



# Agenda

## Council Meeting

Monday 16 February 2026, 7:00 pm  
Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street,  
Dandenong, Victoria 3175

[greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au)



## Council Meeting Details

At the time of printing this Agenda, the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 16 February 2026, will be open to the public to attend in person but will be subject to venue seating capacity. This will be a hybrid meeting consisting of Councillors attending in person and remotely.

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

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

## Your Councillors

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

[\*\*Cr Bob Milkovic\*\*](#)

[\*\*Deputy Mayor Phillip Danh\*\*](#)

[\*\*Cr Sean O'Reilly\*\*](#)

[\*\*Cr Isabella Do\*\*](#)

[\*\*Cr Loi Truong\*\*](#)

[\*\*Cr Lana Formoso\*\*](#)

[\*\*Cr Melinda Yim\*\*](#)

[\*\*Cr Rhonda Garad\*\*](#)

[\*\*Cr Alice Phuong Le\*\*](#)

[\*\*Cr Jim Memeti\*\*](#)



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

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

(03) 8571 1000

[council@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@cgd.vic.gov.au)

[greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au)



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## COUNCIL OBLIGATIONS AND AGENDA REPORTS

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

### **Community Vision 2040 (Community Vision | Greater Dandenong Council)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## The Gender Equality Act 2020

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

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

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

## Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities

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

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

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



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## 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.



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## 1 MEETING OPENING

### 1.1 OPENING OF MEETING BY CHAIR

### 1.2 ATTENDANCE

#### **Apologies**

Cr Isabella Do (LoA), Cr Alice Phuong Le (LoA).



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### 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.

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### 1.4 OFFERING OF PRAYER, REFLECTION OR AFFIRMATION

As part of Council's commitment to recognising the cultural and spiritual diversity of our community, the prayer, reflection or affirmation this evening will be offered by Reverend Christos Kastaniotis, a member of the Christian Faith.



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## 1.5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Meeting of Council held 27 January 2026.

### Recommendation

**That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 27 January 2026 be confirmed.**

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## 1.6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

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

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

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

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



## 2 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 1

### 2.1 DOCUMENTS FOR SEALING

#### 2.1.1 Documents for Sealing

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

#### Officer Recommendation

That the listed documents be signed and sealed.

#### Executive Summary

- Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, each Council is a body corporate and a legal entity in its own right. Each Council must therefore have a common seal (like any corporate entity) that is an official sanction of that Council. Sealing a document makes it an official document of Council as a corporate body. Documents that require sealing include agreements, contracts, leases or any other contractual or legally binding document that binds Council to another party.

#### Item Summary

- There is 1 item being presented to Council's meeting of 16 February 2026 for signing and sealing as follows:

- Prosecutions Officer - Zorica NIKOLIC

An Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation, Greater Dandenong City Council under s 224 of the *Local Government Act 1989* – appoints the officer an authorised officer for the administration and enforcement of the *Building Act 1993*, the *Country Fire Authority Act 1958*, the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, the *Environment Protection Act 2017*, the *Fire Rescue Victoria Act 1958 formerly known as the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Act 1958*, the *Impounding of Livestock Act 1994*, the *Local Government Act 1989*, the *Local Government Act 2020*, the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*, Part 14 of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997*, the *Road Management Act 2004*, the *Road Safety Act 1986*, the *Sex Work Act 1994*, Parts 2 and 3 of the *Subdivisions Act 1988*, the *Summary Offences Act 1966*, the *Tobacco Act 1987*, the *Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 1998*, the Regulations made under each of those Acts, the local laws made under the *Local Government Act 1989* or the *Local Government Act 2020*, and any other Act, Regulation, local law or delegated legislation which relates to the functions and powers of the Council.



## 2.2 STATUTORY PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### 2.2.1 Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – January 2026

**Responsible Officer:** Executive Director City Futures

**Attachments:** 1. Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – January 2026  
[2.2.1.1 - 9 pages]

#### Officer Recommendation

That the listed items in Attachment 1 to this report be received and noted.

#### Executive Summary

1. This report provides Council with an update on the exercise of delegation by Council officers.
2. It provides a listing of Town Planning applications that were either decided or closed under delegation or withdrawn by applicants in January 2026.
3. It should be noted that where permits and notices of decision to grant permits have been issued, these applications have been assessed as being generally consistent with the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme and Council's policies.
4. Application numbers with a PLA#, PLN#.01 or similar, are applications making amendments to previously approved planning permits.
5. The annotation 'SPEAR' (Streamlined Planning through Electronic Applications and Referrals) identifies where an application has been submitted electronically. SPEAR allows users to process planning permits and subdivision applications online.



### 3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

#### QUESTIONS FROM THE GALLERY

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

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

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



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



## 4 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 2

### 4.1 PROCUREMENT

#### 4.1.1 Contract 2526-06 Tree Maintenance Services

**Responsible Officer:** Executive Director City Futures

**Attachments:**

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Contract 2526-06 Tree Maintenance Services Tender Evaluation Report Confidential [4.1.1.1 - 17 pages]

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

#### Officer Recommendation

That Council AWARDS the Contract 2526-06 Tree Maintenance Services to the following service providers:

