

Agenda

Council Meeting

Monday 11 August 2025, 7:00 pm
Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street,
Dandenong, Victoria 3175

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



Council Meeting Details

At the time of printing this Agenda, the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 11 August 2025, will be open to the public to attend in person but will be subject to venue seating capacity. This will be a hybrid meeting consisting of Councillors attending in person and remotely.

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

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

Your Councillors

[Mayor Jim Memeti](#)

[Cr Bob Milkovic](#)

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

[Cr Sean O'Reilly](#)

[Cr Phillip Danh](#)

[Cr Loi Truong](#)

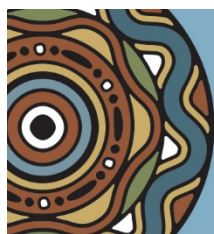
[Cr Isabella Do](#)

[Cr Melinda Yim](#)

[Cr Lana Formoso](#)

[Cr Rhonda Garad](#)

[Cr Alice Phuong Le](#)



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

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



(03) 8571 1000



council@cgd.vic.gov.au



greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



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Online: [relayservice.gov.au](#)



TIS: 13 14 50



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COUNCIL OBLIGATIONS AND AGENDA REPORTS

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

Community Vision 2040 (Community Vision | Greater Dandenong Council)

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

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

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

The Council Plan 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.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	MEETING OPENING	8
1.1	OPENING OF MEETING BY CHAIR	8
1.2	ATTENDANCE	8
1.3	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF LAND	9
1.4	OFFERING OF PRAYER, REFLECTION OR AFFIRMATION	9
1.5	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS	10
1.6	DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST	10
2	OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 1	11
2.1	PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS	11
2.1.1	Petitions and Joint Letters	11
3	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	15
4	OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 2	17
4.1	PROCUREMENT	17
4.1.1	2425-23 Perry Rd Upgrade - Stage 3 - Atlantic Drive to Pillars Road, Keysborough	17
4.2	POLICY AND STRATEGY	24
4.2.1	End of Year Performance Report 2024-25	24
4.3	OTHER	79
4.3.1	Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum Interstate Delegation	79
4.3.2	Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards Event	82
4.3.3	Leave of Absence - Cr Bob Milkovic	120
4.3.4	Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee member nominations	121
4.3.5	Draft Minutes of Advisory Committee Meetings	125
4.3.6	Cancellation of 8 September 2025 Council Meeting	143
4.3.7	List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors	145
5	NOTICES OF MOTION	148
5.1	NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 09 - CAMBODIA THAILAND CONFLICT	148



6	REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS.....	149
7	URGENT BUSINESS	150
8	CLOSE OF BUSINESS	151



1 MEETING OPENING

1.1 OPENING OF MEETING BY CHAIR

1.2 ATTENDANCE

Apologies

Cr Jim Memeti (LoA).



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

As part of Council's commitment to recognising the cultural and spiritual diversity of our community, the prayer, reflection or affirmation this evening will be offered by Mr Jasbir Singh Suropada, a member of the Greater Dandenong Interfaith Network.



1.5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Meeting of Council held 28 July 2025.

Recommendation

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

1.6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Any interest that a Councillor or staff member has deemed to be significant and has disclosed as either a material or general interest is now considered to be a conflict of interest. Conflict of Interest legislation is detailed in Division 2 – Conflicts of Interest: sections 126, 127, 128, 129 & 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. This legislation can be obtained by contacting the Greater Dandenong Governance Unit on 8571 5216 or by accessing the Victorian Legislation and Parliamentary Documents website at www.legislation.vic.gov.au.

If a Councillor discloses any interest in an item discussed at any Council Meeting (whether they attend or not) they must:

1. complete a disclosure of interest form prior to the meeting;
2. advise the chairperson of the interest immediately before the particular item is considered (if attending the meeting); and
3. leave the chamber while the item is being discussed and during any vote taken (if attending the meeting).

The Councillor will be advised to return to the chamber or meeting room immediately after the item has been considered and the vote is complete.



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 - 3 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That this report and its attachment be received and noted.

Executive Summary

1. Council receives a number of petitions and joint letters on a regular basis that deal with a variety of issues which have an impact upon the City.
2. Issues raised by petitions and joint letters will be investigated and reported back to Council if required.
3. A table containing all details relevant to current petitions and joint letters is provided in Attachment 1. It includes:
 - a) the full text of any petitions or joint letters received;
 - b) petitions or joint letters still being considered for Council response as pending a final response along with the date they were received; and
 - 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 one (1) new petition and no joint letters prior to the Council Meeting of 11 August 2025.
 - Council has received a Change.org petition signed by 390 residents requesting a pedestrian crossing in Keysborough. This petition has been referred to the appropriate Council Business unit for further action.

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.

Date Received	Petition Text (Prayer)	No. of Petitioners	Status	Responsible Officer Response
10/06/2025	<p>Plaque request in the Dandenong Wetlands Playground, Dandenong</p> <p>My name is Nargis Mohseni. I am writing this letter regarding a request for an acknowledgement with a name plaque for the Dandenong Wetlands Playground, Dandenong, to be identified as 'Nargis Park'.</p> <p>At the age of 10, 12 years ago, I used to reside at Dandenong North 3175. There was a wetland around the Dandenong Basketball Stadium (between Stud Road and Heatherton Road off the Monash Freeway), currently known as 'Dandenong Wetland Playground, Dandenong'. I wrote on behalf of my 3 sisters and I requesting from the City Council of Greater Dandenong to turn this wetland into a park, as my family would always walk its trail and at the time we didn't have any recreational leisure areas to enjoy a family day out close to home.</p> <p><i>NB the above is an extract of the request, it has not been printed in its entirety.</i></p>	28 Proponents	Completed	<p>Responsible Officer: Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy</p> <p>Outcome letter sent 30/7/2025:</p> <p><i>"Thank you for your letter of 13 May, regarding your proposal for naming the Dandenong Wetlands playground as 'Nargis Park.'</i></p> <p><i>I enjoyed reading about the history of your family 's advocacy to Council to turn the area into a park, and your persistence in writing to Council. I'm sorry to hear you didn't receive replies for some time.</i></p> <p><i>It must have been exciting to eventually hear back that it was happening, and then be kept up to date through the various stages of the project.</i></p> <p><i>We welcome community input through our formal consultation processes, which are advertised on our website. You can sign up to be kept informed of various consultations when they go live. (Scroll to the bottom of Home Have Your Say and 'sign up').</i></p> <p><i>However, we also welcome spontaneous suggestions on topics that are the priority of our community. Please be encouraged to continue with your advocacy and civic involvement. It's important that we hear from people with diverse cultural, professional and language backgrounds, children and older people, and people with all different perspectives.</i></p> <p><i>Council doesn't currently have a specific policy for naming things. Instead, we defer to the Naming Rules set out by Geographic Place Names Victoria. Please see pages 22-23 of the 'Official Naming Rules for Places in Victoria.' You'll see there is guidance for naming a place or feature after a deceased person</i></p>

Date Received	Petition Text (Prayer)	No. of Petitioners	Status	Responsible Officer Response
				<p><i>(commemorative naming), and also advice that naming a place after living people is strongly discouraged and generally not permitted.</i></p> <p><i>For this reason, we can't agree to your request for a plaque naming the park as 'Nargis Park.' However, we encourage you to stay in touch with Greater Dandenong City Council and of course your own local City of Casey.</i></p> <p>Marjan Hajjari, Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy"</p>
1/08/2025	<p><u>Petition · Install a Safe Crossing between Sirius College to 170 Chapel Road - Keysborough, Australia · Change.org</u></p> <p>Children cross the road every day with cars close on their tail, posing a danger to the young ones and the entire Keysborough community who enjoy walking to and from Pencil Park. There is not a single crossing between Sirius College to 170 Chapel Road. This is a major concern for safety.</p> <p>170 Chapel Road, located beside the entrance to Pencil Park, lacks any form of safe pedestrian crossing. This busy thoroughfare is a common route for families, seniors, and other community members enjoying recreational activities in Pencil Park. Despite the high foot traffic, the absence of</p>	390 as at 4/8/25	In Progress	Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

Date Received	Petition Text (Prayer)	No. of Petitioners	Status	Responsible Officer Response
	<p>a designated crossing zone makes it hazardous for anyone attempting to navigate the road.</p> <p>With the constant movement of vehicles and the increasing number of pedestrians, the need for a safe crossing is urgent. Statistics from the Department of Transportation show that areas without proper pedestrian crossings have higher incidents of accidents, emphasizing the need for this change in our community. Providing a crosswalk at this specific location would ensure the safety of all road users and peace of mind for parents, caregivers, and elderly community members.</p> <p>It's time for the local council to acknowledge the safety concerns raised by the Keysborough community and take action by installing a pedestrian crossing at this critical location. This simple yet effective solution can prevent potential accidents and save lives.</p> <p>Support us in making 170 Chapel Road a safer place for everyone by signing this petition. Let's come together to promote the well-being and safety of our cherished community.</p>			



3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Question Time at Council meetings provides an opportunity for members of the public in the gallery to address questions to the Councillors, Delegates and/or officers of the Greater Dandenong City Council. Questions must comply with s. 4.5.8 of Council's Governance Rules.

QUESTIONS FROM THE GALLERY

Questions are limited to a maximum of three (3) questions per individual. Where time constraints deem it likely that not all questions can be answered within the time allowed for Question Time, the Mayor at his/her discretion may determine only the first question may be presented verbally with others deferred to be managed in the same manner as public questions not verbally presented.

Priority will be given to questions that relate to items on the Council Agenda for that meeting. Questions including any preamble should not exceed 300 words.

- a) All such questions must be received in writing on the prescribed form or as provided for on Council's website and at Ordinary meetings of Council. Where there are more than three (3) questions received from any one individual person, the Chief Executive Officer will determine the three (3) questions to be considered at the meeting.
- b) All such questions must clearly note a request to verbally present the question and must be received by the Chief Executive Officer or other person authorised for this purpose by the Chief Executive Officer no later than:
 - i) the commencement time (7.00pm) of the Ordinary meeting if questions are submitted in person; or
 - ii) noon on the day of the Ordinary meeting if questions are submitted by electronic medium.
- c) A question can only be presented to the meeting if the Chairperson and/or Chief Executive Officer has determined that the question:
 - i) does not relate to a matter of the type described in section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (confidential information);
 - ii) does not relate to a matter in respect of which Council or a Delegated Committee has no power to act;
 - iii) is not defamatory, indecent, abusive or objectionable in language or substance, and is not asked to embarrass a Councillor, Delegated Member or Council officer; and
 - iv) is not repetitive of a question already asked or answered (whether at the same or an earlier meeting).
- d) If the Chairperson and/or Chief Executive Officer has determined that the question may not be presented to the Council Meeting or Delegated Committee, then the Chairperson and/or Chief Executive Officer:
 - i) must advise the Meeting accordingly; and
 - ii) will make the question available to Councillors or Members upon request.
 - iii) The Chairperson shall call on members of the gallery who have submitted an accepted question to ask their question verbally if they wish.
- e) The Chairperson, Chief Executive Officer or delegate may then direct that question to be answered by a nominated Councillor or member of Council staff.



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- f) No debate on, or discussion of, a question or an answer will be permitted other than for the purposes of clarification.
 - g) A Councillor, Delegated Committee Member or member of Council staff nominated to answer a question may:
 - i) seek clarification of the question from the person who submitted it;
 - ii) seek the assistance of another person in answering the question; and
 - iii) defer answering the question, so that the answer may be researched and a written response be provided within ten (10) working days following the Meeting (the question thereby being taken on notice).
 - h) Question time for verbal presentations is limited in duration to not more than twenty (20) minutes. If it appears likely that this time is to be exceeded then a resolution from Council will be required to extend that time if it is deemed appropriate to complete this item.
 - i) The text of each question asked and the response will be recorded in the minutes of the Meeting.



4 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 2

4.1 PROCUREMENT

4.1.1 2425-23 Perry Rd Upgrade - Stage 3 - Atlantic Drive to Pillars Road, Keysborough

Responsible Officer:	Executive Director City Futures
Attachments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - 2425-23 Perry Road Reconstructon - Stage 3 - Evaluation Matrix [4.1.1.1 - 1 page]2. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Business Profile - All Waste Pumping Solutions Pty Ltd [4.1.1.2 - 1 page]

Purpose

1. To seek approval to award Contract No. 2425-23 for the Perry Rd Reconstruction – Stage 3 to All-Waste Pumping Solutions Pty Ltd trading as AWS Civil ABN: 48 079 889 142.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **AWARDS** Contract No. 2425-23 for the Perry Road Upgrade (Stage 3) to All-Waste Pumping Solutions Pty Ltd trading as AWS Civil (ABN: 48 079 889 142) for a fixed lump sum price of Three Million, Six Hundred and Eighty Two Thousand, Five Hundred & One Dollars and Twenty Seven Cents (\$3,682,501.27) including GST of \$334,772.84 and including a Provisional sum of (\$476,355.82 including GST) for specific items detailed on the project Bill of Quantities lump sum price breakdown (Civil and Landscape works); and
2. **AUTHORISES** the Chief Executive Officer to execute the contract agreements and any associated documentation.

Executive Summary

3. This report recommends that Council awards Contract 2425-23 to All-Waste Pumping Solutions trading as a AWS Civil ABN: 48 079 889 142 for a fixed lump sum price of Three Million, Six Hundred and Eighty Two Thousand, Five Hundred & One Dollars and Twenty Seven Cents (\$3,682,501.27) including GST of \$334,772.84.
4. This is a lump sum contract and not subject to rise and fall.

Background

5. This Contract is for the construction of approximately a one (1) kilometre section of Perry Road between Atlantic Drive and Pillars Road Keysborough in accordance with the requirements of the Dandenong Industrial Area Extension Developer Contribution Plan (DCP). This includes road pavement reconstruction, widening, drainage, guard rail installation, streetlights, shared user paths and landscaping as per supplied design and specification.
6. Completing this project will create a safer road environment for motorists, pedestrians, residents and businesses. It will enhance the aesthetic appearance of the locality by implementing the landscaping component of the project.





Tender Process

7. This tender was advertised in The Age Newspaper and on Council's e-tendering platform on Saturday 10 May 2025 and at the close of tenders at 2.00PM Thursday 12 June 2025, seven (7) tender submissions were received as follows:
- All-Waste Pumping Solutions Pty Ltd trading as AWS Civil – ABN 48 079 889 142
 - Bayport Civil Pty Ltd – ABN 82 128 854 124
 - The Trustee For Blue Peak Constructions Family Trust trading as Blue Peak Constructions – ABN 88 660 064 079
 - Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd – ABN 54 000 538 689
 - Parkinson Group (Vic) Pty Ltd – ABN 58 168 742 925
 - Unyte Southern Pty Ltd – ABN 94 626 334 745
 - Winslow Infrastructure Pty Ltd – ABN 72 119 092 385
8. Tenderers were requested to provide a lump sum price breakdown on the separate Schedule of Items form including a pricing breakdown for both Civil and Landscaping works and pricing for Provisional items.
9. Tenderers were also required to be registered with Rapid Global (Council's Workforce Management Software – Health and Safety Compliance) prior to the tender closing date at risk level one (1).

Tender Evaluation

10. The tender evaluation panel comprised Council's Coordinator Civil Projects, Senior Project Manager, Coordinator Transport and Procurement Officer.
11. Tenders were evaluated using Council's Weighted Attributed Value Selection Method. The advertised evaluation criteria and the allocated weightings for evaluation are as follows:

	Evaluation Criteria	Weighting
1	Price	35%
2	Demonstrated Experience in providing cost effective Engineering solutions for Civil Works	15%
3	Landscaping Experience – Similar Works	10%
4	Capability	10%
5	Quality of Management and Supervision	5%
6	Traffic Management	10%
7	Local Industry	5%
8	Social Procurement	5%
9	Environmental	5%
10	OH&S Systems (Pass / Fail)	Pass / Fail
11	Environmental System (Pass / Fail)	Pass / Fail

12. The Evaluation Criteria 1- 9 are given a point score between 0 (Not Acceptable) and 5 (Excellent) as detailed in the following table.
13. Evaluation Criteria 10 and 11 are given a Pass or Fail via Rapid Global (Council's Workforce Management Software – Health and Safety Compliance).



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

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

15. Seven (7) submissions were assessed and ranked against all evaluation criteria, to ensure that the tenderers met the standards required for Council contractors. A “Fail” in any criterion would automatically exclude a tenderer from further consideration for this contract. The weighted attribute points scores resulting from the assessment are shown in the following table:

Price Points	Price Points	Non-Price Points	Total Score	OH&S	EMS	Rapid Global
AWS Civil	1.66	2.49	4.15	PASS	PASS	Registered & Compliant in Rapid Global
Unyte Southern	1.28	2.11	3.39	Not Assessed	Not Assessed	Registered Not Compliant
Fulton Hogan Industries	0.73	2.66	3.39	PASS	PASS	Registered & Compliant in Rapid Global
Blue Peak Constructions	0.78	2.41	3.19	PASS	PASS	Registered & Compliant in Rapid Global
Winslow Infrastructure	1.13	1.95	3.08	PASS	PASS	Registered & Compliant in Rapid Global
Parkinson Group	0.87	1.36	2.23	PASS	PASS	Registered & Compliant in Rapid Global
Bayport Civil	0.88	1.05	1.93	Not Assessed	Not Assessed	Deactivated

16. At the completion of the tender evaluation process described above, the Evaluation Panel agreed that the tender submission from All-Waste Pumping Solutions Pty Ltd trading as AWS Civil ABN: 48 079 889 142 would provide the best value for money outcome to Council for these works under contract.

Please Note: Rapid Global is a third-party pre-qualification and verification system used by Council and ten (10) other Victorian Councils enabling the sharing of OH&S data. It is a Risk and OH&S system where contractors can upload their Occupational Health & Safety, Risk and Environment Plans and Policies as well as up to date insurances.



The Company

17. All-Waste Pumping Solutions Pty Ltd trading as AWS Civil (ABN: 48 079 889 142) was incorporated in August 1997 as a civil construction and pumping system installing contractor and they currently operate as a civil construction contractor providing, but not limited to, road construction, drainage, earthworks for local municipalities.
18. AWS is a family-owned company with a strong track record in construction. They own their own equipment, operate without an overhead structure, and have successfully delivered the Perry Road Upgrade Stages 1 and 2 at a highly competitive cost—approximately \$2 million less than other tenderers. Their deep understanding of the site conditions further reinforces their capability and reliability.
19. They have been a trusted contractor for Council, specialising in major drainage and civil works. They have successfully delivered multi-million-dollar civil works for Council and other regional and metropolitan councils. They have proven track record of successfully delivering the large and small projects in efficient and timely manner.

Relevant Experience/Track Record

20. AWS Civil are highly experienced in delivering similar sized projects with appropriately qualified and adequate staff resources and sub-contractor selection.
21. Experienced working with Victorian government authorities throughout the region including Greater Dandenong City Council.
22. Successfully completed the Perry Rd Upgrade - Stage 1 & 2, with the contract value exceeding \$6.5m for those two stages. Their workmanship, quality of work delivered, and implementation of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) measures to date are creditable. In summary, their performance in all facets of Stage 1 & 2 of the Perry Road Upgrade Project has been very good.
23. As part of assessing safety, AWS Civil were noted to be registered and fully compliant with Rapid Global and demonstrated to have the appropriate safe working systems in place. They have received a Pass for their Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and Environmental Management Systems and are a triple certified company with Jas-Anz Certification (Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand, commonly known as JASANZ).
24. The evaluation matrix and other supporting documents have been placed on the relevant tender file.

Note:

The higher the price score – lower the tendered price.

The higher the non-price score – represents better capability and capacity to undertake the service.

Corporate Scorecard and Due Diligence

25. A report was run through our third-party corporate scorecard due diligence process. No major risk was identified and a ranking of 'sound' was noted on the scorecard with these recommendations:
26. During the evaluation, AWS was asked to confirm the accuracy of their submitted tender cost. They affirmed that the pricing was both correct and achievable.

Bank Guarantee

27. In view of the contract size consideration should be given to obtaining security in the form of an appropriate bank guarantee or unconditional performance bond for the duration of the contract and any warranty/defects liability period.
28. As a result of the above findings from the Corporate Scorecard, Council will be seeking an appropriate bank guarantee at 5% of the contract value.



Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

29. 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

30. The resource requirements associated with this report are \$3,682,501.27 including GST (\$3,347,728.43 excluding GST) which is within the budget allocation of \$6,715,596.00 for Construction of Perry Road Upgrade Project - Stage 3 for the financial year 2025/26.

Asset Implications

31. This item relates to a current CIP project and does not change the scope/timeframe/budget for the project. Newley created assets and as-constructed data will be provided to relevant stakeholders at the end of the project.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Community Consultation

34. The required level of consultation was executed during the design phase of this project. Impacted residents and businesses will be informed about this construction project prior to commencement of the works on site.

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

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

Not Applicable

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

Not Applicable

Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

Not Applicable



Social Procurement

AWS Civil

38. AWS Civil is an Australian owned company that allows equal opportunities for all employees in according with their Equal Opportunity Policy.
39. AWS Civil say that they will give preference to disadvantaged residents of the City of Greater Dandenong for employment if the opportunity arises.
40. AWS Civil's preference is to deal with local organisation who support social responsibility and who are involved with Social Enterprises.

Local Industry

AWS Civil

41. AWS Civil have provided the following estimates for local expenditure. AWS Civil has an office located in Tooradin Victoria, however they will establish a site office as part of the mobilisation works for this Contract. They do not currently employ any staff who reside within the Greater Dandenong boundary; however, many staff reside in an adjacent municipality.
- AWS Civil has provided the following estimates for local expenditure in the table below.

	LOCAL CONTENT				
Contractor	Labour	Materials	Plant	Supervision	Other
AWS Civil	50% \$500K	80% \$1.0M	50% \$200K	50% \$150K	Total Local Estimated Expenditure \$1.850M



4.2 POLICY AND STRATEGY

4.2.1 End of Year Performance Report 2024-25

Responsible Officer: Executive Manager Strategy Growth & Advocacy
Attachments: 1. Council Performance Report 2024-25 [4.2.1.1 - 52 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council NOTES the progress against the priorities outlined in the Council Plan 2021-25 and Annual Plan 2024-25 for the period 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025 (refer Attachment 1).

Executive Summary

1. This report details Council's progress against performance targets outlined in the Council Plan 2021-25 and Annual Plan 2024-25.
2. This report recommends that Council notes the achievements against the Council Plan indicators and the CEO's Reshaping Greater Dandenong report.

Background

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

Key Issues and Discussion

6. The End of Year Performance Report provides a summary of key highlights for the 2024-25 financial year against the Council Plan, Reshaping Greater Dandenong and the Capital Works program.
7. Progress against the Council Plan priorities and Annual Plan actions is outlined in the attachment to this report and details the achievements for the Council Plan strategic objectives for the period 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025.
8. This is the final year of reporting for the Council Plan 2021-25 before the implementation of the new Council Plan 2025-29. A summary document will be developed to highlight the key achievements of Council over the past four years and shared with the community through Council's regular communication channels.



Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

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

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

Operating Budget Implications

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

Asset Implications

11. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

14. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

15. There Chief Executive Officer, Executive Team and staff responsible for reporting were consulted.

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

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

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

17. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29:

- 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.



Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

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



Quarterly Performance Report

- Bangholme
- Dandenong
- Dandenong North
- Dandenong South
- Keysborough
- Keysborough South
- Lyndhurst
- Noble Park
- Noble Park North
- Springvale
- Springvale South



2024-25





Acknowledgement of Country

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

04

Message from the
CEO

06

Performance
Summary

07

Highlights

10

Capital Works
Summary

11

Part A: Annual Plan
and Reshaping
Greater Dandenong
Progress

Message from the CEO



2024–25 has been a year of meaningful progress and proud achievements for Greater Dandenong City Council. Together, we've advanced key projects, strengthened our commitment to delivering high-quality services, and laid a strong foundation for the future of our city.

In November 2024, we welcomed a newly elected Council, with seven returning Councillors and four new representatives. We were also delighted to see Cr Jim Memeti elected as Mayor for the sixth time—a testament to his enduring leadership and dedication to our community.

As a newly formed Council, one of our first priorities was to shape the strategic direction for the coming years. Through our most extensive community consultation ever, we ensured that the voices of our residents guided our planning. On 23 June 2025, Council endorsed a suite of guiding documents including the Council Plan 2025–29, Long Term Financial Plan 2026–35, Asset Plan 2025–35, Annual Plan 2025–26, Budget 2025–26, and Revenue and Rating Plan 2025–29.

This report reflects the final year of our Council Plan 2021–25 and celebrates the projects and initiatives that have brought us closer to our shared goals.

New Community Spaces

A standout milestone this year was the commencement of construction on the new Dandenong Wellbeing Centre—our largest infrastructure project to date. Replacing Dandenong Oasis, this once-in-a-generation investment embodies our vision of “more people, more active, more often” and will be a cornerstone of community health and wellbeing.

We also reached 99% completion of the Keysborough Community Hub, with practical completion in July and a soft opening planned for August. This vibrant new space will foster community connection and bring our valued services to life.

Community Satisfaction

We are proud to report that our community satisfaction score rose to 75% in 2025, outperforming all other councils in the Metropolis Research Community Satisfaction Survey. This result reflects the dedication of our Councillors and staff to delivering services that truly matter to our residents. We remain committed to building on this success in 2026.

Awards and Recognition

This year, our city was honoured with several prestigious awards:

- The HOME24 exhibition, celebrating themes of migration, belonging, and creativity, won the 2024 Victorian Multicultural Award for Excellence in the Arts and was shortlisted for the Public Galleries Association of Victoria Awards.
- Springvale Snow Fest received an Honourable Mention in the 2025 National Local Government Awards, continuing to attract tens of thousands of visitors annually.
- The EventConnect Project, which streamlined event application processes, won the LGPRO 2025 Customer Experience Award.
- South East Leisure, our leisure facility operator, earned three major accolades at the 2025 Aquatic and Recreation Victoria Awards.

By the Numbers

In 2024–25, Council invested \$29 million in new infrastructure, engaged over 69,000 people through festivals and events, welcomed more than 820,000 visitors to our libraries, and reduced Council emissions by an impressive 82%.

Looking Ahead

While we continue to face challenges—whether in managing growth, balancing budgets, or responding to evolving community needs—we remain optimistic and focused. Our achievements this year show what's possible when we work together with purpose and passion.

Thank you to our Councillors, staff, and community members for your unwavering support and contributions. Together, we are making Greater Dandenong a place we're proud to call home.

CEO, Jacqui Weatherill

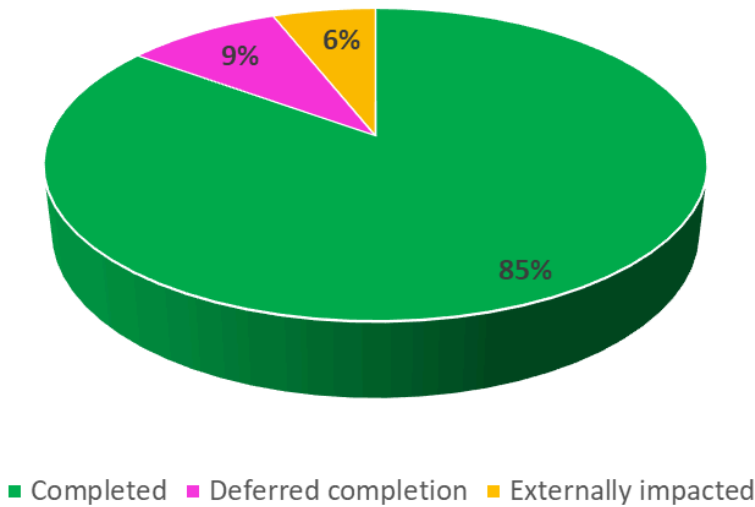


Tour of the Keysborough Community Hub with the local Member for Mordialloc, Tim Richardson; Mayor, Councillor Jim Memeti; Victorian Minister for Children, Lizzie Blandthorn; CEO Jacqui Weatherill; and Councillor Isabella Do.

Performance Summary

Council Plan Progress

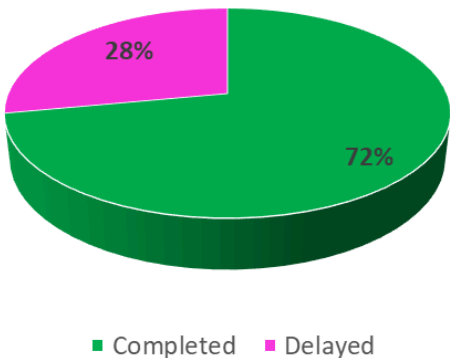
The Annual Plan 2024–25 outlines Council’s key activities to deliver on the Council Plan 2021–25. At the end of 2024–25, 85 per cent of the actions are completed and a small number have been deferred. Six per cent of actions continue to be affected by external factors such as government reforms and planning decisions.



Reshaping Greater Dandenong

Council is progressing well against the actions outlined in the CEO’s 100 Day Report – Reshaping Greater Dandenong however a number of actions have been delayed due to vacancies.

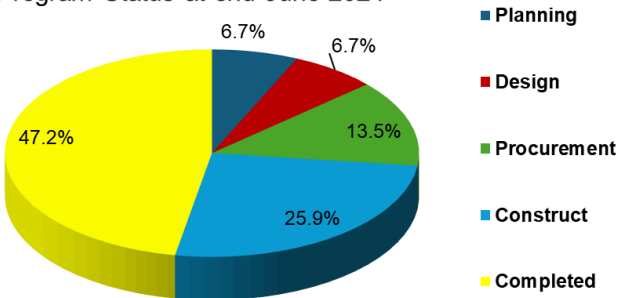
Reshaping Greater Dandenong Progress



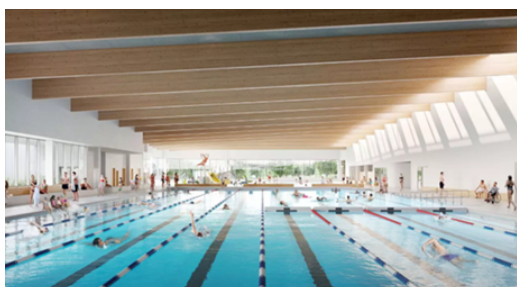
Capital Works Program

87 per cent of our capital works projects are in the procurement or construction phases or are completed as at the end of this quarter. Below’s graph highlights the number of projects by status.

Program Status at end June 2024



Highlights



Strategic Objective 1: A socially connected, safe and healthy city

- The contract for the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre was awarded, Council's single largest investment in health, wellbeing, inclusion and water safety.
- More than 7,000 volunteer hours were contributed this year, representing an estimated value to the community of \$350,000.
- 15,428 hours of youth and family services was provided to 226 vulnerable families with 450 children.
- 61 community projects were supported through grant funding.
- A new online portal was launched to assist Community Care clients and their families to access services.
- Council agreed to deliver the Commonwealth Home Support Program for eligible residents over 65 until 30 June 2027.
- Seven one-off events and seven multi-week programs were offered to the community as part of the Make Your Move Physical Activity Strategy.



Strategic Objective 2: A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts

- Over 87,000 people engaged in creative programs across more than 300 events.
- 10 major festivals were delivered engaging 69,374 people.
- 821,273 people visited Dandenong and Springvale Libraries and 42,028 people participated in library activities.
- Construction of the Keysborough Community Hub is 99% complete with practical completion expected in early July.
- The HOME24 exhibition won the 2024 Victorian Multicultural Award for Excellence in the Arts and was shortlisted for the Public Galleries Association Victoria Awards.
- Council's first LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee was established
- 1,059 children in CGD participated in the BIG Summer Read, collectively reading 8,931 books which was the highest number in the state.

Highlights



Strategic Objective 3: A city of accessible, vibrant centres and neighbourhoods

- 23 rough sleepers were supported into long term housing outcomes through the Dandenong Zero Project
- Four transitional housing units were completed in Market Street, Dandenong, managed by Wayss, to support women and children affected by homelessness and family violence.
- Over \$4m in road safety funding was received through the Federal Blackspot Program.
- \$1,647,000 was secured through advocacy for path works following the completion of the Progress Street Level Crossing Removal.
- 75 transport infrastructure projects were delivered and/or advocated for.
- The Noble Park Revitalisation program delivered a number of projects including the flower decoration art installation, Frank Street open space shade and signage, and the Our Street NPK Place Activation Grant Scheme.



Strategic Objective 4: A green city committed to a sustainable future

- 2,389 trees were planted in public spaces.
- Council has reduced its operational emissions by 82% and continues to transition away from gas as a fuel source.
- Electric vehicle footpath sweepers have been trialled and several small plant items have been purchased to support operations. Two electric trucks have also been ordered to assist the Parks and Waste teams.
- 3,000 people attended the 2025 Sustainability Festival.
- The Adopt-a-Park program involved 220 children plant 3,900 native and Indigenous plants across six local reserves.
- 46.46% of kerbside collection waste was diverted from landfill.
- 2.72 hectares were revegetated and more than 22,000 Indigenous plants installed.

Highlights



Strategic Objective 5: A city that supports entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes

- 13 free workshops were delivered to 223 people running local businesses.
- 50 industry and network events were held by SEBN covering topics such as manufacturing, global environment, and workplace health and safety.
- 150 students and industry representatives attended the annual Lunch with the Winners event held in partnership with SELLEN.
- 286 jobseekers, ten local employers and two educational organisations participated in the 'Learn from a Local Employer' initiative.
- The GameChange Dandenong Career and Support Expo was the biggest yet with 300% more attendees than 2023-24.
- 2,913 young people were involved in leadership and personal development opportunities.



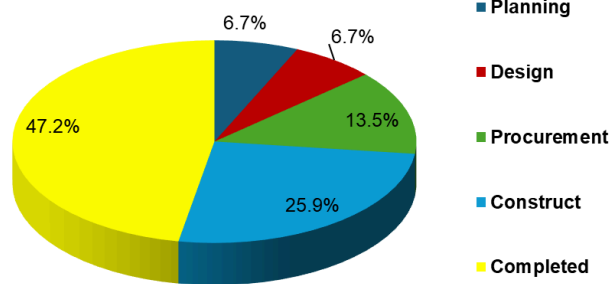
Strategic Objective 6: A Council that demonstrates leadership and a commitment to investing in the community

- Council achieved the highest overall satisfaction score of all Council's participating in the Metropolis Research Community Satisfaction Survey 2025.
- Council continued to hold transparent and accountable Council meetings with only 2.1% of resolutions made in meetings closed to the public.
- Registered users of Council's digital portal increased from 2023-24 by 1,855 people to 4,071.
- The largest community consultation process for the development of Council's strategic documents was conducted in 2024 with over 3,300 participants.
- Council adopted its Council Plan 2025-29, Long Term Financial Plan 2026-35, Asset Plan 2025-35, Budget 2025-26, and Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-26 on 23 June 2025.
- Council received over 70 emergency relief and support requests, a record number this year.

Capital Works Summary

Project Updates

Program Status at end June 2024

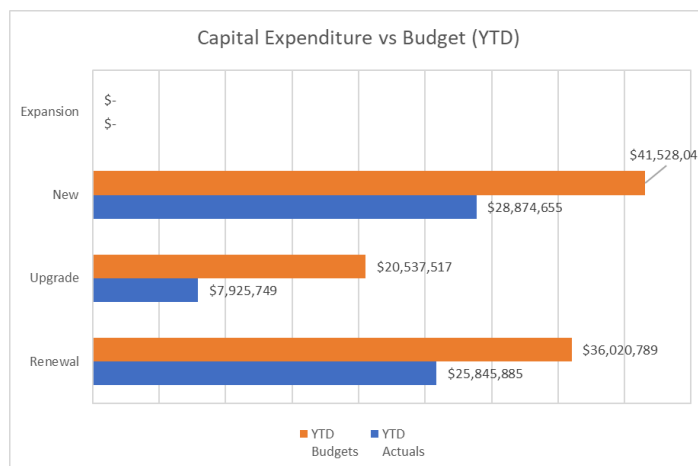


- Construction on the Keysborough Community Hub is now 99% complete. Practical completion is expected early July 2025. Users are expected to move in mid-July with a soft opening scheduled for early August 2025.
- Construction is about to commence on the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre with the first sod being turned on Saturday 5 July.



Keysborough Community Hub

Expenditure



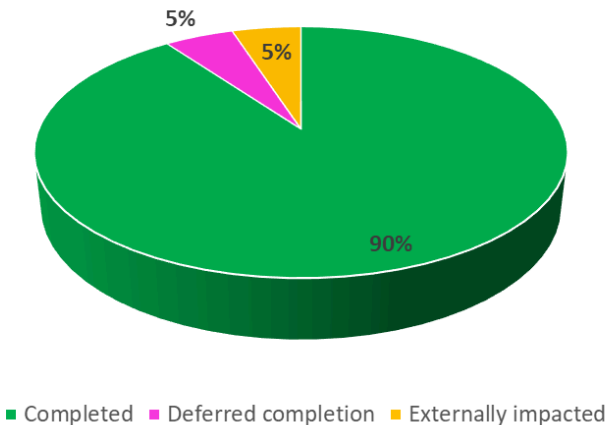
The lower-than-budgeted spend for major projects such as Dandenong Wellbeing Centre and the Dandenong New Art building reflects timing differences in the delivery of these projects, with the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre experiencing a delayed commencement and the Dandenong New Art project pending the demolition of the adjoining Precinct Energy Plant Building. Both projects are expected to progress significantly in the new financial year.

While full-year capital expenditure is below budget, more than \$15 million in commitments were in place as at 30 June for works already underway or scheduled indicating strong momentum heading into the next reporting period.




Part A:

Annual Plan and Reshaping Greater Dandenong Progress




Strategic Objective 1: A socially connected, safe and healthy city






Performance Measure	Result
The number of actions commenced or completed in the Make Your Move Greater Dandenong Physical Activity Strategy 2020–30	9 out of 10 actions that commenced were completed
Number of community projects funded to support health and wellbeing	61
Implementation of the Community Safety Plan	The Community Safety Strategic Framework was endorsed by Council in September. A draft 4–year Community Safety Action Plan is underway
Number of volunteering opportunities offered	16
Number of youth and family support contact hours provided	15,428
% of children fully vaccinated according to their age, through to 5 years old, according to the National Immunisation Register	12–15 months – 90.3% 24–27 months – 86.3% 60–63 months – 90.3%

Action	Comment	Progress
Deliver programs, activities, and events within the Make Your Move Physical Activity Strategy (MYMPA)	Delivered the Make Your Move implementation plan providing a variety of free programs, activities, and events designed to encourage physical activity within our community. This included 7 one-off events and 7 multi-week programs for the community.	
Continue to implement the VicHealth Local Government Partnership health promotion modules by collaborating with key internal and external stakeholders	<p>Attended 9 VicHealth Leading Healthy Communities funding meetings, 3 Food Systems in Southeast Network meetings, and 4 VicHealth Local Government Partnership Children's Advisory Group sessions.</p> <p>Facilitated 9 Parent-Child Mother Goose sessions in collaboration with St Anthony's Primary School and Playgroup, with participation from 12 registered families.</p>	
Increase and promote meaningful volunteering opportunities within Council and recruit, support and recognise Council volunteers	<p>More than 7,000 volunteer hours have been contributed, representing an estimated value of \$350,000 to the City of Greater Dandenong and the wider community.</p> <p>Other activities that have enhanced the volunteer program include the inclusion of advisory boards, working committees and panels into volunteer events, an update to the Volunteer Handbook and delivery of educational workshops and support meetings.</p>	
Implement Council's decision on its future in aged care and disability services following the 2024 review	Council has agreed to a two-year extension to deliver the Commonwealth Home Support Program for eligible residents over 65 until 30 June 2027, and will continue as a contracted provider of the Victorian State Government's Home and Community Care Program for Younger People.	

Action	Comment	Progress
Actively collaborate with the Orange Door and Southern Area Family Partnership to support vulnerable families to address/ prevent family violence	<p>A total of 15,428 hours of service to 226 vulnerable families with 450 children were supported in Greater Dandenong, meeting all targets set by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.</p> <p>Family Services participated in weekly referral meetings with Orange Door, ongoing Southern Alliance sessions, and attended a total of 98 working group and family violence partnership meetings.</p>	
Implement the Youth and Family Services Strategy year four and five action plans	Year 4 and 5 actions of the Youth and Family Strategy have been successfully delivered.	
Implement Year Four of the Children's Plan	Year 4 of the Children's Plan was successfully implemented focusing on inclusion, participation, and wellbeing of children and families through targeted actions supporting culturally diverse and vulnerable communities.	
Provide information and support to local residents with a disability and their families to successfully find the necessary supports to assist them to actively participate in community life including employment opportunities, how to access the NDIS and support for carers	<p>Referrals to the Home and Community Care Program for Younger People (HACC-PYP) have increased following targeted promotion and community outreach, improving access to essential services and NDIS support for individuals.</p> <p>Promotion and information sharing via social media, Greater Dandenong news, libraries, and neighbourhood houses has increased access to community activities and services for people with disabilities.</p> <p>Carers have been supported through the Carers Walk program, promoting wellbeing, information and connection.</p>	

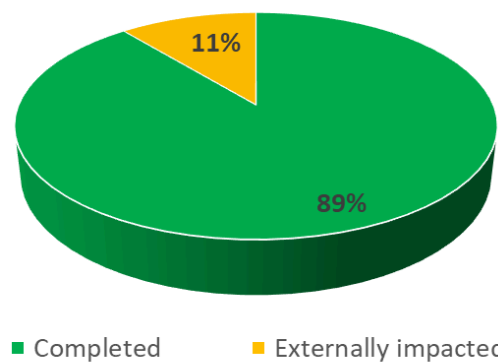
Action	Comment	Progress
Support the mental and physical health of young people through the co-design of health promotion campaigns including positive body image, this girl can, youth mental health and transitions programs and service referrals to vulnerable young people.	<p>Youth and Family Services delivered a range of projects and initiatives aimed at supporting the mental and physical health of young people resulting in 4,011 contacts and a social media reach of 11,711.</p>	
Work with the Alliance for Gambling Reform to implement initiatives that reduce the level of gambling harm	<p>Key data on gambling machine density, losses, and trends in online and sports gambling were compiled and shared with stakeholders. A detailed summary of gambling patterns in Victoria was distributed to guide strategic planning, and efforts were made to enhance public messaging in collaboration with other councils. Policy options for strategies to address sports betting among club participants were developed and are currently being implemented. The year concluded with the release of an updated report on gambling issues in Greater Dandenong and discussions with the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission to explore joint public education initiatives.</p>	
Promote gender equity and support and implement initiatives to address and prevent family violence within the municipality	<p>Council promoted gender equity and prevention of family violence through community events, public awareness initiatives and collaboration with regional agencies. The 2024 Greater Dandenong Walk Against Family Violence attracted over 600 participants, raising awareness across the region. Council collaborated with Women's Health in the South-East (WHISE), providing data and support for advocacy and program development, and explored further partnership opportunities. Resources such as brochures and updated website content were drafted, and social media content is being developed and translated into community languages.</p>	

Action	Comment	Progress
Proactively deliver and support initiatives that raise young people's awareness of harmful alcohol, vape/tobacco and other drugs use including social media campaigns, school and community workshops on the impacts of vaping, drugs and alcohol, and party safe.	Facilitated in-person workshops and social media campaigns on drugs, alcohol, vaping, and nitrous oxide, reaching a total of 6,334 contacts.	
Educate and promote alcohol regulations at community based events within the city and work with Victoria Police on enforcement	Local Law officers and Victoria Police have effectively partnered on several operations to address public alcohol-related concerns through education and enforcement actions.	
Increase access and availability of social housing stock in the city by activation of Council and community assets for delivery of social housing, and advocate for increased State and Federal Government provision	Through the Dandenong Zero Project, several individuals experiencing rough sleeping homelessness have been placed into secure long-term housing. The construction of four transitional housing units at 10 Market Street, Dandenong, is now complete, with management by Wayss to support women and children affected by homelessness and family violence. Council has formed an internal housing working group, mapped potential housing sites, and engaged with Federal MPs to explore funding opportunities. A Housing Advocacy Campaign was endorsed, culminating in an Advocacy Action Plan for 2025–26, which outlines legislative and local priorities and allocates resources to advance social and affordable housing initiatives.	




Action	Comment	Progress
Complete the Keysborough South Community Hub Strategy and develop an Action Plan	An interim plan has been developed to guide the strategic direction for Keysborough Community hub direction after extensive community consultation. The interim plan was endorsed in February 2025 while the development of an action plan, including a review of the Community Hub Framework is currently underway.	
Implement the Springvale Community Hub Action Plan	<p>Key achievements of the action plan include expanded local partnerships, increased youth and school engagement, and enhanced access to lifelong learning through library and creative initiatives.</p> <p>Volunteer contributions and community feedback have contributed to successful health, wellbeing and sustainability programs, while cultural celebrations have strengthened community connectedness and pride.</p>	
Improve the lives of those experiencing poverty in our community through implementation of Council's Anti-Poverty Strategy and the 'Poverty is everyone's business' advocacy campaign	Council advanced its Anti-Poverty Strategy and the "Poverty is everyone's business" campaign through strong collaboration with the Anti-Poverty Consortium. The year saw coordinated emergency relief efforts including food vouchers, pop-up support events, and three 'Farms to Families' food distributions. Over 300 residents were supported at the 'Bring Your Bills Day' in Springvale, delivered in partnership with South East Community Links. Advocacy was strengthened with meetings held with local MPs and federal representatives, and public advocacy tools such as email templates and flyers were distributed. The Consortium secured a \$12,000 Game Change Grant to deliver a co-designed Skill Building Workshop Series, and a working group was appointed to develop a survey capturing lived experiences of housing hardship.	




