



Minutes

Council Meeting

Monday 18 May 2026, 7:00 pm

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

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



COUNCIL OBLIGATIONS AND AGENDA REPORTS

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

Community Vision 2040 (Community Vision | Greater Dandenong Council)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Overarching Governance Principles of the Local Government Act 2020

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

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

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

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

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



The Gender Equality Act 2020

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

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

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

Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities

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

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

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



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](#)

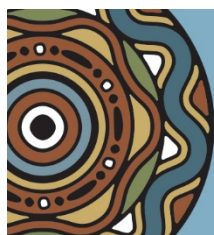
[Cr Lana Formoso](#)

[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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Acknowledging
Bunurong Country

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1 MEETING OPENING

1.1 OPENING OF MEETING BY CHAIR

Cr Sophie Tan opened the Meeting at 7.00pm.

1.2 ATTENDANCE

Apologies

Councillors Present

Cr Sophie Tan, Mayor (Chair)
Cr Phillip Danh, Deputy Mayor
Cr Jim Memeti, Cr Isabella Do, Cr Lana Formoso, Cr Rhonda Garad, Cr Alice Phuong Le,
Cr Bob Milkovic, Cr Sean O'Reilly, Cr Loi Truong,
Cr Melinda Yim (Remote attendance, due to technical difficulties was unable to be seen or heard).

Officers Present

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer; Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures; Marcus Forster, Executive Director Community Strengthening; Yuri Guzman, Chief Customer and Information Officer; Sophie D'Rozario, Governance Manager; Marjan Hajjari, Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services; Mark Burke, Chief Financial Officer.



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 Mr Rabi Gunaratnam, an Elder from the Wesley Baptist Church read the following:

"Our Heavenly Father, Father of all creation,

We come to you in prayer on behalf of this City and the people of this City of Greater Dandenong.

We ask you for your blessings on this meeting of the Councillors which is about to take place.

You have said in Your Word the Bible in Proverbs 2:6-9 "For the LORD grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He grants a treasure of common sense to the honest. He is a shield to those who walk with integrity. He guards the paths of the just and protects those who are faithful to him. Then you will understand what is right, just, and fair, and you will find the right way to go"

We seek your wisdom today in all the matters before us at this council meeting. Would you guide the Councillors to the right decisions.

May you give us a spirit of unity and trust among us and help us to work together for the good of the people of this city.

Lord, please help Mayor Cr Sophaneth Tan, Deputy Mayor Cr Phillip Danh, and the councillors to deliberate on behalf of the businesses and the community and decide on what is right, just, and fair.

We thank you for your willingness to guide us.

May You continue to protect this city and prosper this city for the good of all people. May this city be ruled by your peace.

We pray this in Jesus's Name.

Amen."



1.5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Meeting of Council held 20 April 2026.

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 20 April 2026 be confirmed.

MINUTE No.350

Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti

Seconded by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 20 April 2026 be confirmed.

CARRIED 9 / 0

1.6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cr Jim Memeti disclosed a material conflict of interest (s 128) in item 4.2.1 Proposed 2026-27 Capital Works Program, item 4.4.2 Re-appointment of Director - Dandenong Market Pty Ltd (DMPL), and item 5.1 Notice of Motion No. 20 - Dandenong Market Pty Ltd - Governance Clarification Report 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 Jim Memeti disclosed a general conflict of interest (s 127) item 4.4.5 Leave of Absence - Cr Jim Memeti as the report pertains to his own leave of absence request. Cr Jim Memeti left the Chamber prior to discussion and voting on this item.



2 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 1

2.1 PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

2.1.1 Petitions and Joint Letters

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance, Legal & Risk
Attachments: 1. Petitions & Joint Letters [2.1.1.1 - 6 pages]

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 one (1) new petition prior to the Council Meeting of 18 May 2026 as follows:
5. 37 proponents are raising concerns about insufficient parking on Egan Road, Dandenong, particularly in relation to impacts on local businesses. This petition 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.

MINUTE No.351

Moved by: Cr Loi Truong

Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad

That this report and its attachment be received and noted.

CARRIED 10 / 0



2.2 STATUTORY PLANNING APPLICATIONS

2.2.1 Town Planning Application – No. 9 Newcomen Road and 2 Regal Drive, Springvale (Planning Application No. PLA25/0261)

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

Attachments:

1. Council Report Attachment- Assessed Plans [2.2.1.1 - 6 pages]
2. Council Report Attachment Location of objectors A13570912 [2.2.1.2 - 1 page]

Application Summary

Applicant:	One Studio Melbourne Architecture
Proposal:	Amendment to planning permit 2000/0561 which allows for the use of the site at 9 Newcomen Road, Springvale as a Place of Assembly (Community Centre) with a reduction in the car parking requirements. The amendment seeks to expand the use into 2 Regal Drive, Springvale, amend the permit preamble, amend the endorsed plans, alter condition 4 (hours of operation) and 7 (patron numbers).
Zone:	Industrial 1 Zone
Overlay:	Design and Development Overlay Schedule 6
Ward:	Springvale North

1. This application has been brought before the Council because it has received eleven (11) objections during the advertising process.
2. The application proposes to amend planning permit 2000/0651, which allows for the use of the site at 9 Newcomen Road, Springvale as a Place of Assembly (Community Centre) with a reduction in the car parking requirements. The amendment seeks to expand the use into 2 Regal Drive, Springvale, amend the permit preamble, amend the endorsed plans to construct a new temple, alter Condition 4 (hours of operation) and Condition 7 (patron numbers).
3. A permit is required pursuant to;
 - Clause 33.01-1 (Industrial 1 Zone) of the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme for use of the land for place of assembly.
 - Clause 33.01-4 (Industrial 1 Zone) of the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme for buildings and works.
 - Clause 43.02-2 (Design and Development Overlay) of the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme for buildings and works, and to construct a fence exceeding 1.5 metres in height.
4. This report recommends that the amendment be approved, subject to additional conditions, and that a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit be issued.
5. If the applicant were to make an application for review to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal against Council's decision, the appeal could cost Council in the order of \$30,000.



Objectors Summary

6. The application was advertised to the surrounding area through the erection of a notice on-site and the mailing of notices to adjoining and surrounding owners and occupiers.
7. Eleven (11) objections were received to the application. Issues raised generally relate to matters of:
 - Noise
 - Air pollution
 - Building height
 - Parking and Traffic
 - Fire risk
 - Litter
 - Overlooking
 - Overshadowing
 - Conflict with trucks for Industrial uses in the area
 - Sensitive use encroachment into Industrial area (reverse amenity impacts)

Recommendation Summary

8. As assessed, the proposal is consistent with and appropriately responds to the provisions of the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme. This report recommends that the application be supported, that a Notice of Decision (which provides appeal rights to objectors) to grant a permit be issued containing the conditions as set out in the recommendation.

Subject Site and Surrounds

Subject Site

9. The subject site consists of two (2) properties: 9 Newcomen Road and 2 Regal Drive Springvale.
10. The existing use of land allowed by planning permit 2000/0651 applies to 9 Newcomen Road. This property is located on the corner of Newcomen Road and Regal Drive. It is approximately 1516.6 square metres in an irregular shape and currently contains an existing Place of Assembly. There is a 2.5 metre wide sewerage easement along the eastern and southern boundaries.
11. A 2.3 metre high ornamental fence surrounds the eastern and southern boundaries. There is an ornamental gate on the southern and eastern boundary. The most recent endorsed plans show 10 car parking spaces on the site within the eastern and southern setbacks.
12. This application proposes to extend the use of land for a place of assembly into the property at 2 Regal Drive. This property is located to the immediate north of 9 Newcomen Road, on the western side of Regal Drive. It is approximately 583 square metres in a rectangular shape. The site contains 2 adjoining warehouse buildings, within a shared car parking hardstand along the frontage.



13. 2 Regal Drive has been subdivided and is made up of lot 1, lot 2 and common property along the frontage. There is a 2.5 metre wide sewerage easement along the eastern boundary and party wall easements on the south, west and northern boundaries.

Surrounding Area

14. The site is located in an Industrial 1 Zone northwest of the Springvale Activity Centre. The area is characterised by a wide mix of uses including places of worship, warehouses, bakeries, a funeral parlour, indoor recreation, light industry, and a concrete batching plant.

15. Building design is as expected for an established industrial and commercial area, with a mixture of brick and cement cladding, buildings with a varied front setback along the street, and car parking located predominantly within the front setback.

Locality Plan



Background

Previous Applications

16. A search of Council records revealed that Council has previously considered the following planning applications for the site:

- 2000/0561 issued on 13 February 2001 for the use of the site as a Place of Assembly (Community Centre) with a reduction in the car parking requirements.
- PLN01/0394 issued on 10 September 2001 for place of assembly extension (Gates & fences with ornamental entry).
- PLN10/0850 issued on 18 May 2011 for buildings and works comprising the construction of a verandah.

Proposal

17. The application proposes to amend planning permit 2000/0651, which allows for the use of the site at 9 Newcomen Road, Springvale as a Place of Assembly (Community Centre) with a reduction in the car parking requirements. The amendment seeks to expand the use into 2



Regal Drive, Springvale, amend the permit preamble, amend the endorsed plans to construct a new temple, alter Condition 4 (hours of operation) and Condition 7 (patron numbers).

18. The proposal is outlined as follows:

Permit preamble

19. Amend from:

Use of the site as a Place of Assembly (Community Centre) with a reduction in the car parking requirements.

20. To:

Use and development of the land as a Place of Assembly

Address

21. Amend from:

9 Newcomen Road Springvale

22. To:

9 Newcomen Road Springvale and 2 Regal Drive, Springvale.

Amend condition 4

23. Amend from:

The use may operate only between the hours of:

- 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday; and
- 9.00am to 9.00pm Saturdays;

unless the Responsible Authority gives consent in writing.

24. To:

The use at 9 Newcomen Avenue, Springvale may operate only between the hours of:

- 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday; and
- 9.00am to 9.00pm Saturdays; and
- 9.00am to 5.00pm Sunday

unless the Responsible Authority gives consent in writing.

Amend condition 7

25. Amend from:

No more than forty (40) persons (including volunteers) shall be on the premises at any one time, without the further written consent of the Responsible Authority.

26. To:

No more than fifty-two (52) persons (including volunteers) shall be on the premises at any one time, without the further written consent of the Responsible Authority.

Endorsed plans

27. It is proposed to amend the endorsed plans to show expansion of the use into 2 Regal Drive, Springvale, and construct a new temple building on the land at 2 Regal Drive.

28. The temple building will be 18.0 metres high, comprising of 3 levels plus one mezzanine floor. Each level will contain comprise of worship space and toilets.

29. The ground floor will be 6.8m in height with a mezzanine floor that has a floor to ceiling height of 2.4 metres.



30. Levels 1 and 2 will be 3 metres high. The combined height of the three levels plus the mezzanine floor is 14.7 metres. An additional height of 3.95 metres is the height of the roof space within a gable roof form.
31. Balconies to level 1 and level 2 will overlook Regal Drive.
32. The building will be set back 9.8 metres from the front boundary and 2.5m from the side and rear boundaries. A 1 metre to 1.1 metres wide landscape buffers are provided along the side and rear boundaries.
33. The built form adopts distinctive Chinese architectural elements such as the curved and decorated roofs on each level.
34. A 2.3 metre high brick fence with decorative top is proposed along the front boundary.
35. A sealed car park is proposed within the front of the site. It will accommodate three (3) on-site car spaces. Access will be via the existing crossover that will remain unaltered.
36. Car parking on 9 Newcomen Road will be altered to include nine (9) car parking spaces accessed via the crossover to Newcomen Road and five (5) car parking spaces accessed via the crossovers off Regal Drive.
37. Overall, the subject site will contain fourteen (14) car parking spaces.
38. A copy of the submitted plans is provided in Attachment 1 to this report.

Financial Implications

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

Planning Scheme and Policy Frameworks

40. Pursuant to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme, a planning permit is required under the following clauses;
 - Clause 33.01-1 (Industrial 1 Zone) of the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme for use of the land for place of assembly.
 - Clause 33.01-4 (Industrial 1 Zone) of the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme for buildings and works.
 - Clause 43.02-2 (Design and Development Overlay) of the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme for buildings and works, and to construct a fence exceeding 1.5 metres in height.

Zoning Controls

41. The subject site is located in an Industrial 1 Zone, as is the surrounding area.
42. The purpose of the Industrial 1 Zone outlined at Clause 33.01-1 is:
 - *To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.*
 - *To provide for manufacturing industry, the storage and distribution of goods and associated uses in a manner which does not affect the safety and amenity of local communities.*
43. Pursuant to Clause 33.01-1 a permit is required for the use of the land for place of assembly.
44. Pursuant to Clause 33.01-4 a permit is required for buildings and works.



Overlay Controls

45. The subject site is located in a Design and Development Overlay Schedule 6.

46. The purpose of the Design and Development Overlay outlined at Clause 43.02 is:

- *To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.*
- *To identify areas which are affected by specific requirements relating to the design and built form of new development.*

47. Design objectives outlined at Clause 1.0 of Schedule 6 are:

- *To implement the Springvale Activity Centre Structure Plan (2017) and the Springvale Activity Centre Building Heights and Setbacks Study (2016) to maintain and create a strong and distinct image of the Springvale Major Activity Centre.*
- *To encourage higher density development, whilst maintaining the fine grain rhythm at street level, and achieve a transition down in scale to reduce amenity impacts to the surrounding established residential areas.*
- *To ensure the height and setbacks of development delivers a high quality public realm which maintains sunlight and comfortable wind conditions.*
- *To encourage high quality buildings and ensure building separation and setbacks achieve high levels of external and internal amenity for occupants, visitors and the general public which may require consolidation of sites.*
- *To enhance the amenity and appearance of the industrial area (Precinct 11).*

48. Pursuant to Clause 44.02-2 a permit is required for buildings and works, and to construct a fence exceeding 1.5 metres.

Municipal Planning Strategy

49. The Municipal Planning Strategy at Clause 02 of the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme includes the following policy relevant to this application:

- Clause 02.03-1 Settlement (activity centres)
- Clause 02.03-3 Environmental risks and amenity (land use compatibility)
- Clause 02.03-5 Built environment and heritage (Design, ESD)
- Clause 02.03-7 Economic Development
- Clause 02.03-8 Transport

Planning Policy Framework

50. The Planning Policy Framework of the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme includes the following policy relevant to this application:

- Clause 11.03-1L Springvale Major Activity Centre
- Clause 13.05-1S Noise management
- Clause 13.06-1S Air quality management
- Clause 13.07-1S Land use compatibility
- Clause 13.07-1L Land use compatibility- Greater Dandenong
- Clause 15.01-1S Urban Design
- Clause 15.01-1R Urban Design Metropolitan Melbourne
- Clause 15.01-1L Urban Design Greater Dandenong



- Clause 15.01-1L Urban Design in commercial and industrial areas
- Clause 15.01-2S Building Design
- Clause 15.01-2S Building Design- Greater Dandenong
- Clause 15.01-2L Environmentally Sustainable Design
- Clause 17.03-1S Industrial Land Supply
- Clause 17.03-1L Industrial Land Supply- Greater Dandenong
- Clause 18.01-3R Sustainable and Safe Transport- Metropolitan Melbourne
- Clause 18.01-3L Sustainable and safe transport- Greater Dandenong
- Clause 19.02-3S Cultural facilities
- Clause 19.02-3R Cultural facilities- Metropolitan Melbourne
- Clause 19.02-4S Social and cultural infrastructure

Particular Provisions

51. The provisions outlined at Clause 52.06 for Car Parking need to be considered. The purpose of this provision are:

- *To ensure that car parking is provided in accordance with the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.*
- *To ensure the provision of an appropriate number of car parking spaces having regard to the demand likely to be generated, the activities on the land and the nature of the locality.*
- *To support sustainable transport alternatives to the motor car.*
- *To promote the efficient use of car parking spaces through the consolidation of car parking facilities.*
- *To ensure that car parking does not adversely affect the amenity of the locality.*
- *To ensure that the design and location of car parking is of a high standard, creates a safe environment for users and enables easy and efficient use.*

52. Pursuant to Clause 52.06-2 before the floor area or site area of an existing use is increased or before the patron numbers are increased , the minimum number of car parking spaces required under clause 52.06-5 must be provided to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

53. Car parking design standards are set out at Clause 52.06-9.

General Provisions

54. Clause 65 – Decision Guidelines need to be considered, as is the case with all applications. For this application the requirements of Clause 65.01 for the approval of an application or plan are of relevance. This Clause outlines the requirements that the responsible authority must consider when determining the application.

Restrictive Covenants

55. Covenant P712233C applies to 2 Regal Drive and Covenant R082944U applies to 9 Newcomen Road. Both covenants prohibit use of the land for car wrecking, scrap metal, panel beating or mining plant. The proposal will not breach the covenants.



Links to the Community Vision and Council Plan

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

- Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.

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

- Strategic objective 1: A socially connected, safe and healthy city
- Strategic objective 2: A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts.

Diversity, Access and Equity

58. It is not considered that the planning assessment of this application raises any diversity issues. The application itself does not have a direct and significant impact on the wider Greater Dandenong community.

Community Safety

59. It is considered that there would be no adverse community safety implications in permitting the proposal subject to strict conditions on any planning permit issued.

Safe Design Guidelines

60. Consideration of the relevant requirements of these Guidelines has been undertaken within the Assessment of this application.

Referrals

61. The application was not required to be referred to any external referral authorities pursuant to section 55 of the *Planning and Environment Act* 1987. However, the application was referred to Southeast Water under Section 52 (notice provisions) of the *Planning and Environment Act* 1987 due to proximity of the works to the sewerage easement. Southeast Water advised that the applicant will need to seek separate approval for works over their easement.

62. The application was internally referred to the following Council departments for their consideration:

Internal Council Department	Response
Asset Planning	No objection, subject to conditions
Civil Development	No objection, subject to conditions
ESD	No objection, subject to conditions
Planning Compliance	No objection, no conditions
Transport	No objection, subject to conditions

63. The comments provided were considered in the assessment section of the application.



Advertising

64. The application has been advertised pursuant to section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, by:

- sending notices to the owners and occupiers of adjoining land; and
- placing two (2) signs on site facing Regal Drive.

65. The notification has been carried out correctly. Council has received eleven (11) objection(s) to date.

The location of objectors/submitters is shown in Attachment 2 to this report.

Summary of Grounds of Submissions/Objections

66. The objections are summarised below (**bold**), followed by the Town Planner's Response

- **Noise**

The proposal only results in an additional twelve (12) patrons on site at any one time. The design and layout of the site will require most patrons to be inside the building while on the premises, therefore, it is not considered that the proposal will result in adverse amenity impacts by way of noise. Furthermore, the site is located in an Industrial 1 Zone, adjacent to a railway line carrying freight, therefore, it is not considered that the additional twelve (12) patrons will cause unreasonable noise given the site context.

- **Air pollution due to incense burning**

Incense burning on the site forms part of an established and intermittently undertaken cultural practice associated with the existing place of assembly, a use already authorised by the current planning permit. As the burning occurs outdoors, any resulting emissions are infrequent, low-intensity and are readily dispersed within a naturally ventilated environment. Permit conditions can ensure that the proposed use does not impact on the amenity of the area by way of emission of noise, artificial light, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke, vapour, steam, soot, ash, dust, wastewater, waste products, grit or oil.

- **Building height**

The proposed buildings and works exceed the preferred maximum height specified in Design and Development Overlay Schedule 6 (DDO6) by 2.7 metres. In this instance, the height variation is considered acceptable given the design and site context as follows;

- *The wall height of the building complies with the maximum height requirements, with only the roof structure exceeding 15.4 metres. The roof structure is a hipped roof tapering up to the centre. Therefore, the portion of the building height exceeding the preferred maximum height is recessive and will not be visible from the street.*
- *There are other examples of built form exceeding the preferred maximum height in the area including:*
 - *2-4 Parsons Avenue (place of worship with a maximum height of approximately 21.8 metres)*
 - *8-10 Regal Drive (Concrete batching plant silos with a maximum height of approximately 18.5 metres)*

Therefore, it is not considered that the proposed height variation will negatively impact on the character of the area.



- **Parking and Traffic**

The site provides double the amount of car parking spaces than is currently required by the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme. It is noted that Planning Scheme amendment VC277, introduced by the Victorian Government on 18 December 2025, reduced the statutory parking rates due to close proximity of the site to public transport. In accordance with the updated requirements, the proposal now delivers double the car parking provision required under the current rates. Accordingly, the proposed parking provision is considered to be more than adequate for the needs of the site. The application is only proposing an additional twelve (12) patrons at any one time, therefore, given the site is within an established area, it is considered that the established road network can accommodate the negligible increase in traffic that would be generated by this proposal.