- **Part A: Programmed Tree Maintenance Services to Active Tree Services (ABN 56 002 919 299) as a Lump Sum Contract supplemented by Schedule of Rates for a four-year term, commencing 16 March 2026 to 15 March 2030. The estimated total contract spend for the full 4-year term is up to, with a maximum value of \$6,422,158.00 exc GST subject to rise and fall;**
- **Part B: Reactive Tree Maintenance Services to Treeserve (ABN 87 169 334 712) as a Schedule of Rates contract for a two-year term, commencing 1 May 2026 to 30 April 2028. The estimated total contract spend for the full 2-year term is up to, with a maximum value of \$1,607,790.00 exc GST subject to rise and fall;**
- **Part C: Tree Planting and Establishment to Melbourne Treeworks (ABN 34 649 538 152) as a Schedule of Rates contract for a 2-year term, commencing 16 March 2026 to 15 March 2028. The estimated total contract spend for the full 2-year term is up to, with a maximum value of \$1,754,200.00 exc GST subject to rise and fall;**
- **Part D1: Arboricultural Consultancy, to a panel of 5 providers, to Homewood Consulting (ABN 17 113 595 430), Xylem TreeCare (ABN 13 640 958 532), Tree Dimensions (ABN 45 139 982 639), C&R Ryder Consulting (ABN 95 601 897 929) and Bay Tree Services (ABN 20 675 404 618) as a Schedule of Rates contract for a four-year term, commencing 1 May 2026 to 30 April 2030. The estimated total contract spend for the full 4-year term is up to, with a maximum value of \$132,000.00 exc GST subject to rise and fall;**
- **Part D2: Tree Root Management, to a panel of 2 providers, to Rootcontrollers Hydrox Australia (ABN 32 065 581 133) and Bay Tree Services (ABN 20 675 404 618) as a Schedule of Rates contract for a four-year term, commencing 1 May 2026 to 30 April 2030. The estimated total contract spend for the full 4-year term is up to, with a maximum value of \$464,000.00 exc GST subject to rise and fall; and**



- **Part D3: Tree Health, to a panel of 3, to Xylem TreeCare (ABN 13 640 958 532), Melbourne Tree Care (ABN 22 655 319 949) and ArborCo (ABN 23 606 192 545) Australia as a Schedule of Rates contract for a 4-year term, commencing 1 May 2026 to 30 April 2030. The estimated total contract spend for the full 4-year term is up to, with a maximum value of \$40,000.00 exc GST subject to rise and fall.**

## Executive Summary

1. Council is required to deliver Tree Maintenance Services across the municipality to mitigate risk, to maintain a healthy and resilient urban forest and to comply the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance Regulations) 2020. Tree Maintenance Services provide for the inspection, pruning, planting and establishment of trees throughout the municipal district on specified frequencies or as required.
2. The existing contracts for these services are outlined below:
  - Contract 1718-16 Tree Supply, Maintenance & Establishment was awarded in 1/12/2017 and is due to expire on 15/03/2026.
  - Contract 1920-28 Reactive Tree Maintenance was awarded on 1/5/2020 and is due to expire on 30/4/2026.
  - Contract 2324-27 Programmed Tree Pruning Services was awarded on 14/10/2024 and expired on 13/12/2025.
3. A tender process has been undertaken to ensure continuity of service delivery across the municipality. Council Officers advertised a tender, Contract 2526-06, on Friday 5 September 2025 for the ongoing provision of Tree Maintenance Services.
4. Council officers have evaluated the submissions received for Contract 2526-06. Preferred tenders have been determined after considering and assessing financial factors, resourcing, methodology, experience, social, local and environmental factors, receiving clarifications and undertaking interviews. The Tender Panel recommends the following tenderers are awarded the corresponding contract parts:
  - Part A: Programmed Tree Maintenance - Active Tree Services
  - Part B: Reactive Tree Maintenance – Treeserve
  - Part C: Tree Planting and Establishment - Melbourne Treeworks
  - Part D1 Arboricultural Consultancy - a panel of 5 consultants - Homewood Consulting, Xylem Treecare, Tree Dimensions, C&R Ryder Consulting and Bay Tree Services
  - Part D2 Tree Root Management – a panel of 2 contractors - Rootcontrollers Hydrox Australia and Bay Tree Services
  - Part D3 Tree Health - a panel of 3 consultants – Xylem Treecare, Melbourne Tree Care and ArborCo Australia
5. The tender panel identified that a 4-year term for parts A, and D; and a 2-year term for parts B and C, provided cost stability and predictability, reduced procurement overheads, greater knowledge retention/data gathering, stronger partnership and performance, incentives for long- and medium-term improvements and market competitive pricing.

## Background

6. Contract 2526-06 has been developed to ensure Council has the appropriate resources and expertise on hand to effectively mitigate risk, comply with relevant legislation, respond to seasonal workloads and continue to maintain and enhance Councils urban forest. Specifically, these services include:



- Part A: Programmed Tree Maintenance - provision of Programmed Tree Maintenance Services on Council Managed Land throughout the Municipal District. The revised specification is a data driven quantified two-year, 22-month street tree inspection and pruning program based upon monthly zones and workloads, including a one-year inspection, and pruning program for trees located under high voltage power lines and a strong focus on compliance with regulations and monitoring and reporting with performance indicators.
- Part B: Reactive Tree Maintenance - provision of Reactive Tree Maintenance Services on land throughout the Municipal District including road reserves, parks and Council properties and sites where Council manages trees for State Authorities. Council will direct the contractor on reactive tree maintenance work orders arising from 2500-3000 customer requests per annum, including storm damage, proactive inspection programs, 24/7 call out response and normal service operations.
- Part C: Tree Planting and Establishment – provision of tree planting and establishment through a strategic annual planting program of street and park trees. Approximately 2,000 new trees planted per annum and the subsequent establishment maintenance required for 2 years thereafter.
- Part D: Specialist Tree Services – contains three parts each with its own specialised panel of contractors, required to mitigate risk, provide expert advice and to ensure the long-term health of Council's Urban Forest.
- Part D1: Arboricultural Consultancy – provision of specialist arboricultural consultants to provide a range of expertise in the management of Council's urban forest.
- Part D2: Tree Root Management - provision of specialist arboricultural contractors to undertake directed root excavation, reporting, root pruning, and root barrier installation and maintenance.
- Part D3: Tree Health Services - provision of specialist arboricultural consultants to undertake directed management of pest and disease in Council's urban forest.

## Key Issues and Discussion

### Specification Development

7. In preparation to tender, an operational service review was undertaken to ensure all areas of service provision were considered. This consisted of benchmarking service delivery with other Councils, obtaining feedback from the current service providers and analysing the market conditions and Councils tree data. This review led to the realignment and restructure of tree management functions and the development of specifications for the following services.

