



**Minutes**

**Council Meeting**

Monday 16 March 2026, 7:00 pm

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

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



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## COUNCIL OBLIGATIONS AND AGENDA REPORTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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## The Gender Equality Act 2020

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

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

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

## Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities

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

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

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



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## Consideration of Climate Change and Sustainability

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

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

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

### Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks

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



## Supporting Documents

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

## Your Councillors

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

[Cr Bob Milkovic](#)

[Deputy Mayor Phillip Danh](#)

[Cr Sean O'Reilly](#)

[Cr Isabella Do](#)

[Cr Loi Truong](#)

[Cr Lana Formoso](#)

[Cr Melinda Yim](#)

[Cr Rhonda Garad](#)

[Cr Alice Phuong Le](#)

[Cr Jim Memeti](#)



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

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

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



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Acknowledging  
Bunurong Country

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## 1 MEETING OPENING

### 1.1 OPENING OF MEETING BY CHAIR

Cr Sophie Tan opened the Meeting at 7.00pm.

### 1.2 ATTENDANCE

#### **Apologies**

Cr Lana Formoso.

#### **Councillors Present**

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

#### **Officers Present**

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer; Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures; Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening; Yuri Guzman, Chief Customer and Information Officer; Michael Tonta, Manager Governance, Integrity, Legal & Risk; Marjan Hajjari, Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services; Kirsten Geri, Acting Chief Financial Officer.



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### 1.3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF LAND

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

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

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

### 1.4 OFFERING OF PRAYER, REFLECTION OR AFFIRMATION

All remained standing as Roz Blades AM, a member of the Jewish Community, read the following:

*“We pray for our nation’s history and acknowledge the indigenous sacrifice of the past and the pains and terror of our history and trust in our relationships of the future we will learn to honour, nurture and sustain each other.*

*Almighty God who favours humanity with knowledge and teaches mortals understanding.*

*We beseech you to favour us, and especially the Councillors of the City Of Greater Dandenong with the knowledge, the understanding and the insight that comes from you; so that their deliberations may truly be for the wellbeing of all its citizens.*

*Blessed are you Almighty God, gracious giver of wisdom and knowledge.*

*Shalom.”*



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## 1.5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Meeting of Council held 16 February 2026.

### Recommendation

**That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 16 February 2026 be confirmed.**

### MINUTE No.310

**Moved by: Cr Phillip Danh**

**Seconded by: Cr Jim Memeti**

**That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 16 February 2026 be confirmed.**

**CARRIED 7 / 0**

## 1.6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cr Sophie Tan disclosed a general conflict of interest (s 127) 4.2.3 - Large Grants Program 2026 as they are the President of the Cambodian Women's Group of Victoria Unincorporated. Cr Sophie Tan left the Chamber prior to discussion and voting on this item.

Cr Loi Truong disclosed a general conflict of interest (s 127) 4.2.3 - Large Grants Program 2026 as they are the Vice President of SEMVAC. Cr Loi Truong left the chamber prior to discussion and voting on this item.



## 2 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 1

### 2.1 STATUTORY PLANNING APPLICATIONS

#### 2.1.1 Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – February 2026

**Responsible Officer:** Executive Director City Futures  
**Attachments:** 1. Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – February 2026.pdf  
[2.1.1.1 - 11 pages]

#### Officer Recommendation

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

#### Executive Summary

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

#### **MINUTE No.311**

**Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti**

**Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad**

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

**CARRIED 10 / 0**



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### 3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

#### **Question**

**Terry Wilkinson, Keysborough**

How does this decision to demolish the communities squash courts and table tennis centre, align with policies supporting community sport participation?

How will the council replace the health and fitness opportunities currently provided by the squash courts and table tennis centre?

If these facilities are demolished, what guarantee can the council give residents that equivalent or better community sporting opportunities will be provided locally?

#### **Response**

**Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening**

Council has committed to the development of the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre, a generational facility that will provide active sport and recreational opportunities for the Greater Dandenong community for decades to come. This commitment aligns with Council's Make Your Move strategy and the Council Plan.

In making this commitment, Council cannot retain the current Dandenong Oasis in its existing state. Built in 1976, the facility is now at the end of its asset life and requires demolition. Retaining the facility, except for the Table Tennis facility footprint, would necessitate extensive capital works and ongoing operating costs that are not viable.

Council has no current plans for a 'like for like' replacement of the squash courts at the existing Dandenong Oasis Aquatic Centre. Council has, however, recently installed three padel courts at Noble Park Aquatic Centre and is continuing to expand opportunities for participation in pickleball across the municipality, through both indoor stadiums and outdoor tennis facilities.

Both sports are in a strong growth phase, and Council's investment in this infrastructure demonstrates its commitment to supporting sports and recreation participation in activities that are evolving and emerging within our community.

Following on from my previous response, Council is demonstrating its commitment to significant investments in new sport and recreation infrastructure across the municipality. Council is committed to the development and delivery of infrastructure that supports participation in a broad range of sport and recreation activities.



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## Question

### **Zabi Mazoori, Dandenong**

My question is regarding reduction of funding for the Nowruz Festival at Dandenong Park. The Council's funding previous funding has played a significant role in helping us successfully organise and deliver this important major event. We are grateful for this support, which has enabled the festival to grow and become one of the largest and most significant community events in Dandenong.

As you may know, the Nowruz Festival continues to expand each year. With the Victorian Afghan population growing, the demand for this event is also increasing. In recent years, we have seen that the festival is no longer attended only by the Afghan community, but also by people from many diverse cultural backgrounds. The high quality of performances and the strong cultural program have contributed to growing interest and attendance year after year.

At the same time, the cost of organising the event continues to rise. Delivering a safe, inclusive, and high-quality festival now requires greater resources and stronger support. For this reason, we were very concerned to learn that the funding allocation for 2027 and 2028 has been reduced by half. Instead of an increase from the previous level of \$80,000 over two years, the allocation has been reduced to \$40,000 over the next two years. VAAN and the Afghan community are deeply disappointed by this decision.

We respectfully ask the Greater Dandenong Council and all Councillors to reconsider this decision and review the funding allocation. Given the growth, importance, and broad community impact of the Nowruz Festival, we strongly believe that increased support is needed rather than a reduction.

## Response

### **Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening**

Council will be making their decision later this evening regarding the recommended Large Grants recipients.

Council receives a significant number of funding requests through our large grant program, with increasing demand for Council funding to support community events and programs.

Unfortunately, Council is constrained in its ability to support all applications. It is also important to note that historical funding does not guarantee future funding, and that we encourage groups to continually look for ways to ensure their events and activities can be self-sustaining.

To highlight that the increasing demand for grants, the Large Grants Program, Festival & Events Sponsorship Stream received applications equalling four times the total budget allocations, for the entire stream. As a result, the process is highly competitive, with the panel carefully considering all applications before making recommendations. Each application is assessed thoroughly and, on its merits, to ensure the best possible outcomes within the constraints of available resources.

It is important to understand that the recommended funding allocation is not intended to reflect the value of the event, nor reflect value of this event to our community. Due to financial constraints and high levels of demand, most applicants did not receive the full amount they had applied for. We congratulate the VAAN on their success and wish them very well for the 2026 event.



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## Question

### **Gaye Guest, Keysborough**

Our LGA is being subjected to many desk top assessments for future expansion with no data or real time future projections. These include Market masterplan, Capital Alliance,( with misleading descriptive words),Tram Train Activity centres and now Kinders on School site.

So called experts cannot provide data or reasoning around sunlight hours, village character, size of rooms, tree canopy coverage( in 10 years has shown a dismissal increase under trees and greening) environmental impacts, impacts on small businesses when no parking is included, traffic/ transport projections including flow/ parking, open space/ amenity, safety/ lighting, managing community change, learning from other places.

Images of overseas war- torn countries including fire and flood zones reveal tar and cement with no greenery in sight and many people are now displaced. Heights, wind tunnels / sunlight hours are a huge concern as people are disgusted with the height of 51 Dougals St and heritage sites and RSL land need to be excluded because of unconditional titles.

No subdivision boundaries should be shown. We have new builds that are vacant/ inhabitable because of incorrect planning. As an island country we need to protect our towns and suburbs from such invasion not create future disaster zones. Chain saws operate daily / weekly and council allows canopy trees to be removed for no apparent reason.

Why does council take such a softly, softly approach and not enforce their policies and procedures on any of this planning? Otherwise, council and its officers do not serve their role properly.

It can seem like an uphill battle trying to fight authorities, but we must remember that council is a body that in the end is under control of its inhabitants and there exist tools to exert our influence on every agenda item brought to council. No more mismanagement allowed when futures are affected.

## Response

### **Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures**

Council continually advocates to the state government for the best outcomes for the community. This is highlighted in the draft submission in response to the DTP Activity Centres Program that is listed on the Council meeting agenda for tonight.

This submission recommends that DTP amend the activity centre plans for both Springvale and Noble Park to align with the existing structure plans for these areas. These structure plans are based on significant analysis and planning to achieve housing growth in line with the intent of the Activity Centres Program, while also ensuring that the character and amenity of these areas are protected and enhanced.



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## Question

### **Gaye Guest, Keysborough**

Council injects major funds to events like the Ramadan market, yet we never hear about the returns or supposed benefits this expenditure enables. Feedback is that the monthly event was too big and people of the faith migrated to the Burden Park event because they could shop at their leisure, be served better and quicker and not pushed and shoved around in long queues.

Safety and perceptions of safety should be paramount. The ripple effect must be taken into account especially whereby parking became unavailable and daytime workers were inconvenienced.

What were the supposed benefits especially as the money was spent on an event that largely only benefitted a minority portion of CGD residents but included visitors from goodness knows why?

## Response

### **Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening**

Council's evaluation of the benefits of events such as the Ramadan Night Market is guided by broader economic, social and place-making outcomes, rather than a limited assessment of attendance alone.

The recent 16 night, month-long Night Market event in Thomas Street positioned Greater Dandenong as a major events destination within Victoria, contributing to raising the profile of Dandenong as a vibrant evening precinct and challenging historical safety perceptions by activating the city safely after 7pm, a time when the precinct is typically quiet.

The market delivered direct economic benefits by increasing visitation and spending across Dandenong Central, specifically Thomas Street, Lonsdale Street, Walker Street and Little India, as well as surrounding hospitality and retail businesses. Indeed many local businesses also chose to participate in the Night Market as registered vendors, increasing their trade and capturing return business for their bricks and mortar shops. While visitors certainly attended from outside the municipality, we view this is a positive outcome: external visitation translates into additional spending within the City of Greater Dandenong, supporting local businesses and employment, and resulting in an increase likelihood of a return visit.

From a community perspective, the event provided an important opportunity for cultural visibility, inclusion and civic pride for our local community, while remaining open and accessible to the broader public (something that the event organisers have deliberately targeted), which is intended to deliver greater social cohesion value over time. We observed that the crowds included people from diverse backgrounds, and not only the Muslim community. The social media coverage of the event also reflected this. We were pleased to see the event amplified by many social media accounts, including some very large and influential voices, with huge reach and positive sentiment about Dandenong going viral across Victoria and beyond.

Council's contribution focused both on financial support, through our Community Funding Program, and in-kind officer support to ensure that the events was carried out in a safe and successful manner.



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In terms of possible future funding support, I note the Large Grant program is scheduled for council decision later this evening. The report notes that, one funding application, received for a 2026-27 Festivals and Events Sponsorship Grant was for an event scope and grant amount that far exceeds the parameters of this funding stream. This application has therefore been excluded from the Officer recommendation for the purposes of enabling a more detailed evaluation of the 2026 event, and assessment of the proposed 2027 event, with a separate recommendation subject to future Council decision. I also note 2025 grant outcomes report for all grants is soon to be published.

### **Question**

#### **Gaye Guest, Keysborough**

DTP have advertised that 1141-1143 Heatherton Rd Application reference number AP148478Q has applied to become the registered owner of the land through adverse possession for encumbrances carriageway easement dated 16/2/2026 (so today is the last day to reply).

Has council been consulted about this given it is in the Tram Train AC activity centre boundaries and borders the Memorial Drive car parking behind the residences facing Heatherton Rd?

### **Response**

#### **Marjan Hajjari, Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services**

Council is aware of the application to acquire a portion of the easement at the rear of 1141-1143 Heatherton Road. The application applies to a portion of land that is still in the name of the original subdivider and has been lawfully occupied. Council is not the current owner of the land.

There is no impact on the carpark at the rear of the land and there are no assets in the easement.

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**Cr Isabella Do left the Chamber at 7.25pm.**

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### **Question**

#### **Kim Handley, Dandenong**

Over ten years ago Dandenong Council advised residents they were investigating installing painted parking lanes along Hammond road between Webster street and the Dandenong bypass. This was never accomplished and recently Council has again said they would be investigating this matter.

Can Council Please advise what residents need to do to ensure that Council does finally do this?

### **Response**

#### **Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures**

I note that you have raised a number of questions relating to traffic and parking in this area at Council meetings. Our traffic engineers have tried to reach out to you several times to discuss these matters, without success. You are always welcome to talk to our team, who would be happy to give detailed and timely information, or even meet on site to discuss any concerns in greater detail.

There have been several significant road projects on Hammond Road within the last ten years, including alterations to the traffic signals at Kirkham Road and the widening of the path on the western side. On each occasion, community consultation was undertaken to guide the outcome of the project.



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For now, we're not going to make any ongoing changes to Hammond Road, until the conclusion of the Webster Street Level Crossing Removal Project. Later in the year when the new underpass at the rail line is being finished, we expect there will be a period of heavily increased traffic on Hammond Road, prior to traffic volumes dropping significantly once the project concludes.

Once the project concludes, Council will investigate potential alterations to Hammond Road to suit the anticipated ongoing traffic conditions. As usual, we will consult with the community and users at that time, before making any firm decisions.

Even then, it is likely that people will have different views and not everyone will be able to see their ideal solution come to fruition. We do commit to listen carefully to various stakeholders and bring expert advice to delivering the best possible outcomes.

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**Cr Isabella Do returned to the Chamber at 7.27pm.**

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## 4 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 2

### 4.1 POLICY AND STRATEGY

#### 4.1.1 Draft Our Bright Green Future Strategy

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Responsible Officer:</b> | Executive Director City Futures  |
| <b>Attachments:</b>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Response to Councillor Alternate Motion - Draft Our Bright Green Future [4.1.1.1 - 7 pages]</li><li>2. Consultation Submission Summary - Draft Our Bright Green Future [4.1.1.2 - 8 pages]</li><li>3. Draft Our Bright Green Future Strategy [4.1.1.3 - 56 pages]</li><li>4. Draft Our Bright Green Future Action Plan [4.1.1.4 - 15 pages]</li></ol> |

#### Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES** the significant number of existing sustainability related strategies and associated action plans currently adopted by Council;
2. **NOTES** that officers have consolidated these strategies and aligned them with the Council Plan 2025-29's Integrated Planning Framework to develop the draft *Our Bright Green Future Strategy and Action Plan 2026-36*;
3. **NOTES** the feedback received during the community consultation and subsequent changes to the draft *Our Bright Green Future Strategy and Action Plan 2026-36*;
4. **NOTES** and **ADOPTS** the officer recommendations in response to the alternate motion resolved at the 10 November 2025 Council meeting; and
5. **ADOPTS** the *Our Bright Green Future Strategy and Action Plan 2026-36*.

#### Executive Summary

1. Council has a long history of commitment to climate action through sustainability and environmental stewardship. This was reflected in 2020 when Council declared a climate and ecological emergency, and through its adoption of various sustainability related strategies.
2. The Council Plan 2025-29 establishes a new Integrated Planning Framework (IPF) to guide the development of Council's 'priority strategies' to ensure their alignment with both strategic and operational priorities.
3. To align with the IPF, the draft *Our Bright Green Future Strategy and Action Plan 2026-36* (the Strategy) has been developed by consolidating Council's eight (8) sustainability-related strategies and seven (7) action plans into one strategy document. The draft Strategy reduces duplication, sets one strategic direction, builds on Council's existing commitments to act on the climate and ecological emergency and ensures our actions are clear, measurable and relevant.
4. The purpose of the draft Strategy is to develop a coordinated and focused strategy that builds upon Council's commitment, leads our community's sustainability action and fosters environmental stewardship. It provides the direction needed to deliver Council's vision of a



green city committed to a sustainable future through practical action, Council leadership, and community collaboration.

5. The draft Strategy has been organised into ten (10) themes. Each theme has an objective and actions to set out the steps Council will take to cut emissions, adapt to the climate emergency and deliver better community health outcomes. It builds on Council's existing commitments to act on the climate and ecological emergency.
6. The Action Plan presents a direction that is clear, measurable and relevant by consolidating the current five hundred and forty-four (544) separate actions to seventy-seven (77) actions by removing or reviewing duplications, standard business as usual activities, ambiguous actions, and no longer relevant actions.
7. At the 10 November 2025 Council meeting, Council supported an alternate motion and resolved to:
  - a. Note the draft Our Bright Green Future Strategy 2025–35 and commend the work undertaken to consolidate Council's environmental and sustainability frameworks under the Integrated Planning Framework;
  - b. Request that officers investigate the inclusion of the following additions to:
    - Amend the Strategy prior to adoption to strengthen alignment with the Victorian Climate Change Act 2017 and ensure measurable outcomes, by including the following additions:
      - Emissions baseline and reduction trajectory aligned with State targets;
      - Climate adaptation and health resilience indicators;
      - Equity and inclusion lens in planning and evaluation;
      - Establishment of a Community Climate Advisory Group;
      - Funding and partnership framework; and
      - Quantified, transparent public reporting of performance data.
  - c. Provide approval to undertake a community engagement process on the Our Bright Green Future Strategy and Action Plan; and
  - d. Request officers to table a Council report responding to the items in 2 and community feedback following the community engagement process, along with incorporate these amendments and return a revised Strategy for Council endorsement at a subsequent meeting.
8. Officers have since undertaken a community consultation process seeking feedback on the draft Strategy and Action Plan and investigated the inclusion of the six items included in the alternate motion. This report outlines a response to both.
9. Officers are now seeking Council to note the submissions and adopt the responses to the alternate motion and the revised Strategy (noting that the Strategy will be graphically designed following adoption).



