



Minutes

Council Meeting

Monday 15 June 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](#)

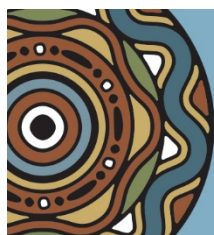
[Cr Lana Formoso](#)

[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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 council@cgd.vic.gov.au

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TTY: 133 677

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Online: relayservice.gov.au



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Acknowledging
Bunurong Country

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1 MEETING OPENING

1.1 OPENING OF MEETING BY CHAIR

Cr Sophie Tan opened the Meeting at 7.00pm.

1.2 ATTENDANCE

Apologies

Cr Jim Memeti, Cr Loi Truong.

Councillors Present

Cr Sophie Tan, Mayor (Chair)
Cr Phillip Danh, Deputy Mayor
Cr Isabella Do (online), Cr Lana Formoso, Cr Rhonda Garad, Cr Alice Phuong Le,
Cr Bob Milkovic, Cr Sean O'Reilly (online), Cr Melinda Yim.

Officers Present

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer; Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures; Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening; Yuri Guzman, Chief Customer and Information Officer; Sophie DRozario, 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.

Mayor Cr Sophie Tan read out the below speech to acknowledge the passing of Peter McCall OAM, former Mayor of Springvale.

Tonight I would like to acknowledge the recent passing of Peter McCall OAM, who passed away in April at the age of 83.

Peter was a man deeply connected to our community, growing up in Noble Park and Dandenong and dedicating much of his life to public service and local causes.

He went to Dandenong High School and spent his professional life first in the meat industry, then in Victoria Police and later in security and in business.

He served as a councillor and mayor of the City of Springvale in the mid 1980s, and later he was a Councillor and Deputy Mayor at the City of Monash.

His contribution went far beyond elected office, supporting the CFA, Rotary, Lions, charities, and mental health advocacy as a Beyond Blue ambassador.

He valued community, and believed in hard work.

Peter's life reflected a true commitment to service.

On behalf of Council, we extend our sincere condolences to Peter's family and loved ones, and we thank him for his contribution to our city.



1.4 OFFERING OF PRAYER, REFLECTION OR AFFIRMATION

All remained standing as Venerable Bodhicitta, a member of Buddhist Faith, *performed a short song.*



1.5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Meeting of Council held 18 May 2026.

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 18 May 2026 be confirmed.

MINUTE No.369

Moved by: Cr Bob Milkovic

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 18 May 2026 be confirmed.

CARRIED 9 / 0

1.6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Chief Executive Officer, Jacqui Weatherill disclosed a material conflict of interest (s 128) in item 4.4.7 CEO Employment Remuneration Update as it concerns the appointment of a consultant to review the CEO's remuneration. The CEO's personal financial interests may be affected by the outcome of this review.



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 - 2 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 joint letter prior to the Council Meeting of 15 June 2026 as follows:
5. A joint letter was submitted by 22 proponents on behalf of the business owners and operators on Thomas Street, Dandenong. The letter is to raise concerns about the impacts of the Ramadan Night Market on day-to-day trading, customer access and staff operations. This joint letter has been forwarded to the responsible Council business unit/s for action.

MINUTE No.370

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Lana Formoso

That this report and its attachment be received and noted.

CARRIED 9 / 0



2.2 STATUTORY PLANNING APPLICATIONS

2.2.1 Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – May 2026

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

Attachments: 1. Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – May 2026 [2.2.1.1 - 9 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 May 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.371

Moved by: Cr Bob Milkovic

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

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

CARRIED 9 / 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.

Question

Braydon, Dandenong

Will our local parliament representative/s call for an inquiry into state government corruption on the big build? If not, may you state your reasons?

Response

Marjan Hajjari, Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services

Council acknowledges the concerns you have raised regarding the possibility of a public inquiry into State Government matters. We appreciate you taking the time to bring this issue forward and recognise the importance of transparency and accountability in decisions that affect the community.

While we understand the seriousness of your concerns, it is important to clarify that local government does not have the legislative authority to initiate or call for public inquiries into State Government projects or allegations of corruption.