- **Fire risk associated with burning incense and candles**

Burning incense and candles forms part of an established cultural practice associated with the existing place of assembly, which is already permitted under the current planning permit. Risks associated with incense and candle use can be effectively managed through standard, well-established safety measures by the operator.

- **Litter**

The proposed use is not one which generates litter. Bin storage areas are shown on the site plan and permit conditions can ensure the site is always kept clean and tidy.

- **Overlooking**

The site is not adjacent to any residential uses. The nearest residential area is more than 100 metres to the southwest on the opposite side of the railway line. Furthermore, the building is designed to facilitate internal views, therefore, external windows on the north, west and south are limited to highlight windows and small ornamental windows. Therefore, it is not considered that the proposal will result in any unreasonable overlooking impacts.

- **Overshadowing**

The proposed buildings and works are located on the north of the existing place of assembly at 9 Newcomen Road and therefore, will not result in any unreasonable overshadowing on neighbouring properties.

- **Conflict with trucks for Industrial uses in the area**

The proposed expansion only results in an additional 12 patrons attending the site. The proposal provides more than the required car parking within the boundaries of the site, most of which are accessed via the crossover on Newcomen Road. Therefore, it is anticipated that most patrons will park within the boundaries of the site. Pedestrian access is provided within the site to the location of the proposed building at 2 Regal Drive, therefore, most patrons will access the site via Newcomen Road. Given that Newcomen Road is a thoroughfare to a residential area, it is not considered that the proposed expansion will result in conflict with trucks in the area.

- **Sensitive use encroachment into Industrial area (reverse amenity impacts)**

The site is within an older industrial pocket, within close proximity to the Springvale Activity Centre and train station. Surrounding land uses in this precinct have evolved over time and several established non-industrial uses already occur in the area, including the following:

- 7 Newcomen Road (Place of worship)
- 2-4 Parsons Avenue (Place of worship)



- 1-3 Regal Drive (Place of worship)
- 8 Parsons Avenue (place of assembly)
- 10A Parsons Avenue (indoor recreation)

While the industrial zoning of the subject site and the broader industrial-zoned area in which it is located are intended to be retained, the surrounding residential land is identified for transition under the Train and Tram Zone Program and to be incorporated into the new Housing Choice and Transport Zone allowing higher density residential development. This signals a long-term strategic shift toward more sensitive land uses, including higher-density housing, in locations close to transport, jobs and services even where these areas are in proximity to existing industrial uses.

Given that the proposal is only seeking a small expansion (12 additional patrons) on an existing approved use, together with the surrounding established similar non industrial uses, it is considered that the proposal does not impose any additional limitations on the existing industrial uses by way of reverse amenity impacts.

Assessment

67. The proposed amendments have been assessed against the relevant provisions of the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme, including the purpose and intent of the Industrial 1 Zone. Council officers find that the proposal is acceptable and would not result in any impact to the amenity of adjoining or surrounding land.

68. An assessment against each of the proposed changes is provided below.

Use

69. The expansion of the use of land for a place of assembly into the neighbouring site at 2 Regal Drive is considered acceptable given the scale and intensity of the expansion, the location of the site and the surrounding land uses.

70. The site is located at the fringe of an older industrial pocket, within close proximity to the Springvale Activity Centre and train station. Surrounding land uses in this precinct have evolved over time and several established non-industrial uses already occur in the area, including the following:

- 7 Newcomen Road (Place of worship)
- 2-4 Parsons Avenue (Place of worship)
- 1-3 Regal Drive (Place of worship)
- 8 Parsons Avenue (place of assembly)
- 10A Parsons Avenue (indoor recreation)

71. The surrounding residential area is also identified for transition as part of the Train and Tram Zone Program. The site will be in close proximity to the newly proposed Housing Choice and Transport Zone, signalling a long-term strategic shift toward more sensitive land uses and higher-density housing close to transport, jobs and services, even where these areas interface with existing industrial uses.

72. The expansion of the use from its existing operation at 9 Newcomen into 2 Regal Drive is minimal as it only results in an additional twelve (12) patrons on site, and one additional day of operation on Sundays. Pedestrian access has been provided to allow internal access between



2 Regal Drive and 9 Newcomen Street, and the proposal exceeds the car parking requirements of the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme (further discussed below).

73. The expansion will support the ongoing use of the land as a social and cultural facility, consistent with Clause 19.02-4S of the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme. Furthermore, the proposal will build upon the existing cultural identity of the Springvale Activity Centre.

Development

74. The buildings and works proposed are appropriate in the context of this site and surrounding area. The design is in keeping with the existing temple at 9 Newcomen Road, and complementary to other places of worship with ornate detailing in the area.

75. The proposed buildings and works exceed the preferred maximum height specified in Design and Development Overlay Schedule 6 (DDO6) by 2.7 metres. The preferred maximum height is 15.3 metres, however, the proposed building is 18 metres high. In this instance, the height variation is considered acceptable given the design and site context as follows:

- The wall height of the building complies with the maximum height requirements, with only the roof structure exceeding 15.4 metres.
- The roof structure is a hipped roof tapering up to the centre.

76. The portion of the building height exceeding the preferred maximum height is recessive and will have a minimal impact on the street.

77. There are also other examples of built form exceeding the preferred maximum height in the area including:

- 2-4 Parsons Avenue (place of worship with a maximum height of approximately 21.8 metres)
- 8-10 Regal Drive (Concrete batching plant silos with a maximum height of approximately 18.5 metres)

78. Therefore, it is not considered that the proposed height variation will negatively impact on the character of the area.

79. Overall, the proposed building incorporates high levels of articulation through variation of colours and materials. It is considered that the proposed built form is visually appropriate and positively contributes to the streetscape.

80. The proposed fence along the eastern boundary of 2 Regal Drive is considered acceptable as it is in keeping with the existing fence along the eastern and southern boundaries of 9 Newcomen Road.

81. Given there is no public pedestrian pathway on the western side of Regal Drive, the development appropriately includes a separated pedestrian pathway within the site through 9 Newcomen Road to the proposed development at 2 Regal Drive. Therefore, it is considered that the proposal provides suitable pedestrian links.

Site Layout

82. The site comprises three allotments and common property. The proposed layout relies on shared parking, access and circulation across all lots, and a building constructed across two lots and within the common property. Therefore, the use cannot operate effectively if the lots remain separate. Requiring consolidation of the lots prior to commencement ensures the land functions as a single planning unit, secures the ongoing availability of shared access and parking, and avoids future fragmentation that could undermine the approved arrangement. Permit conditions can require consolidation.



Car-Parking and patron numbers

83. The applicant is proposing a maximum of fifty-two (52) patrons across the whole subject site at any one time.
84. Pursuant to Clause 52.06 of the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme, the subject site is located in Category 2 of Clause 52.06 – Car Parking. Therefore 0.15 car parking spaces are required per patron.
85. Seven (7) car parking spaces are required for the overall use. Fourteen (14) car parking spaces are shown on the plans to be provided, therefore, the proposal exceeds the car parking requirements of the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme.
86. It is noted that Planning Scheme amendment VC277, introduced by the Victorian Government on 18 December 2025, reduced the statutory parking rates due to close proximity of the site to public transport. In accordance with the updated requirements, the proposal now delivers double the car parking provision required under the current rates, and therefore, a planning permit is no longer required for a reduction in car parking. Therefore, it is recommended that the permit preamble be amended to delete reference to a reduction in car parking.

Bicycle Facilities

87. Pursuant to Clause 52.34 of the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme, the proposed expansion requires 4 additional bicycle spaces to be provided (1 for staff and 3 for visitors). The plans show 4 additional bicycle spaces within the site.

Environmentally Sustainable Development

88. A review of the Sustainability Management Plan and town planning drawings submitted with the application finds that in the context of this development, this proposal satisfies the expectations for environmental sustainability. The proposal includes design initiatives such as rainwater tanks, efficient fittings and fixtures, electric hot water. Subject to conditions, it is considered that the proposal achieves best practice as set out in Clause 15.01-2L Environmentally Sustainable Design of the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme.

BESS Information Summary		Project Overall Score: 54%		
		Fail	✓ Best Practice	Design Excellence
Dwelling Type: Non-residential		(<49%)	(50-69%)	(>70%)
BESS Category	Score	Initiatives		
Management	0%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DTS/JV3 modelling undertaken for building (conditioned) Façade calculator 		
Water	80%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High WELS star rated water fittings, fixtures and appliances Stormwater design to incorporate on-site water quality treatment systems including proprietary products and rainwater tanks Potable water consumption reduced by 53% compared to same building following minimum standards 		
Energy	72%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires update Commitment to improve energy consumption by 10% to all office areas above minimum NCC requirements for energy efficiency High efficiency heating, cooling and hot water systems specified 		



Indoor Environment Quality	54%	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daylight assessment
Transport	37%	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% more staff bicycle parking than minimum planning requirements to the warehouses with offices. 50% more visitor bicycle parking spaces than minimum planning requirements
Waste	66%	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building design enables convenient disposal of waste for recycling.
Urban Ecology	12%	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communal open spaces provided for workers 5% of the site is landscaped, including retention of existing vegetation
Innovation	0%	

Conclusion

89. Overall Council officers find that the proposal complies with the relevant provisions of the Planning Scheme with the following recommendations outlined below.

90. It is recommended that the following amendments to the permit be made:

Permit detail	Recommendation
Permit address	Amend to: <i>Lot 3 LP 215489, 9 Newcomen Road Springvale and Lot 1, 2 and common property on PS307626V, 2 Regal Drive, Springvale.</i>
Permit preamble	Amend to: <i>Use and development of the land as a Place of Assembly</i>
Add conditions as 1-2 and renumber subsequent conditions	<p>Condition 1: <i>Prior to endorsement of plans and prior to construction of the building approved under this amended permit PLA25/0261, amended plans to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. The amended plans must be drawn to scale with dimensions. The amended plans must be generally in accordance with the plans submitted and assessed with the application but modified to show:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Annotation of the proposed hot water system as per SMP ,</i> <i>Annotation of the proposed heating and cooling systems as per SMP ,</i> <i>Any other changes as required under the revised SMP ,</i> <i>The provision of disabled parking on site. The proportion of spaces to be allocated as disabled spaces must be in accordance with Australian Standard AS2890.6-2009 (disabled) and the Building Code of Australia.</i> <p>Condition 2:</p>



	<p><i>The prior to construction, the applicant is to submit a revised Sustainability Management plan to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. The revised SMP must be in accordance with the design initiatives, commitments and assessment tool inputs included in the SMP (prepared by Melbourne Sustainability Consultants, dated 8 July 25) but modified to include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Submission of completed energy efficiency assessment (Part J) model that validates the commitment to meet the buildings thermal performance in accordance with NCC requirements and completed façade calculator ,</i>• <i>Revised BESS assessment that includes:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Selection of Management Credit 2.3, updated energy section in line with JV3/DTS</i>• <i>Revised energy section that includes estimated energy performance figures in accordance with the completed energy efficiency (JV3) assessment model.</i>• <i>Any other changes in line with updates to the Town Planning Drawings, as required.</i> <p><i>The provisions, recommendations and requirements of the approved SMP must be constructed and complied with to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. No alterations to the approved SMP must occur without prior written consent from the responsible authority.</i></p>
Amend condition 6 (previously condition 4) to allow Sunday operation.	Condition 6 (previously condition 4): <i>The use may operate only between the hours of: 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday; and 9.00am to 9.00pm Saturdays; and 9.00am to 5.00pm Sunday unless the Responsible Authority gives consent in writing.</i>
Amend condition 8 (previously condition 6)	Condition 8 (previously condition 6): <i>The car parking provided on the land must always be kept available for its intended purpose at all times. No measures must be taken to restrict access to the car park.</i>



<p>Add conditions as conditions 9 to 12 and renumber subsequent conditions</p>	<p>Condition 9: <i>Provision must be made for the drainage for proposed development including landscaped and paved areas, all to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.</i></p> <p>Condition 10: <i>Prior to the use commencing, all parking areas and accessways must be:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>constructed and available for use in accordance with the plan approved by the responsible authority;</i>• <i>formed to such levels and drained so that they can be used in accordance with the plan; and</i>• <i>line-marked or provided with some other adequate means of showing the car parking spaces</i> <p>Condition 11: <i>The car parking area must be lit if in use during the hours of darkness and all lights must be designed and fitted with suitable baffles. The lighting must be positioned to prevent any adverse effect on adjoining land and must not be considered excessive for the area, all to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.</i></p> <p>Condition 12: <i>Before certificate of occupancy is issued for the building on 2 Regal Drive, and prior to commencement of the use approved by this amended permit PLA23/0261, the site comprising Lot 3 LP 215489, 9 Newcomen Road Springvale and Lot 1, 2 and common property on PS307626V, 2 Regal Drive, Springvale must be consolidated into a single lot under the Subdivision Act 1988, as evidenced by a as evidenced by the registration of the plan of consolidation at Land Use Victoria, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.</i></p>
<p>Amend condition 13 (previously condition 7) to allow an increase in patron numbers</p>	<p>Condition 13 (previously condition 7): <i>No more than fifty-two (52) persons (including volunteers) shall be on the premises at any one time, without the further written consent of the Responsible Authority.</i></p>
<p>Amend condition 16 (previously condition 10)</p>	<p>Condition 16: <i>This permit will expire if:- ,</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>the development or any stage of it does not start within three (3) years of the date of this amended permit PLA25/0261, or</i>• <i>The development or any stage of it is not completed within five (5) years of the date of this amended permit PLA25/0261.</i>• <i>the use does not start within two (2) years of the date of this permit, or</i>• <i>the use is discontinued for a period of three (3) years.</i> <p><i>Before the permit expires or within six (6) months afterwards the owner or occupier of the land may in writing request the Responsible Authority to extend the expiry date.</i></p>



	<p><i>The owner or occupier of the land may in writing request the Responsible Authority to extend the expiry date to complete the development or a stage of the development if:</i></p> <p><i>(a) the request for the extension is made within twelve (12) months after the permit expires; and</i></p> <p><i>(b) the development or stage started lawfully before the permit expired.</i></p>
Amended Endorsed Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of the use into 2 Regal Drive, Springvale, and construct a new temple on the land at 2 Regal Drive. • Addition of a 2.3 metre high brick fence with decorative top is proposed along the front boundary of 2 Regal Drive to match the existing fence along the boundary of 9 Newcomen Road. • Addition of a sealed car park within the front setback of the proposed temple. • The arrangement of car parking on 9 Newcomen Road will be altered. • Overall, the subject site will contain fourteen (14) car parking spaces.

Officer Recommendation

That Council resolves to issue a Notice of Decision to grant a permit in respect of the land known and described as Lot 3 LP 215489, 9 Newcomen Road Springvale and Lot 1, 2 and common property on PS307626V, 2 Regal Drive, Springvale for the purpose of Use and development of the land as a Place of Assembly in accordance with the plans submitted with the application subject to the following conditions:

Planning scheme clause	Matter for which the permit has been granted
Clause 33.01-1	A permit is required for the use of the land for place of assembly.
Clause 33.01-4	A permit is required for buildings and works.
Clause 43.02-2	A permit is required for buildings and works, and to construct a fence exceeding 1.5 metres in height.

Date of issue of amendment	Brief description of amendment	Name of responsible authority that approved the amendment	Section of the Act under which the permit has been amended
Application reference no. PLA25/0261			
xx/xx/2026	Amend address Amend preamble Add conditions Amend conditions Amend Endorsed Plans	City of Greater Dandenong	Section 75 [objectors]



1. **Prior to endorsement of plans and prior to construction of the building approved under this amended permit PLA25/0261, amended plans to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. The amended plans must be drawn to scale with dimensions. The amended plans must be generally in accordance with the plans submitted and assessed with the application but modified to show:**
 - 1.1 **Annotation of the proposed hot water system as per SMP**
 - 1.2 **Annotation of the proposed heating and cooling systems as per SMP**
 - 1.3 **Any other changes as required under the revised SMP**
 - 1.4 **The provision of disabled parking on site. The proportion of spaces to be allocated as disabled spaces must be in accordance with Australian Standard AS2890.6-2009 (disabled) and the Building Code of Australia.**
 2. **The prior to construction, the applicant is to submit a revised Sustainability Management plan to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. The revised SMP must be in accordance with the design initiatives, commitments and assessment tool inputs included in the SMP (prepared by Melbourne Sustainability Consultants, dated 8 July 25) but modified to include:**
 - 2.1 **Submission of completed energy efficiency assessment (Part J) model that validates the commitment to meet the buildings thermal performance in accordance with NCC requirements and completed façade calculator**
 - 2.2 **Revised BESS assessment that includes:**
 - 2.2.1 **Selection of Management Credit 2.3, updated energy section in line with JV3/DTS**
 - 2.2.2 **Revised energy section that includes estimated energy performance figures in accordance with the completed energy efficiency (JV3) assessment model.**
 - 2.2.3 **Any other changes in line with updates to the Town Planning Drawings, as required.**
- The provisions, recommendations and requirements of the approved SMP must be constructed and complied with to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. No alterations to the approved SMP must occur without prior written consent from the responsible authority**
3. **The use and/or development as shown on the endorsed plans must not be altered without the written consent of the Responsible Authority.**
 4. **Once the development/use has started it must be continued and completed to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.**
 5. **This permit allows the use of the land only by The Teo Chew Chinese Association of Victoria Incorporated. If The Teo Chew Chinese Association of Victoria Incorporated ceases to use the land, this permit will expire.**



6. **The use may operate only between the hours of:**
 - 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday; and
 - 9.00am to 9.00pm Saturdays; and
 - 9.00am to 5.00pm Sunday

unless the Responsible Authority gives consent in writing.
7. **No goods must be stored or left exposed outside the building so as to be visible from any public road or thoroughfare.**
8. **The car parking provided on the land must always be kept available for its intended purpose at all times. No measures must be taken to restrict access to the car park.**
9. **Provision must be made for the drainage for proposed development including landscaped and paved areas, all to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.**
10. **Prior to the use commencing, all parking areas and accessways must be:**
 - 10.1 **Constructed and available for use in accordance with the plan approved by the responsible authority;**
 - 10.2 **Formed to such levels and drained so that they can be used in accordance with the plan; and**
 - 10.3 **Line-marked or provided with some other adequate means of showing the car parking spaces**
11. **The car parking area must be lit if in use during the hours of darkness and all lights must be designed and fitted with suitable baffles. The lighting must be positioned to prevent any adverse effect on adjoining land and must not be considered excessive for the area, all to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.**
12. **Before certificate of occupancy is issued for the building on 2 Regal Drive, and prior to commencement of the use approved by this amended permit PLA23/0261, the site comprising Lot 3 LP 215489, 9 Newcomen Road Springvale and Lot 1, 2 and common property on PS307626V, 2 Regal Drive, Springvale must be consolidated into a single lot under the Subdivision Act 1988, as evidenced by a as evidenced by the registration of the plan of consolidation at Land Use Victoria, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.**
13. **No more than fifty-two (52) persons (including volunteers) shall be on the premises at any one time, without the further written consent of the Responsible Authority.**
14. **The amenity of the area must not be detrimentally affected by the use or development, through the:**
 - 14.1. **transport of materials, goods or commodities to or from the land;**
 - 14.2. **appearance of any building, works or materials;**
 - 14.3. **emission of noise, artificial light, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke, vapour, steam, soot, ash, dust, waste water, waste products, grit or oil.**



15. Bins or other receptacles for any form of rubbish or refuse must not be placed or allowed to remain in the view of the public, and smell must not be emitted from any such receptacle.

16. This permit will expire if:-

16.1 the development or any stage of it does not start within three (3) years of the date of this amended permit PLA25/0261, or

16.2 The development or any stage of it is not completed within five (5) years of the date of this amended permit PLA25/0261.

16.3 the use does not start within two (2) years of the date of this permit, or

16.4 the use is discontinued for a period of three (3) years.

Before the permit expires or within six (6) months afterwards the owner or occupier of the land may in writing request the Responsible Authority to extend the expiry date.

The owner or occupier of the land may in writing request the Responsible Authority to extend the expiry date to complete the development or a stage of the development if:

(a) the request for the extension is made within twelve (12) months after the permit expires; and

(b) the development or stage started lawfully before the permit expired.



MINUTE No.352

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Seconded by: Cr Bob Milkovic

That Council resolves to issue a Notice of Decision to grant a permit in respect of the land known and described as Lot 3 LP 215489, 9 Newcomen Road Springvale and Lot 1, 2 and common property on PS307626V, 2 Regal Drive, Springvale for the purpose of Use and development of the land as a Place of Assembly in accordance with the plans submitted with the application subject to the following conditions:

Planning scheme clause	Matter for which the permit has been granted
Clause 33.01-1	A permit is required for the use of the land for place of assembly.
Clause 33.01-4	A permit is required for buildings and works.
Clause 43.02-2	A permit is required for buildings and works, and to construct a fence exceeding 1.5 metres in height.

