



**GREATER
DANDENONG**
City of Opportunity

MINUTES

COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, 9 AUGUST 2021
Commencing at 7:00 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
Virtual Council Meeting

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1 MEETING OPENING

1.1 INTRODUCTION - OPENING STATEMENT BY THE MAYOR

Welcome everyone to this remote Council Meeting. While the CEO and I are located in the Council Chamber at the Civic Centre, the remainder of your Councillors are coming to you live from their homes and other places of work.

This meeting is being held remotely because Council is under advice from the State Government and the Chief Health Officer to conduct Council Meetings online.

We will try to mimic our normal live webcast as much as possible, but because this is a remote meeting there may be a few technical issues. I ask that you be patient with us. If, for some reason, the webcast drops out, remember that the meeting will be placed on our website afterwards so that you can watch it at your leisure.

On that note, let's get started.

1.2 ATTENDANCE

Apologies

Cr Loi Truong

Councillors Present

Cr Angela Long (Chairperson)

Cr Tim Dark, Cr Lana Formoso, Cr Eden Foster, Cr Rhonda Garad, Cr Richard Lim, Cr Jim Memeti, Cr Bob Milkovic, Cr Sean O'Reilly, Cr Sophie Tan.

Officers Present

John Bennie PSM, Chief Executive Officer, Jamie Thorley, Acting Director City Planning, Design and Amenity, Martin Fidler, Director Community Services, Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects, Kylie Sprague, Executive Manager Communications and Customer Service, Michelle Hansen, Executive Manager Finance and Information Technology, Lisa Roberts, Manager Governance.

1.3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND

Council acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and future Traditional Owners and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

1.4 OFFERING OF PRAYER

Deputy Mayor, Cr Sophie Tan read the following prayer provided prior to the meeting by Mr Jasbir Singh Suropoda from the Sikh Community, a member of the Greater Dandenong Interfaith Network:

" The world is going up in flames - shower it with Your Mercy, and save it! Save it, and deliver it, by whatever method it takes. The True Guru has shown the way to peace, contemplating the True Word of the Shabad. Nanak knows no other than the Lord, the Forgiving Lord."

1.5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Meeting of Council held 26 July 2021.

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Meeting of Council held 26 July 2021 be confirmed.

MINUTE 231

Moved by: Cr Lana Formoso
Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad

That the minutes of the Meeting of Council held 26 July 2021 be confirmed.

CARRIED

1.6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil.

2 OFFICERS' REPORTS - PART ONE

2.1 DOCUMENTS FOR TABLING

2.1.1 Petitions and Joint Letters

File Id:	qA228025
Responsible Officer:	Manager Governance
Attachments:	Petitions and Joint Letters

Report Summary

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.

Issues raised by petitions and joint letters will be investigated and reported back to Council if required.

A table containing all details relevant to current petitions and joint letters is provided in Attachment 1. It includes:

1. the full text of any petitions or joint letters received;
2. petitions or joint letters still being considered for Council response as pending a final response along with the date they were received; and
3. 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.

Note: On occasions, submissions are received that are addressed to Councillors which do not qualify as petitions or joint letters under Council's current Governance Rules. These are also tabled.

2.1.1 Petitions and Joint Letters (Cont.)

Petitions and Joint Letters Tabled

Council received no new petitions and one (1) joint letter prior to the Council Meeting of 9 August 2021.

- A joint letter was received from 37 residents requesting Dandenong Council to build a public toilet urgently in the Alan Corrigan Reserve in Keysborough for the community groups using the reserve and members of the public. This joint letter has been forwarded to the relevant Council Business Unit/s for action.

N.B: 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.

Recommendation

That this report and Attachment be received and noted.

MINUTE 232

Moved by: Cr Eden Foster

Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That this report and Attachment be received and noted.

CARRIED

2.1.1 Petitions and Joint Letters (Cont.)

DOCUMENTS FOR TABLING

PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

ATTACHMENT 1

PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

PAGES 5 (including cover)

If the details of the attachment are unclear please contact Governance on 8571 1000.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

2.1.1 Petitions and Joint Letters (Cont.)

Date Received	Petition Text (Prayer)	No. of Petitioners	Status	Responsible Officer Response
16/07/21	Dandenong Council to lift parking restrictions on Allan Street, Dandenong to allow people to shop. On April 28, you replied to my email. Since then we have been hoping that restrictions on the parking will be removed as soon as the front of the construction building is closed and no further truck entry is possible to the construction site. The entry of the construction has been closed for a while now. However, we did not see any change to our parking restrictions. All trucks or other vehicles now only work in parallel to the construction buildings and no turning is possible so we are not sure why there is still restriction on our side. We request you again to remove the restriction on our side as this has no impact on the construction now. This is of great trouble to us as indicated to you earlier. 1. Our customer can not park at all. They have to park further away. 2. Our sales have drastically reduced as lots of our customers beyond Allan St. creek bridge come via car. 3. Our supplier has to park a block away (if they get the parking) and they struggle to deliver 100s of cases to our store. 4. Some of the suppliers have refused to deliver to our store now as it takes much longer than their allocated time. Most of our customers/suppliers and neighbouring business owners are utterly frustrated with this and when I put out a petition for their support, 200 of them have signed the petition within day. The list is growing day by day. I hope the council will consider this request as a matter of urgency. Attachment: copy of 200 customers and suppliers putting their name to request parking restrictions.	92	Completed	Tabled at Council Meeting 26 July 2021 16/07/2021 Responsible Officer – Senior Engineer, Transport Services 16/07/2021 Acknowledgement Email sent to the head petitioner by Governance. 16/07/2021 Response to the head petitioner: Hi Thanks for your e-mail. I have arranged for these signs to be switched back to the 1P restrictions that were in place prior to the works. I anticipate that this will happen next week. I note that due to the number of signatures on your petition, this will be tabled at the next Council meeting. I fully expect the signs to have been changed by then. Please feel free to contact me directly to discuss further. Regards.

If the details of the attachment are unclear please contact Governance on 8571 1000.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

2.1.1 Petitions and Joint Letters (Cont.)

Date Received	• Petition Text (Prayer)	No. of Petitioners	Status	Responsible Officer Response
3/08/21	Petition for a Public Toilet in Alan Corrigan Reserve at Corrigan Road, Keysborough. This petition from the residents below asks City of Greater Dandenong council to construct a public toilet in the public park. Alan Corrigan reserve is the most popular community park in Keysborough used by many residents. There are BBQ facilities, children's playgrounds, and new facility for adult exercise. This park has been used by people from nearby suburbs as well. This park has many facilities which encourage the community groups to use the park. Currently this park does not have any public toilet. Sometimes the children's and adults are forced to use the bush or behind the tree due to lack of toilet.	37	New	Tabled at Council Meeting 9 August 2021 3/08/2021 Responsible Officer – Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects. 3/08/2021 Acknowledgement Email sent to the head petitioner by Governance.

If the details of the attachment are unclear please contact Governance on 8571 1000.

2.1.1 Petitions and Joint Letters (Cont.)

Date Received	• Petition Text (Prayer)	No. of Petitioners	Status	Responsible Officer Response
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If the details of the attachment are unclear please contact Governance on 8571 1000.

2.1.1 Petitions and Joint Letters (Cont.)

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3 QUESTION TIME - PUBLIC

Question

Leah Anderson, Dandenong

As a Dandenong resident and someone passionate about quality children's services, I have been looking out for the concept design of the Dandenong Community Hub that was meant to be available for public comment by the end of June 2021. When will it be available for the public to see?

Response

Martin Fidler, Director Community Services

Community engagement and consultation on the draft concept design is scheduled to take place this September. Project information and times are regularly updated on the Council's website where there is a dedicated Dandenong Community Hub page.

Question

Tim Bawden, Noble Park

When will the results be publicly available of the latest Greater Dandenong Tree Canopy Cover Audit?

Response

Jamie Thorley, Acting Director City Planning, Design and Amenity

The City of Greater Dandenong undertook mapping of the municipality's canopy cover in July 2021. The results of this mapping are currently being analysed by Council officers and will form part of the final Urban Forest Strategy and Greening our Neighbourhood Strategy. The Strategies which will include the results of this mapping are expected to be considered for adoption by Council in September 2021.

Question

Emily Sloan, Noble Park

Following on from the response to Cr Garad's question at the last meeting, the officer response was that "if we do not proceed with a local law that does not mean that I do not look at other ways of trying to achieve that same outcome".

- a) What are the other possible ways that officers think a canopy cover of 15% could be reached by 2028 without a local law?
- b) Why were these other ways not already in the Urban Forest Strategy?
- c) Will the Greening our Neighbourhoods Strategy be revised to incorporate these "other ways" or is that particular sub-strategy going to be left to be endorsed after the local law matter is resolved?

This is a really important issue for me and I hope to see Council leading the change we need, to create a sustainable and health future for our children.

3 QUESTION TIME - PUBLIC (Cont.)

Response

Jamie Thorley, Acting Director City Planning, Design and Amenity

Officers remain of the view that the combination of the ongoing implementation of the Greening our City Strategy which focuses on greening Council owned land and the future implementation of the Greening our Neighbourhood Strategy which focuses on private land will together see Council achieve a canopy coverage of 15 percent by 2028. The action plan for the greening our cities contains many actions already underway such as the 15 year tree planting program which continues to see gains in tree planting on our public land. The Greening our Neighbourhood Strategy also contains an action plan that sets out actions to address canopy coverage on private land such as collaborating with residents to establish an ongoing garden for wildlife program, developing landscaping guidelines to ensure appropriate planting is undertaken for new developments and advocating for improved planting outcomes through the planning scheme. As such these actions by which to achieve this target on private land are already set out in the Draft Greening our Neighbourhood Strategy.

Question

Ranka Trisic, Dandenong

In the Council's recently revised Community Hub Framework it is clearly indicated in the Principles of community hubs that community hubs be integrated and intergenerational, meeting the diverse needs of all community members regardless of their age. When made publicly available, will there be an assessment of how the Dandenong Community Hub aligns with the Council's Community Hub Framework's objective to do that?

Response

Martin Fidler, Director Community Services

The development of the Dandenong Community Hub is being undertaken in accordance with Council's recently revised Community Hubs Framework. Council's initial consultation and engagement focused on gathering feedback from a broad range of community members, service providers and interested groups on what they desired in the Community Hub. Based on this feedback the development of draft concept plans for the Dandenong Hub can now be developed. Once drafted, Council will engage in an additional program of consultation and engagement to gather community views on the concepts. The concepts will incorporate integrated, intergenerational and intergenerational, flexible and adaptable spaces designed to meet the needs of Dandenong's diverse community.

Question

Pam Naylor, Noble Park

Given the essential importance of increasing tree canopy cover for tackling climate change, why does the Council not offer financial incentives for people to keep their large trees?

3 QUESTION TIME - PUBLIC (Cont.)

Response

Jamie Thorley, Acting Director City Planning, Design and Amenity

Council officers are of the view that it is more important to educate the community on the benefit and importance of trees on individual properties and the wider community. This approach will mean that residents are more likely to have a greater appreciation of trees and therefore are more likely to retain existing and/or plant new vegetation in the long term. This said, Council will be looking at other initiatives that some of our neighbouring Councils are currently implementing.

Question

Ailsa Lord, Noble Park

How is the Council going to reach 15% canopy cover over Greater Dandenong by 2028 by planting trees on public land alone if the canopy cover on private land which makes up 73% of all land, is only 5.6% of the tree canopy cover which is clearly stated in the draft Greater Dandenong Greening our Neighbourhood Strategy 2021-28?

Response

Jamie Thorley, Acting Director City Planning, Design and Amenity

As I mentioned earlier, the draft action plan for the Greening our Neighbourhood Strategy contains a considerable number of actions that will assist with both the retention of existing vegetation and the planting of new vegetation on private land. The implementation of these actions will assist Council in meeting the 15 percent canopy coverage target by 2028.

Question

Binay Prasad, Noble Park

As of now, which Councils in Melbourne already have tree protection controls of some form on private land, which ones do not and which ones are in the process of considering them at the moment?

Response

Jamie Thorley, Acting Director City Planning, Design and Amenity

At the moment the metropolitan Councils which currently have a local law that requires a permit to remove certain trees are Bayside, Boroondara, Darebin, Frankston, Glen Eira, Hobsons Bay, Kingston, Moonee Valley, Moreland, Port Phillip, Stonnington and Yarra Councils. There are quite a few. There are also some metropolitan Councils that have tree protection controls within their planning scheme, however these are generally those on the urban fringe that have some rural landscapes of significance or areas of heritage significance. Greater Dandenong itself has a vegetation protection overlay to protect trees within its green wedge zone.

Question

Shan Siva, Dandenong

Will there be three or four year old kindergartens and long day care in the Dandenong Community Hub as requested by over 400 Dandenong residents in a petition earlier this year?

3 QUESTION TIME - PUBLIC (Cont.)

Response

Martin Fidler, Director Community Services

The detailed scope of the Dandenong Community Hub including the inclusion of early year services such as three and four year old kindergartens and long day care is currently being reviewed and discussed by Council. Once a determination has been endorsed concept plans will be developed and placed on public display for community feedback.

Question

Silvia Mastrogiovanni, Dandenong

In the Council's recently revised Community Development Framework, it is written that Community Hubs are meant to form the foundation of strong neighbourhoods. When the business case for the Dandenong Community Hub is made publicly available, will there be an assessment of how the Dandenong Community Hub will meet the community development needs of Dandenong residents and help form a stronger Dandenong community?

Response

Martin Fidler, Director Community Services

The development of the Dandenong Community Hub is being undertaken in accordance with Council's recently revised Community Hubs Framework. The business case for the Hub will include an assessment of how the Hub relates to this framework and will be available for public display.

Question

Susan Smith, Dandenong

Community hubs elsewhere in Greater Dandenong are being built with public playgrounds or there are existing plans to build them. Public playgrounds are great draw cards for Community hubs. Given that and the fact that the residents who live in the neighbourhood around Sleeth Avenue in Dandenong have no public playground, will there be a public playground in the Dandenong Community Hub?

Response

Martin Fidler, Director Community Services

Council is currently reviewing all the options for the Dandenong Community Hub including options for outdoor public space. Concept plans are being scheduled for exhibition in September 2021 for community engagement and we welcome all residents' and stakeholders' feedback.

Question

Phillip Plews, Dandenong

Will the Dandenong Community Hub be planned for the population and needs of Dandenong residents for the expected life of the building of 40 years as that seems to be the standard for Councils?

3 QUESTION TIME - PUBLIC (Cont.)

Response

Martin Fidler, Director Community Services

The planning for the Dandenong Community Hub makes use of existing population estimations based on data provided by the Federal and State Governments but this data does not include estimations beyond the 15 year time period.

Question

Tamara Kojic, Dandenong

Will the new Dandenong Community Hub have a large community lounge like that planned for the Keysborough South Community Hub? It is informal spaces like this that are essential for community development in a fragmented community like Dandenong particularly for emerging community groups in low income areas and particularly with mothers' groups which is why co-location with children's services is so important.

Response

Martin Fidler, Director Community Services

Council has received feedback from the community and key stakeholders for the Dandenong Community Hub to be designed with welcoming, friendly, formal and informal spaces such as a community lounge. This feedback will provide the architect with important information in the concept design process which will be presented to the community for feedback.

Question

Barbara Wills, Dandenong

The Greater Dandenong Children's Plan on the Council Agenda tonight shows that in the next four years, there will be a growth of almost 4,000 children in Greater Dandenong by 2025, with the suburb experiencing the most growth being Dandenong. Why is the document silent on population projections for the next 10, 15, 20 years? New community facilities like the Dandenong Community Hub will last at least 40 years so it needs to be future proofed.

Response

Martin Fidler, Director Community Services

The Greater Dandenong Children's Plan 2021-2026 is intended to provide Council with a strategic framework to direct its efforts in improving the health and wellbeing of children and their families over the coming five years. The Plan makes use of existing population estimations based on data provided by the Federal and State Governments but this data does not include estimations beyond the 15 year time period as this data is either not available or has many fluctuations and cannot be utilised to forecast accurately.

3 QUESTION TIME - PUBLIC (Cont.)

Question

Tina Congues, Dandenong

The response to my question at the last Council meeting did not answer my fundamental question about sincere consultation. Why is there going to be a Council decision of the scope of the Dandenong Community Hub BEFORE concept designs are shown to the public when the only Council decision about the scope of the Keysborough South Community Hub and the new Dandenong Aquatic Centre was made AFTER the concept designs were exhibited to the public?

Response

Martin Fidler, Director Community Services

The initial community consultation and engagement concerning the Dandenong Community Hub commenced on 10 May this year and it went to 11 June this year. These sessions formed an introduction and discussion on the overall project focusing and asking what people wanted to see and also experience culturally in the Hub. Feedback was also sought on possible site locations. Council's endorsement of a preferred site and intended service inclusions are necessary to provide the consultants with clear guidance for development of the concept plan and business case. Once completed the draft concept plan and site analysis results will be exhibited through an extensive round of community engagement and consultation. Having then considered and incorporated community feedback only then will the business case and concept design be finalised and endorsed by Council.

Question

Sabrina Mileto, Dandenong

The adoption of the new Greater Dandenong Children's Plan is in the Agenda tonight. As it seems that all of the substance of the Children's Plan are in the Annual Plans to come, how will there be meaningful community feedback into those annual plans; when will the first annual plan be finalised; and how will it be made available to the public?

Response

Martin Fidler, Director Community Services

The draft Children's Plan incorporates 29 key strategic actions under five primary strategic objectives; and it is publicly available or will be available on Council's website. The annual action plan is an operational document guiding Council service delivery against those key strategic actions. The progress of the annual actual plan is reported to Council.

Question

Claire Alvarez, Dandenong

The Dandenong Community Hub I believe would be fantastic for our city and hopefully be all inclusive from young kids to the elderly. I am concerned that the development and integration of a Children's Plan in 2019 did not eventuate and does not seem to be included in the new Plan. Can Council advise me of the progress of the current plan?

3 QUESTION TIME - PUBLIC (Cont.)

Response

Martin Fidler, Director Community Services

Council's new draft Children's Plan will continue the important work of the previous Plan (2015 to 2019), which was very successful in achieving outcomes for the City of Greater Dandenong. For example, one was the integration and bringing together of early years education, primary education and community support through the community hubs and schools' projects. I also assume your question is referring to the progress of the Dandenong Community Hub where you may be aware that Council in the last budget committed to the development of a business case, concept plans and site analysis. The consultants have completed the initial engagement and consultation phase of this work, participated in workshops with Councillors and will now progress with the development of draft concept plans which we expect to have completed for public consultation engagement in September this year. The project webpage on the Council's website will be continually updated as we progress this important project and it also includes contact details if any residents would like to call us and have a chat for further information or anything else around the Dandenong Community Hub.

Question

Matthew Kirwan, Noble Park

As the former Councillor who initiated the development of the All Abilities Playground with a Feasibility Study back in 2014, it is great to see the All Abilities Playground almost complete. Overall, it looks exciting.

- a) When is it expected to be open to the public?
- b) Was the playground design assessed for climate change impact and if not, why not?

At the design workshop I attended as a Councillor, I warned against the use of artificial materials wherever possible instead emphasising the use of grass and landscaped areas. There seems to be an excessive number of rubber play surfaces which urban designers like Dr Sebastian Pfautsch from Western Sydney University have found, can reach above 100°C on hot days and are thus unfit for children to use on hot days and even more so in a world where extreme temperatures are becoming more a commonplace. To a lesser extent the same problem can be seen in the recent Tattersson Park Insect Park playground upgrade. Councils across Melbourne are moving away from hard and hot surfaces in playgrounds. Why is Greater Dandenong Council moving towards creating them?

Response

Jamie Thorley, Acting Director City Planning, Design and Amenity

The All Abilities Playground is at the final stage of construction along with the main toilet block and it is anticipated to be completed by the end of August 2021. A soft opening date based on the works being completed will be determined in due course. A notice to the public will be issued when this decision has been made. In terms of the playground construction materials, the playground has been designed to be fully accessible which requires the use of some rubber and hard stand surfaces to enable all users to have equal access to the equipment. This said, predominant surface finishes are of soft landscaping elements such as mulch, grass and large areas of landscaping. Council designs playgrounds to be accessible to all people in accordance with the playground standards and to respond to climate change.

3 QUESTION TIME - PUBLIC (Cont.)

Comment

John Bennie PSM, Chief Executive Officer

The next two questions are from Dom Boccari of Keysborough. They are very similar so I will read both questions together and Mr Kearsley will respond.

Cr Tim Dark left the meeting at 7.26pm.

Question

Dom Boccari, Keysborough

Is Council advocating to State and Federal Governments for COVID Stimulus funding for the Green Wedge Trail? If not, why not?

Question

Dom Boccari, Keysborough

What is Council's plan to deliver to the community the Green Wedge Trail over the next 12 to 18 months?

Response

Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects

I will take the second one first and then follow through with some comments with regards to funding. We anticipate that the rollout of a network of trails in accordance with the Green Wedge Trail plan will continue to be funded through a mixture of Council and Victorian Government funding. While no funding is currently allocated to projects within this plan, those which I foresee being considered for funding within the next few years are the River End Road recreational loop and the sealing of the Dandenong Creek Trail between Eastlink and Patterson Lakes. The Dandenong Creek Trail has been recognised by the Victorian Government as a state significant route and we have submitted this for consideration within several streams of potential funding. The River Road recreational loop will be considered in upcoming Council budgets and it is anticipated to be delivered alongside the reconstruction of the road at this location. We were disappointed that the Mordialloc Freeway project did not deliver sections of this loop despite our advocacy efforts. As detailed in our green wedge walking, cycling and equestrian trails plan, delivery of a comprehensive network of trails in this area will take significantly longer than the 12 to 18 month timeframe in this question.

With regards to the continuing advocacy, that is something that we pride ourselves in that at every opportunity we do advocate for a range of projects. The COVID stimulus funding opportunities I believe, are unfortunately at this point not available. However, we do keep our eye on the different streams of funding that becomes available by both State and Federal Governments. The advocacy we are currently undertaking is likely to be tied into the upcoming Victorian and possibly the Federal Government budgets and also into an election year. Unfortunately the criteria of recent COVID grant processes has not necessarily assisted us with regards to the specifics of the Trail and the type of

3 QUESTION TIME - PUBLIC (Cont.)

funding that is required but that does not stop us from having a look at what is available and then making the appropriate submission for grants. We are happy to keep both the community and Council involved and included with information updates on how we intend to follow through with some further budget submissions. Thank you.

Question

Dom Boccari, Keysborough

What is Council doing to support our local Country Fire Authority fire fighters and other emergency services battle through our narrow streets that have cars parked on both sides of these streets due to townhouse development not having enough car parking on the private properties?

Response

Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects

New housing and unit developments are required to adhere to the planning scheme with regards to both onsite parking provision and road widths which take into consideration emergency vehicle access. The planning scheme highlights and identifies subdivision criteria that are required to be satisfied. In addition to this the Victorian road rules identify motorists must not park in a location where they do not leave at least three metres of clear road space beside their vehicle. This road rule is in place to ensure sufficient space is provided for emergency vehicle access. If there are any specific locations where parked vehicles may be causing issues for such services these locations should be forwarded to Council for an investigation to ensure compliance with this road rule.

Question

Matthew Kirwan, Noble Park

In the Agenda Item 4.2.2 Report on Matters Discussed at Councillor Briefing Sessions & Pre-Council Meetings - 12 & 19 July 2021, it is mentioned that the Community Garden Policy, which has been under development for over a year, was discussed at the Briefing Session on 19 July 2021. When will it finally come to a Council meeting for adoption?

Response

Jamie Thorley, Acting Director City Planning, Design and Amenity

The Community Gardens Policy and Guidelines have been developed and presented to Councillors. Officers are now finalising the documents to include Councillor feedback from this meeting and it is intended to table the Policy and Guidelines at a Council meeting in September 2021 for adoption.

Question

Val Roperti, Dandenong North

Keysborough South Community Hub project had a high level concept design that was publicly consulted on followed by the creation of a more detailed concept design that was consulted on. Will the Dandenong Hub project be following the same two step consultation process and if not, why not?

3 QUESTION TIME - PUBLIC (Cont.)

Response

Martin Fidler, Director Community Services

The concept plan for the Dandenong Community Hub will be publicly exhibited once developed and community feedback will be incorporated prior to the finalisation. Following on from the development of the business case and the concept plan the detailed design will be undertaken including public consultation. This is the same process that has been followed throughout the development of the Keysborough South Community Hub.

Cr Tim Dark returned to the meeting at 7.33pm.

4 OFFICERS' REPORTS - PART TWO

4.1 POLICY AND STRATEGY

4.1.1 Amendment C232 - Application of Heritage Overlay - Jarvie House (the Jug House) - 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park

File Id:	A7879650
Responsible Officer:	Director City Planning, Design & Amenity
Attachments:	Amendment C232gdan Explanatory Report Amendment C232gdan Schedule 43.01 Heritage Overlay Schedule 1 (Post Exhibition Tracked Changes) Amendment C232gdan Statement of Significance (Post Exhibition Tracked Changes)

1. Report Summary

On 27 May 2021 the Minister for Planning granted authorisation for Council to prepare and exhibit Planning Scheme Amendment C232gdan to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme. Amendment C232gdan seeks to apply the Heritage Overlay to 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park, known as the Jarvie or Jug House.

The amendment underwent public exhibition between 24 June 2021 and 23 July 2021. This report includes an officer response to the 2 submissions received and seeks a Council resolution to note the above, make one change in response to a submission and refer all submissions to an independent Planning Panel Hearing.

Key issues raised in submissions include:

- Burden to landowners
- Unfair process
- Tree protection

2. Recommendation Summary

This report recommends that Council receives the submissions in relation to Amendment C232gdan and resolves to continue the statutory process of the Amendment by requesting the Minister for Planning appoint an independent Planning Panel and refer all submissions to a Planning Panel Hearing.

4.1.1 Amendment C232 - Application of Heritage Overlay - Jarvie House (the Jug House) - 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park (Cont.)**3. Background**

Council has a responsibility under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to identify and protect places of heritage significance. Heritage is the full range of our inherited traditions, objects and culture. It is expressed through places, buildings, landscapes, public parks and gardens, trees, infrastructure, monuments, public art and more.

Council recently received information advising that the property at 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park may have heritage value and consequently engaged heritage consultants to undertake a heritage assessment.

The significance of the property was assessed against the standard criteria contained in *Planning Practice Note 01: Applying the Heritage Overlay (August 2018)* and is considered to meet the requirements and threshold for local protection through the Heritage Overlay.

The heritage assessment identified the property as significant aesthetically, historically and for its rarity to Noble Park and the City of Greater Dandenong as detailed in the Statement of Significance (Attachment 3), and as follows:

Historically, the 'Jug or Jarvie house' is a representation of the onset of the post-World War Two housing boom in the hitherto mainly rural area of Noble Park, an area that is now fully urbanised. ... The reported memories of Jarvie by Noble Park identity Fred Wachter of the building and use of the house add a historical context to the place. (Criteria A).

For its rarity as one of the few Streamlined Moderne or 'waterfall' front designs in the City of Greater Dandenong. The successful representation in brickwork of a giant jug as part of the chimney shape is rare across the Melbourne area (Criteria B).

Aesthetically, the 'Jug or Jarvie house' is one of the few Streamlined Moderne or 'waterfall' front designs in the City of Greater Dandenong. The house exhibits a full expression of this domestic style with five (not three) fronts to the 'waterfall' The use of the style was often seen as a reflection of the owner-builder's modern outlook and rejection of period revival styles like the prevailing Georgian and Old English. The style has had a recent popular revival as Art Deco, named in the 1960s after the Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes, held in Paris in 1925 (Criteria E).

Social significance is identified by the local community as a local landmark as far back as the 1990s and since the house and its chimney have received wide publicity as an uncommon part of the urban landscape because of the jug shaped chimney (Criteria G).

The Heritage Overlay is the appropriate planning mechanism to protect the identified heritage values of the property as the Heritage Overlay requires a planning permit to be granted for any demolition or any buildings and works that could affect the significance of a heritage place.

4.1.1 Amendment C232 - Application of Heritage Overlay - Jarvie House (the Jug House) - 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park (Cont.)**3.1 Process**

Council sought authorisation from the Minister for Planning to commence the preparation of Amendment C232gdan to apply a permanent Heritage Overlay at this site, which was granted. Subsequently, notification of the Amendment was given in accordance with the requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* as detailed in Section 7 of this report, including a direct mail out to the property owner and surrounding properties on 21 June 2021 informing them of the proposal.

As detailed in the Explanatory Report (**Attachment 1**) Amendment C232gdan proposes to implement the recommendations of the Heritage Assessment by applying the Heritage Overlay to the property and incorporate the Statement of Significance in the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme.

The amendment is consistent with and implements the Local Planning Policy Framework, particularly Clause 21.05-2 (Built Form) of the Municipal Strategic Statement which identifies that *'a number of residential ... buildings and sites may be suitable for heritage protection'* and includes the objective *'to protect sites of significant cultural and heritage value and those elements which contribute to the significance of heritage places'*.

3.2 How does a Heritage Overlay work?

A Heritage Overlay does not mean that property owners cannot make any changes to the property but that it may trigger the need for a planning permit for building and works. This enables the heritage values of the place to be considered in any application for demolition and buildings and works.

When a property is affected by a Heritage Overlay a planning permit is required to (but not limited to):

- Subdivide land;
- Demolish or remove a building or part of a building;
- Construct a building or part of a building or a fence;
- Construct or carry out works;
- Construct or display a sign;
- Externally alter a building;
- Externally paint an unpainted surface (or re-paint an already painted surface a different colour); and
- Carry out works, repairs and routine maintenance which change the appearance of the heritage place or which are not undertaken to the same, details, specifications and materials.

Most of these matters can be assessed through a VicSmart planning permit application process (fast track application process).

If the Heritage Overlay is applied it is highly unlikely that a permit seeking demolition of the property would be granted given the heritage significance is formally recognised in the Planning Scheme. However, it is possible that a suitably designed extension could be constructed (subject to a planning permit).

4.1.1 Amendment C232 - Application of Heritage Overlay - Jarvie House (the Jug House) - 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park (Cont.)

In addition, a planning permit is not required for outdoor maintenance works or emergency repairs that do not impact on the significance of the property.

Furthermore, the proposed Heritage Overlay would allow for uses to be considered that would normally be prohibited in a residential zone, subject to a planning permit. For example, an office or small shop could be considered in this location under the Heritage Overlay. The Heritage Overlay allows for consideration of uses normally prohibited to facilitate the on-going protection of heritage sites by providing a wider range of potential uses. This would help ensure protection and conservation of the heritage values and place in the future.

3.3 Additional Proposed Heritage Controls

Clause 43.01 Heritage Overlay Schedule 1 of the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme enables a range of additional heritage controls to be “switched on or off” meaning a permit may be required. For example, the heritage assessment for the subject property determined that the external façade of the house is a contributory element so Amendment C232gdan proposes to apply ‘external paint controls’. By contrast, the interior of the house has been identified as not locally significant, so the amendment proposes to “switch off” the ‘internal alteration controls’. The following table provides an overview of the controls to be included, and not included for the subject site:

Heritage Overlay Control	Sought for C232gdan	Explanation
External paint controls	Yes	A planning permit is required for any change to the external paint that will alter the appearance of the place or impact on its significance.
Internal alteration controls	No	A planning permit is not required for internal routine repairs, maintenance or emergency repairs. For example, internal works, either maintenance or re-design, could occur without the need for a planning permit.
Tree controls	No	A planning permit is not required for the removal of trees.
Outbuilding or fences exempt from notification and review requirements	No notification/review requirements	A planning permit is required for a range of development classes including the removal of a pergola, construction of a fence or rainwater tank, etc. but is exempt from advertising and being appealed to VCAT.

4.1.1 Amendment C232 - Application of Heritage Overlay - Jarvie House (the Jug House) - 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park (Cont.)

Prohibited uses may be permitted	Yes	The intent of this control is to facilitate the ongoing protection of the heritage site by allowing consideration of uses not permitted under the zone.
Included on the Victorian Heritage Register	No	The heritage assessment determined the property is not of State significance.
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No	The heritage assessment did not identify the property as an Aboriginal Heritage Place.

These controls are shown in **Attachment 2** Clause 43.01 Heritage Overlay Schedule 1 (Post Exhibition).

3.4 Submissions

Community consultation ran for a period of four (4) weeks from 24 June to 23 July 2021. Council notified the affected property owners of the proposed amendment by way of letter on 21 June 2021. A notice was also placed in the Dandenong Journal and Government Gazette on 24 June 2021.