Matters of this nature fall within the jurisdiction of State-level oversight and integrity bodies, including the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC), who's primary focus is to examine and investigate such matters.

Council remains committed to its responsibilities under the Local Government Act 2020, including representing the interests of the community and advocating on matters that impact our municipality.

If you wish to pursue this matter further, you may consider contacting IBAC or your local State Member of Parliament.

Cr Isabella Do left the Meeting at 7.17pm.

Question

Terry Wilkinson, Keysborough

Considering the cost of this new wellness facility ballooned to over \$122 million and requires taking on massive debt, how can the council claim the community is financially and socially better off when this expenditure is actively reducing community sporting amenities?

Given that leading global health evaluations, including a major study by Forbes magazine, have officially named squash the single healthiest sport in the world for cardiorespiratory endurance, calorie burn, and low injury risk.



Why is Council choosing to permanently destroy a rare, public health asset like the Dandenong Oasis squash courts, rather than protecting and promoting it as the ultimate weapon against local obesity, cardiovascular illness, and senior citizen isolation?

Participation rates at the Oasis courts are reported by Council to have declined to six players a day, but this facility has suffered from years of zero marketing, poor maintenance, and zero council initiative.

Instead of choosing demolition, and given there are no other squash courts available to accommodate this community, why hasn't Council management actively worked with Squash and Racketball Victoria to implement a low-cost, multi-use model—opening the courts to racketball, yoga, and aerobics during off-peak hours to easily generate the missing revenue?

Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

Thank you, Terry, for your questions, and for continuing to speak on behalf of the squash community at Dandenong Oasis. We know how much these courts have meant to many people over the years and we appreciate the passion and care behind your advocacy.

As we've shared previously, the planning for the new facility has been shaped over a number of years, with input from more than 2,400 community members between 2019 and 2021. Through that process, a decision was made by Council in 2019 not to include squash courts in the new building, and the design reflects those earlier decisions.

That said, we do recognise that there is ongoing interest from the community on this issue. Any change to Council's current position would need to be considered and decided by Council, and this is something being discussed further as part of tonight's agenda.

In relation to your third question, while the redevelopment doesn't include squash, the focus has been on supporting activities that align with the adopted strategy and investing in areas where we're seeing strong and growing participation, so the centre can continue to meet the needs of the broader community.

Cr Isabella Do returned to the Meeting at 7.20pm.

Question

Colin Smith, Dandenong South

Could you please confirm whether Council formally recommended to the Level Crossing Removal Project the proposed road line marking changes, specifically the removal of the 1 metre inset line proposed to protect vulnerable cyclists?

If so, could you also confirm the date on which the recommendation was made, who within Council authorised or endorsed it, what specific changes were recommended, what traffic engineering, safety, or community consultation evidence supported the recommendation, and whether Council holds any written correspondence, reports, meeting minutes, or emails relating to the recommendation?

We ask because there appears to be conflicting information regarding who initiated the line marking changes, and clarification of Council's role would assist in ensuring the public record is accurate.



Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Council were provided with an opportunity to comment on draft line marking plans for Fowler Road in late 2024.

The intent of the line marking was to reduce vehicle speeds and separate vehicles from pedestrian movements. On road cycle facilities were not discussed.

Council officers provided consent for the line marking at this time following some minor changes based on Council officer feedback and an independent safety audit was provided.

Officers have provided greater detail directly via e-mail.

Any community members who have feedback or interest in the Progress Street Level Crossing Removal Project are encouraged to contact Council officers at RoadSafety@cgd.vic.gov.au.

Question

Sulayman, Dandenong

Can the squash court be available alongside the table tennis? These facilities are important for the community.

Has consideration been given to retaining the squash courts and converting them into multi-purpose courts for squash, badminton, and pickleball to better serve the community's needs?

Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

Thank you for your question, Sulayman.

Council acknowledges community interest in retaining the existing squash courts, and potentially part of the current Dandenong Oasis facility, once the new Wellbeing Centre opens.

We recognise that the existing squash courts are valued by regular users, and that recent advocacy reflects a genuine desire to retain a familiar local recreation facility.

Council is considering this matter as part of tonight's agenda, item 4.4.4.

