additional \$225,000 in the budget over the three-year period. This amount will need to be funded from another existing Council budget, potentially being the capital works budget.
21. Alternatively, Council could invest the currently budgeted membership fee (\$128,249) and staff time into sustainability projects that would directly benefit Greater Dandenong. This could include activities such as design or implementation work to transition existing Council facilities from gas to renewable electricity, installing solar panels on Council buildings, increasing Council's tree planting program, and/ or supporting our residential and business sector to adapt to the challenges of climate change.



22. The following table sets out a summary of the benefits and challenges of retaining the SECCCA membership:

Benefits	Challenges
On-going access to SECCCA's regional data, information and projects, where relevant.	Lack of relevance / benefit of the key projects set out in the Strategic Plan to Greater Dandenong.
On-going support from SECCCA with climate change action. If Greater Dandenong relevant projects were proposed, this could improve efficiencies, and the direct cost and staffing required by Council.	Significant additional cost for membership resulting from the new Strategic Plan, which is not currently fully budgeted, and is not considered to be value for money.
Potential additional advocacy and grant funding opportunities, where successfully undertaken by SECCCA.	Historical concerns regarding the quality and relevance of work undertaken by SECCCA.
Recent staffing changes with the appointment of a new CEO, and the inclusion of a Communications Lead are positive improvements, and may lead to improved outcomes moving forward.	Staff time and cost required to support SECCCA activities is not considered to be value for money.

23. While it is acknowledged that it is challenging in a regional alliance to develop projects that are of benefit to all members, officers do not consider that priority projects provide enough benefit to the City of Greater Dandenong for it to justify the financial costs and staff time required to support SECCCA.
24. It is also acknowledged that a further Council withdrawing from SECCCA (Frankston recently withdrew) would create financial challenges for SECCCA and remaining member councils.
25. However, given the lack of relevance to the City of Greater Dandenong of the nine priority projects, the lack of benefit that Council has obtained from SECCCA activities in recent years, and the significant additional cost, it is recommended that Council ceases its SECCCA membership on 1 July 2025, and rather focuses on its own climate change priorities, and continues to participate in GSEM climate change initiatives.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

26. This item affects 2 x EFT. If Council was to continue its membership, approximately 16 hours per EFT per month would need to continue to be allocated to SECCCA. It is also important to note that should the projects have been of more relevance to Council, this is likely to result in additional officer time being required.



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

Operating Budget Implications

27. The financial implications associated with this report involve a cost in the 2025/26 financial year of \$116,699, \$75,000 of which is not currently within Council's annual budget. The membership fee then increases by CPI each year.
28. As such, if Council was to determine to continue its SECCCA membership past 1 July 2025, it will need to allocate an additional \$75,000 in the annual budget for the next three years of the Strategic Plan (\$225,000 over the three years). This amount would need to be drawn from a separate existing budget, potentially the capital works budget, meaning a reduction in capital works able to be undertaken. In total, Council would need to allocate \$353,249 over the next three years in the budget.
29. In addition, the 16 hours required by two staff members per month to support SECCCA activities would total approximately \$55,000 in salary costs over the three years.
30. Overall, Council would need to allocate approximately \$408,249 to SECCCA activities over the next three years.

Asset Implications

31. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

33. While it is acknowledged that SECCCA's primary focus is to improve the environment of our region, it is considered that by Council focusing directly on its own climate change/ environmental priorities, it can have a greater positive impact on the environment of Greater Dandenong.

Consultation

34. There was no requirement for community consultation.

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

35. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
- Sustainable environment.
36. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan
37. 2021-25:
- A green city committed to a sustainable future.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

38. 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:
- Climate Change and Sustainability.



Cr Larna Formoso left the Chamber at 8:19 pm and returned at 8:22 pm, prior to the voting of this item.

MINUTE No.97

Moved by: Cr Bob Milkovic

Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That Council:

- 1. APPROVES the cessation of the Greater Dandenong City Council's membership of South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA) from 1 July 2025;**
- 2. WRITES to SECCCA to formally confirm that it will be ceasing its membership from 1 July 2025; and**
- 3. NOTES that Council should:**
 - a. focus on its own climate change priorities, including transitioning from gas to renewable electricity, the installation of solar panels, increasing Council's tree planting program, and/ or improving support to residents and businesses to adapt to the challenges of climate change; and**
 - b. continue to participate in the Greater South East Melbourne (GSEM) climate change initiatives.**

CARRIED 6 / 3

**For - Cr Lana Formoso, Cr Alice Phuong Le, Cr Jim Memeti, Cr Bob Milkovic,
Cr Sean O'Reilly and Cr Sophie Tan.**

Against - Cr Phillip Danh, Cr Isabella Do and Cr Melinda Yim.



