



**GREATER
DANDENONG**
City of Opportunity

MINUTES

COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 14 MARCH 2023
Commencing at 7:00 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong VIC 3175

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1 MEETING OPENING

1.1 ATTENDANCE

Apologies

Councillors Present

Cr Eden Foster (Chair)

Cr Tim Dark, Cr Lana Formoso, Cr Rhonda Garad, Cr Angela Long, Cr Richard Lim OAM, Cr Bob Milkovic, Cr Jim Memeti, Cr Sean O'Reilly, Cr Sophie Tan, Cr Loi Truong.

Officers Present

Jacqui Weatherill; Chief Executive Officer, Jody Bosman; Director City Planning, Design and Amenity, Marcus Forster; Acting Director Community Strengthening, Paul Kearsley; Director of Business, Engineering & Major Projects, Michelle Hansen; Executive Manager Finance and Information Technology, Kylie Sprague; Executive Manager Communications and Customer Service, Lisa Roberts; Manager Governance.

1.2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND

Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land, the Bunurong people and pays our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging while also recognising their deep and continuing connections to climate, culture and country.

We also pay our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their Elders and acknowledge their journey.

1.3 OFFERING OF PRAYER, REFLECTION OR AFFIRMATION

All remained standing as Pastor David Owen from the Combined Churches of Greater Dandenong read the following prayer:

"On behalf of the Dandenong Ministers' Fellowship:

Our Father in heaven, we thank you for your blessings upon this, our City of Greater Dandenong, for the freedoms we enjoy and the prosperity under which we live.

We ask you to help us, never to take these things for granted and we thank you for your multicultural society. Help us to love and respect one another as we learn to benefit from one another's diverse cultural backgrounds.

I pray Lord, for Mayor Councillor Foster and each Councillor of their respective wards. I pray for the officers and their various responsibilities, that You would give them great wisdom and understanding in their oversight, planning and vision for the City of Greater Dandenong.

Lord we ask that you help the residents of this City, to live in an atmosphere of helping one another, in order to make this City as best as it can possibly be.

Lord I commit this City and its residents to You Lord and ask that we would be known for our love, harmony and vision. In Jesus' name... Amen."

1.4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Meeting of Council held 27 February 2023.

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Meeting of Council held 27 February 2023 be confirmed.

MINUTE 701

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Loi Truong

That the minutes of the Meeting of Council held 27 February 2023 be confirmed.

CARRIED

1.5 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil.

2 OFFICERS' REPORTS - PART ONE

2.1 DOCUMENTS FOR SEALING

2.1.1 Documents for Sealing

File Id: A2683601
Responsible Officer: Manager Governance

Report Summary

Under the Victorian Local Government Act, each Council is a body corporate and a legal entity in its own right. Each Council must therefore have a common seal (like any corporate entity) that is an official sanction of that Council.

Sealing a document makes it an official document of Council as a corporate body. Documents that require sealing include agreements, contracts, leases or any other contractual or legally binding document that binds Council to another party.

Recommendation Summary

This report recommends that the listed documents be signed and sealed.

2.1.1 Documents for Sealing (Cont.)

Item Summary

There is one items being presented to Council's meeting of 14 March 2023 for signing and sealing as follows:

1. An instrument of Appointment of Authorised Officer under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1989, the Local Government Act 2020, the Environment Protection Act 2017, the Heritage Act 2017, the Infringements Act 2006, the Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986, the Planning and Environment Act 1987, the Sex Work Act 1994, the Subdivisions Act 1988, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 1998 and the Regulations made under each of those Acts; the Local Laws made under the Local Government Act 1989 and the Local Government Act 2020; and any other Act, Regulation or delegated legislation (including the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme) which relates to the powers of the Council made under the provisions and enactments described. This instrument enables the following Council officers to carry out the statutory responsibilities of the above Acts and is subject to policy and delegations previously adopted by Council:
 - Suzannah McCready

Recommendation

That the listed documents be signed and sealed.

MINUTE 702

Moved by: Cr Sophie Tan

Seconded by: Cr Lana Formoso

That the listed documents be signed and sealed.

CARRIED

2.2 DOCUMENTS FOR TABLING

2.2.1 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.

Recommendation Summary

This report recommends that the listed items in Attachment 1, and the current status of each, be received and noted.

2.2.1 Petitions and Joint Letters (Cont.)

Petitions and Joint Letters Tabled

Council received no new petitions and no joint letters prior to the Council Meeting of 14 March 2023.

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 703

Moved by: Cr Angela Long
Seconded by: Cr Richard Lim OAM

That this report and Attachment be received and noted.

CARRIED

2.2.1 Petitions and Joint Letters (Cont.)

DOCUMENTS FOR TABLING

PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

ATTACHMENT 1

PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

PAGES 6 (including cover)

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

2.2.1 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 5235.

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3 QUESTION TIME - PUBLIC

Question

Joyce Harris, Noble Park

Does the Council have any independent studies, independently funded studies, that are not just by the UN or some other government related to 5G, and the safety of 5G within the City of Greater Dandenong? Who is it that can provide what research has been done? Why is 5G relevant at all to us? How will our safety be protected when 5G is up and running full strength, and who will be responsible for that? Who will be culpable for that?

Response

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

This question will be taken on notice.

Question

Susan Seeruthum, Dandenong North

I am really concerned about the effects of 5G and want to know if there has been any independent studies about the 5G network?

Response

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

This question will be taken on notice.

Question

Sylvia Mastrogiovanni, Dandenong

When can Dandenong residents expect their (Dandenong) Hub to start being built?

Response

Marcus Foster, Acting Director Community Strengthening

The results of the Hub consultation undertaken last year around the three variations, are due to be presented to Council this month for their review and then we will take direction from Council as to the next steps. There will also be an updated project page, updated by April 2023 that will layout the timelines.

3 QUESTION TIME - PUBLIC (Cont.)

Question

Bruce Talbot, Aspendale Gardens

Can Council put some signs up around Springvale to say begging, sleeping on the street and unauthorised fruit peddlers can be prosecuted? Also, can Council clear out the boxes and everything in the front arcade that goes from Springvale Road, because people just cannot move, and it is dangerous?

Response

Jody Bosman, Director City Planning, Design and Amenity

Council has an officer located there on a daily basis, basically a dedicated resource. You may have noticed the street vendors who are selling vegetables, have improved by about 80 per cent. There is only one or two that are persisting, that we have not managed to move on. In relation to pallets on footpaths, Council have cleared out pallets on the footpath within the arcade. Again, Council is dealing with the fish shop and a couple of the other traders there. You may have noticed that Council placed a yellow line in the arcade and most of the time, the boxes are behind the yellow line. There is not 100 per cent compliance, but between Council Officers and Councillor Richard Lim OAM regularly inspecting the area we are bringing about a change.

There are a number of the issues that happen in the area that Council Officers have no authority or jurisdiction to intervene, and begging is one of them: that is a police matter. The Police moved the beggars out over the weekend, but it doesn't stop them returning. The Council is no different to the Melbourne, for example, with their huge budget and resources, that also has not managed to solve that problem, but we will keep persisting.

When it comes to homelessness and the people that are sleeping on the street Council does not have jurisdiction or authority to intervene. Council cannot go along and arrest people, but we do have our liaison with outreach groups like Launch Housing, and a program where they are approached and offered accommodation. This is a complex social issue and it is not solved by taking purely punitive steps. It is a complex issue that requires complex responses. Council's efforts in this area have already seen improvements and Council will continue to meet weekly with Councillor Lim and conduct inspections and street walks with Councillor Lim and hopefully see continued improvement in this area.

Response

Councillor Jim Memeti

As a Councillor who attends many Council briefing meetings, I can stand up for Councillor Lim, who has brought these issues to Council on many, many occasions. I have been in a room when we have had police officers present and Councillor Lim has raised it many, many times. This Council continues to have a problem, not only in Springvale, but Noble Park and Dandenong. Unfortunately, since COVID many people have been living rough. I can stand up for Councillor Lim and I have heard him personally, on many, many occasions, bring it to Council and to the Police.

3 QUESTION TIME - PUBLIC (Cont.)

Question

Louisa Willoughby, Springvale

1. At the last meeting Cr Garad asked for the status of the successor plan to the People Seeking Asylum and Refugee Action Plan 2018-21. While a status was given there was no indication of:

- a) timeframes for completion, particularly important given that the current plan ran out in December 2021
- b) timeframes for public exhibition
- c) when it is expected to be on our public website

I am particularly interested in b) and c) as there is a high degree of public interest in people seeking asylum and refugee issues among Greater Dandenong residents more generally

2. Following on from the question from Cr Garad about Living Melbourne at the last meeting, officers were going to make contact with Living Melbourne at the end of February.

What was the result of that contact?

Response

Marcus Foster, Acting Director Community Strengthening

The one-page Thematic Plan, endorsed by Council on 12 September 2022, is current until 30 June 2025 but does not have specific timeframes for individual actions. The Plan highlights broad category domains for potential actions and next steps is for Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee (MAPSAAC) members 'to map out the appropriate networks and identify gaps and opportunities for work group formation'.

This is an agenda item for discussion at the 23 March MAPSAAC meeting with new committee members. Timeframes for actions will be the responsibility of any formed working group and this information will be included in MAPSAAC minutes once they are formulated. The one-page Thematic Plan is available on Council's website for public viewing on the Multiculturalism and People Seeking Asylum landing webpage.

3 QUESTION TIME - PUBLIC (Cont.)

Response

Jody Bosman, Director City Planning, Design and Amenity

Officers have now contacted Living Melbourne who have advised that the future of the program is currently unknown. This is due to a lack of funding. The operators of the program are currently investigating options to fund Living Melbourne into the future, and also whether an appropriate governance model for the program can be established. Officers are now awaiting the outcomes of this work.

Question

Pam Naylor, Noble Park

When is the consultation for the general public on the Greater Dandenong Climate Change Community Engagement and Mobilisation Plan going to start?

Response

Jody Bosman, Director City Planning, Design and Amenity

Officers are currently finalising the survey for the general public consultation for the Climate Change Community Engagement and Mobilisation plan. It is intended that this consultation will commence by the end of March.

Question

Pam Naylor, Noble Park

Noble Park is one of the suburbs with the least open space in the City of Greater Dandenong. What is the status and timeframes regarding the concept plan for the new park at the corner of Railway Parade and Pamela Street, Noble Park. The site was purchased 2 1/2 years ago and yet nothing has happened.

Response

Jody Bosman, Director City Planning, Design and Amenity

The development of the park at 218 Railway Parade Noble Park is awaiting funding to be allocated to the project. Another funding bid has been submitted for the 2023/24 financial year, which will be considered as part of the upcoming annual budget process. Once the project is funded, a concept plan will be developed, prior to the works occurring.

Question

Pam Naylor, Noble Park

What is the status and timeframes of the Greater Dandenong Mobile Sustainability Trailer?

3 QUESTION TIME - PUBLIC (Cont.)

Response

Jody Bosman, Director City Planning, Design and Amenity

Officers have undertaken a tender process to acquire an appropriate trailer on a number of occasions, however, have not been successful in obtaining responses to the tenders. I also add that apart from just going out to tender in the normal tender process, Council has also gone out and directly approached people in a bespoke tender process.

Unfortunately, even there we were unable to get any interest. Council officers are now working on purchasing an electric van that could be utilised for the purpose of an environmental vehicle by the waste, parks and sustainability teams. It is currently anticipated to have finalised the purchase by the end of this financial year.

Question

Monica Singh, Dandenong

When will detailed design of the community hub start? Previous advice in recent Council meetings has been mid 2023 - is this still the case and if not, why not?

Response

Marcus Foster, Acting Director Community Strengthening

The results from the Dandenong Community Hub consultation is scheduled to be presented to Councillors this month. Then, based on further Council instruction, a report will subsequently be scheduled for endorsement at a formal Council Meeting. Following endorsement by Council, the project page on the website will be updated and all stakeholders advised.

Question

Elizabeth Grasso, Keysborough

When is the Greater Dandenong Biodiversity Action Plan coming to a Council meeting for endorsement?

Response

Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering & Major Projects

Council's Biodiversity Action Plan "growing nature together" is currently being finalised by the graphic designer and we anticipate it will be presented to Council for adoption at the 24 April 2023 Council Meeting.

3 QUESTION TIME - PUBLIC (Cont.)

Question

Matthew Kirwan, Noble Park

The Age reported on Monday, 13th March that Greater Dandenong had the second most pedestrian deaths of any Melbourne LGA in the last 10 years. I know the great work the Greater Dandenong Transport team do reducing pedestrian deaths on roads that Councils control - the problem seems to be on State controlled roads like Princes Highway, Heatherton Rd, Springvale Rd and Stud Rd.

I have noticed unsafe crossings by pedestrians of these roads over the years, often at locations like the Springvale section of Princes Highway and the Dandenong North section of Stud Rd where there are long sections without safe pedestrian crossings, whether pedestrian signals or pedestrian overpasses - the latter which are rare in Greater Dandenong for some reason.

Other than the Dandenong North section of Stud Rd where Greater Dandenong has been advocating for a crossing near McFees Rd for many years. What are the other hot spots of pedestrian deaths and near misses that Greater Dandenong Council have identified and what advocacy is being undertaken?

Response

Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering & Major Projects

We are aware of 15 pedestrian deaths in Greater Dandenong in the last 10 years, of which 13 have occurred on Victorian State managed arterial roads. Some of the locations where these occurred have been subject to road safety treatments since, including new signals on Springvale Road and Heatherton Road and reduced speed limits on Princes Highway.

Pedestrian detectors have also been installed at a number of signals as part of the Victorian Government's Smarter Roads program. Council has been advocating for a number of high priority road safety projects for pedestrians on arterial roads. Our number one pedestrian road safety project is a safe pedestrian crossing on Stud Road at McFees Road near the Dandenong Stadium. Our officers have been working with the Department of Transport and Planning to finalise designs for signals, and we believe the Victorian Government needs to fund these signals as a matter of urgency.

We have also recently advocated for pedestrian improvements on Heatherton Road in Noble Park, including signals and consideration of reduced speed limits. We believe education also has a critical role to play, particularly with erratic and unsafe pedestrian behaviour, including crossing at unsafe locations, contributing to several accidents on arterial roads. As part of our Road Safety Strategy, Council continues to advocate to the Victorian Government for ongoing investment in pedestrian safety education.

3 QUESTION TIME - PUBLIC (Cont.)

Question

Matthew Kirwan, Noble Park

Previously I have asked about the installation of a new street light at Cyril Grove, Noble Park between Railway Parade and Blamey Street. I have been informed at a Council meeting late last year that it should be installed before or just after Christmas 2022. However, it is yet not installed. What is the expected timeframe now?

Response

Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering & Major Projects

Further to your previous public question on 12 September, Council completed a lux level audit of the public lighting in Cyril Grove, Noble Park (particularly near Railway Parade) and our Asset Management team identified and arranged with United Energy for the repair of two faulty lights in Cyril Grove which had not been working and requested the installation of an additional light. Council raised a purchase order with United Energy last year. We are continuing to follow up with United Energy as to the cause of the delay of the installation. At this time, we do not have a timeframe from United Energy as to the installation but will provide an update when we receive a response.

Question

Matthew Kirwan, Noble Park

My question relates to p16689 of the Council minutes of Monday, 13th February, 2023, specifically Council report 4.1.3 Q2 2022-23 Council Quarterly Performance Report. In regards to Draft Greater Dandenong Community Safety Plan 2022-26, what general public input was there in the priorities of that plan and if so, with who and how was that information gathered? If there was not any general public input gathered how is that justified given that crime and community safety are such key topics of interest to the broad community?

Response

Marcus Foster, Acting Director Community Strengthening

The Draft Community Safety Plan utilised documentation of community feedback including:

- 2021 community engagement & deliberative panel work for the Council Plan
- Local Government Community satisfaction survey
- Hemmings St Precinct Survey
- Empowering Communities Ministerial Forum

Substantial community consultation also occurred with Safer Streets Initiative Pilot with traders/business owners operating in the Dandenong Activity Centre – particularly those from Lonsdale and Thomas Streets with individual community safety forums taking place for each group. The Draft Plan and next steps will be considered at the Councillor Briefing Session on 20 March. Council may direct to put the draft Safety Plan out for further public comment if they consider further consultation is desired.