- Part A Programmed Tree Maintenance
- Part B Reactive Tree Maintenance
- Part C Tree Planting and Establishment
- Part D Specialised Services
- Part D1: Arboricultural Consultancy
- Part D2: Tree Root Management
- Part D3: Tree Health Services



8. The realignment of tree management functions and analysis of data led to a quantified and deliverable approach to service delivery, with a strong focus on monitoring and reporting, compliance with regulations and the inclusion of robust performance metrics. Key services areas have been supplemented with schedule of rates to provide Council with the ability to flex and redeploy services to address the removal of dead and dangerous trees and to address peak workloads associated with seasonal variations and the increase in extreme weather events associated with climate change.
9. To ensure best-value outcomes for Council, tenderers were invited to submit pricing for two, four, or six-year contract terms. Evaluation planning considered factors such as cost stability and predictability, reduced procurement overheads, enhanced knowledge retention and data gathering, stronger partnerships and performance, incentives for medium- and long-term improvements, and market-competitive pricing to determine the preferred option for each contract part.
10. To undertake the evaluation and assessment of the schedule of rates component of the tender evaluation, workload indicators were developed and utilised to assist in comparing rates and to arrive at an estimated annual value.
11. To determine the appropriate workload indicators, three years of data was collated and averaged to arrive at estimated workload indicators. Consideration was given to the how these rates will be applied; a detailed data analysis of Council's Tree Asset Management System (Forestree) in conjunction with historical, reactive tree maintenance works and tree planting & establishment data was used to finalise the workload indicators.

#### Probity

12. In accordance with Council's Procurement Policy a probity plan is required where the value of a procurement is greater than \$5,000,000 (exc GST). To mitigate risk, a Probity Plan was developed prior to tender, and an external, independent Probity Auditor was appointed to review and report on tender evaluation in accordance with the probity plan.
  - A Probity Advisor was also engaged throughout the tender process. The evaluation panel were provided with a probity briefing, and the Probity Plan was followed to ensure compliance. To further mitigate risk, all tenders have been evaluated by four senior Council officers through a three-stage tender evaluation process consistent with the Probity Plan. Appendix 1 – Confidential attachment provides a detailed analysis of the tender evaluation.

#### Tender Evaluation Process.

13. The first stage provided a list of preferred tenders that conformed to Council's minimum requirements, the second stage evaluated tenders against the non-price criterion, with the third stage evaluating on price, unit rate comparison and value add services. Tenders were assessed in accordance with the following criteria:
  - Methodology
  - Resourcing
  - Relevant Experience Local, Social & Environmental
  - Price
14. Short listed/preferred tenderers were assessed on the following critical compliance criteria:
  - Compliance with OH&S, Environment and Insurance
  - Financial Capacity of the Organisation Business
15. On conclusion of the evaluation, tenderers were shortlisted and the evaluation panel proceeded with in person interviews, assessment of contract departures, financial and OHS and Environmental assessments and reference checks.



### Outcome of Tender Evaluation Process

16. Part A: Programmed Tree Maintenance - Active Tree Services were identified as the preferred tenderer at the conclusion of the detailed evaluation process. The tender evaluation resulted in an 'very good' proposal scoring of the tender evaluation criterion.

- Active Tree Services have been in business for 50 years with 29 years of experience in local government contracts, offering comprehensive expertise in tree management through data analysis, best-practice methodologies, efficiency initiatives, and a safety-first approach.
- The company is Rapid Global compliant and certified to ISO 9001:2015 (Quality) and ISO 14001:2015 (Environmental), operates as carbon neutral, and maintains a strong environmental focus. They contribute 10% of profits to charity and made a strong commitment to employing local staff and sourcing consumables and service equipment locally for the duration of the contract.
- Active Tree Services are national company with depth and the ability to provide Council with the ability to flex and redeploy service during peak workloads and extreme weather events. Based on the tender evaluation, Active Tree Services can provide a scalable service and have demonstrated the capacity, capability, and experience to meet all contractual obligations and are recommended as the preferred tenderer, with the ability to commence on 16 March 2026.

17. Part B: Reactive Tree Maintenance – Treeserve were identified as the preferred tenderer at the conclusion of the detailed evaluation process. The tender evaluation resulted in an 'very good' proposal scoring of the tender evaluation criterion.

- Treeserve have been in business for 12 years prior to re branding, in business for 29 years in total. A local business based in Dandenong South, Treeserve currently delivery reactive tree maintenance programs across 16 Local Government areas in Victoria.
- The company demonstrates a strong commitment to the local community, with 40% of materials, 100% of plant servicing, and 10% of consumables sourced locally. Treeserve has a proven track record in providing a scalable service including staff and resources for after-hours work delivering a reliable 24/7 response service and providing resources during peak workloads and in response to severe weather events.
- The company is Rapid Global compliant and certified to ISO 9001:2015 (Quality) and ISO 14001:2015 (Environmental). Based on the tender evaluation, Treeserve has demonstrated the capacity, capability, and experience to meet all contractual obligations and is recommended as the preferred tenderer, with the ability to commence on 1 May 2026.

18. Part C: Tree Planting and Establishment - Melbourne Treeworks were identified as the preferred tenderer at the conclusion of the detailed evaluation process. The tender evaluation resulted in an 'very good' proposal scoring of the tender evaluation criterion.

- Melbourne Treeworks have been in business for 33 years, typically focused on tree pruning works they have recently moved into tree planting & establishment services for several other local governments within the south-east delivering similar and smaller scale tree planting & establishment services.



- The company has considerable knowledge, industry experience and expertise in tree supply, planting and establishment. Work practices and methodology ensure minimal environmental impacts with a strong commitment and contribution to the local community of 15% labour, 65% plant and equipment and 40% materials being of local content. Melbourne tree works gave commitment to establishing a works depot based within Greater Dandenong.
- They are Rapid Global compliant and in the process of obtaining third party quality and environmental accreditation. Based on the tender evaluation, Melbourne Treeworks has demonstrated the capacity, capability, and experience to meet all contractual obligations and is recommended as the preferred tenderer, with the ability to commence on 16 March 2026.