## Background

10. Climate change is no longer a distant issue, it is shaping our lives, our health, our finances and the places we call home. In the City of Greater Dandenong, we are seeing these impacts worsen every year through increasing demands on our natural resources, more frequent extreme weather events, and rising cost of living placing pressure on our community's ability to adapt.
11. In 2020 Council declared a climate and ecological emergency and has been laying the foundations for long-term sustainability action. The climate and ecological crises bring an urgent need to strengthen our journey of sustainability and climate action.
12. The Council Plan 2025-29 places a strong emphasis on the importance of climate change and sustainability, with one of its strategic objectives being '*A green city committed to a sustainable future*'.
13. In addition, the Victorian Climate Action Act 2017, and Local Government Act 2020 requires Council to consider climate change in all its decision making.
14. Since 2019, Council has achieved approximately 80 percent reduction in its emissions. This has partially been achieved through the Victoria Energy Collaboration (VECO) Power Purchase Agreement. Contributing actions include installing 600kW of Solar PV panels, replacing over 20 fleet vehicles to low emission alternatives and electrifying end of life small gas assets to support the transition away from fossil fuels. A further considerable reduction will be achieved in the short term with the replacement of Oasis with the all-electric Dandenong Wellbeing Centre.
15. The Council Plan 2025-29 has established a new Integrated Planning Framework (IPF) to guide the development of Council's key documents.
16. To align with the IPF, Council officers have consolidated the eight (8) existing and draft sustainability related strategies and seven (7) action plans across Council into one 'Priority Strategy' and Action Plan. This draft strategy is called *Our Bright Green Future* (the Strategy). As per the IPF, the purpose of the Strategy and associated Action Plan is to create a coordinated and focused document that reduces duplication, sets one direction, and ensures our actions are clear, measurable and relevant.
17. The eight (8) sustainability related strategies and seven (7) action plans that have been consolidated into the draft Strategy are:
  - Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-30.
  - Greater Dandenong Sustainability Strategy 2016-30.
  - Greater Dandenong's Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-25.
  - Urban Forest Strategy 2021-28 (overarching document for the two greening strategies, which consists of the following strategies).
    - Greening our City Urban Tree Strategy 2021-28.
    - Greening our Neighbourhoods 2021-28.
  - Draft Waste and Litter Strategy 2021-26.
  - Draft Climate Change Community Engagement and Mobilisation Plan (CEMP) 2024-2029.



18. The Strategy was organised into nine (9) themes, with an additional one (1) being added post-consultation, as outlined below. Each theme has an objective and clear, measurable and relevant actions.
  - Advocacy
  - Circular Economy and Waste
  - Transport and Active Travel
  - Biodiversity
  - Trees and Greening
  - Water and Waterways
  - Energy and Net Zero Transition
  - Sustainable Design, Assets and Infrastructure
  - Community Mobilisation and Resilience (added post consultation)
  - Sustainability across Greater Dandenong.
19. Currently, the strategies' action plans contain five hundred and forty-four (544) separate actions. Many of these actions across the action plans are duplicated, ambiguous, no longer relevant or standard business as usual activities which do not belong in strategic action plans. Despite the ongoing work and progress towards these, the volume of actions has presented challenges in monitoring and reporting.
20. To align with the IPF and address the need to ensure the actions are clear, measurable and relevant, Council officers conducted a critical review of all five hundred and forty-four (544) actions.
21. This review included multiple workshops with relevant departments and a gap analysis to identify the key priorities and actions out of the existing actions. The workshops assessed each action to determine whether it was Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound (SMART), completed, business as usual, duplicated and its current relevance.
22. As a result, the actions were reduced to seventy-four (74) by merging similar actions and removing duplicated, irrelevant, and business as usual actions. While business as usual actions have been removed, their function will remain as per department operational work plans.
23. Following consultation, there are now seventy-seven (77) actions, with three new actions being added. This will be discussed further under Key Issues and Discussion.
24. The revised Action Plan seeks to ensure Council can achieve its strategic objective of being 'a green city committed to a sustainable future', aligns with the IPF and meet its Climate Action Act and Local Government Act obligations.
25. The revised Action Plan is clear, measurable and relevant and will move Council towards more adaptive, sustainable operations and decision making in the face of climate change and sustainability related challenges.
26. Importantly, the consolidation of actions does not reduce Council's commitment to addressing climate change, and rather having one coordinated and focused strategy will enhance our ability to meet this challenge.
27. Following the Council resolution on 10 November 2025, officers undertook community consultation on the draft Strategy and Action for a period of four weeks. Overall, the feedback received was supportive and provided suggestions for improvement. The outcomes of this are discussed in detail in Attachment 2 and at a higher level under the Key Issues and Discussion section below.



28. Officers have also investigated the additional items included in the alternate motion adopted on 10 November 2025. These are discussed in detail in Attachment 1 and at a higher level under the Key Issues and Discussion section below.
29. Officers are seeking Council to note the submissions and adopt the responses to the alternate motion and the revised Strategy (noting that the Strategy will be graphically designed following adoption).

## Key Issues and Discussion

30. As discussed in the Background section, the revised Strategy aligns with the Council Plan 2025-2029 and the IPF.
31. While the number of strategies and actions have been consolidated, Council's action will not be reduced. Rather it is intended that the draft Strategy and Action Plan will be the driver for Council to further its climate action, building on the work already undertaken in a coordinated and focused manner.
32. The Strategy commits to sustainability initiatives that lead innovation, deliver direct benefits to the community, including our residents and business sector, and strengthen Council's and the community's resilience to the climate emergency.
33. There are six key considerations that have informed the development of the revised Strategy and Action Plan which are discussed further below.
  - Response to alternate motion resolved on 10 November 2025
  - Response to feedback received during consultation
  - Clarifying monitoring and reporting
  - Consolidation of existing strategies and actions and preparation of a new Action Plan
  - Revised Net Zero target of 2035 (subject to funding)
  - Financial Implications - Additional budget required to deliver the draft action plan

### *Response to alternate motion resolved on 10 November 2025*

34. At the Council meeting on 10 November 2025 Council supported an alternate motion and requested officers to strengthen the draft Strategy's alignment with Victorian Climate Change Act 2017 and to investigate the inclusion of the following additions:
  - Emissions baseline and reduction trajectory aligned with State targets
  - Climate adaptation and health resilience indicators
  - Equity and inclusion lens in planning and evaluation
  - Establishment of a Community Climate Advisory Group
  - Funding and partnership framework
  - Quantified, transparent public reporting of performance data.
35. Officers have investigated the inclusion of the items above. A full response to all items is provided at Attachment 1: Response to Councillor Alternate Motion. Table 1 provides a summary of the officer response and recommendation.

**Table 1: Summary of officer response and recommendation to Alternate Motion 10 November 2025**

| Item   | Officer Response and Recommendation   |
|--|---|
| Emissions baseline and reduction trajectory aligned with State targets | <p>Officers recommend that Council continues to pursue a more ambitious target than the Victorian State Government target, noting that Council has already achieved approximately 80 percent reduction in emissions, and also acknowledging that some of the remaining emissions are costly to remove, and will most likely be subject to external funding being made available.</p> <p>Officers have been working on a net zero transition plan to inform tangible actions Council can take to achieve net zero by 2035. Officers will present the direction and options on how to effectively remove emissions to Councillors at a future date.</p>   |
| Climate adaptation and health resilience indicators                    | <p>Officers recognise the importance of strengthening this area, especially given the social, health and economic implications of climate risks.</p> <p>In response, the revised Strategy will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduce a new theme, 'Community Mobilisation and Resilience' to outline the community's role in climate action and Council's role in enabling communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate change impacts.</li><li>• Address increasing risks to community health, social wellbeing, and access and inclusion.</li><li>• Revise actions to reflect the new theme and strengthen community resilience.</li></ul>   |
| Equity and inclusion lens in planning and evaluation                   | <p>The Strategy and Action Plan embed climate change considerations across all themes. It applies an equity and inclusion lens throughout planning and evaluation by incorporating actions and associated measures that prioritise both understanding and working with vulnerable groups, ensuring accessible communication, fostering inclusive and diverse participation in climate action.</p> <p>This approach recognises Greater Dandenong's diversity and enables Council to respond to the differing needs of our diverse community based on the action review process. It ensures climate action is fair, inclusive and responsive to the needs of those most at risk.</p> <p>In response, the revised Strategy will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduce a new theme, 'Community Mobilisation and Resilience'.</li></ul> |



|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise the climate change, challenges and community snapshot section to acknowledge the impacts and better reflect the barriers for vulnerable communities.</li> <li>• Adopt a clearer position of community led adaptation to strengthen health equity and resilience.</li> </ul>   |
| <p>Establishment of a Community Climate Advisory Group</p>           | <p>Officers recommend progressing with the Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) as adopted at the 27 October 2025 Council meeting.</p> <p>The SAC will play an important role in engaging with community on sustainability matters, including climate change impacts and the implementation of actions set out in the Strategy.</p>  |
| <p>Funding and partnership framework</p>                             | <p>Sustainability action is a shared responsibility across Council. This internal partnership approach is already well established and supports strong collaboration between all teams.</p> <p>The Action Plan balances Council's climate obligations with financial responsibility. Officers recognise that while the net zero actions proposed represent a considerable financial commitment overall, timely action is critical given worsening global climate conditions. Transitioning to net zero emissions is a key principle of this Strategy and will require long-term financial planning and additional funding. It is acknowledged that external funding is likely to be required to be able to implement some of the more costly actions.</p> <p>In response, officers have revised the Strategy and Action Plan to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• acknowledge partnerships in key advocacy items</li> <li>• outline the role of grant funding and opportunities to maximise funding opportunities</li> <li>• promote the importance of inter-departmental collaboration.</li> </ul> |
| <p>Quantified, transparent public reporting of performance data.</p> | <p>As a priority strategy under the IPF, the revised Strategy and Action Plan will be reviewed every four (4) years. This review will report the status of all actions, ensure alignment with the Council Plan and theme objectives, and confirm the actions and objectives remain clear, measurable, and relevant.</p> <p>In addition, an annual update will share achievements of the past 12 months and progress on actions undertaken in that year, including key advocacy work completed. These annual reports will include quantified performance data against progressed actions where relevant and available.</p> <p>A full review of the revised Strategy and Action Plan will occur in 2036.</p>  |



|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <p>In response to this item, the Strategy and Action Plan has been revised to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update the Monitoring and Review section to better reflect duration and review cycles.</li><li>• Add a new action to investigate opportunities to enhance digital reporting of sustainability performance data.</li><li>• Review all baselines, measures, commencement and delivery years.</li></ul> |
|--|---|

### **Community consultation**

36. This project supports and reinforces the extensive community consultation already undertaken to inform the existing sustainability related strategies and the Council Plan 2025-29. We know our community care about climate change and want Council to lead action. While the existing strategies have been consolidated, Council's action will not be reduced. Rather, the revised Strategy builds on this progress and the expectations from the community by developing a transformative plan of action for the future.
37. A Communication and Engagement Plan informed and guided the process of consulting the community on the draft Strategy and Action Plan.
38. The level of influence was based on IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum 'consult'.
39. As per the IAP2 Framework, the Consult approach is used to gather information and have discussions with the community. Feedback is provided to the community on the outcome of those discussions.
40. The consultation ran for a four-week period from 17 November to 12 December 2025 and attracted 248 page views and eight formal submissions. Although participation numbers were modest, submissions were detailed and high quality.
41. Overall, the feedback received was supportive and provided suggestions for improvement. Consistent themes emerged from the feedback, and can be summarised into the following categories:
- Reporting and accountability
  - Visibility of on-ground action and the relationship to core services
  - Consolidation of multiple strategies into a single document
  - Climate change adaptation and community resilience
  - Implementation, governance and timeframes
42. Attachment 2 provides a description of the feedback received and an officer response. Officers have revised the Strategy and Action Plan in response to the community feedback. The key changes have:
- strengthened the climate change adaptation, community resilience, and health elements of the Strategy.
  - introduced a new theme 'Community Mobilisation and Resilience' to outline the community's role in climate action and Council's role in enabling communities to prepare for, respond to and recover from climate impacts.
  - clarified the role between operational and strategic actions throughout the Strategy to reassure submitters that necessary on-ground action will not be changing.



- added a new action to investigate opportunities to enhance digital reporting of sustainability performance metrics
- clarified how the Action Plan will deliver transparency and be implemented.
- enhanced monitoring and reporting commitments

#### ***Clarifying monitoring and reporting***

43. Both the alternate motion and consultation feedback asked for greater clarity on the Monitoring and Reporting section for the draft Strategy. A full response to this is provided in Attachments 1 and 2.
44. While the Action Plan has been developed in accordance with Council's current monitoring capabilities, a new action has been included in the revised Action Plan to investigate opportunities for digital reporting of sustainability performance metrics. This action will support enhanced monitoring of the Action Plan in the future.
45. As a Priority Strategy under the Integrated Planning Framework, the proposed Action Plan will be reviewed every four (4) years. This process will:
  - Report the status of all actions
  - Ensure alignment with the Council Plan and the objectives of each theme
  - Confirm the actions and objectives remain clear, measurable and relevant
46. In addition, an annual update will share achievements of the past 12 months and progress on actions undertaken in that year, including key advocacy work completed. These annual reports will include quantified performance data against progressed actions where relevant and available. Both reviews will be published on the Council's website.
47. The Action Plan will be incorporated into Council's annual Council Plan reporting process to assist with the timely implementation.
48. These commitments help support transparency and accountability by ensuring key progress made against the actions is reported annually, and the Action Plan is reviewed every four years. The Strategy and Action Plan has been revised to better reflect this approach.
49. Officers have incorporated responses to the community feedback and alternate motion to the revised Strategy and Action Plan at Attachments 3 and 4 respectively.

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

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



### Net Zero Target

55. As set out in the Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-2030, Council initially sought to be a net zero emissions Council by 2025. Council has achieved an approximately 80 percent reduction in its emissions since 2019. This has ensured that Greater Dandenong is one of the leading performing Council's in terms of emissions reductions (see Table 1 below).
56. When the 2025 net zero target was established Council had only broad understanding of the required works and associated cost involved. Additionally challenges and limitations during COVID-19 pandemic prevented Council from achieving net zero by 2025. This was an ambitious target and recognised the urgent need to reduce our contribution to and limit the effects of climate change on our community.
57. Since then, extensive research and planning have clarified future capital project needs, enabling more informed net zero planning. Officers are recommending an updated target of 2035 (subject to appropriate funding being made available) to account for the significant financial resources required to remove remaining emissions.
58. To achieve net zero target, based on current estimates Council officers estimate an additional \$17 million in capital investment would be required.
59. While it is acknowledged that a considerable financial investment is required, the importance of meeting the challenge of climate change in a timely manner is becoming more important with the continually worsening climate conditions across the planet.
60. It is also important to note continuing the 'status quo' with gas infrastructure will likely see utility costs skyrocket in coming years. As such, taking action sooner rather than later will see long-term financial savings for Council.
61. To ensure we can continue our transition to net zero and fund the required works, multiple funding sources such as grants, other external sources and Council budget will need to be pursued.
62. The draft Strategy and Action Plan continue Council's efforts to reduce emissions and targeting shifts in the approach(es) taken that deliver good value for money.
63. In terms of other Councils, no metropolitan Melbourne Council has achieved net zero without relying heavily on offset payments. Below is a list of Councils showing stronger progress toward net zero, based on available data.

**Table 2: Comparison list of better performing Councils in progressing towards net zero**

| Council           | Remaining emissions                                  |
|-------------------|--|
| Greater Dandenong | 3,827t-CO <sub>2</sub> e                             |
| Maribyrnong       | 3,181t-CO <sub>2</sub> e (net zero through offsets)  |
| Melbourne         | 12,162t-CO <sub>2</sub> e (net zero through offsets) |
| Yarra             | 7,072t-CO <sub>2</sub> e (net zero through offsets)  |
| Kingston          | 5,000t-CO <sub>2</sub> e                             |
| Knox              | 8,163t-CO <sub>2</sub> e                             |
| Merri-bek         | 69% reduction on 2011-12 figures                     |
| Hobsons Bay       | 2,106t-CO <sub>2</sub> e                             |
| Stonnington       | 4,847t-CO <sub>2</sub> e                             |



64. While some Councils are achieving net zero, as Table 2 above demonstrates it is due to purchasing offsets. Officers recommend that Council needs to seek to reduce emissions as the primary action, to mitigate its direct contribution to climate change, rather than purchase offsets.
65. The revised approach recognises the need to reduce emissions and remains more ambitious than the Victorian State Government and Federal Government net zero targets which are 2045 and 2050 respectively. While officers are recommending a more ambitious target, the proposed Strategy aligns with the Victorian Climate Change Strategy 2026-30 objectives by recognising the need for urgent action, advocating for stronger sustainable building requirements, promoting and adopting the use of renewable energies in Council operations and the community, and supporting business and community climate action.

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

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

## **Governance Compliance**

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

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



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

***Operating Budget Implications***

75. Each action has identified the relevant additional resourcing required.
76. Based on the financial resourcing needed for each action over the next ten years to 2036 the estimated cost to deliver the Strategy, including capital and operational actions is approximately \$24,600,000.
77. Included in this estimated cost is approximately \$17,000,000 to fund the transition of council assets and facilities to net zero emissions, including removal of gas assets.
78. A further \$6,500,000 is needed to fund the Active Transport Priority Program.
79. The remaining actions will require \$1,100,000 to be delivered over the next ten years (to 2036).
80. Delivery of the draft Action Plan is subject to Council support in future annual budgets and the Long-Term Financial Plan, as well as the ability to obtain grant funding and other external funding sources.

***Asset Implications***

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

***Legal/Risk Implications***

83. In 2025, the Australian Government released the National Adaptation Plan (the Plan) based on the findings of the National Climate Risk Assessment. The Plan provides a framework and clear guidance for adaptation, responsibilities, and priorities to build resilience to climate impacts. Council's approach aligns, and in some instances, exceeds the measures in this Plan by supporting targeted, evidence-based, and collaborative adaptation actions in communities. This is evident in our commitment to be Net Zero by 2035, as outlined in the Action Plan.
84. The Victorian Government has legislated a net zero target by 2045 under its Climate Action Act 2017. The draft Strategy outlines how Council will work towards transitioning to net zero emissions by 2035. As Council is seeking a more ambitious targets, there are no known legal risks.
85. The revised Strategy builds upon Council's existing commitments and enables Council to focus on adaptation measures and sustainable decision making in greater detail. This approach meets its legal obligations to consider climate change in its decision making and aligns with the IPF.
86. Council officers have been working to establish baseline data and refine objectives to better understand what can be measured and what information is accessible.
87. This process revealed risks within the original objectives and action plans of Council's various sustainability related documents, including overlapping, duplicated, and business-as-usual actions that diverted attention from initiatives with measurable outcomes and the potential to drive meaningful change.
88. This has impacted the ability to report meaningful results and progress despite the significant action and achievements Council has made to date.



89. The review of the existing sustainability related actions has led to the development of a new action plan that is clear, measurable and relevant. Clear, as the actions are easy to understand, and targeted in their direction. Measurable, as the actions can be monitored and reported on with meaningful and quantifiable information. Relevant, as the actions provide direct and indirect benefits relevant to our community and can be delivered by Council with funding and resources.
90. The revised Strategy and Action Plan address the challenges posed above and will lead to improved monitoring, more efficient action and better reporting.

