



Minutes

Council Meeting

Monday 12 May 2025, 7:00 pm
Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street,
Dandenong, Victoria 3175

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



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.



Supporting Documents

Attachments for reports included in these Minutes can be found within the corresponding Agenda document on Council's website <https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings>.

Your Councillors

[Mayor Jim Memeti](#)

[Cr Bob Milkovic](#)

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

[Cr Sean O'Reilly](#)

[Cr Phillip Danh](#)

[Cr Loi Truong](#)

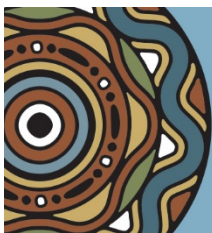
[Cr Isabella Do](#)

[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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1 MEETING OPENING

1.1 OPENING OF MEETING BY CHAIR

Cr Jim Memeti opened the Meeting at 7.00 pm.

1.2 ATTENDANCE

Apologies

Cr Melinda Yim.

Councillors Present

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

Officers Present

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer; Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures; Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening; Yuri Guzman, Chief Information Officer; Michael Tonta, Governance Advisor; Marjan Hajjari, Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy; 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 Cr Rhonda Garad read the following:

"As we gather today, we do so with a deep commitment to unity, respect and shared purpose. May we listen with openness, speak with integrity, and approach every decision with thoughtfulness and care. Let our collective wisdom guide us, as we work together towards progress, understanding, and a future that benefits all."



1.5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Meeting of Council held 28 April 2025.

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 28 April 2025 be confirmed.

MINUTE No.109

Moved by: Cr Bob Milkovic

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 28 April 2025 be confirmed.

CARRIED 10 / 0

1.6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cr Jim Memeti disclosed an indirect material conflict of interest of a pecuniary nature (s 128 of the *Local Government Act 2020*) in Recommendation 2 of Item 4.2.1 Proposed 2025-26 Capital Works Program for Community Consultation as he is the Director of a company that has a stall at the Dandenong Market. Cr Jim Memeti left the Chamber prior to the discussion and voting on this recommendation.



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 - 4 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 no joint letters prior to the Council Meeting of 12 May 2025.

MINUTE No.110

Moved by: Cr Sophie Tan

Seconded by: Cr Lana Formoso

That this report and its attachment be received and noted.

CARRIED 10 / 0



3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Question

Phillip Lamaro, Dandenong

I have noticed on International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) day and many other special days, Council only raises the flag at Harmony Square and not at all Greater Dandenong community flag poles. As Greater Dandenong is a large area including areas such as Dandenong, Noble Park, Keysborough and Springvale, only raising a single flag for awareness and respect in only one area prevents social awareness over all its residents. I would like to ask the following three questions on this to be answered separately:

1. Where are currently all Council's community flag poles?
2. Will Springvale and Keysborough South Community Hubs have community flag poles installed?
3. Why is Council only raising one flag at Harmony Square instead of raising them at all community flag poles to allow all Council areas to bring awareness to issues as that is the reason for these flag poles?

Response

Marjan Hajjari, Executive Manager Strategic Growth and Advocacy

Council has two (2) community flagpole locations, one in Harmony Square and the other in Multicultural Place. The installation of the community flagpoles occurred in 2017 as the result of a Notice of Motion to provide community groups the opportunity to fly culturally significant flags, which are not nationally recognised by the Department of Premier and Cabinets Flag Protocols Office.

There is currently no budget allocation to install additional community flagpoles in other areas of the municipality. It is estimated that the installation of a single flagpole costs between \$8,000 – \$10,000. This does not include additional budget allocations needed for the purchase of additional flags, flagpole maintenance, staff wages and limited staffing resources required for servicing the flagpoles. As mentioned before, Council has two (2) community flagpole locations within the municipality available to fly community flags.

Question

Gaye Guest, Keysborough

After reading the horrific story about 164 Foster Street, Dandenong and the state that home is now in, I again ask why 404-406 Springvale Road has been left idle under a private building surveyor for at least four years now.

Why do these surveyors have so much power where no planning permits are needed? This is not the first question Council has been asked about the Springvale site, and is it another unidentified site that just sits looking sad on a major gateway with no intervention from Council like many decrepit properties including hoarder homes and when will these be attended too?

A private building contractor has also determined how two residential homes look within metres of one another in Keysborough as well with inferior builds tacked on the back of the homes where verandas become a wrap-around carport and turn into extra walled rooms. Why is this also allowed especially as both properties have now been sold with these ugly additions that need to be torn down?



Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Within the Planning Scheme, certain buildings and works do not require a planning permit. However, in many cases these works do require a building permit and the Planning Scheme must be taken into account for details such as Heritage or Flooding Overlays. Regarding the home at 164 Foster Street, Dandenong, there were no such overlays that needed to be taken into account when the private building surveyor approved the current demolition permit.

Regarding the second question, we are unable to give a definitive answer without knowing specifics of the properties in question. If you could provide the address of these properties, Council officers will investigate and provide you a written response.

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



PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE/REQUIRING FURTHER ACTION

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
03/11/25 PQT5	Rokhan Akbar, Berwick	<p>Afghan Bazaar renaming Has the council considered to end the matter of Afghan Bazaar for once and all to stop the escalation of hatred, division, conflicts and potential violence?</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>	Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy		<p>Initial response provided 11/03/2025: Question taken on notice.</p> <p>FURTHER RESPONSE REQUIRED</p>
03/11/25 PQT9	Namatullah Kadrie, Narre Warren South	<p>Afghan Bazaar renaming Has the Council's position changed since its registration, and will it now voluntarily revoke the trademark, given that it no longer meets the registration criteria and poses reputational and legal risks?</p> <p>Under Section 43 of the Trade Marks Act, a trademark must not mislead the public. Given that the majority of businesses in the precinct are Hazara-owned, and Hazaras do not and cannot simultaneously identify as</p>	Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy		<p>Initial response provided 11/03/2025: 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
		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 not want their land named after a country guilty of genocide, it ignored their requests?</p> <p><u>Question 2</u></p>	Executive Manager Strategic Growth and Advocacy		<p>Initial response provided 24/03/2025: Question taken on notice.</p> <p>Further response provided 06/05/2024: Please see below response from Carolyn Altan, Manager Communications and Customer Experience, please also refer to the Minutes for a response on the evening from CEO Jacqui Weatherill.</p> <p>Thank you for your follow-up question regarding the naming of the "Afghan Bazaar." The Council acknowledges the concerns raised by the First Nations people, including the Bunurong and Wurundjeri peoples, regarding the use of the term "Afghan." As previously mentioned, the Council is currently investigating this matter further to ensure that all perspectives are considered and respected.</p> <p>At this stage, no final decision has been made regarding the renaming of the "Afghan Bazaar." Council is committed to a thorough and inclusive consultation process, which will involve engaging with all relevant stakeholders. Council will provide updates as the investigation progresses and will ensure that all interested stakeholders, including First</p>



Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
		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?			Nations people, have the opportunity to express their views. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through this important issue.



4 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 2

4.1 POLICY AND STRATEGY

4.1.1 Q3 Quarterly Performance Report January - March 2025

Responsible Officer: Executive Manager Strategy Growth & Advocacy
Attachments: 1. Council Quarterly Report Q 3 2024-25 [4.1.1.1 - 96 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council NOTES the Q3 FY25 Quarterly Performance Report (per Attachment 1), which outlines Council's progress against the performance targets outlined in the Council Plan 2021-25 for the period 1 January to 31 March 2025 and the Financial Report for the period 1 July 2024 – 31 March 2025.

Executive Summary

1. The Greater Dandenong City Council provides a performance report against organisational objectives and its financial position on a quarterly basis. The reporting procedures and systems in place provide Councillors and the community with the opportunity to monitor progress against Council Plan indicators. This ensures that all resources are managed effectively and accountably. Council will be kept informed of the financial position on a quarterly basis, as is the current practice.

Background

2. Council formally adopted the Council Plan 2021-25, Annual Plan 2024-25 and Budget 2024-25 on Monday 24 June 2024.
3. The Council Plan 2021-25 outlines the vision and objectives of the Council. This document guides service delivery, innovation and good governance, and provides the foundation for the corporate planning framework for all business activities. The Council Plan also guides the budget, service delivery priorities and the continuous improvement of our services.
4. The Council Plan 2021-25, Annual Plan 2024-25, and Budget 2024-25 are made available to residents through the Customer Service Centres, libraries and on Council's website at www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

Key Issues and Discussion

5. The Quarterly Performance Report provides a summary of key highlights for the quarter against the Council Plan, Budget, Reshaping Greater Dandenong report and the capital works program.
6. Progress against performance targets is outlined in the following components of the attachment to this report:
 - a) Part A – Annual Plan progress details the achievements for the Council Plan strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2021-25 for the period 1 January to 31 March 2025.



- b) Part B – The Financial Report is designed to inform Councillors of the results of operations for the period 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025. The Original Budget information contained in the report is the budget approved by Council on 24 June 2024. The year-to-date budget in this report reflects the Mid-Year Budget as adopted by Council on 28 January 2025. The 2024-25 Forecast is the result of an extensive review undertaken with departments during March quarter and is subject to change as it continues to be monitored and reviewed through to 30 June 2025.
7. The financial report incorporates a set of Financial Statements and a Directorate Analysis of financial performance by Business Unit. The following are contained in the attachment:
- Income Statement
 - Balance Sheet
 - Cash Flow Statement
 - Capital Expenditure Statement
 - Management Accounting Result
 - Capital Expenditure Report
 - Investment Report
 - Directorate Analysis

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. For the nine months ended 31 March 2025, Council achieved a surplus operating result of \$31.8 million which is \$4.48 million better than the year-to-date budget. The main factors contributing to this result comprise favourable variances in:
- a) **Income** (\$881,000 favourable) – Due to better than anticipated interest returns on investments (\$251,000), rental and recovery income (\$270,000), supplementary rates (\$158,000), and contributions - monetary (\$384,000).
 - b) **Operating expenditure** (\$3.6 million favourable) – Mainly due to lower employee costs (\$5.66 million) and materials and services (\$4.8 million) to date partly offset by two unfavourable fixed asset accounting entries (non-cash):
 - Asset write offs (\$4.2 million)
 - Prior year capital expenditure unable to be capitalised (\$2.98 million)

Capital Implications

10. Year-to-date capital expenditure is \$34.23 million which is \$2.31 million favourable compared to the year-to-date budget, representing 35% of the full year Mid-Year Budget. There are also \$27.8 million in commitments (open purchase orders) as of 31 March.
11. The more significant favourable variances (> \$300,000) relate to the following two projects:
- Building Renewal Aquatic and Leisure program (\$650,000) – This variance is predominantly due to renewal of the court floor surface and sub structure at Dandenong Stadium. Court flooring substructure to be upgraded when the court resurfacing occurs. Developing procurement brief for upgrade of subfloor design at the Dandenong stadium.
 - DCP Perry Road widening Green to Pacific (\$400,000) - Stage 2 works are 85% complete.



Asset Implications

12. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Community Consultation

15. There was no requirement for community consultation.

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

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

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

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

18. 2021-25:

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

Legislative and Policy Obligations

19. 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*.
- The *Gender Equality Act 2020*.
- *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006*.
- Climate Change and Sustainability.
- Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.