4.3.3 Response to Notice of Motion No.3 - Opening Councillor Briefing Sessions to the Public

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance, Legal & Risk
Attachments: 1. Draft Public Briefing Protocol [4.3.3.1 - 5 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES** the introduction of open online Councillor Briefing Sessions in New South Wales (NSW) and Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, Victoria. These sessions aim to improve information dissemination, public transparency, and community engagement;
2. **MONITORS** the implementation of these aforementioned sessions for six (6) months and provide a report to Council by the end of November 2025. Based on the findings, consider implementing livestreaming Councillor Briefing Sessions in 2026, subject to budget capacity;
3. **DEVELOPS** guidelines and protocols for managing the livestreaming process, including handling confidential information and ensuring all participants are aware of the protocols;
4. **ENSURES** accessibility by making Council livestreams easily accessible on various devices and platforms;
5. **PROVIDES** training and support to Councillors and staff to ensure they are comfortable with livestreaming technology and understand the protocols; and
6. **REGULARLY MONITORS** and evaluate the effectiveness of the livestreaming initiative, gathering feedback from the community and making adjustments as needed.

Executive Summary

1. A Notice of Motion was adopted at the Council Meeting on 10 February 2025, calling for a report on livestreaming Councillor Briefing Sessions.
2. This report considers Council's legislative and policy obligations under the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Background

3. Councillor Briefing Sessions are a common means by which Councillors, not just in Victoria but more broadly, ask questions of clarification and seek information about matters that are likely to come before the Council for a decision.
4. They exist to provide information to Councillors to assist with the performance of their role.
5. They are not a decision-making forum and as a result, the Governance Rules do not apply however the Councillor Model Code of Conduct applies.



6. The Councillor Briefing Sessions may be used by the Administration to get an understanding of options and issues that Councillors may seek to consider as part of a strategy or policy development process.
7. Debate on a matter is not permitted as debate should take place in a Council Meeting.
8. The custom and practice of Councillor Briefing Sessions at Council is similar to other Victorian local governments.

Key Issues and Discussion

Opportunities for public engagement and input into Council decisions

9. Council has made a commitment to thorough, consistent, and genuine community engagement that will inform responsible decision making for the benefit of the community. Council recognises that decision making, and service provision are enhanced when the community has an opportunity to provide input and express its expectations, aspirations, and ideas.
10. To ensure that engagement is best practice, Council adopted a Community Engagement Policy which outlines Council's commitment to thorough, consistent, and genuine community engagement that will inform responsible decision making for the benefit of the community.
11. In addition to the broad range of engagement activities conducted through the framework of the Community Engagement Policy, there are also opportunities to input into Council's decision-making processes, including:
 - a. Contacting any Councillor through publicly available phone and email addresses,
 - b. Submitting and asking questions at every Council Meeting,
 - c. Contacting or being part of one of Council's Advisory Committees and/or Community Reference Groups, and
 - d. On Council's various social media channels.

Changes to Councillor Briefing Sessions in other jurisdictions

12. In 2024, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, in response to a Notice of Motion, resolved to open Councillor Briefing Sessions to the public. A proposal to achieve this was the subject of community consultation which ended in late February 2025 and the outcome of that process is not yet known.
13. Mornington Peninsula Shire Council have developed a protocol to give effect to the abovementioned 2024 resolution, in which a distinction is made between a Councillor Briefing Session and a workshop, noting that the workshop will not be made open to the public.
14. The CEO, in consultation with the Mayor, is responsible for deciding whether an item or matter will be presented and discussed at a Councillor Briefing Sessions or at a workshop. There is a provision to ensure confidential or sensitive information remains protected and is not available to the public.
15. In 2024, the NSW State Government announced a series of proposed changes to the legislated framework and associated processes around how Council Meetings and Councillor Briefing Sessions will be conducted. One of the proposals is to require local governments to conduct their Councillor Briefing Sessions as open meetings.



16. Feedback on this proposal closed in late February 2025, and the NSW State Government will provide further details on the consultation process's outcome. However, it is clear that the intent of the State is for matters to be dealt with in '*formally constituted committee meetings*' which is more akin to a Council Meeting.

Considerations for livestreaming Councillor Briefing Sessions

17. As noted above, Councillor Briefing Sessions are a common means by which local governments, not just in Victoria but more broadly, can ask questions of clarification and seek information about matters that are likely to come before the Council for a decision. They exist to provide information to Councillors to assist with the performance of their role.
18. Since the implementation of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the adoption of the Governance Rules and the Community Engagement Policy, there are increased opportunities for the community to input into Council decision making. Further, Council Meetings are open to the public and livestreamed. The papers provided to Councillors are also made available to the public, except when the matter is confidential. Councillors are accessible to the community individually and collectively.
19. Training and support for Councillors and staff would be required, prior to any change, to ensure understanding of the livestreaming technology and meeting protocols in the new operating environment. In addition, administrative changes would be required to internal processes to ensure the integrity of the Councillor Briefing Session agenda items.
20. Considering the increased responsibilities regarding psychological safety in the workplace, Occupational Health and Safety implications must be considered in terms of public criticism of Councillors and Officers. This may result in requests for meetings outside the structured Councillor Briefing Sessions which would not be an effective use of resources and runs counter to the purpose and intent of the Councillor Briefing Sessions where all Councillors attend and participate.

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

21. Implications would be an increase the current workload of the Governance, IT and Communication departments dependant on the frequency of Councillor Briefings and Council Meetings.