Date of issue of amendment	Brief description of amendment	Name of responsible authority that approved the amendment	Section of the Act under which the permit has been amended
Application reference no. PLA25/0261			
xx/xx/2026	Amend address Amend preamble Add conditions Amend conditions Amend Endorsed Plans	City of Greater Dandenong	Section 75 [objectors]

- 1. Prior to endorsement of plans and prior to construction of the building approved under this amended permit PLA25/0261, amended plans to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. The amended plans must be drawn to scale with dimensions. The amended plans must be generally in accordance with the plans submitted and assessed with the application but modified to show:**
 - 1.1 Annotation of the proposed hot water system as per SMP**
 - 1.2 Annotation of the proposed heating and cooling systems as per SMP**
 - 1.3 Any other changes as required under the revised SMP**



- 1.4 The provision of disabled parking on site. The proportion of spaces to be allocated as disabled spaces must be in accordance with Australian Standard AS2890.6-2009 (disabled) and the Building Code of Australia.
2. The prior to construction, the applicant is to submit a revised Sustainability Management plan to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. The revised SMP must be in accordance with the design initiatives, commitments and assessment tool inputs included in the SMP (prepared by Melbourne Sustainability Consultants, dated 8 July 25) but modified to include:
 - 2.1 Submission of completed energy efficiency assessment (Part J) model that validates the commitment to meet the buildings thermal performance in accordance with NCC requirements and completed façade calculator
 - 2.2 Revised BESS assessment that includes:
 - 2.2.1 Selection of Management Credit 2.3, updated energy section in line with JV3/DTS
 - 2.2.2 Revised energy section that includes estimated energy performance figures in accordance with the completed energy efficiency (JV3) assessment model.
 - 2.2.3 Any other changes in line with updates to the Town Planning Drawings, as required.

The provisions, recommendations and requirements of the approved SMP must be constructed and complied with to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. No alterations to the approved SMP must occur without prior written consent from the responsible authority
3. The use and/or development as shown on the endorsed plans must not be altered without the written consent of the Responsible Authority.
4. Once the development/use has started it must be continued and completed to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
5. This permit allows the use of the land only by The Teo Chew Chinese Association of Victoria Incorporated. If The Teo Chew Chinese Association of Victoria Incorporated ceases to use the land, this permit will expire.
6. The use may operate only between the hours of:
 - 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday; and
 - 9.00am to 9.00pm Saturdays; and
 - 9.00am to 5.00pm Sundayunless the Responsible Authority gives consent in writing.
7. No goods must be stored or left exposed outside the building so as to be visible from any public road or thoroughfare.
8. The car parking provided on the land must always be kept available for its intended purpose at all times. No measures must be taken to restrict access to the car park.
9. Provision must be made for the drainage for proposed development including landscaped and paved areas, all to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
10. Prior to the use commencing, all parking areas and accessways must be:
 - 10.1 Constructed and available for use in accordance with the plan approved by the responsible authority;
 - 10.2 Formed to such levels and drained so that they can be used in accordance with the plan; and
 - 10.3 Line-marked or provided with some other adequate means of showing the car parking spaces



- 11. The car parking area must be lit if in use during the hours of darkness and all lights must be designed and fitted with suitable baffles. The lighting must be positioned to prevent any adverse effect on adjoining land and must not be considered excessive for the area, all to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.**
- 12. Before certificate of occupancy is issued for the building on 2 Regal Drive, and prior to commencement of the use approved by this amended permit PLA23/0261, the site comprising Lot 3 LP 215489, 9 Newcomen Road Springvale and Lot 1, 2 and common property on PS307626V, 2 Regal Drive, Springvale must be consolidated into a single lot under the Subdivision Act 1988, as evidenced by a as evidenced by the registration of the plan of consolidation at Land Use Victoria, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.**
- 13. No more than fifty-two (52) persons (including volunteers) shall be on the premises at any one time, without the further written consent of the Responsible Authority.**
- 14. The amenity of the area must not be detrimentally affected by the use or development, through the:**
 - 14.1. transport of materials, goods or commodities to or from the land;**
 - 14.2. appearance of any building, works or materials;**
 - 14.3. emission of noise, artificial light, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke, vapour, steam, soot, ash, dust, waste water, waste products, grit or oil.**
- 15. Bins or other receptacles for any form of rubbish or refuse must not be placed or allowed to remain in the view of the public, and smell must not be emitted from any such receptacle.**
- 16. This permit will expire if:-**
 - 16.1 the development or any stage of it does not start within three (3) years of the date of this amended permit PLA25/0261, or**
 - 16.2 The development or any stage of it is not completed within five (5) years of the date of this amended permit PLA25/0261.**
 - 16.3 the use does not start within two (2) years of the date of this permit, or**
 - 16.4 the use is discontinued for a period of three (3) years.**

Before the permit expires or within six (6) months afterwards the owner or occupier of the land may in writing request the Responsible Authority to extend the expiry date.

The owner or occupier of the land may in writing request the Responsible Authority to extend the expiry date to complete the development or a stage of the development if:

- (a) the request for the extension is made within twelve (12) months after the permit expires; and**
- (b) the development or stage started lawfully before the permit expired.**

CARRIED 10 / 0



2.2.2 Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – April 2026

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

Attachments: 1. Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – April 2026.pdf
[2.2.2.1 - 12 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 April 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.353

Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti

Seconded by: Cr Bob Milkovic

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

CARRIED 10 / 0



3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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 the council for any opinion or view contained within them.

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

A question has been submitted by Joseph of Dandenong North relating to Councillor conduct.

Matters of this nature would be considered confidential under clause 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2020 and therefore, we will not be reading or responding to the question.

Question

Phillip, Dandenong

Dandenong council has repeatedly claimed the inclusion of a religious prayer at council meetings was to show inclusion of its multicultural community. Over recent times 64% of Victorian councils have removed the prayer claiming the direct opposition to Dandenong councils statement claiming it creates division in their communities.

The Pyrenees shire council in Beaufort Victoria removed the prayer in 2024 in response to legal recommendations claiming that in quote "Continuing to do so would unlawfully infringe on the rights contained within the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities,"

With councils commitment to inclusivity and its legal requirements to follow the Victorian charter of human rights and responsibilities, will the council please stop allowing religious prayers at future council meetings?

Dandenong and Stonnington councils have comparable numbers of religious residents, and both boast large multicultural communities. Stonnington Council removed religious prayers from council meetings in 2018 due to concerns about divisiveness.

Considering their similar demographics, why does Dandenong Council disagree with Stonnington Council's continued claim that prayers at council meetings are divisive?

Response

Marjan Hajjari, Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services

We respectfully acknowledge each other's culture, faiths and traditions in Greater Dandenong. We are enriched by our differences, and the practice does not automatically breach the Victorian Charter of Human Rights.

Participation in religious prayer or an affirmation at the commencement of Council meetings is voluntary. The structure of the current prayer or affirmation includes our community multi-faith (and non-faith) formats. With the recent change to reduced Council meeting per year additional efforts will be made to ensure social equity is achieved for both faith and non-faith groups.

Each local government has their own demographic profile and it is a matter for each council to determine how to reflect a prayer/affirmation for their own unique demographic.



Question

Leanne Noble, Dandenong

Upon buying an electric car I have noticed a lack of charging stations at council facilities. Can council please advise which of these 11 council owned facilities have electric power charging stations?

Springvale Community Hub, South Keysborough Community Hub, The Drum, Walker Street Gallery, Harmony Square, Dandenong Stadium, Noble Park pool, Oasis pool, Gloria Pyke netball facility, Springers Leisure Centre and Ross Reserve,

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

We recommend that any residents looking for charging stations use websites such as PlugShare, which show public charging stations within the municipality. The number of stations is regularly increasing.

Council facilitates increasing numbers of charging stations by allowing providers such as Evie, Jolt and Chargefox to install and operate on Council land through our Public Electric Vehicle Charging Policy.

These providers select the locations for charging stations based on where they believe there is public demand. While the approach above means that Council does not directly select the location for new charging stations, we are happy to take feedback from the community on where they believe there is demand for chargers and discuss these locations with providers.

Question

Leanne Noble, Dandenong

Upon driving on the detour along Kirkham Road Dandenong I noticed approximately 20 nature strips without trees planted around the Dandenong South primary school. With these children walking along this street, tree shade is so important.

With Dandenong council just starting their tree planting season now can council please plant trees on these approximately 20 empty plots this season?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Council Officers will inspect the nature strips within Kirkham Road to identify and assess potential planting locations and align preferred tree species. Following the site inspection tree planting will be scheduled to occur this planting season.

In general Council plants trees in streets and parks between May and October each year when cooler weather conditions are favourable for planting. All new tree plantings are maintained for a period of two years which includes regular watering across the warmer months to ensure successful establishment.



Question

Gaye Guest, Keysborough

As our population increases and freight continues to grow, the demands placed on our roads are changing. Infrastructure designed decades ago is now being asked to support higher traffic volumes, larger vehicles, and more people moving around in different ways and at different times, due to poor planning decisions by both Council and the State Government.

The community is united in the belief that our local road network should be safe and accessible, but it is time to stop talking and start acting.

Greater Dandenong continues to experience higher rates of serious road injuries than the Victorian average, with more than 170 local residents hospitalised each year following road crashes, including incidents similar to the one that occurred yesterday.

Improving road safety is a shared responsibility. Continued government investment in safer intersections, well-maintained road surfaces, protected bike lanes, and appropriate speed management can make a meaningful difference.

Chandler Road Upgrade Standoff

- **Project Status:** The Chandler Road upgrades (particularly near Cheltenham Road) have been identified as an unfunded, lower-priority upgrade to the arterial road network.
- **Political Discontent:** Former CGD Cr Tim Dark has previously criticized local council spending and transparency regarding road and community projects, noting that rate-capped council budgets have struggled to prioritize expensive localized road re-developments without significant state/federal intervention.
- **Community Advocacy:** The Dandenong Journal has frequently highlighted local frustration regarding the lack of funding for road "black spots" and intersection safety improvements in the Keysborough-Dandenong area

Where does this issue sit in CGD budget for 2026-27 and what advocacy is being done by our local council and Councillors to our local MPs?

Why does council ignore the real issues residents face on a daily basis?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

The section of Chandler Road to the south of Cheltenham Road is managed by Council. The extended queuing lane and shoulder sealing was completed in 2020 as committed to in the Keysborough South Transport Study. Both Council and Department of Transport and Planning (DPT) have been monitoring that location since, with no significant queuing northbound observed, or road trauma on this section of the road.

There is no specific 2026/27 budget allocation for this section of road.



Chandler Road to the north of Cheltenham Road is managed by the Victorian Government, and forms part of a corridor of Victorian Government managed arterial roads alongside Eltona Road and Jacksons Road. The level of road trauma along this corridor within the last five years is very high and Council's view is that road safety improvements on this corridor are very high priority.

This corridor has been included within Councils Advocacy Priorities in the lead up to Victorian Government budgets and the last Victorian Election. This project has also been listed within the Election and Budget Submissions by regional bodies, such as the Eastern Transport Coalition, which Council participates in.

Community consultation is a critical part of the annual budget cycle, and our DRAFT budget and Advocacy Priorities have taken on board the feedback we've heard throughout this year and in the past.

Cr Isabella Do left the meeting at 7.24pm and did not return.

Question

Gaye Guest, Keysborough

Recent incidents on Chandler Road and surrounding areas highlight ongoing safety concerns, including:

- 15 Feb 2023: High-speed stolen vehicle (up to 180 km/h) driven by a 16-year-old forced drivers to take evasive action.
- 27 May 2024: Fatal collision in Keysborough involving a motorbike and a turning vehicle at Elmbank Drive.
- 19 Mar 2026: Reported Road accident requiring emergency response.
- 20 Apr: Collision causing closure of three westbound lanes on the Dandenong Bypass at Chandler Road.
- 17 May: Hit-and-run at Chandler and Cheltenham Roads, hospitalising a child and two adults.

The CGD Keysborough South Transport Study identified this section of Chandler Road (between Cheltenham Road and the Dandenong Bypass) as a single lane each way, with northbound congestion partially addressed by shoulder works completed in 2020. This upgrade was considered medium benefit/cost and is now effectively outdated.

Given ongoing congestion, safety risks, and increasing traffic volumes, residents are concerned that overdevelopment, reduced parking requirements, and narrow street design are worsening conditions. Many households have multiple vehicles (4–6 cars), adding pressure to already constrained infrastructure.

Why is Council not doing more to address the combined impacts of overdevelopment, traffic congestion, and road safety on Chandler Road and surrounding residential streets, and what advocacy is being undertaken to improve infrastructure, parking, and community safety?



Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Council officers are strongly of the view that the most appropriate way to address road safety issues on the Chandler Road, Elonera Road and Jacksons Road corridor is urgent funding and delivery of road safety infrastructure improvements by the Victorian Government.

Traffic volumes on Chandler Road are currently no higher than they were prior to the significant mobility changes driven by the Covid pandemic. Regardless of any further development or traffic growth on Chandler Road, we consider road safety infrastructure improvements to be required, and Council will continue to advocate for infrastructure investment in this corridor.

Question

Daryll Morgan, Dandenong North

I am the group leader of 2nd Springvale scout group and I am enquiring about the decommissioned toilet block that is front of our scout hall at 587 Springvale Road Springvale South.

In the past it was utilised by a men's group for activities but I think currently is not being used by anyone so am hoping our Rover Scouts may be able to use it as a Rover Den, would be better to be used by the community than sitting there empty if someone could chase up if this is a possibility and get back to me that would greatly be appreciated.

Response

Marjan Hajjari, Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Service

Council has recently undertaken a building condition audit of all its facilities, including this building. Once the audit data has been fully analysed, Council will be in a better position to determine whether the building is suitable for repurposing and future use.

In the meantime, the Scouts are encouraged to contact Council's Property Team to express their interest and, if appropriate, explore the possibility of entering into a lease or licence agreement for the space.

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

A question has been submitted by Maria Sampey of Keysborough relating to Councillor conduct.

Matters of this nature would be considered confidential under clause 3 (1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* and therefore, we will not be reading or responding to the question.

Question

Peter Brown, Noble Park

Mr Brown directed two questions to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor

In 2026 the salary package of the Prime Minister of Australia was \$622,050 and the salary package of the Premier of Victoria was \$512,972. How can Council justify, in the draft 2026–27 Council Budget, a proposal to remunerate the Chief Executive Officer and her Executive Assistant at approximately \$676,000, as outlined in Appendices G and H of the Statement of Human Resources, to be funded by ratepayers?



What is the justification for Council's proposal to introduce a fourth glass bin service, estimated to cost approximately \$3.6 million, noting that other councils, including Kingston, had rejected the proposal. Further noting that over 30 metropolitan councils opposed the rollout, that glass would continue to be sent to the same facilities used by councils that had rejected the scheme, and that Kingston had estimated upfront costs of \$3.7 million with ongoing annual operational costs of approximately \$1 million.

Response

Cr Sophie Tan, Mayor

Council has a formal Chief Executive Officer Remuneration Committee, which includes an independent external advisor. The committee typically meets annually and will meet twice yearly going forward to assess the Chief Executive Officer's performance against agreed key performance indicators. We have an external independent advisor currently being recruited, with the next CEO performance review scheduled for June.

CEO remuneration is determined in accordance with established remuneration bands and benchmarked against comparable councils. The City of Greater Dandenong CEO is not the highest-paid CEO among Victorian councils. CEO remuneration details are publicly available and can be accessed on the public record.

The glass bin service is a state-mandated reform scheduled to commence on 1 July 2027. Council has discussed implementation options at briefings, including the potential to defer final decisions until after the November state election, given that policy settings could change.

Council is eligible for approximately \$1 million in state government funding towards the purchase of bins. The total cost of purchasing approximately 58,000 bins is estimated at \$3.2 million, meaning the funding would significantly reduce Council's contribution if the project proceeds. If implemented, the additional annual cost to households is estimated to be between \$13 and \$18. The glass bin would be collected monthly, not fortnightly or weekly.

Councils that do not comply with the mandate by the required date may be subject to state government fines of close to \$100,000 per year. Council is awaiting final confirmation of compliance and enforcement arrangements. We will continue to consider timing and implementation options, including whether to defer action until the outcome of the state election is known.

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

**PUBLIC 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
20/04/26 PQT1	Juanita Spinelli, Frankston	Request for Council Support and Funding for Lebanese Community Following International Conflict I request that Council allocate specific funding and facilitate support services for the local Lebanese community, including crisis support, counselling and wellbeing services, financial and medical assistance, and referrals to other required services. I also request that Council facilitate and support the Lebanese community to hold a public vigil and memorial, in consultation with affected community members, by 18 May 2026.	Executive Director Community Strengthening		Initial response provided 20/04/2026: 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. FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED



4 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 2

4.1 PROCUREMENT

4.1.1 Dandenong Basketball Stadium - Flooring Replacement Contract

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

Attachments: 1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT 1 Tender information 2526 27 AND 2526 28 DBS Flooring Courts 4 7 an [4.1.1.1 - 7 pages]
(Confidential) Attachment 1: Tender information

This report contains an attachment which is deemed confidential under s 3(1)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020*. It contains council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.

Purpose

1. This report outlines the tender process undertaken to select a suitably qualified and experienced contractor for the Dandenong Stadium – Substructure Upgrade and Timber flooring replacement project on Courts 4-7 (Contract No. 2526-28) and Courts 11-13 (Contract No. 2526-27).
2. This report recommends the award for two contracts, for Substructure Upgrade and Timber flooring replacement works at the Dandenong Basketball Stadium. (Contract No. 2526-27 for works on Courts 11-13 and Contract No. 2526-28 for Courts 4-7).

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **AWARDS Contract No. 2526-27 for the Dandenong Stadium – Substructure Upgrade and Timber flooring replacement (Courts 11-13) to Kematch Pty Ltd ABN: 61 643 790 998 for a fixed lump sum price of Seven hundred and seventy-four thousand one hundred thirty dollars and seventeen cents. (\$774,130.72) including GST of \$70,375.47;**
2. **AWARDS Contract No. 2526-28 for the Dandenong Stadium – Substructure Upgrade and Timber flooring replacement (Courts 4-7) to Domain National Ltd ABN: 41 104 118 505 for a fixed lump sum price of One million one hundred and sixty-nine thousand, two hundred ninety-seven dollars and forty-seven cent (\$1,169,297.72) including GST of \$106,299,79;**
3. **AUTHORISES the Chief Executive Officer to execute the contract agreements and any associated documentation; and**
4. **NOTES that, the stadium will continue to operate in a reduced capacity throughout the 16 weeks construction period while works are completed on 7 of their 15 courts.**



Executive Summary

3. Dandenong Basketball Stadium (DBS) is a premier sporting facility in Victoria and hosts numerous national, state and school events and is home to Volleyball Victoria.
4. A full replacement of the timber flooring is required at DBS on Courts 4-7 and 11-13 and structural improvements to the subfloor are also required to ensure compliance with AS1170.1 (Standard for Structural Design)
5. Construction will have a significant impact on DBS operations, so the works must be completed in the shortest possible timeframe.
6. This report recommends that Council awards Contract No. 2526-27 Dandenong Stadium – Substructure Upgrade and Timber flooring replacement (Courts 11-13) to Kematch Pty Ltd ABN: 61 643 790 998 for a fixed lump sum price of Seven hundred and seventy four thousand one hundred thirty dollars and seventeen cents. (\$774,130.72) including GST of \$70,375.47. This is a Lump Sum Contract and not subject to rise and fall; and,
7. This report recommends that Council awards Contract No. 2526-28 Dandenong Stadium – Substructure Upgrade and Timber flooring replacement (Courts 4-7) to Domain National Pty Ltd ABN: 41 104 118 505 for a fixed lump sum price of One million one hundred and sixty-nine thousand, two hundred ninety-seven dollars and forty-seven cent (\$1,169,297.72) including GST of \$106,299.79. This is a Lump Sum Contract and not subject to rise and fall;

Background

8. Dandenong Basketball Stadium (DBS) is a multi-purpose indoor sporting stadium, comprising 15 indoor courts, including a 2000 seat show/ premier court, functions room with bar and kitchen, strength and conditioning rooms, cafe and retail spaces. While the stadium is owned by Council, operations at the stadium are managed by South-East Leisure (SEL).
9. The stadium was constructed in 1992, and the courts have been maintained with only minor remedial, re-sanding/ surfacing work and the sporadic replacement of individual floorboards when they fail. The sports court flooring system has never been replaced in its entirety.
10. There has been a recent history of incidents at the stadium involving failure of the timber flooring. A report was commissioned to review the existing condition of each of the timber court surfaces and substructure. The report highlighted the current flooring does not comply with all the loading requirements of AS1170.1 (Standard for Structural Design), due to the variability of the different floorboard thickness and grade of timber across the courts.
11. Council has since engaged a structural engineer (JYN Engineering) to complete an upgraded structural design compliant with AS1170.1 (Standard for Structural Design). This upgrade is to be implemented on courts 4-7 and 11-13, including strengthening treatments of the subfloor, replacement and refinishing of the timber flooring and line marking.
12. The impacts to the regular operations of the stadium during construction are very high and the construction duration must be kept to a minimum. As a result, the construction works are required to occur between 1 September 2026 and 24 December 2026 (16-weeks). The stadium will continue to operate in a reduced capacity throughout the construction period while works are completed on 7 of their 15 courts.
13. To meet the desired delivery timeframes, the works required at the stadium have been divided into 2 works packages (Contract No. 2526-27 for works on Courts 11-13 and Contract No. 2526-28 for Courts 4-7). This will allow 2 contractors to work concurrently onsite and deliver all works within the 16-week construction period.