MINUTE No.111

Moved by: Cr Sophie Tan

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council NOTES the Q3 FY25 Quarterly Performance Report (per Attachment 1), which outlines Council's progress against the performance targets outlined in the Council Plan 2021-25 for the period 1 January to 31 March 2025 and the Financial Report for the period 1 July 2024 – 31 March 2025.

CARRIED 10 / 0



4.2 FINANCE AND BUDGET

Cr Jim Memeti disclosed an indirect material conflict of interest of a pecuniary nature (s 128 of the *Local Government Act 2020*) in Recommendation 2 of Item 4.2.1 Proposed 2025-26 Capital Works Program for Community Consultation as he is the Director of a company that has a stall at the Dandenong Market. Cr Jim Memeti left the Chamber prior to the discussion and voting on this recommendation.

4.2.1 Proposed 2025-26 Capital Works Program for Community Consultation

Responsible Officer: Chief Financial Officer

Attachments: 1. Capital Program - Proposed Budget 2025-26 [4.2.1.1 - 5 pages]

Officer Recommendation 1

That Council **APPROVES** the proposed 2025-26 Capital Works Program for inclusion in the Proposed 2025-26 Budget:

With the exclusion of the following projects:

- 6 (Dandenong Market Structural Rectification) and
- 12 (Dandenong Market Fire Services).

Officer Recommendation 2

That Council **APPROVES** the proposed 2025-26 Capital Works Program for inclusion in the Proposed 2025-26 Budget:

With the inclusion of the following projects:

- 6 (Dandenong Market Structural Rectification) and
- 12 (Dandenong Market Fire Services).

Executive Summary

1. A key element of the budget process is the proposed capital works expenditure for 2025-26. Given these works relate to specific areas of Council's business, there is a higher potential for works to create a conflict of interest for Councillors to declare. In order that all Councillors may vote on the 2025-26 Budget, the purpose of this report is to seek 'pre-endorsement' of the capital program, which then provides all Councillors with an exemption from declaring an interest in respect of the preparation of the Budget.
2. This report recommends that Council adopts the proposed schedule of capital works to be included in the 2025-26 Budget.

Background

3. Section 129 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and regulation 7 (r) (i) (ii) and (iii) of the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020* provides that if a budget or revised budget to be approved by a Council includes funding for a matter in respect of which a



Councillor has a conflict of interest, the Councillor is taken not to have a conflict of interest for the purposes of approving the budget or revised budget if:

- The Council approved the matter and the proposed funding previously; and
 - The Councillor disclosed the nature of conflict of interest under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* when the decision in respect of the funding was originally considered and made.
4. Accordingly, the proposed 2025-26 Capital Works Program is tabled separately for Council endorsement prior to consideration of the 2025-26 Budget. A full copy of the proposed 2025-26 Capital Program is attached to this report.

Key Points / Issues / Discussion

5. In summary, the Capital Works Program proposes a total of \$118.68 million of works.

6. The more significant projects include:

- \$65.16 million Dandenong Wellbeing Centre (DWC) (*funded by borrowings of \$36.5 million, reserve transfers of \$16.58 million, grant funding \$11.2 million and rates of \$1.88 million*).
- \$9.51 million Road Resurfacing, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Programs (including complex road renewal program).
- \$6.72 million Perry Road (Stage 3 of 3) – DCP (*partly funded by reserves \$5.16 million and DCP contributions \$1.15 million*).
- \$4.26 million Dandenong New Art (*funded by reserves of \$4.26 million*).
- \$4.00 million Building Renewal Program (including South East Leisure, Water Mains and Arts and Culture).
- \$3.88 million Federal Blackspot Program (includes 3 projects) (*funded by grant funding*).
- \$2.25 million Safer Local Roads and Streets Program - Construction (*funded by grant funding*).
- \$1.80 million Drainage Renewal and Reactive Program.
- \$1.83 million Roads to Recovery program (*funded by grant funding*).
- \$1.60 million Active and Passive Reserves Renewal Programs (including softfall, rubber, scoreboards, irrigation, goals, cricket wickets, open space furniture, BBQs, drinking fountains, public lighting and fencing).
- \$1.39 million IP43 Road Safety Infrastructure Construction - Clow Street & Cleeland Street (*funded by grant funding*).

Financial Implications

7. The \$118.68 million of proposed 2025-26 capital works will be funded by a number of sources including:

- \$34.74 million – rates,
- \$36.50 million – borrowings,
- \$26.19 million – reserves,
- \$20.10 million – grants, and
- \$1.15 million – contributions.



Community and Stakeholder Consultation

8. Whilst Council can 'pre-adopt' the 2025-26 Capital Works Program, the full program of works still forms a component of the annual budget.
9. Community engagement will be undertaken on the budget in accordance with Council's community engagement policy and placed out for community feedback for a 28-day period concluding on 11 June 2025. Council will hear community feedback received prior to adopting the budget on at the Councillor Briefing Session on 16 June 2025.

Links to the Community Vision and Council Plan

10. This report is consistent with the following principles in the community vision 2040:
 - Safe and peaceful community.
 - Education, training, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.
 - Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.
 - Sustainable environment.
 - Mind, body and spirit.
 - Art and culture.
11. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the council plan
12. 2021-25:
 - A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
 - A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts.
 - A city of accessible, vibrant centres and neighbourhoods.
 - A green city committed to a sustainable future.
 - A city that supports entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes.
 - A Council that demonstrates leadership and a commitment to investing in the community.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

13. 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*.
 - The *Gender Equality Act 2020*.
 - *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006*.
 - Climate Change and Sustainability.
 - Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks. – Budget and Long Term Financial Plan.

Conclusion



14. The recommendation below for Council consideration has been split into two (2) components to allow Councillors to vote on sections of the capital works program in order for individual Councillors to declare conflicts of interest.

MINUTE No.112

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

That Council APPROVES the proposed 2025-26 Capital Works Program for inclusion in the Proposed 2025-26 Budget:

With the exclusion of the following projects:

- **6 (Dandenong Market Structural Rectification) and**
- **12 (Dandenong Market Fire Services).**

CARRIED 10 / 0

Cr Jim Memeti vacated the Chair and left the Chamber at 7:18 pm.

Cr Sophie Tan assumed the Chair at 7:18 pm

MINUTE No.113

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council APPROVES the proposed 2025-26 Capital Works Program for inclusion in the Proposed 2025-26 Budget:

With the inclusion of the following projects:

- **6 (Dandenong Market Structural Rectification) and**
- **12 (Dandenong Market Fire Services).**

CARRIED 9 / 0

Cr Jim Memeti returned to the Chamber and resumed the Chair at 7:19 pm.

Cr Sophie Tan returned to her seat at 7:19 pm.



4.2.2 Proposed Budget 2025-26 for Community Consultation

Responsible Officer: Chief Financial Officer

Attachments: 1. Proposed 2025-26 Budget [4.2.2.1 - 158 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES IN PRINCIPLE** the proposed 2025-26 Budget as attached to be released for the purposes of community consultation;
2. **NOTES** the consultation process planned for 28 days (commencing 14 May 2025 concluding on 11 June 2025); and
3. **NOTES** that following consideration and hearing of any community feedback received, it will consider the Proposed 2025-26 Budget for adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on 23 June 2025.

Administrative note: There was an administrative error in the Agenda for this Item, in point 3 of this recommendation. "Proposed 2024-25 Budget" has been amended to "Proposed 2025-26 Budget" to align with the report and attachment that has been noted.

Executive Summary

1. Under the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), Council is required to prepare a Budget each financial year (including the subsequent three (3) financial years) and to have that Budget adopted by 30 June.
2. This report recommends that Council adopts in principle the Proposed 2025-26 Budget and place the Proposed 2025-26 Budget, in conjunction with the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029 on public exhibition for 28 days for the purposes of inviting community feedback as per Council's Community Engagement Policy. Following the conclusion of the community engagement period and any feedback received, the Budget and Revenue and Rating Plan will again be tabled for Council consideration and adoption at the 23 June 2025 Council Meeting.

Background

3. The 2025-26 Budget has been prepared on the following assumptions:
4. The Victorian State Government have set the rate cap for the 2025-26 year at 3 per cent, which we will apply to total rates.
5. After considering the impacts of annual property valuations and retention of the current differential rating structure, the average rate increase for residential properties will be just 0.11 per cent which is significantly lower than the 3 per cent cap.
6. Waste charges have been determined on a full cost recovery basis. The default residential waste charge (including State Government waste levy) will increase by \$11.00 (or 2.2 per cent) from \$505 to \$516. This is primarily due to the State Government waste levy increasing from \$132.76 to \$169.79 per tonne - a 27.9 per cent increase softened by the beneficial effects of the Container Deposit Scheme which has led to higher income and reduced domestic recycling costs, in combination with lower projected waste tonnages for 2025-26.



7. Council's total capital expenditure in 2025-26 is \$118.68 million which includes \$105.6 million to renew and upgrade the city's existing \$2.6 billion community assets and \$13.04 million for new and expanded assets. Of this total capital budget, \$26.19 million will be funded from reserves, \$21.25 million from external grants and contributions and \$36.50 million from borrowings.
8. Council has committed to a significant investment over the coming two years for the replacement of the much loved but outdated Dandenong Oasis with the new Dandenong Wellbeing Centre (DWC) – at a total cost of \$122.15 million.
9. This is an exciting and significant investment in our community's health and wellbeing. Council has sought several funding sources beyond rates, including borrowings, grant funding, contribution income, and transfers from internal reserves. To ensure the successful completion of this project, there have been strategic adjustments made to the capital program in the coming years. This means that the Wellbeing Centre has been prioritised; however, funding for other projects and infrastructure will become more competitive in the current funding environment. Council's indebtedness will peak at just under 57 per cent of rate revenue in 2027 well within prudential limits.
10. While the Council's financial position remains stable for 2025-26, it will face ongoing challenges due to rate capping and economic conditions. To ensure Council finances remain sustainable and services affordable for the community, we will need to continually assess the performance and future of current services to determine their relevance and whether Council needs to continue delivering them or if an alternative delivery model is more viable. As such, Council's proposed financial direction for future years may require changes.
11. This is the first budget where Council records an underlying operational deficit result for 2025-26 and the next three years. The adjusted underlying result forecasts small deficits but indicates a gradual erosion of the asset base. This situation necessitates a comprehensive approach to ensure our Council's financial sustainability while continuing to meet the needs of our community and maintaining our infrastructure. While projected deficits present significant challenges, we are committed to navigating these financial pressures with transparency and strategic planning.
12. In summary, the Budget has been prepared for the four-year period ending 30 June 2029. Council's financial position remains sound for 2025-26. However, Council is working hard as it navigates a complex landscape to prioritise service sustainability amidst the urgent need to renew existing and ageing infrastructure; and, at the same time, invest in new community infrastructure. Financial stability and sustainability are one of the highest and most pressing priorities and challenges facing the City of Greater Dandenong Council.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

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

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

14. The Proposed 2025-26 Budget complies with the requirements under the Act. This Budget continues to address the infrastructure renewal challenge despite the constraints imposed by rate capping legislation and the current cost of living and inflationary pressures which will challenge Council's financial position and financial sustainability.