19. Part D1 Arboricultural Consultancy - a panel of five consultants - Homewood Consulting, Xylem Treecare, Tree Dimensions, C&R Ryder Consulting and Bay Tree Services.

- Homewood Consulting have been operating nationally and within Local Government for 22 years with a wide range of technology and report writing systems in place. Homewood have accredited environmental systems, (Rapid Global compliant ISO 9001:2015 (Quality) and ISO 14001:2015 (Environmental) and are committed to carbon offsetting and biodiversity enhancement.
- Xylem has been providing detailed reporting to State and Local Governments for a period of 20 years. They have extensive experience in the development of broad scale vegetation management plans and report writing. They will utilise and update data within Councils tree data base Foreintree. Safety, Quality, and Environmental systems were to the requested standards.
- Tree Dimensions are highly qualified consulting company. They have a wide range of plant, technology and equipment to produce high standard reports. Tree Dimensions will utilise Councils Foreintree tree data base and are well experience within the legal fields of arboriculture and have similar Local Government contracts in place and are Rapid Global compliant ISO 9001:2015 (Quality) and ISO 14001:2015 (Environmental).
- C&R Ryder Consulting is a business that offer a wide range of consultancy and arboricultural services. Currently working within several Local Government areas with similar contracts. Rapid Global compliant. Safety, Quality, and Environmental systems were to the requested standards.
- Bay Trees has been active within the arboricultural industry for over 20 years with similar current Local Government contracts. They display a commitment to the local community of 20% material and 50% plant being of local content. They provide social employment opportunities. Promoting diversity and inclusion in the workplace. Rapid Global compliant. Safety, Quality, and Environmental systems were to the requested standards.

20. Part D2 Tree Root Management – a panel of two contractors - Rootcontrollers Hydrox Australia and Bay Tree Services.

- Rootcontrollers Hydrox Australia have been in business for 24 years with similar Local Government contracts currently in place. There is a commitment to the local community of 75% material, labour 5% being of local content. They also provide social employment opportunities and are Rapid Global compliant ISO 9001:2015 (Quality) and ISO 14001:2015 (Environmental).



- Bay Trees has been active within the arboricultural industry for over 20 years with similar current Local Government contracts. They display a commitment to the local community of 20% material and 50% plant being of local content. They provide social employment opportunities. Promoting diversity and inclusion in the workplace. Rapid Global compliant. Safety, Quality, and Environmental systems were to the requested standards.

21. Part D3 Tree Health - a panel of 3 consultants - Xylem Treecare, Melbourne Tree Care and ArborCo Australia

- Xylem Treecare has been providing services to State and Local Governments for a period of 20 years. They have extensive experience in the development of broad scale tree data and vegetation health management systems. Their submission also provided additional tree health services. Safety, quality, and environmental systems were to the requested standards.
- Melbourne Tree Care has similar current Local Government contracts in place. They provide benefits to the local community through 50% materials and 25% plant being of local content. Melbourne Tree Care have adequately experienced and qualified long-term staff while being Rapid Global compliant ISO 9001:2015 (Quality) and ISO 14001:2015 (Environmental) certified.
- ArborCo Australia has 30 years' experience providing service to Local Government. They will provide local community commitment of 28% plant and 20% supervision as part of their service delivery. Rapid Global compliant ISO 9001:2015 (Quality) and ISO 14001:2015 (Environmental). There are policies/procedures/initiatives in place to promote engagement with Social Enterprises.

## Governance Compliance

### *Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)*

22. 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*

- 23. The delivery of Tree Maintenance Services can be met within existing recurrent expenditure budgets. There will be nil financial impact resulting from the award of this contract. The contract includes a fixed lump sum component (Part A: Programmed Tree Maintenance) and schedule of rates for (Part B: Reactive Tree Maintenance, Part C: Tree Planting & Establishment and Part D: Specialist Tree Services), providing flexibility in the scale and scope of service delivery.
- 24. Estimated contract spend has been calculated using established workload indicators, ensuring alignment with budget allocations.



	Contract Term (years)	Total Contract Amt (GST excl.)
<b>01 2657 1500 2532. Contractor Works - Reactive Tree Maintenance</b>		
Part B: Reactive Tree Maintenance Services	2	1,607,790
Part D1: Arboricultural Consultancy	4	132,000
Part D2: Tree Root Management	4	464,000
Part D3: Tree Health	4	40,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2,243,790</b>
<b>01 2657 1500 2561. Contractor Works - Tree Planting &amp; Establishment</b>		
Part C: Tree Planting & Establishment	2	1,754,200
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,754,200</b>
<b>01 2657 1500 2564. Contractor Works - Program Tree Maintenance</b>		
Part A: Programmed Tree Maintenance	4	6,422,160
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6,422,160</b>

25. While actual workloads may fluctuate due to seasonality and demand, Council officers will diligently manage the financial position to ensure all works remain within the approved budgets. The budget framework above has been designed with flexibility, allowing for variations in some services throughout the year. This is supported by the schedule of rates, which provides a scalable pricing structure to accommodate changes in workload without compromising financial control or service delivery.

26. Based on best value principles, the tender panel identified that a 4-year term for parts A, and D; and a 2-year terms for parts B and C, provided best value to Council including cost stability and predictability, greater knowledge retention/data gathering, stronger partnership and performance, incentives for long- and medium-term improvements and market competitive pricing.

#### ***Asset Implication***

27. This item increases the use of council assets. The ongoing maintenance costs have been assessed and included in operating and resource costings.

#### ***Legal/Risk Implications***

28. To ensure the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information, a Probity Plan was developed and adhered to, consistent with Councils Procurement Policy. An independent, external Probity Auditor was engaged to review and report on probity as part of tendering Contract 2526-06 Tree Maintenance Services.

