



Minutes

Council Meeting

Monday 10 November 2025, 7:00 pm

Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street,
Dandenong, Victoria 3175

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



COUNCIL OBLIGATIONS AND AGENDA REPORTS

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

Community Vision 2040 (Community Vision | Greater Dandenong Council)

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

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

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

The Council Plan 2025-29 (Council Plan 2025-29 | Greater Dandenong Council)

The Council Plan describes the kind of future the Council is working for, and how Council will do this over four years. The Council Plan has the following key strategic objectives:

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

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

The Overarching Governance Principles of the Local Government Act 2020

Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that a Council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles. These are:

- a) Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law;
- b) priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;
- c) the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted;
- d) the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making;
- e) innovation and continuous improvement are to be pursued;
- f) collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought;
- g) the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured;
- h) regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making;
- i) the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

Also, in giving effect to the overarching governance principles above, a Council must take into account the following supporting principles:

- a) the community engagement principles (section 56);
- b) the public transparency principles (section 58);
- c) the strategic planning principles (section 89);
- d) the financial management principles (section 101);
- e) the service performance principles (section 106).

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



The Gender Equality Act 2020

The *Gender Equality Act 2020* came into operation on 31 March 2021 and requires councils to take positive action towards achieving workplace gender equality and to promote gender equality in their policies, programs and services. The objects of the Act are as follows:

- a) to promote, encourage and facilitate the achievement of gender equality and improvement in the status of women; and
- b) to support the identification and elimination of systemic causes of gender inequality in policy, programs and delivery of services in workplaces and communities; and
- c) to recognise that gender inequality may be compounded by other forms of disadvantage or discrimination that a person may experience on the basis of Aboriginality, age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, race, religion, sexual orientation and other attributes; and
- d) to redress disadvantage, address stigma, stereotyping, prejudice and violence, and accommodate persons of different genders by way of structural change; and
- e) to enhance economic and social participation by persons of different genders; and
- f) to further promote the right to equality set out in the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Council is obligated to think about how its programs and services affect different people and different communities and how we can avoid reinforcing unintentional inequalities. Reports authors must consider the requirements of the *Gender Equality Act 2020* and Council's Diversity, Access and Equity Policy when asking Council to consider or review any issues which have a direct or significant impact on members of the Greater Dandenong community.

Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities

Council, Councillors and members of Council staff are a public authority under the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and, as such, are all responsible to act in accordance with the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006* (the Charter). The Charter is founded on the following principles:

- human rights are essential in a democratic and inclusive society that respects the rule of law, human dignity, equality and freedom;
- human rights belong to all people without discrimination, and the diversity of the people of Victoria enhances our community;
- human rights come with responsibilities and must be exercised in a way that respects the human rights of others;
- human rights have a special importance for the Aboriginal people of Victoria, as descendants of Australia's first people, with their diverse spiritual, social, cultural and economic relationship with their traditional lands and waters.

Given this municipality's diversity and inclusiveness, when developing or preparing a report for Council consideration, report authors are required to ensure their report is consistent with the standards set by the Charter.



Consideration of Climate Change and Sustainability

One of the overarching governance principles of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

In January 2020, this Council joined a growing number of cities around Australia and declared a “Climate and Ecological Emergency” and committed this Council to emergency action on climate change. Council has developed a Climate Change Emergency Strategy and Action Plan 2020-30 to help the City of Greater Dandenong become a resilient, net zero carbon emission city with an active community prepared for the challenges of changing climate.

When developing or preparing a report for Council consideration, report authors are required to consider what impacts their issue has on Council's Declaration on a Climate and Ecological Emergency, Council's Climate Change Emergency Strategy and the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* in relation to the overarching principle on climate change and sustainability.

Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks

Report authors will consider how their report aligns with existing Council policies, strategies, frameworks or other documents, how they may affect the decision of this report or are relevant to this process.



Supporting Documents

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

Your Councillors

[Mayor Jim Memeti](#)

[Cr Bob Milkovic](#)

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

[Cr Sean O'Reilly](#)

[Cr Phillip Danh](#)

[Cr Loi Truong](#)

[Cr Isabella Do](#)

[Cr Melinda Yim](#)

[Cr Lana Formoso](#)

[Cr Rhonda Garad](#)

[Cr Alice Phuong Le](#)



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

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



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Acknowledging
Bunurong Country

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1 MEETING OPENING

1.1 OPENING OF MEETING BY CHAIR

Cr Jim Memeti opened the Meeting at 7.00pm

1.2 ATTENDANCE

Apologies

Cr Melinda Yim.

Councillors Present

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

Officers Present

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer; Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures; Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening; Yuri Guzman, Chief Information Officer; Dani Trimble, Governance Officer; Marjan Hajjari, Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services; Kirsten Geri, Acting Chief Financial Officer.



1.3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF LAND

Those who wish to stand for the acknowledgement to country are welcome to do so.

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

We recognise and respect their continuing connections to climate, Culture, Country and waters and we also pay our respect and acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their Elders present here today, in acknowledging their journey.

1.4 OFFERING OF PRAYER, REFLECTION OR AFFIRMATION

All remained standing as Jaswinder Singh, a member of the Greater Dandenong Interfaith Network, read a prayer from the Sikh Community.

The Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti read the following statement:

We have just learned that there has been a tragedy this afternoon in Dandenong Creek. We have heard that a child and an adult were swept away in the creek, and despite the best efforts of emergency services, they could not be revived and were declared deceased at the scene.

Our hearts go out to those affected by this awful tragedy, including their families, friends and the emergency services who attended.

All in the Chamber acknowledged a minute of silence in respect of those who lost their lives.



1.5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Meeting of Council held 27 October 2025.

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 27 October 2025 be confirmed.

MINUTE No.239

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 27 October 2025 be confirmed.

CARRIED 10 / 0

1.6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil.



1.7 ADOPTION OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Audit and Risk Committee held a meeting on 12 September 2025 and Minutes of this meeting, as summarised in the following table, are presented to Council for adoption.

Item	Topic
1.	The Audit and Risk Committee reviewed actions arising from previous meetings.
2.	The Audit and Risk Committee reviewed, discussed and noted the following reports with Council officers: • Chief Executive Officer's Report • Risk Management Update • Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Update • LGPRF 2024-25 End of Financial Year Summary • End of Year Performance Report 2024-25 • Policy Review Update • Audit & Risk Committee Self-Assessment • Councillor Gift Policy and Conflict of Interest Policy • Annual Freedom of Information Report 2024-2025 • Annual Report on Reimbursement of Councillor Expenses • Review of CEO and Councillor Purchasing Card Transactions 1 July 2024 - 30 June 2025 • Council's Gift and Travel Registers • Procurement Exemptions • Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy • Committee Chair Appointment 2025-2026 • Audit and Risk Committee – Biannual Activity Report • Review of Nominated Officers List - s132 Local Government Act 2020
3.	The Audit and Risk Committee reviewed, discussed and noted the following reports with Council officers and the external auditor: • South East Leisure Pty Ltd (SEL) Annual Financial Statements 2024-25 • Dandenong Market Pty Ltd (DMPL) Annual Financial Statements 2024-25 • Draft Consolidated Annual Financial Statements and Council Performance Statement 2024-25
4.	The Audit and Risk Committee reviewed, discussed and noted the following reports with Council officers and the internal auditor: • HLB Mann Judd Internal Audit Status Report September 2025 • Council Status of Internal Audit Actions • HLB Mann Judd - Contract Extension • Strategic Internal Audit Plan 2024-2027 (2025-2026 FOCUS) • GDCC - Review of Privacy and Data Governance • GDCC - Review of Risk Management (final) • GDCC - South East Leisure Pty Ltd (SEL) - Review of Child Safe Standards – Final • GDCC - Internal Audit Scopes • Integrity Body Reports

Officer Recommendation

That the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 12 September 2025 be adopted.



MINUTE No.240

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 12 September 2025 be adopted.

CARRIED 10 / 0



2 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 1

2.1 PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

2.1.1 Petitions and Joint Letters

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

Officer Recommendation

That this report and its attachment be received and noted.

Executive Summary

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

Petitions and Joint Letters Tabled

4. Council received one new petition and no joint letters prior to the Council Meeting of 10 November 2025.

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

MINUTE No.241

Moved by: Cr Loi Truong

Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That this report and its attachment be received and noted.

CARRIED 10 / 0



3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer read the following statement:

Our first questions are from Norliah Syer-Peterson. Before reading the questions on Norliah's behalf, we would like to extend our sincere condolences to Norliah for the sudden loss of her son, Levi, to Meningococcal B in late September.

We truly appreciate Norliah's strength and determination in responding to the tragic loss of Levi, with a health campaign to benefit others.

Question

Norliah Syer-Peterson, Clyde North

Why is the Meningococcal B vaccine not included in the Victorian immunisation program like the ACWY vaccine given to infants and teens as Meningococcal B cases are rising and lead to death within hours of contracting the disease or end up living with a permanent disability?

Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

Please accept my sincere condolences for the tragic loss of Levi.

The City of Greater Dandenong is committed to supporting access to the Meningococcal B vaccine to protect our community from this serious disease. Our efforts include:

- In 2023, Council received a \$20,000 grant to provide free Meningococcal B vaccines to the community. Due to high demand, Council established an in-house immunisation service, now operating on a fee basis.
- Since the program's launch in 2024, Council's immunisation service has administered over 350 Meningococcal B vaccines.
- We actively promote vaccine awareness through social media, community networks, and health channels. Families attending our childhood immunisation sessions receive education and advice about the vaccine from our immunisation nurses.

While we strive to improve access, we recognise that cost remains a barrier for many. As outlined in tonight's Council Meeting Agenda, Council will advocate to the State Government for the inclusion of funded Meningococcal B vaccination in the state program.

Question

Norliah Syer-Peterson, Clyde North

Why is there inequity between states to fund this vaccine given that this is a serious and deadly disease that can strike at any time to anyone and S.A, QLD and the N.T have recognised the need to protect their communities?



Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

The Meningococcal ACWY vaccine is funded by the Federal Government and included in the National Immunisation Program (NIP) for infants and adolescents. The Meningococcal B vaccine is not currently part of the NIP, though some states have incorporated it into their own programs.