3 QUESTION TIME - PUBLIC (Cont.)

Question

Tina Congues, Dandenong

It has now been almost 4 months since the consultation on the three concept designs for the Dandenong Community Hub has been completed. When will a detailed public consultation report, with the actual public responses like the 2020 Keysborough South Community Hub design consultation, be put on the Council website?

Response

Marcus Foster, Acting Director Community Strengthening

The results from the Dandenong Community Hub consultation in late 2022 to determine a preferred concept design, have been prepared into a report which is currently scheduled to be presented to Councillors this month. Then, based on further Council instruction, a report will subsequently be scheduled for endorsement at a formal Council Meeting along with the consultation findings. Following endorsement by Council, the project page on the website will be updated and all stakeholders advised.

Question

Gaye Guest, Keysborough

Why is the information session on cat curfews and tree protection scheduled for the same night as a council meeting? Waste of resources when Councillors cannot be in attendance and who will turn up to make it worthwhile. With overhead expenses being blown out of the water residents expect our rates to be used wisely and frugally so please reschedule events/ information sessions that clash so there is no overlap. This is just ridiculous and shows the ad hoc nature our local laws are regarded by council staff and officers. The information session tonight needed to be cancelled and rescheduled way before today! You need someone who can time manage and manage budgets overseeing all these pop-up events which do cost money and labour.

3 QUESTION TIME - PUBLIC (Cont.)

Response

Jody Bosman, Director City Planning, Design and Amenity

Council has three drop-in sessions already scheduled across the municipality. The first is at Tatterson Park tonight 14/03/23. The second at Springvale Town Hall tomorrow night 15/03/23 and the third at Dandong Civic Centre next Wednesday 22/03/23. Members of the public and Councillors are invited to attend these sessions. The drop-in session tonight (14/03/23) is one of many elements to an extensive community consultation program on the cat curfew and tree protection local law, including:

- Greater Dandenong Council News magazine
- Distribution of A5 flyers (mailing list)
- Distribution of color posters
- Advertising on interactive screens within Dandenong and Springvale Civic Centre's
- Social Media (targeted)
- Media releases
- Information and survey on Council's Website
- Meeting attendance and presentations
- Three drop in sessions in Dandenong, Springvale and Noble Park

Council recognises the complex nature of consulting and given we have such a diverse community within Greater Dandenong, Council has utilised many tools and approaches available in also taking a targeted approach to this consultation. This has included reaching out directly to at least 18 community groups, with language translation, social media and face to face interactions. Based on the comprehensiveness and extent of the community consultation program tonight's drop-in session will not be re-scheduled.

Question

Maria Sampey, Dandenong North

Can the relevant Council Officers organise to meet with people from Dandy Cat Rescue and other animal shelters and work with them to address the issues related to dealing with stray and feral cats, including funding for these organisations?

3 QUESTION TIME - PUBLIC (Cont.)

Response

Jody Bosman, Director City Planning, Design and Amenity

There are different types of cats – domestic, wild, semi-wild etc. It is a very difficult situation and before Council can allocate funding there needs to be an appropriate strategy that addresses all of the issues that you have raised tonight. The Council is working on a Cat Strategy that encompasses a suite of actions, and is looking at areas such as:

- Working with other organisations.
- Irresponsible cat owners.
- Cat curfew guidelines

Council welcomes all comments and input from the community, and it will help shape Council's future response to this issue.

Question

Maria Sampey, Dandenong North

Can Council take responsibility for advertising and organising the Senior Citizens Dance in 2023?

Response

Marcus Foster, Acting Director Community Strengthening

Council will make sure that the Senior's Dance is advertised in plenty of time for all interested parties. Also, the advertisement in the Council News is just one of the many ways that Council uses to reach out to the Senior's Community.

4 OFFICERS' REPORTS - PART TWO

4.1 POLICY AND STRATEGY

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023

File Id:

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance

Attachments: Revised Flag Flying Policy 2023 for Re-Adoption
Application to Fly a Flag on Council's Community Flagpole
Current Flag Flying Policy 2016

1. Report Summary

Council policies are in place to ensure accordance with relevant legislation, regulations and best practices. They provide a consistent approach to Council's operational requirements and promote accountability and transparency of Council decisions and actions.

The Flag Flying Policy provides consistent guidelines for the flying of flags at Council's civic and community flagpole sites and is reviewed every four years to ensure it remains current and compliant. It is now presented to Council for readoption.

2. Recommendation Summary

This report recommends that the Flag Flying Policy provided in Attachment 1 to this report be readopted.

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)

3. Background

Essentially, policies developed by Council are aimed at ensuring good governance and decision-making processes, as well as the effective and efficient management of community resources and the day-to-day business of Council. They help govern how Council operates and provide a clear set of principles that provide a definite direction for Council.

Each policy is developed in order to address specific matters and objectives as outlined in the Council Plan 2021-25 or as required by legislation. Policies promote consistency across the organisation and also enable the community to be familiar with the principles behind administrative and Council decisions.

Existing Council policies are subject to an ongoing review process to ensure they remain up-to-date and comply with current legislation. Policies should be reviewed and updated if legislation requires it; or when Council's functions, structure or activities change; or when technological advances or new systems are implemented.

Council policies should be read in conjunction with any related legislation, relevant internal policies, codes of practice or guidelines. A Council policy is considered to be automatically revoked upon re-adoption of the latest version of that policy. Policies that are superseded or superfluous to Council's needs require formal abolition by Council.

The Flag Flying Policy 2023 provides guidance regarding the flying of National and Community Flags from Council's civic and community flagpole sites. National Flags are flown in accordance with the Australian Flag Protocols.

4. Proposal

The Flag Flying Policy 2023 is presented for re-adoption with some minor changes as follows:

- civic flagpole sites have been updated to reflect the removal of six civic flagpoles formerly located on Springvale Road;
- community flagpole sites have been updated to include one additional community flagpole erected in Harmony Square;
- a summary of the Torres Strait Islander Flag background has been added for consistency and it is also acknowledged that the flag is permanently flown from all civic flagpoles as resolved by Council on 13 November 2017; and
- the section on Significant Dates has been updated to include National Apology Day, National Sorry Day and the King's Birthday.

For additional information, Attachment 2 to this report provides the Application Form to Fly a Community Flag on Council's Community Flagpoles in either Harmony Square or Multicultural Place and Attachment 3 provides the current Flag Flying Policy (dated 2016).

5. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)

6. Consultation

Prior to reporting to Council, the Flag Flying Policy was reviewed and evaluated by the Executive Team.

7. Community Vision 2040 and Council Plan 2021-25 – Strategic Objectives, Strategies and Plans

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

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

7.1 Community Vision 2040

This report is consistent with the Community Vision 2040 and its accompanying principles:

- Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.

7.2 Council Plan 2021-25

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 strategic objectives:

- A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts.

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. This report aligns with principles (a), (b) and (c) which are:

- a. Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law; *adhering to the Flags Act 1953 and actively responding to flag notifications received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet Protocols;*
- b. priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations; *ensuring all residents and community groups are accorded respect and consideration of their needs and preferences regardless of gender, religious belief, nationality, race or any other point of difference;* and
- c. the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted; *undertaking regular reviews of Council's Flag Flying Policy and presenting it to Council for re-adoption*

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)

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 the Flag Flying Policy 2023. It is acknowledged that this policy is purely administrative in its nature and will not impact negatively on any rights identified in the Charter.

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 policy but are not relevant to its contents. It is acknowledged that this policy is purely administrative in its nature and does not have the ability to impact gender roles.

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.

It is acknowledged that the Flag Flying Policy 2023 will have no impact or influence 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.

Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks

- Indigenous Policy
- Reconciliation Action Plan

Conclusion

It is recommended that the reviewed Flag Flying Policy 2023 provided in Attachment 1 to this report be adopted for a further four years with minor changes as detailed.

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)

14. Recommendation

That Council approve the reviewed and amended Flag Flying Policy 2023 provided in Attachment 1 to this report.

MINUTE 704

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad
Seconded by: Cr Angela Long

That Council approve the reviewed and amended Flag Flying Policy 2023 provided in Attachment 1 to this report.

CARRIED

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)

POLICY AND STRATEGY

REVIEW OF FLAG FLYING POLICY 2023

ATTACHMENT 1

FLAG FLYING POLICY FOR RE-ADOPTION

PAGES 16 (including cover)

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

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)



Flag Flying Policy

Policy Endorsed by:	Council		
Policy Superseded by this Policy:	Not Applicable		
Directorate:	Corporate Services/CEO		
Responsible Officer:	Manager Governance		
Policy Type:	Discretionary		
File Number:		Version No:	3
1 st Adopted by Council	9 June 2009 Minute No.171	Last Adopted by Council:	12 Sept 2016 Minute No.1516
Review Period:	Every Four (4) Years	Next Review:	January 2027

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)

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4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)



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4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)

1. POLICY OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this policy is to provide consistent guidelines for the flying of flags at Greater Dandenong City Council's civic and community flagpole sites throughout the municipality.

This policy purposefully divides the civic and community flagpole sites into two distinct categories for flags to be flown as follows:

- at each of Council's **civic** flagpole sites. It ensures that Council complies with flag protocols issued by both the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Department of Premier and Cabinet – Protocols Unit and provides for specific arrangements for flying flags at half-mast on days of significance or in remembrance of persons or events at these sites;
- at each of Council's **community** flagpole sites and provides for specific criteria for the provision of such flags by community groups and members to Council so that community flags can be flown at these sites.

2. BACKGROUND

Flags represent the past, present and future, they boost local and national identities, strengthen community cohesion and mark civic pride.

Australian National Flags are flown by the Council at various civic locations across the municipality, in accordance with Australian Flag Protocols. Throughout the year, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Victorian Government's Department of the Premier and Cabinet releases flag notifications that Council must adhere to for flying National Flags on special occasions or occasions when flags should be flown at half-mast.

In addition to Council's civic flagpoles, Council has installed community flagpoles in two locations for use by the community, upon application. This occurs where a particular flag is not nationally recognised but holds significant importance to specific community groups and members.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to Council's four civic and two community flagpole sites.

Civic flagpole sites

Greater Dandenong City Council, as an expression of its governance responsibilities, flies nationally recognised flags at each of its civic flagpole sites. Council's Governance Unit is responsible for ensuring that the flags are displayed with due diligence, dignity and attention to position.

The locations of Council's four (4) civic flagpole sites are as follows:

- Corner Lonsdale and Langhorne Streets, Dandenong (three flagpoles);
- Springvale Community Hub (three flagpoles);
- Dandenong Civic Centre (three flagpoles); and
- Drum Theatre (one flagpole).

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)

Community flagpole sites

Greater Dandenong City Council, in recognising the diversity of communities within the municipality, also flies community flags upon request at each of its community flagpole sites. Council's Governance Unit is responsible for ensuring that the flags are displayed with due diligence, dignity and attention to position.

The locations of Council's two (2) community flagpole sites are as follows:

- Multicultural Place, Buckingham Avenue, Springvale (one flagpole); and
- Harmony Square, Walker Street, Dandenong (two flagpoles).

When this policy does not apply

This policy does not apply to the promotional gateway banner pole sites which are located at:

- Springvale Road, Springvale (near Boulton St);
- Princes Hwy, Dandenong (opposite Robinson St);
- Princes Hwy, Dandenong (near Peter Stevens Motorcycles);
- Douglas St and Heatherton Rd, Noble Park;
- Menzies Ave, Dandenong; and
- Brady Rd, Dandenong North.

These banner pole sites are maintained by the Media and Communications Unit within Council and are used solely for the purpose of promoting the city and events.

The flag poles located at the Pillars of Freedom, on the corner of Lonsdale and Clow Streets, near Palm Plaza is a monument of the Dandenong RSL and is maintained by the RSL. Council does assist the RSL from time to time in the maintenance of this monument and will replace the Australian flag prior to Anzac Day and Remembrance Day events.

The flagpole located at War Memorial Reserve on the corner of Heatherton Road and Mons Parade, Noble Park (adjacent to the Noble Park RSL) is a monument of the Noble Park RSL and is maintained by the RSL. Council does assist the RSL from time to time in the maintenance of this monument and the replacement of the Australian flag prior to Anzac Day and Remembrance Day events.

Flags that may cause offense

Council will consider requests to fly other flags in accordance with this policy and the Australian National Flag Protocols. In doing so, regard shall be given to whether the flying of a flag would cause offence to sectors of the community or whether highlighting a particular issue, cause or group would be inconsistent with Council's commitment to strengthening community resilience, inclusion and safety.

While this policy only applies to flags flown at Council's civic and community flagpole sites, Council reserves the right to direct those responsible for flagpoles on other Council-owned sites to remove any flag that may be deemed offensive.

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)

4. POLICY

4.1 FLYING OF FLAGS AT CIVIC FLAG POLES

Council will, always, strictly adhere to the flag protocol of the Federal and State Governments and the guidelines set out in this policy and, as such, will display and fly only official flags of recognised states at Council's civic flagpole sites. (Further information or clarification on flag flying protocols can be accessed at [Australian-national-flag-protocols](#) These include the:

- Australian flag;
- Victorian flag;
- Aboriginal flag;
- Torres Strait Islander flag;
- United Nations flag;
- Greater Dandenong City Council house flag (pennant);
- Charitable House Flags; and
- Any other flag prescribed by the State and Federal Government's flag protocols.

The following civic flagpole sites will fly the following flags:

- Corner Lonsdale and Langhorne Streets Dandenong, where there are three flagpoles, the Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags will be flown;
- Dandenong Civic Centre, where there are three flagpoles, the Australian, the Aboriginal and the Torres Strait Islander flags will be flown; and
- Drum Theatre where there is one flagpole will fly the Australian Flag.
- Springvale Community Hub where there are three flagpoles the Australian, the Aboriginal and the Torres Strait Islander flags will be flown.

The Australian flag at Council's office locations will always be flown in the pre-eminent position unless the Federal or State Government requests another official flag be flown.

Where declared by the Federal or State Government, a special flag or flags may be flown. When Council receives advice on special declarations by the government, the Torres Strait Islander flag would be replaced with the special flag at the Civic Centre flagpoles.

Council will not fly or display flags of former regimes or countries that are not recognised by the Australian Government at its civic flagpole sites.

Council restricts the flying of unofficial flags at its civic flagpole sites to ensure that the representation of the city's cultural and ethnic diversity is not compromised and that no particular group within our city is either highlighted or disappointed.

This policy does not restrict any community group from flying unofficial flags at their own private community events for the duration of that event.

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)



Council will not:

- fly flags at, or maintain, a flagpole site outside its four civic and two community flagpole sites unless otherwise specified in this policy;
- remove flags from its existing civic flagpole sites for any commercial or decorative reasons; and
- provide flags to groups within the community.

Council will not approve requests from community groups or members who:

- do not share Council's views on embracing diversity and multiculturalism and promoting a safe and peaceful community;
- are representative of a political party;
- undertake an activity for commercial gain;
- offer programs that may present a hazard to the community; and
- make request to fly other flags in place of the Australian, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander flags on National Sorry Day (26 May), during National Reconciliation Week (27 May – 3 June) or during NAIDOC week (Sunday to Sunday first week in July).

4.2 GUIDELINES TO DISPLAY THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG

The Australian flag will be flown at Council's four civic flagpole sites on a permanent basis. The Australian National flag takes precedence over all other flags.

The Australian flag should never be flown when it is in damaged, faded or in a dilapidated condition. When the material of a flag deteriorates to a point where it is no longer suitable for use, it should be destroyed privately and in a dignified way.

The flag should always be flown aloft and free as close as possible to the top of the flag mast, with the rope tightly secured.

The canton (Union Jack) should be in the uppermost left quarter as viewed by the person facing the flag.

The flag may only be flown at night when illuminated. In accordance with National Flag Protocols, street lighting is considered appropriate illumination when the flag(s) are clearly visible.

The flag should not be allowed to fall or lie flat on the ground.