29. Council has an obligation to ensure vegetation is maintained in accordance with the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance Regulations) 2020 as defined within section 84 of the Electricity Safety Act 1998. Regarding public lands, Section 84C of the Act specifies, that a Council responsible for the management of public land in an area declared under section 81, is responsible for the keeping of the whole or any part of a tree situated on the land clear of an electric line.



30. Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) are the regulating body, from 27 June 2022, ESV can issue infringement notices to the “Responsible Person” that fails to comply with their responsibilities for ensuring trees are kept clear from electric lines as required by clause 3(1) of the Code of Practice for Electric Line Clearance. The provision of Part A Programmed and Part B Reactive Tree Maintenance Services will assist in mitigating risk and ensuring compliance with the regulations.
31. If these services were not provided, Council’s street trees would not be maintained in accordance with the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance Regulations) 2020 as defined within the Electricity Safety Act and Councils Electric Line Clearance Management Plan 2025/26. This would expose Council to a high level of risk including ongoing liability, community dissatisfaction and non-compliant vegetation resulting in infringements issued by regulating bodies.

### ***Environmental Implications***

32. Contract 2526-06 Tree Maintenance Services ensures that Councils trees form a healthy, vibrant, and resilient urban forest that is well-managed, protected, delivering lasting benefits to the community.
33. Each urban tree in Greater Dandenong is part of an urban forest population that helps to provide shade, absorb air pollution, filter stormwater, provide habitat and improve the character and feel of Greater Dandenong’s streets and parks. Natural shade from trees play an important role in urban cooling providing protection during periods of hot weather, especially in areas of high heat vulnerability.
34. The Tree Maintenance Services contract will assist in achieving the objectives outlined in Greater Dandenong’s *Greening Our City - Urban Tree Strategy 2018-28*.

### **Community Consultation**

35. There was no requirement for community consultation. Councils Community Engagement Policy has been reviewed. Under exemptions, community engagement will not occur in circumstances which relate to operational matters, confidential or commercial in confidence information, or when Council must make emergency or safety related decisions. Given the operational nature of Contract 2526-06, community consultation was not sought.

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

36. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
  - Sustainable environment.
37. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2021-25:
  - A green city committed to a sustainable future.



## Legislative and Policy Obligations

38. 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:

- Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance Regulations) 2020
- Electric Line Clearance Management Plan
- Code of Practice for Electric Line Clearance
- Electricity Safety Act 1998
- The Overarching Governance Principles of the *Local Government Act* 2020.
- Climate Change and Sustainability.
- Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.



## 4.2 POLICY AND STRATEGY

### 4.2.1 Q2 Quarterly Performance Report October - December 2025

**Responsible Officer:** Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services

**Attachments:** 1. Q2 Quarterly Performance Report October - December 2025 [4.2.1.1 - 77 pages]

#### Officer Recommendation

**That Council NOTES the Q2 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 October to 31 December 2025 and the Financial Report for the period 1 July to 31 December 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. The Mid-Year Budget was adopted by Council on 8 December 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](http://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:

7. Part A – Annual Plan progress details the achievements for the Council Plan strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29 for the period 1 October – 31 December 2025.

8. Part B – The Financial Report is designed to inform Councillors of the results of operations for the 1 July – 31 December 2025. The budget information contained in this report reflects the Mid-Year Budget as adopted by Council on 8 December 2025.



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

- Income Statement
- Balance Sheet
- Cash Flow Statement
- Capital Expenditure Statement
- Management Accounting Result
- Capital Expenditure Report
- Investment Report
- Directorate Analysis

## Governance Compliance

### *Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)*

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. For the year ending 31 December 2025, Council achieved a surplus operating result of \$7.53 million which is \$2.83 million better than year to date budget. The main factors contributing to this result comprise favourable variances in:

- a. **Operating income (\$549,000 favourable)** – Mainly due to higher income in user fees, primarily parking ticket machine fee income (\$469,000).
- b. **Operating expenditure (\$2.28 million)** – As a result of lower expenditure in Employee costs (\$3.07 million) and Materials and services (\$3.31 million), partly offset by two non-budgeted, non-cash fixed asset accounting adjustments (Asset write offs (\$3.85 million) and prior year capital expenditure unable to be capitalised (\$364,000)).

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

#### *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:

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

19. 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

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

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



## 4.3 OTHER

### 4.3.1 Naming the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre

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

### Officer Recommendation

#### That Council:

- APPROVES IN PRINCIPLE 'Oasis Pools and Wellbeing Centre' and 'Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing' as two possible alternate names for the new Dandenong Wellbeing Centre; and**
- APPROVES taking these names to open community consultation for 30 days, with a view to bringing a preferred name back to Council for formal consideration for adoption, and then seeking formal registration with Geographic Names Victoria.**

### Executive Summary

1. A range of qualitative and in-depth community engagements were undertaken with community members from various demographics. The Bunurong Land Council was also engaged to provide name options or words that could be used in the new facility.
2. Across all community groups, of all ages, there was overwhelming support for retaining the word Oasis, from the current Dandenong Oasis centre that is being replaced by the new centre. The word Oasis is regarded as a strong signifier of the experience to be had within the centre. The name is regarded as easy to remember, say and spell. We heard that the tradition of this name and its long-standing connection to this place and this community are very important, and not to be lost.
3. The variation from the current facility name of 'Dandenong Oasis' to 'Oasis Pools and Wellbeing' or 'Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing' signals that it is a new facility, while maintaining a connection to the old facility. 'Pools' or 'Aquatics' explains that there are multiple pools inside, for various purposes. 'Wellbeing' emphasises the goals of getting more people more active, more often, and creating strong community connections. These goals are at the centre of this once-in-a generation investment by Council, for the Greater Dandenong community.
4. Council is the naming authority and will make the decision on the name. However, it is important that the proposed name (with two variations) is also put to the wider community for comment before the decision. This is also a requirement for the name to be registered with Geographic Names Victoria.
5. It is proposed to take the two variants, 'Oasis Pools and Wellbeing' and 'Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing' to the wider community for comment, for 30 days. This consultation would be accompanied by an explanation of how this name was arrived at, including the prior community engagement activities.
6. After research and consultation with Elders, the Bunurong Land Council also provided two words for consideration in naming the facility or part of the facility. They proposed the words Nawunharr and Nawi. However, these names were not selected as the first preferred name for the centre.