Question

Nibras, Eumemmerring

Will the squash courts be retained?

As the table tennis facilities are going to remain, I believe the squash facilities should also be maintained as they are just behind the table tennis facility. This is the only squash facility available in the area.

These facilities are important to the community and are valued by many local residents. Retaining the squash courts would help preserve an accessible recreational space that promotes health, wellbeing, and social connection for people of all ages.

I strongly encourage the retention of the squash facilities as part of any future plans for the site.



Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

Thank you for your feedback, Nibras.

As mentioned, Council acknowledges the Community interest in retaining the existing squash courts and is considering this matter as part of tonight's agenda, item 4.4.4.

Cr Lana Formoso left the Chamber at 7.25pm.

Question

Mark, Dandenong North

What is happening with the unregistered vehicles parked in Prospect Hill Crescent?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Council are aware of the property and the number of vehicles parked, since they are registered vehicles, officers are working with the owner on that matter. After tonight I am happy to also get the traffic engineers inspect that property.

**The questioner raised additional queries on this topic which were discussed after the meeting*.*

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	<p>Request for Council Support and Funding for Lebanese Community Following International Conflict</p> <p>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.</p>	Executive Director Strategy and Corporate Services	03/06/26	<p>Initial response provided 20/04/2026:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Further response 2/06/2026:</p> <p>Thank you for your request raised at the Council meeting on 20 April 2026 regarding funding and support for the local Lebanese community, including crisis, wellbeing and related services, as well as a public vigil and memorial.</p> <p>Firstly, please accept our sincere apologies for the delayed response. We acknowledge the significant distress experienced by members of the Lebanese community and extend our empathy during this difficult time.</p> <p>Regrettably, community support services fees are not eligible under Council's community grants program, and Council does not have dedicated social or community workers to facilitate these services.</p> <p>That said, we encourage you to visit the Ask Izzy website, which connects individuals to a wide range of local support</p>
					<p>services, including crisis assistance, counselling, financial help, health services and more Visit the Ask Izzy website for more information.</p> <p>In relation to holding a public vigil or memorial, Council's Festivals and Events Team would be pleased to assist with the application and permit process. You can contact the team via events@cgd.vic.gov.au or on 8571 1000</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>



4 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 2

4.1 PROCUREMENT

4.1.1 Animal Pound Contract

Responsible Officer:	Executive Director City Futures
Attachments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. CONFIDENTIAL - 2526-15 Animal Pound Services Tender Value for Money Assessment completed by BU (1) [4.1.1.1 - 1 page]2. CONFIDENTIAL - TEP Consolidated Evaluation Animal Pound 2526-15 [4.1.1.2 - 1 page] <p>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.</p>

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES Service Agreement No. 2526-15 – Animal Pound Services to the Lost Dogs’ Home (ABN 84 004 789 726) for a period of 18 months (to December 2027), at Council’s sole discretion and subject to satisfactory performance, at the tendered new Schedule of Rates, as clarified following the tender process; and**
2. **AUTHORISES the Chief Executive Officer to execute the Service Agreement and any associated documentation.**

Executive Summary

1. This report summarises the public tender process undertaken by Council to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced service provider to deliver statutory Animal Pound Services in accordance with the Domestic Animals Act 1994 and Council’s contractual requirements.
2. The services under the proposed contract include the collection, impounding, care, management and rehoming of animals on behalf of Council, together with associated reporting, compliance and animal welfare obligations.
3. Council undertook a public tender process to procure a suitably qualified and experienced service provider to deliver statutory Animal Pound Services in accordance with the Domestic Animals Act 1994 and Council’s service requirements. Following a rigorous evaluation process, The Lost Dogs’ Home was selected as the preferred service provider, and Council officers communicated the outcome of the tender process accordingly.
4. Subsequently, the Lost Dogs Home has requested to withdraw from the 3-year tender (2526-15) following an internal Board/Executive review and capacity assessment.
5. Noting that the current agreement expires on 13 August 2026, they have proposed a new transitional agreement from 14 August 2026 to 30 June 2027 with a new Schedule of Rates. They have requested that Council sign the Services Agreement to ensure continuity through to 30 June 2027.
6. Officers have assessed the proposal and based on internal and external peer engagement have negotiated an alternative option with The Lost Dogs’ Home. That Council accepts the withdrawal subject to the transitional contract term under the proposed Schedule of Rates is extended to 31 December 2027.



