



Minutes

Council Meeting

Tuesday 10 June 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](#)

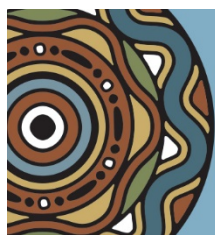
[Cr Isabella Do](#)

[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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Online: relayservice.gov.au



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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 7.00pm.

1.2 ATTENDANCE

Apologies

Cr Alice Phuong Le, Cr Bob Milkovic.

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 Sean O'Reilly,
Cr Loi Truong, Cr Melinda Yim.

Officers Present

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer; Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures; Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening; Yuri Guzman, Chief Information Officer; Michael Tonta, Governance Advisor; Marjan Hajjari, Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy; 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 Mr Shamim Navidi, a member of the Greater Dandenong Interfaith Network, read the following:

" O Thou compassionate Lord, Thou Who art generous and able! We are servants of Thine sheltered beneath Thy providence. Cast Thy glance of favor upon us. Give light to our eyes, hearing to our ears, and understanding and love to our hearts. Render our souls joyous and happy through Thy glad tidings. O Lord! Point out to us the pathway of Thy kingdom and resuscitate all of us through the breaths of the Holy Spirit. Bestow upon us life everlasting and confer upon us never-ending honor. Unify mankind and illumine the world of humanity. May we all follow Thy pathway, long for Thy good pleasure and seek the mysteries of Thy kingdom. O God! Unite us and connect our hearts with Thy indissoluble bond. Verily, Thou art the Giver, Thou art the Kind One and Thou art the Almighty.

'Abdu'l-Bahá,"



1.5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Meeting of Council held 26 May 2025.

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 26 May 2025 be confirmed.

MINUTE No.132

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 26 May 2025 be confirmed.

CARRIED 9 / 0

1.6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil.



2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Question

Zoran Makarovski, Springvale

Why does Hanson Heidelberg Cement Group Westall depot, Springvale leave wet cement/concrete all over the service lane outside its business on the public road?

We run a business that restores classic vehicles called Competition Engines and when taking cars for a test drive, they get covered with wet cement/concrete residue. This is then difficult to clean and is damaging our newly restored cars. Our customers and staff are also complaining that their vehicles are being damaged when driving past this business. We have no other way of coming or going due to the design of the roads around us. We would like this issue addressed.

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Our Planning Compliance team will inspect the site to determine whether there are any breaches of the planning permit or planning scheme provisions and will take relevant action.

Question

Susan Smith, Dandenong

When will the next resident co-design session for the Dandenong Community Hub be held?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

A number of workshops were held with co-design residents over February and May this year. We appreciate the residents' input and contribution to the development of the concept design. Once Councilors have had the opportunity to be briefed on the project's progress and presented with information, it is expected to go to a Council meeting for a decision on next steps and further sessions. We will provide further updates to the co design group in late July.

Question

Susan Smith, Dandenong

One of the reasons preventing finalisation of the concept design of the Dandenong Community Hub is the progress with the Dandenong Market precinct Master Plan.

They both need to be worked on together. So why isn't the resident co-design group involved in the finalisation of the Dandenong Market precinct plan as well?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

The Dandenong Community Hub concept has been prepared alongside the development and consideration of the Market Precinct Plan, however the Precinct Plan does not need to be finalised for the Hub to proceed.

Strategic planning activities such as the Market Precinct Plan are undertaken through extensive information gathering from all stakeholders. The Dandenong Community Hub project and the resident co-design group are identified as a key stakeholder, with the needs and preferences communicated and understood by the Market Precinct Plan project team. There will be an opportunity for community members to provide feedback later this year.



Question**Susan Smith, Dandenong**

In the February Co-design workshops residents put forward that the design be flipped so that the early years services would be moved by 90 degrees. This would allow space for a large playground. We were told this was not within the current scope and would need to be discussed by Councillors. When will this option for the design being flipped be discussed by Councillors?

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

At the 13 September 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting, Council endorsed a motion to progress with the development of a concept plan and business case for a Dandenong Community Hub for the Southern end of the site bordered by Clow Street, Stuart Street and Sleeth Avenue.

The current building concept occupies the entire southern half of the identified land, leaving no space for further development without going beyond the approved project boundary.

Codesign group feedback, including the proposal from some co-design members to rotate the child services wing by 90 degrees, will be discussed with Councilors at the upcoming briefing.

Question**Silvia Mastrogiovanni, Dandenong**

Over the last 18 months there have been three rounds of co-design sessions but despite Dandenong residents asking for a playground like the Springvale and Keysborough South Community Hubs, to be incorporated into the Dandenong Community Hub, we keep being told that that is out of scope for discussion, despite being integral parts of the other two hubs and in the case of the market a great drawcard to get shoppers to the market and central Dandenong in general. When are we going to get to discuss this?

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

As previously advised, the current building concept occupies the entire southern half of the identified land, leaving no space for further development without going beyond the approved project boundary.

The Codesign group preference for a larger playground will be discussed with Councillors at the upcoming briefing, including the sketches submitted by co-design participants. We will provide further update to the co design group in late July.

Question**Silvia Mastrogiovanni, Dandenong**

Another question that has kept coming up but has not been answered is the use of the land on the King Street side of the hub. When are Dandenong residents going to be told what is planned for that and why do we keep on being told that this is out of scope when Council has never voted on a precise land footprint?



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

As previously advised, at the 13 September 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting, Council endorsed a motion to progress with the development of a concept plan and business case for a Dandenong Community Hub for the Southern end of the site bordered by Clow Street, Stuart Street and Sleeth Avenue.

The current building concept occupies the entire southern half of the identified land, leaving no space for further development without going beyond the approved project boundary.

Question**Silvia Mastrogiovanni, Dandenong**

Another question that has kept coming up over the last 18 months but not been answered has been the future of the area south of the Dandenong Learning and Activities Centre community garden. It was planned to be an area for a temporary expansion for the garden, but the Dandenong Learning and Activities Centre never used it so why isn't it being taken back for use for Dandenong Community Hub?

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

As previously answered, the endorsed site for the Dandenong Community Hub is the Southern part of the identified plot as per the previous Council resolution in September 2021.

Question**David Daff, Eumemmerring**

Given that local Little Athletics at Dandenong that has been running for 53 years is already contributing to the Greater Dandenong (Make Your Move) Physical Activity Strategy it should be given every opportunity to continue and be encouraged to expand its local presence. A direct quote from this strategy is "Sport and recreation opportunities will be affordable, diverse and accessible to all, especially for young people, families and those less well-off than others." 80% of our current athletes resident in CGD or direct neighboring suburbs of Doveton and Endeavour Hills. A number of families do not have access to cars, so walk or ride to the Centre. The Centre has gone through a transformation of ethnic backgrounds, and now is more aligned with the mix within CGD, and has seen significant growth in membership as a result, with an expectation that this will continue.

So why is Council considering closing a local, accessible, and budget friendly activity?

Why was the Robert Booth Reserve assessed against International Adult competition standards when it was never designed for this, so hence comes up short?

Why is no detail of suggested maintenance costings given, and what standards are trying to be achieved with this?



Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

In 2019, Council endorsed its Athletics Development Plan. Included in that plan is consideration of CGD demographics and influences participation, as well as a review of CGD Athletics facilities, participation, and priority facility improvements.

This endorsed Plan called for a significant investment to be made at Ross Reserve Athletics venue, developing it to meet International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) (category two) standards. This investment occurred and Council were proud to open this new facility in 2024.

Part of the endorsed Plan was recognition that maintaining two athletics venues within the municipality was difficult to justify. With reference to Robert Booth Reserve, this was primarily due to the lower utilisation rates, ageing infrastructure and that the pavilion does not meet female and/or junior friendly standards, requiring significant investment allow it to be used by other community groups.

The Plan went on to recommend possible amalgamation of Clubs within the City of Greater Dandenong to be based from the newly developed Ross Reserve, and completion of a Master Plan to understand future use of the site as part of a broader sports plan.

Officers' role is to implement the decisions of Council, however in recognition of the Club's position, we have worked with you and Little Athletics Vic to form modified activities that, pending Council decision tonight, enable the club to continue operating in an agreed, safe way, while also allowing officers to cease the implementation of the decommissioning that is endorsed under the current plan.

As part of the recommendation for decision tonight is to redirect the funds earmarked for the endorsed decommissioning to undertake the Master Plan process and undertake some repair work that had not been undertaken due to the impending decommissioning of the site.

