



The image shows the Dandenong Civic Centre, a grand white stone building with a prominent clock tower. The tower has two clock faces and is topped with a decorative iron structure. An Australian flag flies from a tall pole on the roof. In the foreground, three flags are displayed on poles: the Greater Dandenong Council flag, the Australian Aboriginal flag, and the Australian national flag. The sky is blue with light clouds, and a tree is visible on the left side.

# Minutes

## Council Meeting

Monday 20 April 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](#)

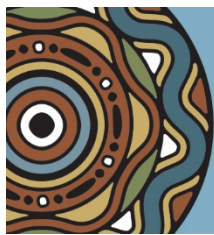
[Cr Lana Formoso](#)

[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)



TTY: 133 677

Speak and listen: 1300 555 727

Online: [relayservice.gov.au](http://relayservice.gov.au)



TIS: 13 14 50



Acknowledging  
Bunurong Country

Follow us:





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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 Loi Truong.

#### **Councillors Present**

Cr Sophie Tan, Mayor (Chair)

Cr Phillip Danh, Deputy Mayor

Cr Jim Memeti, Cr Isabella Do (remote attendance), Cr Lana Formoso, Cr Rhonda Garad,  
Cr Alice Phuong Le, Cr Bob Milkovic, Cr Sean O'Reilly, 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, Governance Advisor; Marjan Hajjari, Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services; Mark Burke, 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 Very Rev. Protopresbyter Aleksandar Savic, Dean, a member of the Orthodox Christian faith, read the following:

*" O God who established the Universe, the Creator of everything visible and invisible, and Who gives life to everything that exists, be with us tonight, and help these good people, councillors of the City of Dandenong, do their work to the benefit of all the peoples that live in it. Help them, O God, those whom the people of this city have chosen to administer the wealth and affairs of the city, to have always the interest of the city at their hearts. Open their spiritual eyes to be in a position to uphold basic human values and human dignity, which is best done when You are present in their lives and in their work. Help them, God, walk in an upright position, as those who can, at any time, justify that which they are doing, and to understand the words of a wise man who says: "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholds him with His hand" (Psalm 37, verse 24). And in particular, O good God, help them conclude the business of this evening to their satisfaction, and for the benefit of all of us, in an orderly way, and keep them now and in the future in oneness of mind. And, O Lord, uphold them with Your right hand. Amen."*

#### **MINUTE No.326**

**Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad**

**Seconded by: Cr Jim Memeti**

**That Council suspend the standing order of business to move Item 5.2 "Notice of Motion No. 19 - Solidarity with Lebanese Residents" to Item 1.5.1**

**CARRIED 7 / 2**

**For - Cr Phillip Danh, Cr Lana Formoso, Cr Rhonda Garad, Cr Alice Phuong Le, Cr Jim Memeti, Cr Sophie Tan and Cr Melinda Yim**

**Abstained - Cr Bob Milkovic and Cr Sean O'Reilly**



## 1.5 NOTICES OF MOTION - PART 1

### 1.5.1 Notice of Motion No. 19 - Solidarity with Lebanese Residents

**Responsible Officer:** Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services  
**Author:** Cr Rhonda Garad

#### Background

1. Lebanese migration to Australia dates back to the late 1800s, with early settlers establishing small businesses and communities in cities including Melbourne.
2. The community grew significantly after World War II and, most notably, during the Lebanese Civil War from 1975 to 1990, when more than 30,000 Lebanese refugees arrived in Australia.
3. Today, around 250,000 Australians claim Lebanese ancestry, with a strong presence in Victoria.
4. Over generations, the Lebanese community has made a significant contribution to Australia's social, cultural and economic life, and remains an integral part of the diverse fabric of communities such as Greater Dandenong.

#### Context

5. Council notes that while conflict inflicted on Lebanon is longstanding, the recent invasion of Lebanon by Israel in 2026 represents a grave and unacceptable escalation.
6. This has been characterised by sustained, high-intensity bombardment, including reported waves of up to 100 airstrikes within minutes and mass-casualty events in which hundreds of civilians have been killed within 24 hours.
7. Civilian harm has been extensive and disproportionate, with women, children and non-combatants forming a significant proportion of those killed, alongside ambulance workers and civil defence personnel killed while undertaking rescue operations.
8. Entire towns and villages in southern Lebanon, including Al-Khiyam, have been devastated within weeks, with residential areas destroyed and rendered uninhabitable.
9. Critical civilian infrastructure—including bridges over the Litani River, major roads, hospitals, schools, and water and electricity systems—has been repeatedly targeted and destroyed, severely restricting access to medical care, humanitarian aid and basic services.
10. The scale and pattern of destruction has driven mass displacement, with large numbers of civilians unable to return due to the loss of homes, ongoing bombardment and the expansion of military operations and control extending to the Litani River.
11. Council further notes that the scale of civilian harm, the destruction of essential infrastructure, and the killing of medical and emergency personnel raise serious concerns of breaches of international humanitarian law, including the principles of distinction and proportionality.
12. These actions have created a deepening humanitarian crisis in which recovery and reconstruction are not currently possible.



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## Motion

### That Council:

1. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the profound distress experienced by residents of Lebanese heritage within the City of Greater Dandenong, many of whom have deep personal, cultural and familial ties to Lebanon;
2. **RECOGNISES** the long history and significant contribution of the Lebanese community to Australia and to Greater Dandenong, including migration during the Lebanese Civil War, which saw around 30,000 Lebanese people seek refuge in Australia, and the growth of a vibrant community now numbering close to 250,000 Australians of Lebanese ancestry;
3. **NOTES** the strong presence of Lebanese culture within Greater Dandenong, reflected in local small businesses, community institutions, places of worship, and cultural events, and the role this community plays across sectors including business, arts, public service and civic life;
4. **EXPRESSES** its solidarity with Lebanese residents during this period of grief and uncertainty, and affirms Council's commitment to inclusion, respect and the wellbeing of all community members;
5. **CALLS** on the Australian Government to publicly advocate for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, the protection of civilians, and full compliance with international humanitarian law, including the protection of medical personnel, civilian infrastructure and humanitarian access;
6. **CALLS** on the Australian Government to work through the United Nations and with international partners to support urgent de-escalation, accountability for violations of international law, and a pathway to a just and lasting peace;
7. **CALLS** on the Australian Government to increase humanitarian assistance to civilians affected by the conflict in Lebanon; and
8. **REQUESTS** that Council continue to support community cohesion initiatives and provide culturally appropriate support services for affected residents during this period.



---

## **MOTION**

**Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad**

**Seconded by: Cr Jim Memeti**

**That Council:**

- 1. ACKNOWLEDGES** the profound distress experienced by residents of Lebanese heritage within the City of Greater Dandenong, many of whom have deep personal, cultural and familial ties to Lebanon;
- 2. RECOGNISES** the long history and significant contribution of the Lebanese community to Australia and to Greater Dandenong, including migration during the Lebanese Civil War, which saw around 30,000 Lebanese people seek refuge in Australia, and the growth of a vibrant community now numbering close to 250,000 Australians of Lebanese ancestry;
- 3. NOTES** the strong presence of Lebanese culture within Greater Dandenong, reflected in local small businesses, community institutions, places of worship, and cultural events, and the role this community plays across sectors including business, arts, public service and civic life;
- 4. EXPRESSES** its solidarity with Lebanese residents during this period of grief and uncertainty, and affirms Council's commitment to inclusion, respect and the wellbeing of all community members;
- 5. CALLS** on the Australian Government to publicly advocate for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, the protection of civilians, and full compliance with international humanitarian law, including the protection of medical personnel, civilian infrastructure and humanitarian access;
- 6. CALLS** on the Australian Government to work through the United Nations and with international partners to support urgent de-escalation, accountability for violations of international law, and a pathway to a just and lasting peace;
- 7. CALLS** on the Australian Government to increase humanitarian assistance to civilians affected by the conflict in Lebanon; and
- 8. REQUESTS** that Council continue to support community cohesion initiatives and provide culturally appropriate support services for affected residents during this period.

**TIED 5 / 5**

**For - Cr Phillip Danh, Cr Isabella Do, Cr Rhonda Garad, Cr Jim Memeti and Cr Melinda Yim**

**Against - Cr Lana Formoso, Cr Alice Phuong Le and Cr Sean O'Reilly**

**Abstained - Cr Bob Milkovic and Cr Sophie Tan**

**THE MAYOR EXERCISED HER CASTING VOTE AGAINST THE MOTION**

**LOST 5 / 6**



## MOTION

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

### Preamble

1. Greater Dandenong is one of Australia's most multicultural municipalities, with residents from many backgrounds, faiths and communities, including people with family, cultural and humanitarian ties to Lebanon, Palestine, Israel and other parts of the Middle East.
2. Council notes that the ongoing war in the Middle East has caused grave civilian suffering, displacement and damage to essential infrastructure, with consequences felt not only overseas but also within local communities across Australia.
3. Council further notes that international conflicts can have a profound local impact on community wellbeing, social cohesion and residents' sense of safety and belonging.

### Motion

That Council:

1. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the deep distress, grief and anxiety being experienced by many residents of the City of Greater Dandenong as a result of the ongoing war in the Middle East, including residents with family, cultural, faith and community ties to Lebanon, Palestine, Israel and other affected communities;
2. **RECOGNISES** that Greater Dandenong is one of Australia's most multicultural municipalities and that international conflicts can have a profound local impact on community wellbeing, social cohesion and residents' sense of safety and belonging;
3. **EXPRESSES** its sorrow for the loss of civilian life and suffering caused by the war and **AFFIRMS** the equal dignity and humanity of all civilians affected;
4. **REAFFIRMS** Council's commitment to inclusion, respect, social cohesion and the safety and wellbeing of all residents, and **REJECTS** antisemitism, Islamophobia, anti Arab racism and all forms of hatred or vilification;
5. **NOTES** recent statements by the Australian Government supporting a ceasefire, the protection of civilians and humanitarian access;
6. **SUPPORTS** continued diplomatic efforts toward ceasefire, humanitarian access and a just and lasting peace; and
7. **REQUESTS** that Council continue to support community cohesion initiatives and ensure culturally appropriate support and referral pathways are available for residents affected by the conflict.

## MOTION (OF DISSENT)

Moved by: Cr Bob Milkovic

Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad

That Council dissent from the Chairs Ruling to allow Cr O'Reilly's Motion to proceed.

The Mayor vacated the Chair at 7.52pm and Deputy Mayor Cr Phillip Danh assumed the chair.



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**The Meeting adjourned at 7.54pm and resumed at 8.02pm.**

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**Cr Melinda Yim returned to the Chambers at 8.03pm.**

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**MOTION (OF DISSENT)**

**In accordance with 4.11.2 of the Governance Rules the Deputy Mayor put the Motion as follows “That the Chairs ruling be upheld”.**

**LOST 3 / 7**

**For - Cr Alice Phuong Le, Cr Sean O'Reilly and Cr Sophie Tan**

**Against - Cr Isabella Do, Cr Lana Formoso, Cr Rhonda Garad, Cr Jim Memeti,  
Cr Bob Milkovic and Cr Melinda Yim**

**Abstained – Cr Phillip Danh**

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**The Deputy Mayor vacated the Chair at 8.03pm and the Mayor assumed the chair.**

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## **Mayor Cr Sophie Tan read out the below speech to acknowledge the passing of Aunty Elaine Taylor**

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We note that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags were flown at half mast over the past couple of weeks, following the passing of Aunty Elaine Taylor.

Aunty Elaine was a Wemba-Wemba/Bunurong woman, who will be sadly missed by her family, our local Aboriginal community, and our wider Greater Dandenong community and across the southeast.

Aunty had a large family of her own, and also fostered more than 40 children.

Aunty Elaine's outstanding commitment and generosity is well-known. People coming to Melbourne know that if they go to Aunty Elaine's home they would be taken in for a night or two. Her home is known as Peppermint Lodge.

Her family has lived in Doveton or the southeast since 1960. Her parents were founding members of an early association that became a key Aboriginal Coop. Aunty Elaine was there, and followed their example, as a member or leader in many Cooperatives, organisations and community groups which have served our community for decades.

Aunty Elaine has spent much of her working life supporting children and families who were interacting with Victorian Government authorities and child protection agencies, and her advocacy has informed legislative and policy change.

Aunty Elaine also worked across the housing, justice, and education sectors advocating for community. She was a Cultural Member and representative of the Koori Court at Dandenong Magistrates' Court, for both adults and children. She was also on the Melbourne Koori Court and Melbourne Children's Court.

She was also honoured this year by a public art mural of her and her granddaughter on a wall near the First Peoples' Health and Wellbeing medical centre in Frankston.

Aunty Elaine was a powerful mentor and Elder for young Aboriginal staff, emerging community leaders, and next generations. Her legacy is also advanced through her children and grandchildren, who have followed her example and also work for Aboriginal community-controlled organisations.

Most recently Aunty Elaine was a member of council's RAP reference group and pivotal in the development of our new RAP Plan.

She will be deeply missed by many. It is my honour to recognise her life and her service to her community this evening.



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## 1.6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Meeting of Council held 16 March 2026.

### Recommendation

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

#### MINUTE No.327

**Moved by: Cr Phillip Danh**

**Seconded by: Cr Jim Memeti**

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

**CARRIED 10 / 0**

## 1.7 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cr Sophie Tan disclosed a Material Conflict of Interest (s 128) item 3 Public Question Time as she is an employee of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. Cr Sophie Tan left the Chamber prior to discussion of this item.

Cr Jim Memeti disclosed a material conflict of interest (s 128) in item 4.2.4 Dandenong Market Pty Ltd (DMPL) Chairperson and Director Appointment and item 7 Urgent Business as he is the Director of a company that has a stall at the Dandenong Market. Cr Jim Memeti left the Chamber prior to discussion and voting on these items.

Cr Alice Phuong Le disclosed a General Conflict of Interest (s 127) in item 5.1 Notice of Motion No. 18 Planning the Future of Cultural Infrastructure at Burden Park as she is a previous board member of SEMVAC. Cr Alice Phuong Le left the Chamber prior to discussion and voting on this item.



## 1.8 ADOPTION OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Audit and Risk Committee held a meeting on 5 March 2026 and Minutes of this meeting, as summarised in the following table, are presented to Council for adoption.

Item	Topic
1.	The Audit and Risk Committee reviewed actions arising from previous meetings.
2.	The Audit and Risk Committee reviewed, discussed and noted the following reports with Council officers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Audit &amp; Risk Committee Self-Assessment</li><li>• Chief Executive Officer's Report</li><li>• Risk Management Update</li><li>• Risk Management Framework &amp; Policy</li><li>• Local Government Performance Reporting Framework 2025-26 - Half Yearly Results</li><li>• Quarterly Financial and Performance Report – Q2 2025-26</li><li>• Internal Audit and Contract Tender Panel</li><li>• Privacy and Data Governance Status Update</li><li>• Core Systems Renewal (CSR)</li><li>• Development of Security Strategy</li><li>• Artificial Intelligence (AI) Update</li><li>• People, Safety &amp; Culture Review Overview</li><li>• Procurement Exemptions</li></ul>
3.	The Audit and Risk Committee reviewed, discussed and noted the following reports with Council officers and the External auditor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) Audit Strategy Memorandum: Financial year ending 30 June 2026</li></ul>
4.	The Audit and Risk Committee reviewed, discussed and noted the following reports with Council officers and the internal auditor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• HLB Mann Judd - Internal Audit Status Report</li><li>• GDCC - Review of Relevance, Veracity &amp; Effectiveness of Outstanding Actions</li><li>• GDCC - Review of Financial Controls</li><li>• GDCC - Review of Fleet Management</li><li>• GDCC - Scope of South East Leisure Cyber Security</li><li>• GDCC - Scope of Dandenong Market Asset Maintenance Management</li><li>• GDCC - Scope of Review of (Internal) Infringements Appeals Process</li><li>• GDCC – South East Leisure Finalisation of Actions from 2025 Child Safety Standards Audit</li><li>• Integrity Body Reports</li></ul>

### Officer Recommendation

**That the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 5 March 2026 be adopted.**



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**MINUTE No.328**

**Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti**

**Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad**

That the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 5 March 2026 be adopted.