7. This report recommends that Council approves the Service Agreement No: 2526-15 with The Lost Dogs' Home for a transition period of 18 months.

Background

8. Council is required to provide Animal Pound Services as a statutory function under the Domestic Animals Act 1994. The existing contract was approaching expiry, requiring Council to undertake a procurement process to ensure continuity of service and ongoing compliance with legislative and animal welfare obligations.
9. To meet these statutory requirements, Council has historically engaged The Lost Dogs' Home (LDH) as its animal pound service provider. LDH operates registered pound and shelter facilities and is an experienced provider of municipal pound services across metropolitan Melbourne. The nature of animal pound services is highly specialised, and the supplier market is limited.
10. Under the contract, LDH is responsible for the impoundment of animals on behalf of Council, provision of animal care and veterinary services where required, compliance with the *Code of Practice for the Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds*, and rehoming activities, including foster and rescue pathways.
11. LDH also provides regular performance reporting and data to Council to support statutory reporting and animal welfare oversight.

Tender Process

12. Council undertook a public tender process to procure a suitably qualified and experienced service provider to deliver statutory Animal Pound Services in accordance with the Domestic Animals Act 1994 and Council's service requirements.
13. The tender was advertised via Council's e-tendering platform in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy and legislative requirements.
14. At the close of tenders, one (1) compliant submission was received from The Lost Dogs' Home. The receipt of a single submission reflects the highly specialised nature of statutory animal pound services and the limited supplier market capable of delivering these services in compliance with legislative, regulatory and animal welfare obligations.
15. An Evaluation Panel was established in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy and comprised appropriate Council officers with operational, technical and procurement expertise relevant to animal pound services.
16. Tenders were evaluated using Council's Weighted Attribute Value Selection Method, against the advertised evaluation criteria and weightings, which included:
 - Price;
 - Capability and available resources;
 - Relevant experience and demonstrated track record;
 - Compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements;
 - Occupational Health and Safety systems; and
 - Environmental management systems.
17. Tenderers had to demonstrate compliance with all mandatory requirements, including animal welfare standards, Domestic Animal Business registration, and Occupational Health and Safety obligations. A failure to meet any mandatory requirement would have resulted in exclusion from further consideration.



18. The submission from The Lost Dogs' Home was assessed against all evaluation criteria to ensure it met Council's service standards, statutory obligations and contractual requirements.
19. The Evaluation Panel was satisfied that LDH demonstrated the necessary experience, operational capacity and governance frameworks required to deliver statutory animal pound services on behalf of Council.
20. LDH's submission demonstrated compliance with the Code of Practice for the Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds, appropriate animal welfare practices, and the ability to meet Council's reporting and performance requirements.
21. Having regard to the evaluation outcomes, the limited supplier market, and the statutory requirement to ensure continuity of animal pound services, the Evaluation Panel determined that the submission from The Lost Dogs' Home represented the best value for money outcome for Council.
22. The recommended approach ensures Council continues to meet its statutory obligations under the Domestic Animals Act 1994, manages operational and animal welfare risks, and maintains service continuity within a constrained supplier market.
23. The Lost Dogs' Home (LDH) is a long-established, not-for-profit animal welfare organisation operating in Victoria and is a recognised provider of statutory animal pound services to local government. LDH operates registered pound and shelter facilities in Victoria and delivers animal collection, impoundment, animal care, veterinary treatment and rehoming services on behalf of councils, in accordance with the Domestic Animals Act 1994 and the Code of Practice for the Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds.
24. LDH is registered as a Domestic Animal Business and is subject to regulatory oversight and auditing by the relevant municipalities in which its facilities operate. LDH has extensive experience in delivering municipal animal pound services and currently provides statutory pound services to a number of Victorian councils, reflecting the specialised and limited supplier market for these services.
25. As an open intake service provider supporting councils, LDH accepts animals regardless of age, breed, health or behavioural status, and manages animals with complex medical or behavioural needs in accordance with statutory obligations and recognised animal welfare practices.
26. As part of Council's procurement and contract management processes, LDH is subject to Council's standard due diligence requirements, including financial and organisational assessments appropriate to the nature, value and risk profile of the contract.