### **Environmental Implications**

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

### **Gender Impact Assessment**

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

## **Community Engagement**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Purpose</b>                                     | To inform and consult the community on the draft of <i>Our Bright Green Future Strategy and Action Plan</i> .   |
| <b>Engagement period</b>                           | 4-week period from 17 November to 12 December 2025  |
| <b>Level of Influence:</b>                         | Consult   |
| <b>Engagement Activities:</b>                      | Engagement methods used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Posters</li> <li>- Social media posts</li> <li>- Website content</li> <li>- Our Bright Green Future E-newsletter</li> </ul> |
| <b>Communication reach and engagement numbers:</b> | Project page received 248 views and eight formal submissions were received. While overall participation numbers were modest the submissions were detailed and high quality.                   |



|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Summary of feedback:</b> | <p>Overall feedback was constructive and supportive of Council's sustainability direction.</p> <p>Key themes included a need for stronger and more transparent monitoring and reporting.</p> <p>Submissions highlighted the need for a stronger focus on climate change adaptation and community resilience, particularly in supporting vulnerable communities.</p> <p>Attachment 2 contains a full summary of the feedback and officer response.</p>   |
| <b>Proposed changes</b>     | <p>In response to community feedback, officers have revised the Strategy and Action Plan. A key change in response to feedback is the introduction of a new theme of Community Mobilisation and Resilience to strengthen the focus on climate change adaptation, community resilience and health aspects. Further, the Strategy has been revised to provide clarity on the role between operational and strategic actions to reassure submitters that necessary on-ground action will not be reduced. The revised Strategy also addresses the submissions by clarifying and enhancing monitoring and reporting commitments.</p> |

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

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

- Sustainable environment.
- Mind, body and spirit.

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

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



## Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

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

### MINUTE No.312

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Seconded by: Cr Melinda Yim

**That Council:**

1. **NOTES** the significant number of existing sustainability related strategies and associated action plans currently adopted by Council;
2. **NOTES** that officers have consolidated these strategies and aligned them with the Council Plan 2025-29's Integrated Planning Framework to develop the draft *Our Bright Green Future Strategy and Action Plan 2026-36*;
3. **NOTES** the feedback received during the community consultation and subsequent changes to the draft *Our Bright Green Future Strategy and Action Plan 2026-36*;
4. **NOTES** and **ADOPTS** the officer recommendations in response to the alternate motion resolved at the 10 November 2025 Council meeting; and
5. **ADOPTS** the *Our Bright Green Future Strategy and Action Plan 2026-36*.

**CARRIED 10 / 0**



## 4.1.2 Policy Review - Abolition of Operational Policies

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Responsible Officer:</b> | Chief Executive Officer<br>Manager Governance, Integrity, Legal & Risk<br>Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services   |
| <b>Attachments:</b>         | 1. Abolish - Records Management Policy - 2018 07 [4.1.2.1 - 8 pages]<br>2. Abolish - Prosecutions Policy - 2015 11 [4.1.2.2 - 2 pages]<br>3. Abolish - Use of Fireworks Policy - 2021 01 [4.1.2.3 - 3 pages] |

### Officer Recommendation

**That Council:**

1. **ABOLISH** the three (3) Policies as listed in and attached to this report;
2. **NOTES** that the operational content of these policies will be retained, updated and adopted by the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with section 46 of the *Local Government Act 2020* as part of Council's Policy Framework; and
3. **NOTES** that the Council will continue to consider and adopt all strategic or legislative required polices under section 28 (1)(c) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

### Executive Summary

1. A recent review of Council's Policy framework by the Executive Team has identified three (3) policies that are considered operational and more appropriately adopted by the Chief Executive Officer due to their operational nature.
2. In line with contemporary governance practices and legislative provisions, it is recommended that Council formally abolishes the identified policies with operational content and the policies be maintained by the Chief Executive Officer moving forward, in accordance with their responsibilities under section 46 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
3. The Council remains the responsible authority for the management and adoption of all strategic and legislative required policies in accordance with section 28 (1)(c) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

### Background

4. Council maintains a policy framework that distinguishes between:
  - Council adopted strategic policies that guide long-term direction, statutory responsibilities and governance oversight; and
  - Operational policies and procedures that govern administrative functions and are the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer.
5. The Executive Team has undertaken a review of its policy framework that identified several policies better classified as operational. These policies do not set strategic direction and relate solely to administrative processes.



6. Section 46 of the *Local Government Act 2020* formally designates the Chief Executive Officer as responsible for the overall management of council operations, ensuring effective and efficient day-to-day operations. Given the CEO's statutory responsibilities, the policies identified for abolition appropriately fall within the CEO's operational domain rather than Council's strategic governance role.
7. Reclassifying the policies as operational will:
  - Strengthen alignment with Council's adopted Policy Framework;
  - Clarify delineation between strategic and operational responsibilities; and
  - Enable the Executive Team to update operational procedures efficiently.

## Proposal

8. That Council abolish the three (3) policies listed in and attached to this report for the purpose of providing clear separation between governance and administration and ensuring only strategic policies are escalated to Council.
9. The Council will continue to adopt all policies that set strategic direction or are a requirement under the *Local Government Act 2020*.
10. Operational policies continue to be managed and adopted by the Executive Team and maintained in accordance with legislative requirements and internal audit processes.

The following policies be abolished and reclassified as operational policies:

- Records Management Policy;
- Prosecutions Policy; and
- Use of Fireworks Policy

## Governance Compliance

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

#### *Operating Budget Implications*

11. There are no direct financial implications arising from abolishing the policies listed in this report. Operational responsibilities will continue within existing departmental budgets.

#### *Asset Implications*

12. This item does not affect any existing assets.

#### *Legal/Risk Implications*

13. The recommendation in this report is consistent with:
  - Section 28 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, which assigns Council the strategic responsibilities of developing and reviewing key council documents;
  - Section 46 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, which assigns operational management to the Chief Executive Officer; and
  - Council's Policy Framework, which differentiates between strategic and operation policies.

#### *Environmental Implications*

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



## Community and Stakeholder Consultation

15. The three (3) policies were reviewed by the Executive Team, Governance and relevant Department Manager.
16. Stakeholder consultation supported the transfer of these policies from a strategic classification to an operational classification.

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

17. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29:
  - A Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources, and a commitment to investing in the community.

## Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

### MINUTE No.313

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Isabella Do

#### That Council:

1. **ABOLISH** the three (3) Policies as listed in and attached to this report;
2. **NOTES** that the operational content of these policies will be retained, updated and adopted by the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with section 46 of the *Local Government Act 2020* as part of Council's Policy Framework; and
3. **NOTES** that the Council will continue to consider and adopt all strategic or legislative required polices under section 28 (1)(c) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

**CARRIED 10 / 0**



### 4.1.3 Rates Hardship and Assistance Policy 2026

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Responsible Officer:</b> | Chief Financial Officer  |
| <b>Attachments:</b>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Summary of Changes from Existing Policy [4.1.3.1 - 2 pages]</li><li>2. Rates Hardship and Assistance Policy 2026 (Proposed) [4.1.3.2 - 16 pages]</li><li>3. Rates and Charges Hardship Policy 2022 (Existing) [4.1.3.3 - 6 pages]</li></ol> |

#### Officer Recommendation

**That Council:**

1. **APPROVES** the Rates Hardship and Assistance Policy 2026;
2. **NOTES** that the 2026 policy complies with the **Gazetted Ministerial Guidelines on the Payment of Rates and Charges (December 2025)** issued under the *Local Government Act 1989* and replaces the Rates and Charges Hardship Policy 2022; and
3. **ACKNOWLEDGES** that decisions relating to individual hardship applications, waivers, deferrals and recovery actions will continue to be determined by authorised officers in accordance with delegated authority.

#### Executive Summary

1. Council is required to maintain a hardship, payment plan and recovery policy that complies with the Ministerial Guidelines on the Payment of Rates and Charges gazetted in December 2025.
2. The proposed Rates Hardship and Assistance Policy 2026 has been developed in response to these mandatory Guidelines and represents a comprehensive update of Council's existing 2022 policy.
3. The revised policy introduces clearer definitions and eligibility criteria, including a distinction between hardship and financial hardship, strengthens governance and documentation requirements, and embeds additional protections for vulnerable ratepayers, including family violence considerations.
4. The policy modernises Council's recovery approach by prioritising early engagement with ratepayers, maintaining access to hardship assistance at all stages of the recovery process, and clearly positioning legal action and sale of land as measures of last resort.
5. Adoption of the policy will reduce Council's legal, compliance and reputational risk, while continuing to balance compassionate treatment of ratepayers experiencing hardship with Council's obligation to maintain financial sustainability and deliver essential services.

#### Background

6. In December 2025, the Minister for Local Government gazetted mandatory guidelines relating to the payment of rates and charges under section 181AA of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
7. Councils are required to ensure that their policies and practices relating to hardship assistance, payment plans, interest, recovery processes and sale of land are consistent with these Guidelines.



8. Council's existing Rates and Charges Hardship Policy (2022) no longer reflects current legislative requirements, Ministerial expectations or contemporary hardship and debt-management practice.
9. Retaining the existing policy would expose Council to non-compliance with the Ministerial Guidelines, legal challenge, adverse Ombudsman findings, and increased reputational risk in hardship and recovery matters.
10. The proposed Rates Hardship and Assistance Policy 2026 replaces the existing policy and ensures compliance with legislative and Ministerial obligations.

## Key Issues and Discussion

11. The 2026 Policy is a material uplift, not a minor update.
12. Given the extent of change, a 'tracked changes' version was not practical. Instead, a summary of material changes from the 2022 policy is provided as an attachment to this report.
13. Key enhancements include:
  - a. Legislative compliance with the *Local Government Act 1989*, *Local Government Act 2020* and the 2025 Ministerial Guidelines;
  - b. Clear definitions and eligibility criteria distinguishing hardship from financial hardship.
  - c. An increase in the maximum annual hardship waiver from \$500 to \$750;
  - d. Structured, transparent and documented decision-making processes;
  - e. Improved governance, delegations and internal controls;
  - f. Enhanced protections for vulnerable ratepayers, including family violence considerations; and
  - g. A staged recovery process that prioritises engagement and maintains access to hardship assistance prior to legal escalation.
14. The policy balances compassionate treatment of ratepayers experiencing hardship with Council's obligation to maintain financial sustainability and continue delivering essential services.

## Governance Compliance

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

15. The policy requires ongoing capacity to meet enhanced engagement, documentation and compliance obligations.
16. The operational requirement for permanent resourcing will be addressed through the 2026-27 budget process and is noted for Council's information.

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

#### *Operating Budget Implications*

17. The financial implications associated with adoption of the policy include:
  - a. An estimated increase of approximately \$20,000 per annum in hardship waivers due to the increased maximum waiver threshold, which is within the existing budget and represents a small proportion of total rate revenue; and



- b. The requirement for ongoing resourcing associated with maintaining compliance, driven engagement and monitoring requirements will be considered through the 2026-27 budget process.

18. Improved early engagement and structured recovery processes have contributed to stabilising arrears levels and supporting Council's overall cash position.

#### **Asset Implications**

19. This item does not affect any existing assets.

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

20. This policy materially reduces Council's exposure to legal, compliance and reputational risk by ensuring alignment with the Gazetted Ministerial Guidelines (2025), the *Local Government Acts 1989 and 2020*, and contemporary procedural fairness expectations.

#### **Environmental Implications**

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

#### **Gender Impact Assessment**

22. A gender impact assessment is not required.

### **Community Consultation**

23. Community consultation was not undertaken as the policy implements mandatory Ministerial Guidelines and does not reduce existing entitlements available to ratepayers.

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

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

- Not Applicable

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

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

### **Legislative and Policy Obligations**

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

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



**MINUTE No.314**

**Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad**

**Seconded by: Cr Melinda Yim**

**That Council:**

- 1. APPROVES the Rates Hardship and Assistance Policy 2026;**
- 2. NOTES that the 2026 policy complies with the Gazetted Ministerial Guidelines on the Payment of Rates and Charges (December 2025) issued under the *Local Government Act 1989* and replaces the Rates and Charges Hardship Policy 2022; and**
- 3. ACKNOWLEDGES that decisions relating to individual hardship applications, waivers, deferrals and recovery actions will continue to be determined by authorised officers in accordance with delegated authority.**

**CARRIED 10 / 0**



## 4.2 OTHER

### 4.2.1 Reconciliation Action Plan (pre Community Consultation)

**Responsible Officer:** Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services  
**Attachments:** **Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan July 2026 - July 2028**

#### Officer Recommendation

**That Council:**

1. **NOTES** that the Draft Third Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2026-28 has been provisionally endorsed by Reconciliation Australia on 18 February; and
2. **APPROVES** that public and targeted consultation of the graphic version of the Draft RAP (Attachment 1) can commence on Tuesday 17 March until Tuesday 14 April.

#### Executive Summary

1. This report is to provide Councillors an update on the RAP redevelopment and seek approval of the draft designed document for public exhibition and consultation beginning 17 March.
2. Public exhibition and targeted consultation is scheduled for a period of 28 day in accordance with the endorsed Community Engagement Policy.
3. Councillors and community consultation feedback will be incorporated into the final graphic draft version and submitted to Reconciliation Australia for final endorsement.
4. It is anticipated an endorsed version will be available for Council endorsement at the 18 May Council Meeting. The RAP launch event is currently scheduled for 27 May.

#### Background

##### RAP redevelopment

5. Reconciliation Australia (RA) is the authorising body for approved Reconciliation Action Plans, and the Draft RAP includes the mandated priority areas, actions and deliverables as stipulated in RA's Innovate RAP template.
6. The development of the Draft RAP has been in accordance with the approach endorsed by Council at the 9 December 2024 Council Meeting. The approach detailed the proposed timeline, the strengthened governance structure, the Terms of Reference for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group, and composition of the Internal RAP Steering Committee.
7. Council's last Reconciliation Action Plan 2021-23 expired in December 2023 with some actions and deliverables not being completed. These, where still relevant, have been carried forward into the Draft RAP 2026-28.
8. The Draft has been informed by an intensive consultation process involving deliberative engagement with Traditional Custodians, the Bunurong Land Council, and the RAP Reference Group, as representatives of the wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The priorities, actions and deliverables also reflect municipal data and current legislative requirements
9. Key themes identified from the deliberative consultation were Truth-telling, Cultural Safety and Cultural Awareness, and Communication & Community Engagement.



10. These key themes have been used to influence the priorities reflected in this plan and the projects to be undertaken each year.
11. Reconciliation Australia provided extensive feedback on the first Draft RAP version in December 2025 and provided further feedback in February 2026 with their provisional endorsement. Their recommendations have been implemented into the current designed Draft that is scheduled for public consultation.
12. This broader municipal wide engagement will provide socialisation of the Draft RAP and provide an opportunity for further feedback.
13. All feedback received will be collated, and where appropriate, incorporated into the draft version to be submitted to Reconciliation Australia for their final endorsement.
14. It is anticipated that RA's final endorsed version will be available for Council's endorsement at the 18 May Council Meeting. The RAP launch event is provisionally scheduled for 27 May in Harmony Square.

## Key Issues and Discussion

### Resource constraints

15. Reconciliation Australia has mandatory actions and deliverables detailed in their four RAP types and organisations need to complete all mandatory deliverables before they can progress to a higher type.
16. In the development of this Draft RAP some resource constraints were identified for specific deliverables, both RA mandatory items and Bunurong Land Council specific items, that are not RA mandated and therefore termed discretionary.
17. The constraints are being existing budget dependent, new funding dependent, or dependent on identified Aboriginal staff members being available to engage with.
18. Additionally, two mandatory deliverables have been identified that are conditional upon a related primary deliverable being fulfilled.
19. These resource constraints for each deliverable are outlined in the *Operating Budget Implications* section that follows below. The numbering refers to the designated action and associated deliverables in order.

## Governance Compliance

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

20. This item does have an impact on existing human resources. While the majority of the Draft RAP deliverables can be achieved within existing staff allocation there are some deliverables that are dependent on identified staff being available to engage with. Council currently does not have any identified Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander staff.

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



### **Operating Budget Implications**

21. There are financial implications associated with this report. A summary is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1.

| <b>Action &amp; deliverables</b><br><b>M= RA mandatory</b><br><b>D= Discretionary</b>  | <b>Resource deficit</b>   | <b>Estimated \$ value (if applicable)</b>  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Relationships</b><br>Action 4 Deliverable M3  | Identified staff dependent  | Not applicable   |
| <b>Respect</b><br>Action 6 Deliverables M1-4   | Funding dependent   | \$15,000   |
| <b>Opportunities</b><br>Action 10 Deliverable M2<br>Action 10 Deliverable M3<br>Action 11 Deliverable M3<br>Action 11 Deliverable M4<br>Action 12 Deliverable D2<br>Action 12 Deliverable D4 | Identified staff dependent<br>Funding dependent<br>Conditional on A11DM1<br>Conditional on A11DM1<br>Funding dependent<br>Funding dependent | Not applicable<br>\$10,000<br>Not applicable<br>Not applicable<br>\$5,000<br>No estimation available |

22. This table indicates that either existing budgets within Departmental budgets need to be reprioritised to adjust for the estimated reallocation or new funding obtained. An estimate of \$30,000 need to be allocated or reallocated by the relevant departments for deliverables to be fulfilled.

### **Asset Implications**

23. This item does not affect any existing assets.

### **Legal/Risk Implications**

24. Final approval by RA is not conditional on full resources being allocated prior. RA has provisionally approved the Draft RAP with the knowledge that some resource constraints had been identified by Council for the Actions and Deliverables detailed in Table 1.

25. It should be noted however there may be a longer-term reputational risk, as seen by our community, should all mandated deliverables not be achieved through insufficient resource allocation for specific items.

### **Environmental Implications**

26. The RAP Plan incorporates the priorities of the Bunurong Land Council, as Traditional Custodians of the lands and water also known as Greater Dandenong. It also prioritises the implementation of Bunurong peoples Cultural Land Management practises.

### **Gender Impact Assessment**

27. As per Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Protocols the consultations, development, proposed implementation and evaluation of the key measurables of the plan, have strongly considered the Cultural implications in relation to Men and Women's business and Lore.