**CARRIED 10 / 0**



## 2 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 1

### 2.1 DOCUMENTS FOR SEALING

#### 2.1.1 Documents for Sealing

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

#### Officer Recommendation

**That the listed documents be signed and sealed.**

#### Executive Summary

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

#### Item Summary

2. There is 1 item being presented to Council's meeting of 20 April 2026 for signing and sealing as follows:

##### a) Planning Compliance Officer

An Instrument of Appointment of Authorised Officer under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the *Local Government Act 2020*, the *Environment Protection Act 2017*, the *Infringements Act 2006*, the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*, the *Road Management Act 2004*, the *Road Safety Act 1986*, the *Sex Work Act 1994*, Parts 2 and 3 of the *Subdivisions Act 1988*, the *Summary Offences Act 1966*, the *Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 1998* and the Regulations made under each of those Acts; the Local Laws made under the *Local Government Act 1989* and the *Local Government Act 2020*; and any other Act, Regulation or delegated legislation (including the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme) which relates to the powers of the Council made under the provisions and enactments described. This instrument enables the following Council officer to carry out the statutory responsibilities of the above Acts and is subject to policy and delegations previously adopted by Council:

- Anthony Kevin Ball



**MINUTE No.329**

**Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti**

**Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh**

**That the listed documents be signed and sealed.**

**CARRIED 10 / 0**



## 2.2 PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

### 2.2.1 Petitions and Joint Letters

**Responsible Officer:** Manager Governance, Legal & Risk  
**Attachments:** 1. Petitions & Joint Letters [2.2.1.1 - 1 page]

#### Officer Recommendation

**That this report and its attachment be received and noted.**

#### Executive Summary

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

#### Petitions and Joint Letters Tabled

4. Council received three (3) new joint letters prior to the Council Meeting of 20 April 2026 as follows:
  - 111 proponents are raising concerns regarding new ticket machine for parking out the front of their shop in Langhorne Street, Dandenong. This joint letter has been referred to the relevant Council Business Unit/s for consideration.
  - 13 proponents are raising concerns regarding ongoing noise nuisance from a vehicle at a property on Stud Road, Dandenong. This joint letter has been referred to the relevant Council Business Unit/s for consideration.
  - 140 proponents request Council retain the squash court facilities at Dandenong Oasis. This joint letter has been referred to the relevant Council Business Unit/s for consideration.

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



**Cr Jim Memeti left the Chambers at 8.16pm.**

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**MINUTE No.330**

**Moved by: Cr Bob Milkovic**

**Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh**

**That this report and its attachment be received and noted.**

**CARRIED 9 / 0**

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**Cr Jim Memeti returned to the Chambers at 8.20pm.**



## 2.3 STATUTORY PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### 2.3.1 Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – March 2026

**Responsible Officer:** Executive Director City Futures

**Attachments:** 1. Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – March 2026.pdf  
[2.3.1.1 - 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 March 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.331**

**Moved by: Cr Bob Milkovic**

**Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh**

**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

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*The questions submitted for consideration at this meeting may contain opinions, assertions, or views expressed by the individuals who have submitted them. Council wishes to make clear that the tabling of these questions does not constitute an endorsement, adoption, or expression of support by Council for any opinion or view contained within them.*

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#### **Question**

##### **Binay Prasad, Noble Park**

Why does council not have an out of hours animal ranger service?

On Saturday 14 March I was at the skate park at John Hemmings Memorial Park, Dandenong with my 8 year old son. A man walked past with two large dogs which looked like American pit bulls. The dogs were not on a lead and were running around. The man came and sat at some seating near the skate park and his dogs were running around and looked quite aggressive. My son was really scared of the dogs. I was also scared given that American pit bulls can be dangerous to young children. We eventually decided to leave the skate park which was disappointing as my son was previously enjoying himself there.

I later rang the Council's after-hours service and was told that, as the dogs had not attacked anyone, I would have to call the ranger during business hours. This is not acceptable. I needed a ranger to attend the park then to tell this man he needed to put his dogs on a lead or move away from a children's play area.

What is the point of having laws prohibiting off lead dogs near a children's play area if Council will not enforce the laws?

#### **Response**

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

Council understands and acknowledges the concern raised regarding dogs off-lead near a children's play area, and the distress this situation caused to the resident and their child. Council does have animal management enforcement available on weekends during business hours.

For these types of situations, it is important that reports are made by phone, at the time the issue is occurring. When a report is received while the incident is underway, rangers can attend as soon as practicable to assess the situation, speak with the dog owner, and take enforcement action where appropriate. If a report is made some time after the incident, there is a risk that the individual and the dogs may no longer be present, limiting the ability for immediate enforcement.

Where Council receives reports of dogs off-lead or concerning behaviour, even if attendance is not possible at the time, rangers will always record the information and undertake proactive patrols of the area over subsequent weeks. In some cases, officers may also contact the person who made the report to obtain further information, such as the usual time of day the individual attends the location, to assist with targeted patrols.

Council takes enforcement of leash requirements near playgrounds and children's activity areas seriously, as these laws exist to protect community safety and amenity. Council encourages residents to report any concerns about dogs off-lead or aggressive behaviour as soon as they occur, so officers can respond promptly and take appropriate action to ensure public safety.



## Question

### Leon, Caulfield North

At the Council meeting to be held in May 2026, would the Mayor then confirm or explain the view that because Dandenong Market Pty Ltd (DMPL) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Greater Dandenong City Council, whether or not several state-level and corporate oversight bodies have the authority to investigate allegations of financial misuse or poor management of the Dandenong Market and advise of those bodies.

On Tuesday March 31, it is my understanding that the City of Melbourne Council passed a motion to initiate an independent review of how Queen Victoria Market is managed and governed. I ask the Mayor to advise at the May Council meeting, if funding will be set aside in the 2026-7 Council budget to facilitate a similar independent review of the management and governance of the Dandenong Market.

Through the Chairperson, I request that the following legal view be handed to all Councillors to facilitate a response at the next Council meeting, to the question which follows at the end of the opinion:

*“When a commercial landlord undertakes non-essential improvements or upgrades, they must balance their desire to improve the property with their legal obligations to the tenant trader. The core of these obligations revolves around quiet enjoyment, non-derogation from the grant of the lease, and contractual obligations within the lease itself. Non-essential works do not excuse a landlord from disrupting a business. Generally, a landlord must take all reasonable steps to minimize disruption during renovations. The landlord must not substantially interfere with the tenant's lawful use and enjoyment of the premises. Substantial noise or reduced accessibility can breach this obligation.*

*The landlord cannot act in a way that defeats the purpose for which the lease was granted. For instance, if a landlord's improvement work makes the shop unusable for its intended purpose, it is a breach. Landlords are typically required to take reasonable steps to minimize disruption to the tenant's business during construction works. Landlords should notify tenants in advance of works that may affect the business. In many jurisdictions a landlord is liable to pay reasonable compensation if they interrupt a tenant's business without reasonable cause. If a part of the premises becomes unusable due to the works, the tenant may be entitled to a reduction in rent. Tenants can claim compensation for lost profits if they can prove the works caused the business loss.”*

At the Council meeting to be held in May 2026, would the Mayor convey to the Council, the public and the market traders, of how the legal requirements inherent in the advice above, will be complied with.



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## Response

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

Dandenong Market Proprietary Limited (DMPL) operates under the same laws as all companies in Victoria. For complaints or evidence of mismanagement, the appropriate first point of contact is the DMPL Audit Committee or the relevant state agency.

Council is satisfied with the management of its lease and licence commitments by the DMPL and does not propose to include a review of this kind in the 2026–27 budget.

The DMPL Board is solely responsible for managing stallholder relationships, both contractually and commercially. It is therefore not appropriate for Council to comment on behalf of the DMPL regarding this matter. We encourage you to engage directly with DMPL management.

## Question

### **Gaye Guest, Keysborough**

On Thursday walking from Frank St carpark to Dougals St through Bank Lane 18 Douglas St, I was dismayed to see 4 syringes and many prep pad sachets littering the lane way as was rubbish (not on windy day) swirling in the air and on the ground around the lane as it is a wind tunnel even on the calmest days. There are 3 bins in the lane at the Douglas St entrance to the lane one doesn't have a lid. Who put these bins there and who monitors them, so they are emptied?

## Response

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

Thank you for bringing your concerns to Council's attention. A Cleansing Officer attended the site on Saturday and removed the syringes and litter from the laneway. The bins are not a Council asset and are believed to belong to one of the adjacent businesses. We will follow this up during the coming week. Should you wish to report any further issues requiring attention, please contact Council's Customer Service team on 8571 1000 or use the Snap Send Solve app.

## Question

### **Gaye Guest, Keysborough**

When I raised concerns about drug use and public safety with Council, I was advised that the installation of fencing by St Columba's had previously helped reduce the number of syringes found in their car park and grounds at times, a yellow syringe container would be filled in a single day, whereas now they might find one or two per week.

Years ago, drug action focus groups were established because drug use was widespread in the area. It appears that such approaches may need to be revisited.

What is being done to address this problem? The ripple effect appears to be that as drug users are moved from one location, they quickly relocate to another.

The greatest disappointment is that ward Councillors do not appear to be focusing on real local issues. Instead, they seem more interested in public visibility and social engagements, rather than engaging directly with residents about their concerns or physically visiting their wards to see what is happening.

With the construction of apartment towers in our suburbs, these antisocial issues are only likely to increase due to the nature of the residents and visitors they may attract.

How will this problem be managed and addressed on an ongoing basis?



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## **Response**

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

We acknowledge the community's concern about drug use and its impact on safety, wellbeing, and the amenity of public spaces.

Council takes a coordinated, multi-agency approach through the Local Drug Action Team, working with community organisations, health services, Victoria Police, and other stakeholders to deliver local projects and practical actions that reduce harm and address problem areas.

We also work with Victoria Police through the Neighbourhood Policing Team, sharing local issues via a Community Issues Register, which supports monitoring and targeted patrols where needed. Council participates in the Community Safety Partnership, which brings together senior representatives from relevant agencies to share intelligence, identify risks, and coordinate action to minimise antisocial behaviour and reduce harm.

I acknowledge that this is a complex problem and not one that is likely to be resolved through operational measures alone. Council's cleansing team monitors hotspots and responds to reports of discarded injecting equipment. Syringe disposal units are checked regularly, and unsafe waste is collected in line with public health and safety procedures.

In relation to the second question, Council is currently developing a Community Safety Strategy informed by community consultation undertaken over recent years, including surveys, community safety forums with Victoria Police and other stakeholders, and significant data gathered across the municipality. The strategy will take a place-based approach focused on prevention, early intervention, and coordinated local action.

## **Question**

### **Terry Wilkinson, Keysborough**

How can Council leverage the existing squash courts to both achieve its physical activity goals and avoid the proposed \$2 million demolition cost?

Given that older men are at higher risk of social isolation, how does removing a long-standing community hub align with Council's commitment to health, wellbeing and inclusion?

What opportunities exist for Council to retain and enhance the squash courts as a cost-effective way to support participation, social connection, and community health after the seemingly reckless decision to not include just 3x new squash courts in the massive \$122 million dollar wellbeing centre that promotes getting "more people more active more often"?

## **Response**

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

Over a number of years, Council has carefully considered options for the future of the Dandenong Oasis site, including the potential retention of the squash courts. However, Dandenong Oasis is at the end of its operational life, which is the primary reason for the construction of the new Dandenong Wellbeing Centre. Retaining this site in any form will have capital and ongoing implications.



Isolating the squash courts from closed portions of the facility, including the pools, plant rooms and other services, and modifying building systems such as air handling to suit a changed and reduced use, would exceed the demolition costs, not to mention the ongoing operational and maintenance costs, which are not budgeted for. Therefore, such a decision would be subject to an alternate decision of Council.

Council remains strongly committed to health, wellbeing and social inclusion, including for groups at higher risk of isolation. These principles underpinned the planning and design of the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre from the outset. Between 2019 and 2021, Council undertook multi-round community engagement process involving more than 2,400 engagements. This included surveys, workshops, targeted outreach and public exhibition, and sought input from regular facility users, sporting and recreation groups, advisory committees, health and education providers, culturally diverse communities and local agencies. Specific efforts were made to engage squash users at Dandenong Oasis through direct invitations, though take-up was limited.

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### **Cr Bob Milkovic left the Chamber at 8.37pm.**

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#### **Question**

##### **Niall, Dandenong**

Does Council acknowledge that with the loss of courts in surrounding areas (Beaconsfield & Cranbourne), Dandenong Oasis has effectively become a key squash venue for the wider region, and if so, why is that role not being maintained in the redevelopment?

Given that Dandenong Oasis is being redeveloped with over \$100 million in public funding, and that the courts are often high in demand in the evening time between 5.30pm to 8.30pm, what specific analysis did Council undertake on participation rates and future demand for squash before deciding to exclude any squash courts from the new facility?

#### **Response**

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

In addition to what I have previously outlined, the decision not to include squash courts in the new centre was not taken lightly. It was informed by industry participation data, utilisation rates, community consultation and the objective of maximising health, wellbeing and inclusion outcomes for the greatest number of residents.

Despite the noted closure of other squash facilities over recent years, squash participation at Dandenong Oasis has continued to consistently decline over the last 4 years, with a current average number of users of 6 per day, with 95% of all squash participation at Dandenong Oasis is from 5:30 – 8:30pm, which the utilisation data reflects this.

Officers have reviewed facilities in the area that offer the same, if not better facilities for squash and other racquet sports, and understand that Monash Clayton have extensive squash facilities, with membership options or casual bookable spaces during the same times. These courts are 15-25 minutes travel from Dandenong Oasis, depending on traffic. Notwithstanding any potential future decision of council regarding these facilities, we would be very happy to help further conversations regarding these surrounding facilities if (and when) helpful.



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**Prior to the next question, Cr Sophie Tan declared a material conflict of interest under Section 128 of the Local Government Act 2020, relating to Agenda Item 3 — Public Question Time — specifically the question concerning Commonwealth Bank. The conflict arose from a business or employment relationship.**

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**Cr Sophie Tan vacated the Chair and left the Chamber at 8.39pm.**

**Cr Phillip Danh assumed the chair at 8.39pm.**

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### **Question**

#### **Afaf Alwal**

Given that Council holds significant term deposits with the Commonwealth Bank, will Council conduct and publish an audit of its banking and investment arrangements to identify any exposure or links to defence or weapons financing?

What due diligence has Council undertaken to assess whether its banking provider finances companies involved in armed conflict?

Will Council commit to adopting an ethical banking and investment policy to ensure funds are not directly linked to human rights abuses?

### **Response**

#### **Mark Burke, Chief Financial Officer**

Council's investment activities are governed by its adopted investment policy, which is prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act (Vic)*. Under that framework, Council is legislatively required to invest surplus funds only in approved, low-risk investment products — such as Authorised Deposit-Taking Institutions (ADIs), government securities, or other Minister-approved investment vehicles. Council does not propose to conduct or publish a separate audit of banking institutions' global financing activities. Council's investments are transparently reported through quarterly investment reports to Council and are subject to external audit scrutiny.

In relation to the last question, Council already has an adopted investment policy that incorporates responsible investment principles and explicitly considers environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors. The policy allows Council to preference ethically aligned investment products, including green and fossil fuel-free options, where available, compliant with legislation, and delivering equivalent financial returns without increasing risk to public funds.

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**Cr Bob Milkovic returned to the Chamber at 8.41pm.**

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**Cr Phillip Danh vacated the Chair at 8.42pm.**

**Cr Sophie Tan returned to the Chamber and resumed the Chair at 8.42pm.**

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### **Question**

#### **Juanita Spinelli, Frankston**

The question requests that the City of Greater Dandenong take immediate action to allocate specific funding to the local Lebanese community and facilitate support services — including crisis support, counselling and wellbeing assistance, financial support, medical support, and referrals to other required services by 18 May 2026 or the next scheduled Council meeting.

Further, the question requests that Council facilitate and support the Lebanese community in holding a public vigil and memorial, in consultation with members of the Lebanese community affected by attacks on Lebanon.

### **Response**

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

I will take this matter on notice this evening. Council will consider the question carefully, speak with the submitter regarding available grants and support mechanisms and work with Council on the request for a public vigil.



## 4 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 2

### 4.1 POLICY AND STRATEGY

#### 4.1.1 Review of Council Policies

<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Executive Director City Futures Manager Governance, Integrity, Legal & Risk Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services
<b>Attachments:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Abolished Policy - Legislative Compliance - 2023 03 - CM April 2026 ( A 6576504) [4.1.1.1 - 17 pages]</li><li>2. Abolished Policy - Community Gardens on Council Owned Public Open Space - 2025 09 - overdue - CM Apr [4.1.1.2 - 12 pages]</li></ol>

#### Officer Recommendation

##### That Council:

1. **ABOLISHES** the following policies attached to this report; and
  - **Legislative Compliance Policy**
  - **Community Gardens on Council Owned Public Open Space Policy**
2. **NOTES** that the policies are superfluous to Council's needs.