Per Officers recommendation, we consider Dandenong Little Athletics Club (DLAC) to be a key stakeholder in the Master Planning and consultation process.

The facility was not solely assessed against international adult competition standards. The assessments conducted by SPORTENG and SportsTurf Consultants were based on several factors including national sporting guidelines, facility user safety guidelines, and usability/functionality—while international benchmarks were assessed, there is no suggestion from Officers that Robert Booth should meet those benchmarks.

The assessments identified substantial deficiencies and safety risks, including drainage issues and aging infrastructure, which require significant investment to address. These findings are essential to ensure the facility remains safe and usable for all participants, especially children.



The report being considered for decision by Council tonight outlines that while detailed costings have not yet been scoped, high-level estimates are provided. For example:

- Remedial works to address high-risk areas are estimated at around \$400,000
- Sub-surface drainage repairs alone were estimated at over \$250,000 in 2018.
- A full reconstruction is estimated at over \$2 million, pending further investigation.

These figures are based on independent assessments and reflect the minimum standards required for modern compliant safety standards, usability, and compliance with national guidelines—not elite competition standards.

The development of a masterplan will allow for more detailed costings and broader community consultation, including DLAC's input on their needs and preferences, ensuring future decisions are well-informed and community-focused.

Question

Phillip Lamaro, Dandenong

Two years ago, Council put up multiple signs saying “racismNOTwelcome” around the area to fight against racism including at Harmony Square. On 7 December 2023, Council advised they would show the same commitment towards homophobia and transphobia by putting rainbow stickers on all Council hubs and libraries. Neither need any credentials to display as both are to show racism's and homophobia are not welcome here in Dandenong. 18 months later, Council still has not put the rainbow stickers up.

Can Council explain why they have put the racism signs up but have not put the homophobia signs up and when will they be putting the rainbow stickers Council promised up on all council libraries and hubs?

Response

Marjan Hajjari, Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy

The Diversity, Access and Equity Policy ensures that all community members are able to participate in Council programs, services and facilities. Accordingly, Council and its staff strive to deliver services and engage with community in a way that respects human rights and equal opportunities for all, including our multicultural and LGBTIQ+ communities.

In most cases, when a rainbow sticker is displayed on an organisation's entrance it indicates that a higher level of organisational training has been undertaken to establish LGBTIQ+ inclusive practice. The gold standard is the Rainbow Tick accreditation which has been undertaken by Stonnington and Port Phillip councils.

This is different to that of the #RacismNotWelcome signs which have been installed as part of an advocacy campaign. The street signs are a public demonstration that racism is no longer hidden, taboo and left to fester, but is acknowledged, called out, and not welcome.



This was an advocacy campaign supported by the Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee. In a similar manner, the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee may also be inclined to support an anti-homophobia campaign. This would be in addition to Council's existing work in advocating for greater equality for LGBTIQA+ communities by supporting days of significance such as International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT), Wear It Purple Day, and Trans Day of Visibility.



3 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 2

3.1 OTHER

3.1.1 Interfaith Network of the City of Greater Dandenong Contract Review 2025

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Community Strengthening
Attachments: Nil

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES** the valuable role of the Interfaith Network within the City of Greater Dandenong;
2. **APPROVES** the provision of \$85,000 per annum to the Interfaith Network of the City of Greater Dandenong through a four-year service agreement, commencing 1 July 2025 and concluding 30 June 2029. (Total allocation being \$340,000 over the four-year period);
3. **NOTES** that the Interfaith Network within the City of Greater Dandenong also receive in-kind support from Council through the provision of accommodation at a significantly reduced rate;
4. **ENDORSES** the development of clearer service agreement deliverables aligned to Council Plan Priorities; and
5. **INVITES** the Executive Committee of the Interfaith Network to attend a future Councillor Briefing Session to outline their strategic plan and future priorities.

Executive Summary

1. The report summarises the key findings and recommendations resulting from an end-of-service agreement review of agreed deliverables by the Interfaith Network of the City of Greater Dandenong.

Background

2. Established in 1989, the Interfaith Network of the City of Greater Dandenong (IFN) is thought to be the longest serving interfaith network in Australia. The IFN works to promote respect and understanding for the integrity of each person's beliefs, cultures, and traditions. Key activities include the organisation of Places of Worship Tours, the coordination of the Council Prayer Roster, and the holding of events such as Talking Faith and the Annual Schools Gathering.
3. Further details on the work of the IFN, including historical annual reports is available on their website: [Interfaith Network \(IFN\) of the City of Greater Dandenong](#).
4. On 30/06/2025, the Interfaith Network (IFN) will reach the conclusion of a 4-year, \$340,000 funding service agreement with Council. (noting this was an initial 3-year contract plus one year extension).

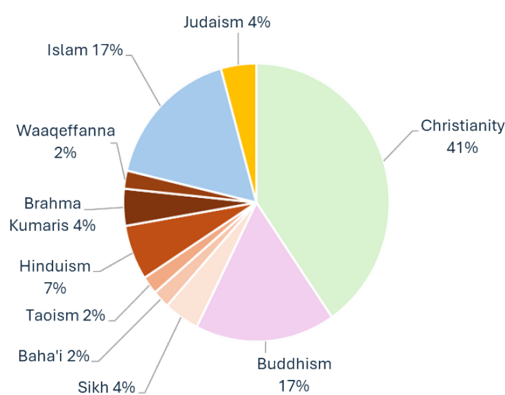


- In anticipation of the end of the current arrangement, an in-depth review of service agreement deliverables has been undertaken. This review has included engagement with local faith groups and benchmarking against neighbouring networks to ascertain the social impact of the IFN, the cost-effectiveness of Council's investment, and the identification of possible enhancement to future service agreements.

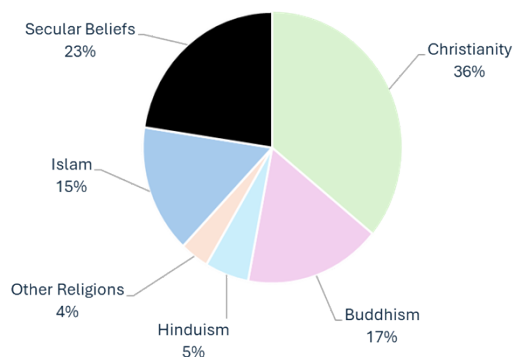
Key Issues and Discussion

Review findings: IFN Performance

- The IFN performed well against its service agreement deliverables amid the challenging context of Covid-19 and chronic understaffing. The IFN achieved 63% of its set deliverables in full or in part from 01/07/2021 - 30/06/2024 and significantly outperformed expectations in key impact areas (e.g. number of interfaith tours).
- The IFN of the City of Greater Dandenong compares favourably to neighbouring IFNs in terms of impact, profile, and professionalism. The benchmarking exercise found that other IFNs, where still operating and contactable, were often comparatively small, reliant wholly upon volunteers, and severely constrained by a lack of income. All lacked key services offering compared to what are delivered by the CGD IFN, such as its year-round offering of interfaith tours.
- IFN organisational membership is growing, and its composition is admirably reflective of the range of religious communities in the CGD, if not the full range of belief systems. The IFN could consider the recruitment of organisations representative of secular belief systems (e.g. Humanists Victoria) to enhance its educational outcomes and represent the growing proportion of residents (now over 20%) with no religion.



IFN Organisational Membership by Faith 2024



2021 Census - Religious Affiliation in the City of Greater Dandenong

**Income Summary:**

Interfaith Network Income FY22-25		
FY 2021 - 22		
	Total Income	\$152,344
	CGD Service Agreement Funding	\$90,000
	CGD Grants	\$18,000
	Other	\$44,344
FY 2022 - 23		
	Total Income	\$129,569
	CGD Service Agreement Funding	\$80,000
	CGD Grants	\$8,000
	Other	\$41,569 <i>(* IFN accounts state \$41,369)</i>
FY 2023 - 24		
	Total Income	\$77,220
	CGD Service Agreement Funding	\$70,000
	CGD Grants	\$7,204
	Other	\$16,000 <i>(* IFN Accounts state \$15,507)</i>
FY 2024 - 25		
	Total Income	Data unavailable
	CGD Service Agreement Funding	\$70,000
	CGD Grants	\$9,935
	Other	<i>Data unavailable</i>
<i>* Please note that Council's records of its grant awards cannot be fully reconciled with IFN's stated income in their public accounts without follow up and engagement. The above figures should thus only be treated as indicative.</i>		

Outputs aligned to Council Funding

9. The IFN provided 75 tours (against a target of 30), spoke at 31 public events (against a target of 30), coordinated Council prayer roster, published weekly 'Messages of Hope' in the Star Journal, and held multiple events such as its 2024 Annual Interfaith School Gathering that was attended by 371 students from 9 local schools.
10. Benchmarking indicates that the existing funding model has significantly expanded the capacity of the CGD IFN over that of its peers.