A total of 2 submissions were received in response to the exhibition period for Amendment C232gdan.

From the officers' analysis, the 2 submissions objected to the Amendment.

The submissions raised the following main concerns:

- Burden to landowners
- Tree protection
- Unfair process

As a result of these submissions, Council officers have deemed it appropriate to remove the tree control, this has been discussed in the following section.

Council is unable to resolve the remaining concerns. As such, Council officers consider 2 submissions to be unresolved and subsequently a total of 2 submissions are recommended to be referred to a Planning Panel Hearing. As part of this process, the submitters will have an opportunity to have their concerns considered by an independent planning panel.

4. Discussion and Options

Section 23 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* governs the process for a planning authority to progress a planning scheme amendment.

After considering the submissions which request a change to the Amendment, the planning authority (Council) has the following options:

1. Ask the Minister for Planning to appoint an independent panel to review the submissions, conduct a public hearing, consider the Amendment, and prepare an independent report with recommendations about the Amendment for Council to consider;

4.1.1 Amendment C232 - Application of Heritage Overlay - Jarvie House (the Jug House) - 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park (Cont.)

2. Make changes to the Amendment in response to some of the submissions and proceed to ask the Minister for Planning to appoint an independent panel to review the submissions, conduct a public hearing, consider the Amendment, and prepare an independent report with recommendations about the Amendment for Council to consider;
3. Make changes to the Amendment as requested in all of the submissions and proceed to ask the Minister for Planning to approve it in a modified form; or
4. Decide to Abandon the Amendment and proceed no further with it.

NB. It is relevant to note that unlike in the cases of decisions on most planning permit applications, a decision by Council in this regard is not appealable to VCAT by 3rd parties

Officers are recommending that changes be made to the exhibited version of Amendment C232gdan in response to the submissions. Therefore, Option 2 is considered most appropriate.

5. Proposal

It is proposed that Council receives the submissions in relation to Amendment C232gdan and resolves to make some changes and to continue the statutory process by requesting the Minister for Planning appoint an independent Planning Panel and refer all submissions to a Planning Panel Hearing.

5.1 Proposed changes to the exhibited Amendment**5.1 Removal of Tree Control**

The Statement of Significance makes reference to the boundary hedges and conifer specimens as contributory elements. For this reason, and on the recommendation of the heritage consultant, Clause 43.01 Heritage Overlay Schedule 1 was exhibited with Tree Controls.

It is noted that Submission No.1 states that the garden is made up of plantings from the 1990s to present. On review of this information, the *Planning Practice Note 1: Applying the Heritage Overlay* and a further site inspection, officers recommend no longer applying the heritage Tree Control. There are no trees of significance on the property.

The proposed change is shown in **Attachment 2** Clause 43.01 Heritage Overlay Schedule 1 (Post Exhibition) and **Attachment 3** Statement of Significance (Post Exhibition).

5.2 Revised Statement of Significance

On review of Submission No.1 and a further site inspection, officers recommend revising the Statement of Significance by removing references to garden setting, hedges and conifers; and the timber pergola. The proposed changes are shown in **Attachment 3** Statement of Significance (Post Exhibition).

It is considered appropriate for Council to refer all submissions to a Planning Panel as not all submissions have been resolved and the process provides further opportunity for submitters to be heard and their submissions considered by an independent Planning Panel.

4.1.1 Amendment C232 - Application of Heritage Overlay - Jarvie House (the Jug House) - 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park (Cont.)**6. Financial Implications**

The financial implications for Council associated with this report involve a cost in the 2020/2021 financial year of approximately \$5,000 and anticipated costs in the 2021/2022 financial year of approximately \$30,000. There is no current amount allocated in Council's Annual Budget for these costs however these costs can be absorbed within the current allocated amounts for administering Planning Scheme Amendments.

7. Consultation

Notification of the Amendment was given in accordance with the requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act, 1987*.

Planning Scheme Amendment C232gdan was publicly exhibited from 24 June 2021 to 23 July 2021.

Letters were sent to owners and occupiers of the subject site and those of the surrounding properties. In addition, the Amendment was advertised to the broader community through:

- Formal notice in the local newspapers (Dandenong Journal and Dandenong Leader) and Government Gazette;
- Notice on Council's website; and
- Explanatory folders at all Council Customer Service Centres.

8. Community Plan 'Imagine 2030' and Council Plan 2017-21 – Strategic Objectives, Strategies and Plans

After consultation with the Greater Dandenong community on what kind of future they wanted to see for themselves and the City in 2030, the result was the Greater Dandenong Community Plan 'Imagine 2030'. This report is consistent with the following community visions:

Community Plan 'Imagine 2030'People

- *Pride* – Best place best people

Place

- *Sense of Place* – One city many neighbourhoods
- *Appearance of Places* – Places and buildings

Opportunity

- *Tourism and visitors* – Diverse and interesting experiences
- *Leadership by the Council* – The leading Council

4.1.1 Amendment C232 - Application of Heritage Overlay - Jarvie House (the Jug House) - 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park (Cont.)

9. Council Plan 2017-21

The Council Plan describes the kind of future the Council is working for, and how Council will do this over four years. This report is consistent with the following goals:

People

- *A vibrant, connected and safe community*
- *A creative city that respects and embraces diversity*

Place

- *A healthy, liveable and sustainable city*
- *A city planned for the future*

Opportunity

- *A diverse and growing economy*
- *An open and effective Council*

10. 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.

The overarching governance principles of the *Local Government Act 2020* have been considered in the preparation of Amendment C232gdan to the *Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme* by meeting the requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* in the following regard:

- Giving priority to conserving a place of identified heritage significance for the benefit of existing communities and future generations;
- Engaging the community in strategic planning and strategic decision making by inviting submissions to the amendment;
- Ensuring the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information by reporting to Council at each stage of the planning scheme amendment process.

11. 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).

All matters relevant to the Victorian Human Rights Charter have been considered in the preparation of this report and are consistent with the standards set by the Charter; in particular:

- Section 13 – Right to privacy and reputation;
- Section 14 – Right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief;

4.1.1 Amendment C232 - Application of Heritage Overlay - Jarvie House (the Jug House) - 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park (Cont.)

- Section 15 – Right to freedom of expression;
- Section 16 – Right to peaceful assembly and freedom of association;
- Section 18 – Right to have the opportunity to take part in public life and to vote;
- Section 19 – Right to enjoy one's culture, practice religion or use one's own language and in the case of Aboriginal persons, the right to have distinct cultural rights; and
- Section 24 - Right to a fair hearing.

12. 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.

Council's Diversity, Access and Equity Policy and the *Gender Equality Act 2020* have been considered in the preparation of this report but are not relevant to its contents because the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* requires Council to adhere to a statutory process that does not have the potential influence broader social norms and gender roles. All affected parties have the opportunity to make a submission to the Planning Scheme Amendment.

13. 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.

This Planning Scheme Amendment has no impact on Council's Declaration on a Climate and Ecological Emergency, Council's Climate Change Emergency Strategy 2020-2030 or the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* in relation to the overarching governance principle on climate change and sustainability. The proposal to apply a Heritage Overlay is a statutory process will not have the potential to influence mitigating and planning for climate change risks.

14. Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks

The strategies and plans that contribute to this report are as follows:

- *Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme*
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987*
- *Community Engagement Policy and Framework*

4.1.1 Amendment C232 - Application of Heritage Overlay - Jarvie House (the Jug House) - 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park (Cont.)**15. Conclusion**

Planning Scheme Amendment C232gdan underwent public exhibition between 24 June 2021 and 23 July 2021. During this period 2 submissions were received. As a result of these submissions, officers recommend making one change to the proposed Heritage Overlay Schedule 1. It is considered appropriate to proceed with the Amendment and to request the Minister for Planning to appoint an independent Planning Panel and refer all the submissions to a Planning Panel Hearing.

16. Recommendation**That Council:**

1. **Receives and notes the submissions to Amendment C232gdan (Attachment 1) to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.**
2. **Endorses the officers' response to submissions and recommended changes to Amendment C232gdan as shown at Attachment 1.**
3. **Requests the Minister for Planning appoint a Planning Panel under Section 153 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to consider all submissions to Amendment C232gdan.**
4. **Refers the amendment and all submissions to a Planning Panel in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.**
5. **Authorises the Director City Planning Design and Amenity to undertake administrative changes to Amendment C232gdan, if required, that do not change the intent of the amendment prior to the Panel Hearing.**

MINUTE 233

Moved by: Cr Bob Milkovic

Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad

That Council resolves to abandon Planning Scheme Amendment C232gdan and proceed no further with it.

CARRIED

4.1.1 Amendment C232 - Application of Heritage Overlay - Jarvie House (the Jug House) - 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park (Cont.)

POLICY AND STRATEGY

AMENDMENT C232 – APPLICATION OF HERITAGE OVERLAY - JARVIE HOUSE (THE JUG HOUSE) – 1054-1060 HEATHERTON ROAD, NOBLE PARK

ATTACHMENT 1

AMENDMENT C232GDAN EXPLANATORY REPORT

PAGES 5 (including cover)

If the details of the attachment are unclear please contact Governance on 8571 5235.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

4.1.1 Amendment C232 - Application of Heritage Overlay - Jarvie House (the Jug House) - 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park (Cont.)*Planning and Environment Act 1987***GREATER DANDENONG PLANNING SCHEME****AMENDMENT C232gdn****EXPLANATORY REPORT****Who is the planning authority?**

This amendment has been prepared by the City of Greater Dandenong, which is the planning authority for this amendment.

The amendment has been made at the request of the City of Greater Dandenong.

Land affected by the amendment

The amendment applies to 1054 – 1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park.

A mapping reference table is attached at Attachment 1 to this Explanatory Report.

What the amendment does

The amendment proposed to apply the Heritage Overlay to 1054 – 1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park. Specifically, the amendment proposes to:

- Amend the schedule to Clause 43.01 (Heritage Overlay) to include HO78 at 1054 – 1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park and include the 'Statement of Significance: 1054 – 1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park, May 2021'
- Amend the schedule to Clause 72.04 (Documents Incorporated in this Planning Scheme) to incorporate the 'Statement of Significance: 1054 – 1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park, May 2021', and
- Amend Planning Scheme Map 5HO to include the property in HO78.

Strategic assessment of the amendment**Why is the amendment required?**

The amendment is required to recognise the heritage significance of 1054 – 1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park. The council engaged heritage consultants, Graeme Butler & Associates to prepare a heritage assessment of the Jarvie House (The Jug House) 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park.

The heritage assessment recommends the place be included in the Heritage Overlay. The property at 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park has been identified as significant aesthetically, historically and for its rarity to Noble Park and the City of Greater Dandenong.

The significance of the property was assessed against the standard criteria contained in Planning Practice Note 01: Applying the Heritage Overlay (August 2018) and is considered to meet the requirements and threshold for local protection through the Heritage Overlay.

The Heritage Overlay is the appropriate planning mechanism to protect the identified heritage values of the property as the Heritage Overlay requires a planning permit to be granted for any demolition or any buildings and works that could affect the significance of a heritage place.

The application of heritage controls to the property will enable the heritage values of the place to be considered in any application for demolition and buildings and works.

How does the amendment implement the objectives of planning in Victoria?

OFFICIAL

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

4.1.1 Amendment C232 - Application of Heritage Overlay - Jarvie House (the Jug House) - 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park (Cont.)

The amendment is consistent with the objectives of planning in Victoria by implementing the objective detailed at Section 4(1) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* which states:
"to conserve and enhance those buildings, areas or other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historical interest, or otherwise of special cultural value."

How does the amendment address any environmental, social and economic effects?

The amendment is expected to have a positive social effect by protecting and promoting the place of cultural heritage significance in the City.

The amendment is not expected to have any adverse environmental or economic effects.

Does the amendment address relevant bushfire risk?

The land affected by the amendment is not subject to bushfire risk or a Bushfire Management Overlay, and the amendment is unlikely to result in any significant increase to the risk to life, property, community, infrastructure or the natural environment from bushfire.

Does the amendment comply with the requirements of any Minister's Direction applicable to the amendment?

The amendment complies with Ministerial Direction No. 9 - Metropolitan Planning Strategy which requires amendments to have regard to *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050*. The amendment is consistent with Direction 4.4 which recognises the contribution heritage makes to Melbourne's distinctiveness and liveability and advocates for the protection of Melbourne's heritage places. The amendment is not considered to compromise the implementation of the Metropolitan Planning Strategy.

The amendment also addresses the requirements of Ministerial Direction No. 11 - Strategic Assessment of Amendments.

How does the amendment support or implement the Planning Policy Framework and any adopted State policy?

The amendment is consistent with the Planning Policy Framework, in particular Clause 15.03-1S (Heritage conservation) and implements the policy by including a place which has been identified and assessed as having local cultural heritage significance in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay.

How does the amendment support or implement the Local Planning Policy Framework, and specifically the Municipal Strategic Statement?

The amendment is consistent with and implements the Local Planning Policy Framework, particularly Clause 21.05-2 (Built Form) of the Municipal Strategic Statement which identifies that *'a number of residential ... buildings and sites may be suitable for heritage protection'* and includes the objective *'to protect sites of significant cultural and heritage value and those elements which contribute to the significance of heritage places'*.

Does the amendment make proper use of the Victoria Planning Provisions?

The Heritage Overlay is the most appropriate mechanism for recognising and protecting the cultural heritage significance of the identified place.

How does the amendment address the views of any relevant agency?

The views of relevant agencies will be sought as part of the public exhibition phase of this amendment.

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ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

4.1.1 Amendment C232 - Application of Heritage Overlay - Jarvie House (the Jug House) - 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park (Cont.)**Does the amendment address relevant requirements of the Transport Integration Act 2010?**

The amendment is not expected to have any significant impact on the transport system.

Resource and administrative costs

- **What impact will the new planning provisions have on the resource and administrative costs of the responsible authority?**

It is not expected that the new planning provisions will have any significant impact on the resource and administrative costs of the responsible authority.

Where you may inspect this amendment

The amendment can be inspected free of charge at the Greater Dandenong City Council's website at www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au and

The amendment is available for public inspection, free of charge, during office hours at the following places:

- City of Greater Dandenong Customer Service located at 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong.
- City of Greater Dandenong, Springvale Customer Service located at 397-405 Springvale Road, Springvale.
- Keysborough Customer Service Centre, located at Shop A7, Parkmore Shopping Centre, Cheltenham Road, Keysborough.

The amendment can also be inspected free of charge at the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning website at www.planning.vic.gov.au/public-inspection.

Submissions

Any person who may be affected by the amendment may make a submission to the planning authority. Submissions about the amendment must be received by 23 July 2021.

A submission must be sent to:

council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Or

Strategic Planning Amendment C232
City of Greater Dandenong
PO Box 200
DANDENONG VIC 3175

Panel hearing dates

In accordance with clause 4(2) of Ministerial Direction No.15 the following panel hearing dates have been set for this amendment:

- directions hearing: week of Monday, 27 September 2021
- panel hearing: week of Monday, 18 October 2021

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ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

4.1.1 Amendment C232 - Application of Heritage Overlay - Jarvie House (the Jug House) - 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park (Cont.)**ATTACHMENT 1 - Mapping reference table**

Location	Land /Area Affected	Mapping Reference
Noble Park	1054 – 1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park	Greater Dandenong C232gdan 001hoMap05 Exhibition

OFFICIAL

4.1.1 Amendment C232 - Application of Heritage Overlay - Jarvie House (the Jug House) - 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park (Cont.)

POLICY AND STRATEGY

AMENDMENT C232 – APPLICATION OF HERITAGE OVERLAY - JARVIE HOUSE (THE JUG HOUSE) – 1054-1060 HEATHERTON ROAD, NOBLE PARK

ATTACHMENT 2

**AMENDMENT C232GDAN SCHEDULE TO
CLAUSE 43.01 HERITAGE OVERLAY – POST
EXHIBITION TRACKED CHANGES**

PAGES 10 (including cover)

If the details of the attachment are unclear please contact Governance on 8571 5235.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

4.1.1 Amendment C232 - Application of Heritage Overlay - Jarvie House (the Jug House) - 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park (Cont.)

GREATER DANDENONG PLANNING SCHEME

SCHEDULE TO CLAUSE 43.01 HERITAGE OVERLAY28/02/2019
GC117**1.0 Application requirements**

None specified.

2.0 Heritage places

The requirements of this overlay apply to both the heritage place and its associated land.

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
HO1	Tuffmaster Carpet Factory 29-39 Attenborough Street, Dandenong	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
HO2	Dandenong West Primary School (No 4217) 32-34 Birdwood Avenue, Dandenong Incorporated Plan: Dandenong West Primary School incorporated plan (3 December 2002)	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
HO3	Noble Park Public Hall 18-34 Buckley Street, Noble Park	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO4	Ferring Homestead 82-88 Carlton Road, Dandenong North	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
HO5	Foster Farm House Lot 846 PS 629190L Havenstone Drive Keysborough	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
HO6	Keysborough State School (No 1466) 170 Chapel Rd, Keysborough	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

4.1.1 Amendment C232 - Application of Heritage Overlay - Jarvie House (the Jug House) - 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park (Cont.)

GREATER DANDENONG PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
HO7	Keysborough Methodist Church 176 Chapel Rd, Keysborough	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO8	Holmwood Farm Complex & trees 310 Chapel Rd, Keysborough	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO10	Nenagh Lodge 2/32-42 Potter St, Dandenong	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO11	Dwelling (Thuruna) 60 Clow Street, Dandenong	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
HO78	Church of the Resurrection 402 Corrigan Rd, Keysborough	-	-	-	-	Yes Ref No H2293	Yes	No
HO12	Keysborough Learning Centre 402-418 Corrigan Rd, Keysborough	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
HO13	Shops and offices 49-54 Douglas St, Noble Park	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
HO14	Drive-in bottle shop 64 Foster St, Dandenong	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
HO15	Dandenong Primary School (No 1403) 174-182 Foster Street, Dandenong Incorporated Plan: Dandenong Primary School (1403) incorporated plan (24 March 2005)	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO16	Lemon Scented Gum	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

4.1.1 Amendment C232 - Application of Heritage Overlay - Jarvie House (the Jug House) - 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park (Cont.)

GREATER DANDENONG PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
	39 & 55-75 Gladstone Rd, Dandenong The heritage place is the eucalypt and land beneath the canopy edge of the tree for a distance of five metres from the canopy edge.							
HO17	Wanke House 97 Gladstone Rd, Dandenong	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO19	House 1/21 Hemmings St, Dandenong	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
HO20	House 1/23 Hemmings St, Dandenong	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
HO21	Shop and residence 32 Hemmings St, Dandenong	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
HO22	Glen Alvie (Homestead) 66 Hutton Rd, Keysborough	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
HO23	Eversleigh Homestead 86 Hutton Road, Keysborough	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
HO24	Pemberton House 11 James St, Dandenong	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO25	Oak trees 7-10 Janmara Crt & 42-44 Rawdon Hill Dve, Dandenong North	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO26	Girrawheen House 58-60 Jones Rd, Dandenong	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

4.1.1 Amendment C232 - Application of Heritage Overlay - Jarvie House (the Jug House) - 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park (Cont.)

GREATER DANDENONG PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
HO27	Dandenong General Cemetery 17A Kirkham Rd, Dandenong Incorporated Plan: Dandenong Cemetery incorporated plan (17 February 2004)	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO28	Police Stables 34-50 Langhorne Street, Dandenong	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
HO29	Laurel Lodge 51 Langhorne Street, Dandenong	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO31	St James Church and Hall 55-59 Langhorne Street, Dandenong	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO32	Shaw's School - now Merlin (house) 61 Langhorne St, Dandenong	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO33	Truby King Centre 1-3 Lightwood Rd, Springvale	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
HO34	Cosy Corner Café 163 Lonsdale St, Dandenong	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
HO35	Dandenong Park 168-174 Lonsdale St, Dandenong	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO36	Old Dandy Inn – formerly the Bridge Hotel 185-193 Lonsdale St, Dandenong	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
HO37	Dandenong Town Hall	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

4.1.1 Amendment C232 - Application of Heritage Overlay - Jarvie House (the Jug House) - 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park (Cont.)

GREATER DANDENONG PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
	226 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong							
HO38	Albion Hotel 329-333 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
HO39	State Savings Bank 355-359 Lonsdale St, Dandenong	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
HO40	Benga 66 McCrae Street, Dandenong	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO41	The Ranges 17-19 Macpherson Street Dandenong	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
HO42	Ordish House 27 Macpherson St, Dandenong	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO43	Masonic Lodge 5 Mason Street, Dandenong	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
HO44	River Red Gums Memorial Dve road reserve, Noble Park The heritage place is the eucalypts and land beneath the canopy edge of each tree for a distance of five metres from the canopy edge.	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO46	Springvale Football Memorial Grandstand 1A Ericksen St & Newcomen Rd, Springvale	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO48	Dandenong Presbyterian Church (former St Luke's Anglican Church) 51 Potter St, Dandenong	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

4.1.1 Amendment C232 - Application of Heritage Overlay - Jarvie House (the Jug House) - 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park (Cont.)

GREATER DANDENONG PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
HO49	Facade of the Armytage Own Scout Hall 61A Princes Hwy, Dandenong	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
HO50	Dandenong High School 92-106 Princes Hwy, 15-17 High St & 2-4 Herbert St, Dandenong	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO52	Formerly Gillette Offices & Factory 504-520 Princes Hwy, Noble Park North Incorporated Plan: Gillette Factory incorporated plan (June 2005)	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
HO54	Sandown Racecourse 591-659 Princes Hwy, Springvale Incorporated Plan: Sandown Racecourse incorporated plan (3 December 2002)	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
HO79	Sandown Park Racecourse Grandstand 594-659 Princes Highway, Springvale	-	-	-	-	Yes Ref No H2391	Yes	No
HO55	Necropolis, Crematorium & Chapel Complexes 600-698 Princes Hwy, Springvale Incorporated Plan: The Necropolis incorporated plan (3 December 2002)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
HO56	Formerly International Harvester Factory 1-27 Princes Hwy, Dandenong South Incorporated Plan:	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No

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ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

4.1.1 Amendment C232 - Application of Heritage Overlay - Jarvie House (the Jug House) - 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park (Cont.)

GREATER DANDENONG PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
	International Harvester Factory incorporated plan (24 September 2003)							
HO57	Formerly Heinz factory 43-63 Princes Hwy, Dandenong South Incorporated Plan: Heinz Factory incorporated plan (February 2008)	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO58	Formerly General Motors Holden factory 77-125 Princes Hwy, Dandenong South Incorporated Plan: General Motors Holden Factory incorporated plan (December 2003)	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO59	Shepley Oval Gates Pultney St (eastern end), Dandenong	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
HO60	Elm & Oak Trees Pultney St road reserve & 168-170 Lonsdale St, Dandenong The heritage place is the trees and land beneath the canopy edge of each tree for a distance of five metres from the canopy edge.	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO61	House and Californian Redwoods 73 Pultney St, Dandenong	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO62	St Josephs Churches 25-35 St Johns Ave, Springvale	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
HO63	Formerly McQuade's Garage	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

4.1.1 Amendment C232 - Application of Heritage Overlay - Jarvie House (the Jug House) - 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park (Cont.)

GREATER DANDENONG PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
	18-20 Scott St, Dandenong							
HO64	Formerly Walker's Bakehouse 22-24 Scott St, Dandenong	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
HO65	Uniting Church Complex 34-38 Scott St, Dandenong	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO67	Burden's Buildings 228-230 Springvale Rd, Springvale	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
HO68	Springvale Primary School 355A Springvale Rd, Springvale	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO70	Oak Tree 397-405 Springvale Rd & 2-14 Grace Park Ave, Springvale The heritage place is the oak tree and land beneath the canopy edge of the tree for a distance of five metres from the canopy edge.	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO71	The Natural Resources Conservation League 593 Springvale Road, Springvale South	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
HO73	Chisholm Institute of TAFE 121 Stud Rd, Dandenong	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
HO74	Rossmoyne (house) 23-25 Surrey Rd, Dandenong North	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO75	Formerly Christopherson's Stable 120 Thomas St & 99 Foster St, Dandenong	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

4.1.1 Amendment C232 - Application of Heritage Overlay - Jarvie House (the Jug House) - 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park (Cont.)**GREATER DANDENONG PLANNING SCHEME**

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
HO76	Sime Farmhouse 505 Thompsons Rd, Lyndhurst	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
HO77	Springvale Church of Christ 6 Windsor Ave, Springvale	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO78	Jug or Jarvie House 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Interim Control Expiry Date: 30/05/2022								

4.1.1 Amendment C232 - Application of Heritage Overlay - Jarvie House (the Jug House) - 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park (Cont.)

POLICY AND STRATEGY

AMENDMENT C232 – APPLICATION OF HERITAGE OVERLAY - JARVIE HOUSE (THE JUG HOUSE) – 1054-1060 HEATHERTON ROAD, NOBLE PARK

ATTACHMENT 3

AMENDMENT C232GDAN STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE – POST EXHIBITION TRACKED CHANGES

PAGES 3 (including cover)

If the details of the attachment are unclear please contact Governance on 8571 5235.

4.1.1 Amendment C232 - Application of Heritage Overlay - Jarvie House (the Jug House) - 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park (Cont.)

GREATER DANDENONG PLANNING SCHEME

Statement of Significance: Jug or Jarvie House

Heritage Place:	Jug or Jarvie House; boundary hedges and conifer specimens 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park	PS ref no:	HO78
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Figure 1: House from north (2021)



Figure 2: 'Jug' chimney element (2021)

What is significant?

The 'Jug or Jarvie House' ~~and its garden setting~~, built for patternmaker Peter Jarvie in 1950 at 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park, contains the following contributory elements:

- Plan set diagonally across the corner block, with main living areas facing the street;
- ~~Clipped tapestry hedges, specimen shrubs (conifers), and a~~Curved low masonry fencing typical of the style.
- Concrete path and drive-ways, with surviving centre grass strip ~~for drive~~.
- A 'waterfall' front or street façade (Streamlined Moderne style) of five curved forms including the porch, symmetrically arranged around the entrance.
- A projecting round-cornered cantilevering porch with concrete roof slab set on brick piers and brick paving.
- Variegated unglazed terra-cotta tiles (reds, manganese) on a multi-hipped roof, with deep lined eaves.
- Brick (apparently veneer) external walls that may have been two colour (red and cream) pressed brickwork (the jug and some rear walls) but have been bagged and painted off white.
- Tall red and cream pressed brick 'jug' chimney element set next to the rear pergola, with corbelled cooking or BBQ fireplace set into its base.
- Timber framed, double hung sash windows set in groups of five with soldier course lintels and header sills.
- ~~Timber lattice garden wall, in a Far-Eastern pattern, often emulated with concrete in the 1960s.~~
- ~~Timber pergola at north-west rear corner of house with carved rafters in a Far-Eastern style.~~

The interior elements such as the kitchen joinery are contributory, but the interior as a whole is not locally significant.

This document is an incorporated document in the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme pursuant to section 6(2)(j) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*

OFFICIAL

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

4.1.1 Amendment C232 - Application of Heritage Overlay - Jarvie House (the Jug House) - 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park (Cont.)

GREATER DANDENONG PLANNING SCHEME

How is it significant?

The Jarvie or Jug House is significant historically, aesthetically, and for its rarity and social significance to Noble Park and the City of Greater Dandenong.

Why is it significant?

Historically, the 'Jug or Jarvie house' is a representation of the onset of the post-World War Two housing boom in the hitherto mainly rural area of Noble Park, an area that is now fully urbanised. The use of materials (bagged brickwork) suggests utilisation of those available at the time as a reflection of post-war shortages and limitations. The reported memories of Jarvie by Noble Park identity Fred Wachter of the building and use of the house add a historical context to the place. (Criteria A).

For its rarity as one of the few Streamlined Moderne or 'waterfall' front designs in the City of Greater Dandenong. The successful representation in brickwork of a giant jug as part of the chimney shape is rare across the Melbourne area (Criteria B).

Aesthetically, the 'Jug or Jarvie house' is one of the few Streamlined Moderne or 'waterfall' front designs in the City of Greater Dandenong. The house exhibits a full expression of this domestic style with five (not three) fronts to the 'waterfall' outdoing Robin Boyd's 'Steps in Stylism' model, as well as its diagonal siting across the block allowing views of the elevation from both main roads. The use of the style was often seen as a reflection of the owner-builder's modern outlook and rejection of period revival styles like the prevailing Georgian and Old English. The style has had a recent popular revival as Art Deco, named in the 1960s after the Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes, held in Paris in 1925 (Criteria E).

Social significance is identified by the local community as a local landmark as far back as the 1990s and since the house and its chimney have received wide publicity as an uncommon part of the urban landscape because of the jug shaped chimney (Criteria G).

Primary source

Butler and Associates, Jug or Jarvie House, 1054-1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park - Heritage Assessment (May 2021).

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026)

File Id:	A7869795
Responsible Officer:	Director Community Services
Attachments:	(Draft) Children's Plan (2021-2026) Children's Plan (2021-2026) Key themes in the data and literature

1. Report Summary

The drafted Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Attachment 1) updates the previously endorsed Children's Plan 2015-2019 (endorsed 11 May 2015).

It provides Council with a strategic framework to direct its efforts in improving the health and wellbeing of children and their families. The Plan articulates Council's role and priorities in supporting children and families and identifies a range of new and ongoing actions to implement over the coming five years.

2. Recommendation Summary

This report recommends that Council endorses the Greater Dandenong Council Children's Plan (2021-2026).

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

3. Background

Council's vision for children and their families is to be valued, celebrated, respected and supported to reach their full potential.

The Children's Plan (2021-2026) development has been informed by consultation extensive evidence-based research (refer to Attachment 2), including consultation with children and families; benchmarking of local service providers; consultation with internal Council departments; and review of other relevant plans, strategies and policy frameworks at a Local, State and Federal Government level to align activities for children (0-13 years) and their families.

Council will develop annual action plans to support the implementation of the Children's Plan (2021-2026). The annual review of the Plan will consider:

- the extent to which the actions have been implemented over the course of the Plan
- identify emerging trends and opportunities and
- be responsive to changing needs and interests of children and their families throughout the planning cycle.

4. Discussion and Options

As a *Child Friendly City*, Council are committed to supporting and providing opportunities for children and their families. Council in planning the Children's Plan (2021-2026) is guided by the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Child Friendly Cities Framework and being a signatory to the Victorian Child Friendly Cities and Communities Charter.

Council works from a social model of health, recognising the multiple factors influencing a person's health and wellbeing by individual characteristics, lifestyle factors, social, economic and environmental factors. Children's wellbeing is also strongly influenced by their families and community context. All levels of government have a key role to play in supporting children and their families in shaping the community.

Children have told us in consultation that:

- They value working with the Council to make decisions, having a say in their city and helping the community.
- 'Being healthy' means not only being physically fit and well, but also 'having a nice positive mind' and being 'happy, energetic and ready to learn'.
- Education is important as it helps community and families be better, to communicate with everyone, and to get a job in the future.
- They feel safe when they are with people they know will support and protect them.
- Sometimes adults have a different way of thinking, while children have a different way from adults, which can really help.

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

4.1 Principles

Council is committed to the following principles which underpin the development and implementation of the Children's Plan (2021-2026) through:

- **Leadership, Advocacy, Planning and Partnerships**

Lead, advocate, plan and work in partnership to strengthen the local service system to be responsive to the changing needs of children and families.

- **Child and Family Centred Practice**

Facilitate a strengths-based partnership approach in engaging families to uphold the best interests for children.

- **Continuous Improvement**

Strive for continuous improvement that is evidence-based and consultative in the development of programs and services for children and families.

- **Participation and Engagement**

Engage children in meaningful discussion and decision-making as active members in the community.

- **Diversity**

Reflect and value the diversity of childrens' backgrounds, opinions and experiences in the community.

- **Climate Change and Sustainability**

Engage children in discussions on climate change and sustainability measures impacting their community.

4.2 The Role of Council

Council is uniquely positioned to support positive outcomes for children and families, through close contact with the community, listening to the voices of children and families directly and to facilitate community participation in planning and development.

Council provides a wide range of essential services and supports to children and families. Its role is diverse and includes being a:

- **Leader:** collaborate with tiers of government and service providers, to identify needs and mobilise innovative responses.
- **Planner:** together with service providers, stakeholders and community, identify gaps and opportunities for responses.

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

- **Advocate:** provide advocacy on local needs and priority areas of concern for children, young people and families.
- **Provider:** facilitate opportunities for children and their families to actively participate in community and civic life.

4.3 Vision

Our vision for children and their families is to be valued, celebrated, respected and supported to reach their full potential.

