



Minutes

Council Meeting

Monday 28 July 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 2025-29 ([Council Plan 2025-29 | 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 places*
- *A green city committed to a sustainable future*
- *A city that supports business, entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes*
- *A Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources, 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](#)

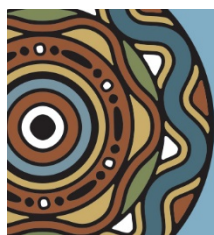
[Cr Isabella Do](#)

[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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greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



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Speak and listen: 1300 555 727

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Acknowledging
Bunurong Country

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1 MEETING OPENING

1.1 OPENING OF MEETING BY CHAIR

Cr Sophie Tan opened the Meeting at 7.00pm.

1.2 ATTENDANCE

Apologies

Cr Jim Memeti (LoA), Cr Loi Truong.

Councillors Present

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

Officers Present

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer; Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures; ; 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 Knowles Tivendale, a member of the Greater Dandenong Interfaith Network, read the following:

"The importance of human connection is grounded in evolutionary biology. A meaning life must be found in the here and now — in the experiences we share, emotional bonds we create and relationships we build over time.

Human beings are social animals. Our brains are wired for cooperation, empathy and sharing. These traits evolved because they help us survive and thrive in groups. That's what living in a community is. It's what makes it exciting and joyous when our nation does well in sport.

When we build deeper human connections, even with those we have just met, we are tapping into mechanisms that have always helped us endure hardships, navigate uncertainty, and find purpose in a chaotic world. Happiness is a state of being shaped by our choices and specifically our connections with others. Studies consistently show that people with strong social ties are healthier, live longer, and report greater life satisfaction. We all know this core truth: fulfillment comes from being seen and understood by others, providing mutual support, showing our vulnerability and laughing along with life. Human connection offers comfort in the face of mortality, and a sense of belonging in a vast, indifferent universe. Happiness is cultivated through community, by showing compassion and having shared experience.

We treat others with kindness because we understand — through empathy and reason — that care and compassion enrich everyone's lives. Acts of love and generosity are meaningful, precisely because they are chosen, not commanded. Human connection allows us to be part of something larger than ourselves, without being eternal or supernatural.

Deep relationships and connection with many others provide essential anchoring. They help us navigate life. The shared experiences help us celebrate joy, construct personal narratives that feel worth living and endure suffering.

Knowing that life is finite, deepens the value of each moment shared with others. Every hug, every conversation, every act of trust becomes more profound when seen as part of our only known chance at existence.

Human connection is not just beneficial — like bees in a hive it is foundational. None of us can be our best selves without others – even those we haven't yet met. Connection creates meaning and happiness in a universe that offers no inherent promises. Connection is the closest thing we have to transcendence — not beyond the world, but deeply embedded within it."



1.5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Meeting of Council held 14 July 2025.

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 14 July 2025 be confirmed.

MINUTE No.168

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Seconded by: Cr Melinda Yim

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 14 July 2025 be confirmed.

CARRIED 9 / 0

1.6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil.



2 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 1

2.1 PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

2.1.1 Petitions and Joint Letters

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

Officer Recommendation

That this report and its attachment be received and noted.

Executive Summary

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

Petitions and Joint Letters Tabled

4. Council received no new petitions and no joint letters prior to the Council Meeting of 28 July 2025.

Note: Where relevant, a summary of the progress of ongoing change.org petitions and any other relevant petitions/joint letters/submissions will be provided in the attachment to this report.

MINUTE No.169

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Lana Formoso

That this report and its attachment be received and noted.

CARRIED 9 / 0



3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Question

Thay Horn Yim, Dandenong

I would like Council to support the international law asking Thailand to stop the bombing in Cambodia attacking civilians and innocent people. I understand that the US president has talked to both prime minister's to request a ceasefire, however Thailand are still bombing Cambodia after the ceasefire was initiated. The City of Greater Dandenong have the largest Cambodian community in Australia.

Response

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

It is a pertinent question at this time. I understand that several Councillors are interested in raising a Notice of Motion in the future in response to your request. If the Notice of Motion is adopted by Council then that would be Council support which is a decision by the Councillors.

I will ensure our website provides information to our residents regarding support services and any information on strategies they can adopt to feel that they are taking action in Australia.

Question

Pam Naylor, Noble Park

Leading up to mass killing of little corellas and other birds at Springvale South, was there any queries or ask for help from businesses located on Athol Road, Springvale South - Koh Supermarket?

These corellas and other birds have been there for quite a long while. Vegetation removed from strips outside the shopping centre created a dust bowl - food put down for pigeons - not corellas - the corellas turned up in volume - to the distain of all who observed them in the dust bowl and in the car park.

Response

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

We have reviewed our records going back to January 2025 and found one Environmental Health complaint that the shopping area and surrounds were dirty and needed to be cleaned.

Records show our Environmental Health team contacted centre management, informed them of the complaint, and visited to follow up. The Customer was emailed and provided this feedback.

We have not received any requests for assistance or reports of people feeding birds/wildlife at this location in the 6 months leading up to the recent incident.

I have had discussions with the Executive regarding this matter. We previously had a Local Law that would prohibit feeding birds in local areas, I will have discussions with officers and consider changing the Local Law in the future.



Question

Pam Naylor, Noble Park

Are there any thoughts/actions on the olive trees (that are thriving) and fruiting which are planted on verges in Keysborough and surrounding areas? The fruiting trees provide little corellas and sulphur crested cockatoos with ample food.

Huge collections of them feeding spilling onto the ground and roadway - the unsuspecting driver and deficient driver may have an issue with this scenario eg. run into them - deliberately or not, this is my observation.

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Council's street tree selection process is guided by the *Urban Tree Strategy 2018–2028*, which considers a range of factors including local context, climate suitability, urban heat resilience, and biodiversity value.

The olive trees planted on some verges across Keysborough are typically selected cultivars that are low to no-fruiting. However, as with all living systems, some variation can occur depending on seasonal conditions and the maturity of individual trees.