Key Issues and Discussion

27. The key issue addressed in this report is ensuring continuity of Council's statutory Animal Pound Services while maintaining compliance with the Domestic Animals Act 1994 and Council's procurement framework. A public tender process was conducted in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy and the Local Government Act 2020, resulting in the receipt of a single conforming submission. The Tender Evaluation Panel assessed this outcome in the context of the specialist and limited provider market for statutory animal pound services and determined that reapproaching the market was unlikely to attract additional compliant submissions and would introduce unacceptable service continuity and compliance risk.
28. The single tender submission was rigorously evaluated against mandatory, qualitative and pricing criteria and was subject to a formal clarification process. Following review of clarification responses, the Panel assessed that the tender meets all mandatory requirements and represents value for money, having regard to service fitness for purpose, statutory compliance, continuity of service and manageable operational and commercial risk.



29. While a direct price comparison was limited, a Value for Money assessment confirmed the recommended provider has established experience, appropriate facilities and systems, and capacity to deliver the required services over the contract term.
30. However, following an internal review and capacity assessment, the Lost Dogs Home withdrew from the 3-year tender (2526-15). With the current agreement expiring on 13 August 2026, they proposed a transitional agreement to 30 June 2027 at revised rates. Officers assessed this proposal and, following consultation and negotiation, recommend accepting the withdrawal subject to extending the transitional contract term to 31 December 2027 under the proposed Schedule of Rates.
31. The new Service Agreement with The Lost Dogs' Home will enable Council to deliver statutory Animal Pound Services in accordance with the Domestic Animals Act 1994, while also supporting proactive planning for the future delivery of services. This includes the collection, impounding, care, management, and rehoming of animals, along with associated compliance and animal welfare obligations.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

32. 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

33. Current budget allocation is \$1.08 million (excl. GST).
34. Based on the revised Schedule of Rates issued by LDH, the updated budget requirement is \$2.73 million over 18 months, which is \$1.82 million over 12 months (FY 26/27).
35. This results in a net budget shortfall of \$736K for next year. Additional funding will be addressed through a mid-year budget review.
36. These figures are indicative only and do not represent a capped or guaranteed contract value. Actual expenditure will vary depending on operational demand and statutory service requirements. Actual expenditure will vary depending on operational demand and statutory service requirements.

Asset Implications

37. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

38. This report has identified legal and operational risks primarily associated with the continuity of a statutory service and procurement governance. Animal Pound Services are a statutory function under the Domestic Animals Act 1994, and failure to maintain uninterrupted service delivery would expose Council to legislative non-compliance and animal welfare risks.
39. Procurement and probity risks associated with the receipt of a single conforming tender were considered and managed through a compliant public tender process, an independent Tender Evaluation Panel, and a formal clarification process undertaken in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy and the Local Government Act 2020.

Environmental Implications

40. Environmental management was considered as part of the tender evaluation process. The tenderer provided an Environmental Sustainability Policy and outlined operational practices relating to hygiene, cleaning and waste management. The Panel assessed that these measures are consistent with Council requirements and the tender specification. The tender



submission was assessed as meeting the environmental management requirements of the tender.

Gender Impact Assessment

41. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

42. There was no requirement for community consultation.

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

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

Not Applicable

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

Not Applicable

Legislative and Policy Obligations

45. 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*.

Cr Lana Formoso returned to the Chamber at 7.27pm.