4.4 Strategic Objectives

Strategic Objective One: Provide leadership and advocacy in planning for children and families

Council has a central role to play in local infrastructure, service planning and the provision of high quality, sustainable services. Close proximity to the community means Council is well-placed to be an advocate for community needs in working with all levels of government, various sectors, organisations, services and community members to create effective community outcomes and provide leadership and advocacy in planning for children and families.

Strategic Objective Two: Strengthen health and wellbeing outcomes for children and families.

Council supports positive health and wellbeing outcomes for children and families through universal health services, health promotion and prevention activities, building resilience in children and strengthening families through early intervention support services and promoting social inclusion and connectedness.

Strategic Objective Three: Support engagement in learning, skill development and vocational pathways

Learning 'is a continuous process throughout life'; children 'learn through a variety of formal and informal experiences within the classroom and more broadly in their home and in the community.' Council supports the provision of high-quality early learning and care services throughout the municipality.

Strategic Objective Four: Improve safety and accessibility for children and families to participate in the community

Council has an important role to play in supporting the safety of children and families from bullying, discrimination and in accessing public spaces and amenities.

Strategic Objective Five: Value active participation and engagement of children, and families in the community

Children's voices and opinions are taken into consideration and influence governance, decision making at a local level including laws, policies, programs and budget to improve the lives of children and to create sustainable environments now and into the future, Council values active participation and engagement of children and families in the community.

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

4.5 Annual Action Plans

In striving for continuous improvement, annual action plans will support the implementation of the Children's Plan to be responsive to community needs and expectations.

5. Proposal

The Vision of the Children's Plan (2021-2026) is to further embed the City of Greater Dandenong as a Child Friendly City, in which all children and their families are 'valued, celebrated, respected and supported to reach their full potential.'

We propose to support five above key strategic objectives, they include:

- Council leads and advocates for the planning and provision of services for children and families
- Children and families have access to services to improve their health and wellbeing
- Children and families are given opportunities to learn and develop
- Children and families have access to services and the community works together to ensure their safety
- Children have opportunities to participate within the community as active citizens and children's voices are heard through consultation in planning and implementation of programs.

5.1 Priority Actions

The Children's Plan (2021-2026) identifies 29 key actions under the above strategic objectives which include actions to:

- Explore external funding opportunities to be responsive to policy change in implementing timely three-year-old kindergarten provision
- Increase awareness of mental health and supports available for children and families
- Strengthen the capacity of parents and carers to support children's learning and development
- Develop pathways for newly arrived and refugee families to access English language education to support children's literacy and learning
- Promote activities that encourage gender, race and disability equity for children
- Support children to participate in climate change and sustainability measures impacting community life.

6. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

7. Consultation

The Children's Plan (2021-2026) outlines an integrated approach in working together with and for children (0-13 years), acknowledging the important role of parents, carers and their extended families in supporting each child's development in education, health and wellbeing. Consultation and community engagement is an integral part of the Plan.

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

Families, children and service providers were all consulted in the development of the Children's Plan 2021-2026, consultation occurred through targeted conversations in reviewing The Children's Plan 2015-2019. Children were consulted through the Children's Advisory Group and annual Children's Forum, while feedback from families was sought through the Supported Playgroups Program each term (over 150 families). Service Providers provided feedback through the Child and Family Partnership whose membership consists of over 60 local service providers from a wide range of areas such as:

- Early Years Services
- Schools
- Health Services
- Housing Services and
- Other community support services.

Community Consultation was also undertaken through Council's website, which contained a survey link. This opportunity was promoted through local Primary Schools and Early Years Services including Family Day Care, and through the Child and Family Partnership Network. The primary reliance on online forms of engagement was primarily due to the impact of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions in Victoria, where early years services and schools were not able to be visited to promote the survey.

8. Community Plan 'Imagine 2030' and Council Plan 2017-21 – Strategic Objectives, Strategies and Plans

After consultation with the Greater Dandenong community on what kind of future they wanted to see for themselves and the City in 2030, the result was the Greater Dandenong Community Plan 'Imagine 2030'. This report is consistent with the following community visions:

Community Plan 'Imagine 2030'

People

- *Pride* – Best place best people
- *Cultural Diversity* – Model multicultural community
- *Outdoor Activity and Sports* – Recreation for everyone
- *Lifecycle and Social Support* – The generations supported

Place

- *Sense of Place* – One city many neighbourhoods
- *Safety in Streets and Places* – Feeling and being safe
- *Appearance of Places* – Places and buildings
- *Travel and Transport* – Easy to get around

Opportunity

- *Education, Learning and Information* – Knowledge
- *Leadership by the Council* – The leading Council

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

9. Council Plan 2017-21

The Council Plan describes the kind of future the Council is working for, and how Council will do this over four (4) years. This report is consistent with the following goals:

People

- *A vibrant, connected and safe community*
- *A creative city that respects and embraces diversity*

Place

- *A healthy, liveable and sustainable city*
- *A city planned for the future*

Opportunity

- *An open and effective Council*

10. 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. The Children's Plan (2021-2026) gives expression to these principles by:

- seeking the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations (S. 9b). In particular, The drafted Children's Plan (2021-2026) seeks to ensure that all children and their families are respected, celebrated and supported to reach their full potential, and that considerations of their needs, preferences and circumstances influences the development of Council services, plans and policies
- addressing the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district including efforts to ease the impact of climate change and lessen its risks (S. 9c). The drafted Children's Plan (2021-2026) has no direct economic and environmental impact upon the community but contributes to social sustainability through the provision of opportunities for children and families to participate in climate change discussions.
- ensuring the municipal community is included in strategic planning and strategic decision making (S. 9d and S. 56). Consultation and community engagement is a central element of the drafted Children's Plan (2021-2026). Particular emphasis on the participation in decision-making and engagement by children, is noted throughout the Plan.
- maintaining innovation and continuous improvement (S. 9e). The drafted Children's Plan (2021-2026) is underpinned by the above principles including continuous improvement.
- collaboration with other councils and governments and statutory bodies (S. 9f). The drafted Children's Plan (2021-2026) outlines collaboration and advocacy with other council, all levels of government and statutory bodies.
- supporting transparency of council decisions, actions and information (S. 9h and S. 58).

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

Transparency is reflected in the preparation and content of the Children's Plan 2021-2026, which has been developed after consultation with the community, and will be disseminated to residents through appropriate media and means.

11. 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 of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* (the Charter) has been considered in the preparation of this report, but also the *UN Convention on the Rights of a Child 1990*.

The Plan outlines Council's role in valuing, celebrating, respecting, and supporting children and families to reach their full potential, in doing this, the Children's Plan relates to the following areas of the Charter:

- Section 13 – Right to privacy and reputation
- Section 14 – Right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief
- Section 15 – Right to freedom of expression
- Section 17 – Right to the protection of families and children
- Section 18 – Right to have the opportunity to take part in public life and to vote
- Section 19 – Right to enjoy one's culture, practice religion or use one's own language and in the case of Aboriginal persons, the right to have distinct cultural rights.

12. 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.

Council's Diversity, Access and Equity Policy and the *Gender Equality Act 2020* have been considered in the preparation of this report but are not relevant to its contents. The content (of this report) is purely administrative in nature and does not benefit any one gender group over any other.

The Children's Plan (2021-2026) advances this purpose, considering the needs of children and their families, emphasising children's personal safety and the prevention of violence, and affirming the rights of adults and children of all genders to respect and equal opportunity.

13. 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.

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

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.

Council's Declaration on a Climate and Ecological Emergency, Council's Climate Change Emergency Strategy 2020-2030 and the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* in relation to the overarching governance principle on climate change and sustainability have been considered in the preparation of this report but are not relevant to its contents. The Children's Plan does not outline any measures to reduce Climate change or enhance sustainability. Rather it looks at Climate Change and Sustainability through the lens of engaging children in discussions on climate change and sustainability measures impacting their community.

14. Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks

Legislation (in alpha order)

- *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*
- *Gender Equality Act 2020*
- *Local Government Act 2020*
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987*

Related Council and Other Policies, Procedures, Strategies, Protocols, Guidelines (in alpha order)

- Greater Dandenong City Council A Safe and Harmonious Greater Dandenong. A community safety plan for Greater Dandenong 2015-22
- Greater Dandenong City Council Access, Diversity and Equity Policy
- Greater Dandenong City Council [Asset Management Strategy 2015-2022](#)
- Greater Dandenong City Council Children's Plan 2015-2019
- Greater Dandenong City Council Child Safe Policy
- Greater Dandenong City Council City of Greater Dandenong Library Strategy 2018-2023
- Greater Dandenong City Council City of Greater Dandenong Make Your Move Physical Activity Strategy 2020 – 2030 (Discussion Paper)
- Greater Dandenong City Council City of Greater Dandenong Reconciliation Action Plan 2017-2019 (updated 2019 to extend to 2020)
- Greater Dandenong City Council Climate Change Emergency Strategy and Action Plan 2020-30
- Greater Dandenong City Council Council Plan 2017-21 and 2021-2025
- Greater Dandenong City Council [Community Engagement Policy \(2021\)](#)
- Greater Dandenong City Council Community Facilities Management
- Greater Dandenong City Council Community Funding Program
- Greater Dandenong City Council Community Support Grants
- Greater Dandenong City Council [Disability Action Plan 2017-23](#)

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

- Greater Dandenong City Council [Greater Dandenong Community Engagement Planning Framework 2019](#)
- Greater Dandenong City Council Greater Dandenong People Seeking Asylum and Refugees Action Plan 2018-2021
- Greater Dandenong City Council Library Strategy Action Plan 2018-2021
- Greater Dandenong City Council Imagine 2030 Community Plan
- Greater Dandenong City Council Multi Use of Community Facilities
- Greater Dandenong City Council Open Space Strategy (Draft 2019)
- Greater Dandenong City Council Satisfaction Procedure and Form
- Greater Dandenong City Council Community Wellbeing Plan 2017-21
- Greater Dandenong City Council Youth Strategy 2014-18

15. Conclusion

The Children's Plan (2021-2026) will provide an ongoing commitment from Council to:

- lead and advocate for the planning and provision of services for children and families
- access services to improve children's health and wellbeing
- provide opportunities to learn and develop
- ensure children's safety, and
- provide opportunities to participate within the community as active citizens.

The Children's Plan (2021-2026) will also provide continuing opportunities for Council to develop external relationships with both government and not-for-profit agencies to build on the key strategic objectives of the Plan.

16. Recommendation

That Council endorses the Greater Dandenong Children's Plan (2021-2026).

MINUTE 234

Moved by: Cr Richard Lim

Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad

That Council endorses the Greater Dandenong Children's Plan (2021-2026).

CARRIED

For the Motion: Cr Lana Formoso, Cr Eden Foster, Cr Rhonda Garad, Cr Richard Lim, Cr Jim Memeti, Cr Sean O'Reilly, Cr Sophie Tan, Cr Angela Long.

Against the Motion: Cr Tim Dark, Cr Bob Milkovic.

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

OTHER

CHILDREN'S PLAN (2021-2026)

ATTACHMENT 1

(DRAFT) CHILDREN'S PLAN (2021-2026)

PAGES 25 (including cover)

If the details of the attachment are unclear please contact Governance on 8571 5235.

4.1.2 Children’s Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



Children’s Plan 2021–2026



GREATER
DANDENONG
City of Opportunity



4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



The City of Greater Dandenong respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, their spirits and ancestors. We recognise and respect their continuing connections to climate, culture and Country.

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

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4.1.2 Children’s Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

Introduction

Commitment

The City of Greater Dandenong, as a Child Friendly City, is committed to supporting and providing opportunities for children and their families.

Council is guided by the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities Framework and being a signatory to the Victorian Child Friendly Cities and Communities Charter. The Charter has been developed specifically for Local Governments, organisations and individuals to take actions that protect the rights of children up to the age of 18 years. It is primarily concerned with increasing participation and creating child-friendly environments.

The City of Greater Dandenong upholds the Victorian Charter for Human Rights and Responsibilities. The Charter contains 20 rights to protect freedom, respect, equality and dignity and all Local Governments, along with the State Government and other public authorities, must adhere to it.

The City of Greater Dandenong complies with the Victorian Child Safe Standards and Reportable Conduct Scheme. The Standards and Scheme seek to prevent the abuse of children to the age of 18 years and are mandatory for all organisations providing them with services.



Vision

The City of Greater Dandenong's vision for children and their families is to be valued, celebrated, respected and supported to reach their full potential.

Strategic approach in planning for children

The Children's Plan outlines an integrated approach in working together with and for children 0–13 years, acknowledging the important role of parents, carers and their extended families in supporting each child's development in education, health and wellbeing.



4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

Development of the Plan

The development of the Children's Plan has been informed by an extensive evidence-base developed by Council, including:

- Consultation with children, local service providers and relevant Council departments;
- A review of relevant policy frameworks at a local, state and federal level;
- Benchmarking activities;
- Review of the objectives of Council's Imagine 2030 Community Plan, Council and Community Wellbeing Plans;
- Review of the previous Children's Plan 2015-2019;
- Review of other Council strategies and plans to ensure an alignment of activities.

Review and development of the Plan

The City of Greater Dandenong will undertake annual action plans to accompany the Children's Plan review. The review of the plan will consider:

- The extent to which the actions have been implemented over the course of the plan
- To identify emerging trends and opportunities
- Being responsive to changing needs and interests of children and their families.

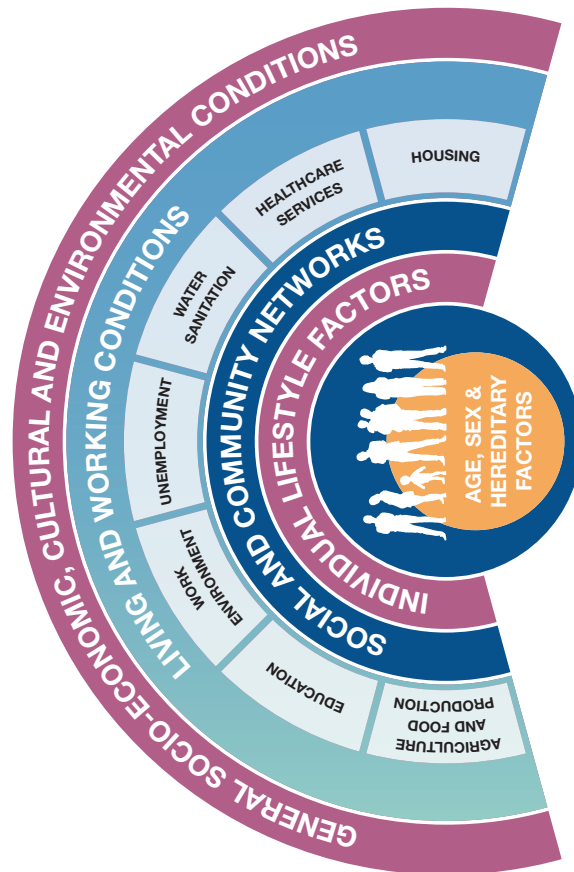


The role of Council

The City of Greater Dandenong is uniquely positioned to support positive outcomes for children and families. Council's close contact with the community is well placed to listen to the voices of children and families directly and to facilitate community participation. Council provides a wide range of essential services and supports to children and families. Council's role is diverse and includes:

- Leader:** collaborate with tiers of government and service providers, to identify needs and mobilise innovative responses.
- Planner:** together with service providers, stakeholders and community, identify gaps and opportunities for responses.
- Advocate:** provide advocacy on local needs and priority areas of concern for children, young people and families.
- Provider:** facilitate opportunities for children, young people and their families to actively participate in community and civic life.

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



A social model of health

Council works from a social model of health, recognising the multiple factors influencing a persons' health and wellbeing by individual characteristics, lifestyle factors, social, economic and environmental factors. Children wellbeing is also strongly influenced by their family and community context. All levels of government have a key role to play in supporting families and shaping the community.

All levels of government have a key role to play in supporting families and shaping the community.



4.1.2 Children’s Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

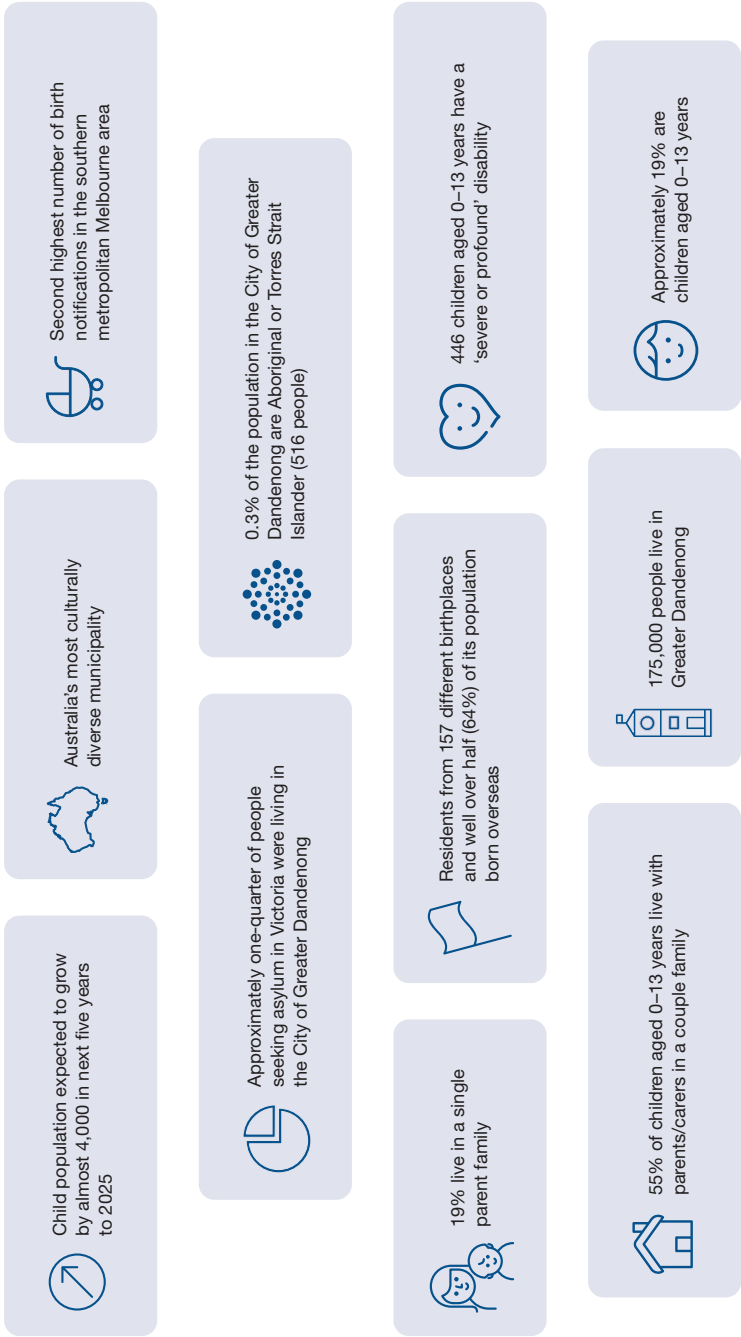


4.1.2 Children’s Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



4.1.2 Children’s Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

A demographic snapshot of children and their families



4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

Integrated Vision and Strategic Planning

'Children and their families are valued, celebrated, respected and supported to reach their full potential'

IMAGINE 2030 COUNCIL PLAN		COUNCIL PLAN		COMMUNITY WELLBEING PLAN		CHILDREN'S PLAN	
THEME		STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES		PRIORITIES		STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	
OPPORTUNITY		An open and effective Council		Safety, engagement and social cohesion		Provide leadership and advocacy in planning for children and families	
PEOPLE		A vibrant, connected and safe community					
PEOPLE		A vibrant, connected and safe community		Mental and physical health		Strengthen health and wellbeing outcomes for children and families.	
PEOPLE		A vibrant, connected and safe community		Learning and employment		Support engagement in learning, skill development and vocational pathways	
PEOPLE		A vibrant, connected and safe community		Safety, engagement and social cohesion		Improve safety and accessibility for children and families to participate in the community	
PEOPLE		A vibrant, connected and safe community A creative city that respects and embraces its diversity		Safety, engagement and social cohesion		Value active participation and engagement of children and families in the community	

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

Principles

Council is committed to the following principles which underpin the development and implementation of the City of Greater Dandenong's Children's Plan

1. Leadership, Advocacy, Planning and Partnerships

Lead, advocate, plan and work in partnership to strengthen the local service system to be responsive to the changing needs of children and families.

2. Child and Family Centred Practice

Facilitate a strengths-based partnership approach in engaging families to uphold the best interests for children.

3. Continuous Improvement

Strive for continuous improvement that is evidence-based and consultative in the development of programs and services for children and families.

4. Participation and Engagement

Engage children in meaningful discussion and decision-making as active members in the community.

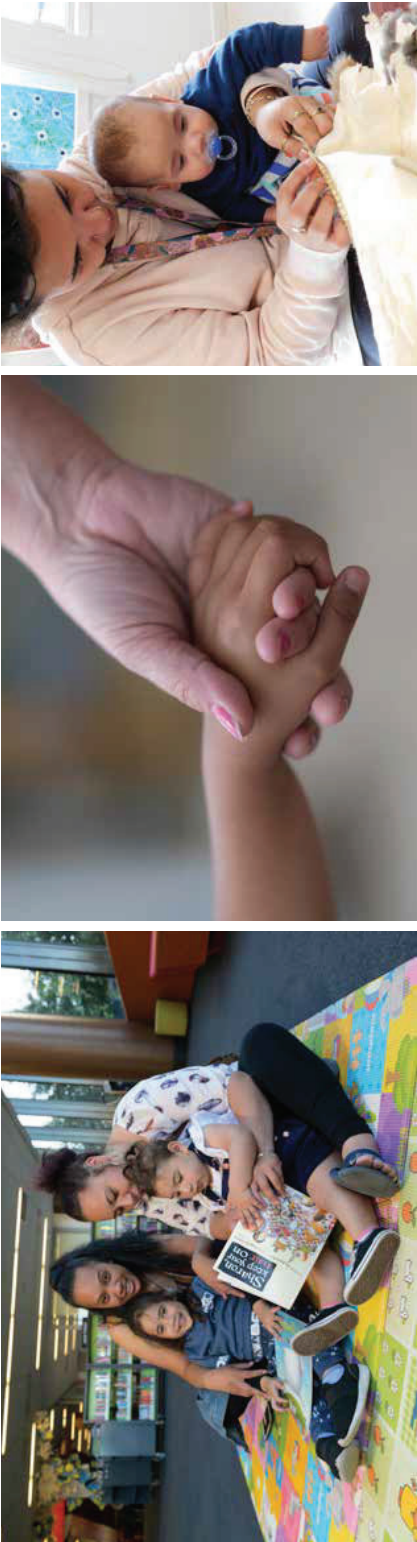
5. Diversity

Reflect and value the diversity of children backgrounds, opinions and experiences in the community.

6. Climate Change and Sustainability

Engage children in discussions on climate change and sustainability measures impacting their community.

4.1.2 Children’s Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



Strategic Objective 1: Provide leadership and advocacy in planning for children and families

The City of Greater Dandenong has a central role to play in local infrastructure, service planning and the provision of high quality, sustainable services. Council's close proximity to the community means it is well-placed to be an advocate for community needs. Council works with all levels of government, various sectors, organisations, services and community members to create effective community outcomes.



4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

Children have told us they value working with the Council to make decisions, having a say in their city and helping the community.¹

STRATEGIC KEY ACTIONS	OUTCOMES
1.1 Facilitate local service networks and joint planning to meet the changing needs of children and families	• Responsive service planning for community needs
1.2 Explore external funding opportunities to be responsive to policy change in implementing timely three year old kindergarten provision.	• External funding secured to meet community infrastructure needs
1.3 Advocate for the provision of flexible, quality, affordable child-care options for families	• Increased access to child-care
1.4 Advocate for continued funding to the national quality reforms for child-care and early childhood	• National quality reforms funded
1.5 Advocate for the provision of support services dedicated to helping children and their families living in generational and situational disadvantage	• Increased opportunities for social and economic participation
1.6 Advocate for additional funding sources to support the Community Hubs in Schools model	• Community Hubs in Schools funded
1.7 Undertake infrastructure planning to ensure timely and targeted provision of facilities and services for children and families	• Timely infrastructure development to meet community needs



4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



Strategic Objective 2: Strengthen health and wellbeing outcomes for children and families

Health and wellbeing encompasses physical, emotional and mental health. Council supports positive health and wellbeing outcomes for children and families through:

- universal health services
- health promotion and prevention activities
- building resilience in children and strengthening families
- early intervention support services
- promoting social inclusion and connectedness.



4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

*Children have told us that 'being healthy' means not only being physically fit and well but also 'having a nice positive mind' and being 'happy, energetic and ready to learn.'*²

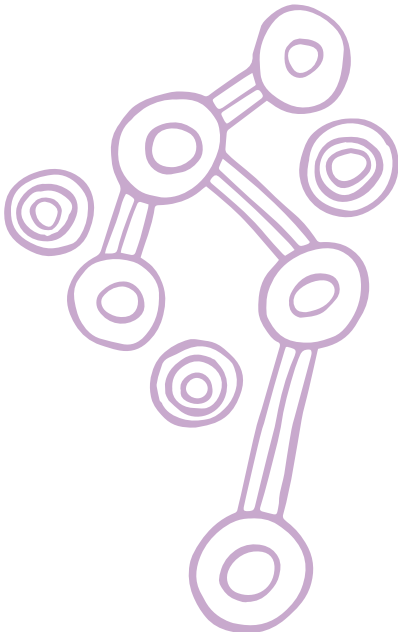
STRATEGIC KEY ACTIONS	OUTCOMES
2.1 Increase participation of families with children aged 12 months and older in maternal and child health consultations	• Early identification of developmental vulnerabilities in children over 12 months of age • Improved maternal health outcomes
2.2 Increase attendance of vulnerable, refugee and newly arrived children at immunisation sessions	• Improved immunisation rates across vulnerable cohorts
2.3 Encourage children and families to be physically active and participate in sport and recreational opportunities	• Reduced barriers for participation in sport and recreation • Improved physical and mental health and wellbeing
2.4 Support preventative health initiatives and education for children and families in: • nutrition and healthy eating • dental health and hygiene • adequate sleep and exercise • self-care and resilience	• Improved physical and mental health wellbeing • Reduction in obesity and health related problems • Build resilient communities
2.5 Increase awareness of mental health and supports available for children and families	• Improved mental health and wellbeing
2.6 Support initiatives to reduce the adverse effects of alcohol and drug use impacting children and their families	• Reduced alcohol consumption and drug abuse
2.7 Support opportunities for children and their families to build social connections	• Improved social connectedness
2.8 Develop partnerships with key health and wellbeing agencies to deliver activities to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families	• Improved health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families

4.1.2 Children’s Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



Strategic Objective 3: Support engagement in learning, skill development and vocational pathways

Learning 'is a continuous process throughout life', children 'learn through a variety of formal and informal experiences within the classroom and more broadly in their home and in the community.' Council supports the provision of high quality early learning and care services.



4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

Children have told us that education is important as it helps community and families be better, to communicate with everyone, and to get a job in the future.³

STRATEGIC KEY ACTIONS	OUTCOMES
3.1 Promote and support children to enrol in and participate in 3 and 4 year old Kindergarten programs, particularly vulnerable children	Increased participation rates in 3 and 4 year old kindergarten programs
3.2 Strengthen the capacity of parents and carers to support children's learning and development	- Increased parenting skills - Improved learning outcomes for children
3.3 Support initiatives and activities for successful transition of children through key educational milestones of kindergarten, school and special education	Children successfully navigate key transition periods of education
3.4 Develop pathways for newly arrived and refugee families to access English language education to support children's literacy and learning	Improved English language literacy and learning

4.1.2 Children’s Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



Strategic Objective 4: Improve safety and accessibility for children and families to participate in the community

Council has an important role to play in supporting the safety of children and families from bullying, discrimination and in accessing public spaces and amenities throughout the municipality.

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

Children have told us that they feel safe when they are with people they know will support and protect them⁴

STRATEGIC KEY ACTIONS	OUTCOMES
4.1 Support initiatives to address family violence	Reduced incidence of family violence
4.2 Support positive parenting programs to build the capacity of parents and carers	Improved parenting skills
4.3 Promote activities that encourage gender, race and disability equity for children	Improved personal safety
4.4 Provide welcoming, safe, inclusive and culturally responsive services	Improved safety and accessibility
4.5 Activate safe and accessible public spaces and amenities for children	Improved perception of safety



4.1.2 Children’s Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



Strategic Objective 5: Value active participation and engagement of children, and families in the community

A child friendly city implements the 'Convention on the Rights of the Child' (1990) to local communities in partnership with children. Central to the Child Friendly City concept is that children's 'voices and opinions are taken into consideration and influence governance, decision making at a local level including laws, policies, programs and budget to improve the lives of children and to create sustainable environments now and into the future.



4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

*"Sometimes adults have a different way of thinking while children have a different way from adults which can really help."*⁵

STRATEGIC KEY ACTIONS	OUTCOMES
5.1 Support children to actively participate in planning of the natural, built, environmental and economic processes of Council that impact their daily living	Improved children's participation in Council planning processes
5.2 Provide opportunities for children to be involved in civic engagement and leadership	- Active participation in civic engagement - Development of leadership skills
5.3 Support initiatives that promote a positive sense of pride in culture, identity and belonging for children	Improved sense of identity and belonging
5.4 Celebrate the contributions of children as active citizens	Formalised recognition
5.5 Support children to participate in climate change and sustainability measures impacting community life	Active participation in climate planning processes

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



Definitions

Universal service – everyone in a population has access to publicly available communication network of facilities and services

Appendix A: Aligned Council Plans and Strategies

- A Safe and Harmonious Greater Dandenong. A community safety plan for Greater Dandenong 2015–22
- Greater Dandenong People Seeking Asylum and Refugees Action Plan 2018–2021
- City of Greater Dandenong Disability Action Plan 2017–2023

- City of Greater Dandenong Reconciliation Action Plan 2017–2019 (updated 2019 to extend to 2020)

- City of Greater Dandenong Library Strategy 2018–2023 and Library Strategy Action Plan 2018–2021

- City of Greater Dandenong Open Space Strategy (Draft 2019)

- City of Greater Dandenong Make Your Move Physical Activity Strategy 2020–2030 (Discussion Paper)

- Greater Dandenong Climate Change Strategy 2020–2030 (Draft)

- Youth and Family Strategy 2015–2020 & 2021–2026 (Draft)

Endnotes

- ¹ City of Greater Dandenong (2020) Children's Advisory Group member feedback noted within November meeting minutes.
- ² City of Greater Dandenong (2018) Activate Us Workshop, reported in the *City of Greater Dandenong Children's Voice 2018 Report*.
- ³ City of Greater Dandenong (2018) Voice Lab Workshop, internal report.
- ⁴ City of Greater Dandenong (2019) Voice Lab workshop, reported in the *Children's Forum 2019 Report*.
- ⁵ City of Greater Dandenong (2019) Voice Lab Workshop Transcript.

Indigenous symbols throughout the Children's Plan have been extracted from Emma Bamblett's painting commissioned for the Reconciliation Action Plan. For artwork descriptions please visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/reconciliation-action-plan

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

OTHER

CHILDREN'S PLAN (2021-2026)

ATTACHMENT 2

**(DRAFT) CHILDREN'S PLAN (2021-2026) KEY
THEEMS IN THE DATA AND LITERATURE**

PAGES 53 (including cover)

If the details of the attachment are unclear please contact Governance on 8571 5235.

4.1.2 Children’s Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



Children’s Plan 2021–2026

Key themes in the data and literature





4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

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4.1.2 Children’s Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

Introduction

This background has been developed to inform a new Children’s Plan 2021–26 for the City of Greater Dandenong.

It presents data, information and research of relevance to demographics, health and wellbeing, education, employment, safety, engagement and participation given their relevance to the priority focus areas identified for the new plan. It also provides a summary of potential alignments with existing Council strategies and plans and relevant state and federal policies and strategies.