We acknowledge that the interface between wildlife and the urban environment can create complex scenarios, particularly when food sources attract large flocks to roadsides.

Council's broader biodiversity efforts prioritise the creation of dedicated habitat areas and corridors within reserves and parks, where food and shelter can be provided in more appropriate and safer settings for both wildlife and the community.

We will continue to monitor this and factor it into future planning.

Question

Gaye Guest, Keysborough

Twenty two Victorian Councils - Mayors and Councillors gathered together to launch an extraordinary legal move to block the State Government's new emergency services levy, saying that the tax will push many ratepayers to the brink.

Councils have been tasked with collecting the state government's new multi-billion-dollar E S tax. It is a responsibility the other councils do not want and now want to avoid.

Geelong is being forced to ask for an extra \$20 million from its residents, Gippsland Latrobe council needs to grab an extra \$5m while City of Yarra the figure is \$200,000. City of Yarra has started issuing new rates notices and say to stop this responsibility, councils have to do it collectively.

Did anyone from the City of Greater Dandenong (CGD) attend this forum and how much money would our municipality collect for this E S tax from ratepayers per household? If CGD reps did not attend the forum, why didn't they attend?



Response

Michelle Hansen, Chief Financial Officer

Regarding the recent forum, a number of Councillors received information about the event but were unable to attend due to prior commitments.

Under the State Emergency Services Volunteers Fund (ESVF), the estimated levy to be collected in Greater Dandenong for 2025-26 is \$57 million.

Council's annual rate notice for 2025-26 will clearly separate Council charges from state government levies. It will distinctly show the ESVF levy along with other state-imposed levies. Additionally, the rates insert provides a straightforward explanation of each levy/charge, helping ratepayers understand that these charges are collected by Council but set and passed onto the State Government.

Question

Gaye Guest, Keysborough

At the last Council meeting with no audio, it was not evident how Councillors debated Item 4.1.1 Plastic Policy Review and 4.2.1 Gambling Issues which is indeed disappointing as both issues are of significant importance to residents and that it was passed unopposed.

In future when there is a significant glitch in the webinar system can Council cancel the meeting until audio is restored so we can comfortably watch the item, listen and hear what was said as it is not recorded in the minutes of the meeting so we are none the wiser.

Response

Marjan Hajjari, Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy

Council shares the community's disappointment that the audio was not available during a portion of the livestream.

Please be assured that this was a rare and unexpected occurrence.

The equipment had been tested prior to the meeting and was functioning at that time. Unfortunately, a technical fault arose that was not immediately detectable during the live broadcast. Council is reviewing its protocols to strengthen contingency measures and improve communication if technical issues arise in future.



Question

Colin Smith, Dandenong

I am writing on behalf of JDN MONOCRANE, located in DANDENONG, to formally raise concerns and request assistance regarding the recent removal of 22 car parking spaces along Fowler Road.

The direct outcome of the removal of these 22 spaces is that these cars/vehicles will be parked in the nearest available location, both sides of Nathan Road directly in front of our business.

The sudden influx of 22 Fowler Road vehicles, forced to park in Nathan Road will prevent JDN MONOCRANE being able to dispatch our very long product as we require significant exit turning circles.

We request Council alter the existing parking to only JDN MONOCRANE and Accredited Distributer Staff to park in front of our respective businesses. This will permit us to be contact the vehicle owners and have them clear the area as needed when required.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with a representative to explore viable options and minimise disruption to our business and the broader area.

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

There are no changes proposed to the current parking arrangements on Nathan Road as part of the level crossing removal works.

Council's transport team will be in touch with you to discuss options which may be available to manage your traffic movements.



4 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 2

4.1 PROCUREMENT

4.1.1 2122-11Q Building Cleaning Contract Extension (Final)

Responsible Officer: Chief Engineer & Major Projects

Attachments:

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - CGD Cleaning Service Review – July 2024 [4.1.1.1 - 28 pages]
2. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Corporate Scorecard – Makkim P/L trading as Australian Environmental Cleaning Services [4.1.1.2 - 27 pages]

This report contains an attachment which is deemed confidential under s 3(1)(a) & (g) of the *Local Government Act 2020*. It contains council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released. It contains private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that relates to trade secrets; or, if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

Purpose

1. This report outlines the process and evaluation for the final extension of the Council Building Cleaning Services Contract 2122-11Q

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **AWARDS** the Council Building Cleaning Services final contract extension with Makkim Pty Ltd, trading as Australian Environmental Cleaning Services (ABN: 68 206 196 252) for an extended period totalling twenty (20) months ending 31 December 2026;
2. **AUTHORISES** the Chief Executive Officer to execute the contract agreements, and any associated documentation with the above contractor; and
3. **NOTES** the extended contract period is required to align Councils Building Cleaning Services Contract with Councils Public Toilet and BBQ Cleaning contract to provide the option to consolidate the contracts in the future.

Executive Summary

2. This report outlines the process and evaluation for the contract extension for the experienced contractor for the provision of Council Building Cleaning Services for the City of Greater Dandenong (CGD).
3. Makkim Pty Ltd, trading as Australian Environmental Cleaning Services (AECS) was awarded Contract 2122-11Q Council Building Cleaning Services in 2022 on an initial contract period of two (2) years with three (3) contract extension options of twelve (12) months.



4. The current cleaning services contract has demonstrated strong service delivery and operational reliability across CGD facilities. Despite rising costs, the contract has maintained high-quality standards and adapted to increasing demand. With targeted improvements and strategic reconfiguration, the contract can continue to deliver value and support CGD's operational needs effectively.
5. The current contract represents good value for money due to the contractor's consistent reliability, competitive pricing, flexibility in accommodating changing needs, and cost efficiency compared to market rates.
6. Seeking to increase the final extension period from twelve (12) months to twenty (20) months provides the opportunity for Council explore the possibility of aligning and combining this contract with the Infrastructure Services Public Toilet and BBQ Cleaning contract. This could leverage economies of scale, streamline management, optimise resource utilisation, and enhance negotiation power.
7. This report recommends that Council awards and provides delegated authority to the CEO to execute the Council Building Cleaning Services final contract extension with AECS for a extended period totalling twenty (20) months from 1 May 2025 to 31 December 2026.