Action	Comment	Progress
Work with strategic partners and key stakeholders including the Department of Health, Monash Health and the South East Public Health Unit to address Victorian and local health priorities	Council collaborated with the Department of Health, Monash Health, Vic Health, Women's Health in the South East, the South East Public Health Unit, Prevention United and other health stakeholders within the local prevention system to improve the strategic planning of local health and wellbeing priorities. This included identifying local health needs and undertaking health planning activities to inform the draft Council Plan 2025–29 (including Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan). Council became a member of the Victorian Municipal Mental Health and Wellbeing Promotion Network. Council also took part in SEPHU's Symposium regarding health equity and power of place, partnerships and evaluation, as well as the Catchment Plan Advisory Committee.	
Create safer spaces and improve actual and perceived levels of community safety within the municipality	<p>Council endorsed the Community Safety Framework in September 2025, outlining initiatives and a clear direction for the community safety, including the development of a Community Safety Plan. Community engagement for the plan including a popup sessions and a new Community Safety Survey has been completed.</p> <p>The CCTV Renewal Project has commenced which will included include software and hardware updates to Council's CCTV network to support the installation of new cameras.</p> <p>Council continues to work with Launch Housing as part of the Dandenong Zero Project to address homelessness.</p>	
Develop the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025–29	The draft DAMP has been completed and is now undergoing community consultation.	
Update Council's Local Law to ensure adequate management of community safety and public amenity issues	Council has worked with Victoria Police on a number of special operations and has received formal commendation for our efforts. These joint operations have been invaluable to reduce anti-social behaviour in Activity Centres.	

Strategic Objective 2: A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts



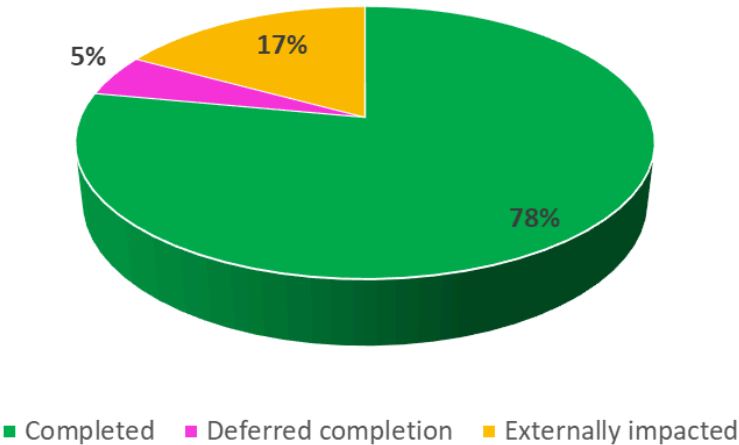
Performance Measure	Result
Implementation of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy	Council's creative programs engaged over 87,000 people across more than 300 events which were hosted to deliver on the priorities of the Arts, Cultural and Heritage Strategy
Number of arts and heritage exhibitions delivered	12
Completion of the Dandenong New Art Gallery and progression of the PEP redevelopment for creative use	The PEP building is being demolished due to structural issues which render it unsafe for public use. Construction of the Dandenong New Art Gallery will commence once the demolition is complete.
Delivery of the Reconciliation Action Plan	A new Reconciliation Action Plan is currently in development.
Number of festivals, events and programs celebrating the diversity of cultures	10 major festivals were delivered engaging a total of 69,374 people. Support was also provided on event applications for 348 events within the municipality
Implementation of the Library Strategy	Dandenong and Springvale Libraries recorded 821,273 visits, 651 items were borrowed from the Menzies Avenue Little Library and 2,720 sessions took place, involving 42,028 participants in library activities.

Action	Comment	Progress
Deliver a range of major festivals, events and programs across the City which celebrate the diversity of cultures within our community including New Years Eve, Snow Fest and Keysborough Big Picnic	<p>Delivered Council's major events program, including Springvale Snow Fest, Children's Festival, Little Day Out, Deckchair Movies, Carols, New Year's Eve Fireworks, Australia Day Awards and Fun Run, and Keysborough's Big Picnic, with 69,374 participants engaged.</p> <p>The Festivals and Events Team also supported the planning and delivery of 256 community and 92 Council events throughout the year.</p>	
Support and promote LGBTQIA+, anti-racism and gender equitable initiatives throughout the community.	<p>Council established its first LGBTQIA+ Advisory Committee, informed by community engagement and formalised through a Terms of Reference. Following endorsement, a Pride Action Plan Working Group was formed. Work is underway to develop Council's first LGBTQIA+ Action Plan, with input from both internal and external stakeholders. Council also supported awareness-raising events including Midsumma Pride March, Trans Day of Awareness, and an internal IDAHOBIT morning tea. The South East Anti-Racism Support Network transitioned to a community-led model, now coordinated by four local organisations. Council supported the network's capacity building and is working with neighbouring councils to ensure sustainable support beyond current State funding.</p>	
Support and advocate for the rights of people seeking asylum and refugees as part of the 'Back Your Neighbour' campaign	<p>The Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum's Back Your Neighbour campaign has grown in support with new Councils and community partners joining in the advocacy to the Federal Government for fair and compassionate policies for people seeking asylum. Council has been proactively leading strategic, direct lobbying with a cross-section of stakeholders during the Federal election campaign, collaborating with the refugee sector and peak bodies, raising awareness via public events and growing the membership of the Taskforce.</p>	





Action	Comment	Progress
<p>Promote reconciliation by continuing ongoing consultation with Bunurong Land Council and the wider local Aboriginal community to develop Council's next Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and begin implementation of its actions.</p>	<p>Council's Wominjeka Project won the National Local Government Award (Indigenous Category), celebrating Indigenous inclusion. The New Directions Program received both the 2024 LGPro Indigenous Award and the Maggolee Award for its Balit Booboo Narrkwarren initiative. The Muderra Way Project marked the first Bunurong-led renaming initiative, officially renaming Link Road in Noble Park. Council secured a NAIDOC Week grant to deliver three community-led cultural projects. Over 15,000 people attended the Dandenong Market NAIDOC and BLAK Market event. Council endorsed redevelopment of its Third Innovate RAP, with a new governance structure including an Internal Steering Committee and RAP Reference Group.</p>	
<p>Develop a municipal wide Community Infrastructure and Service Plan aligned with Council's Strategy Framework</p>	<p>The Asset Plan is complete and was endorsed by Council on 23rd June 2025.</p>	
<p>Complete construction of the Keysborough South Community Hub</p>	<p>Construction on site is now 99% complete. 12,000 plants are being installed, the asphalt and line marking for the car park is complete and furniture is being unpacked and installed. Building surveyor and DD consultant inspections are complete and minor defect rectification works are underway. Practical completion is expected early July 2025. Users are expected to move in mid-July with a soft opening scheduled for early August 2025.</p>	





Action	Comment	Progress
Implement the Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy 2022-26	<p>Creative programs reached over 87,000 people this year, supporting 9,700 creatives and arts organisations. The Drum held 291 events, Walker Street Gallery held 5 exhibitions, and public art grew with new commissions, digital screens, and more accessible infrastructure.</p> <p>The HOME24 exhibition was shortlisted for the Public Galleries Association Victoria Awards and won the 2024 Victorian Multicultural Award for Excellence in the Arts, while the 9 by 5 exhibition surpassed sales targets, boosting artists' incomes.</p> <p>Partnerships with ACMI, RMIT University, and local businesses strengthened creative sustainability while Heritage Hill engaged communities through exhibitions, tours, and school programs.</p>	
Undertake the Heritage Overlay Planning Scheme Amendment	Council has undertaken the majority of the Heritage Overlay Planning Scheme Amendment, and has recently completed the public exhibition process. The amendment has not been able to be completed this financial year due to the long wait for DTP to authorise the amendment.	
Implement the Greater Dandenong Libraries Strategy 2022-26	The Keysborough Community Hub is planned to open in August 2025 as part of the strategy. Dandenong and Springvale Libraries recorded 821,273 visits, 651 items were borrowed from the Menzies Avenue Little Library and 2,720 sessions took place, involving 42,028 participants in library activities.	

Strategic Objective 3: A city of accessible, vibrant centres and neighbourhoods






Performance Measure	Result
Increase in availability of affordable housing stock	The construction of four transitional housing units at 10 Market Street, Dandenong, is now complete, with management by Wayss to support women and children affected by homelessness and family violence
Number of rough sleepers supported into long term housing outcomes	23 – The total number of rough sleepers supported into long term housing outcomes since the Dandenong Zero Project's inception in June 2022 has been 34
Completion of the Springvale Boulevard project	Stage 1 is complete with Stage 2 subject to future funding availability.
Number of transport infrastructure projects delivered and/or advocated for	75

Action	Comment	Progress
Support the Dandenong Market in the delivery of its annual food events program	Council is promoting Market Tours via various communication channels. New content and a channel strategy will determine further opportunities to support and promote the Market's food events program. Council's Business Permit Support Service has assisted with approvals for food vendors. The Dandenong Market has held a number of food events during the year including Street Feast and World Fare.	
Undertake the five year review of the Dog Off Leash Strategy	Council officers have now completed a draft of the five-year review of the Dog Off Leash Strategy. The review will be presented to a Council meeting in the first half of 2025-26.	
Commence development of a revised Housing Strategy	The development of a revised Housing Strategy has commenced and will continue into the next year taking into consideration findings from the scoping paper research and investigations and responding to State Government housing policy and statewide changes to planning controls to facilitate future housing.	
Progress the Environmentally Sustainable Design 2.0 Planning Scheme Amendment in partnership with CASBE	In March 2025 Council officers confirmed with DTP that the Environmentally Sustainable Design 2.0 Planning Scheme Amendment remains under active consideration by the Minister. The progression of this action remains stalled until a Ministerial decision is made.	

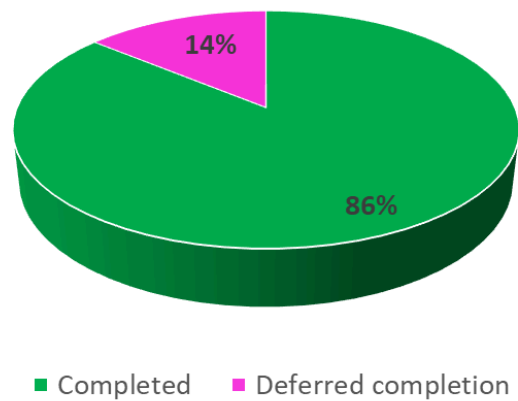
Action	Comment	Progress
Support the DTP to complete the Sandown Racecourse Planning Scheme Amendment	Council has supported DTP in the progression of the Sandown Racecourse Planning Scheme Amendment to an Advisory Committee Hearing. The Minister has received the committee report and released it publicly in early 2025; however, as of the end of June 2025 the Minister has not made a decision on progressing the Planning Scheme Amendment.	
Prepare a Dandenong Market Precinct Masterplan to facilitate Council led and private sector developments and activate public spaces and places.	The Precinct analysis stage is complete. Targeted stakeholder engagement is underway to inform the preliminary objectives and vision. The proposed Dandenong Market Precinct Plan is expected to be finalised and presented to Council for adoption by mid 2026.	
Commence the Neighbourhood Character Study review	State Government amendments to the Victorian Planning Provisions that came into effect in early March 2025 have impacted the effectiveness of a Neighbourhood Character Study being considered in the assessment of planning permit applications. Council officers are waiting further direction from the Department of Planning and Transport to ascertain the future progression and relevance of the Neighbourhood Character Study review or if an updated study is likely to provide direction in the assessment of future planning permit applications.	
Activate and promote safe and accessible public spaces for young people and families	Youth and Family Services led activities throughout the city, including libraries, community hubs, the Castle, the skate park, and major parks. Highlights included the Youth Stage, Snow Fest, volleyball tournaments, Dandy Has Talent, and school holiday programs, with a total of 8,987 contacts.	

Action	Comment	Progress
Advocate for public transport initiatives identified in Council's Greater Dandenong Public Transport Advocacy Statement	<p>Council has advocated for public transport initiatives identified in Council's Greater Dandenong Public Transport Advocacy Statement as opportunities arise. This includes through the advocacy work coordinated by the Eastern Transport Coalition.</p> <p>Council officers also met with DTP to discuss the Webster St level crossing removal project impacts on the transport network which includes the impacts and opportunities for the bus network around the Dandenong Activity Centre. Further discussions will be required with other DTP departments.</p>	
Advocate for, plan and deliver improved active transport networks and initiatives	<p>Council has advocated for major path improvements as opportunities arise. The State Government announced funding for Council of \$1.6 million to deliver a footpath along the south side of Fowler Rd as part of the Progress Street level crossing removal.</p> <p>Advocacy for major trail improvements, including the Djerring trail extension, were part of Eastern Transport Coalition advocacy, and featured in Council's Federal Election Advocacy Priorities.</p>	
Roll-out a high priority local road program within Dandenong South, including the Dandenong South Industrial Area Extension Structure Plan's Transport Network	<p>Works in kind agreements on key roads including Taylors Road and Glasscocks Road have been reached.</p> <p>Developer construction of Taylors Road and Bayliss Road is underway and complete.</p> <p>Perry Road Stage 2 is complete and Stage 3 has been tendered for construction in 2025-26.</p>	





Action	Comment	Progress
Review the Municipal Early Years Infrastructure Plan to continue the delivery of three and four-year-old kindergarten at 15 hours working to 30 hours by 2030	<p>A feasibility report on the infrastructure needed to implement 30 hours of PrePrep has been completed and kindergartens have been remeasured to confirm licensing capacity.</p> <p>Children Services worked with the Department of Education to assess infrastructure needs for Early Years Services to guide the development of a Kindergarten and Services Plan for Greater Dandenong.</p>	
In collaboration with local school education programs, advocate for, and deliver, transport safety improvements and initiatives to improve road safety awareness and to mitigate road safety risks	A Road Safety around Schools Forum was delivered in August and bespoke plans for the first tranche of schools has been developed.	
Continue to deliver various road pedestrian safety projects funded by Federal and State Governments	<p>Road Safety infrastructure projects have been delivered, including significant works on Railway Parade, Perry Road, Brady Road and Woodlee Street.</p> <p>Over \$4m in road safety funding has received through the Federal Blackspot Program.</p> <p>\$1,647,000 was secured through advocacy for the delivery of a path on Fowler Road following completion of the Progress Street Level Crossing Removal.</p>	
Implement the Springvale Revitalisation Action Plan to improve the physical and social environment to enhance the quality of life for residents, workers and visitors	The Multicultural Place Upgrade design package is complete. The concept design for Buckingham Avenue Parklet is complete. Traffic Management/Works Plan for rationalising and improving Balmoral Laneway will be delivered in FY 2025-26.	

Action	Comment	Progress
Develop and implement the Noble Park Revitalisation program to enhance the quality of life for residents, workers and visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Our Street NPK Place Activation Grant Scheme was launched, 7 recipients awarded, and activations delivered. -Frank Street Open Space Shade was installed; Seating and Bug interpretive signage was artistically designed, fabricated and delivered. -The Flower Decoration Art Installation was created and delivered to Douglas Street. -Muderra Way Pillar Mural: This is delayed, awaiting MTM site access approval. Delivery is scheduled for October. -NPK Art Labs: This project is in the construction phase and is expected to be delivered in Q1 2025-26. Community activation to commence immediately. 	
Facilitate the Development Victoria/Capital Alliance investment project in the Revitalising Central Dandenong Foster Street precinct	Amendment C248gdan was approved by the Minister for Planning and gazetted on 7 August 2024. The approved Development Plan Overlay (DPO) will guide redevelopment of Sites 11 to 15 of the Revitalising Central Dandenong Initiative. The Development Plan (DP) was approved by DTP in Nov 2024. Capital alliance is expected to commence stage 1 works in 2026.	
Advocate to Government, Agencies and other influential stakeholders, to identify, support, and deliver targeted renewal initiatives for improved economic and social outcomes in Central Dandenong	Ongoing meetings with Development Victoria are being held to discuss current and upcoming development opportunities within Central Dandenong. Officers are working on a Major Development Construction Facilitation approach in preparation to support Capital Alliance Stage 1 and other major developments in our activity centres. A research piece on Revitalising Central Dandenong has been undertaken to look at economic trends and recommendations to unlock developments in centre.	




Strategic Objective 4: A green city committed to a sustainable future





Performance Measure	Result
% of kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill	46.46%
Number of trees planted in public spaces	2,389
Development and implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan	Targeted revegetation focused on habitat enhancement with intensive weed control across 83.78 hectares, revegetation of 2.72 hectares and more than 22,000 indigenous plants installed.
Implementation of the Urban Forest Strategy	Implementation continues with a free tree program conducted for residents in the green wedge which saw a significant number of plants being collected by residents for planting on their properties.
Installed Council Solar Panel Capacity	600kW
Compliance with Council's Sustainable Buildings Policy	This policy has been discontinued.
Progress of Council operations to net zero emissions (%)	82% – Council has significantly reduced its operational emissions and continues to transition away from gas as a fuel source.
% of tree canopy coverage	14.1%

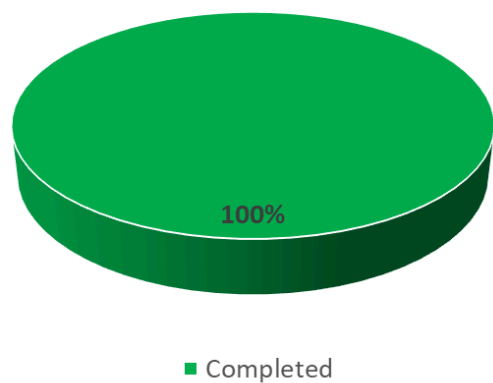
Action	Comment	Progress
Finalise review and update the Waste and Litter Strategy	A new Waste and Litter Strategy is underway.	
Investigate advanced waste opportunities for Council as an alternative to landfill	As a result of the SEMAWP procurement process, Council has entered into a Waste Supply Agreement with Maryvale EfW Project Co Pty Ltd. This agreement commits Councils to deliver their waste to Maryvale for 25 years, commencing 2029, during which time Maryvale will convert the waste into energy. Council's Executive Director City Futures currently sits on the board for this project, and the Manager Infrastructure Services is a member of the Project Oversight Group.	
Implement the Urban Forest Strategy and Green Wedge Management Plan	Actions to implement the strategies and objectives of the Urban Forest Strategy 2021-28 and Green Wedge Management Plans are complete.	
Implement the Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-26	Targeted revegetation focused on habitat enhancement across priority corridors, with intensive weed control across 83.78 hectares, revegetation of 2.72 hectares and more than 22,000 indigenous plants installed through a blend of grant funded projects, community events, and school-based initiatives. Dandenong and Yarraman Creek corridors were a key focus for grant funded projects, while design documentation was completed for the proposed upgrade of Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve. Community engagement continued through ongoing programs including, One Tree Per Child, which reached 275 Grade 3 students and distributed over 1,000 trees, and the Adopt-a-Park program, which involved 220 children planting 3,900 native and indigenous plants across six local reserves. The Green Wedge Plant give-away also enabled 24 landholders to revegetate private land, with 3,600 native and indigenous plants and trees distributed.	

Action	Comment	Progress
Complete Council's plan for new and improved playgrounds	The revised Playground Plan is underway and is being informed by data analysis, asset planning and current best practice approaches to playground strategies, however due to capacity and priority challenges, the plan has not been able to be finalised at this time. The revised Playground Plan will be completed in 2025–26 and inform the capital works program for future playground projects.	
Implement the Open Space Strategy	The Concept Plans completed in 2024–25 have resulted in a range of open space reserve improvements and playground upgrades that fulfil Council's objective of improving the quality and amenity of our reserves. Community and stakeholder consultation and engagement with school children has been an important input into each project's design. The draft master plan for Lois Twohig Reserve has been prepared for community consultation in July 2025. Concept plans for park infrastructure and playground upgrades to guide future staged implementation have been prepared for the Dandenong Park playground expansion, Tatterson Park Recreation Precinct, Warner Reserve Southern Recreation Precinct, 49 View Road and the Tirhatuan Park Sensory Trail. The stage 1 construction works for the Greaves Reserve's informal recreation precinct has been completed and the construction of the new playground at Barry Powell Reserve is in its final stages of development.	
Implement year seven of the Greening Our City: Urban Tree Strategy 2018–28	Key actions focused on enhancing canopy coverage, improving urban tree health, and strengthening operational systems. A total of 2,389 new trees were planted across priority locations, complementing the development of the 2025 Street Tree Planting Program. Maintenance of more than 3,500 young trees remained a priority, supported by consistent watering, mulching, and health checks to ensure successful establishment. Council received 3,133 customer requests relating to trees, completed 39,554 tree inspections, with the majority of those inspections delivered through a proactive program. Pruning works were undertaken on over 24,000 trees, with a strong emphasis on proactive maintenance. Investment in the Forestree Work Management System continued, further enhancing data capture and operational efficiency, to enable long-term strategic planning.	





Action	Comment	Progress
Implement the Electric Vehicle Transition Plan	All EV chargers at the Operations Centre and Thomas Street car park have been successfully commissioned and are fully operational. Procurement and trials of electric vehicles continues across various service areas. EV footpath sweepers were trialled for the Cleansing team, and several small plant items have been procured to support day-to-day operations. Two EV trucks have been ordered for the Parks and Works teams, with a third under consideration for the Cleansing team. Hybrid vehicles have been purchased to replace ageing ICE passenger vehicles, and hybrid utility vehicles are currently being trialled to assess operational suitability. A review of the current EV Transition Plan is underway to align future actions with updated operational needs, funding opportunities, and technology developments. Progress will continue to be monitored and reported going forward into 2025-26.	
Work with partners and key stakeholders to support increased community awareness of climate change risks and their ability to respond	Council officers have delivered a variety of successful educational and engagement activities this year, including the Sustainability Festival, Plastic Free July, Op Shop Trail and the delivery of a climate change flyer. Council's Small and Medium Grants application process continues to be supported and promoted through networks and Our Bright Green Future e-newsletter.	
Implement the Climate Emergency Strategy, Sustainability Strategy, climate emergency declaration, and updated Plastics Policy	Significant progress towards net zero has been made with Council's commitment to decommissioning Dandenong Oasis, the ongoing replacement of fleet vehicles to electric and delivery of educational programs to staff and the community. Given the progress made in recent years and availability of new technologies Council officers are reviewing and developing a revised transition plan to guide Council's approach to achieving net zero.	
Deliver the 2025 Sustainability Festival	The annual Sustainability Festival was held on 23 February 2025 with approximately 3,000 attendees. A summary of learnings and feedback from stallholders, volunteers and participants has been prepared for future festival planning.	
Review and update the Sustainable Buildings Policy	This policy will be abolished and its intent will be reflected in other policies and strategies.	

Action	Comment	Progress
Working with key internal and external partners provide our older residents and residents with a disability with information on the impacts of climate change and possible ways to mitigate these impacts	Support and education on climate change impacts, including extreme heat, storms, and cold weather, are now part of the annual plan for older residents and those with disability, developed in consultation with Emergency Management and key stakeholders.	
Advocate to the EPA to improve the quality of Greater Dandenong's waterways	Council continued to advocate to the EPA and Melbourne Water to improve air and water quality.	