Demographics

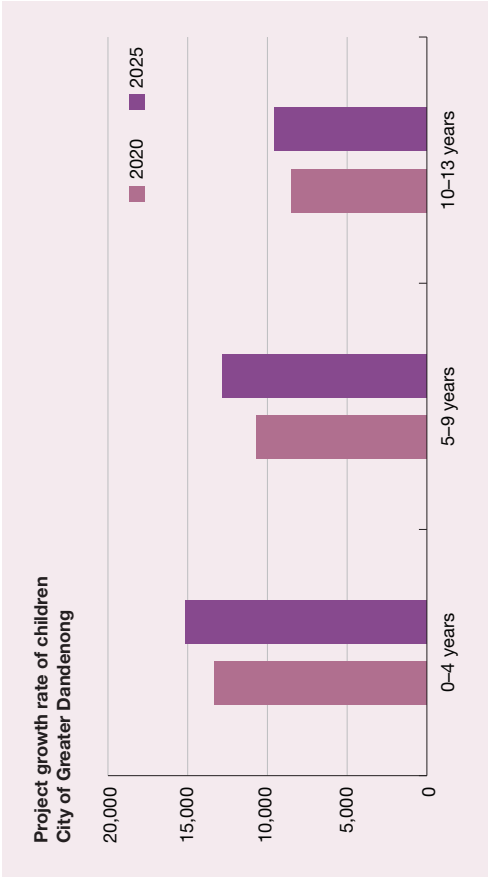
The population of the City of Greater Dandenong was approximately 174,000 in 2019. By 2025 the population of Greater Dandenong (not inclusive of Sandown estimates) is expected to have increased by 10% to 193,946 people.¹

In 2020, around 19% of the population in the City of Greater Dandenong are children, including approximately:

- 30,837 children aged 0 to 13 years-old

Predicted populations of children and 2020 to 2025

The following graph illustrates the predicted population by age groups for the population of children from 0–13 years for Greater Dandenong (not inclusive of Sandown estimates):



The suburbs with the highest predicted increase in the number of children across all age cohorts are Dandenong, followed by Noble Park and Springvale.²

2 CHILDREN’S PLAN 2021–2026

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



Families/households with children

The 2016 Census recorded 38,471 families in Greater Dandenong.³ In over three quarters of families with children* in Greater Dandenong in 2016, the parents were born overseas. This is significantly higher than the state average of a quarter of families.⁴ In terms of households in which children live:

- 55% of children aged 0–13 years live with parents/carers in a couple family and 19% live in a single parent family.⁵

Nearly two thirds (63%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families with children* in Greater Dandenong were one-parent families.⁶

Birth rates

Over the 2017–2018 year there were 2,458 birth notifications in the City of Greater Dandenong.⁷ This is the second largest number in the South-Eastern Region for the year, second to Casey (5,140 births) and followed by Frankston (1,906 births). This birth rate was similar to that recorded for the City of Greater Dandenong in the 2016–2017 year (2,465 births), and the 2014–2015 year (2,412 births).^{8,9}

Young parents

Data indicates that there are proportionately more young parents in the City of Greater Dandenong than in Metropolitan Melbourne. In 2017, birth rates were higher among women aged 15 to 19 years (10 births per 1,000 women in Greater Dandenong, compared with 4 per 1,000 for Melbourne) and 20 to 24 years (51 per 1,000 in Greater Dandenong compared to 28 per 1,000 for Melbourne).⁹

It should be noted that 'fertility rates are influenced by educational, experience, birthplace and generational factors'.¹⁰ In relation to birthplace, 2016 Census data tells us that of the women aged 20–24 residing in the City of Greater Dandenong who had ever had a baby, 31% were born in Australia and 69% were born overseas, from a wide variety of birthplaces (17 in total). The most common overseas birthplaces were Afghanistan (83, or 22% of the overseas born cohort), Burma (56, or 15% of the overseas born cohort), Cambodia (51, or 13% of the overseas born cohort) and Vietnam (35, or 9% of the overseas born cohort).

* In this instance the census data refers to families with children under 15 years of age.

⁹ Note: No regional reporting was available for the 2015–2016 year.

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



Cultural diversity

The City of Greater Dandenong is 'the most culturally diverse locality in Australia, with residents from 157 different birthplaces and well over half (64%) of its population born overseas.'¹¹ The 2016 Census reports the most common birthplaces of overseas born residents as being Vietnam, India, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and China.¹² It also reports that 70% of residents speak a language other than English at home, representing 'the largest proportion in Victoria and more than twice the Victorian level of 31%.¹³ Additionally, 'one in seven has limited fluency in the use of spoken English.'¹⁴

Further, data shows that:

- 1,806 migrants settled in Greater Dandenong in the 2016/17 year (the fourth highest number in Victoria). A quarter of these were humanitarian migrants (388).¹⁵
- 1069 children 0–13 years residing in the City of Greater Dandenong were recently arrived migrants (had arrived in the previous 4.5 years) in 2016.¹⁶ The total number of 1069, representing 17% of the population of this age group at the time.¹⁷ 22% of the 6,354 asylum seekers who had arrived by boat and were living in Victoria in September 2019, resided in the City of Greater Dandenong – the largest number in any Victorian municipality.¹⁸ While data specific to the cohort living in Greater Dandenong is not available as an age-breakdown, 16% of the total 6,354 asylum seekers in Victoria were between 0 and 13 years old.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population

When considering data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations, it should be noted that Census data may under-report the numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.¹⁹ It is also important to note that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who reside outside of the City of Greater Dandenong may travel into the area to access district/regional services, such as the Dandenong and District Aborigines Cooperative. The 2016 Census reported that 0.3% of the population in the City of Greater Dandenong was Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (516 people). As is the case nationally, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population living in Greater Dandenong is relatively young – almost 29% of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents are under 13 years.²⁰

Disability

The 2016 Census data reported 9,645 people living in the City of Greater Dandenong had a 'severe or profound' disability. Of these, 446 were children aged 0–13 years, representing just under 2% of this age group and 4.6% of the total.²¹ The 'number of people of each birthplace who have a severe or profound disability largely reflects the overall mix of birthplaces in Greater Dandenong and the age profile of residents of each birthplace.'²²

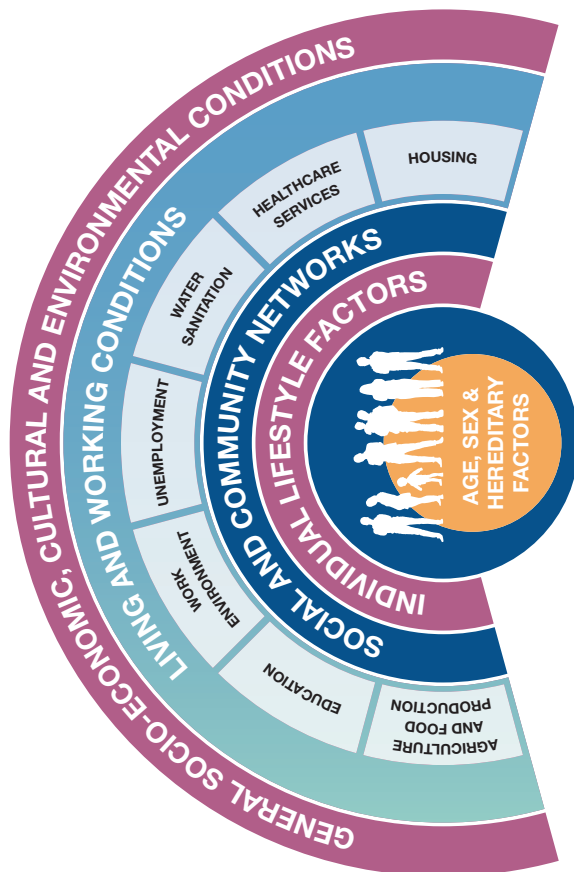
It should be noted that there are recognised challenges in accurately reporting the number of children and young people with a disability, including issues relating to definition of disability and the evolving nature of identification of disability as children and young people develop.

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

Social Model of Health

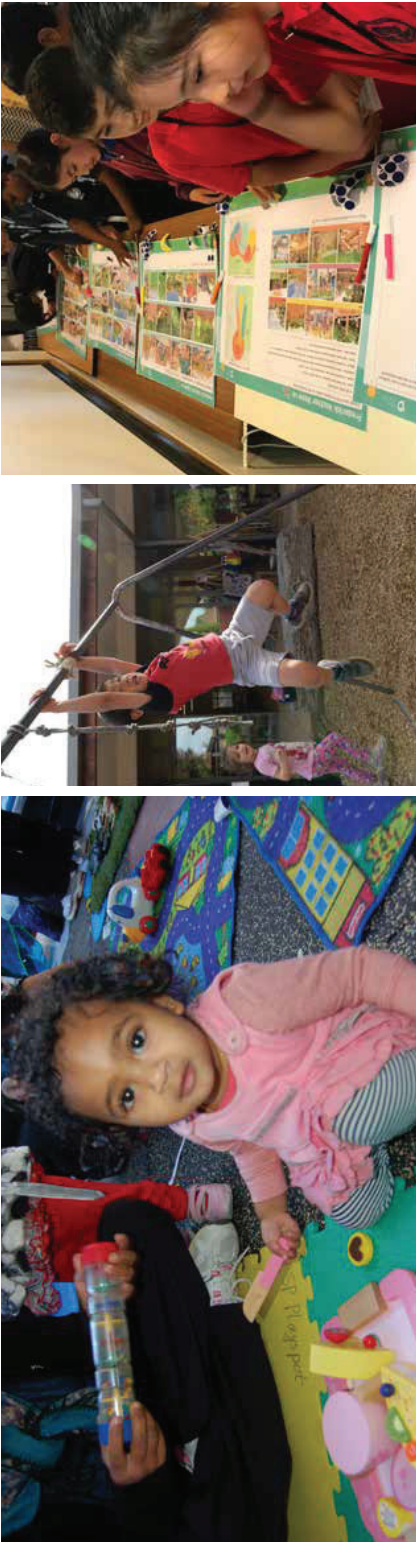
A social model of health approach to the plan for service delivery recognises the changing developmental stages children experience. It involves identifying opportunities along the life-course to make a positive impact to enhance wellbeing. It also recognises that earlier life experiences impact on later outcomes for children, and therefore requires a focus on prevention and early intervention to positively shape outcomes along the life-course.

...identifying opportunities along the life-course to make a positive impact to enhance wellbeing



Key themes in the data and literature 5

4.1.2 Children’s Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



Development of children

The first 1000 days
The critical importance of the first 1000 days of a child’s development is well documented in evidence. This first 1000 days includes ‘the period from conception to the end of a child’s second year’ and ‘the significance of environments and experiences during this period.’ Alongside the provision of quality services to support children and parents at this time, research points to the importance of ‘reducing inequities and ensuring the best start to life for everyone, irrespective of socioeconomic status, race, or gender, must be an ethical and economic imperative for all governments.’²³

Early childhood

Research tells us that ‘the foundations for a child’s long-term development are laid in early childhood. In these years, children develop crucial cognitive and emotional skills such as reasoning, problem solving and how to get along with others.’²⁴ As is recognised by the Victorian Department of Education within the Early Childhood Reform Plan:

*The right early childhood education experience will set the course for successful lifelong learning... every child – no matter where they live, no matter what their circumstances – will thrive in a safe and supportive home environment.*²⁵

The middle years – significant transitions and new risks

Significant development continues to take place into the ‘middle years’ (age 9 to 13 years), which continues to be a key phase for early intervention in areas such as health and educational engagement. As the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth tells us:

*The middle years is a period of extraordinary physical, emotional and intellectual growth. This key formative phase is replete with transitions: from childhood to adolescence; from primary to secondary school; from dependence to greater agency.*²⁶

4.1.2 Children’s Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

The key role of family and community within the ecological approach

The ecological perspective²⁷ reminds us that outcomes for children are significantly influenced by their context. The child sits at the centre of the ecological model, aligning with a ‘child centered’ approach to service provision. Each layer of the ecological model describes a sphere of influence and support for children. It recognises the critical role of family or kinship networks and then the role of the community at a local, and then broader level in shaping the context in which the child lives (and thereby influencing the opportunities and outcomes for that individual). In this context, supporting families is key. The ecological perspective holds specific relevance for the role of local government, given the capacity of local government to influence and shape those local conditions in a range of ways of relevance to the health, wellbeing, learning, development and participation of children. The opposite diagram provides a basic illustration of the ecological model.



Key themes in the data and literature 7

4.1.2 Children’s Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



Health and Wellbeing

As the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019–2023 describes:

Health and wellbeing is driven by a complex interaction of individual characteristics, lifestyle and the physical, social and economic environment (Buck et al.2018). There is a range of wider determinants on health and wellbeing including income, early childhood experiences, gender stereotypes, norms and expectations, education, employment, social inclusion, housing and geography, living and working conditions, quality of air, soil and water, and health systems (Worlds Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe 2014).²⁸

Given the ‘wider-determinants of health’, achieving positive outcomes for the health and wellbeing of children requires an integrated approach (across Council, levels of Government, service sectors and community) and a recognition of the impact that earlier life-experiences can have on later health outcomes, thereby enabling a preventative/early intervention approach.

Council is uniquely well-placed to support positive health and wellbeing outcomes for children and families given the ability of Council to bring together all four environments that underpin a healthy and sustainable community: social, economic, environmental and cultural at the local level.

The Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth tells us that:

Healthy children and youth have their physical, developmental, psychosocial and mental health needs met. They achieve their optimal developmental trajectories. They have access to services to support their growth and development and have access to preventative measures to redress any emerging health or development concerns.²⁹

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

Participation in Key Ages and Stages consultations with Maternal and Child Health

Data on participation rates in Key Ages and Stages consultations with Maternal and Child Health Services for the City of Greater Dandenong in the 2017–2018 year show that participation in the first 4 early visits are higher than both the regional and state average.

Total participation rate in Key Ages and Stages Consultations 2017–2018

TOTAL PARTICIPATION RATES KAS	GREATER DANDENONG	SOUTH EASTERN REGION	STATEWIDE VICTORIA
Home consult	106.1%	100.8%	100.1%
2 weeks	98.8%	97.1%	96.7%
4 weeks	99.3%	97.3%	97.1%
8 weeks	96.2%	96.1%	95.9%
4 months	92.4%	94.5%	94.1%
8 months	85.3%	87.7%	85.8%
12 months	80.6%	84.7%	83.4%
18 months	73.4%	74.3%	74.2%
2 years	68.9%	71.0%	70.6%
3.5 years	64.1%	60.5%	64.2%

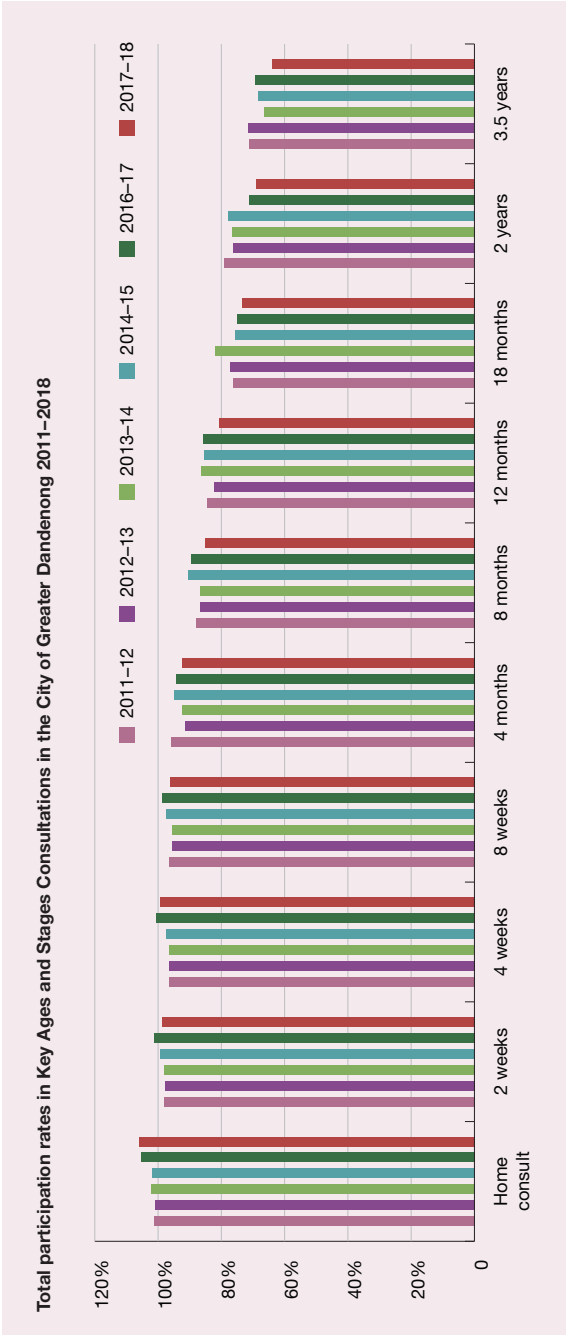
Source: State of Victoria, Department of Health and Human Services (2019), *Maternal and Child Health Services Annual Report 2017–2018: South-Eastern Victoria Region*.



Key themes in the data and literature 9

4.1.2 Children’s Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

The following table charts the participation rates in Key Ages and Stages consultations from 2011 to 2018.



Source: State of Victoria, Department of Health and Human Services (2017–18) & Department of Education and Training (2016–17; 2014–15; 2013–14; 2012–13; 2011–12) *Maternal and Child Health Services Annual Reports, specific to the region.*

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation rates in Key Ages and Stages Consultations with Maternal and Child Health

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) participation rates for Key Ages and Stages Consultations in the 2017–18 year were as follows.

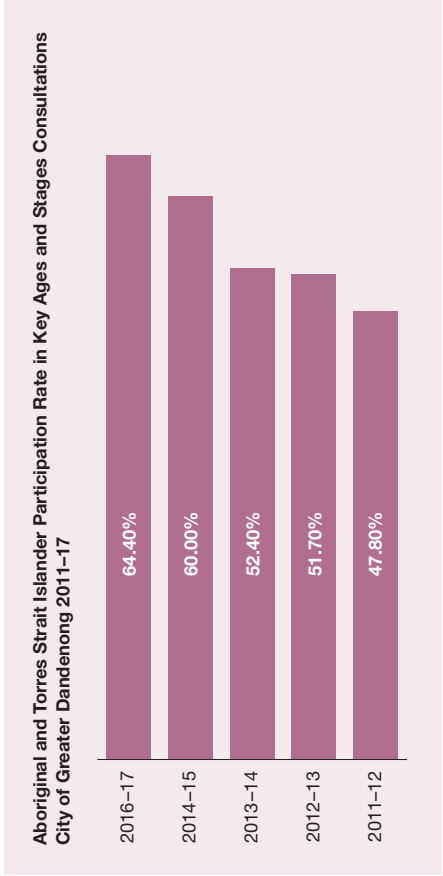
**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Participation Rates KAS
City of Greater Dandenong 2017–18**

VISIT STAGE	PERCENTAGE PARTICIPATION
Home consult	129.4%
2 weeks	123.5%
4 weeks	94.1%
8 weeks	82.4%
4 months	111.8%
8 months	110.0%
12 months	120.0%
18 months	60.0%
2 years	33.3%
3.5 years	80.0%

Source: State of Victoria, Department of Health and Human Services (2019), *Maternal and Child Health Services Annual Report 2017–2018*, South-Eastern Victoria Region.

These rates were higher than the regional average at all stages except at 8 weeks, 18 months and 2 years. It should be noted that the Department of Health and Human Services recommends 'strong caution against drawing conclusions on the percentages of consultation [when analysing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Key Ages and Stages participation rates] as they can be misleading as they can be based on relatively small numbers.'³⁰

Reporting prior to 2017–2018 recorded Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation rates differently – representing children aged from birth until six years with the last key ages and stages visit at 3.5 years. This data (below) shows a steady and significant increase in rates of participation since 2011.



Source: Department of Health and Human Services (2017–18) & Department of Education and Training (2016–17; 2014–15; 2013–14; 2012–13; 2011–12) *Maternal and Child Health Services Annual Reports*, specific to the region.

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



Breastfeeding rates

Breastfeeding rates in the 2017–2018 year within the City of Greater Dandenong were higher than both the regional and statewide average at the points of discharge from hospital, at 2 weeks and 3 months, however dropped below these averages by 6 months. Partial breastfeeding rates were also higher than the state average at all recorded time points.

Data shows that within the City of Greater Dandenong over time, breastfeeding rates have been increasing. During the 13 years to 2014–15, the proportion of women in Greater Dandenong who fully or partially breast feed at 6 months had risen by 19%.³¹ The breastfeeding rates for the 2016–17 year for the City of Greater Dandenong were not published in Department of Education and Training reporting and regional reports are not available for the 2015–2016 year.

Breastfeeding rates within Greater Dandenong, the South East Regional and Statewide 2017–2018

BREASTFEEDING RATES	GREATER DANDENONG	SOUTH EASTERN REGION	STATEWIDE VICTORIA
Fully on discharge	80.8%	70.6%	69.3%
Fully at 2 weeks	76.1%	65.3%	64.7%
Fully at 3 months	52.5%	48.1%	49.4%
Fully at 6 months	15.5%	22.0%	22.0%
Partially on discharge	13.5%	17.7%	13.1%
Partially at 2 weeks	16.7%	19.4%	14.0%
Partially at 3 months	14.5%	16.7%	12.2%
Partially at 6 months	31.1%	26.8%	24.7%

Source: State of Victoria, Department of Health and Human Services (2019), *Maternal and Child Health Services Annual Report 2017–2018: South-Eastern Victoria Region*.

Key themes in the data and literature 13

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

Immunisation rates

Data received in February 2020, on immunisations rates for the City of Greater Dandenong, places the City of Greater Dandenong rates as the same as the Victorian average and on an upward trajectory since the previous quarter for early childhood immunisations at 12–15 months, 20–24 months and 60–64 months.

Programs targeting vulnerable groups, such as refugees and people seeking asylum require specific focus and resourcing within the City of Greater Dandenong. The Refugee Immunisation Project (externally funded by DHHS) has enabled a targeted program to improve access to immunisation for this cohort. In 2019, 423 vaccines were administered at refugee specific sessions. The 'catch-up' program offered at Noble Park English Language School (NPELS) enables a targeted program for newly arrived people, with 2047 vaccines administered at NPELS in 2019.³²

Health as a priority for children in the City of Greater Dandenong

Components of health are raised as a key priority by children in the City of Greater Dandenong. Recent examples include:

- Participants in the City of Greater Dandenong Annual Children's Forum in 2018 and 2019 identified 'improved health and wellbeing' as one of their five top priorities.³³ Children's responses to the Activate Us consultation activities, show that they have an understanding that health has multiple dimensions, incorporating nutrition, mental health, exercise, oral health, personal happiness.³⁴

Protective factors in the health and wellbeing of children

The Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) draws on research by Luxley and others to define both 'risk' and 'protective factors'. Risk factors are defined as 'a measurable causal contributor to later developmental outcomes'.³⁵ Protective factors are defined as 'characteristics that buffer, mediate or moderate the influence of risk factors, thereby reducing the likelihood that risk factors will lead to later problem outcomes'.³⁶ An understanding of risk and protective factors enables an informed approach to prevention and early intervention measures which can be enacted at the local level.³⁷

The State of Victoria's Children Report (2017), identifies the following protective factors for the physical and mental health of children:

- Resilience
 - Nutrition
 - Getting enough sleep
 - Participating in regular physical activity.³⁸
- It also notes that overall, 'younger children are more likely to display these protective factors than older children'.³⁹

In the discussion on health and wellbeing that follows, 'children's sense of connectedness to others' and 'a context of family support' are also discussed as other protective factors.

Resilience in children

While resilience might be understood as protective for children, it is in itself an outcome of the presence of a range of protective factors. The City of Greater Dandenong has been undertaking a Resilience Project, through which resilience is defined as 'the ability to flexibly cope with the demands of life and bounce back after times of adversity'. Through the project, The City of Greater Dandenong has been collecting survey data from students in Grades 3 to 6, biannually since 2015. This has enabled students to 'provide feedback on the qualities, opportunities and conditions that characterise high levels of resilience'.⁴⁰

In 2019, the survey captured 1320 responses from students in grade 3–grade 6. Results from the Resilience Survey⁴¹ show that:

- resilience is highest in primary school and lower amongst older students. This overall trend is mirrored in state-wide data collected through the Victorian Student Health and Wellbeing Survey.⁴²
- Significant declines in resilience are noted when students move from Grade 6 to Year 7. Of note too, is a decline in overall resilience levels reported in the Primary School cohort from 2015 to 2019.

The 2019 survey results show that resilience within the primary school cohort is lower than that of the other primary school students within Victoria with over 50% of the students within Greater Dandenong having low to fair resilience levels 'that is, their resilience levels were 'borderline, some assets present but many require strengthening'.⁴³

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

Analysis of the Resilience Surveys conducted in 2015, 2017 and 2019 also identifies a number of strengths of students from Grade 3 to Grade 6. For male students, strengths included educational engagement, feeling good about themselves and feeling good about the future. For female students, strengths included their social skills, school belonging and educational engagement.⁴⁴ Nutrition The Victorian Student Health and Wellbeing Survey found that amongst Victorian children aged under 13 years in 2017: • around four per cent ate the recommended amount of vegetables every day. • just under 77% ate the recommended amount of fruit every day.⁴⁵ The 2017 Victorian Population Health Survey reported that '1.5% of Greater Dandenong residents met vegetable consumption guidelines, a quarter of the Victorian level of 5.4%'.⁴⁶ Evidence from the Victorian Population Health Survey also draws a correlation between socio-economic disadvantage and poorer nutrition in terms of consumption of recommended daily amounts of fruit and vegetables.⁴⁷ Development of the <i>City of Greater Dandenong Regional Food Strategy 2015 to 2018</i> included the collection of public opinion data about food habits. Amongst the findings were: • 35% of participants said that the food they eat is 'really healthy.' • 28.3% of people described their food as 'a little unhealthy.'	• 46% of participants said that the food they eat is mostly vegetables.⁴⁸ The <i>City of Greater Dandenong Regional Food Strategy 2015 to 2018</i> also drew on research into 'Healthy Food Access, Supply and Demand in the City of Greater Dandenong' in highlighting the need to address 'geographic and economic food access issues, saturation of food retail spaces with non-essential or takeaway options, and limited consumption of fruit and vegetables'.⁴⁹ The Strategy included an action (Action 5, Pillar C) calling for the examination of food deserts and strategies to reduce them and ensure they don't continue to be an issue into the future.	Participation in regular physical activity The City of Greater Dandenong Make Your Move Physical Activity Strategy discussion paper outlines the importance of physical activity to children's health and development, highlighting the importance of being active to later-life outcomes: <i>Reaching the recommended physical activity levels on a daily basis is important to the development of fundamental life skills for children. Health and physical activity behaviours and lifestyle in the early years of a child's life can directly influence adult development and life choices.</i> <i>A healthy lifestyle in early childhood positively influences different domains in development, including physical, social/emotional and language/cognition which strongly influence school success, economic participation, social citizenship and health....</i>
The 2017 Victorian Population Health Survey reported that '1.5% of Greater Dandenong residents met vegetable consumption guidelines, a quarter of the Victorian level of 5.4%'.⁴⁶ Evidence from the Victorian Population Health Survey also draws a correlation between socio-economic disadvantage and poorer nutrition in terms of consumption of recommended daily amounts of fruit and vegetables.⁴⁷ Development of the <i>City of Greater Dandenong Regional Food Strategy 2015 to 2018</i> included the collection of public opinion data about food habits. Amongst the findings were: • 35% of participants said that the food they eat is 'really healthy.' • 28.3% of people described their food as 'a little unhealthy.'	Getting enough sleep Adequate sleep is critical to both physical and mental health for children. Recommendations for sleep for children of <i>primary school-aged children is between nine and 11 hours</i>. Results from 2019 Resilience Survey with students in the City of Greater Dandenong, shows that ⁵⁰ 35% of students in Grades 3-6 were not getting 8 hours sleep and that it effected their concentration at school.⁵¹ The State of Victorian Children 2018 reports states that 18% of children aged 5-11 exceed the recommended daily amount of screen time which affects not only their sleep but their behavior and mental alertness. It should also be noted that sleep and settling of infants and young children is one of the most common concerns raised by new parents with Maternal and Child Health services.⁵²	• Getting involved in sport and playing games also gives children opportunities for self-expression and achievement, social interaction and relief of tension. It also encourages other healthy behaviours.⁵³ • A Healthier start for Victorians report tells us that 23% of Victorian children are overweight or obese and 71% of children aged 5-11 do not meet the recommend guidelines for physical activity.

Key themes in the data and literature 15

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



Results of the Survey conducted as part of the Greater Dandenong Resilience Project also indicate a drop in physical activity amongst primary school students, revealing that only 66% of primary school students were keeping fit at 2017, compared to 77% in 2015.⁵⁴

The 2017 State of Victorian children report indicates that 50% of girls aged 5-9 are taking part in organised sport, compared to more than eight in 10 boys within the same age range.

Children sense of connectedness to others

Social connectedness plays an important role in positive health and wellbeing. The 2019 Greater Dandenong Resilience Survey provides insights into children's sense of connectedness to important people in their lives, and reports that:

- 44% of students in Grades 5 and 6 struggle to build friendships⁵⁵
- 63% of students in Grades 3-6 spend quality time with their parents.

Participants in the Voice Lab workshop at the Children's Forum 2019 provided insights into what it means to feel a sense of belonging, with a summary of findings stating:

*Belonging to a community is about respecting each other, doing things together, inviting people to join you and helping each other. People may feel like they don't belong in a community as they are not welcomed or invited to activities, they are not shown respect and are treated badly.*⁵⁶

A context of family support

Research developed for VicHealth reports that:

Immediate and extended family support, high family cohesion, a positive family climate and parental involvement are key factors that contribute to resilience in children who have faced childhood adversity, according to Fritz et al. (2018)...⁵⁷

The City of Greater Dandenong Resilience Project survey asks students from Grade 3 through to Grade 6, questions about the level of adult support they receive, from parents or from a significant other adult. The results point to the key role that adult support plays in levels of resilience, with levels of adult support highest for the students who have good or excellent resilience levels overall.⁵⁸

The results also show that younger students are more likely to identify adult support than older students. Amongst Primary School students in Grades 3 to 6, 66% say they have adults who care

about them and 68% have adults who listen to them. Alongside this,⁵⁹ 74% of students in Grade 3-6 say their parents are good at talking with them and 88% of students indicated that their parents help them to succeed.

Research shows that healthy family functioning promotes children's physical, emotional and social wellbeing, healthy family functioning includes parenting that establishes fair rules and role models family values that contribute to the positive development of children's wellbeing. The 2017 State of Victorian Children report outlines that in 2017 8.1% of Victorian children aged 0-12 were living in families with unhealthy functioning. On the other side of this 88% of students in year 5 report having healthy family functioning.

Participants in the Voice Lab workshop at the 2019 Children's Forum indicated that they like spending time with their parents, they would talk to their parents about how they were feeling and that having parents who support them makes them feel safe.

4.1.2 Children’s Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

Mental health

Prevalence

The current Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System states in their interim report that:

- Exposure to factors that affect a person's mental health begins in infancy. A considerable amount of research explores the importance of the environment and early experiences on a developing infant.
- 6% of deaths for children aged 12 and 13 are by suicide
- The 2017 State of Victorian Children report outlines that 10.1% of children aged 6mths–12 years have emotional, development or behavioral issues, and that 7.8% of children aged 5–11 are accessing mental health services.

The 2019 insights report from The Kids Helpline shows that 14% of all contacts with the kids' helpline are from children aged 5–12, their main concerns are family relationship issues and emotional wellbeing.

Stress is also a concern for children. At the City of Greater Dandenong 2019 Children's Forum, during a workshop focused on self-care, participants reported that 'schoolwork and speaking in front of others were common reasons for stress and worry.' Students also identified the following stress-relieving techniques: 'to be outside, doing something physical, playing with friends, talking to someone and breathing exercises.'¹⁶⁰



Requiring an integrated response for children

Given the evidence that mental health prevention and early intervention needs to begin from infancy and continue to early adolescents, social model of health approach is being reflected in a relatively new national mental health program. Beyond Blue lead the implementation of the Beyond Blue National Education Initiative Be You, launched in 2018:

Research continues to highlight the usefulness of an ecological approach in understanding and responding to the multiple influences on mental health and wellbeing within interconnected contexts of families, early childhood services and schools, communities, and the wider society. Within such an approach, evidence continues to support identification and

addressing of risk and protective factors in and across contexts to promote resilience, mental health and wellbeing. Recent Australian research on risk and protective factors in early childhood demonstrates that 1 in 12 infants (aged 0–1) has risk factors for adult mental illness, with 1 in 40 having more than five risk factors, and that these rates increase throughout childhood. Many of these risk factors can be addressed in early childhood services and schools as these are key contexts for development, learning and wellbeing. The importance of connectedness, belonging and inclusion as protective factors for mental health continues to be emphasised, and is particularly important in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander approaches to social and emotional wellbeing.¹⁶¹

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

Parents with a mental illness

While we don't have data specifically relating to the prevalence of parents with a mental illness in Greater Dandenong, it is estimated that nationally, over 20% of parents have a mental illness.⁶²

While the experiences of children with a parent experiencing a mental illness vary considerably, and are influenced by a range of factors (such as the type and severity of the mental illness or the presence of other factors such as substance abuse or financial vulnerability), they may face a range of risk factors, which may also be heightened in single parent households, and it is important that children are linked to appropriate supports.⁶³

The 2017 State of Victorian Children report outlines that around 28 per cent of children whose parents reported having a mental illness had an emotional or behavioural problem upon school entry, compared to less than nine per cent of children whose parents did not.