## Community Consultation - Planned

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Purpose</b>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To review and provide feedback on the Draft RAP</li><li>• To ensure the views of the community are included and are reflected in the Draft RAP</li><li>• To ensure Council staff are involved with and committed to the outcomes identified in the Plan.</li><li>• That the priority themes identified via the deliberative consultation, are identifiable and embedded within the plan.</li></ul>   |
| <b>Engagement period</b>                           | 17 March to 14 April (28 days)   |
| <b>Level of Influence:</b>                         | <b>Consult:</b> To obtain community feedback on alternatives or decisions and acknowledge any potential concerns. Council's promise is to keep the community informed and provide feedback on how the community's input influenced the final form of the RAP that is submitted to Reconciliation Australia as the final approving authority.   |
| <b>Engagement Activities:</b>                      | Source article<br>Council News<br>Website<br>Media Release<br>Social Pinpoint  |
| <b>Communication reach and engagement numbers:</b> | Engagement will be conducted in accordance with the approved Community Engagement Policy.  |
| <b>Summary of feedback:</b>                        | <p>The first deliberative consultation with Bunurong Land Council and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander RAP Reference Group identified three key themes that have been included in the RAP Draft. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- History – truth telling</li><li>- Cultural safety and cultural awareness</li><li>- Communication and community engagement</li></ul> <p>Feedback from the formal community consultation will be gathered alongside Councillor feedback and targeted agency feedback and collated. Where appropriate, it will be incorporated into the version submitted to RA as the final approving authority.</p> |



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

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

- Safe and peaceful community.
- Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.
- Sustainable environment.
- Mind, body and spirit.
- Art and culture.

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

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

## Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

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

### MINUTE No.315

**Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad**

**Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh**

**That Council:**

- 1. NOTES that the Draft Third Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2026-28 has been provisionally endorsed by Reconciliation Australia on 18 February; and**
- 2. APPROVES that public and targeted consultation of the graphic version of the Draft RAP (Attachment 1) can commence on Tuesday 17 March until Tuesday 14 April.**

**CARRIED 10 / 0**



## 4.2.2 Domestic Animal Management Plan

**Responsible Officer:** Executive Director City Futures  
**Attachments:** 1. Draft DAMP 2025 (1) [4.2.2.1 - 28 pages]

### Officer Recommendation

**That Council:**

1. **APPROVES** the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025–29 (per Attachment 1); and
2. **SUPPORTS** the continued implementation of the proposed actions and service improvements outlined in the Domestic Animal Management Plan, which aim to:
  - Increase responsible pet ownership.
  - Reduce nuisance behaviours.
  - Improve community safety and animal welfare outcomes.
  - Strengthen compliance with legislative requirements.
  - Enhance officer capability through targeted training.
  - Improve support for vulnerable residents, including those experiencing family violence or homelessness.

### Executive Summary

1. The Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2025–29 sets out Council's strategic direction for managing dogs and cats in Greater Dandenong over the next four years, in accordance with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*. The Plan has been developed through a detailed review of current services, legislative requirements, operational data, and extensive community consultation undertaken between June and July 2025, which gathered input from more than 200 residents, community organisations, domestic animal businesses, veterinarians, and animal welfare agencies.
2. The Plan responds to key issues raised by the community, including nuisance pet behaviours, dog attacks, cat containment, support for responsible pet ownership, and the need for clearer education and communication. It also incorporates emerging pressures such as increasing animal surrenders, population growth, housing density changes, and the impacts of family violence and homelessness on both people and pets.
3. The Plan outlines targeted actions across seven key focus areas: registration and identification, nuisance management, minimising dog attacks, dangerous and menacing dogs, authorised officer capability, domestic animal businesses, and animal emergency management. These actions aim to improve community safety, enhance animal welfare, strengthen regulatory compliance, and deliver a more proactive, accessible and community-centred animal management service.
4. Endorsing the DAMP 2025–29 will ensure Council continues to meet its legal obligations, remains responsive to the needs and expectations of a diverse and growing community, and is well-positioned to manage the complex and evolving nature of domestic animal management over the coming years.



## Background

5. The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* requires every Victorian council to prepare, implement, and annually review a Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) to ensure responsible pet ownership, community safety, and animal welfare. The Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025–29 has been developed following extensive review of current services, industry trends, legislative obligations, community expectations, and emerging risks.
6. Greater Dandenong's animal management service continues to operate in an increasingly complex environment shaped by population growth, housing density changes, cultural diversity, increases in animal-related complaints, and heightened expectations for animal welfare and community safety. To ensure the service remains effective, modern, and aligned with the needs of our community, the Plan has been informed by comprehensive consultation undertaken in June–July 2025, engaging over 200 residents, animal welfare groups, veterinarians, domestic animal businesses, and community organisations.
7. The Plan outlines strategic priorities and targeted actions over the next four years, focusing on registration and identification, nuisance management, dangerous and menacing dogs, minimising dog attacks, authorised officer capability, domestic animal businesses, and emergency animal management. It reflects both operational realities and the expectations expressed by the community, while ensuring continued compliance with all statutory requirements.

## Key Issues and Discussion

8. The DAMP 2025–29 provides a clear and forward-looking strategy to address the evolving needs of Greater Dandenong's community and to meet Council's legislative responsibilities. The Plan is grounded in data, operational trends, and direct community input, ensuring that the actions proposed directly respond to the issues residents experience, including education needs, concerns about dog attacks, and support for managing nuisance behaviours.
9. Over recent years registration numbers for both dogs and cats have declined, influenced by several factors including cost-of-living pressures, changing demographics, and increased apartment living. Reduced registration limits Council's ability to reunite lost animals with owners, impacts revenue required to support services, and increases the risk of unregistered, unmanaged pets within the community.
10. Community complaints continue to rise, particularly for barking dogs, wandering cats, and aggressive dog behaviours. These issues impact neighbourhood amenity and require significant officer time to investigate, educate, and resolve.
11. Dog attack reports, including incidents within fully fenced off-leash areas, remain a concern for community safety. Managing aggressive dogs requires strong investigation skills, consistent enforcement, and timely decision-making to reduce harm.
12. The Plan strengthens Council's approach to responsible pet ownership through expanded education initiatives, enhanced use of digital and multilingual communication, targeted doorknocks, and improved registration pathways. This includes a continued shift toward digital engagement, supported strongly through consultation, and improved systems for registration reminders and online processes.
13. Family violence, homelessness, and rising surrender rates create additional pressures on Council services and the wider animal welfare system. Supporting vulnerable residents with pet-related needs is an emerging community expectation identified through consultation.
14. The Plan also recognises the increasing number of animal-related social issues and commits to strengthening partnerships with animal shelters, rescue services, and support organisations, particularly in relation to family violence and homelessness. This ensures services remain compassionate, inclusive, and responsive to vulnerable residents.



15. Animal management is a specialised field requiring advanced skills in investigation, conflict management, legislative knowledge, animal handling, and risk assessment. Continued investment in training is critical to officer safety, service quality, and compliance with legal obligations.
16. Operationally, the Plan invests in officer capability by outlining training expectations, professional development pathways, and a commitment to ongoing review of systems and practices. These improvements support consistent enforcement, increased officer safety, and greater community confidence.
17. Council must demonstrate full compliance with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, including annual reporting and a mandatory four-year review. Failure to meet these obligations creates legal and reputational risk.
18. By endorsing the Plan, Council supports a modernised and proactive animal management service that is well-aligned with community expectations, legislative requirements, and emerging operational pressures. The Plan ensures Council remains compliant, community-focused, and forward-thinking in its approach to animal management.

## Governance Compliance

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

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

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

#### *Operating Budget Implications*

20. There are no financial implications associated with this report. This plan will be delivered within the allocated operational budget.

#### *Asset Implications*

21. This item does not affect any existing assets.
22. The Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025–29 does not create, modify, or require capital works for any existing Council-owned assets. The Plan focuses on regulatory functions, education programs, officer capability, community engagement, compliance activities, and the delivery of statutory animal management services.

#### *Legal/Risk Implications*

23. The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* requires every Victorian council to prepare, implement, and annually review a Domestic Animal Management Plan. This is a legislative requirement, and failure to maintain a current Plan places Council at risk of non-compliance with State legislation. The Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025–29 ensures Council continues to meet these statutory obligations and demonstrates sound governance and accountability in the management of domestic animals.
24. In addition to legislative compliance, the Plan addresses several operational and community risks. These include increasing reports of dog attacks, nuisance behaviour, unregistered animals, and issues related to family violence, homelessness, and animal welfare. Without a contemporary, evidence-based Plan, Council would be exposed to both legal and reputational risks, particularly in relation to community safety, enforcement procedures, and the handling of dangerous or menacing dogs.
25. Endorsing and implementing the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025–29 ensures Council complies with legislative requirements, manages operational and community risks proactively, and provides a safe, transparent and well-governed approach to domestic animal management.



### Environmental Implications

26. The Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025–29 influences several environmental factors within Greater Dandenong through its focus on responsible pet ownership, reduced nuisance behaviours, and proactive animal management practices. While the Plan does not directly alter physical assets or infrastructure, its implementation has indirect but meaningful implications for the urban environment, biodiversity, waste reduction, and community behaviour.
27. Uncontrolled or wandering domestic animals, particularly free-roaming cats, can have significant impacts on native wildlife, including birds, small mammals, and reptiles.
28. The Plan’s education initiatives, enforcement of cat containment requirements, and actions to reduce wandering pets support improved biodiversity outcomes and protection of urban ecosystems.
29. Initiatives promoting responsible pet ownership, including compliance with dog waste disposal, directly reduce litter in parks, waterways, and open spaces. This contributes to cleaner public areas and reduces contamination risks in natural environments.
30. Improvements to the Animal Emergency Management component of the Plan support better preparedness during natural disasters (e.g. heatwaves, floods, storms). Effective planning reduces environmental degradation caused by displaced animals and supports safer evacuation and shelter processes.
31. This section has been selected because the actions within the DAMP have clear environmental flow-on effects, particularly relating to wildlife protection, litter reduction, and safe animal management practices. While no built assets are affected, the Plan influences behaviours and compliance outcomes that directly shape the quality of the urban environment

### Gender Impact Assessment

32. A gender impact assessment is not required.

## Community Consultation

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Purpose</b>                | To understand community priorities, expectations and concerns regarding domestic animal management and responsible pet ownership, and to ensure these insights informed the development of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026–29. The engagement aimed to capture feedback from pet owners, non-pet owners, animal welfare stakeholders, domestic animal businesses, veterinarians, and culturally diverse community members. |
| <b>Engagement period</b>      | 30 June – 28 July 2025  |
| <b>Level of Influence:</b>    | Based on IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum: The community was invited to provide feedback, ideas and suggestions to inform the direction and priority actions within the DAMP. Final decision-making remained with Council   |
| <b>Engagement Activities:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Online “Your Say” survey</b></li> <li>• <b>Dedicated email for submissions</b> (<a href="mailto:damp@cgd.vic.gov.au">damp@cgd.vic.gov.au</a>)</li> <li>• <b>SMS and email invitations</b> sent to all registered pet owners</li> <li>• <b>Social media advertising and boosted posts</b></li> <li>• <b>Articles in Greater Dandenong Council News</b></li> </ul>                        |



|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Digital screen advertisements</b> at Dandenong and Springvale Civic Centres</li><li>• <b>Posters and flyers</b> across key community locations</li><li>• <b>Ranger Pop-Up sessions at 16 dog parks</b> across the municipality</li><li>• <b>In-person engagement at the Snow Festival</b> (Council event with 20,000+ attendees)</li><li>• <b>Hard-copy surveys</b> available at Customer Service Centres</li></ul>   |
| <b>Communication reach and engagement numbers:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>211 total survey responses</b> (online, paper and pop-up feedback combined)</li><li>• <b>Social media reach:</b> Thousands of impressions via boosted posts (exact figures can be added if available)</li><li>• <b>Council News readership</b> (distribution across municipality)</li><li>• <b>Snow Festival engagement:</b> Rangers interacted with thousands of attendees through pop-up stall and activities</li><li>• <b>SMS &amp; email campaign:</b> Reached registered pet owners (number depends on Council CRM data)</li><li>• <b>Large digital screens:</b> High-visibility daily foot traffic at both Civic Centres</li></ul>  |
| <b>Summary of feedback:</b>                        | <p>Community feedback highlighted strong support for more education around dog attacks, nuisance behaviour, leash rules, and responsible pet ownership. Residents expressed a desire for clearer information on managing barking dogs, controlling wandering pets, and understanding the cat curfew and cat enclosure options.</p> <p>A majority of respondents supported increased education programs (85%), more information on lost pets, and assistance for cat containment.</p> <p>Feedback also highlighted the need for improved awareness of off-leash rules and stronger community enforcement, along with interest in subsidised programs such as low-cost desexing.</p> <p>Refer to Attachment 2 for the detailed engagement summary.</p> |



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

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

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

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

- A socially connected, safe and healthy city.

## Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

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

### MINUTE No.316

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Melinda Yim

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025–29 (per Attachment 1); and
2. **SUPPORTS** the continued implementation of the proposed actions and service improvements outlined in the Domestic Animal Management Plan, which aim to:
  - Increase responsible pet ownership.
  - Reduce nuisance behaviours.
  - Improve community safety and animal welfare outcomes.
  - Strengthen compliance with legislative requirements.
  - Enhance officer capability through targeted training.
  - Improve support for vulnerable residents, including those experiencing family violence or homelessness.

**CARRIED 10 / 0**



### 4.2.3 Large Grants Program 2026

Cr Sophie Tan disclosed a general conflict of interest (s 127) in this Item as she is the President of the Cambodian Women's Group of Victoria Unincorporated. Cr Sophie Tan left the Chamber prior to discussion and voting.

Cr Loi Truong disclosed a general conflict of interest (s 127) in this Item as he is the Vice President of SEMVAC. Cr Loi Truong left the Chamber prior to discussion and voting.

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Responsible Officer:</b> | Executive Director Community Strengthening   |
| <b>Attachments:</b>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Festivals and Events Sponsorship Grants 2026-27 and 2027-28 [4.2.3.1 - 2 pages]</li><li>2. Partnership Grants 2026-27 and 2027-28 [4.2.3.2 - 2 pages]</li><li>3. Strategic Project Grants 2026-27 and 2027-28 [4.2.3.3 - 3 pages]</li></ol> |

#### Officer Recommendation

##### That Council:

1. **APPROVES** the awarding of the Large Grants Program 2026-27 and 2027-28, for the Strategic Projects category, to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 1;
2. **APPROVES** the awarding of the Large Grants Program 2026-27 and 2027-28, for the Partnerships categories, to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 2; and
3. **APPROVES** the awarding of the Large Grants Program 2026-27 and 2027-28, for the Festivals and Events Sponsorship category, to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 3.

#### Executive Summary

1. This report provides an overview of the Community Grants Panel funding recommendations for Large Grants Program, consisting of Strategic Projects, Partnerships, and Festivals and Events Sponsorship categories, for 2026-27 and 2027-28.

#### Background

2. Councils Large Grants Program offers eligible non-profit organisations opportunity to apply for funding to support capacity-building of important local services, the delivery of projects that contribute to achievement of Councils Plans and Strategies, and initiatives that provide social and economic benefit to the City of Greater Dandenong.
3. The endorsed Large Grants Program has three (3) grant categories:
  - Strategic Project Grants - one-off grants up to \$80,000 per year for up to two (2) years of funding to support self-identified projects, initiatives and activities that directly contribute outcomes towards the delivery of Councils strategic objectives and health and wellbeing priorities as outlined in the Council Plan.



- Partnership Grants - one-off grants of up to \$50,000 per year for up to two (2) years of funding to contribute to the operations of not-for-profit organisations that provide continuous and significant service to the community, where their programs align with Council strategic objectives and builds community capacity, social inclusion, and healthy partnerships.
4. Festivals and Events Sponsorship Grants - one-off grants up to \$40,000 per year for up to two (2) years of funding to support activities or projects that create social and/or environmental benefit, healthy partnerships and raise the profile of, and/or deliver clear economic benefit for the City of Greater Dandenong.
  5. The grant round was widely promoted via electronic material, through Council networks and social media.
  6. Grant information sessions were offered in person and via online platforms. Applicants also had opportunity to access face-to-face and remote support from Council officers to assist them develop grant applications. Past applicants were provided feedback on their previous applications to assist improved future applications. Applicants were also connected with relevant Council technical officers for specific advice on their proposals.

## Key Issues and Discussion

### Eligibility Check

7. Applications made to the Large Grants Program undergo an eligibility check by Council officers to ensure that applicants:
  - Are incorporated non-profit organisations.
  - Meet key compliance requirements of Consumer Affairs Victoria.
  - Have met past grants acquittal reporting requirements of Council.
8. Applications deemed *eligible* are progressed for assessment. *Ineligible* applications do not progress, and officers contact unsuccessful and ineligible applicants upon final allocation of funding to provide detailed feedback and to support applicants to submit improved future applications.

### Community Grants Assessment Panels

9. Community Grants Assessment Panels include three (3) community representatives, and two (2) council officers with broad experience and diverse knowledge.
10. Panels members are governed by a Terms of Reference and a signed code of conduct. Each member has completed a grants induction process, with officers available to support throughout the process. All identified conflicts of interest were managed in accordance with established processes and procedures.
11. For each grant category five (5) individual panel members were tasked to complete an initial online assessment. Assessment scores were consolidated and presented to a scheduled panel meeting for qualitative discussion and final recommendations.



### **Partnership Grants Timeline, Alignment, and NHCC Funding Allocation**

12. To realign the Partnerships stream with the Strategic Projects and Festivals and Events Sponsorship streams for 2026-27 and 2027-28, the application timeline was brought forward. This adjustment created a six-month overlap with existing Partnership Grant recipients. All current recipients were advised that, if awarded new funding for 2026-27 and 2027-28, Year One funding will be capped at six months (50% of the allocation). This change ensures consistency across all streams within the Large Grants Program.
13. In addition, following the Council resolution on 13 May 2024, Neighbourhood Houses and Community Centres (NHCC) were allocated funding from the existing grant pool totalling \$350,000 per annum (indexed). Each NHCC received \$50,000 per annum, and funding available through Strategic Project Grants was capped at a maximum of \$280,000 per annum.

### **Strategic Projects Grants Applications and Assessment**

14. **Table 1 – Strategic Project Grants - summarising funding requests received, available funding and panel recommended funding allocations.**

|   | 2026-27              | 2027-28              |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| Total Funding requests received (49 applications) | \$3,510,986.52       | \$3,378,748.52       |
| Available Funding                                 | \$1,000,000.00       | \$1,000,000.00       |
| <b>Panel recommended for funding</b>              | <b>\$ 998,694.00</b> | <b>\$ 998,694.00</b> |
| <b>Underspent (or unallocated)</b>                | <b>\$ 1,306.00</b>   | <b>\$ 1,306.00</b>   |

15. A total of forty-nine (49) applications were submitted to the program requesting \$6,589,737.04, consisting requests of \$3,510,986.52 in 2026-2027 and \$3,378,748.52 in 2027-2028. Two (2) applications were withdrawn, and two (2) applications were ruled ineligible. The Community Grants Assessment Panel members individually assessed applications online from 5 November to 24 November 2025. The Panel convened on 25 November 2025 to discuss the consolidated applications and make final recommendations.
16. The panel has recommended funding:
- Seventeen (17) applications for total funding of **\$998,694** in 2026-27.
  - Seventeen (17) applications for total funding of **\$998,694** in 2027-28.
17. The individual applications recommended for funding from the Community Grants Assessment Panel is included in the Attachment 1. The Assessment Criteria for the Strategic Projects Grants is also outlined as Attachment 1.