Other Council Support – Accommodation

11. Interfaith currently occupy part of 39 Clow Street, Dandenong, under a licence agreement with Council dated 16 March 2016. The licence agreement has expired and is in over holding on a year-by-year basis expiring July 2025.
12. The Interfaith Network currently pay a rental of \$330 per annum plus GST and outgoings. The commercial market rental for the space would be approximately \$20,000 per annum plus GST and outgoings.



Suggested Changes to the Funding Model

13. **Redesign service agreement deliverables** - Agree clear definitions of service agreement terms like 'tour' and 'public speaking event' to support consistent reporting; Implement higher targets based explicitly upon evidence of prior delivery; Implement more quantifiable (i.e. numerical) targets to streamline the independent assessment of performance.
14. **Encourage higher full-time-equivalent (FTE) staff positions** - The low full-time equivalence of the three (3) IFN staff roles impacted on continuity of service. The IFN should be encouraged to consider options to address this risk factor without disrupting the current stable and effective team.
15. **Set service agreement terms of more than three (3) years** – Four (4) year service agreement terms will support organisational stability and help maintain momentum towards strategic goals. Ad-hoc extensions to the current IFN service agreement undermined strategic planning, as deliverables were set for the initial three-year project term and not updated for the one-year extension.
16. **Migrate the IFN service agreement administration process onto SmartyGrants.** This would allow the IFN to consolidate the administration of their council funding (grant and service agreement) onto a single familiar platform, thus improving the standard of record keeping and reporting between both parties and allowing the easy sourcing of data for future Council reports.
17. **Enhance Council staff support** - The IFN's small team means that staff must work across a broad range of work areas that they may have little expertise in. Council is well-situated to lend help in many areas due to its large and diverse staff base. Encouraging structured access to advice / support / training from Council staff (e.g. via the Volunteer Leave Policy) has been a key request from the IFN and is a simple means of increasing the cost-effectiveness of any awarded funding.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

18. 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

19. The resource requirement associated with this report of \$85,000 per annum for a 4-year period commencing 01/07/2025 aligns with the current budget allocation for IFN funding.
20. The Procurement Team have advised that, as the recommended service agreement has a worth of more than \$300,000, an exemption for entering a public tender process must be sought. The exemption process has commenced, and a favourable outcome is expected due to the Interfaith Network of the City of Greater Dandenong being the only organisation with the ability to represent the diverse cultural and religious faiths and spiritual organisations of the City.

Asset Implications

21. Interfaith currently occupy part of 39 Clow Street, Dandenong, under a licence agreement with Council dated 16 March 2016. The licence agreement has expired and is in over holding on a year-by-year basis expiring July 2025.
22. The Interfaith Network currently pay a rental of \$330 per annum plus GST and outgoings. The commercial market rental for the space would be approximately \$20,000 per annum plus GST and outgoings.



Legal/Risk Implications

23. An exemption from the requirement to undergo a public tender process for the recommended service agreement is currently being sought. If Council were to enter a public tender process for this service agreement, then the consequent delay in funding this would risk serious disruption to IFN work and waste Council time/resources, as no other organisation is positioned to deliver the same services as the IFN.

Environmental Implications

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

Community Consultation

25. A community engagement and benchmarking exercise was held from 01/02/2025 - 28/02/2025. Fifteen interviews were held with local faith leaders, IFN staff, IFN board members, and volunteers from neighbouring multifaith networks. The findings of this engagement provided supporting evidence for the report conclusions set out in points 5-15.

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

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

- Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.

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

28. 2021-25:

- A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts.

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



MINUTE No.133

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That Council:

- 1. NOTES the valuable role of the Interfaith Network within the City of Greater Dandenong;**
- 2. APPROVES the provision of \$85,000 per annum to the Interfaith Network of the City of Greater Dandenong through a four-year service agreement, commencing 1 July 2025 and concluding 30 June 2029. (Total allocation being \$340,000 over the four-year period);**
- 3. NOTES that the Interfaith Network within the City of Greater Dandenong also receive in-kind support from Council through the of provision of accommodation at a significantly reduced rate;**
- 4. ENDORSES the development of clearer service agreement deliverables aligned to Council Plan Priorities; and**
- 5. INVITES the Executive Committee of the Interfaith Network to attend a future Councillor Briefing Session to outline their strategic plan and future priorities.**

CARRIED 9 / 0



3.1.2 Medium Grants Program 2025 Round 1

Responsible Officer:	Executive Director Community Strengthening
Attachments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Recommended Applications Community Development Grants (3) [3.1.2.1 - 1 page]2. Recommended Applications Climate Change Action Grants (1) [3.1.2.2 - 1 page]3. Recommended Applications Arts Festivals and Events Grants (3) [3.1.2.3 - 1 page]4. Recommended Applications Individual Artist Grants (1) [3.1.2.4 - 1 page]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** the awarding of Community Development Grants to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 1;
2. **APPROVES** the awarding of Climate Change Action Grants to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 2;
3. **APPROVES** the awarding of Arts, Festivals and Events Grants to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 3 of this report, and
4. **APPROVES** the awarding of Individual Artist Grants to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 4 of this report.

Executive Summary

1. Through the Medium Grants Program Council offers not-for-profit community groups, organisations and individual artists the opportunity to apply for one-off grants to support delivery of projects, programs and events that benefit the Greater Dandenong community.
2. This report outlines the assessment of applications submitted to four (4) grant categories under the Medium Grants Program 2025 Round 1:
 - a. Community Development.
 - b. Climate Change Action.
 - c. Arts, Festivals and Events.
 - d. Individual Artist.
3. All applications have been checked for eligibility by Council officers and assessed by an independent Community Grants Assessment Panel. The Panel recommendations are presented in this report.

Background

4. The Community Funding Program and Policy Review was conducted from April to December 2023. The outcome of the Review resulted in a new consolidated Community Grants Program Policy that incorporates strategic, governance, and operational improvements and responds to emerging community needs.



5. Under the Medium Grants Program there are two (2) funding rounds per annum. This report considers Round One application for 2025.

Key Issues and Discussion

Eligibility Check

6. Applications made to the Medium Grants Program undergo an eligibility check by Council officers to ensure that applicants are:
 - incorporated non-profit organisations (unless auspiced),
 - meeting key compliance requirements of Consumer Affairs Victoria, and
 - have met past grants acquittal reporting requirements of Council.
7. Applications deemed eligible are progressed for assessment. Ineligible applications do not progress, and officers will advise applicants of this outcome upon endorsement of this Report.

Community Grants Assessment Panels

8. Community Grants Assessment Panels include community representatives and Council officers with broad experience and diverse knowledge.
9. Panel members are governed by a Terms of Reference and a signed Code of Conduct. Each member completed an induction process and throughout the training and assessment process were supported by Council officers.
10. For each grant category individual panel members were tasked to complete an initial online assessment. These assessment scores were then consolidated and presented to a scheduled panel meeting for qualitative discussion and final recommendations.

Round One of the 2025 Medium Grants Program

11. Round One of the 2025 Medium Grants Program was opened online on 3 February 2025 and closed on 3 March 2025.
12. This round was highly promoted via electronic and printed material, through Council networks and social media.
13. Grant information and writing workshops were offered in person and via online platforms. Applicants also had opportunity to access face-to-face and remote support from Council officers to assist them develop grant applications.

Category 1 - Community Development Grants

14. This grant category offers single year grants of up to \$10,000 for projects that build community capacity, foster social inclusion, create healthy partnerships, prevent family violence, advance gender equity, and promote community harmony and participation.
15. A total of 24 applications were submitted to the Community Development Grants category. One (1) application was withdrawn, and one (1) application was ruled ineligible.
16. This left a total of 22 applications to be assessed seeking total funding of \$164,816.
17. The Community Grants Assessment Panel members individually assessed applications online from 14 April to 5 May 2025. The Panel convened on 7 May 2025 to qualitatively discuss the consolidated applications and make final recommendations. Following this it is recommended that 11 applications be funded a total of **\$72,382**.
18. A list of all applications recommended for funding through the Community Development Grants category is provided in Attachment 1.