Legal/Risk Implications

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



Environmental Implications

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

Community Consultation

17. Deliberative community engagement is not prescribed for a Budget in either the Act, or the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*. Community engagement will be undertaken on Council's Proposed 2025-26 Budget, in conjunction with the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029 in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy.
18. The Proposed 2025-26 Budget and Revenue and Rating Plan will be placed on public exhibition for the purposes of inviting community feedback. Following the conclusion of the community engagement period and any feedback received, the 2025-26 Budget and Revenue and Rating Plan will again be tabled for Council consideration and adoption at the 23 June 2025 Council Meeting.

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

19. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
- Safe and peaceful community.
 - Education, training, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.
 - Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.
 - Sustainable environment.
 - Mind, body and spirit.
 - Art and culture.
20. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2021-25:
- A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
 - A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts.
 - A city of accessible, vibrant centres and neighbourhoods.
 - A green city committed to a sustainable future.
 - A city that supports entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes.
 - A Council that demonstrates leadership and a commitment to investing in the community.



Legislative and Policy Obligations

21. 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*.
- The *Gender Equality Act 2020*.
- *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006*.
- Climate Change and Sustainability.
- Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.

MINUTE No.114

Moved by: Cr Phillip Danh

Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That Council:

1. **APPROVES IN PRINCIPLE** the proposed 2025-26 Budget as attached to be released for the purposes of community consultation;
2. **NOTES** the consultation process planned for 28 days (commencing 14 May 2025 concluding on 11 June 2025); and
3. **NOTES** that following consideration and hearing of any community feedback received, it will consider the Proposed 2025-26 Budget for adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on 23 June 2025.

CARRIED 9 / 1

For - Cr Phillip Danh, Cr Isabella Do, Cr Lana Formoso, Cr Rhonda Garad, Cr Alice Phuong Le, Cr Jim Memeti, Cr Sean O'Reilly, Cr Sophie Tan and Cr Loi Truong.

Against - Cr Bob Milkovic.



4.2.3 Proposed Long Term Financial Plan 2025-26 to 2034-35 for Community Consultation

Responsible Officer: Chief Financial Officer

Attachments: 1. Proposed Long Term Financial Plan 20226-2035 [4.2.3.1 - 86 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES IN PRINCIPLE** and places the **Proposed 2026-2035 Long Term Financial Plan** to be released for the purposes of community consultation;
2. **NOTES** the consultation process planned for 28 days (commencing 14 May 2025 concluding on 11 June 2025); and
3. **NOTES** that following consideration and hearing of any community feedback received, it will consider the **Proposed 2026-2035 Long Term Financial Plan** for adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on 23 June 2025.

Executive Summary

1. The Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) establishes a financial blueprint for Council's management of its financial resources ensuring that the Greater Dandenong City Council remains a sustainable Council in the longer term. The LTFP is subject to annual reviews to ensure the financial projections remain current.
2. Under the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), Council must develop and review a Financial Plan covering at least the next 10 financial years in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices and adopt the Financial Plan by 31 October in the year following a general election.
3. This report recommends that Council adopts in principle the Proposed LTFP 2026-2035 and places it on public exhibition for 28 days for community feedback as per Council's Community Engagement Policy. Following the conclusion of the community engagement period the Proposed LTFP 2026-2035 will again be tabled for Council's consideration and adoption at the 23 June 2025 Council Meeting.

Background

4. As part of its legislative requirements under the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council must prepare and adopt a Financial Plan for a period of at least the next 10 financial years after a general election in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices and adopt the Financial Plan by 31 October in the year following a general election.
5. The Proposed 2026-2035 Long Term Financial Plan was prepared between November and April 2025 in line with the 2025-26 Budget. In accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy, the LTFP 2026-2035, in conjunction with the Proposed 2025-26 Budget, will be placed on public exhibition for the purposes of inviting community feedback and will again be tabled for Council's consideration and adoption at the 23 June 2025 Council Meeting.



Key Issues and Discussion

6. Council assumes overall service levels will remain largely unchanged throughout the 10 year forward projection period. However, Council faces significant challenges in balancing community expectations with financial constraints due to rising costs and limited funding. To address these, Council will need to reassess its service delivery and explore alternative revenue sources to remain sustainable. Council will also continue to strengthen its advocacy for support from other government levels.

Key outcomes of the Long-Term Financial Plan

7. Council continues to strive to provide high quality operational services for all residents including many disadvantaged sections of the community whilst at same point generally recovering lower levels of fees and charges in comparison to other municipalities.
8. The most significant outcome included in the LTFP is the funding over the next two years to develop the new Dandenong Wellbeing Centre (DWC), which will replace the outdated Dandenong Oasis. This project will be funded through a combination of borrowings and grants, requiring strategic adjustments to future capital programs.
9. Council will also take on new operational costs of around \$1.8 million annually for the new Keysborough Community Hub.
10. To accommodate these financial commitments, a total of \$86 million has been reallocated from the 10-year capital program to cover debt servicing and new operational costs. The strategic downward adjustments in capital spending results in discretionary capital becoming very scarce in all years of the plan.
11. Over the past three years, the growth in Council's operating surpluses has halted and is now reversing, just as funding requirements for major projects have increased. This shift is primarily due to rate capping, escalating costs, increasing trend of government cost shifting and the decision to pursue major projects which have significantly increased indebtedness.
12. Substantial borrowings of \$68.85 million are forecast to be drawn down over the next two years to part fund the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre project. This has been achieved within acceptable debt prudential guideline target ranges.
13. Borrowings will increase from \$47 million (30 June 2024) and peak at \$105.7 million in 2026-27.
14. Council has always seen loan funding as a critical component of the funding mix to deliver much needed infrastructure to the community. The key area of financial risk is ensuring that Council does not rely so strongly on debt funding that it unduly impacts on Council's ability to fund capital works on an annual basis. The challenge for Council is the limitation on increasing its main revenue source due to rate capping.
15. The challenge of addressing an underlying operational deficit in nearly all years of the LTFP.
16. After reductions in capital works funded from Council's operations over the life of the LTFP, an increasing trend from \$34.7 million in 2025-26 to \$47 million in 2034-35 (*noting that this may be subject to future reductions*).
17. Funding for asset renewal ranging from \$30 million to \$47 million annually (excluding major and grant funded projects) over the life of the LTFP (again noting this is subject to future review). There is insufficient funding in two years of the LTFP (years 8 and 10) for base renewal requirements.



18. The achievement of a financial structure, where annual asset renewal needs are mostly met from the base operating outcome of Council, and non-renewable sources of funds such as reserves, and asset sales are used to fund new or significantly upgraded facilities.
19. In summary, the Long-Term Financial Plan highlights the considerable challenges faced by Council over the coming ten-year period and beyond. For Council to remain a viable and sustainable Council and at the same time endeavouring to deliver on key infrastructure projects that are critical to our community Council will require implementing strategic measures to navigate rising costs and constrained revenue, ensuring that the Council can continue to serve the community effectively in the short and long term.

Financial Implications

20. The Proposed LTFP 2026-2035 provides a financial framework for measuring and planning for Council's long-term financial sustainability. It ensures funding of Council Plan priorities and services, as well as investment in capital works and asset renewal requirements.

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

21. In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council formed its second Greater Dandenong Community Panel to undertake a deliberative engagement process to develop a new Council Plan, Long Term Financial Plan and Asset Plan. This process involved the recruitment of randomly selected residents and business owners in the city of Greater Dandenong. This process was conducted by an external organisation to avoid any possible bias. 40 participants were originally selected with 37 completing the process who represented key demographics of the Greater Dandenong municipality including age, gender, country of birth, and household type.
22. The panel met over four days to discuss the future of our city and highlight the needs and aspirations of our community. The panel provided recommendations, and these have influenced the priorities of our Council Plan and the Long-Term Financial Plan and Asset Plan where possible.
23. The Proposed LTFP 2026-2035 will be placed on public exhibition (with the Proposed Budget 2025-26) for the purposes of inviting community feedback from 14 May to 11 June 2025. Following the conclusion of the community engagement period, the LTFP 2026-2035 and 2025-26 Proposed Budget will again be tabled for Council consideration and adoption at the 23 June 2025 Council meeting.

Links to the Community Vision and Council Plan

24. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
 - Safe and peaceful community.
 - Education, training, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.
 - Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.
 - Sustainable environment.
 - Mind, body and spirit.
 - Art and culture.



25. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2021-25:

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

Legislative and Policy Obligations

26. 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*.
- The *Gender Equality Act 2020*.
- *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006*.
- Climate Change and Sustainability.
- Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks. (including Proposed Budget 2025-26, Proposed Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029, Community Engagement Policy and the new Council Plan 2025-2029).

Conclusion

27. The LTFP forms an essential element of Council's overall planning framework and is vital in ensuring the long-term financial health of this Council. In preparing the LTFP, the State Government capping of Council rates at the CPI will continue to impact the finances of Council and have been included in the preparation of this Plan. Moreover, these figures will be further impacted by the flow on effects of the reduction in capital works to fund new infrastructure.
28. The Proposed LTFP 2026-2035 highlights the considerable challenges faced by Council over the coming ten-year period, in order for Council to remain a viable and sustainable Council and at the same time, endeavouring to deliver on major infrastructure investments that are critical to our community.



MINUTE No.115

Moved by: Cr Sophie Tan

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council:

- 1. APPROVES IN PRINCIPLE and places the Proposed 2026-2035 Long Term Financial Plan to be released for the purposes of community consultation;**
- 2. NOTES the consultation process planned for 28 days (commencing 14 May 2025 concluding on 11 June 2025); and**
- 3. NOTES that following consideration and hearing of any community feedback received, it will consider the Proposed 2026-2035 Long Term Financial Plan for adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on 23 June 2025.**

CARRIED 10 / 0



4.2.4 Proposed Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029 for Community Consultation

Responsible Officer: Chief Financial Officer

Attachments: 1. Proposed Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029 [4.2.4.1 - 47 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES IN PRINCIPLE the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029 to be released for the purposes of community consultation;**
2. **NOTES the consultation process planned for 28 days (commencing 14 May 2025 concluding on 11 June 2025); and**
3. **NOTES that following consideration and hearing of any community feedback received, it will consider the Proposed Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029 for adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on 23 June 2025.**

Executive Summary

1. Under the *Local Government Act 2020 (the Act)* Council is required to prepare a Revenue and Rating Plan to cover a period of four years and adopt by 30 June after a Council election.
2. The purpose of the Revenue and Rating Plan is to determine the most appropriate and affordable revenue and rating approach which in conjunction with other income sources will provide the available revenue against which the priorities in the Council Plan can be matched.
3. The Revenue and Rating Plan replaces the previous Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2025 and contains relatively few changes. The rating structure has since been amended through annual budget processes to mitigate movements in annual revaluations. The plan recommends the retention of the existing rating structure adopted by Council in the 2024-25 Budget.
4. The Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029 will be placed on public exhibition for the purposes of inviting community feedback and again be tabled for Council consideration and adoption at the 23 June 2025 Council Meeting.