The relationship between social disadvantage and mental health outcomes for children

The Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System explains the relationship between socio-economic disadvantage and mental illness and the way that social determinants can particularly affect the mental health of children:

People with socioeconomic disadvantage disproportionately experience mental illness. There is evidence that such disadvantage has an influence from early in life. Indicators of low socioeconomic status—commonly measured by household income, parental education and parental occupational status—are associated

with higher rates of mental illness in children.

Children in low-income families, and whose parents or carers have lower levels of education and experience higher rates of unemployment than other Australians, also have higher rates of poor mental health. The 2017 Victorian

Population Health Survey also found higher proportions of men and women with high or very high levels of psychological distress who did not complete high school, were not in the labour force and had a total household income of less than \$40,000 compared with the proportion in all adult Victorians. People who experience socioeconomic disadvantage may be more likely to be exposed to other forms of trauma such as violence and homelessness, and are more likely to experience social exclusion and isolation.

Social determinants can affect the mental health of children in particular—for example, children who experience adversity or trauma in childhood including through child abuse and neglect, family violence, the mental illness of their parents or other caregivers, and bullying. Children of parents with significant mental illness are twice as likely to develop their own mental health issue. Compared with children living in the least disadvantaged areas, children living in the most socioeconomically disadvantaged locations are approximately twice as likely to be developmentally vulnerable.⁶⁴

Residents in Greater Dandenong experience relatively high levels of psychological distress, with the 2017 Victorian Population Health Survey reporting 22% of residents were experiencing 'high' or 'very high' levels of psychological distress compared with 15% at a state-wide level.⁶⁵

Alcohol and other drugs

Alcohol use during pregnancy can cause Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) birth defects and growth and developmental problems—that can persist into adulthood. Australian and international guidelines advise that there is no safe level of prenatal alcohol exposure or exposure to alcohol while breastfeeding, there is no accurate data on foetal alcohol spectrum disorder, estimates based on state and territory data indicate likely rates at 0.01 to 0.68 per 1,000 births in the total population.

The Victorian Child Health and Wellbeing Survey 2019 results show that 46.6% of Victorian babies are exposed to alcohol in utero. While 4 in 5 Victorian children live in a house where they are

not exposed to cigarette smoke which decreases the risk of adverse health outcomes for children.

Current Australian alcohol guidelines advise that children under 13 years of age are at the greatest risk of harm from drinking alcohol, making abstaining from drinking the safest option for this age group. However the Australian child wellbeing project 2016 report indicates that 1.8% of students in grade 6 reported they had been drunk in the 30 days prior to the survey and 0.6% had smoked cigarettes.

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

The health needs of children and their families from refugee or asylum seeker backgrounds

The health needs of children and families from refugee backgrounds can be influenced by their experiences of 'forced migration, trauma, and disruption of health services – they may have multiple and complex physical and mental health issues arising from their pre-migration experiences, during their journey or after settlement' in Australia.⁶⁶

The current Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health services reports that:

Research indicates that refugees and asylum seekers may experience mental illness and suicidal behaviour at higher rates than the general Australian population... People from refugee backgrounds can have complex and multiple mental health problems related to past traumatic experiences. One study found populations of people with a refugee background reported significantly higher levels of moderate to high psychological distress (46 per cent for females and 35 per cent for males) compared with the Australian born population (11 per cent for females and 7 per cent for males). This is partly explained by experiences of trauma, stressful migration and additional barriers to obtaining culturally appropriate services.⁶⁷

The Victorian Refugee Health Network recommends, in supporting the health and wellbeing of refugee and asylum seeker children and their families, there be:

- a focus on the social determinants of health and ensuring that children and families have their fundamental needs met in terms of secure housing, access to education, employment and material wellbeing (ability to live free of poverty).
- access to trauma-informed care.
- support to engage in active communication with services providers, such as interpreters.
- coordination or services supporting refugee and asylum seeker families to meet the various, competing demands in their lives (e.g. housing, health, education, employment).
- culturally responsive service provision.
- improved data collection to better identify people from refugee or asylum seeker background in services data.

The network also makes specific recommendations in relation to strengthening the provision of Maternal and Child Health Services, stating that given that the majority of Key Ages and Stages visits 'are clustered in the 0-2 year period, and children arriving as refugees or seeking asylum after the age of 2 years may miss out on parenting support and primary care/community linkages provided through UMCH'.⁶⁸ To strengthen the capacity of MCH to meet the needs of refugee or asylum seeker families, they recommend that:

- providers 'explore options for developing and streamlining early parenting and childhood support for newly arrived families. These approaches should account for the mobile nature of the cohorts in early years of settlement, and for children who are not referred into MCH via hospital of birth.'
- refugee-background and asylum seeker families be 'named a priority access group for Enhanced Maternal and Child Health services and consider extending program delivery beyond 3 years where required.'
- providers 'collect data on participation in MCH and EMCH by refugee-background children, and also interpreter assisted consultations to assist with program planning and evaluation'.⁶⁹



4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



A healthy environment as a precondition of positive health and wellbeing

Positive health and wellbeing is inextricably linked to a healthy environment. It is for this reason that the Victorian public health and wellbeing plan 2019-2023 places 'tackling climate change and its impacts on health' at the top of its list of priority actions, referring to the World Health Organisation in describing 'climate change as the defining issue for public health in the 21st century'.⁷⁰ The critical importance of this issue is reflected in the *Greater Dandenong Climate Change Strategy 2020-2030* (Draft).

Children place significant value on access to clean, green spaces for play and recreation. Children have raised the importance of playgrounds, public spaces and environmental sustainability through the Children's Forums hosted in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.⁷¹ Access to quality outdoor spaces are key to supporting children and young people's development.

Climate Change and Sustainability

In 2020 the City of Greater Dandenong joined many other cities around Australia declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency, committing the Council to action on climate change. Council's Climate Change Emergency Strategy defines climate change as any significant long-term change in expected weather patterns, such as changes in temperature, rainfall and wind.⁷²

Concern about the environment is also reportedly increasing amongst children in the face of climate change.

The 2018 children's rights poll indicated that the ability to breathe clean air and drink clean water was one of the top 3 important rights for children. Feedback from participants in the sustainable me workshop at 2018 children's forum, that everyone can make small changes to be more sustainable by using correct rubbish bins, recycling products to create other things and using more natural products when creating clothes and other items.

"See what we're doing now and how it's affecting our future well it can be like, climate change" 2019 Voicelab workshop participant.

Key themes in the data and literature 21

4.1.2 Children’s Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



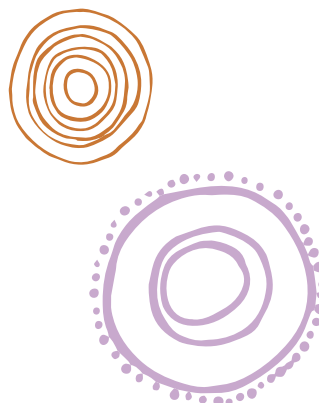
4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

Education

Education policy in Victoria – *The Education State* suite of reforms and frameworks – recognises the need to support and promote children's learning and development from birth and embraces the importance of life-long learning. It also recognises the key role of parents (as first teachers) and families in supporting the learning and wellbeing of children.

The Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth also places a focus on life-long learning:

Learning is a continuous process throughout life. Children learn through a variety of formal and informal experiences within the classroom and more broadly in their home and in the community. Children who are learning participate in and experience education that enables them to reach their full potential and maximise their life opportunities.⁷³



Early learning

The Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework has a focus on children from birth through to eight years of age. As is described in the framework:

Research over the past few decades has revealed how the human brain is biologically primed for learning from birth. The early childhood period of children's lives has a profound impact on their learning and development for the long term. From birth to eight years, children's developing brains undergo rapid change. This is when children have the greatest opportunities to develop neural pathways for learning and are also most vulnerable to negative experiences.⁷⁴

The Framework is founded on an 'ecological model' recognising:

Families and kinship members have primary influence on their children's learning and development. They provide children with the relationships, opportunities and experiences that shape each child's sense of belonging, being and becoming. Each adult around the child learns, leads, supports and actively invests in the child's success. Each professional who engages with a child and their family has a part to play. Local community, cultural events, spaces and their accessibility, reinforce a sense of belonging and wellbeing for a child and their family. The broad interrelated system and policy settings reflect a vision for children's learning and development...⁷⁵

The framework describes the role of a range of services offered through local governments as part of the 'learning and development pathways' available to children in the early years and families:

Children and families in Victoria have access to a range of services. Maternal and child health nurses and other health professionals work with families throughout the early years of each child's life. Families are encouraged to access a range of early childhood services, including playgroups, early childhood education and care, outside school hours care, and kindergarten programs, as well as sporting, community education and cultural organisations. Cultural organisations include libraries, museums, botanic gardens, galleries and zoos. All these services provide a wide range of experiences that enhance children's learning and development. Targeted and intensive services provide additional support for children and families. These include child and family services, supported playgroups, early start kindergarten, and a range of community, primary and specialist health services.⁷⁶

Key themes in the data and literature 23

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

Kindergarten participation rates

Data from the Department of Education and Training on Kindergarten participation rates within the City of Greater Dandenong, records a decline in participation (enrolment) over time (as is also reflected in the Victoria-wide data).⁷⁷

Kindergarten Participation Rates in City of Greater Dandenong and Victoria

YEAR	RATE CGD	RATE VIC
2016	95.9%	96.2%
2017	94.2%	93.4%
2018	89.0%	92.1%

According to data from the Australian Early Development Census, the following list illustrates suburbs within Greater Dandenong with the lowest to highest kindergarten attendance:

- Springvale
- Springvale South
- Keysborough
- Noble Park
- Dandenong
- Dandenong South
- Dandenong North
- Noble Park North.⁷⁸

Vulnerability and gains recorded by the Australian Early Development Index

The 2018 Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) results find the City of Greater Dandenong has a significantly higher percentage of students vulnerable in one or more domains (28%) compared with the state average (20%). This is the second highest percentage recorded amongst Melbourne Metropolitan LGAs.⁷⁹ At a local level, the percentage of students recorded as developmentally vulnerable in one or more domains in 2018, is as follows:

- Springvale, 34%
- Dandenong and Springvale South, 30%
- Noble Park and Dandenong North 27%
- Keysborough, 22%
- Noble Park North, 20%.

In relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children at a Victorian level, the 2018 AEDI found that 65% were vulnerable in one or more domains of development, compared with 20% of all students across the state.⁸⁰

When analysing change over time, there is also value in looking at the data at a community level within the City of Greater Dandenong, as outcomes vary. The data illustrates significant gains in many communities over time in each of the domains, and some areas of higher vulnerability. In some cases it reports on increases in the percentages of children defined as 'at risk' or 'vulnerable.'

Appendix A contains a summary of outcomes in each of the domain areas from 2012 to 2018, considering the data at a community level.

Transitions as points of vulnerability

Children undertake a number of transitions through social and learning environments and the education system. Transitions do not always follow a linear path, particularly for children with complex needs. While the majority of children make these transitions well, transitions are a point of vulnerability, with research and data showing that many children struggle to make these transitions successfully.

In 2015 the Victorian Auditor General produced a significant report on transitions, and advised that:

While a transition is generally considered to be a single event – where a child moves between sectors... or schools (primary to secondary) – the process of transitioning covers a longer period of time, and can be challenging and transformative.... It is therefore important not to consider a transition simply as a process of transferring a child from one setting to another, but as a series of interconnected processes taking place over an extended period of time.⁸¹

²⁴ CHILDREN'S PLAN 2021–2026

4.1.2 Children’s Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



In relation to transitions in the early years, the report notes that:

Children who enter school for the first time require a set of life and learning skills in order to make a successful transition to primary school. Research has established that children who commence school without these basic skills are at risk of poorer academic and social outcomes. Promoting successful transitions in the early years is not just about the readiness of the child. It requires the involvement of parents and families, communities, early childhood education and care providers, as well as schools.⁸²

The Community Hubs in Schools model (five of which operate within the City of Greater Dandenong⁸³) have been found to be positively impacting on school readiness of children from migrant families for school. Evaluative research of the model conducted by the Murdoch Research Institute, found that ‘hubs provided numerous examples of positive changes in children’s



readiness for school, schools’ readiness for children and in family conditions and environments that influence children’s learning.⁸³

The Victorian Auditor General’s report points to ‘developmental status’ as measured by the Australian Early Development Index and assessments of Prep/Foundation teachers around academic readiness as information we can draw on to understand children’s readiness to transition into school. As is noted earlier in this report, important gains have been made over time in some of the domain areas within the City of Greater Dandenong, while the data also reveals vulnerabilities that require ongoing responses. The Auditor General’s report also notes that ‘Kindergarten participation is a key input strongly associated with improved performance in both areas.’⁸⁴

Transitioning from Grade 6 to year 7 is point of vulnerability for students and often their resilience declines at this point, as shown in 2019 Resilience survey, this can be a time

of educational disengagement. The Student Wellbeing, Engagement and Learning across the Middle Years 2016 report indicates that the transition from Grade 6 to year 7 is one of the most dramatic events in a students’ educational career. 13% of students at this transition point identify difficulties with academic studies, peer relationships, teacher relationships or changes in daily routine, support for emotional, social and educational development is critical to improve this transition.

⁸³Community Hubs operate within the City of Greater Dandenong at Dandenong Primary School, Dandenong South Primary School, Dandenong West Primary School, Springvale Rise Primary School, St Anthony’s Primary School Noble Park

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

Literacy and Numeracy

Data from 2017 reveals that a significantly higher proportion of students in the City of Greater Dandenong at Years 3 (8.4%), and 5 (10.1%) are not meeting the national literacy benchmarks compared with the Victorian average – the Greater Dandenong percentage is approximately double that of the Victorian average in each year level.⁸⁵ Similar findings relate to numeracy benchmarks. Of note too is the increase in the percentage not meeting the literacy benchmarks at each testing point as the students get older.⁸⁶

In considering these figures, it is important to recognise the very high proportion of residents who speak a language other than English at home (70%). Also important to recognise is that students from refugee or asylum seeker backgrounds may have experienced limited, disrupted or no education as well as have a range of complex needs in relation to educational engagement.⁸⁷

Digital Literacy

Digital literacy is also considered an important skill for children, encompassing not only their proficiency in making use of digital technologies but also their capacity to be safe, informed and discerning users of technology. Also important is equitable access to digital technologies for children and their families. Digital Literacy supports children to build the skills they need to navigate the digital world around them, and this relates to 'play, participation, socializing, searching and learning through digital technologies.' NAP Sample Assessment ICT Literacy 2018 report indicates that 62% of Grade 6 students within Victoria have

proficient digital literacy and 66% have at least five years' experience using digital devices (computers and tablets), 58% of students used a digital device at least once a day outside of school. About one third of Grade 6 students did not have access to their own personal digital device.

Engagement in learning at school

The 2019 Greater Dandenong Resilience Survey⁸⁸ paints a picture of levels of engagement in learning beginning at a relatively high point in primary school. Below is a summary of the percentage of students reported as engaged in learning in the 2019 survey results:

- 91% of students in Grades 3 and 4
- 93% of students in Grades 5 and 6

It should be noted that this part of the survey is concerned with motivation, experiences of rewards related to learning and their 'active engagement in learning', as opposed to educational enrolment or attendance. A limitation of the Resilience Survey is that it only captures the perspectives of students who are attending school and so does not reflect the perspective of students who are disengaged to the point of no longer attending and may not encompass the views of students with low rates of attendance.

Employment in families with children

Overall in 2016, 31% of families with children in Greater Dandenong had no parent in paid employment, compared to 19% for Victoria. The figure is higher amongst single-parent families (58%), compared to couple families with children

(21%).⁸⁹ In 2016, 46% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families with children had no parent in paid employment.⁹⁰

Particular barriers for refugees and new migrants

Refugees and new migrants face significant barriers to employment. The Refugee Council of Australia has advocated for specialist responses to supporting refugee and new migrant job seekers.⁹¹ Research by the Centre for Policy Development found 'five principal barriers to newly arrived refugees finding jobs: limited English, a lack of work experience, poor health, a lack of opportunities for women and having only been in Australia for a short amount time.'⁹² They advocate for 'a focus on removing these barriers or reducing their impact' to support the employment prospects of refugee or newly arrived job seekers.

Particular barriers for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Families

According to the 2016 Census, the unemployment rate amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents in the City of Greater Dandenong was 22%, more than double that of the broader population at the time at around 10%.⁹³ The City of Dandenong Reconciliation Action Plan contains a number of recommendations related to boosting employment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents, in recognition of this disproportionate rate.

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

- 80% of Grade 3 & 4 students
- 85% of Grades 5 & 6 students

Experiences of bullying and discrimination

The 2019 Greater Dandenong Resilience Survey asked students about experiences of bullying at school and online. The survey results reveal that bullying is more prevalent in Grades 3 to 6 than the Secondary School setting, indicating that bullying decreases as students' progress through primary school and into secondary school. Specifically, 59% of Grade 3 students reported experiencing bullying at school in the past year. It also reveals that students across the age range more commonly experience bullying at school than online. The following table outlines the incidence of bullying at school and online, reported by students in the survey:

EXPERIENCES OF BULLYING	GRADE 3 TO 6
Never bullied at school	47%
Bullied once or twice at school	32%
Bullied three times or more at school	21%
Never bullied online	74%
Bullied once or twice online	23%
Bullied three times or more online	10%

Source: 2019 Greater Dandenong Resilience Survey

The 2019 Resilience survey results support this with 79% of students in Grade 3–6 feel safe at school and 75% feel safe in their neighbourhood. Adults in the community have also expressed concerns about safety in the City of Greater Dandenong. Results of the 2019 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey show that a similar percentage of residents surveyed feel safe (40%) walking alone in their local area after dark as feel unsafe (44%). An analysis of results over time show that the percentage of residents suggesting that they feel unsafe rose by around 10% in 2017 and has increased slightly each year since.⁹⁷

Family Violence

Family Violence is a significant concern within Greater Dandenong, as reflected in Victoria Police data, and as reflected in consultations with service networks and with children themselves. Victoria Police data reports that in 2018/19 'the rate of police callouts to family incidents in Greater Dandenong were 32% more than the metropolitan average, and the third highest in metropolitan Melbourne'.⁹⁸ Family Violence can have long term impacts on children's health and wellbeing, 31% of all incidents across Victoria have a child present when the family violence occurs. The SEQH survey found that 3.2% of Victorian children had witnessed violence before starting school. According to the survey over 34% of children who had witnessed violence before starting school had an emotional or behavioural problem when entering school.

The 2019 Greater Dandenong Resilience Survey revealed the following proportion of children people 'feel safe at home':

Safety

As is recognised in the City of Greater Dandenong 'Community Safety Plan', despite its many assets, the City of Greater Dandenong 'continues to face a number of challenges that set it apart from other communities in Victoria and the broader metropolitan area' and require a particular response to strengthen both actual community safety and perceptions of safety within the community.

Perceptions of safety

2017 State of Victorian Children report outlines that:

Perceptions of danger can act as barriers to children participating in health promoting behaviours, in particular by restricting children from undertaking active methods of transport, such as walking and cycling, or independent free play in public spaces without adult accompaniment.

... Participants in the Children's Forum 2018 raised concerns about safety in the community and the importance of safety in the home.⁹⁴ In the 2019 Children's Forum, one of the key priorities identified by children was 'a safer and accessible community.' They provided insights into what makes them feel safe, such as 'when they are with people they know will support and protect them'.⁹⁵ Relationships were key to children's sense of safety, with 2019 Voice Lab participants stating that the 'most important part to feeling safe is... feeling like they belong and are supported.'⁹⁶

4.1.2 Children’s Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



Engagement and participation

The Rights of the Child enshrines the right of children to be heard and for their views to be given due weight in decision-making processes (Article 12 or the Convention of the Rights of the Child). Building upon this, children’s right to participate has been broadly recognised and supported by frameworks, codes or practice, legislation and practice approaches in Australia in the realms of government, the community services sector and education. Current examples include the Victorian Child Friendly Cities and Communities Charter (of which Council is a signatory), the Victorian Child Safe Standards.

The City of Greater Dandenong has long recognised the critical importance of children’s participation, with the implementation of a broad range of initiatives designed to engage children in consultative and participatory engagement

programs. The value of the engagement of children in Council consultative, participatory and decision-making processes was noted by a number of Council business units in cross-council consultations conducted to inform the development of the new children’s plan, including Sport and Recreation, Planning, Libraries and Arts and Culture. A range of Council strategies also place a focus on the engagement of children and their families in order to achieve their strategic objectives, including *A Safe and Harmonious Greater Dandenong: A community safety plan for Greater Dandenong 2015–22*; *the City of Greater Dandenong Open Space Strategy (Draft 2019)*; *Greater Dandenong Climate Change Strategy 2020–2030 (Draft)*; *City of Greater Dandenong Make Your Move Physical Activity Strategy 2020–2030 (Discussion Paper)*; *the City of Greater Dandenong Library Strategy 2018–2023* and *Library Strategy Action Plan 2018–2021*; and *the City of Greater Dandenong Disability Action Plan 2017–2023*. This broad acceptance of the integral importance of children’s engagement and

participation requires an ongoing, whole-of-council approach to continued capacity development and implementation at a cross-council level. Services (both internally within Council and within the City of Greater Dandenong community) recognises the importance of ensuring that participatory engagement is inclusive of children from diverse backgrounds, experiences and socio-economic status.⁹⁹



4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

The legislative, strategic and policy context

A plan for children and families is developed in a context of existing strategies and plans, legislation and policy at a local, state and federal level that require consideration, as summarised below.

City of Greater Dandenong

The children's plan needs to align with the objectives of the Imagine 2030 Council Plan, Council Plan 2017–2021 and Community Wellbeing Plan. The following alignment along the level of objectives also appears in the draft plan.

IMAGINE 2030 COUNCIL PLAN		COUNCIL PLAN		COMMUNITY WELLBEING PLAN		CHILDREN'S PLAN
THEME		STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES		PRIORITIES		STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES
OPPORTUNITY		An open and effective Council		Safety, engagement and social cohesion		Provide leadership and advocacy in planning for children and families.
PEOPLE		A vibrant, connected and safe community				
PEOPLE		A vibrant, connected and safe community		Mental and physical health		Strengthen health and wellbeing outcomes for children and families.
PEOPLE		A vibrant, connected and safe community		Learning and employment		Support engagement in learning
PEOPLE		A vibrant, connected and safe community		Safety, engagement and social cohesion		Improve safety and accessibility for children, and their families to participate in the community.
PEOPLE		A vibrant, connected and safe community A creative city that respects and embraces its diversity		Safety, engagement and social cohesion		Value active participation and engagement of children and families in the community.

Key themes in the data and literature 29

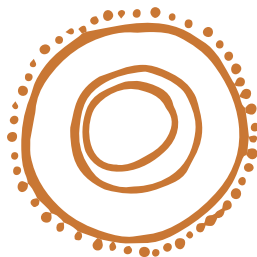
4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

There are also a number of highly relevant Council Strategies and Plans that require consideration to ensure alignment of activity and focus. The below table outlines the strategies and plans and key points of consideration for alignment:

CITY OF GREATER DANDENONG STRATEGY OR PLAN	CHILDREN'S PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES
A Safe and Harmonious Greater Dandenong. A community safety plan for Greater Dandenong 2015-22	The objectives of this plan hold specific relevance to the children's plan of: • Health and Wellbeing • Safe and accessible
Greater Dandenong People Seeking Asylum and Refugees Action Plan 2018-2021	The objectives of this plan hold specific relevance to the children's plan focus areas of: • Health and Wellbeing • Leading, partnerships and collaboration • Education and employment
City of Greater Dandenong Disability Action Plan 2017-2023	The objectives of this plan hold specific relevance to the children's plan focus areas of: • Health and Wellbeing • Engaged and Active • Education and employment • Safe and accessible
City of Greater Dandenong Reconciliation Action Plan 2017-2019 (updated 2019 to extend to 2020)	The objectives of this plan hold specific relevance to the children's plan focus areas of: • Health and Wellbeing • Leading, partnerships and collaboration
City of Greater Dandenong Library Strategy 2018-2023 and Library Strategy Action Plan 2018-2021	The objectives of this plan hold specific relevance to the children's plan focus areas of: • Education and employment • Engaged and Active
City of Greater Dandenong Open Space Strategy (Draft 2019)	The objectives of this strategy hold specific relevance to the children's plan focus areas of: • Health and Wellbeing

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

CITY OF GREATER DANDENONG STRATEGY OR PLAN	CHILDREN'S PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES
City of Greater Dandenong Make Your Move Physical Activity Strategy 2020–2030 (Discussion Paper)	The objectives of this strategy hold specific relevance to the children's plan focus areas of: • Health and Wellbeing
Greater Dandenong Climate Change Strategy 2020–2030 (Draft)	The objectives of this strategy hold specific relevance to the children's plan focus areas of: • Health and Wellbeing • Engaged and Active
Greater Dandenong Youth Strategy 2020–2025 (Draft)	The objectives of this plan hold specific relevance to the children's plan focus areas of: • Health and Wellbeing • Engaged and Active • Education and employment • Safe and accessible



Key themes in the data and literature 31

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

State legislation, policies and frameworks At the state level, the following pieces of legislation and policies are of most relevance to the Children's Plan. Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework The Framework was developed 'to guide early childhood professionals in a collective effort with families toward the achievement of the nationally agreed Early Years Learning Outcomes (Early Years Learning Framework for Australia, 2009) where children: • have a strong sense of identity • are connected with and contribute to their world • have a strong sense of wellbeing • are confident and involved learners • are effective communicators. It takes a holistic approach, recognising that 'children's wellbeing from birth as both a prerequisite for and an outcome of learning.'¹⁰⁰ It is intended to guide the work of all professionals working with children from birth up to the age of 8 years. The Education State Early Childhood Reform Plan The Department of Education and Training's <i>Education State Early Childhood Reform Plan</i>, outlines a range of significant reforms the Victorian Government is undertaking 'to create a higher quality, more equitable and inclusive early childhood system.'¹⁰¹ The reforms have a focus on:	• Increasing school readiness • Supporting high quality early learning provision in kindergartens • Delivery of more early childhood facilities attached to Primary Schools • A range of funding initiatives to strengthen Maternal and Child Health Delivery • Strengthening parenting skills through expanded delivery of 'first-time parents' groups and playgroups. The Education State package of reforms also includes the staged expansion of 3 year old kindergarten to be a universal service enabling all children to have access to 5 hours per week by 2022 and 15 hours per week by 2029. Another key component has been the development of the <i>Supporting Children and Families in the Early Years: A Compact between the Department of Education and Training, Department of Health and Human Services and Local Government</i> (represented by the Municipal Association of Victoria). The Compact establishes 'a commitment between state and local governments to work together to improve outcomes for young children and their families,' 'clarifies roles and responsibilities of each party, sets out common principles and priorities.'¹⁰² Child Safe Standards The Victorian Child Safe Standards were developed in response to recommendations of the 2012/2013 Betrayal of Trust Inquiry evidence of what works to prevent child abuse. The Standards are mandatory for organisations (in accordance	with the Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005) that provide services or facilities for children or for businesses that employ children up to the age of 18 years. The Child Safe Principles require organisations and businesses consider the increased vulnerability of: • Aboriginal children, recognising the importance of cultural safety of Aboriginal children • children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, recognising the importance of cultural safety for them • children with a disability, recognising their specific needs in relation to safety and participation. The Child Safe Standards are in the areas of: • Standard 1: Governance and leadership • Standard 2: Clear commitment to child safety • Standard 3: Code of conduct • Standard 4: Human resource practices • Standard 5: Responding and reporting • Standard 6: Risk management and mitigation • Standard 7: Empowering children. It is the role of the Victorian Commission for Children to 'support and regulate organisations that work with children to prevent child abuse and make sure these organisations have child safe practices' amongst other responsibilities. As such, the Commission provides resources and support to organisations to support compliance with the Child Safe Standards and also can receive complaints if organisations are failing to meet their responsibilities. The Victorian Child Safe Standards
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4.1.2 Children’s Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

remain mandatory and sit alongside the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations endorsed by COAG in 2019. A review of the Victorian Child Safe Standards is being undertaken, considering where adjustments should be made to ensure better alignment with the National Principles.¹⁰³ Department of Education and Training Strategic Plan 2019-2023 The Department of Education and Training Strategic Plan outlined priorities for action for the Department across early childhood, school education and training and skills and higher education. The Actions are broadly focussed around supporting educational achievement, engagement and wellbeing. The Plan also outlines a range of 'organisational reforms', including a focus on building the capacity of the Department of Education workforce. Children Youth and Families Act 2005 The Children, Youth and Families Act (CYFA) 2005 'builds on the Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005, to guide the actions of community services and the State in the best interests of vulnerable children. The CYFA promotes: • children's 'best interests' driving all planning, decisions and service delivery. • earlier intervention and prevention and greater targeting of secondary services to families most in need. • improved planning, coordination and delivery of services to families by increased emphasis on partnership and collaboration across and within the service systems.	• a stronger focus on children's cultural identity and cultural competence in all service delivery. • a commitment to maintaining Aboriginal children's cultural connectedness.¹⁰⁴ The Act has been amended at multiple points of time, to enable new provisions largely in relation to the operation of the child protection and the judicial system. Victoria's vulnerable children: our shared responsibility 2013-2022 <i>Victoria's vulnerable children: our shared responsibility 2013-2022</i> sets our three high-level, long-term goals, 'designed to drive the broad-based change required across government(s) and in the community generally.' The goals of the strategy are to: • prevent abuse and neglect • act earlier when children and vulnerable • improve outcomes for children in statutory care. The strategy seeks to ensure to encourage a 'shared responsibility for vulnerable children and foster collaboration, information sharing and cooperation across different sectors, including the adult services sectors and the child and family services sector.'¹⁰⁵	Roadmap for Reform: Strong Families, Safe Children 2016 <i>The Roadmap for Reform: Strong Families, Safe Children 2016</i>, stemmed from the findings of the 2016 Royal Commission into Family Violence and outlines a range of measures to reform the services system to respond more effectively to the needs of vulnerable families. The reforms are broadly designed to ensure: • a greater focus on earlier intervention • more visible and non-stigmatising entry points to services, making it easier for people to find help themselves • pro-actively connecting people at risk to support through existing services (such as early childhood services, schools, general practitioners, financial counselling and community health services) and informal networks (such as a trusted community member). Child, and family services play a key role as partners with Government in the reform agenda, which contains a range of initiatives aimed at: • building supportive and culturally strong communities and improving access to universal services • supporting children and families in need with integrated wrap-around supports and targeted early interventions • Strengthening home-based care and improving outcomes for children in out-of-home care.¹⁰⁶
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4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

Ending Family Violence: Victoria's Plan for change 2017 <i>Ending Family Violence: Victoria's Plan for change 2017</i> outlines the recommendations of the 2016 Royal Commission into Family Violence and the State Government's response to implement all of the 227 recommendations over a 10-year period. The Plan is seeking to achieve the following objectives: • Family violence and gender inequality are not tolerated. • Victim survivors, vulnerable children and families, are safe and supported to recover and thrive. • Perpetrators are held to account, engaged and connected. • Preventing and responding to family violence is systemic and enduring. With relation to child and family services, the plan includes the commitment to: <i>intervene earlier to prevent harm to children and enable families to access effective support services. By integrating Child FIRST into the Hubs, the Hubs will become a key platform for keeping children safe. Children's services will be therapeutic, child friendly and safe. Child and family services will be able to better engage and work with vulnerable parents.</i>¹⁰⁷	Reportable Conduct Scheme The <i>Reportable Conduct Scheme</i>, administered through the Commission for Children and Young People: • 'requires some organisations to respond to allegations of child abuse (and other child-related misconduct) made against their workers and volunteers, and to notify us of any allegations • enables us to independently oversee those responses • facilitates information sharing between organisations, their regulators, Victoria Police, the Department of Justice and Regulation's Working with Children Check Unit and us.' Organisations required to adhere to the scheme include children's services and education and care services (children are defined as up to age of 18), amongst others.¹⁰⁸ Victorian Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2023 The development of a Health and Wellbeing Plan every four years is a requirement of the State Government under the Victoria's Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008. Local governments are required to submit their four-year municipal public health and wellbeing plans, which they review annually. Through the Plan, the State Government sets public health and wellbeing priorities and strategic actions to achieve them. Recognising the wider determinants of health, the 2019-2023 plan is focused on the following priorities: • Tackling climate change and its impact on health • Reducing injury	• Preventing all forms of violence • Increasing healthy eating • Decreasing the risk of drug-resistant infections in the community • Increasing active living • Improving mental wellbeing • Improving sexual and reproductive health • Reducing tobacco-related harm • Reducing harmful alcohol and drug use.¹⁰⁹ Victorian Child Friendly Cities and Communities Charter The Victorian Child Friendly Cities and Communities Charter 'is a statement of the principles and actions that underpin the right to be considered child friendly' and 'has been developed specifically for local governments, organisations and individuals to take action.' As a signatory to the Charter, a local government commits to uphold the following principles: • Freedom for children to experience environments that consider their needs • Respect and dignity for children to express their individual opinions, participate in and contribute to decisions about their communities and their wellbeing • Equitable access to supportive environments and services for children regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion or ability.¹¹⁰
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Key themes in the data and literature 35

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

My time Our Place Framework for School Aged Care in Australia

My Time, Our Place – Framework for School Age Care in Australia was developed by The Council of Australian Governments, with the aim to 'extend and enrich children's wellbeing and development in school age care settings.' It is linked to the Early Years Learning Framework, by extending the principles, practices and outcomes to the contexts and age range of the children and young people who attend school age care settings. It outlines five principles to enhance children's learning through play and leisure. These are:

1. Secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships
 2. Partnerships
 3. High expectations and equity
 4. Respect for diversity
 5. Ongoing learning and reflective practice
- It should be considered alongside the National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care and School Age Care, which articulates the 'necessary environments, facilities, staffing arrangements, resources and management structures are in place.'¹¹³

7. Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe through ongoing education and training.

8. Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children to be harmed.

9. Implementation of the national child safe principles is regularly reviewed and improved.

10. Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children.¹¹¹

Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia

Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia was developed by the Council of Australian Governments, and 'conveys the highest expectations for all children's learning from birth to five years and through the transitions to school.' It sets out five Learning Outcomes:

- Children have a strong sense of identity
- Children are connected with and contribute to their world
- Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
- Children are confident and involved learners
- Children are effective communicators.

It relates to the provision of early childhood services in long day care, occasional care, family day care, multi-purpose Aboriginal Children's Services, preschools and kindergartens, playgroups, creches, early intervention settings and similar services.¹¹²

National legislation, policies and frameworks

A number of national frameworks are of relevance to the integrated strategy as summarised below.

National Principles for Child Safe Organisations 2019

The National Principles for Child Safe Organisations were developed in response to The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Royal Commission), have been endorsed by the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments. The National Principles 'are designed to build capacity and deliver child safety and wellbeing in organisations, families and communities and prevent future harm.' The Principles are:

1. Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
2. Children are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
3. Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
4. Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.
5. People working with children are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.
6. Processes to respond to complaints and concerns are child focused.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

Appendix A: Summary of 2018 data from Australian Early Development Census

Physical Health and Wellbeing

Trends over time

Developmentally on track

- There have been increases in the percentage of 'developmentally on track' children in all local communities since 2012 to 2018, with the exception of Noble Park, however the percentage in this case is only marginally lower than the average for Greater Dandenong.

Developmentally at risk

- Between 2012 and 2018 there have been decreases in the percentage of children reported to be 'developmentally at risk' across all local communities, with the exception of Noble Park and Springvale (although there has been a decrease in both since 2015).

Developmentally vulnerable

- There has been a significant decrease in the percentage of 'developmentally vulnerable' children in some local communities since 2012 to 2018. These include Dandenong South, Keysborough, Noble Park, Springvale and Springvale South.

Developmental Domain	CGD percentage 'on track'	Higher than municipal average 'on track'	Lower than municipal average 'on track'	CGD percentage 'at risk'	Higher than municipal average 'at risk'	Lower than municipal average 'at risk'	CGD percentage 'vulnerable'	Higher than municipal average 'developmentally vulnerable'	Lower than municipal average 'developmentally vulnerable'
Physical health and wellbeing	79.5% (Vic 80.9)	Dandenong North (81.5%)	Dandenong (75.3%)	10.1% (Vic 10.8%)	Dandenong (11.3%)	Dandenong North (9.0%)	10.3% (Vic 8.2)	Dandenong (13.4%)	Dandenong North (9.8%)
		Dandenong South (82.4%)	Noble Park (78.5%)		Springvale (11.4%)	Dandenong South (9.9%)		Noble Park (11.3%)	Dandenong South (7.6%)
		Keysborough (82.4%)	Springvale (76.8%)			Keysborough (10.3%)		Springvale (11.8%)	Keysborough (7.2%)
		Noble Park North (87.8%)	Springvale South (76.8%)			Noble Park (10.1%)		Springvale South (12.0%)	Noble Park North (6.1%)
						Noble Park North (6.1%)			

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

Social Competence

Trends over time

Developmentally on track

- Between 2012 and 2018, there have been significant increases in the percentage of children reported to be developmentally 'on track' in the areas of Dandenong South, Keysborough and Noble Park North. There has also been a marginal increase in the area of Springvale. While there has also been an increase within the communities of Springvale South and Dandenong North, they have reported a drop in the percentage between 2015 and 2018. The percentage rate has dropped slightly for Dandenong.

Developmentally at risk

- Between 2012 and 2018, there has been a decrease in the percentage of children identified as 'developmentally at risk' in Dandenong South and Noble Park North and Springvale South (however, Springvale South has seen an increase since 2015). There has been an overall increase in Dandenong, Dandenong North, Keysborough, Noble Park and Springvale.

Developmentally vulnerable

- Between 2012 and 2018 there has been an overall decrease in the percentage of children reported to be developmentally vulnerable in all areas, with the exception of Noble Park. However, in Dandenong, Dandenong North, Noble Park North, Springvale and Springvale South there has been an increase since 2015.

Developmental domain	CGD percentage 'on track'	Higher than municipal average 'on track'	Lower than municipal average 'on track'	CGD percentage 'at risk'	Higher than municipal average 'at risk'	Lower than municipal average 'at risk'	CGD Average 'vulnerable'	Higher than municipal average 'developmentally vulnerable'	Lower than municipal average 'developmentally vulnerable'
Social competence	71.1% (Vic 77.3%)	Dandenong South (73.3%)	Dandenong (63.3%)	17.8% (Vic 13.9%)	Dandenong (23.7%)	Dandenong South (17.6%)	11.1% (Vic 13.1%)	Dandenong (13.1%)	Dandenong North (9%)
		Keysborough (79.3%)	Dandenong North (68.4%)		Dandenong North (22.7%)	Keysborough (14.4%)		Springvale (16.7%)	Dandenong South (9.2%)
		Noble Park (74.3%)	Springvale (62.6%)		Springvale (20.7%)	Noble Park (15%)		Springvale South (14/9%)	Noble Park (6.3%)
		Noble Park North (81.7%)				Noble Park North (9.8%)			Noble Park North (8.5%)
		Springvale South (72.6%)				Springvale South (12.6%)			Keysborough (6.3%)

Key themes in the data and literature 39

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

Emotional maturity**Trends over time**

Developmentally on track

- Between 2015 and 2018 there was an increase in the percentage of children reported to be 'developmentally on track' in Dandenong South, Keysborough, Noble Park, Noble Park North, Springvale and Springvale South (although in the case of Springvale South, the percentage dropped significantly between 2015 and 2012). The rate in Dandenong has dropped slightly. In Dandenong South the rate improved between 2012 and 2015 and then dropped again by 2018.

Developmentally at risk

- There has been a decrease in the percentage of children identified as developmentally at risk in all areas, except Dandenong and Springvale South (where there have been small increases). In Dandenong, there has been a decrease between 2015 and 2018, to spite an overall slight increase. Of note is an increase to 2015 and then overall decrease between 2015 and 2018 in Keysborough and Noble Park North.

Developmentally vulnerable

- Between 2015 and 2018 there was a decrease in the percentage of children identified as developmentally vulnerable in Dandenong South, Keysborough, Noble Park, Springvale and Springvale South. The rate increased in Dandenong and only marginally increased in Dandenong North.

Developmental domain	CGD percentage 'on track'	Higher than municipal average 'on track'	Lower than municipal average 'on track'	CGD percentage 'at risk'	Higher than municipal average 'at risk'	Lower than municipal average 'at risk'	CGD percentage 'vulnerable'	Higher than municipal average 'developmentally vulnerable'	Lower than municipal average 'developmentally vulnerable'
Emotional maturity	75% (Vic 77.7%)	Dandenong South (75.4%)	Dandenong (71.4%)	16.3% (Vic 14.2%)	Dandenong (17.1%)	Dandenong North (15.0%)	8.7% (Vic 8.1%)	Dandenong (11.4%)	Dandenong South (8.5%)
		Keysborough (82.1%)	Dandenong North (73.2%)		Springvale (19.6%)	Dandenong South (16.2%)		Dandenong North (11.8%)	Keysborough (5%)
		Noble Park (77.4%)	Springvale (69.8%)		Springvale South (22.3%)	Keysborough (12.9%)		Springvale (10.6%)	Noble Park (6.9%)
		Noble Park North (82.9%)	Springvale South (69.1%)			Noble Park (15.7%)			
						Noble Park North (11.0%)			
									Springvale South (8.6%)

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

Language and cognitive skills

Trends over time

Developmentally on track

- Between 2012 and 2018 there was an increase in all areas except Dandenong and Springvale South (where an increase was reported between 2012 and 2015 and then a drop to 2018).

Developmentally at risk

- Between 2012 and 2018 there was a decrease in the percentage of children reported to be 'developmentally at risk' in all areas with the exception of Springvale South, where an overall increase has been reported.

Developmentally vulnerable

- Between 2012 and 2018 there has been a decrease in the percentage of children reported to be developmentally vulnerable in all areas except Dandenong and Springvale South.

Developmental domain	CGD percentage 'on track'	Higher than municipal average 'on track'	Lower than municipal average 'on track'	CGD percentage 'at risk'	Higher than municipal average 'at risk'	Lower than municipal average 'at risk'	CGD percentage 'vulnerable'	Higher than municipal average 'developmentally vulnerable'	Lower than municipal average 'developmentally vulnerable'
Language and cognitive skills	77.7% (Vic 84.6%)	Dandenong South (78.6%)	Dandenong (72.1%)	12.8% (Vic 9.0%)	Noble Park (12.9%)	Dandenong (12.7%)	9.5% (Vic 6.4%)	Dandenong (15.2%)	Dandenong North (7.8%)
		Dandenong North (83.2%)	Springvale (70.6%)		Springvale (15.9%)	Dandenong North (9.0%)		Springvale (13.5%)	Dandenong South (8.4%)
		Keysborough (83.7%)	Springvale South (69.1%)		Springvale South (18.3%)	Dandenong South (13.0%)		Springvale South (12.6%)	Keysborough (5.3%)
		Noble Park (80.5%)				Keysborough (11.0%)			Noble Park (6.6%)
		Noble Park North (82.9%)				Noble Park North (9.8%)			Noble Park North (7.3%)

Key themes in the data and literature 41

4.1.2 Children’s Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

Communication skills and general knowledge

Trends over time

Developmentally on track

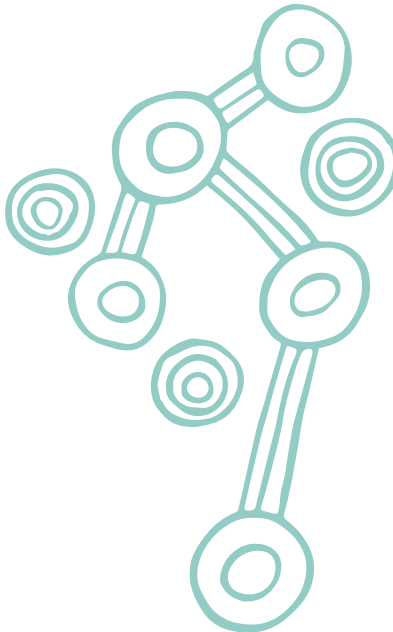
- Between 2012 and 2018, the percentage of children reported to be developmentally on track rose in all areas, with the exception of Noble Park (where the percentage rose slightly by 2014 and then dropped to 2018). Of note too is a drop in the percentage between 2015 and 2018 for Springvale South, although the overall trend is an increase.

Developmentally at risk

- There has been a decrease in the percentage of children reported to be developmentally at risk between 2012 and 2018 in the areas of Dandenong, Dandenong North, Keysborough (although slight), Noble Park North and Springvale South. An increase has been reported over time in Dandenong South, Noble Park and Springvale.

Developmentally vulnerable

- Between 2012 and 2018, the percentage of children reported to be developmentally vulnerable decreased in all areas, except Dandenong, Noble Park, Noble Park North and Springvale South.



ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

Developmental domain	CGD percentage 'on track'	Higher than municipal average 'on track'	Lower than municipal average 'on track'	CGD percentage 'at risk'	Higher than municipal average 'at risk'	Lower than municipal average 'at risk'	CGD percentage 'vulnerable'	Higher than municipal average 'developmentally vulnerable'	Lower than municipal average 'developmentally vulnerable'
Communication skills and general knowledge	79.4% (Vic 69.4%)	Dandenong North (80.5%)	Dandenong (65.4%)	17% (Vic 13.2%)	Dandenong (18.0%)	Dandenong North (10.5%)	13.6% (Vic 7.4%)	Dandenong (16.6%)	Dandenong North (9.0%)
		Noble Park North (82.9%)	Dandenong South (67.2%)		Dandenong South (18.3%)	Keysborough (13.5%)		Dandenong South (14.5%)	Dandenong South (8.4%)
			Keysborough (77.4%)		Noble Park (19.1%)			Noble Park (14.6%)	Keysborough (9.1%)
			Noble Park (66.3%)		Noble Park North (18.3%)			Springvale (17.6%)	Noble Park North (7.3%)
			Springvale (59.6%)		Springvale (22.9%)			Springvale South (18.9%)	
			Springvale South (64.0%)		Springvale South (17.1%)				

Key themes in the data and literature 43

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

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- ⁹¹ Centre for Policy Development (2017). *Settling Better: Reforming refugee employment and settler services*. p.5. Available: <https://refugeehelathnetwork.org.au/settling-better-reforming-refugee-employment-and-settlement-services/> (Accessed 20/02/20).
- ⁹² Brown, H. *Profile of Health and Wellbeing Greater Dandenong 2019*. City of Greater Dandenong, internal document. p. 18.
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Key themes in the data and literature 47

4.1.2 Children's Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)

⁹⁶ JWS Research (2019) *Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey – Greater Dandenong City Council*.

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¹⁰⁰ State of Victoria, Department of Education and Training, Education State, *The early Years Compact* webpage. Accessible: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/educationstate/Pages/theearlyyearscompact.aspx>

¹⁰¹ Commissioner for Children and Young People, *Making Children Safe* webpage. Accessible: <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safety/>

¹⁰² State of Victoria, Department of Human Services (2007) *The best interests framework for vulnerable children and youth*. Available: <https://providers.dhhs.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2017-08/the-best-interests-framework-for-vulnerable-children-and-youth.pdf>

¹⁰³ State of Victoria (2013), *Victoria's vulnerable children: our shared responsibility 2013–2022*. Available: <http://youthlaw.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Victorias-vulnerable-children-Our-Shared-Responsibility.pdf>

¹⁰⁴ State of Victoria, Department of Health and Human Services (2016) *Roadmap for Reform: Strong Families, Safe Children 2016*. Available: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/201905/Roadmap-for-reform-28-4-2016.pdf>

¹⁰⁵ State of Victoria, Department of Premier and Cabinet (2016), *Ending Family Violence Victoria's Plan for Change*. Available: <https://www.vic.gov.au/ending-family-violence-victorias-10-year-plan-change>

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¹⁰⁸ Victorian Child Friendly Cities and Communities Charter. available: <https://www.vlga.org.au/sites/default/files/Victorian-Child-Friendly-Cities-and-Communities-Charter-2013.pdf>

¹⁰⁹ Australian Human Rights Commission (2018) *Child Safe Organisations National Principles*. Available: https://childsafeframeworks.org.au/sites/default/files/2019-02/National_Principles_for_Child_Safe_Organisations2019.pdf

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4.1.2 Children’s Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



4.1.2 Children’s Plan (2021-2026) (Cont.)



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4.2 OTHER

4.2.1 Central and Victor Avenues, Dandenong North - Sale of Land

File Id:	A7885433
Responsible Officer:	Manager Governance
Attachments:	Locality Plan Title Plan

1. Report Summary

Council officers recently carried out a planning process to remove the reserve status and subdivide the drainage reserve abutting the rear of the properties at 15-35 Central Ave and 18-38 Victor Ave, Dandenong North as shown on the locality plan provided in Attachment 1 (the Land).

Council officers commenced this process after they received a letter of interest from an abutting owner to purchase the land abutting their property. Council gave public notice of a proposal to sell this land to abutting owners. A decision is now required to determine if the Land is considered to be surplus to Council needs and will be sold to abutting owners.

2. Recommendation Summary

This report recommends that Council sells the land to the interested abutting owners.

4.2.1 Central and Victor Avenues, Dandenong North - Sale of Land (Cont.)

3. Background

The Land was set aside as a drainage reserve as part of Plan of Subdivision LP12589. The Land appears to be occupied and fenced by the adjoining property owners without the consent of Council. An abutting owner to the Land approached Council and requested that they purchase the Land that directly abuts their property. Council subsequently carried out a subdivision of the Land and 11 lots were created known as lots 1-11 on PS838081.

Council has written to abutting owners who occupy the Land at Central Ave to determine their interest in purchasing the abutting Land. At this stage there is only interest from one abutting owner.

Council considered a report in relation to this matter on 25 January 2021 and resolved to commence the statutory procedures in accordance with section 189 of the *Local Government Act 1989* to sell the Land to interested abutting owners.

The abutting owner who has expressed interest in purchasing the Land has indicated that they will purchase that part of the Land abutting their property at current market value in accordance with Council's *Disposal or Sale of Council Assets and Land Policy*.

4. Discussion and Options

Council gave public notice of the proposal to sell the Land on 29 March 2021 allowing interested parties the opportunity to lodge a submission. The submission period closed on 30 April 2021 and no submissions were received in relation to the proposal to sell the Land.

5. Proposal

The Land is considered to be surplus to Council requirements and is therefore suitable for sale. It is proposed that Council agrees to sell the sections of the Land to the interested abutting owners and retain the remainder of the lots to be sold to abutting owners at a later time, when they express interest in the section of Land that they abut.

6. Financial Implications

Currently, Council has only received interest from one abutting owner and if that part of the Land is sold the purchaser will pay the costs and \$10,200 based upon the market value of the Land. However, Council officers will continue to approach other abutting owners to ensure further sales are achieved from the subdivision project. (Note: the Land currently appears to be occupied and fenced by the adjoining property owners without the consent of Council.)

There are no current resources included within the Annual Budget for this purpose, however costs associated with the proposal will be passed on to any purchaser.

7. Consultation

Council carried out a formal public consultation process as required under Section 189 and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, allowing for submissions to be lodged for consideration by Council before a decision would be made. No submissions were received.

4.2.1 Central and Victor Avenues, Dandenong North - Sale of Land (Cont.)

Council's Commercial Property Unit also consulted with those abutting owners who currently occupy the Land regarding the sale proposal.

8. 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. In considering this proposal, the following overarching governance principles have been met.

- a. Council decisions have been made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law;
- b. priority has been given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;
- c. the municipal community has been engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making;
- d. collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies has been sought;
- e. the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information has been ensured.

9. 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).

All matters relevant to the Victorian Human Rights Charter have been considered in the preparation of this report and are consistent with the standards set by the Charter.

10. 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.

Council's Diversity, Access and Equity Policy and the *Gender Equality Act 2020* have been considered in the preparation of this report but are not relevant to its contents.

The content of this report does not have a direct and significant impact on members of the Greater Dandenong community therefore a gender impact assessment is not required.

11. 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.

4.2.1 Central and Victor Avenues, Dandenong North - Sale of Land (Cont.)

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.

This report has no impact on Council's Declaration on a Climate and Ecological Emergency, Council's Climate Change Emergency Strategy 2020-2030 or the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* in relation to the overarching governance principle on climate change and sustainability. Note that the Land to be sold to the abutting owner is currently fenced within their property boundary and will have no change of use.

12. Conclusion

It is considered that, following the public notice process associated with the Land known as

Lot 1-11 PS 838081 at rear of 15-35 Central and 18-38 Victor Avenues, Dandenong North (as shown in the plan provided in Attachment 2), that Council determines that the Land is surplus to Council requirements and authorises the sale of the Land.

13. Recommendation

That Council:

1. **notes that the statutory procedures in accordance with section 189 of the *Local Government Act 1989* have been carried out for the sale of Land at the rear of 15-35 Central Ave and 18-38 Victor Ave Dandenong North, shown as lot 1-11 on PS838081 and that no submissions have been received;**
2. **delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to sign all documentation associated with the sale of Land to abutting owners in accordance with Council policy.**

MINUTE 235

Moved by: Cr Tim Dark
Seconded by: Cr Bob Milkovic

That Council:

1. **notes that the statutory procedures in accordance with section 189 of the *Local Government Act 1989* have been carried out for the sale of Land at the rear of 15-35 Central Ave and 18-38 Victor Ave Dandenong North, shown as lot 1-11 on PS838081 and that no submissions have been received;**
2. **delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to sign all documentation associated with the sale of Land to abutting owners in accordance with Council policy.**

CARRIED

4.2.1 Central and Victor Avenues, Dandenong North - Sale of Land (Cont.)

OTHER

**CENTRAL AND VICTOR AVENUES, DANDENONG NORTH – SALE OF
LAND**

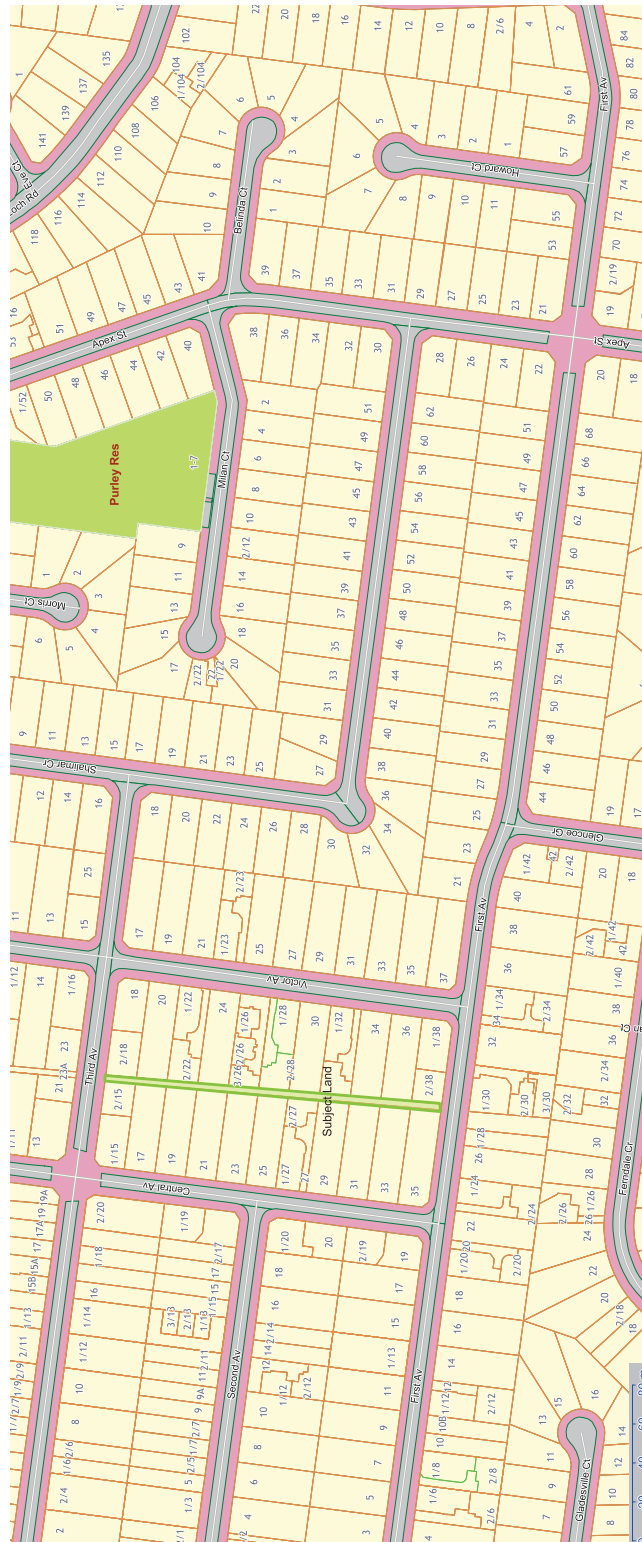
ATTACHMENT 1

LOCALITY PLAN

PAGES 2 (including cover)

If the details of the attachment are unclear please contact Governance on 8571 5235.

4.2.1 Central and Victor Avenues, Dandenong North - Sale of Land (Cont.)



4.2.1 Central and Victor Avenues, Dandenong North - Sale of Land (Cont.)

OTHER

**CENTRAL AND VICTOR AVENUES, DANDENONG NORTH – SALE OF
LAND**

ATTACHMENT 2

TITLE PLAN

PAGES 3 (including cover)

If the details of the attachment are unclear please contact Governance on 8571 5235.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

4.2.1 Central and Victor Avenues, Dandenong North - Sale of Land (Cont.)



Page 1 of 2

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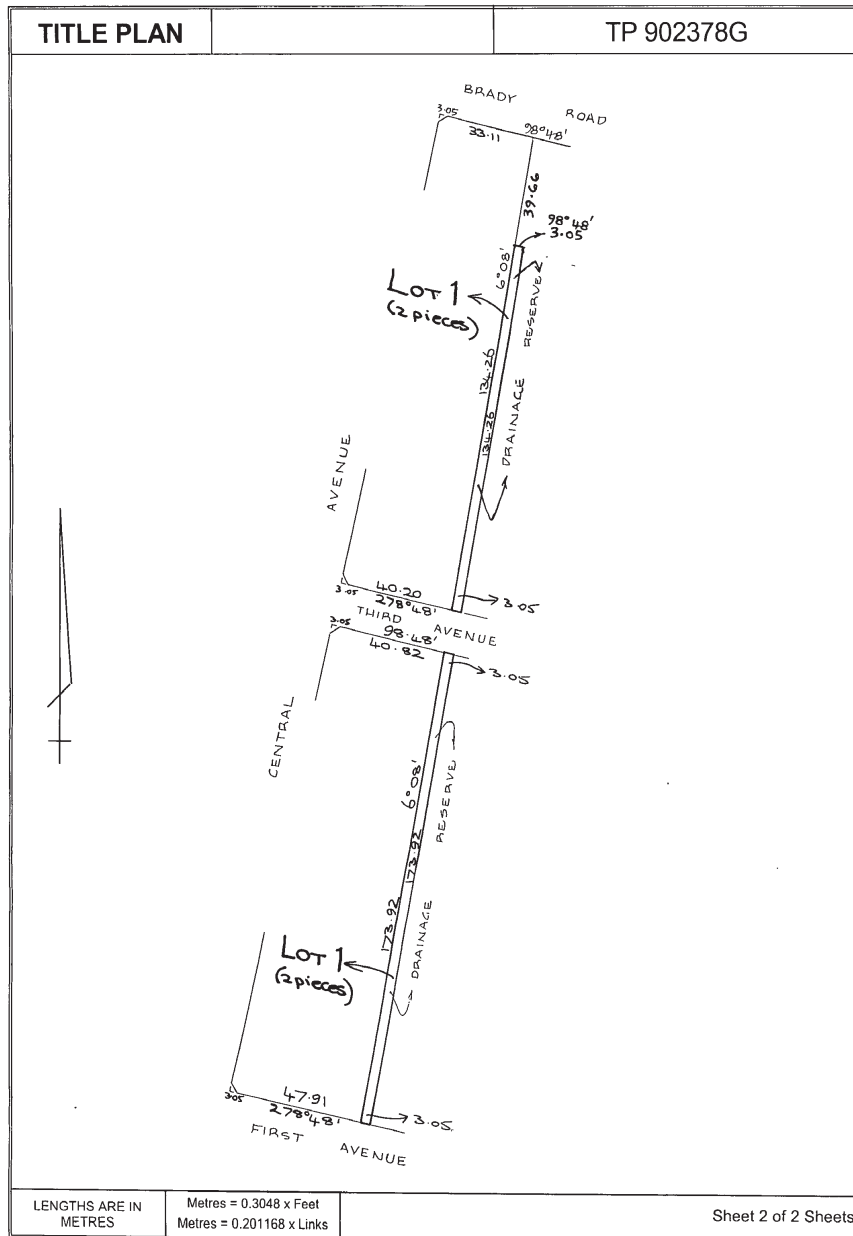
TITLE PLAN	EDITION 1	TP 902378G	
Location of Land Parish : DANDENONG Township: - Section: - Crown Allotment: - Crown Portion: - Last Plan Reference : LP 12589 Derived From : VOL. 8943 FOL. 280 Depth Limitation : NIL		Notations ANY REFERENCE TO MAP IN THE TEXT MEANS THE DIAGRAM SHOWN ON THIS TITLE PLAN	
Description of Land/ Easement Information			
ENCUMBRANCES THE EASEMENTS (if any) existing - - over the above described land by - virtue of Section 98 of the - - - - Transfer of Land Act - - - - -		THIS PLAN HAS BEEN PREPARED BY LAND REGISTRY, LAND VICTORIA FOR TITLE DIAGRAM PURPOSES COMPILED: Date 24/04/07 VERIFIED: A. DALLAS <i>Assistant Registrar of Titles</i>	
FOR DIAGRAM SEE SHEET 2			
<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"> TABLE OF PARCEL IDENTIFIERS WARNING Where multiple parcels are referred to or shown on the Title Plan this does Not imply separately disposable parcels under Section 8A of the Sale of Land Act 1962 LOT 1 = RESERVE (PT) ON LP 12589 </td> </tr> </table>			TABLE OF PARCEL IDENTIFIERS WARNING Where multiple parcels are referred to or shown on the Title Plan this does Not imply separately disposable parcels under Section 8A of the Sale of Land Act 1962 LOT 1 = RESERVE (PT) ON LP 12589
TABLE OF PARCEL IDENTIFIERS WARNING Where multiple parcels are referred to or shown on the Title Plan this does Not imply separately disposable parcels under Section 8A of the Sale of Land Act 1962 LOT 1 = RESERVE (PT) ON LP 12589			
LENGTHS ARE IN METRES	Metres = 0.3048 x Feet Metres = 0.201168 x Links	Sheet 1 of 2 Sheets	

4.2.1 Central and Victor Avenues, Dandenong North - Sale of Land (Cont.)



Page 2 of 2

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Plan TP902378G

Page 2 of 2

4.2.2 Report on Matters Discussed at Councillor Briefing Sessions & Pre-Council Meetings - 12 & 19 July 2021

File Id: fA25545

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance

1. Report Summary

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.

The matters listed in this report were presented to Councillor Briefing Sessions & Pre-Council Meetings in July 2021.

2. Recommendation Summary

This report recommends that the information contained within it be received and noted.

4.2.2 Report on Matters Discussed at Councillor Briefing Sessions & Pre-Council Meetings - 12 & 19 July 2021 (Cont.)**3. Background**

The Executive Management 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.

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 in July 2021.

4. Matters Presented for Discussion

Item		Councillor Briefing Session/Pre-Council Meeting
1	General Discussion Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: a) Update on Council Plan survey. b) Upcoming Snow Fest event. c) Proposed site development in Cheltenham Road, Keysborough. d) Agenda items for the Council Meeting of 12 July 2021.	12 July 2021
2	Community Satisfaction Survey Councillors were provided with the results of the 2021 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey prior to a media summary and Greater Dandenong Council News article being released.	19 July 2021
3	Dandenong Visitor Attraction Plan Councillors were presented with an overview of the draft Dandenong Visitor Attraction Plan and associated implementation plan.	19 July 2021

4.2.2 Report on Matters Discussed at Councillor Briefing Sessions & Pre-Council Meetings - 12 & 19 July 2021 (Cont.)

4	<i>South East Leisure (SEL) Inc - Council Representative Role Statement</i> Councillors were presented with a proposed Council Representative Role Statement to outline the role and assist in providing clarity for Council Representatives for both SEL	<i>19 July 2021</i>
5	<i>Draft Community Gardens Policy and Guidelines</i> Councillors were provided with a summary of the strategic and policy work undertaken to date including recommendations and supporting documentation. The Community Gardens on Council Owned Public Open Space Policy and Guidelines seek to provide a fair decision-making framework for Council to inform and support community organisations.	<i>19 July 2021</i>
6	<i>General Discussion</i> Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: a) Update on recent Planning Scheme Amendment. b) Potential issues at a development site in Keysborough. c) Update on the Community Infrastructure Loan Scheme. d) Agenda items for the Council Meeting of 26 July 2021.	<i>19 July 2021</i>

5. Apologies

- Cr Loi Truong submitted an apology for the Pre-Council Meeting of 12 July 2021.
- Cr Loi Truong submitted an apology for the Councillor Briefing Session of 19 July 2021.