Strategic Objective 5:
A city that supports entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes





Performance Measure	Result
Number of business networking activities and key events offered to the manufacturing sector	6
Number of leadership and personal development opportunities for young people	2,913 contacts
Number of Women in Business activities and key events offered	5
Number of events held which provide opportunities for business and education providers to support the community	3
Number of library activities and partnerships that support the community to participate in work, entrepreneurship, education, training, social and civic life	1,080 sessions with 8,457 adults and young adults participating
Number of engagement opportunities to enhance learning, reading and literacy, digital and technology skills at all life stages	2,720 sessions with 42,028 participants

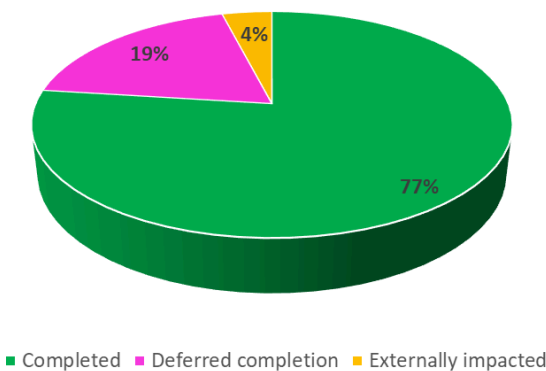
Action	Comment	Progress
Develop a new Economic and Place Strategy	The new Economy and Place Strategy is progressing to plan and a consultant has been engaged. A comprehensive Engagement Plan has been finalised and the project is on schedule for a draft strategy to be finalised late 2025 and for the new strategy to be considered for adoption by Council in early 2026.	
Successfully deliver an annual Business Education Program targeted to local entrepreneurs or established businesses	13 free in-person workshops in partnership with partners were delivered, engaging 223 participants. Highlights included the Low-Cost Marketing Tools Innovation Workshop with Melbourne Innovation Centre, Starting a Business sessions, the Food Business Information Session with the Public Health Team, and two Business Plan Accelerator and Introduction to Starting a Business workshops. These sessions offered access to free, ongoing coaching through the Self-Employment Assistance Program, with several participants successfully connected for tailored support. The workshops also fostered networking and direct engagement with the Business Permit Team.	
Manage, support and deliver activities that strengthen the capability and capacity of jobseekers in our community facing multiple barriers to employment.	The GameChange team delivered a series of programs and events including the highly successful Career and Support Expo, the pop-up Employment Hub, Learn from a Local Employer Series as well as their regular Jobseeker Reference Group. The Grant for the program ended on 30 June.	
Deliver youth programs and initiatives that promote youth voice, build leadership capability and skills that enhance employment	Youth and Family Services delivered a range of projects and initiatives aimed at supporting youth leadership, work readiness and positive profiling resulting in 2,133 contacts and a social media reach of 2,655.	

Action	Comment	Progress
Maintain support, collaboration and board participation of the South East Manufacturers Alliance (SEMMA)	SEMMA support, collaboration and board participation has been maintained. SEMMA has advocated on a number of key issues for its manufacturing member base throughout the year. In May 2025 SEMMA released its Australian Manufacturing Blueprint 2025 and Beyond focusing on 5 pillars of growth to invigorate industry – Economic, Energy, Expand, Educate and Evolve.	
Deliver a range of networks, common interest groups and targeted activities that have relevance and impact for local manufacturers, including exposure to global issues and international opportunities	SEBN has delivered approximately 50 industry networks and events that covered a range of topics around manufacturing, the global environment, staffing challenges, workplace health and safety and work/life balance. These activities have contributed to the capability building of CGD's local businesses.	
Deliver key events that showcase women in business including International Women's Day and facilitate a Women in Business Network, that is inclusive to all women in business in CGD	<p>The Women in Business Network facilitated various sessions this year including the International Women's Day event in March. Two 'Showcasing Women in Business' events and three smaller facilitated network events were held as well as the very popular Christmas networking event.</p> <p>Two new steering committee members were welcomed from our local region, both women based in the City of Greater Dandenong (CGD), who bring fresh insight and enthusiasm to the network.</p>	
Review the Family Day Care Business and Marketing Plans to maintain market share and community expectation	The Business Plan has been reviewed.	

Action	Comment	Progress
Guide the 'collective impact' phase of CR #2: GameChange towards a community-led jobs and skills system, strengthening pathways to economic participation (SPEP)	This year the GameChange team delivered a series of programs and event including the highly successful Career and Support Expo. The Grant for this program ended on 30 June.	
Facilitate Playgroup Training Vocational Pathways for local community members	A total of 109 community playgroup leaders participated in 7 online training sessions and attended 2 Playgroup Network meetings. Eighteen leaders successfully completed the training program and 3 new local Community Playgroups have been established.	
Deliver initiatives in partnership with local schools, industry and SELLEN, that provide opportunities for young people to gain skills and experience that enhance their employment opportunities	SEBN's 19th Annual Lunch with the Winners event, in partnership with SELLEN, was held on 3 September 2024. 150 students and industry representatives attended the event with speakers from RoboGals, Casey Tech, and AW Bell. The team participated in SELLEN's Try a Trade and Career Expo which was a great success.	
Support the Market Street Child Care Centre with a sustainable business model to expand market share and community expectation	Market Street Community Childcare, in partnership with Springvale Service for Children, is providing funded three and four-year-old kindergarten and childcare services. The centre is now at licensed capacity three out of five days. Engagement with the Family Law Courts, local schools, and Chisholm TAFE was carried out to improve access to childcare services, supported by Federal Government funding.	




Action	Comment	Progress
Support local business efforts to respond to their climate change risks and transition to a net zero economy by informing them of relevant State and Federal Government policies and programs	<p>Council continued to support local businesses in addressing climate change risks and advancing toward a net zero economy. Information was shared on relevant State and Federal Government policies and programs, promoting these through the Talking Business and SEBN newsletters. The ongoing partnership with ASPIRE played a key role in encouraging waste reduction, supported by the development of a new ASPIRE landing page and enhanced business waste information on the Council website. The business newsletter was used to spotlight key sustainability campaigns, including Business Clean Up Day and Plastic Free July, further engaging the business community in environmental action.</p>	
Participate in the GSEM Jobs and Skills Summit	<p>Council participated in the Jobs and Skills summit in 2024 and continues to collaborate with GSEM on a range of issues of regional significance to the south east.</p>	





Strategic Objective 6: A Council that demonstrates leadership and a commitment to investing in the community



Performance Measure	Result
Completion of Asset Plans in accordance with LGA requirements	100% – The 10 Year Asset Plan was endorsed by Council on 23 June 2025
Completion of Council's Capital Works Program	77%
Satisfaction with community consultation (Community Satisfaction Survey)	77/100
Underlying financial result remains in surplus	This result will be finalised in Council's Annual Report 2024–25
% of decisions made in Council meetings closed to the public	2.10% – 5 resolutions were made in meetings closed to the public
Increase in number of registered users accessing the Council digital portal	4,071 an increase of 1,855 users since 2023–24.

Action	Comment	Progress
Improve access to, from, and within major Activity Centres, including the management of parking, harnessing modern and smart technologies to build on existing capacity	<p>Tenders closed for improved parking technology to improve the customer experience. This is due for roll out in 2025.</p> <p>Advocacy for improved accessibility outcomes through Webster Street Level Crossing Removal Project are underway.</p>	
Conduct a comprehensive review of the 10-year Activity Centre Capital Improvement Program including evaluation of ongoing projects	The Placemaking role in 10yrs capital projects planning for Activity Centres is complete. This information will now be used for the municipal wide capital improvements planning process.	
Implement Council's infrastructure renewals program	A large amount of work has been done on Council's roads, footpaths and drains with most annual renewal programs now completed. Some outstanding work has been carried over to the next financial year due to delays by external parties or other unforeseen circumstances.	
Review the existing Road Management Plan and develop the new Road Management Plan 2025	<p>A review of Council's Road Management Plan has been undertaken and a draft new Road Management Plan prepared.</p> <p>A Councillor briefing is scheduled for August, with exhibition and adoption due by 31 October 2025.</p>	
Encourage the voice of children and young people through the facilitation of the Children's and Youth Forums and Advisory groups to inform planning and policy development	<p>The Children's Advisory Group continued with a total of 37 students engaged from 14 primary schools.</p> <p>Children Services held the 9th annual Children's Forum, which was attended by 74 students from local primary schools.</p>	

Action	Comment	Progress
Develop a Customer Experience Strategy, and update the Customer Service Charter	To support the development of the Customer Experience (CX) Strategy, a consultant was engaged to conduct three sample Customer Journey Mapping exercises. These focused on Hard Waste Collection, Parking Management (Infringement Review and Processing), and Councillor Requests. Internal stakeholder workshops provided valuable insights into customer pain points and opportunities for service improvement. These findings, alongside data from the CSBA Customer Experience Benchmarking and the Customer Centricity Audit, form a strong foundation for the CX Strategy. Additionally, feedback from a community-wide online survey has helped identify resident priorities and expectations. Collectively, these initiatives have enhanced organisational understanding of the customer experience and will inform the development of a more responsive and customer-centric service approach.	
Facilitate better community engagement across a diverse community to promote more accessible engagement	A deliberate effort has been made to uplift how Council engages with its diverse stakeholders, including shifting focus to quality rather than quantity of engagements. A key priority for 2025-26 will be to enhance the strategic approach to communications, undertake more effective forward planning and more proactive (and less reactive) communications. Significant work on capability uplift has also begun.	
Improve Council's customer service and communications to our linguistically diverse community by making more effective use of translation and interpreter services	Council has prioritised inclusive communication with linguistically diverse communities. The ongoing promotion of the Telephone Interpreter Service (TIS) and targeted recruitment practices have supported this goal. As digital engagement becomes increasingly central to customer service, there is a clear opportunity to explore technology-driven solutions.	

Action	Comment	Progress
Provide timely and accurate information and tell stories reflecting the best of our community and local economy	There has been a huge focus to support proactive communications and telling stories that connect community and Council. Wonderful stories have been told in new ways, connecting the community and Council. 'Closing the loop' – going back to community to communicate outcomes, particularly for engagement projects have been a high priority.	
Implement the recommendations of the IT Service Review	A market scan is currently being undertaken to identify potential replacements for our ERP system. This forms part of a broader review of all systems, with the objective of developing a strategic roadmap for the next 3–4 years.	
Enhance Council's major projects communications, so they are timely, accurate and promote community trust; and explain project benefits effectively.	Successful coverage/celebrations of key milestones of the Keysborough Community Hub project, the contract signing and start of works on the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre and the demolition of the PEP have been achieved. Social media content is rolling out at regular intervals and issues are being effectively managed.	
Complete Council's capital works program as outlined in the Annual Budget and Long Term Financial Plan	<p>As of the end of June, the total spend is \$75.3m comprising \$59.9m actuals (works already complete) and \$15.4m committed (contracts awarded and works underway).</p> <p>Current works completed and underway equate to 77% of the revised mid-year budget of \$98M.</p>	

Action	Comment	Progress
Develop an investment attraction program that facilitates appropriate investment attraction matched to the region's competitive strengths across identified target and growth industry sectors	Economic profile collateral was updated for 2025 and distributed to potential investors at a range of business-focused events including the Real Estate and Developers' Forum 2025. Case management support continues, supporting a range of major investments/developments. New opportunities for proactive investment attraction are being explored, aligned to regional strengths and the Economy and Place Strategy is under development.	
Introduce psychosocial education and assessment programs to proactively identify and mitigate workplace risks to employee health and wellbeing	All ASU scheduled 'Building Mentally Healthy Workplace' sessions (seven face-to-face and one online) were delivered by mid-October 2024. Approx 280 staff attended these sessions.	
Continue the rollout of wearable technology to prevent musculoskeletal injuries in high risk work areas	Preventure has been an effective program in identifying specific manual handling risks and giving leaders and staff opportunities to target improvements to work processes and equipment. It also continues to greatly assist in avoiding injury through data capture and also assist some 'return to work' staff to perform tasks in confidence while wearing the sensors.	
Implement Leadership Development programs for People Leaders incorporating innovation and change management	A series of leadership programs has been designed and delivered for both senior leaders (managers) and people leaders (coordinators and team leaders).	
Develop the new Council Plan 2025-29 in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020	The Council Plan 2025-29 was adopted by Council in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 on Monday 23 June along with the Annual Plan 2025-26. These documents were developed after an extensive community consultation program in 2024 and a final consultation process on the draft documents from 14 May until 11 June.	

Action	Comment	Progress
Comply with the auditing and reporting requirements of the Gender Equality Act 2020 including the preparation for the development of a new Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP)	Work is currently underway to prepare the reporting for December 2025, as well as to develop the new GEAP, which is due in May 2026.	
Implement the recommendations of the recent Child Safe Standards Audit Review	<p>Following Council approval, a Child Safety Compliance Officer role was resourced. Progress has been made on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement from 14% to 32% of completed recommendations, an 18% increase over the 6 month period; • 27% improvement in recommendations that have progressed towards completion; • 50% improvement in recommendations that are underway (in progress); • Reduction from recommendations that are delayed from 23% to 5%; and • 50% reduction of recommendations that have not been started from 18% to 9%. 	
Meet budget revenue targets for all commercial properties	Rental revenue for the financial year exceeded budget due to the leasing of vacant properties.	
Develop a structured framework to streamline the preparation of Council's Strategies	A new Integrated Planning Framework was presented to Councillors in May and is being implemented across the organisation. Further work will be undertaken in 2025–26 on the review of strategies, development of templates and completion of guidance documents to assist with the implementation.	
Review Council's Long Term Financial Plan in line with the Local Government Act 2020	Council's Long Term Financial Plan was adopted by Council at its meeting on 23 June 2025.	

Action	Comment	Progress
With the community, strengthen engagement, build capacity and accessibility to Council's grants programs	<p>Key achievements of the Community Funding and Grants program include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of the small grants program and 2 rounds of the medium grants program. • Recruitment of new grants panel members. • Draft grants impact report prepared. • Strengthened partnership with Neighbourhood Houses and Community Centres. • More engagement with key stakeholders, including Interfaith Network, Greater Dandenong Volunteer Resource Service and Large Grants funded organisations. • Administrative support was provided for the establishment of the Greater Dandenong ANZAC Day Funding 2025 and the Our Street NPK Grant Scheme 2024. • Funding administered for the "50 Years Vietnamese Refugee Resettlement – 50 Years Freedom" Festival. 	
Implement the recommendations of the Procurement Review	<p>Procurement is on track in updating systems and adding functionality as part of the Procurement review. This is being updated with technology updates and compliance and contract management protocols. The current policy is in draft to be reviewed with a new contract suite that is reflected with policy terms and conditions. Further training programs for staff along with forward planning meetings are being scheduled.</p>	
Facilitate and chair at least four Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) meetings with relevant members and Emergency Service Agencies	<p>In collaboration with agency partners, the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) is updating the Greater Dandenong Municipal Storm and Flood Sub Plan and is taking steps to address risks associated with High-Risk Waste Sites in the region.</p> <p>Another working group has been established by the Committee to examine and enhance the emergency preparedness of Supported Residential Services (SRSs) and Caravan Parks.</p>	
Review, implement and monitor progress on mitigation and response (including relief and recovery) risk strategies and actions	<p>During 2025 Council received a record number of requests, totaling over 70, to coordinate emergency relief and recovery support for local businesses and residents.</p>	

Reshaping Greater Dandenong







Completed






Delayed

Action	Comment	Progress
SUSTAINABILITY – We will deliver on our community vision in a financially sustainable manner		
1.1 Undertake a review of Council's 2 major projects (Dandenong Wellbeing Centre – DWC and Dandenong Community Hub – DCH) with a view of postponing one and to ensure Major Projects remain within budget parameters.	The Dandenong Wellbeing Centre contract was awarded earlier this year, and the construction has commenced on site from June 2025. Councillors are considering options for the Dandenong Community Hub and a decision may be made at the end of 2025.	
1.2 Explore new revenue streams/optmise existing revenue streams to implement a Revenue Optimisation Plan.	An issues and options report was completed and presented at a Councillor Briefing Session in 2024. These revenue options are currently being worked on for consideration by Council.	
1.3 Explore Private Public Sector Partnership (PPP) model for major projects e.g. Dandenong Community Hub (DCH)/Multicultural Hub.	This project has not been explored further due to the delay of the Dandenong Community Hub project.	
1.4 Explore Strategic Asset Sales.	Work is underway to rationalise assets, with the approach outlined in the Long-Term Asset Plan. Council has endorsed the sale process for one of the assets, and this process is already underway.	
1.5 Develop a Model of Service Review/Improvement.	The Service Review Framework has been developed; however, its endorsement has been delayed due to the delay of service plan approvals. The service review process is now expected to commence at the end of Q1 in the 2025–26 financial year.	




Reshaping Greater Dandenong

Action	Comment	Progress
CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE – Improve customer experience across all touchpoints		
2.1 Undertake a Review of Customer Experience to identify current situation and assess multicultural effectiveness	Throughout the year, significant progress was made in understanding and enhancing the customer experience. A comprehensive review of current practices identified opportunities to streamline service delivery, improve data capture, and strengthen First Contact Resolution. The introduction of improved wrap-up codes and exploration of AI technologies have laid the groundwork for a more responsive and customer-focused approach. These insights can be consolidated into a Customer Experience Action Plan once the CX strategy is finalised.	
2.2 Implement a Customer Experience Action Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> digital technology KPI's – feedback system 	This project is linked to the review of the customer experience.	
PEOPLE AND CULTURE – Ensure we have the right number of the right people and right ability in the right roles		
3.1 Recruitment of Director Community Strengthening	Achieved.	
3.2 Create and roll out an updated employee value proposition	Work is underway but has been delayed due to resource constraints in the People and Change department. The work is expected to be completed in the first Q1 of 2025-26.	
3.3 Develop and implement a People Plan for the organisation	This work has been postponed due to resource constraints within the People and Change department. This project is scheduled for commencement in 2025-26.	






Reshaping Greater Dandenong

Action	Comment	Progress
PEOPLE AND CULTURE – Ensure we have the right number of the right people and right ability in the right roles		
3.4 Review organisational structure and workforce plan with focus on staff shortages and skills	An organisational structure review was undertaken and a review and realignment is currently underway. The new Workforce Plan will be developed in 2025–26.	
3.5 Refresh the Workplace Culture Development Strategy	This work has been postponed due to resource constraints within the People and Change department and is expected to commence in 2025–26.	
3.6 Create a Workplace Diversity Strategy	This work has been postponed due to resource constraints within the People and Change department and is expected to commence in 2025–26.	





Reshaping Greater Dandenong

Action	Comment	Progress
COMMUNICATION, ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY – National leader in communication and engagement with diverse communities		
4.1 Develop a Community Engagement Resourcing Plan, incorporating benchmarking of other LGA's	Benchmarking has been undertaken regarding staff resourcing of Community Engagement positions across 25 other Local Governments. An additional resource has been recruited to assist in this area until 30 June.	
4.2 Investigate translation software, use of and strategies to enhance translation services	<p>Council continuously considers the use of translation services and when it would be effective to deliver materials in LOTE. We are actively investigating several products that use AI and auto language translation to support people from NESBs. This will be an ongoing piece of work, especially as LLMs develop and improve in accuracy.</p> <p>A lack of channels through which to communicate and reach NESB/CALD communities continues to be a challenge. We will continue to consider how to ask our 3rd party influences and connectors to share our materials, without overwhelming them.</p>	
4.3 Explore options for the community newsletter in line with enhanced community engagement/communication	The current position has been reviewed and is expected to be considered again in 2025–26, particularly around distribution. The risk of discontinuation and current financial expense associated with reducing long lead times for distribution to get key events into relevant editions will be key considerations, along with the costs of reducing these lead times. Well over 40% of residents surveyed in the Community Satisfaction Survey 2025 chose Council News in print as their preferred method of communication from Council. While the Council News is expensive to produce and consumes significant human resources each month, we need to consider this against the strong community preference for the product before considering changes.	

Reshaping Greater Dandenong

Action	Comment	Progress
SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES – Fit for purpose processes, systems and technology in place for our objectives to be enabled		
5.1 Update financial delegations and thresholds to enhance speed of decision making/ effectiveness	Financial delegations were updated in October and this action is now complete.	
5.2 Assess the capturing of Councillor correspondence in Oracle to ensure tracking of 100% of all queries	This action has now been completed with alternate systems being considered.	
5.3 Progress our target to be a paper less organisation by 2026	Council continues to review its paper consumption and has made improvements across the organisation with the introduction of online meeting minutes and agendas, increased use of digital platforms for community engagement and the transfer of many forms to online formats.	
5.4 Launch customer portal/dashboard	The portal has been soft launched, representing a key milestone in the digital transformation strategy. This initial deployment will undergo close monitoring over the coming months to evaluate system performance, collect user feedback, and refine functionality. These insights will inform readiness for a broader public release across the municipality.	
5.5 Investigate new models for a Councillor intranet	Any system requirements for a new model for the Councillor intranet are being considered as part of the broader ERP project.	

Reshaping Greater Dandenong

Action	Comment	Progress
5.6 Assess our current digital capability and invest in contemporary technology and digital systems to facilitate identified opportunities for system and process improvements.	Council is currently undertaking a market scan to identify potential replacements for our business systems. This forms part of a broader review of all systems, with the objective of developing a strategic roadmap for the next 3–4 years. In parallel, portal utilisation is being assessed to support future integration efforts and the implementation of a single view of the customer	
STRATEGY AND FUTURE PLANNING		
6.1 Review Council's performance measures	Council's performance measures were reviewed and amended as part of the development of the Council Plan 2025–29.	
6.2 Develop a set of organisational KPIs which track progress against the recommendations of the 100 Day Report	Performance against the 100 Day Report actions are presented quarterly to Council and the community.	
6.3 Create a framework for Council's strategies and plans which provides an integrated approach to their development and clearly articulates alignment with Council's strategic and operational priorities	A new Integrated Planning Framework was presented to Councillors in May and is being implemented across the organisation. Further work will be undertaken in 2025–26 on the review of strategies, development of templates and completion of guidance documents to assist with the implementation.	



4.3 OTHER

4.3.1 Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum Interstate Delegation

Responsible Officer: Executive Manager Strategy Growth & Advocacy
Attachments: Nil

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** interstate travel for Mayor Cr Jim Memeti to allow his participation in the Back Your Neighbour delegation meetings scheduled to be held in Canberra from 2 to 3 September 2025, as part of the Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum advocacy work; and
2. **APPROVES** interstate travel for Mayor Cr Jim Memeti to allow his participation in the Back Your Neighbour delegation meetings scheduled to be held in Sydney from 4 to 5 September 2025, as part of the Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum advocacy work.

Executive Summary

1. This report seeks approval of Mayor Cr Jim Memeti to attend the Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum Interstate Delegations to be held in Canberra 2-3 September and in Sydney from 4-5 September 2025.