Category 2 - Climate Change Action Grants

19. This grant category offers single year grants of up to \$5,000 for projects that deliver climate related or other positive environmental outcome and assist Council in its commitment to tackling climate change.
20. A total of two (2) applications were submitted to the Climate Change Action Grants category. One (1) application was withdrawn.
21. This left a total of one (1) application to be assessed seeking total funding of \$4,950.
22. The Community Grants Assessment Panel members individually assessed applications online from 14 April to 5 May 2025. The Panel convened on 7 May 2025 to qualitatively discuss the application and make final recommendations. Following this it is recommended that one (1) application be funded a total of **\$4,950**.
23. A list of all applications recommended for funding through the Climate Change Action Grants category is provided in Attachment 2.

Category 3 – Arts, Festivals and Events Grants

24. This grant category offers single year grants of up to \$10,000 for projects that promote community connection, cross cultural exchange, and appreciation of cultural diversity. Arts, festivals, and events play an integral part in building and supporting broad community involvement and social cohesion.
25. A total of 24 applications were submitted to the Arts, Festivals and Event Grants category. One (1) application was withdrawn and four (4) were ruled ineligible.
26. This left a total of 19 applications to be assessed seeking total funding of \$165,715.
27. The Community Grants Assessment Panel members individually assessed applications online from 14 April to 5 May 2025. The Panel convened on 8 May 2025 to qualitatively discuss the consolidated applications and make final recommendations. Following this it is recommended that eleven (11) applications be funded a total of **\$75,835**.
28. A list of all applications recommended for funding through the Arts, Festivals and Events Grants category is provided in Attachment 3.

Category 4 - Individual Artist Grants

29. This grant category offers single year grants of up to \$5,000 to individuals to develop community-based arts/cultural projects, develop relationships with community and create art that responds to community needs.
30. A total of two (2) applications were submitted to the Individual Artist Grants category. One (1) application was withdrawn.
31. This left a total of 1 application to be assessed seeking total funding of \$5,000
32. The Community Grants Assessment Panel member individually assessed applications online from 14 April to 5 May 2025. The Panel convened on 8 May 2025 to qualitatively discuss the consolidated applications and make final recommendations. Following this it is recommended that one (1) application be funded a total of **\$5,000**.
33. A list of all applications recommended for funding through the Individual Artist Grants category is provided in Attachment 4.

Support for Unsuccessful Applicants

34. All unsuccessful applicants will be contacted by officers and offered feedback and assistance to support them to submit an application to Round Two of the 2025 Medium Grants Program.
35. This round is scheduled to open on 14 July 2025.



Grant Acquittal Reports

36. Progress towards achieving outcomes is monitored with grant recipients throughout the duration of the program. Grant recipients are also required to submit a grant acquittal report within one month of the project being completed. The report will include a description of the activities delivered and outcomes achieved by the grant recipients and detail on how the funds were spent.
37. Failure to submit the required acquittal and/or deliver the outcomes agreed as part of the grant allocation would lead to the recipient being ineligible for future grant allocation.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

38. 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

39. The financial implications associated with this report are a one-off cost of \$158,167 ($=\$72,382 + \$4,950 + \$75,835 + \$5,000$) with no ongoing costs in future year budgets.
40. The Medium Grants Program has a budget of \$357,392 for the 2025-26 financial year and this leaves \$199,225 ($= \$357,392 - \$158,167$) to be allocated in Round Two.

Asset Implications

41. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Community Consultation

44. Councils Community Grants Program is extensively promoted via electronic and printed material, through Council networks and social media. Grant information and writing workshops were offered both in person and online. In addition, community groups had the opportunity to access face-to-face and remote support from Council officers to assist them develop grant applications.
45. During the assessment process Council Officers consulted with staff from across the organisations to seek information and advice regarding the merits of all funding applications.
46. Officers conducted extensive eligibility checks of applications including compliance documentation, financial report, past grants acquittal history and other matters where relevant.
47. All eligible applications were assessed by Community Grants Assessment Panels. Panels include community representatives and Council officers with broad experience and diverse knowledge.
48. Community Grants Assessment Panel's recommendations of eligible applications for funding are presented for endorsement.



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

49. 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.

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

51. 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

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

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

MINUTE No.134

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Loi Truong

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** the awarding of Community Development Grants to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 1;
2. **APPROVES** the awarding of Climate Change Action Grants to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 2;
3. **APPROVES** the awarding of Arts, Festivals and Events Grants to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 3 of this report, and
4. **APPROVES** the awarding of Individual Artist Grants to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 4 of this report.

CARRIED 9 / 0



3.1.3 A Review of Gambling Issues for Greater Dandenong

Responsible Officer: Executive Manager Strategy Growth & Advocacy

Attachments: 1. A review of gambling issues for local government [3.1.3.1 - 80 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council

1. **NOTES the Review of Gambling Issues for the City of Greater Dandenong Community (refer Attachment 1 Report); and**
2. **NOTES the gambling review document will become a publicly available resource for community education and advocacy purposes.**

Executive Summary

1. Each year, Greater Dandenong residents lose nearly \$340 million to gambling. This report informs Council of the scale, impact and harm inflicted by gambling upon our community, and of efforts by Council to address gambling harm.
2. Accurate information about the impact of gambling on community's wellbeing is important for community education, advocacy and policy development.

Background

Legal gambling

3. Legal gambling in Victoria includes sports betting, racing, lotteries, keno, lotto, electronic gambling machines (EGMs or 'pokies') and the Casino.
4. EGMs account for nearly half of all legal gambling losses and most gambling problems, as they are widely accessible and provide people with the means to gamble continuously. In 2023/24, \$138 million was lost to EGMs operating in 14 pubs and clubs in Greater Dandenong - an average of \$378,000 each day, and equal to the cost of adequately feeding 46,000 children for a whole year. This is equivalent to \$1,089 per adult – the second highest rate of losses per adult in Victoria.
5. Sports betting holds further concerns; due to its rising popularity and the role it plays in consolidating gambling practices among young adults. The development of internet technology, increasing access to smart phones, coupled with a proliferation of gambling operators and pervasive advertising, have contributed to its rise. A growing number of young people, especially in sporting environments, are adopting sports betting as a regular source of recreation.

Impact of Gambling Problems

6. Most regular gamblers experience some level of harm from gambling. Problems generally arise when individuals persistently lose more money than they can comfortably afford. Practical experience in our community shows this often results in financial hardship, poverty, personal stress, family conflict and violence, deceptive actions to obtain money, distraction from work responsibilities, and homelessness.
7. Gambling problems tend to be most prevalent among younger people, those with limited formal education, on lower incomes or in menial occupations.



8. The gambling industry claims that it supports the community and creates jobs. However, studies conducted by the State and Federal Governments have shown that jobs created in the gambling industry are matched by reduced employment in other businesses.
9. In addition, while club gambling venues donate money to support local community initiatives, in 2023/24, just 1.6 per cent of their gambling revenue was donated to our community as gifts, donations, sponsorships and support for veterans.

How Council Responds to Gambling Issues in our Community

10. Council's Gambling Policy, last updated in 2022 and scheduled for revision next year, sets out several important strands of Council activity to address gambling harm.
11. Monitoring gambling trends - monitoring information about the scale and impact of gaming in our community, informs Council and residents, permits sharing with local government partners and supports efforts to advocate for reform.
12. Informing residents about gambling harm and sources of help - Council informs residents about the destructive consequences of gambling while advising of sources of advice or support for people experiencing gambling problems. It does this through Council screens, website, brochures and social media. Council also promotes alternate sources of recreation and social fulfillment.
13. A balanced relationship with the gambling industry - Council maintains a relationship with the gambling industry that sets a distance between Council's functions and gambling activities. Council's policy stipulates that it may not accept funds from the gambling industry, shall deter Council-supported clubs from doing likewise, and prohibit gambling advertising at Council-owned venues (except any functioning as a gambling venue). Council also discourages staff from conducting activities in gambling venues where alternatives are available.
14. Responding to gambling applications - Council responds to applications for new gambling venues, or increased numbers of EGMs at existing venues, with consideration of the merits of each application as well as the harm that additional EGMs may inflict upon residents. Three applications were received in each of the years 2017 to 2019, all of them successfully opposed by Council at hearings of the Victorian Casino and Gambling Control Commission, resulting in a significant reduction of EGMs in this municipality as well as the removal of a gambling venue.
15. Advocacy for Gambling Reform - Council's most important work is in advocacy for reforms to the regulation of gambling. The foundation of much of this work is its collaboration with the Alliance for Gambling Reform. Council is a founding and financial member of the Alliance - a partnership between local governments, community groups, researchers and people with personal experience of gambling.
 - a. Council supplies detailed information to the Alliance about gambling trends to help inform its work, supports its campaigns with letters and advocacy to local parliamentarians, and participates in consultations to help set the direction of its work. Council has also strongly advocated on its own account for other reforms, including further reductions in the maximum number of EGMs permitted to operate in this municipality.
 - b. Reforms such as the removal of ATMs from gaming rooms, reduction in maximum EFTPOS withdrawals, encouragement of AFL clubs to relinquish their gaming venues, and lower EGM numbers in disadvantaged communities are largely a consequence of targeted and strategic advocacy by the Alliance.