## Background

7. It is critical that the name of the new facility supports practical, contemporary marketing in a competitive commercial environment, to contribute to the financial sustainability of the centre.
8. A thoughtfully chosen name will also reinforce the centre's identity and foster a sense of community pride and ownership among residents.

## Key Issues and Discussion

9. A broad community consultation was undertaken to gather community sentiment about the old Dandenong Oasis facility and the new Dandenong wellbeing centre under construction. From this, a long list of names was developed.
10. These names were tested with various focus groups including:
  - Broad community, including representatives from local service providers
  - Current members of Dandenong Oasis
  - New Parents Group
  - Young People from Amplify
  - Staff from Council, and South East Leisure (including some who are local residents).
11. Across all community groups, of all ages, there was overwhelming support for retaining the use of the word Oasis.
12. The community feedback was very strongly focused on retaining a great name in Oasis, and recognising the tradition, connection and sense of belonging attached to this word. We heard support for variants including Oasis+ or Oasis 2.0. However, non-alphabetical characters are not possible to include under the Naming Rules.
13. Oasis has been a very successful name for a treasured community facility. Oasis has not had nicknames or been shortened to an acronym. It is short and memorable. Using this word will capitalise on existing brand recognition, while providing an opportunity to celebrate and promote the new centre.

### Geographic Names Victoria

14. The Naming Rules set out the rules for naming roads, features and localities. The Naming Rules provide that:

*A feature is considered to be a unique geographical place or attribute that is easily distinguished within the landscape. For example, a feature can be a mountain, watercourse, building, prominent structure or park.<sup>1</sup>*
15. The Registrar strongly encourages that councils seek registration of names of features to ensure that the names comply with the Naming Rules. It is regarded as important that feature names are unambiguous and recorded in VICNAMES, which is “the definitive data source for geographical names information and is distributed regularly to ... emergency service, postal and spatial information and mapping agencies.”
16. In principle support has been received from Geographic Names Victoria for the proposed name of ‘Oasis Pools and Wellbeing,’ based on an assessment that the name complies with the Naming Rules for places in Victoria.

<sup>1</sup> *Naming Rules*, p35.



17. While we have undertaken detailed, thoughtful and in-depth consultation with various community groups, it is still important that the wider community has an opportunity to comment on the name before it is formally considered for adoption by Council. It is also a requirement from Geographic Names Victoria that this consultation is for a minimum of 30 days.

## Governance Compliance

### ***Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)***

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

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

#### ***Operating Budget Implications***

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

#### ***Asset Implications***

20. This item does not affect any existing assets.

#### ***Legal/Risk Implications***

21. These naming rules are the statutory guidelines provided for under section 5 of the [Geographic Place Names Act 1998](#); they are therefore mandatory for all naming authorities in Victoria, including councils. They apply to all government-owned or administered roads, features (natural or otherwise) and localities.

#### ***Environmental Implications***

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

#### ***Gender Impact Assessment***

23. The interests of men and women have been carefully considered in the design of the facility. The name 'Oasis Pools and Wellbeing' does not have a gendered background or impact. Including 'wellbeing' in the name would reinforce the key objective of getting more people more active, more often, including women and girls. Both 'Oasis' and 'Nawi' have strong connections to place and tradition in this community.

24. As per the Gender Equality Act 2020 a gender impact assessment is required any time a 'policy', 'program', or 'service' that 'directly and significantly affects the public' is developed or updated. There is a renewed emphasis on considering significant (historic) women's contributions in naming roads and localities. We did not consider that the name of a historic person would meet other desirable characteristics of the name, such as being short, memorable and marketable, so no significant people (women or men) were considered as name options.



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

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

- Mind, body and spirit.

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

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

## Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

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



## 4.3.2 Australian Local Government Association 2026 National General Assembly, Canberra ACT

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

### Officer's Recommendation

#### That Council:

1. APPROVES the attendance of all interested Councillors, at the Australian Local Government Association 2026 National General Assembly to be held in Canberra from 23 to 25 June 2026;
2. APPROVES the attendance of the Chief Executive Officer (or her nominated delegate) at the Australian Local Government Association 2026 National General Assembly to be held in Canberra from 23 to 25 June 2026; and
3. RECEIVES a report from the Councillor delegates on their attendance at the Australian Local Government Association 2026 National General Assembly in August 2026 Council Meeting.

### Executive Summary

1. This report seeks approval of all interested Councillors plus the Chief Executive Officer (or their nominated delegate) to attend the Australian Local Government Association 2026 National General Assembly to be held in Canberra from 23 – 25 June 2026.

### Background

2. The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is the national peak advocacy body for Local Governments. The ALGA's work includes, but is not limited to, the establishment of national policy and extensive liaison and lobbying with departments, Ministers and other parliamentarians at the Commonwealth level to achieve better outcomes for local communities.
3. Council has been represented at previous National General Assemblies (NGA) in Canberra. Previous attendees have found the conference insightful and valued the networking with national inner-city municipalities and access to Federal Members and Ministers.

### Key Points / Issues / Discussion

4. The NGA provides a valuable opportunity for councils to learn from and share insights with Local Governments across Australia. The focus of the 2026 NGA, "Stronger Together: Resilient. Productive. United," highlights the importance of building resilience, enhancing productivity, and strengthening unity across the sector. This theme supports discussions on how local governments can work collaboratively to address national challenges and contribute to stronger community outcomes. The conference program will feature a range of high-profile and engaging speakers who will explore what underpins effective collaboration and how these principles can be applied to support stronger, more connected communities.
5. Further information can be found at [NGA 2026](#).