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

Operating Budget Implications

22. There will be financial implications in terms of training, staffing costs and system changes.

Asset Implications

23. This item increases the use of council assets. The ongoing maintenance costs have been assessed and can be included in operating and resource costings.

Legal/Risk Implications

24. There are several risks including failure to consider and determine the impacts experienced by Mornington Peninsula Shire Council and NSW government. From an administration perspective, there is risk associated with failing to allow adequate time to develop and implement required change management plans across Governance, IT and Communications. E.g. amended governance protocols to ensure the protection of confidential and sensitive information during livestreamed Councillor Briefing Sessions.
25. The upside risks associated with transitioning to livestreaming Councillor Briefing Sessions include increased transparency, leading to increased community trust.



Environmental Implications

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

Community Consultation

27. Community consultation will occur in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy.

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

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

- Safe and Peaceful Community
- Embrace diversity and multiculturalism

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

30. 2021-25:

- A socially connected, safe and healthy city.

31. This report relates to:

*"MINUTE No.60 Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad. Seconded by: Cr Bob Milkovic
That Council officers will present a report to Council no later than two months for Councillors to consider, including details on the implementation, associated costs and the support made available for Council staff and Councillors to facilitate the transition to livestreaming the Councillor Briefing Sessions."*

Legislative and Policy Obligations

32. 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 is the Overarching Governance Principles of the *Local Government Act 2020*.



MINUTE No.98

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That Council:

- 1. UPHOLDS current Councillor Briefing Meeting (*Session*) practices and does not open the meetings to the public;**
- 2. ENSURES public transparency is maintained by continuing to list the Councillor Briefing Meeting (*Session*) agenda items in the Council Meeting Agenda for noting purposes; and**
- 3. NOTES Councillor Briefing Meetings (*Sessions*) are not a decision-making forum and are solely used to provide Councillors with information of a preliminary nature, the opportunity to ask questions, seek clarification, receive updates and provide feedback on issues that may come before at a Council Meeting.**

CARRIED 5 / 4

**For - Cr Phillip Danh, Cr Lana Formoso, Cr Sean O'Reilly, Cr Sophie Tan
and Cr Melinda Yim.**

Against - Cr Isabella Do, Cr Alice Phuong Le, Cr Jim Memeti and Cr Bob Milkovic.



4.3.4 Leave of Absence - Cr Rhonda Garad

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

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** a Leave of Absence to Councillor Rhonda Garad from 11 April 2025 to 4 May 2025.
2. **NOTES** Councillor Garad will not be utilising any Council resources during the Leave of Absence; and
3. **NOTES** Councillor Garad's apology for all Council Meetings, Councillor Briefing Sessions, Pre-Council Meetings and any other meetings scheduled to occur throughout the Leave of Absence.

Executive Summary

1. This report is submitted in conjunction with the Model Councillor Code of Conduct and Council's Governance Rules which state that any Councillor may request a leave of absence in writing submitted to the Chief Executive Officer and state the dates they require the leave and the reason for which it is sought.

Background

2. Councillor (Cr) Rhonda Garad has been selected as the Greens' Party preferred candidate to contest the by-election for the Federal electoral seat of Bruce.
3. Cr Garad requests a Leave of Absence commencing 11 April 2025 to 4 May 2025.
4. During this Leave of Absence, Cr Garad will not use any Council equipment to ensure she runs her federal election campaign independently of Council.
5. Further, under section 35(4) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council must grant any reasonable request for leave.
6. This report is submitted in conjunction with Council's Governance Rules which state that any Councillor may request a leave of absence in writing submitted to the Chief Executive Officer or Mayor and state the dates they require the leave and the reason for which it is sought.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

7. 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*.



MINUTE No.99

Moved by: Cr Lana Formoso

Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That Council:

- 1. APPROVES a Leave of Absence to Councillor Rhonda Garad from 11 April 2025 to 4 May 2025.**
- 2. NOTES Councillor Garad will not be utilising any Council resources during the Leave of Absence; and**
- 3. NOTES Councillor Garad's apology for all Council Meetings, Councillor Briefing Sessions, Pre-Council Meetings and any other meetings scheduled to occur throughout the Leave of Absence.**

CARRIED 9 / 0



4.3.5 List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance, Legal & Risk
Attachments: 1. List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors [4.3.5.1 - 2 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That the listed items for the period 17 March 2025 to 4 April 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 17 March 2025 to 4 April 2025.

MINUTE No.100

Moved by: Cr Sophie Tan

Seconded by: Cr Melinda Yim

That the listed items for the period 17 March 2025 to 4 April 2025 provided in Attachment 1 to this report be received and noted.

CARRIED 9 / 0



4.3.6 Draft Minutes of Advisory Committee Meetings

Responsible Officer:	Executive Director Community Strengthening
Attachments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Draft Minutes of Positive Ageing Advisory Committee Meeting 13 February 2025 [4.3.6.1 - 2 pages]2. Draft Minutes of Disability Advisory Committee Meeting 17 February 2025 [4.3.6.2 - 3 pages]3. Draft Minutes of Arts Advisory Board Meeting 18 February 2025 [4.3.6.3 - 3 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES** the draft Minutes of the meeting for the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee held on 13 February 2025 (per Attachment 1);
2. **NOTES** the draft Minutes of the meeting for the Disability Advisory Committee held on 17 February 2025 (per Attachment 2); and
3. **NOTES** the draft Minutes of the meeting for the Arts Advisory Board held on 18 February 2025 (per Attachment 3).