Consistent with the Notice of Motion on tonight's agenda, Council will continue to advocate for the inclusion of funded Meningococcal B vaccination in the state program.

Question

Norliah Syer-Peterson, Clyde North

Given the extreme financial impact on the government and families when a child survives after contracting Meningococcal B, living with lifelong disabilities that cost millions of dollars over their lifetime. Why isn't this factored into the decision not to fund the meningococcal B vaccine to infants and teens? Has the government conducted a cost savings analysis?

Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

This question is best addressed by the relevant state and federal government authorities.

However, we will continue to advocate in support of this vaccination being included in the Victorian state program.

Comment

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

A question has been received regarding an alleged matter that occurred at the Dandenong Market. This matter has been referred to the Victoria Police who will contact the questioner directly."

Cr Isabella Do left the Chamber at 7.18pm and returned at 7.21pm

Question

Fiona, Dandenong

At the last Council meeting I was advised in response to my question that Council was installing the pride rainbow stickers that was recommended by the Dandenong LGBTQIA+ Advisory Committee. Later in the same meeting, Cr Garad was advised they were looking at creating a universal sticker instead of the ones they had previously advised they were installing.

Why did Council advise they were going to install the pride stickers as recommended by the committee? When they indicated plans to disregard the committee's and the councillors' that passed this recommendation and looked into installing a sticker based on their own agenda and biased views?



Response

Marjan Hajjari, Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services

I confirm that my team has already ordered the required number of Progress stickers from Hares & Hyenas, based at the Pride Centre. This followed consultation with both the Pride Centre staff and the Pride of the South East group of councils to identify the most appropriate stickers available.

I just had confirmation today that my team has collected the stickers last Friday from the Pride Centre and we hope to have the Civic ones installed at the entrances tomorrow – prior to the Advisory meeting. The other endorsed sites will be done progressively over the coming days.

I confirm again there is no change in relation to the implementation of this resolution endorsed by Council on 13 October.

The explanation I provided at the last Council meeting in respond to Cr Garad was related to an internal discussion about developing a combined 'welcome sticker' that could be inclusive of all groups. This was just a discussion and there was NO intention to change the resolution that was endorsed by Councillors on 13 October.

As confirmed by the mayor in the last meeting, any future options would require Councillor consideration through a formal report to Council before proceeding.

Question

Alessia, Dandenong North

Lyndale United FC, established in 1977, has been a cornerstone of the Greater Dandenong community for nearly 50 years. The club promotes inclusivity, offering equal opportunities for boys and girls, and currently fields teams in Men's State League 4 and Women's State League 5, with 116 junior players (including 45 girls). Despite strong community engagement and growth, inadequate facilities are limiting the club's potential.

The soccer pitch is in poor condition uneven, sandy, and waterlogged during winter, making play unsafe and discouraging participation. Young players risk injuries, and the club's growth is limited. Upgrading the drainage system and reorienting the ground could allow for an additional pitch. Despite improvements like a new canteen since the 2019 masterplan, the pitch remains the club's most urgent need.

How can the council help us have a pitch that's safe and fun for everyone?



Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

I understand that the club has recently been in contact with officers from my team to discuss the ongoing works at the site. For context, the pitches are situated on land owned by the Department of Education and managed by the City of Greater Dandenong (CGD) under a Joint Use Agreement.

I am advised Council's Parks Team has been working on the pitch surface for several years. Overall, considering there is no subsurface or surface drainage at the site, Officers are of the view that the quality of the main playing surface meets the required, except for periods of torrential rain. Essentially, the surface is currently as good as it can be without a full redevelopment.

In instances of heavy rainfall, Football Victoria (FV) sets out compliance standards, and their umpires assess and determine whether the surface is playable before any match. The club and the umpires jointly make safety decisions for each game. To date, we are not aware of Lyndale UFC having to cancel matches due to safety concerns.

Future redevelopment of the site was first identified in the 2019 masterplan, with further detailed design and cost estimates recently completed. The necessary upgrades have been estimated at a minimum cost of \$3 million.

At present, the redevelopment is listed in Council's 10-year asset management plan. However, due to current capital commitments and the scale of investment required for new infrastructure, funding has not yet been allocated. Council officers remain committed to ongoing collaboration with the club to schedule maintenance works aimed at improving the pitches. Meanwhile, we continue to seek opportunities to progress the broader redevelopment project.

Question

Carla, Lysterfield

Can the council help us have a carpark that is safe and works for everyone, including players, parents, and visitors?

How can we add a playground to our club grounds to give families a safe, healthy space for kids to play?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Thank you for sharing your ideas and for the ongoing commitment of Lyndale United FC to the Greater Dandenong community. As noted by Executive Director Community Strengthening, the site is owned by the Department of Education and managed by the City of Greater Dandenong under a Joint Use Agreement.

The proposed car park upgrade is included in the concept for the sports facility upgrade previously outlined by Ms Gillies, however the timeframe for this will be subject to available future funding.

Officers also acknowledge the request for a playground at this site. Following a municipality-wide review, we have confirmed that Lyndale Secondary College is not located in a gap area for playground provision and therefore is not currently a priority site for a new local playground.



Question

Phillip Lamaro, Dandenong

At the last meeting Council the following was said:

'If there is no quick decision for something that all groups are happy with, we will still go ahead with the rainbow stickers for the facilities that were outlined in the minutes, so we are still committed to do the stickers on that one if we cannot come quickly with the decision that is comfortable with all members'

Can Council confirm that as per this statement they had intent to install a different sticker to the recommended one or is this statement untrue?

Response

Marjan Hajjari, Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services

Thank you for your question. As responded to Fiona earlier, there is no changes to the implementation of the resolution endorsed on 13 October.

Stickers have been collected last Friday and will be installed on civic centre tomorrow.

Question

Phillip Lamaro, Dandenong

It has been released the government is looking to have an employment hub within Council facilities. This location is a retail space that was previously leased to Bendigo bank to compensate Council's expenditure on the facility.

Can Council confirm whether it is receiving rent from the government for this location during this period?

Response

Marjan Hajjari, Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services

We are working on the details of the employment hub, including its location.

As part of this partnership, Council contributes the space and the funding from government should cover the operations and expenses of running the place.

Question

Phillip Lamaro, Dandenong

Council has repeatedly advised the Dandenong market is managed by a privately owned company they have no control over.

Can Council explain why this contract did not go out for public tender, given that it was awarded to a privately owned organisation, as per the law for all Council contracts?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

The council established Dandenong Market Pty Ltd as a company under the Companies Act.

There is no tender process required to do that.

As mentioned previously, the market is managed by an independent board.



Question

Scott Peters, Dandenong

Council has repeatedly advised they cannot install speed bumps on Hammond Road based on lack of evidence of criteria they are needed. Currently a speed bump is being built on Webster Street which now with the road closure has its traffic heavily reduced.

Can council provide what evidence they have to indicate Webster Street requires a speed bump more than Hammond Road?

Response

Executive Director City Futures, Sanjay Manivasagasivam

The Webster Street traffic calming has been installed by the Webster Street level crossing removal project and forms part of a strategy to mitigate the impacts of closing the Webster Street level crossing. The traffic calming is anticipated to discourage heavy vehicles from using the residential areas.

Traffic in the area, including on both Webster Street and Hammond Road will change significantly following the level crossing removal project's completion. Following completion, Council's traffic engineers will monitor Hammond Road to determine if further action is required

Question

Scott Peters, Dandenong

Can Council look at planting trees in the medium strip of Cheltenham Road and Greens Road near the Eastlink overpass? They have planted trees on the side strips, but the medium strip that has no overhead power lines is a perfect place to plant gum trees to increase our tree canopy.

Response

Executive Director City Futures, Sanjay Manivasagasivam

The centre medians near the Eastlink overpass are maintained and managed by VicRoads. Council will however investigate if the planting of trees is possible. An enquiry will be sent to VicRoads for consideration.

Question

Darcy John, Dandenong

Living on Hammond Road is currently an unsafe nightmare.

Can Council please look at lowering the speed limit or installing speed bumps to make it safer for residents?

Response

Executive Director City Futures, Sanjay Manivasagasivam

Currently, due to the lower number of and type of accidents occurring on Hammond Road, it is not eligible for funding under the Federal Blackspot Program or other streams of funding for road safety infrastructure.

Traffic in the area is changing significantly due to the level crossing removal project nearby. Following completion, Council's traffic engineers will monitor Hammond Road to determine if further action is required



Question

Darcy John, Dandenong

With the Webster Street pedestrian underpass now complete when is Council sealing the footpath as promised?

Response

Executive Director City Futures, Sanjay Manivasagasivam

Council is currently working with the Level Crossing Removal Project to explore options to seal the shared user path between the underpass and Hammond Road.



4 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 2

4.1 POLICY AND STRATEGY

4.1.1 Councillor Conflict of Interest Policy

Responsible Officer:	Manager Governance, Legal & Risk Executive Manager Strategy Growth & Advocacy
Attachments:	1. Councillor Conflict of Interest Policy CM 251013 [4.1.1.1 - 12 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council APPROVES the Councillor Conflict of Interest Policy (attached).

Executive Summary

1. Recognising and disclosing conflicts of interest are vital to ensure transparency and accountability in Local Government.
2. Sections 127-136 of the *Local Government Act 2020 (the Act)* addresses conflicts of interest. The Local Government Inspectorate considers it industry best practice for Councils to adopt a Conflict of Interest Policy.
3. The Conflict of Interest Policy has been developed to assist Councillors to identify and manage actual or perceived conflicts of interests and follow the processes Council has in place to meet the legislative reporting requirements under *the Act* and Council's Governance Rules.
4. The policy provides clear objectives for Councillors to demonstrate ethical behaviour, good governance, transparency and supports compliance under *the Act* and relevant Regulations.
5. The Policy was endorsed by the Audit and Risk Committee on 12 September 2025

Background

6. *The Act* promotes transparency in Council operations, including decision-making processes and sets out the requirements for disclosing and reporting conflicts of interest, ensuring that Council fulfils its obligations to its stakeholders fairly, ethically and in the best interest of the community.
7. It is a personal judgement and decision of each Councillor to assess their own circumstances and determine if a conflict of interest exists and to disclose a potential and perceived conflict of interest.
8. The Local Government Inspectorate deems it best practice for all Victorian Council's to implement a Conflict of Interest Policy.