- c. More recently, the Alliance had focused upon advocacy for reduced opening hours for gambling venues and the establishment of a mandatory precommitment mechanism for the use of electronic gambling machines – a process Council supported through the provision of information about gambling trends and communication with local parliamentarians. The efforts of the Alliance were instrumental in the 2023 State Government announcement of these reforms.
- d. In the wake of the Federal election, the Alliance was escalating its campaign for a national ban on gambling advertising – among the recommendation of the 2023 recommendations of the House of Representatives Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs (the Murphy Report).
- e. The Alliance also supports other proposals featured in this landmark report, such as ban on free games and other inducements offered to players, a crackdown on illegal gambling sites, improved support for people seeking help with gambling problems, reduced access by minors to games which feature simulated gambling, and the establishment of a national strategy to address the rise of online gambling.
- f. The Alliance also advocates the prohibition of donations to Australian political parties or candidates by the gambling industry.

Key Issues and Discussion

16. Losses to legal gambling in Greater Dandenong, and particularly to electronic gambling machines (EGMs) or 'pokies', worsens financial hardship among residents and communities. An understanding of the scope of such gambling losses, and some of the ways in which Council seeks to moderate the impact of gambling by advocating for reform to its regulation and other means, may help to guide future Council decisions about this topic.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

17. 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

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

Asset Implications

19. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

20. There are no legal / risk implications relevant to this report. The purpose of this report is to make available two updated gambling resources for use within the public realm.

Environmental Implications

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



Community Consultation

22. There was no requirement for community consultation.

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

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

- Safe and peaceful community.
- Education, training, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.

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

25. 2021-25:

- A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
- A Council that demonstrates leadership and a commitment to investing in the community.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

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*.
- Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.

MOTION

Moved by: Cr Lana Formoso

Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That Council

1. **NOTES** the Review of Gambling Issues for the City of Greater Dandenong Community (refer Attachment 1 Report); and
2. **NOTES** the gambling review document will become a publicly available resource for community education and advocacy purposes.

MINUTE No.135

Moved by: Cr Sophie Tan

Seconded by: Cr Lana Formoso

That Council defers this Item to a future Council Meeting to consider additional feedback from Councillors.

CARRIED 9 / 0



3.1.4 Future Use of Robert Booth Reserve

Responsible Officer:	Executive Director Community Strengthening
Attachments:	1. Council Meeting Minutes 190408 - Athletics Development Plan 2019 [3.1.4.1 - 55 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES** the ongoing implementation of the Athletics Development Plan 2019 and associated activities delivered to date;
2. **APPROVES** the development of a masterplan, for Robert Booth Reserve to guide the long-term strategic direction and use of its facilities;
3. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the Dandenong Little Athletics Centre as a key stakeholder in the masterplan development process;
4. **APPROVES** the continued use of the Robert Booth Reservice Athletics facility by the Dandenong Little Athletics Centre, subject to special conditions; and
5. **APPROVES** 2025/2026 capital funds allocated for site decommissioning to be reallocated to fund the master plan development and site maintenance. (subject to endorsement of the 2025/2026 Capital Improvement budget)

Executive Summary

1. On 8 April 2019, Council endorsed the 'Athletics Development Plan 2019' to guide the future provision of athletics in the City of Greater Dandenong (CGD). (Refer Appendix A).
2. Since its adoption in 2019, Council has taken significant steps to implement the recommendations of the Plan by upgrading and redeveloping Ross Reserve to a World Athletics Certificate II facility in 2023/24.
3. Following the redevelopment works, it was intended that Ross Reserve would serve as the primary athletics facility maintained by Council, with Robert Booth Athletics to be evaluated for alternative use.
4. It was also the intention that Dandenong Little Athletics Centre (DLAC) transition to operate from the new, fit for purpose athletics facility at Ross Reserve.
5. DLAC have since requested Council reconsider its decision to relocate them to the new venue at Ross Reserve, as this will create barriers for their members who live locally to Robert Booth.
6. As a result, Council has worked collaboratively with the Club and Little Athletics Victoria (the state sporting body that represents Little Athletics in Victoria) to establish modified activity plans and safety assessments to allow for the safe and ongoing use of the facility while Council affirms its position on the ongoing use of Robert Booth Reserve.
7. This report recommends that a masterplan for Robert Booth Reserve be developed as per the Athletics Development Plan to inform future investment and long-term decision making.
8. The Dandenong Little Athletics Centre would be considered a key stakeholder in the masterplan development process.



9. While the masterplan process is underway, the ongoing use of the facility by the Dandenong Little Athletics Club is also recommended under restricted conditions and the continuation of modified activity plans and safety assessments.

Background

10. On 8 April 2019, Council endorsed the 'Athletics Development Plan 2019' to guide the future provision of athletics in the City of Greater Dandenong (CGD).
11. The Plan includes 29 recommendations across a range of categories, including club sustainability, infrastructure improvements, programming and events.
12. All CGD Athletic Clubs were consulted to inform the development of the Plan, including Dandenong Little Athletics Centre.
13. A key recommendation was to designate Ross Reserve as the main athletics facility for the municipality. Additionally, it recommended a masterplan was developed for the Robert Booth Reserve Athletics facility to better understand its long-term use and strategic direction.
14. This recommendation was informed by several factors, including levels of participation, utilisation by residents, aging assets and compliance with relevant national sporting guidelines.
15. Since its adoption in 2019, Council has taken significant steps to implement the recommendations of the Plan by upgrading and redeveloping Ross Reserve to a World Athletics Certificate II facility in 2023/24.
16. Following the upgrade and redevelopment works, it was proposed that Ross Reserve would be the only athletics facility retained by Council and Robert Booth would be considered for alternative use.
17. The recent condition assessment carried out by SPORTENG in 2024, following an internal risk assessment, identified substantial deficiencies, requiring remedial actions and upgrades to ensure the facility meets minimum standards, including:
 - a. Compliance with relevant national sporting guidelines,
 - b. Facility user safety, and
 - c. Usability/functionality.
18. The Robert Booth Reserve Athletics Facility is currently tenanted by the Dandenong Little Athletics Centre who utilise the facility on a seasonal allocation arrangement. The centre comprises of three clubs, Doveton-Endeavour Hills, Hampton Park and Narre Warren.
19. Little Athletics Victoria participation data shows DLAC have doubled their participants in 2022/23 from 32 to 66 in 2023/24. Thirty percent (30%) of these participants reside within the municipality, noting that the facility is located on the border with the City of Casey.
20. DLAC utilise the facility over the summer season (October to March), two nights a week for training and on Saturday mornings for competition
21. In consideration of the recommendations, Council has reviewed different options with the Dandenong Little Athletics Centre, including relocation to Ross Reserve. However, the preferred option for the Dandenong Little Athletics Centre is to remain at the Robert Booth Reserve facility.
22. As a result, Council has worked collaboratively with Dandenong Little Athletics Centre and Little Athletics Victoria to establish modified activity plans and safety assessments to allow for the safe and ongoing use of the facility in the interim.
23. The modified activity plans and safety assessments have been implemented to minimise the risk to users, restricting access and levels of activity to certain areas of the facility deemed as high-risk.