The flag should not be used to cover a statue, monument or plaque for an unveiling ceremony, or to cover a table or chair or any other furniture.

The Australian National flag must be flown as determined under national protocols. For further information go to [Australian-national-flag-protocols](#)

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)

4.3 FLYING THE ABORIGINAL FLAG

The Australian Aboriginal flag was proclaimed as a flag of Australia under Section 5 of the *Flags Act 1953* in July 1995.

- 1.1 Council will fly the Aboriginal flag at its civic flagpoles at the Dandenong Civic Centre, those on the corner of Lonsdale and Langhorne Streets, Dandenong and those at the Springvale Community Hub permanently. Flying the Australian Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag affirms Council's respect for Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, in support of reconciliation.

Council will fly the Aboriginal flag in Harmony Square on the community flagpole during Reconciliation and NAIDOC weeks and at other times as required to mark any other key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community events.

Council will fly the Aboriginal flag at half-mast at council offices to mark the passing of an esteemed local Elder or Aboriginal leader, following a request from the relevant local Aboriginal community organisation.

4.4 FLYING THE TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER FLAG

The Australian Torres Strait Islander flag was proclaimed as an official flag of Australia under Section 5 of the *Flags Act 1953* in July 1995.

Council will fly the Torres Strait Flag at its civic flagpoles at the Dandenong Civic Centre, those on the corner of Lonsdale and Langhorne Streets, Dandenong and those at the Springvale Community Hub in recognition of Torres Strait Islander people within the City of Greater Dandenong and all Torres Strait Islander community.

Council will fly the Torres Strait Islander flag in Harmony Square on the community flagpole during Reconciliation and NAIDOC weeks and National Sorry Day 26 May, and at other times as required to mark any other key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community events.

Council will fly the Torres Strait Islander flag at half-mast at the Dandenong Civic Centre to mark the passing of an esteemed local Elder or Torres Strait Islander leader, following a request from the relevant local community organisation.

On occasions which are declared by the Federal or State Government to fly a special flag, the Torres Strait Islander Flag may be replaced with a special flag.

4.5 FLYING THE VICTORIAN STATE FLAG

The Victorian State flag was originally proclaimed on 10 February 1870.

Council will fly the Victorian State Flag at the Dandenong Civic Centre annually on the 10 February to recognise the anniversary of the first proclaimed Victorian Flag.

Council will fly the Victorian State Flag at the Dandenong Civic Centre upon any known visits to the City by Victorian dignitaries.

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)



The Victorian Flag will replace the Torres Strait Islander flag on these special occasions at the Dandenong Civic Centre.

The Victorian Flag will be flown at half-mast, where declared by the Federal or State Government.

4.6 FLYING OF FLAGS AT HALF MAST

Flags are flown in the half-mast position as a sign of mourning.

To bring the flag to the half-mast position, the flag must be raised to the top of the mast, then immediately lowered slowly to the half-mast position. An acceptable position would be when the top of the flag is a third of the distance down from the top of the flagpole.

When flying the Australian National flag at half-mast with other flags, all flags in the set should be flown in the same position. The Australian National flag should be raised first and lowered last.

Under no circumstances should a flag be flown at half-mast at night.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet or the Protocol Unit of the Victorian State Government's Department of Premier and Cabinet provides notices to Council when all flags must be flown at half mast, such as on the death of a member of the Royal Family, the head of state, Governor-General or distinguished Australian citizen.

At the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer or in their absence the Manager, Governance, the Australian flag will be flown at half-mast to acknowledge the passing of a past Mayor or Councillor on the day of the funeral. Council will also acknowledge the death of a current Councillor, Council staff member or community leader and other esteemed community identities such as Living Treasures on the day of that person's funeral.

Following a request from the relevant local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community and at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer or in their absence the Manager, Governance, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flag will be flown at half-mast to mark the passing of a local Elder or Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person who has contributed significantly to the Greater Dandenong community.

4.7 FLYING FLAGS OF OTHER COUNTRIES

Council may consider flying the national flags of other countries during Council sanctioned visits by dignitaries of the country, or as a show of support in times of crisis, at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer or in their absence the Manager, Governance. The Governance Business Unit will advise the appropriate officers/departments when this protocol applies.

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)

4.8 SIGNIFICANT DATES

- Australia Day – 26 January
- Proclamation of Victoria – 10 February
- National Apology Day – 13 February
- Commonwealth Day – 2nd Monday in March
- ANZAC Day - 25 April - at half-mast until 12 noon
- National Sorry Day – 26 May
- Reconciliation Week (27 May – 3 June)
- King's Birthday – 2nd Monday in June
- NAIDOC Week – Sunday to Sunday first week in July
- Australian National Flag Day – 3 September
- United Nations Day – 24 October
- Remembrance Day – at half-mast from 10.30am until 11.03am

4.9 FLYING OF FLAGS AT COMMUNITY FLAG POLES

From time to time, Council receives requests for flags to be flown at specific civic flagpole sites, however Council must at all times observe the Federal and State Government flag protocols and the guidelines set out in this policy at those sites.

To accommodate such requests from community groups or members, Council has made provision for two separate community flagpole sites:

- Multicultural Place, Springvale; and
- Harmony Square, Dandenong.

Community flagpole sites have been installed as a means for different communities within Greater Dandenong to express and symbolise identity, pride and belonging which are celebrated at different and significant cultural and/or community days and events.

Request to Fly a Flag on a Community Flagpole Application Form [Click Here](#)

4.10 CRITERIA FOR CONSIDERATION OF FLYING A COMMUNITY FLAG

Community flag flying requests will be forwarded and assessed by the Governance Unit and considered on an individual basis. Only applications in writing from locally based communities for events or internationally recognised days and activities will be eligible to be considered. Where community, Council, State or Federal sensitivities are identified during an application assessment, approval may be referred to Council for resolution. Groups or members applying to have a community flag flown at Council's community flagpole sites will be required to provide the flag that is to be flown as stipulated on the application form. All requirements and guidelines for an application to be made in writing are provided for in Appendix 1 to this policy.

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)



The following criteria will be considered when a request to fly a community flag at one of Council's community flagpole sites during days of cultural or other significance is received by Council.

The flying of the community flag:

- promotes respect for all;
- is part of an event or ceremony;
- is consistent with Council's values and policies;
- embraces a sense of belonging and enhanced community life;
- is not connected to individual advancement, political or cultural sensitivities; and
- will not expose Council or its wider community to adverse criticism.

On days where specific community flags are not flown at community flagpole sites, Council will:

- at Multicultural Place where there is one (1) community flagpole, fly the Greater Dandenong City Council house flag;
- at Harmony Square, Dandenong where there are two (2) community flagpoles, fly the Australian Flag and the Greater Dandenong City Council House Flag

Council will also take priority at these sites if it is holding a community event at either Multicultural Place in Springvale or Harmony Square in Dandenong.

Applicants whose requests to fly flags are approved are responsible for providing to Council the required number of flags at the appropriate standard size (1800cm x 900cm) and (where relevant) are responsible for any costs associated with the event/celebration.

Council reserves the right to withdraw approval to fly a flag at any time.

5. RESPONSE TO THE OVERARCHING GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020

Background

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.

Consideration

This policy is relevant to the overarching governance principles (a) (b) and (c) giving expression to these principles by:

- adhering to the *Flags Act 1953* and actively responding to flag notifications received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet Protocols;
- ensuring all residents and community groups are accorded respect and consideration of their needs and preferences regardless of gender, religious belief, nationality, race or any other point of difference; and
- undertaking regular reviews of Council's Flag Flying Policy and presenting it to Council for re-adoption.

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)



The overarching governance principles contained within the *Local Government Act 2020* can be accessed at the following link:

[Local Government Act 2020](#)

6. CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006 – COMPATIBILITY STATEMENT

Background

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).

Consideration

The *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* has been considered in the preparation of this policy. It is acknowledged that this policy is purely administrative in its nature and will not impact negatively on any rights identified in the Charter.

The *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* can be accessed at the following link:

[Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006](#)

7. RESPONSE TO THE GENDER EQUALITY ACT 2020

Background

The *Gender Equality Act 2020* came into operation on 31 March 2020. It requires that councils take positive action towards achieving workplace gender equality and promote gender equality in their policies, programs and services.

Consideration

Council's Diversity, Access and Equity Policy and the *Gender Equality Act 2020* have been considered in the preparation of this policy but are not relevant to its contents. It is acknowledged that this policy does not adversely impact community members or Council employees of different genders.

This policy does not have a direct and significant impact on members of the public or Council employees therefore a gender impact assessment is not required.

The *Gender Equality Act 2020* can be accessed at the following link:

[Gender Equality Act 2020](#)

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)

8. CONSIDERATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Background

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.

The strategy and action plans can be accessed at the following link:

[Greater Dandenong Website – Sustainability, Climate and Energy](#)

Consideration

It is acknowledged that this policy is purely administrative in its nature and will have no impact or influence 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.

9. RESPONSIBILITIES

9.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)

The CEO is responsible for:

- considering and approving applications to fly alternative flags at Council's Civic Flagpole sites, in line with this policy; and
- determining when it is appropriate to refer an application to fly a flag to Council for a decision.

9.2 MANAGER GOVERNANCE

The Manager Governance is responsible for:

- considering and approving applications to fly alternative flags at Council's Civic Flagpole sites, in line with this policy on behalf of the CEO; and
- determining when it is appropriate to refer an application to fly a flag to Council for a decision on behalf of the CEO.
- Reviewing this policy.

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)

9.3 GOVERNANCE

The Governance unit is responsible for:

- receiving and considering requests for the flying of flags at Councils Community Flagpole sites;
- receiving and considering requests for the half-masting of flags;
- maintaining a register of all flag arrangements for the flagpoles;
- preparing Council Reports where a Council decision is required;
- maintaining a supply of those flags included on the Annual Flag Schedule and requesting timely replacement of damaged flags where a flag is rendered unsuitable for display;
- ensuring that the flags displayed are acknowledged with due diligence, dignity and attention to position; and
- maintaining a subscription to the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's Flag Network email notification services.
- organising maintenance or works required for any civic or community flagpole sites and associated infrastructure.

9.4 BUILDING MAINTENANCE

The Building Maintenance Unit is responsible for undertaking any maintenance or works required at civic and community flagpole sites as advised by the Governance Unit.

10. REPORTING, MONITORING AND REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed once every four years or following advice from the Australian Government's Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and/or the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet. The requirements of this policy will be measured against the Australian Flag Protocols, Council's Reconciliation Action Plan and feedback from the local community.

11. REFERENCES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

Legislation

- *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*
- *Flags Act 1953 (Commonwealth)*
- *Gender Equality Act 2020*
- *Local Government Act 2020*

Related Council and Other Policies, Procedures, Strategies, Protocols, Guidelines

- Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)



Other Related Documents

- Australian Government Department, National Flag Protocols can be accessed at <https://www.pmc.gov.au/government/australian-national-flag/australian-national-flag-protocols>
- Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet 'Australia Flag Booklet' –can be accessed at <https://www.pmc.gov.au/resource-centre/government/australian-flags-booklet-0>
- Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet, Flag Notifications and Protocols can be accessed at <https://www.vic.gov.au/flag-notifications>
- [Victorian Aboriginal and Local Government Strategy](#)
- This policy is a revised version of the Council's Flag Flying Policy last endorsed by Council on 12 September 2016.
- Notice of Motion No. 36 – Flying of the Torres Strait Island Flag adopted by Council on 13 November 2017
- Application to Fly a Community Flag from Council's Community Flagpoles <https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/flag-flying-policy>

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)

POLICY AND STRATEGY

REVIEW OF FLAG FLYING POLICY 2023

ATTACHMENT 2

**APPLICATION TO FLY A FLAG FROM
COUNCILS COMMUNITY FLAGPOLE FORM**

PAGES 4 (including cover)

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

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)

**APPLICATION TO FLY COMMUNITY FLAG AT
COUNCIL COMMUNITY FLAGPOLE SITE**



Name of applicant/ community group/ organisation:			
Address:			
Postcode:			
Contact phone numbers:	1.	2.	3.
Email address:			

Community flagpole location site requested <i>(tick relevant)</i>	Multicultural Place, SPRINGVALE		Harmony Square, DANDENONG	
---	---------------------------------	--	---------------------------	--

Multicultural Place is not suitable for gatherings of more than 50 people

Number of attendees: <i>(How many people will be at the flag raising)</i>	
--	--

Where more than 30 attendees are expected the event must be held at Harmony Square and an application to hold an event must be completed. See reverse for more details.

Description of community flag: <i>((Image of the flag to be included))</i>	

Important: The applicant is responsible for providing to Council, the correct flag as detailed under the Guidelines section of this application

Reason for display of community flag <i>(Tick relevant)</i>	Community Event		National Event	
	Day of Significance		Other	

Describe how this request meets Council's criteria <i>(turn over for guidelines)</i>	

The first date the community flag must be flown:		The last date the community flag must be flown:	
--	--	---	--

Please read the guidelines on the back of this form then sign and date the form to confirm that you understand and agree to the terms:	
Sign _____	Date _____

Privacy Statement: The personal information requested on this form is being collected by the Greater Dandenong City Council for the purpose of assessing eligibility. The personal information will be used solely by the Council for this primary purpose or directly related purposes. The applicant understands that the personal information provided is for the purpose of applying for the raising of a flag on Council's Community flagpole and they may apply to Council for access and/or correction of the information. Requests for access or correction should be made to Council's Privacy Officer on 8571 5100. Councils is bound by the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014. A copy of Council's Privacy and Personal Information is available on Council's website www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)

GUIDELINES TO FLY COMMUNITY FLAG AT COUNCIL COMMUNITY FLAGPOLE SITES

Eligibility

Only applications in writing on this application form from locally based communities for events or internationally recognised days and activities will be eligible to be considered. Community flag flying requests must be forwarded to and assessed by Council's Governance Business Unit and will be considered on a case by case basis on a first come, first serve basis. Applications should be forwarded at least six (6) weeks prior to the date when the community flag is intended to be flown.

Covid-19 Safety Compliance

Greater Dandenong City Council takes the health of our staff, community and visitors very seriously. Where the flying of community flags is likely to see the gathering of groups of people, COVID Safe Plans may apply. Please check the Victorian Government's Department of Health (DHS) for the most up-to-date source of information of COVID-19 and contact Council's Events Co-ordinator on 8571 1000.

Information to help organisers of public events in Victoria meet safety requirements during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is available at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/events or contact Council's Festivals and Events team on 8571 1000 for assistance.

Criteria Considered in Applications

The following criteria will be considered when a request to fly a community flag at its community flagpole sites during days of cultural or other significance is received by Council. The flying of the community flag must:

- promote respect for all;
- be part of an event or ceremony;
- be consistent with Council's values and policies;
- embrace a sense of belonging and enhanced community life; and
- not be connected to individual advancement, political or cultural sensitivities nor exposure to adverse criticism of Council or the community as a whole.

Other Considerations

- Permission may be given to fly a community flag for a minimum of one (1) day to a maximum of seven (7) days.
- If more than one community group or organisation wishes to utilise one community flagpole site on the same day, priority will be given to the application that was received first. If more than one community group or organisation wishes to use one community flagpole site during the same week, then Council will use its best endeavours to accommodate all requests during that week.
- Where community, Council, State or Federal sensitivities are identified during an application assessment, approval may be referred to Council for resolution.
- A response to an application indicating approval or otherwise will be provided in writing signed by the Manager Governance indicating approval or otherwise.
- Where an application is approved, the applicant will be required to provide the community flag that is to be flown. The flag must not be tattered, torn, frayed or faded, must be 1800mm wide by 900mm high and must have standard fittings for attachment to the flagpole halyard (see diagram below for standard fittings to Council's flagpole). The flag must be provided to Council's Governance unit at least one (1) week prior to the date it is intended to be flown. The flag will be kept by the Governance Unit for the next time it is required unless it is picked up by the applicant or representative. Failure to provide the correct flag may result in Council being unable to fly your flag.
- Under no circumstance is a temporary flag pole to be used at either community flagpole site due to public liability issues.
- Where an event is anticipated to be attended by more than 30 people an application to hold an Event must be completed. Please refer to [Harmony Square | Greater Dandenong Council](#).
- Multicultural Place is not suitable for gatherings over 50 people.