Background

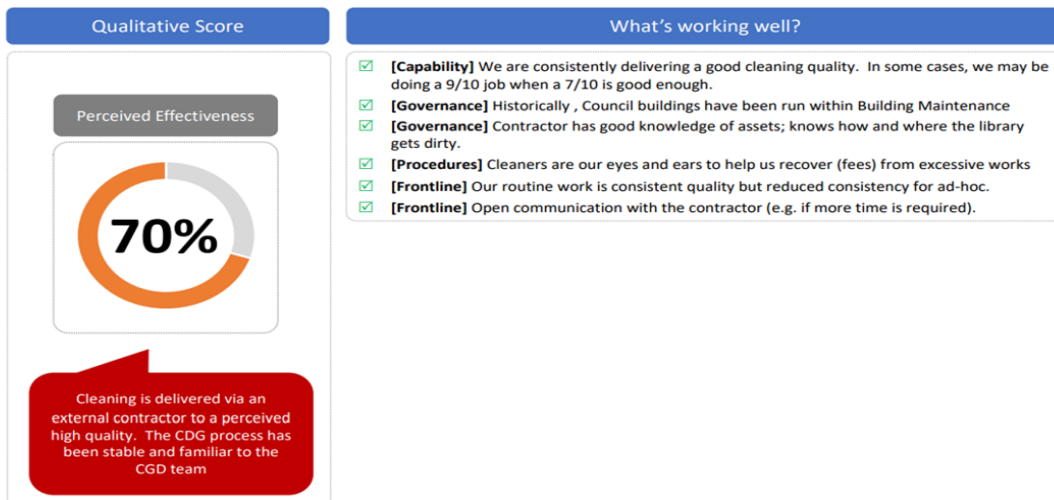
8. The City of Greater Dandenong has around 42 council staffed buildings including premier buildings like the Civic Centre, Springvale Community Hub, the upcoming Keysborough Community Hub and The Drum; maternal and children's health centres and community facilities like the Springvale Town Hall, Jan Wilson Centre, Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, The Castle, Menzies Hall and senior citizen centres.
9. Council requires an efficient and reliable maintenance cleaning service to present the City of Greater Dandenong offices and facilities to its customers and officers at an optimum level of cleanliness and tidiness. In addition, the cleaning service must conform and adhere to public health guidelines in a post-COVID pandemic environment.
10. Council conducted an independent Building Cleaning Services Review in June 2024, and the report is provided as a confidential attachment.
11. The review established that annual events have increased from 2,110 in 2021 to over 12,000 in 2024, with projections to exceed pre-COVID levels and the upcoming Keysborough Community Hub and Dandenong New Art Centre facilities will further increase demand, necessitating a stable and scalable cleaning solution which AECS has proven operational stability and reliability.
12. One of the observations from the review was around the quality of the current cleaning which noted that the cleaning was completed to a consistent high standard and quality, with qualitative feedback indicating 70% perceived effectiveness.



Qualitative Insights: City of Greater Dandenong



The service to the Community is strong. Operations are manually intensive and appear to carry forward each year

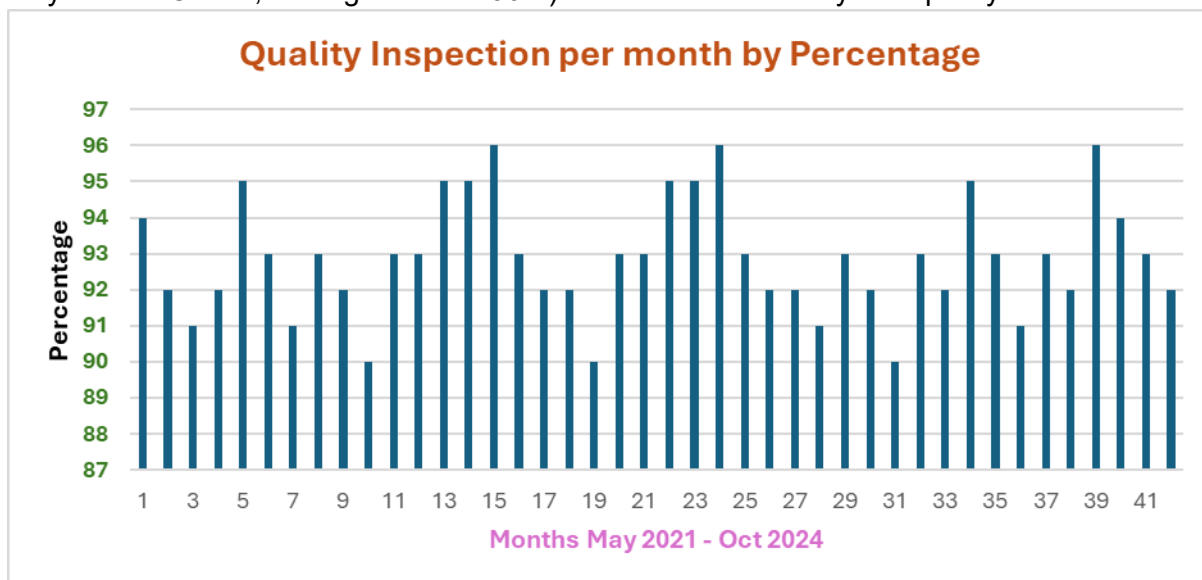


1.

13. AECS's Integrated Management System which manages our Triple Accreditation in Quality, OH&S and Environmental Management provides the City of Greater Dandenong with up-to-date information on all sites.