Key Issues and Discussion

9. The Councillor Conflict of Interest Policy provides a framework for identifying, managing and disclosing potential and perceived conflicts of interest ensuring that Councillors private interests do not compromise their public duties.
10. This Policy has been developed to assist Councillors to declare and manage potential and perceived conflicts appropriately and in accordance with the Act and Council's Governance Rules.
11. This policy supports the Councillor Gift Policy adopted at the Council meeting held 28 July 2025 as well as the overarching Model Councillor Code of Conduct.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

12. 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

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

Asset Implications

14. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

15. The Local Government Inspectorate strongly recommends the adoption of a Councillor Conflict of Interest Policy.
16. Non-compliance with the attached policies may be considered a breach of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Model Councillor Code of Conduct.

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

18. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

19. There was no requirement for community consultation.



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

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

- Not Applicable

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

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

Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

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

MINUTE No.242

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Bob Milkovic

That Council defers this item to the Council Meeting to be held on 24 November 2025 so that Council officers can provide further information to Councillors as requested.

CARRIED 10 / 0



4.1.2 Draft Our Bright Green Future Strategy

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

Attachments:

1. Draft Our Bright Green Future Strategy 2025-35 [4.1.2.1 - 47 pages]
2. Our Bright Green Future Action Plan 2025-35 [4.1.2.2 - 15 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES** the significant number of existing sustainability related strategies and associated action plans currently adopted by Council;
2. **NOTES** that officers have consolidated these strategies and aligned them with the Council Plan 2025-29's Integrated Planning Framework to develop the *Our Bright Green Future Strategy and Action Plan*;
3. **PROVIDES IN PRINCIPLE SUPPORT** for the *Our Bright Green Future Strategy and Action Plan*; and
4. **PROVIDES APPROVAL** to undertake a community engagement process on the *Our Bright Green Future Strategy and Action Plan*.

Executive Summary

1. Council has a long history of commitment to climate action through sustainability and environmental stewardship. This was reflected in 2020 when Council declared a climate and ecological emergency, and through its adoption of various sustainability related strategies.
2. The Council Plan 2025-29 establishes a new Integrated Planning Framework (IPF) to guide the development of Council's 'priority strategies' to ensure their alignment with both strategic and operational priorities.
3. To align with the IPF, the draft *Our Bright Green Future Strategy* (the Strategy) and *Action Plan* has been developed by consolidating Council's eight (8) sustainability-related strategies and seven (7) action plans into one strategy document. The draft Strategy reduces duplication, sets one strategic direction, builds on Council's existing commitments to act on the climate and ecological emergency and ensures our actions are clear, measurable and relevant.
4. The purpose of the draft Strategy is to develop a coordinated and focused strategy that builds upon Council's commitment, lead our community's sustainability action and foster environmental stewardship. It provides the direction needed to deliver Council's vision of a green city committed to a sustainable future through practical action, Council leadership, and community collaboration.
5. The draft Strategy and Action Plan has been organised into nine (9) themes. Each theme has an objective and clear, measurable and relevant actions to set out the steps Council will take to cut emissions, adapt to the climate emergency and deliver better community health outcomes. It builds on Council's existing commitments to act on the climate and ecological emergency.



6. To align with the IPF, the draft Action Plan has been informed by a review of the existing sustainability related action plans. The review identified five hundred and forty-four (544) separate actions within these seven (7) strategies.
7. The Action Plan presents a direction that is clear, measurable and relevant by consolidating the current five hundred and forty-four (544) separate actions to seventy-four (74) actions by removing or reviewing duplications, standard business as usual activities, ambiguous actions, and no longer relevant actions.
8. Officers are seeking Council's in principle support for the draft Strategy and Action Plan, and approval to undertake a community engagement process.

Background

9. Climate change is no longer a distant issue, it is shaping our lives, our health, our finances and the places we call home. In the City of Greater Dandenong, we are seeing these impacts worsen every year through increasing demands on our natural resources, more frequent extreme weather events, and rising cost of living placing pressure on our community's ability to adapt.
10. In 2020 Council declared a climate and ecological emergency and has been laying the foundations for long-term sustainability action. The climate and ecological crises bring an urgent need to strengthen our journey of sustainability and climate action.
11. The Council Plan 2025-29 places a strong emphasis on the importance of climate change and sustainability, with one of its strategic objectives being '*A green city committed to a sustainable future*'.
12. In addition, the Climate Action Act 2017 requires Council to consider climate change in all its decision making.
13. Since 2019, Council has achieved over an eighty (80) percent reduction in its emissions. This has partially been achieved through the Victoria Energy Collaboration (VECO) Power Purchase Agreement. Contributing actions include installing 600kW of Solar PV panels, replacing over 20 fleet vehicles to low emission alternatives and electrifying end of life small gas assets to support the transition away from fossil fuels.
14. The Council Plan 2025-29 has established a new Integrated Planning Framework (IPF) to guide the development of Council's key documents.
15. To align with the IPF, Council officers have consolidated the eight (8) existing and draft sustainability related strategies and seven (7) action plans across Council into one 'Priority Strategy' and Action Plan. This draft strategy is called *Our Bright Green Future* (the Strategy). As per the IPF, the purpose of the Strategy and associated Action Plan is to create a coordinated and focused document that reduces duplication, sets one direction, and ensures our actions are clear, measurable and relevant.



16. The eight (8) sustainability related strategies and seven (7) action plans that have been consolidated into the draft Strategy are:
 - Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-30.
 - Greater Dandenong Sustainability Strategy 2016-30.
 - Greater Dandenong's Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-25.
 - Urban Forest Strategy 2021-28 (overarching document for the two greening strategies, which consists of the following strategies).
 - Greening our City Urban Tree Strategy 2021-28.
 - Greening our Neighbourhoods 2021-28.
 - Draft Waste and Litter Strategy 2021-26.
 - Draft Climate Change Community Engagement and Mobilisation Plan (CEMP) 2024-2029.
17. The Strategy has been organised into nine (9) themes, as outlined below. Each theme has an objective and clear, measurable and relevant actions.
 - Advocacy
 - Circular Economy and Waste
 - Transport and Active Travel
 - Biodiversity
 - Trees and Greening
 - Water and Waterways
 - Energy and Net Zero Transition
 - Sustainable Design, Assets and Infrastructure
 - Sustainability across Greater Dandenong.
18. Currently, the strategies' action plans contain five hundred and forty-four (544) separate actions. Many of these actions across the action plans are duplicated, ambiguous, no longer relevant or standard business as usual activities which do not belong in strategic action plans. Despite the ongoing work and progress towards these, the volume of actions has presented challenges in monitoring and reporting.
19. To align with the IPF and address the need to ensure the actions are clear, measurable and relevant, Council officers conducted a critical review of all five hundred and forty-four (544) actions.
20. This review included multiple workshops with relevant departments and a gap analysis to identify the key priorities and actions out of the existing actions. The workshops assessed each action to determine whether it was Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound (SMART), completed, business as usual, duplicated and its current relevance.
21. As a result, the actions have been reduced to seventy-four (74) by merging similar actions and removing duplicated, irrelevant, and business as usual actions. While business as usual actions have been removed, their function will remain as per department operational work plans.
22. The draft Action Plan seeks to ensure Council can achieve its strategic objective of being 'a green city committed to a sustainable future', aligns with the IPF and meet its Climate Action Act obligations.



23. The draft Action Plan is clear, measurable and relevant and will move Council towards more adaptive, sustainable operations and decision making in the face of climate change and sustainability related challenges.
24. Officers are seeking in principle support for the Strategy and Action Plan and for approval to undertake a community engagement process. Following that process, it is intended to present the Strategy and Action Plan to Council for adoption.

Key Issues and Discussion

25. As discussed in the Background section, the draft Strategy and Action Plan align with the Council Plan 2025-2029 and the IPF.
26. While the number of strategies and actions have been consolidated, Council's action will not be reduced. Rather it is intended that the draft Strategy and Action Plan will be the driver for Council to further its climate action, building on the work already undertaken in a coordinated and focused manner.
27. The Strategy commits to sustainability initiatives that lead innovation, deliver direct benefits to the community, including our business sector, and strengthen Council's and the community's resilience to the climate emergency.
28. There are four key considerations that have informed the development of the draft Strategy and Action Plan which are discussed further below.
 - Consolidation of existing strategies and actions and preparation of a new Action Plan
 - Revised Net Zero target of 2035 (subject to funding)
 - Financial Implications - Additional budget required to deliver the draft action plan
 - Communications and Engagement

Consolidation of existing strategies and actions and preparation of a new Action Plan

29. Consolidating the strategies and action plans will enable Council to bring together the key messages from all eight (8) strategies into one shared vision and targeted approach.
30. The Strategy establishes a strategic framework to deliver an integrated approach to climate, sustainability and the environment. Over the last ten years as technologies have evolved and policies changed, Council has established a better understanding of what can be quantified and what is accessible. This growth has identified that several of the original objectives or actions of existing strategies are simply not quantifiable in a meaningful way.
31. There are many overlapping, duplicated and business as usual actions within the existing Action Plans. As a result, this made many of the actions redundant or no longer relevant for Council. This has led to challenges reporting meaningful results and progress, despite the significant achievements Council has made to date.
32. By supporting the Strategy and Action Plan, Council is further cementing their commitment to action on climate change and presenting a coordinated and focused approach to sustainability.

Net Zero Target

33. As set out in the Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-2030, Council initially sought to be a net zero emissions Council by 2025. Council has achieved over an eighty (80) percent reduction in its emissions since 2019. This has ensured that Greater Dandenong is one of the leading performing Council's in terms of emissions reductions (see Table 1 below).