Background

2. The Council-led Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum has been advocating for the rights of people seeking asylum via the Back Your Neighbour (BYN) campaign since 2018.
3. The campaign has grown in support in recent years with new councils and community partners joining in the advocacy to the Federal Government for fair and compassionate policies for people seeking asylum.
4. Council has been proactively leading strategic, direct lobbying with a cross-section of stakeholders since the 2022 federal election, collaborating with the refugee sector and peak bodies, raising awareness of campaign priorities via public events and growing the membership of the Taskforce.
5. As part of the Taskforce's bipartisan political engagement strategy, the Taskforce holds annual delegations to Canberra to meet with ministers and other members of parliament about the Back Your Neighbour campaign. These usually coincide with Australia Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly each year.
6. In 2023, the BYN delegation held seven Member of Parliament (MP) meetings, increasing to thirteen in 2024. As delegated Chair of the Taskforce, successive mayors of Greater Dandenong have played an active role in these delegations, helping to elevate the campaign's priorities at the federal level.



7. The Taskforce held an exhibition stand at the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly in 24-27 June 2025 to expand its network and promote the Back Your Neighbour campaign. The campaign gained support from numerous interstate Councils including capital city councils and saw over 70 Councillors sign up as Friends of the Taskforce, with many expressing interest in becoming formal members.
8. The ALGA National General Assembly in 2025 did not coincide with a parliamentary sitting week and limited MP meetings were secured.

Key Issues and Discussion

9. The delegation member in this report have been approved by member council representatives of the Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum at the 9 July 2025 Taskforce meeting.
10. The purpose of the delegations will be to meet with Federal MPs in Canberra to discuss the Back Your Neighbour campaign's latest advocacy and explore opportunities to raise awareness and strengthen collaboration with the Federal Government.
11. Mayor Cr Jim Memeti will be attending meetings with a lived experience delegate and Council support officer. To date, meetings have been scheduled with Mary Doyle MP and Tom French MP. Other MP meeting invitations are underway.
12. As Chair and Executive Member of the Taskforce, Greater Dandenong Council plays a key leadership role in advancing the Back Your Neighbour campaign. Active representation in advocacy efforts by Mayor Cr Jim Memeti is essential.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

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

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

Operating Budget Implications

14. The financial implications associated with this report involve an estimated cost in the current financial year of \$2,200. These costs will be funded from revenue received from Taskforce membership fees, as the proposed delegations are part of Taskforce business and legitimate expenses under the Taskforce's Terms of Reference. There is no direct cost to Greater Dandenong City Council.
15. For 2 to 5 September delegation, the estimated cost per delegate is approximately \$2,200, consisting of:
 - a. Accommodation for 3 nights (4 star): \$1000
 - b. Flights (economy): \$500
 - c. Incidentals (ground transportation/meals): \$700

Asset Implications

16. This item does not affect any existing assets.



Legal/Risk Implications

17. There are no legal / risk implications relevant to this report. As Chair of the Taskforce there is a reputational risk if the Mayor cannot participate in these important delegation meetings.

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

19. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

20. There was no requirement for community consultation.

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

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

- Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.

22. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29:

- A socially connected, safe and healthy city.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

- Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.



4.3.2 Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards Event

Responsible Officer:	Executive Director Community Strengthening
Attachments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Australia Day Awards 2026 - Nomination Form [4.3.2.1 - 5 pages]2. Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards - Assessment Panel Guidelines 2026 [4.3.2.2 - 14 pages]3. Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards - Assessment Panel Guidelines 2027 [4.3.2.3 - 14 pages]4. CM Minutes 230814 - Minute 852 [4.3.2.4 - 1 page]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES the commencement of the 2026 Australia Day Awards Program; and**
2. **NOTES that the Awards Ceremony will take place on 26 January 2026 at Springvale City Hall and will be open for the public to attend.**

Executive Summary

1. In response to community feedback, the 2026 Australia Day Awards Ceremony will be open to the public, encouraging broader community engagement in celebrating local leadership and contributions.
2. Award categories will remain unchanged to ensure continuity and simplify planning.
3. A joint judging panel will be retained, for 2026 Award, it will comprise a maximum of five (5) Councillors (including the Mayor or delegate) and five (5) community members.
4. For 2027 Award, a joint judging panel will comprise at the most three (3) Councillors (including the Mayor or delegate) and three (3) community members, to streamline decision-making and scheduling.
5. Judging will commence before November 2025 to allow sufficient time for police and reference checks of the finalists ahead of the busy community event and holiday seasons. Police checks are conducted at no cost to finalists.

Background

6. The Australia Day Awards Ceremony is held alongside the Citizenship Ceremony, traditionally a private event for new citizens and their families.
7. Prior to 2020, Council hosted a festival on Australia Day in Dandenong Park which included the Awards Ceremony, however increased infrastructure and operational costs dictated that this model was no longer sustainable within current budget allocation.
8. Since then, the Awards Ceremony have been delivered at various venues:
 - In 2022, Council delivered the Awards Ceremony at Springvale City Hall.
 - In 2023, Council delivered the Awards Ceremony at Dandenong Park.
 - In 2024, Council delivered the Awards Ceremony in conjunction with the Citizenship Ceremony at the Drum Theatre.



- In 2025, Council delivered the Awards Ceremony in conjunction with the Citizenship Ceremony at the Springvale City Hall.

9. The Australia Day Award Categories and the number of nominations received per category are as follows:

Number of Nominations per Category	2025	2024	2023	2022
Community Leadership Award / Citizen of the Year (2022)	4	6	4	8
Living Treasure Award	5	4	7	10
Community Group of the Year Award	4	3	6	4
Volunteer of the Year Award	5	7	4	10
Young Leader of the Year Award	8	7	2	7
Sustainability Award	8	2	2	2
Sportsperson of the Year	2	2	3	2
Corporate Citizen of the Year	3	2	2	2
Outstanding Contributions to the Arts Award* (*This award commenced in 2024)	2	3		
Total Nominations	41	36	30	45

10. Overall Engagement: Nominations rebounded in 2025 (41), showing renewed community interest after a dip in 2023.
11. Young Leader and Sustainability awards saw strong growth, reflecting increased focus on youth and environmental leadership.
12. Living Treasure and Volunteer of the Year have dropped since 2022 - refreshed promotion targeting this category will be implemented in this year nomination period.
13. Sportsperson and Corporate Citizen categories remain consistently low.
14. Arts Award shows early engagement since its 2024 launch.
15. The Award process timeline of the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards process will be as follows:

Award Stage	Timeline
Nomination Period	Early August to Mid-September 2025
Assessment Period	October to Mid-November 2025
Police Checks and Reference Checks	Mid-November to December 2025
Ceremony	26 January 2026

16. A variety of marketing and promotion avenues with specific target audiences, such as: young people, CALD communities, sports clubs, will continue to be utilised to promote the nomination process to the community including postcard flyers mail drop and distribution to Council venues and other facilities; advertisement in Dandenong Star News; Council's TV's and Urban Screens; Social Media Campaign; Council News Magazine; and Council website.
17. The **Assessment Panel Guidelines** have been attached to this report. Criteria for each category have been reviewed and remain appropriate. As an example, Sportsperson of the Year criteria recognises excellence and leadership on and off the sports field and is open to any sportsperson or a member of a Greater Dandenong Sports Club that inspires, involves and contributes to the Greater Dandenong community. This does not require a nominee to be a member of a Dandenong Sports Club.



Key Issues and Discussion

18. Combining the Australia Day Awards with the Citizenship Ceremony enhances the prestige of the event, offering a dignified platform to honour individuals making outstanding contributions to the community. It also provides new citizens with a powerful example of local leadership and civic engagement.
19. Delivering both ceremonies together in an indoor setting ensures:
 - Cost-efficiency through reduced infrastructure, operational and labour expenses
 - Streamlined coordination of Councillor and VIP commitments
 - Greater community engagement by opening the Awards to the public.
 - Positioning the Awards as a formal, high-profile event reinforces its role in recognising excellence and leadership across Greater Dandenong.
 - Maintaining a ceremony format that reflects the significance of these contributions ensures the event remains inclusive, inspiring, and worthy of those it celebrates.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

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

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

Operating Budget Implications

21. This item does not have an impact on existing financial resource implications.

Asset Implications

22. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

23. There are legal / risk implications to financial sustainability if the recommendation was not to proceed.

Environmental Implications

24. There are no environmental implications relevant to this report.
25. There was no requirement for community consultation.



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

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

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

27. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29:

- A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
- A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

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

Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards 2026 – Nomination Form



The Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards 2026 recognise individuals or groups whose outstanding work has made a positive contribution to the Greater Dandenong community.

Do you know someone who is making a difference and deserves to be celebrated? Nominate them now!

To nominate, please note the following:

- Members of a community group are welcome to nominate their own organisation, however an individual nominee must be nominated by someone other than themselves.
- Please list at least one but preferably two referees. Referees may be contacted for additional information.
- You may nominate individuals and/or groups for multiple awards however a separate form must be used for each.
- Finalists over 18 years of age must be willing to undergo a Victorian Police Check and Working With Children Check paid for by Council.
- Assessment of nominations is completed by an assessment panel. If no suitable nominations are received for a category, the panel reserves the right to not give that award for the year.
- You may nominate people who have been previously nominated.
- Presentation of the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards will be made at an Award Ceremony on Sunday 26 January 2026.
- For more information, please visit: greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/australia-day-awards

Nominations close on Monday 15 September 2025, 11.59 pm
Email austday@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1000 to find out more.

Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards 2026 – Nomination Form

Nomination Form

Nominate people who have made a positive contribution to the community in areas such as community service, education, the environment, the arts, sport, and civic participation.

Select which award you are nomination for:

AWARD	CRITERIA
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Leadership Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An individual who has demonstrated long term commitment to voluntary or philanthropic work in the community and made positive contributions to enrich the lives of others Over 16 years of age
<input type="checkbox"/> Young Leader of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aged 16-30 years on 26 January in year of award Demonstrated leadership and is a positive role model
<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An individual who has demonstrated commitment in caring for the community and outstanding and consistent voluntary contribution to a group, activity, or community
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Citizen of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An individual or business who has made a significant contribution to the community through their business or corporate position in Greater Dandenong
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Group of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A group whose outstanding initiatives demonstrate innovation and community capacity building Actively engages with 'vulnerable or marginalised' community members and promotes harmony across cultures
<input type="checkbox"/> Sportsperson of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For excellence and leadership on and off the sports field A sportsperson or a member of a Greater Dandenong Sports Club that inspires participation and involvement across the community
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An individual or group whose initiatives contribute to making Greater Dandenong a healthy, vibrant, innovative and creative community committed to environmental sustainability
<input type="checkbox"/> Living Treasure Award A lifetime achievement award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An individual that has had a lasting impact on the quality of life for the community
<input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding Contribution to the Arts Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An individual or group who has demonstrated commitment to the Arts and Culture scene through outstanding and consistent voluntary contributions to a group, activity or community

Nominations close on Monday 15 September 2025, 11.59 pm
Email austday@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1000 to find out more.

Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards 2026 – Nomination Form

Your Details (Required)

Your name and organisation (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Who are you nominating? (Required)

Nominee name and organisation (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Referee Details (At least one referee required)

Referee name: _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Additional Referee Details

Referee name: _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Nominations close on Monday 15 September 2025, 11.59 pm
Email austday@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1000 to find out more.

Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards 2026 – Nomination Form

Application Form Questions

1. How does the nominee meet the selection criteria for this award?

*Please provide information on what they do and outline what specific contributions the nominee has made to the Greater Dandenong community.
Please provide as much information as possible.*

2. What impact has the nominee's contribution had within the Greater Dandenong community?

Please outline any achievements, awards, and outcomes from their contributions. Please also include any organisations or groups who have benefited, in what capacity and for how long.

Nominations close on Monday 15 September 2025, 11.59 pm
Email austday@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1000 to find out more.

Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards 2026 – Nomination Form

Declaration

I agree that the information provided in this nomination is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and is an accurate representation of the nominee.

I confirm that, I have informed the nominee and two independent referees of this nomination and obtained their permission for their personal information provided to be used by Greater Dandenong City Council in accordance with the Privacy collection Notice.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: __/__/____

Submit your nomination to Council by Monday 15 September 2025

Post: Greater Dandenong City Council, Festivals and Events, PO Box 200, Dandenong, VIC 3175

Online application: greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/australia-day-awards









Email: austday@cgd.vic.gov.au

Collection Notice

The information requested on this form is being collected by Greater Dandenong City Council for the sole purpose of Australia Day Award Nominations. The personal information provided will be handled in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 and Council's Privacy and Personal Information Policy which is available on Council's website www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au. It will not be disclosed to any other external party without the individuals consent, unless required or authorised by law. If you wish to alter any of the personal information you have supplied to Council or you believe the information has been breached, please contact Council's Privacy Officer on 8571 1000 or email: council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Language link  13 14 50

Albanian/Shqip Arabic/عربي Chinese/中国 Dari/دري Greek/Ελληνικά Hazaragi/هزارگی
Khmer/ខ្មែរ Serbian/Српски Turkish/Türkçe Vietnamese/Tiếng Việt

 Phone 8571 1000  council@cgd.vic.gov.au  greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au	 TTY: 133 677 Speak and listen: 1300 555 727 Online: relayservice.gov.au  TIS: 13 14 50	  
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Nominations close on Monday 15 September 2025, 11.59 pm
Email austday@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1000 to find out more.

Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards Assessment Panel Guidelines 2026



Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards Assessment Panel Guidelines

Background

Each year Council seeks nominations for Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards from the community to recognise and honour the achievements of individuals and groups who make outstanding contributions that benefit community life. The awards are presented at the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards Announcement and Ceremony on 26 January.

Award recipients are advised beforehand and invited to attend the Awards ceremony with their families. They receive a certificate and a bouquet of native flowers and the opportunity to make a brief acceptance speech.

Local media coverage will be sought, and official photographs will be taken.

Award Categories and Criteria

Community Leadership Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An individual who has demonstrated long term commitment to voluntary or philanthropic work in the community and made positive contributions to enrich the lives of others Over 16 years of age
Young Leader of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aged 16-30 years on 26 January in year of award Demonstrated leadership and is a positive role model
Volunteer of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An individual who has demonstrated commitment in caring for the community and outstanding and consistent voluntary contribution to a group, activity, or community
Corporate Citizen of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An individual or business who has made a significant contribution to the community through their business or corporate position in Greater Dandenong
Community Group of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A group whose outstanding initiatives demonstrate innovation and community capacity building Actively engages with 'vulnerable or marginalised' community members and promotes harmony across cultures
Sportsperson on the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For excellence and leadership on and off the sports field. A sportsperson or a member of a Greater Dandenong Sports Club that inspires participation and involvement across the community
Sustainability Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An individual or group whose initiatives contribute to making Greater Dandenong a healthy, vibrant, innovative and creative community committed to environmental sustainability
Living Treasure Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An individual that has had a lasting impact on the quality of life for the community
Outstanding Contribution to the Arts Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An individual or group who has demonstrated commitment to the Arts and Culture scene through outstanding and consistent voluntary contributions to a group, activity or community

If the panel determines there is no satisfactory nomination for a category, they may decide not to give an award in that category for the year. Sitting members of Federal, State and Local governments are not eligible for an award.

Administration

Greater Dandenong Festivals and Events staff manage the promotion, administration, and coordination of the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards Assessment Panel, as well as organising the awards and ceremonies on 26 January. The meeting agenda will be distributed in advance and meeting minutes distributed afterwards. A minimum of five working days' notice will be given before an Assessment Panel meeting.

The Assessment Panel meetings are chaired by the Manager Community Wellbeing or their appointed representative. The Chair's role is to facilitate the Assessment Panel's discussion, avoiding commenting on the merits of nominations other than their eligibility, and has no authority to score nominations or otherwise vote on matters concerning the Panel.

Privacy

The personal details of Greater Dandenong Australia Day Award nominees provided to Assessment Panel members are strictly confidential and protected under the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*. Panel members must ensure that any personal information provided to them is used for the sole purpose of assessing Greater Dandenong Australia Day Award nominations and the information must not be discussed or disclosed to any person outside of the assessment panel. More information is available in Council's [Privacy and Personal Information Policy](#).

Responsibilities of the Assessment Panel members

Members of the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards Assessment Panel must:

- Abide by the conduct outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding for Members of the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards Assessment Panel.
- Prior to the meetings, read and assess the nominations, providing scores online.
- Attend scheduled meetings of the Assessment Panel as required.
- Represent the interests and views of the local community rather than individual or organisational interests.
- Assess each nomination on its merits without bias in relation to gender or ethnic, cultural and social backgrounds.
- Respect the views, ideas and beliefs of the other appointed Assessment Panel members.
- Play an active role in the discussion and assessment of the nominations.
- Adhere to Council's [Privacy and Personal Information Policy](#).
- Ensure confidential information discussed by the Assessment Panel is not

disseminated, and no attempt is made to contact, or in any other way, breach the privacy of nominators/nominees.

- Not make any media comment or other public comment in relation to the Assessment Panel or the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards.
- Make decisions by consensus where possible.

Assessment Panel members may also wish to attend the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards ceremony on 26 January 2026 when the awards will be presented.

Assessment Panel Structure

The Greater Dandenong Australia Day Assessment Panel membership is as follows:

- A maximum of five (5) Councillors (including the Mayor or delegate)
- Five (5) community members
- Quorum will need to be a minimum of three assessment panel members. At a minimum the quorum must consist of one representing Mayor/Deputy Mayor/ Councillor and two community members.

Community Panellists will:

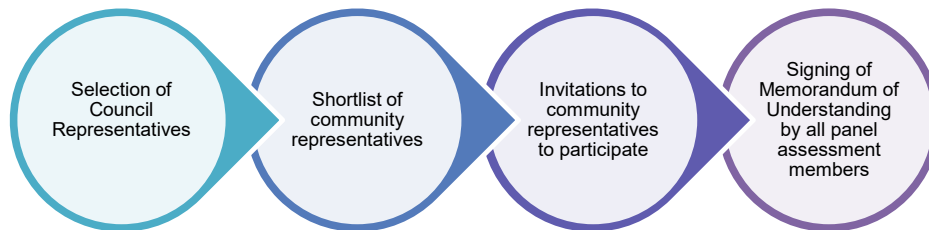
- Include at least one member from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) background
- Participate for a maximum of two consecutive years to ensure a diverse range of views are represented.

Members of the Assessment Panel should possess the following qualities:

- An understanding of local issues, values, and aspirations.
- Personal integrity and discretion.
- Community involvement, connections or networks.
- An ability to co-operate with others and work as a team.
- A willingness to contribute to the process in a fair and unbiased manner.
- Respect for and understanding of different genders and ethnic, cultural and social backgrounds.
- Effective communication skills.
- Availability to attend the assessment meeting(s).
- Access to the internet and the ability to complete the online assessment process.

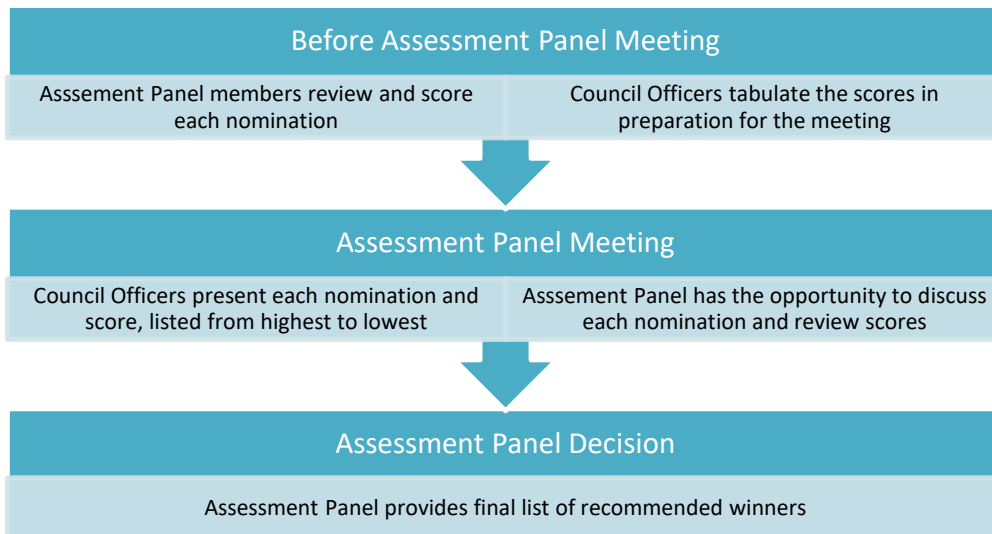
Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards Assessment Process

1. Panel Selection



- Greater Dandenong Council representatives will be determined by Council as part of its Appointment of Council Liaisons and Representatives to Committees, Peak Industry Bodies, Regional and Community Based Organisations process in November each year.
- Community representatives of the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards Assessment Panel will be sought through an invitation process undertaken by the Festivals and Events officer with the approval from Manager of Community Wellbeing.
- The Director of Community Strengthening will approve the appointment of the community representatives on the panel. The Director of Community Strengthening will inform Council via email of the selection of the community members of the Greater Dandenong Australia Day assessment panel.
- All assessment panel members will read and sign the Assessment Panel Memorandum of Understanding.

2. Assessment Panel Meeting(s)



- Festivals and Events officers will coordinate the meeting.
- Council officers will distribute the online link for the assessment process.
- Each Assessment Panel member will review and score each nomination online before the Assessment Panel meeting. Festivals and Events officers will tabulate the results before the meeting.
- The Assessment Panel meeting will take place with majority of Panel members present. The aim of the meeting is to have a final endorsed list of winners for each award category.
- Festivals and Events Council officers will present the scores for each nomination.
- Panel members will have a chance to discuss the merits of each nomination and to review their scores.
- To ensure nominations are not negatively impacted by conflicts of interest, when an Assessment Panel member is aware of any potential conflict of interest, they will excuse themselves from the discussion and assessment of that nomination. Scores will be averaged by the number of assessors.
- Assessment Panel members must advise the chairperson of any conflicts of interest either in writing, prior to the meeting, or verbally at the meeting immediately prior to the item being discussed. All conflicts of interest will be noted in the meeting minutes.
- The assessment process will usually be completed in one session. Should it be required, a second assessment session will be scheduled to provide any further information to assist with decision making.
- The Assessment Panel collectively determines the final list of recommended winners for each award category. Once the Panel have collectively determined the final list it will be emailed (in confidence) to Council's Executive Management Team (EMT).

A Note on Conflict of Interest

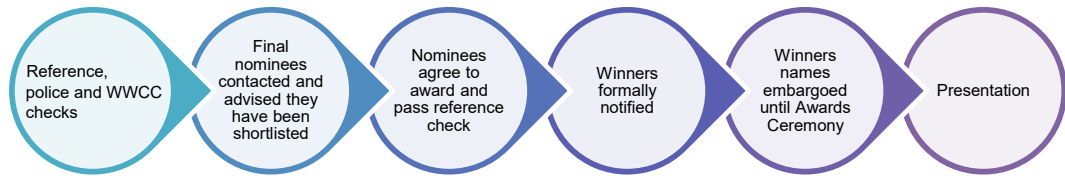
Assessment Panellists may know of some nominees for Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards. Knowledge of an individual or group does not in itself constitute a conflict of interest.