Council Event Priority

On days where specific community flags are not flown at community flagpole sites, Council will fly its Great Dandenong City Council house flag, or other flags at community flagpole sites at its discretion. Council will also take priority at these sites if it is holding a community event at either Multicultural Place in Springvale or Harmony Square in Dandenong.

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)

Terms and Conditions

When using the Council's Community flagpole sites you agree to act in accordance with Council's Flag Flying Policy and the *Australian Flags Act 1953*.

Application Submissions

All applications to fly a community flag must be addressed to:
Manager, Governance and Commercial Property
Community Flag Flying Application
PO Box 200
Dandenong 3175

Flag Requirements (Important)

Required flag size for use on Council's Community Flagpole should be 1800mm wide by 900mm wide. The flag you are providing to Council must have the correct attachments as shown below. Failure to provide the correct flag and fittings may result in Council being unable to fly the flag on the day of your event.



The flag provided must have the nylon loop shown in the above picture at both the top and the bottom left of the flag



The above clips must be attached to the nylon loops

If you have any questions, concerns or require assistance, please discuss them with Council's Governance Team on 8571 5100.

All flag arrangements must be finalised seven days prior to your event.

 Phone 8571 1000	 TTY: 133 677 Speak and listen: 1300 555 727 Internet: www.iprelay.com.au	Find us online  www.greaterdandenong.com
 Fax 8571 5196	 TIS: 13 14 50	 www.facebook.com/greaterdandenong  www.twitter.com/greaterdandy  www.youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong
 council@cgd.vic.gov.au		

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)

POLICY AND STRATEGY

REVIEW OF FLAG FLYING POLICY 2023

ATTACHMENT 3

CURRENT FLAG FLYING POLICY 2016

PAGES 11 (including cover)

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

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)



Greater Dandenong Policy

Flag Flying Policy

Policy Endorsement:	Endorsement required by Council		
Directorate:	Corporate Services		
Responsible Officer:	Manager, Governance & Commercial Property		
Policy Type:	Discretionary		
File Number:	A37096	Version No:	004
1 st Adopted by Council:	9 June 2009, Minute No. 171		
Last Adopted by Council:	12 September 2016, Minute No. 1516		
Policy Effective from:	30 March 2017		
Review Period:	Every Four (4) Years	Next Review:	June 2020

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide consistent guidelines for the flying of flags at Council's civic and community flagpole sites throughout the municipality.

This Policy purposefully divides the civic and community flagpole sites into two distinct categories for flags to be flown as follows:

- at each of Council's civic flagpole sites. It ensures that Council complies with flag protocols issued by the Department of Premier and Cabinet – Protocols Unit and provides for specific arrangements for flying flags at half mast on days of significance or in remembrance of persons or events at these sites;
- at each of Council's community flagpole sites and provides for specific criteria for the provision of such flags by community groups and members to Council so that community flags can be flown at these sites.

2. Scope

This Policy applies to Council's five civic and two community flagpole sites as listed above. These civic flagpole sites are maintained by the Governance Unit.

Civic Flagpole Sites

The City of Greater Dandenong, as an expression of its governance responsibilities, flies flags at each of its civic flagpole sites. Council's Governance Unit is responsible for ensuring that the flags displayed are acknowledged with due diligence, dignity and attention to position.

The locations of Council's five (5) civic flagpole sites are as follows:

- Springvale Road Shopping Centre (six flagpoles outside Australia Post)
- Corner Lonsdale and Langhorne Streets Dandenong (three flagpoles)
- Springvale Council Customer Service offices (two flagpoles)

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)



Greater Dandenong Policy

- Dandenong Civic Centre (three flagpoles)
- Drum Theatre (former Dandenong Town Hall) (one flagpole)

Community Flagpole Sites

The City of Greater Dandenong, in recognising the diversity of communities within the municipality, also flies community flags at each of its community flagpole sites. Council's Governance Unit is responsible for ensuring that the flags displayed are acknowledged with due diligence, dignity and attention to position.

The locations of Council's two (2) community flagpole sites are as follows:

- Multicultural Place, Buckingham Avenue, Springvale (one flagpole)
- Harmony Square, Walker Street, Dandenong (one flagpole).

When Policy Does Not Apply

This Policy does not apply to the promotional gateway banner pole sites which are located at:

- Springvale Road, Springvale (near Boulton St)
- Princes Hwy, Dandenong (opposite Robinson St)
- Princes Hwy, Dandenong (near Peter Stevens Motorcycles)
- Douglas St and Heatherton Rd, Noble Park
- Menzies Ave, Dandenong
- Brady Rd, Dandenong North

These banner pole sites are maintained by the Media and Communications Unit within Council and are used solely for the purpose of promoting the city and events.

The flag poles located at the Pillars of Freedom, on the corner of Lonsdale and Clow Streets, near Palm Plaza is a monument of the Dandenong RSL and is maintained by the RSL. Council does assist the RSL from time to time in the maintenance of this monument and will replace the Australian flag prior to Anzac Day and Remembrance Day events.

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)



Greater Dandenong Policy

3. Council Policy

3.1 Flying of Flags at Civic Flag Poles

Council will at all times strictly adhere to the flag protocol of the Federal and State Governments and the guidelines set out in this policy and, as such, will display and fly only official flags of recognised states at Council's civic flagpole sites. (Further information or clarification on flag flying protocols can be accessed at www.austalianflag.org.au/protocol.php). These include the:

- Australian flag;
- Victorian flag;
- Aboriginal flag;
- United Nations flag;
- City of Greater Dandenong house flag (pennant);
- Charitable House Flags; and
- Any other flag prescribed by the State and Federal Government's flag protocols.

The following civic flag pole sites will fly the following flags:

- Springvale Road Shopping Centre, where there are six flagpoles located outside of Australia Post Council will fly two Australian flags, two Aboriginal flags and two City of Greater Dandenong house flags;
- Corner Lonsdale and Langhorne Streets Dandenong, where there are three flagpoles, Council will fly the Australian, Aboriginal and City of Greater Dandenong house flags;
- Springvale Civic Precinct, where there are two flagpoles, the Australian and City of Greater Dandenong house flags will be flown;
- Dandenong Civic Centre, where there are three flagpoles, the Australian, the Aboriginal and City of Greater Dandenong house flags will be flown; and
- Drum Theatre where there is one flag pole will fly the Australian Flag.

The Australian flag at Council's office locations will always be flown in the pre-eminent position unless the Federal or State Government requests another official flag be flown.

Where declared by the Federal or State Government, a special flag or flags may be flown. When Council receives advice on special declarations by the government, the City of Greater Dandenong flag would be replaced with the special flag.

Council will not fly or display flags of former regimes or countries at its civic flagpole sites that are not recognised by the Australian Government.

Council restricts the flying of unofficial flags at its civic flagpole sites to ensure that the representation of the city's cultural and ethnic diversity is not compromised and that no particular group within our city is either highlighted or disappointed.

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)



Greater Dandenong Policy

This Policy does not restrict any community group from flying unofficial flags at their own private community events for the duration of that event.

Council will not:

- fly flags at, or maintain, a flagpole site outside its five civic centers or other sites specified in this policy;
- remove flags from its existing civic flagpole sites for any commercial or decorative reasons; and
- provide flags to groups within the community.

Guidelines to display the Australian National Flag

The Australian flag will be flown at Council's five civic flag pole sites on a permanent basis. The Australian National flag takes precedence over all other flags.

The Australian flag should never be flown when it is in damaged, faded or dilapidated condition. When the material of a flag deteriorates to a point where it is no longer suitable for use, it should be destroyed privately and in a dignified way.

The flag should always be flown aloft and free as close as possible to the top of the flag mast, with the rope tightly secured.

The canton (Union Jack) should be in the uppermost left quarter as viewed by the person facing the flag.

The flag may only be flown at night when illuminated. In accordance with National Flag Protocols, street lighting is considered appropriate illumination when the flag(s) are clearly visible.

The flag should not be allowed to fall or lie flat on the ground.

The flag should not be used to cover a statue, monument or plaque for an unveiling ceremony, or to cover a table or chair or any other furniture.

The Australian National flag must be flown as determined under national protocols. For further information go to www.austalianflag.org.au/protocol.php

Flying the Aboriginal Flag

The Australian Aboriginal flag was proclaimed as a flag of Australia under Section 5 of the Flags Act 1953 (14 July 1995).

Council will fly the Aboriginal flag in Lonsdale Street, Dandenong and Springvale Road, Springvale permanently in recognition of Aboriginal people as the traditional owners of the land on which the City of Greater Dandenong is located.

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)



Greater Dandenong Policy

Council will fly the Aboriginal flag at council offices during Reconciliation and NAIDOC weeks and at other times as required to mark any other key indigenous events.

Council will fly the Aboriginal flag at half mast at council offices to mark the passing of an esteemed local elder or Aboriginal leader, following a request from the relevant local Aboriginal community organisation.

Flying the Victorian State Flag

The Victorian State flag was originally proclaimed on 10 February 1870.

Council will fly the Victorian State Flag at the Dandenong Civic Centre annually on the 10 February to recognize the anniversary of the first proclaimed Victorian Flag.

Council will fly the Victorian State Flag at the Dandenong Civic Centre upon any known visits to the City by Victorian Dignitaries.

Flying of Flags at Half Mast

Flags are flown in the half-mast position as a sign of mourning.

To bring the flag to the half-mast position, the flag must be raised to the top of the mast, then immediately lowered slowly to the half mast position. An acceptable position would be when the top of the flag is a third of the distance down from the top of the flag pole.

When flying the Australian National flag at half-mast with other flags, all flags in the set should be flown in the same position. The Australian National flag should be raised first and lowered last.

Under no circumstances should a flag be flown at half-mast at night.

The Protocol Unit of the Department of Premier and Cabinet provides notices to Council when all flags must be flown at half mast, such as on the death of a member of the Royal Family, the head of state, Governor-General or distinguished Australian citizen.

At the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer or in his/her absence the Manager, Governance & Commercial Property, the Australian flag will be flown at half mast to acknowledge the passing of a past Mayor or Councillor on the day of the funeral. Council will also acknowledge the death of a current Councillor, Council staff member or community leader and other esteemed community identities such as Living Treasures on the day of that person's funeral.

Following a request from the relevant local Aboriginal Community and at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer or in his/her absence the Manager, Governance & Commercial Property, the Aboriginal Flag will be flown at half mast to mark the passing of a local elder or Aboriginal person who has contributed significantly to the community of the City of Greater Dandenong.

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)



Greater Dandenong Policy

Significant Dates

Australia Day – 26 January
Commonwealth Day – 2nd Monday in March
ANZAC day- 25 April (flags to be flown at half mast until 12 noon)
Reconciliation Week (end of May)
Queen's Birthday – 2nd Monday in June
NAIDOC Week – nominated week in July
Australian National Flag Day – 3 September
United Nations Day – 24 October
Remembrance Day – at half mast from 10.30am until 11.02am

3.2 Flying of Flags at Community Flag Poles

From time to time, Council receives requests for flags to be flown at specific civic flagpole sites, however Council must at all times observe the Federal and State Government flag protocols and the guidelines set out in this policy at those sites.

To accommodate such requests from the community, Council has made provision for two community flagpole sites in Springvale and central Dandenong.

Community flagpole sites have been installed as a means for different communities within Greater Dandenong to express and symbolise identity, pride and belonging which are celebrated at different and significant cultural and/or community or days and events.

Criteria for Consideration of Flying a Community Flag

Community flag flying requests will be forwarded and assessed by the Governance Unit and considered on a case by case basis. Only applications in writing from locally based communities for events or internationally recognized days and activities will be eligible to be considered. Where community, Council, State or Federal sensitivities are identified during an application assessment, approval may be referred to Council for resolution. Groups applying to have a community flag flown at Council's community flagpole sites will be required to provide the flag that is to be flown. All requirements and guidelines for an application to be made in writing are provided for in Appendix 1 to this policy.

The following criteria will be considered when a request to fly a community flag at its community flagpole sites during days of cultural or other significance is received by Council.

The flying of the community flag:

- promotes respect for all;
- is part of an event or ceremony;
- is consistent with Council's values and policies;
- embraces a sense of belonging and enhanced community life; and
- is not connected to individual advancement, political or cultural sensitivities nor exposure to adverse criticism of Council or the community as a whole.

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)



Greater Dandenong Policy

On days where specific community flags are not flown at community flag pole sites, Council will fly its City of Greater Dandenong house flag at community flagpole sites. Council will also take priority at these sites, if it is holding a community event at either Multicultural Place in Springvale or Harmony Square in Dandenong.

3.3 Maintenance and Monitoring

Council's Governance Unit is responsible for coordinating the maintenance of civic flagpoles and sites and the monitoring of the flags condition while they are being displayed. If a flag suffers damage and is rendered unsuitable for display, the Governance Unit is responsible for coordinating immediate replacement and disposal of the damaged flag. Cyclic replacement is also undertaken on a quarterly basis.

4. Related Documents

- The Australian Flags Act 1953 (Commonwealth)
- Office of the Premier and Cabinet - Protocol and Special Events Branch
- Australian Government "It's an Honour" Office Website – www.itsanhonour.gov.au/flying_Flag.html
- www.australianflag.org.au/protocol
- City of Greater Dandenong Indigenous Policy

5. References

- This Policy supersedes Council's Flag Flying Policy which was last endorsed by Council on 9 June 2015.

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)



Greater Dandenong Policy

6. Appendix 1 – Application to Fly Community Flag at Council Community Flagpole Site

4.1.1 Review of Council Policies - Flag Flying Policy 2023 (Cont.)



Greater Dandenong Policy

GUIDELINES

Eligibility

Only applications in writing on this application form from locally based communities for events or internationally recognised days and activities will be eligible to be considered. Community flag flying requests must be forwarded to and assessed by the Governance Unit and will be considered on a case by case basis on a first come, first serve basis. Applications should be forwarded at least six weeks prior to the date when the community flag is intended to be flown.

Criteria Considered in Applications

The following criteria will be considered when a request to fly a community flag at its community flagpole sites during days of cultural or other significance is received by Council.

The flying of the community flag:

- promotes respect for all;
- is part of an event or ceremony;
- is consistent with Council's values and policies;
- embraces a sense of belonging and enhanced community life; and
- is not connected to individual advancement, political or cultural sensitivities nor exposure to adverse criticism of Council or the community as a whole.

Other Considerations

- Permission may be given to fly a community flag for a minimum of one day to a maximum of 7 days.
- If more than one community group or organisation wishes to utilise one community flagpole site on the same day, priority will be given the application that was received first. If more than one community group or organisation wishes to utilise one community flagpole site during the same week, then Council will use its best endeavours to accommodate all requests during that week.
- Where community, Council, State or Federal sensitivities are identified during an application assessment, approval may be referred to Council for resolution.
- A response to an application indicating approval or otherwise will be provided in writing signed by the Manager Governance within four weeks of receipt of the request unless approval is sought through a resolution of Council. If approval is sought through a resolution of Council, the applicant will be notified of the progress of the application and the proposed Council meeting date within two weeks of receipt of the application. Once Council has made a resolution, a response will be provided in writing signed by the Manager Governance indicating approval or otherwise.
- Where an application is approved, the applicant will be required to provide the flag that is to be flown. The flag must be new and be 1800mm wide by 900mm high. The flag must be provided to Council's Governance Business Unit at least one week prior to the date it is intended to be flown. The flag will be kept by the Governance Unit for the next time it is required unless it is picked up by the applicant.

Council Event Priority

On days where specific community flags are not flown at community flag pole sites, Council will fly its City of Greater Dandenong house flag, or other community flags at community flagpole sites at its discretion. Council will also take priority at these sites if it is holding a community event at either Multicultural Place in Springvale or Harmony Square in Dandenong.

4.2 OTHER

4.2.1 Proposed Motions for the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council Meeting and the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly

File Id: A9551309
Responsible Officer: Manager Governance
Attachments:

1. Report Summary

Greater Dandenong City Council has memberships with, and Councillor representatives for, both the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA). These peak body organisations hold state meetings and an annual assembly (respectively) to determine and discuss their strategic direction for the following year's activities.