### **Partnership Grants Applications and Assessment**

18. **Table 2 – Partnership Grants - summarising funding requests received, available funding and panel recommended funding allocations.**

|   | 2026-27          | 2027-28             |
|---|------------------|---------------------|
| Total Funding requests received (12 applications) | \$558,212        | \$542,146           |
| Available Funding                                 | \$170,000        | \$170,000           |
| <b>Panel recommended for funding</b>              | <b>\$ 75,356</b> | <b>\$130,713.00</b> |
| <b>Underspent (or unallocated)</b>                | <b>\$ 94,644</b> | <b>\$ 39,287</b>    |



19. A total of twelve (12) applications were submitted to the program requesting \$1,038,720, consisting requests of \$510,413 in 2026-27 and \$528,307 in 2027-28. Five (5) applications were ruled ineligible.
20. The Community Grants Assessment Panel members individually assessed applications online from 5 November to 24 November 2025. The Panel convened on 26 November 2025 to discuss the consolidated applications and make final recommendations.
21. The panel has recommended funding:
  - Four (4) applications for total funding of **\$75,356** in 2026-27.
  - Four (4) applications for total funding of **\$130,713** in 2027-28.
22. The individual applications recommended for funding from the Community Grants Assessment Panel is included in the Attachment 2. The Assessment Criteria for the Partnerships Grants is also outlined as Attachment 2.

### ***Festivals and Events Sponsorship Grants Applications and Assessment***

23. **Table 3 – Festivals and Events Sponsorship Grants - summarising funding requests received, available funding and panel recommended funding allocations.**

|   | 2026-27          | 2027-28          |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Total Funding requests received (22 applications) | \$952,006        | \$918,380        |
| Available Funding                                 | \$237,778        | \$237,778        |
| <b>Panel recommended for funding *</b>            | <b>\$211,500</b> | <b>\$194,000</b> |
| <b>Underspent (or unallocated)</b>                | <b>\$ 26,278</b> | <b>\$ 43,056</b> |

24. A total of twenty-two (22) applications were submitted to the program requesting \$1,790,386, consisting requests of \$952,006 in 2026-27 and \$918,380 in 2027-28. One (1) application was ruled ineligible.
25. **\*Note:** One application received was for an event scope and grant amount that far exceeds the parameters of this funding stream. This application is excluded from the Officer recommendation for the purposes of enabling a more detailed assessment of the proposed event, with a separate recommendation subject to future Council decision.
26. The Community Grants Assessment Panel members individually assessed applications online from 5 November to 24 November 2025. The Panel convened on 27 November 2025 to discuss the consolidated applications and make final recommendations.
27. The panel has recommended funding:
  - Thirteen (13) applications for total funding of **\$211,500** in 2026-27.
  - Thirteen (13) applications for total funding of **\$194,000** in 2027-28.
28. The individual applications recommended for funding from the Festivals and Events Sponsorship Grants Assessment Panel is included in the Attachment 3. The Assessment Criteria for the Partnerships Grants is also outlined as Attachment 3.

### ***Grants Orientation Workshop***

29. Successful grant recipients under the Large Grants Program 2026-27 and 2027-28 will be required to attend a Grant Orientation workshop.



30. The workshop will include information on reporting requirements, promotion of success stories, advise of the process to invite councillors to appropriate activities, and an opportunity to collectively network.

## Governance Compliance

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

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

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

#### *Operating Budget Implications*

32. The funding recommendations made in this report can be achieved within the projected Large Grants budgets for 2026-27 and 2027-28.

|  | 2026-27             | 2027-28            |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Available Funding</b>                           | <b>\$1,407,7780</b> | <b>\$1,407,778</b> |
| Strategic Grants Recommended Funding               | \$ 998,694          | \$ 998,694         |
| Partnership Grants Recommended Funding             | \$ 75,356           | \$ 130,713         |
| Festival and Events Grants Recommended for Funding | \$ 211,500          | \$ 194,000         |
| <b>Total Funding Recommended</b>                   | <b>\$1,285,550</b>  | <b>\$1,323,407</b> |
| <b>Underspend (or unallocated)</b>                 | <b>\$ 122,228</b>   | <b>\$ 64,369</b>   |

#### *Asset Implications*

33. This item does not affect any existing assets.

#### *Legal/Risk Implications*

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

#### *Environmental Implications*

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

#### *Community Consultation*

36. Council's Community Grants Program is extensively promoted via electronic and printed material, through Council networks and social media. Grant information and writing workshops were offered both in person and online. In addition, community groups had the opportunity to access face-to-face and remote support from Council officers to assist them develop grant applications.
37. During the assessment process Council Officers consulted with staff from across the organisations to seek information and advice regarding the merits of all funding applications.
38. Officers conducted extensive eligibility checks of applications including compliance documentation, financial report, past grants acquittal history and other matters where relevant.
39. All eligible applications were assessed by Community Grants Assessment Panels. Panels include community representatives and Council officers with broad experience and diverse knowledge.
40. Community Grants Assessment Panel's recommendations of eligible applications for funding are presented for endorsement.



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

41. A consolidated Community Grants Policy provides funding to community groups, and individuals that deliver services and activities consistent with Council's strategic objectives as outlined in the Council Plan.

## Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

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

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**Cr Loi Truong left the Chamber at 7.42pm.**

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**Cr Sophie Tan vacated the Chair and left the Chamber at 7.42pm.**

**Cr Phillip Danh assumed the Chair at 7.42pm.**

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**MINUTE No.317**

**Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti**

**Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad**

**That Council:**

- 1. APPROVES the awarding of the Large Grants Program 2026-27 and 2027-28, for the Strategic Projects category, to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 1;**
- 2. APPROVES the awarding of the Large Grants Program 2026-27 and 2027-28, for the Partnerships categories, to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 2;**
- 3. APPROVES the awarding of the Large Grants Program 2026-27 and 2027-28, for the Festivals and Events Sponsorship category, to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 3; and**
- 4. APPROVES the awarding of an increase to the Victorian Afghan Association Network grant from \$20,000 to \$40,000 per year for the Festivals and Events Sponsorship category 2026-27 and 2027-28.**

**CARRIED 8 / 0**

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**Cr Loi Truong returned to the Chamber at 7.46pm.**

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**Cr Sophie Tan returned to the Chamber and resumed the Chair at 7.46pm.**

**Cr Phillip Danh returned to his seat at 7.46pm.**

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**Cr Jim Memeti left the Chamber at 7.46pm.**



## 4.2.4 Proposed MAV Notice of Motions

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Responsible Officer:</b> | Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services                       |
| <b>Attachments:</b>         | 1. Proposed Notice of Motions to MAV State Council [4.2.4.1 - 8 pages] |

### Officer Recommendation

That Council **APPROVES** the proposed motions to the next State Council Meeting of the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) per Attachment 1, noting that provision can be made for Council's CEO to authorise any minor changes to improve the wording of the motion and/or to update the motion relative to any changes to the issues that may have occurred between the scheduled Council meeting and the date of its lodgement with the MAV.

### Executive Summary

1. **Notice of Motions for MAV** - MAV has called for its member councils to submit motions to be considered for adoption at its State Council Meeting on 29 May 2026.

### Background

2. **MAV State Council** - Formed in 1879, the MAV is a membership association and the legislated peak body for Victoria's 79 local councils. The type of support offered by the organisation to its members include specialist policy advice and advocacy, governance and legislative advice, sector development, insurance and procurement services.
3. The State Council Meeting provides Greater Dandenong City Council with an opportunity to draw state-wide attention across the local government sector to Council's advocacy and engagement priorities that have state-wide relevance.
4. MAV has called for its member councils to submit motions to be considered for adoption at its State Council Meeting on 29 May 2026. Motions are due to be submitted online no later than midnight on 30 March.
5. The proposed Notice of Motions conform to the requirements of MAV Guidance Notes.

### Key Issues and Discussion

6. Greater Dandenong City Council is part of a regional alliance of 13 councils, representing over 2 million residents across Melbourne's east and southeast, who have joined in a unified voice calling for urgent action for more social housing to end homelessness.
7. The Regional Local Government Homelessness and Social Housing Charter was established in 2020 and has guided collaborative advocacy and research efforts across the region in relation to homelessness and social housing advocacy.
8. In August 2025, Greater Dandenong City Council took on the role of Secretariat for the Charter Group, and in October 2025, the Charter Group convened a strategic forum to review and determine its key advocacy priorities moving forward.
9. The proposed Notice of Motions have been developed through extensive collaboration with the officer representatives of the Charter Group and has broad consensus.



10. The proposed titles of Notice of Motions for MAV State Council Meeting follow– refer to Attachment 1 for full details. The attachment provides the Notice Motion in full, accompanying rationale and the linkage of each motion to MAV's strategic priority areas.
11. **Motion 1** - Reforming the National Construction Code (NCC) to enable Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) for faster and more affordable housing
12. **Motion 2** - Exempting council owned land from the Windfall Gains Tax when rezoned for social or affordable housing
13. **Motion 3** - Prioritising social housing and housing for Very Low- and Low-Income Households across Victoria
14. **Motion 4** - A coordinated, measurable, whole of Government strategy to prevent and end homelessness in Victoria

## Governance Compliance

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

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

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

#### *Operating Budget Implications*

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

#### *Asset Implications*

17. This item does not affect any existing assets.

#### *Legal/Risk Implications*

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

#### *Environmental Implications*

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

#### *Gender Impact Assessment*

20. A gender impact assessment is not required.

## Community Consultation

21. There was no requirement for community consultation.

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

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

- Safe and peaceful community.

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

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



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## Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

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

### **MINUTE No.318**

**Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad**

**Seconded by: Cr Sean O'Reilly**

**That Council APPROVES the proposed motions to the next State Council Meeting of the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) per Attachment 1, noting that provision can be made for Council's CEO to authorise any minor changes to improve the wording of the motion and/or to update the motion relative to any changes to the issues that may have occurred between the scheduled Council meeting and the date of its lodgement with the MAV.**

**CARRIED 9 / 0**

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**Cr Jim Memeti returned to the Chamber at 7.50pm**

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## 4.2.5 Canopy Cover Audit 2025

**Responsible Officer:** Executive Director City Futures  
**Attachments:** Nil

### Officer Recommendation

**That Council:**

1. **NOTES** the outcome of the 2025 canopy cover mapping audit; and
2. **SUPPORTS** the promoting of the canopy cover mapping audit results with the community via Council's communication channels.

### Executive Summary

1. The 2025 canopy cover mapping audit results has shown progress towards Council's target of 15 percent canopy cover for the municipality by 2028.
2. Since the previous audit in 2023, canopy cover across the municipality increased by 0.5 percent to 14.6 percent. Canopy cover has also increased in most suburbs and major activity centres compared to the previous audit.

### Background

3. The *Greater Dandenong Urban Forest Strategy* was adopted in 2021 and is supported by the *Greening Our City: Urban Tree Strategy 2018-28* and the *Greening our Neighbourhoods 2021-2028*. The strategies aim to increase canopy coverage across the municipality to 15 percent by 2028.
4. The first canopy cover mapping audit was conducted using canopy cover data in 2016. It measured Greater Dandenong's canopy cover at 9.9 percent. This measurement was adopted as the baseline for Greater Dandenong's canopy cover to inform the future target of 15 percent by 2028.
5. As per the Monitoring and Review action of *Greater Dandenong's Urban Forest Strategy*, to track Council's progress towards the 2028 target, a consultant has been engaged to conduct a canopy cover mapping audit every two years (audits have been completed in 2021, 2023, and 2025).
6. The draft *Our Bright Green Future Strategy and Action Plan 2025-35* (the draft Strategy) was presented to Council on 10 November 2025. At this meeting, Council resolved to provide in principle support for the draft Strategy and approve undertaking a community engagement process on the draft Strategy.
7. The draft Strategy has incorporated the *Greater Dandenong Urban Forest Strategy 2021-28* and supporting documents. Subsequently, the 2028 canopy coverage target has been incorporated into the draft Strategy. The draft Strategy's theme of Trees and Greening has an objective to be a *healthy, green, and resilient City*. If adopted the draft Strategy would continue to support Council's objective to achieve a 15 percent canopy cover by 2028.



## Key Issues and Discussion

8. Council officers engaged an independent consultant to conduct a measurement of canopy cover, consistent with the measurement taken previously. The measurement used a point sampling method to measure canopy across three main categories: the municipality, on private land and on public land. The analysis also looked at suburb and major activity centres to provide further insights.
9. The results shown in Table 1 below were determined using 1000 points in each category.

| Area         | Percentage Measurement |                   |                   |                   |
|--------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|              | Canopy Cover 2016      | Canopy Cover 2021 | Canopy Cover 2023 | Canopy Cover 2025 |
| Municipality | 9.9                    | 9                 | 14.1              | 14.6              |
| Private Land | -                      | 7                 | 10.3              | 11.8              |
| Public Land  | -                      | 16                | 16.7              | 18.0              |

Table 1: Canopy cover mapping audit results 2016-2025

10. As demonstrated in Table 1, the 2025 audit showed an improvement in canopy cover across the municipality.
11. The increase in canopy cover is within the expected trend of canopy growth since 2016. Given the seasonality change of tree growth, it is not unusual to see highs and lows when measuring canopy cover over time. Climate research has forecasted we will continue to see drier and hotter conditions across Australia. As expected, after experiencing a period of El Nino, the canopy increase was modest compared to previous years. However, canopy should be monitored as an overall trend from 2016 to our target date in 2028. A consistent increase in canopy cover with the objective of achieving 15 per cent coverage as a baseline in the drier years, should be aimed for. It is in these hot and dry conditions, that continuing to grow our canopy becomes vitally important to the wellbeing of our community.
12. The 2025 results bring Council closer to meeting its 2028 target of 15 percent canopy coverage. In addition, canopy cover across most suburbs and major activity centres have seen an increase on the 2023 audit. There are several reasons for this significant improvement which are outlined in points 13 to 18 below.
13. Council's Parks and Open Space team have planted more than 31,000 street trees since 2014. The team have an ongoing target of planting 2,000 street trees per year. This number of street trees planted does not include the trees planted as part of public open space and capital works projects.
14. In addition, over 22,000 indigenous plants were planted in revegetation projects across Greater Dandenong in the 2024-25 financial year. Council teams also gave away over 13,000 plants to residents, including a targeted campaign for residents in the Green Wedge.
15. Furthermore, Council has a ten (10) year planting program in place for the three major activity centres. This program has realised additional trees and vegetation being planted as part of the Ian Street and Leonard Avenue streetscape upgrades and the Frank Street open space project within the Noble Park Activity Centre as well as the Springvale Road Boulevard project in the Springvale Activity Centre.
16. Every year Council undertakes numerous educational programs to improve our community's knowledge and appreciation about the benefits of trees. These programs range from social media, articles, planting days, to festivals and events (i.e. Sustainability Festival and Discover Dandenong Creek Festival). Through this work, we are now seeing the positive influence these activities are having with the community.



17. In 2018, Council introduced new planning requirements for the planting of additional trees with new residential developments. These trees are now starting to grow into canopy trees, which are not only assisting in the increase in canopy coverage, but also improving the liveability of these new dwellings through reduced house temperatures and energy bills.
18. The canopy cover mapping audit also coincides with the second year of the Tree Protection on Private Land Local Law 2023. The local law requires landowners to obtain a permit to remove any tree with a diameter of 40cm or larger as measured 1.4 metres from the ground.
19. The steady increase in canopy cover is a positive outcome for the municipality and positions Council well to reach its target of 15 percent by 2028. Officers will continue seeking opportunities for improved planting and canopy outcomes as part of operational plans and future master plans.

## Governance Compliance

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

20. This item was able to be absorbed within the current staffing arrangements.

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

#### *Operating Budget Implications*

21. This item impacts the current operating budget of the Strategic and Environmental Planning Unit (SEP) by \$9,400 for the current financial year. The project will impact the SEP Unit's operational budget again in 2027-28 by \$10,000 for the final canopy cover measurement. The overall anticipated budget amount required for all canopy cover mapping audits from 2021 to 2028 is \$28,200. This can be accommodated in the current SEP budget allocations.

#### *Asset Implications*

22. This item does not affect any existing assets.

#### *Legal/Risk Implications*

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

#### *Environmental Implications*

24. The project supports Council's commitment to emergency action on climate change.
25. By monitoring canopy cover, Council can prioritise planting in areas of need and ensure the work completed across Council is delivering greater canopy cover.

## Community Consultation

26. The outcomes of the audit will be promoted through various Council communication channels including:
  - Council News
  - Our Bright Green Future e-newsletter
  - Council website
  - Social media, and
  - Council's intranet
27. The updated canopy cover figures will be incorporated into an updated version of the *Our Bright Green Future Draft Strategy and Action Plan 2025-35* before being presented to Council for adoption.



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

28. This item does not change the level of service that we are providing to the community.
29. This item directly relates to the Monitoring and Review action of the *Greater Dandenong Greening our Neighbourhoods 2021-28* to measure Greater Dandenong's canopy cover as a percentage across the municipality to inform Council's progress towards the targeted 15 per cent canopy cover by 2028.
30. If adopted, this item will support the implementation, and monitoring and review of the *Our Bright Green Future Draft Strategy and Action Plan 2025-35*.
31. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
  - Sustainable environment.
32. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29:
  - A green city committed to a sustainable future.

## Legislative and Policy Obligations

33. This report has considered Council's legislative and policy obligations (where applicable) as outlined in the Report Considerations section detailed in the front of this Agenda. The applicable obligations considered and applied are:
  - Climate Change and Sustainability.
  - Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.

### MINUTE No.319

**Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad**

**Seconded by: Cr Isabella Do**

#### **That Council:**

1. **NOTES** the outcome of the 2025 canopy cover mapping audit; and
2. **SUPPORTS** the promoting of the canopy cover mapping audit results with the community via Council's communication channels.

**CARRIED 10 / 0**



## 4.2.6 DTP Activity Centres Program - Draft Council Submission

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Responsible Officer:</b> | Executive Director City Futures  |
| <b>Attachments:</b>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Greater Dandenong Activity Centres Program - Draft Maps [4.2.6.1 - 4 pages]</li><li>2. DTP Train and Tram Zone Activity Centres Program - Council submission (draft) [4.2.6.2 - 25 pages]</li></ol> |

### Officer Recommendation

#### That Council:

1. **NOTES** that the draft maps for the Victorian Governments 'Train and Tram Zone Activity Centres Program' have been released and are currently on consultation until 22 March 2026;
2. **APPROVES** the draft Council submission in response to the consultation, as set out in Attachment 2; and
3. **APPROVES** Council officers submitting the Council submission to the Department of Transport & Planning (DTP) prior to 22 March 2026.