#### Executive Summary

1. The policies identified in this report have been reviewed as part of the scheduled policy review program. The review identified that each policy is no longer required as a standalone Council policy and therefore superfluous to Council's needs.
2. Operational frameworks and internal procedures can adequately support the compliance and decision-making requirements contained within each policy.
3. Abolishing the policies will streamline Council's policy framework, reduce administrative burden and appropriate operational oversight can be maintained through current internal documents and systems.

#### Background

4. The **Legislative Compliance Policy** was developed to outline Council's approach to ensuring compliance with relevant legislation. The processes and controls described in the policy are embedded into existing internal governance frameworks, including risk management processes, internal audit activities, and Council's compliance software program Reliansys, which is utilised to ensure Council's obligations to comply with relevant legislation and monitor compliance with internal audit obligations.



5. The **Community Gardens on Council Owned Public Open Space Policy** was adopted in 2021 to guide the establishment and management of community gardens on Council land. Since adoption, the policy has been used infrequently and relates to a low-volume operational matter concerning land use permissions and licensing. These matters can be effectively managed through an internal Operational Framework rather than a formal policy requiring Council approval.
6. Policies that are superfluous to Council's needs require formal abolition by Council. Abolishing such policies reduces unnecessary documentation and streamlines the Council's policy framework. It also assists in reducing administrative workload and increases clarity by ensuring Council's policy suite contains only documents of strategic importance or operational control not provided for in other documents or Council systems.

## Consultation

7. Internal consultation has occurred with the Governance Integrity Legal and Risk, and Parks and Open Space Departments and the Executive Team.
8. No external consultation is required as they policies relate to operation matters.

## Governance Compliance

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

#### *Operating Budget Implications*

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

#### *Asset Implications*

10. This item does not affect any existing assets.

#### *Legal/Risk Implications*

11. The policies are not mandated by legislation and there are no legal / risk implications relevant to this report.
12. Abolishing the policies does not affect Council's compliance obligations. Compliance will continue to be managed through internal processes, risk frameworks and established reporting arrangements.

#### *Environmental Implications*

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

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

14. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:  
Not Applicable
15. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29:  
Not Applicable



## 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:

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

### MINUTE No.332

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council:

1. **ABOLISHES** the following policies attached to this report; and
  - **Legislative Compliance Policy**
  - **Community Gardens on Council Owned Public Open Space Policy**
2. **NOTES** that the policies are superfluous to Council's needs.

**CARRIED 9 / 1**

**For - Cr Phillip Danh, Cr Isabella Do, Cr Lana Formoso, Cr Alice Phuong Le, Cr Jim Memeti, Cr Bob Milkovic, Cr Sean O'Reilly, Cr Sophie Tan and Cr Melinda Yim**

**Abstained - Cr Rhonda Garad**



## 4.1.2 Community Facilities Access and Use Policy

<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Executive Director Community Strengthening
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. Attachment 1 Draft Community Facilities Access and Use Policy [4.1.2.1 - 14 pages] 2. Attachment 2 Final Gender Impact Assessment [4.1.2.2 - 3 pages]

### Officer Recommendation

#### That Council:

1. **APPROVES** the Community Facilities Access and Use Policy, per Attachment 1;
2. **ABOLISHES** the Community Facilities Management Policy 2013; and
3. **ABOLISHES** the Multipurpose Use of Council Community and Civic Facilities Policy 2011.

### Executive Summary

1. This report advises on the outcomes of the community consultation relating to the draft Community Facilities Access and Use Policy and seeks endorsement for related actions, including the abolition of the Community Facilities Management Policy 2013 and the Multipurpose Use of Council Community and Civic Facilities Policy 2011.

### Background

2. Council is committed to improving access to community facilities.
3. Feedback from the community has highlighted several challenges faced when trying to access facilities. The key themes of feedback can be summarised as follows:
  - Difficulty navigating the booking process and understanding the fees and charges.
  - Difficulty applying for financial support, waivers or discounts to support their group.
  - Inability to access some spaces / venues due to being dominated by one or two groups.
  - Lack of understanding of Council's commitment to providing affordable and equitable access for all community space.
  - Inequities between what some groups were receiving from Council compared to other groups, including fees, hours and support.
4. Early in 2023, it was identified internally that Council had multiple service delivery models across community facilities and precincts, and their associated roles were spread across multiple departments and directorates within Council. This was accompanied by a range of policies which while they may link together, are all significantly outdated.
5. In June 2023, Council undertook a review of these various models of delivery, with the aim of developing an (internal) Community Facilities Framework. The framework was to include:
  - A vision for Community Facilities and Hubs.
  - Potential for a new staffing structure that reduced duplication and leveraged opportunities for enhanced service provision.



- Opportunities for improvement to current utilisation, community use, equity across groups and the fees and charges structure.
  - Identification of opportunities to improve the client journey through booking any Council space.
  - Define what community facilities are incorporated into the new framework / policy/s.
  - Utilise existing feedback from the community, while also benchmarking with other Local Government Councils with similar facilities / hubs.
6. In early 2024, the Community Facilities Framework was finalised with 28 recommendations including the delivery of improved staffing structures, policy updates, and highlighted the need for significant improvements to improve the customer journey and the collation of feedback.
7. In October 2024, the recommendation relating to a restructure of the Community Arts, Culture and Library Services Department was implemented. Now well established as the Creative and Engaged Cities department, this restructure included the integration of the Civic and Community Facilities team (which formally sat in Corporate Services) into a single department, enabling service efficiencies, streamlined customer service and integrated service delivery.
8. The draft Community Facilities Access and Use Policy responds to several recommendations in the Community Facilities Framework and will enable Council to more consistently and transparently address the access challenges and concerns faced by the community.
9. The Community Facilities Framework identified the need to combine the Community Facilities Management Policy and Multipurpose Use of Council Community and Civic Facilities Policy and to incorporate:
- A vision and purpose for community facilities.
  - Council's commitment to development and/or operation of community facilities on a multipurpose use basis.
  - Guiding principles to inform access and use.
  - Definition of the various categories of use/hire.
  - Rationale and aim for fees & charges including various rates for the categories of hire.
  - Fee subsidies, waivers and reductions and the relationship to community grants, including in-kind support to ensure equity and accessibility.
  - Strengthened priority of access for categories of hire that builds on the Community Facilities Management Policy section: Community Access and Benefit.
10. The development of the policy incorporated a review including:
- Benchmarking other Local Government policies and procedures, including City of Casey, City of Hume, Brimbank City Council, Cardinia Shire, Latrobe Council, City of Melton, City of Moonee Valley, Kingston Arts, Geelong City Council, Knox City Council, City of Maroondah and City of Manningham.
  - Identifying which community facilities were within scope and those outside of scope.
  - Interconnecting policies.
  - Priority of Access.
  - Fees and Charges definitions and categories.
  - How the community can apply for Special Considerations (fees / waivers).
  - Requests for Exclusive Use.



- Restrictions on hire / refusal to hire.
- Gender Impact Assessment (Attachment 2).

## Key Issues and Discussion

11. The Community Facilities Access and Use Policy has been informed by a broader body of feedback gathered through Council's ongoing work with community groups and facility users over several years. Officers regularly receive input from community organisations, regular hirers and service users through venue bookings, fee waiver and subsidy applications, complaints, grant processes, engagement activities, and day-to-day service delivery.
12. This feedback has consistently highlighted issues relating to equitable access, priority of use, affordability, fee waivers and subsidies, and the usability of Council's booking systems. These matters have informed the development of the policy and have helped shape its principles, access categories and supporting provisions.
13. The public consultation period for the draft Community Facilities Access and Use Policy occurred for an extended period of time from 1 December 2025 to 30 January 2026, with the aim to Inform the community that we have heard their feedback and are looking to improve access to community facilities, and ensure Council hasn't missed anything in how we improve support to groups accessing community facilities.
14. Options were available to provide feedback included:
  - Via online and in-person consultation sessions.
  - All current regular hirers of Council facilities were sent a direct invite to participate in the community consultation (over 210 groups).
  - Two drop-in sessions were available for the community to partake in; one located at Springvale Community Hub and the other Dandenong Civic Centre.
15. Feedback provided by the community was supportive of the policy and only some small changes were required around wording.
16. All responses were reviewed and assessed to determine whether amendments to the policy were required; common topics of feedback included:
  4. In addition to the feedback gathered through Council's ongoing work with community groups and facility users over several years, feedback reiterated the need to improve communication and procedures on how to book a venue (i.e. Bookable), easy instructions for groups on how to apply for fee waivers, discounts or special considerations, and how to promote facilities to the community.
  5. Community feedback also continues to reflect strong appreciation for Council's venues and the importance of service provided, with many users valuing the role these facilities play in supporting community connection, cultural activity and local events.
  6. Officers consider that the policy reflects both the outcomes of the public consultation process and the practical insights gained through the ongoing management and use of Council facilities, providing a considered response to community needs and operational experience.
  7. Based on feedback from the community, the following actions are being undertaken alongside the Policy development:
    - Updating information on Council's website, including venue hire information – including easy links to Bookable system.
    - Easy access to information on the website and forms required, to apply for fee discounts, waivers and special considerations.
    - How to guide for Bookable – uploaded to the website and available to be sent to groups.



- Sessions with regular hirers, including Seniors Groups on how to use Bookable, with over 50% of groups already having attended a session with our Council's Venue Booking Officers.
- Promotion of venues for hire, within venues themselves (i.e. Springvale Community Hub), as well as Social Media and other tools.

## Governance Compliance

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

17. 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*

18. This item does not currently have an impact on operating budgets; however, future budgets may be impacted depending on the number of fee waivers, subsidies and special consideration requests from the community.

#### *Asset Implications*

19. This item does not affect any existing assets.

#### *Legal/Risk Implications*

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

#### *Environmental Implications*

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

#### *Gender Impact Assessment*

22. The draft Community Facilities Access and Use Policy values and respects the diversity of the Greater Dandenong community, including cultural backgrounds, spoken languages and fluency in spoken English, abilities, values, beliefs and lifestyles, and the implications of these factors for Council's community facilities.

23. This document is available in Attachment 2 – Final Gender Impact Assessment Community Facilities Access and Use Policy.

## Community Consultation

<p><b>Purpose</b></p>	<p>The Community Facilities Access and Use Policy has been informed by a broader body of feedback gathered through Council's ongoing work with community groups and facility users over several years. Officers regularly receive input from community organisations, regular hirers and service users through venue bookings, fee waiver and subsidy applications, complaints, grant processes, engagement activities, and day-to-day service delivery.</p> <p>This feedback has consistently highlighted issues relating to equitable access, priority of use, affordability, fee waivers and subsidies, and the usability of Council's booking systems. These matters have informed the development of the policy and have helped shape its principles, access categories and supporting provisions.</p>
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	The purpose of consulting on the final draft Policy was therefore to: - Inform the community that we have heard their feedback and are looking to improve access to community facilities. - Ensure Council hasn't missed anything in how we improve support to groups accessing community facilities.
<b>Engagement period</b>	The final draft policy incorporating feedback received over several years was shared for public consultation from 1 December 2025 to 30 January 2026.
<b>Level of Influence:</b>	Consult

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

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

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

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

- A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
- A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts.
- A city of accessible, vibrant centres and places.
- A city that supports business, entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes.
- 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*.
- Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.



**MINUTE No.333**

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

**Seconded by: Cr Isabella Do**

**That Council:**

- 1. APPROVES the Community Facilities Access and Use Policy, per Attachment 1;**
- 2. ABOLISHES the Community Facilities Management Policy 2013; and**
- 3. ABOLISHES the Multipurpose Use of Council Community and Civic Facilities Policy 2011.**

**CARRIED 10 / 0**



### 4.1.3 Volunteer Policy Review

**Responsible Officer:** Executive Director Community Strengthening  
**Attachments:** 1. Volunteer Policy 2026 [4.1.3.1 - 15 pages]  
**Volunteer Policy 2026**

#### Officer Recommendation

**That Council APPROVES the proposed Volunteer Policy as outlined in Attachment 1.**

#### Executive Summary

1. This report reviews and updates Council's Volunteer Policy.
2. The updated policy strengthens Council's commitment to inclusive, safe, and effective volunteer engagement, aligning with national standards.

#### Background

##### *Council Volunteer Policy*

3. The Volunteer Policy outlines Council's commitment to ethical, inclusive and strategic volunteer engagement and aligns with the National Standards for Volunteer Involvement. It also recognises the social, economic, and health benefits of volunteering and its role in increasing social inclusion, physical and psychological health and well-being, and career opportunities.
4. The updated policy enhances governance, compliance and support structures for volunteers and volunteer coordinators. It adopts an inclusive approach and applies comprehensively to all Council volunteers, including those engaged on committees, panels, and reference groups.
5. Due for review in 2025, the revised Volunteer Policy is informed by national trends, local data, and best practices. This evidence-based approach positions Council to address current and emerging challenges in volunteering through a responsive, inclusive, and community-aligned policy.

#### Key Issues and Discussion

##### *National Volunteering Trends*

6. National data indicates a 19% decline in formal volunteering since 2016, a trend significantly accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite modest recent improvements, volunteering levels have not returned to their pre-pandemic state. Many individuals have transitioned to informal or online volunteering roles, with persistent barriers including time constraints, limited flexibility, and administrative requirements. Nevertheless, informal volunteering remains robust, particularly within sectors such as sport, religion, and education, areas which continue to experience notable volunteer shortages.



### ***Greater Dandenong Volunteering Trends and Local Demand***

7. Local trends mirror national patterns. Formal volunteering dropped from 11.9% in 2016 to 7.6% in 2021—well below the Victorian average. However, informal volunteering is notably higher among residents from non-English speaking backgrounds, indicating underreported community contributions. In addition, the estimated value of volunteering in Greater Dandenong in 2025 was approximately \$243 million, based on population-adjusted estimates from Adelaide University.
8. A Council survey of Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs) found that 73% need more volunteers, with over half requiring 6–20 additional people. These findings highlight a clear gap between supply and demand.

### ***Local Government Practices in Volunteering***

9. Consultations with other councils reveal varied volunteer management approaches, but the most effective outcomes stem from centralised internal programs. These models ensure better alignment with organisational goals, stronger volunteer integration, and higher standards of safety and compliance. They also enhance volunteer satisfaction and retention by fostering a sense of belonging—highlighting the strategic value of maintaining a strong internal volunteer program within Council.

### ***Review of Council Volunteer Policy***

10. The draft Volunteer Policy reaffirms Council's commitment to fostering civic participation and community wellbeing through volunteering. Aligned with the Council Plan and Volunteering Australia's National Standards, it provides a clear governance framework for volunteer engagement across Council and the broader community. It clarifies rights and responsibilities, compliance requirements, and Council's relationship with external volunteer involving organisations, while affirming that volunteers do not replace paid staff.
11. This Policy applies to all Council managed volunteer programs, registered volunteers, and the Council officers or contract staff responsible for supervising them. The new policy also covers individuals who volunteer as part of Council appointed advisory committees, reference groups and community panels, recognising them as internal volunteers under this Policy.
12. The policy is guided by principles of:
  - Inclusive Participation: Volunteering as a pathway to social inclusion and civic engagement.
  - Best Practice and Continuous Improvement: Alignment with National Standards and ongoing program review.
  - Support for Staff and Volunteer Leaders: Training and resources for effective supervision.
  - Community Capacity Building: Partnerships and support for local volunteer organizations.
  - Civic Engagement by Staff: Encouragement of staff volunteering through paid leave programs.
13. Council commits to creating respectful, safe, and inclusive environments; providing meaningful roles, fair treatment, training, and recognition; supporting supervisors and ensuring transparency in expectations. It also upholds child safety and gender equity, promotes equity, inclusion, and accessibility (including reasonable workplace adjustments), and ensuring volunteers do not replace paid staff.
14. The new policy also ensures consistent safety and compliance standards, including mandatory checks and adherence to Child Safe Standards, across all volunteer roles within Council.