Tender Process

14. An Expression of Interest (EOI) was completed for this project closing February 2026 with the purpose to;
15. Discuss the project with potential contractors who are interested in delivering the works.
16. Understand the construction methodology and program to allow for planning with stadium management.
 - a. Understand the appropriate floor finish specifications and required documentation and testing to achieve compliance.
 - b. Review the project scope and documentation to ensure the required deliverables are captured in the contract documentation.
17. Feedback from the EOI was used to finalise the Request for Tender (RFT) documentation and make key decisions about the delivery methodology. The feedback indicated one contractor may not have capacity to deliver all 7 courts within the 16-week construction period. The project has been split into 2 works packages (Contract No. 2526-27 for works on Courts 11-13 and Contract No. 2526-28 for Courts 4-7) to ensure all courts could be delivered within the nominated construction period of 1 September 2026 to 24 December 2026.
18. An open RFT was completed concurrently for the 2 contract (Contract No. 2526-27 for works on Courts 11-13 and Contract No. 2526-28 for Courts 4-7)
19. The RFT for both contracts opened on Wednesday 15 April 2026 and closed on Wednesday 6 May 2026. Several contractors submitted tenders for both contracts, noting that the works were likely to be awarded to two separate contractors.
20. The contractors who responded were.

Contractors Name	ABN
Domain National Pty Ltd	ABN: 41 104 118 505
Harris HMC Interiors	ABN: 77 130 177 614
Humecon Finance	ABN: 56 098 112 077
Kematch Pty Ltd	ABN: 61 643 790 998
Modus Projects	ABN: 63 143 167 159
Pattersons Build Group	ABN: 24 668 154 774
South-East Building Services	ABN: 21 078 407 002
TMJ Electrical	ABN: 75 684 027 736

Tender Evaluation

21. The submissions were evaluated using Council's weighted attribute value selection method. The evaluation criteria included in the tender documents and allocated weightings used to evaluate the tender are as follows:

	Evaluation Criteria	Weighting
1.	Price	25%
2.	Relevant Experience	30%
3.	Program and Capacity to Deliver	30%
4.	Social Procurement	5%



5.	Local Industry	5%
6.	Environmental	5%
7.	OH&S Systems (Pass / Fail)	Pass / Fail
8.	Environmental System (Pass / Fail)	Pass / Fail

22. Submissions are assessed by the panel members based on the Evaluation Criteria 1 – 6 in the above table. Scores are allocated to each Evaluation Criteria on a scale from 0 (Not Acceptable) to 5 (Excellent), as outlined in the table below.

Score	Description
5	Excellent
4	Very Good
3	Good, Better than Average
2	Acceptable
1	Marginally Acceptable (Success Not Assured)
0	Not Acceptable

23. Evaluation Criteria 7 and 8 are given a Pass or Fail via the Rapid Global (Council's Workforce Management Software – Health and Safety Compliance).

24. Contractors were required to be registered with Rapid Global (Council's Workforce Management Software – Health and Safety Compliance) prior to the tender closing date at risk level one (1) rating.

25. The RFT was advertised with a mandatory site inspection. At the close of the tender period submissions were received from eight (8) contractors for Contract No. 2526-27 for Courts 11-13. Two (2) of the submissions were non-conforming tenders.

26. At the close of the tender period submissions were received from six (6) contractors for Contract No. 2526-28 for Courts 4-7. One (1) of the submissions were non-conforming tenders. Each submission was assessed against all evaluation criteria, to ensure that the tenderers met the standards required for Council contractors. Having a failure in any criterion would automatically exclude tenderers from further consideration for this contract.

27. At the completion of the tender evaluation process described above, the Evaluation Panel agreed that the tender submission from Kematch Pty Ltd ABN: 61 643 790 998 provided the best submission for Contract No. 2526-27 (Courts 11-13) and Domain National Pty Ltd ABN: 41 104 118 50 provided the best submission for Contract No. 2526-28 (Courts 4-7).

Project delivery funding

28. These contracts relate to an approved CIP project from the 25/26FY program. There are adequate funds with the program to cover these contracts. A detailed breakdown of the project funding is included within the confidential attachment.



Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

29. 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

30. There are adequate capital funds to undertake these works, with no additional impact to existing, ongoing operating financial implications associated with this report.

Asset Implications

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

Legal/Risk Implications

32. Council holds a liability risk while the Courts at DBS are non-compliant with AS1170.1. At the completion of this project the risk will be removed.

Environmental Implications

33. This project includes a significant supply of timber construction material. The supply, sourcing and disposal of timber materials has been assessed as part of the tender submissions.

Community Consultation

34. There was no requirement for community consultation.

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

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

- Safe and peaceful community.
- Mind, body and spirit.

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

Legislative and Policy Obligations

37. 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:

- Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.



Social Procurement

38. The Request for Tender documents required tenders to outline their social procurement initiatives to be assessed as a mandatory criteria during the tender evaluation.
39. In reviewing the submission from Domain National Pty Ltd and Kematch Pty Ltd, it was noted that both contractors provided satisfactory submissions which addressed topics such as; Training of apprentices throughout construction projects, Child safety policies, Modern Slavery policies and donations of reclaimed timber where appropriate.

Local Industry

40. The Request for Tender documents required tenders to respond to Local Industry initiatives to be assessed as a mandatory criteria during the tender evaluation.
41. In reviewing the submission from Domain National Pty Ltd and Kematch Pty Ltd, it was noted that both contractors provided satisfactory submissions which addressed topics such as; Local supply of building materials, use of local subcontractors and donations of reclaimed timber to local industry where appropriate.

MINUTE No.354

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council:

1. **AWARDS Contract No. 2526-27 for the Dandenong Stadium – Substructure Upgrade and Timber flooring replacement (Courts 11-13) to Kematch Pty Ltd ABN: 61 643 790 998 for a fixed lump sum price of Seven hundred and seventy-four thousand one hundred thirty dollars and seventeen cents. (\$774,130.72) including GST of \$70,375.47;**
2. **AWARDS Contract No. 2526-28 for the Dandenong Stadium – Substructure Upgrade and Timber flooring replacement (Courts 4-7) to Domain National Ltd ABN: 41 104 118 505 for a fixed lump sum price of One million one hundred and sixty-nine thousand, two hundred ninety-seven dollars and forty-seven cent (\$1,169,297.72) including GST of \$106,299,79;**
3. **AUTHORISES the Chief Executive Officer to execute the contract agreements and any associated documentation; and**
4. **NOTES that, the stadium will continue to operate in a reduced capacity throughout the 16 weeks construction period while works are completed on 7 of their 15 courts.**

CARRIED 9 / 0



4.1.2 Tender Award for Internal Auditor

Responsible Officer:	Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services
Attachments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Contract No 2526 22 Provision of Internal Auditing Services Att 1 CONFIDENTIAL [4.1.2.1 - 3 pages] This report contains an attachment which is deemed confidential under s 3(1)(a) of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>. It contains council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released. This report contains an attachment which is deemed confidential under s 3(1)(g) of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>. 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. **AWARDS Contract No. 2526-22 Provision of Internal Auditing Services to Grant Thornton Australia Limited (ABN 41 127 556 389) for a three (3) year and one (1) month term, commencing 1 June 2026 and ending 30 June 2029, at a total estimated contract value of \$674,558 (inclusive of GST); and**
2. **AUTHORISES the Chief Executive Officer to execute the contract and any associated documentation, subject to finalisation of agreed contractual terms.**

Executive Summary

1. **This report recommends that Council awards Contract No. 2526-22 – Provision of Internal Auditing Services to Grant Thornton Australia Limited for a total estimated contract value of \$674,558 (inclusive of GST).**
2. Awarding the contract will ensure Council maintains an independent and effective internal audit function, supporting governance, risk management and internal control arrangements and meeting the ongoing requirements of the Audit and Risk Committee.

Background

3. Council maintains an internal audit function to support sound governance, risk management, and internal control practices, and to provide independent assurance to Council's Audit and Risk Committee.
4. Internal Audit services support Council by providing independent, objective assurance and advice on the effectiveness of governance arrangements, risk management practices and internal controls across the organisation and its controlled entities.
5. Council undertook a public tender process to appoint an external service provider to deliver outsourced internal audit services, including the review and delivery of a strategic internal audit program and periodic reporting to management and the Audit and Risk Committee.



Tender Process

6. Tender No. 2526-22 Provision of Internal Auditing Services was advertised via VendorPanel in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy and the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020. Tenders closed at 2:00pm on Tuesday 7 April 2026. A total of nine (9) tender submissions were received.
- a) Ashfords Audit And Assurance Pty Ltd (ABN - 52 138 965 241)
 - b) Grant Thornton Australia Limited (ABN - 41 127 556 389)
 - c) KPMG Australia (ABN - 51 194 660 183)
 - d) Mizael Auditors Pty Ltd (ABN - 91 164 180 241)
 - e) Moore Australia (Vic) Pty Ltd (ABN- 32 052 362 348)
 - f) O'connor Marsden & Associates Pty Limited (ABN - 94 135 783 792)
 - g) Strategic Executive Solutions Pty Ltd (ABN - 49 088 226 822)
 - h) The Trustee For Aster Advisory Trust (ABN - 57 623 847 279)
 - i) The Trustee For Hlb Mann Judd (Vic) Unit Trust (ABN - 56 143 698 709)
7. Tenderers were required to be registered with Rapid Global (Council's workforce management system for health and safety compliance) at Risk Level six (6) prior to the tender closing date.

Tender Evaluation

8. The Tender Evaluation Panel comprised the Chief Customer and Information Officer, Governance Advisor, Independent Audit and Risk Committee member, and Senior Procurement Business Partner.
9. The tenders were evaluated using Council's Weighted Attribute Value Selection Method. The evaluation criteria and allocated weightings used to assess the tenders were as follows:

	Evaluation Criteria	Weighting
1	Tendered Sum/Rates	15%
2	Capacity to meet the range of services	30%
3	Local government experience	20%
4	Ability to meet Council timelines	20%
5	Social procurement outcomes	5%
6	Environmental sustainability	5%
7	Local Industry	5%

Each criterion was assessed using a point score between 0 (Fail / Not Acceptable) and 5 (Excellent), in accordance with the score parameters set out below.

Score	Description
5	Excellent
4	Very Good
3	Good
2	Acceptable
1	Marginally Acceptable
0	Fail/ Not Acceptable



10. Each tenderer was evaluated against all criteria and assigned point scores by evaluation panel
11. members. Initial assessments were undertaken based on individual panel member scoring. Following the initial assessment, a shortlist of four (4) tenderers were invited to participate in interviews conducted using the same evaluation criteria. Following the interview process, the evaluation panel met to agree final consensus scores. The agreed scores were then multiplied by the applicable weightings to determine weighted scores for each criterion, which were totalled to produce an overall evaluation score and ranking for each tender submission.
12. At the completion of the tender evaluation process described above, the evaluation panel agreed that the recommended tender submission represents the best value for money outcome for Council. Supporting documentation has been retained on the relevant tender file.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

13. This item does not have an impact on existing human resources. Internal audit services are provided through an external service provider, with oversight managed within existing Council resources.

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

Operating Budget Implications

14. The costs associated with this contract are provided for within Council's adopted operating budget.

Asset Implications

15. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

18. A gender impact assessment is not required, as this item relates to the procurement of internal professional services and does not directly or significantly affect the public.

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* and the Council's Procurement Policy.

Social Procurement

20. The recommended provider's approach to social procurement is reflected through its community engagement activities, support for job readiness and vocational initiatives, and broader commitment to diversity and social inclusion within its organisation. This includes involvement with community and not-for-profit organisations, participation in recognised diversity and inclusion frameworks, and initiatives supporting respectful engagement with First Nations peoples.



21. These activities align with Council's social procurement objectives by contributing to positive social outcomes without creating contractual employment or procurement commitments.

Local Industry

22. The recommended provider will deliver the services through locally based engagement, with local employment and associated expenditure supporting service delivery, including on-site meetings and Audit and Risk Committee attendance.

MINUTE No.355

Moved by: Cr Phillip Danh

Seconded by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

That Council:

- 1. AWARDS Contract No. 2526-22 Provision of Internal Auditing Services to Grant Thornton Australia Limited (ABN 41 127 556 389) for a three (3) year and one (1) month term, commencing 1 June 2026 and ending 30 June 2029, at a total estimated contract value of \$674,558 (inclusive of GST); and**
- 2. AUTHORISES the Chief Executive Officer to execute the contract and any associated documentation, subject to finalisation of agreed contractual terms.**

CARRIED 9 / 0



4.2 FINANCE AND BUDGET

4.2.1 Proposed 2026-27 Capital Works Program

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: Chief Financial Officer

Attachments: 1. Proposed 2026-27 Capital Program [4.2.1.1 - 5 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. In accordance with section 129 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, **APPROVES** the proposed 2026-27 Capital Works Program for inclusion in the Proposed 2026-27 Budget, **excluding** the following Dandenong Market projects:
 - 3 Dandenong Market Renewal Program
 - 9 Dandenong Market Basement Carpark Rectification and Compliance works
 - 10 Dandenong Market – Fire Services Upgrade
 - 14 Dandenong Market – Fruit and Vegetable Eastern Roof Awning
 - 15 Dandenong Market – Carpark/Pedestrian Interface
 - 16 Dandenong Market – Power and gas demand/supply assessment
 - 17 Dandenong Market – Stormwater upgrade; and
2. Following the disclosure and consideration of conflicts of interest, **APPROVES** the Dandenong Market projects listed in Recommendation 1 for inclusion in the Proposed 2026-27 Capital Works Program and Budget.

Executive Summary

1. A key element of the budget process is the proposed capital works expenditure for 2026-27. Given these works relate to specific areas of Council's business, there is a higher potential for works to create a conflict of interest for Councillors to declare.
2. The Officer Recommendations are structured to enable councillors who have declared a conflict of interest in relation to Dandenong Market projects to participate in the approval of the remainder of the Capital Works Program, while ensuring that the Dandenong Market projects are considered separately in accordance with the conflict of interest provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
3. This report recommends that Council adopts the proposed schedule of capital works to be included in the 2026-27 Budget.
4. The report highlights the potential risk of sustained elevated fuel costs and notes that officers are actively monitoring fuel market developments, with any material financial impacts or proposed budget adjustments to be reported back to Council for consideration.



Background

5. Section 129 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and regulation 7 (r) (i) (ii) and (iii) of the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020* provides that if a budget or revised budget to be approved by a Council includes funding for a matter in respect of which a Councillor has a conflict of interest, the Councillor is taken not to have a conflict of interest for the purposes of approving the budget or revised budget if:
 - The Council approved the matter and the proposed funding previously; and
 - The Councillor disclosed the nature of conflict of interest under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* when the decision in respect of the funding was originally considered and made.
6. Accordingly, the proposed 2026-27 Capital Works Program is tabled separately for Council endorsement prior to consideration of the 2026-27 Budget.
7. A full copy of the proposed 2026-27 Capital Program is attached to this report.

Key Issues and Discussion

8. In summary, the Capital Works Program proposes a total of \$105.5 million of works.
9. The more significant projects and programs include:
 - \$55 million Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing (formerly Dandenong Wellbeing Centre)
 - \$10.4 million Road Renewal Programs
 - \$7.7 million Building Renewal Program, South East Leisure, Community Wellbeing buildings, Drum Theatre, and Dandenong Market renewal
 - \$3.6 million Glass bin implementation program to support the four-bin system
 - \$3.3 million J.C. Mills Reserve Hockey Field Surface and Fencing
 - \$3.3 million Dandenong Market - major improvement works supporting the long-term operation of the Market, including basement carpark rectification, fire services upgrades, stormwater works, utility capacity assessments, and public realm improvements within the market precinct.
 - \$3 million Dandenong New Art
 - \$1.6 million Security and CCTV infrastructure
 - \$2.4 million Active and Passive Reserves Renewal Programs (including Softfall, rubber, scoreboards, irrigation, goals, cricket wickets, open space furniture, BBQs, drinking fountains, public lighting and fencing – funded by rates).
 - \$1 million Dandenong Park Playground redevelopment
10. Fuel cost assumptions for the 2026-27 Budget are based on prevailing market conditions and existing contractual arrangements at the time of preparation. Officers have identified the potential risk of sustained elevated fuel costs arising from current market conditions and supply constraints. While there remains uncertainty regarding the duration and scale of these impacts, officers are actively monitoring fuel market developments and undertaking preparatory analysis. Council will be kept informed of emerging issues and any material financial impacts, including potential implications for service delivery, contractor pricing or capital project costs. Should sustained impacts eventuate, officers will report back to Council with options to manage financial resilience, including any recommended reprioritisation, deferral or rescoping of lower priority or non-essential activities.



Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

11. 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

12. This report endorses the proposed 2026-27 Capital Works Program for inclusion in the Budget. The associated financial implications, including funding sources and ongoing operating impacts, are reflected in the Proposed 2026-27 Budget and Long Term Financial Plan.

13. The \$105.5 million of proposed 2025-26 capital works will be funded by a number of sources including:

- \$38.89 million – rates
- \$38.93 million – borrowings
- \$13.14 million – reserves
- \$14.25 million – grants
- \$318,000 – contributions

Asset Implications

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

Legal/Risk Implications

15. Councillors are required to disclose any conflicts of interest in relation to individual projects in accordance with section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The recommendations are structured to enable compliant decision-making where conflicts apply to specific projects.

Environmental Implications

16. Capital budget bids are assessed for climate change considerations using Council's Capital Investment Program (CIP) Climate Change Self-Assessment framework. As part of this process, project proponents are required to identify and document potential climate-related risks and impacts relevant to their proposal, including exposure to physical climate risks, contribution to emissions, and opportunities to improve resilience or reduce environmental impact. This information is considered alongside strategic alignment, asset condition, service need and financial factors in determining project prioritisation.

17. The climate change self-assessment does not operate as a standalone approval mechanism but informs officer review and decision-making across the capital program. Where climate-related risks are identified, officers consider whether mitigation measures, design changes or alternative delivery approaches are required and whether residual risks are acceptable. This approach supports Council's broader climate change, sustainability and asset management objectives and continues to be refined over time to reflect evolving best practice and policy expectations.

Gender Impact Assessment

18. A gender impact assessment is not required.



Community Consultation

19. A community consultation process was conducted from 22 October until 19 November 2025 and incorporated both online and hard copy activities to ensure a range of opportunities were offered to the community. The process for 2026-27 included broad survey questions on what services the community values the most as well as providing an opportunity for community members and/or organisations to submit requests for additional project funding. 43 people participated over the 28-day period.
20. Seven community submissions were received for additional projects and in December 2025 a Community Feedback Session was held for community members who wished to present their project ideas for consideration. Three community members attended the session and spoke to projects related to a review of the Keysborough South Maintenance Levy, a new net training area at Shepley Oval and increased funding for the environment and sustainability initiatives. These ideas were considered by Council in the development of the Proposed Capital Program 2026-27.

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



MINUTE No.356

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council:

1. In accordance with section 129 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, APPROVES the proposed 2026-27 Capital Works Program for inclusion in the Proposed 2026-27 Budget, excluding the following Dandenong Market projects:

- **3 Dandenong Market Renewal Program**
- **9 Dandenong Market Basement Carpark Rectification and Compliance works**
- **10 Dandenong Market – Fire Services Upgrade**
- **14 Dandenong Market – Fruit and Vegetable Eastern Roof Awning**
- **15 Dandenong Market – Carpark/Pedestrian Interface**
- **16 Dandenong Market – Power and gas demand/supply assessment**
- **17 Dandenong Market – Stormwater upgrade**

2. Following the disclosure and consideration of conflicts of interest, APPROVES the Dandenong Market projects listed in Recommendation 1 for inclusion in the Proposed 2026-27 Capital Works Program and Budget.

CARRIED 8 / 0

Cr Jim Memeti left the Chamber at 7.34 pm.

Cr Jim Memeti returned to the Chamber at 7.43pm.