### Executive Summary

1. On 28 February 2025, Plan for Victoria (PFV) was released. PFV identified 50 activity centres to be included in the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) 'Train and Tram Zone Activity Centres Program' (the Program). Four of these activity centres are located in Greater Dandenong, being Springvale, Noble Park, Yarraman and Dandenong.
2. The Program seeks to increase density through increasing building heights in areas which have established services and infrastructure.
3. DTP's planning for the Greater Dandenong centres commenced in August 2025. Phase 1 consultation was undertaken by DTP between 20 October and 30 November 2025.
4. On 11 February 2026, DTP released the draft plans for each of the Greater Dandenong activity centres. Phase 2 of the community consultation also commenced on this date and closes on 22 March 2026.
5. Council has the opportunity to make a submission in response to these draft plans. It is recommended that Council approves the draft Council submission as set out in Attachment 2 and approves Council officers submitting the submission on behalf of Council.

### Background

6. The Victorian Government released 'Victoria's Housing Statement, The Decade Ahead 2024-2034' on 24 September 2023. The Housing Statement focuses on addressing housing supply and affordability in Victoria, with a target of building 800,000 new homes in the next decade.
7. A key action from the Housing Statement is increasing housing choice in activity centres by implementing the Train and Tram Zone Activity Centre Program. This was piloted across 10 activity centres within Melbourne: Broadmeadows, Camberwell Junction, Chadstone, Epping, Frankston, Moorabbin, Niddrie (Keilor Road), North Essendon, Preston (High Street) and Ringwood, with a goal of creating a total of an additional 60,000 homes.



8. Plan for Victoria (PFV) was then released on 28 February 2025. The plan sets out a long-term vision for Victoria's future across five pillars: housing, accessibility to employment and services, great places, sustainable environments and self-determination and caring for country. The plan supersedes Plan Melbourne 2017 – 2050 and Regional Growth Plans.
9. The plan outlines a target of building 2.24 million homes across Victoria in the next 30 years. To achieve this, a housing target has been set for each municipality. Greater Dandenong has a housing target of 52,500 new homes.
10. To encourage housing and provide greater opportunity for all Victorians, PFV nominated a further 50 Train and Tram Zone Activity Centres to be included in the Program. Four centres in Greater Dandenong were selected: Springvale, Noble Park, Yarraman and Dandenong.
11. In early 2025, DTP announced the commencement of work on these next 50 centres. The centres were halved into two tranches, with Greater Dandenong being in the second tranche.
12. The Program is proposed to be implemented through the following planning controls:
  - For each activity centre a 'core' will be established, and the Built Form Overlay (BFO) will be applied to this core. The BFO provides urban design guidance and as well as the allowable building heights. Heights of 6-12 stories are permitted with 16 stories in some centres on larger sites.
  - Surrounding the core, will be the 'inner catchment' and 'outer catchment', which will be rezoned to a new residential zone called the Housing Choice and Transport Zone (HCTZ).
  - The HCTZ- Schedule 1 will be located on the 'inner catchment' and replace existing residential zoning in this area. It will allow for a height of up to four stories and up to six stories on larger sites. It will apply for 400 metres from the boundary of the core.
  - The HCTZ- Schedule 2 will be located on the 'outer catchment' and replaces the residential zoning in this area. It will allow for a height of up to three stories with the inclusion of four stories for larger sites. This will apply 400 metres from the boundary of HCTZ – Schedule 1.

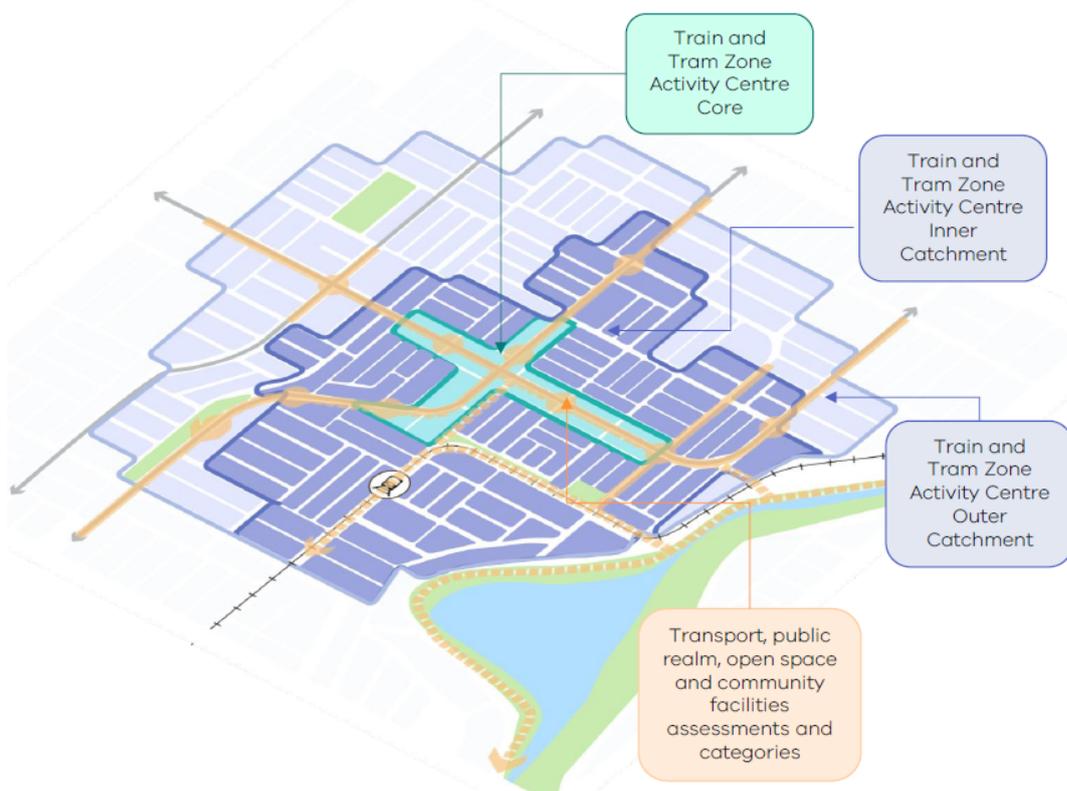


Diagram 1: Example map of 'Core', 'Inner Catchment' and 'Outer Catchment'



13. The planning controls implemented by the Program will supersede most existing controls in the subject activity centres.
14. The first round of community consultation for the four activity centres in Greater Dandenong occurred from 20 October to 30 November 2025. This consultation sought feedback from the community on what they value about their local areas. The common themes received from this consultation included:
  - Importance of local character
  - High value on open and green space
  - Local infrastructure issues
  - Need for greater housing choice
  - Transport, traffic and parking issues
15. Following this consultation, DTP developed the draft plans, which are now out for consultation.

## Key Issues and Discussion

16. The draft activity centre plans for the four activity centres in Greater Dandenong will play a key role in the development of our activity centres over the next few decades, and as such Council needs to ensure that they will achieve appropriate outcomes for our existing and future communities.
17. It is recommended that Council acknowledges and supports the principle of providing increased housing stock in the right locations, and advises that Council welcomes and encourages appropriate housing development across the municipality. This housing growth should be appropriately balanced with continuing to provide high levels of amenity and liveability to residents, businesses and visitors of these centres.
18. The full draft Council submission is included in Attachment 2, with an overview as follows:

### General Comments

19. The Program will result in the loss of most of the activity centre planning policies, controls and structure plans (particularly in Springvale & Noble Park) that Council, in partnership with DTP and the community, have been developed over many years. This work ensured that our activity centres can accommodate significant housing growth, while also protecting and enhancing the amenity and livability of these centres, which aligns with the intentions of this Program. Furthermore, Council understands that it has more than sufficient capacity in the existing zoning to meet its housing targets.
20. Therefore, Council would welcome further consideration of this work, that both supports housing growth, and protects and enhances the characteristics of our activity centres that are strongly valued by our community. We would encourage DTP to review the activity centre planning for Springvale and Noble Park, with a view to including all of the key elements of the structure plans and supporting planning controls, such as heights, setbacks, laneways and interfaces.
21. The draft plans and supporting documentation lack information and detail that will be vital for the community and Council to make an informed assessment of the Program. The community have only been provided with proposed building heights and maps depicting boundaries of the 'core' areas and 'inner and outer catchments'. No detailed planning control information has been provided.



22. For example, the Program proposes to remove the Design & Development Overlays (DDO) entirely from Dandenong and Noble Park activity centres, and partially from Springvale. In addition, the Comprehensive Development Zone (CDZ) and Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) will be altered. This will be replaced by new planning controls including the Built Form Overlay (BFO), however we have only been provided with a template document for this new control which does not contain any detail of the proposed replacement controls for each activity centre.
23. The BFO template that is proposed to be implemented in the 'core' contains 'Deemed to Comply' provisions, meaning where a proposal meets various criteria, including building height and setbacks, it will be required to be automatically approved, even if there are other concerns.
24. In addition, the BFO will remove third party appeal rights for certain elements of proposed developments in the 'core'. As a result of the level of information made available, the full extent of this is not known.
25. Council is concerned that the community will not understand the full suite of changes that are proposed, and recommend that DTP make all of the relevant planning controls and proposed changes available for the community to review and provide comment on.
26. While not specific to this consultation, the Program does include the potential for the introduction of an Infrastructure Contributions Plan (ICP), which will levy developments to assist in the provision of supporting infrastructure. In addition, rezonings resulting from this Program may also trigger windfall gains tax. Council supports and acknowledges the need for infrastructure improvements to support a growing community, however any additional levies or taxes resulting from the Program will further compromise new investments, in an already challenging market. As such, Council strongly objects to the inclusion of any new levies or taxes that may result from this Program.
27. To achieve genuine housing growth, Council is of the view that the government will need to pursue additional opportunities to improve the viability of apartment development across Melbourne. Council encourages the State Government to investigate opportunities to reduce the financial costs associated with apartment construction, as well as investing in programs to increase the number of workers in the construction industry.

### **Dandenong Activity Centre**

28. In the 'core' of Dandenong, heights have generally remained uncapped (as per currently planning controls), with some sites along the western edge of the core having a maximum height of eight storeys to provide transitioning to the abutting residential areas. Council supports the proposed outcomes in Dandenong, subject to some further changes, including:
  - Amending some of the uncapped heights on the edge of the 'core', abutting the 'inner catchment', to ensure development tapers down appropriately as it moves away from the centre
  - Amending heights south of Dandenong Station to be uncapped given the areas proximity to the station, and physical separation from nearby residential development
  - Retaining the five-storey minimum height in the 'core' area
  - Retaining the frontage controls within the 'core' area as per existing planning controls
  - Retaining the signage controls as per existing planning controls
  - Reducing the inner and outer catchment areas



### **Springvale Activity Centre**

29. In the 'core' of Springvale, the Program will result in a number of key changes to the planning outcomes in the adopted Springvale Activity Centre Structure Plan and supporting planning controls. This structure plan has only been completed in recent years, and was the result of strong collaboration between Council, DTP and the community. The structure plan achieved a balance between supporting housing growth, ensuring the amenity and liveability of the area was maintained, and protecting the unique character of Springvale that is highly valued by the community.
30. Some of the key changes proposed by the Program include:
- Building heights are proposed to be increased from current planning controls by between two and six storeys, with heights up to 16 storeys.
  - Existing site specific setbacks to create a pedestrian scale, and minimise overshadowing, visual mass and wind impacts have been replaced by a set of standard requirements that have the potential to adversely impact on the amenity of the area.
  - The structure plan requires several laneways to be created or widened to ensure pedestrian and vehicular movement can flow appropriately as development increases, however a number of these have not been translated into the Program. This creates a risk to movement capability as the activity centre grows.
  - Several interfaces and typologies have been altered. This will result in interfaces between buildings on the edge of the 'core' and the 'inner catchment' having significant variations in height in a number of instances, which would be detrimental to the amenity of residents, particularly those in the 'inner catchment'.
  - The catchment areas are very large, and spread the activity centre into areas that don't naturally lend themselves to being part of this Program.
31. In response to this, Council recommends:
- The outcomes of the Springvale Activity Centre Structure Plan and supporting planning controls are fully translated into this Program to ensure housing growth can occur in Springvale, while also protecting and enhancing the unique character of the area that is highly valued by the community.
  - The inner and outer catchment areas be reduced as set out in Attachment 2.

### **Noble Park Activity Centre**

32. In the same manner as Springvale, the Program will result in a number of key changes to the planning outcomes in the adopted Noble Park Activity Centre Structure Plan and supporting planning controls. This is a new structure plan that was also the result of a strong collaboration between Council, DTP and the community.
33. The community of Noble Park have a strong connection to the 'village' character of the area, and along with Council, are keen to see this protected and enhanced.
34. The structure plan achieved a balance between supporting housing growth, ensuring the amenity and liveability of the area was maintained, and protecting the 'village' character of Noble Park that the community have a strong connection to.



35. Some of the key changes proposed by the Program include:

- Building heights are proposed to be increased from current planning controls by between one and six storeys, with heights up to 12 storeys.
- Existing site specific setbacks to create a pedestrian scale, and minimise overshadowing, visual mass and wind impacts have been replaced by a set of standard requirements that have the potential to adversely impact on the amenity of the area.
- The structure plan requires several laneways to be created or widened to ensure pedestrian and vehicular movement can flow appropriately as development increases, however a number of these have not been translated into the Program. The implementation of these laneways is key to ensuring the activity centre operates efficiently as it grows.
- Several interfaces and typologies have been altered. This will result in interfaces between buildings on the edge of the 'core' and the 'inner catchment' having significant variations in height in a number of instances, which would be detrimental to the amenity of residents, particularly those in the 'inner catchment'.
- Noble Park is one of the smaller activity centres in the Program, and as such the catchment areas should be determined in light of this. There are also a number of natural barriers that need to be considered when determining the catchments.

36. In response to this, Council recommends:

- The outcomes of the Noble Park Activity Centre Structure Plan and supporting planning controls are fully translated into this Program to ensure housing growth can occur in Noble Park, while also protecting and enhancing the 'village' character that provides a strong sense of connection for the local community.
- The inner and outer catchment areas be reduced as set out in Attachment 2.

### **Yarraman Activity Centre**

37. Yarraman is proposed to have the 'outer catchment' (HCTZ – Schedule 2) applied, which is likely to result in the same planning outcome as exists under the current planning controls.

38. As such, Council makes no comments on this activity centre.

### **Summary**

39. Council supports the intent of the Program to deliver more housing in the right location, and in fact welcomes and encourages appropriate housing across Greater Dandenong. Council also acknowledges the challenges DTP face in creating site specific controls for 60 activity centres, and the resulting standardised approach that has been taken.
40. Council supports the plans for the Dandenong Activity Centre (subject to some alterations).
41. With regard to Springvale and Noble Park, there are existing planning controls that achieve the housing growth aims of the Program, while also protecting the amenity and character of these areas. As such, Council recommends that DTP further review the proposed controls for these activity centres and retain the existing structure plan and supporting planning controls.
42. Council looks forward to continuing to work positively with DTP to achieve the best outcome for both existing and future residents, businesses and visitors to the four Greater Dandenong Activity Centres.



## Governance Compliance

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

43. This item has impacted on human resources within the Strategic and Statutory Planning teams, and other teams across Council, however, has been able to be managed with existing resources.

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

#### *Operating Budget Implications*

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

#### *Asset Implications*

45. This item does not affect any existing assets.

#### *Legal/Risk Implications*

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

#### *Environmental Implications*

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

#### *Gender Impact Assessment*

48. A gender impact assessment is not required.

## Community Consultation

49. DTP undertook the first round of community consultation from 20 October to 30 November 2025. This consultation sought feedback from the community on what they value about their local areas. The common themes received from this consultation included:

- Importance of local character
- High value on open and green space
- Local infrastructure issues
- Need for greater housing choice
- Transport, traffic and parking issues

50. The second round of consultation is being undertaken by DTP from 11 February to 22 March 2026. This consultation is seeking feedback on the draft maps. The consultation activities include:

- Postcard and letterbox drop
- Social media advertising
- Digital screen, poster, billboard etc. advertising
- Email update to previous participants
- Multicultural engagement – translating information into relevant languages, and engaging with multicultural groups and interfaith groups
- Online Q&A session – Thursday 26 Feb (6.30-7.30pm)
- Community drop-in sessions – Tuesday 10 March (3-6pm) at St James Anglican Church, Dandenong & Saturday 21 March (12pm-3pm) at The Crescent Centre Hall, Springvale



- Walk by sessions – Tuesday 10 March (3-5pm) at Dandenong Square & Saturday 21 March (10.30am-12.30pm) at Springvale Woolworths
- Facilitation of a Community Reference Group

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

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

Not Applicable

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

2025-29:

Not Applicable

### Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

Not Applicable

#### **MINUTE No.320**

**Moved by: Cr Phillip Danh**

**Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad**

**That Council:**

- 1. NOTES that the draft maps for the Victorian Governments 'Train and Tram Zone Activity Centres Program' have been released and are currently on consultation until 22 March 2026;**
- 2. APPROVES the draft Council submission in response to the consultation, as set out in Attachment 2; and**
- 3. APPROVES Council officers submitting the Council submission to the Department of Transport & Planning (DTP) prior to 22 March 2026.**

**CARRIED 10 / 0**



## 4.2.7 Recommended Appointments for Membership of the Sustainability Advisory Committee

**Responsible Officer:** Executive Director City Futures  
**Attachments:** Nil

### Officer Recommendation

**That Council:**

- 1. APPROVES** the appointment of the following three applicants as independent community members of the Sustainability Advisory Committee for a two-year term from 1 April 2026 to 1 April 2028;
  - Graeme Pearman.
  - Peter O'Loughlin.
  - Dean Mastroianni.
- 2. APPROVES** the appointment of the following three applicants as independent community members of the Sustainability Advisory Committee for a three-year term from 1 April 2026 to 1 April 2029; *and*
  - Heath Evans.
  - Isabelle Nash.
  - Dinesh Jayasuriya.
- 3. NOTES** that the Mayor of the Greater Dandenong City Council will write to the proposed members to confirm their appointment to the Sustainability Advisory Committee.

### Executive Summary

1. This report outlines the process undertaken to appoint new members to the Sustainability Advisory Committee for a two- or three-year term between 2026-2029 and seeks endorsement of the six recommended applicants.