Key Issues and Discussion

24. There has been no significant capital investment or preventative maintenance undertaken at the Robert Booth Athletics facility since 2019, which has been guided by the Athletics Development Plan 2019.
25. Independent assessments conducted by SportsTurf Consultants Pty Ltd and SPORTENG have identified substantial risks, deficiencies, and necessary upgrades should the facility continue to operate as an athletics venue.
26. The SPORTENG condition assessment provides a list of remedial works required, however, the implementation of these recommendations has not been costed. What is known is that required drainage works are significant.
27. The Robert Booth Athletics facility has been traditionally used by local primary schools for school carnivals, with coordination and administration of athletic activities being handled in conjunction with the Dandenong Little Athletics Centre.
28. Two schools have opted out of using the facility this year, given the conditions and alternative arrangements have been made by Council to provide Ross Reserve as a secondary option.
29. Due to the risks identified in the condition assessment, no future school bookings are permitted at Robert Booth Reserve until a decision is made on the future investment of the facility.
30. The modified activity plans and safety assessments were developed as an interim solution and attempt to support the club until a long-term solution could be identified.
31. A long-term decision on the future capital investment and strategic direction of the Robert Booth Reserve facility is required to understand future use and mitigate financial, environmental and reputational risks to Council.
32. It is recommended that a masterplan for Robert Booth Reserve is developed as per the Athletics Development Plan to inform future investment and long-term decision making.
33. While the masterplan process is underway, ongoing restricted use of the facility by the Dandenong Little Athletics Centre is recommended under the following **special conditions**:
 - a. That the club continues to modify how they utilise the facility and provide annual modified activity plans and safety assessments for the infrastructure elements / areas identified as being the highest risk to users.
 - b. That the club continues to obtain written approval and sign off by the state sporting governing body, LAV on any modified use for the areas to ensure any ongoing athletic sanctioned activities that continue at the facility is covered by LAV affiliated club liability insurance.
 - c. That the facility is not to be used for any other organisations or groups other than the Dandenong Little Athletics Centre until the completion of the masterplan and a future direction of the reserve is confirmed.
 - d. That the facility is not to be used for any school carnival activities, until funding becomes available to complete the required remedial works.
34. Other options considered include:
 - a. Discontinuing the use of the facility and incentivised relocation of the Club to Ross Reserve.
 - b. Returning the land to open space for the benefit of the local community in line with the Open Space Strategy 2020-2030.
 - c. Discontinuing the facility until the remedial repair works identified in the SPORTENG condition assessment are completed and incentivised relocation of the Club to Ross Reserve while works are underway.
35. The masterplan will allow for more robust community consultation and a more considered long-term view of the financial, environmental and reputational risks for Council.



Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

36. 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

37. The financial implications and costs would need to be scoped in more detail depending on the option selected however, some high-level considerations are provided below.

38. The cost to develop and complete a masterplan for the facilities at Robert Booth Reserve is approximately \$100,000.

39. There is no additional cost to council for the immediate ongoing operational use of the facility in the short to medium term.

40. A submission to decommission the Robert Booth Reserve athletics facility has been submitted for Council consideration as part of the FY 2025/26 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) bid. This project includes costs associated with the removal of the existing athletics infrastructure and the return of the site to open space (\$240,900).

41. It is recommended that this funding is re-allocated to fund the Robert Booth Reserve Masterplan (\$100,000), with the remainder of funds held (\$140,900) for maintenance and/or masterplan implementation.

42. The costs associated with alternative options are provided below:

- a. Discontinue all use of the facility (approximately \$20k operational savings per year)
 - i. Decrease in operational costs associated with labour and material to maintain the outdoor facility. Currently costs Council \$14,300 per annum.
 - ii. Decrease in water usage from irrigation to Council by approximately \$3,420 per annum.
 - iii. Decrease in operational costs for the use of the pavilion and future renewal costs.
- b. Discontinue all use of the facility until the completion of the remedial/ repair works identified in the SPORTENG condition assessment
 - i. Detailed site investigation work is approximately \$80,000-\$100,000 to understand the true costs of the remedial/ repair works.
 - ii. A high-level cost estimate for the remedial works / repairs to address the high-risk areas outlined in condition assessment is approximately \$416,650 including contingency funds.
 - iii. The cost to fix the sub-surface drainage was over \$250,000 in 2018. The recommended full reconstruction required as part of the assessment was estimated at over \$2 million in 2018, pending detailed design and investigation.

Asset Implications

43. As outlined above and within the Athletics Development Plan 2019.



Legal/Risk Implications

44. Two independent reports and an internal risk assessment have identified significant financial, safety and reputational risks with the ongoing use of the Robert Booth Reserve facility in its current state.
45. Council must ensure public facilities are safe and functional. Failure to address these risks could lead to significant litigation due to possible injuries and reputational damage.

Environmental Implications

46. Environmental implications will be considered subject to the selected option.

Community Consultation

47. Extensive community and stakeholder consultation was conducted as part of the development of the Athletics Development Plan 2019, including workshops conducted with all CGD Athletics Clubs.
48. Ongoing consultation has occurred with Dandenong Little Athletics Centre as part of the implementation of the Plan and its recommendations, including the option of relocating clubs to the Ross Reserve facility.
49. Council has worked collaboratively with Dandenong Little Athletics Centre and Little Athletics Victoria to establish modified activity plans and safety assessments to allow for the safe and ongoing use of the facility in the interim.
50. A full community consultation process would occur as part of the recommended Masterplan process, inclusive of DLAC as a key stakeholder.

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

51. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
 - Sustainable environment.
 - Mind, body and spirit.
52. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan
53. 2021-25:
 - A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
 - A green city committed to a sustainable future.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

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



ALTERNATE MOTION

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Isabella Do

That Council:

- 1. ACKNOWLEDGES that Robert Booth Reserve is currently used by both the Dandenong Little Athletics Club (DLAC) and the broader community as open space, and that this dual use has functioned effectively and consistently over time;**
- 2. RECOGNISES the ongoing, inclusive and community-beneficial use of Robert Booth Reserve by DLAC;**
- 3. CONFIRMS that DLAC will continue to operate at its current site at Robert Booth Reserve and will not be required to relocate to Ross Reserve;**
- 4. COMMITS to maintaining the current site to ensure it remains safe and functional for ongoing community use, including for Little Athletics;**
- 5. REMOVES the previously allocated \$240,000 from the budget intended for decommissioning the site;**
- 6. ALLOCATES \$40,000 of these funds to:**
 - o Repair the existing sprinkler system;**
 - o Reinstate public signage for Dandenong Little Athletics on Clow Street;**
- 7. DIRECTS that the remaining \$200,000 be returned to general revenue for reallocation in accordance with Council's budgetary priorities;**
- 8. DOES NOT proceed with a master plan that assumes or requires the displacement of DLAC, and instead supports a shared-use model that retains community sport access on the site;**
- 9. ENSURES any future planning for the reserve is done in consultation with DLAC and the broader local community, prioritising equitable access, inclusion, and evidence-based community need.**

MINUTE No.136

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Seconded by: Cr Lana Formoso

That Council defers this Item to a future Council Meeting to consider additional feedback from Councillors.

CARRIED 7 / 2

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

Against - Cr Isabella Do and Cr Rhonda Garad.



3.1.5 List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance, Legal & Risk
Attachments: 1. List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors [3.1.5.1 - 2 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That the listed items for the period 19 May to 30 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 19 May to 30 May 2025.

MINUTE No.137

Moved by: Cr Loi Truong

Seconded by: Cr Melinda Yim

That the listed items for the period 19 May to 30 May 2025 provided in Attachment 1 to this report be received and noted.

CARRIED 9 / 0



4 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.



5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

There is a constant problem with the Grandview Avenue gate, it is not being locked as it should be. Numerous complaints have been lodged with Council. Last week, a car was driven in and burnt out on the creek beside the Robert Booth Reserve. The security of the reserve is compromised continually because this gate is not locked. How will Council ensure that the contractor does their job and make sure that this gate, which is not supposed to be opened at any time except for an emergency, is locked?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

To clarify, this was not part of Council's contract prior to February 2025. It has only been added to our security services since then. Council's contractors lock up and they have the schedule to prove that. Clubs also have access to the keys for this gate. Officers will work with the Community Strengthening team and the clubs to ensure the gates are locked after use.

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

Many residents are asking for an update on the Dandenong Art Gallery. Can we have an update on the removal of the Precinct Energy Plant (PEP) building? When will work resume? What is the expected opening date?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

The PEP building is currently being removed, that is why the project is on pause. The removal will be completed by August or September this year. Then we will continue to work on the procurement process for the new art gallery. Our expected time for completion of the project is around 18 to 24 months.