A conflict of interest declaration should be made when an ordinary person would assume there is conflict. For example:

- When an Assessment Panellist has a formal role in relation to a nominee such as being Chair of a committee or board where the nominee is a member.
- Where the nominee is a friend or relative (including by marriage) of an Assessment Panellist.
- Where there is a commercial relationship between a nominee and an Assessment Panellist such as a contractor, supplier, or employee.
- In any circumstance where a matter could be reasonably perceived as a conflict of interest.

If an Assessment Panellist is in doubt about any potential conflict of interest, advice can be sought from the Assessment Panel members or Council officers during the meeting. Should a decision be required on whether an Assessment Panel member has a conflict of interest, the Chair has the final determination based on the information provided.

3. Confirmation of Winners



- Festivals and Events officers will conduct reference checks for the highest scorer for each award and seek evidence of address details where required.
- Festivals and Events officers will contact each person via phone and advise them they have been shortlisted for an award, obtaining any missing verification details.
- Should any recommended award winner decline the award, or be deemed ineligible by the confirmation process, the next highest scoring person on the list will become the recommended winner by default.
- Each person on the final list of award winners will be formally notified via email that they will receive the award and the details about the award presentation ceremony.
- The interim winners will then remain under embargo until 26 January 2026, when they will be announced at the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Award Ceremony.

Appendix 1 - Scoring summary

Each criterion is scored out of five. The score for each criterion will be totalled to provide the final score for each nomination.

1	2	3	4	5
Does not satisfy the assessment area	Limited evidence of meeting criteria	Fairly meets the criteria	Good evidence of meeting the criteria	Outstanding evidence of meeting the criteria

Community Leadership Award

<i>Leadership</i>	Taken initiative and shown leadership in the community.
<i>Positive influence on lives of others</i>	A respected role model who has acted with integrity and shows support for multiculturalism and social cohesion. They have had a broad influence outside of their own community.
<i>Ability to be a good ambassador for the city</i>	Nominee will reflect positively on the city and will be a good ambassador.
<i>Long term voluntary contribution</i>	Long term service to the community. 5+ years is highly regarded.
<i>Outcomes</i>	Positively contributed to the community. Contribution to vulnerable community is highly regarded. Contribution to a large number of community members is highly regarded.

Young Leader of the Year

<i>Leadership</i>	Taken initiative and shown leadership in the community.
<i>Positive influence on lives of others</i>	A respected role model who has acted with integrity and shows support for multiculturalism and social cohesion. They have had a broad influence outside of their own community.
<i>Ability to be a good ambassador for the city</i>	Nominee will reflect positively on the city and will be a good ambassador.
<i>Outcomes</i>	Positively contributed to the community. Contribution to vulnerable community is highly regarded. Contribution to a large number of community members is highly regarded.
<i>Significant contribution</i>	The nominee has had a significant contribution to the lives of young people in Greater Dandenong.

Volunteer of the Year

<i>Leadership</i>	Taken initiative and shown leadership in the community.
<i>Ability to be a good ambassador for the city</i>	Nominee will reflect positively on the city and will be a good ambassador.
<i>Voluntary contribution</i>	Provide voluntary contribution to the community.
<i>Outcomes</i>	Positively contributed to the community. Contribution to vulnerable community is highly regarded. Contribution to a large number of community members is highly regarded.
<i>Quiet achiever</i>	A person who does not seek recognition, but rather is focussed on the community benefitting from their work.

Sportsperson of the Year

<i>Leadership</i>	Taken initiative and shown leadership in the community.
<i>Positive influence on lives of others</i>	A respected role model who has acted with integrity and shows support for multiculturalism and social cohesion. They have had a broad influence outside of their own community.
<i>Ability to be a good ambassador for the city</i>	Nominee will reflect positively on the city and will be a good ambassador.
<i>Significant contribution</i>	The nominee has had an impact on the sports area in Greater Dandenong.
<i>Sporting achievement</i>	The nominee has demonstrated excellence in the sporting arena.

Corporate Citizen of the Year

<i>Leadership</i>	Taken initiative and shown leadership in the community.
<i>Positive influence on lives of others</i>	A respected role model who has acted with integrity and shows support for business or manufacturing sectors. They have had a broad influence outside of their own community.
<i>Ability to be a good ambassador for the city</i>	Nominee will reflect positively on the city and will be a good ambassador.
<i>Outcomes</i>	Positively contributed to the community, in particular business or manufacturing sector. Contribution to vulnerable community is highly regarded. Contribution to a large number of community members is highly regarded.

Community Group of the Year

<i>Leadership</i>	Taken initiative and shown leadership in the community.
<i>Ability to be a good ambassador for the city</i>	Group of nominees will reflect positively on the city and will be good ambassadors.
<i>Voluntary contribution</i>	Provide voluntary contribution to the community.
<i>Outcomes</i>	Positively contributed to the community. Contribution to vulnerable community is highly regarded. Contribution to a large number of community members is highly regarded.
<i>Positive influence on lives of others</i>	A respected group who has acted with integrity and shows support for multiculturalism and social cohesion. They have had a broad influence outside of their own community.

Sustainability Award

<i>Leadership</i>	Taken initiative and shown leadership in the community.
<i>Ability to be a good ambassador for the city</i>	Nominee will reflect positively on the city and will be a good ambassador.
<i>Outcomes</i>	Positively contributed to the environment and sustainability in the community. Contribution to a large number of community members is highly regarded.
<i>Significant contribution</i>	The nominee has had an impact on environment and sustainability in Greater Dandenong.
<i>Sustainability achievement</i>	The nominee has demonstrated excellent initiatives for sustainable living.

Living Treasure Award - Lifetime Achievement Award

<i>Leadership</i>	Taken initiative and shown leadership in the community.
<i>Positive influence on lives of others</i>	A respected role model who has acted with integrity and shows support for multiculturalism and social cohesion. They have had a broad influence outside of their own community.
<i>Ability to be a good ambassador for the city</i>	Nominee will reflect positively on the city and will be a good ambassador.
<i>Long term voluntary contribution</i>	Long term service to the community. 10+ years is highly regarded.
<i>Outcomes</i>	Positively contributed to the community. Contribution to vulnerable community is highly regarded. Contribution to a large number of community members is highly regarded.

Outstanding Contribution to the Arts Award

<i>Leadership</i>	Taken initiative and shown leadership in the community.
<i>Positive influence on lives of others</i>	A respected role model who has acted with integrity and shows support for arts and culture sectors. They have had a broad influence outside of their own community.
<i>Ability to be a good ambassador for the city</i>	Nominee will reflect positively on the city and will be a good ambassador.
<i>Significant contribution</i>	The nominee has had an impact on the Arts and Culture scene in Greater Dandenong.
<i>Artistic achievement</i>	The nominee has promoted, supported, and preserved cultural expression through the arts and culture.

Appendix 2 - Memorandum of Understanding for Members of the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards Assessment Panel

I agree to:

- ☐ Follow the [REACH framework](#)
- ☐ Attend the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards Assessment Panel meeting(s) as required.
- ☐ Complete all the nomination scoring before the Assessment Panel prior to the panel meeting.
- ☐ Not discuss scores with other Assessment Panel members prior to the meeting.
- ☐ Represent the views of the broader community.
- ☐ Respect the ideas and beliefs of all members.
- ☐ Assess each nomination on its merits without bias towards people of different ethnic, cultural and social backgrounds, and genders.
- ☐ Contribute in a positive way to the assessment process.
- ☐ At all times act in good faith, with honesty and integrity and apply the skills and expertise I possess with diligence and care.
- ☐ To represent the interests and views of the local community rather than individual or organisational interests.
- ☐ Familiarise myself with and abide by [Council's Privacy and Personal Information Policy](#).
- ☐ Notify the Panel of any potential conflict of interest that I identify during the assessment process.
- ☐ Not disseminate confidential information relating to the awards program, nominees, or assessment panel discussions until after the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards Ceremony.
- ☐ Respect the privacy of all nominators and nominees and not attempt to contact these individuals in relation to their nomination.
- ☐ Not make any media or public comment in relation to the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards Assessment Panel process and refer all media enquiries to the Senior Media and Communications Coordinator on 03 8571 5104.

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards Assessment Panel Guidelines 2027



Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards Assessment Panel Guidelines

Background

Each year Council seeks nominations for Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards from the community to recognise and honour the achievements of individuals and groups who make outstanding contributions that benefit community life. The awards are presented at the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards Announcement and Ceremony on 26 January.

Award recipients are advised beforehand and invited to attend the Awards ceremony with their families. They receive a certificate and a bouquet of native flowers and the opportunity to make a brief acceptance speech.

Local media coverage will be sought, and official photographs will be taken.



Award Categories and Criteria

Community Leadership Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An individual who has demonstrated long term commitment to voluntary or philanthropic work in the community and made positive contributions to enrich the lives of others Over 16 years of age
Young Leader of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aged 16-30 years on 26 January in year of award Demonstrated leadership and is a positive role model
Volunteer of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An individual who has demonstrated commitment in caring for the community and outstanding and consistent voluntary contribution to a group, activity, or community
Corporate Citizen of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An individual or business who has made a significant contribution to the community through their business or corporate position in Greater Dandenong
Community Group of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A group whose outstanding initiatives demonstrate innovation and community capacity building Actively engages with 'vulnerable or marginalised' community members and promotes harmony across cultures
Sportsperson on the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For excellence and leadership on and off the sports field. A sportsperson or a member of a Greater Dandenong Sports Club that inspires participation and involvement across the community
Sustainability Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An individual or group whose initiatives contribute to making Greater Dandenong a healthy, vibrant, innovative and creative community committed to environmental sustainability
Living Treasure Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An individual that has had a lasting impact on the quality of life for the community
Outstanding Contribution to the Arts Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An individual or group who has demonstrated commitment to the Arts and Culture scene through outstanding and consistent voluntary contributions to a group, activity or community

If the panel determines there is no satisfactory nomination for a category, they may decide not to give an award in that category for the year. Sitting members of Federal, State and Local governments are not eligible for an award.

Administration

Greater Dandenong Festivals and Events staff manage the promotion, administration, and coordination of the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards Assessment Panel, as well as organising the awards and ceremonies on Australia Day. The meeting agenda will be distributed in advance and meeting minutes distributed afterwards. A minimum of five working days' notice will be given before an Assessment Panel meeting.

The Assessment Panel meetings are chaired by the Manager Community Wellbeing or their appointed representative. The Chair's role is to facilitate the Assessment Panel's discussion, avoiding commenting on the merits of nominations other than their eligibility, and has no authority to score nominations or otherwise vote on matters concerning the Panel.

Privacy

The personal details of Greater Dandenong Australia Day Award nominees provided to Assessment Panel members are strictly confidential and protected under the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*. Panel members must ensure that any personal information provided to them is used for the sole purpose of assessing Greater Dandenong Australia Day Award nominations and the information must not be discussed or disclosed to any person outside of the assessment panel. More information is available in Council's [Privacy and Personal Information Policy](#).

Responsibilities of the Assessment Panel members

Members of the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards Assessment Panel must:

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- Ensure confidential information discussed by the Assessment Panel is not



disseminated, and no attempt is made to contact, or in any other way, breach the privacy of nominators/nominees.

- Not make any media comment or other public comment in relation to the Assessment Panel or the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards.
- Make decisions by consensus where possible.

Assessment Panel members may also wish to attend the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards ceremony on 26 January 2027 when the awards will be presented.

Assessment Panel Structure

The Greater Dandenong Australia Day Assessment Panel membership is as follows:

- A maximum of three (3) Councillors (including the Mayor or delegate)
- Three (3) community members
- Quorum will need to be a minimum of three assessment panel members. At a minimum the quorum must consist of one representing Mayor/Deputy Mayor/ Councillor and two community members.

Community Panellists will:

- Include at least one member from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) background
- Participate for a maximum of two consecutive years to ensure a diverse range of views are represented.

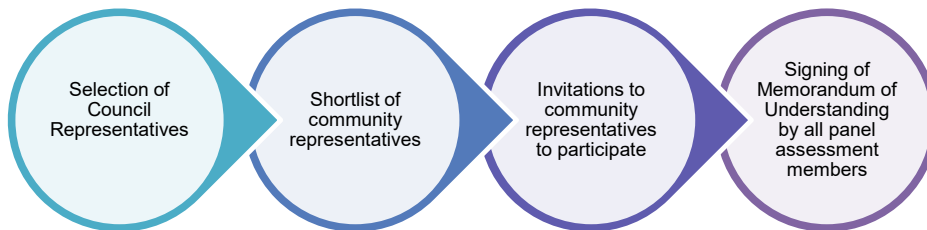
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- An understanding of local issues, values, and aspirations.
- Personal integrity and discretion.
- Community involvement, connections or networks.
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- A willingness to contribute to the process in a fair and unbiased manner.
- Respect for and understanding of different genders and ethnic, cultural and social backgrounds.
- Effective communication skills.
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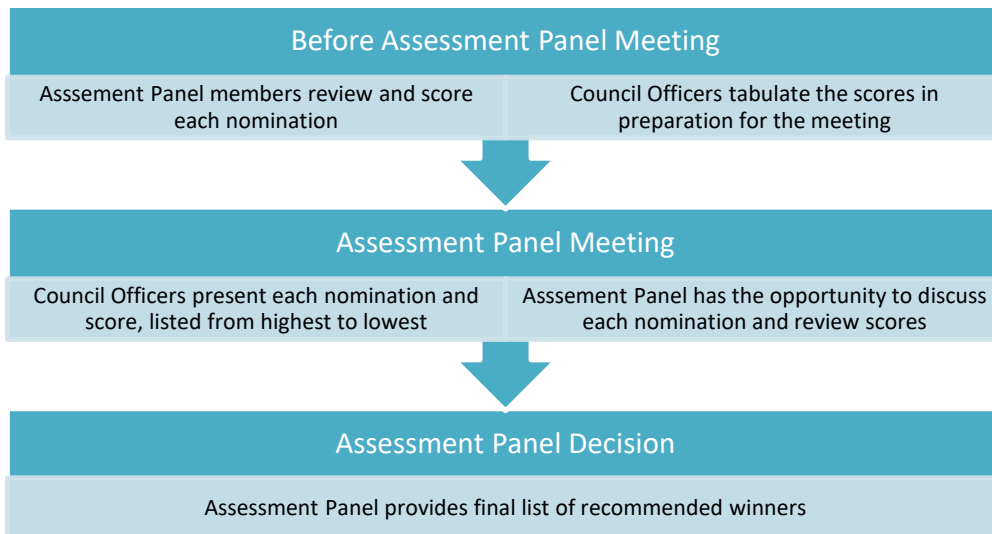
Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards Assessment Process

1. Panel Selection



- Greater Dandenong Council representatives will be determined by Council as part of its Appointment of Council Liaisons and Representatives to Committees, Peak Industry Bodies, Regional and Community Based Organisations process in November each year.
- Community representatives of the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards Assessment Panel will be sought through an invitation process undertaken by the Festivals and Events officer with the approval from Manager of Community Wellbeing.
- The Director of Community Strengthening will approve the appointment of the community representatives on the panel. The Director of Community Strengthening will inform Council via email of the selection of the community members of the Greater Dandenong Australia Day assessment panel.
- All assessment panel members will read and sign the Assessment Panel Memorandum of Understanding.

2. Assessment Panel Meeting(s)



- Festivals and Events officers will coordinate the meeting at times convenient to all Panel members.
- Council officers will distribute the online link for the assessment process.
- Each Assessment Panel member will review and score each nomination online before the Assessment Panel meeting. Festivals and Events officers will tabulate the results before the meeting.
- The Assessment Panel meeting will take place with all Panel members present. The aim of the meeting is to have a final endorsed list of winners for each award category.
- Festivals and Events Council officers will present the scores for each nomination.
- Panel members will have a chance to discuss the merits of each nomination and to review their scores.
- To ensure nominations are not negatively impacted by conflicts of interest, when an Assessment Panel member is aware of any potential conflict of interest, they will excuse themselves from the discussion and assessment of that nomination. Scores will be averaged by the number of assessors.
- Assessment Panel members must advise the chairperson of any conflicts of interest either in writing, prior to the meeting, or verbally at the meeting immediately prior to the item being discussed. All conflicts of interest will be noted in the meeting minutes.
- The assessment process will usually be completed in one session. Should it be required, a second assessment session will be scheduled to provide any further information to assist with decision making.
- The Assessment Panel collectively determines the final list of recommended winners for each award category. Once the Panel have collectively determined the final list it will be emailed (in confidence) to Council's Executive Management Team (EMT) and Councillors.

A Note on Conflict of Interest

Assessment Panellists may know of some nominees for Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards. Knowledge of an individual or group does not in itself constitute a conflict of interest.

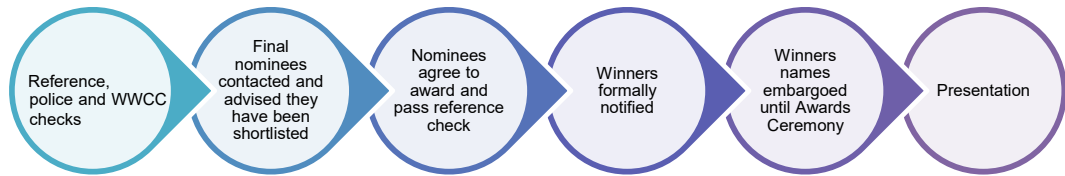
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- When an Assessment Panellist has a formal role in relation to a nominee such as being Chair of a committee or board where the nominee is a member.
- Where the nominee is a friend or relative (including by marriage) of an Assessment Panellist.
- Where there is a commercial relationship between a nominee and an Assessment Panellist such as a contractor, supplier, or employee.
- In any circumstance where a matter could be reasonably perceived as a conflict of interest.

If an Assessment Panellist is in doubt about any potential conflict of interest, advice can be sought from the Assessment Panel members or Council officers during the meeting. Should a decision be required on whether an Assessment Panel member has a conflict of interest, the Chair has the final determination based on the information provided.



3. Confirmation of Winners



- Festivals and Events officers will conduct reference checks for the highest scorer for each award and seek evidence of address details where required.
- Festivals and Events officers will contact each person via phone and advise them they have been shortlisted for an award, obtaining any missing verification details.
- Should any recommended award winner decline the award, or be deemed ineligible by the confirmation process, the next highest scoring person on the list will become the recommended winner by default.
- Each person on the final list of award winners will be formally notified via email that they will receive the award and the details about the award presentation ceremony.
- The interim winners will then remain under embargo until 26 January 2027, when they will be announced at the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Award Ceremony.

Appendix - Scoring summary

Each criterion is scored out of five. The score for each criterion will be totalled to provide the final score for each nomination.

1	2	3	4	5
Does not satisfy the assessment area	Limited evidence of meeting criteria	Fairly meets the criteria	Good evidence of meeting the criteria	Outstanding evidence of meeting the criteria

Community Leadership Award

<i>Leadership</i>	Taken initiative and shown leadership in the community.
<i>Positive influence on lives of others</i>	A respected role model who has acted with integrity and shows support for multiculturalism and social cohesion. They have had a broad influence outside of their own community.
<i>Ability to be a good ambassador for the city</i>	Nominee will reflect positively on the city and will be a good ambassador.
<i>Long term voluntary contribution</i>	Long term service to the community. 5+ years is highly regarded.
<i>Outcomes</i>	Positively contributed to the community. Contribution to vulnerable community is highly regarded. Contribution to a large number of community members is highly regarded.

Young Leader of the Year

<i>Leadership</i>	Taken initiative and shown leadership in the community.
<i>Positive influence on lives of others</i>	A respected role model who has acted with integrity and shows support for multiculturalism and social cohesion. They have had a broad influence outside of their own community.
<i>Ability to be a good ambassador for the city</i>	Nominee will reflect positively on the city and will be a good ambassador.
<i>Outcomes</i>	Positively contributed to the community. Contribution to vulnerable community is highly regarded. Contribution to a large number of community members is highly regarded.
<i>Significant contribution</i>	The nominee has had a significant contribution to the lives of young people in Greater Dandenong.



Volunteer of the Year

<i>Leadership</i>	Taken initiative and shown leadership in the community.
<i>Ability to be a good ambassador for the city</i>	Nominee will reflect positively on the city and will be a good ambassador.
<i>Voluntary contribution</i>	Provide voluntary contribution to the community.
<i>Outcomes</i>	Positively contributed to the community. Contribution to vulnerable community is highly regarded. Contribution to a large number of community members is highly regarded.
<i>Quiet achiever</i>	A person who does not seek recognition, but rather is focussed on the community benefitting from their work.

Sportsperson of the Year

<i>Leadership</i>	Taken initiative and shown leadership in the community.
<i>Positive influence on lives of others</i>	A respected role model who has acted with integrity and shows support for multiculturalism and social cohesion. They have had a broad influence outside of their own community.
<i>Ability to be a good ambassador for the city</i>	Nominee will reflect positively on the city and will be a good ambassador.
<i>Significant contribution</i>	The nominee has had an impact on the sports area in Greater Dandenong.
<i>Sporting achievement</i>	The nominee has demonstrated excellence in the sporting arena.

Corporate Citizen of the Year

<i>Leadership</i>	Taken initiative and shown leadership in the community.
<i>Positive influence on lives of others</i>	A respected role model who has acted with integrity and shows support for business or manufacturing sectors. They have had a broad influence outside of their own community.
<i>Ability to be a good ambassador for the city</i>	Nominee will reflect positively on the city and will be a good ambassador.
<i>Outcomes</i>	Positively contributed to the community, in particular business or manufacturing sector. Contribution to vulnerable community is highly regarded. Contribution to a large number of community members is highly regarded.



Community Group of the Year

<i>Leadership</i>	Taken initiative and shown leadership in the community.
<i>Ability to be a good ambassador for the city</i>	Group of nominees will reflect positively on the city and will be good ambassadors.
<i>Voluntary contribution</i>	Provide voluntary contribution to the community.
<i>Outcomes</i>	Positively contributed to the community. Contribution to vulnerable community is highly regarded. Contribution to a large number of community members is highly regarded.
<i>Positive influence on lives of others</i>	A respected group who has acted with integrity and shows support for multiculturalism and social cohesion. They have had a broad influence outside of their own community.

Sustainability Award

<i>Leadership</i>	Taken initiative and shown leadership in the community.
<i>Ability to be a good ambassador for the city</i>	Nominee will reflect positively on the city and will be a good ambassador.
<i>Outcomes</i>	Positively contributed to the environment and sustainability in the community. Contribution to a large number of community members is highly regarded.
<i>Significant contribution</i>	The nominee has had an impact on environment and sustainability in Greater Dandenong.
<i>Sustainability achievement</i>	The nominee has demonstrated excellent initiatives for sustainable living.