4.2.2 Proposed Budget 2026-27

Responsible Officer: Chief Financial Officer

Attachments: 1. Proposed Budget 2026-27 [4.2.2.1 - 163 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES IN PRINCIPLE** the proposed 2026-27 Budget as attached to be released for the purposes of community consultation.
2. **NOTES** the second stage consultation process planned for 14 days (commencing 19 May 2026 concluding on 2 June 2026); and
3. **NOTES** that following consideration of any community feedback received, it will consider the 2026-27 Budget for adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on 15 June 2026.

Executive Summary

1. Under the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), Council is required to prepare a Budget each financial year (including the subsequent three (3) financial years) and to have that Budget adopted by 30 June.
2. This report recommends that Council adopts in principle the Proposed 2026-27 Budget and place the Proposed 2026-27 Budget, in conjunction with the Proposed Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) 2027-2036 on public exhibition for 14 days for the purposes of inviting community feedback as per Council's Community Engagement Policy. Following the conclusion of the community engagement period and any feedback received, the Budget and LTFP will again be tabled for Council consideration and adoption at the 15 June 2026 Council Meeting.

Background

3. The Proposed 2026-27 Budget has been developed within Council's Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework and aligns with the Community Vision 2040, Council Plan 2025–2029 and relevant financial and asset strategies. Governance, transparency and accountability considerations underpin the Budget and its associated decisions.
4. The Budget has been prepared in the context of sustained financial pressures across the local government sector, including rising costs, ongoing rate capping and increased demand for services. Despite these challenges, the Budget prioritises investment in community wellbeing, safety, liveability and critical infrastructure.
5. Trade-offs have been required to balance service delivery expectations with affordability and financial sustainability, while ensuring Council remains well-positioned to respond to future risks and opportunities.
6. The Victorian State Government have set the rate cap for the 2026-27 year at 2.75 per cent, which applies to total rates.



Key Issues and Discussion

7. The Proposed 2026-27 Budget presents a balanced and responsible financial plan that continues to invest strongly in community infrastructure and core services while clearly acknowledging the emerging financial pressures Council will need to manage over the medium term.

Strengths and positives

8. The 2026-27 Budget delivers a \$7.0 million operating surplus and a cash surplus result of \$821,000.
9. Council enters 2026-27 with a strong balance sheet, adequate liquidity and a balanced operating position, reflecting disciplined financial management and prudent use of reserves and borrowings.
10. The Budget includes a significant \$105.5 million capital works program, one of the largest in Council's history, delivering tangible improvements across the municipality.
11. Central to this investment is the continued delivery of Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing, a landmark, city-shaping project and one of the most significant community infrastructure investments ever undertaken by Council. This facility will deliver long-term health, wellbeing and recreation benefits for generations.
12. Alongside Oasis, the capital program prioritises essential asset renewal and community safety, including roads and drainage, parks and sporting facilities, Dandenong Market improvements, Dandenong New Art, waste and recycling infrastructure, and expanded CCTV and security upgrades.
13. The Budget also supports essential everyday services relied on by the community, including libraries, maternal and child health, waste and recycling, parks, youth services and cultural programs.
14. Investment in the Core System Replacement program in 2026-27 is a critical enabler of future efficiency, improved data and decision-making, stronger financial controls and a more sustainable operating model over time.
15. After considering the impacts of annual property valuations and a proposed change to the differential rating structure, the average rate increase for all property types is less than the current annual inflation rate. In particular, the average rate increase for residential properties is 2.11 per cent.

Pressures and emerging risks

16. The Budget has been developed using assumptions set at a specific point in time, in an environment of ongoing global and domestic economic uncertainty. Since then, continued volatility in energy, fuel, supply chains, inflation and labour markets has placed upward pressure on operating costs. In response to these conditions, CPI and fuel assumptions for operating expenditure have been revised upward in the 2026-27 Budget to better reflect current cost pressures. These assumptions will continue to be monitored and reviewed through future budget and financial planning updates.
17. The adjusted underlying result, which excludes non-recurrent income, shows a deficit of \$15 million in 2026-27. This reflects that, under current assumptions, recurrent operating expenditure exceeds recurrent operating income in that year and highlights underlying pressure on Council's operating position.
18. Council's cash position and working capital, while currently sound, are forecast to be tested over the forward estimates as reserves are drawn down to fund major capital projects, including Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing and the Core System Replacement program.



19. Borrowings will increase in the short term to support delivery of intergenerational infrastructure. While debt remains within prudential limits, it reduces flexibility and heightens the importance of careful cash-flow management.
20. Beyond the current peak investment period, Council faces renewal funding gaps from 2027-28 onwards, highlighting the limits of rate-capped revenue to fully fund asset renewal without continued prioritisation or external funding.
21. Ongoing legislative change, including cost-shifting from other levels of government and compliance requirements, continues to add pressure to Council's operating model.

What this means going forward

22. Council is financially stable in the short term, but forecasts show medium-term sustainability risks that will require active management.
23. Importantly, Council retains multiple financial levers and opportunities to strengthen resilience, including:
 - service review and reprioritisation
 - efficiency gains and organisational reform
 - improved cost recovery and revenue diversification
 - securing external grants and partnerships
 - optimising asset investment and renewal strategies.
24. Economic conditions and assumptions will be closely monitored, and Council will adjust forecasts, settings and priorities at future budget reviews where required.
25. The decisions made over the next few years will be critical to ensuring Council can continue to meet community needs today, invest in essential infrastructure, and build long-term financial sustainability and resilience for the future.
26. Overall, the proposed 2026-27 Budget strikes a balance: strong investment and service delivery now, paired with a clear view of future pressures and a commitment to making informed, disciplined choices to safeguard Greater Dandenong's financial sustainability.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

27. The Proposed 2026-27 Budget has been developed with consideration of Council's workforce planning requirements and service delivery capacity.
28. Employee cost assumptions reflect current workforce profiles, known legislative requirements and Council's capacity to deliver services within available resources.
29. The Budget has been prepared in the context of the current multi-employer enterprise bargaining process, noting that final wage outcomes are not yet known at the time of preparation. Conservative assumptions have been applied in the Budget and forward estimates to manage this uncertainty, with provision for future adjustments through Council's formal budget review processes once outcomes are confirmed.
30. Workforce implications associated with major capital projects, service delivery and organisational reform initiatives have been considered as part of the budget development process.

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



Operating Budget Implications

31. The Proposed 2026-27 Budget establishes Council's operating and capital funding position for the year and informs the forward estimates.
32. The Budget delivers an operating surplus and cash surplus for 2026-27, while acknowledging increasing pressure on operating cash flows and the adjusted underlying result in future years. These implications have been carefully considered in developing the Budget and will be monitored through Council's regular financial reporting processes.

Asset Implications

33. The Proposed 2026-27 Budget has been developed in alignment with Council's Long Term Financial Plan, Asset Plan and capital investment priorities. Asset renewal, upgrade and new infrastructure investments have been strategically prioritised to balance service needs, asset condition risks and affordability, while ensuring compliance with prudential and statutory requirements.
34. The Budget includes a significant capital works program focused on renewing and upgrading Council's existing asset base, as well as delivering new and expanded community assets. Asset implications, including lifecycle costs, renewal gaps and future maintenance requirements, have been considered through Council's asset management and capital planning frameworks.

Legal/Risk Implications

35. The Proposed 2026-27 Budget has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and associated regulations. Key financial, operational and strategic risks, including economic uncertainty, cost escalation, revenue constraints and delivery risks associated with major capital projects, have been identified and considered as part of the budget development process. These risks will continue to be monitored and managed through Council's financial management, governance and reporting frameworks.
36. The Budget has been prepared based on assumptions at a point in time, and Council will monitor economic conditions and legislative changes and adjust forecasts where required through future budget reviews.
37. Investment in the Core System Replacement program has been considered as part of Council's broader risk management, financial control and organisational efficiency objectives.
38. Ongoing legislative change and cost-shifting pressures from other levels of government have been considered in the development of the Budget and forward estimates.
39. The adjusted underlying result forecasts highlight emerging medium-term sustainability pressures, reinforcing the importance of continued service prioritisation and financial reform.
40. In setting assumptions for waste service charges, Council has had regard to the Minister's *Good Practice Guidelines for Service Rates and Charges*. At this stage, Council is not adhering with all suggested elements of the guidelines, as immediate implementation would have adverse impacts on overall financial sustainability. Council will continue to assess opportunities to move toward adherence to the guidelines over time, where it is financially prudent and achievable.

Environmental Implications

41. Capital budget bids are assessed for climate change considerations using Council's Capital Investment Program (CIP) Climate Change Self-Assessment framework. As part of this process, project proponents are required to identify and document potential climate-related risks and impacts relevant to their proposal, including exposure to physical climate risks, contribution to emissions, and opportunities to improve resilience or reduce environmental impact. This information is considered alongside strategic alignment, asset condition, service need and financial factors in determining project prioritisation.



42. The climate change self-assessment does not operate as a standalone approval mechanism but informs officer review and decision-making across the capital program. Where climate-related risks are identified, officers consider whether mitigation measures, design changes or alternative delivery approaches are required and whether residual risks are acceptable. This approach supports Council's broader climate change, sustainability and asset management objectives and continues to be refined over time to reflect evolving best practice and policy expectations.

Gender Impact Assessment

43. A Gender Impact Assessment has been considered in accordance with legislative requirements. A formal assessment is not required for this overall report, noting that the Budget supports a broad range of community services and infrastructure that benefit the entire community.

Community Consultation

44. Community input has informed the development of the Proposed 2026-27 Budget through earlier engagement activities and will continue through an additional consultation period. Feedback received has been considered alongside strategic priorities, affordability and financial sustainability in shaping the proposed Budget.

45. A community consultation process was conducted from 22 October until 19 November 2025 and incorporated both online and hard copy activities to ensure a range of opportunities were offered to the community. The process for 2026-27 included broad survey questions on what services the community values the most as well as providing an opportunity for community members and/or organisations to submit requests for additional project funding. 43 people participated over the 28-day period.

46. Seven community submissions were received for additional projects and in December 2025 a Community Feedback Session was held for community members who wished to present their project ideas for consideration. Three community members attended the session and spoke to projects related to a review of the Keysborough South Maintenance Levy, a new net training area at Shepley Oval and increased funding for the environment and sustainability initiatives. These ideas were considered by Council in the development of the Proposed Budget 2026-27.

47. An additional two-week period of community engagement is scheduled for 19 May 2026 to 2 June 2026. Following the conclusion of the community engagement period and any feedback received, the Budget and LTFP will again be tabled for Council consideration and adoption at the 15 June 2026 Council Meeting.

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

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

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



49. 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

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

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

MINUTE No.357

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council:

1. **APPROVES IN PRINCIPLE** the proposed 2026-27 Budget as attached to be released for the purposes of community consultation;
2. **NOTES** the second stage consultation process planned for 14 days (commencing 19 May 2026 concluding on 2 June 2026); and
3. **NOTES** that following consideration of any community feedback received, it will consider the 2026-27 Budget for adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on 15 June 2026.

CARRIED 9 / 0



Mayor Cr Sophie Tan read the following in relation to the 2026-2027 budget

Tonight, we present the proposed 2026–27 Budget for the City of Greater Dandenong, which will be released for community consultation.

We encourage our residents, businesses and community groups to review the draft budget and share their feedback.

The consultation period will run for 14 days, from 19 May to 2 June, providing an opportunity for the community to have their say.

Once all feedback has been reviewed, Council will consider the final 2026–27 Budget for adoption at the Council Meeting on 15 June.

We encourage everyone to take part in this process.



4.2.3 Proposed Long Term Financial Plan 2027-2036

Responsible Officer: Chief Financial Officer

Attachments: 1. Proposed LTFP 2027-2036 [4.2.3.1 - 74 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES IN PRINCIPLE the Proposed Long Term Financial Plan 2027-2036 for the purpose of public exhibition and community consultation;**
2. **NOTES that a second stage community consultation period of 14 days is proposed, commencing 19 May 2026 and concluding 2 June 2026; and**
3. **NOTES that, following consideration of any community feedback received, the Long Term Financial Plan 2027-2036 will be presented to Council for consideration and adoption at the Council Meeting scheduled for 15 June 2026.**

Executive Summary

1. The Draft Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) 2027–2036 provides a ten-year financial outlook that supports informed decision-making and long-term financial sustainability for the City of Greater Dandenong. The LTFP outlines Council's capacity to fund services, manage assets and deliver major infrastructure while responding to a challenging and uncertain operating environment.
2. The Draft LTFP demonstrates that Council enters the ten-year period from a position of overall financial stability, supported by adequate liquidity, manageable debt within prudential limits and strong financial governance. At the same time, it highlights emerging medium- to long-term pressures, including constrained revenue growth under rate capping, forecast underlying operating deficits, increasing asset renewal pressures and reduced discretionary capital capacity following major capital investment.
3. The LTFP reflects current economic conditions, including volatility in fuel and other market-driven costs. Operating expenditure assumptions, particularly CPI and fuel, have been re-forecast at higher levels over the first three years to reflect anticipated trends, while longer-term assumptions remain unchanged due to ongoing uncertainty. Council will continue to monitor cost movements and update forecasts through future budget and LTFP reviews where impacts are sustained and material.
4. This report seeks in-principle approval of the Draft LTFP to enable community consultation in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy. The LTFP does not lock Council into fixed outcomes but provides a transparent framework to guide future budget, service and capital decisions.

Background

5. Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council is required to prepare, perform deliberative engagement on, publicly exhibit and adopt a Financial Plan covering at least ten financial years following each Council election. The Financial Plan is a core component of Council's Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework and is reviewed annually.



6. The Draft LTFP 2027–2036 complies with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*. The Plan covers a ten-year period, includes all prescribed financial statements and workforce information, clearly articulates key assumptions and risks, and demonstrates alignment with Council's Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework. While the Plan identifies emerging financial pressures and areas of constrained capacity, these issues are transparently disclosed and addressed within a prudent governance and decision-making framework, consistent with the financial management principles of the Act.
7. The Draft LTFP 2027–2036 has been developed between November 2025 and April 2026, informed by updated financial modelling and aligned with preparation of the 2026–27 Budget. Consistent with Council's Community Engagement Policy, the Draft LTFP will be placed on public exhibition alongside the Proposed 2026–27 Budget to enable community feedback prior to final adoption.

Key Issues and Discussion

8. The Draft LTFP assumes broadly stable service levels at current settings, while recognising that Council faces increasing constraints over time. Key drivers include rate capping, cost escalation across wages and contracted services, major capital commitments, and the long-term cost of maintaining and renewing a large and growing asset base.
9. While the LTFP projects an operating surplus in every year and a cash surplus in all years except 2028–29 (a minor deficit), it also shows that, under current assumptions, adjusted underlying operating deficits occur in all years of the plan period. This does not indicate an immediate financial risk, but it highlights a gradual tightening of financial capacity over time and reinforces the importance of ongoing prioritisation, disciplined decision-making and regular review to support long-term financial sustainability.
10. Importantly, the LTFP provides a clear evidence base to understand trade-offs between service levels, affordability, capital investment, and financial resilience when making future decisions.
11. The Plan does not lock Council into fixed outcomes but establishes a flexible framework to guide future budget and service decisions as circumstances evolve.

Financial strengths and positives of the LTFP

12. Operating surpluses are projected in all years, with cash surpluses maintained except for a minor deficit in 2028-29.
13. Council continues to deliver a broad range of essential services across a diverse and growing community, including services that support vulnerable residents and promote social inclusion. Despite constrained revenue growth and rising costs, Council has maintained service delivery outcomes through strong financial management, prioritisation and efficiency, reflecting its ongoing commitment to community wellbeing and equity.
14. Council commences the LTFP period in a position of short-term financial resilience, with liquidity and working capital ratios above minimum benchmarks.
15. Confirmed investment in major community infrastructure, most notably the Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing redevelopment, supported by a mix of grants, reserves and borrowings.
16. Debt remains within prudential limits despite peaking in the early years and is forecast to improve over time as borrowings are repaid.
17. Strategic investment in the Core System Replacement program in 2026-27, strengthening governance, data quality and long-term operational efficiency.

Key challenges and constraints in the LTFP

18. Persistent adjusted underlying operating deficits across most years of the LTFP, reflecting structural pressure between capped revenue and rising costs.



19. Reduced discretionary capital capacity, with \$68.5 million of capital funding redirected to debt servicing (from \$68.9 million of borrowings) over the ten-year period.
20. Asset renewal pressures, including a forecast base renewal funding shortfall in 2028–29 and increasing pressure in later years if additional capacity is not created.
21. Increased reliance on careful service prioritisation, productivity improvements, and advocacy to maintain affordability and sustainability.
22. In summary, the Draft LTFP 2027-2036 presents a realistic and balanced view of both Council's current financial resilience and the challenges that will need to be actively managed over the coming decade, while reaffirming Council's commitment to continuing to support and deliver essential services, infrastructure and outcomes for the Greater Dandenong community.

Economic volatility and forecasting approach

23. The broader economic environment remains volatile, with ongoing uncertainty in relation to fuel prices, utilities, construction inputs and contracted service costs. These pressures are influenced by global supply conditions and market volatility, and their scale and duration remain uncertain. Fuel prices, in particular, continue to exhibit short-term variability, with cost implications for waste services, fleet operations, maintenance activities and externally contracted services.
24. The LTFP has been prepared using the best information available at the time of development and reflects a prudent, point-in-time assessment of Council's financial position. In response to observed cost pressures, operating expenditure assumptions - particularly CPI and fuel - have been re-forecast at higher levels over the first three years of the plan to better reflect current conditions. Given the ongoing uncertainty regarding the magnitude and duration of these pressures, longer-term assumptions have not been re-set at this stage. Management will continue to monitor actual cost movements and emerging risks and will re-forecast and adjust assumptions through future budgets and LTFP updates where impacts are sustained and material.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

25. The Draft LTFP reflects Council's current workforce profile and service delivery requirements over the ten-year period. Employee cost assumptions are conservative and informed by known legislative requirements, historical experience and Council's financial capacity.
26. Given the timing of multi-employer enterprise bargaining negotiations, the LTFP adopts a prudent approach to managing uncertainty, with flexibility retained to adjust projections through future Budgets and LTFP updates once outcomes are finalised.
27. The LTFP includes 19 temporary FTE in 2026-27 to support the delivery of the Core System Replacement (CSR) Program. These roles are program-specific, time-limited and have been separately identified to ensure they do not form part of Council's ongoing workforce establishment.

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

Operating Budget Implications

28. The Draft LTFP establishes Council's long-term operating and capital funding framework and informs forward financial estimates.
29. The Plan projects an operating surplus in each year and a cash surplus in all years except 2028-29, where a minor cash deficit is forecast.



30. At the same time, the LTFP highlights emerging medium-term pressure on operating cash flows and adjusted underlying operating results under current assumptions. These trends will be monitored through Council's regular financial reporting and review processes and considered through future budget and financial plan updates.

Asset Implications

31. The Draft LTFP has been developed in alignment with Council's Asset Plan and capital investment priorities. Asset renewal, upgrades and new infrastructure investments have been prioritised to manage asset condition risks, maintain service levels and ensure affordability. Lifecycle costs and future maintenance obligations have been considered through Council's asset management and capital planning frameworks.

Legal/Risk Implications

32. The Draft LTFP has been prepared in compliance with legislative requirements and reflects a considered assessment of financial, operational and strategic risks. These include economic uncertainty, cost escalation, revenue constraints, delivery risks associated with major capital projects and emerging medium-term sustainability pressures.
33. The LTFP is based on assumptions at a point in time and will continue to be reviewed and updated through Council's annual budget and planning processes. Investment in system and governance improvements, including the Core System Replacement program, supports ongoing risk management and financial control.
34. The adjusted underlying result forecast trend highlights emerging medium-term sustainability pressures, reinforcing the importance of continued service prioritisation and financial reform.
35. In setting assumptions for waste service charges, Council has had regard to the Minister's *Good Practice Guidelines for Service Rates and Charges*. At this stage, Council is not adhering with all suggested elements of the guidelines, as immediate implementation would have adverse impacts on overall financial sustainability. Council will continue to assess opportunities to move toward adherence to the guidelines over time, where it is financially prudent and achievable.

Environmental Implications

36. Capital budget proposals are assessed for climate related risks and opportunities using Council's Capital Investment Program Climate Change Self Assessment framework. This process supports informed decision-making by identifying potential climate impacts, resilience measures and opportunities to reduce environmental impacts, consistent with Council's broader sustainability objectives. A standalone gender impact assessment is not required for this report.

Gender Impact Assessment

37. A Gender Impact Assessment has been considered in accordance with legislative requirements. A formal assessment is not required for this report, noting that the LTFP and Budget support a broad range of services and infrastructure that benefit the whole community.

Community Consultation

38. Community feedback has informed the development of the Draft LTFP through earlier engagement activities in November 2025 and will continue through an additional two-week consultation period from 19 May to 2 June 2026. Feedback received will be reviewed and considered prior to the LTFP being brought back to Council for final adoption at the June 2026 Council Meeting.