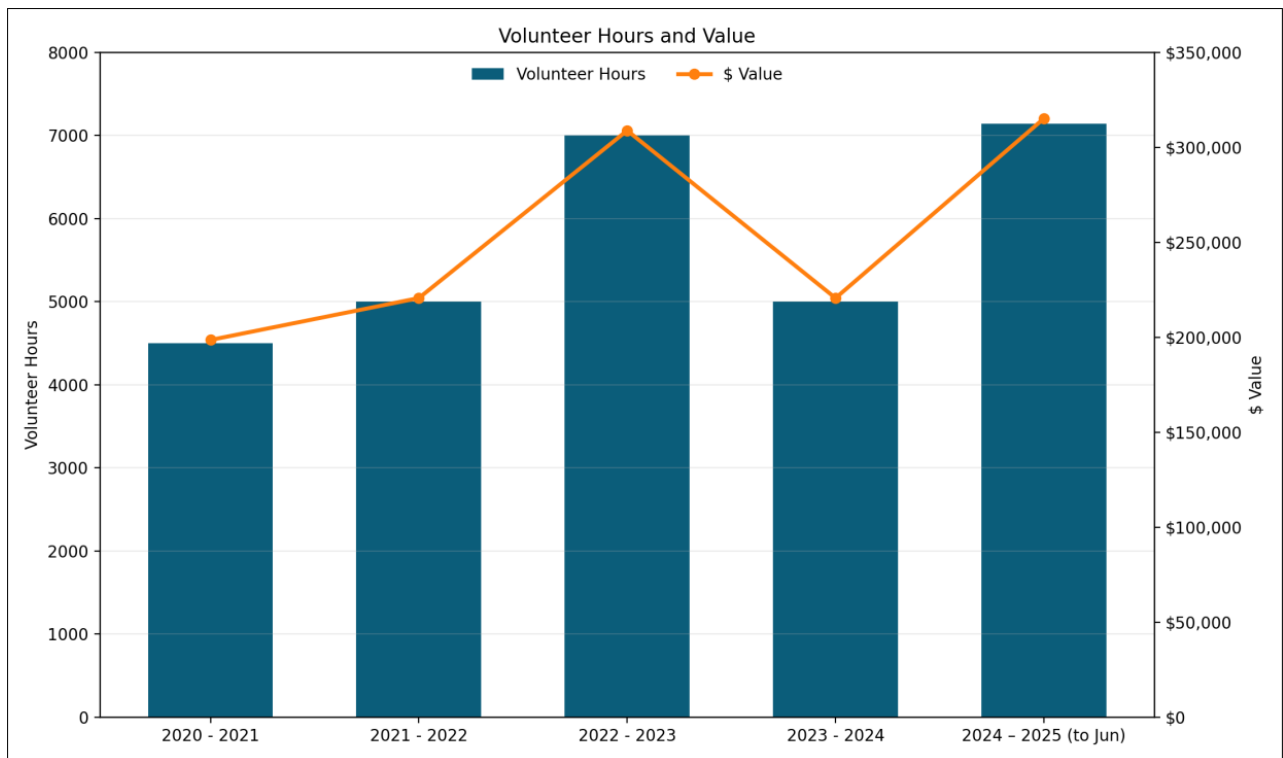
### Overview of Council Volunteer Program

15. Over the past two decades, the Council Volunteer Program has evolved into a cross-organisational initiative supporting 15 internal programs across all directorates. Volunteers contribute to diverse areas such as community care, arts, libraries, environment, and advisory groups—playing a vital role in service delivery and community connection.

### Impact of Council Volunteer Program

16. Council's Volunteer Program remains a cornerstone of community engagement and service delivery. Currently, 113 registered volunteers support a wide range of initiatives, with an additional 85 contributing to advisory groups and panels. Youth and Family Services also engages 48 youth leaders, fostering early civic participation.

17. Whilst volunteer numbers have declined from 236 in 2020 to 113 in 2025, the overall impact remains strong. In 2024–2025, 113 volunteers contributed over 7,143 hours — valued at over \$315,000 \*—demonstrating sustained commitment and high-quality engagement. This reflects a shift toward fewer but more dedicated volunteers, reinforcing the program's continued value to Council and the community.



*\*Hours are calculated for the Volunteer Program volunteers only and exclude the hours contributed by volunteers who participate in the advisory groups and youth volunteers.*



## Governance Compliance

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

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

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

#### *Operating Budget Implications*

19. To support ongoing program delivery and efficiency, options to improve the Volunteer Management System will be explored in collaboration with Council's IT team. Any enhancements or alternative solutions will be managed within the current Community Partnerships and Volunteers Team budget.

#### *Asset Implications*

20. This item does not affect any existing assets.

#### *Legal/Risk Implications*

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

#### *Environmental Implications*

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

## Community Consultation

23. The draft Volunteer Policy was shaped by community input and a review of relevant volunteering policies and trends across all levels of government. It aligns with the Council's Vision 2040 and strategic priorities.

24. Consultation activities included a volunteer survey (61 responses), focus groups with 18 volunteers and 16 Council staff who supervise volunteers, and interviews with 11 individuals from Council and Greater Dandenong Volunteer Resource Service. The policy also draws on national and state volunteering strategies and standards and includes benchmarking with other local governments.

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

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

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

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

- A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
- A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts.
- A city that supports entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes.
- A Council that demonstrates leadership and a commitment to investing in the community.



## Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

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

### **MINUTE No.334**

**Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad**

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

**That Council APPROVES the proposed Volunteer Policy as outlined in Attachment 1.**

**CARRIED 10 / 0**



## 4.1.4 Procurement Policy Review

<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Chief Financial Officer
<b>Attachments:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Summary of Changes to Policy [4.1.4.1 - 2 pages]</li><li>2. Draft Procurement Policy 2026-2030 [4.1.4.2 - 39 pages]</li><li>3. Existing Procurement Policy [4.1.4.3 - 23 pages]</li></ol>

### Officer Recommendation

#### That Council:

1. **APPROVES** the updated Procurement Policy 2026-2030 (the Policy) for the Greater Dandenong City Council, per Attachment 2; and
2. **NOTES** that the updated and approved Procurement Policy 2026-2030 will have an effective date of policy commencement from the 1 July 2026 for Council wide implementation.

### Executive Summary

1. Victorian local governments are required to prepare, adopt, review, and comply with a Procurement Policy that sets out the principles, processes, and thresholds for procurement activity in each four-year term of Council.
2. The attached Procurement Policy 2026-2030 has been developed using the sector's contemporary best practice guidance and template resources.
3. The policy strengthens Council's procurement governance by clarifying requirements around value for money, probity, tender/expression of interest (EOI) thresholds, exemptions, and auditability, consistent with legislative requirements and sector guidance.
4. This policy was presented at a Councillor Briefing Session on 30 March 2026 where feedback was sought on the strategic and governance settings (including risk appetite, oversight, transparency expectations and implementation approach) before the policy was finalised.
5. The attached Procurement Policy is to be accepted in full, without adjustments or recommendations to be able to be endorsed, accepted and implemented by council beginning 1 July 2026.
6. The policy does not request additional budget funding through this report; however, it has material governance and financial control implications because it sets the framework that influences value for money outcomes, contract management discipline and compliance across Council's total procurement spend.

### Background

7. Section 108 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) requires Council to prepare and adopt a Procurement Policy that specifies principles, processes, and procedures for the purchase of goods, services and works and that promotes open and fair competition and value for money.
8. The Act also requires the policy to include key matters such as:
  - The contract value above which Council must invite tenders or seek expressions of interest
  - Value for money evaluation criteria



- Collaboration with other councils/public bodies
  - Exemptions (conditions to purchase without tender/EOI)
  - The process for inviting a public tender/EOI
9. A policy review must be undertaken every 4 years in accordance with the Council-term.
10. Section 109 of the Act requires Council to comply with its Procurement Policy before entering procurement contracts and requires the CEO to ensure relevant Council reports include information about collaboration opportunities where applicable.
11. The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) has published Best Practice Procurement Guidelines and a Policy Template to assist councils to implement these legislative requirements and strengthen probity, transparency, and value for money outcomes.

## Key Issues and Discussion

### What is changing (high level)?

12. This is a material policy uplift. The draft Policy is intended to be clearer, more auditable, and easier to apply consistently across the organisation by:
- Setting out Council's procurement principles and governance expectations.
  - Clearly articulating thresholds and decision pathways for quotes/tenders/EOIs.
  - Clarifying the circumstances and documentation required for exemptions.
  - Strengthening value for money criteria and decision transparency.
  - Modernising the policy foundation by transitioning from the South East Regional Group of Councils (SERGC) regional policy model to a Council-specific policy aligned to MAV best-practice guidance and explicitly embedding a Quadruple Bottom Line (QBL) approach to value for money (economic, environmental, social, and governance/ethical considerations).
  - Reinforcing probity, conflicts of interest and ethical conduct controls (including expectations for planning, evaluation, and contract management).
  - Embedding requirements that support auditability and compliance, including record keeping and traceability of decisions.
13. The draft Policy has been further strengthened in the following areas:
- Child Safety obligations embedded across procurement planning, evaluation, and contract management.
  - Information security and data privacy requirements, aligned with Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner (OVIC) and Victorian Protective Data Security standards.
  - Clear, enforceable policy direction on contract variations and financial delegations, addressing prior audit ambiguity.
  - Strengthened ethical compliance and integrity language, reinforcing probity, transparency, and public accountability.
  - Enhanced focus on risk management, conflicts of interest, and probity controls, consistent with sector and audit expectations.



### Financial governance and control

14. Procurement is a key lever for Council's financial sustainability because it influences:
- The price Council pays and the quality outcomes it receives (value for money).
  - The discipline applied to contract variations and scope changes.
  - Consistency of procurement practice across directorates.
  - Exposure to probity, compliance, and reputational risks where processes are not transparent or auditable.
15. The draft Policy is designed to reduce these risks by strengthening decision rules, documentation expectations, and transparency in line with legislative and sector guidance.
16. This Policy aligns with Council's broader procurement maturity objectives, including:
- Establishment of a Procurement Steering Committee in partnership with Business Units.
  - Rollout of Procurement Process Guidelines and a Procurement Framework to operationalise the policy by 30 June 2026.
  - Consolidation of procurement reforms delivered over the past two years, including implementation of over 42 internal audit recommendations.

### Implementation approach

17. If adopted by Council, implementation will focus on:
- Communicating the Policy requirements to staff who initiate, manage, or approve procurement;
  - Ensuring supporting procedures, templates and guidance materials align to the Policy (so the Policy can be applied consistently); and
  - Monitoring compliance through business partnering, periodic reporting / assurance activities (e.g., internal reviews and audit actions as relevant).

## **Governance Compliance**

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

18. The Policy itself does not create additional positions; however, it will require appropriate internal communication and training for consistent application across Council.

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

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

19. This report does not request additional budget funding.
20. The Policy establishes Council's procurement governance framework, which supports improved value for money outcomes, strengthens control over contract variations and reduces the likelihood of non-compliance, audit findings and reputational risk associated with procurement activity.

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

21. This item does not affect any existing assets.
22. The Policy does not directly change Council's asset base; however, it applies to procurement decisions that may relate to asset acquisition, delivery, and contract management (where applicable).



### Legal/Risk Implications

23. Procurement is a recognised high-risk activity in local government, with potential financial, probity, compliance and reputational impacts if not governed effectively.
24. The policy supports Council's compliance obligations under sections 108 and 109 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, and strengthens governance controls relating to transparency, probity, tender and exemption processes, financial delegations, and documentation requirements.
25. Adoption of the policy mitigates procurement-related risks by improving auditability, decision-making clarity, and organisational consistency.

### Environmental Implications

26. There are no direct environmental implications relevant to this report.
27. Where applicable, the policy framework supports procurement decisions that can incorporate sustainability considerations consistent with Council's broader strategic settings.

### Gender Impact Assessment

28. Gender equality considerations were incorporated into the procurement policy review to ensure alignment with Council's commitment to inclusive and equitable practices.
29. While a formal Gender Impact Assessment was not undertaken, the review acknowledged the potential influence of procurement on employment, supplier diversity, and economic participation, and applied an intersectional lens to identify opportunities to support gender equity.

## Community Consultation

30. Community consultation is not typically undertaken for internal governance policies of this nature; however, the draft Policy has been informed through sector guidance and benchmarking, internal stakeholder review, and governance/audit considerations.

Key Stakeholders and Guidance Consulted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benchmarking with other Local Government bodies.</li> <li>• Relevant Council staff involved in procurement activity.</li> <li>• MAV Sector Group Council review.</li> <li>• Extensive consultation with the sector.</li> <li>• ARC Blue Procurement specialist review and procurement subject matter experts.</li> <li>• Alignment with the South East Metro Region Group of Council's.</li> <li>• Local Government Best Practice Guidelines.</li> </ul>
If this is a policy, has it been reviewed by the Staff Consultative Committee?	No – not applicable. However, this has been reviewed by key Council stakeholders over several months in an extensive process.



If this is a policy, has it been reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC)?	Yes, it was distributed to the ARC out of session for two weeks of feedback in October 2025.
Has this been reviewed by Governance?	Governance has been consulted in relation to financial delegations and the use of GST inclusive or exclusive amounts. The final Policy will be provided to Governance prior to Council adoption.
Has this been presented at a council briefing session	Yes, it was presented on 30 March 2026 and noted with no question or changes recommended to date

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

31. This report is consistent with the following tier of the Integrated Planning Framework:

- Tier 1 – Council Plan and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
- Tier 2 – Annual Plan, Long Term Financial Plan, Asset Plan, Workforce Plan
- Tier 3 – Priority Strategies, Mandated Policies and Other Documents, Strategic Land Use Plans, Asset, and Infrastructure Documents
- Tier 4 – Supporting Plans, Discretionary Policies, Procedures, and other Guidelines

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

- Not Applicable

33. 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

34. 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*.
- Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.



**MINUTE No.335**

**Moved by: Cr Phillip Danh**

**Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad**

**That Council:**

- 1. APPROVES the updated Procurement Policy 2026-2030 (the Policy) for the Greater Dandenong City Council, per Attachment 2; and**
- 2. NOTES that the updated and approved Procurement Policy 2026-2030 will have an effective date of policy commencement from the 1 July 2026 for Council wide implementation.**

**CARRIED 10 / 0**



## 4.1.5 Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Policy

<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Executive Director City Futures
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Public Car Share and Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Policy (proposed)</b> <b>Public Car Share Policy (superseded)</b> <b>Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Policy (superseded)</b>

### Officer Recommendation

**That Council:**

- 1. APPROVES the Public Car Share and Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Policy 2026 per Attachment 1;**
- 2. ABOLISHES the superseded Public Car Share Policy 2022 and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Policy 2022; and**
- 3. NOTES the additional initiatives proposed to further drive uptake of Car Share Services and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure within the City of Greater Dandenong.**

### Executive Summary

- A review of two of Councils policies relating to parking management has been undertaken, these are:
  - Public Car Share Policy
  - Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Policy
- The review assessed both the success of the existing policies and the opportunity to reduce the number of and simplify structure of Councils policy suite.
- The documents are proposed to be consolidated into a single policy due to the aligned purpose and objectives. A review period set to align with a review of Councils Municipal Parking Strategy is proposed to provide opportunity for further consolidation in future.
- No other substantive changes to the policies are proposed currently.
- In addition to the policy, further actions officers are pursuing relating to Car Share and Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure are noted as to be undertaken during the policy term:
  - Market testing and potential procurement of public electric vehicle charging infrastructure where cost neutral or positive to Council only.
  - Increased promotion of Car Share Services in recent and upcoming higher density development areas.



## Background

6. The creation of two Council policies relating to Public Car Share and Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure was a commitment made within Councils Municipal Parking Strategy in 2017. The policies were first adopted in 2019.
7. The two policies are very similar in that they:
  - Address the interface between Council and providers of vehicular/parking services which can be enhanced through location within the public realm.
  - Are aimed at ensuring Council is not a blocker to the provision of services which can provide significant social, economic and environmental benefits to the community, through consideration of waiving and partly waiving fees and providing certainty / security to providers.
8. Both markets are maturing within the private sector, and similar review periods were set on these policies to enable Council to consider growth in the market and determine whether further intervention is required to boost service provision. At the last review of the policy no further direct intervention was pursued.