Background

5. The purpose of the Revenue and Rating Plan is to determine the most appropriate and affordable revenue and rating approach for Council.
6. The *Local Government Act 2020* requires each Council to prepare a Revenue and Rating Plan to cover a period of four years following each Council election. The Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029 establishes the revenue raising framework within which the Council proposes to work. This plan is an important part of Council's integrated planning framework, all of which is created to achieve our vision in the Community Plan.
7. In an ideal world this plan would outline how Council will generate income to deliver on the Council Plan, program and services and capital works commitments over a 4-year period. The reality is that with capped rates and government grants representing over 85% of Councils income, Councils ability to increase revenue to match expenditure requirements is limited. The Plan instead defines the revenue and rating 'envelope' within which Council proposes to operate.



8. This plan will set out the decisions that Council has made in relation to rating options available to it under *the Local Government Act 2020* to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of rates across property owners. It will also set out the robust principles and practices for fee and charge setting and other revenue items to ensure Council's commitment to responsible financial management is achieved, while at the same time continuing to provide high quality, accessible services to the community.
9. It is also important to note that this plan does not set revenue targets for Council, it outlines the strategic framework and decisions that inform how Council will go about calculating and collecting its revenue.
10. At present the legislative provisions that outline rates and charges are still contained in the *Local Government Act 1989* pending a transition to the *Local Government Act 2020*.
11. The selection of rating philosophies and the choice between the limited rating options available under the *Local Government Act 1989* is a difficult one for all Councils and it is most likely that a perfect approach is almost impossible to achieve in any local government environment.
12. The purpose of plan is therefore to consider what rating options are available to Council under the *Local Government Act 1989*, and how Council's choices in applying these options contribute towards meeting an equitable rating strategy.
13. It is important to note at the outset that the focus of this Plan is very different to that of the Long-Term Financial Plan document/Annual Budget. In these latter documents the key concern is the quantum of rates required to be raised for Council to deliver the services and capital expenditure required. In this Plan, the focus instead is on how the obligation to pay this quantum will be equitably distributed amongst Council's ratepayers.

Key Issues and Discussion

14. The Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029 recommends the following applications (in summary):

Rates and charges

- a) That Council continues to use the CIV valuation base for the purposes of raising rates.
- b) That Council continues to use differential rating in distributing the rating burden.
- c) That the existing Industrial differential surcharge of 275 per cent increased to 280 per cent to mitigate the impacts of the 2021 Council revaluation on the residential sector.
- d) That Council annually reviews its differential rating structure, taking account of the annual impact of revaluations and including the equitable application of taxation principles.
- e) That no municipal charge be applied.
- f) That Council continues to utilise a waste service charge based on full cost recovery.
- g) That maintenance levies for subdivisions with a higher open space component continue to be applied.
- h) That Council continues to provide the current range of rate payment options in future years – including the mandatory instalment rate payment methodology.
- i) That Council continues to maintain the rates arrangements, deferral and waiver procedures as documented in the Rates and Charges Hardship Policy and further review its Rates and Charges Hardship Policy once the Minister's guidelines have been approved.

Other revenue

- j) That Council services are provided based on one of three pricing methods – full cost recovery pricing, subsidised pricing and market pricing.

**Impacts of the 2025 Revaluation**

15. One of the key influencers on the rating plan is the impacts of the 2025 revaluation on Council's existing differential rating structure. A revaluation does NOT provide Council with any additional rate revenue but can significantly re-align how rates are distributed between ratepayers at both a rating group and individual level. The below table highlights the impact of the 2025 Council revaluation.

Rating Type	Forecast 2024-25 Revaluation CIV \$'000	Budget 2025-26 Revaluation CIV \$'000	Movement in valuations
General (residential)	39,331,715,000	39,686,765,000	0.90%
Commercial	5,404,040,500	5,508,568,500	1.93%
Industrial	22,263,387,500	23,751,970,455	6.69%
Vacant residential	447,117,500	445,147,500	-0.44%
Farm	450,922,500	471,567,500	4.58%
Total value of land	67,897,183,000	69,864,018,955	2.90%

16. The table highlights that overall Council properties have increased by 2.90 per cent over the year (1 January 2024 to 1 January 2025). Industrial and farm valuations have experienced the highest increases over the past twelve months compared to residential and commercial. Residential vacant valuations, on the other hand, have decreased from the prior year by 0.44%.
17. Council needs to be mindful of the impacts of revaluations on the various property types in implementing the differential rating strategy outlined in the previous section to ensure that rises and falls in Council rates remain affordable and that rating 'shocks' are mitigated to some degree.

Rating Type	Existing rating differential 2024-25	Proposed rating differential 2025-26	% increase 2024-25 to 2025-26
General (residential)	100%	100%	0.11%
Commercial	165%	165%	1.13%
Industrial	210%	210%	5.85%
Vacant residential	150%	150%	-1.23%
Farm	75%	75%	3.75%
Total value of land			3.00%

18. The above model retains the differentials for 2025-26. Industrial and farm categories have all experienced an increase in the level of valuations in 2025-26 and will see higher than average rate increases in 2025-26. Retaining the existing differential in 2025-26 will see residential rates increase on average by 0.11 per cent, well below the rate cap of 3 per cent.
19. On this basis, it is recommended that the existing differential rating structures be retained considering the impacts of the 2025 Council revaluation.



Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

20. 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

21. The Revenue and Rating Plan has no direct financial implications for Council and does not amend the overall amount of rate revenue to be raised by Council within the rate cap.

Asset Implications

22. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Community Consultation

25. Community engagement will be undertaken on Council's Revenue and Rating Plan in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy. The Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029 will be placed on public exhibition for the purposes of inviting community feedback. Following the conclusion of the community feedback period, the Revenue and Rating Plan will again be tabled for Council consideration and adoption at the 23 June 2025 Council meeting.

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

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

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

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

28. 2021-25:

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



Legislative and Policy Obligations

29. 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*.
- The *Gender Equality Act 2020*.
- *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006*.
- Climate Change and Sustainability.
- Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.

MINUTE No.116

Moved by: Cr Phillip Danh

Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That Council:

1. **APPROVES IN PRINCIPLE** the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029 to be released for the purposes of community consultation;
2. **NOTES** the consultation process planned for 28 days (commencing 14 May 2025 concluding on 11 June 2025); and
3. **NOTES** that following consideration and hearing of any community feedback received, it will consider the Proposed Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029 for adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on 23 June 2025.

CARRIED 10 / 0



4.3 OTHER

4.3.1 Proposed Asset Plan 2025-2035 for Community Consultation

Responsible Officer: Executive Manager Strategy Growth & Advocacy
Attachments: 1. Proposed Asset Plan 2025-2035 [4.3.1.1 - 96 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** the Draft Asset Plan 2025-35 (per Attachment 1) be released for the purposes of community consultation;
2. **NOTES** the consultation process planned for 28 days (commencing 14 May 2025 concluding on 11 June 2025); and
3. **NOTES** that Council will receive a final version of the Asset Plan 2025-35 on 23 June 2025 for consideration and adoption.

Executive Summary

1. The Asset Plan is required under *Local Government Act 2020* to be updated in alignment with the Council Plan and Financial Plan. It sets out the investment in assets for the next 10 years including maintenance, renewal and capital. Year 1 of the plan is the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2025/26.
2. The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for 2025/26 has been developed through a rigorous process of evaluating business cases from across the organisation. This process ensures alignment with service needs, the Council Plan, and organisational priorities, while ensuring equity and delivering community benefits within the Council's financial constraints.

Background

3. Council is required to create a 10-year Asset Plan under s 92 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. It needs to include "information about the maintenance, renewal, acquisition, expansion, upgrade, disposal and decommissioning in relation to each class of infrastructure asset under the control of the Council" per s 92(3)(a).
4. The Asset Plan needs to be aligned to the Financial Plan (Long Term Financial Plan) and the Council Plan.
5. To seek community input for the delivery of the Asset Plan, Council conducted a deliberative engagement process alongside the Council Plan between October and November 2024.
6. The 10-Year Asset Plan includes the Asset Policy that provides a framework for managing assets effectively, ensuring they support service delivery, sustainability, and financial responsibility.
7. Council delivers a wide range of services to the community, each of which relies on specific assets to function effectively. To manage resources efficiently and support long-term planning, it is important that Council aligns its asset categories with the services they enable. This alignment will enhance transparency by clearly identifying which assets support each service and how these assets evolve over time in response to service demands and changing conditions.



8. The 10-Year Asset Plan outlines the projects necessary for service delivery. It includes those that are currently funded in alignment with the Financial Plan, as well as those on the forward plan that cannot yet be funded. If funding becomes available, these projects will be prioritised in future updates of the plan.
9. Capital Projects are funded from a variety of sources including borrowings, reserves, grants and contributions. However, the majority of the funding comes from Council Rates, which is funded from the operational surplus.
10. The LTFP endorsed by the Council includes an 'in principle strategy' to meet renewal requirements as a priority in the development of the annual capital improvement program. This was also a strategy endorsed in the Asset Plan 2022-23 to 2031-32.

Key Issues and Discussion

11. The Asset Plan sets out the principles for asset management and the direction for the management of Council's Asset portfolio. The key statement for this is the Vision and Objectives.
12. **Vision:** As custodians of community assets, the Greater Dandenong City Council will provide assets that are accessible, safe, sustainable and responsive to the needs of the community and the contemporary environment.
13. **Objectives:**
 - Achieve best appropriate practice in Asset Management as it applies to the different asset groups.
 - Adopt a long-term sustainable asset management approach, incorporating life cycle costing into capital investment decisions, including new, expansion or upgrade projects funded by external grants.
 - Develop and review Asset Management Plans for each infrastructure asset group, that link to the Long-Term Financial Plan and local government performance and financial reporting frameworks.
 - Develop and review service targets and standards in consultation with the community to ensure long term sustainability of the assets supporting service delivery.
 - Give priority to asset renewal or refurbishment when making capital investment decisions thereby ensuring Council's existing assets are properly maintained for ongoing provision of agreed levels of service.
 - Develop effective and affordable preventative maintenance programs aimed at minimising life cycle costs and maximising asset service potential.
 - Apply appropriate risk management principles and practices for staff, contractors, property and the community.
 - Implement and maintain an integrated Asset Management System to ensure common asset data is available for strategic, operational and financial decision-making and reporting.
 - Be a progressive Council in Asset Management by incorporating cross collaboration and cultural change.
14. The following items are considered as part of the Asset Management Plan:
 - Internal and External Organisational Context,
 - Future Challenges and opportunities,



- Investment priorities,
- Asset Rationalisation priorities and process,
- Financial considerations and prioritisation,
- Governance including Roles and Responsibilities, and
- Improvement program .

15. The Asset Plan also sets out the current priorities, and investments by Asset Classes (the Asset classes are aligned to the services provided by Council). Each Asset class has a profile, the predicted investment, roles and responsibilities and future projects, both funded and unfunded.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

16. 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

17. The financial implications associated with this report relate to ongoing costs for operating, maintaining, renewing and acquiring and upgrading assets over the next 10 years. It is aligned with the Long Term Financial Plan.

Asset Implications

18. This item relates to the future CIP projects and sets out the priorities for Council within the Asset Plan.

Legal/Risk Implications

19. The Asset Plan enables Council to comply with Section 92 of the *Local Government Act*.

Environmental Implications

20. All project business cases have considered the environmental impacts of each project, and this is considered as part of the prioritisation of each project.