2. Recommendation Summary

This report recommends that Council endorses the proposed motions outlined in this report and submits these motions in the format required to both the MAV and ALGA by the specified deadlines.

4.2.1 Proposed Motions for the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council Meeting and the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly (Cont.)

3. Background and Proposal

1. The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)

The next MAV State Council Meeting will be held on Friday 19 May 2023 in Melbourne. At this meeting, the agenda will include consideration of motions from membership councils. The deadline for submission of motions is 20 March 2023.

The MAV Rules 2022 require motions to be of strategic relevance to the MAV or be of such significance to local government that they ought to be considered. They should also relate to the MAV's Strategy 2021-2025 which identifies the following six outcomes:

1. Economically sound councils;
2. Healthy, diverse and thriving communities;
3. Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment;
4. Changing climate and a circular economy;
5. Sector capability and good governance; and
6. Effective and responsive MAV.

As such, Greater Dandenong City Council is proposing that four motions be submitted to the MAV for its State Council meeting scheduled for 29 May 2023.

2. The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA)

The ALGA will convene its 29th National General Assembly (NGA) of Local Government in Canberra in mid-June. At the NGA, debate on motions is used as a vehicle for councils across Australia to canvas ideas and solutions to the challenges faced by Australian councils and communities. The deadline for submission of motions is 24 March 2023.

Motions must focus on the theme of the 2023 NGA – Our Communities, Our Future and focus on practical and deliverable programs and policies that the Australian Government can support and work towards directly with the local government sector to build communities.

As such, Greater Dandenong City Council is proposing that two motions be submitted to the ALGA for its NGA scheduled for June 2023.

4.2.1 Proposed Motions for the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council Meeting and the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly (Cont.)

3. Proposed Motions for Submission to MAV and ALGA

Note that the preamble for each motion will need to be reduced to comply with the submission criteria for each peak body organisation.

MAV and ALGA Motion 1 - Climate Change and Social Justice

Preamble

Climate change is a global issue; however, the impacts of climate change are not proportional. Disadvantaged and marginalised communities are often impacted first and more severely. The link between climate justice and social justice is well established and refers to the intersection between equal economic, political and social rights for all people as well as action to address higher levels of exposure to environmental and climate risk in marginalised communities.

Socially disadvantaged communities are already being disproportionately impacted by the climate emergency. Heatwaves, localised storms and flooding and smoke from bushfires and grassfires are of particular concern. With severe weather events associated with climate change becoming increasingly frequent and powerful, it is clear that further work is required to prepare these communities for the challenges and risks of a changing climate.

Recent research by community organisation Sweltering Cities found that during heatwaves, people of lower socioeconomic status suffered a higher level of discomfort and distress due to poorer housing stock which was more likely to be uninsulated. The respondents were also less likely to have access to air-conditioning, and even in cases where air-conditioning was available, respondents were less likely to utilise this due to inability to afford the resulting electricity bills.

In addition to groups of low socioeconomic status, cohorts such as elderly people, people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, people with a disability or chronic health conditions and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) people are all at greater risk of climate stress. These cohorts are well represented across many Victorian and Australian councils.

Recognising the above, Jesuit Social Services have established the 'Centre for Just Places' (in Victoria), which seeks to enable place-based approaches to social and climate justice through collaboration, research and knowledge exchange while working directly with local communities. As an example, Greater Dandenong City Council has an existing and strong relationship with Jesuit Social Services and the Centre for Just Places, having partnered to deliver:

- a 'municipal scan' of current and projected climate change impacts to the health and wellbeing of the Greater Dandenong community;
- a series of community workshops exploring the cascading impacts of disruption to community services during periods of extreme weather, piloting an organisational resilience building exercise with a neighbourhood house and community leaders; and
- a Disability Inclusive Emergency Planning forum (DIEP) which was attended by people with lived experience, carers, emergency services and disability service providers. The DIEP forum was delivered in partnership with University of Sydney's Centre for Disability Research and Policy, Greater Dandenong City Council and Casey City Council.

4.2.1 Proposed Motions for the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council Meeting and the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly (Cont.)

Many councils across Victoria and Australia have declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency and have an obligation to facilitate urgent and appropriate action to increase their communities' resilience to the impacts of a changing climate. In Victoria in particular, and under the *Local Government Act 2020*, councils are required to consider climate change in all decision-making and operational processes.

Communities, along with the councils and services that support them, will invariably suffer the worst impacts of climate change, which is why enabling more socially just and resilient communities is critical. While individual councils may be in a strong position to provide local knowledge and connections, the broader issue is beyond their direct sphere of influence and requires significant support from both State and Federal Governments.

Recognising the above, the following motion calls on the MAV, ALGA and all Victorian and Australian councils to join in recognising the intersections between social justice and climate change, and to advocate for greater support of the existing work of the Jesuit Social Services Centre for Just Places, through the direction of the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and Australian Local Government Association (ALGA).

Motion

That the MAV and ALGA joins with all Council in Victoria and Australia respectively to recognise the disproportional impacts of climate change on disadvantaged and marginalised communities and advocates to both State and Federal Governments for greater support for climate resilience and social justice work across these communities.

MAV Motion 2 – Decriminalisation of Public Drunkenness

Preamble and Background

“The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody” RCIADIC made 339 recommendations to end Aboriginal deaths in custody, including that the criminal offence of public drunkenness be abolished and that Governments establish non-custodial facilities for the care and treatment of intoxicated persons, such as sobering up centres. The Commission also recommended that police be required by law to consider and use alternatives to detaining intoxicated people in police cells.”

<https://www.vals.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Community-fact-sheet-Decriminalisation-of-public-intoxication-August-2022.pdf>

The Victorian State Government committed to decriminalising public drunkenness in August 2019 at the outset of the coronial inquest into the tragic death of Tanya Day in custody.

In November 2022, the Government passed legislation delaying the decriminalisation of public drunkenness and the rollout of a state-wide public health response by 12 months to November 2023.

4.2.1 Proposed Motions for the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council Meeting and the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly (Cont.)

In its media release of 19 February 2021

[<https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/historic-laws-passed-decriminalise-public-drunkeness>] the Office of the Premier (Victoria) advised:

- *“People who are drunk in public will get the health support and help they need with laws to decriminalise public drunkenness passing Parliament today”;*
- *“Over the next two years, the Government will continue to work closely with Aboriginal communities, health experts and key stakeholders – including Victoria Police – to design, trial and refine the public health model and develop local solutions that are safe and effective”;* and
- *“These reforms were developed following extensive consultation to ensure they strike the right balance between protection of people who are intoxicated and community safety”.*

Contrary to the media statement there has been little consultation with local government.

The abovementioned media release advised that the decriminalisation of public drunkenness changes:

- *“will include more outreach services, training for first responders and bring up services-making sure people are transported to a safe place where they can receive support if needed”;* and
- *“The government is currently considering trial site locations in line with the advice provided by an expert reference group report”.*

It is understood that four trial locations have been decided upon and that, in the case at least of the site in Frankston, the trial has commenced. There does not however appear to be a State Government commitment to funding and resourcing of these sites and any others beyond November 2023.

It appears that information, guidance and an insight into the impacts on local government have been overlooked. The role of Victoria Police in dealing with public drunkenness will be situational; i.e., in supporting people who are intoxicated. If it is assessed that there are no health or safety concerns for the public, no further action (such as move on provisions) will be enacted. There will be an immediate impact on local government through community expectations for it to step into roles of addressing perceptions of public safety being at risk, and for interventions in being part of handling intoxicated persons in the chain of health care now required under the new legislation.

It is vital that consultation is undertaken immediately with key stakeholders including Victoria Police and local governments to design, trial and refine the public health model to develop local solutions that are safe and effective and given significant attention.

The impact of the proposed changes will be borne greatest by local governments across all of Victoria. Designing an operational way forward by and for local government can only be done with adequate data and adequate funding, neither of which are currently being offered or available. Further consultation by the State Government with local government is urgently required in appreciating and responding to the consequences of the legislative changes.

Notwithstanding the assertions of local government consultation, the full impact on local government by this legislation has not been appreciated and there is no adequate and comprehensive Resource Impact Statement available to indicate that the impacts have been fully considered and evaluated. Much work still needs to be done to gain that appreciation.

4.2.1 Proposed Motions for the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council Meeting and the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly (Cont.)

There needs to be clearer guidance as to the role, capabilities and capacity of councils to respond and adapt to the consequences of the legislative change in terms of financial impacts, staffing resources, the impact (Including OH&S issues) on frontline staff such as planning compliance officers and local laws officers in the roles they'll inevitably be expected by the community to perform. As such the following motion is proposed for the next MAV State Council Meeting.

Motion

That that the MAV strongly advocates for:

- immediate and meaningful engagement by the State Government with local government on gaining a full appreciation of the resource impact, capabilities and capacities to manage the consequences of legislative changes to public drunkenness;
- local government being provided with clearer guidance as to their role, as a consequence of legislative changes to public drunkenness by the State Government.
- local government being provided with adequate funding, resources and data to undertake the expected role as a consequence of the legislative changes to public drunkenness by the State Government; and
- no changes to the legislation in relation to the decriminalisation of public drunkenness be implemented post (the conclusion of the trial) November 2023 until such time as the above points have been satisfactorily addressed by State Government.

MAV Motion 3 – Decriminalisation of Sex Work

Preamble and Background

Following a review of sex work in Victoria, initiated by the State Government in 2019 legislation was passed on 22 February 2022 which saw the decriminalisation of sex work.

“Decriminalisation of sex work in Victoria will occur in two stages to allow time to transition to a different model of regulation. The first stage commenced on 10 May 2022 and includes:

- *the decriminalisation of street-based sex work in most locations;*
- *the repeal of offences for working with a sexually transmitted infection and requirements to undergo regular STI testing;*
- *the repeal of offences for individual sex workers not using safer sex practices;*
- *the repeal of the small owner-operator sex work service provider register;*
- *changes to advertising controls applicable to the sex work industry; and*
- *amendments to the Equal Opportunity Act 2010.*

4.2.1 Proposed Motions for the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council Meeting and the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly (Cont.)

The second stage is expected to commence in December 2023 and will include:

- *abolishing the sex work service provider licensing system by repealing the Sex Work Act 1994;*
- *re-enacting offences relating to children and coercion in other legislation to ensure their continued operation following repeal of the Sex Work Act 1994;*
- *changes to planning controls to treat sex service businesses like other businesses;*
- *the establishment of appropriate liquor controls for the sex work industry; and*
- *the repeal of brothel and escort agency provisions in the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 to remove specific sex work industry controls.*

The changes allow industry regulation to be managed through existing agencies, such as WorkSafe, the Department of Health and local governments. The Victorian Government will continue to work with key stakeholders including sex workers, their peer organisations, local councils and other key stakeholders to ensure the reforms are implemented in the best way possible.” [[Decriminalising sex work in Victoria | Victorian Government \(www.vic.gov.au\)](#)]

As part of the review, State Government consultation occurred in August and September 2021. Consultation summary material published by the State Government [[Decriminalising sex work in Victoria | Engage Victoria](#)] notes Local Government as a consulted stakeholder.

As part of the changes effected through the decriminalisation of sex work, there have been changes to the *Planning & Environment Act 1987* and how it is operated through Planning Schemes across Victoria. This has implications for both Planning and the Environmental Health functions of local government.

In relation to point 1 above, a consistent theme throughout the consultation was that the staggered nature of the introduction of decriminalisation had the potential to cause confusion across industry, regulators, law enforcement and the community. Despite this, many stakeholders wanted several key elements of decriminalisation to occur as soon as possible, such as the introduction of anti-discrimination protections.

Most stakeholders called for education each step of the way so that the reforms are fully understood and applied correctly at each stage.

In relation to point 2 above, stakeholders acknowledged that any cultural change would take time and dedicated Government support, with a preference for resources to go towards peer-led sex worker organisations. Some stakeholders considered other agencies and institutions implementing these reforms may require additional resourcing, due to the significant competing pressures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and increased community support needs while others felt clearer communication of the scope and potential impacts of the reforms was required to determine the resourcing and timeframe required for implementation, and that further consultation was required throughout implementation.

4.2.1 Proposed Motions for the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council Meeting and the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly (Cont.)

Despite these statements, these clearer communications and resources do not appear to have been chartered. The impact will be borne greatest by local government across all the mentioned areas. Designing an operational way forward by and for local government can only be done with adequate data and adequate funding, neither of which are currently being offered or available. Further consultation by the State Government with local government is urgently required in appreciating and responding to the consequences of the legislative changes.

Notwithstanding the assertions of local government consultation, the full impact on local government by the change to this legislation has not been appreciated and there is no adequate and comprehensive Resource Impact Statements available to indicate that the impacts have been fully considered and evaluated.

There needs to be clearer guidance as to the role, capabilities and capacity of councils to respond and adapt to the consequences of the legislative change in terms of financial impacts, staffing resources, the impact (Including OH&S issues) on frontline staff such as planning compliance officers and local laws officers in the roles they'll inevitably be expected by the community to perform. As such the following motion is proposed for the next MAV State Council Meeting.

Motion

That the MAV strongly advocates for:

1. immediate and meaningful engagement by the State Government with local government on gaining a full appreciation of the resource impact, capabilities and capacities to manage the consequences of these legislative changes;
2. local government being provided with clearer guidance as to their role, as a consequence of legislative changes to sex work by the State Government; and
3. local government being provided provided with adequate funding, resources and data to undertake its expected role as a consequence of legislative changes to sex work by the State Government.

MAV Motion 4 – Windfall Gains Tax

Preamble and Background

As part of the 2021 State Budget, the Victorian Government announced the introduction of a Windfall Gains Tax (WGT) to apply to land that is subject to a government rezoning AND resulting in a value uplift to the land of more than \$100,000.

At the time of the announcement the Treasurer indicated that the WGT would raise revenue for the State which would be "*invested in public transport, schools and other vital infrastructure.*"

4.2.1 Proposed Motions for the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council Meeting and the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly (Cont.)

Legislation introducing the tax was subsequently passed in October 2021 and the new Windfall Gains Tax will take effect from 1 July 2023.

In an ideal world, councils' *Revenue and Rating Plans* would outline how Councils will generate income to deliver on their Council Plan, program and services and capital works commitments over a four-year period. The reality is that with capped rates and government grants representing in many cases over 80% of councils' income, councils' abilities to increase revenue to match expenditure requirements are limited.

To provide additional funding towards major community and social infrastructure projects in progress or planned, Victorian councils have traditionally been able to raise funds via Development Contributions (DCPs). Development Contributions are payments to Council as a result of new development and/or the subdivision of land. Contributions are used to pay for the provision of planned infrastructure needed by the future community. There is a direct nexus between where the funds are levied under the DCP and development itself.

To determine what Development Contribution is required, councils work with the State Government to create a plan specific to the council area. Development Contributions Plans (DCPs) help Council identify key services and infrastructure required to support its community and:

- identify and provide costings for the infrastructure projects throughout the precinct;
- establish a funding framework to deliver these projects; and
- ensure the developers and wider community share the costs fairly.

Councils across Victoria are increasingly under financial strain in their ability to deliver broader category of services, projects and infrastructure required to support their communities and there is a moral argument to be advanced that the council area of development from which/in which WGT taxes are levied should be beneficiaries of at least a proportion of those taxes, to be negotiated on a case-by-case basis not dissimilar to the methodology used in the DCP process.

As such, the following motion is proposed for the next MAV State Council Meeting.

Motion

That the MAV strongly advocates for changes to the Windfall Gains Tax (WGT) inasmuch that:

1. there is a partnership created with the State Government to ensure that a proportion of this revenue is hypothecated back into selected projects within the council area in which it was levied;
2. in partnership with the State Government, there is an opportunity to identify both local revenue and expenditure priorities emanating from the WGT;
3. the existing framework for Development Contributions has established a precedent for councils and the State Government to jointly determine and prioritise the infrastructure needs of the community and this methodology be the basis for future WGT sharing/ hypothecation; and
4. it seeks a commitment from the State Government to ensure this dialogue is continued and extended to formally include the Department of Treasury and Finance.