## Key Issues and Discussion

### *Opportunity for consolidation*

9. Due to significant overlap and aligned purpose of the two policies, consolidation is recommended. This provides the benefit of reducing the number of Council policies and simplifying Councils suite of policies.
10. Further opportunity to consolidate is offered by aligning the next review of the policy with the review of Councils Municipal Parking Strategy, with the potential to consolidate a broader number of Councils parking policies into a single document at that time.
11. Based on management of the two separate policies to date, it is not considered that this change will impact providers detrimentally.

### *Review of Public Car Share Policy to date*

12. Upon initial adoption in 2019 the Public Car Share Policy was a success, with five car share pods installed within a few months of policy adoption, all with a single provider GoGet.
13. Since 2019 the number of car share pods on Council managed land within Greater Dandenong has fluctuated between five and nine. The number of pods at the moment is five, with a further five on private property (but publicly accessible) within the municipality.
14. There have been no operational issues in managing the policy to date, and while only one service provider is currently utilising the policy, there do not appear to be barriers to other providers expanding to the area also. However, most other providers in Melbourne have not extended far from the inner city.
15. As a result of the above, no changes to the content of the policy are proposed.
16. Out with the scope of the policy, the recent and imminent development of a number of higher density residential buildings in and around Dandenong present opportunities to expand these services. Council officers will proactively facilitate discussions between these developments and car share providers.



### ***Review of Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Policy to date***

17. Councils Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Policy was designed as mechanism to ensure Council is not a blocker to expedited update of electric vehicle ownership within the region through providing public space for charging stations if needed. By the time Electric Vehicles are common, most charging will be undertaken at home or at work, as the range of these vehicles will comfortably cater for daily use.
18. Public electric vehicle charging stations in the longer term will likely only be utilised by those undertaking longer trips (either greater distances or staying away from home). At this time higher profile public spaces will be less appropriate for public electric vehicle charging.
19. As a result, the key period of time for public charging stations in higher profile locations provides most benefit only during the period of transition to electric vehicles (roughly 2020-2035 i.e. now). The benefits provided during this period are:
  - Potential reduction in perceived range anxiety issues.
  - Promotion and awareness of electric vehicles.
  - Catering for older (early) electric vehicles with lower range.
20. Also critical to the review of the appropriateness of the policy is monitoring trends out with Council control. Some critical trends to note are:
  - Industry and manufacturer advice that a greater proportion of charging takes place at home and at work and less elsewhere.
  - Around 30 public electric vehicle charging stations are now available within Greater Dandenong on private property with around 20 of these installed since the last policy review. A further two or three stations are anticipated imminently. Importantly the above includes a number of very high-speed chargers at service stations.
  - Councils who have been financially subsidising public electric vehicle charging infrastructure proposals are witnessing a shift in community demand / requests towards specifically free rapid charging options.
  - “Slow” home and workplace charging stations remain relatively low-cost infrastructure, while genuinely “fast” charging stations are still very expensive.
21. Given the apparent ability for the private sector to provide the more sustainable approach to meeting rapid electric vehicle charging demand, and the inability for Council to significantly expedite uptake without intolerable financial subsidy, it is recommended that further Council intervention in this space is restrained at this time, and that no changes to the content of the policy are made.
22. The actions Council can take out with the scope of the policy are to continue to test the market for cost neutral or cost positive installation of “rapid” charging stations (with costs recovered through user charging and/or tolerable advertising etc.). This could cover new locations or enable sustainable renewal at existing Council managed public electric vehicle charging locations.

## **Governance Compliance**

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

23. 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**

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

### **Asset Implications**

25. This item does not affect any existing assets.

### **Legal/Risk Implications**

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

### **Environmental Implications**

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

### **Gender Impact Assessment**

28. A gender impact assessment is not required.

## **Community Consultation**

29. There was no requirement for community consultation.

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

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

- Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.
- Sustainable environment.

31. 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**

32. 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*.
- Climate Change and Sustainability.



**MINUTE No.336**

**Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad**

**Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh**

**That Council:**

- 1. APPROVES *the Public Car Share and Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Policy 2026 per Attachment 1;***
- 2. ABOLISHES the superseded Public Car Share Policy 2022 and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Policy 2022; and**
- 3. NOTES the additional initiatives proposed to further drive uptake of Car Share Services and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure within the City of Greater Dandenong.**

**CARRIED 10 / 0**



## 4.2 OTHER

### 4.2.1 Recommended Appointments for Membership of Disability Advisory Committee

<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Executive Director Community Strengthening
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. Recommended Appointments for Membership of Disability Advisory Committee [4.2.1.1 - 2 pages]

#### Officer Recommendation

**That Council:**

- 1. APPOINTS the 12 applicants (per Attachment 1) as independent members of the Disability Advisory Committee for a two (2) year term from 20 April 2026 to 19 April 2028; and**
- 2. NOTES that the Mayor of the City of Greater Dandenong will write to the proposed 12 applicants to confirm their appointment to the Disability Advisory Committee for a two (2) year term from 20 April 2026 to 19 April 2028.**

#### Executive Summary

1. This report outlines the process undertaken to appoint new members to the Disability Advisory Committee for the 2026-2028 term and seeks endorsement of the 12 recommended applicants as listed in Attachment 1.

#### Background

2. The Disability Advisory Committee has been established to provide advice to the City of Greater Dandenong Council in relation to access, inclusion and services in the community and on the development or implementation of the Disability Action Plan.
3. The Disability Advisory Committee supports the Greater Dandenong Council Plan 2025–29 and the goals of the Community Engagement Policy and Framework. It reflects Council's commitment to meaningful community engagement by leveraging local knowledge, expertise, and stakeholder input to inform decision-making.

#### Key Issues and Discussion

4. An Expression of Interest (EOI) process to recruit members for the Disability Advisory Committee was conducted from 16 December 2025 until 28 February 2026. The EOI was promoted through multiple channels including Council's website, social media platforms, e-News, local community groups, and targeted engagement via professional disability networks.
5. The selection process was undertaken in accordance with the Committee's Terms of Reference. A total of 12 applications were received and assessed against the selection criteria.
6. A selection panel was convened to assess the applicants and make a recommendation to Council for consideration and endorsement.
7. The 12 applicants listed in Attachment 1 represents a widespread knowledge and strategic experience across the disability sector.



## Governance Compliance

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

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

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

#### *Operating Budget Implications*

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

#### *Asset Implications*

10. This item does not affect any existing assets.

#### *Legal/Risk Implications*

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

#### *Environmental Implications*

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

#### *Gender Impact Assessment*

13. The Disability Advisory Committee is open to all genders, ages, and backgrounds. The EOI process provided equal opportunity to all genders to apply by promoting the opportunity to a variety of networks across Greater Dandenong. Promotional materials were presented in clear, gender inclusive language that is accessible for all. The recruitment process aimed to be representative of the Greater Dandenong community.

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

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

- Education, training, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.
- Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.
- Mind, body and spirit.

15. 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

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:

- 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.337**

**Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad**

**Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh**

**That Council:**

- 1. APPOINTS the 12 applicants (per Attachment 1) as independent members of the Disability Advisory Committee for a two (2) year term from 20 April 2026 to 19 April 2028; and**
- 2. NOTES that the Mayor of the City of Greater Dandenong will write to the proposed 12 applicants to confirm their appointment to the Disability Advisory Committee for a two (2) year term from 20 April 2026 to 19 April 2028.**

**CARRIED 10 / 0**



## 4.2.2 Advisory Committee Meetings Draft Minutes

<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Executive Director Community Strengthening
<b>Attachments:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Draft Minutes of Disability Advisory Committee Meeting 9 February 2026 [4.2.2.1 - 2 pages]</li><li>2. Draft Minutes of Positive Ageing Advisory Committee Meeting 12 February 2026 [4.2.2.2 - 2 pages]</li><li>3. Draft Minutes of Arts Advisory Board 5 March 2026 [4.2.2.3 - 3 pages]</li><li>4. Draft Minutes of Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting 26 February 2026 [4.2.2.4 - 3 pages]</li></ol>

### Officer Recommendation

#### That Council:

1. **NOTES the Draft Minutes of the meeting for Disability Advisory Committee held on 9 February 2026 (per Attachment 1);**
2. **NOTES the Draft Minutes of the meeting for Positive Ageing Advisory Committee held on 12 February 2026 (per Attachment 2);**
3. **NOTES the Draft Minutes of the meeting for Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee held on 26 February 2026 (per Attachment 3); and**
4. **NOTES the Draft Minutes of the meeting for Arts Advisory Board held on 5 March 2026 (per Attachment 4).**

### Executive Summary

1. At the Council meeting held 23 April 2018, Council resolved in part to invite Advisory Committees and Reference Groups to submit meeting minutes for Council endorsement. This resolution also allowed interested Councillors (and those that attend these Committees and Reference Groups) to speak to the meeting about items discussed at these meetings.
2. This report recommends that the Draft Minutes of the following Advisory Committee meetings be noted by Council:
  - a. Draft Minutes of the meeting for Disability Advisory Committee held on 9 February 2026 (per Attachment 1);
  - b. Draft Minutes of the meeting for Positive Ageing Advisory Committee held on 12 February 2026 (per Attachment 2);
  - c. Draft Minutes of the meeting for Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee held on 26 February 2026 (per Attachment 3); and
  - d. Draft Minutes of the meeting for Arts Advisory Board held on 5 March 2026 (per Attachment 4).



## Background

3. Greater Dandenong Council is represented on a wide range of Committees, Reference Groups and Advisory Groups which frequently reflect the interests of individual Councillors in serving the broader community in their role. A full listing of these appointments is confirmed each November at Council's Meeting to elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and is available via Council's website.
4. The resolution of Council made on 23 April 2018 provides for Minutes of meetings held by Advisory Committees or Reference Groups to be submitted to Council for information purposes and for noting. To ensure they are provided to Council in a timely manner, Minutes of these Advisory Committees or Reference Groups are submitted to Council typically in a draft form (in that they have not yet been adopted by the relevant Committee). If significant material changes occur when they are adopted by the Advisory Committee or Reference Group, then those particular Minutes would then be resubmitted to Council for noting.
5. As such, Draft Minutes are provided as attachments to this report.
6. There are no financial implications associated with the development and submission of this report.

## Links to Community Vision and Council Plan

7. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
  - Education, training, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.
  - Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.
  - Mind, body and spirit.
  - Art and culture.
8. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29:
  - A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
  - A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts.
  - A city of accessible, vibrant centres and places.
  - A city that supports business, entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes.

## Legislative and Policy Obligations

9. 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*.
  - Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.



**MINUTE No.338**

**Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad**

**Seconded by: Cr Isabella Do**

**That Council:**

- 1. NOTES the Draft Minutes of the meeting for Disability Advisory Committee held on 9 February 2026 (per Attachment 1);**
- 2. NOTES the Draft Minutes of the meeting for Positive Ageing Advisory Committee held on 12 February 2026 (per Attachment 2);**
- 3. NOTES the Draft Minutes of the meeting for Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee held on 26 February 2026 (per Attachment 3); and**
- 4. NOTES the Draft Minutes of the meeting for Arts Advisory Board held on 5 March 2026 (per Attachment 4).**

**CARRIED 10 / 0**



## 4.2.3 Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee Draft Minutes

<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Committee Meeting Draft Minutes - 10 February 2026 [4.2.3.1 - 6 pages]

### Officer Recommendation

**That Council NOTES the Draft Minutes of the meeting for the Multicultural and People Seeking Advisory Committee as provided in Attachment 1 to this report.**

### Executive Summary

1. At the Council meeting held 23 April 2018, Council resolved in part to *invite Advisory Committees and Reference Groups to submit meeting minutes for Council endorsement*. This resolution also allowed interested Councillors (and those that attend these Committees and Reference Groups) to speak to the meeting about items discussed at these meetings.
2. This report recommends that the Draft Minutes of the Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee meeting held on 10 February 2026 as provided in Attachment 1 to this report be noted by Council.

### Background

3. Greater Dandenong Council is represented on a wide range of Committees, Reference Groups and Advisory Groups which frequently reflect the interests of individual Councillors in serving the broader community in their role. A full listing of these appointments is confirmed each November at Council's Meeting to elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and is available via Council's website.
4. The resolution of Council made on 23 April 2018 provides for Minutes of meetings held by Advisory Committees or Reference Groups to be submitted to Council for information purposes and for noting. To ensure they are provided to Council in a timely manner, Minutes of these Advisory Committees or Reference Groups are submitted to Council typically in a draft form (in that they have not yet been adopted by the relevant Committee). If significant material changes occur when they are adopted by the Advisory Committee or Reference Group, then those particular Minutes would then be resubmitted to Council for noting.
5. As such, Draft Minutes are provided as Attachment 1 to this report.
6. There are no financial implications associated with the development and submission of this report.



## Links to Community Vision and Council Plan

7. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
  - Safe and peaceful community.
  - Education, training, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.
  - Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.
8. 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 Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources, and a commitment to investing in the community.

## Legislative and Policy Obligations

9. 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.339

Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti

Seconded by: Cr Lana Formoso

**That Council NOTES the Draft Minutes of the meeting for the Multicultural and People Seeking Advisory Committee as provided in Attachment 1 to this report.**

**CARRIED 10 / 0**



## 4.2.4 Dandenong Market Pty Ltd (DMPL) - Chairperson and Director Appointment

**Cr Jim Memeti disclosed a direct material conflict of interest (s128) in this Item as he is the Director of a company that has a stall at the Dandenong Market. Cr Jim Memeti left the Chamber prior to discussion and voting.**

**Responsible Officer:** Executive Director City Futures

**Attachments:** Nil

### Officer Recommendation

**That Council APPOINTS Ms Allison Smith as Chairperson and Non-Executive Director of Dandenong Market for a three (3) year period commencing 23 May 2026 and concluding on 22 May 2029.**

### Executive Summary

1. Dandenong Market Pty Ltd (DMPL) is a wholly owned subsidiary company of the Greater Dandenong City Council. Under the DMPL constitution, Council remains responsible for the appointment of Directors to the Board of DMPL.
2. The Board currently comprises of five (5) Board positions with a vacancy arising with the conclusion of the appointment of the Chair and Non-Executive Director, Ms Donna McMaster after a nine (9) year tenure on 22 May 2026.
3. This report recommends that Council approves to appoint Ms Allison Smith as Chair and Non-Executive of Dandenong Market Pty Ltd for a three (3) year period commencing 23 May 2026.

### Background

4. Dandenong Market Pty Ltd (DMPL) was established in September 2012 as a means of Council establishing a skills-based Board to drive the strategic direction and operations of the Dandenong Market. Since then, the Board has provided an extremely valuable service to Council and the Market has continued to evolve and develop including initiatives such as the introduction of Sunday trading, night markets and a full program of festivals and events.
5. The Market is an extremely valuable asset, not only to the City of Greater Dandenong, but also the region, and acts as an important community networking vehicle that brings together people from all different backgrounds in the one (1) location. It also remains a reliable source of fresh produce and goods at a very reasonable price.
6. Dandenong Market Pty Ltd (DMPL) consists of five (5) Directors which were appointed by Council under the terms of the DMPL Constitution (which requires Director appointments to be made by the Shareholder (Council)). In May 2026, Ms Donna McMaster will reach the conclusion of her term of appointment, thereby creating a vacancy.
7. DMPL appointed Galvin-Rowley Executive to conduct a search for suitable candidates. In February 2026 the position was advertised and Council received numerous applications. A field of candidates were then short listed and interviewed. The interview panel, comprised of Donna McMaster (Chair and Non-Executive Director, DMPL), Sanjay Manivasagasivam (Executive Director, City Futures, City of Greater Dandenong) and Jacqui Weatherill (Chief Executive Officer, City of Greater Dandenong) who unanimously determined that Allison Smith be appointed into the position.



8. Allison is an accomplished governance professional and senior executive with a proven track record in strategic leadership and stakeholder engagement, particularly within consumer-focused sectors. She is highly regarded for her ability to lead teams, shape organisational strategy, and drive high-impact initiatives in complex environments.
9. Allison holds the Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD) designation, which highlights her strong governance expertise and dedication to maintaining high standards of board performance. Throughout her career, she has taken on senior leadership roles in strategic communications, marketing, brand strategy, and customer experience programs, working with major public, private, and not-for-profit organisations.
10. Her reputation for building consensus, championing organisational change, and connecting with diverse stakeholders is well established. Currently, Allison is the Deputy Chair of the Ambulance Victoria Board, Chair of the Forensicare Board, and Principal of Retail Transformation. In addition, she has held senior positions at NAK Hair, Peninsula Health, and BWX.