Community Consultation

21. The Deliberative Panel was conducted in October and November 2024 as part of Council's requirements under the *Local Government Act 2020*. The key recommendations from the panel were:

- Community Safety,
- Asset re-evaluation, maintenance and renewal,
- Community connection,
- Affordable housing, and
- Service awareness.



22. The Summary of feedback in relation to the Asset Plan was:

- Ensure council-owned assets (buildings, public facilities, roads, and spaces) comply with current safety regulations.
- Maintain assets to be attractive, well-utilised, and fit for purpose.
- Preserve heritage features (e.g., facades) during upgrades or maintenance.
- Deliver frequent and high-quality maintenance services within reasonable timeframes.
- Provide accessible channels (e.g., Snap-Send-Solve) for residents to request maintenance or report issues.

23. The final community consultation process will commence on 14 May and conclude on 11 June. The process will provide opportunities for community members to provide feedback on the draft Asset Plan via Council's engagement platform, Social Pinpoint, and hard copy forms will also be available at Customer Service Centres.

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

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

- Sustainable environment.

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

26. 2021-25:

- A green city committed to a sustainable future.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

27. 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.117

Moved by: Cr Loi Truong

Seconded by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** the Draft Asset Plan 2025-35 (per Attachment 1) be released for the purposes of community consultation;
2. **NOTES** the consultation process planned for 28 days (commencing 14 May 2025 concluding on 11 June 2025); and
3. **NOTES** that Council will receive a final version of the Asset Plan 2025-35 on 23 June 2025 for consideration and adoption.

CARRIED 10 / 0



4.3.2 Proposed Council Plan 2025-29 and Annual Plan 2025-26 for Community Consultation

Responsible Officer:	Executive Manager Strategy Growth & Advocacy
Attachments:	1. Proposed Council Plan 2025-29 [4.3.2.1 - 52 pages] 2. Proposed Annual Plan 2025-26 [4.3.2.2 - 20 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** the Draft Council Plan 2025-29 and Draft Annual Plan 2025-26 be released for the purposes of community consultation;
2. **NOTES** the consultation process planned for 28 days (commencing 14 May 2025 concluding on 11 June 2025); and
3. **NOTES** that Council will receive a final version of the Council Plan 2025-29 and Annual Plan 2025-26 on 23 June for consideration and adoption.

Executive Summary

1. Over the past 18 months, Council has been undertaking planning and community engagement activities to help develop the new Council Plan 2025-29. These activities influenced the Draft Council Plan, Attachment 1 and Draft Annual Plan, Attachment 2.
2. The Council Plan reflects the key priorities of our community, the recommendations of the Deliberative Panel, and the Victorian State Government's health and wellbeing priorities.
3. The draft documents also reflect the recommendations of officers and have taken into consideration Council's financial sustainability and capacity to deliver on activities.

Background

4. As part of section 90 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, every Council must prepare and adopt a Council Plan for a period of at least the next 4 financial years after a general election, in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices.
5. The process to develop the new Council Plan 2025-29 commenced in July 2023 with the engagement planning stage. From February to August 2024, the broader community engagement process was undertaken. And then, the deliberative panel was conducted in October and November.
6. Council officers also undertook a process between May and December 2024 to review the existing Council Plan, highlighted its strengths and weaknesses, and considered opportunities for the next four years which were reviewed by Council on Monday 17 April at the Councillor Briefing Session.
7. The process to develop the draft documents in Attachment 1 and 2 aligned with the community consultation phase to ensure that the priorities would reflect the feedback from both internal and external stakeholders.



8. Council officers are once again looking to incorporate the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan into the Council Plan. This ensures health and wellbeing is addressed as a key priority and highlights the importance to our community. To ensure Council is successful in obtaining Department of Health support for this, the State Government's health and wellbeing priorities must be well reflected in the plan. A review has been undertaken, and the links to the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan have been included.
9. The recommendations from the deliberative panel, previously presented to Councillors in December 2024, were reviewed and are reflected in the draft documents along with feedback received from Councillors post-CBS on 17 April.
10. The draft documents were once again reviewed by Council at the Councillor Briefing Session on Monday 5 May.

Key Issues and Discussion

11. The draft documents comply with section 90 of the *Local Government Act 2020* which requires Council to develop a Council Plan which includes the following:
 - a. the strategic direction of Council,
 - b. strategic objectives for achieving the strategic direction,
 - c. strategies for achieving the objectives over the next four financial years (known as key priorities), and
 - d. strategic indicators for monitoring the achievement of the objectives (known as measures).
12. The Draft Council Plan and Annual Plan aim to address the areas of most importance to our community and reflect the ongoing work undertaken by Council. Many of the community's priorities are similar to previous years. However, new areas of focus have been identified, for example, affordable housing. The community priorities, as heard throughout many activities, are included in the below section on community engagement.
13. An additional section is included in the Council Plan which highlights Council's role in delivering on each of these priorities, e.g., deliver, partner or advocate. These are highlighted in Attachments 1 and 2.
14. The final draft plans will be available for a final community consultation process which will commence on Wednesday 14 May and conclude on Wednesday 11 June.
15. The final plans will be presented to Councillors on Monday 23 June for endorsement.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

16. 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

17. There are no financial implications associated with this particular report. All financial implications form part of the Long Term Financial Plan and Annual Budget.

Asset Implications

18. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

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



Environmental Implications

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

Community Consultation

21. Extensive community consultation was undertaken with over 3,300 people participating across the municipality. The key themes identified in the wider community engagement included:
- Affordable housing,
 - Climate change,
 - Community safety,
 - Council assets,
 - Employment and education,
 - Open space and trees, and
 - Social cohesion and connection.
22. The Deliberative Panel was conducted in October and November 2024 as part of Council's requirements under the Local Government Act 2020. The key recommendations from the panel were:
- Community Safety,
 - Asset re-evaluation, maintenance and renewal,
 - Community connection,
 - Affordable housing, and
 - Service awareness.
23. The draft documents reflect both the themes from the wider engagement and the recommendations from the panel.
24. Councillors and Council officers were also consulted throughout the development process.
25. The final community consultation process will commence on 14 May and conclude on 11 June. The process will provide opportunities for community members to provide feedback on the draft Council Plan and Annual Plan via Council's engagement platform, Social Pinpoint, and hard copy forms will also be available at Customer Service Centres.
26. An article regarding the consultation is in the May edition of the Greater Dandenong Council News and Council's social media platforms will be used to promote the consultation further. Previous participants in the consultation process, including members of the Deliberative Panel and Community Champions, will be contacted to encourage their further involvement.

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

27. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
- Safe and peaceful community.
 - Education, training, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.
 - Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.
 - Sustainable environment.
 - Mind, body and spirit.



- Art and culture.

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

29. 2021-25:

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

Legislative and Policy Obligations

30. 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*.
- The *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

MINUTE No.118

Moved by: Cr Sophie Tan

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** the Proposed Council Plan 2025-29, Proposed Annual Plan 2025-26 and Community Vision be released for the purposes of community consultation;
2. **NOTES** the consultation process planned for 28 days (commencing 14 May 2025 concluding on 11 June 2025); and
3. **NOTES** that Council will receive a final version of the Council Plan 2025-29 and Annual Plan 2025-26 on 23 June for consideration and adoption.

CARRIED 10 / 0



4.3.3 Arts Advisory Board - New Committee Members Nominations and Updated Terms of Reference

Responsible Officer:	Executive Director Community Strengthening
Attachments:	1. Arts Advisory Board Terms of Reference 2025 [4.3.3.1 - 16 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. APPROVES the appointment of the three (3) recommended applicants as independent members of the Arts Advisory Board for a three-year period until 31 May 2028:**
 - Mish Eisen
 - Roh Singh
 - Sam Kariotis
- 2. APPROVES the updated Arts Advisory Board Terms of Reference (Attachment 1); and**
- 3. ISSUES appointment letters to each of the successful applicants.**

Executive Summary

- Following the vacancies of three (3) independent members of the Arts Advisory Board, applications were sought from the public over a 28-day period. A total of nine (9) applications were received and assessed against the selection criteria, including phone interviews and referee checks.
- This report seeks endorsement for the three recommended applicants as new independent members of the Arts Advisory Board for the term 2025 to 2028.
- This report also seeks endorsement for the updated Arts Advisory Board Terms of Reference (Attachment 1), which incorporate the Council's latest Committee Terms of Reference Template with minor changes.

Background

- On 26 June 2017, Council initially endorsed the formation of the Arts Advisory Board, with the Terms of Reference being updated and re-endorsed by Council in 2022.
- The Arts Advisory Board is an advisory committee that supports Council's vision for arts and culture across Greater Dandenong, including the delivery of *Discover/ Create / Share* City of Greater Dandenong Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy 2022-2026. The Board provides strategic input, advocacy and specialised knowledge to assist in steering the growth and support of arts in the city.



6. The Arts Advisory Board membership is supported by three (3) current and active Working Groups, all chaired by Arts Advisory Board members, which provide ongoing advice to support the board's actions. These include:
 - Public Art Working Group,
 - Community Connections Working Group, and
 - Creative Infrastructure Working Group
7. The Arts Advisory Board Terms of Reference stipulate that that the Board will consist of up to five independent members and will include representatives from the following:
 - Councillor representative/s (appointed as part of the Annual Statutory process), and
 - One Council Senior Officer.
8. Up to five (5) community representatives.

Key Issues and Discussion

9. In March 2025, three (3) of the five (5) independent members reached the conclusion of their term. A call for nominations to fill these three (3) vacancies was open to the public from Wednesday 26 February, for a 28-day period. A total of nine (9) applications were received via an online nomination form or direct email. The nominations were of a high calibre, demonstrating significant experience and community awareness, and were submitted both locally and from across Melbourne. Each application was assessed against the selection criteria outlined in the Terms of Reference:
 - Relevant demonstrated experience and expertise,
 - Sound knowledge and understanding of local issues that are relevant to their interest area,
 - Knowledge and experience with community and/or business networks and linkages within the City of Greater Dandenong,
 - Reasoning as to their passion for arts in Greater Dandenong, and
 - Previous Board and/or Committee experience.
10. In addition, the current Arts Advisory Board recognised areas of experience and expertise that would also be highly beneficial. These were listed as part of all advertising and promotions and considered at the time of assessment.
 - First Nations arts,
 - Refugee and/or Asylum Seeker arts,
 - Creative or cultural facilities,
 - Creative industry/business,
 - Marketing,
 - Philanthropy/fundraising/sponsorship, and
 - Cultural tourism.
11. Local artists from within the City of Greater Dandenong were also encouraged to apply.



12. The selection panel comprises the Executive Director Community Strengthening, Manager Creative and Engaged City, and Acting Coordinator Experiences and Partnerships. The selection process, which includes interviews, reference checks, and pre-requisite checks, was conducted in accordance with the Terms of Reference. The three applicants recommended for Council endorsement are:

- **Mish Eisen**

Mish Eisen brings over 25 years of leadership in the arts, architecture, and cultural strategy. As a project manager, curator, and consultant, Mish has delivered impactful initiatives across public art, exhibitions, and civic infrastructure, including at Museums Victoria, the Jewish Museum of Australia, and Renew Australia. She currently chairs the City of Greater Dandenong's Public Art Working Group and has previously served on both Greater Dandenong and Frankston Arts Advisory Boards. Through her consultancy, Gamut, she leads projects with strong community focus, First Nations engagement, and cross-sector collaboration. Her work spans arts activation, cultural tourism, and place-based programming. Mish has a deep understanding of local challenges, including the complexities of delivering arts in public spaces, and brings expertise in strategic planning and stakeholder engagement. Her inclusive leadership style, broad professional networks, and commitment to meaningful community outcomes make her a highly valuable candidate for the Arts Advisory Board and a strong advocate for Greater Dandenong's cultural future.