14. The contractor is assessed on the following KPI's as part of the contract -

- Regular periodical cleaning completed in time
- Ad hoc cleaning completed as per weekly schedules
- Satisfactory completion of urgent/emergency unplanned clean
- Regular monthly meeting and reporting
- Regular audits/inspections (chart below shows over 1k audits/inspections conducted between May 21 and Oct 24, average score > 90%) to ensure consistency and quality of clean





Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications

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

Financial Implications

Operating Budget Implications

16. This contract has an anticipated spend in the order of \$2.76 million per year, which is accommodated within existing Council operating budgets for building maintenance.

Business Profile – Financial and Performance Assessment

17. Council conducted an independent standard financial and performance assessment on AECS. This assessment provides information on the business profile, directors, financial position, ability to service the contract, and occupational health and safety and quality assurance.

18. A summary of this assessment is provided as a confidential attachment which notes that:

- Overall, AECS has a Satisfactory financial capacity to undertake the contract.
- AECS has continued its trajectory by securing cleaning contracts with education department while retaining nearly all existing contractual agreements.

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.

Environmental Implications

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

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

22. There was no requirement for community and stakeholder consultation.

Links to Community Vision and Council Plan

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

24. 2021-25:

- Improve access to quality infrastructure and spaces that enhance community participation, encourage visitors, and deliver positive health outcomes for current and future generations.
- Maintain Council's resources effectively and efficiently to ensure financial sustainability.



MINUTE No.170

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council:

- 1. AWARDS the Council Building Cleaning Services final contract extension with Makkim Pty Ltd, trading as Australian Environmental Cleaning Services (ABN: 68 206 196 252) for an extended period totalling twenty (20) months ending 31 December 2026;**
- 2. AUTHORISES the Chief Executive Officer to execute the contract agreements, and any associated documentation with the above contractor; and**
- 3. NOTES the extended contract period is required to align Councils Building Cleaning Services Contract with Councils Public Toilet and BBQ Cleaning contract to provide the option to consolidate the contracts in the future.**

CARRIED 9 / 0



4.2 POLICY AND STRATEGY

4.2.1 Council Expenses, Support and Accountability Policy - Review

Responsible Officer:	Chief Executive Officer Manager Governance, Legal & Risk
Attachments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Council Expenses Support and Accountability Policy 2025 [4.2.1.1 - 28 pages]2. Council Expenses Support and Accountability 2020 - Marked Up [4.2.1.2 - 32 pages]3. Table of changes - Council Expenses Policy [4.2.1.3 - 4 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** the revised Council Expenses, Support and Accountability Policy provided for in Attachment 1 of this report; and
2. **NOTES** that the revised Council Expenses, Support and Accountability Policy will be made available on Council's Website.

Executive Summary

1. This purpose of this report is to seek adoption of the revised Council Expenses, Support and Accountability Policy.
2. This Policy provides a framework for managing the reimbursement of expenses incurred by Councillors while fulfilling their duties and responsibilities.
3. This Policy aims to ensure transparency, accountability and consistency in the management of public funds, while outlying the eligible expenses, approval processes and documentation requirements.

Background

4. Council must adopt and maintain a Council Expenses Policy pursuant to section 41 of *Local Government Act 2020 (the Act)*. Under this obligation Council adopted its first Council Expenses, Support and Accountability Policy in August 2020, since this time there have been several amendments to the Act, which impact this version of the policy.
5. A recent review of the policy highlighted several opportunities to improve public transparency, better reflect current practices, ensure legislative compliance and mitigate risk.
6. The key sections of *the Act* that inform the development of this policy are:
 - **Section 39:** Allowances for Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors;
 - **Section 40:** Reimbursement of expenses of Councillors and a member of and delegated committee;
 - **Section 41:** Council Expenses Policy; and
 - **Section 42:** Resources and Facilities for the Mayor and Councillors.



Key Issues and Discussion

7. This Policy:

- defines what expenses are eligible for reimbursement, the reimbursement process and reporting requirements;
- provides for the payment of Councillor Allowances as determined by the Victorian Independent Remunerations Tribunal;
- outlines technical and administrative resources available to support Councillors perform their role;
- provides for Professional Development Training required to satisfy the obligations set out in the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020*, which came into effect on 26 October 2024; and
- was presented to the Audit Risk Committee Meeting held 5 June 2025. The Committee noted and referred the policy to Council for re-adoption.

8. A clean and final copy of the reviewed policy seeking Council adoption is provided in Attachment 1 of this report.

9. A marked-up version of the existing policy is provided in Attachment 2 of this report.

10. A table outlining the changes between the existing and proposed Policy is contained in Attachment 3.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

11. 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

12. There are no financial implications associated with this report. Councillor Allowances and expenses have been provided for in Council's current operating budget.

Asset Implications

13. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

14. The re-adoption of the Council Expenses, Support and Accountability Policy mitigates corruption risk and potential breaches of the Model Code of Conduct.

Environmental Implications

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



Community Consultation

16. There was no requirement for community consultation.

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

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

Not Applicable

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

19. 2021-25:

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

Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

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

MINUTE No.171

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** the revised Council Expenses, Support and Accountability Policy provided for in Attachment 1 of this report; and
2. **NOTES** that the revised Council Expenses, Support and Accountability Policy will be made available on Council's Website.

CARRIED 9 / 0



4.2.2 Councillor Gift Policy - Review

Responsible Officer:	Executive Manager Strategy Growth & Advocacy
Attachments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Councillor Gift Policy 2025 for readoption [4.2.2.1 - 14 pages]2. Councillor Gift Policy 2020 [4.2.2.2 - 16 pages]3. Councillor Gift Policy - Table of Changes [4.2.2.3 - 2 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** the updated Councillor Gift Policy provided in Attachment 1;
2. **NOTES** the updated Councillor Gift Policy will be made available on Council's Website; and
3. **PRESENTS** the revised Councillor Gift Policy to the Audit and Risk Committee for noting.