## Financial Implications

6. The estimated cost per delegate is approximately \$3,100, consisting of:
  - a. Early Bird Registration (by 30 April 2026): \$999;
  - b. Attendance at General Assembly Dinner: \$200;
  - c. Accommodation for 3 nights (4 star): \$700;
  - d. Flights (economy): \$700; and
  - e. Incidental (taxis/meals): \$500.
7. These costs can be covered from the Council's operational budget.

## Community and Stakeholder Consultation

8. No community or stakeholder consultation is required.

## Links to the Community Vision and Council Plan

9. This report is consistent with the principles in the Community Vision 2040.
10. This report is consistent with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic objective of:
  - A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
  - A city of accessible, vibrant centres and places.
  - A Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources, and a commitment to investing in the community.

## Legislative and Policy Obligations

11. 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.



### 4.3.3 Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Activity Report

**Responsible Officer:** Manager Governance, Legal & Risk

**Attachments:** 1. ARC Biannual Activity Report September 2025 Word Native [4.3.3.1 - 2 pages]

#### Officer Recommendation

**That Council RECEIVES, for information, the Greater Dandenong City Council's Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report dated December 2025 (per Attachment 1), which describes the activities of the Committee (including its findings and recommendations) for meetings held Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 FY26.**

#### Executive Summary

1. Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Audit and Risk Committee is required to table a report on its activities to Council twice per year. This bi-annual report covers the Committee's work for the meetings held on 12 September 2025 and 5 December 2025 and aligns with the Committee's Annual Work Plan in terms of the cyclical nature of its work.
2. The ARC must provide a copy of each report to the Chief Executive Officer for tabling at the next Council meeting.
3. The Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee attended the Councillor Briefing session held on 9 February 2026 to provide Councillors with an update and opportunity to ask questions and discuss matters of interest/relevance.

#### Background

4. Section 54(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires that the Audit and Risk Committee tables a bi-annual report to Council.
5. The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) plays an important role in providing oversight of Greater Dandenong Council's governance, risk management, internal control practices, internal and external audit functions. This oversight mechanism also serves to provide confidence in the integrity of these practices.
6. Section 53(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* stipulates that a Council must establish an ARC. The City of Greater Dandenong's ARC comprises two Councillors and three independent members. The ARC meets at least four times per year.
7. This report covers the Committee's work for the meetings held on 12 September 2025 and 5 December 2025 and aligns with the Committee's Annual Work Plan in terms of the cyclical nature of its work.
8. The report outlines the key activities carried out by the Committee during the period.



## Key Issues and Discussion

9. The report recommends that Council notes the Audit and Risk Committee Performance Report.

## Governance Compliance

### ***Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)***

10. The list of prescribed human rights contained in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* has been reviewed. It is considered that the proposed actions contained in this report present no breaches of, or infringements upon, those prescribed rights.

### ***Conflicts of Interest Disclosure***

11. The Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee and Council officers who prepared this report have no general or material conflict of interest to declare.

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

#### ***Operating Budget Implications***

12. Other than the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee and Council officer time in preparing this report, there are no financial and resource implications associated with this report.
13. The sitting fees payable to independent members of the Audit and Risk Committee are provided for within the Governance Department's operational budget

#### ***Asset Implications***

14. This item does not affect any existing assets.

#### ***Legal/Risk Implications***

15. The Audit and Risk Committee, pursuant to Sections 54(4) and (5) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, is required to prepare a biannual Audit and Risk Committee report describing the Committee's activities and provide a copy of both reports to the Chief Executive Officer for tabling at the next Council meeting

#### ***Environmental Implications***

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

## Community Consultation

17. There was no requirement for community consultation.

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

18. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
  - Not Applicable
19. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29:
  - A Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources and a commitment to investing in the community.



## Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

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



#### 4.3.4 Australian Local Government Association Draft Notice of Motions

**Responsible Officer:** Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services

**Attachments:** 1. Draft Notice of Motions for Australian Local Government Association ( ALG A ) NGA [4.3.4.1 - 5 pages]

#### Officer Recommendation

**That Council ENDORSES the proposed motions to the 2026 National General Assembly of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Attachment A.**

#### Executive Summary

1. ALGA has called for members to submit motions to be considered for adoption at its annual National General Assembly to be held in Canberra from 23-25 June. Officers have proposed motions, subject to Council endorsement.
2. Endorsed motions must be submitted through ALGA's online portal no later than 11.59 pm AEST on Friday 27 February 2026.

#### Background

3. ALGA National General Assembly - The Australian Local Government Association is the peak national body for local government, representing 537 councils nationwide. Formed in 1947, the ALGA is a federation of member state and territory associations.
4. Its mission is to achieve outcomes for local government through advocacy with impact, and maximise the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of councils and their communities.
5. Membership is comprised of state and territory local government associations, including the Municipal Association of Victoria.
6. Convened annually by ALGA, the National General Assembly is the peak annual event for Local Government, attracting over 800 Mayors and Councillors each year.
7. The National General Assembly provides a unique opportunity for Local Government to engage directly with the Federal Government to develop national policy and to influence the future direction of our councils and our communities.
8. The theme for the 2026 ALGA National General Assembly is 'Stronger Together: Resilient. Productive. United.'

#### Key Issues and Discussion

##### **Proposed motions to the 2026 National General Assembly of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) – (refer to Attachment 1 for full details)**

9. **Motion 1** – Social housing and enabling infrastructure contribution mechanism.
10. **Motion 2** – Increasing Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) of housing delivery through reform of the National Construction Code.
11. **Motion 3** - Exempt Councils from increased tax liabilities when rezoning land for social and affordable Housing.
12. **Motion 4** – Establish a national definition of social housing and affordable housing.



13. **Motion 5** - A coordinated, measurable, whole-of-government strategy to prevent and end homelessness.
14. The proposed Notice of Motions support the City of Greater Dandenong 2025-29 Council Plan priority to increase quality, affordable and social housing options with short-term and long-term options to improve supply and provide support to those on low incomes.
15. The motions also support the 2025-26 Annual Plan action to undertake advocacy to advance strategies to reduce poverty and improve social equity in Greater Dandenong.