- **Roh Singh**

Roh Singh is an experienced arts educator, creative leader, and practicing artist with a long-standing connection to Greater Dandenong. As the current Manager of Creative Industries at Swinburne University of Technology, Roh brings over 15 years of experience in vocational education and creative program leadership, with strong expertise in community engagement, public art, and strategic partnerships. He served as the Chair of the Greater Dandenong Arts Advisory Board from 2020 to 2023. Roh has led award-winning projects connecting education and industry and has worked closely with the Council to co-develop programs that activate local precincts through student-led creative outcomes. Deeply invested in inclusive practice, Roh has a strong understanding of Greater Dandenong's cultural, social and civic landscape, and brings insight into how the arts can foster identity, connection, and participation. His proven leadership, cross-sector networks, and passion for place-based cultural development make him a valuable ongoing member of the Arts Advisory Board.

- **Sam Kariotis**

Sam Kariotis is a passionate multidisciplinary artist and arts worker with a deep and sustained commitment to the City of Greater Dandenong's arts and cultural sector. With over five years of experience in curation, coordination and public programming, Sam brings valuable insight as both a creative practitioner and arts manager. Their leadership at Connection Arts Space, facilitation of the annual SMRC exhibition, and curatorial residency at Walker Street Gallery demonstrate strong project delivery and community engagement. Sam's involvement on the Community Connections Working Group and LGBTQIA+ Advisory Committee shows a dedication to inclusive representation, with a focus on queer and culturally diverse arts. Their understanding of local issues is grounded in active, ongoing relationships with artists, venues and audiences across the municipality. With academic qualifications in Fine Arts and Cultural Management, and a track record of collaboration with Council, Sam brings a rare combination of lived experience, professional capability and strategic insight—making them a standout candidate for the Arts Advisory Board.



13. The main purpose of updating the Terms of Reference is to incorporate the Council's latest Committee Terms of Reference Template. Several minor changes have been made to clarify or add details that were not previously included. These changes include:
- Clarifying that remuneration is based on attendance at the quarterly meetings and will be paid quarterly.
 - Specifying that chairing a working group is voluntary and that these hours cannot be transferred to Board meetings.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

14. 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

15. The financial implications associated with this report involve a cost in the current financial year of \$3,000 per annum per ordinary independent member and \$5,000 per annum for the chairperson, totalling \$17,000 from 2022-2023 operational budget. Anticipated ongoing costs in future years is \$17,000 per annum.
16. The current year financial cost compares to the amount included in the Annual Budget of \$17,255 and future year costs are included in Council's Long Term Financial Plan.

Asset Implications

17. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

18. There are no legal or risk implications.

Environmental Implications

19. There are no environmental implications relevant to this report.
20. There was no requirement for community consultation.
21. A public call for nominations was undertaken over a 28-day period and utilised a broad range of promotional channels including:
- Council website,
 - Local media (print and digital),
 - Arts Hub and LinkedIn advertisement,
 - E-newsletters,
 - Social media, and
 - Word-of-mouth.
22. Incumbent members of the Arts Advisory Board were consulted in the lead up to the nominations being advertised and were requested to share the opportunity through their networks.
23. All applicants were assessed in relation to the selection criteria included in the Arts Advisory Board Terms of Reference.



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

24. 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.

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

26. 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.
- A Council that demonstrates leadership and a commitment to investing in the community.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

27. 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*.
- The *Gender Equality Act 2020*.
- *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006*.
- Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.

MINUTE No.119

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Isabella Do

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** the appointment of the three (3) recommended applicants as independent members of the Arts Advisory Board for a three-year period until 31 May 2028:
 - Mish Eisen
 - Roh Singh
 - Sam Kariotis
2. **APPROVES** the updated Arts Advisory Board Terms of Reference (Attachment 1); and
3. **ISSUES** appointment letters to each of the successful applicants.

CARRIED 10 / 0



4.3.4 Councillor Internal Resolution Procedure

Responsible Officer:	Manager Governance, Legal & Risk
Attachments:	1. Procedure - Councillor Internal Resolution Procedures - Greater Dandenong [4.3.4.1 - 10 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** the Internal Resolution Procedure per Attachment 1 to this report; and
2. **NOTES** that the Internal Resolution Procedure will be made available on Council's Website.

Executive Summary

1. From 26 October 2024, the *Local Government Act 2020 (the Act)* requires all Councillors to observe the Model Councillor Code of Conduct (Model Code of Conduct). The Model Code of Conduct is prescribed in Schedule 1 of the *Local Government (Governance & Integrity) Regulations 2020*.
2. In accordance with section 140 of *the Act* and Schedule 1A of the *Local Government (Governance & Integrity) Regulations 2020*, Council must implement and adopt an Internal Resolution Procedure by 1 July 2025, to be observed when dealing with alleged breaches of the Model Code of Conduct.
3. An Internal Resolution Procedure (Attachment 1) has been prepared for Council's consideration and adoption.

Background

4. The Model Code of Conduct replaces the previous statutory requirements for councils to develop their own Councillor Code of Conduct. The Model Code of Conduct sets out individual standards of conduct expected to be observed by councillors when performing their roles as councillors.
5. Disputes between Councillors may arise in a variety of circumstances. In accordance with section 140 of *the Act* and Schedule 1A of the *Local Government (Governance & Integrity) Regulations 2020*, Council must implement and adopt an Internal Resolution Procedure by 1 July 2025, to be observed when dealing with alleged breaches of the Model Code of Conduct.
6. The Internal Resolution Procedure only applies to disputes in which a Councillor (the Complainant) alleges that another Councillor (the Respondent) has breached the Model Code of Conduct. The Internal Resolution Procedure does not relate to disputes between Council officers and Councillors.



Key Issues and Discussion

7. The Governance, Legal and Risk Business Unit have utilised the Internal Resolution Procedure Template developed by Maddocks Lawyers.
8. The proposed Internal Resolution Procedure for Greater Dandenong City Council (Attachment 1) has been created to ensure the process and procedures are lawful and based on best practice advice for the Victorian local government sector.
9. In accordance with section 150 of the Act, the Chief Executive Officer under an Instrument of Appointment and Authorised has appointed Nicole Rudden, Manager, Governance Legal and Risk as Councillor Conduct Officer to perform the relevant functions under *the Act*, should they arise.
10. The role of the Councillor Conduct Officer is to provide the Mayor with the administrative support necessary to arrange and conduct a conciliation between Councillors.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

11. The information contained in this report and the processes contained in the Internal Resolution Procedure, are compatible with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and do not raise any human rights issues.

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

Operating Budget Implications

12. The financial implications of purchasing Maddocks template and preparing the Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure have been contained within Council's Operational Budget.

Asset Implications

13. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

14. The Internal Resolution Procedure has been prepared on a template acquired from Maddocks Lawyers.
15. The Internal Resolution Procedure has been designed to minimise cost and disruption to Council and individual Councillors and, where possible, avoid disputes escalating and becoming the subject of formal or external arbitration.
16. It is acknowledged that the Internal Resolution Procedure will not be suitable for resolution of all disputes between Councillors.

Environmental Implications

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

Community Consultation

18. The Internal Resolution Procedure relates solely to disputes between Councillors concerning an alleged breach of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct which has no direct impact on the Community, therefore no community consultation is required. Additionally, there is no legislative requirement for community consultation prior to the adoption of the Internal Resolution Procedure.



MINUTE No.120

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That the item be deferred to a future Council Meeting so that Council officers can provide further information to Councillors as requested.

CARRIED 10 / 0



4.3.5 Victorian Electoral Commission Report on the Greater Dandenong City Council 2024 Local Government Elections

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: 1. VEC 2024 Election Report for Greater Dandenong City Council [4.3.5.1 - 74 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **RECEIVES** and **NOTES** the Victorian Electoral Commission's (VEC) official report titled "Election Report Greater Dandenong City Council 2024 Local Government Elections April 2025" (per Attachment 1); and
2. **MAKES** the VEC Report (per Attachment 1) available on Council's website.

Executive Summary

1. In accordance with Regulation 83 of the *Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020*, the VEC is required to prepare a report of each local government election within six (6) months of election day.
2. The report must include a certified record of the number of ballot-papers and declarations printed, issued, used, spoiled and returned.
3. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) must ensure that the report is submitted to the Council at the earliest practicable meeting of the Council held after the report is received by the CEO.
4. The VEC report provides information on the 2024 Greater Dandenong City Council General Election including details of the end-to-end service delivery of electoral activities throughout the election timeline. The report also provides details of post-election activities including compulsory voting enforcement.

Background

5. The Victorian local government general elections are held every four (4) years as set out in the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic). In 2024, general elections were held for 78 of the 79 Victorian councils with Saturday 26 October marking election day. In accordance with section 263(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Victorian Electoral Commission is the statutory election service provider for the conduct of local government elections in Victoria.
6. The results of the 2024 Greater Dandenong City Council general election were declared at 2 pm on Monday 11 November 2024 at Council Chambers, Level 2, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong for all wards.

Key Issues and Discussion

7. The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a copy of the VEC's Report on the Greater Dandenong City Council – 2024 Local Government Elections (Attachment 1).



8. Pursuant to Regulation 83 of the *Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020*, the VEC report was provided to the Chief Executive Officer of Greater Dandenong City Council on the general election held in October 2024 for submitting to Council.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

9. 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

10. There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

Asset Implications

11. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

12. This report is a requirement under s 83(3) of the *Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020*.

Environmental Implications

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

Community Consultation

14. There was no legislative requirement for community consultation.

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

15. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
- Not Applicable
16. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan
17. 2021-25:
- A Council that demonstrates leadership and a commitment to investing in the community.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

18. 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*:
 - a. Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with relevant law.
 - b. Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.
 - c. The transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.



MINUTE No.121

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Bob Milkovic

That Council:

- 1. RECEIVES and NOTES the Victorian Electoral Commission's (VEC) official report titled "Election Report Greater Dandenong City Council 2024 Local Government Elections April 2025" (per Attachment 1); and**
- 2. MAKES the VEC Report (per Attachment 1) available on Council's website.**

CARRIED 10 / 0



4.3.6 List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance, Legal & Risk
Attachments: 1. List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors [4.3.6.1 - 2 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That the listed items for the period 22 April to 2 May 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 22 April to 2 May 2025.

MINUTE No.122

Moved by: Cr Lana Formoso

Seconded by: Cr Loi Truong

That the listed items for the period 22 April to 2 May 2025 provided in Attachment 1 to this report be received and noted.

CARRIED 10 / 0



5 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.



6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

Comment

Cr Phillip Danh

I spoke with a resident about the green space on Birdwood Avenue along Yarraman Creek. The resident raised concerns about antisocial behaviour, rubbish dumping and dead vegetation in the area. We discussed possible revitalisation of the space, as small improvements can significantly enhance our neighbourhoods. I will provide further details to relevant officers but request assistance addressing immediate safety and rubbish concerns.