MINUTE No.372

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council:

- 1. APPROVES Service Agreement No. 2526-15 – Animal Pound Services to the Lost Dogs' Home (ABN 84 004 789 726) for a period of 18 months (to December 2027), at Council's sole discretion and subject to satisfactory performance, at the tendered new Schedule of Rates, as clarified following the tender process; and**
- 2. AUTHORISES the Chief Executive Officer to execute the Service Agreement and any associated documentation.**

CARRIED 9 / 0



4.1.2 Receipt of Commingled Recyclables - Contract Extension

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

Attachments: 1. CONFIDENTIAL - Business Profile Re Cycle Operations Pty Ltd Confidential [4.1.2.1 - 1 page]
This report contains an attachment which is deemed confidential under s 3(1)(g) of the *Local Government Act* 2020. It contains private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that relates to trade secrets; or, if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** the provision of **Mixed Recyclables Processing Services** contract extension with Re.Cycle Operations Pty Ltd ABN 29 656 197 134 for an anticipated spend in the order of \$2 million per year + GST, from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 and;
2. **AUTHORISES** the Chief Executive Officer to execute the contract agreements, and any associated documentation with the above contractor.

Executive Summary

1. This report outlines the process and evaluation for the contract extension for the experienced contractor for the provision of **Mixed Recyclables Processing Services** for City of Greater Dandenong.
2. Re.Cycle Operations Pty Ltd was awarded Contract 2324-05 for Mixed Recyclables Processing Services in 2024. The initial contract period was two (2) years with two (2) twelve (12) month extension options.
3. This will be the first twelve (12) month extension offered to Re.Cycle Operations Pty Ltd.
4. This report recommends that Council approves the extension and provides delegated authority to the CEO to execute the Mixed Recyclables Processing Services contract extension with Re.Cycle Operations Pty Ltd.

Background

5. The services provided by Re.Cycle Operations Pty Ltd includes the sorting of Council's comingled recycling materials at Thomas Murrell Cres in Dandenong South.
6. City of Greater Dandenong's comingled recycling is processed at Re.Cycle Operations Pty Ltd's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Dandenong South, which operates under EPA licences and a Council planning permit for resource recovery activities.
7. Re.Cycle Operations Pty Ltd services a number of councils across the south-east region and processes approximately 300 to 400 tonnes of comingled recyclable material per day at the Dandenong South MRF.
8. The service provided to council operates Monday to Friday inclusive.



Key Issues and Discussion

9. Re.Cycle Operations Pty Ltd ensures that Council receives optimal value for money whilst maintaining a high standard of service for the municipality. They work closely with operational staff and contractors to ensure service standards are consistently met.
10. Over the current contract period Re.Cycle Operations Pty Ltd have performed well in sometimes challenging circumstances related to heavy contamination and hot loads caused by incorrectly disposed of materials. Re.Cycle Operations Pty Ltd are a proactive operator and have a strong commitment to reporting issues to council for action prior to public reporting.
11. Re.Cycle Operations Pty Ltd conduct an average of 40 safety toolbox meetings with staff each month, demonstrating a strong focus on staff safety and wellbeing. There have been no significant incidents over the course of the contract.
12. Re.Cycle Operations Pty Ltd has recently invested \$10 million in a major upgrade of the Dandenong MRF, in addition to several smaller improvements (e.g. Fire Rover system and front-end re-design).
13. A further \$15 million has also been invested at the Hallam facility to process mixed plastics from the Dandenong MRF.
14. In total, over \$25 million has been invested by Re.Cycle Operations Pty Ltd to enhance recycling capability and outcomes.
15. The facility reported improved productivity over the past 12 months, with increased throughput and reduced contamination contributing to stronger overall resource recovery outcomes.
16. Re.Cycle Operations Pty Ltd provides comprehensive monthly reporting covering compliance, quality management, occupational health and safety, tonnage data, and on-site operational matters. They have consistently demonstrated satisfactory performance throughout the course of the contract period. All specification requirements have been followed to a high degree ensuring that the required service standards are met.
17. Any public service complaints have always been rectified immediately by Re.Cycle Operations Pty Ltd in a satisfactory and timely manner.
18. Re.Cycle Operations Pty Ltd complies with all relevant licences, permits and accreditation requirements in accordance with Council standards. They received a positive Corporate Scorecard check with no issues identified.