## Key Issues and Discussion

11. It is proposed the Council appoints Ms Allison Smith as Chair and Non-Executive Director of Dandenong Market Pty Ltd (DMPL) for a three (3) year period commencing 23 May 2026.
12. Under the Constitution that governs Dandenong Market Pty Ltd (DMPL), Clause 9.1 provides that the number of company directors shall not be less than two (2) nor more than five (5). It further provides that Shareholder (Council) may by resolution, appoint a person as a Director for a term up to three (3) years.
13. It also allows for a Director who has reached the end of the term of their appointment to be eligible for re-appointment, provided that their total continuous term of appointment as a Director is not more than nine (9) years. In May 2026, Ms Donna McMaster will reach her continuous term of appointment of nine (9) years therefore creating a vacancy.

## Governance Compliance

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

14. 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*

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

#### *Asset Implications*

16. This item does not affect any existing assets.

#### *Legal/Risk Implications*

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

#### *Environmental Implications*

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

#### *Gender Impact Assessment*

19. A gender impact assessment is not required.



## Community Consultation

20. This position of the Chair and Non-Executive Director was widely advertised and Council received a number of quality applications for the role. Following a short-listing process, interviews were then conducted and Ms Allison Smith was selected as the preferred candidate.

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

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

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

22. 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

23. 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 Jim Memeti left the Chambers at 9.01pm.**

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### **MINUTE No.340**

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

**Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad**

**That Council APPOINTS Ms Allison Smith as Chairperson and Non-Executive Director of Dandenong Market for a three (3) year period commencing 23 May 2026 and concluding on 22 May 2029.**

***CARRIED 9 / 0***

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**Cr Jim Memeti returned to the Chambers at 9.03pm.**

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## 4.2.5 LGBTIQ+ Action Plan 2026-2028 Draft

**Responsible Officer:** Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services  
**Attachments:** 1. Draft LGBTIQ A+ Action Plan 2026-28 [4.2.5.1 - 28 pages]

### Officer Recommendation

**That Council:**

1. **NOTES** that the Draft LGBTIQ+ Action Plan 2026-28 (per Attachment 1) has been prepared through extensive consultation with the LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee and subsidiary Working Group subcommittee;
2. **ENDORSES** the Draft LGBTIQ+ Action Plan 2026-28 for the purposes of public consultation commencing 21 April until 19 May; and
3. **PROVIDES** feedback on the Draft Action Plan, to be considered alongside feedback received from the community and targeted consultation.

### Executive Summary

1. The Draft LGBTIQ+ Action Plan has been developed through extensive consultation and collaboration with LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee and associated Working Group subcommittee.
2. The Plan is seeking Council endorsement for the purposes of public consultation commencing 21 April until 19 May.
3. Council feedback is requested on the Draft, to be considered alongside feedback received from the community and targeted consultation.

### Background

4. A Notice of Motion was endorsed by Council on 8 July 2024 to establish an LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee and nominated members were endorsed by Council on 9 Dec 2024 in accordance with an approved Terms of Reference (ToR).
5. The ToR provides scope for the creation of an Action Plan and/or other initiatives that will respond appropriately to the needs, challenges, and aspirations of LGBTIQ+ communities within the municipality.
6. The 13 May 2025 Minutes of the LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee noted that a draft Action Plan was being commenced with support from Council Officers and informed through consultation with key sector stakeholders and the Pride Plan Working Group. The Working Group was formed from members of the Advisory Committee in accordance with the ToR stipulations.
7. Benchmarking was conducted with other Victorian local governments and LGBTIQ+-specific organisations to identify best-practice approaches. Council staff's Pride Working Group also contributed insights to inform the development of the Draft Action Plan.
8. Council endorsement is being sought at the 20 April Council Meeting for the Draft Action Plan to go out for public consultation. The community consultation is scheduled to commence 21 April and conclude 19 May, pending Council approval.



9. Feedback from the public consultation phase will be analysed and, where appropriate, incorporated into the final Draft Plan for Council endorsement at the 20 July Council Meeting. A launch date has been provisionally scheduled between 22 -29 July.

## Key Issues and Discussion

10. Council officer support has already been committed to the facilitation of the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee work, and a large portion of the Action Plan deliverables can be absorbed with this dedicated officer allocation.
11. The remaining deliverables allocated to other departments across the organisation require a modest and flexible EFT reallocation over the life of the Plan to deliver the outcomes required.
12. These resource requirements can be absorbed within existing workload and departmental business plans, and no additional new EFT or funds are required to complete.

## Governance Compliance

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

13. 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*

14. There are no immediate financial implications beyond existing budget provision associated with this report. Funding in future years will be subject to annual budget approval and allocation.

#### *Asset Implications*

15. This item does not affect any existing assets.

#### *Legal/Risk Implications*

16. There are no legal implications relevant to this report. However, it should be noted there is a reputational risk if the Action Plan is not endorsed by Council given the Advisory Committee's recommendation, and involvement in its creation.

#### *Environmental Implications*

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

#### *Gender Impact Assessment*

18. A Gender Impact Assessment will be completed as part the development of this Draft Action Plan.

## Community Consultation

<b>Purpose</b>	Support Council to gain a clear understanding of the real challenges, needs and aspirations of LGBTIQA+ community members and relevant stakeholders, ensuring the Action Plan is inclusive, relevant, and aligned with community expectations, with scope for refinement prior to finalisation.
<b>Engagement period</b>	21 April – 19 May
<b>Level of Influence:</b>	Consult



<b>Engagement Activities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online survey promoted through Council channels and partner networks</li> <li>• In-Person engagement with community and external stakeholders</li> <li>• Pop-up engagement stalls at libraries, festivals</li> <li>• Drop-in sessions for LGBTIQA+ community members and allies</li> </ul>
<b>Communication reach and engagement numbers:</b>	Intended for broad reach across the community. Analysis of engagement will be completed once consultation is finalised.
<b>Summary of feedback:</b>	To be provided once consultation is complete.

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

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

- Safe and peaceful community.
- Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.
- Mind, body and spirit.

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

- A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
- A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts.
- A city of accessible, vibrant centres and places.
- A Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources, and a commitment to investing in the community.

### Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

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



**MINUTE No.341**

**Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad**

**Seconded by: Cr Lana Formoso**

**That Council:**

- 1. NOTES that the Draft LGBTIQA+ Action Plan 2026-28 (per Attachment 1) has been prepared through extensive consultation with the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee and subsidiary Working Group subcommittee;**
- 2. ENDORSES the Draft LGBTIQA+ Action Plan 2026-28 for the purposes of public consultation commencing 21 April until 19 May; and**
- 3. PROVIDES feedback on the Draft Action Plan, to be considered alongside feedback received from the community and targeted consultation.**

**CARRIED 10 / 0**



## 4.2.6 Naming the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre

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

### Officer Recommendation

**That Council:**

1. **ADOPTS 'Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing' as the name for the new wellbeing centre located at Cleeland Street Dandenong; and**
2. **ENDORSES the submission of 'Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing' to Geographic Names Victoria for formal registration.**

### Executive Summary

1. In 2025, Council undertook in-depth community engagement activities to gather qualitative feedback on naming options for the new wellbeing centre in Dandenong. Participants at these engagement activities represented a diverse cross-section of the municipality.
2. These activities led to a short list of two names.
3. At the Council meeting on 16 February 2026, Council endorsed additional consultation with the community, to seek feedback on the shortlisted names 'Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing' and 'Oasis Pools and Wellbeing'.
4. The additional consultation ran from 19 February to 20 March 2026. There was a clear majority preference for the name 'Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing', with around 77% in support, compared to 23% favouring 'Oasis Pools and Wellbeing.' There were 226 survey contributions.

### Background

5. Feedback across all engagement activities and age groups in 2025 demonstrated strong and consistent support for retaining the name 'Oasis' in the new facility. This reflects the community's connection to the existing Dandenong Oasis facility that the new centre will replace.
6. People of all ages, genders and backgrounds spoke of the sense of place and connection evoked by the word Oasis, the alignment of the meaning of Oasis with the intentions for the new facility, and that it is a short, lovely, memorable word. In considering other options, most people compared them less favourably to Oasis.
7. The two name options reflect the sense of community connection, are short and suitable for marketing, and explain what the facility is for.
8. The evolution of the name from 'Dandenong Oasis' to 'Oasis Pools and Wellbeing' or 'Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing' reflects the upcoming transition to a new, contemporary facility while preserving a clear link to the former centre. The options to include 'Pools' or 'Aquatics' communicate that the facility would contain multiple pools designed for a range of uses, and that 'Wellbeing' highlighted the broader objectives of increasing participation in physical activity, supporting health and wellbeing and strengthening community connections.
9. In-principal support from Geographic Names Victoria was sought and received for the two proposed names, based on an assessment that both names comply with the Naming Rules for places in Victoria.



10. Council is the formal naming authority and will make the final determination on the facility name.

## Key Issues and Discussion

11. At a Council meeting on 16 February 2025<sup>6</sup>, Council endorsed two names for further community consideration and adopted the recommendation that 30 days of open community consultation on the two-name options was undertaken. This step is also required for the name to be formally registered with Geographic Names Victoria.
12. The two options – ‘Oasis Pools and Wellbeing’ or ‘Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing’ – were subsequently presented to the broader community for comment. This consultation was hosted on Greater Dandenong City Council’s YourSay platform and was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Naming Rules for Places in Victoria
13. The project’s YourSay page received 570 views from 478 visitors, with a total of 226 contributions from 200 contributors. 173 (76.55%) selected ‘Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing’ and 53 (23.45%) selected ‘Oasis Pools and Aquatics’.
14. Participants were also invited to provide feedback on their reasons for making their selection and provide any other comments about the naming of the new centre. These comments offered insights into the preferences within the community.
15. In general, those who preferred the option with ‘Pools’ in the name thought this was a nostalgic, simple, relaxed version of the name. Those who preferred ‘Aquatics’ commented that this reflects the broad range of experiences the new centre will offer, that it sounds more professional, links to the Noble Park Aquatic Centre, and is consistent with names of other similar facilities around greater Melbourne.

## Governance Compliance

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

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

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

#### *Operating Budget Implications*

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

#### *Asset Implications*

18. This item does not affect any existing assets. Provision has already been made for installing naming signage on the new facility.

#### *Legal/Risk Implications*

19. This naming process complies with the requirements set out in the Naming Rules for registration of a place name in Victoria.

#### *Environmental Implications*

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

#### *Gender Impact Assessment*

21. There are no gender impacts from this name. Women were slightly over-represented in the focus groups that shortlisted the names. A group of new mothers formed one focus group.
22. However, feedback and discussion on name options was consistent across people of all ages and genders.



## Community Consultation

<b>Purpose</b>	Seek community input into the name of the new wellbeing facility.
<b>Engagement period</b>	Late 2025 to March 2026.
<b>Level of Influence:</b>	Based on the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum: Involve
<b>Engagement Activities:</b>	Focus groups were undertaken over a number of weeks in late 2025. These included young people, new parents, Oasis members and an open invitation to all community members. Later, a community-wide survey was undertaken for 30 days across February-March 2026.
<b>Communication reach and engagement numbers:</b>	Opportunities to participate were undertaken by mass email out, social media and email invitations.
<b>Summary of feedback:</b>	In the final round of consultation on the shortlisted names, a strong preference (77%) for the name Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing was heard.

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

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

- Mind, body and spirit.

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

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

## Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

- The Overarching Governance Principles of the *Local Government Act 2020*
- *Geographic Place Names Act 1998*



**MINUTE No.342**

**Moved by: Cr Phillip Danh**

**Seconded by: Cr Bob Milkovic**

**That Council:**

- 1. ADOPTS 'Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing' as the name for the new wellbeing centre located at Cleeland Street Dandenong; and**
- 2. ENDORSES the submission of 'Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing' to Geographic Names Victoria for formal registration.**

**CARRIED 10 / 0**



## 4.2.7 Audit and Risk Committee Self Assessment Survey

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

### Officer Recommendation

**That Council NOTES the Audit and Risk Committee's annual self-assessment of performance.**

### Executive Summary

1. In accordance with Section 54(4) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Audit and Risk Committee has completed its annual self-assessment of performance. The assessment confirms that the Committee is operating effectively and continues to provide appropriate independent oversight to Council.

### Background

2. The Audit and Risk Committee is required under the *Local Government Act 2020* to undertake an annual assessment of its performance against its Charter and to report the outcomes to Council.
3. The self-assessment was conducted using a survey-based approach issued to Committee members and relevant Council officers. The assessment considered the Committee's effectiveness across key governance and oversight functions, including risk management, financial reporting, audit oversight and engagement with management.
4. The purpose of the self-assessment is to support transparency, accountability and continuous improvement in the Committee's operations.

### Key Issues and Discussion

5. The self-assessment results indicate a strong overall level of performance across the Committee's functions include:
  - Feedback highlights effective meeting practices.
  - Constructive relationships with management and auditors.
  - Clear communication and engagement.
6. The assessment also identifies opportunities for ongoing improvement in areas such as:
  - capability development.
  - meeting efficiency.
  - presentation of information to support oversight.
7. A summary of the survey results is set out in the table below. The table shows the average of ratings across all respondents for each survey area (out of 5).



<b>Key Area</b>	<b>Total Average outcome</b>
<i>Composition &amp; Skills</i>	4.27
<i>Member Conduct &amp; Development</i>	3.91
<i>Leadership &amp; Structure</i>	4.05
<i>Risk Oversight</i>	4.11
<i>Meeting Operations</i>	3.94
<i>Audit Relationships</i>	4.19
<i>Financial Reporting</i>	4.16
<i>Reporting &amp; Engagement</i>	4.02
<i>Composition &amp; Skills</i>	4.27

8. These matters will be considered through the Committee's routine planning and review processes as part of its commitment to continuous improvement.
9. No material issues of concern were identified through the assessment.

## **Governance Compliance**

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

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

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

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

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

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

12. This item does not affect any existing assets.

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

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

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

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

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

15. A gender impact assessment is not required.



## Community Consultation

16. There was no requirement for community consultation.

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

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

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

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

- 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

19. 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.343**

**Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti**

**Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad**

**That Council NOTES the Audit and Risk Committee's annual self-assessment of performance.**

**CARRIED 10 / 0**



## 4.2.8 Burbank 64 Cheltenham Road, Dandenong - Variation to Section 173 Agreement

**Responsible Officer:** Executive Director City Futures

**Attachments:** 1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - BU Alto Dandenong Concept Dec 25 [4.2.8.1 - 4 pages]

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

### Officer Recommendation

**That Council:**

1. **APPROVES** a request by Burbank to vary the existing agreement under section 173 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 entered between Council and Burbank Land Corporation Pty LTD in respect to the site at 64 Cheltenham Road, Dandenong;
2. **EXTENDS** the date by which Burbank is required to substantially commence the development on the parcel from 1 July 2026 to 1 July 2028;
3. **APPROVES** “in principle” a proposed 3-storey town house product – which would require either an amendment to the existing permit, or a new planning permit approval.
4. **NOTES** a corresponding variation to the Call Option agreement between the parties to update an operative date by which the developer must obtain finance for the proposed development; and
5. **AUTHORISES** the Chief Executive Officer or her delegate to execute replacement section 173 agreement and deed of variation of call option to give effect to the changes.

### Executive Summary

1. Burbank has sought to amend the proposed development and to amend the dates in the Section 173 Agreement for a lot purchased from Council located in the Metro Village 3175 Estate. This report provides an overview of the history including their request to progress an alternative development proposal and recommends support.

### Background

2. Council via Places Victoria (now Development Victoria) sold Lot 617 (which encompasses the subdivided parcel located at 64 Cheltenham Road) to Burbank in 2015.
3. The lot is subject to a Section 173 Agreement which included Owner Covenants for:
  - Substantial Commencement
  - Practical Completion
  - Compliance with Urban Design Guidelines
  - Compliance with Approval Process
4. The lot is subject to a Call Option in favour of Council, which gives Council the option to purchase the land back from Burbank at a fixed price (less than current market value).



5. Burbank is seeking a two (2) year extension to the Section 173 Agreement for commencement and completion of the lot. Their reason for the extension is that this time is required to seek planning approval, undertake presales and develop the site.
6. Burbank is also proposing to construct an alternative proposed development, being three (3) storey town houses on the site in lieu of the currently approved multi-storey apartment building.
7. Burbank has provided further details in respect to their proposed new development; however, this information is deemed "confidential" - attachment 1.