4.2.1 Proposed Motions for the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council Meeting and the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly (Cont.)

ALGA Motion 2 – Back Your Neighbour

Preamble and Background

The right to seek asylum is a human right and Australia operates a dedicated Humanitarian Program that offers resettlement for refugees and others overseas who are in humanitarian need, and protection for people who arrive in Australia and engage Australia's protection obligations. The Humanitarian Program should not be seen in isolation from Australia's broader Migration Program as research has shown that humanitarian entrants make long and lasting contributions to Australia society and economy.

Local government plays a unique and critical role in the humanitarian settlement program. Local governments engage in actions to promote multiculturalism, social inclusion and ensure equitable access to their programs and services for all community members. Many are undertaking activities to welcome new migrant and refugee arrivals to their community and the wider Australian community, such as through becoming Refugee Welcome Zones.

The Federal Government has now provided a pathway to permanency for over 19,000 refugees determined under the 'Fast Track' system who held Temporary Protection or Safe Haven Enterprise Visas. There remains 12,000 people who have been failed or are still subjected to the 'Fast Track' process that are denied this pathway to permanency. The large majority of these living for up to a decade in community within local government areas without support or hope for an enduring solution.

As such the following motion is proposed for the ALGA National General Assembly in June 2023.
Note that this motion will be jointly moved with Brimbank City Council, Casey City Council, Darebin City Council, Hobsons Bay City Council, Hume City Council, Kingston City Council, Monash City Council, Moreland City Council and Yarra City Council.

Motion

That the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and this National General Assembly:

1. acknowledges and welcomes the Federal Government's pathway to permanency for over 19,000 Temporary Protection Visas and Safe Haven Enterprise Visas holders
2. acknowledges the contrasting Federal Government policy towards the remaining 12,000 people who have been failed by, or are still subjected to the 'Fast Track' Refugee Status Determination (RSD) process;
3. acknowledges Greater Dandenong City Council as secretariat of the Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum on behalf of the following Councils that are members:

4.2.1 Proposed Motions for the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council Meeting and the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly (Cont.)

- Executive Members – Brimbank City Council, Casey City Council, Darebin City Council, Hobsons Bay City Council, Hume City Council, Kingston City Council, Monash City Council, Moreland City Council, Yarra City Council;
 - General Members – Ballarat City Council, Banyule City Council, Bendigo City Council, Blue Mountains City Council, Canterbury Bankstown City Council, Cardinia Shire Council, Hawkesbury City Council, Inner West City Council, Leeton Shire Council, Maribyrnong City Council, Melbourne City Council, Moonee Valley City Council, Nillumbik Shire Council, Port Phillip City Council, Randwick City Council, Wagga City Council, Whittlesea City Council, Wyndham City Council; and
 - Supporter Councils – Bass Coast Shire Council, Greater Geelong City Council, Hobart City Council, Launceston City Council, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Maroondah City Council, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, Borough of Queenscliffe, Wellington Shire Council, and Whitehorse City Council; and
4. calls on the Federal Government for a consistent approach and to:
- replace the existing 'Fast Track' system with a single Refugee Status Determination RSD process and an independent, timely and fair merits review; and
 - continue to invest resources to urgently clear the backlog of asylum applications/appeals in order to create an efficient system.

4. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with the submission of motions to the MAV State Council Meeting and the ALGA National General Assembly.

5. Community Vision 2040 and Council Plan 2021-25 – Strategic Objectives, Strategies and Plans

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

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

4.2.1 Proposed Motions for the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council Meeting and the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly (Cont.)

5.1 Community Vision 2040

This report is consistent with the Community Vision 2040 and its accompanying principles:

- Safe and peaceful community
- Education, training, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities
- Sustainable environment.

5.2 Council Plan 2021-25

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 strategic objectives:

- A socially connected, safe and healthy city
- A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts
- A green city committed to a sustainable future
- A Council that demonstrates leadership and a commitment to investing in the community.

6. Conclusion (optional)

It is recommended that the proposed motions (four to the MAV and two to the ALGA) be endorsed by Council and submitted to the respective peak body organisations under the submission criteria which they will be accepted.

7. Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. endorses the proposed motions to the Municipal Association of Victoria and the Australian Local Government Association as outlined in this report;**
- 2. authorises the Chief Executive Officer and/or Manager Governance to make any minor changes to improve the wording of the motions and/or update the motions relative to the issues discussed in this report that may have occurred between the Council Meeting and the date of lodgement of the motions; and**
- 3. authorises the Manager Governance to submit the motions outlined in this report to the respective peak body associations under the submission criteria which they will be accepted.**

4.2.1 Proposed Motions for the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council Meeting and the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly (Cont.)

MINUTE 705

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad
Seconded by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

That Council:

- 1. endorses the proposed motions to the Municipal Association of Victoria and the Australian Local Government Association as outlined in this report and with the addition of the following motion for the ALGA National General Assembly;**

That the Australian Local Government Association and this National General Assembly requests the Federal Government to outline how it will work with Local Governments to achieve its carbon emissions reduction targets under the Paris Agreement including:

- a. how emissions are reduced through Local Government investments and actions measured and reported in the national reporting;**
 - b. how barriers (policy, regulatory and funding) to Local Governments taking decisive action to reduce emissions will be identified and reduced by the Federal Government; and**
 - c. what sources of Federal funding will be available to Local Government in partnership with the Federal Government to reduce emissions and achieve our national goals.**
- 2. authorises the Chief Executive Officer and/or Manager Governance to make any minor changes to improve the wording of the motions and/or update the motions relative to the issues discussed in this report that may have occurred between the Council Meeting and the date of lodgement of the motions; and**
 - 3. authorises the Manager Governance to submit the motions outlined in this report to the respective peak body associations under the submission criteria which they will be accepted.**

CARRIED
(Cr Tim Dark abstained from voting on this item)

4.2.2 Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee Member Nominations

File Id: A9494223
Responsible Officer: Director Community Services
Attachments: Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory
Committee Proposed Membership

1. Report Summary

On 12 December 2022, the revised Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee (MAPSAAC) was endorsed by Council. The TOR outlined the membership appointment process for new Committee members until 30 June 2025.

New Committee members were sought in accordance with the selection process and criteria outlined in the endorsed Terms of Reference.

Recommendations for the membership of the Committee are now presented to Council for endorsement.

2. Recommendation Summary

This report recommends that Council endorses the proposed MAPSAAC members (refer Attachment 1) as members of the MAPSAAC until 30 June 2025.

4.2.2 Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee Member Nominations (Cont.)

3. Background

The Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee (MAPSAAC) was first established in 2018 and serves as a key platform for community representatives and organisations to share information and engage on issues relating to people seeking asylum, refugees and the multicultural communities of Greater Dandenong.

New member nominations for 2022-25 was sought in accordance with the selection process as outlined in the endorsed Terms of Reference.

MAPSAAC membership will consist of no more than 15 voting members and will include community members and representatives from relevant community groups and organisations, including standing memberships from the regional Refugee Health provider and Refugee Settlement organisations.

An Expression of Interest for member nominations was promoted from December 2022 to January 2023 via the local newspaper, Council media and through existing community networks. A selection panel was convened to assess received nominations against the criteria for membership. Members of the selection panel were:

- Coordinator Community Advocacy (Council)
- Community Advocacy Officer (Council)
- General Manager – Dandenong Community Learning Centre

4. Proposal

This report recommends that Council endorses the selection panel's recommendation of the two community members and eleven organisational members detailed in Attachment 1 as members of the MAPSAAC.

The thirteen recommended individuals represent broad knowledge and/or lived experience within the refugee and people seeking asylum community.

5. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6. Consultation

A public request for nominations occurred. All applicants were assessed against the selection criteria for the Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee.

7. Community Vision 2040 and Council Plan 2021-25 – Strategic Objectives, Strategies and Plans

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

4.2.2 Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee Member Nominations (Cont.)

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

7.1 Community Vision 2040

This report is consistent with the Community Vision 2040 and its accompanying principles:

- Safe and peaceful community
- Education, training, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities
- Safe and peaceful community
- Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.

7.2 Council Plan 2021-25

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 strategic objectives:

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

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.

These principles have been considered and are covered within this report.

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. Specifically:

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

4.2.2 Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee Member Nominations (Cont.)

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 and MAPSAAC membership recommendations are consistent with the intention of the Policy and the Act. The open, fair and transparent nomination process has ensured that nominees reflect the diversity within the community and one gender group does not benefit over any other.

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.

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 as it is administrative in nature.

12. Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks

Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks include:

- Community Development Framework
- Community Engagement Policy
- Diversity, Access and Equity Policy

4.2.2 Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee Member Nominations (Cont.)

13. Recommendation

That:

- 1. Council endorses the thirteen recommended applicants detailed in Attachment 1 as members of the Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee for service until 30 June 2025; and**
- 2. the Mayor writes to the proposed applicants to confirm their appointment to the Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee.**

MINUTE 706

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad
Seconded by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

That:

- 1. Council endorses the thirteen recommended applicants detailed in Attachment 1 as members of the Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee for service until 30 June 2025; and**
- 2. the Mayor writes to the proposed applicants to confirm their appointment to the Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee.**

CARRIED

4.2.2 Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee Member Nominations (Cont.)

OTHER

**MULTICULTURAL AND PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
PROPOSED MEMBERSHIP**

ATTACHMENT 1

**MULTICULTURAL AND PEOPLE
SEEKING ASYLUM ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
PROPOSED MEMBERSHIP**

PAGES 2 (including cover)

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

4.2.2 Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee Member Nominations (Cont.)

Proposed Membership for the Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee		
Organisation Members	Name	Existing Member
Friends of Refugees	Sri Samy	Y
Chisholm Institute, Foundation College	Kylie Reid	Y
Monash Health	Jacquie McBride	Y
South East Community Links	Peter McNamara	Y
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre	Qutbiallyam Timor	Y
Life Without Barriers	Lara Ghobrial	
Australian Red Cross	Tiana Lardieri	
Voice of South East	Adwin Town	
Victorian Afghan Associations Network	Nazir Yousafi	
Sisterworks	Ifrin Fitlock	
South East Monash Legal Service	Ashleigh Newnham	
Community Members	Name	Existing Member
	Chaw Po	Y
	Roz Blades	

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

4.2.3 List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors

File Id: qA283304
Responsible Officer: Manager Governance
Attachments: Correspondence Received 20 February – 3 March 2023

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 20 February – 3 March 2023.

Recommendation

That the listed items provided in Attachment 1 for the period 20 February – 3 March 2023 be received and noted.

MINUTE 707

Moved by: Cr Loi Truong
Seconded by: Cr Richard Lim OAM

That the listed items provided in Attachment 1 for the period 20 February – 3 March 2023 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
20 FEBRUARY – 3 MARCH 2023**

PAGES 3 (including cover)

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

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



Correspondences addressed to the Mayor and Councillors received between 06/03/23 & 17/03/23 - for officer action - total = 1

Correspondence Name	Correspondence Dated	Date Record Created	Objective ID	User Currently Assigned
A follow-up email from Springvale South residents in relation to improvements at Burden Park.	04-Mar-23	06-Mar-23	1A270793	Mayor & Councillors EA

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

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



Correspondences addressed to the Mayor and Councillors received between 06/03/23 & 17/03/23 - for information only - total = 7

Correspondence Name	Correspondence Dated	Date Record Created	Objective ID	User Currently Assigned
An email to the Mayor regarding the latest grants news from Grant Guri.	07-Mar-23	07-Mar-23	A9589142	Mayor and Councillors EA
An email of complaint from a Springvale shopper concerned about the health hazards at Springvale Shopping Centre including beggars and vendors who block walkways with product displays.	08-Mar-23	08-Mar-23	A9593950	Mayor and Councillors EA
An email to the Mayor in relation to the National Asbestos Awareness Campaign from the Australian Government Asbestos Agency.	10-Mar-23	14-Mar-23	A9603057	Mayor and Councillors EA
A letter to the Mayor from the Minister for Planning in relation to the Progress Street, Dandenong South Level Crossing Removal - Designation of project area.	08-Jul-23	15-Mar-23	A9607838	Mayor and Councillors EA
A letter to the Mayor from a Dandenong resident requesting the Mayor's support for a visa application.	15-Mar-23	15-Mar-23	A9609062	Mayor and Councillors EA
An email to the Mayor from the Member for the South-Eastern Metropolitan Region requesting a meeting with the Mayor and CEO to discuss Council's priorities.	15-Mar-23	15-Mar-23	A9610739	Mayor and Councillors EA
An invitation to the Mayor from the Rodriguan Social Club of Victoria Inc to attend its Seniors Lunch in May 2023.	15-Mar-23	16-Mar-23	A9611545	Mayor and Councillors EA

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

5 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

Comment

Cr Rhonda Garad

I would like to thank our Mayor, Councillor Eden Foster for signing the Greater Dandenong City Council joint letter petitioning the premier of Victoria to actions around gambling reform. The six Councils that signed onto the joint letter in combination are responsible for about a \$100 million in losses through poker machines and account for about 43% of the national losses. Greater Dandenong has the lowest income in the state and the \$102 million which we lose each year is beyond what this community can afford to lose. I thank you for signing us onto that joint letter and for petitioning the Premier to take action.

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

Residents have conveyed concern regarding registering their pets as they have not registered them for a couple of years. The City of Monash has charged significant back fees in cat registration.

Would the Greater Dandenong City Council consider an amnesty on back fees for registering cats given that we are trying to encourage people to register their cats?

Response

Jody Bosman, Director City Planning Design and Amenity

That is a worthwhile consideration. I will take that question on notice and investigate.

We will have a conversation with Councillors at the next Councillor Briefing Session. If we can offer an amnesty, it may be a good step to getting a better base of responsible cat ownership.

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

Last year at Dandenong Oasis we lost about \$1.5 million. The Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC) was running at a loss of around \$1.4 million. What percentage of the Greater Dandenong population use both Dandenong Oasis and the NPAC?

Response

Marcus Forster, Acting Director Community Services

We have made some enquiries with South East Leisure and I can report that for Dandenong Oasis, 68% of current members live in Greater Dandenong. This includes 69% of swimming lessons and health and wellness memberships at 66%.

With regard to NPAC, 88% of current members live in Greater Dandenong. This includes 90% of swimming lessons and 84% of health and wellness memberships.

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

I think the question was misunderstood. My question was what percentage of the population of Greater Dandenong, not of the users that currently use the facility.

Response

Marcus Forster, Acting Director Community Services

I will take that question on notice.

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

What percentage of the respective losses are attributed to utilities such as energy and water?

Response

Marcus Forster, Acting Director Community Services

Dandenong Oasis utilities which include electricity, gas and water, accounted for \$642,000 which represents approximately 32% of the abovementioned net loss or subsidy to Council.

NPAC utilities (gas, electricity and water) amounted to \$366,000 which represents approximately 30% of the net loss or subsidy to Council.

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

What percentage of the respective losses are attributed to maintenance?

Response

Marcus Forster, Acting Director Community Services

A significant amount of the maintenance is reactive in scope. South East Leisure's maintenance costs year to date are at \$270,000 and this as a percentage of operating costs will be calculated at the end of the financial year. It is important to note that these figures exclude additional or major maintenance items that are undertaken by Council.

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

We can surmise that the maintenance costs are significant. One reason for replacing Dandenong Oasis is to reduce the significant financial losses. It is critical that design has a high level of energy efficiency.

What is the mean energy utilisation index of the new design?

Response

Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects

The new Dandenong Wellbeing Centre (DWC) will be much more efficient than the current Dandenong Oasis facility. The centre energy usage intensity was calculated to be 204 kilowatt hours per square metre, including the PV on the roof. The energy usage intensity of 204 kilowatts per hour of square metre compares favourably with other facilities located in Victoria that typically range between 415 to 1,606 kilowatt hours per square metre. This is mostly because all of them are still using gas as a primary heat supply and some with cogeneration.

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

The last construction cost we heard was around \$98 million without contingencies. Normally a project owner gives a cost figure to the architect to work towards. What figure was provided?