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

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

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

40. 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

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

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



MINUTE No.358

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council:

- 1. APPROVES IN PRINCIPLE the Proposed Long Term Financial Plan 2027-2036 for the purpose of public exhibition and community consultation;**
- 2. NOTES that a second stage community consultation period of 14 days is proposed, commencing 19 May 2026 and concluding 2 June 2026; and**
- 3. NOTES that, following consideration of any community feedback received, the Long Term Financial Plan 2027-2036 will be presented to Council for consideration and adoption at the Council Meeting scheduled for 15 June 2026.**

CARRIED 9 / 0



4.3 POLICY AND STRATEGY

4.3.1 Q3 Quarterly Performance Report January to March 2026

Responsible Officer:	Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services
Attachments:	1. Q 3 Quarterly Performance Report January to March 2026 [4.3.1.1 - 82 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council NOTES the Q3 2025-26 Quarterly Performance Report (per Attachment 1), which outlines Council's progress against the Council Plan 2025-29 for the period 1 January to 31 March 2026 and the Financial Report for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Executive Summary

1. Greater Dandenong City Council provides a performance report against organisational objectives and its financial position on a quarterly basis.
2. The reporting procedures and systems in place provide Councillors and the community with the opportunity to monitor progress against Council Plan indicators. This ensures that all resources are managed effectively and accountably.
3. Council will be kept informed of the financial position on a quarterly basis, as is the current practice.

Background

4. Council formally adopted the Council Plan 2025-29, Annual Plan 2025-26 and Budget 2025-26 on Monday 23 June 2025. The Mid-Year Budget was adopted by Council on 8 December 2025.
5. The Council Plan 2025-29 outlines the vision and objectives of the Council. This document guides service delivery, innovation and good governance, and provides the foundation for Council's Integrated Planning Framework. The Council Plan also guides the budget, service delivery priorities and the continuous improvement of our services.
6. The Council Plan 2025-29, Annual Plan 2025-26, and Budget 2025-26 are made available to residents through the Customer Service Centres, libraries and on Council's website at www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

Key Issues and Discussion

7. The Quarterly Performance Report provides a summary of key highlights for the quarter against the Council Plan, Budget and the capital works program.
8. Progress against performance targets is outlined in the following components of the attachment to this report:
 - a. Part A – Annual Plan progress details the achievements for the Council Plan strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29 for the period 1 January – 31 March 2026.
 - b. Part B – The Financial Report is designed to inform Councillors of the results of operations for the 1 July 2025 – 31 March 2026. The budget information contained in this report reflects the Mid-Year Budget as adopted by Council on 8 December 2025.



9. The financial report incorporates a set of Financial Statements and a Directorate Analysis of financial performance by Business Unit. The following are contained in the attachment:
- Income Statement
 - Balance Sheet
 - Cash Flow Statement
 - Capital Expenditure Statement
 - Management Accounting Result
 - Capital Expenditure Report
 - Investment Report
 - Directorate Analysis

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

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

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

Operating Budget Implications

11. For the year to date ending 31 March 2026, Council recorded a surplus operating result of \$15 million which is \$6.0 million better than year-to-date budget.
12. The favourable result is mainly driven by lower operating expenditure, particularly employee costs and materials and services, reflecting recruitment timing delays, operational realignment and the staged delivery of works programs. These favourable impacts are partly offset by non-cash accounting adjustments relating to asset write-offs and prior-year capital expenditure that cannot be capitalised.
13. Key drivers include:
- 1.1. Operating income (\$81,000 favourable) – driven by higher user fee income, particularly parking ticket machine income, along with higher facility rental, venue hire and cost recoveries (including Cultural and Community Hub-related income). This is partly offset by lower statutory fine income for local laws, littering and parking. Refer Section B1 (Operating Income) of the Financial Report attachment for detailed commentary.
 - 1.2. Operating expenditure (\$5.9 million favourable) – Lower costs to date in:
 - i. Materials and services (\$5.99 million favourable) – The significant favourable variance largely reflects timing and delivery phasing across operational programs (particularly works and maintenance), supported by operational transitions (including a Works Management System rollout) and lower service volumes in some areas (notably waste and cleansing). Savings also reflect lower early-year operating costs for Keysborough Community Hub and reduced spend on some professional services and statutory charges.
 - ii. Employee costs (\$4.8 million favourable) – the favourable variance is largely driven by recruitment and onboarding timing across the organisation, resulting in lower year-to-date salary costs. This includes timing impacts in grant-funded programs (where unspent funding represents a future delivery obligation and will require acquittal) and broader vacancies/delayed recruitment across key service areas. Some favourable employee cost outcomes are offset by lower income in parts of Community Care.



14. These favourable variances are partly offset by two unbudgeted fixed asset accounting adjustments (Asset write offs \$4.75 million and Prior year capital expenditure unable to be capitalised \$415,000) that are difficult to predict and are non-cash accounting entries.
15. Refer Section B2 (Operating Expenditure) of the Financial Report attachment for detailed commentary by service area.

Capital Implications

16. Capital expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2026 totalled \$46 million, which is \$1.07 million below the year-to-date budget.
17. The main variance includes an underspend of \$797,000 on the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre due to some recent delays in works which is being closely monitored and managed.
18. As at 31 March, there were \$57 million in commitments (open purchase orders), reflecting significant ongoing and planned capital works.
19. Variance explanations for projects exceeding \$300,000 are included in Appendix 1 of the Financial Report attachment.

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.

Gender Impact Assessment

23. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

24. There was no requirement for community consultation.

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.
 - Sustainable environment.
 - Mind, body and spirit.
 - Art and culture.



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 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

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*.
- Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.

MINUTE No.359

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council NOTES the Q3 2025-26 Quarterly Performance Report (per Attachment 1), which outlines Council's progress against the Council Plan 2025-29 for the period 1 January to 31 March 2026 and the Financial Report for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026.

CARRIED 9 / 0



4.3.2 Draft Annual Action Plan 2026-27 for Community Consultation

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services
Attachments: 1. Draft Annual Action Plan 2026-27 [4.3.2.1 - 26 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES IN PRINCIPLE the Draft Annual Action Plan 2026-27 as attached to be released for the purposes of community consultation;**
2. **NOTES the consultation process planned for 14 days (commencing 19 May 2026 concluding on 2 June 2026); and**
3. **NOTES that following consideration of any community feedback received, it will consider the Draft Annual Action Plan 2026-27 for adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on 15 June 2026.**

Executive Summary

1. This report recommends that Council approves in principle the Draft Annual Action Plan 2026-27 for community consultation for a period of 14 days as per Council's Community Engagement Policy. Following the conclusion of the community engagement period and any feedback received, the Draft Annual Action Plan will again be tabled for Council consideration and adoption at the 15 June 2026 Council Meeting.

Background

2. As part of the *Local Government Act 2020* every Council must prepare and adopt a Council Plan for a period of at least the next 4 financial years after a general election in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices. The Council Plan 2025-29 was developed following an extensive consultation period and adopted by Council on Monday 23 June 2025.
3. Each year Council adopts an Annual Action Plan which highlights the key activities Council will undertake to deliver on the commitments within the Council Plan.

Key Issues and Discussion

4. The Draft Annual Action Plan addresses the areas of most importance to our community and reflects the ongoing work undertaken by Council.
5. In 2026-27 there will continue to be a focus on activities which support health and wellbeing, community safety, sustainability and access to services and programs for those experiencing disadvantage. Advocacy to the Federal and State Government along with ongoing partnerships will remain a priority to help Council deliver much needed services to the community.
6. A number of strategies and plans are being developed for presentation to Council throughout the year. These documents build on the priorities of the Community Vision and Council Plan in particular areas of importance for the community. This includes the Children, Youth and Families Strategy, Disability Action Plan, and Creative and Cultural Strategy.
7. At the completion of the community engagement process the final plan will be presented to Councillors on Monday 15 June for endorsement.



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. All financial implications form part of the Long Term Financial Plan and Annual Budget.

Asset Implications

10. This item does not affect any existing assets. All Asset implications are captured within the Asset Plan, Long Term Financial Plan and Budget.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

13. A gender impact assessment was conducted during the development of the Council Plan.

Community Consultation

14. Extensive community consultation was undertaken to determine the objectives and priorities of the Council Plan. The Draft Annual Action Plan will be subject to community consultation after Councillor review.

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

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

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



16. 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

17. 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.

Cr Lana Formoso left the Chamber at 8.01pm.

MINUTE No.360

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Jim Memeti

That Council:

- 1. APPROVES IN PRINCIPLE the Draft Annual Action Plan 2026-27 as attached to be released for the purposes of community consultation;**
- 2. NOTES the consultation process planned for 14 days (commencing 19 May 2026 concluding on 2 June 2026); and**
- 3. NOTES that following consideration of any community feedback received, it will consider the Draft Annual Action Plan 2026-27 for adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on 15 June 2026.**

CARRIED 9 / 0



4.4 OTHER

4.4.1 Positive Ageing Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Responsible Officer:	Executive Director Community Strengthening
Attachments:	1. Draft Positive Ageing Advisory Committee Terms of Reference 2025 [4.4.1.1 - 15 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** the updated Positive Ageing Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (refer Attachment 1) effective August 2026; and
2. **NOTES** the subsequent undertaking of an Expression of Interest (EOI) process to appoint committee members in 2026.

Executive Summary

1. The Positive Ageing Advisory Committee (PAAC) provides advice to the City of Greater Dandenong Council in relation to the needs, aspirations and wellbeing of older people in the community, and on the development or implementation of the Positive Ageing Strategy.
2. The key changes proposed are:
 - Committee members will be appointed for a two-year term (previously four-year term);
 - Meetings will be held bi-monthly (previously quarterly);
 - The Chairperson will be appointed for a 12-month term; and
 - Committee members will serve a maximum of two consecutive terms, after which a 12-month break is required before being eligible for reappointment through the recruitment process.

Background

3. The Positive Ageing Advisory Committee (PAAC) aligns with the City of Greater Dandenong Council Plan 2025–2029 and supports Council's Community Engagement Policy and Framework. It reflects a commitment to genuine and meaningful community engagement by bringing together local knowledge, expertise and stakeholders to inform and enhance Council decision-making.
4. The Terms of Reference review aligns with the structure and governance of Council's other advisory committees.
5. Feedback on the draft Terms of Reference was sought at the PAAC meeting held on Thursday 16 October 2025.
6. The report seeks to endorse the updated Terms of Reference and subsequent undertaking of an Expression of Interest (EOI) process to appoint new Committee members.



Key Issues and Discussion

7. The Committee's membership will include:
 - Up to 2 Councillor representatives – appointed at Council's Annual Statutory Meeting;
 - Up to 2 Council Officers – from Community Strengthening Directorate appointed by the Executive Director, Community Strengthening; and
 - Up to 12 Community Representatives – appointed by resolution of Council.
8. The current Committee has nine members with three vacant positions. The term of appointment of the current Committee varies with:
 - Two members' terms end on 8 August 2026;
 - Six members' terms end on 9 August 2026; and
 - One member's term ends on 27 July 2027.
9. It is proposed that all current Committee member terms will end on 8 August 2026 when the updated Terms of Reference come into effect.
10. The EOI process for new members will commence in late May 2026, with promotion via social media, Council News, and direct outreach through community groups. The application review process, including interviews, will be conducted in July 2026.
11. Successful applicants will then be endorsed by Council, with the first meeting of the new committee expected to take place after August 2026.
12. If any current Committee members are reappointed through the EOI process, they will serve a two-year term under the updated Terms of Reference, consistent with the term for all new members. This clarification reflects feedback received regarding appointment duration.

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 financial implications associated with this report.

Asset Implications

15. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

18. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

19. There was no requirement for community consultation.



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

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

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

21. 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

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

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

MINUTE No.361

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Jim Memeti

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** the updated Positive Ageing Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (refer Attachment 1) effective August 2026; and
2. **NOTES** the subsequent undertaking of an Expression of Interest (EOI) process to appoint committee members in 2026.

CARRIED 8 / 0



4.4.2 Re-appointment of Director - Dandenong Market Pty Ltd (DMPL)

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 APPROVES to re-appoint Mr Daryl Stubbings as a Non-Executive Director of Dandenong Market Pty Ltd for a further three (3) years commencing 22 July 2026 and concluding on 21 July 2029.

Executive Summary

1. This report recommends that Council approves to re-appoint Mr Daryl Stubbings as a Non-Executive Director of Dandenong Market Pty Ltd for a further three (3) year term commencing 22 July 2026.

Background

2. 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 festival and events.
3. 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.
4. 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)). Mr Daryl Stubbings joined the Board under a formal resolution on 11 June 2024.

Key Issues and Discussion

5. It is proposed that Council reappoints Mr Daryl Stubbings as Non-Executive Director of Dandenong Market Pty Ltd for a further three (3) years commencing 22 July 2026 which will take him up to five (5) years of continuous service.
6. Under the Constitution that governs Dandenong Market Pty Ltd (DMPL), Clause 9.1 provides that the number of company directors shall be not less than two (2) nor more than five (5). It further provides that the Shareholder (Council) may, by resolution, appoint a person as a Director for a term of up to three (3) years.
7. 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.



8. DMPL currently operates with five (5) Director positions. The purpose of this report is to recommend the reappointment of one (1) Director for a further three (3) years under the rules of the DMPL Constitution.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

9. 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

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

Asset Implications

11. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

14. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

15. As this is a reappointment the position of Director has only been discussed with the Chairperson of DMPL and the General Manager Dandenong Market.

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

16. 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.

17. 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

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

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

Cr Jim Memeti left the Chamber at 8.03pm.

Cr Loi Truong left the Chamber at 8.04pm.

MINUTE No.362

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council APPROVES to re-appoint Mr Daryl Stubbings as a Non-Executive Director of Dandenong Market Pty Ltd for a further three (3) years commencing 22 July 2026 and concluding on 21 July 2029.

CARRIED 7 / 0

Cr Jim Memeti returned to the Chamber at 8:05pm.

Cr Lana Formoso returned to the Chamber at 8.05pm.



4.4.3 2026-27 Advocacy Pack

Responsible Officer:	Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services
Attachments:	1. City of Greater Dandenong Advocacy Priorities for 2026-27 Draft [4.4.3.1 - 22 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** the City of Greater Dandenong Advocacy Priorities 2026-27 document (per Attachment 1);
2. **APPROVES** the continuation of resource allocation to the two main strategic advocacy campaigns for the 2026-27 Financial Year:
 - 0.5EFT officer support allocation to the Anti-Poverty Consortium, and
 - 1.0EFT for Strategic Housing Advocacy; and
3. **APPROVES** exploring options to redirect Secretariat support of the Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum to other Taskforce member councils or other relevant peak body entity.

Executive Summary

1. The proposed advocacy priorities for FY26-27 have been developed through a review of the FY25-26 priorities, undertaken in consultation with relevant Departments across Council responsible for their delivery, and consideration of other regional advocacy efforts through GSEM and the Regional Charter Group of Councils.
2. Three of the category areas approved by Council for strategic advocacy campaigns for FY25-26 (until 30 June) require dedicated resource allocations from the Community Advocacy Unit. They are: Back Your Neighbour (1.0EFT), Poverty is Everyone's Business (0.5EFT), and Housing (1.0EFT spread across two officer roles).
3. A Council decision will be required to continue strategic advocacy efforts on these campaigns or reallocation to other advocacy priority areas in the run up to the Victoria State Election and remainder of FY26-27.

Background

4. The proposed advocacy priorities for FY26-27 have been developed through a review of the FY25-26 priorities conducted in consultation with the relevant departments across Council responsible for their actioning.
5. Consideration has also been given to MAV's advocacy priorities, other proposed regional advocacy efforts through GSEM and the Regional Charter Group of Councils.
6. The proposed FY26-27 priorities continue to be grouped in themed categories primarily utilised in the FY25-26 Pack. The exceptions are Section 5. Sport and Recreation, Section 6. Art and Cultural Spaces, which have now been divided into their own unique categories and Section 7. Community Public Health which now includes Gambling and Dandenong Hospital Maternity and Newborn Services advocacy items. The categories are:
 - Section 1 Back Your Neighbour (Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce);
 - Section 2 Poverty is Everyone's Business;



- Section 3 Housing;
 - Section 4 Transport;
 - Section 5 Sport and Recreation;
 - Section 6 Art and Cultural Spaces;
 - Section 7 Business Development and Economic Growth;
 - Section 8 Sustainability;
 - Section 9 Major Projects;
 - Section 10 Community Safety; and
 - Section 11 Community Public Health
7. Three of these category areas are currently approved by Council for strategic advocacy campaigns for FY25-26 (until 30 June) requiring a total of 2.5EFT dedicated resource allocation from the Community Advocacy Unit. They are: Back Your Neighbour (1.0EFT), Poverty is Everyone's Business (0.5EFT), and Housing (1.0EFT spread across two officer roles).
8. For the other eight category areas the advocacy activities will be conducted in collaboration with the responsible department.
9. Given Council's tight fiscal forecast for the FY2026-27 (and following years) there is an opportunity to divert strategic advocacy efforts away from National immigration policy reform to priorities that provide a more immediate local outcome re infrastructure asks.

Key Issues and Discussion

Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Back Your Neighbour Campaign

10. Greater Dandenong City Council Mayor of the Day is the allocated Chair of the Taskforce since its inception in 2018, and Council has borne its Secretariat responsibilities since that time. A 1.0EFT officer resource allocation is currently provided to support the running of the Taskforce and its National recruitment and advocacy activities. Council approved this allocation at the 23 June 2025 Council meeting.
11. The Back Your Neighbour Campaign is a joint advocacy initiative led by Australian local governments and refugee support organisations, aiming to influence Federal policies affecting people with unresolved immigration status. It calls for fair pathways to permanency, valid bridging visas with work rights, and improved access to essential services.
12. The campaign uses values-based messaging focused on compassion, inclusion, and nation-building. Advocacy tactics include direct lobbying, council motions, community mobilisation, coalition building, and digital media campaigns. Refugees and asylum seekers play a key role as storytellers to humanise the issues.
13. Key stakeholders include federal MPs and ministers, local councils, community organisations, and allies such as unions, faith groups, and academics. The campaign is staged across preparation, mobilisation, advocacy, and follow-up phases, with an annual budget of \$63,000 funded through membership fees.
14. In June this year the Taskforce will again have delegations available to meet with MP's and Ministers during running of the ALGA National General Assembly. A Back Your Neighbour exhibition booth will again be a focus for recruitment efforts at the Assembly, and CGD's mayor (as Chair of the Taskforce) will host a morning tea for interested councillor delegates from across Australia.
15. The July Taskforce meeting provides opportunity for a review of the Taskforce, its relevance, purpose, advocacy asks and sustainability. The current Terms of Reference allows for another Executive member council to take on secretariat responsibilities.



16. If Council were to consider stopping secretariat support, it should be flagged as early as possible so that Taskforce Executive members could consider alternatives arrangements at the July meeting. Under the existing TOR the Chair of the Taskforce would move to whichever Council would take on the secretariat responsibilities.
17. Should it choose to CGD Council could remain an executive member of the Taskforce, with payment of the relevant annual fee, currently \$4,000 per annum.
18. Greater Dandenong's Council Plan 2025-29 does have a strategic priority to 'Advocate for and assist People Seeking Asylum and Refugees living in the community'.

Anti-Poverty Campaign

19. The Anti-Poverty Campaign – Poverty is Everyone's Business is a collaborative initiative between the Greater Dandenong City Council and local community organisations represented through the Anti-Poverty Consortium.
20. Rising cost-of-living pressures, increasing food insecurity and limited affordable housing continue to significantly impact the Greater Dandenong community.
21. The Consortium has a three-person Steering Committee, one of whom is selected as Chair. Council provides a 0.5EFT officer support for its advocacy functions and coordinating monthly meetings, partnership projects and service responses.
22. Key achievements for FY25-26 include:
 - a. Steering Committee letters sent to 15 State and Federal Members of Parliament, securing six meetings to discuss anti-poverty advocacy asks;
 - b. Creation of public advocacy tools—including QR-code email templates and flyers—to make it easier for residents to contact local MPs about cost-of-living concerns;
 - c. Appointment of a working group to design an anonymous survey capturing lived experiences of homelessness and housing hardship, strengthening advocacy with real-time insights;
 - d. Development of a shared project agenda in early 2026 focused on cost-of-living relief, mental health referral pathways, and housing/homelessness responses;
 - e. Council's partnership with SECL to deliver the annual Bring Your Bills Day events at Springvale City Hall (February 2026), providing residents with free and confidential support from banks, utility providers, legal and tenancy services, ombudsman offices and financial counsellors;
 - f. Food Relief Grant (DFFH) – \$76,000 secured (2025–26): In partnership with Salvation Army and Springvale Learning and Activity Centre, funding will support culturally appropriate meals, employment readiness activities and financial literacy workshops delivered via a community café/social supermarket;
23. Greater Dandenong's Council Plan 2025–29 does have a strategic priority to 'Advocate for an increase in services for those experiencing poverty and homelessness'.
24. Anti-Poverty Steering Committee representatives have expressed strong support for Council to approve an extension of officer support for FY26-27.