34. When the 2025 net zero target was established Council had only broad understanding of the required works and associated cost involved. Additionally challenges and limitations during COVID-19 pandemic prevented Council from achieving net zero by 2025. Since then, extensive research and planning have clarified future capital project needs, enabling more informed net zero planning. Officers are recommending an updated target of 2035 (subject to appropriate funding being made available) to account for the significant financial resources required to remove remaining emissions.
35. To achieve net zero target, based on current estimates Council officers estimate an additional \$17 Million in capital investment would be required.
36. While it is acknowledged that a considerable financial investment is required, the importance of meeting the challenge of climate change in a timely manner is becoming more important with the continually worsening climate conditions across the planet.
37. It is also important to note continuing the 'status quo' with gas infrastructure will likely see utility costs skyrocket in coming years. As such, taking action sooner rather than later will see long-term financial savings for Council.
38. To ensure we can continue our transition to net zero and fund the required works, multiple funding sources such as grants, other external sources and Council budget will need to be pursued.
39. The draft Strategy and Action Plan continue Council's efforts to reduce emissions and targeting shifts in the approach(es) taken that deliver good value for money.
40. In terms of other Councils, no metropolitan Melbourne Council has achieved net zero without relying heavily on offset payments. Below is a list of Councils showing stronger progress toward net zero, based on available data.

Table 1: Comparison list of better performing Councils in progressing towards net zero

Council	Remining emissions
Greater Dandenong	3,978t-CO ₂ e
Maribyrnong	3,181t-CO ₂ e (net zero through offsets)
Melbourne	12,162t-CO ₂ e (net zero through offsets)
Yarra	7,072t-CO ₂ e (net zero through offsets)
Kingston	5,000t-CO ₂ e
Knox	8,163t-CO ₂ e
Merri-bek	69% reduction on 2011-12 figures
Hobsons Bay	2,106t-CO ₂ e
Stonnington	4,847t-CO ₂ e

41. While some Councils claim to be achieving net zero, as Table 1 above demonstrates it is often due to purchasing offsets. Officers recommend that Council needs to seek to reduce emissions as the primary action, to mitigate its direct contribution to climate change, rather than purchase offsets.



Financial Implications - Additional budget required to deliver the draft action plan

42. A key principle of the Action Plan is to be relevant. Being relevant means, it is an option available to Council with current technology, knowledge and data. Furthermore, the actions have been developed to deliver direct and indirect benefits relevant to our community.
43. Being relevant also means the actions can be achieved with existing budget where possible. The vast majority of actions from the Action Plan can be accommodated within existing budgets and staff resourcing as outlined in the Operating Budget Implications section of this report.
44. However, one key principle of this Strategy is to transition to net zero emissions. As discussed above, long-term financial planning and additional funding will be required to ensure Council can transition to net zero.
45. To deliver the Action Plan, excluding the net zero actions and the Active Transport Priority Program (see below), the financial resourcing needed over the ten (10) year period is approximately \$1,100,000. This equates to an average of \$110,000 per year.
46. The Active Transport Priority Program action included in the Action Plan has a cost associated with it of \$650,000 per year over 10 years. Its implementation may be subject to available funding through grants or other means.
47. As stated above, the draft Action Plan has been developed to not only ensure Council can meet its climate change obligations and expectations, but also that it is financially responsible, with only a very small number of actions requiring a significant investment.

Community Engagement

48. This project supports and reinforces the extensive community consultation already undertaken to inform the existing sustainability related strategies and the Council Plan 2025-29. We know our community care about climate change and want Council to lead action. While the existing strategies have been consolidated, Council's action will not be reduced. Rather, the Strategy builds on this progress and the expectations from the community by developing a transformative plan of action for the future.
49. A Communication and Engagement Plan has been developed to inform and guide the process of engaging with the community on the draft Strategy and Action Plan.
50. The level of influence will be based on IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum 'inform'.
51. As per the IAP2 Framework, the Inform approach is used to *"enhance knowledge, understanding, support and transparency. It provides the community with information on something that has been decided and is to be implemented"*.
52. Officers are seeking in principle support for the draft Strategy and Action Plan and for approval to undertake a community engagement process.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

53. Each action in the Action Plan has identified the level of resourcing required. Based on the staff resourcing identified in the Action Plan, an additional 1 EFT is expected to be required across Council department teams.
54. The draft Strategy and Action Plan will be implemented by staff from a wide variety of departments. Across Council, sustainability is core consideration and commitment by all staff. Each action has an assigned department and expected delivery date.



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

Operating Budget Implications

55. Each action has identified the relevant additional resourcing required.
56. Based on the financial resourcing needed for each action over the next ten years to 2035 the estimated cost to deliver the Strategy, including capital and operational actions is approximately \$24,600,000.
57. Included in this estimated cost is approximately \$17,000,000 to fund the transition of council assets and facilities to net zero emissions, including removal of gas assets.
58. A further \$6,500,000 is needed to fund the Active Transport Priority Program.
59. The remaining actions will require \$1,100,000 to be delivered over the next ten years (to 2035).
60. Delivery of the draft Action Plan is subject to Council support in future annual budgets and the Long-Term Financial Plan, as well as the ability to obtain grant funding and other external funding sources.

Asset Implications

61. Supporting *Our Green Bright Future Strategy and Action Plan* does not directly affect any existing assets at this stage.
62. Delivery of the Action Plan will have implications for existing assets. However, these are subject to future Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) and annual budget bids being supported as part of the budget process.

Legal/Risk Implications

63. In 2025, the Australian Government released the National Adaptation Plan (the Plan) based on the findings of the National Climate Risk Assessment. The Plan provides a framework and clear guidance for adaptation, responsibilities, and priorities to build resilience to climate impacts. Council's approach aligns, and in some instances, exceeds the measures in this Plan by supporting targeted, evidence-based, and collaborative adaptation actions in communities. This is evident in our commitment to be Net Zero by 2035, as outlined in the Action Plan.
64. The Victorian Government has legislated a net zero target by 2045 under its Climate Action Act 2017. The draft Strategy outlines how Council will work towards transitioning to net zero emissions by 2035. As Council is seeking stronger targets, there are no known legal risks.
65. The draft Strategy builds upon Council's existing commitments and enables Council to focus on adaptation measures and sustainable decision making in greater detail. This approach meets its legal obligations to consider climate change in its decision making and aligns with the IPF.
66. Since adopting its first Sustainability Strategy in 2016, Council officers have been working to establish baseline data and refine objectives to better understand what can be measured and what information is accessible.
67. This process revealed risks within the original objectives and action plans, including overlapping, duplicated, and business-as-usual actions that diverted attention from initiatives with measurable outcomes and the potential to drive meaningful change.
68. This has impacted the ability to report meaningful results and progress despite the significant action and achievements Council has made to date.
69. The review of the existing sustainability related actions has led to the development of a new action plan that is clear, measurable and relevant. Clear, as the actions are easy to understand, and targeted in their direction. Measurable, as the actions can be monitored and reported on with meaningful and quantifiable information. Relevant, as the actions provide direct and indirect benefits relevant to our community and can be delivered by Council with funding and resources.



70. The draft Strategy and Action Plan address the challenges posed above and will lead to improved monitoring, more efficient action and better reporting.

Environmental Implications

71. Since 2020 Council has committed to emergency action on the climate and ecological crisis. This draft Strategy further cements Council's role as a leader in sustainability. It ensures we prioritise strengthening community resilience to deliver health benefits of adapting to the impacts of climate change.
72. Transition to net zero emissions remains a key target of the draft Strategy and the Action Plan. Council is exploring opportunities to proactively remove emissions from Council's operations rather than purchasing offsets. We understand that removing emissions has greater impact than offsetting.
73. Council will continue to work closely with State and Federal Governments, industry and community to support and empower the transition away from fossil fuels and to reduce emissions. This action is supported by the draft Strategy.

Gender Impact Assessment

74. *Our Bright Green Future* demonstrates commitment to sustainability initiatives and delivers direct benefits to all members of our community regardless of gender, age and abilities.
75. The commitments within the draft Action Plan prioritise building the capacity of our most vulnerable community members, in turn ensuring equitable access to mitigation and adaption measures for all.
76. Engagement, educational programs and materials associated with the community engagement will be delivered and presented in a clear, gender inclusive language that is accessible to all.

Community Engagement

Purpose	To inform the community about the draft of <i>Our Bright Green Future Strategy and Action Plan</i> .
Engagement period	4-week period starting mid-November
Level of Influence:	Inform
Engagement Activities:	Chosen engagement methods: - Posters - Social media posts - Website content - Our Bright Green Future E-newsletter
Communication reach and engagement numbers:	Not applicable at this stage. This will be reported back to Council at a future Council meeting for consideration.
Summary of feedback:	Not applicable at this stage. This will be reported back to Council at a future Council meeting for consideration.



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

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

- Sustainable environment.
- Mind, body and spirit.

78. 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

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

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

The *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006.

Climate Change and Sustainability.

Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.



MINUTE No.243

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Isabella Do

That Council:

1. **NOTES** the draft *Our Bright Green Future Strategy 2025–35* and commends the work undertaken to consolidate Council's environmental and sustainability frameworks under the Integrated Planning Framework;
- 2.
3. **REQUESTS** that officers investigate the inclusion of the following additions to Amends the Strategy prior to adoption to strengthen alignment with the *Victorian Climate Change Act 2017* and ensure measurable outcomes, by including the following additions:
 4. a. Emissions baseline and reduction trajectory aligned with State targets;
 5. b. Climate adaptation and health resilience indicators;
 6. c. Equity and inclusion lens in planning and evaluation;
 7. d. Establishment of a Community Climate Advisory Group;
 8. e. Funding and partnership framework; and
 9. f. Quantified, transparent public reporting of performance data.
- 10.
11. **PROVIDES** approval to undertake a community engagement process on the Our Bright Green Future Strategy and Action Plan; and
12. **REQUESTS** officers to table a Council report responding to the items in 2 and community feedback following the community engagement process, along with incorporate these amendments and return a revised Strategy for Council endorsement at a subsequent meeting.

CARRIED 10/ 0

The Executive Director City Futures confirmed that the community engagement process will be conducted as per Level 2 of the IAP2.

Cr Lana Formoso left the Chamber at 7.45pm



4.1.3 Q1 Quarterly Performance Report July - September 2025

Responsible Officer:	Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services
Attachments:	1. Quarterly Report Template 2025-26 Q1 [4.1.3.1 - 80 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council NOTES the Q1 2025-26 Quarterly Performance Report (per Attachment 1), which outlines Council's progress against the performance targets outlined in the Council Plan 2025-29 for the period 1 July to 30 September 2025 and the Financial Report for the period 1 July to 30 September 2025.