Response

Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects

The cost statement was not correct. The total project budget as at the end of detailed design is estimated to be \$98.4 million which includes design and construction contingencies, construction cost escalation and all other associated project costs such as consultancy fees and authority fees.

The contingencies and escalations attribute approximately \$11.5 million to the \$98.4 million total project cost figure. The budget nominated in the design contract was \$53 million for the construction of the DWC facility only. The figure of \$53 million also does not include contingencies or escalations. The figure of \$53 million should be compared with the current net cost of \$78 million.

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

What is the explanation for that cost difference from \$53 million to \$78 million?

Response

Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects

There are a number of factors that have attributed to the cost difference over two and a half years. One is the significant cost escalation driven by the market in the order of 19.4% according to the ABS. Some trades and materials as we know have escalated beyond 19.4%.

There are additional scope of works in addition to the \$53 million include the following;

1. A sports pavilion
2. Extensive external precinct works including 350 car parking spaces
3. Access roads
4. Public plaza
5. Footpaths and landscaping
6. Amenity design response to identified community need
7. The provision of being above and beyond five green star initiatives above Council policy requirements
8. High quality finishes and façade enhancements

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

What is the difference between the initial cost the pool which was \$53 million and the current pool cost which is \$78 million? Not the additional redevelopment of the sporting facilities or the car park.

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Response

Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects

I will take this question on notice.

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

The business case for the DWC says there will be a dramatic rise in the number of users. On what basis has this assumption been made and in years one to five what are the projected increases in patronage?

Response

Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects

A significant increase in visitation numbers is expected due to the significant increase in the service program and facility offering that will be provided at the DWC as compared to Dandenong Oasis currently. Additionally, there will be the provision of accessible, inclusive and fit for purpose spaces that respond to identified community needs and are tailored to the needs of our unique community.

With regards to projected attendance numbers, in year one we expect 715,000 visitors which we anticipate will increase to 881,000 in year five. By comparison, Dandenong Oasis had 476,000 visitors in the 2018-2019 pre-COVID year.

This represents an increase of 72% based on the five year average. These projects are conservative when compared to similar centres. Brimbank City Council which has a similar community to ours, recently opened a new centre. They have seen a huge uptake in the numbers attending the centre in addition to what they had originally specified.

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

Of the projected increase in patronage, what percentage are from residents from within the Greater Dandenong City Council?

Response

Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects

I will take that question on notice.

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

Since the estimated cost has ballooned so significantly, how relevant is the business case now and do we need to look at that again?

Response

Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects

The business case provides an investment and delivery case for DWC. It demonstrates why a new centre is required and the positive impact that it will have on the community. It outlines a broad range of economic, social, community and environmental benefits that will be realised through the delivery of the DWC. This includes a social value of approximately \$8.9 million per annum.

It should also be noted that the federal government grant of \$20 million for both DWC and NPAC, of which we have allocated \$17.7 million against DWC, was provided to Council based on the business case.

Comment

Cr Angela Long

On Tuesday 28 February 2022, I attended the South East Breakfast Network (SEBN) breakfast at the Council chamber. Later that morning, I attended an online meeting with Dandenong Market Pty Ltd (DMPL) board. In the afternoon, I attended the 100th birthday party for Dorothy Hudson at Parkglen Retirement Village in Keysborough. She had a great time having a ride on the back of a motorbike.

On Wednesday 8 March 2022, International Women's Day, I attended a breakfast at Springvale City Hall hosted by Killester College and Greater Dandenong. That night, I also attended the opening of She, Body and Mind Exhibition on behalf of the Mayor at the Walker Street Gallery.

On Thursday 9 March 2022, I attended the 33rd anniversary of the Napoli Family Club at Menzies Avenue Hall.

Today I attended a meeting with Ian Clark at the Melbourne Cable Park in Bangholme.

Comment

Cr Sophie Tan

On Saturday 4 March 2022, I attended the Noble Park Community Fun Day which was a successful event. We had around 5,500 people attend, and I want to thank our staff, sponsors and volunteers for their great work. I also want to say thank you to the Noble Park Revitalisation Board for contributing funding toward this event. Some feedback I received on the day from residents was parents asking if we could provide more activities for little kids in the future.

On Sunday 5 March 2023, I attended Clean Up Australia Day which was organised by the Cambodian Association of Victoria. We had around 12 to 15 people clean around local shopping centres, parks and streets in the Noble Park area. I want to thank all volunteers for their great work.

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Question

Cr Sophie Tan

An elderly resident has been having traffic issues at Huntsman Drive, Noble Park. There are speeding issues, too many cars parked on either sides of the street and two trucks blocking the driveway. Are there any updates on this?

Response

Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects

I will take that question on notice, if you could provide me those details. It may be a combined effort between my directorate and Mr Bosman's directorate (Director City Planning, Design & Amenity).

Question

Cr Sophie Tan

It has been recorded that last year Council spent around \$2.9 million for illegal rubbish dumping. Do we know how much income we get back in enforcement fines as a result of illegal dumping??

Response

Jody Bosman Director City Planning, Design and Amenity

I will take that question on notice.

Question

Cr Sophie Tan

There has been a lot of illegal dumping on Joy Parade and Corrigan Road, Noble Park. Can we do anything about reducing that whether it be CCTV or by checking those areas often?

Response

Jody Bosman Director City Planning, Design and Amenity

We will put that on the hotspots program if it is not already on there. We will have a look at whether we can also add it to the schedule for our mobile CCTV. I will liaise with Mr Kearsley (Director Business, Engineering & Major Projects) in terms of hard rubbish pick up if there is dumped rubbish there. I will make sure that we give this area a high degree of observation and surveillance.

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Comment

Cr Lana Formoso

My family and I took on the mammoth effort of Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday 5 March 2023 which entailed clean-up of the Noble Park North Ward. We were successful in cleaning all 26 parks. We had around 25 volunteers helping. I am hoping to promote that a lot more next year and get more residents involved.

We finished up with a wonderful barbeque at Barry Powell Reserve. Seven bags of recyclables were collected. Eight bags of rubbish. This year there were a lot less disposable masks, only nine. We found around 12 disposable vapes, a broken bench press, carpet, rugs, 18 tyres, a broken iPod, broken mop and bucket and tonnes of clothing.

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

I am keen to have Council assist us with this initiative. If Council is talking about dumped rubbish and that being such an issue in our municipality, why are we as a Council not doing more to promote initiatives like Clean Up Australia Day?

I was the only one cleaning up my ward and a couple of other groups in other wards but if we are really going to promote and be about cleaning our municipality, we need to be advocating a lot stronger and a lot harder as a Council to ensure we are educating the community and obviously our children.

What can Council do to better promote national events such as Clean Up Australia Day? This is a perfect opportunity where we can approach schools, local community groups and do more.

Response

Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects

There is a range of actions taken on the issue of dumped rubbish and litter in our parks and our streets. Outside of the Civic Centre, we have the dumped rubbish campaign that is being run to get a broader number of people in our community to understand that where they put their rubbish is crucial. Dumped rubbish is a significant cost to the community as Council must then pay for somebody's rubbish to be taken away.

Further Response

Kylie Sprague, Executive Manager Communication and Customer Service

We do liaise with the Clean Up Australia Day organisation, and they provide us with resources. We promote it via our Council newsletter and work very closely with the local media to get that message out. It does largely rely on community groups and individuals registering their event and then them being promoted via their website. We can certainly look at new initiatives going forward and maybe come back to Councillors prior to next year's event with some planned activities.

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

That would definitely be needed. We definitely need to plan that a little better for next year's event, knowing very well that it is held the same time every year.

I had the pleasure of doing a drive around Noble Park North Ward today with our CEO, Jackie Weatherill. We spent a couple of hours driving around the ward talking about local residents concerns within the ward. One of the major issues that we have is the lack of sporting ground facilities, we do not have a single multipurpose court in my ward. How can I possibly continue to promote the Make Your Move Strategy when we do not have the facilities or the people promoting it adequately to really do it justice? We are the least active municipality in all of Australia.

On 24 March 2023 there is a fantastic initiative called National Ride2School Day. What have we done as a Council to promote this? It is our responsibility to promote events like these.

We also have our Get Active Get Moving strategy at the moment. We have 11 schools participating in this initiative and there are 99 schools in in our municipality. This is unacceptable.

What are we doing as a Council to promote active residents and our facilities? What are we going to do to change the fact that we have only asked 11 schools to participate in this Get Active Get Moving strategy?

Response

Kylie Sprague, Executive Manager Communication and Customer Service

On our website we have the Get Active Get Moving in March strategy. We have encouraged schools to register. We have even provided an incentive for the first few schools to register. We are working with some other organisations, including South East Leisure, to encourage that. I know we have done some gorgeous little videos of children walking to school to encourage others to get on board, and we have had some great feedback on social media for those. It is about walking, riding or scooting to and from school and encouraging any sort of activity amongst children that we can.

Further Response

Marcus Forster, Director Community Services

I am not sure of the details of how we have communicated with schools. I will take that question on notice.

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

Could I ask the Mayor, Councillor Eden Foster to write a letter of support for the Barry J Powell Reserve Master Plan to the Honourable Daniel Andrews MP as it falls in his electorate? That project is shovel-ready, and we need some serious funds to be able to provide the necessary facilities for our residents.

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Response

Cr Eden Forster, Mayor

I will take that question on notice.

Comment

Cr Lana Formoso

I had the pleasure of attending a lot of International Women's Day events on Wednesday 8 March 2023, which I am deeply passionate about. This year's focus was embracing equity, which aims to shine a light on the way equal opportunities are not enough and that by embracing equity, we can create a truly inclusive world.

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

What are we doing in terms of the line marking situation on the Jacksons Road crossing and Stud Road crossing? Mayor, Councillor Eden foster, can you write a letter to Melissa Horne MP regarding the line marking?

Response

Cr Eden Forster, Mayor

I will take that question on notice.

Comment

Cr Jim Memeti

The Honourable Daniel Andrews MP visited Noble Park last week. We officially opened the NPAC gymnasium, which is first class. I would recommend for anyone looking for a gymnasium, to join NPAC.

Question

Cr Jim Memeti

I had a contractor call me who was given a parking fine when delivering some produce to The Public's Corner, just outside of the Civic Centre. He said that there is no loading bay. Is there a loading bay there?

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Response

Lisa Roberts, Manager Governance

There is no loading bay as such, but they can load up via the basement. I know some trucks cannot get into the basement, but we will look at getting some providers access to the laneway along the side, which is often a lot easier than trying to make your way through Lonsdale Street with all the traffic. If The Public's Corner can contact me directly, I can possibly get an access pass for the laneway here for their suppliers.

Question

Cr Jim Memeti

I received a notification on social media saying that Des Custerson Reserve in Dandenong South has broken bench seating. Can officers investigate?

Do we have an audit on our facilities? I know we have Snap Send Solve, but what auditing do we do when there is faulty equipment within our municipality?

Response

Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects

We have a program of auditing and inspecting the quality of our facilities; playgrounds and parks. This is not conducted specifically daily or weekly, so we do require our residents and businesses to inform us. It can either be done the way that you have received it or it can be done by Snap Send Solve or contacting customer service to lodge a Merit. I can provide some further details on the regime that we do undertake, so that all Councillors are aware of that ongoing.

Question

Cr Jim Memeti

The last speed hump in Morwell Avenue, Dandenong closer to Kirkham Road, was replaced not long ago. They have done such a great job that residents are complaining of the old humps on Morwell Avenue which are a hazard. Can we replace those speed humps in Morwell Avenue?

Response

Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering and Major Project

I will take that question on notice.

Comment

Cr Jim Memeti

I love International Women's Day because I have a mother, wife, daughter, mother-in-law and granddaughters that are all fabulous. I always make sure in my family that we always celebrate, we are very grateful for the women in our life and we like to celebrate them, not only on International Women's Day but every day, so happy International Women's Day.

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Comment

Cr Richard Lim OAM

On Thursday 23 February 2023, I had a meeting with three officers from Victoria Police in Springvale about the homeless. They patrolled Springvale every hour or two.

On Monday 27 February 2023, I visited Sister Works with Deputy Mayor Councillor Lana Formoso.

On Thursday 2 March 2023, I had a meeting with the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, Victorian Branch. That day I also had another meeting with the Australian Journal of Pharmacy podcast presenter.

On Friday 3 March 2023, I had a meeting with foreign investors from Switzerland. They are really interested in our City and I took them on a tour. They are interested in building a shopping centre in Springvale, something similar to a Cambodian Village.

On Saturday 4 March 2023, I attended Harmony Square to interview for the TV Channel Samaa which I was invited to by Ms Zahra Haydarbig on behalf of Mr Ravi Qasimi.

On Sunday 5 March 2023, I organised a clean-up for Clean Up Australia Day. The morning session was with the Cambodian Association and the afternoon session was my team of about 30 people.

On Wednesday 8 March 2023, I attended the International Women's Day Breakfast at Springvale City Hall with Mayor Councillor Eden Foster and Councillor Angela Long. I had a good discussion with Senior Sergeant Kent Standish and Senior Sergeant Chris Savage who is in charge of emergency response.

On Thursday 9 March 2023, I met with the Director of Monash Health - Ron Fairchild, Director of Monash Children's Hospital - Professor Nick Freezer, Director of Monash Newborn - Dr Alice Stewart and Clinical Scientist for Monash Health - Mr Rob Roseby.

In the afternoon I had a meeting with Dr Vu and Mr Truong regarding the revitalisation of Springvale. He gave me a lot of ideas and asked a lot of questions.

In the evening I met with Mr Jody Bosman to discuss Springvale.

On Friday 10 March 2023, I had a chance to attend the Moral Uplifting Society Inc. celebration where there was an inauguration of new president, Stephen Chew.

At lunch time I attended the NPAC Grand Opening with the Honourable Dan Andrews MP and many of our Councillors.

On Sunday 12 March 2023, I had a meeting with a Monk from Cambodia. He wanted to understand a bit about what Councillors do for Councils. We taught him a little about medicine and gave him some medication and machinery to help his elderly followers.

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Comment

Cr Bob Milkovic

I met with the Otters Swimming Club at Dandenong Oasis with Mayor Councillor Eden Foster and Councillor Sean O'Reilly. The parents were very excited to have a chat to us and put their requests and proposals forward. It was a great meeting. The Otters Swimming Club although small in numbers, it is a great club on a national competition level, which I did not know.

I also attended the opening of the NPAC gymnasium. It was very exciting to see this world-class facility. It provides a great sense of the community atmosphere and it is one of the best equipped gyms I have seen. It is a fantastic facility and I hope that our community will put it to good use.

Question

Cr Bob Milkovic

Can I have an update on the installation of the additional street light at Carlton Road shops?

Response

Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects

I will take that question on notice and see if we can get some updated dates from United Energy.

Question

Cr Bob Milkovic

Can I get the status of the repairs of all the drinking water fountains along Lonsdale Street, Thomas Street and Walker Street within the Dandenong CBD? There were quite a few issues, some were broken, some were malfunctioning.

Response

Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects

Most of them are now back in order and working. I will just get that signed off though by the responsible department. My understanding is that all of those that had been put on a list and those not operating have now been fixed. If there are bits or pieces waiting for delivery then it is still to be done but they have been actioned.

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Comment

Cr Bob Milkovic

Could you send me an email at your convenience with an update regarding how many are fully operational?

I am happy to report that after a lengthy delay by South East Water we are finally getting a water fountain at Manks Court Reserve. First we received a rubbish bin so people do not dump rubbish in our waterways, creeks and lakes and now we are getting a water fountain so people can drink fresh water from the tap.

Comment

Cr Tim Dark

There have recently been some very well attended events across the entire community and municipality. I had the opportunity to attend the Noble Park Community Day. I think most of our Councillors were in attendance. It was a very well attended event and it was all planned very well.

Question

Cr Tim Dark

I had the opportunity to attend the Grand Final, Coomoora Cricket Club versus Dandy West. It was held at the Lois Twohig Reserve in Dandenong North. I had not been to that reserve for a very long time and it is incredibly run-down. The change rooms and facilities were not up to scratch. Do we have a Master Plan for this reserve, are there any plans about upgrading it?