### Background

2. The Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) has been re-established following Council adoption of the revised Terms of Reference at the 27 October 2025 Council meeting.
3. The SAC was established in 2017 and ran for seven years. In 2025 the Terms of Reference were revised in light of a new Council Plan and the draft *Our Bright Green Future Strategy and Action Plan 2026-36*.
4. Going forward, the SAC will provide a formal mechanism for Council to consult with interested community members as key stakeholders, seek specialist advice and enable community participation in sustainability issues, initiatives, policies and strategies. The SAC will also support and facilitate the participation and engagement of the wider Greater Dandenong community in sustainability initiatives.



5. Establishment of the SAC aligns with the objectives of the Council Plan 2025-29 and the vision of the draft *Our Bright Green Future Strategy and Action Plan 2026-36* of being a *green city committed to a sustainable future* by seeking to champion, advocate and promote sustainability throughout the City of Greater Dandenong, as well as the sustainability achievements of Council and the broader community.
6. The SAC contributes to Council's strong commitment to engaging the community in a genuine and meaningful way by bringing together local knowledge, expertise and stakeholders to support Council's decision-making process.

## Key Issues and Discussion

7. The Terms of Reference set out the requirements for recruiting members to the SAC.
8. As per the Terms of Reference, the SAC will comprise of:
  - Up to one Councillor Representative – appointed at Council's Annual Statutory Meeting
  - Up to two Council Officers – from City Futures Directorate appointed by the Executive Director - City Futures
  - Up to six Community Representatives – appointed by resolution of Council.
9. At the Council meeting on 13 November 2025, Council resolved to appoint Councillor liaisons and representatives to all community reference groups. Councillor Isabella Do was appointed as the SAC Councillor Representative, with Councillor Melinda Yim as the alternate for the 2025-26 term.
10. To ensure future continuity of the SAC half of the members will be appointed for an initial term of two years, and the other half of members will be appointed for an initial term of three years. Following the establishment of the SAC, future members will hold office for a term of two years.
11. An Expression of Interest (EOI) process to recruit members for the SAC was conducted from 10 November to 12 December 2025. The EOI was promoted through multiple channels including Council's website, social media platforms, Our Bright Green Future e-news, local community groups, and targeted engagement via community groups and youth networks.
12. The selection process was undertaken in accordance with the Committee's Terms of Reference. A total of nine applications were received and assessed against the selection criteria.
13. A selection panel was convened to assess the applicants and make a recommendation to Council for consideration and endorsement. Interviews were conducted in January 2026, with six (6) successful applicants identified.
14. Officers recommend the following three applicants be appointed as independent community members of the SAC for a two-year term from 1 April 2026 to 1 April 2028:
  - Graeme Pearman
  - Peter O'Loughlin
  - Dean Mastroianni
15. Officers recommend the following three applicants are appointed as independent community members of the Sustainability Advisory Committee for a three-year term from 1 April 2026 to 1 April 2029:
  - Heath Evans
  - Isabelle Nash
  - Dinesh Jayasuriya



16. The six successful candidates represent a variety of cultural backgrounds, community perspectives and live across Greater Dandenong, with residents from Dandenong, Keysborough, Dandenong North, and Noble Park North.
17. The candidates bring a range of perspectives and skills in sustainability. With some members having experience as owners of businesses seeking to supply and implement sustainable solutions, teachers, community environment group members, or board members for large or climate related organisations.
18. The candidates have strong connections to diverse groups within the community, including schools, people living with disability, business owners, community gardens, and cultural groups.

## **Governance Compliance**

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

19. This item affects 2x EFT approximately 4 (four) hours per month while the SAC is active.
20. Resources required for this item can be absorbed within the current arrangement of the Sustainability Planning unit.

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

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

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

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

22. This item does not affect any existing assets.

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

23. A potential conflict of interest has been identified due to the financial relationship between Council and a proposed member's business. A Conflict of Interest Management Plan (the Plan) has been developed and will be implemented upon appointment of the committee member to ensure public transparency and accountability.
24. As per the Terms of Reference and Plan conflicts of interest will be a standing agenda item at the start of every meeting and will be recorded as relevant. The Plan indicates that the candidate:
  - must leave the room and not participate in any discussions, deliberations or votes regarding their contract, company, or any related procurement matters,
  - must not receive any confidential information relating to their contract, and
  - must not promote their business through the committee.
25. There is a risk that confidential information shared during these committee meetings could be shared with external parties including media sources.
26. The Terms of Reference includes a clause prohibiting the sharing of confidential information with external parties, including media sources unless specifically authorised by a Council Representative.
27. The Terms of Reference enables Council to cease the membership of any committee member found in breach of the terms.



### **Environmental Implications**

28. The SAC will enable active and passionate community members an opportunity to engage with Council on sustainability matters. It will also enable Council an opportunity to hear and learn from our community with an active interest in sustainability.

### **Gender Impact Assessment**

29. The SAC is open to all genders, ages, and backgrounds. The interviewing process provided equal opportunity to all genders to apply by promoting the opportunity to a variety of networks across Greater Dandenong.

30. The recruitment process aimed to be representative of the Greater Dandenong community. Promotional materials were presented in clear, gender inclusive language that is accessible for all.

31. The selection panel also had a balanced representation of genders, and the interview included a question relating to working with others and engaging with a range of people.

32. In action, the committee members will create a safe space for all by creating an inclusive environment where everyone feels valued, safe, and comfortable to share and engage.

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

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

- Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.
- Sustainable environment.

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

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

### **Legislative and Policy Obligations**

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

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



**MINUTE No.321**

**Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad**

**Seconded by: Cr Melinda Yim**

**1. APPROVES the appointment of the following three applicants as independent community members of the Sustainability Advisory Committee for a two-year term from 1 April 2026 to 1 April 2028;**

- **Graeme Pearman.**
- **Peter O'Loughlin.**
- **Dean Mastroianni.**

**2. APPROVES the appointment of the following three applicants as independent community members of the Sustainability Advisory Committee for a three-year term from 1 April 2026 to 1 April 2029; and**

- **Heath Evans.**
- **Isabelle Nash.**
- **Dinesh Jayasuriya.**

**3. NOTES that the Mayor of the Greater Dandenong City Council will write to the proposed members to confirm their appointment to the Sustainability Advisory Committee.**

**CARRIED 10 / 0**



## 4.2.8 Appointment of Council Representative to South East Leisure Pty Ltd

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

### Officer Recommendation

**That, for the remainder of the 2025-2026 Mayoral term, Council appoints**  
**Cr \_\_\_\_\_ as the Council Representative to South East Leisure Pty Ltd.**

### Executive Summary

1. This report seeks Council's endorsement to appoint a Council Representative to South East Leisure Pty Ltd (SEL) for the remainder of the 2025-2026 Mayoral term, following a vacancy arising in the current representative position.

### Background

2. In conducting the business of Council and representing Council's interests in the wider community, Greater Dandenong City Council maintains formal representation and liaison with a wide number of committees, peak industry bodies and regional and community associations.
3. SEL is a subsidiary company of the City of Greater Dandenong, established with responsibility to operate four of the City's aquatic and leisure facilities. SEL delivers health and wellbeing outcomes for the community through caring and sustainable leisure and wellness experiences.
4. The appointment of a Council Representative to SEL is ordinarily considered each year in November at the Annual Council Meeting, at which the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are also elected.
5. At the Annual Council Meeting held on 13 November 2025, Council appointed Cr Lana Formoso as its Representative to SEL for the 2025-2026 Mayoral term.

### Key Issues and Discussion

6. A vacancy has arisen in the position of Council Representative to SEL following Cr Formoso's decision to step down from the role.
7. Council is therefore required to appoint a new representative to fill the position for the remainder of the 2025-2026 Mayoral term.
8. The appointment of a Council Representative to SEL is important to ensure that Council's interests and governance obligations in respect of the subsidiary company continue to be effectively represented. Continuity of representation also supports SEL's ongoing operations and its delivery of community health and wellbeing outcomes.
9. It is recommended that Council appoint a new Council representative at this meeting to ensure there is no further gap in representation for the remainder of the 2025-2026 Mayoral term.



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## Governance Compliance

### *Human Resource Implications*

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

### *Financial/Asset Resource Implications*

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

### *Legal/Risk Implications*

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

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

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

- Mind, body and spirit.

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

15. 2025-29:

- A socially connected, safe and healthy city.

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## Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

- Not Applicable

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**Cr Bob Milkovic left the Chamber prior to voting at 8.05pm.**

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**The Mayor called for nominations for the position of the Council Representative to South East Leisure Pty Ltd.**

**Deputy Mayor Councillor Phillip Danh was nominated for the position by Cr Jim Memeti and this nomination was seconded by Cr Sean O'Reilly**

**Councillor Garad was nominated for the position by Cr Phillip Danh and this nomination was seconded by Cr Isabella Do.**

**The Mayor provided each candidate with two (2) minutes to speak in support of their nomination.**

**The Mayor then called for a show of hands to indicate which Councillor was the preferred candidate for the role.**

**The Mayor then sought a motion to confirm the appointment.**

**MINUTE No.322**

**Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti**

**Seconded by: Cr Sean O'Reilly**

**That, for the remainder of the 2025-2026 Mayoral term, Council appoints Councillor Phillip Danh as the Council Representative to South East Leisure Pty Ltd.**

**CARRIED**

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**Cr Isabella Do left the Chamber at 8.10pm.**

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**Cr Bob Milkovic returned to the Chamber at 8.10pm.**

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## 4.2.9 S6A Instrument of Delegation by Council to Members of Council Staff under the Planning and Environment Act 1987

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Responsible Officer:</b> | Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services  |
| <b>Attachments:</b>         | 1. S6A Instrument of Delegation by Council to Members of Council Staff under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 [4.2.9.1 - 12 pages] |

### Officer Recommendation

In the exercise of the powers conferred by the legislation referred to in the attached Instrument of Delegation, Greater Dandenong City Council (Council) **RESOLVES** that:

1. There be delegated to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the *S6A Instrument of Delegation by Council to Members of Council Staff under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Attachment 1)*, the powers, duties and functions set out in that Instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument;
2. The Instrument comes into force immediately once the common seal of Council is affixed to the Instrument; and
3. The duties and functions set out in the Instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the Instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.

### Executive Summary

1. This report recommends that Council adopt a new S6A Instrument of Delegation to ensure appropriate staff have the statutory authority to exercise powers under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, consistent with recent legislative updates and sector practice.

### Background

2. As the Council is not a “natural” person, it can only make decisions in two ways: by passing a formal resolution or by giving authority to others to act on its behalf. For anyone to make decisions for the Council, the Council must formally delegate those powers.
3. Most powers that the Council is allowed to delegate have been assigned to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, the CEO is permitted to further delegate these powers to other staff members.
4. Some powers given to the Council under specific legislation cannot be delegated through the CEO. These must be delegated directly to staff by a formal resolution of the Council.
5. The 2025 update to the S6A Instrument of Delegation reflects minor changes provided by Maddocks Lawyers, which the Council uses for legal advice as part of an annual delegation's subscription service. This update incorporates recent amendments to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* introduced by the *Consumer and Planning Legislation Amendment (Housing Statement Reform) Act 2025*, which took effect on 25 November 2025. The updated Instrument of Delegation ensures that Council's delegations remain aligned with current legislative requirements.



## Key Issues and Discussion

6. The Council cannot practically directly exercise all the powers granted to it and must therefore act either through formal resolutions or through authorised officers. Section 11 of the *Local Government Act 2020* allows the Council to delegate any of its powers, duties or functions (except those specifically excluded) to a member of staff through an Instrument of Delegation.
7. Most of the Council's delegable powers have already been assigned to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Under this delegation, the CEO may further sub-delegate those powers to Council staff where permitted.
8. Certain powers given to the Council under specific legislation cannot be delegated through the CEO. These powers must be delegated directly by a Council resolution to the relevant officers. The Acts and Regulations listed in the S6 Instrument of Delegation by Council to Members of Council Staff include several powers that require this direct delegation.
9. This report seeks approval to delegate several Council powers and functions that require updating due to recent legislative changes. Maddocks Lawyers have issued a 2025 minor update that cannot be postponed until the next scheduled review. These changes relate to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, and the affected powers also cannot be sub-delegated by the CEO, as outlined in Section 11 of the Act. Direct delegation from Council is required to ensure staff are properly authorised to carry out their responsibilities.
10. The minor update incorporates amendments made to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* by the *Consumer and Planning Legislation Amendment (Housing Statement Reform) Act 2025*, which commenced on 25 November 2025.
11. The S6A Instrument of Delegation will be incorporated into the S6 Instrument of Delegation as part of the next biennial review, scheduled for July 2026. At the conclusion of that review, the standalone S6A Instrument will no longer be required.

## Governance Compliance

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

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

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

#### *Operating Budget Implications*

13. There are no financial implications associated with this report. The costs associated with the annual Maddocks Lawyers delegations' subscription are included in the Operational Budget.

#### *Asset Implications*

14. This item does not affect any existing assets.

#### *Legal/Risk Implications*

15. Adopting the Instrument provides clarity and legal certainty by ensuring staff are properly authorised to exercise the statutory powers necessary to perform their duties, thereby reducing compliance risks for Council.
16. Failing to adopt the Instrument would prevent staff from exercising key planning-related powers, resulting in service delays and creating additional risks for Council's operational and statutory decision-making processes.



### ***Environmental Implications***

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

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

18. A gender impact assessment is not required.

### **Community Consultation**

19. There was no requirement for community consultation.

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

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

Not Applicable.

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

21. 2025-29:

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

### **Legislative and Policy Obligations**

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

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



**MINUTE No.323**

**Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly**

**Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh**

**In the exercise of the powers conferred by the legislation referred to in the attached Instrument of Delegation, Greater Dandenong City Council (Council) RESOLVES that:**

- 1. There be delegated to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the *S6A Instrument of Delegation by Council to Members of Council Staff under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Attachment 1)*, the powers, duties and functions set out in that Instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument;**
- 2. The Instrument comes into force immediately once the common seal of Council is affixed to the Instrument; and**
- 3. The duties and functions set out in the Instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the Instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.**

**CARRIED 7 / 0**

**For - Cr Phillip Danh, Cr Alice Phuong Le, Cr Jim Memeti, Cr Sean O'Reilly, Cr Sophie Tan,  
Cr Loi Truong and Cr Melinda Yim**

**Abstained - Cr Rhonda Garad and Cr Bob Milkovic**



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

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

**Attachments:** Nil

### Officer Recommendation

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

### Executive Summary

1. As part of Council's ongoing efforts to improve transparency in Council processes, matters discussed at Councillor Briefing Sessions & Pre-Council Meetings (other than those matters designated to be of a confidential nature) are reported on at Council meetings.
2. The matters listed in this report were presented to Councillor Briefing Sessions & Pre-Council Meetings during the period 9 February 2026 – 2 March 2026.

### Background

3. The Executive Team and associated staff at Greater Dandenong City Council host Councillor Briefing Sessions and Pre-Council Meeting on a regular basis (weekly) to inform Councillors about the work officers are undertaking, share information, obtain feedback and discuss strategies and options for current and future work.
4. To ensure transparency in this process matters discussed at Councillor Briefing Sessions and Pre-Council Meetings (other than those matters designated to be confidential under the *Local Government Act 2020*) are reported on at Council meetings. This report represents matters discussed at the Councillor Briefing Sessions & Pre-Council Meetings during the period 9 February 2026 – 2 March 2026.

### Matters Presented for Discussion

| Item |  | Councillor Briefing Session/Pre-Council Meeting                          |
|------|--|--|
| 1    | <p><b><i>Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Activity Report</i></b></p> <p>Councillors were briefed on the Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Activity Report. The agenda covered financial and performance reporting, risk management, internal audit outcomes, policy compliance, strategic risks, procurement, fraud controls and governance improvements arising from the Committee's findings and recommendations</p> | <p><b><i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 9 February 2026</i></b></p> |



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| 2 | <p><b>Contract Tree Maintenance Services</b></p> <p>Councillors were briefed on Contract Tree Maintenance Services. Discussion focused on tender evaluation outcomes, recommended contractors across all service categories, contract terms, continuity of tree management services and ensuring compliance, risk mitigation and effective delivery of municipal tree maintenance activities.</p>   | <p><b>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 9 February 2026</b></p> |
| 3 | <p><b>Canopy Cover Audit 2025</b></p> <p>Councillors were briefed on Canopy Cover Audit 2025. Discussion focused on audit results, progress toward the 2028 canopy target, suburb-level increases, planned reporting to Council and community promotion of findings.</p>  | <p><b>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 9 February 2026</b></p> |
| 4 | <p><b>Planning Amendment (Better Decisions Made Faster) Bill 2025 and recent Planning Scheme Amendment VC277</b></p> <p>Councillors were briefed on Planning Amendment (Better Decisions Made Faster) Bill 2025 and recent Planning Scheme Amendment VC277. Discussion covered major planning system reforms, impacts on assessment processes, statutory timeframes, consultation requirements, and upcoming changes to car parking provisions.</p> | <p><b>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 9 February 2026</b></p> |
| 5 | <p><b>Australian Local Government Association Draft Notice of Motions</b></p> <p>Councillors were briefed on Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Draft Notice of Motions. Discussion focused on proposed motions for the 2026 National General Assembly, timelines for Councillor feedback, preparation of the submission for Council endorsement, and requirements for lodging motions with ALGA.</p>                                   | <p><b>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 9 February 2026</b></p> |
| 6 | <p><b>Australian Local Government Association 2026 National General Assembly, Canberra ACT</b></p> <p>Councillors were briefed on Australian Local Government Association 2026 National General Assembly, Canberra ACT. Discussion covered approval for Councillor and CEO attendance, event details and timing and the requirement for a post conference report to be presented at the August 2026 Council Meeting.</p>                            | <p><b>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 9 February 2026</b></p> |
| 7 | <p><b>Overview of Professional Development Program</b></p> <p>Councillors were briefed on Overview of Professional Development Program. Discussion covered legislative PD requirements under the Local Government Act 2020, the need to complete training by 31 December 2026 and feedback on the proposed 2026 Professional Development Forward Plan.</p>  | <p><b>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 9 February 2026</b></p> |