Executive Summary

1. At the Council meeting held 23 April 2018, Council resolved in part to *invite Advisory Committees and Reference Groups to submit meeting minutes for Council endorsement*. This resolution also allowed interested Councillors (and those that attend these Committees and Reference Groups) to speak to the meeting about items discussed at these meetings.
2. This report recommends that the draft Minutes of the following Advisory Committee meetings be noted by Council:
 - a) Positive Ageing Advisory Committee held on 13 February 2025 (Attachment 1),
 - b) Disability Advisory Committee held on 17 February 2025 (Attachment 2), and
 - c) Arts Advisory Board held on 18 February 2025 (Attachment 3).

Background

3. Greater Dandenong Council is represented on a wide range of Committees, Reference Groups and Advisory Groups which frequently reflect the interests of individual Councillors in serving the broader community in their role. A full listing of these appointments is confirmed each November at Council's Meeting to elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and is available via Council's website.
4. The resolution of Council made on 23 April 2018 provides for Minutes of meetings held by Advisory Committees or Reference Groups to be submitted to Council for information purposes and for noting. To ensure they are provided to Council in a timely manner, Minutes of these Advisory Committees or Reference Groups are submitted to Council typically in a draft form (in that they have not yet been adopted by the relevant Committee). If significant material changes occur when they are adopted by the Advisory Committee or Reference Group, then those particular Minutes would then be resubmitted to Council for noting.



5. As such, draft Minutes are provided as attachments to this report.
6. There are no financial implications associated with the development and submission of this report.

Links to Community Vision and Council Plan

7. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
 - Education, training, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.
 - Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.
 - Mind, body and spirit.
 - Art and culture.
8. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan
9. 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 city that supports entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes.

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:
 - The Overarching Governance Principles of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
 - *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006*.
 - Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.

MINUTE No.101

Moved by: Cr Sophie Tan

Seconded by: Cr Melinda Yim

That Council:

- 1) **NOTES** the draft Minutes of the meeting for the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee held on 13 February 2025 (per Attachment 1),
- 2) **NOTES** the draft Minutes of the meeting for the Disability Advisory Committee held on 17 February 2025 (per Attachment 2), and
- 3) **NOTES** the draft Minutes of the meeting for the Arts Advisory Board held on 18 February 2025 (per Attachment 3).

CARRIED 9 / 0



4.3.7 Draft Minutes of Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee (MAPSAAC) Meeting 11 February 2025

Responsible Officer: Executive Manager Strategy Growth & Advocacy

Attachments: 1. Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee MAPSAAC Minutes 11 Feb 2025 [4.4.3.1 - 7 Pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES** the draft Minutes of the meeting for the Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee as provided in Attachment 1 to this report; and
2. **APPROVES** the Committee's recommendation for the Council to advocate for individuals considered unlawful citizens (undocumented citizens), supporting efforts to provide legal assistance, raise awareness, and promote fair treatment.

Executive Summary

1. At the Council meeting held 23 April 2018, Council resolved in part to *invite Advisory Committees and Reference Groups to submit meeting minutes for Council endorsement*. This resolution also allowed interested Councillors (and those that attend these Committees and Reference Groups) to speak to the meeting about items discussed at these meetings.
2. This report recommends that the draft Minutes of the Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee meeting held on 11 February 2025 as provided in Attachment 1 to this report be noted by Council.
3. That the recommendation of the Committee noted at section 5 of the Minutes be endorsed by the Council.

Background

4. Greater Dandenong Council is represented on a wide range of Committees, Reference Groups and Advisory Groups which frequently reflect the interests of individual Councillors in serving the broader community in their role. A full listing of these appointments is confirmed each November at Council's Meeting to elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and is available via Council's website.
5. The resolution of Council made on 23 April 2018 provides for Minutes of meetings held by Advisory Committees or Reference Groups to be submitted to Council for information purposes and for noting. To ensure they are provided to Council in a timely manner, Minutes of these Advisory Committees or Reference Groups are submitted to Council typically in a draft form (in that they have not yet been adopted by the relevant Committee). If significant material changes occur when they are adopted by the Advisory Committee or Reference Group, then those particular Minutes would then be resubmitted to Council for noting.
6. As such, draft Minutes are provided as Attachment 1 to this report.
7. There are no financial implications associated with the development and submission of this report.



Links to Community Vision and Council Plan

8. 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.
9. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan
10. 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 Council that demonstrates leadership and a commitment to investing in the community.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

11. 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.
 - Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006.

MINUTE No.102

Moved by: Cr Isabella Do

Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

1. **NOTES** the Draft Minutes of the meeting for the Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee as provided in Attachment 1 to this report; and
2. **APPROVES** the Committee's recommendation for the Council to advocate for individuals considered unlawful citizens (undocumented citizens), supporting efforts to provide legal assistance, raise awareness, and promote fair treatment.