6. Community Plan 'Imagine 2030' and Council Plan 2017-2021 – Strategic Objectives, Strategies and Plans

After consultation with the Greater Dandenong community on what kind of future they wanted to see for themselves and the City in 2030, the result was the Greater Dandenong Community Plan 'Imagine 2030'. This report is consistent with the following community visions:

Community Plan 'Imagine 2030'Opportunity

- *Education, Learning and Information – Knowledge*
- *Leadership by the Council – The leading Council*

4.2.2 Report on Matters Discussed at Councillor Briefing Sessions & Pre-Council Meetings - 12 & 19 July 2021 (Cont.)

Council Plan 2017-21

The Council Plan describes the kind of future the Council is working for, and how Council will do this over four years. This report is consistent with the following goals:

Opportunity

- *An open and effective Council*

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

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.

8. Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities

All matters relevant to the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities have been considered in the preparation and are consistent with the standards set by the Charter.

9. 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.

Council's Diversity, Access and Equity Policy and the *Gender Equality Act 2020* have been considered in the preparation of this report but are not relevant to its contents because it is a reporting mechanism only. The report does not have the potential to influence broader social norms and gender roles nor does it benefit any one gender group over any other.

10. 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.

4.2.2 Report on Matters Discussed at Councillor Briefing Sessions & Pre-Council Meetings - 12 & 19 July 2021 (Cont.)

This report has no impact on Council's Declaration on a Climate and Ecological Emergency, Council's Climate Change Emergency Strategy 2020-2030 or the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* in relation to the overarching governance principle on climate change and sustainability because it is purely administrative in nature and is a reporting mechanism only.

11. Recommendation

That the information contained in this report be received and noted.

MINUTE 236

Moved by: Cr Sophie Tan

Seconded by: Cr Richard Lim

That the information contained in this report be received and noted.

CARRIED

4.2.3 List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors

File Id:	qA283304
Responsible Officer:	Manager Governance
Attachments:	Correspondence Received 19-30 July 2021

Report Summary

Subsequent to resolutions made by Council on 11 November 2013 and 25 February 2014 in relation to a listing of incoming correspondence addressed to the Mayor and Councillors, Attachment 1 provides a list of this correspondence for the period 19-30 July 2021.

Recommendation

That the listed items provided in Attachment 1 for the period 19-30 July 2021 be received and noted.

MINUTE 237

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad
Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That the listed items provided in Attachment 1 for the period 19-30 July 2021 be received and noted.

CARRIED

4.2.3 List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors (Cont.)

OTHER

**LIST OF REGISTERED CORRESPONDENCE TO
MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS**

ATTACHMENT 1

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED
19-30 JULY 2021**

PAGES 3 (including cover)

If the details of the attachment are unclear please contact Governance on 8571 5235.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

4.2.3 List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors (Cont.)**Objective**

CONNECTED. COLLABORATIVE. COMMUNITY.

Correspondences addressed to the Mayor and Councillors received between 19/07/21 & 30/07/21 - for officer action - total = 1

Correspondence Name	Correspondence Dated	Date Record Created	Objective ID	User Assigned
Questions from a Keysborough resident regarding Frederick Wachter Reserve and any Masterplan proposals.	28-Jul-21	28-Jul-21	fA222898	DCPDA/DBEMP

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

4.2.3 List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors (Cont.)

Objective

CONNECTED. COLLABORATIVE. COMMUNITY.

Correspondences addressed to the Mayor and Councillors received between 19/07/21 & 30/07/21 - for information only - total = 3

Correspondence Name	Correspondence Dated	Date Record Created	Objective ID	User Assigned
An Information Pack from the Dandenong Community Association regarding the Dandenong Community Hub.	13-Jul-21	19-Jul-21	A7889589	Mayor & Councillors EA
An invitation to the Mayor to attend the CFA's 2021 Dandenong Fire Brigade Annual Dinner.		21-Jul-21	A7896710	Mayor & Councillors EA
A letter to the Mayor from an OAM recipient thanking Council for its congratulations to them on receiving the OAM award.		21-Jul-21	A7896711	Mayor & Councillors EA

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

4.2.4 South East Leisure Board - Appointment of Council Representative

File Id:	A7899739
Responsible Officer:	Director Community Services
Attachments:	South East Leisure Board - Council Representative Role Statement (Final)

1. Report Summary

Council, at its meeting held on 15 June 2021 considered a report on South East Leisure Pty Ltd Company (SEL) administration and adopted the Management Services Agreement (MSA) and the Constitution for the company and noted the appointment of the Directors including the Board Chair.

Council has two Local Government Business Enterprises (LGBE) being the Dandenong Market Pty Ltd (DMPL) and South East Leisure Pty Ltd (SEL).

The attached Council Representative Role Statement is proposed to outline the role and assist in providing clarity for Council Representatives for both SEL and DMPL.

2. Recommendation Summary

This report recommends that Councillor Lana Formoso be appointed the Council Representative on the South East Leisure Board for a period of 15 months.

4.2.4 South East Leisure Board - Appointment of Council Representative (Cont.)

3. Background

As outlined in the 8 February 2021 Council report, Council currently operates four major aquatic and leisure facilities in the City of Greater Dandenong being:

- Dandenong Oasis Aquatic Centre
- Noble Park Aquatic Centre
- Springers Leisure Centre
- Dandenong Stadium

The YMCA currently operates the first three centres under a contract that has been extended to 30 June 2022 with Dandenong Stadium managed by Elite Stadium Management.

Following consideration of various management models, Council determined in the February resolution to establish a proprietary company limited by shares to manage these four leisure centres from 1 July 2022.

South-East Leisure Pty Ltd has been legally established, a Board appointed and the recruitment for a CEO has commenced.

Council may notify SEL in writing of up to two individuals to be Council Representatives, who are:

- a) one Councillor; and
- b) one Council employee at the Director level (each a primary Council Representative).

This report recommends the appointment of a Councillor on the SEL Board.

Discussion

The Council Representative shares a strategic understanding of how the LGBE fits within and contributes to the overall Council vision and objectives. In addition, the Council Representative provides a conduit for effective two-way communications between Council and the Board and plays a formal and informal role in relationship management between the entities.

Council Representative Responsibilities include:

Communication, Interaction and Information sharing:

- Represent Councils interests to the Board.
- Facilitate communication about relevant documents, policies and issues between Council and the Company.
- Use their abilities, skills and experience to actively participate in discussions.
- Work constructively as part of the Board team and be available as a resource to the Board and management.
- Work towards strengthening the relationship between Council and the Company, including actively participating in discussion at Councillor Briefing Sessions when SEL is in attendance.

4.2.4 South East Leisure Board - Appointment of Council Representative (Cont.)

- The Council representative will be able to provide a report to Council as part of SEL attending a Council Briefing session annually to present the Annual Plan/Budget.
- Serve as a communication conduit with Council regarding actions, policies, and new developments of the Board, as appropriate.
- Organise for feedback to be provided on actions, policies and new developments when requested.
- Serve as a conduit for any Councillor seeking questions of the Board.

Strategic:

- Inform the Board of relevant Council Strategic Priorities.
- Aid in shaping the alignment of the Company's Strategy and Business Plan to achieve Council objectives.

Governance, Financial and Risk Management:

- Recognise and understand the legal responsibilities that each Director will have under the Corporations Act 2001.
- Develop an understanding of the operation of the Company.
- Understand the Company's risk management programs and processes.
- Contribute to the discussion on the development of the Draft Annual Plan and Budget for the overall operation of SEL, including detailed performance indicators.
- Understand and question financial information presented.
- Familiarise themselves with the Company's Constitution and Management Services Agreement and other relevant instruments.
- Attend meetings fully prepared, having read all relevant documents.
- Declare, at the outset of a meeting, any conflict of interest they might have with any matter on the agenda.
- Participate in any Board performance or self-assessment process.
- Distinguish clearly between views/contributions/feedback they are providing as an individual and views/contributions/feedback they are providing as a Council representative.

The responsibilities of the Council Representative "do not include":

- Being a Director of a LGBE.
- The ability to cast a vote in respect of any resolution.
- Involvement in any 'confidential Board' meetings that might be occasionally required to discuss fiduciary responsibilities.

4. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

4.2.4 South East Leisure Board - Appointment of Council Representative (Cont.)

5. Consultation

Consultation has occurred with representatives of the Dandenong Market Board, and staff in both the Community Services and Corporate Service Directorates.

Councillors have spent considerable time discussing all aspects of the role of Council Representatives (Councillor and Executive member). Councillors have also discussed expectations around representation; response to the various and relevant documents including the 'Management Services Agreement' and the 'Role Statement'; and, determining who, among the Council group may be best placed at this time to represent Council. A consensus has emerged that Cr. Lana Formoso be supported as Council's first representative to the Board of SEL.

6. Community Plan 'Imagine 2030' and Council Plan 2017-21 – Strategic Objectives, Strategies and Plans

After consultation with the Greater Dandenong community on what kind of future they wanted to see for themselves and the City in 2030, the result was the Greater Dandenong Community Plan 'Imagine 2030'. This report is consistent with the following community visions:

6.1 Community Plan 'Imagine 2030'

People

Opportunity

- *Pride – Best place best people*
- *Cultural Diversity – Model multicultural community*
- *Outdoor Activity and Sports – Recreation for everyone*
- *Lifecycle and Social Support – The generations supported*
- *Jobs and Business Opportunities – Prosperous and affordable*
- *Tourism and visitors – Diverse and interesting experiences*
- *Leadership by the Council – The leading Council*

7. Council Plan 2017-21

The Council Plan describes the kind of future the Council is working for, and how Council will do this over four years. This report is consistent with the following goals:

People

Place

Opportunity

- *A vibrant, connected and safe community*
- *A creative city that respects and embraces diversity*
- *A healthy, liveable and sustainable city*
- *A city planned for the future*

4.2.4 South East Leisure Board - Appointment of Council Representative (Cont.)

- *A diverse and growing economy*
- *An open and effective Council*

8. 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.

The establishment of SEL, and the Council Representative Role Statement respond to the overarching principles in several ways including:

- Council has determined that the company management model provides it with the most strategic control over the leisure facilities and will have a strong focus on improving community well-being and participation in leisure activities.
- Over time, it is expected that the company management model will produce the most economic financial result for Council.
- In developing its future strategic plan for the consideration of Council, the SEL Board will be required to highlight how it will address the achievement of strategies established in Councils Make your Move Strategic Plan and enhance environmental sustainability.
- The Council Representative will share a strategic understanding of how SEL fits within and contributes to the overall Council vision and objectives.

9. 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 of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* has been considered in the preparation of this report but is not relevant to its contents.

10. 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.

Whilst this report is largely administrative in nature, the recruitment and selection of relevant Directors has been conducted with a view of having a gender and diversity balance on the Board.

11. 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.

4.2.4 South East Leisure Board - Appointment of Council Representative (Cont.)

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.

This report largely has no impact on Council's Declaration on a Climate and Ecological Emergency, Council's Climate Change Emergency Strategy 2020-2030, or the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* in relation to the overarching governance principle on climate change and sustainability. The future role and strategies of SEL are however likely to significantly consider these impacts.

12. Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks

- Aquatic Strategy 2019
- Make Your Move Greater Dandenong Physical Activity Strategy 2020-2030

13. Recommendation

That Councillor Lana Formoso be appointed the Council Representative on the South East Leisure Board for a period of 15 months.

MINUTE 238

Moved by: Cr Bob Milkovic
Seconded by: Cr Tim Dark

That Councillor Lana Formoso be appointed the Council Representative on the South East Leisure Board for a period of 15 months.

CARRIED

4.2.4 South East Leisure Board - Appointment of Council Representative (Cont.)

OTHER

**SOUTH EAST LEISURE
- APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE**

ATTACHMENT 1

**SOUTH EAST LEISURE BOARD - COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVE ROLE STATEMENT
(FINAL)**

PAGES 4 (including cover)

If the details of the attachment are unclear please contact Governance on 8571 5235.

4.2.4 South East Leisure Board - Appointment of Council Representative (Cont.)

SOUTH EAST LEISURE BOARD COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ROLE STATEMENT

The Council Representative shares a strategic understanding of how the Local Government Business Entity (LGBE) fits within and contributes to the overall Council vision and objectives. At Greater Dandenong, LGBE's currently include Dandenong Market Pty Ltd and South East Leisure Pty Ltd. In addition, the Council Representative provides a conduit for effective two-way communications between Council and the Board and plays a formal and informal role in relationship management between the entities.

The Council Representative is a person that Council assigns or appoints to represent Council on a LGBE. It could be a Councillor appointed at a Council meeting (there are no longer annual or ordinary meetings under the LGA2020), or it could be an executive officer as appointed by the CEO.

Council Representative Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Council Representative include:

Communication, Interaction and Information sharing:

- Represent Council's interests to the Board.
- Facilitate communication about relevant documents, policies and issues between Council and the Company.
- Use their abilities, skills and experience to actively participate in discussions.
- Work constructively as part of the Board team and be available as a resource to the Board and management.
- Work towards strengthening the relationship between Council and the Company, including actively participating in discussion at Councillor Briefing Sessions when SEL is in attendance.
- The Council representative will be able to provide a report to Council as part of SEL attending a Council Briefing session annually to present the Annual Plan/Budget.
- Serve as a communication conduit with Council regarding actions, policies, and new developments of the Board, as appropriate.
- Organise for feedback to be provided on actions, policies and new developments when requested.
- Serve as a conduit for any Councillor seeking questions of the Board.

Strategic:

- Inform the Board of relevant Council Strategic Priorities.
- Aid in shaping the alignment of the Company's Strategy and Business Plan to achieve Council objectives.

Governance, Financial and Risk Management:

- Recognise and understand the legal responsibilities that each Director will have under the Corporations Act 2001.
- Develop an understanding of the operation of the Company.
- Understand the Company's risk management programs and processes.
- Contribute to the discussion on the development of the Draft Annual Plan and Budget for the overall operation of SEL, including detailed performance indicators.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

4.2.4 South East Leisure Board - Appointment of Council Representative (Cont.)

- Understand and question financial information presented.
- Familiarise themselves with the Company's Constitution and Management Services Agreement and other relevant instruments.
- Attend meetings fully prepared, having read all relevant documents.
- Declare, at the outset of a meeting, any conflict of interest they might have with any matter on the agenda.
- Participate in any Board performance or self-assessment process.
- Distinguish clearly between views/contributions/feedback they are providing as an individual and views/contributions/feedback they are providing as a Council representative.

The responsibilities of the Council Representative "do not include":

- Being a Director of a LGBE.
- The ability to cast a vote in respect of any resolution.
- Involvement in any 'confidential Board' meetings that might be occasionally required to discuss fiduciary responsibilities.

Code of Conduct

The Council representative will commit to the Board Charter and Director's Code of Conduct and keep Board matters confidential and not circulate or otherwise disseminate any Company documents.

If the Council Representative is a Councillor, they are also bound by the Councillor Code of Conduct. If the Council Representative is a member of Council staff, they are also bound by the Staff Code of Conduct.

Board Meetings and Other Commitments

Council Representatives are expected to attend Board meetings subject to absents themselves when matters under discussion involve a conflict or potential conflict of interest.

However, the attendance or absence of a Council Representative does not count towards a Board meeting quorum.

Council Representatives are *not* expected to serve as members of Board committees that may be established from time to time.

Council Representatives can participate in the discussions held at the Board meetings but have no right to vote on any decision.

Council Representatives have no power to direct the Board in its decision making and must respect the autonomy of the Board to make decisions and not seek to unduly influence or interfere with the running of the Company.

The Board meetings for SEL will include provision for the Council representative to provide a report on relevant Council activities.

Term and Remuneration

Council will appoint Council Representatives on an annual basis.

4.2.4 South East Leisure Board - Appointment of Council Representative (Cont.)

It is considered beneficial that Council Representative/s serve successive terms exceeding single year appointments - consistency; constructive familiarity; company knowledge and strategic appreciation are some of the benefits that arise from a longer representative tenure.

Council Representatives are designated as a result of their position with Council. Accordingly, if their employment/term on Council is terminated, so too is their role as Council Representative.

There is no remuneration for performing the role of the Council Representative.

Competencies

Council Representatives must have excellent communication skills and demonstrated achievement of strong results in leadership roles at a senior level.

Council Representatives will have financial literacy experience.

It is highly desirable that the Council Representatives will have completed the Australian Institute of Community Directors (AICD) course or other appropriate and accredited training/program and/or would have experience in Governance.

5 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

Question

Cr Tim Dark

My first question relates to a planning application for a property at 12 Warragamba Court, Keysborough. I have received concerns from local residents about the development, correspondence which I have forwarded on to the Director of Planning. Many residents had heard that there were some amendments to the planning application but have not been notified exactly what those amendments are. Have we conveyed any information back to the residents or the objectors on the nature of these amendments? Also, when is this planning application expected to come to Council?

Response

Jamie Thorley, Acting Director City Planning, Design and Amenity

I am aware of the correspondence that has been received by Council. I will take the questions on notice and get back to you with the relevant information.

Question

Cr Tim Dark

My next question is to do with the Gaelic Park in Keysborough South on Perry Road. I have been inundated with enquiries and I believe residents have also reached out to Cr O'Reilly regarding a planning application which was submitted and was apparently rejected by Council. The application was about the community facilities at Gaelic Park to cater for different multicultural and community groups. I am aware that the planning application has been resubmitted hence the many phone calls from members of the Gaelic Club who are deeply concerned about the status of the planning application. I will forward on the correspondence I have received via email. I would like an update on the application and whether we are assisting the Gaelic Club with the issues they are currently facing.

Cr Lana Formoso left the meeting at 8.13pm.

Response

Jamie Thorley, Acting Director City Planning, Design and Amenity

My understanding is that Council officers have been working in conjunction with the Gaelic Park community to gather more information on existing use rights and previous use of the facility for functions which is the current application before Council. I am not sure where that is at this stage but I can get that information for you and reply to you in due course.

Cr Lana Formoso returned to the meeting at 8.14pm.

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Question

Cr Tim Dark

I am following up on a question I asked at the last Council meeting regarding poor lighting at the end of Goodman Drive through to Tower Court and to the Yarraman Railway Station in Noble Park. The response that I got back from the officers raised concerns particularly with the Mile Creek crossing bridge overpass which I suppose is the biggest issue that the residents had previously raised with me. When you go through Goodman Drive onto Tower Court and continue walking, you will arrive at a large development on Hanna Street. I understand that there was concern about the biodiversity issues and about adding some lights to a walkthrough area. I wanted to find out what the threshold is for the biodiversity impacts versus the public safety of residents.

Response

Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects

The initial response was undertaken through Jane Brodie, Coordinator Strategic, Design and Sustainability in the Planning area. I am aware of what Cr Dark is talking about so I am happy to have a further conversation about that with the Acting Director of Planning and update Cr Dark.

Question

Cr Tim Dark

I received correspondence about the reserve at the corner of Cabinda Drive and Chandler Road in Keysborough. I raised a concern some time ago regarding children running across the road to fetch a cricket ball causing some near misses. I believe there was some consideration given to the construction of a small fence. A nearby resident called me on the weekend and advised that a couple of soccer balls went onto Chandler Road from the park where many children were during lockdown. Is Council planning on constructing this fence?

This question was taken on notice.

Comment

Cr Lana Formoso

I have been very busy preparing for my new appointment on the South East Leisure Board and doing a lot of homework for that.

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

A resident contacted me regarding a service card that we issue to our residents if requests have not been answered within 10 business days, a sort of a customer guarantee. I did not know anything about that but when I checked our website it is there. How would one go about obtaining such a service card and what does it entail?

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Response

Kylie Sprague, Executive Manager Communications and Customer Service

The service card is used if our service level times are not met. When a service request comes through customer service or through our website, it is logged onto our Merit system. The person requesting the service is contacted by an officer to either provide a response or to advise them on the progress of their request, when it will be met or what follow up actions might be required. If those requests are not resolved within the service times set in place, there is a process on our website that they need to follow for further actions to be taken or to have their requests escalated. Does that answer your question?

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

I wanted to know what the service card entails. I do understand it is a customer guarantee service but how would they go about obtaining this service card and what does it involve?

Response

Kylie Sprague, Executive Manager Communications and Customer Service

There are service cards for different business areas but not all areas of Council have service cards. In some areas, if a particular request for a service has been undertaken, officers respond by leaving a card to let the customer know that the request has been fulfilled. I know we have received some requests from other areas within Council recently so we are probably looking at expanding this service into those areas. It is also used as a feedback mechanism for residents if they feel the necessary actions have not been taken on their requests. They can certainly contact our Customer Service area to have those requests followed up and if they do not feel that we have met that service level within the required timeframe, there is an escalation process in place also.

Question

Cr Eden Foster

With the Census tomorrow night and we are obviously in a lockdown, I am concerned that many of our residents, particularly those from a non-English speaking background may have trouble using devices to fill out their forms online. I know that the libraries have a Census support session to be held shortly but if our lockdown continues, does Council have a plan in place to reach out to such residents?

Response

Martin Fidler, Director Community Services

Yes, in our COVID lockdown planning we have gone into contingency mode which is to offer support both through our Customer Service and also through our Library support line. We will be promoting that through our socials and our media platforms that if the community needs assistance they can contact us and through the Library or through Customer Service we will provide support. There are translation and interpreting support areas available as well. It is not all happening on Tuesday night but over a couple of weeks till the end of August 2021 so if people have any concerns about it they just need to get in contact with us and we will see what support we can provide.

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Comment

Cr Sophie Tan

I just want to add that for anyone of Cambodian background, they can also contact the Cambodian Association of Victoria (CAV) by visiting the CAV office or by phone if they need translation services.

Response

Martin Fidler, Director Community Services

There is a 24hour hotline available for the Census with the Australian Bureau Statistics (ABS). They are also available to provide support in a range of languages and formats so people can contact us or they can contact the Census Helpline.

Comment

Cr Eden Foster

Thank you, Mr Fidler and Cr Tan. That is really helpful. I think this data and I think everyone knows I am a stats person, I like my data but this data from the Census is so important to understanding what services we need in our community to meet our residents' needs. It is also compulsory that we all need to do so I urge my fellow Councillors to please promote the Census and also the assistance that our Council provides.

Comment

Cr Rhonda Garad

I am very pleased to see that the hard work of Keysborough South residents and Council's Traffic Team has paid off. We have just been informed that the No.815 Bus will now be redirected into Keysborough South. This has been long awaited. It will soon now move down Perry Road along Church Road and up Chapel Road and during the week service Mount Hira School. This is the result of a great collaborative effort and I thank everyone for the time and effort they have put into this.

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

I have a follow up question to the earlier one about the regulation of large trees on private land. I note that Mr Thorley only mentioned some of the metropolitan Councils that have regulations or other controls and not the ones that are considering regulations or other controls. Can we please have a complete list?

Response

Jamie Thorley, Acting Director City Planning, Design and Amenity

Certainly, we can get that information for you and provide what we can.

Comment

Cr Angela Long, Mayor

If you can send it to all Councillors please.

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

On the weekend there was an incident as Cr Dark was saying in the other parts of Keysborough. There was an unfortunate incident where a child was almost hit by a car in the Pirate Park section of Keysborough South. Unfortunately, the basketball court is situated very close to the road and creates a safety risk when the ball inevitably lands on the roadway. The roadway is now a very busy thoroughfare and the park is used extensively particularly during lockdown. Can the Council please conduct a safety audit on this issue as quickly as possible and come up with some short and long term solutions?

Response

Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention as issues relating to child safety in parks whether or not in close proximity to roads is crucial. My team is now aware of this matter and they will undertake an audit. I should be able to get some information to you on the timing of that in the next couple of days.

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

My next question also relates to safety audits. I am enquiring about the safety audit that was to be conducted on the walkthrough behind Chandler Drive in Keysborough South. Due to the high number of incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour in this area the residents want to know how the Council will keep this area safe?

Response

Martin Fidler, Director Community Services

I can confirm that the safety audit has been completed and it is going to be discussed at the Community Safety Advisory Committee meeting on 11 August 2021. It is also proposed that a subsequent meeting will be scheduled with interested residents following this committee meeting so we should have a date soon after 11 August 2021.

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

Will Council consider setting up a 'Living Greener' incentive program such as green money, live greener and get rewarded as other Councils such as Bayside have done? These programs provide incentives such as free coffee in collaboration with local businesses to reward sustainable and planet friendly actions.

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Response

Jamie Thorley, Acting Director City Planning, Design and Amenity

Council officers will certainly discuss this program with our counterparts at Bayside Council to gain a further understanding of the program and what it entails. Once further information has been obtained, we will consider this and whether we need to bring it before Council and then we could consider it as a similar program.

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

In each Federal Election there is a Greater Dandenong Council Advocacy Agenda used to lobby Members of Parliament (MPs) and candidates that is made publicly available so residents can know what we are lobbying for on their behalf. When will the Advocacy Agenda for the coming Federal Election go up to the public?

Response

Kylie Sprague, Executive Manager Communications and Customer Service

Each year, Council reviews and updates its advocacy document so at a minimum this is done prior to each State and Federal Election but also the years in between so local MPs can assist us with our advocacy efforts. As Cr Garad stated, these documents are then made available on our website. This was most recently updated in June this year so just a couple of months ago. As soon as we have an idea of when the Federal Election will be held the most pressing issues will be discussed with Councillors and a document is prepared then quite quickly. Once that is finalised for election candidates, it will also be placed on our website and made available to the public.

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

Is the Greater Dandenong Multicultural Leaders Network operational yet and if not when will it be and has there been any discussions with various groups such as sustainability teams as to how the new network can be used to inform our environmental and sustainability education efforts?

Response

Martin Fidler, Director Community Services

The Greater Dandenong Multicultural Communities Network is operational with 10 active members. Council officers from our Community Development Team have discussed the preferred process of engagement with the Environment and Sustainability Teams and the relevant plans will be shared with the Network for comment. We are currently looking and discussing with them some dates for August 2021. It is a Network that does not have set meeting dates. They respond as needed to plans and policies and other things that we need feedback on so we will be talking to them about a time and we hope to have that confirmed for August 2021.

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

Has the Network been used, is it currently operational?

Response

Martin Fidler, Director Community Services

I believe they have been meeting and they have been going through an induction process. They have had some members come and go so there is currently an expression of interest (EOI) out for additional members. As I said, there is no set number of people on the committee, it is quite fluid. People can come in and out but I do believe they have been providing feedback on a range of things. I could provide that information in more detail if you would like that. I do not have that with me right now.

Comment

Cr Rhonda Garad

Thank you I would really appreciate that information. I think it is a really innovative program and I think we should be highlighting when we are using this. I think it is a cutting edge and it is good for people to know that we are doing that.

Cr Lana Formoso left the meeting at 8.29pm.

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

What is the status of the Mobile Environmental Sustainability Trailer project? Is it now out for tender or not and when is it expected to be?

Response

Jamie Thorley, Acting Director City Planning, Design and Amenity

An expression of interest process for the Mobile Environmental Sustainability Trailer project is expected to go live by the end of this month pending our final sign off from all internal business units.

Cr Lana Formoso returned to the meeting at 8.30pm.

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Question

Cr Richard Lim

Regarding outdoor dining in Springvale, recently residents have asked me when Council will provide outdoor dining equipment. Can you please let me know roughly when it is going to happen?

Response

Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects

Is this with regards to the matter of umbrellas and structures on the footpath or is it a matter of just general seating?

Comment

Cr Richard Lim

The umbrellas and the seats on the footpath.

Response

Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects

The latest update is we are in the process of getting letters to each of the individual restaurants or interested parties to sign showing their interest. The reason being that upon installation the umbrellas and shade structures or screens will be handed over to them to maintain in an ongoing way. It will not be Council's responsibility and we do have a contractor appointed that will be installing the umbrellas and the screens. I will get an update on the expected date or timeframe of the installation and when it will occur.

Comment

Cr Richard Lim

I would just like to comment following Cr Eden Foster's question regarding the Census that our pharmacy can also provide some services. In the last two weeks, many of our customers of different nationalities rang us asking questions about the Census, how to obtain and complete the Census forms. As Cr Tan has already mentioned, they can go to the Cambodian Association and they can also come to Lim's Pharmacy in Springvale or call us for assistance.

On Friday, I went on Facebook to talk with the community in Sydney to discuss how to complete the forms and how to avoid a penalty or fine.

Last night, I spent so many hours explaining to our community how to complete the forms and answering their questions and letting them know to come to my pharmacy if they need help with the Census.

Question

Cr Jim Memeti

I have a question regarding the Material Aid Program we have. I am sure that there was money available until September or October this year. What is going to happen after that date?

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Response

Martin Fidler, Director Community Services

The Program is continuing so we currently have funds as previously said to the end of September 2021 but with COVID lockdowns continuing we are continually talking to the State Government about an extension of funds. I think as mentioned earlier in a Briefing there has not been a great demand at this stage on those funds so we will continue to resource the 14 agencies that are providing that support throughout the municipality and if it gets to a point where we need more we will be talking to our partners in the State Government about those funds but at this stage they are State Government funds that we are using. I will provide Council an update if anything changes there.

Comment

Cr Jim Memeti

It has been really important for our community especially the 14 agencies that are helping our community. We need to make sure that it continues and I thank the staff that have been manning this project, from Librarians to other departments of Council. They stepped in and are doing a magnificent job and the community is really appreciative.

Question

Cr Jim Memeti

In the 2021-22 Budget, we had some money to lay some concrete on Dandenong Creek. There have been motorbikes going down the Dandenong Creek and they have been digging up the walking track making it very difficult for our residents with disabilities to walk on that track. Can we have a report on when that is going to happen?

Response

Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects

With regards to the proposed works I will get back to you on the timing and schedule of that. With regards to the matter of the motorbikes, do we know whether or not the residents have contacted the Police or our Local Laws department? Maybe that is something that you could relay to them if it continues.

Comment

Cr Jim Memeti

Yes, I did tell them to call the Police but I did not think about calling our Local Laws Team. I was not sure if we have got any local laws on motorbikes but I did advise them to call the Police.

Response

Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects

I will discuss the matter with Mr Thorley after the meeting and I will also follow up with our Engineering Team with regards to the timing of that project.

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)**Question****Cr Jim Memeti**

I have also received many phone calls regarding the older stockyard site in front of where the COVID testing station is. I know we letterboxed the surrounding area but how can we let the wider community know what is going on because Cheltenham Road is a very busy road and people can see the tractors and trucks moving a lot of soil around. The concerned members of the public are asking why there was no announcement that the stadium is getting built to which I responded it was definitely not the stadium. I know we did give the land to the government for the grade separation but how can we let the wider community know what is going on?

Response**Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects**

That is always a tricky question on how we make the broader community know. I will have a conversation with Ms Sprague with regards to putting out some further details via either a press release or putting something on our website. We did ask the authority to expand quite considerably their letter drop so it does go into a large part of that particular estate right down to the creek, Allen Road and Allen Street, but as you said it does not necessarily capture those people driving past. Even if we wanted them to put signage on the site, it would not be easy for people to be driving past at 60 or 70kms trying to read a sign so we will have some thoughts about how we can best address that. We have given out some information including the phone numbers for people to contact the authority directly. They are quite happy to take any inquiry from any member of the community with regards to the works that they are doing on that site and essentially it is just a storage facility for works that they are doing. We are hoping that perhaps the level of activity that has occurred in about the last week and a half and certainly this week, will scale down somewhat because essentially it is just set up works.

Comment**Cr Bob Milkovic**

As the curtains are being drawn to the Tokyo Olympics which I have been following with great interest, I would like to congratulate our Australian athletes on their equal best performance at any Olympics: 46 medals - 17 gold, one for every day of the competition; seven silver and 22 bronze. They really do make us proud. Sixth overall in the competition so well done to the boys and girls that have gone there and then given their best in tough, tough conditions and extreme circumstances with the COVID restrictions with no audiences and obviously being delayed by a year. At the same time I would also like to congratulate my native Serbia on their best ever performance in the Olympics and they won the last gold medal in the Water Polo Olympics which was the closure of the Olympic games so well done to them both. It makes me proud to call myself an Australian and a Serbian from Serbian descent and I wish them the best of luck at the next Olympics, both of them. They make us proud and they make me proud indeed.