Executive Summary

1. The purpose of this policy is to seek adoption of the revised Councillor Gift Policy as required under section 138 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
2. This policy outlines the required procedures for the maintenance of a gift register and any other matters prescribed by the regulations.
3. This Policy aims to provide clear guidelines to ensure Councillors are not compromised in the performance of their duties by accepting gifts, benefits or hospitality which may result in a sense of obligation or could be interpreted as an attempt to influence.
4. This Policy helps to protect and promote public confidence in the integrity of Council.

Background

5. Council must adopt and maintain a Councillor Gift Policy pursuant to section 138 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. Under this obligation Council adopted its first Councillor Gift Policy in April 2021. As part of Council's ongoing improvement process, a review of this policy is required every 4 years.
6. A recent review of this policy provided the opportunity to update the format of the policy, include a \$50 acceptable gift threshold and better reflect on current practices whilst maintaining public transparency.



Key Issues and Discussion

7. This Policy:

- provides guidance to Councillors on the appropriate acceptance and declaration of gifts, benefits and hospitality.
- outlines the details required for recording Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality in the Councillor Gift Register.
- ensures compliance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

8. A copy of the revised policy is provided in **Attachment 1** of this report.

9. A copy of the Councillor Gift Policy originally adopted in April 2021 is provided in **Attachment 2** of this report.

10. A summary of changes to the Councillor Gift Policy is provided in **Attachment 3** of this report.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

11. 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

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

Asset Implications

13. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

14. Section 138 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council adopt a Councillor Gift Policy.

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

16. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

17. There was no requirement for community consultation.



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

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

Not Applicable

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

20. 2025-29:

- A Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources, and a commitment to investing in the community.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

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

MINUTE No.172

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Bob Milkovic

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** the updated Councillor Gift Policy provided in Attachment 1;
2. **NOTES** the updated Councillor Gift Policy will be made available on Council's Website; and
3. **PRESENTS** the revised Councillor Gift Policy to the Audit and Risk Committee for noting.

CARRIED 9 / 0



4.3 OTHER

4.3.1 Notice of Motions for MAV October State Council

Responsible Officer:	Executive Manager Strategy Growth & Advocacy
Attachments:	1. Notice of Motions for Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) October State Council [4.3.1.1 - 4 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council **APPROVES** the proposed motions to the next State Council Meeting of the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Attachment 1, with provision for Council's CEO to authorise any minor changes to improve the wording of the motion and/or to update the motion relative to any changes to the issue that may have occurred between the Council Meeting and the date of its lodgement with the MAV.

Executive Summary

1. **Notice of Motions for MAV** - MAV has called for its member Councils to submit motions to be considered for adoption at its State Council Meeting on 10 October 2025.

Background

2. **MAV State Council** - Formed in 1879, the MAV is a membership association and the legislated peak body for Victoria's 79 local councils. The type of support offered by the organisation to its members include specialist policy advice and advocacy, governance and legislative advice, sector development, insurance and procurement services.
3. The State Council Meeting provides Greater Dandenong City Council with an opportunity to draw state-wide attention across the local government sector to Council's advocacy and engagement priorities that have state-wide relevance.
4. MAV has called for its members Councils to submit motions to be considered for adoption at its State Council Meeting on 10 October 2025. Motions are due to be submitted online by midnight 11 August.
5. The proposed Notice of Motions conform to the requirements of MAV Guidance Notes.

Key Issues and Discussion

6. Proposed Notice for MAV State Council Meeting – (refer to Attachment 1 for full details)
 - a. Motion 1 – Review of municipal Electronic Gaming Machine (EGM) caps
 - b. Motion 2 – Elevating Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) requirements in planning policy.



Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

7. 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

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

Asset Implications

9. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

10. Identify if there are any legal or risk implications.

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

12. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

13. There was no requirement for community consultation.

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

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

- Safe and peaceful community.
- Sustainable environment.

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

16. 2025-29:

- A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
- A green city committed to a sustainable future.
- A Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources, and a commitment to investing in the community.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

17. 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.



MINUTE No.173

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

That Council *APPROVES* the proposed motions to the next State Council Meeting of the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Attachment 1, with provision for Council's CEO to authorise any minor changes to improve the wording of the motion and/or to update the motion relative to any changes to the issue that may have occurred between the Council Meeting and the date of its lodgement with the MAV.

CARRIED 9 / 0



4.3.2 LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Responsible Officer: Executive Manager Strategy Growth & Advocacy
Attachments: 1. LGBTIQ A+ Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes 13 May 2025 [4.3.2.1 - 5 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES** the Draft Minutes of the meeting for the LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee Meeting 13 May 2025 as provided in Attachment 1 to this report; and
2. **ENDORSES** the Committee's recommendation for Julie Jones to become a member of the Advisory Committee.

Executive Summary

1. At the Council meeting held 23 April 2018, Council resolved in part to *invite Advisory Committees and Reference Groups to submit meeting minutes for Council endorsement*. This resolution also allowed interested Councillors (and those that attend these Committees and Reference Groups) to speak to the meeting about items discussed at these meetings.
2. This report recommends that the Draft Minutes of the LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee meeting held on 13 May 2025 as provided in the Attachment to this report be noted by Council and endorse the Committee's recommendation for community member Julie Jones to become a member.

Background

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



Links to Community Vision and Council Plan

7. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
 - Safe and peaceful community.
 - Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.
 - Mind, body and spirit.
8. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan
9. 2025-29:
 - A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
 - A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts.
 - A Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources, and a commitment to investing in the community.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

10. This report has considered Council's legislative and policy obligations (where applicable) as outlined in the Report Considerations section detailed in the front of this Agenda. The applicable obligations considered and applied are:
 - The Overarching Governance Principles of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
 - The *Gender Equality Act 2020*.
 - *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006*.
 - Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.