Response

Marcus Forster, Acting Director Community Strengthening

I am aware there is a Master Plan. I will pass that on to you, along with any actions that are falling out of that.

Question

Cr Tim Dark

A resident has complained about mowing of parks on Chandler Road. There seems to be a lot of grass clippings that are being left behind. Subsequently they are blowing down the street down Parkmore Road and Chandler Road.

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Response

Paul Kearsley, Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects

I will take that question on notice. I previously reported to Council several months ago that due to the height of the grass, the catchers were not working. If it was our road and our mowing, it is something that we can investigate.

Question

Cr Tim Dark

Can I have an update regarding the Park Lane Court landscaping improvements that were in the Budget bid in the previous budget. I am aware that Ms Brodie (Coordinator Open Space Planning and Sustainability) did a decent schematic drawing of the layout of the reserve. We visited some residents nearby who provided some feedback. From there we have not seen anything in terms of the plantings, the landscaping, the layout, the design and when it is estimated to be completed. Can I please get an update of when that is expected to occur?

Response

Jody Bosman, Director City Planning, Design and Amenity

I will take that question on notice.

Comment

Cr Eden Foster, Mayor of Greater Dandenong City Council

I have attended a number of events in the last fortnight.

On Tuesday 28 February 2023, I attended the Noble Park Suburban Revitalisation Board Meeting with our CEO Jacqui Weatherill.

I also attended the 100th birthday afternoon tea for Dorothy Hudson at the Parkglen Retirement Village with Councillor Richard Lim OAM. It was fantastic to be able to celebrate her 100th there with her.

On Thursday 2 March 2023, I attended the opening of the Frank Street Open Space and the Ukrainian community mural. It is great to see that come up and it is a great space that can be utilised by our community for small events. The mural itself is a great symbol of peace and harmony for our Ukrainian community, so it was quite moving but also wonderful to be able to do that with the Ukrainian Community Centre.

Like my fellow Councillors, I attended the Noble Park Community Fun Day on Saturday 4 March 2023. It is the second one that we have had there and it was a fantastic event. The space was utilised quite well, which meant that the people attending were spread out so they were able to enjoy the activities, food and the entertainment quite well.

On Sunday 5 March 2023, I attended a Clean Up Australia Day event with the SEWA volunteers and our Council staff. I would like to say a big thank you to Council staff who volunteered their personal time on Clean Up Australia Day. It is surprising to see all the rubbish that is collected. Clean Up Australia should be everyday, not just one day a year.

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

I attended a number of International Women's Day events.

On Wednesday 8 March 2023, I attended Council's International Women's Day Breakfast hosted in partnership with Killester, the school that I attended for years. I also attended the Chandler Park Primary School International Women's Day event, where I got to speak to our primary school kids on what it means to be a women in leadership, the benefits but also the challenges with that.

On Thursday 9 March 2023, I attended the Wellsprings for Women and Chisholm Institute International Women's Day event where they had four keynote speakers including myself.

On Friday 10 March 2023, I attended the Official Opening of the NPAC Gymnasium. It is fantastic to see that facility open. I encourage our residents to become members and take advantage of the seven day free trial that they have available.

On Saturday 11 March 2023, I had a photo opportunity with Tony Pearce, Chair of the Emergency Services Foundation and Inspector-General for Emergency Management. He is trying to highlight the mental health concerns in Victoria's Emergency Services community. He is undertaking Tony's Trek – a 1440km charity walk to support initiatives for mental health to help people across Victoria's emergency management community.

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

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS 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
27/02/23 CQT1	Cr Sean O'Reilly	<p>On street parking rules A resident advised of their frustration at a car parked across their driveway limiting their access outside normal business hours.</p> <p>The resident contacted Council outside of business hours and were told to contact the police.</p> <p>The resident contacted the police and were told by the police to contact Council.</p> <p>It was extremely frustrating for the resident. Council's website is unclear on who is responsible when this happens.</p> <p>When someone parks over your driveway, what do you do? Can this be made clearer on Council's website?</p> <p>Can we also include easy to follow instructions on what is allowed regarding on-street parking, is there a minimum number of metres that someone must be from someone's driveway?</p> <p>As well as a step-by-step process that someone can follow if they experience this? I can imagine it would be extremely frustrating.</p>	Director City Planning, Design & Amenity	14/03/2023	<p>Initial response provided 27/03/23: In terms of people parking over driveways, Council can issue infringement notices for that. In terms of moving vehicles, we have limited powers with respect to that.</p> <p>With regard to the website we can investigate how to make it simpler for residents in terms of understanding who to contact in the first instance and what we can and cannot do when those situations arise.</p> <p>Additional response provided by Jacqui Weatherill, CEO 27/02/23: Mr Bosman (Director City Planning Design and Amenity) has also mentioned recently at a Council meeting that he is extending the hours for patrols till 8pm for exactly this type of reason, although this particular incident may have been outside those hours. We will take this question on notice, obtain the details for this incident and follow up.</p> <p>Further response provided 14/03/23: Officers are currently in the process of drafting and reviewing information for publication on the Council website.</p> <p>COMPLETED</p>

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
27/02/23 CQT2	Cr Sean O'Reilly	<p>Council response times to parking patrol requests Regarding our out of business hours service what is Council's Service Level Agreement regarding response time for calls and when the complaint or incident is triaged?</p> <p>As a Councillor, I would like to receive reporting on these topics.</p> <p>I know that we have had some questions raised about our out of business hours contact number and service in the past, such as median average response time, resolution time and amount of calls received.</p>	City Planning, Design and Amenity	14/03/2023	<p>Initial response provided 27/02/23: I will take this question on notice and report back on Council's approach to standard operating procedures for out of hours calls.</p> <p>Further response provided 14/03/2023: Officers are now currently in the process of drafting and reviewing information for publication on Council's website.</p> <p>COMPLETED</p>
27/02/23 CQT8	Cr Sophie Tan	<p>Graffiti on Skyrail The graffiti on the Sky Railway in Noble Park is an eyesore.</p> <p>Can we have someone inspect that and see what we can do about cleaning it up?</p>	Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects	09/03/2023	<p>Initial response 27/02/23: We will pass that on to Metro and VicTrack because if it is on their infrastructure, they are the responsible authorities and not Council.</p> <p>Further response provided 09/03/23 Council staff inspect the pylons of the elevated railway line between Corrigan Road and Chandler Roads for graffiti on a daily basis (Mon-Fri) as part of our overall maintenance activities for the rail corridor.</p> <p>Council is responsible for the removal of all graffiti up to a height of 3 metres, beyond which it becomes the responsibility of the rail authority to remove the graffiti from their asset (Council is not permitted to work that close to live rail).</p> <p>An inspection by the Cleansing Team Leader</p>

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

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
27/02/23 CQT9	Cr Sophie Tan	<p>Streetscape – Leonard Ave/Buckley Street Is there an update on the Leonard Avenue/Buckley Street Streetscape Redevelopment Project.</p> <p>I believe the concept detail design was completed last year in June 2022. What is the progress on this project?</p>	Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects	06/03/2023	<p>earlier this week confirmed that the graffiti you have observed occurs 3 or more metres above ground level and has been referred to Metro Trains for removal.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMPLETED</p> <p>Initial response provided 27/02/23: We have received funding from the Noble Park Revitalisation Board. The funding was for the design, then we will have to look at timing for construction.</p> <p>They will have their first meeting for 2023 tomorrow morning (28/02/23) where we hope to get some clarity from that process and give Councillors a full briefing.</p> <p>Further response provided 06/03/23 The Noble Park Revitalisation Board allocated funding for the design of streetscape improvements in both Leonard Avenue and Buckley Street.</p> <p>These designs were completed in late 2022 and cover the commercial sections of the activity centre. The board subsequently allocated funds for the construction of streetscape works in Leonard Avenue.</p> <p>These works have been tendered and submissions from contractors are currently under review with an anticipated commencement date for works likely in May 2023.</p>

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
27/02/23 CQT10	Cr Lana Formoso	<p>Springfield Court – Lighting Assessment A resident informed me that there has been a bit of a crime spree within the area of Springfield Court, Noble Park North.</p> <p>Residents are concerned that the lighting may be insufficient in that court. Can Council do a lighting audit for this street?</p>	Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects	09/03/2023	<p>Buckley Street remains unfunded for construction, we will seek further interest from the board to consider this project should further funds become available.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMPLETED</p> <p>Initial response provided 27/03/23: I will take the address off you. The community can let us know of any lighting issues there are in the municipality.</p> <p>We will conduct a lighting audit and depending on the outcome of that audit, we will then notify the relevant lighting authority to improve the lighting. That can take some months.</p> <p>Further response provided 09/03/23 The public lighting in Springfield Court has a spacing of approximately 70m between lights which is consistent with other similar length cul-de-sacs throughout the local area (and the Australian Standards for public lighting).</p> <p>As the dense canopy of existing street trees may be impacting on lighting levels, this location has initially been referred to Council's Arborists for pruning/canopy reduction that might improve the situation.</p> <p>Once any pruning has occurred we will schedule the lighting audit that we anticipate will occur late March.</p>

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
27/02/23 CQT13	Cr Tim Dark	<p>Wachter Reserve, Keysborough Wetlands – Water levels When the boardwalk was being constructed for Wachter Reserve there were some blocks that were put in to block the drain, so that no more water would flow into the wetlands, whilst they constructed the work underneath for the boardwalk.</p> <p>Since the boardwalk has been finished the water level has not returned. Residents are saying that the water levels are depleted. Could we please investigate?</p>	Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects	03/03/2023	<p>If it is determined that additional lighting is required, this can take several months as we first need to run a consultation process with affected residents (and work through any objections) before the request for installation is referred onto the relevant authority (United Energy).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMPLETED</p>
					<p>Initial response received 27/02/23: I will take that question on notice and investigate. It could be that we have had a little less rain in the last couple of months.</p> <p>Further response provided 03/03/23: With regard to this wetland project I can confirm that the <i>temporary balloon</i> that was installed in the inlet pipe while the boardwalk was constructed was removed some time ago and stormwater has been freely flowing into the wetlands.</p> <p>It is worth noting that this wetland has been designed to be naturally ephemeral, which means that the water level rises and falls depending on rainfall and at times during extended dry periods it may even dry out.</p> <p>The water level at the moment is considered quite good given the relatively low rainfall over the summer period.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMPLETED</p>

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
27/02/23 CQT14	Cr Tim Dark	<p>Bloomfield Road, Keysborough – Scooter mobility issues A resident has raised some concerns in the past regarding the Kendra Place walkthrough to Bloomfield Road.</p> <p>He has a larger electric scooter to get around on, he takes his dog up to the dog park every day.</p> <p>They have not been able to get their electric scooter through the walkthrough because of the design.</p> <p>I asked Council officers to have a look, but the resident has not heard from anybody for several months.</p> <p>Is it possible to have a site meeting with the resident and the relevant officers?</p>	Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects	03/03/2023	<p>Initial response received 27/02/23: I am aware of this issue. I have directed my staff to meet the resident onsite, and to work out how best we can either modify the barriers or inform him of an alternative way around.</p> <p>The preference is to help him get through. If it means we must modify the footpath, then we will do so. I would hope that the resident would be having a meeting this week, as I have instructed, but I will follow that up.</p> <p>Further response provided 03/03/23: Council officers have confirmed the specific obstruction on the walkway with the resident and arrangements are being made to have it replaced with bollards.</p> <p>The bollards will not impact users' ability to navigate the path.</p> <p>Residents are encouraged to report any obstructions they identify with Council's Customer Service or via Snap Send Solve, and our Transport Team will investigate.</p> <p>COMPLETED</p>
27/02/23 CQT15	Cr Tim Dark	<p>Eildon Drive, Keysborough – Street sweeping schedule Residents have informed me that Eildon Drive has not been swept for a couple of weeks. Eildon Drive has a lot of old gum trees that are consistently dropping leaves.</p>	Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects	09/03/2023	<p>Initial response provided 27/02/23: We had issues with a sweeper that caused us delay. I have asked staff to provide me with some information as to when that occurred and how quickly we can get back to this location again. I should have an update to that within the next couple of days.</p>

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

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
		<p>The residents went to the customer service centre and received the dates on which the sweep is scheduled. They have noted that street sweeper has not come on those days.</p> <p>Can I get an update on when it is planned on being swept and how this has occurred?</p>			<p>Further response provided 09/03/23: All residential streets are programmed to be swept on a monthly cycle and an approximate date (give or take a week or so to either side) is provided to the public for each street.</p> <p>Over the Christmas/New Year period put us a little behind program Unfortunately a combination of staff illnesses and machine breakdowns put us a little behind program for the first few months of 2023 while every effort was made to ensure we were back on track as soon as possible (which we now are).</p> <p>Eildon Drive, Keysborough, is scheduled to be swept on or around the 13th of each month. In January it was swept on the 19th (6 days later than scheduled) and if February it was swept on the 23rd (10 days later than scheduled).</p> <p>On both occasions Eildon Drive was swept within a week or so of the approximate date, despite the challenges we were experiencing with staff illnesses and machinery breakdowns at the time.</p> <p>This resident keeps contacting our Customer Service team (multiple times) within one or two days of the approximate scheduled date rather than waiting a few days more before calling.</p> <p>On each occasion the resident has been provided with the next scheduled date as Customer Service have no way of knowing how many days behind (or ahead) of program we are currently running.</p>

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
27/02/23 CQT16	Cr Tim Dark	<p>Chandler Road – Outdoor seating permit for Street Food Turkey Street Food Turkey in Chandler Road, Keysborough is a very busy Turkish restaurant. They were successful after a lot of lobbying, to extend the street dining.</p> <p>The owner of the laundromat next door has given consent for an extension to the front of their shop as well, because not many customers frequent in the evening. Street Food Turkey had their facility extended for some additional diners to sit outside and eat.</p> <p>Council's planning compliance officers have said that the tables need to be removed and the site needs to be brought down.</p> <p>Could we please find out what options are available? There is potential that this business is being affected by the loss of some outdoor seating.</p>	Director City Planning, Design & Amenity	14/03/2023	<p>Customer Service have now been informed to advise residents that they should allow up to 7-10 days variation on these approximate scheduled dates for sweeping.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMPLETED</p> <p>Initial response provided 27/02/23: We will take that question on notice.</p> <p>Further response provided 14/03/23: I can confirm that officers have not required or requested the owner of the restaurant to remove any tables. There is a permit in place and they are in order. However, there is other unapproved work which has been erected and is required to be removed. Officers are in discussion with the owner of the restaurant in that regard.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMPLETED</p>

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
27/02/23 CQT17	Cr Tim Dark	<p>32 Assemble Drive, Dandenong South – egress issues in area I have had a chat to a couple of occupiers within the complex at 32 Assemble Drive, Dandenong South.</p> <p>One of the owners is being affected by a great amount of pallets stocked incredibly high which is higher than the roof of the factory.</p> <p>They are placing it in car parks in the middle of the complex with at least 200 pallets scattered all throughout the complex, stacked very high without any strapping or anything locking them in place.</p> <p>One of the occupiers is having issues getting their vehicles in and out. I have raised it with the Council but there still seems to be no action on the site.</p> <p>Can we urgently have a look as the pallets are a potential fire and safety risk?</p>	Director City Planning, Design & Amenity	14/03/2023	<p>Initial response provided 27/02/23: I will investigate that tomorrow to see what action has been taken. We will get our compliance team down there to have a look and resolve the issue if nothing has been done yet.</p> <p>Further response provided 14/03/23: Council's Planning Compliance Team are aware of the issue and were out at the property on 22 February 2023. We note the correct address is 73 Assembly Drive, Dandenong South.</p> <p>We have notified the company responsible for the pallets that they are in breach of the planning permit and these pallets must be removed from areas external to the warehouse before 14 April 2023. Failure to take action will result in Council undertaking legal proceedings to rectify the issue.</p> <p>Council Officers have also contacted WorkSafe on 27 February 2023 to ensure they are aware of the unsafe location, height and number of pallets being stored at the site.</p> <p>COMPLETED</p>

7 URGENT BUSINESS

No urgent business was considered.

The meeting closed at 8.53 PM.

Confirmed: / /