Cr Lana Formoso left the Meeting at 8.40pm.

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Question

Cr Bob Milkovic

I have received numerous complaints and calls over the months which sometimes we can answer and sometimes we cannot, regarding the four wheel drives activities at the end of Brady Road in Dandenong North before the paddocks. The four wheel drives use them as a test track and rip up the footy field, the land on the right hand side as you go towards Endeavour Hills. It is basically like a four wheel drive testing track and then they go back onto Brady Road and try to get rid of all the mud from their cars and drive at really excessive speeds. The residents are quite concerned because obviously there are kids using the bike track there walking with their parents. It is a beautiful place, a beautiful part of Dandenong North which people visit quite often. Is there anything at all possible that we could do to stop this kind of behaviour either gate it or put some sort of bollards or anything at all that can stop these four wheel drive guys using it as their own personal testing track?

Cr Lana Formoso returned to the meeting at 8.42pm.

Response

Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects

Yes, I am happy to give the question an initial attempt and then probably have to take some part of it on notice. My understanding is that that land is owned by Parks Victoria so as soon as you get past the Dandenong Creek into that other area where we are aware the vehicles then turn right up through the bushes. That area is owned by Parks Victoria. I am sure that we have addressed it with them in the past but I am happy to revisit and seek some further commentary from them. They had previously put the gates at the end of that road not far from the land that you are talking about with regards to access of four-wheel drives. It may well be that there might be an opportunity for them to bring the gates forward or maybe other uses of large rocks or barriers to prevent vehicles from getting up there. If you leave that one with us we will make some contact through to Parks Victoria and probably also include Mr Davine, Manager, Community Developments, Sport and Recreation from Mr Fidler's directorate with regards to his contacts.

Question

Cr Sean O'Reilly

I have been thinking about how things are changing with COVID and how it might look beyond COVID and what you might call a COVID normal. More people have been forced to use online communication methods and I understand that the use of Snap Send Solve app is growing which is a good thing. With our Customer Service Centres which primarily deal with customers by phone at the moment, does Council have any plans to introduce technologies like online chat or officers meeting with residents via online meetings because I think if we leverage some of these new technologies it will be more efficient for Council and more efficient for residents? I just would like to know if and how we are exploring new technologies to make it easier for residents and Council to communicate with each other.

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Response

Kylie Sprague, Executive Manager Communications and Customer Service

I think you are doing a promotion for us because we certainly have been using the ChatBot. Since the redevelopment of our website we have introduced a new ChatBot which is largely automated based on people's questions so as we get more of the same questions the answer gets refined each time but we also have the ability for people to speak to a customer service officer online in real time. We have some of our officers trained up to answer those questions in real time but our ChatBot facility is very, very advanced now. It is based on one that a few other Councils are using and we are sharing the information and data so when other Councils get similar questions, we are sharing the answers and sharing that intel across our website. It is up and running and it is growing in popularity as well. You will notice that on our website as you go onto certain pages particularly if you go on to the Contact us page, the little bubble pops up and offers an offline chat to our customers so yes it is available now.

As far as online chats with officers, I dare say they would be happening now. We have what we call surface hubs set up in a number of meeting rooms across Council similar to what we are using tonight. We have the ability to meet with people online, staff who are working from home and in the office, Councillors as well as community members, certainly more so in the last 12 to 18 months we have definitely increased our technological offering and we are making ourselves as available as possible to our customers. It is lovely to welcome people in when we have our service centres open but when they are closed as they are now, we still do take calls, online chats and face to face video conference calls if that is what people would like.

Comment

Cr Sophie Tan

These are the few events I attended from 26 August to 9 September 2021.

On 29 July 2021, I attended the Councillor Briefing about the Dandenong Community Hub.

On 2 August 2021, I attended the briefing on Waste and Cleansing Programs.

On 4 August 2021, I attended the Interfaith Network's 2021 Annual General Meeting. I want to congratulate the new President, Father Jean Mawal and the Vice President Mrs Roz Blades AM. That evening I also attended the citizenship ceremonies with the Mayor and Cr Bob Milkovic. Congratulations to the new citizens that joined our City of Greater Dandenong.

Question

Cr Sophie Tan

I would like to congratulate everyone involved with the new bus stop installed in Keysborough South. This will provide a connection between the Noble Park Station and Keysborough South through Parkmore Shopping Centre along Perry Road, Church Road and Chapel Road. My question to the relevant officer is with the installation of the bus route, why are there no bus shelters? Can we get a request to the Department of Transport to install the bus shelters for our residents during winter and the hot summer season?

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)**Response****Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects**

That is a very, very important question. As we indicated and I think Cr Garad has referred to it there is information currently out with regards to the Department of Transport and the new Bus Route No.815 which I think you are also referring to. We have been informed, much to our great disappointment and much to probably an advocacy campaign that we will be commencing no doubt, that the bus stops along that route will not include bus shelters. I cannot understand why that is the case in 2021 when we know with regards to impacts of weather that the importance of having somewhere that you can shelter whilst waiting for a bus is crucial. All I can advise is that the residents and those who are talking to any Councillor with regards to the current and ongoing consultation with the Department of Transport that they are running, I would encourage everybody to put in a request for a bus shelter through the entire route. We will be advocating continually on this matter and that is something that we hope to advise Council on in the coming months but it will be very much a separate decision on bus shelters as compared to the one that Cr Milkovic and others have been referring to with the more needy of the installation of the ones that have been removed due to a recent audit that was undertaken. Again, all I can reiterate is that we understand that bus shelters are not going to be included in the new route and that with DoT undertaking a consultation process at this point, we would encourage people and residents to make sure that their voices are heard.

Question**Cr Sophie Tan**

My next question is regarding the homelessness issues. With our sixth lockdown due to COVID, it has caused a lot of frustration for everyone especially its impact on small businesses. Many residents can no longer afford housing with rental prices going up and many people losing their jobs so there has been an increase in homelessness in Greater Dandenong. What can Council do to at least help the residents during this tough time?

Response**Martin Fidler, Director Community Services**

If the Councillors or anyone listening or reading the Minutes have concerns about people sleeping rough in our community, they can contact the Housing Support Services. The two main ones in our community are Launch Housing and WAYSS. There is also a 24hour support service managed for Victoria through the St Kilda Crisis Centre that are trying to address the immediate challenges of people sleeping rough. I know from the conversation we have had recently with both Launch and WAYSS that they are also willing to come and talk to small businesses if people have concerns about sleeping rough at the front of their properties or businesses. They are welcome to have conversations with them as well. It is a housing system that is under pressure as Cr Tan has pointed out and this Council is doing a number of things in conjunction with a group of other Councils in the Local Government Mayoral Taskforce and also around other advocacy and practical issues that will be shared over the next few months. It is considerably an important issue that we need to support people who are sleeping rough in our community or finding it hard to pay the rent.

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Question

Cr Sophie Tan

My last question is regarding dumped rubbish. With lockdown, residents are cleaning and I have noticed a lot of hard rubbish piled up along the streets. Some of the rubbish does not seem legal and it could be someone dumping their rubbish on someone else's property. In terms of our services, is there a delay in hard rubbish collection due to COVID?

Response

Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects

I will have to check regarding any current delays with the delivery of that service. I would hope not but then again we do have to respect the needs of the companies that do collect the allocated hard waste and that is something I can certainly inform you of and the other Councillors in the coming days.

Cr Lana Formoso left the meeting at 8.55pm.

Comment

Cr Angela Long, Mayor

On 4 August 2021, I attended the online meeting of the Interfaith Network AGM 2021. That night, I attended two ceremonies for citizenship. We had 90 new citizens at each ceremony.

On 6 August 2021, I attended the Showcasing Women in Business - In the Loop event online. The guest speaker was Dr Louise Mahler.

Cr Lana Formoso returned to the meeting at 8.56pm.

John Bennie PSM, 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 as an attachment.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

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
12/07/21 CQT16& CQT17	Cr Jim Memeti	Seagull issues & measures to reduce population Many businesses are complaining about the seagulls. This is creating a big problem for them because they are spending tens of thousands of dollars on trying to secure their roofs and box gutters. Is there anything else we can do from Council's point of view to try and get rid of these seagulls once and for all? Question Cr Angela Long, Mayor Are we also making food operators within the City secure their rubbish as well because some of them do not have big enough bins to put their rubbish in and that is how the seagulls are actually feeding off the rubbish that is hanging out of bins?	Director City Planning, Design & Amenity/ Mayor	6/08/21	Initial response provided 12/07/21: This has been an issue that is the poisoned chalice. We have tried everything that we are legally allowed to try; and we are only going to try the things that we are legally allowed to try. You will have seen the reflectors that we have got on building roofs and the nets that we have put up. These are things that we can put on our structures however; the solution is not one that Council alone can be responsible for. It does require everybody participating in it. The seagulls are a protected species, one may not disturb their nests, one may not remove their nest; one may not take any action to physically eradicate them. We have had experts out and had a look at it and we have tried everything from flying falcons to the reflectors. Seagulls are attracted to food and we have had our Local Laws Officers go out and try to educate members within the community against putting food out for the birds. We have seen and some of the Councilors here have also raised it with me, it may have been Cr Tan who attended an event at one of the parks in Noble Park and saw a lady who goes out and she thinks she is doing a good deed by feeding the seagulls. These

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ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
		Question Cr Jim Memeti Clearly that is not working. We have a problem and we need a new idea. I am a little bit upset that these businesses are losing tens of thousands of dollars through repairing their roofs during COVID so we need to take this to the next level. I think we need to write to the Minister and let her or him know of our problem and maybe we can have a one off clean up and move these nests properly but we need to do something because what has been done is not working so can we write to the Minister? Comment Cr Angela Long, Mayor Yes.			are the things that we have got to try and it is part of trying to move them onto somewhere else, but unfortunately there is no real solution to them. As I say, they are not a pest, they are not feral, they are a protected species and the only way you are going to stop them roosting in gutter boxes is if people secure their own roofs just as Council is doing what it can in respect of its roofs. A couple of years ago I think, we had an arrangement with some suppliers where property owners or building owners could access their services at a discounted rate. The best time to do this is not during winter but again as I say, it is that poisoned chalice. There is no actual solution to the issue other than trying to assist and do things like education and community participation and securing those places. Yes, our Waste Education Officers have done that as well and it is not just the seagulls. The ones that are making the biggest mess in that regard are those very, very clever black crows who open the bins but that is all part of that education process. Further response provided 26/07/21: Letter is being drafted when all the required information is to hand and will provide further update at the next meeting.

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ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
26/07/21 CQT2	Cr Tim Dark	More lighting along narrow walkway through Goodman Drive I have a question from a resident who lives in Goodman Drive, Noble Park. They commute down the end of Goodman Drive through a very narrow walkway through Tower Court and Mile Creek through the housing complex at the Yarraman Railway Station. Many residents from Noble Park commute that way. They have reported that the alleyways and laneways are quite dark and there has been an increase in graffiti and unsocial behaviour occurring as people walk through that area. Apparently, it happens mainly when crossing over the Mile Creek bridge and in the small alleyway between Goodman Drive and the Creek. Can officers investigate additional lighting to brighten up the area?	Director City Planning, Design and Amenity	6/08/21	Further response provided 6/08/21: Letter will be forwarded to the Mayor for signing. COMPLETED Initial response provided 26/07/21: Officers will undertake a light assessment to determine whether or not it needs to be brightened or some action taken with further light installation. Once we have determined that we are then in the hands of some of the lighting companies to undertake that work. Firstly, we will undertake the assessment and provide you and the resident of that outcome. Further response provided 6/08/21: The informal path that runs along Mile Creek between Chandler Road and the Mile Creek pedestrian bridge is a biodiversity corridor. Council generally do not place lighting along a creek corridor quite densely planted with trees due to these biodiversity sensitivities. The new residential estate on the northern side of Mile Creek provides well-lit pedestrian footpaths between the pedestrian bridge crossing and Yarraman Station and there are also lights at each end of the bridge as at the laneway that connects to the industrial precinct on Tower Court. Lighting is already provided along

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ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
					the main Eastlink cycle trail to Hanna Street. Council recently acquired the remnant tree reserve at 114 Hanna Street, Noble Park and a portion of land adjoining Mile Creek. These two reserves are located at the eastern end of the Hanna Street residential area and alongside the East Link Cycle trail. Council are looking to improve the path connections in these linked reserves to improve access from the northern residential area to Mile Creek. An outcome of this would result in the new informal path link being well lit by the street lights. There is also an opportunity to review the lighting to the east of the pedestrian bridge crossing from the Tower Court laneway to the Eastlink paths and Greaves Reserve. This would be subject to a future approved capital improvement project. As part of the review and development of the revised draft Greaves Reserve Master Plan, the issue of lighting from the west side of Eastlink (cycle trail and pedestrian path) and along the section of Mile Creek within Greaves Reserve has been an important consideration. The draft Greaves Reserve Master Plan will be subject to future community consultation and engagement in 2021/22 and future capital improvement project bids as an outcome of the master plan recommendations.

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ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
26/07/21 CQT4	Cr Lana Formoso	Widen the narrow sections of the Dandenong Creek Trail I would like to discuss an issue that has been raised and one I have observed myself. I often use the Dandenong Creek Trail, to walk and ride when I take my children to Jells Park. What I and other have noticed is there are pockets of the Trail where the path is too narrow to be able to handle both pedestrians and cyclists. I have observed there are areas where we could possibly widen the path. Could we please investigate this because there has been a huge amount of accidents that have occurred and collisions particularly in the past year. Obviously with COVID, many people are exercising which has probably been a positive thing but the incidences are obviously a concern.	Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects	5/08/21	Initial response provided 26/07/21: We will investigate. The only issue I will raise and it is not necessarily an impediment but something that we would need to consider is that, some of those reserves are not owned by Council but are owned by Melbourne Water or Parks Victoria. We would bring that to their attention and they would act on our request. Firstly, we will identify those sections that you have referred to that are narrower than they should be and where required pursue the relevant authorities. Further response provided 5/08/21: The Dandenong Creek Trail between Dandenong and Jells Park runs through the cities of Casey, Greater Dandenong and Monash and is in Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria reserves or areas of interest. Council officers are aware some sections of the Dandenong Creek trail are narrower than other sections, however most sections are generally in accordance with current standards. One location along the trail which has been identified as too narrow, is the Dandenong Creek crossing over the Clow Street bridge. Designs have been completed to widen the path at this location and construction is anticipated to commence in early

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ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
26/07/21 CQT5	Cr Lana Formoso	Remove dead trees at Ivan Court, Noble Park A resident has advised that some trees in Ivan Court, Noble Park North, have died. If they could please be removed and	Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects	5/08/21	2022. It is unlikely significant lengths of the trail can be widened in the short-term without additional capital works funding. Any proposed path widening will need to take into account the impact on trees along the trail as widening the path is likely to impact the stability and health of these trees. Depending on the section of the trail consultation and agreement may be required with Melbourne Water or Parks Victoria before any widening works could occur. If there are particular sections of the trail where there is currently conflict between various path users, please identify these sections so Council officers can investigate and determine if improvements can be made to reduce this conflict. If the section does not fall within the Greater Dandenong, council officers will contact the responsible authority for their investigation and action as necessary. Improvements which can be implemented quickly without needing to widen the path include ensuring clear areas beside the path and installing additional signage or line marking to improve user behaviour and expectations along the trail. COMPLETED Initial response provided 26/07/21: Yes, if the trees are dead we can send officers to investigate and schedule replanting.

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ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
		replaced. I have not had a chance to personally investigate due to the lockdown but if that could be assessed that would be great.			Further response provided 5/08/21: The trees within Ivan Court have been inspected. The trees known as <i>Acacia implexa</i> , commonly known as Lightwoods, were planted three years ago. The trees were found to be in reasonable condition however, one tree was found to be missing in front of number 2 Ivan Court which has been programmed for replacement. Subject to tree availability, this may not occur until next year's planting season. Council officers will continue to monitor the condition of the trees as part of our ongoing tree maintenance and inspection programs.
26/07/21 CQT6	Cr Lana Formoso	Rubbish at Dandenong Market & 40-42 Stud Road still not removed Unfortunately, as I was travelling to Dandenong Market yesterday and I might add, Dandenong Market was booming which is good news for the traders, I noticed there is still rubbish along there Mr Kearsley and all of the appropriate officers. It is so disappointing to see. Much of the rubbish that I had mentioned at previous Council meetings has not been removed at 40-42 Stud Road. It is just awful and every time I use Stud Road, I am so disappointed to see the amount of rubbish that is constantly being dumped there. I do not know what else we can do but can it please be removed in the interim and if we can	Director City Planning, Design and Amenity	5/08/21	Initial response provided 26/07/21: I do know that Mr Kearsley's staff and mine have worked together in the area. We have had some success but as you mentioned Cr Formoso, this is recidivist behaviour. How do we stop it happening? The officers have devoted a fair degree of time to it and we will continue to do so until we get a change in behaviour in the area. I will take note of it and Mr Kearsley, myself and our staff will reconvene to see what else we can do in that area. Further response provided 5/08/21: Since the last meeting of Council,

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ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
26/07/21 CQT7	Cr Eden Foster	Pothole at 330 Cheltenham Road Keysborough It has come to my attention and other residents have also expressed concern to me. I know that this may not be Council property but I would like it brought to the attention of the owners of the block of shops on 330 Cheltenham Road, Keysborough. There is, as you drive out onto Cheltenham Road, quite a big pothole and it is not well lit. I along with some residents have been caught up in that pothole by surprise. Can the relevant officer bring that to the attention of the owners as there is no room to avoid this pothole?	Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects	5/08/21	officers have again sought the cooperation of the land owners in improving the appearance of the land in question, and again these requests have not been adhered to. Given this inaction, Council has been left with no option but to commence formal proceedings in this matter. This will include using Council's resources to remove rubbish from the land, the cost of which will be recouped from the landowners via the provisions of the Local Government Act 2020. More formal enforcement action may also see the matter proceed to the Magistrates' Court, if recommended by Council legal advisors. COMPLETED Initial Response provided 26/07/21: We are very familiar with this pothole. Many residents have previously raised it with us and we continue to raise it with the property owner. I will check the last time that we did that and will follow up with that property owner to remind them of that fact but we are aware of it. Further response provided 5/08/21: Council officers last spoke with the Body Corporate Manager for the shops at 330 Cheltenham Road regarding the pothole on 5th July. The pothole was repaired by their contractor shortly thereafter but has

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6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
26/07/21 CQT9	Cr Rhonda Garad	Increase monitoring of traffic on Chapel Road Keysborough South I would just like to have two follow up questions with Mr Kearsley regarding the traffic issues in Keysborough South on Chapel Road. The traffic management plan you refer to I believe, was conducted in 2019. There has been significant development in Chapel Road subsequently and I am wondering if this therefore warrants increased monitoring of the traffic on Chapel Road. I am also curious about a term that I have never heard before regarding the traffic limits in the new road being the extension of Villiers Road, where you said they were 'advisory traffic limits'. I have never actually heard the term 'advisory traffic limits' and would this be confusing to people.	Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects	5/08/21	since failed again. A Council officer will again make contact with the Body Corporate this week to advise them of the latest complaints made and suggest that a more substantial repair is undertaken (i.e.: remove and replace the pavement rather than simply filling the pothole in with asphalt) to successfully address the underlying issue causing the problem. Council will continue to monitor and follow up with the responsible party as required. COMPLETED Initial response provided 26/07/21: I will answer the last part of the question first. Within Victoria there are statutory road signs. The ones I am referring to are the yellow ones so if you are approaching a curve or intersection, they are used as advisory and they are not enforceable. The enforceable road limits are those signs in red and white. That is the terminology I was using. The roundabouts and the speed humps throughout the municipality and throughout Melbourne, you will often find them with a yellow sign next to them. That is an advisory sign saying that you should go around the roundabout or over the speed hump at 20kms. If you attempt it at 50kms, in some ways good luck to you and your car but they are purely advisory. With

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ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
					regards to the other matter you raised, the Keysborough South traffic management work that is being done by the traffic management team and Council, I am happy to revisit that and have another look at the timing of that. I think the reference that Mr Boccarri and others are looking at, are some of the questions that were around the use of Chapel Road by heavy trucks and possibly there was a claim that B-Doubles were using them. I am expecting a fairly comprehensive response to that by the Transport Team using data to outline how best or how those B-Doubles actually do not use that road and what the actual truck traffic movements are. I am happy to then engage directly with you and the local residents with those findings. We have not just left that question alone. It is something that we have continued to work behind the scenes on and will advise on that with an update to the Keysborough South traffic management study, in a more up to date response. Further response provided 5/08/21: Council's Transport engineers have been monitoring traffic on Chapel Road regularly since the Keysborough South Transport Study was conducted in 2019. An updated

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6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
					version of this Study (dated July 2021) has been prepared and is anticipated to be available on Council's Website in late August 2021. A draft of this will be provided to yourself and residents who have made recent enquiries with regards to some of these topics prior to this, and recipients would be welcome to contact Council's Transport engineers directly to discuss. Key findings / components of the update include: • Details on congestion on Chapel Road and the impact Covid-19 has had on travel on Chapel Road • Anticipated impacts of ongoing development and other major projects such as the Mordialloc Freeway (which is anticipated to significantly impact traffic in the area) • Truck volumes on Perry Road and Chapel Road • Anticipated projects which may improve safety and amenity in future. The updated Keysborough South Transport Study report highlights a number of projects which are included within Council funding programs (such as the Local

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6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
26/07/21 CQT11	Cr Rhonda Garad	High density developments exploiting the mixed used zone We are seeing a lot particularly in Keysborough South, more high-density developments that have exploited the mixed-use development zoning. The community are rightly asking how this can happen. Can the Council advocate to the State Planning Minister to have this loophole closed? Comment Cr Rhonda Garad Yes, it is in relation particularly to the HomeCo Centre which was originally designed I believe, for commercial development. When that commercial development did not come to fruition, the housing development was then allowed in a mixed-use zone, allowing a greater density because of that particular zoning. If it is housing that is now being proposed, it should in fact revert to residential zoning so I am happy to have	Director City Planning, Design and Amenity	3/08/21	Area Traffic Management Program and Active Transport Infrastructure Program) which are anticipated in the area. It is likely to be several years before many of these are constructed, as the funds available within these programs are prioritised to locations within the municipality where there is a greater need. COMPLETED Initial response provided 26/07/21: I have noted your question but I am not sure what loophole you are referring to or how this has been exploited and thus what advocacy platform there is to be taken forward. I will take the question on notice tonight and arrange a meeting with you to get a better understanding of what is being sought and then how we take that forward. The mixed-use zone has been part of the suite of the Victoria planning provisions for a long time and I am not aware that there are any loopholes in it. Obviously there is something more behind this so if you and I can arrange a time to get together, I am happy to discuss that with you further. Further response provided 3/08/21: Meeting time with Cr Garad being

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ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
		that further discussion with you.			arranged. COMPLETED
26/07/21 CQT17	Cr Rhonda Garad	Climate change & related events implications In the northern hemisphere we are seeing devastating climate related events such as unprecedented floods, fires and a new phenomenon called heat domes. Heat domes are breaking record temperatures causing hundreds of deaths from heat stress. (a) Do we have emergency plans for heat waves for the coming summer (with particular focus on vulnerable groups such as older persons)? (b) Are these plans being reviewed in light of the rapidly increasing frequency and severity of heat waves due to climate change and if not, why not? These questions were tabled and taken on notice.	Chief Executive Officer	29/07/21	Response provided 29/07/21: As part of our Municipal Emergency Management Plan, in October 2020 Council and Emergency Service organisations undertook a tri-annual Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA) in partnership with VICSES. CERA is an all hazards risk assessment tool which aims to identify, mitigate and reduce risk within the community following the Australian Standard for risk management, ISO 31000. As a result of this process the three (3) highest risks that were identified are: 1. A Heatwave, 2. A Flood and Storm and 3. A Pandemic. Council's Emergency Management team have reviewed our response procedures to a heatwave and are in the process of finalising an updated Heat/Health Plan for Summer 2021/22. Considerations of the impacts of climate change feature in all of Council's Emergency Management Plans.

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6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
26/07/21 CQT18	Cr Rhonda Garad	Draft Greater Dandenong Biodiversity Action Plan When is the draft Greater Dandenong Biodiversity Action Plan going to be publicly exhibited? This question was tabled and taken on notice.	Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects	5/08/21	COMPLETED Response provided 5/08/21: I am pleased to advise that the Draft Biodiversity Action Plan will be on public display for comment from 9 August 2021. We look forward to receiving comments from our community to improve the biodiversity values in Greater Dandenong.
26/07/21 CQT19	Cr Richard Lim	Surface area of Victoria Avenue reserve My first question is regarding Victoria Avenue Reserve in Springvale. Would it be possible for the relevant officer to tell me what the surface area is of that park? According to an email from Mr Jackson, 10 percent of the size of the park or 400 square metre whichever is less can be used so does that mean it is compliant to establish a community garden at the Victoria Avenue Reserve?	Director City Planning, Design and Amenity	3/08/21	COMPLETED Initial response provided 26/07/21: I will have to check for you what the area of the site is and the correspondence from Mr Jackson that you are referring to I will take that question on notice and reply in the next few days. Further response provided 3/08/21: Victoria Avenue Reserve has a total area of 1697sqm. Based on the draft Community Gardens Guidelines, this would allow a community garden of up to 169sqm in area. However, Council officers have previously advised that both of the proposed trial projects Victoria Avenue and Maralinga community gardens may be considered outside of the Community Gardens policy, so there may be some flexibility in the area sought for this proposed community

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ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
26/07/21 CQT20	Cr Richard Lim	Zebra crossing/traffic lights at roundabout Balmoral/Buckingham Avenues Almost every week people complain about the crossing at the roundabout of Balmoral Avenue and Buckingham Avenue in Springvale. When are we going to install a zebra crossing or traffic lights there and have we heard anything from VicRoads regarding this matter?	Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects	5/08/21	garden. COMPLETED Initial response provided 26/07/21: At this point, the preference is to have a look at appropriate use of zebra crossings at that location and that is a matter I can take up with the Transport Team, to see how they are progressing with that. There is a matter of pedestrian safety and the use of vehicles with regards to the introduction of zebra crossings on a roundabout and that is something that we need to evaluate. With regards to traffic lights, that is currently something that is not supported by officers due to the fact that the introduction of the traffic lights would add a significant cost to Council and we would still need to seek the approval from VicRoads. If Cr Lim wishes to discuss the issue of traffic lights, that is something that would have to be put through as a CIP budget bid for ongoing financial years. Further response provided 5/08/21: Officer investigations have highlighted that due to the low traffic speeds in the area, the road safety risk is low. Making alterations to the intersection may result in increased congestion.

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ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
					If alterations were to be implemented, a budget bid will be required to achieve the best outcome at this location. Council's Transport Engineers intend to present a number of options in the build up to future budgets. These are: • Install a Zebra right at the roundabout – likely to significantly increase congestion • Install a Zebra slightly back from the roundabout so a car can 'prop' between the roundabout and crossing (see Buckingham Windsor example) – this is better for congestion but requires utility and pole relocation • Replace the roundabout with signals – may be the best long-term solution for pedestrians but involves much higher costs. Officers will engage with interested Councillors prior to future budgets to detail the options and costs associated with altering this intersection.
26/07/21 CQT21	Cr Richard Lim	More lighting on Buckingham Avenue Regarding the lighting in Buckingham	Director Business,	5/08/21	COMPLETED Initial response provided 26/07/21: Officers would need to undertake

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ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
		Avenue, between Queens Avenue and Windsor Avenue, the street is a very busy avenue. Is there any possibility that Council can add more light along that road because it is a very busy street? Comment Cr Richard Lim A business owner complained to me that the street is very dark and it is not suitable for commercial activity at all. That is my understanding, I think that it is not suitable for the Springvale Activity Centre because that is a place where many people come to dine and shop.	Engineering and Major Projects		investigation with regards to the relevant lux lightings. My understanding is having been there at nighttime, that it is lit to be appropriate to a pedestrianised area as compared with many residential streets which it would not have the same level of lighting. That is something that if you wish to, we could have a look at that in terms of whether or not it does meet the standards for what you would call a commercial street or a retail street. Further response provided 5/08/21: Council officers have scheduled a lux reading assessment to be undertaken along this section of Buckingham Ave to verify whether the level of lighting meets the Australian Standards. Any deficiency that might be identified as part of that verification process will be followed by a wider community consultation exercise to help inform whether the proposed installations will occur.
26/07/21 CQT25	Cr Bob Milkovic	Manks Reserve, (Gladstone Road, Dandenong North) retains puddles of water In Dandenong North on Gladstone Road where the Faith Church is, at one of our parks, Manks Reserve, there is a half-basketball court which is sitting within a reserve and within a playground area. I	Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects	5/08/21	COMPLETED Initial response provided 26/07/21: The main determinant of this will be whether or not it is a Melbourne Water retarding basin. They control all use within and around basins such as that. We can certainly ask the question but I would not be too positive about it at this stage. They

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ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
		understand from previous conversations that this is part of the water retarding basin. When there is even a little bit of rain, it is a concreted surface but it stays underwater for a good four to five days, not entirely covered but with large puddles. Can officers investigate and see if there is a way to inexpensively raise the surface or do something to improve the drainage around that basketball court. It is a very well used court with many locals who live around that area where Brady Road is and even further up in Dandenong North love to go there because there is a kids' playground as well and the older kids use the court. Can we investigate how to stop the water coming onto the court and staying there for days on end?			tend to use those for the purpose of storage of water and if the water takes a little bit longer to clear, they will probably say that it is just the natural nature of the water collection in that location. However, now that you have raised it, we will see whether it is ours or Melbourne Water's and then we can take the appropriate action and provide you with information at that time. Further response provided 5/08/21: Council officers have inspected the half basketball court in Manks Reserve and confirm there are small amounts of water sitting at a number of locations across the concrete surface with the surrounding grassed area very wet under foot. We note that Manks Reserve is not a retarding basin but does form part of the overland flood path that extends from Gladstone Road, down through the reserve and out on to Brady Road. The challenging aspect with this matter is that the concrete surface is quite flat, thus lending itself to hold water at a number of locations across its surface. As such, it will be difficult to drain the water away from the concrete surface due to the number of ponding points and, the already saturated grassed area that surrounds it. Apart from a full reconstruction, we propose to relocate the basketball hoop

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6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
26/07/21 CQT26	Cr Sean O'Reilly	Corrigan Road towards Princes Hwy – repainted road lines but not the white arrows I have just one question tonight to the Director of Engineering. It has been raised by residents to me that along Corrigan Road approaching Princes Highway, the lines have been repainted which is really good but for some reason the arrows were not. For my own edification, if the Director could find out why that might be and get back to me, I would appreciate it.	Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects	2/08/21	structure to an alternative location around the concrete pad that is not subject to water ponding issues. This way, the community will be able to play basketball that is unimpeded by water pooling in the winter months. In addition to this, council officers are also exploring its options to upgrade the basketball ring as part of this process. COMPLETED Initial response provided 26/07/21: Yes, we will investigate and find out the reasons behind that. Further response provided 2/08/21: In response I can advise that an inspection of the site has shown that the arrows have been done as well as the lines. I can only assume that the resident who reported it you must have visited the site before it was complete. Also note that these works were not done by my team and it is assumed they were undertaken by the Department Of Transport as part of the Princes Highway intersection.
26/07/21 CQT29	Cr Sophie Tan	Reason for stopping of work on the Noble Park Streetscape Project About the Noble Park Streetscape works, they have installed speed humps but that is it. Are they stopping work because of	Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects	30/07/21	COMPLETED Initial response provided 26/07/21: No, not as far as I am aware. I will follow that up. We are not sensing any stopping of works based on COVID. That is the advice I have but

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Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
		the COVID restrictions or what is going on?			I will investigate that project and provide you with some advice. Further response provided 30/07/21: This streetscape project is currently being delivered in two stages across the two financial years but as part of the one contract. Any stop between these two stages is only minimal and relates only to mid-project approval processes as the contractor interacts with the various utility authorities. COMPLETED

At the Ordinary meeting of Council on Monday, 24 March 2014, Council resolved to change the way Councillors and Public questions taken on notice are answered and recorded from 14 April 2014 meeting of Council onwards.

7 URGENT BUSINESS

No urgent business was considered.

The meeting closed at 8.55PM.

Confirmed: / /