Question

Cr Melinda Yim

Earlier last week, I was contacted by a resident regarding the removal of two Australia post boxes. One along Darren Road and the second along Corrigan Road, Keysborough. Is it possible to reinstate another post box between these spots, as the closest to this resident is now along Kingsclere Avenue or Parkmore Shopping Centre?

Response

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

I know that Australia Post issues are very prolific currently because they seem to be rationalising several of their post offices across Australia, as well as some of the post office boxes. It is not the responsibility of Council to provide post offices or post boxes. However, we have an important role as a major community and local government organisation to advocate on behalf of our residents. I will look at developing a letter and meeting with the Victorian manager.



Comment

Cr Sophie Tan, Deputy Mayor

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

- On Tuesday 27 May 2025, I attended a Mother's Day celebration hosted by the Vietnamese Australian Senior Association (VASA);
- On Friday 30 May 2025, I attended the Biggest Morning Tea Cancer Council fundraising event hosted by the Noble Park Community Centre;
- On Tuesday 3 June 2025, I attended the Reconciliation Week event hosted by the Springvale Library; and
- On Friday 6 June 2025, I attended the exhibition launch "Resilience" by our local artist Janine Durston at the Noble Park Community Centre. I want to congratulate Janine and the Noble Park Community Centre for celebrating and supporting our artists.

Question

Cr Sophie Tan, Deputy Mayor

Regarding the removal of the Red River Gum Tree at 51A Douglas Street, Council have been allocated \$550,000 to initially plant 15 trees in the Noble Park Activity Centre. This has potentially been increased to 180 trees now. When will Council start planting those trees?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

We will plant 180 semi-mature trees within the Noble Park Activity Centre and surrounding suburbs. Our teams are working on a plan to provide that information to the community. All the planting will happen during this planting season, which is from May to October.

Comment

Cr Loi Truong

On Tuesday 27 May 2025, I attended a Mother's Day celebration hosted by VASA.

Comment

Cr Phillip Danh

The Noble Park Community Centre will be hosting a free information session regarding upcoming changes to the government-funded in-home care and aged care programs and the new Support at Home program for interested residents on the 26 June 2025 at 12.00pm.

Question

Cr Phillip Danh

A couple of Saturdays ago, there was a reuse and recycle drop-off day at Greaves Reserve, Dandenong. Given that rubbish dumping has been an issue in my ward, I was interested to hear the results and feedback from an event like that and whether it has a substantial impact on reducing illegal rubbish dumping?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

It is popular and is held four times per year. Last time, around 485 vehicles used it. It is a good take-up, and we do reuse and recycle several materials we receive there. It does help in preventing some illegal dumping, but illegal dumping is still a significant issue for us. We are looking at other options to manage that over the next few years.



Question

Cr Phillip Danh

I saw a news item on the ABC last week about a local library in Perth that engages social work students to engage with young people and students. Libraries are a safe haven for many people in our community, one of the few places where people of all ages and backgrounds can gather to socialise without the expectation of spending money. I noticed there was a Youth Hive program at Knox Library, where youth workers are present from 2-5pm on weekdays to engage students and young people, providing support and information. I know Springvale and Dandenong libraries have great programs throughout the year, but I was wondering if there are any similar programs targeted at youth at Greater Dandenong libraries? I have not been able to find any information.

Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

We are familiar with that program, and it is popular. We have tried something similar in Springvale. I will provide a more detailed response on how that went and future plans for similar programming here.

Comment

Cr Isabella Do

I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to Judith from the Greater Dandenong Environment Group on receiving the Medal of the Order of Australia.

I was also grateful to attend the performance "On the Land on Which We Meet" at the Drum Theatre for Reconciliation Week. I want to thank our arts team for making this happen and supporting programs like this.

Traffic, transport, and road safety are high priorities for me. I met recently with Council's Manager for Transport and Civil Development, as well as our Chief Engineer and Major Projects team, to ensure I continue to gain a better understanding of our priorities and what we are working on.

I also attended the launch of the Young Councils Network this past weekend, hosted by the Victorian Local Governance Association.

Question

Cr Isabella Do

I want to thank Marjan Hajjari for answering Phillip's public question earlier. Can you please clarify if and when we expect our library staff to go through the higher level of organisational training you mentioned, so we can have that rainbow sticker displayed at our new Community Hub?

Response

Marjan Hajjari, Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy

It is not just about the training. Getting this sticker requires going through steps of accreditation process, which is resource and budget-intensive. I do not have the exact figure, but if I recall, it may cost around \$50,000 to \$45,000 per service, and it stays for three years before reassessment. We will look at the budget and opportunities to consider that. However, it does not mean our buildings or services are unsafe for our community, including our LGBTQIA+ community. The most important thing is that we have our Diversity, Access, and Equity Policy, which welcomes all our communities. The accreditation process for the rainbow sticker is something we need to consider carefully.



Question

Cr Isabella Do

What is Council doing to address the community feedback on the Safe Dispensing Unit located in Springvale?

Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

Council recognises the feedback received from the community. The Safe Dispensing Unit in Springvale is managed by Monash Health. Council has been working with Monash Health and Victoria Police regarding community safety concerns. We will soon distribute an education flyer for the community to help understand the Safe Dispensing Unit and its purpose. If people witness discarded syringes in the local area, we encourage them to contact Council's customer service team for cleansing services. If anyone feels unsafe, they can report to Crime Stoppers or call Triple Zero in immediate danger. More broadly, CEO Jacqui Weatherill has spoken to the CEO of Monash Health, and we are arranging to meet with them to discuss the Safe Dispensing Unit and ways to better support the community.

Comment

Cr Lana Formoso

We had the Africa Day Gala dinner earlier this month, which was sensational with over 550 guests from over 82 different communities.

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

I received an email about a delay with the Lyndale Pavillion kitchen. Are we still on schedule for the new completion date of 20 June 2025?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

We are on track to deliver that on 20 June 2025.

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

On the Greater Dandenong website, the Greater Dandenong Table Tennis Club is not listed in the "Find a Local Sports Club" category. Could someone rectify that as soon as possible and perhaps do an audit to ensure all our clubs are listed so people are aware of what we have in the City of Greater Dandenong?

Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

We will investigate that immediately.

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

I have noticed that half of Police Road, from the Sporting Ground through to the Princes Highway, has been resurfaced in the last few years. However, there are many potholes from Dandenong North to Mulgrave. Could we write a letter to VicRoads and the local member asking for that to be rectified immediately? The whole road needs to be resurfaced.

Response

Cr Jim Memeti, Mayor

Yes, we will write a letter to VicRoads and the local member regarding this issue.



Comment

Cr Jim Memeti, Mayor

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

- I was happy to attend the launch of "Eats Dandenong" at 56 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong. It is a great place with plenty of food from different nationalities;
- We also had Reconciliation Week, which started on 27 May in Harmony Square. Hundreds of people attended, and it closed in Springvale on the 3 June, in conjunction with the Springvale Library;
- Many people in our community celebrated Eid, Eid Mubarak to those who celebrated;
- I also attended the Lonsdale project on Mason Street, Dandenong, which has 107 apartments and six retail shops on the ground level; and
- I also visited the Vespertine Gardens Project in Cadle Street, Dandenong. Congratulations to them for bringing this project to life.

The following report was tabled by Cr Sean O'Reilly.

Council Report: MAV State Council

Date

Friday 16 May 2025

Location

Melbourne Town Hall, Swanston Street Melbourne.

Authors

- Cr Sean O'Reilly
- Marjan Hajjari, Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy

Minister for Local Government – Address by Hon. Nick Staikos MP

The Minister provided an overview of key concerns and initiatives affecting local government, highlighting both current issues and opportunities for reform:

Councillor Behaviour and Governance

- Six councils currently have monitors in place due to governance concerns.
- Poor councillor behaviour affects decision-making, staff morale, and community trust.
- Misconduct mainly involves interactions among councillors.
- Personal attacks on social media are a significant issue.

CEO Recruitment Support

LGMap will support councils in recruiting CEOs by providing best practice tools and frameworks.



Key Policy and Operational Issues

Waste Management

Waste services are a top statewide issue; graffiti removal is not considered a priority.

Rate Capping and Financial Sustainability

- Hepburn Shire's 10% rate cap variation was supported due to strong long-term planning.
- Suggestion: Seek coaching or advice from ESC on rate cap variation feasibility.