Housing Advocacy

25. Housing advocacy is currently focused on two streams: Part 1 (0.5EFT) is advocating for Legislative and Regulatory Reform; Part 2 (0.5EFT) is advocating for local projects.
26. Part 1 has been primarily fulfilled through Council providing secretariat responsibilities for the Regional Local Government Homelessness and Social Housing Charter Group (Charter Group).



27. Extensive workshops with officer representatives from the respective Charter Group councils have taken place to arrive at consensus advocacy asks (with supporting collateral) that can be utilised by each council to advance advocacy for legislative and regulatory reform at both State and Federal levels.
28. Greater Dandenong's formal commitment of officer support for the Charter Group Secretariat is current until the end of this financial year.
29. It should be noted that some advocacy efforts for Part 2 have been delayed allowing for development of Council's Housing Strategy which is scheduled for public consultation June 2026. The site specificity offered in the Housing Strategy would allow for more appropriate and targeted advocacy for local projects.

State Election Advocacy Activities

30. Suggested state election advocacy activities will depend on the specific asks that are required to be highlighted. Activities could range from:
 - a. Face to face meetings with local MPs and Candidates (once known) by Mayor/Councillors and members of the Executive Team. It is recommended that the State Election Advocacy Pack and supporting collateral is utilised at these meetings, highlighting specific items the MP/Candidate may have a unique interest in.
 - b. Bus tour for selected MPs/Candidates – to be utilised for infrastructure type advocacy asks where a tangible walk through and explanation by subject matter experts (with selected Council elected officials & Exec Team Members)
 - c. Public candidates' forum, closer to the election. Would need to be externally moderated and have focussed questions to allow for specific advocacy asks to be reflected in their framing. Security would be a consideration as would be having sufficient candidate interest to attend.
 - d. Public campaign and social media – aligning with existing campaigns that are current and supporting our advocacy efforts e.g. Fix Dandy Buses. Also, consider alignment with MAV and GSEM election advocacy campaigns/activities.
31. Advocacy activities will be scoped in detail once final recommendations around EFT resource allocations are decided by Council as some activities will be more resource intensive than others and business unit capacity will be a consideration.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

32. This item does not have an impact on existing human resources. The EFT allocated to Strategic Advocacy is still available and ongoing.

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

Operating Budget Implications

33. Suggested election advocacy activities will have some small financial impact but will be absorbed within existing budget allocation. The exact budget implication will be determined once activities are accurately scoped.

Asset Implications

34. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

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



Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

37. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

38. There was no requirement for community consultation.

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

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

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

40. 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

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

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



MINUTE No.363

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council:

- 1. APPROVES the City of Greater Dandenong Advocacy Priorities 2026-27 document (per Attachment 1);**
- 2. APPROVES the continuation of resource allocation to the two main strategic advocacy campaigns for the 2026-27 Financial Year:**
 - 0.5EFT officer support allocation to the Anti-Poverty Consortium, and**
 - 1.0EFT for Strategic Housing Advocacy; and**
- 3. APPROVES exploring options to redirect Secretariat support of the Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum to other Taskforce member councils or other relevant peak body entity.**

CARRIED 8 / 0

Cr Loi Truong returned to the Chamber at 8.07pm.



Mayor Cr Sophie Tan read the following in relation to the 2026-2027 Advocacy Pack

Tonight, Council has endorsed a strong set of Advocacy Priorities for our city and our community.

These priorities give voice to the needs and hopes of the people of Greater Dandenong. They reflect the issues that matter most to our residents, businesses, families and community groups. They also help make sure our city is heard by other levels of government.

This work is about more than funding. It is about fairness, opportunity and making sure our growing community gets the services, transport, facilities and investment it needs for the future.

The priorities adopted tonight cover many important areas, including transport, health, housing, sport, jobs, sustainability and community safety. Together, they set a clear direction for Council's advocacy work in the years ahead.

I want to acknowledge the significant work undertaken by Council officers in preparing these priorities.

A great deal of research, planning, consultation and collaboration has gone into this process. Many advocacy actions and wishes were considered, and we consolidated them down to these priorities.

Ahead of the Victorian State election later this year, I invite all those considering running for election, all candidates and potential candidates, to review these priorities, and consider pledging your support for the policy and funding items that will make the biggest difference,

And to our community - When you're considering who to vote for this November, feel free to ask the candidates where they stand on housing, transport and community safety.

We pledge to work with the government of the day to help deliver the best possible outcomes for Greater Dandenong.



4.4.4 Reconciliation Action Plan 2026-28

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services

Attachments:

1. Reconciliation Action Plan 2026-28 RA endorsed [4.4.4.1 - 20 pages]
2. RAP 2026-28 Community engagement – public exhibition feedback evaluation [4.4.4.2 – 8 pages]
3. RAP 2026-28 Consultation Summary Table of Changes [4.4.4.3 - 2 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **ENDORSES** the third Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2026-28 as presented in Attachment 1; and
2. **NOTES** that the official launch of the RAP will be held in Harmony Square on Wednesday 27 May to coincide with the flag raising ceremony to acknowledge the commencement of National Reconciliation Week.

Executive Summary

1. At the 16 March 2026 Council meeting Council approved the draft Reconciliation Action Plan 2026-28 for 28 days of public and targeted consultation from 17 March until 14 April.
2. Feedback was largely positive and modest updates made with the final draft forwarded to Reconciliation Australia in late April requesting their final endorsement.
3. Reconciliation Australia as the authorising body for Reconciliation Action Plans has now approved this final version.
4. The public launch for the RAP is scheduled for 27 May to coincide with Reconciliation Week flag raising ceremony.

Background

RAP redevelopment

5. Reconciliation Australia (RA) is the authorising body for approved Reconciliation Action Plans, and the RAP 2026-28 includes the mandated priority areas, actions and deliverables as stipulated in RA's Innovate RAP template.
6. The development of the RAP has been in accordance with the approach endorsed by Council at the 9 December 2024 Council Meeting. The approach detailed the proposed timeline, the strengthened governance structure, the Terms of Reference for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group, and composition of the Internal RAP Steering Committee.
7. The RAP 2026-28 has been informed by an intensive consultation process involving deliberative engagement with Traditional Custodians, the Bunurong Land Council, and the RAP Reference Group, as representatives of the wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The priorities, actions and deliverables also reflect municipal data and current legislative requirements.



8. Key themes identified from the deliberative consultation were Truth-telling, Cultural Safety and Cultural Awareness, and Communication & Community Engagement.
These key themes have been used to influence the priorities reflected in this plan and the projects to be undertaken each year.
9. A further 28 days of public and targeted consultation took place between 17 March and 14 April in accordance with Council's approval provided at the 16 March Council Meeting.
10. Reconciliation Australia provided extensive feedback on the first Draft RAP version in December 2025 and further feedback in February 2026 with their provisional endorsement. Their previous recommendations were implemented into the designed Draft that was provided for public consultation.
11. Public feedback received expressed general goodwill and support for Council's direction. Minor adjustments were made in the plan to strengthen the emphasis on partnerships, engagement pathways and collaboration with community organisations. Other updates from staff related to changes in timelines to reflect better timeframes, and updating responsible officer titles. Refer to full consultation feedback details in Attachments 2 & 3.
12. Reconciliation Australia as the authorising body for Reconciliation Action Plans and has now approved this final version.
13. The public launch for the RAP is scheduled for 27 May to coincide with Reconciliation Week flag raising ceremony.

Key Issues and Discussion

Resource constraints

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

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

19. This item does have an impact on existing human resources. Most RAP deliverables can be achieved within existing staff allocation however there are several deliverables dependent on identified staff being available to engage with. Council currently does not have any identified Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander staff.



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

Operating Budget Implications

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

Table 1.

Action & deliverables M= RA mandatory D= Discretionary	Resource deficit	Estimated \$ value (if applicable)
Relationships Action 4 Deliverable M3	Identified staff dependent	Not applicable
Respect Action 6 Deliverables M1-4	Funding dependent	\$15,000
Opportunities Action 9 Deliverable M2 Action 9 Deliverable M3 Action 10 Deliverable M3 Action 10 Deliverable M4 Action 11 Deliverable D2 Action 11 Deliverable D4	Identified staff dependent Funding dependent Conditional on A10DM1 Conditional on A10DM1 Funding dependent Funding dependent	Not applicable \$10,000 Not applicable Not applicable \$5,000 No estimate available

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

Asset Implications

22. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

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



Community Consultation

Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To review and provide feedback on the Draft RAP• To ensure the views of the community are included and are reflected in the RAP• To ensure Council staff are involved with and committed to the outcomes identified in the Plan.• That the priority themes identified via the deliberative consultation, are identifiable and embedded within the plan.
Engagement period	17 March to 14 April (28 days)
Level of Influence:	Consult: Obtain community feedback on alternatives or decisions and acknowledge any potential concerns. Council's promise is to keep the community informed and provide feedback on how the community's input influenced the final form of the RAP submitted to Reconciliation Australia as the final approving authority.
Engagement Activities:	<p>The consultation processes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Public exhibition feedback collected through Council's <i>Have Your Say</i> platform during the draft Innovate RAP exhibition period, including engagement metrics and written submissions2. Targeted Aboriginal community and RAP Reference Group consultation, captured through facilitated engagement, themed discussions and priority-setting activities <p>Together, these datasets provide both breadth (general community reach and sentiment) and depth (lived experience, cultural authority and sector expertise).</p>
Communication reach and engagement numbers:	<p>Public exhibition – wider community</p> <p>The public exhibition phase reached a broad audience but generated a small number of formal written submissions, which is typical for technical strategy documents such as a RAP.</p> <p>Key characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 267 page views and 155 unique visitors• Engagement across multiple languages• 51 document downloads, indicating strong interest• 3 written submissions received
Summary of feedback:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Public exhibition – wider community <p>This feedback primarily reflects community perception, legitimacy and clarity, rather than detailed program design.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General goodwill and support for Council's reconciliation direction• Desire for clearer articulation of how community members and organisations can actively participate



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One critical comment questioning priority and resourcing <p>2. RAP Reference Group & Aboriginal community feedback The RAP Reference Group and Aboriginal community consultation generated substantive, detailed and action-oriented input, grounded in lived experience and cultural authority. This input directly informed specific RAP actions, responsibilities and priorities</p> <p>This feedback was thematic, values-driven and future-focused, spanning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relationships• Opportunities• Respect• Governance• Truth-telling• Accountability <p>For full details of feedback evaluation – refer to Attachment 2 & 3</p>
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Links to Community Vision, Council Plan, Strategy, Notice of Motion

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

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

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

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

Legislative and Policy Obligations

28. 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.364

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Lana Formoso

- 1. ENDORSES the third Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2026-28 as presented in Attachment 1; and**
- 2. NOTES that the official launch of the RAP will be held in Harmony Square on Wednesday 27 May to coincide with the flag raising ceremony to acknowledge the commencement of National Reconciliation Week.**

CARRIED 9 / 0



Mayor Cr Sophie Tan read the following in relation to the 2026-28 Reconciliation Action Plan

Tonight, Council has taken an important step by adopting our updated Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2026–2028.

This Plan reflects our strong commitment to reconciliation, respect and truth telling. It sets out clear actions to help build stronger relationships, deeper understanding and greater opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across our city.

This work has not happened quickly or easily. A great deal of care, listening and hard work has gone into preparing this Plan. We thank Council staff, community members and everyone who helped shape it through consultation and engagement.

In particular, we acknowledge and thank the Elders and the Bunurong Land Council for their guidance, wisdom and ongoing partnership throughout this process.

Their voices, knowledge and connection to Country have helped guide the priorities in this Plan and strengthened the work we do as a Council.

As a Council, we know reconciliation is not a single action or a single document. It is an ongoing journey.

This Plan shows our aspiration to keep learning, keep listening and keep walking together toward a more respectful, inclusive and united future for all.

I also want to note that next week's Reconciliation Week "All In" event on Wednesday 27 May, will be the first opportunity to publicly mark and activate the RAP we've passed today. It will formally launch our RAP and signal a clear shift into implementation and accountability.

The event itself will bring our community together to reflect on that commitment and the role we each play in delivering on it.



4.4.5 Leave of Absence - Cr Jim Memeti

Cr Jim Memeti disclosed a general conflict of interest (s 127) in this Item as this it pertains to his own leave of absence request. Cr Jim Memeti left the chamber prior to discussion and voting.

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

Officer Recommendation

That Council **GRANTS** a leave of absence to Cr Jim Memeti for the period 15 June 2026 to 25 July 2026 (inclusive) which includes the Council Meeting of 15 June 2026 and 20 July 2026.

Executive Summary

1. Councillor (Cr) Jim Memeti requests a leave of absence from 15 June 2026 to 25 July 2026.

Background

2. This report is submitted in accordance with Clause 4.5.2 of the Council's Governance Rules, which state that any Councillor may request a leave of absence in writing submitted to the Chief Executive Officer or Mayor and state the dates they require the leave and the reason for which it is sought.
3. Further, under section 35(4) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council must grant any reasonable request for leave.
4. The leave of absence will include:
 - the scheduled Council Meeting of 15 June 2026 and the Pre-Council Meeting before this meeting;
 - the scheduled Council Meeting of 20 July 2026 and the Pre-Council Meeting before this meeting;
 - the scheduled Councillor Briefing Sessions of 22 June and 13 July; and
 - any further Councillor Briefing Sessions or meetings organised during the requested period of absence.
5. This leave of absence is requested for personal reasons.

MINUTE No.365

Moved by: Cr Bob Milkovic

Seconded by: Cr Loi Truong

That Council **GRANTS** a leave of absence to Cr Jim Memeti for the period 15 June 2026 to 25 July 2026 (inclusive) which includes the Council Meeting of 15 June 2026 and 20 July 2026.

CARRIED 8 / 0

Cr Jim Memeti left the Chamber at 8.11pm and returned to the Chamber at 8.12pm.



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

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services

Attachments: Nil

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **RECEIVES and NOTES the information contained in this report; and**
2. **The information discussed at the below listed Councillor Briefing Sessions on 7 April 2026 that was declared confidential under section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 in Item 1 below remains confidential until further advisement unless that information forms the subject of a subsequent Council 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 7 April 2026 – 5 May 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 7 April 2026 – 5 May 2026.

Matters Presented for Discussion

Item		Councillor Briefing Session/Pre-Council Meeting
1	<i>Core System Replacement CONFIDENTIAL under s 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.</i>	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 7 April 2026</i>



2	<i>Proposed 2026-27 Council Budget</i> Councillors were briefed on a high-level overview of the proposed 2026–27 Council Budget.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 7 April 2026</i>
3	<i>General Discussions</i> Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. business continuity arrangements in response to the current fuel crisis; andb. Protected Industrial Action involving the Municipal Employees Branch.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 7 April 2026</i>
4	<i>Proposed 2026-27 Council Budget</i> Councillors were briefed on the budgeting process, including a review of operational funding requests, the proposed Capital Program, fees and charges, and different rating models.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 13 April 2026</i>
5	<i>General Discussions</i> Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. a review of the Australia Day Awards process;b. draft correspondence to the Minister for Planning;c. an update on the status of protected industrial action; andd. agenda items for the Council Meeting 20 April 2026.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 13 April 2026</i>
6	<i>General Discussions</i> Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. an update on Protected Industrial Action, including minor impacts on service delivery.b. temporary closure of the public gallery for the Council Meeting; andc. urgent business for the Council Meeting.	<i>Pre-Council Meeting (PCM) – 20 April 2026</i>
7	<i>Inside Man Program (Cybersecurity)</i> Councillors were briefed on the Inside Man cybersecurity program by IT, including its purpose, roll out, and organisational cyber awareness and controls.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 27 April 2026</i>



8	<p>Councillor Professional Development: Effective Strategic Planning</p> <p>Councillors were briefed on their strategic leadership role under the <i>Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)</i>, including long-term community visioning, integrated planning, community engagement, performance monitoring, and the distinction between strategic and operational responsibilities.</p>	<p>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 27 April 2026</p>
9	<p>Advocacy Pack 2026–27</p> <p>Councillors were briefed on the Draft 2026–27 Advocacy Priorities, proposed feedback to priorities, continuation of resourcing for key advocacy campaigns and the redirection of Secretariat support towards local advocacy with a focus on immediate infrastructure outcomes.</p>	<p>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 27 April 2026</p>
10	<p>Councillor Professional Development: Victoria's Statutory Planning System</p> <p>Councillors were briefed on Victoria's statutory planning system, including permit application types, assessment processes, decision-making delegations, VCAT appeal pathways, common planning questions and recent changes affecting townhouse and mid-rise developments.</p>	<p>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 27 April 2026</p>
11	<p>General Discussions</p> <p>Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">matters arising from the Council Meeting held on 20 April 2026, including possible future changes or provisions within the Governance Rules; andan abandoned vehicle query raised by a Councillor.	<p>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 27 April 2026</p>
12	<p>DMPL Business Plan & Budget</p> <p>Councillors were briefed on Dandenong Market Pty Ltd's 2026–27 business plan and budget.</p>	<p>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 4 May 2026</p>
13	<p>Draft Council Plan and Annual Plan</p> <p>Councillors were briefed on the Draft Annual Action Plan 2026–27 and updated Council Plan measures, including alignment with strategic priorities, budget considerations, delivery capacity and minor refinements to improve outcome measurement.</p>	<p>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 4 May 2026</p>
14	<p>Strategic Service Planning Program.</p> <p>Councillors were briefed on the proposed Strategic Service Planning approach, including evidence based service design, prioritisation criteria, use of a Service Scoring Matrix, and alignment with community needs, resources and long-term financial sustainability.</p>	<p>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 4 May 2026</p>



15	<p>General Discussions</p> <p>Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. a matter regarding data privacy;b. an update on the 2026-27 budget;c. an update from the Fuel Supply Response Group;d. the 2026 Springvale Snow Festival; ande. an update on Protected Industrial Actions.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 4 May 2026
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Apologies

5. Councillor Lana Formoso and Councillor Loi Truong submitted apologies for the Councillor Briefing Session on 7 April 2026.
6. Councillor Lana Formoso and Councillor Jim Memeti submitted apologies for the Councillor Briefing Session on 13 April 2026.
7. Councillor Loi Truong submitted an apology for the Pre-Council Meeting on 20 April 2026.
8. Councillor Jim Memeti and Councillor Melinda Yim submitted apologies for the Councillor Briefing Session on 4 May 2026.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

MINUTE No.366

Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council:

1. **RECEIVES** and **NOTES** the information contained in this report; and
2. **The information discussed at the below listed Councillor Briefing Sessions on 7 April 2026 that was declared confidential under section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 in Item 1 below remains confidential until further advisement unless that information forms the subject of a subsequent Council report.**

CARRIED 9 / 0



4.4.7 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 [4.4.7.1 - 2 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That the listed items for the period 6 April 2026 to 1 May 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 6 April 2026 to 1 May 2026.

MINUTE No.367

Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That the listed items for the period 6 April 2026 to 1 May 2026 provided in Attachment 1 to this report be received and noted.

CARRIED 9 / 0



5 NOTICES OF MOTION

5.1 NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 20 - DANDENONG MARKET PTY LTD - GOVERNANCE CLARIFICATION REPORT

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
Manager Governance, Integrity, Legal & Risk

Author: Cr Rhonda Garad

Preamble

1. Dandenong Market Pty Ltd (DMPL) is a wholly Council-owned company operating on behalf of the Greater Dandenong community;
2. Council currently appoints a Councillor representative to attend DMPL Board meetings in an observer capacity; however, the role, reporting arrangements and governance scope of that position are not formally articulated in a publicly available Council document; and
3. Clarification regarding governance and reporting arrangements would assist Council in understanding its role as sole shareholder and support transparency regarding the governance framework applying to Dandenong Market Pty Ltd.

Motion

That Council requests the Chief Executive Officer provide a briefing note or report to Councillors within 60 days outlining:

1. **the current legal and governance structure of Dandenong Market Pty Ltd, including:**
 - a brief comparison with the governance and shareholder oversight arrangements applying to Queen Victoria Market Pty Ltd, and optionally any other comparable council-owned market entities.
2. **the current role, responsibilities and reporting arrangements of Council-appointed Councillor representatives attending DMPL Board meetings in an observer capacity;**
3. **the current mechanisms for governance and risk reporting between Dandenong Market Pty Ltd and Council as sole shareholder; and**
4. **whether Council currently maintains a Statement of Expectations, shareholder charter, governance protocol or similar document relating to Dandenong Market Pty Ltd.**



MINUTE No.368

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council requests the Chief Executive Officer provide a briefing note or report to Councillors within 60 days outlining:

- 1. the current legal and governance structure of Dandenong Market Pty Ltd, including:
 - a brief comparison with the governance and shareholder oversight arrangements applying to Queen Victoria Market Pty Ltd, and optionally any other comparable council-owned market entities.**
- 2. the current role, responsibilities and reporting arrangements of Council-appointed Councillor representatives attending DMPL Board meetings in an observer capacity;**
- 3. the current mechanisms for governance and risk reporting between Dandenong Market Pty Ltd and Council as sole shareholder; and**
- 4. whether Council currently maintains a Statement of Expectations, shareholder charter, governance protocol or similar document relating to Dandenong Market Pty Ltd.**

CARRIED 8 / 0

Cr Jim Memeti left the Chamber at 8.13pm and returned to the Chamber at 8.20pm.