Living Treasure Award - Lifetime Achievement Award

<i>Leadership</i>	Taken initiative and shown leadership in the community.
<i>Positive influence on lives of others</i>	A respected role model who has acted with integrity and shows support for multiculturalism and social cohesion. They have had a broad influence outside of their own community.
<i>Ability to be a good ambassador for the city</i>	Nominee will reflect positively on the city and will be a good ambassador.
<i>Long term voluntary contribution</i>	Long term service to the community. 10+ years is highly regarded.
<i>Outcomes</i>	Positively contributed to the community. Contribution to vulnerable community is highly regarded. Contribution to a large number of community members is highly regarded.



Outstanding Contribution to the Arts Award

<i>Leadership</i>	Taken initiative and shown leadership in the community.
<i>Positive influence on lives of others</i>	A respected role model who has acted with integrity and shows support for arts and culture sectors. They have had a broad influence outside of their own community.
<i>Ability to be a good ambassador for the city</i>	Nominee will reflect positively on the city and will be a good ambassador.
<i>Significant contribution</i>	The nominee has had an impact on the Arts and Culture scene in Greater Dandenong.
<i>Artistic achievement</i>	The nominee has promoted, supported, and preserved cultural expression through the arts and culture.

Appendix 2 - Memorandum of Understanding for Members of the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards Assessment Panel

I agree to:

- ☐ Follow the [REACH framework](#)
- ☐ Attend the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards Assessment Panel meeting(s) as required.
- ☐ Complete all the nomination scoring before the Assessment Panel prior to the panel meeting.
- ☐ Not discuss scores with other Assessment Panel members prior to the meeting.
- ☐ Represent the views of the broader community.
- ☐ Respect the ideas and beliefs of all members.
- ☐ Assess each nomination on its merits without bias towards people of different ethnic, cultural and social backgrounds, and genders.
- ☐ Contribute in a positive way to the assessment process.
- ☐ At all times act in good faith, with honesty and integrity and apply the skills and expertise I possess with diligence and care.
- ☐ To represent the interests and views of the local community rather than individual or organisational interests.
- ☐ Familiarise myself with and abide by [Council's Privacy and Personal Information Policy](#).
- ☐ Notify the Panel of any potential conflict of interest that I identify during the assessment process.
- ☐ Not disseminate confidential information relating to the awards program, nominees, or assessment panel discussions until after the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards Ceremony.
- ☐ Respect the privacy of all nominators and nominees and not attempt to contact these individuals in relation to their nomination.
- ☐ Not make any media or public comment in relation to the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards Assessment Panel process and refer all media enquiries to the Senior Media and Communications Coordinator on 03 8571 5104.

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____



Greater Dandenong City Council
COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

MONDAY 14 AUGUST 2023

4.4.3 Australia Day Awards Review (Cont.)

MINUTE 852

Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti
Seconded by: Cr Tim Dark

That Council approves:

1. combining of the Awards and Citizenship Ceremony into a single event;
2. amending the name of the 'Citizen of the Year' Award to the 'Community Leadership' Award and remove reference to this being the 'Premier' Award;
3. the addition of an 'Outstanding Contribution to the Arts' Award; and
4. limiting the number of Living Treasure Awards to two (2) per annum.

CARRIED

For Motion: Cr Bob Milkovic, Cr Tim Dark, Cr Richard Lim OAM, Cr Sophie Tan, Cr Jim Memeti, Cr Loi Truong, Cr Lana Formoso.

Against Motion: Cr Rhonda Garad.

20377



4.3.3 Leave of Absence - Cr Bob Milkovic

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

Officer Recommendation

That Council grants a leave of absence to Cr Bob Milkovic for the period 18 August to 24 September 2025 (inclusive) which includes the scheduled Council Meetings of 25 August, 8 September and 22 September 2025 and notes Cr Milkovic's apology for each of those meetings.

Executive Summary

1. Councillor (Cr) Bob Milkovic requests a leave of absence from 18 August to 24 September 2025. This leave of absence is inclusive of the scheduled Council Meetings of 25 August, 8 September and 22 September 2025.

Background

2. This report is submitted in conjunction with Council's Governance Rules which state that any Councillor may request a leave of absence in writing submitted to the Chief Executive Officer or Mayor and state the dates they require the leave and the reason for which it is sought.
3. Further, under section 35(4) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council must grant any reasonable request for leave.
4. The leave of absence will include the scheduled Council Meetings of 25 August, 8 September and 22 September 2025 and the Pre-Council Meetings before each of these;
 - scheduled Councillor Briefing Sessions of 18 August, 1 September and 15 September 2025; and
 - any further Councillor Briefing Sessions or meetings organised during the requested period of absence.
5. This leave of absence is requested for personal reasons.



4.3.4 Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee member nominations

Responsible Officer: Executive Manager Strategy Growth & Advocacy
Attachments: 1. MAPSAAC 2025-28 Nomination List [4.3.4.1 - 1 page]

Officer Recommendation

That Council APPROVES the recommended nominees, as detailed in Attachment 1 of this report, as members of the Multicultural and People Seeking Advisory Committee (MAPSAAC) until 30 June 2028.

Executive Summary

1. At the 23 June Council meeting Councillors endorsed the continuation of the Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee until 30 June 2028.
2. A Membership Expression of Interest (EOI) and selection process was implemented according to the endorsed Terms of Reference (TOR) and the recommended nominees are presented for Council's endorsement. (Attachment 1).

Background

3. The Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee was first established in December 2018 and comprises of informed, engaged and qualified representatives from the community and organisations working in Greater Dandenong.
4. The Advisory Committee provides advice to Council on:
 - a. implementation of the Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Thematic Plan;
 - b. development of strategic partnerships to enhance services in Greater Dandenong for its multicultural community;
 - c. supporting people seeking asylum and refugees; and
 - d. other Council plans, policies and strategies.
5. Positions on the Advisory Committee are voluntary, and meetings are held quarterly.

Key Issues and Discussion

6. The current TOR stipulates that the Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee will consist of no more than 15 voting members and will include representatives from the following:
7. Up to five (5) community members
8. Up to ten (10) members from relevant community groups and organisations, including standing membership from the regional Refugee Health provider and Refugee Settlement organisations.



9. A total of thirteen (13) nominations were received dispersed over the following nomination categories:
10. Four (4) standing membership nominees from regional Health provider and Refugee Settlement organisations. All being past members of the committee.
11. Seven (7) membership nominees from community groups and organisations. Six being previous members of the committee.
12. Two (2) membership nominees, residents of the community. One being a previous member of the committee.
13. Notwithstanding the number of organisational nominees exceeds the TOR recommended by one person. The selection panel considers all nominees to have the relevant experience and availability to contribute meaningfully to the Committee's operation.
14. Given that there are still three outstanding community member vacancies it therefore recommends that all nominees be accepted as members of the Advisory Committee. Attachment 1 to this report details the names, organisation affiliation (if applicable), and previous membership status.
15. Current TOR provisions allow for an ongoing recruitment process if membership vacancies exist. Once Committee membership is endorsed by Council any additional nominees for Committee membership will be through a Committee recommendation to Council when the minutes of quarterly meetings are noted.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

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

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

Operating Budget Implications

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

Asset Implications

18. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

21. A gender impact assessment is not required.

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.
- Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.

24. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29:

- A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
- A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts.
- 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.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

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

Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee (MAPSAAC) 2025-28 NOMINATIONS

Name	Organisation/Community Member	Previous Membership Status
Lauren Riddle	Life Without Barriers	Standing Membership
Abbas Amiry	Asylum Seeker Resource Centre [ASRC]	Standing Membership
Marziah Razi	Settlement Service International [SSI]	Standing Membership
Jacquie McBride	Monash Health Refugee Health & Wellbeing	Standing Membership
Hafiz Asadi	Victorian Afghan Assoc Network [VAAN]	Previous Member
Ifrin Fittock	SisterWorks Inc	Previous Member
Vinay Lakshman	South East Monash Legal Service	Previous Member
Peter McNamara	South East Community Links	Previous Member
Kylie Reid	Chisholm Institute	Previous Member (previous Chair)
Adwin Town	Voice of South East	Previous Member
Chaw Po	Community Member	Previous Member
Amirthalingam Dhileepan	Justice and Freedom for Ceylon Tamils	New nominee
Abdul Wahid Niazi	Community Member	New nominee



4.3.5 Draft Minutes of Advisory Committee Meetings

Responsible Officer:	Executive Director Community Strengthening
Attachments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Draft Minutes of Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting 15 May 2025 [4.3.5.1 - 4 pages]2. Draft Minutes of Arts Advisory Board Meeting 5 June 2025 [4.3.5.2 - 5 pages]3. Draft Minutes of Disability Advisory Committee Meeting 16 June 2025 [4.3.5.3 - 4 pages]4. Draft Minutes of Positive Ageing Advisory Committee Meeting 3 July 2025 [4.3.5.4 - 3 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council NOTES:

- 1) **Draft Minutes of the meeting for Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee held on 15 May 2025 (per Attachment 1);**
- 2) **Draft Minutes of the meeting for Arts Advisory Board held on 5 June 2025 (per Attachment 2);**
- 3) **Draft Minutes of the meeting for Disability Advisory Committee held on 16 June 2025 (per Attachment 3); and**
- 4) **Draft Minutes of the meeting for Positive Ageing Advisory Committee held on 3 July 2025 (per Attachment 4).**

Executive Summary

1. At the Council meeting held 23 April 2018, Council resolved in part to *invite Advisory Committees and Reference Groups to submit meeting minutes for Council endorsement*. This resolution also allowed interested Councillors (and those that attend these Committees and Reference Groups) to speak to the meeting about items discussed at these meetings.
2. This report recommends that the Draft Minutes of the following Advisory Committee meetings be noted by Council:
 - a) Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee held on 15 May 2025 (Attachment 1),
 - b) Arts Advisory Board held on 5 June 2025 (Attachment 2),
 - c) Disability Advisory Committee held on 16 June 2025 (Attachment 3), and
 - d) Positive Ageing Advisory Committee held on 3 July 2025 (Attachment 4).



Background

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

Links to Community Vision and Council Plan

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

Legislative and Policy Obligations

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



Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes			
Date	Thursday 15 May 2025		
Time	5pm–6.30pm		
Venue	Springvale Community Hub – Community Room 6 and Microsoft Teams		
Chair	Christine Keys (CK) - President Dandenong & District Historical Society, President Springvale & District Historical Society		
Attendees	Gaye Guest (GG) - Community Member, Robyn Robie (RR) - Secretary Springvale & District Historical Society, Manager Creative and Engaged City [City of Greater Dandenong (CGD)], Coordinator Experiences and Partnerships (CGD), Cultural Heritage Program Lead (CGD)		
Apologies	Cr Rhonda Garad (CGD)		
Minutes	Business Support Officer (CGD)		
	ITEM	ACTION	ACTION BY
1.	Welcome - Acknowledgement of Country <i>We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land, the Bunurong People, and pay respects to their Elders past and present.</i> <i>We recognise and respect their continuing connections to climate, Culture, Country and waters and we also pay our respects and acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their Elders present here today, in acknowledging their journey.</i>		
2.	Conflicts of Interest The Committee declared no conflicts of interest.		
3.	Committee Objectives and Membership The Cultural Heritage Program Lead advised Maryanne McCubbin has resigned from the Committee. We sincerely thank Maryanne for her valuable contributions and dedicated service during her time on the Committee. The Coordinator Experiences and Partnerships advised that the Committee's Terms of Reference will be updated to reflect administrative changes. An Expression of Interest (EOI) will be advertised for one month, followed by interviews, with Council report of endorsement anticipated in August/September. A broad promotional strategy will be implemented to attract a diverse and qualified group of candidates. This will include wide promotion through platforms such as LinkedIn, eNews, paid campaign, targeted outreach via heritage-focused forums, and leveraging existing networks and institutional partnerships.	Share Expression of Interest details to the Committee.	Council Officer
4.	Planning Items The Cultural Heritage Program Lead provided an update from the Manager Strategic and Environmental Planning on the Amendment C249gdan to its Planning Scheme. Consultation on the Heritage Overlay Review Planning Scheme Amendment has now closed with only one submission was received. Council Officers are currently preparing a report recommending the adoption of the amendment, which will be presented to Council for consideration.		



	<p>If Council supports the amendment, it will be submitted to the Minister for Planning for final approval. While the exact timeframe for the Minister's decision is unknown, the process typically takes several months.</p>		
5.	<p>Previous Meeting Minutes</p> <p>CK inquired about the scope of the Cenotaph Restoration Project. The Cultural Heritage Program Lead confirmed that the funding included the consultation and conservation report only. Any future conservation works identified through this report will be budgeted and planned separately.</p> <p>March 2025 minutes were accepted – moved RR and seconded GG.</p>		
6.	<p>Grant Opportunities and Updates</p> <p>The Cultural Heritage Program Lead provided an update on grant opportunities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Heritage Grants, administered by the National Library of Australia (NLA) – Council is considering an application to support nationally significant collections and/or training initiatives, with submissions closing on Tuesday 3 June 2025. As part of this process, Council Officers will be consulting with local historical societies soon to better understand their needs and priorities for inclusion in the application. <p>Council is currently considering several grant submissions to support key actions identified in the Heritage Roadmap. Proposed projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training programs for historical societies to build capacity and skills Implementation of a Collection Management System (CMS), including software and consultant support Digitisation of the oral history collection to improve access and preservation <p>These initiatives aim to strengthen heritage preservation, improve digital access, and support community-led historical work.</p>	<p>Consult with local historical societies to identify their needs and priorities for inclusion in the NLA grant application.</p>	<p>Council Officer</p>
7.	<p>Service Updates</p> <p><i>Heritage Hill Update</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changeover from 'We Built This City' exhibition which will close on Sunday 18 May. Preparations are now underway for the next exhibition, 'HOME', a multi-venue, roving arts exhibition that explores themes of <i>identity, belonging, displacement and connection to place</i>. The exhibition will feature powerful and immersive works by refugee, asylum seeker, First Nations, and migrant artists, offering a rich and diverse artistic experience that reflects the stories and voices of our community. Since Monday 14 October 2024, we have had 904 visits to Heritage Hill, an average of 16 visitors per day. Current opening hours Wednesdays and Thursdays 10am-2pm. Council is currently progressing research and development for a series of new heritage interpretive displays and exhibitions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revitalisation of the Schoolhouse Re-interpretation of Benga's Kitchen and Pantry Re-interpretation of Laurel Lodge Kitchen and Dining Room October Exhibition focusing on the social history of the 		



	<p>Dandenong Town Hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage programs included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in National Trust Heritage Festival: Heritage Hill House and Garden tour on Thursday 24 April, exhibition, and Heritage Collection store tour on Friday 9 May. Both events were sold out with great feedback received from participants. Since March, Heritage Hill has welcomed six large group tour bookings, reflecting strong community interest in local heritage. 		
8.	<p>Historical Societies Updates</p> <p>CK provided the following updates:</p> <p>Springvale District Historical Society (SDHS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digitising of family histories has been completed Sorting photos into categories and creating family files The society continues to respond to research requests from both the public and Council Member meeting was held on Thursday 27 February <p>Dandenong & District Historical Society (DDHS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Splitting collection into Administration and Collection Testing Victoria Collections template The society continues to respond to research requests from both the public and Council Currently summarising WWI soldier details featured on the Honour Roll displayed at the Drum Theatre Producing a weekly article, 'Looking Back', for the Journal newspaper Welcomed a new volunteer, Athony Hamilton Ongoing work includes digitising obituary records <p>Events Held</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saturday 22 March – Tour of Dandenong Town Hall Saturday 5 April – Tour of Dandenong Town Hall Sunday 13 April – combined Springvale and Dandenong District Historical Societies meeting Heritage Hill. The event featured a special guest speaker, the grandson of Alan Lind, who delivered a presentation titled "Mr Dandenong: Remembering Alan Lind", reflecting on Lind's legacy and contributions to the local community. Thursday 17 April – represented SDHS at ANZAC service for Noble Park RSL Thursday 1 May – meeting held with Council's Director Community Strengthening regarding changes in Community Grant funding Wednesday 7 May – DDHS quarterly executive committee meeting Friday 9 May – Tour of Archives <p>Upcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 19 May – U3A tour of DDSH Collections Thursday 29 May – SDHS member meeting Tuesday 22 July – Combined Annual Lunch with guest speaker Stan Cuichak on the history of Waltzing Matilda and Click go the Sears 		



9.	<p>Noble Park Hall Trust Centenary</p> <p>GG advised the Noble Park Public Hall marked its 100th anniversary in early April 2025 with a week-long celebration.</p> <p>The Trustees opened the Noble Park Public Hall for residents and past residents, school children, and senior citizens, to wander through the hall observing 75 History Boards showcasing Noble Park's rich heritage.</p> <p>Students from St Anthony's Primary School and Noble Park Primary School visited to observe the history boards and some of them were entertained by a local band, Burke and Beyond.</p> <p>The displays stirred fond memories, and visitors contributed additional memorabilia to the hall's collection.</p> <p>The wonderful event celebrated the hall's legacy as a hub for education, arts, and community gatherings. Many attendees shared memories, donated memorabilia, and enjoyed the nostalgic atmosphere.</p>		
10.	<p>Sector Updates</p> <p>The Committee discussed notable heritage site visits including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Rock House – held on the first Sunday of the month from 1–4pm. Costumed guides share the intriguing history of Black Rock house built by Charles Hotson Ebden • McCrae Homestead • Box Cottage Museum 	Share tour experiences with CGD Officer.	Committee Members
11.	<p>Other Business</p> <p>The Cultural Heritage Program Lead advised that the following presenters are scheduled to attend an upcoming meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Stories NPK – future presentation from Placemaking Officer • Community Engagement – CHAC process update from Community Engagement Lead <p>GG advised she has spare copies map of 15 Dunblane Road, Noble Park if Council and the Historical Societies would like a copy.</p> <p>Due to the EOI process and the anticipated endorsement of members in August, the next meeting is proposed to be scheduled for September.</p>	<p>Invite the Placemaking Officer and Community Engagement Lead Officer to a future meeting.</p> <p>Send a copy to CC and Council Officer.</p> <p>Provide an update on meeting date.</p>	<p>Council Officer</p> <p>GG</p> <p>Council Officer</p>
Meeting Closed at 6:13pm			



Arts Advisory Board Meeting Minutes			
Date	Thursday 5 June 2025		
Time	6pm–8pm		
Venue	Civic Centre - 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong, Meeting Room 4N1		
Chair	Leng Te (LT)		
Attendees	Emily Siddons (ES), Sam Kariotis (SK), Councillor Isabella Do (ID) [City of Greater Dandenong (CGD)], Manager Creative and Engaged City (CGD), Coordinator Experiences and Partnerships (CGD)		
Apologies	Mish Eisen (ME), Roh Singh (RS), Team Leader Programming and Cultural Development (CGD)		
Minutes	Arts And Cultural Development Lead (CGD)		
Item No	Item	Action	Action ed by
1.	Welcome - Acknowledgement of Country <i>"We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land, the Bunurong People, and pay respects to their Elders past and present. We recognise and respect their continuing connections to climate, Culture, Country and waters and we also pay our respects and acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and their Elders present here today, in acknowledging their journey."</i>		
2.	Welcome and Introduction - Round table: if you could learn a new hobby, what would it be? Meeting will be recorded for the purpose of accurate minute taking. Recording will be deleted once minutes have been completed - all agreed. Everyone shared a brief introduction.		
3.	Conflicts of Interest No conflicts of interest in relation to agenda.		
4.	Apologies Roh Singh, Mish Eisen and Team Leader Programing and Cultural Development.		
5.	Review of Minutes The previous Arts Advisory Board Meeting was held on Tuesday 18 February. Moved (ES) Seconded (LT)		
6.	Discussion on Chairperson position LT continues to be the Chairperson until the next meeting in August while the nomination process for the position is underway. Nomination forms are due by the end of July. Nominations for Working Group Chairs should also be included with the Arts Advisory Board (AAB) Chair nomination form. Board members may self-nominate for either role - AAB Chair or Working Group Chair. The Chairperson role may be held for a maximum term of three years. Three working groups agreed to continue: Public Art (PAWG), Community Connections (CCWG), and Creative Industry (CIWG). DNA Lab - PEP building is being demolished due to structural issues and safety. Council is currently in discussions with Creative Victoria regarding the use of the remaining project funding to support the delivery of original project objectives.	Email all CIWG members for approval to extend term for another year with focus on DNA. Share with group about ascertaining more details about DNA and DNA lab timeline.	Council Officer