### **Key Issues and Discussion.**

8. Burbank is confident that a 3-storey town house development (total of approximately 18 dwellings each with 3 bedrooms will provide an affordable proven product in the local setting) and is feasible in the current property market conditions.
9. This scale of development would be consistent with the adjacent constructed 3 storey townhouses to the northwest and southeast of the site.
10. The alternative development proposal aligns with the draft Housing Strategy which seeks to deliver 3 bedroom housing options.
11. Improvement works to the pocket park (which incorporates a large river red gum) will occur as part of the construction – allowing the park which is currently fenced off to be opened for public use.
12. It is likely that Burbank will seek to lodge a new planning application with Council to seek approval for the town house product. The planning process would seek to achieve high urban design outcomes for the site.
13. This site is the last vacant block in the Metro Village 3175 estate located to the south of Cheltenham Road and would conclude a successful relationship with Burbank who have constructed a significant proportion of dwellings in the estate of the past two decades.

### **Governance Compliance**

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

14. 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***

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

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

16. This item increases the use of council assets. The ongoing maintenance costs have not yet been considered – via the opening of the pocket park for which the land is in Council ownership to the public.

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

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

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

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

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

19. A gender impact assessment is not required.



## Community Consultation

20. There was no requirement for community consultation.

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

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

- Education, training, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.
- Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.
- Sustainable environment.

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

- A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
- A city of accessible, vibrant centres and places.
- A city that supports business, entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes.

## Legislative and Policy Obligations

23. 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.344

Moved by: Cr Bob Milkovic

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** a request by Burbank to vary the existing agreement under section 173 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 entered between Council and Burbank Land Corporation Pty LTD in respect to the site at 64 Cheltenham Road, Dandenong;
2. **EXTENDS** the date by which Burbank is required to substantially commence the development on the parcel from 1 July 2026 to 1 July 2028;
3. **APPROVES** "in principle" a proposed 3-storey town house product – which would require either an amendment to the existing permit, or a new planning permit approval.
4. **NOTES** a corresponding variation to the Call Option agreement between the parties to update an operative date by which the developer must obtain finance for the proposed development; and
5. **AUTHORISES** the Chief Executive Officer or her delegate to execute replacement section 173 agreement and deed of variation of call option to give effect to the changes.

**CARRIED 10 / 0**



## 4.2.9 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 10 March 2026 – 7 April 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 10 March 2026 – 7 April 2026.

### Matters Presented for Discussion

Item		Councillor Briefing Session/Pre-Council Meeting
1	<b>Proposed MAV Notice of Motions</b> Councillors were briefed on Proposed MAV Notices of Motion. This covered proposed motions for submission to the MAV State Council Meeting on 29 May 2026 and the process for refining wording or updating motions to reflect emerging issues prior to lodgement.	<b>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 10 March 2026</b>
2	<b>Large Grants Program 2026</b> Councillors were briefed on the Large Grants Program 2026. This covered funding recommendations for Strategic Projects, Partnerships and Festivals & Events Sponsorship categories, outlining proposed recipients for the 2026–27 and 2027–28 grant rounds and providing an	<b>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 10 March 2026</b>



	overview of the Community Grants Panel's assessment outcomes.	
3	<p><b>Dandenong Employment Hub</b></p> <p>Councillors were briefed on the Dandenong Employment Hub with funding secured, implementation underway, recruitment progressing, stakeholder engagement commenced and fit-out planning advancing. Core plans will follow appointment of the Program Lead. The Hub will use a connector model with partners to support priority cohorts.</p>	<b>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 10 March 2026</b>
4	<p><b>Rates and Charges Hardship Policy</b></p> <p>Councillors were briefed on the Rates and Charges Hardship Policy and its alignment with new Ministerial Guidelines. This includes updates to eligibility and recovery processes, safeguards for vulnerable ratepayers and financial impacts ahead of formal adoption.</p>	<b>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 10 March 2026</b>
5	<p><b>Melbourne Water Flood Mapping Project</b></p> <p>Councillors were briefed on the Melbourne Water Flood Mapping Project. Items covered included the upcoming release of updated flood modelling for Greater Dandenong, anticipated increases in flood-affected properties, associated risks and costs and Council's proposed approach to community support, data analysis, advocacy and integration into long-term planning.</p>	<b>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 10 March 2026</b>
6	<p><b>2026-27 Fees and Charges - Financial Sustainability Options for Discussion</b></p> <p><b>CONFIDENTIAL under s 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.</b></p>	<b>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 10 March 2026</b>
7	<p><b>General Discussion</b></p> <p>Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Upcoming Neighbourhood Police Forum;</li><li>b. Appointment of Council Rep on SEL Board in upcoming Agenda; and</li></ul> <p>Agenda items for the Council Meeting of 16 March 2026.</p>	<b>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 10 March 2026</b>
9	<p><b>General Discussion</b></p> <p>Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Victoria Police Safety Forum;</li><li>b. Youth Crime Forum;</li><li>c. Update on Multi-Employer Bargaining Update; and</li></ul> <p>Agenda items for the Council Meeting 16 March 2026.</p>	<b>Pre-Council Meeting (PCM) 16 March 2026</b>



<b>10</b>	<b><i>Presentation from Russell Kennedy Lawyers</i></b> Councillors and Council officers observed a presentation from an experienced practitioner of Russell Kennedy Lawyers in relation to the following matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Management of the CEO's employment;</li><li>b. Obligations under the Model Councillor Code of Conduct;</li><li>c. Obligations under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004; and</li><li>d. Consequences.</li></ul>	<b><i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 23 March 2026</i></b>
<b>11</b>	<b><i>Councillor Professional Development Training – Creating and Maintaining a Safe Workplace</i></b> Education was provided on the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Occupational violence;</li><li>b. Online abuse/bullying;</li><li>c. Councillor Staff Interaction Protocol; and</li><li>d. CEO Recruitment and Performance Management Committee.</li></ul>	<b><i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 23 March 2026</i></b>
<b>12</b>	<b><i>Complaints Policy</i></b> Councillors were briefed on the Complaints Policy. This included highlighting legislative alignment, improved clarity and transparency and consistency with best-practice standards. This Policy will proceed to community consultation before final approval at an upcoming Council meeting.	<b><i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 30 March 2026</i></b>
<b>13</b>	<b><i>Penetration Testing Result (Cybersecurity)</i></b> <b><i>CONFIDENTIAL under s 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.</i></b>	<b><i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 30 March 2026</i></b>
<b>14</b>	<b><i>Tree Protection on Private Land – Local Law Review</i></b> Councillors were briefed on Tree Protection on Private Land – Local Law Review. This addressed a review of the existing tree protection local law and proposed amendments to remove its application in residential zones, following new planning scheme controls that now protect trees under state planning policy.	<b><i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 30 March 2026</i></b>
<b>15</b>	<b><i>Taylor's Road Landfill/Resource Recovery Precinct Update</i></b> Councillors were briefed on the Taylor's Road Landfill/Resource Recovery Precinct Update. This included an outline on the site's history, current operations and status, its role as Melbourne's sole hazardous waste landfill and Veolia's shift towards increased recycling and reuse of contaminated materials rather than landfill disposal.	<b><i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 30 March 2026</i></b>



<b>16</b>	<b>2026-2030 Gender Equality Action Plan (for feedback and endorsement for Community Consultation)</b> Councillors were briefed on the 2026–2030 Gender Equality Action Plan (for feedback and endorsement for Community Consultation). This included an outline of Council’s obligations under the Gender Equality Act 2020, progress on key deliverables and sought feedback on proposed strategies to inform the 2026–2030 plan ahead of community consultation.	<b>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 30 March 2026</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>General Discussion</b> Councillors were briefed on the following policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Procurement Policy Review;</li><li>b. LGBTIQ+ Action Plan;</li><li>c. Community Facilities Access and Use Policy;</li><li>d. Volunteer Policy Review; and</li><li>e. Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Policy.</li></ul>	<b>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 30 March 2026</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Core Systems Replacement (known as ERP)</b> <b>CONFIDENTIAL under s 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.</b>	<b>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 7 April 2026</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>2026-27 Budget</b> Councillors and Council officers were briefed on an overview of the proposed 2026-27 Budget.	<b>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 7 April 2026</b>



## Apologies

5. Councillor Lana Formoso, Councillor Bob Milkovic, Councillor Loi Truong and Councillor Isabella Do submitted apologies for the Councillor Briefing Session on 10 March 2026.
6. Councillor Lana Formoso submitted an apology for the Pre-Council Meeting on 16 March 2026.
7. Councillor Lana Formoso submitted an apology for the Councillor Briefing Session on 23 March 2026.
8. Councillor Lana Formoso and Councillor Bob Milkovic submitted apologies for the Councillor Briefing Session on 30 March 2026.
9. Councillor Lana Formoso and Councillor Loi Truong submitted apologies for the Councillor Briefing Session on 7 April 2026.

## Legislative and Policy Obligations

10. 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.
11. 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.345**

**Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti**

**Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh**

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

**CARRIED 10 / 0**



## 4.2.10 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 [4.2.10.1 - 3 pages]

### Officer Recommendation

**That the listed items for the period 2 March 2026 to 3 April 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 March 2026 to 3 April 2026.

#### **MINUTE No.346**

**Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti**

**Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh**

**That the listed items for the period 2 March 2026 to 3 April 2026 provided in Attachment 1 to this report be received and noted.**

**CARRIED 10 / 0**



## 5 NOTICES OF MOTION

### 5.1 NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 18 - PLANNING THE FUTURE OF CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AT BURDEN PARK

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

**Author:** Cr Phillip Danh

#### Preamble

1. The City of Greater Dandenong is the most multicultural community in Australia, with a long-standing commitment to multiculturalism, social cohesion and community inclusion.
2. According to the 2021 Census, the Vietnamese-Australian community has the second largest population in Greater Dandenong of ancestry by country of birth of parents.
3. The Vietnamese-Australian community has made a significant contribution to Greater Dandenong's social, cultural, and economic life.
4. Despite the large population size, there is currently no dedicated community centre within Greater Dandenong to provide appropriate spaces for service delivery, intergenerational engagement and community connection.
5. The South-Eastern Melbourne Vietnamese Association Council (SEMVAC) has initiated a proposal to establish a community centre, with formal support from respected local community organisations, demonstrating broad support for the project through letters of support from:
  - a. Australian Vietnamese Women's Association;
  - b. Hoa Nghiem Buddhist Temple;
  - c. Vietnamese Australian Seniors Association; and
  - d. St Joseph's Parish, Springvale.
6. Further, on 8 December 2025, the Mayor affirmed via correspondence to SEMVAC that Council is supportive of the establishment of a Vietnamese Community Centre.
7. SEMVAC's existing premises are located within the Burden Park precinct, which is subject to future redevelopment under Council's adopted masterplan.
8. The Commonwealth Government's Infrastructure for Multicultural Communities grants program is a current grant opportunity that supports the delivery of community infrastructure such as multicultural hubs and centres. The program requires applicants to demonstrate project readiness, including evidence of site availability or permission to use land.



## Motion

**THAT Council:**

- 1. NOTES the significant size, history, and contribution of the Vietnamese-Australian community within Greater Dandenong;**
- 2. RECOGNISES that over time, SEMVAC will need to vacate or transition from its current location with no backup plan, creating uncertainty for community members who rely on SEMVAC's services and support;**
- 3. NOTES the availability of external funding opportunities, including the Commonwealth Government's Infrastructure for Multicultural Communities grants program, which supports community-led multicultural infrastructure projects;**
- 4. ACKNOWLEDGES that timely engagement is required to enable applicants to prepare a competitive grant application;**
- 5. REQUESTS that Council officers work with SEMVAC to to extend their lease at the current premises within the Burden Park precinct, in alignment with the Burden Park Master Plan implementation;**
- 6. REQUESTS Council officers to advise SEMVAC of any potential Council-owned assets or land identified for sale through the Asset Realisation Project over the next 18 months, in accordance with Council's policies.**
- 7. NOTES that SEMVAC can independently apply for Commonwealth and State funding and has the capacity to contribute their own funds to fundraise and generate revenue streams.**
- 8. NOTES that Council is not being asked to commit to construction funding or ongoing operational costs, and that any future consideration of site selection, leasing arrangements, or partnerships would be subject to a separate report and decision of Council; and**
- 9. REQUESTS Council officers to meet with SEMVAC by 11 May 2026 to discuss:**
  - a) the extension of their current lease at the Burden Park precinct; and**
  - b) the suitability of potential private sites within Greater Dandenong which may be considered by SEMVAC.**

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**Cr Alice Phuong Le left the Chambers at 9.11pm**

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**Cr Rhonda Garad left the Chambers at 9.32pm.**



**MOTION No.347**

**Moved by: Cr Phillip Danh**

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

**THAT Council:**

- 1. NOTES the significant size, history, and contribution of the Vietnamese-Australian community within Greater Dandenong;**
- 2. RECOGNISES that over time, SEMVAC will need to vacate or transition from its current location with no backup plan, creating uncertainty for community members who rely on SEMVAC's services and support;**
- 3. NOTES the availability of external funding opportunities, including the Commonwealth Government's Infrastructure for Multicultural Communities grants program, which supports community-led multicultural infrastructure projects;**
- 4. ACKNOWLEDGES that timely engagement is required to enable applicants to prepare a competitive grant application;**
- 5. REQUESTS that Council officers work with SEMVAC to to extend their lease at the current premises within the Burden Park precinct, in alignment with the Burden Park Master Plan implementation;**
- 6. REQUESTS Council officers to advise SEMVAC of any potential Council-owned assets or land identified for sale through the Asset Realisation Project over the next 18 months, in accordance with Council's policies.**
- 7. NOTES that SEMVAC can independently apply for Commonwealth and State funding and has the capacity to contribute their own funds to fundraise and generate revenue streams.**
- 8. NOTES that Council is not being asked to commit to construction funding or ongoing operational costs, and that any future consideration of site selection, leasing arrangements, or partnerships would be subject to a separate report and decision of Council; and**
- 9. REQUESTS Council officers to meet with SEMVAC by 11 May 2026 to discuss:**
  - a) the extension of their current lease at the Burden Park precinct; and**
  - b) the suitability of potential private sites within Greater Dandenong which may be considered by SEMVAC.**

**CARRIED 8 / 0**

**Cr Rhonda Garad returned to the Chambers at 9.35pm.**

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**Cr Alice Phuong Le returned to the Chambers at 9.36pm.**

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

### Comment

#### Cr Alice Phung Le

I have attended the following events since the last Council Meeting:

On Saturday 11 April 2026, I attended the Bengali New Year celebrations, representing Council and delivering a speech on behalf of Greater Dandenong.

On Sunday 12 April 2026, I also attended the Spring Harvest Festival in Noble Park.

### Comment

#### Cr Jim Memeti

I have attended the following events since the last Council Meeting:

On Sunday 22 March 2026, I attended the Sustainability Festival at Dandenong Market, a well-attended and successful event delivered by Council staff.

On Saturday 28 March 2026, I attended the Dandenong Rangers vs Casey Cavaliers women's basketball match at Dandenong Stadium. Noted stadium condition and strong venue activity; basketball and volleyball committees are seeking further improvements. Councillors are encouraged to attend.

On Sunday 29 March 2026, I attended the Nowruz Festival at Dandenong Park, supported by a \$40,000 Council contribution. Attendance exceeded expectations with approximately 15,000 people. The event was well run and highly successful.

On Saturday 4 April 2026, I attended the Afghan Australian Philanthropic Association Cultural Community Volleyball Tournament over Easter, the first event of its kind, with eight teams participating.

On Sunday 12 April 2026, I attended the grand opening of Joyalukkas Jewellery in Dandenong, a major international retailer opening its second Australian store, attracting significant public interest.

On Monday 13 April 2026, I was honoured to meet with the Sri Lankan High Commissioner to discuss the Sri Lankan community in the south-east, hosted by the Federal Member for Holt, with attendees from Dandenong, Casey, and Cardinia.

On Wednesday 15 April 2026, I attended Walawwa Sandown Regency event celebrating the Sri Lankan New Year.

### Question

#### Cr Jim Memeti

I have received a report and photograph from a community member about a large pothole at the Dandenong Bus Interchange that poses a safety risk. I will forward this to the relevant officer for urgent action, including contacting the state minister and Member for Dandenong.