Council Assets and Representation

- Local governments manage over \$140 billion in assets.
- 28 councils have 50% women councilors; overall, around 43% are women.
- Councils are encouraged to formally acknowledge the role of women in leadership.

Rates Collection and Hardship

Financial hardship policies are inconsistently applied across councils; standardisation is recommended.

Public Libraries

- Public view of libraries as community hubs improved from ~50% in 2006 to ~80% in 2022.
- A revised funding model for libraries is under consideration.

Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Updates

Financial Position

- MAV considering fee-for-service model expansion.
- A small deficit was reported, attributed to service expansion efforts.
- Commercial Crime Fund and Liability Mutual Insurance (LMI) still operating.
- LGE Health Plan reported a surplus.
- Combined MAV deficit driven by LMI, expected recovery in FY 2024–25.
- MAV remains solvent and is investing to increase income.

Advocacy and Reform

- MAV pushing for reform of the Financial Services Levy (FSL).
- Emergency Services Levy criticised as a cost shift.
- Planning reforms are in progress.

Strategic Planning and Innovation

- Future of Local Government Taskforce exploring long-term viability.
- AI projects being explored to boost efficiency.
- Mayoral delegation to Canberra planned for August to influence national policy.

Motions at MAV State Council

MAV considered several strategic and contested motions during the session:

Notable Motions

1. Motion 13 – Waste Service Charge: Contested as insufficient.
2. Debate on Toxic Online Media: Concerns raised about councillor safety and integrity.
3. Debate on Asylum Seekers: Differing opinions on council's role in advocacy.



Date: 2 June 2025

END OF REPORT

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



COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE/REQUIRING FURTHER ACTION

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
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
12/05/25 CQT10	Cr Lana Formoso	Letters to local MPs for congratulations and promised project delivery 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?	Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy		Initial response provided 12/05/2025: 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. FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED
12/05/25 CQT11	Cr Lana Formoso	Timeline on demolition of Hennessy Scout Hall 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?	Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy		Initial response provided 12/05/2025: 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. FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED

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

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Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
26/05/25 CQT1	Cr Bob Milkovic	Bike trail, Tirhatuan Park At Tirhatuan Park, Dandenong North there is a bike trail that goes around the creek. On that trail there is a tight corner that cannot be widened. The foliage interrupts the view of the cyclists and pedestrians. There are mothers with young children in prams walking around and it is dangerous if you come at speed on a bike. I know the foliage can be cleared, but can we look at putting warning signs or mirrors for the cyclists? Some of them go at high speed.	Executive Director City Futures	06/06/2025	Initial response provided 26/05/2025: We will investigate and explore options to improve the safety of that location. Further response provided 06/06/2025: Council Officers have reviewed the path along the creek and whilst there are several locations where visibility is reduced due to the alignment of the path and adjacent foliage, they are unsure of the exact location in question. If you are able to provide an exact location to myself or our traffic engineers directly via RoadSafety@cgd.vic.gov.au we can investigate further and determine whether measures such as signage or rumble strips (typically used in such situations) are warranted. COMPLETED
26/05/25 CQT7	Cr Rhonda Garad	Council policy query Firstly, I would like to thank the Council for a great outcome. Last year, we talked about an elderly gentleman who found the nature strip tree had landed on his house, taking out his power and internet. It cost him \$900. He is an underinsured pensioner, and his excess was greater than that, so he could not claim it on his insurance. Because he could not do that, he could not claim it back from the Council because the Council's policy was that only the insurer could be reimbursed if fault was found. However, the Council has reimbursed this resident, and he is very grateful. I am curious to know how that	Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy		Initial response provided 26/05/2025: Question taken on notice. FURTHER RESPONSE REQUIRED



Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
		happened. Have we changed our policy so that we are not discriminating against people who are underinsured?			
26/05/25 CQT9	Cr Rhonda Garad	<p>Flood mapping My thoughts go out to the people in New South Wales who are struggling with the floods. I understand 11 LGAs have been greatly affected. Subsequently, the insurance sector has called on local governments to speed up their flood mapping work, with an average per Council of ten years to complete that work. I know we started our work last year. Can we get an update on when we can expect our flood maps to be updated?</p>	Executive Director City Futures	06/06/2025	<p>Initial response provided 26/05/2025: Council is closely working with Melbourne Water and the Department of Transport and Planning to fast-track that. I do not have the exact dates. The next stage which is the consultation process and planning scheme amendment would be later this year, around September to December. I will provide you with further clarification.</p> <p>Further response provided 06/06/2025: Thank you for your enquiry regarding the Melbourne Water Flood Mapping project. This information is anticipated to be available for Greater Dandenong later this year, and officers will seek to present to Councillors regarding the implications of the updated mapping, and options relating to this going forward.</p> <p>Responses to your specific questions are below.</p> <p>1. Will Greater Dandenong be included in the first municipalities to receive the updated flood information? If so, when can residents expect to access the new flood maps?</p> <p>No. Greater Dandenong is part of a broader region / set of catchments which is not within the first assessed.</p> <p>2. If Greater Dandenong is not part of the first phase, what is the estimated timeline for the public release of updated flood maps for our municipality?</p> <p>We currently anticipate that flood mapping for</p>

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

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Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
					<p>our catchments will be available towards the end of 2025. The extent to which this will be publicly available is not yet known.</p> <p>3. Could you provide more details on the process for community engagement and validation for Greater Dandenong, and whether residents will be involved in this process?</p> <p>Melbourne Water have committed to some resource / assistance in undertaking community engagement following the update of the flood maps. The nature of engagement will be determined with Council. Based on the municipalities where flood mapping has been updated, we are yet to identify a preferred engagement approach to enable input from residents to the project.</p> <p>4. What measures are being taken to ensure that residents in Greater Dandenong, particularly those in flood-prone areas, are adequately informed and supported once the new maps are available?</p> <p>The extent of action being undertaken in response to the new flood mapping will depend on a number of factors, including how accurate / reliable the new mapping is considered to be – noting that other Councils have sought additional reviews of the mapping due to low confidence in its accuracy. If and when the flood mapping is agreed to be accurate enough to be appropriate for public viewing, it expected to be available on a public / government website.</p> <p>While Council may be able to support residents</p>

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

4 / 6



Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
					<p>though providing information and/or altering drainage works to some extent, any matters such as support needed due to changes in insurance cost, land values or flood risk are likely to required advocacy to other levels of Government.</p> <p>5. If a resident needed this information today, are there any interim tools or resources for residents to assess flood risk before the final flood maps are implemented?</p> <p>Council has access to historic flood modelling and history of flooding issues. This varies by age and accuracy significantly across the municipality, but if residents are interested in this information, they can contact Council.</p> <p>Residents are also able to check on the VicPlan website to see whether their property is currently covered by an Overlay relating to flooding or drainage – however these overlays can also be out of date.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>
26/05/25 CQT10	Cr Isabella Do	<p>Advisory committees I recently attended our monthly Eastern Transport Coalition meeting. It reminded me that I have not yet been invited to any meetings for the Community Safety Advisory Committee and the Sustainability Advisory Committee. Can you please advise when we are planning to have these meetings?</p>	Executive Director City Futures	06/06/2025	<p>Initial response provided 26/05/2025: Those advisory committees are currently under review. I will come back to you on the dates and next steps.</p> <p>Further response provided 06/06/2025: In terms of the Community Safety Advisory Committee, the survey obtaining inputs has closed and we are going through feedback. That, as well as a range of other data points are being compiled into the draft Community Safety Plan. That will go out for consultation around</p>

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

5 / 6



Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
					<p>August with a final plan coming to Council for endorsement towards the end of the year.</p> <p>The format and terms of reference for the Sustainability Advisory Committee are currently being reviewed. We are aiming to make a decision on the future format of the committee in the next few months. It is then intended to have the committee operational by the end of the year.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>
26/05/25 CQT11	Cr Isabella Do	<p>Council policy query Can you please confirm if we have a policy requiring Councillors to document all contact with developers and planning applicants? I understand other councils have a policy where all meetings with developers and proponents should have an officer present, but I do not believe we have this policy in place.</p>	Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy	27/05/2025	<p>Initial response provided 26/05/2025: Question taken on notice.</p> <p>Further response provided 27/05/2025: Here is the link to Councillor Contact with Developers, Submitters and Lobbyist Policy.</p> <p>Please note this policy will be reviewed in the coming months.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>





6 URGENT BUSINESS

No urgent business was considered.



7 CLOSE OF BUSINESS

The Meeting closed at 8.08 pm.

Signature