Executive Summary

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

Background

2. Council formally adopted the Council Plan 2025-29, Annual Plan 2025-26 and Budget 2025-26 on Monday 23 June 2025.
3. The Council Plan 2025-29 outlines the vision and objectives of the Council. This document guides service delivery, innovation and good governance, and provides the foundation for Council's Integrated Planning Framework. The Council Plan also guides the budget, service delivery priorities and the continuous improvement of our services.
4. The Council Plan 2025-29, Annual Plan 2025-26, and Budget 2025-26 are made available to residents through the Customer Service Centres, libraries and on Council's website at www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

Key Issues and Discussion

5. The Quarterly Performance Report provides a summary of key highlights for the quarter against the Council Plan, Budget, and the capital works program.
6. Progress against performance targets is outlined in the following components of the attachment to this report:
 - a) Part A – Annual Plan progress details the achievements for the Council Plan strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29 for the period 1 July to 30 September 2025.
 - b) Part B – The Financial Report is designed to inform Councillors of the results of operations for the period 1 July – 30 September 2025. The budget information contained in the report is the budget approved by Council on 23 June 2025.



7. The financial report incorporates a set of Financial Statements and a Directorate Analysis of financial performance by Business Unit. The following are contained in the attachment:

- a) Income Statement
- b) Balance Sheet
- c) Cash Flow Statement
- d) Capital Expenditure Statement
- e) Management Accounting Result
- f) Capital Expenditure Report
- g) Investment Report
- h) Directorate Analysis

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

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

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

Operating Budget Implications

9. For the year ended 30 September 2025, Council achieved a surplus operating result of \$5.83 million which is \$3 million better than year-to-date budget. The main factors contributing to this result comprise favourable variances in:

- a) **Operating income (\$513,000 favourable)** – Mainly due to higher income in:
 - Statutory fees and fines, mainly from parking infringement recoveries (\$415,000).
 - Other income from interest returns on investments, rental/venue hire income (\$140,000).
 - Monetary contributions for Mayoral Task Force and Road Resurfacing Program (\$117,000).
 - User fees, primarily parking ticket machine fee income (\$104,000).
 - Partly offset by lower grant income for Family Day Care which is wholly offset by lower educator costs (\$285,000).
- b) **Operating expenditure (\$2.53 million favourable)** – As a result of lower expenditure in Employee costs (\$1.45 million) and Materials and services (\$1.14 million), partly offset by two non-budgeted, non-cash fixed asset accounting adjustments (Asset write offs (\$116,000) and Prior year capital expenditure unable to be capitalised (\$54,000)).

10. Refer Sections B1 and B2 of the Financial report for more detailed commentary on the key variances.



Capital Implications

11. Capital expenditure for the year ended 30 September 2025 totalled \$7 million, which is \$4.5 million below the year-to-date budget.

Lower capital expenditure occurred in the following programs:

- Road Resurfacing Programs (\$1.26 million)
- Dandenong Community Hub (\$303,000)

12. Detailed variance explanations are included in the body of this report.

13. As at 30 September, there were \$71 million in commitments (open purchase orders), reflecting ongoing and planned capital works.

Asset Implications

14. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

17. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

18. There was no requirement for community consultation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

MINUTE No.244

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That Council NOTES the Q1 2025-26 Quarterly Performance Report (per Attachment 1), which outlines Council's progress against the performance targets outlined in the Council Plan 2025-29 for the period 1 July to 30 September 2025 and the Financial Report for the period 1 July to 30 September 2025.

CARRIED 9 / 0



4.2 OTHER

4.2.1 Central Dandenong Summer Activation Program

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures
Attachments: Nil

Officer Recommendation

That Council NOTES the pilot Summer Activation Program (1 December 2025 to 31 March 2026) for Central Dandenong.

Executive Summary

1. A pilot Central Dandenong Summer Activation Program (the program) has been developed through a co-design workshop process with internal stakeholders. The program is presented to Councillors for noting.

Background

2. Central Dandenong is Council's largest activity centre and has benefited from substantial public and private investment in infrastructure, including major upgrades to public realm, civic facilities, and commercial developments. Despite these improvements however, the area has not realised the anticipated economic and social outcomes, with visitation, business activity, and community participation remaining significantly below expectations. This highlights the need for targeted activation strategies for the precinct to complement existing infrastructure and unlock the full potential of the city centre as a vibrant and inclusive destination.
3. The program has been informed and shaped through collaborative workshops with key Council staff and draws on insights from previous Council-led events and placemaking/activation initiatives, as well as comparable programs implemented in other cities.
4. The aim of the program is to focus efforts (pilot one activity centre) to maximise opportunities and create a visible uplift in public life and vibrancy within the central Dandenong activity centre over the coming summer (concluding with Ramadan Night Markets – Council sponsored event) while also fostering deeper, long-term engagement with local businesses and the broader community around the activation and use of public space.

Key Issues and Discussion

5. The activation program is based on a 'lighter, quicker, cheaper' approach to both the activation/event delivery and approval process. This methodology is intended to enable rapid consideration and safe testing of creative ideas without imposing unnecessary constraints on proponents.



6. The key objective of the program is to 'seed fund' and actively engage local businesses, creatives and community in the co-creation of activation concepts. This collaborative approach aims to enhance visitation to the city centre and deliver measurable economic, social, and cultural benefits (embedded within the program's objectives, measures, and evaluation framework).
7. A closed, rolling, non-competitive grant program will allow applications to be submitted at any time once engaged with our activation facilitators (total grant pool of \$100,000) through a co-creation model that nurtures a proponent's idea to a feasible activation/event program aligned to the program/grant objectives. Three grant streams have been developed ranging from \$3,000 to \$15,000 subject to alignment with program objectives, level of collaboration and economic and social benefits:
 - Seed Activation Grant (up to \$3,000) – for pop-up activations (e.g. performances, art workshops, pop-up trader/experience, installations). Small-scale pop-ups or creative bursts that plant joy in public spaces.
 - Gather Activation Grant (up to \$5,000) – For community-led/focussed activations/events that bring people together and celebrate local culture.
 - Fusion Activation Grant (up to \$15,000) – For larger and/or multi-day activations/events involving collaboration between traders, artists, and community groups to energise the precinct and generate economic benefits.
8. "Dandy Vibes" will be used as the marketing name for the program.
9. To quickly raise awareness of the grant/activation program and to foster engagement, a marketing plan and campaign is being developed.
10. The grants for activations will commence on 1 December 2025 and run through to 31 March 2026. Grant applications will open on 1 November 2025.
11. If the pilot activation program is successful, a strategic citywide activation program will be developed for funding/resourcing approval.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

12. No additional money and resources required.

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

Operating Budget Implications

13. The financial implications associated with this report involve a cost in the current financial year of \$132,000. Costs will be absorbed within current allocated Business Development and Investment budgets.

Asset Implications

14. This pilot program aims to increase the use of three Central Dandenong public spaces with 'light, low cost' temporary activations through grants. No additional maintenance is proposed however if required, works will be minimised and costs absorbed within existing budgets, within reason.

Legal/Risk Implications

15. Potential legal and risk implications have been considered, and the proposed Governance model is considered to adequately address any risks.

Environmental Implications

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



Community Consultation

17. There was no requirement for community consultation.
18. The program is focussed on actively engaging with local businesses, creatives and community in the co-creation of activation concepts. A goal of the program is to foster deeper, long-term engagement around activation and use of public space.
19. A high-level communication plan has been developed outlining phase one communication: create awareness of the opportunity for grants.

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

20. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
 - Safe and peaceful community.
 - Education, training, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.
21. 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 city that supports business, entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

22. 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.
23. Insights gained through the pilot program will help inform refinements to Council policies, with the aim of fostering a more enabling framework for public space activation.

MINUTE No.245

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That Council NOTES the pilot Summer Activation Program (1 December 2025 to 31 March 2026) for Central Dandenong.

CARRIED 9 / 0



4.2.2 Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum LGNSW annual conference

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services
Attachments: Nil

Officer Recommendation

That Council APPROVES interstate travel for the Mayor, or delegated Councillor, to attend the Local Government NSW Annual Conference to be held in Sydney from 23 to 25 November 2025, as part of the Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum advocacy work.

Executive Summary

1. This report seeks Council approval for the Mayor, or delegated Councillor, to attend the to attend the Local Government NSW Annual Conference to be held in Sydney (hosted by Penrith City Council) from 23 to 25 November 2025, as part of the Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce's advocacy work supporting people seeking asylum.

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 in 2025, collaborating with government peak bodies, raising awareness of campaign priorities at interstate events and growing the membership of the Taskforce at a national level.
5. In September 2025, as part of the Taskforce's membership recruitment, the Taskforce held a Sydney delegation with Chair of the Taskforce, Mayor Cr Jim Memeti attending, meeting with several metropolitan Sydney Councils about joining the Taskforce. The delegation resulted in new Councils formally joining the Taskforce and strengthened engagement with existing NSW members.

Key Issues and Discussion

6. Member council representatives of the Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum at the 9 July 2025 Taskforce meeting approved for an exhibition stand to be held for Back Your Neighbour at the Local Government NSW Annual Conference.
7. The Annual Conference is the primary policy-making body of LGNSW and an opportunity for councillors to come together to share ideas and debate issues that shape the way LGNSW is governed and advocates on behalf of the local government sector.



8. The purpose of the exhibition will be to promote the Back Your Neighbour campaign with NSW Councils, encourage joining the Taskforce and engage NSW member Councils to actively support the advocacy. A motion on the Back Your Neighbour advocacy priorities has also been submitted for debate at the Annual Conference.
9. 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 or Councillor delegate is essential.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

10. 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

11. The financial implications associated with this report involve an estimated cost in the current financial year of \$1,900. 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.
12. The estimated cost per delegate is approximately \$1,900, consisting of:
 - a. Accommodation for 2 nights (4 star): \$600
 - b. Flights (economy): \$500
 - c. Incidentals (ground transportation/meals): \$800

Asset Implications

13. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

16. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

17. There was no requirement for community consultation.



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

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

- Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.

19. 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

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

- Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.

MINUTE No.246

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That Council APPROVES interstate travel for the Mayor, or delegated Councillor, to attend the Local Government NSW Annual Conference to be held in Sydney from 23 to 25 November 2025, as part of the Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum advocacy work.