Financial Implications

19. This contract has an anticipated spend in the order of \$2 million + GST per year, which is accommodated within existing Council operating budgets.
20. Re.Cycle Operations Pty Ltd has approached Council with a proposed value-add to the existing contract, at no additional cost, involving the engagement of a consultant to support contamination reduction initiatives and deliver targeted community recycling education. Over time, this will lead to reduced costs to Council for contamination of kerbside recycling bins.
21. This Continued focus on contamination reduction and community education has the potential to reduce costs and improve overall contract value to Council.

Business Profile – Financial and Performance Assessment

22. Council has conducted an independent standard financial and performance assessment on Re.Cycle Operations Pty Ltd. Please refer attached confidential Business Profile Summary.



Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

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

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

Operating Budget Implications for this purpose.

24. In the 2026/2027 budget year an annual budget figure of \$2.2 million + GST has been approved for this service.

Asset Implications

25. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

27. The Re Cycle facility recovers a range of materials including paper, glass, plastics, metals and cardboard, with mixed paper and glass representing the largest proportions of the recycling stream.

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

Gender Impact Assessment

29. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

30. There was no requirement for community consultation.

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

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

- Sustainable environment.

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

- A green city committed to a sustainable future.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

- Climate Change and Sustainability.



MINUTE No.373

Moved by: Cr Phillip Danh

Seconded by: Cr Melinda Yim

That Council:

- 1. APPROVES the provision of Mixed Recyclables Processing Services contract extension with Re.Cycle Operations Pty Ltd ABN 29 656 197 134 for an anticipated spend in the order of \$2 million per year + GST, from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 and;**
- 2. AUTHORISES the Chief Executive Officer to execute the contract agreements, and any associated documentation with the above contractor**

CARRIED 9 / 0



4.2 POLICY AND STRATEGY

4.2.1 Review of Council Policies - Policies for Abolition

Responsible Officer:	Manager Governance, Integrity, Legal & Risk Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services
Attachments:	1. Abolished Policy - Healthy Eating Policy [4.2.1.1 - 5 pages] 2. Abolished Policy - Alcohol Management [4.2.1.2 - 11 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **ABOLISHES** the following policies attached to this report; and
 - **Healthy Eating Policy**
 - **Alcohol Management Policy**
2. **NOTES** that the policies are now superfluous to Council's needs.

Executive Summary

1. The policies identified in this report have been reviewed as part of the scheduled policy review framework. The review identified that each policy is no longer required as a standalone Council policy and therefore superfluous to Council's needs
2. The policies attached to this report have been superseded by other Council Documents and relevant legislation, which support Council's compliance and decision-making obligations previously contained within each policy.

Background

3. The **Healthy Eating Policy** was introduced to make healthier food and drink options more available and to raise awareness of healthy eating among Council staff, Councillors, volunteers and visitors. It has guided the provision of nutritious choices at Council meetings and events, in retail outlets and vending machines, and during fundraising activities.
4. Following a recent review of Council's policies, it was found that the aims of the Healthy Eating Policy can be better achieved by including them in existing policies. The requirements for providing healthy food and drinks will be incorporated into the updated Council Catering and Healthy Eating Policy.
5. This approach will make policies easier to understand and use by reducing duplication and improve how the requirements are applied, as catering is managed through a dedicated operational policy.
6. Align with best practice, including the Heart Foundation's Healthy Heart Catering Guidelines
7. Council remains committed to supporting health and wellbeing. Moving these requirements into the updated Catering and Healthy Eating Policy will simplify the policy framework while maintaining this commitment.
8. As a result, the standalone Healthy Eating Policy is no longer needed and is recommended for abolishment.



9. The **Alcohol Management Policy** was developed to guide how alcohol is supplied and managed across the municipality. Its aims included improving community safety, reducing alcohol-related harm and anti-social behaviour, supporting wellbeing and economic activity, and ensuring compliance with legal requirements.
10. Since the policy was adopted, changes to Victorian State Government planning laws have significantly altered Council's role. Planning reforms introduced in 2025 removed the need for planning permits for licensed premises and shifted responsibility for liquor licensing to Liquor Control Victoria.
11. Because of these changes, Council no longer has a direct regulatory role in this area. Keeping the policy would risk duplication, confusion about responsibilities, and misalignment with current legislation.
12. Council remains committed to addressing alcohol-related impacts on the community. Relevant principles from the policy will be included in a broader strategic framework currently being developed, expected in 2026. This will provide a more coordinated and up-to-date approach aligned with current laws and community expectations.
13. For these reasons, abolishment of the Alcohol Management Policy is recommended to ensure Council's policies remain current, clear and relevant.