I congratulate the re-elected federal Members of Parliament, noting Labor's 70 per cent victory in Yarraman Ward. This result endorses the Government's positive agenda and rejects divisive politics. The next three years are crucial for Council to work with our representatives to deliver for our community.

I am graduating from Monash University this Thursday with my double degrees. This achievement reminds me of the importance of supporting young people's educational aspirations through our services like libraries, parks and programs such as the Anti-Poverty Strategy and Dandenong Zero.

Question

Isabella Do

I noticed that there were a number of items that had a zero figure listed in the prior year for our Schedule of Fees. As I understand, there is a significant theme moving forward with the room bookings and immunisations, but it is due to a restructure of the fees. I would like further explanation on this and confirmation if we will be able to amend those documents with clearer tables so that residents can be better informed.

Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

Some of the fees and charges relate to the hiring of our community facilities, as well as to some of our immunisation charges. We have changed our structure of how we apply those charges, and it is all about streamlining it for the community. Previously, we had three different streams that people could be charged within. We have streamlined that down to two. Now, it is either a not-for-profit/community group or a standard booking, and the fees within that have been streamlined.

What you are observing there is, for the 2024-25 budget line item, it is reflecting a zero charge. It is not that there has not been any charge. Rather, those items were not applicable in the current financial year, and they have been streamlined into the new model for the new financial year and beyond. This means that we will be able to progress in terms of making our bookings more accessible for the community online and more streamlined in terms of understanding the fee structure. Certainly, we will amend the document that is out for consultation.

Regarding the immunisation, we are now offering a fee-for-service basis some immunisations that we have not previously provided as a result of some changes to the immunisation program at a federal level and the change of availability for subsidy through Medicare. Those fees relate to those new immunisations from the new financial year.



Comment**Cr Isabella Do**

Regarding the tragic road collision in our neighbouring city, my thoughts are with the families affected. Many residents have concerns about safety on Chapel Road, which is a high priority in our Local Area Traffic Management Program. Our officers are working to secure additional funding through the Victorian Government Safer Local Roads and Streets Program, with support from Tim Richardson MP. If you have road safety concerns, please contact roadsafety@cgd.vic.gov.au.

Question**Cr Isabella Do**

Can you please confirm that every dollar previously budgeted for South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA) will be directed in full and in addition to existing allocations to Greater Dandenong's in-house environmental programs? Can you also explain why the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) was not provided as an alternative option in the original motion to withdraw from SECCCA and provide timings of when we will review EAGA as an alternative?

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

As per the Council decision at the last Council meeting, all budgeted funding would be spent on Council initiatives, which will continue. We have not considered any other regional bodies at this stage, and that is why EAGA was not recommended at that time. Our focus is going to be our internal works and how we deliver the services. We do not have any time frame to review any regional bodies. That said, if any opportunities arise, we will always investigate those opportunities.

Comment**Cr Isabella Do**

I remind residents about the Encore program this Thursday at the Drum Theatre – an affordable theatre with morning tea included. Whilst bad news spreads quickly, we should acknowledge the many acts of kindness in our community. I have witnessed neighbours helping each other and even strangers assisting me. These good stories deserve more recognition alongside the challenges we face.

Comment**Cr Rhonda Garad**

I want to congratulate the City of Greater Dandenong's Community Connector Program for winning the local government category in the Welcoming Cities Award for Change. This award recognises our outstanding work in advancing welcoming and inclusive communities. The program has connected over a thousand individuals and families to essential services, making a real difference for vulnerable communities. I would appreciate if these congratulations could be passed on to the Community Connector Officer and all team members involved in this worthy achievement.

Response**Cr Jim Memeti, Mayor**

It was Arif Aziz who attended in Sydney to receive it personally and passed it on to me today to share with the Councillors. It has been a fantastic effort by the team.



Mayor Jim Memeti presented the trophy received for the “*Welcoming Cities Award for Change*”.

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

Regarding the community hub, we had the second community co-design consultation, and the community has put in tremendous efforts. I wish to thank all the community members that have been involved and all the staff that have contributed to that.

Will the final concept plan come to Councillor Briefing Sessions (CBS) first? As part of the concept extends into the Precinct Plan area (particularly the playground projecting onto Stewart Street requiring partial street closure), how will this overlap be managed? Will residents have an opportunity for a follow-up meeting after the Precinct Plan is finalised to ensure their input is incorporated?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

The workshops concluded last week. Currently, staff are collating the information. We will have these discussions with the Councillors in June at a CBS. After that discussion, we will provide an update to the residents in July. Regarding the precinct plan, I need to check when the community consultation time frame is. Depending on that time frame, we will inform the community during that community consultation process.

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

There are ten missing trees in Grace Avenue, Dandenong. Why is this the case and is there a remedy plan or action plan around this matter?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

I am not aware of the background. I will follow up with officers and provide an update.

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

Regarding the Dandenong Aquatic Centre development starting this week, I have three questions from residents: Will any large trees be at risk during construction? Will there be secure CCTV-monitored bicycle storage facilities in addition to the planned car chargers? How much external energy will the centre require beyond what its solar system can generate?



Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

There are a number of specific questions that I do not have the answer to at the moment, but I am happy to follow up and provide that information. In relation to the trees, Council officers look to retain as many as possible as part of the design process. We will identify if there needs to be any trees removed. We will let the Councillors and the community know.

Comment

Cr Sophie Tan, Deputy Mayor

Congratulations to the Government on their landslide victory in the federal election, particularly to our local MPs Julian Hill, Mark Dreyfus, and Claire O'Neil.

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

- On Tuesday 15 April 2025, I attended Claire O'Neil's announcement of \$900,000 for Ross Reserve upgrades, providing female-friendly facilities and shaded structures that will benefit multiple athletic clubs and schools.
- On Thursday 17 April 2025, I attended the Noble Park RSL ANZAC Day services.
- On Sunday 4 May 2025, I witnessed the Teochew Chinese Association's impressive \$118,000 donation to Monash Children's Hospital and Box Hill Hospital.
- On Thursday 8 May 2025, I attended a fundraising organised by the Rotary Club of Springvale where nearly \$100,000 for polio vaccines was raised for Pakistan and Afghanistan during their recent fundraiser.

Congratulations to Councillor Phillip Danh on completing his university degree and to our Council for receiving the Welcoming Cities Award for Change. I commend the excellent quarterly budget results of Council, achieving a surplus of \$31.8 million, which is \$4.48 million better than projected.

Question

Cr Sophie Tan, Deputy Mayor

My question is regarding the library locker for Noble Park, I understand it will be installed in June. Do you have an exact date when it is planned?

Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

I received an update on this just last week. We are waiting for a permit from a third party in relation to installing the library locker in the preferred location, which is still the preferred location, given its proximity to public transport and other amenities. My understanding is that this would normally be a two-month process. However, so far it has taken over seven months. If we do not receive the required approvals by the end of this month, we will look to secure an alternative location or move to the second preferred location. We have the library locker ready to go. It is built and assembled. We are waiting for a third-party approval to use their space, given it is on their land.



Comment

Cr Sean O'Reilly

On Thursday 8 May 2025, I attended the Springvale Rotary event, which has made remarkable progress in their mission to eradicate polio. Since 1985, cases have decreased by 99.9 per cent globally, with only a handful remaining in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Springvale Rotary has contributed over \$100,000 to this cause.

On Sunday 4 May 2025, I attended Teochew Chinese Association event where they raised nearly \$120,000 for Monash Children's Hospital and Box Hill Hospital. Having personally experienced the importance of Monash Children's Hospital when my son suffered an asthma attack, I deeply appreciate their significant contribution to our healthcare services.

Question

Cr Sean O'Reilly

The Springvale North Tennis Club has reported failed lighting on courts three and four. They have been told this maintenance issue will not be addressed due to budget constraints. Was maintenance funding not included in our budget as I understood? Could the relevant officer confirm whether the maintenance budget should cover these repairs, and what options do we have to resolve this issue within current allocations?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

I can confirm that we do have enough maintenance budget to cover all of our maintenance activities. However, my understanding with this matter is that it is beyond maintenance, as those lights are coming to the end of their life. We need to replace the entire light system for courts three and four, which falls into a capital works program. We understand it is necessary during winter and asked our teams to work together to come up with a solution so we can replace the lights sooner rather than later.

Question

Cr Sean O'Reilly

A resident reported issues with waste collection trucks having difficulty navigating a court turning bowl due to improperly parked vehicles. Does our waste contractor have a communication channel to report such access problems to Council so we can target enforcement in these areas? Given the waste trucks have GPS tracking that would show difficult collection points, is this data being used to identify problem areas? This would be beneficial as collection inefficiencies could eventually increase costs to Council.

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Truck drivers have direct communication with Council staff for various issues including traffic problems and missing bins. While one-off incidents may not be reported, recurring problems are regularly notified to us. These issues typically occur on streets with cars parked around bins. I am happy to obtain the specific address from you and follow up on this matter.



Comment

Cr Alice Phuong Le

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

- On Thursday 30 April 2025, I attended the citizenship ceremony at Springvale City Hall with the Mayor. We welcomed over 200 new citizens.
- On Thursday 8 May 2025, I attended the Polio fundraising night on Friday from Rotary friends in Springvale.
- On Sunday 11 May 2025, I attended the Filipino cultural celebration.

I have also been busy with volunteer work, supporting our MPs and delivering flyers to connect with the community around us.

Comment

Cr Loi Truong

Thursday 30 April 2025 marks approximately 50 years since the fall of South Vietnam, an event commemorated by numerous Vietnamese community groups, churches, temples and organisations reflecting on the refugee journey. This Sunday 18 May 2025 at 12pm, the community is hosting a barbecue to thank Vietnamese volunteers who have served at community events, and I invite all Councillors to attend.

Question

Cr Loi Truong

My question is regarding animal control matters. If dog attacks happen, what should the owners and the victims do? Should they contact the Council to ask for advice? Should they go to court with lawyers?

Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

Health and safety must come first. If anyone is injured in a dog attack, they should immediately call Triple Zero for medical assistance. Afterwards, incidents should be reported to Council either through our online reporting system or by calling customer service. These reports go to our animal management team who will investigate the incident, determine appropriate actions including potential prosecutions, verify animal registration status, and work with owners to ensure responsible pet ownership.

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

A Noble Park North resident has contacted me regarding an ongoing three-year issue with a neighbouring property housing over one hundred pigeons, along with a barking dog, chickens, and a rooster. Despite multiple complaints, the situation continues to cause distress to that resident. The pigeons are creating significant problems including bird droppings on the resident's roof, backyard and laundry, plus an increase in rodents. This is particularly concerning as the resident's elderly mother has respiratory problems.

Rangers have previously advised this resident that the neighbour has a permit which allows excess pigeons to be kept, and the neighbour maintains a clean cage. However, our policy states that animals must not cause a nuisance to neighbours. The resident and other neighbours are now considering a petition. Could the relevant officer please respond to this matter urgently and contact this distressed resident?



Cr Phillip Danh left the Chamber at 8:22 pm.

Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

Thank you for bringing that to my attention. If you could send through the details including the Merit number for those complaints, I will follow up and arrange for the resident to be contacted.