CARRIED 9 / 0



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

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance

Attachments: Nil

Officer Recommendation

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

Executive Summary

1. As part of Council's ongoing efforts to improve transparency in Council processes, matters discussed at Councillor Briefing Sessions & Pre-Council Meetings (other than those matters designated to be of a confidential nature) are reported on at Council meetings.
2. The matters listed in this report were presented to Councillor Briefing Sessions & Pre-Council Meetings during the period 22 September – 27 October 2025.

Background

3. The Executive Team and associated staff at Greater Dandenong City Council host Councillor Briefing Sessions and Pre-Council Meetings on a regular basis (weekly) to inform Councillors about the work officers are undertaking, share information, obtain feedback and discuss strategies and options for current and future work.
4. To ensure transparency in this process, matters discussed at Councillor Briefing Sessions and Pre-Council Meetings (other than those matters designated to be confidential under the *Local Government Act 2020*) are reported on at Council meetings. This report represents matters discussed at the Councillor Briefing Sessions & Pre-Council meetings during the period 22 September – 27 October 2025.

**Matters Presented for Discussion**

Item		Councillor Briefing Session/Pre-Council Meeting
1	<i>General Discussion</i> Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: a. Australia Day award nominations update; b. Recent Award accolades; and Agenda items for the Council meeting of 22 September 2025.	<i>Pre-Council Meeting (PCM) – 22 September 2025</i>
2	<i>Councillor Personal Development Training – Creating and Maintaining a Safe Workplace</i>	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 29 September 2025</i>
3	<i>Councillor Personal Development Training – Effective Financial and Risk Management</i>	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 29 September 2025</i>
4	<i>Dandenong Market Precinct Plan Update</i> Councillors were briefed on The Dandenong Market Precinct Plan (the Plan) which will provide strategic direction and recommended implementation actions to resolve and guide issues such as land use, urban design, economic investment opportunities, transportation, public realm and community infrastructure.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 6 October 2025</i>
5	<i>Dandenong Market Master Plan</i> Councillors were presented with an update on the intended Master Plan for the Dandenong Market.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 6 October 2025</i>
6	<i>Parking Fees and Charges (Paid Parking Expansion)</i> <i>CONFIDENTIAL under s 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.</i>	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 6 October 2025</i>
7	<i>Central Dandenong Summer Activation Program</i> Councillor feedback was sought for a proposal for a pilot Central Dandenong Summer Activation Program. This has been developed through a co-design workshop process with internal stakeholders.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 6 October 2025</i>
8	<i>Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme Planning Policy Framework Translation</i> Councillors were updated on the changes to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme which has now been translated into the new integrated draft Planning Policy Framework. Council officers have worked in partnership with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) to undertake this work.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 6 October 2025</i>
9	<i>Community Engagement Submissions – Proposed Sale of 275 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong</i>	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 6 October 2025</i>



Item		Councillor Briefing Session/Pre-Council Meeting
	Councillors were updated on responses received to the proposed sale of 275 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong.	
10	General Discussion Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: a. Update on Council Policies; and b. Update on Aged Care Reform;; Agenda items for the Council meeting of 13 October 2025.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 6 October 2025
11	General Discussion Council's Chief Executive Officer and Councillors held an In-Camera session.	Pre-Council Meeting (PCM) – 13 October 2025
12	South East Leisure (SEL) Annual Report and Financial Statement CONFIDENTIAL under s 3(1)(g) of the Local Government Act 2020.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 20 October 2025
13	Aged Care Update Councillors were briefed on the latest developments in the Aged Care Sector.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 20 October 2025
14	Lois Twohig Reserve Master Plan CONFIDENTIAL under s 3(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 20 October 2025
15	Draft our Bright Green Future Strategy Councillors were presented with work completed by officers to consolidate sustainability strategies and align them with the Council Plan 2025-29's Integrated Planning Framework to help develop the draft Our Bright Green Future Strategy and Action Plan.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 20 October 2025
16	Community Facilities Access & Use Policy Councillors were presented with a new draft Community Facilities Access and Use Policy for feedback prior to community consultation.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 20 October 2025
17	Councillor Representation List Councillors were reminded of the process regarding nominating for representatives of various organisations. This list will be adopted at the annual meeting on Thursday 13 November 2025.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 20 October 2025
18	General Discussion Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items:	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 20 October 2025



Item		Councillor Briefing Session/Pre-Council Meeting
	a. Update on Social Cohesion project; b. Update on Planning Reforms; c. Budget community consultation process; and Agenda items for the Council meeting of 27 October 2025.	
	General Discussion Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: a. Update on Council Policies; and b. Update on Aged Care Reform;; Agenda items for the Council meeting of 27 October 2025.	Pre-Council Meeting (PCM) – 27 October 2025

Apologies

- Councillor Bob Milkovic and Councillor Sophie Tan submitted apologies for the Pre-Council Meeting on 22 September 2025.
- Councillor Bob Milkovic and Councillor Isabella Do submitted apologies for the Councillor Personal Development Training on 29 September 2025.
- Councillor Isabella Do and Councillor Loi Troung submitted apologies for the Councillor Briefing Session on 6 October 2025.
- Councillor Lana Formoso and Councillor Jim Memeti submitted apologies for the Pre-Council Meeting on 13 October 2025.
- Councillor Jim Memeti submitted an apology for the Councillor Briefing Session on 20 October 2025.
- Councillor Isabella Do and Councillor Sean O'Reilly and Councillor Loi Troung submitted apologies for the Pre-Council Meeting on 27 October 2025.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

Cr Lana Formoso returned to the Chamber at 7.52pm prior to the voting of this item

MINUTE No.247

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

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

CARRIED 10 / 0



4.2.4 List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance, Legal & Risk
Attachments: 1. List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors [4.2.4.1 - 2 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That the listed items for the period 20 October to 31 October 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 20 October to 31 October 2025.

MINUTE No.248

Moved by: Cr Loi Truong

Seconded by: Cr Lana Formoso

That the listed items for the period 20 October to 31 October 2025 provided in Attachment 1 to this report be received and noted.

CARRIED 10 / 0



5 NOTICES OF MOTION

5.1 NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 14 - ADVOCATING FOR EQUITABLE IMMUNISATION ACCESS AND REINSTATEMENT OF PRIME IMMUNISATION PROGRAM

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Community Strengthening
Author: Cr Lana Formoso

Preamble

1. The City of Greater Dandenong mourns the tragic loss of 16-year-old Levi Syer, who died from Meningococcal B shortly after receiving the ACWY vaccine. The B strain is not included in Victoria's immunisation schedule, despite its inclusion in other states. Levi's mother, supported by medical professionals and over 35,000 petitioners, is advocating for its inclusion. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners highlights cost as a major barrier to vaccination.
2. The Victorian Government ceased funding the Program for Refugee Immunisation, Monitoring and Education (PRIME) in 2023, which had significantly improved immunisation rates among refugee and asylum seeker communities in Greater Dandenong. PRIME increased coverage from 24% to 84%, addressing barriers such as language, cultural differences, and incomplete records. Its closure risks leaving over 80% of refugees under-immunised, straining an already limited primary care system.
3. Primary care faces challenges in delivering catch-up immunisations, including lack of GP expertise, limited appointment availability, cultural barriers, and high rates of vaccine administration and data errors. PRIME provided culturally appropriate services with bilingual nurse immunisers and achieved faster and more accurate immunisation outcomes.
4. With 50% of Victoria's humanitarian intake settling in the South East, including Dandenong, the cessation of PRIME is particularly concerning. Over 4,680 new arrivals are expected in the next four years, increasing demand on primary care. PRIME's proven success suggests it should be expanded, not discontinued.
5. Sadly, per Council advice to the Victorian Department of Health prior to the cessation PRIME in 2023, (see attached) the increased risk of disease outbreaks, increased pressure on GPs and hospitals, reduced childhood immunisation coverage, and disruptions to Centrelink benefits have come to fruition. Programs like the Noble Park English Language School and the ACP initiative, both part of PRIME, were vital for maintaining public health and equity and should be reinstated without delay.

Motion

That Council:

1. **EXPRESSES** Council's deep concern regarding the exclusion of Meningococcal B from Victoria's immunisation schedule;
2. **ADVOCATES** for the reinstatement of funding for PRIME to safeguard immunisation access for refugee and asylum seeker communities; and
3. **REQUESTS** a meeting with the Minister for Health to discuss these matters and the broader public health impacts on our community.



MINUTE No.249

Moved by: Cr Lana Formoso

Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad

That Council:

- 1. EXPRESSES Council's deep concern regarding the exclusion of Meningococcal B from Victoria's immunisation schedule;**
- 2. ADVOCATES for the reinstatement of funding for PRIME to safeguard immunisation access for refugee and asylum seeker communities; and**
- 3. REQUESTS a meeting with the Minister for Health to discuss these matters and the broader public health impacts on our community.**
- 4. REQUESTS that the Victorian State Government Department of Health:**
 - **Provide updated immunisation uptake data for refugee and asylum-seeker populations (2023 – 2025) within Greater Dandenong and neighbouring LGAs, drawn from the Australian Immunisation Register;**
 - **Release or summarise the final evaluation report or any internal review of the PRIME program conducted prior to or after its cessation; and**
 - **Consider reinstating or redesigning targeted immunisation funding for high-needs refugee and asylum-seeker cohorts to ensure equity of access and timeliness of vaccination.**

This data will enable Council and local health partners to quantify the impact of the funding cessation and collaborate constructively with the State Government on a recovery and reinvestment plan; and

- 5. NOTES that post the cessation of PRIME, service providers including the Royal Children's Hospital's Immigrant Health Service have reported a reduction in immunisation coverage and increased risk of preventable disease outbreaks. In Melbourne's South-East metropolitan area, where approximately half of Victoria's humanitarian intake now resides, these risks are particularly acute.**

CARRIED 10 / 0



6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

Comment

Cr Jim Memeti, Mayor

Today marks the final meeting of my sixth term as Mayor. It has been a remarkable year for the City of Greater Dandenong—a year in which our businesses, residents, community organisations, sporting clubs, and young people have all achieved so much and contributed to making our city an even better place to live, work, and thrive.