CARRIED 9 / 0



5 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.



6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

Cr Isabella Do left the Chamber at 8:53 pm.

Comment

Cr Lana Formoso

I have attended the following events in the past few weeks:

- On Wednesday 2 April 2025, the Team Sports 4 All launch at the Dandenong Basketball Stadium;
 - On Sunday 6 April 2025, the Sri Lankan New Year Festival;
 - On the same day, the Aatam Paatam Indian Music and Dance Event;
 - On Sunday 13 April 2025, the Dandenong Cricket Club presentation night; and
 - Several Eid events and Iftar dinners throughout the weeks.
-

Cr Isabella Do returned to the Chamber at 8:56 pm.

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

We are the least active municipality with many barriers, and financial difficulties is one of them. Notably, the program 'Team Sports 4 All' provides monetary incentives for children to participate. What can we do to encourage this program and process here in the City of Greater Dandenong?

Response

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

- I will meet with you and discuss further opportunities, including the possibility of a report. Council and the Mayor have been advocating hard for the 'Team Sports 4 All' program. We have been reiterating the importance of that program and seeking funding for it to every candidate for the Federal Election. You can feel reassured that Council has been very proactive in this space.

Comment

Cr Lana Formoso

Speaking from my experience as a PE teacher, I understand financial difficulties is one of the main barriers for kids to continue playing sport outside of school, particularly for disadvantaged kids. I will do everything I can to support you and the Mayor in this matter.

'Go Soccer Mums' is back again from 30 April to 4 June 2025, 10:30 am to 11:30 am at Ross Reserve, Noble Park.

We have a community conversation safety event happening Tuesday 15 April 2025, at 1 Douglas Street, Noble Park between 10:00 am and 12:00 pm, where residents can raise their concerns and discuss the future Council Community Safety Action Plan.



Question

Cr Bob Milkovic

Can you please provide the start date of the Stud Road intersection works, now that funding has been provided? I notice there is a lot of resurfacing currently, but is there a start date?

Response

Cr Lana Formoso

The project has started with some of the road resurfacing being undertaken, but the work of actual intersection itself will start in May.

Comment

Cr Bob Milkovic

On Thursday 10 April 2025, I attended the Discover Dandenong Creek Festival.

I would like to wish all our residents who celebrate Easter a happy Easter. This year, Easter for Catholics and Orthodox people fall on the same day, which happens every five years. This coming Sunday is Easter, and I hope you spend family time in peace and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and enjoy some good food.

Comment

Cr Alice Phuong Le

I have attended the following events in the past few weeks:

- On Wednesday 26 March 2025, the Vietnamese Australian Senior Association's (VASA) Annual General Meeting at Wantirna Hotel;
- On Sunday 6 April 2025, the Aatam Paatam Indian Music and Dance Event at Springvale Town Hall;
- On Sunday 13 April 2025, the Keysborough Big Picnic at Frederick Wachter Reserve;
- A fundraising event for Myanmar at Quang Minh temple; and
- The Ramadan Market at Harmony Square.

Comment

Cr Sean O'Reilly

I have attended the following events in the past few weeks:

- On 5 April 2025, the Round One Match Day Presidents Lunch with Mayor Memeti and Member for Mulgrave, Eden Foster MP;
- On the same day, the Harmony Festival at Springvale Neighbourhood House with Mayor Memeti and Deputy Mayor Tan;
- On 13 April 2025, the Keysborough Big Picnic at Frederick Wachter Reserve; and
- On the same day, the ANZAC Commemorative Service at Springvale RSL Club with Mayor Jim Memeti and Deputy Mayor Sophie Tan.

The highlight of these events are the diversity of participants and the amazing parade around Springvale Library for the Harmony Festival, and the gender equality seen at the Round One lunch event. The leadership of these events is commendable.



Comment

Cr Sophie Tan, Deputy Mayor

I have attended the following events in the past few weeks:

- On Tuesday 25 March 2025, the opening of the Ramadan Night Market and dinner in Council Chambers hosted by the Bright Community Organisation;
- On Saturday 29 March 2025, the Sounds of Nepal hosted by the Didi Bahini Samaj Victoria;
- On the same day, the Khmer Community Book Day organised by Springvale Library;
- On Friday 4 April 2025, an Eid celebration in partnership with our Council and Victoria Multicultural Commission (VMC) at Springvale Town Hall;
- On Saturday 5 April 2025, the Cambodian New Year Celebration hosted by the Cambodian Association of Victoria (CAV);
- On the same day, the Harmony Festival hosted by the Springvale Neighbourhood House;
- On that night, the Noble Park Hall ceremony celebrating its 100th birthday;
- In the evening of the same day, the Songkran New Year Ugadi Festival hosted by Melbourne Kannada Sangha;
- On Sunday 6 April 2025, the Sri Lankan New Year hosted by the Dhamma Sarana Buddhist Temple;
- On Friday 11 April 2025, the Gala Dinner celebrating the Ramadan Night Market;
- On Saturday 12 April 2025, the Cambodian New Year hosted by the Cambodian Buddhist Association;
- That night, the Cambodian Singing Contest competition hosted by Cambodian Association of Victoria;
- On Sunday 13 April 2025, the ANZAC Commemorative Service hosted by Springvale RSL;
- On the same day, the Keysborough Big Picnic at Frederick Wachter Reserve;
- That evening, I attended the Nowruz Awards hosted by the Victorian Association of Students from Afghanistan celebrating cultural diversity, community spirit and academic excellence.