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

How does this permit system work? Do you not need to have a majority of your neighbours agreeing to having such an abundant number of pigeons in the area?

Response

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

We often find that with some of our residents, there are two sides to the story. I think it would be better to take this offline. We will investigate the property concerned and then have a discussion about it.

Cr Phillip Danh returned to the Chamber at 8:25 pm.

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

The other matter I have is in relation to Coolavin Road playground, which I have just been informed by a resident has been severely damaged and burnt by hooligans. It has recently just been fenced off. I wish to know what the outcome of this is, and when the repairs will occur.

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

I do not have an exact time frame but will investigate. Normally we replace that as soon as possible, but we will go through an insurance process to get that money recovered.

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

Is Council aware of this incident that has occurred? I knew nothing about it as the ward Councillor.

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

We do not report on every insurance matter that happens in every ward, but I am not aware of it either. The teams will normally manage these issues. They will go through a process to replace the equipment.



Question

Cr Lana Formoso

I have previously raised concerns about Coolavin Road regarding hooning. What is happening with the upgrades regarding the devices we planned to put in place in relation to the hooning? My understanding is that it was meant to occur in April.

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

I will investigate the time frame for this specific project.

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

In October 2024, a truck demolished concrete pillars on Browns Road that were installed with our \$400,000 federal Black Spot funding to prevent truck traffic issues. A resident followed the truck, identified the company, and reported this to Council. Have we contacted the company responsible to seek reimbursement for the damage rather than having ratepayers bear the cost? When will these protective pillars be replaced? The residents are extremely distressed as this issue has been ongoing since October last year.

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

I will investigate and provide an update.

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

Following the recent landslide federal election results, have we begun the process of writing to our local MPs regarding their promised projects to ensure prompt implementation? Our community urgently needs these projects. Could we also potentially add additional requests, particularly for Noble Park North?

Response

Marjan Hajjari, Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy

The draft letters are being prepared. We were waiting for the result of the Cabinet reshuffle. As we write the congratulations letter, we can also target the needs to the relevant MPs. We will finalise the letters with the Mayor. We will have the state budget and the state election next year, and we will prepare for that as well.

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

Could I please have an update on the Hennessy Scout Hall demolition timeline? The building has become an eyesore with significant illegal dumping occurring in the area. When I contacted the Bakhtar Community several weeks ago about residents wanting to donate goods, they informed me they are no longer accepting donations at that facility. Where are we in the process of demolishing this building?



Response

Marjan Hajjari, Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy

This is an item that we are working on with the team, and we will update Councillors during the next few weeks on the next action on that property and the demolition.

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

On Monday 5 May 2025, Fifi, Fev and Nick from Fox FM announced they would visit Masala Football Club at Lois Twohig Reserve on 10 May 2025 to help boost attendance at the club. I am concerned that Council failed to promote this event despite its alignment with our Make Your Move strategy and the opportunity to highlight community sport in our municipality, which has the lowest physical activity rates. This was essentially free media coverage we did not utilise.

The Ward Councillor, Cr Milkovic, was not informed about this event, nor was the Mayor invited. This would have been an excellent opportunity to showcase our recent facility upgrades and emphasize the importance of community sport participation. How did we miss this opportunity?

Response

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

I appreciate your views that you are disappointed that Council was not out promoting it. Our officers were not aware of it. We will talk to our clubs and see if we can do better next time. Any opportunity to increase sports participation in our municipality, where we are one of the least active municipalities in the country, is important. We will make note of this feedback.

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

I understand that last week the Minister of Planning made herself the planning authority for the conversion of the former Kingswood Golf Club in the City of Kingston to become housing. The former Kingswood Golf Club is just a few kilometres from Keysborough Golf Club in our municipality. The Keysborough Golf Club has had a similar desire to create housing, amongst other things, that our community needs and deserves on their existing site and move to a new facility on Pillars Road. Could the officers provide a briefing to Council advising whether a similar intervention by the Minister would be possible as a way to expedite the planning process for this development and the associated South East Sports Hub?

Cr Rhonda Garad left the Chamber at 8:35 pm.

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

We have received planning applications for that development, and the Council officers are in the process of assessing that. We know that site sits outside the urban growth boundary. Please note that the urban growth boundary needs to be changed by the State Government. We are currently looking at all these options, and we will provide a briefing to the Councillors on this matter.



MINUTE

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Seconded by: Cr Loi Truong

That Councillor Lana Formoso be granted an extension of time for three (3) minutes to complete her Councillor report.

CARRIED 10 / 0

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

How can we arrange tree planting activities with local schools during school hours? I have received numerous inquiries from schools wanting to participate in increasing our canopy coverage, but most of our tree planting events occur on weekends. Could we develop a collaboration between Council and schools to facilitate weekday tree planting programs?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

We are keen to work with the schools on tree planting programs. If any schools are interested, ask them to contact us. We will work with them to organise times for them within school hours.

Cr Loi Truong left the Chamber at 8:38 pm.

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

I have reported several times through Snap Send Solve about a severely burnt tree in Easterleigh Court, Dandenong that appears to be dead and is causing concern for local residents. I noticed this tree is not included in our tree removal inventory despite its condition. Could I please have an update on this matter?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

We receive around 40,000 Merits every year and we work through them periodically. The tree planting season starts this May to October, and we might look at replacing that during this period. I will work with the teams to find that Merit.



Comment

Cr Lana Formoso

The Monash Children's Hospital gala is being held this Friday, 16 May 2025. This hospital, which serves 40 per cent of children south of the river, deserves as much support as other children's hospitals. While not diminishing the importance of the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal, I encourage everyone to support this institution that is very close to my heart by attending the gala this week.

Comment

Cr Jim Memeti, Mayor

I have attended the following events in the past weeks:

- On Tuesday 29 April 2025, I attended a meeting with Nirad Shah and David Willersdoff from Take a Swing for Charity. They have raised over \$20,000 and look forward to continuing the event in the future.
- On Tuesday 29 April 2025, I visited Belvedere Aged Care for Rosa's 102nd birthday.
- On Wednesday 30 April 2025, I attended the Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum. The group of Councillors in the taskforce is growing, with City of Casey joining earlier this year and City of Melton joining last week.
- On Wednesday 30 April 2025, we held two citizenship ceremonies where over 200 new Australian citizens were welcomed. Presenting certificates to new residents and seeing the joy on their faces is one of my favourite duties as Mayor.
- On Friday 2 May 2025, I attended the We Can Do Exhibition speech at Noble Park Community Centre, which was sponsored by Bendigo Bank.
- On Sunday 4 May 2025, I attended the Teochew Chinese Association donation presentation where approximately \$118,000 was donated to beneficiaries including Monash Children's Hospital and Box Hill Hospital.
- On Thursday 8 May 2025, I attended the Polio Fund Raising Night with the Rotary Club of Springvale. Rotary has helped immunise more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries through their Polio Plus program. I was honoured to receive a Paul Harris Fellow recognition.

Mayor Jim Memeti presented the certificate received for Paul Harris Fellow recognition.

-
- On Saturday 10 May 2025, I attended the Bengali New Year Celebration organised by the Australia Bangladesh Association.
 - On Sunday 11 May 2025, I attended the Flores de Mayo Philippine Celebration. We have more than 2,000 Filipinos who call our city home.
 - On Sunday 11 May 2025, I attended the Afghan Youth Association Mother's Day Celebration with over 100 mothers. I reflected on my own mother's experience arriving in Australia 50 years ago and highlighted the increased support services now available to new arrivals.

I wish to extend Happy Mother's Day wishes to all mothers, carers, and everyone. I believe we should celebrate mothers not just on Mother's Day, but every day.



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



COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE/REQUIRING FURTHER ACTION

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
28/04/25 CQT1	Cr Lana Formoso	Letter to Uncle Mark Brown There was disrespectful booing of Uncle Mark Brown during the Welcome to Country at Anzac Day ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance. Can Mayor Jim Memeti write a letter of support to Uncle Mark Brown on behalf of Council?	Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy/ Mayors Office		Initial response provided 28/04/2025: Yes, I can do that. FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED
28/04/25 CQT2	Cr Lana Formoso	Election signs – sweep of local parks We have had many reports about signs, some of which are Council locations. Council officers have been out and removed those. We have sent out correspondence to all candidates. We have contacted VicRoads and others to remove signs not on Council land. It is concerning to hear about some of the inappropriate locations, but our Council, along with our neighbouring councils, are actively out there and trying to manage this as best we can. We will arrange a sweep of local parks.	Executive Director Community Strengthening		Initial response provided 28/04/2025: We have had many reports about signs, some of which are Council locations. Council officers have been out and removed those. We have sent out correspondence to all candidates. We have contacted VicRoads and others to remove signs not on Council land. It is concerning to hear about some of the inappropriate locations, but our Council, along with our neighbouring councils, are actively out there and trying to manage this as best we can. We will arrange a sweep of local parks. COMPLETED
28/04/25 CQT4	Cr Isabella Do	Wayys inquiry Following up on an inquiry I made to officers in March regarding a potential issue with Wayys, the usage of facilities or accommodation due to some issues. My understanding was that they were not able to move into it. Are you able to advise if that was a problem, and if so, was this resolved?	Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy	30/04/2025	Initial response provided 28/04/2025: I will come back to you with the details. From my understanding, after receiving your email, the documentation was part of the process they had to provide for settling down. It was not necessarily an issue. They provided the documents to Council, and they were very quick and keen to settle. Further response provided 30/04/2025:



Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
					Wayys has confirmed that four mothers and their children moved in on a Friday in mid-March. All families have settled in well, and there have been no issues reported with the transition. COMPLETED
28/04/25 CQT6	Cr Isabella Do	Reduction in operational emissions I noted a Facebook post from Council stating that since 2020, we have reduced our operational emissions by over 80%. Can you confirm how this was achieved and how we have been tracking with our community emissions in comparison?	Executive Director City Futures	05/05/2025	<p>Initial response provided 28/04/2025: The main thing is our power purchasing agreement. We purchase green power for all our facilities. In addition, we have installed 600 kW of solar panels, transitioned 27 Council fleet vehicles into lower emission vehicles, and replaced gas assets with electric assets in many of our buildings. These combined efforts achieved around 82% emission reduction. I do not have data on the community emissions, but I am happy to set up a follow-up with my team.</p> <p>Further response provided 05/05/2025: Greater Dandenong City Council has reduced its emissions from 21,537 t-CO2 in 2019 to 3,978 t-CO2 in 2023, being an 82% reduction.</p> <p>Obtaining community emissions data is challenging, as it relies on multiple authorities collating and providing data to Council. The last set of community emissions data we have dates back to 2016/17, when we engaged a consultant to work with the authorities to obtain the information. At that time, the community emissions were 3,950,000t-CO2. It is expected that this exercise will need to be undertaken again at an appropriate time in the future, however, will be subject to a successful budget bid, given the costly nature of obtaining this information.</p> <p>We understand that most Councils have limited or no data on community emissions for the</p>

Reports from Councillors/Delegates & Councillors' Questions – Questions Taken on Notice

2 / 3



Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
					reasons detailed above. We will have further discussion this matter at the briefing tonight. COMPLETED



7 URGENT BUSINESS

No urgent business was considered.



8 CLOSE OF BUSINESS

The Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signature