MINUTE No.174

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Isabella Do

That Council:

1. **NOTES** the Draft Minutes of the meeting for the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee Meeting 13 May 2025 as provided in Attachment 1 to this report; and
2. **ENDORSES** the Committee's recommendation for Julie Jones to become a member of the Advisory Committee.

CARRIED 9 / 0



4.3.3 Report on Matters Discussed at Councillor Briefing Sessions and Pre-Council Meetings

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance
Attachments: Nil

Officer Recommendation

That Council RECEIVES and NOTES the information contained in this report.

Executive Summary

1. As part of Council's ongoing efforts to improve transparency in Council processes, matters discussed at Councillor Briefing Sessions & Pre-Council Meetings (other than those matters designated to be of a confidential nature) are reported on at Council meetings.
2. The matters listed in this report were presented to Councillor Briefing Sessions & Pre-Council Meetings during the period 23 June – 21 July 2025.

Background

3. The Executive Team and associated staff at Greater Dandenong City Council host Councillor Briefing Sessions and Pre-Council Meetings on a regular basis (weekly) to inform Councillors about the work officers are undertaking, share information, obtain feedback and discuss strategies and options for current and future work.
4. To ensure transparency in this process, matters discussed at Councillor Briefing Sessions and Pre-Council Meetings (other than those matters designated to be confidential under the *Local Government Act 2020*) are reported on at Council meetings. This report represents matters discussed at the Councillor Briefing Sessions & Pre-Council meetings during the period 23 June – 21 July 2025.

**Matters Presented for Discussion**

Item		Councillor Briefing Session/Pre-Council Meeting
1	General Discussion Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Community Satisfaction Survey results;b. Opening of the HOME exhibitionc. Worldwide cyber security breach; and Agenda items for the Council meeting of 23 June 2025.	Pre-Council Meeting (PCM) – 23 June 2025
2	Dandenong Market Pty Ltd (DMPL) Bazaar Revitalisation Councillors were briefed on the ongoing Dandenong Market Bazaar revitalisation project including future planned activities.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 30 June 2025
3	Plastics Policy Review Councillors were presented with the proposed revisions and updates to the single use Plastics Policy. This Policy will be presented at a future Council Meeting.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 30 June 2025
4	General Discussion Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Recent Domestic Animal Plan community consultation;b. Updates on the Keysborough Community Hub;c. Update on planned Australia Post branch closures; and Agenda items for the Council meeting of 30 June 2025.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 30 June 2025
5	Community Satisfaction Survey 2025 Councillors were presented with the results of the most recent Community Satisfaction Survey.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 7 July 2025
6	Update Councillor Media Policy & New Social Media Policy Councillors discussed the Media and Social Media Policies which will be tabled at a future Council Meeting.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 7 July 2025
7	Dandenong Community Hub – Final Concept Design Update Councillors were provided details regarding recent engagement and consultation via a number of workshops for the development of the Dandenong Community Hub concept design. Options regarding how the concept design can proceed were discussed.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 7 July 2025



Item		Councillor Briefing Session/Pre-Council Meeting
8	Parking Fees and Charges CONFIDENTIAL under s.3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 7 July 2025
9	Springvale Revitalisation Action Plan Councillors were presented with the recent significant progress as part of an annual update on the Springvale Revitalisation Action Plan (SRAP).	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 7 July 2025
10	General Discussion Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Recent grant funding received;b. Recent animal incident in Springvale; and Agenda items for the Council meeting of 14 July 2025	Pre-Council Meeting (PCM) – 14 July 2025
11	Business Support Service Review - SEMMA CONFIDENTIAL under s.3(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 21 July 2025
12	Dandenong Market Precinct Plan Councillors were presented with an update on the development of the Dandenong Market Precinct Plan which is underway. This item provided an update on the proposed project methodology, timeframes and engagement approach.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 21 July 2025
13	Councillor Gift Policy and Conflict of Interest Policy Councillors were briefed on a proposed revised Gift Policy and Conflict of Interest Policy.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 21 July 2025
14	Councillor Expenses, Support and Accountability Policy Councillors further considered a proposed update to the Councillor Expenses, Support and Accountability Policy.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 21 July 2025
15	Councillor Professional Development Training Councillors were provided with details regarding Mandatory Councillor Training to be undertaken in 2025 as defined under the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and <i>Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020</i> .	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 21 July 2025
16	General Discussion Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Tree planting events this weekend;b. Motions for the upcoming Municipal Association of Victoria meeting; andc. Organisational Alignment. Agenda items for the Council Meeting of 28 July 2025.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 21 July 2025



Apologies

5. Councillor Loi Truong submitted an apology for the Pre-Council Meeting on 23 June 2025.
6. Councillor Isabella Do, Councillor Phillip Danh, Councillor Bob Milkovic and Councillor Loi Truong submitted apologies for the Councillor Briefing Session on 30 June 2025.
7. Councillor Lana Formoso submitted an apology for the Councillor Briefing Session on 7 July 2025.
8. Councillor Rhonda Garad submitted an apology for the Pre-Council Meeting on 14 July 2025.
9. Councillor Jim Memeti submitted an apology for the Councillor Briefing Session on 21 July 2025.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

MINUTE No.175

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Seconded by: Cr Alice Phuong Le

That Council RECEIVES and NOTES the information contained in this report.

CARRIED 9 / 0



4.3.4 List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance, Legal & Risk
Attachments: 1. List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors [4.3.4.1 - 2 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That the listed items for the period 7 July to 18 July 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 7 July to 18 July 2025.

MINUTE No.176

Moved by: Cr Lana Formoso

Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad

That the listed items for the period 7 July to 18 July 2025 provided in Attachment 1 to this report be received and noted.

CARRIED 9 / 0



5 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.



6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

Comment

Cr Phillip Danh

I would like to acknowledge the Springvale Snow Festival held yesterday. Despite the poor weather, it was a well-attended and well-organised event.

I also wish to acknowledge the Young Leaders Group, some of whom are present tonight. I regret that I cannot be there in person, but I thank you for your contributions to our community.