Last month, I was honoured to have my 20 years of service as a Councillor recognised by the Municipal Association of Victoria. People often ask why, after 20 years as a Councillor and six terms as Mayor, I continue to serve. The answer is simple: I believe in the value of local government. We play a vital role in investing in families, delivering programs, and helping our community connect.

Over the years, I have seen our city grow and change, while always staying true to its strong and caring community spirit. The people of Greater Dandenong are optimistic, resilient, and caring, and it has been a privilege to serve them. As a Dandenong resident for more than 50 years, I am proud that four generations of my family have called this community home. It is this deep connection that continues to drive me to serve and give back to the city I love.

My passion and commitment to our community remain as strong today as they were in 2005 when I was first elected to Council. I am grateful to all the residents who inspire me every day to ensure we remain a city of opportunity and a welcoming home for everyone.

Last week, I hosted a Legacy and Leadership Dinner to honour those who have made a meaningful and lasting impact on the Greater Dandenong community—our Living Treasures, former Councillors, and 2025 Australia Day Award recipients. Speaking with them reminded me of the many people who champion our city and work together to build an inclusive community where everyone is valued and treated equally.

For us as at Council, being able to provide the social and physical infrastructure that supports their efforts and helps our community thrive is a source of great pride.

This year has been a great year at Council. I reflected on it with our CEO, Jacqui Weatherill, and we recorded some of our thoughts. May we please play the video now?

A video presentation was shown to all attendees at the meeting.

We have a lot to be proud of. This list of highlights could be much longer, but we do not have all night. Reflecting on our major investments like the Keysborough Community Hub, the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre, and before that, the Springvale Community Hub and this building with its magnificent library—I always say the people of this community deserve the best because your postcode should not determine the quality of facilities you have.

Thank you to my fellow Councillors for your collaboration, commitment, and shared vision throughout the year. Together, we have turned ideas into action and achieved meaningful outcomes for our community.



I would also like to express my sincere thanks to our Deputy Mayor, Cr Sophie Tan, for her support, dedication, insight, and teamwork. Sophie, your contribution has been invaluable in helping us achieve our goals and serve our community with integrity and purpose.

In delivering on the vision of this Council, I would like to thank the CEO, Jacqui Weatherill, and all members of her executive team. As a relatively new group, you have brought fresh energy, high-quality work, and a rigorous approach to project delivery.

Thanks also to the Council officers for the pride you take and the dedication you show in serving our community and its residents.

A special thank you to the Mayor and Councillors' Executive Assistant, Ms Jo Thorn. I really appreciate Jo's support not only over the past twelve months but throughout the past 20 years. Jo began not long after I was elected, and I speak on behalf of all Councillors when I thank her for her professionalism, dedication, and friendship. She has been a trusted support, full of knowledge and experience, and we are truly grateful for everything she does.

Thank you again to our community leaders—from service providers to community organisations and sporting clubs, faith and business leaders. You are the backbone of our community, and it is a pleasure to work in partnership with you.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to my wife Mary, who keeps our family running while I am out at events and meetings. I honestly could not do this without Mary by my side. Her guidance, patience, and unwavering support make all the difference and mean the world to me.

To our children, their partners, and our wonderful grandchildren—you inspire and motivate me every day. Thank you for your constant encouragement and for reminding me what truly matters.

Thank you, everyone.

Deputy Mayor Cr Sophie Tan Presented Mayor Cr Jim Memeti Flowers and a Framed photo.

Comment

Cr Sophie Tan, Deputy Mayor

Good evening Mayor, fellow Councillors, CEO, executive staff, and most importantly, the residents and community of Greater Dandenong.

As I conclude my term as Deputy Mayor, I stand here with deep gratitude and great pride. Serving in this role has been one of the greatest honours of my professional life, and I thank each of you for the trust and confidence you placed in me.

This city is remarkable—a place of incredible diversity, resilience, and opportunity. It has also been my home for over 30 years. With a background in business, commerce, and financial services, I have always believed in the power of strong planning, responsible governance, and community partnerships to deliver real outcomes.

I thank the Mayor Cr Jim Memeti for the many opportunities to act on your behalf over the past twelve months—whether conducting citizenship ceremonies, chairing Council meetings, representing Council at events, meeting with ministers and MPs, advocating for our city, or working closely with the CEO and executive team. I have enjoyed every minute.



Over the past year, Council worked with the community to develop and endorse several key plans:

- Council Plan 2025–2029
- Annual Plan
- Long-Term Financial Plan
- Revenue and Rating Plan 2025–2029
- Asset Management Plan
- Budget 2025–2026

These plans focus strongly on community outcomes and impacts. Our Annual Report, endorsed in mid-October, shows progress on key projects, strengthened community services, and a solid foundation for the future.

I would like to highlight several achievements:

- A community satisfaction score of 7.5 out of 10—the highest across metropolitan Melbourne.
- Over \$60 million invested in infrastructure, improving facilities, recreation spaces, roads, and footpaths.
- Construction commenced on the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre in July, one of Council's largest projects, due for completion in 2027.
- Official opening of the Keysborough Community Hub in September, with kindergarten and childcare services to open early next year.

Council also received national recognition:

- The Street NPK activation in Noble Park won the top prize for Best Main Street Activation in Australia. This large-scale initiative delivered transformative placemaking, multi-day events, and high-impact street activity.
- The Springvale Snow Fest, Connect South East Leisure, and our anti-litter campaign also received awards.

I thank the State Government and the Noble Park Revitalisation Board, chaired by Lee Tarlamis MP, for contributing over \$2.1 million across 22 projects since 2021.



Community engagement has been strong:

- Over 69,000 people attended Council festivals and events.
- More than 82,000 visitors accessed our libraries.
- Library lockers installed recently have already seen 78 loans in one month.
- Springvale North Library averages around 200 loans per month.

Council has also achieved an 82 percent reduction in emissions since 2019, while maintaining a responsible financial position. Our Annual Report shows a surplus operating result of \$30.9 million.

None of these achievements happened by chance. They reflect the commitment of Councillors, the dedication of Council staff, and the support of local organisations and volunteers.

To my fellow Councillors, thank you for your collaboration, robust discussions, and unwavering commitment to our city's future. It has been a privilege to serve alongside you.

To the Mayor, your leadership and partnership have been invaluable. I am grateful for your support and trust.

To the CEO, Council officers, and executive team your professionalism, innovation, and tireless efforts behind the scenes enable these outcomes. You may not always hear the applause, but you see the impact.

To our Mayor and Councillor Coordinator, Ms Jo Thorn thank you for your support over many years. Your work ensures smooth operations for all Councillors.

To our community thank you for engaging, caring, volunteering, and believing in what we can achieve together. It has been a deeply rewarding journey and one I will always cherish.

Thank you.

Mayor Cr Jim Memeti presented Deputy Mayor Cr Sophie Tan with Flowers and a Framed Photo.

Cr Bob Milkovic left the Chamber at 8.19pm.



Comment tabled

Cr Sophie Tan, Deputy Mayor

I have attended several community events over the past two weeks and would like to acknowledge the following:

On Thursday 30 October 2025, I attended the Gambling Harm Awareness Week BBQ Lunch hosted by Springvale Indo-Chinese Mutual Assistance Association (SICCMA), as part of a campaign led by the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission. The theme, “Set Before You Bet,” focused on educating the community about the YourPlay Card. Gambling harm affects individuals, families, and communities, with \$141 million lost to EGMs in Greater Dandenong in 2024–25. Our Gambling Policy prioritizes support, prevention, and advocacy. I thank SICCMA for their ongoing commitment to supporting the Vietnamese community, which makes up 9.5% of Greater Dandenong’s population.

On Friday 31 October 2025, I attended the Halloween Spooktacular event with Cr. Le, hosted by Council’s Youth Services and the Amplify Youth Committee. It was their first time organizing the event, and despite the weather, many teenagers, children, and families enjoyed the activities and performances.

On Sunday 2 November 2025, I attended the Oyiti Cup, an annual basketball tournament in Melbourne featuring players of various ages and audiences from different areas. I congratulated the Oyiti Foundation for Multicultural Youth for organizing the event, acknowledged the winners and players for their effort and sportsmanship, and expressed gratitude to coaches, volunteers, supporters, and everyone involved.

On Thursday 6 November 2025, I attended the Civic Reception – Legacy & Leadership Dinner hosted by the Mayor and Councillors. The event celebrated individuals who have made a lasting impact in Greater Dandenong through their service and achievements. It was wonderful to reconnect with familiar faces, including the former Mayor, Councillors, CGD Living Treasurers, and the 2025 Australia Day Awards winners.

On Saturday 8 November I attended the official opening of the 154th Dandenong Show with the Mayor, Cr. Jim Memeti, hosted by the Dandenong Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc. Despite the miserable weather on Saturday, hope they had more people attended on Sunday.

On 9 November 2025, I attended the Cambodian Independence Day Flag Raising Ceremony with Cr Jim Memeti, hosted by the Cambodian Association of Victoria Inc. This was the first Independence Day celebration in Greater Dandenong, marking Cambodia’s sovereignty regained in 1953 a symbol of resilience, unity, and cultural pride. Later that afternoon, I attended the State Annual Remembrance Service with Cr Jim Memeti, hosted by RSL Victoria to commemorate the 107th anniversary of the Armistice ending WWI.



Comment**Cr Phillip Danh**

I would like to acknowledge the Dandenong Show and commend the families, stallholders, organisers, staff, volunteers, and committee members for making it possible despite heavy rain. I also acknowledge the Legacy and Leadership Dinner, which celebrates individuals who have served our community, including former Councillors, Living Treasures, and past Australia Day Award recipients. Their contributions through volunteer work and dedication deserve recognition. Finally, I acknowledge Cr Jim Memeti and Deputy Mayor Cr Sophie Tan on their final meeting in their current roles. Cr Tan has been highly active and engaged with residents and I look forward to continuing our collaboration. Cr Memeti's experience and tireless efforts to unite and represent our city have been commendable and I look forward to working alongside him in the future.

Cr Rhonda Garad left the Meeting at 8.20pm.

Cr Bob Milkovic returned to the Chamber at 8.23pm.