6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

Comment

Cr Alice Phuong Le

Since the last Council Meeting I attended several community events, including:

On Friday 24 April 2026, A Women's Leadership Forum hosted by the Member for Mordialloc.

On Thursday 14 May 2026, I attended a Mother's Day celebration hosted by Vietnamese Australian Senior Association of Victoria (VASA) with Mayor Cr Sophie Tan.

On Sunday 17 May 2026, I attended an anniversary barbecue event for United Community Helpers, where I was also elected in the executive committee as their new president.

I would like to acknowledge the strong volunteer contribution of community organisations and how important their role is in supporting residents.

Question

Cr Alice Phuong Le

Does Council currently has programs specifically supporting women who have experienced family violence.

Response

Marcus Forster, Acting Executive Director Community Strengthening

I will take this question on notice, and provide a response after this meeting.

Further response

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

Council has a strong and ongoing commitment to addressing family and domestic violence. Council has an annual community walk from the market to Harmony Square, which attracts over 1,000 participants and promotes awareness, prevention, and referral pathways to services such as The Orange Door and other local agencies. I can assure the community that significant support and referral services are available across the municipality.

Comment

Cr Jim Memeti

Since the last Council Meeting I attended several community events, including:

On Wednesday 29 April 2026, I attended an event recognising Afghan interpreters who supported Australian Defence Force personnel, many of whom now reside in Greater Dandenong.

On Thursday 14 May 2026, I attended a Rotary Club event supporting the global eradication of polio.

On Sunday 17 May 2026, I attended the Hazara Cultural Day at Dandenong Park, there was strong attendance despite poor weather.

On Friday 8 May 2026, I attended a Men's Health Forum hosted by Tim Richardson MP for Mordialloc, focused on wellbeing and behaviour change, and encourage residents experiencing difficulties to seek support from organisations such as Beyond Blue and recent state and federal men's health initiatives.



Later, I joined Cassandra Fernando MP and Meng Heang Tak MP at the opening of a new café on Walker Street, Dandenong, recognising small businesses as vital to local employment, community connection and a thriving economy.

Comment

Cr Phillip Danh, Deputy Mayor

Over the past few weeks, many footpaths across my ward have been upgraded. I continue to say that one of the most important things local governments can do is get the basics right. At a time of cost-of-living pressure, maintaining and upgrading footpaths improves neighbourhood amenity and reduces the risk of trips and injuries, which in turn helps residents avoid medical costs and time off work.

I thank the officers who have been working behind the scenes on these upgrades.

Question

Cr Phillip Danh, Deputy Mayor

I have a question regarding the footpaths along Palm Plaza. A resident has asked whether these footpaths are Council managed and if so, whether they can be reviewed as part of future works.

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Yes, the footpath area along Palm Plaza is Council managed. From time to time, repair works are undertaken. As part of the broader plaza master planning, we are also advocating for a full renewal of the Palm Plaza area at a future stage.

Question

Cr Phillip Danh, Deputy Mayor

I have also noticed an increase in illegal rubbish dumping across my ward in the past month. I am not sure if this is occurring across the whole municipality, but it is certainly becoming more visible again.

My question is whether there has been any recent review of dumping enforcement, and whether Council is considering reviewing the hotspots program to ensure resources are being targeted to the areas most affected.

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Illegal dumping is a significant issue for Council. Our teams are managing this every day. We are currently analysing data to identify hotspots, and we are planning further discussions with councillors in the coming months. Toward the end of the calendar year, we expect to have more detailed discussions, including a review of the hotspot program.

Comment

Cr Phillip Danh, Deputy Mayor

While I acknowledge the prompt response to dumped rubbish, particularly through tools like Snap Send Solve, it is disappointing that a small number of people create a burden for the majority who do the right thing, and Council should continue efforts to stamp this out.

Question

Cr Phillip Danh, Deputy Mayor

On another matter, I recently visited Noble Park United Football Club at Parkfield Reserve. The club has raised concerns about ongoing difficulty accessing hot water at the facility, particularly with winter approaching. I ask that this be followed up with some urgency.



Response**Mark Forster, Acting Executive Director Community Strengthening**

I am happy to look into this matter and provide feedback to both Council and the relevant stakeholders at the reserve.

Question**Cr Lana Formoso**

I would like an update on the walking track at Barry Powell Reserve. This project forms part of the master plan and received funding in the 2024–25 budget. I would like to know where this project is currently up to.

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

I will take that question on notice and check with the relevant teams before providing an update.

Question**Cr Lana Formoso**

I have received correspondence from a resident regarding Council rangers. I have previously raised this issue, as I have personally experienced an incident in a park with my children.

The issue relates to restricted breed dogs being off-lead and unmuzzled near children's playgrounds.

I seek clarification as to why a reported incident involving two unmuzzled, off-lead dogs of restricted breeds near a children's skate park at approximately 9.30 am on a Saturday did not meet the threshold for an urgent ranger response, despite the reporting resident remaining on site and expressing serious safety concerns.

Further to this, what specific criteria does Council apply when determining whether an animal management matter is considered urgent on weekends? What threshold must be met for a ranger to attend?

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

I provided a detailed response to this matter at the previous Council meeting.

Council officers did attend and assess the situation. The description of the dogs as restricted breeds was based on information provided by the reporting resident, and officers were unable to independently identify the dogs as restricted breeds at the time.

We are meeting with the resident to provide further clarification and information. Council does have rangers available on weekends, and matters reported through the after-hours service are assessed. Any dog attack or serious safety matter is taken seriously, and rangers will attend when required.

Question**Cr Lana Formoso**

I would like clarification. My understanding from the resident's correspondence is that a ranger did not attend the site. Can you confirm whether a ranger actually attended?

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

A ranger did attend the site and undertook an assessment. I will follow this up further by reviewing the email correspondence and confirming the details with the resident offline.



Cr Bob Milkovic left the Chamber at 8.35pm.

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

I would also like to raise an urgent safety issue regarding a wasp nest at the Dandenong City Soccer Club facility.

This matter has been reported and ongoing for over 12 months, with limited resolution despite reports to United Energy, the club, and Council. I personally witnessed multiple young players being stung during the recent Dandenong City Girls Cup, which involved more than 60 teams. This raises serious concerns about public safety and risk management.

What further action is Council taking to ensure this hazard is urgently resolved, and what follow-up processes exist when safety issues remain unresolved for such an extended period?

Response

Marcus Forster, Acting Executive Director Community Strengthening

We will follow up on the immediate status of the wasp nest at the Dandenong City Soccer Club and review the history of reports and actions taken to date. We will provide information back to councillors.

Comment

Cr Lana Formoso

This matter has been raised previously and has been ongoing for more than 12 months. I have emailed officers about it and received responses indicating that it was being addressed, yet the issue remains unresolved.

I am concerned about public safety. If a child with a severe allergy had been stung, the consequences could have been catastrophic. I would like this matter treated with urgency. I also note that the Chief Executive Officer has stated this is the first time she has heard of this issue, which is not correct.

I have an email chain confirming prior awareness. I would like that noted on the record.

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

Councillor, debate with officers during the meeting is not appropriate. The matter will be followed up, and you will receive a response.

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

I would like to raise serious concerns regarding community safety at the Dandenong Basketball Stadium.

I have been contacted by families, sporting groups and community members who use the stadium, advising of multiple incidents involving vehicle thefts, break-ins and threats of violence towards patrons. There is currently a community group chat discussing these incidents.



I ask Council to clarify the following:

- What CCTV coverage exists in the stadium car park;
- Whether cameras are operational and reviewed following incidents;
- Whether there is any security presence or patrols during evening competitions; and
- Whether there are any planned improvements to lighting, surveillance or security.

I live close to the stadium and have noticed a reduction in patrols. Given the increasing concerns, this matter requires attention.

Response

Marcus Forster, Acting Executive Director Community Strengthening

I am happy to provide councillors with information regarding CCTV coverage at the Dandenong Basketball Stadium, including the operational status of cameras, how footage is accessed and reviewed, and the current security and patrol arrangements.

We will also provide context regarding any planned improvements relating to safety and security at the site.

Comment

Cr Lana Formoso

I would also like to formally acknowledge Dr Malak Sukkar for her extraordinary contribution to the SEL Board since its inception.

Dr Sukkar brought deep professional expertise in health governance, strong leadership and a genuine connection to the Greater Dandenong community. Her insight, compassion and commitment have helped shape the organisation's vision and impact.

While I am disappointed that she was not afforded the opportunity to continue her role, I sincerely thank her for her years of service and wish her all the very best for the future.

Comment

Cr Lana Formoso

I also congratulate Dr Selba-Gondoza Luca OAM on being awarded an Honorary Doctor of Social Science by RMIT University.

Dr Luca is a highly respected leader within our community. Through her lived experience, professional expertise and leadership of AfriAus Care, including initiatives such as the Black Rhinos Program, she has made an extraordinary contribution to supporting vulnerable communities.

This recognition is richly deserved, and I congratulate her on this outstanding achievement

Comment

Cr Lana Formoso

I wish to acknowledge and thank Narelle and Alisha Peterson for their extraordinary courage and advocacy following the tragic loss of their son, Levi, to meningococcal disease at just 16 years of age.

Levi's death was heartbreaking, particularly as it occurred shortly after he had received his routine immunisations. Through tireless advocacy, this family has played a critical role in securing the inclusion of the meningococcal B vaccine for Year 10 students in Victoria from 2027. This change will save lives.



While more work remains to ensure equitable access for infants, their advocacy stands as a powerful example of resilience, love and community leadership. Levi's legacy will protect future generations.

Cr Bob Milkovic returned to the Chamber at 8.38pm.

Comment

Cr Rhonda Garad

I would like to begin by congratulating you, Mayor, on your public advocacy calling for a full ban on gambling advertising. Greater Dandenong is one of the most affected municipalities in Victoria. We have the highest gambling losses per adult and per day, with approximately \$150 million lost annually through electronic gaming machines alone.

These losses come from one of the poorest local government areas in the state. Gambling harm is a scourge on our community, particularly on young people and families. The response from the gambling lobby, suggesting that banning gambling advertising would lead to banning everything, is completely tone deaf.

This is the same predatory industry that has recently been linked to the death of a young person who lost close to a million dollars while being allowed to continue gambling. Gambling contributes significantly to depression and financial hardship, and I commend you for your leadership on this issue.

Comment

Cr Rhonda Garad

I also wish to acknowledge the recent news that no charges will be laid in relation to the death of Isabelle Bell, whose body was found in Dandenong last year.

This decision has deeply affected our community. Dandenong was the last place where Isabelle was seen, and many residents attended a vigil over the weekend to express their grief and concern.

I join with the community in calling on the Attorney-General to review the decision not to prosecute for murder or manslaughter. Violence against women is a critical issue in our municipality, and the failure to hold the accused to account is deeply troubling.

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

I raise an urgent issue regarding the Walker Street / Orchestrate Gallery and the future of Fusion Theatre, an inclusive theatre group that has operated from this site for more than 20 years.

Fusion Theatre has been advised that refurbishment works are planned, including the development of artist studios. As a result, the theatre group has been told it will no longer be able to operate from the site. They were given only two days' notice to remove their equipment and were not consulted at any stage during planning.

When Fusion asked why they were not consulted, they were reportedly told, "Why would we consult you?" I sincerely hope that was a misstatement.

Fusion Theatre is the only permanent local theatre group in Greater Dandenong and provides inclusive opportunities for people with disabilities. There are very few groups like this across



Melbourne. If Fusion Theatre cannot continue operating, it would be a devastating loss for our community.

I ask that officers urgently address this matter and explore whether a compromise can be reached so Fusion Theatre can continue.

Response

Marcus Forster, Acting Executive Community Strengthening

I will take this matter on notice and provide Council with an update on the current status of Fusion Theatre's residency at Orchestrate Gallery, including communications, timelines and next steps.

Cr Jim Memeti left the Chamber at 8.53pm.

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

I also wish to follow up on an urgent notice of motion I submitted at the previous meeting regarding legal and reputational risks associated with Dandenong Market.

Two legal processes have reportedly commenced, which may have implications for Council. I have not yet received a response from officers. When can Council expect an update?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

I will take that matter on notice, review it with the relevant governance and legal teams, and report back to Council.

Cr Jim Memeti returned to the Chamber at 8.54pm.

Question

Cr Sean O'Reilly

I would like to raise a question regarding out-of-hours Council customer service.

When residents contact Council on weekends, calls are diverted to an external after-hours service provider. However, there is limited information on the Council website explaining what level of service residents can expect after hours.

If residents search online before calling, it is not clear what constitutes an emergency or what services will receive a response. Using the recent example raised regarding dangerous dogs, there is no guidance to help residents understand whether a ranger will attend.

I ask whether officers can clarify:

- What instructions are provided to the after-hours service provider
- Whether clear criteria exist for when rangers attend after hours
- Whether this information can be communicated more clearly on the Council website

I do not require a response tonight, but I would appreciate a follow-up briefing.



Response

Yuri Guzman, Chief Customer & Information Officer

After-hours calls are automatically diverted to Council's contracted service provider once business hours end. This service operates seven days a week.

Currently, the messaging focuses on emergencies, but I acknowledge that the definition of an emergency may not always be clear. We will review our guidelines and ensure there is clearer information about what services are provided after hours and when officers, including rangers, will attend.

Comment

Cr Sean O'Reilly

Thank you. I appreciate that clarity is difficult given the range of Council services. However, even high-level guidance would assist residents and councillors to understand what response can reasonably be expected, particularly for safety-related matters.

Question

Cr Sean O'Reilly

While reviewing the website, I also noticed that the Tree Protection Local Law 2023 is still listed. Can officers clarify whether this is still current, and whether any changes are planned?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

The Tree Protection Local Law is currently an adopted interim policy and remains in place. A report will be presented to Council in July seeking consideration of repealing the policy. Once that process is completed, the website will be updated accordingly.

Councillor Yim's statement was read out by Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

Comment

Cr Melinda Yim

On Saturday 25 April 2026, I was honoured to represent the Mayor at the opening of the Melbourne Tamil Market, Dandenong the first event of its kind in Australia. The market brought together Tamil businesses, entrepreneurs and community organisations and celebrated culture, enterprise and connection.

I hope this event continues to grow and becomes a lasting tradition.

I would also like to remind everyone that The Kindness Community hosts a free weekly meal and connection service for people experiencing homelessness and financial hardship. The service runs every Tuesday at Hemmings Street Skate Park, Dandenong with volunteers from 5.00 pm and meals served from 5.30 pm.

Comment

Cr Sophie Tan, Mayor

Since the last Council meeting, I have attended the following community events:

On Tuesday 21 April 2026, I attended the Children's Advisory Group meeting, including the election of the Junior Mayor, Fariha from Dandenong North Primary School, and Junior Deputy Mayor, Omar from Sirius College, and an advocacy meeting with Rachel Payne MP, State Member for South-Eastern Metropolitan Region.

On Friday 24 April 2026, I attended the Women's Pain Forum hosted by Tim Richardson MP, State Member for Mordialloc, with special guest the Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas MP, Minister for Health where feedback on the Women's Pain Inquiry report was discussed.



On Saturday 25 April 2026, I attended the ANZAC Day Vietnamese Veterans Service at Dandenong RSL, and the ANZAC Day March and 11am Service at the Pillars of Freedom, Dandenong RSL.

On Sunday 26 April 2026, I attended the Bengali New Year Celebration hosted by the Bengali Art Centre Victoria.

On Monday 27 April 2026, I attended a Councillor Briefing Session for professional development training.

On Saturday 2 May 2026, I attended a Cambodian Association of Victoria event.

On Monday 4 May 2026, I attended the 2026 Paul Wade Soccer Gala Day, a local primary school soccer tournament, and a Councillor Briefing Session on strategic priorities and major projects.

On Tuesday 5 May 2026, I attended the official opening of the Mark Anthony Drive APR Recycling facility.

On Wednesday 6 May 2026, I attended both Citizenship Ceremonies.

On Thursday 7 May 2026, I attended the Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum meeting, and the Little Dreamers Early Learning Centre Mother's Day and Women's Empowerment celebration.

On Friday 8 May 2026, I attended an advocacy meeting with Mark Dreyfus MP KC, Federal Member for Isaacs.

On Monday 11 May 2026, I attended a Councillor Briefing Session for a meeting agenda update.

On Wednesday 13 May 2026, I attended the opening of the new Dexion Victoria and National Make Good Solutions facility in Dandenong South.

On Thursday 14 May 2026, I attended a Mother's Day celebration hosted by the Vietnamese Australian Senior Association.

On Saturday 16 May 2026, I attended the opening of the Parkfield Reserve tennis court redevelopment and a Mother's Day dinner celebration hosted by the All Saints Urdu-Hindi Church.

On Sunday 17 May 2026, I attended Hazara Culture Day hosted by the Hazara Cultural Association, and the United Community Helpers second anniversary BBQ and inauguration of the new Executive Board.

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.



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 CQT2	Cr Jim Memeti	<p>Council Role and Letter to State Government and Local Members of Parliament</p> <p>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	22/04/26	<p>Initial response 16/03/2026:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Council can advocate to State Government and local Members of Parliament for stronger regulations.</p> <p>Initial response 16/03/2026:</p> <p>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>Further response 22/04/2026:</p> <p>Letter sent out to Minister Kilkeny and MPs from the Mayor's Office.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>
20/04/26 CQT1	Cr Jim Memeti	<p>Large Pothole at Dandenong Bus Interchange request for Letter to be Sent to State Minister</p> <p>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.</p>	Executive Director City Futures	22/04/26	<p>Initial response 20/04/26</p> <p>We will look into this.</p> <p>Further response 22/04/2026</p> <p>Council reported community member concerns to Metro Trains, who manage the location. They have acknowledged receipt of the issue and no timeframe provided for fixing as yet.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>



Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
20/04/26 CQT2	Cr Lana Formoso	<p>Councillor Letters of Support for Grant Applications</p> <p>I am seeking clarification on the decision not to accept a Councillor letter of support for a local sporting club's grant application, noting this had traditionally been standard practice. My questions are:</p> <p>When and why did this practice change;</p> <p>Does it apply to all Councillors; and</p> <p>Was it supported by any formal policy or Council resolution.</p>	Chief Executive Officer	04/05/26	<p>Initial response 20/04/2026: If the matter related to Council's Medium Grants Program, Councillor letters of support are not accepted due to a conflict of interest, as Council is the approving authority for the program</p> <p>Initial response 20/04/2026: 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.</p> <p>Further response 04/05/2026: CEO emailed Cr Formoso advising she is happy to meet to discuss the matter further if Cr Formoso would like to.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>
20/04/26 CQT3	Cr Sean O'Reilly	<p>Review of Council Busking Policy</p> <p>When is Council's busking policy next scheduled for review, and will that review include benchmarking Greater Dandenong's approach against neighbouring councils, noting concerns that the current policy may be more restrictive and limit opportunities for skilled buskers in activity centres?</p>	Executive Director City Futures	18/05/26	<p>Initial response 20/04/2026: 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.</p> <p>Further response 18/05/2026: The review of Local Law No. 2 is scheduled for later this year and will be informed by internal stakeholder engagement and benchmarking against sector trends. This process will provide an opportunity to evaluate and update Greater Dandenong's busking permit process.</p> <p>The new permit process should also draw from the previous work undertaken by Placemaking & Revitalisation, specifically the Busk Stop initiative. Council acknowledges the important role busking, and street performance, has in both creating vibrant public spaces and supporting local performers. Busk Stop will be implemented again from December 2026 as a seasonal, supported busking program offered in Dandenong, Springvale & Noble Park activity centres.</p> <p>Busking permit applications can currently be submitted online via the Council website. While the application refers to public liability insurance, Council allows busking to be conducted under Council's insurance, providing a simpler process for the community. The permit fee is \$27. The Local Laws Unit issues weekday busking permits for single performers, allowing up to four dates within a one-month period, at the following locations: Palm Plaza, Dandenong, and near Gloria Jeans, Springvale. These arrangements will also be reassessed as part of the broader Local Laws program review.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>



7 URGENT BUSINESS

No urgent business was considered.



8 CLOSE OF BUSINESS

The Meeting closed at 9.06pm.

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

Signature