Comment

Cr Isabella Do

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

- The Eastern Transport Coalition meeting. A guest speaker presented findings from the City of Kingston's public transport consultation, particularly regarding bus services.
- Both the community planting days at Tirhatuan Park and Somerfield Reserve. I thank our Conservation and Sustainability teams for organising these events.
- I presented at a Young Leaders session last week. I am impressed by the calibre of this cohort.
- The Stand of Solidarity for the Jewish community of Syria, alongside Cr Rhonda Garad.

I wish to acknowledge the tragic death of a woman in Dandenong North three days ago. She is the 38th woman murdered in Australia this year. The toll now stands at 39. This is unacceptable, and we must do more as a community to address violence against women.

Question

Cr Isabella Do

I have provided details regarding truck parking on local streets, as well as nuisance behaviour from pets. Can you please provide an update on those?

Response

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

Our officers have been out working on the issue with the truck parking, based on your feedback we will attend and have further discussions with those residents. Officers have also been speaking with the resident regarding the nuisance complaint that you have submitted.

Question

Cr Isabella Do

A resident has advised that there has been an increase in lost pets recently, is this something that Council is aware of?

Response

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

Question taken on notice.



Question

Cr Alice Phuong Le

I would like to acknowledge the organisers of the Springvale Snow Festival. Despite the rain, the event was well attended and brought the community together. I spoke with several stallholders who expressed concerns about financial losses due to the weather. They asked whether Council could consider offering credits or refunds for future events to help mitigate these risks?

Response

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

We have received positive feedback about Snow Fest and will take your comments on notice. Officers will consider the request and provide a response once reviewed.

Comment

Cr Sean O'Reilly

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

- The Springvale and Dandenong Historical Society meeting, which was also attended by Deputy Mayor Sophie Tan.
- A charity fundraising dinner hosted by Servants of the Two Hearts, in partnership with *Reaching Out Because We Can* at Sandown Greyhounds.

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

I have a concern regarding the upcoming Young Leaders Forum on 6 August 2025 at Springvale City Hall. Only six or seven schools out of the 99 in our municipality are attending. This is disappointing, as we need to hear from our future generation. Is Council doing everything possible to encourage school participation? We need to address this gap and ensure more students are involved.

Response

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

I agree that the forum is important and that greater participation is needed. I will follow up with Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening and report back to Councillors with strategies to better promote the event and engage schools that have not participated.

Comment

Cr Lana Formoso

I want to commend Council officers for updating the Public Question Time form to be available online. This improves accessibility for our residents.

I attended the South East Leisure Board meeting last week.

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

I want to raise the issue of olive trees planted across the municipality. Residents have complained that the fruit drops onto footpaths and roads, creating slip hazards. Some residents have even used ladders on footpaths to collect olives. My understanding was that these were non-fruiting olive trees. I request that Council stop planting these trees and review the current planting strategy.



Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

The trees selected were intended to be non-fruiting, but nature has taken its own course. We will review the situation and work with the community to identify more suitable tree species for these areas.

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

I would like to raise concerns regarding the removal of bollards on Browns Road. I understand that two bollards were damaged and removed, but two others were intact and could have remained to protect residents. It is disappointing that they were removed before replacements were ready, leaving residents at risk for several months. I have since noticed other concrete bollards across the municipality. Are we waiting for them to be damaged before replacing them? Will Council conduct an audit of all bollards? I request that the Browns Road bollards be reinstated as soon as possible, given the high volume of truck traffic in the area.

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Some bollards may have been removed due to damage from accidents. We are working closely with the community to replace them. As mentioned, replacements are scheduled for September.

Comment

Cr Melinda Yim

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

- The National Tree Day at Somerfield Reserve in Keysborough, alongside Cr Isabella Do. It was a great turnout.
- The Snow Fest event. Although the weather was not ideal, the streets were filled with people enjoying the day.

Question

Cr Melinda Yim

I understand that international affairs are outside Council's direct responsibilities, but I would like to raise concerns about the recent escalation in tensions between Thailand and Cambodia. This conflict is affecting some of our residents, particularly those with close family or cultural ties to the region. Some members of our community participated in a peaceful protest yesterday in response to the conflict, and some are present in the gallery tonight. The protest reflects how deeply this issue is being felt locally. I ask whether Council has considered how global events may be impacting our community's emotional wellbeing. Are there any formal or informal supports available to help affected residents feel seen and supported? Additionally, could Council consider a small gesture of solidarity to help ease fears and anxiety among residents during this time?



Response

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

This is an important question. We understand that many residents from Cambodia and Thailand are being triggered by recent events. Council staff are currently exploring ways to provide access to counselling services and support groups, including culturally appropriate services for Cambodian and Thai communities. We will update our website with relevant information and reach out to community groups to share these resources.

Regarding your suggestion for a gesture of solidarity, that is a matter for Council to consider. If you are interested in proposing a Notice of Motion, officers would be happy to assist you in drafting it for the next Council Meeting.

Comment

Cr Rhonda Garad

The theme of tonight's meeting has been conflict, and my thoughts are with all affected communities. I commend those who have raised these issues and helped increase awareness. The situation in Gaza is also deeply distressing.

I attended the solidarity event for the Druze community in Southern Syria. Cr Hadi Saab spoke passionately on behalf of his community and criticised the lack of response from the Federal Government. He called on councils to advocate more strongly for the Druze people. I support the suggestion to consider a notice of motion at the next Council meeting.

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

Residents who have opted out of receiving paper rate notices and are using the online portal have reported that only a global figure is shown. There is no breakdown of the Emergency Services Levy or quarterly rates. How can these residents access a detailed breakdown?

Additionally, while Council offers hardship provisions for rates, does this apply to the Emergency Services Levy, which has increased significantly? Finally, why are residents unable to pay the levy directly to the State Government, given that other State charges can be paid directly?