Comment**Cr Loi Truong**

I attended the following events over the past few weeks:

On Thursday 6 November 2025, I attended the Legacy and Leadership Dinner at Keysborough Community Centre. It was a valuable opportunity to meet many former Councillors and former Mayors.

On Sunday 9 November, I attended a fundraising event organised by the Vietnamese community in support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Comment**Cr Lana Formoso**

I am increasingly frustrated with our tree protection local law. I have been dealing with a particular issue for six months involving a resident whose neighbour, a landlord, is leasing out a property. A tree on that property has caused significant damage to the resident's fence, concrete and now the foundations of their home.

Council continues to respond that no application has been submitted to remove the tree. However, the resident cannot apply the landlord must. The landlord refuses to pay for an arborist or submit a permit application. This leaves the resident stuck in a cycle of inaction.

I am seriously considering bringing a Notice of Motion to reverse this local law. While I support tree canopy coverage, there must be a balance. We were promised balance, but it is not being delivered.

I ask the appropriate director to respond and I hope it is not the same answer I have received repeatedly.



Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

We are currently reviewing the tree protection local law. We are gathering data on applications received, approvals, and outcomes. Early next year, we will hold discussions with Councillors to assess the benefits of the local law and its alignment with the planning scheme, especially following recent changes introduced by the State Government.

Regarding the specific situation, without an application, we cannot comment. It appears to be a neighbourly dispute, which may need resolution outside of Council's tree unit.

Further Response

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

This is the first time Council has implemented a tree protection local law. It is expected that unique circumstances will arise. We hear your concerns and will continue discussions with Mr Manivasagasivam. I encourage other Councillors with similar experiences to share them so we can consider them during the review.

Further Comment

Cr Lana Formoso

I understand this is the first time we have had a tree protection local law, and there will be unique circumstances. However, I urge Council to seriously consider this matter. The residents affected are pensioners who cannot afford to pay for another arborist to assess a tree that has already been proven to cause damage. I would appreciate a thorough review of this specific case.

Secondly, I have received multiple compliments from residents regarding the new pedestrian crossing works on Stud Road. It is a positive development, and I look forward to its completion in December. However, the works have created parking issues, particularly near the corner where service lanes intersect.

Residents are experiencing congestion due to workers parking in the street and being picked up by colleagues. One resident with access needs is concerned about losing their parking spot. I request that the Transport Department investigate and provide a solution.

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

The traffic team is investigating the issue. Once options are reviewed, we will provide an update.

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

Will residents be consulted before any parking changes are implemented?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Yes, any parking changes will follow our standard community consultation process.

Further Comment

Cr Lana Formoso

I appreciate that consultation will occur. I also have a question regarding Australia Post letterbox collections. I have been informed that collections now occur only every second or third day due to cutbacks. Could someone please confirm this?



This question was noted for further action.

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

I would like to thank Carla and Alessia from Lyndale United Soccer Club for attending this evening. It was inspiring to see these young girls advocate for their club. The club has doubled its membership and is doing incredible work in increasing participation among females and juniors.

However, I am disappointed that when the club applied for a state grant, they were told they were not a priority on Council's list. I would like clarification on how Council processes applications for state and federal grants. There seems to be a discrepancy between what clubs believe happens, what happens, and what Councillors are aware of.

From what I have seen, Lyndale United is ticking all the boxes, yet they continue to face roadblocks. I request that the appropriate director respond and that this process be communicated clearly to all Councillors.

Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

Without knowing the specific grant, I can advise that many state and federal grants limit the number of applications Council can support. We use Council's advocacy priorities to determine which applications to endorse.

We do bring advocacy priorities to Council for approval, and we can also bring forward the list of applications considered priority based on the criteria for each category. Sometimes timing is a factor, but the process is solid and based on Council's agreed priorities.

Unfortunately, we cannot support or submit unlimited applications. The state and federal governments rely on Councils to prioritise, which is why limits are imposed.

Comment

Cr Lana Formoso

I believe the issue lies in the lack of transparency. Clubs are concerned about how the process is managed and feel they are being told one thing while something else occurs. They are not disgruntled about the outcome but rather feel disheartened after following Council's instructions and still facing barriers.

MINUTE No.250

Moved by: Cr Lana Formoso

Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

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

CARRIED 10 / 0

The Meeting adjourned at 8.35 pm and resumed at 8:40pm



Question

Cr Sean O'Reilly

A resident raised concerns about unclear guidance on noise complaints. The website suggests contacting Council, the EPA, or the Dispute Settlement Centre, but responsibilities are unclear, causing confusion and delays. I request Councillors receive:

- Metrics on noise complaints, including Council's actions and outcomes.
- Clarification on whether the diary entry process helps complaints.
- Clearer communication is needed on steps residents should take and evidence required before contacting Council.

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

We will review the website to clarify the information regarding noise complaints and how they are handled. We will also provide Councillors with data on the types of complaints Council manages versus those handled by the EPA.

Maintaining a diary is helpful for our investigations, and we will ensure that advice is clearly communicated.

Comment

Cr Sean O'Reilly

I would like to congratulate Deputy Mayor Cr Sophie Tan for her contribution this year. She has demonstrated a consultative, balanced, and even-handed approach, always willing to listen and seek advice. She has been a strong leader for all Councillors.

I also congratulate Mayor Cr Jim Memeti on a stable and productive year. You have been especially strong in advocating externally to state and federal governments, which is one of the most effective ways Council can achieve more.

Both you and Cr Tan are the most experienced individuals this Council has had in the roles of Mayor and Deputy Mayor. This experience has contributed to a stable Council, especially compared to others that can be marked by discontent. Our Council has worked well together, and I look forward to the year ahead.

Comment

Cr Alice Phuong Le

I express my heartfelt appreciation and congratulate Mayor Cr Jim Memeti and Deputy Mayor Cr Sophie Tan for your leadership and contributions over the past year. Your speeches tonight have been deeply moving and resonate with me.

This year is my first as a Councillor, and it leaves a lasting impression on me. I am grateful to CEO Ms Jacqui Weatherill for her guidance and support. I learn so much that it feels like a new chapter in my life.



Comment

Cr Jim Memeti, Mayor

I would like to remind Councillors that tomorrow is Remembrance Day, observed annually on 11 November. It is a time to acknowledge those who died while serving in wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations.

Remembrance Day marks the anniversary of the armistice that ended fighting with Germany in World War I. People in Australia and many other countries observe one minute of silence at 11:00 a.m. on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, as that is when the armistice came into effect.

It is a time to honour all service personnel who died in service to Australia.

The Dandenong Cranbourne RSL Sub-Branch will deliver the 2025 Remembrance Day service in Dandenong. Everyone is welcome to attend the service at the Pillars of Freedom, Clow Street, Dandenong Plaza, across the road from the Dandenong Market. The service will commence at 10:50 a.m., with the minute of silence observed at 11:00 a.m.

Comment Tabled

Jim Memeti, Mayor

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

On Tuesday 28 October 2025, I attended a meeting with the Consul General of Türkiye, the same day I attended a meeting with the Dandenong Basketball Association, following this I attended a meeting with the African Australians Mothers and Youth Care Network.

On Wednesday 29 October 2025, I attended the Greater Dandenong Combined Schools Interfaith Gathering. Later that day, I was honoured to attend a reception celebrating the 102nd Anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye hosted by Consul General Doğan Işık and Mrs Yasemin Işık.

On Thursday 30 October 2025, I attended the Greater South East Melbourne (GSEM) meeting with MPs, manufacturers, business and community leaders to discuss priorities in transport and freight, community resilience and advanced manufacturing aimed at securing Victoria's economic future.

On Sunday 2 November 2025, I attended the Albanian-Australian Soccer Cup Tournament hosted by the North Sunshine Eagles FC.

On Thursday 6 November 2025, I was honoured to attend the Civic Reception: Legacy and Leadership Dinner, a special evening celebrating people who have made a meaningful and lasting impact in Greater Dandenong through their guidance, service or achievements.



On Saturday 8 November 2025, I attended the Dandenong Show. Later that day, I was honoured to attend the launch of Kuralisaikaaviyam – The THIRUKKURAL 1330 (Volume 3) hosted by the Vic Tamil Association.

On Sunday 9 November 2025, I attended the Cambodian Independence Day Flag Raising Ceremony hosted by the Cambodian Association of Victoria. Later that day, I attended St Thomas Syro Malabar Church's Annual Feast Day celebrations and the Annual State RSL Remembrance Service to mark the 107th Anniversary of the Armistice that ended WW1.

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



COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE/REQUIRING FURTHER ACTION

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
27/10/25 CQT1	Cr Lana Formoso	Letter from Mayor to Health Minister That the Mayor write to the Minister for Health, Mary-Anne Thomas, to express Council's concern about the exclusion of the meningococcal B vaccine from Victoria's immunisation schedule, advocate for the reinstatement of PRIME funding, and request an urgent meeting to discuss the public health implications.	Executive Director Strategy and Corporate Services		Initial response provided 27/10/2025: I will arrange for this letter to be sent. FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED
27/10/25 CQT2	Cr Sophie Tan	Update on Noble Park library locker I would like to know the data on the usage of the Noble Park library locker since opening on 1 October 2025.	Executive Director Community strengthening	10/11/2025	Initial response provided 27/10/2025: I do not have specific statistics at this time, but an update will be included in this week's INFOSUM for Councillors. A more detailed update can also be provided in the minutes. Further response provided 10/11/2025: Greater Dandenong Libraries' fifth service point located adjacent to the Noble Park Railway Station (the Little Library: Douglas Street) has been warmly embraced by the local community. In its first month of operation, over 30 patrons have interacted with the Little Library, either borrowing (78 items), returning (60 items), or just exploring the functionality of the locker system. This is a strong start, comparative to the established Library Locker at Menzies Avenue, which has an average of 200 loans per month. Anecdotal feedback has been enthusiastic. Community members have expressed excitement about the presence of the lockers, and ease of use, as seen in the feedback received below:

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

1 / 2

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
					"A couple in their sixties came to Springvale Library to update their library memberships. They are excited about using the Little Library: Douglas Avenue which they have been passing daily as part of their walking route". Completed



7 URGENT BUSINESS

No urgent business was considered.



8 CLOSE OF BUSINESS

The meeting closed at 8.49pm.

Signature