7.	<p>Service Update and Discussion HOME 25: Invisible Cities opening event - Saturday 21 June 2pm–8pm HOME Opening Event Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The opening event will feature a Welcome Ceremony, a Yidaki (didgeridoo) performance, a Mayoral Address, and speeches from CEO and Curator. This was followed by a guided walk visiting all satellite sites A self-guided map was provided to help attendees navigate Dandenong's cultural spaces. Additionally, a minibus service was available during the event to support accessibility <p>Key Venue Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holiday Inn-Program partner offering accommodation discounts for attendees Heritage Hill Museum and Historical Garden (HH) open from 4pm, featuring live performances Drum Theatre - Batoor film screening at 6pm Drum Foyer also showcasing art installations <p>Program Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration of visual, performing, public, and culinary arts Audience engagement tracked through venue door counters, feedback surveys, foot traffic sensors managed by the Placemaking & Revitalisation team, data sharing with Dandenong Market and Collaborative research with RMIT PlayLab on audience movement and place-keeping These measures aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of visitor movement and participation <p>Accessibility & Community Engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trialling Saturday openings for cultural venues to gauge community interest and improve accessibility Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre (WSG) will operate Wednesday to Saturday, 11am–3pm until mid-January Data from a February trial showed higher engagement on one Saturday compared to three Tuesdays HH and Drum Theatre will open Saturdays from 11am–3pm HH regular hours: Wednesday and Thursday, 10am–2pm <p>Upcoming Programs & Event Highlights Reconciliation Week Recap Reconciliation Week featured strong internal collaboration across Libraries, Programming & Cultural Development, Community Hubs, Youth & Family Services, and Festival & Events teams. Together, they delivered eight impactful activities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community art workshops with N'Denen Riley, with the resulting artwork now displayed on Level 2 of the Civic Centre Utopia film screening Our Beat – a showcase of music, dance, and spoken word Performance: "Of the Land on Which We Meet" Storytime with a Bunurong Elder Smoking and Welcome Ceremony at Springvale Community Hub (SCH) <p>NAIDOC Week NAIDOC Sunday will be held on 6 July, 10am–3pm at Dandenong Market, celebrating community self-determination through: Blak Market, Ceremonial dance, Welcome and smoking ceremonies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artifact and clapstick demonstrations 	Share data from WSG Saturday opening hours trial/feasibility report.	Council Officer
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	<p>Encore Season 2 Launching 19 August, Season 2 begins with "The Songs of Eva Cassidy," continuing the Encore program's commitment to high-quality musical experiences.</p> <p>Artist in Residency (AiR) Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janine Durston at Keysborough Primary School Kindergarten Working with 3–4-year-olds to nurture creativity and cultural awareness, while positioning the centre as a symbol of early learning through the arts • Children's Festival – "Around the World" Theme Engaging local schools in art workshops with an exhibition outcome to be displayed in Mitchell Hall at SCH • Walk Against Family Violence – Priya Srinivasan (Sangam) Leading healing workshops for victim-survivors of family violence, including outdoor and indoor creative sessions • A potential exhibition outcome will be showcased in the Harmony Square Exhibition Windows from October to early December. <p>Partnership and Sponsorship Framework The primary goal of the Framework is to establish a transparent and equitable process for engaging with cultural and community groups, ensuring that all interactions are guided by a fair and publicly available protocol. For the Expressions of Interest (EOIs) we publish throughout the year, we propose establishing a core selection panel—comprising consistent members and at least one specialist with relevant expertise. The panel members will be listed on our website and formally included in our selection framework. We currently have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two years partnership with RMIT Future PlayLab to work more in immersive public art. • The MOU draft is underway with Swinburne University of Technology. <p>Grants and Funding Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently submitted NETS and Australian and Korean Foundation (AKF) to support Wona and Charlie exhibition <i>Remnant (endangered species, environmental impact of pollinators)</i> • Successfully received funding \$60,673.42 from Creative Australia (stream: Arts Projects for Organisations) for HOME25. • Looking at funding for our cultural collection, AiR ES – South Korean delegation in Australia is currently looking at spending multi-billion partnering with Australia. ES in early conversations to develop a series of nodes surrounding cultural diplomacy, engagement, and technology. Government funding is very competitive. ES sharing new funding model direction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Creative patronage ○ Creative entrepreneurship ○ Small subscriber models • The Committee discussed how staying informed through various channels and building partnerships helps identify funding opportunities and advocate for sector improvements. While cash sponsorship remains difficult, in-kind support and collaborative partnerships are growing, allowing resources to be shared more effectively. Compared to the past, when organisations competed for the same limited funding, there is now greater collaboration and reduced duplication. The conversation also touched on AI in the arts, with differing views on its ethical impact and potential to influence artistic expression. 	<p>Sharing information about potential partners with CGD Officer.</p>	<p>ES</p>
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8.	Audience Engagement Research Discussion was held on audience engagement research including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis on expanding collaborations across internal departments and external community groups • Increased focus on activating cultural venues through public art and creative programming • AiR programs and public art installations to enhance engagement • Development of a marketing strategy informed by audience engagement insights • Arts Culture Collective (ACC) comprises approximately 17 LGAs collaborating to share resources and industry knowledge 		
9.	Working Group Chair Reports Public Arts Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMIT Future Play Lab: YomeciBand in Springvale Multicultural Place; Reworlding in Dandenong during HOME (August). • Swinburne University: Digital works to feature on city screens during HOME. • Digital Media Public Art: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More screens to be installed citywide in late 2025. • New Display Infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioned 5 freestanding LED panels and 15 artwork frames for HOME 2025 and future activations. • Major Commissions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drum Façade: Continue seeking funding via external grants • Keysborough Community Hub: Carly Scoufos awarded internal sculpture commission; external sculpture by Alex Knox to be installed soon. • Muderra Way: Delayed to September 2025 due to Metro site access. • Heritage Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pillars of Freedom & Dandenong Memorial Cenotaph: Restoration underway, completion expected by end of June. RSL actively engaged. • Walker Street Gallery (WSG): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Façade and signage refreshed in collaboration with local creatives. New signage reflects community memories and HOME25. • Maintenance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing restoration of beloved public artworks across the municipality. • Upcoming Project – Remnant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launching early 2026 in partnership with Bunurong Land Council, Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, and Conservation team. Artists Wona Bae and Charlie Lawler explore ecological themes through the lens of the Grey-headed Flying-fox. Community Connection Working Group and Creative Infrastructure Working Group updates: No update due to working groups not meeting in 2025.	Invite AAB members to participate.	Council Officer
10	Sector Updates: No updates		
11	Other Business: No other business raised		
12	Next Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be confirmed as some members are not available Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 	Email to check availability	Council Officer



		before confirming.	
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Disability Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes			
Date	Monday 16 June 2025		
Time	4pm–5.30pm		
Venue	Dandenong Civic Centre - 225 Lonsdale St, Dandenong Meeting Room 2NE/NW and Microsoft Teams		
Chair	Frank Cutuli		
Attendees	Deborah Lee, Catherine Rampant, Pradeep Hewavitharana, Norma Seip, Sharon Harris, Imran Maniar, Manager Community Care (City of Greater Dandenong [CGD]), Coordinator Community Access (CGD), Disability Planning Officer (CGD), Acting Coordinator Community Safety (CGD)		
Apologies	Lionel Gee, Lisa Ashton, Cr Melinda Yim (CGD),		
Minutes	Business Support Officer (CGD)		
	ITEM	ACTION	ACTION BY
1.	Welcome - Acknowledgement of Country <i>We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land, the Bunurong People, and pay respects to their Elders past and present.</i> <i>We recognise and respect their continuing connections to climate, Culture, Country and waters and we also pay our respects and acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their Elders present here today, in acknowledging their journey.</i>		
2.	Business arising from previous minutes Noble Park Aquatic Centre A Committee member raised concerns regarding the accessible toilets adjacent to the indoor pool hall at Noble Park Aquatic Centre not closing properly. The Manager of Community Care confirmed that the issue has since been resolved. Update on safety concern at the intersection of Dandenong/Frankston Road and the Dandenong Bypass due to the lack of a footpath for pedestrians to cross the highway There are no updates to report.	Completed, no further action required. Provide update at next meeting.	Coordinator Community Access
3.	Community Safety The Acting Coordinator of Community Safety provided an overview of the team's work in delivering initiatives, programs, and partnerships aimed at reducing crime and improving perceptions of safety in Greater Dandenong. Key activities include safety campaigns, environmental enhancements such as CCTV, and collaboration with Victoria Police and community organisations to address issues including homelessness, anti-social behaviour, alcohol and other drugs, and broader safety concerns. The team also promotes community engagement and resilience, aligning with Council's goal of fostering a safe, inclusive, and connected community, with priorities guided by resident feedback. Some key activities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Safety Action Plan: the Community Safety Survey was recently conducted to collect feedback on safety concerns and priorities. Council is currently reviewing the responses and will draft the Community Safety Action Plan expected to be released for public feedback in mid-2025. 		



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCTV: Council's Safe City CCTV Public Space Camera System has been operating since 2009 and includes about 280 cameras across the municipality. A map of camera locations is available on Council's Community Safety page. • Dandenong Zero - Homelessness Project: in a collaboration between the Greater Dandenong City Council and Launch Housing, it brings together the local service system around a 'By Name List' (BNL) of all people sleeping rough, to support them with referrals to services with the objective of ending rough sleeping by 2030. For details on key milestones and progress across Local Government Areas, visit the progress page on Melbourne Zero. • Alcohol and other drugs: Council adopts evidence-based strategies that aim to reduce the negative impacts of drug and alcohol use on individuals, families, and the broader community. More information on reducing alcohol and other drug-related harm including the Drug Safety community resource is available on Council's Community Safety page. <p>The Committee provided feedback on several important community safety themes that could be valuable for consideration in the Greater Dandenong's Community Safety Action Plan including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private security cameras are very helpful in identifying intruders • Placement of mobile CCTV trailers could be deployed in events, festivals or at public transport hubs • Council could develop a video on personal safety and self-defence to host on its website • Self-defence class vouchers could help residents feel empowered and safer 	Consideration of feedback from DAC members in the development of the CGD Community Safety Action Plan.	Acting Coordinator Community Safety
4.	<p>Disability Action Plan (DAP)</p> <p>The Coordinator Community Access advised Council's Media and Communications Team is still working on the community engagement plan and engagement strategy. This will be crucial for effectively presenting the draft DAP to the community and gathering valuable feedback.</p>	Provide further updates on the DAP.	Coordinator Community Access
5.	<p>Update on Aged Care Reforms</p> <p>The Manager Community Care advised the Commonwealth Government has decided to briefly defer the start of the new Aged Care Act from 1 July 2025 to 1 November 2025.</p> <p>The revised timeline follows extensive consultation by the Commonwealth Government with stakeholders and reflects a shared commitment to ensuring a well-prepared and effective transition. Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae, has acknowledged the need for additional time to support providers, staff, and older Australians in adapting to the upcoming reforms.</p> <p>The extension offers Council valuable time to continue preparations for these significant changes, ensuring clients are informed of the updated schedule and reassured of the ongoing quality and continuity of their care and support services.</p>	Provide further updates on the Aged Care Reforms.	Manager Community Care



<p>6.</p>	<p>Discussion on Press Release from Gabrielle Williams - Making Taxi Journeys Safer</p> <p>Discussion was held on the Victorian Government's recent reforms aimed at improving safety and accountability in the taxi and ride-share industry. The changes mark a significant step forward in ensuring people with disability receive the respect, support and protection they deserve when using commercial passenger vehicles.</p> <p>The reforms include mandatory QR codes in vehicles to streamline the complaints process, stricter penalties for misconduct, and enhanced driver training, particularly for those operating wheelchair-accessible vehicles. These measures are essential, as many passengers rely on manual wheelchairs and face challenges when vehicles are not properly equipped, or drivers lack adequate training.</p> <p>The Committee discussed compiling case studies that reflect their lived experiences and the challenges they face navigating the transport system. These stories and insights could then be forwarded to the Minister's office to advocate for ongoing improvements, ensuring that transport services across Victoria are safe, inclusive and responsive to the diverse needs of all individuals.</p>	<p>Send case studies to Community Care Business Support Officer for collation.</p>	<p>DAC members</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Update on progress of Foundational Supports</p> <p>The Disability Planning Officer presented the proposed Disability Services Ecosystem concept which is the full range of supports and services available to people with disability, structured to meet diverse needs across different life stages and circumstances. The key components include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS): tailored, individualised support for eligible people with permanent and significant disabilities 2. Mainstream Supports: services available to the general population that must be accessible to people with disability 3. Universal Supports: community-wide services and infrastructure designed to be inclusive of everyone 4. Foundational Supports: broad-based supports that help people with disability connect to services, build skills, and participate in community life <p>Foundational supports were a key focus of the NDIS Review. The Review acknowledged that, during the rollout of the NDIS, many government services withdrew from disability support under the mistaken belief that the NDIS would meet the needs of all people with disability. As a result, nearly 90% of disability funding over the past decade has been directed to the NDIS, leaving significant service gaps for those not eligible for the scheme.</p> <p>The Commonwealth and State/Territory governments will jointly fund and deliver foundational supports. Governments have begun consultations with people with disability, families, carers, and service providers to shape the design and delivery of foundational supports to ensure supports are inclusive, accessible, and responsive to the community needs.</p>	<p>Provide details about consultations to DAC members.</p>	<p>Disability Planning Officer</p>



8.	<p>Disability matters/issues identified by the community</p> <p>The Committee has identified several key accessibility concerns that require urgent attention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Palm Plaza Accessibility Hazards Palm Plaza presents significant challenges for people with disabilities due to uneven paving and sections of pavement being lifted by tree roots. Additionally, the use of similar grey tones across the surface creates poor visual contrast, making it difficult to distinguish between gutters and changes in elevation. These conditions pose a serious safety risk for wheelchair users, people with low vision, and others with mobility challenges. Dandenong Station Ramp Visibility The ramp at Dandenong Station requires improved visual contrast, particularly during wet weather. When it rains, the stairs become difficult to see, increasing the risk of slips, trips, and falls. Recolouring or adding high-contrast markings would significantly enhance safety for all users, especially those with low vision. 	Raise concerns with relevant Council departments.	Coordinator Community Access
9.	<p>General Business</p> <p>The Coordinator of Community Access informed the Committee of the resignations of members Ali Al Lawati and Lionel Gee. Council officers will be reviewing and updating the Committee's Terms of Reference and will commence advertising for new members.</p> <p>The Committee were encouraged to listen to the ABC's Law Report episode which discusses the case involving a Tasmanian couple who allege disability discrimination after being banned from bringing their support alpaca into a supermarket. The case highlights complex issues around disability rights, public access, and the legal obligations of businesses under anti-discrimination legislation.</p> <p>Greater Dandenong Council in collaboration with Casey Council will host a celebration of the International Day with People Disability at Myuna Farm in Doveton this November. Council's Disability Inclusion Officer is seeking expression of interest from two members of the Committee to be part of the event planning committee.</p>	<p>Review and update Terms of Reference and advertise for new members.</p> <p>Contact Council's Disability Inclusion Officer if interested.</p>	<p>Coordinator Community Access</p> <p>Committee Members</p>
Meeting Closed at 5.30pm			



Positive Ageing Advisory Committee Minutes

Date	Thursday 3 July 2025		
Time	1.30pm–3pm		
Venue	Springvale Community Hub Community Room 1 and Microsoft Teams		
Chair	Julie Klok		
Attendees	Lauris Attard, Christine Green, Jeanette Keane, Vinh-Quang Luong, Erica Moulang, Mark Osborne, Carol Drummond, Cr Sophie Tan (City of Greater Dandenong [CGD]), Manager Community Care (City of Greater Dandenong [CGD]), Coordinator Community Access (CGD), Acting Community Safety Coordinator (CGD), Team Leader Youth Engagement and Participation (CGD)		
Apologies	Maria Erdeg, Cr Loi Truong (CGD), Cr Melinda Yim (CGD), Positive Ageing Team Leader (CGD)		
Minutes	Business Support (Relief) & Project Officer (CGD)		
	ITEM	ACTION	ACTION BY
1.	Welcome - Acknowledgement of Country <i>We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land, the Bunurong People, and pay respects to their Elders past and present.</i> <i>We recognise and respect their continuing connections to climate, Culture, Country and waters and we also pay our respects and acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and their Elders present here today, in acknowledging their journey.</i>		
2.	Business arising from previous minutes April 2025 minutes were accepted – moved Erica Moulang and seconded Lauris Attard		
3.	Update on Community Safety The Acting Coordinator of Community Safety provided an overview of the team's work in delivering initiatives, programs, and partnerships aimed at reducing crime and improving perceptions of safety in Greater Dandenong. Key activities include safety campaigns, environmental enhancements such as CCTV, and collaboration with Victoria Police and community organisations to address issues including homelessness, anti-social behaviour, alcohol and other drugs, and broader safety concerns. The team also promotes community engagement and resilience, aligning with Council's goal of fostering a safe, inclusive, and connected community, with priorities guided by resident feedback. Some key activities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Safety Action Plan: the Community Safety Survey was recently conducted to collect feedback on safety concerns and priorities. Council is currently reviewing the responses and will draft the Community Safety Action Plan expected to be released for public feedback in mid-2025. • CCTV: Council's Safe City CCTV Public Space Camera System has been operating since 2009 and includes about 280 cameras across the municipality. A map of camera locations is available on Council's Community Safety page. • Dandenong Zero - Homelessness Project: in a collaboration between the Greater Dandenong City Council and Launch Housing, it brings together the local service system around a 'By Name List' (BNL) of all people sleeping rough, to support them 		



	<p>with referrals to services with the objective of ending rough sleeping by 2030. For details on key milestones and progress across Local Government Areas, visit the progress page on Melbourne Zero.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol and other drugs: Council adopts evidence-based strategies that aim to reduce the negative impacts of drug and alcohol use on individuals, families, and the broader community. More information on reducing alcohol and other drug-related harm including the Drug Safety community resource is available on Council's Community Safety page. <p>The Committee provided feedback on several important community safety themes for consideration in the Greater Dandenong's Community Safety Action Plan including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usefulness of private security cameras in identifying intruders • Placement of mobile CCTV trailers at events, festivals or at public transport hubs • Opportunity for media promotion including video on personal safety and self-defence • Practical safety measures including self-defence classes • The Committee shared feedback on feelings of physical safety; concerns about home invasions and vehicle theft; Victoria Police recommendations about adequate lighting and CCTV • The Committee sought further information related to community safety including a breakdown of age, suburb and cultural identity of the 78 people on the By Name Register for CGD area, statistics about safety after dark and if certain demographics (particularly older people) may be targeted 	<p>Consideration of feedback in the development of the CGD Community Safety Action Plan.</p> <p>Provide update to Committee.</p>	<p>Acting Coordinator Community Safety</p> <p>Acting Coordinator Community Safety</p>
4.	<p>Update CGD Youth Activities</p> <p>The Team Leader Youth Engagement and Participation provided an overview of the work being done by the Family Support Team including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Family Support Services, including referrals to 'the Orange Door' 2. Youth and Community Development Team, including consultation with community and community-based projects 3. Youth Engagement and Participation; delivers a wide range of engagement programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal service to all youth between 12 and 25 • Proactively reach out and activate spaces • Partner with a variety of local organisations and council departments <p>People can get onto e-newsletter mailing list by emailing Youth Services Team.</p> <p>The Committee posed the question for the Youth Summit; "How do youth see the elderly and how can we connect intergenerationally?"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some suggestions of intergenerational projects such as 'adopt-a-grandparent' or youth interviewing life stories for the centenarian event. <p>Watch the young leaders program video here: https://youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/programs/young-leaders-program</p>		



5.	Update on Aged Care Reforms With the delay of the implementation of the new Aged Care Act until 1 November 2025, there are only minor changes to the back-end reporting and name changes so little impact on CHSP clients at this stage. The delay gives all providers much needed additional time to prepare for the additional requirements of the new Aged Care Act	Information will be sent out with the minutes to committee members.	Manager Community Care
6.	CGD Community Care information on Council Website Please provide feedback about what you think needs to be included on website – send through on email.	A summary of feedback will be sent out with the minutes for comment by Committee.	Business Support Officer
7.	Election of a new PAAC chairperson On behalf of Council and Committee, Julie Klok was thanked for her tireless leadership as chair of the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee since 2019. She was presented with flowers in recognition of her service. Election for a new PAAC Chairperson was then held, and Jeanette Keane self-nominated for the position. Her nomination was unanimously supported, therefore by consensus Jeanette has been appointed as Chairperson of PAAC for a period of 12 months.	For noting	
8.	Other Business No further business.		
Meeting Closed at 3.20pm			



4.3.6 Cancellation of 8 September 2025 Council Meeting

Responsible Officer: Executive Manager Strategy Growth & Advocacy
Attachments: Nil

Officer Recommendation

That Council APPROVES the cancellation of the Ordinary Council Meeting scheduled for 8 September 2025 in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Governance Rules.

Executive Summary

1. To seek Council's endorsement to cancel the Ordinary Council Meeting scheduled for 8 September 2025, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Governance Rules.

Background

2. Council adopted its annual meeting schedule at its Annual Meeting on 18 November 2024. The Ordinary Council Meeting scheduled for 8 September 2025 is proposed to be cancelled due to insufficient agenda items.

Key Issues and Discussion

3. Section 61 of the *Local Government Act 2020* provides that Council meetings must be conducted in accordance with the Governance Rules. Clause 4.2 of Council's Governance Rules allows for the cancellation or postponement of a meeting by resolution of Council or, in the case of an emergency, by the Chief Executive Officer
4. The cancellation of this meeting will not affect statutory timeframes or decision-making processes. Any urgent matters will be addressed at the next scheduled meeting or via a Special Council Meeting if required.
5. The cancellation of the scheduled Council Meeting on 8 September 2025 provides an important opportunity to prioritise Councillor professional development. By reallocating this date, Council can deliver mandatory training aligned with the *Local Government Act 2020*, ensuring Councillors are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to fulfil their roles effectively and ethically. This approach reflects Council's commitment to good governance, continuous improvement, and the responsible use of time and resources.



Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

6. 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

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

Asset Implications

8. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

11. A gender impact assessment is not required.

12. There was no requirement for community consultation however the meeting change will be conveyed to the public through the usual platforms.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

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



4.3.7 List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance, Legal & Risk

Attachments: 1. List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors [4.3.7.1 - 2 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That the listed items for the period 21 July to 1 August 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 21 July to 1 August 2025.

Objective

CONNECTED. COLLABORATIVE. COMMUNITY.

Correspondences addressed to the Mayor and Councillors received between 21/07/25 & 01/08/25 - for officer action - total = 1

Correspondence Name	Correspondence Dated	Date Record Created	Objective ID	User Assigned
An email from the President of the African Communities Council Victoria introducing the organisation and requesting a meeting with the Mayor.	29-Jul-25	29-Jul-25	fA356438	Mayor & Councillor Office

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

Objective

CONNECTED. COLLABORATIVE. COMMUNITY.

Correspondences addressed to the Mayor and Councillors received between 21/07/25 & 01/08/25 - for information only - total = Nil

Correspondence Name	Correspondence Dated	Date Record Created	Objective ID	User Assigned
Nil.				

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



5 NOTICES OF MOTION

5.1 NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 09 - CAMBODIA THAILAND CONFLICT

Responsible Officer: Executive Manager Strategy Growth & Advocacy

Author: Cr Melinda Yim

Preamble

1. In light of recent international developments, including the ceasefire between Thailand and Cambodia, it is important that Council acknowledges the global events that resonate deeply with our diverse community.
2. As a City enriched by multiculturalism, Greater Dandenong recognises the emotional and cultural ties many residents hold to regions affected by conflict.
3. This motion seeks to affirm Council's commitment to community cohesion, cultural sensitivity, and international peace, while ensuring that the voices and wellbeing of our local Thai and Cambodian communities are heard and supported..

Motion

That Council:

1. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the recent ceasefire between Thailand and Cambodia and recognises the significance of this development;
2. **RECOGNISES** the emotional and cultural impact that global events may have on members of our community, particularly those with close families, cultural or heritage ties to affected countries;
3. **NOTES** that some local residents have taken part in peaceful community protest, as an expression of connection and concern for the region;
4. **SUPPORTS** opportunities to connect with and listen to local Thai and Cambodian communities, including through existing multicultural engagement channels, to better understand how Council can be responsive to the experiences and needs of these residents; and
5. **REQUESTS** that the Mayor write to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and relevant diplomatic missions (including those of Thailand and Cambodia), acknowledging the recent ceasefire and expressing Council's support for a peaceful and lasting resolution to the conflict, while also highlighting the importance of community cohesion and the wellbeing of local residents with cultural ties to the region.



6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

The principal purpose of this item in the Council Meeting Agenda is for Councillors to report on their attendance, observations or important matters arising from their liaison or representation with groups for which the Councillor has been formally appointed by Council. In accordance with the documented 'protocol' that applies to either liaisons or representatives, Councillors should raise matters of importance during this item. Other matters may also be reported.

If a Councillor chooses to speak, the name of the conference/event and the Councillor will be noted in the Minutes for that meeting. If a Councillor requires additional information on the conference/event to be listed in the Minutes, they must submit it in writing to a Governance staff member by 12.00pm the day following this Council Meeting.

Question time is provided to enable Councillors to address questions to members of Council staff. The guidelines for asking questions at a Council meeting are included in the current Governance Rules.

Councillors have a total of 15 minutes each to report on their attendances at meetings, conferences or events and to ask questions of Council staff.



7 URGENT BUSINESS

No business may be admitted as urgent business unless it:

- a) relates to or arises out of a matter which has arisen since distribution of the Agenda; and
- b) cannot safely or conveniently be deferred until the next ordinary meeting and unless agreed to by a majority of those Councillors present at the meeting.



8 CLOSE OF BUSINESS