Our Cambodian New Year starts from today 14 April until 16 April 2025. I wish everyone a happy Cambodian New Year, plus anyone celebrating in April, and also happy Easter.

Comment tabled

Cr Sophie Tan, Deputy Mayor

On Wednesday 2 April 2025, the Team Sports 4 All Launch.

Question

Cr Sophie Tan, Deputy Mayor

Residents have complained about dumped rubbish and people hanging around at night time at a local park in Noble Park. Although the gate is closed after hours, its height is low and people can jump in. Can someone investigate this ongoing issue? The resident who reported this on 28 March 2025, has not yet heard any feedback.



Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

I am not aware of that matter, but I am happy to investigate.

Comment

Cr Melinda Yim

I have attended the following events in the past few weeks:

- On Tuesday 25 March 2025, the opening of the Ramadan Night Market hosted by Bright Community Organisation;
- On Friday 28 March 2025, a Ramadan Iftar dinner at Afghan Mums Restaurant.
- On Wednesday 2 April 2025, the launch for Team Sports 4 All with Deputy Mayor Sophie Tan and Cr Lana Formoso;
- On Friday 4 April 2025, the Eid celebration in partnership with our Council and Victoria Multicultural Commission;
- On the same day, the Cambodian New Year celebration hosted by Cambodian Association of Victoria with Mayor Jim Memeti, Deputy Mayor Sophie Tan, Cr Sean O'Reilly, Cr Phillip Danh, and Cr Loi Truong;
- On the same day, the Noble Park Hall 100th Birthday with Mayor Memeti and Deputy Mayor Tan,
- On the same day, a fundraising dinner for Queensland at the Happy Bar organised by Peter You with Mayor Memeti;
- On Sunday 6 April 2025, an Afghan New Year festival with Mayor Jim Memeti and Cr Rhonda Garad;
- On the same day, the 29th Annual Sri Lankan New Year Festival;
- On that night, the Aatam Paatam Indian Music and Dance Festival with Mayor Memeti, Cr Alice Phuong Le, and Cr Isabella Do;
- On Monday 7 April 2025, the Disability Advisory Committee;
- On Friday 11 April 2025, the Gala Dinner celebrating the success of the Ramadan Night Market; and
- On Saturday 12 April 2025, the Cambodian New Year celebration;
- On the same day, the Eid celebration at the Fijian Islamic and Cultural Society;
- On that night, the Cambodian Singing competition with Deputy Mayor Tan; and
- On Sunday 13 April 2025, the Keysborough Big Picnic.

Comment

Cr Phillip Danh

I attended the Sri Lankan New Year event in Dandenong, and the Cambodian New Year ceremony hosted by CAV with various people in this Chamber.

I would like to thank Oksana King who helped organize the Ukrainian art exhibition in Noble Park, for her efforts in hosting and organising the event to bring together artists of Ukrainian heritage from all over Australia.



The Ramadan Night Market is one of the best things to have happened to our community in a long time. It was good to see positive coverage about our area, showcasing our diversity and strength. It highlights that regardless of who you were or what your heritage was, people came together to celebrate, laugh together, dance together, and have a good time. I wish the future success of this event.

Comment

Cr Isabella Do

Thank you to the residents who have been in contact with me recently regarding public community safety. We need your help to contribute to the Public Community Safety Survey to inform our Council Action Plan. This survey closes tomorrow at 5:00pm. I look forward to attending my first meeting as Council Representative for the Community Safety Advisory Committee after the completion of this survey.

Congratulations to the Bright Community Organisation for organising a fantastic Ramadan Night Market.

Thank you to our hard-working events team for the success of our recent Keysborough Big Picnic. In the event, we had a dedicated stall for consultation regarding the Community Hub in the Keysborough South Ward, which is due to open late this year. We are running a consultation regarding its naming and a separate consultation for the Draft Community Hubs Strategic Framework.

I feel disappointed by some of the decisions made tonight in this Chamber. I ran for Council because I want better for our community. I want an open, transparent local government. In the last three Council Meetings, we had over 500 views on our videos. In our second meeting in February, we achieved over 1,200 views.

By wanting better for my community, I say that it is not just a four-year term that we have an impact on. It is for the decades and generations to come, because our decisions, strategies and actions have a flow-on effect. As a young person, I struggle to understand the reasons for not supporting strategic climate action and resilience through participation, such as through South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA). These are repercussions our current generations will need to endure, and our future generations will deal with. Additional tree planting and tree canopy protection are great actions, but they are just a band-aid solution.

I will provide a list of activities I have attended and participated in since becoming a Councillor as an appendix in a report. Moving forward, I will provide this quarterly in the list form. You can also find reports and updates on my website that I have made and maintained myself at isabellado.com/news.