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## **Comment**

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

I wish to pay tribute to Keysborough resident Volkan Aksoy, who tragically lost his life over the weekend when an out-of-control vehicle struck him at the Melbourne Showgrounds.

This is particularly personal, as Volkan was known to a member of my family. He attended a nearby school and spent his final hours enjoying a comic convention with his friends, a day that should have been a joyous occasion.

He leaves behind a loving family and many grieving friends. My deepest condolences are with Volkan's family and all those who knew him. He will not be forgotten.

## **Question**

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

There has been an increase in rubbish dumping along Namur Street, Noble Park. While I received a brief update from the Executive Director City Futures this morning, I wished to raise this matter in Council.

I note that parts of the affected area may be on state government land, requiring coordination with the relevant authority.

I ask that Council continue to monitor the situation and consider an appropriate collaborative approach to address it.

## **Comment**

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

I acknowledge the completion of the pillar of murals Muderra Way artwork connecting Yarraman and Noble Park, which has received the Place Leaders Asia Pacific Indigenous Placemaking Award. The project highlights the role of placemaking and good design in improving connectivity, vibrancy, and perceptions of safety.

I also recently hosted a Victoria Police Neighbourhood Forum, noting that while Council cannot address crime alone, initiatives such as lighting, activation and thoughtful design can meaningfully contribute to safer public spaces.

## **Comment**

### **Cr Melinda Yim**

I have attended the following events since the last Council Meeting:

On Saturday 21 March 2026, I attended the official opening of the Nine by Five Art exhibition at the Drum Theatre, alongside Deputy Mayor Phillip Danh and Councillor Isabella Do. The pieces remain on display until Friday 2 May 2026. I have personally purchased three pieces and recommend that others visit while some works are still available for purchase.

On Sunday 29 March 2026, I attended the Keysborough Big Picnic. It was a fantastic turnout that showcased the strength of our community spirit, and we were fortunate to have good weather on the day.

On Sunday 12 April 2026, I attended the annual Natya Praana concert. It was a beautiful celebration of culture through classical Indian dance. Miss Lakshana Start, Artistic Director of Natya Praana, is a remarkable teacher and her students showcased the dedication and effort she has invested in sharing this art form with the community.



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## **Comment**

### **Cr Lana Formoso**

I thank my fellow Councillors for their support during my recent leave of absence, which I have taken while managing ongoing health matters. I also wish to place on record that my actions have at all times been guided by professional advice from the Chief Executive Officer and Council's Governance Manager and have been consistent with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020.

It is therefore disappointing that some inaccurate statements have been made about me. For clarity, I have not received any communication indicating that I have failed to meet my obligations under the Act in relation to any matters referred to the Local Government Inspectorate. Since my election in 2020, I have sought to act with integrity and in the best interests of my community in which I live, work and raise my family.

## **Question**

### **Cr Lana Formoso**

I wish to raise an urgent safety concern regarding an abandoned vehicle that has been stationary for over two months on Eagle Drive near Jacksons Road, Noble Park North. The vehicle obstructs visibility at a busy intersection and poses a clear safety risk.

Despite multiple reports, Council officers have provided inconsistent advice, including one indication that the vehicle would remain until its registration expires in 2027. This is difficult to reconcile given the immediate hazard.

Victoria Police have advised that Council is the appropriate authority, adding to residents' confusion.

I request the vehicle's urgent removal, clarification of Council's powers and obligations regarding abandoned vehicles, and consistent application of these regulations going forward.

## **Response**

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

I am happy for officers to assess the safety aspects of this matter. However, if the vehicle is registered and lawfully parked on a road or property, Council cannot remove it.

It must be an unregistered vehicle for Council to exercise that power. That said, I will have traffic engineers assess the safety implications at that location.

## **Question**

### **Cr Lana Formoso**

I seek clarification on the decision not to accept a Councillor letter of support for a local sporting club's grant application. This has traditionally been standard practice.

I request clarification on when and why this changed, whether it applies to all Councillors and if it is supported by any formal policy or resolution. Given the impact on local clubs and Councillor engagement, I would appreciate a prompt response along with any relevant documentation.



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## **Response**

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

Can I seek clarification? Was this in relation to a request for a letter of support for the Medium Grants application program? If so, the reason that particular letter was not accepted is that the Medium Grants program is Council's own program.

It is considered a conflict of interest for a Councillor to write a letter of support for a program that Council itself approves grants for. If the matter relates to a different grant program, that would be a separate consideration.

## **Comment**

### **Cr Lana Formoso**

Over my five years on Council, I have routinely provided letters of support for internal and external grant applications, including for clubs both within and outside the municipality, as part of my role as an elected representative.

I am not aware of any decision changing this practice and do not recall it being agreed to by Councillors. I seek clarification on when and where this decision was made and ask that the clarification be provided to all Councillors.

## **Response**

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

I am happy to meet with you in the coming week to discuss this matter and will ensure the information is then shared with all Councillors.

## **Comment**

### **Cr Lana Formoso**

I acknowledge the significance of Anzac Day on Saturday 25 April 2026, a time to honour the courage, sacrifice, and service of our Anzacs. In the City of Greater Dandenong, Anzac Day brings our diverse community together in remembrance and respect. As the day falls on a Saturday, I encourage residents to attend local services and commemorations with their families. Lest we forget.

## **Comment**

### **Cr Rhonda Garad**

I attended the fiftieth anniversary of the Dandenong Day Nursery, Kindergarten, and Family Day Care and spoke with many parents who praised the professionalism, dedication and care provided by staff.

Families expressed the deep trust they place in these services, with some travelling long distances after moving away to continue accessing them.

I thank all staff, particularly Deborah Noble, Manager of the Dandenong Day Nursery. As a parent whose children attended Family Day Care, I can personally attest to the lasting impact of these educators. The message from parents and staff is clear: these services are exceptional and highly valued.



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## Question

### **Cr Rhonda Garad**

I understand that approximately 30 Victorian councils are opposing the implementation of the purple glass bin due to cost concerns, with an estimated \$3.6 million cost to Council and a projected \$16 impact on individual rates, as well as concerns about duplication with the container deposit scheme, which has diverted around 70 per cent of containers from landfill. There is also concern that residents cannot opt out of the bin.

Will the City of Greater Dandenong join those councils in opposing this initiative?

## Response

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

Council formally resolved to implement the glass bin in October last year. Council officers are implementing that resolution, and further discussion on the purple bin will be provided through upcoming budget briefings.

If Council chooses to revisit that decision, officers will implement whatever direction Council determines.

## Question

### **Cr Rhonda Garad**

Following the VCAT decision refusing approval for the Hampton Park Waste Transfer Station, I acknowledge and congratulate the Hampton Park Residents Association and Rachel Payne MP for their advocacy.

Given that Council's waste management contract relied on the transfer station as an integral component, particularly for sorting prior to transfer to the Maryvale facility, can the administration advise on the current status of that contract?

I am also aware that Council is not presently using the Hampton Park landfill and is transporting waste approximately 60 kilometres to an alternative facility.

In light of emerging fuel supply constraints, will this arrangement affect Council's capacity to dispose of waste on an ongoing basis?

## Response

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

Council needs to consider all future waste disposal options, which is an ongoing challenge for all councils. Our contract with the waste energy provider remains in place.

The VCAT decision was only made a week ago, and we have 20 days to consider our options going forward. Once the provider advises of their intended direction, we will assess our position and explore alternative arrangements. We are working closely with them and will brief Councillors on the available options.

In relation to fuel costs, our current arrangements are governed by contract, so there is no immediate impact. However, if landfill capacity becomes more constrained in the future, that will inevitably affect future contractual arrangements.



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## Question

### Cr Sean O'Reilly

I spoke today with a local resident who has applied for busking permits in the Springvale Activity Centre. He indicated that, in his experience, Greater Dandenong's approach to busking is considerably more restrictive compared with the City of Melbourne.

I would like to know when Council's busking policy is next scheduled for review and whether, as part of that review, Council could benchmark our approach against surrounding councils.

In my view, this particular resident is a talented performer and we would want to see skilled buskers having the opportunity to perform across our activity centres as much as possible.

## Response

### Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

I will take that question on notice. I will investigate where the policy sits and who manages it and come back to Councillors with a response.

## Comment

### Cr Isabella Do

I have attended the following events since the last Council Meeting:

On Saturday 21 March 2026, I attended the official opening of the Nine by Five Art exhibition at the Drum Theatre, Alongside Deputy Mayor Danh and Councillor Yim, it was truly fantastic to see it all come together, thanks to our wonderful arts team.

I attended my first Eastern Transport Coalition (ETC) meeting since Chris's departure. I thank Chris for his significant contribution as our Council officer and welcome Lynsey to the role, confident she will be a strong advocate for transport in the City of Greater Dandenong.

On Sunday 22 March 2026, I attended the opening of the Sustainability Festival at Dandenong Market. I thank our team for a well-delivered event and valued learning about the annual theme from both Council staff and vendors

On Sunday 29 March 2026, I attended the Keysborough Big Picnic. I commend our festivals and events team for another high-quality event and encourage attendees to share feedback via QR codes, which has clearly informed improvements such as this year's Easter Egg Hunt.

On Wednesday 1 April 2026, I attended the opening of the second Trans Day of Visibility event held in this building. I thank partner organisations, including Headspace, While Being Local Foundation and Justice Connect, for delivering a welcoming and inclusive event of significance to Greater Dandenong.

On Saturday 4 April 2026, I attended the Afghan Australian Philanthropic Association Cultural Volleyball Tournament. It was an engaging event, and I hope to see more activities like this held at Springers Leisure Centre.

On Thursday 16 April 2026, I attended the Discover Dandenong Creek Festival as a volunteer, not in my capacity as a Councillor. It was fantastic to see the number of attendees, particularly on a day when the weather was uncertain. Families turned out in great numbers and the variety of vendors was impressive.



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On Friday 17 April 2026, I attended the Muderra Way mural opening with the Mayor. I found the project enlightening and commend the team for their significant behind-the-scenes work in bringing it to completion.

### **Comment**

#### **Cr Sophie Tan, Mayor**

I have attended the following events since the last Council Meeting:

On Tuesday 17 March 2026, I attended the City of Greater Dandenong Staff Remembrance Service.

On Wednesday 18 March 2026, I attended the National Harmony Week celebration hosted by the Greater Dandenong Interfaith Network and the Harmony Day Citizenship Ceremonies where we welcomed 300 new citizens to Greater Dandenong. Last month alone, we welcomed 600 new citizens to our city.

On Thursday 19 March 2026, I attended the Youth Crime in Greater Dandenong forum, which drew close to 200 participants. It was valuable to hear from Victoria Police and learn from international approaches used in Denmark and the United Kingdom. Later that day, I attended the International Women's Day celebration lunch hosted by Australian Multicultural Community Services.

On Saturday 21 March 2026, I attended the Pulari Annual Stage Show celebrating its 20th year.

On Sunday 22 March 2026, I attended the Harmony Festival hosted by Springvale Neighbourhood House and the International Women's Day celebration hosted by the Hazara Shamama Association of Victoria.

On Tuesday 24 March 2026, I attended the Greater South East Melbourne Manufacturing Stakeholder Roundtable, which marked the National Reconstruction Fund Board's first visit to Dandenong. I commend the GSEM group and the Chief Executive Officer for facilitating the visit and enabling Board members to engage directly with local traders, reinforcing Greater Dandenong's role as a key national manufacturing hub.

On Thursday 26 March 2026, I attended the visit by Minister Nick Staikos and Tim Richardson MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier and State Member for Mordialloc, to the Keysborough Community Hub. The Minister provided positive feedback on Council services, including the Lively Lounge and other services supporting the Keysborough community, particularly in Keysborough South.

On Friday 27 March 2026, I attended the Sisterworks Dandenong Graduation Ceremony for Hospitality students.

On Saturday 28 March 2026, I attended the MKS Ugadi celebrations and the Vishwamanava Kuvempu Seva Ratna Award Ceremony.

On Sunday 29 March 2026, I attended the Keysborough Big Picnic and the Nowruz Festival hosted by the Victorian Afghan Associations Network.

On Tuesday 31 March 2026, I attended a celebration for families participating in the Tune Into Their Kids program hosted by Relationships Australia Victoria.



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On Saturday 4 April 2026, I attended the Cambodian New Year celebration and Miss Cambodia 2026, both hosted by the Cambodian Association of Victoria.

On Tuesday 7 April 2026, I attended a Councillor Budget Briefing.

On Wednesday 8 April 2026, I attended Citizenship Ceremonies.

On Thursday 9 April 2026, I attended the Ramadan Celebration in the Victorian Chinese Community hosted by the Chinese Xinjiang Senior Citizens Association and the Xinjiang Chinese Association Victoria.

On Friday 10 April 2026, I attended the Nepalese New Year celebration hosted by the Nepalese Association of South East Melbourne.

On Saturday 11 April 2026, I attended the Cambodian New Year (Year of the Horse) celebration hosted by the Cambodian Buddhist Association of Victoria and the Annual Eid Celebration hosted by the Fiji Islamic & Cultural Society of Victoria.

On Sunday 12 April 2026, I attended the Melbourne Bakmaha Ulela Sinhala and Tamil New Year celebration hosted by SLGTTIOBA and the Hoi Cho Xuan Binh Ngo and Spring Festival celebrating the Vietnamese Lunar New Year, hosted by SEMVAC. April has marked New Year celebrations across many of our culturally diverse communities, and I extend my best wishes to all who are celebrating.

On Monday 13 April 2026, I attended a Councillor Budget Briefing.

On Thursday 16 April 2026, I attended the Discover Dandenong Creek Festival.

On Friday 17 April 2026, I attended the launch of the Muderra Way Project in Ian and Leonard Streets, Noble Park.

On Saturday 18 April 2026, I attended the Taunet Nelel Annual Gala themed Mother Tongue: Preserving our Heritage in a Globalized World.

On Sunday 19 April 2026, I attended the Noble Park RSL ANZAC Day Sunday Commemoration March and Service.

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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
16/03/26 CQT1	Cr Jim Memeti	<p><b>Community Concerns: Letter to Minister and Local MP on Businesses Operating Near Schools</b> Mayor to write a letter to the responsible minister and local Member of Parliament. The community does not support businesses such as massage parlour's opening up near schools.</p>	Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services	20/04/2026	<p><b>Initial response 16/03/2026:</b> Yes, we can organise this.</p> <p><b>Further response 20/04/2026:</b> A letter has been drafted for the Minister's office and emailed to the Mayor's office to have it sent out.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>COMPLETED</b></p>
16/03/26 CQT2	Cr Jim Memeti	<p><b>Council Role and Letter to State Government and Local Members of Parliament</b> What can Council do when these types of businesses open up within a school or around community areas where children are present.</p>	Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services / Chief Executive Officer		<p><b>Initial response 16/03/2026:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Initial response 16/03/2026:</b> 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 (MAV), as well as reach out to other Councils.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED</b></p>



## 7 URGENT BUSINESS

### 7.1 URGENT BUSINESS - DANDENONG MARKET PTY LTD (DMPL)

Cr Jim Memeti disclosed a direct material conflict of interest (s 128) in this Item as he is the Director of a company that has a stall at the Dandenong Market. Cr Jim Memeti left the Chamber (and the Meeting) prior to discussion and voting.

#### MINUTE No.348

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Lana Formoso

That an item of Urgent Business be heard in relation to Dandenong Market Pty Ltd.

CARRIED 9 / 0

#### MINUTE No.349

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Lana Formoso

#### Preamble

1. That traders at Dandenong Market have today received correspondence from the Market Manager advising that, from 1 May, they will be issued with three months' notice to vacate, with Expressions of Interest to be sought from June to replace existing traders;
2. That this proposed timeline provides limited notice and raises serious concerns regarding compliance with applicable commercial tenancy laws;
3. That the proposed action may expose Council to legal liability, including the risk of collective action by affected traders;
4. That the proposed course of action also presents a risk of significant reputational harm to Council and undermines confidence within the trading community; and
5. That the proposed actions would be substantially progressed prior to the next scheduled Council meeting, limiting Council oversight.

#### Motion

That the Executive Director City Futures hold discussions with the Board and/or the Market Manager urgently in relation to any potential legal exposures of the Council and or any potential reputational harm regarding trader evictions before May 1 2026.

CARRIED 9 / 0



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## 8 CLOSE OF BUSINESS

The Meeting closed at 10.30pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Smith', written over a faint horizontal line.

Signature

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