Response

Michelle Hansen, Chief Financial Officer

Regarding the online portal, I will take that question on notice and consult with the Chief Information Officer, as it relates to our property and rating system. Under legislation, residents must receive an annual rate and valuation notice, even if they opt out of paper bills. Those who opt out should receive a digital bill, but I will confirm this.

In terms of hardship provisions, the legislation mandates that payments are apportioned across all charges, including Council rates and the Emergency Services Levy. Council can apply hardship provisions only to Council rates and charges, such as the waste charge, but not to the Emergency Services Levy.

As for the collection process, it is mandated by State Government policy. Councils are designated as the collecting agency under the relevant legislation. We continue to advocate for changes to this arrangement, along with other Councils.



Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

I have a question regarding ADCO, the current contractor building our swimming pool. Last week, during legal proceedings involving the company, it was acknowledged that substandard steel was used in the construction of the Cube Recreation Centre. Despite this, the company continued to use the material. In light of this, will Council implement special checking mechanisms during the construction of our swimming pool to ensure that similar practices do not occur? How will Council ensure that the materials used meet safety and quality standards?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

As part of the tender process, Council has implemented several safeguards. All steel used must be sourced locally within Australia, and imported steel will not be accepted. Additionally, there are three layers of checking mechanisms in place: independent checking, ADCO's internal checking, and Council's own independent verification. These processes are designed to ensure that only compliant materials are used in construction and to prevent the issues seen elsewhere.

Comment

Cr Sophie Tan, Deputy Mayor

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

- On Wednesday 16 July 2025, I had the honour of presenting 294 citizenship certificates to our newest citizens at the Citizenship Ceremony.
- On Friday 18 July 2025, I attended the Afghan Youth Connect event, which celebrated the progress of participants in the Keeping Afghan Girls Active (KAGA) program.
- On Saturday 19 July 2025, I attended the Dandenong and Springvale Historical Society Combined Annual Lunch with Cr Sean O'Reilly.
- On Wednesday 23 July 2025, I attended the "Greatest of Southeast Melbourne" event with CEO Jacqui Weatherill.
- On Saturday 26 July 2025, I attended a fundraising dinner supporting two charities: Servants of the Two Hearts and Reaching Out Because We Can.
- On Sunday 27 July 2025, I welcomed attendees to the 13th Annual Springvale Snow Festival. Despite the weather, the event was well attended.

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 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
14/07/25 CQT2	Cr Bob Milkovic	Electoral Signage Can officers please remove left over electoral signage within the municipality?	Executive Director Community Strengthening	28/07/2025	Initial response provided 14/07/2025: This question was noted for further action. Further response provided 28/07/2025: If there are specific locations that can be provided, Council officers will investigate and, where signage is located on public land (Council-managed land), we will arrange for its safe removal. However, if signage is situated on land managed by other authorities such as VicRoads or other

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					agencies, we kindly ask that these be reported directly to the relevant body for action. COMPLETED
14/07/25 CQT3	Cr Lana Formoso	Overfilled bins What is Council's policy on overfilled street and residential bins?	Acting Executive Director City Futures	25/07/2025	Initial response provided 14/07/2025: We often undertake audits of bins to establish whether they are overfilled and what the content is. If there are sites that are of concern, please pass on the details and officers will investigate. Further response provided 25/07/2025: Overfilled bins continue to be a challenge in certain areas of our community. Whilst we don't have specific data for this particular location, we actively work with our kerbside collection contractor and education officers to address issues related to overfilled bins and contamination. Our collections contractor is instructed not to empty overfilled bins, as doing so can lead to several issues during collection most notably, waste spilling onto the street, which poses safety risks for both the public and collection staff. In such cases, the contractor is required to place a sticker on the bin and record the reason for non-collection. In many instances where bins are overfilled, we also see a high level of contamination. To address this, we conduct bin inspections through our contractor EnviroCom who use a bin tagging program to make residents aware of the issues. These inspections take place prior to collection. If contamination is identified, the bin is stickered and not emptied, and an educational letter is subsequently sent to the resident to provide guidance on correct waste disposal practices.

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					<p>When necessary, we send educational letters to residents, along with supporting materials to promote appropriate waste disposal behaviours. In addition, we regularly share information via social media and our website to remind residents of their responsibilities and encourage good bin etiquette and environmental practices. We are about to begin a new round of letters on this very topic and would be happy to include these streets in the initiative.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>
14/07/25 CQT4	Cr Lana Formoso	Safety concerns, Dandenong North A resident has raised concerns about Police Road, Dandenong North safety issues, which are similar to the Browns Road safety bollard issue I raised at the last meeting. Could an audit be conducted along Police Road to see how many locations are at risk of heavy vehicles hitting buildings?	Acting Executive Director City Futures	25/07/2025	<p>Initial response provided 14/07/2025: Officers will investigate and identify any areas of concern.</p> <p>Further response provided 25/07/2025: We understand the Councillor was referring to Jacksons Road, not Police Road, when asking this question.</p> <p>As the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) DTP is responsible for Jacksons Road any investigations for improvements should be undertaken by them. Council officers are regularly raising Jacksons Road at catch ups with the relevant DTP officers. DTP has advised they are putting a funding request for consideration into DTP's pipelines to undertake an investigation into safety along Jacksons Road and Chandler Road.</p> <p>As DTP is responsible for Jacksons Road any investigations for improvements should be undertaken by them. If any residents have concerns, they can contact Council's transport team and they can provide them with</p>

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					<p>suggestions for what they may be able to do within their property to help address their concerns in the interim. DTP's heavy vehicle team have also advised they will be looking at enforcement options to reduce illegal truck activity along Browns Road</p> <p>If any residents have concerns, they can contact Council's transport team and they can provide them with suggestions for what they may be able to do within their property to help address their concerns in the interim.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>

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7 URGENT BUSINESS

No urgent business was considered.



8 CLOSE OF BUSINESS

The Meeting closed at 8.18pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Cathy', written over a horizontal line.

Signature