## Governance Compliance

### *Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)*

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

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

#### *Operating Budget Implications*

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

#### *Asset Implications*

18. This item does not affect any existing assets.

#### *Legal/Risk Implications*

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

#### *Environmental Implications*

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

#### *Gender Impact Assessment*

21. A gender impact assessment is not required.

## Community Consultation

22. There was no requirement for community consultation.

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

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

- Safe and peaceful community.

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

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



## Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

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



### 4.3.5 List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors

**Responsible Officer:** Manager Governance, Integrity, Legal & Risk

**Attachments:** 1. List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors [4.3.5.1 - 2 pages]

### Officer Recommendation

That the listed items for the period 11 January 2026 to 30 January 2026 provided in Attachment 1 to this report be received and noted.

### Executive Summary

1. Consistent with Council resolutions regarding registered incoming correspondence addressed to the Mayor and Councillors, Attachment 1 to this report provides a list of this correspondence for the period 11 January 2026 to 30 January 2026.



## 4.3.6 Report on Matters Discussed at Councillor Briefing Sessions and Pre Council Meetings

**Responsible Officer:** Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services  
**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 8 December 2025 – 2 February 2026.

### Background

3. The Executive Team and associated staff at Greater Dandenong City Council host Councillor Briefing Sessions and Pre-Council Meeting 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 8 December 2025 – 2 February 2026.

### Matters Presented for Discussion

Item	Councillor Briefing Session/Pre-Council Meeting	
1	<b>General Discussion</b> Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items; a. Update on success of Carols Event; b. Attendance of Councillors attending Community Budget Briefing Session; c. Update on Capital Investment program; and Agenda items for the Council Meeting of 8 December 2025.	<b>Pre-Council Meeting (PCM) – 8 December 2025</b>



2	<b>Ramadan Night Market</b> Councillors were briefed on the upcoming Ramadan Night Market event, including critical actions needed to ensure a safe and compliant 2026 event.	<b>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 19 January 2026</b>
3	<b>Naming the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre</b> Councillors were briefed on the proposed alternatives for Naming Dandenong Wellbeing Centre, options for undertaking formal community consultation and whether the preferred name should be registered with Geographic Names Victoria (GNV). Officers outlined the naming approach, community and stakeholder engagement, and feedback from GNV and the Bunurong Land Council.	<b>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 19 January 2026</b>
4	<b>General Discussion</b> a. Infosum and Councillor Newsletter to be merged into a single weekly distribution from February 2026; b. Agenda update provided regarding a confidential item; c. Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony arrangements; and Agenda items for the Council Meeting on 27 January 2026.	<b>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 19 January 2026</b>
5	<b>General Discussion</b> Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: a. Housing and homelessness campaign; and Agenda items for the Council Meeting of 27 January 2026.	<b>Pre-Council Meeting (PCM) – 27 January 2026</b>
6	<b>Activity Centres Program Update - Department of Transport and Planning</b> Councillors were briefed on the Activity Centres Program Update by Department of Transport and Planning, including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>State Government's 'Train and Tram Zone Activity Centres Program'.</li><li>Key points discussed included the identification of four Greater Dandenong centres (Springvale, Noble Park, Yarraman and Dandenong).</li><li>the program's aim to increase density through greater building heights.</li><li>the commencement of planning and upcoming consultation phases; and</li><li>DTP's timeline to complete the project by mid-2026, subject to the Minister for Planning.</li></ul>	<b>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 2 February 2026</b>



7	<b>Domestic Animal Management Plan</b> Councillors were briefed on the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025–29, including its purpose, consultation outcomes and proposed improvements. The briefing also outlined the Plan's strategic direction, responses to key community concerns and targeted actions across seven focus areas to improve safety, welfare and regulatory outcomes over the next four years.	<b>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 2 February 2026</b>
8	<b>Council Business Cycle 2026 Overview</b> Councillors were briefed on the 2026 Councillor Briefing Session schedule, including the revised structure commencing in February 2026. Discussions covered the separation of strategic and business-focused briefings to improve long-term planning and support better decision-making for Council Meetings. Councillors also noted that Learning and Development sessions will be scheduled on the fourth Monday of each month, with further details to be provided in a separate paper.	<b>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 2 February 2026</b>
9	<b>Policy Review Program Overview for 2026</b> Councillors were briefed on the Policy Review Program Overview for 2026, including the updated process for managing Council policies. Discussions covered the incorporation of all policy matters into the 2026 Meeting Forward Plan to provide earlier visibility and structured input, improvements to transparency, consistency and compliance with governance and legislative requirements, and the allocation of time in each Strategic Briefing Session for consideration of policies requiring adoption, readoption or abolition.	<b>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 2 February 2026</b>
10	<b>Multi-Employer Enterprise Agreement</b> Councillors were briefed on the Multi-Employer Enterprise Agreement, including progress, key issues and potential impacts. Discussions covered the status of negotiations involving Greater Dandenong and seven partner Councils, key claims and bargaining strategies, opportunities arising from collaborative negotiation, and risks such as possible industrial action and resulting service delivery disruptions.	<b>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 2 February 2026</b>
11	<b>General Discussion</b> Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items; a. Relocation of Table Tennis facilities; and Agenda items for the Council Meeting of 16 February 2026.	<b>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 2 February 2026</b>



## Apologies

5. Councillor Lana Formoso, Councillor Jim Memeti and Councillor Loi Truong submitted apologies for the Councillor Briefing Session on 8 December 2025.
6. Councillor Isabella Do, Councillor Lana Formoso, Councillor Jim Memeti and Councillor Loi Truong submitted apologies for the Councillor Briefing Session on 2 February 2026.

## Legislative and Policy Obligations

7. 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.
8. 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.



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## 5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

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

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

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

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



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## 6 URGENT BUSINESS

No business may be admitted as urgent business unless it:

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



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## 7 CLOSE OF BUSINESS