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| <b>8</b>  | <b>General Discussion</b><br>Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items;<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. 2026 Ramadan Night Market;</li><li>b. Employment Hub Agreement;</li><li>c. DMPL Market Update;</li><li>d. Instalment payments for infringements;</li><li>e. Upcoming GSEM Meeting;</li><li>f. Dandenong Wellbeing Centre Naming Process;</li></ul> and<br>Agenda items for the Council Meeting of 16 February 2026. | <b>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 9 February 2026</b>  |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>General Discussion</b><br>Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Young Leaders applications now open 2026;</li><li>b. Councillors' views on Communications and Engagement working with the office Coordinator to Mayor and Councillors;</li><li>c. Rate capping; and</li></ul> Agenda items for the Council Meeting 16 February 2026.  | <b>Pre-Council Meeting (PCM) 16 February 2026</b>           |
| <b>10</b> | <b>Presentation from Municipal Association Victoria (MAV)</b><br>Councillors and Council officers observed a presentation from a representative from MAV in relation to Local Government Financial Matters.<br>This covered:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. current issues/concerns in the Local Government Sector;</li><li>b. typical scenarios; and</li><li>c. opportunities.</li><li>d.</li></ul>  | <b>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 23 February 2026</b> |
| <b>11</b> | <b>Long Term Financial Plan 2027-2036 and Financial Sustainability Update</b><br><br>Councillors were briefed on Long Term Financial Plan 2027–2036 and Financial Sustainability Update, discussed long-term financial forecasts, the projected 2026–27 deficit, structural sustainability challenges, guiding financial principles and a staged approach to exploring financial levers and managing future cash positions.  | <b>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 23 February 2026</b> |



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| <b>12</b> | <b><i>Fees and Charges (City Futures)</i></b><br>Councillors were briefed on Fees & Charges by our City Futures Directorate. The Discussion covered potential fee options across Statutory Planning, Local Laws and Parking. Comparing minimal, recommended and higher estimate approaches to balance community impact and financial sustainability and identifying areas requiring further information or inclusion in the 2026/27 Budget. | <b><i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 23 February 2026</i></b> |
| <b>13</b> | <b><i>Dandenong Market Precinct Plan - Draft for Public Exhibition</i></b><br>Councillors were briefed on the Draft Dandenong Market Precinct Plan, its strategic directions and proposed actions relating to land use, urban design, economic opportunities, transport, public realm and community infrastructure and its readiness for public exhibition from 3 March to 10 April 2026.   | <b><i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 2 March 2026</i></b>     |
| <b>14</b> | <b><i>Reconciliation Action Plan (Pre Community Consultation)</i></b><br>Councillors were briefed on the Draft Third Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2026–28, its provisional endorsement, upcoming public and targeted consultation, and the process for incorporating feedback before final submission and endorsement.   | <b><i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 2 March 2026</i></b>     |
| <b>15</b> | <b><i>DTP Activity Centres Program</i></b><br>Councillors were briefed on the State Government's Train and Tram Zone Activity Centres Program, the release of draft maps, consultation timelines, increased density proposals and Council's recommended submission in response.   | <b><i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 2 March 2026</i></b>     |
| <b>16</b> | <b><i>General Discussion</i></b><br>Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items;<br>a. South East Leisure Board; and<br>b. Upcoming closure of link road as part of the level crossing removal project.  | <b><i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 2 March 2026</i></b>     |



## Apologies

5. Councillor Jim Memeti, Councillor Rhonda Garad, Councillor Lana Formoso, Councillor Isabella Do, Councillor Alice Phuong Le and Councillor Sean O'Reilly submitted apologies for the Councillor Briefing Session on 9 February 2026.
6. Councillor Rhonda Garad, Councillor Alice Phuong Le, Councillor Isabella Do, Councillor Lana Formoso and Councillor Loi Truong submitted apologies for the Pre-Council Meeting on 16 February 2026.
7. Councillor Jim Memeti, Councillor Lana Formoso, Councillor Alice Phuong Le and Councillor Isabella Do submitted apologies for the Councillor Briefing Session on 23 February 2026.
8. Councillor Isabella Do, Councillor Alice Phuong Le submitted apologies and Councillor Lana Formoso did not attend the Councillor Briefing Session on 2 March 2026.

## Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

### **MINUTE No.324**

**Moved by: Cr Phillip Danh**

**Seconded by: Cr Jim Memeti**

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

**CARRIED 9 / 0**



## 4.2.11 List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors

**Responsible Officer:** Manager Governance, Integrity, Legal & Risk  
**Attachments:** 1. List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors [4.2.11.1 - 2 pages]

### Officer Recommendation

**That the listed items for the period 2 February 2026 to 27 February 2026 provided in Attachment 1 to this report be received and noted.**

### Executive Summary

1. Consistent with Council resolutions regarding registered incoming correspondence addressed to the Mayor and Councillors, Attachment 1 to this report provides a list of this correspondence for the period 2 February 2026 to 27 February 2026.

#### **MINUTE No.325**

**Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti**

**Seconded by: Cr Loi Truong**

**That the listed items for the period 2 February 2026 to 27 February 2026 provided in Attachment 1 to this report be received and noted.**

**CARRIED 9 / 0**



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

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**Cr Isabella Do returned to the Chamer at 8.13pm.**

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### **Comment**

#### **Cr Alice Phuong Le**

On Sunday 15 March 2026, I attended the last night of the Ramadan Night Market in Dandenong. There was a large attendance and the event was successful demonstrating the community's ongoing support for cultural activities and the potential to grow further in future years.

### **Comment**

#### **Cr Rhonda Garad**

I would like to acknowledge the Taha community as valued and longstanding members of the City of Greater Dandenong. Many members are deeply distressed following recent political targeting and the withdrawal of significant community funding.

The Taha community has been mourning the passing of our spiritual leader in accordance with our long-standing religious customs. I emphasised that freedom of religion is protected under the Australian Constitution and that no group should be told whom they may or may not mourn.

The Taha community is valued within Greater Dandenong, we stand with you, we are firmly against Islamophobia and religious discrimination.

### **Question**

#### **Cr Rhonda Garad**

The long-standing toxic waste facility within our municipality. I note that Council has advocated for many years for the closure of the facility, which has absorbed Victoria's toxic waste for over three decades.

The current dispute relates to a 35 per cent cap on toxic waste capacity across the site. While the Environmental Protection Authority considers this limit to have been reached, the site operator is challenging the methodology and seeking to expand operations, including into Section 21 of the site.

Does Council remain firmly opposed to any expansion and will we continue to advocate for strict adherence to the 35 per cent limit?

### **Response**

#### **Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures**

I can confirm that Council remains firmly opposed to any expansion of the site and continues to advocate for its closure.

The site operator is currently challenging the interpretation of the capacity limit through an Environmental Protection Authority process. Council has gathered information and will brief councillors in two weeks time with further details.



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### **Question**

#### **Cr Rhonda Garad**

Has the State Government failed to plan for an alternative toxic waste facility elsewhere in Victoria, effectively placing pressure on the community to accept further expansion due to a lack of alternatives?

### **Response**

#### **Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures**

I am unable to comment directly on State Government intentions. I can confirm Council is working through verified information and that a public report on the matter is scheduled for April.

### **Question**

#### **Cr Sean O'Reilly**

I would like some follow up with the ongoing rubbish dumping by traders in the Springvale Shopping Centre, particularly after business hours.

The issue has been repeatedly raised by residents and community leaders and would like an update on enforcement and the timeline for potential solutions.

### **Response**

#### **Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures**

Council has been focusing on educating traders' waste obligations. As the issue has persisted, Council has moved into increased surveillance and evidence gathering.

Once responsible traders are identified, enforcement action will follow. Further updates will be provided once evidence is finalised.

### **Comment**

#### **Cr Melinda Yim**

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

On Thursday 19 February 2026, I attended the opening of the Ramadan Night Market in Dandenong, there was strong community participation and it was a vibrant atmosphere.

On Sunday 22 February 2026, I attended the cricket grand final between Melbourne Blues SC and Lions SC hosted by the Southern Cricket Association at Edinburgh Reserve in Springvale.

On Sunday 8 March 2026, I celebrated the first International Women's Day with the Cambodian women's Group with Mayor Sophie Tan. It was such an exciting and special time coming together with many aunties and sisters attending and enjoyed lunch, each other's company and traditional Cambodian dance.

### **Comment**

#### **Cr Phillip Danh, Deputy Mayor**

I would like to address the earlier comments relating to international conflicts, stating that Council's role is to focus on local community outcomes.

There is a variety of views within the community and emphasised that public funding carries responsibilities and expectations. Any group receiving funding must act in line with community standards, regardless of background.



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I would like to highlight some cultural celebrations held across the city in recent weeks, particularly the Ramadan Night Market, it has become one of the city's largest and most successful events. Thank you to the Bright Community Organisation and Council staff for their extensive behind-the-scenes work, noting that such events foster multicultural understanding and shared community pride.

### **Comment**

#### **Cr Jim Memeti**

I was honoured to attend the opening of the Ramadan Night Market on Thursday 19 February 2026. There were approximately 700,000 people that attended across 15 nights, injecting an estimated \$30 million into the local economy. I am pleased to report the event was safe, well managed and supported by Victoria Police and Council staff, with no arrests recorded.

We were fortunate to have the Prime Minister of Australia and the Premier of Victoria attend, which brought national attention to Greater Dandenong. The success of this event has significantly enhanced the city's reputation and may require consideration of larger or alternative locations in future years due to growth.

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#### **Cr Jim Memeti presented a cultural artefact the “Goddess on the Throne” to Mayor Sophie Tan to be displayed in the Mayor’s office.**

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These Albanian language books will also be donated to Council libraries.

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#### **Cr Bob Milkovic left the Meeting at 8.36pm.**

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### **Question**

#### **Cr Jim Memeti**

There has been community concerns regarding the opening of a massage parlour near Hemmings Street, Dandenong close to a school and local businesses, what action can be taken by Council?

### **Response**

#### **Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures**

There were changes to State legislation in 2022 limiting Council's ability to restrict such businesses through planning controls. These businesses are treated similarly to other commercial uses.

Council can advocate to State Government and local Members of Parliament for stronger regulations.

### **Further response**

#### **Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer**

I would like to note that sector wide concerns had been raised when the legislation changed and that Council would raise the issue through the Municipal Association of Victoria, as well as reach out to other Councils.



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**Comment****Cr Loi Truong**

Since the last Council Meeting I attended a community clean-up day at Athol Road Shopping Centre in Springvale South with Meng Heang Tak MP. This was conducted by residents and traders. Thank you to everyone who participated and for their efforts on improving cleanliness and community pride in the area.

**Comment****Cr Isabella Do**

Thank you to my fellow councillors, Council executives, staff, and residents for your support during my recent period of leave. I am looking forward to resuming my duties and reconnecting with the community.

**Comment****Cr Sophie Tan, Mayor**

I have attended these events since the last Council Meeting:

On Tuesday 17 February 2026, I attended Teo Chew Chinese Association Lunar New Year.

On Thursday 19 February 2026, I was honoured to attend the Official Opening of the Ramadan Night Markets hosted by the Bright Organisation.

On Friday 20 February 2026, I attended Chandler Park Primary School Assembly to present leadership awards.

On Sunday 22 February 2026, I attended Maha Shivaratri celebration hosted by the Kashmir Pandit Cultural Association. Later that evening, I attended Chinese New Year Community Gala hosted by Mr Anson Hong and the National Council of Australian Federal Chinese Associations from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

On Wednesday 25 February 2026, I attended Future Victorian Summit lunch hosted by VECCL and the Herald Sun (sitting with Damian Mannix/GSEM). Later that evening, I attended two Citizenship Ceremonies, welcoming and celebrating many new Australian Citizens.

On Thursday 26 February 2026, I attended Vietnamese Australian Senior Association of Victoria AGM.

On Friday 27 February 2026, I attended Lunar New Year celebration hosted by the Australian Vietnamese Women's Association.

On Saturday 28 February 2026, I attended the Ramadan Night Markets with the Victorian Premier Jacinta Allen, Hon Gabrielle Williams, State Member for Dandenong, and Lee Tarlamis OAM, State Member for the South-Eastern Metropolitan Region.

On Sunday 1 March 2026, I participated in Clean Up Australia Day with the Cambodian Association of Victoria in Springvale; in Noble Park North Ward; and at Greaves Reserve, Dandenong with volunteers from SEWA.



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On Wednesday 4 March 2026 and Thursday, 5 March 2026, I travelled to Canberra to attend the GSEM (Greater South East Melbourne) delegation to meet with Federal Ministers and Members of Parliament. A report on my attendance at this delegation is available upon request.

On Thursday 5 March 2026, I was a part of the Greater Dandenong City Council Audit and Risk Committee Meeting.

On Friday 6 March 2026, I attended the International Women's Day breakfast hosted by Killester College.

On Saturday 7 March 2026, I attended the Community BBQ hosted by Julian Hill MP at Lois Twohig Reserve in Dandenong North.

On Sunday 8 March 2026, I was honoured to attend International Women's Day event hosted by the Cambodian Association of Victoria. Later that evening, I attended Ifar Dinner and International Women's Day celebration hosted by the Victorian Afghan Associations Network (VAAN).

On Wednesday 11 March 2026, I attended 'The Future is Local' MAV State Election Campaign Launch.

On Thursday 12 March 2026, I attended International Women's Day celebration hosted by South East Business Networks (SEBN). Later that evening I attended the Ramadan Night Markets with Tim Richardson, State Member for Mordialloc, and Belinda Wilson, State Member for Narre Warren North.

On Friday 13 March 2026, I attended the Ramadan Night Markets with Mr Shri Anish Rajan, the Consul General of India in Melbourne.

I acknowledge the value of regional collaboration with other councils and note key advocacy priorities discussed with Members of Parliament, including housing, manufacturing, and climate change.

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

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## 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   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--|---------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| 16/02/26<br>CQT1        | Cr Bob Milkovic   | <p><b>Signage Request for Tirhatuan Park, Dandenong North</b></p> <p>Could we look at installing signage in Tirhatuan Park, Dandenong North, to discourage people from disposing of hot coals on the grass or into stormwater drains?</p> <p>This would help educate visitors about the associated fire risks and environmental harm</p> | Executive Director City Futures | 27/02/2026         | <p><b>Initial response 16/02/2026:</b><br/>This question will be taken on notice.</p> <p><b>Further response 27/02/2026:</b><br/>The dumping of hot coals within the park constitutes littering and may also breach Council's Local Laws relating to prohibited activities in public reserves. Based on current information, this appears to be an isolated incident. Our Parks and Local Laws team will investigate and determine the appropriate course of action. This may include monitoring, site inspections, engagement with nearby businesses or individuals, or surveillance if repeat offending is identified. Education and compliance measures are generally more effective than permanent signage in addressing this type of behaviour. Residents witnessing this type of behaviour are also encouraged to report the issue immediately by contacting Councils Customer Service Call Centre or reporting via Snap Send Solve.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>COMPLETED</b></p> |



|                  |                  |   |   |            |  |
|------------------|------------------|---|---|------------|--|
| 16/02/26<br>CQT2 | Cr Sophie<br>Tan | <b>Anti-Social Behaviour Causing<br/>Community Safety Issue</b><br>There have been repeated incidents of<br>individuals behaving inappropriately<br>around Clow Street, opposite the<br>Market and near KFC. Students walking<br>home have reported feeling unsafe.<br><br>Could this matter please be<br>investigated? | Executive<br>Director<br>Community<br>Strengthening | 27/02/2026 | <b>Initial response 16/02/2026:</b><br>This question will be taken on notice.<br><br><b>Further response 27/02/2026:</b><br>We appreciate you raising these matters,<br>particularly the issues relating to offensive<br>behaviour towards motorists and the impact this<br>is having on young women and community<br>perceptions of safety.<br><br>Council acknowledges that this behaviour can<br>create uncomfortable and potentially unsafe<br>situations for motorists and pedestrians, and we<br>understand the frustration and worry this causes<br>for residents, families, and local businesses.<br><br>I would like to assure you that Council has<br>raised this issue with Victoria Police. Police have<br>advised us that they are currently assessing the<br>situation and planning a coordinated,<br>multi-stakeholder response to take place in the<br>coming weeks.<br><br>In addition to working closely with Police,<br>Council will continue monitoring the affected<br>locations and engaging with outreach services to<br>connect vulnerable individuals with support<br>where possible. Addressing the immediate<br>safety risks, while also considering the<br>underlying social factors, remains a priority.<br><br>Thank you again for bringing your concerns to<br>our attention.<br><br><b>COMPLETED</b> |
|------------------|------------------|---|---|------------|--|



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| 16/02/26<br>CQT3 | Cr Sophie<br>Tan | <p><b>King George Parade Traffic Issues</b><br/>There are ongoing traffic issues in King George Parade, Dandenong. Because cars park on both sides of this narrow street, drivers struggle to travel through safely and residents have limited parking availability.</p> <p>Could we explore narrowing the nature strips and widening the road to improve parking capacity and vehicle access?</p> | Executive<br>Director City<br>Futures | 25/02/2026 | <p><b>Initial response 16/02/2026:</b><br/>This question will be taken on notice.</p> <p><b>Further response 25/02/2026:</b><br/>Due to the location of utilities and services, there is no ability to remove nature strip area on King George Parade.</p> <p>There are currently parking restrictions on the eastern side of King George Parade between Princes Highway and Queen Street, which provides sufficient space for two cars to pass at low speed in this area and reduce the likelihood of any congestion affecting nearby streets.</p> <p>Council officers can certainly consider further restrictions, either extension of existing restrictions or timed parking restrictions, to address matters if safety issues are present. Any concerned residents are encouraged to contact our traffic engineers via <a href="mailto:RoadSafety@cqd.vic.gov.au">RoadSafety@cqd.vic.gov.au</a>.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>COMPLETED</b></p> |
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| 16/02/26<br>CQT4 | Cr Sophie<br>Tan | <b>Illegal Dumping of Rubbish</b><br>There has been ongoing illegal dumping of rubbish along McPherson Street and Power Street, can this be investigated? | Executive<br>Director City<br>Futures | 25/02/2026 | <p><b>Initial response 16/02/2026:</b><br/>This question will be taken on notice.</p> <p><b>Further response 25/02/2026:</b><br/>Thank you for your question regarding ongoing illegal dumping along McPherson Street and Power Street, Dandenong.</p> <p>While these locations are not part of our regular 'Hot Spots' run, our <a href="#">Cleansing</a> team have reviewed recent activity and can confirm that since 1 July 2025 we have received 10 dumped rubbish customer requests for McPherson Street and 26 customer requests for Power Street.</p> <p>Our 'Hot Spots' collection crews attend these sites whenever dumped rubbish is reported, and all reports are programmed to be collected within 10 business days.</p> <p>The Waste &amp; Cleansing teams are diligent in investigating dumped rubbish reports when they come through. Where any identifying evidence is found, the matter is referred to Council's Local Laws team for further investigation and enforcement action.</p> <p>We will continue to monitor these locations and may look to do additional waste education and/or letter drops in these streets. We encourage resident to report through Snap Send Solve or via customer service centres.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>COMPLETED</b></p> |
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## 6 URGENT BUSINESS

No business may be admitted as urgent business unless it:

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



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## 7 CLOSE OF BUSINESS

The Meeting closed at 8.44pm.

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Signature