Comment

Cr Jim Memeti, Mayor

From Tuesday 25 March to Wednesday 2 April 2025, I attended the Ramadan Night Market for all nine nights. Over this period, over 300,000 people attended. It was a community across different religions and from diverse places, including Greater Dandenong and around Victoria. Everybody came together, enjoyed themselves and celebrated our diversity. Participants have spoken highly of the event and are looking forward to next year. We have lifted the bar much higher. Like some people said, 'watch out Lakemba, Greater Dandenong is coming'. look forward to working with the group to ensure they can deliver this event next year.

This was the first year and the attendance exceeded our expectation, but our staff reacted very well. Congratulations to all staff for the achievement. Please pass on my congratulations to all the staff in your team who helped.

On Wednesday 26 March 2025, I attended the Children's Advisory Group meeting to elect the 2025 Junior Mayor – Aya from Sirius College. She joined me yesterday 13 April 2025, at the Keysborough Big Picnic and made a speech.

I also attended the following events:

- On Wednesday 26 March 2025, VASA's 33rd Annual General Meeting;
- On Saturday 29 March 2025, the opening of Ethnic Funeral Services in Dandenong South;
- On the same day, the Eid al-Fitr Chand Raat Festival at Gloria Pyke in Dandenong;
- On Sunday 30 March 2025, the Voices of Survival: The Hazara Story of Resilience and Hope, hosted by the Federation of the Hazara Council of Australia;
- On Monday 31 March 2025, the Eid al-Fitr breakfast with the Sri Lankan community;
- On Friday 4 April 2025, a meeting the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Reference Group;
- On the same day, an EID celebration at Springvale Town Hall in partnership with our Council and Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) where different religious leader made speeches;
- On Saturday 5 April 2025, the Cambodian New Year celebration held by CAV;
- On the same day, the Harmony Festival at Springvale Neighbourhood House;
- On the same day, the Round One Sponsors Lunch at Springvale District Football & Netball Club;
- On the same day, the Noble Park Public Hall Ceremony celebrating their 100th birthday;
- On the same day, a dinner event at Ahmadiyya Muslim Association;
- On that night, a Charity Dinner Partying raising funds for those affected by Cyclone Alfred;
- On 6 April 2025, the Dandenong City Soccer Club Festival where 89 female teams participated;
- On the same day, the Afghan New Year festival in Dandenong Park;
- On the same day, the 29th Annual Sri Lankan New Year Festival;
- On the same day, the Aatam Paatam Indian Music and Dance event at the Springvale Town Hall;



-
- On Thursday 10 April 2025, the Discovery Dandenong Creek Festival starting with First Nations People delivering a Welcome to Country, a smoking ceremony and a welcoming dance;
 - On Friday 11 April 2025, the Belvedere Grandparent Day at a nursing home where the elderly and children having an Easter egg hunt
 - On Sunday 13 April 2025, the Keysborough Big Picnic where families and their dogs attended;
 - On the same day, the ANZAC Commemorative Service hosted by Springvale RSL; and
 - On the same day, the Eagles Folk Dance: The Heart of Albania at Drum Theatre.

In the evening of Friday 11 April 2025, I attended the Gala Dinner celebrating the Ramadan Night Market with some Councillors and CEO Jacqui Weatherill.

Mayor Jim Memeti tabled a trophy of appreciation from the Bright Community Organisation.

For the communities who celebrate New Year this time of year, happy New Year to you all. For our community who are celebrating Easter over the weekend, happy Easter.

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 below.



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
11/03/25 CQT10	Cr Rhonda Garad	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.	Manager Governance, Legal & Risk	14/04/2025	Initial response provided 11/03/2025: We will review and provide feedback on this matter. Further response provided 14/04/2025: Council has established frameworks for processing insurance claims, which include independent assessment regarding liability. Council acknowledges the financial impact that a claim will have on any individual however, Council is not in a position to act as a de facto insurer or provide compensation in cases where we have not been found negligent. In such situations, Council will always provide claimants with alternative avenues as well as review processes. One of these avenues is for



Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
		<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 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>			<p>the individual to claim against their own insurer, with the insurer then being able to seek third party recovery from Council.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>
24/03/25 CQT1	Cr Phillip Danh	Noble Park Tennis club accessibility and maintenance issues	Executive Director	02/04/2025	<p>Initial response provided 24/03/2025:</p> <p>I am not familiar with this matter. I will investigate and provide a response back to you.</p>



Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
		A couple of weeks ago, the Noble Park Tennis Club were experiencing some trouble with accessibility and maintenance in their toilet facilities. Is there an update on this?	Community Strengthening		<p>Further response provided 02/04/2025: Building Maintenance have confirmed that our contractors attended and unblocked the toilet on 18 March.</p> <p>Looking into the history in Merit over the past 12 months, there were 5 call outs about local blockages with tissues and paper towels. It would appear to be user related issues, and our club liaison officer will follow up with the tenants at this venue.</p> <p>Following your email on 26 March, contractors returned and unblocked the toilet on 28 March. All other toilets were checked and no issues found.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>
24/03/25 CQT2	Cr Phillip Danh	<p>Anti-social issues on Ian Street, Noble Park</p> <p>One issue that needs to be addressed quickly is the laneway on the western side of the shops. I have been informed that 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</p>	Executive Director Community Strengthening	07/04/2025	<p>Initial response provided 24/03/2025: We can investigate that and make contact for some advocacy around it.</p> <p>Further response provided 07/04/2025: Council has raised the community concerns regarding anti-social behaviour and drug dealing at the laneway behind Ian Street, Noble Park, with the Springvale Neighbourhood Policing Unit and the Protective Services and Transit Police Units.</p>



Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
		Officers (PSO) patrolling in the evenings. Is it possible for Council to get in touch with the relevant authorities and ask if PSOs can also help to patrol in the evenings?			<p>The Transit Police Unit has informed Council that the issues identified within the laneway behind Ian Street do not form part of the PSO's designated area. As such they cannot actively patrol that area. However, they are aware of the issues highlighted and will actively patrol from the railway station carpark at the southern end of the laneway. The visible police presence will hopefully deter offending within that area.</p> <p>The Springvale Neighbourhood Policing Unit will also investigate the area and encourages local traders and community members to report any suspicious behaviour to Springvale Police Station on 8558 8600 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or report at crime via their website Crime Stoppers Australia - Your Community, Your Call</p> <p>Regarding lighting, laneways which only provide vehicular access to the rear of shops and dwellings are typically unlit. Australian Standards do not require any public lighting in these areas unless there are significant volumes of pedestrians or cycling using the laneways. Due to the narrow width of such laneways, there is insufficient space to install lighting poles.</p>



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					<p>Temporary lighting (security / motion sensor) to aid with enforcement activity can be considered, however due to the lack of space, this would likely require agreement from adjacent property owners to allow mounting of lighting on their properties. If enforcement agencies advise they are having issues enforcing at the location, then Council officers will investigate this further.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>
24/03/25 CQT3	Cr Phillip Danh	<p>Pavement and parking issues on lan Street, Noble Park</p> <p>I wanted to raise another issue with the laneway itself. There is wear and tear. It is quite complex given that it is hard to indicate which part of the laneway belongs to Council land and which is private property. As a result, there have been parking problems along that laneway.</p> <p>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.</p>	Executive Director City Futures	3/04/2025	<p>Initial response provided 24/03/2025: I will get our traffic engineers to review that.</p> <p>Further response provided 3/04/2025: Our transport and parking compliance teams will investigate this matter. In the first instance, we have arranged for more regular parking patrols covering this location.</p> <p>If any residents or businesses observe illegal parking straddling the private property and laneway, then please encourage them to report this to Council (e-mail, call, SnapSendSolve).</p> <p>If this type of parking is observed regularly or the matter is not resolved with a warning / infringement, then we will look at delineating the parts of the laneway required for access with a white line and writing to offending businesses. This methodology has been used</p>



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					<p>successfully at a number of other laneways in the municipality.</p> <p>Please also advise any residents or businesses who wish to discuss this location further, that they can contact Councils traffic engineers directly via RoadSafety@cgd.vic.gov.au.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>
24/03/25 CQT5	Cr Sophie Tan	<p>Drainage issues regarding six units in Noble Park</p> <p>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?</p>	Executive Director City Futures	3/04/2025	<p>Initial response provided 24/03/2025:</p> <p>I will have a staff member contact the resident and follow it up.</p> <p>Further response provided 3/04/2025:</p> <p>A Council officer from the Civil Development team has spoken with the resident at this location and advised that we are not able to recommend or endorse any specific commercial businesses or products. The officer was able to provide advice to the resident with regards to permit processes etc. to assist them with progressing the matter.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>
24/03/25 CQT6	Cr Lana Formoso	<p>Request update on lighting at Ross Reserve, Noble Park</p>	Executive Director		<p>Initial response provided 24/03/2025:</p> <p>As mentioned in the last Council meeting, we are aware of the program. We are working</p>



Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
		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. 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?	Community Strengthening		<p>through the operational impacts because this involves costs, technical aspects of programming 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED</p>
24/03/25 QT7	Cr Lana Formoso	<p>Illumination of Drum Theatre to reflect recent nightclub tragedy in Macedonia</p> <p>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.</p>	Executive Director Community Strengthening	31/03/2025	<p>Initial response provided 24/03/2025:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>As soon as we have another gap in the illumination schedule, we will be very happy to make up for those nights that were not illuminated over the weekend.</p>



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					Further response provided 31/03/2025: Given the technical issues, we were pleased to further illuminate the Drum in red and yellow from Thursday 27 March to Sunday 30 March (inclusive). COMPLETED
24/03/25 CQT10	Cr Rhonda Garad	Local procurement for Dandenong Wellbeing Centre project 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?	Executive Director City Futures	4/04/2025	Initial response provided 24/03/2025: 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. No further action required. COMPLETED



7 URGENT BUSINESS

No urgent business was considered.



8 CLOSE OF BUSINESS

The Meeting closed at 9:38pm.

Signature