Key Issues and Discussion

14. Review identified duplication and opportunities to streamline Council's policy framework.
15. Healthy Eating Policy requirements will be incorporated into the Catering and Healthy Eating Policy, maintaining Council's commitment to health and wellbeing while improving clarity and implementation.
16. Alcohol Management Policy is no longer aligned with Council's role due to 2025 planning reforms transferring regulatory responsibility to Liquor Control Victoria.
17. Relevant alcohol-related principles will be addressed in a new strategic framework (anticipated 2026).
18. Abolishing both policies ensures a more current, efficient and fit-for-purpose governance framework.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

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

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

Operating Budget Implications

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

Asset Implications

21. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

22. Retaining policies that are no longer current or relevant may undermine confidence in Council's governance practices.
23. Retaining the Alcohol Management Policy increases the risk of relying on outdated guidance.



Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

25. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Consultation

26. Consultation for the Healthy Eating policy occurred with Creative and Engaged Cities Team, Executive Team. The basis of this policy is now referred to the Heart Foundations – Healthy Catering Guidelines.

27. Consultation for the Alcohol Management Policy occurred with the Safe and Active Communities Team and Executive Team. There was no requirement for external consultation as this policy has been superseded by legislation.

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

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

Not Applicable

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

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

Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

- Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.

MINUTE No.374

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Melinda Yim

That Council:

- 1. ABOLISHES the following policies attached to this report; and**
 - **Healthy Eating Policy**
 - **Alcohol Management Policy**
- 2. NOTES that the policies are now superfluous to Council's needs.**

CARRIED 9 / 0



4.2.2 Kerbside Waste Collection Service

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures
Attachments: Nil

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES** that Council currently provides a kerbside garbage (red lid) and co-mingled recycling (yellow lid) bin service to all relevant households, as well as an 'opt-in' kerbside Food and Garden Organics (FOGO) (lime green lid) bin service;
2. **DEFERS** the implementation of the kerbside glass (purple lid) bin service until the Victorian Government finalises and endorses the Service Standards, reviews the feasibility and appropriateness of implementing the kerbside glass bin service, and reviews the opportunities to expand the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS);
3. **DEFERS** the expansion of the kerbside FOGO bin service in an 'opt-out' model until the Victorian Government finalises and endorses the Service Standards;
4. **ADVOCATES** to the Victorian Government to defer the implementation of the kerbside glass bin service and expansion of the kerbside FOGO bin service, and:
 - Expand the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) to accept additional glass types
 - Review the feasibility and appropriateness of implementing these kerbside bin services by 1 July 2027 considering the current cost of living crisis
 - Share the business case it prepared on the kerbside glass bin service
5. **JOINS** the inter-Council advocacy group advocating for an expansion of the CDS and a review of the feasibility of the kerbside glass bin service.

Executive Summary

1. The Victorian Government's Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021 (the Act) and its associated kerbside reform aims to enhance recycling quality and consistency, boost recovery and onshore processing, and support Victoria's transition to a circular economy.
2. The Act requires local governments to provide four waste streams to all households by 1 July 2027. This includes a kerbside glass bin service, which is not currently provided in Greater Dandenong. It also requires a kerbside FOGO bin service to be expanded to an 'opt-out' model as per the draft service standards (yet to be confirmed). Currently, Greater Dandenong provides an 'opt-in' model.
3. At the 27 October 2025 Council meeting, Council approved the implementation and commencement of a kerbside glass bin service by 1 July 2027, in accordance with the Act. However, since this time global and local issues have resulted in a cost of living crisis that is having a significant impact on the Greater Dandenong community, many of whom are already in economically vulnerable or disadvantaged situations.
4. Given the costs associated with the implementation and operation of this service, and the increasing cost of living crisis, it is recommended that Council now:
 - Defer the implementation of the kerbside glass bin service and expansion of the kerbside FOGO bin service



- Advocate to the Victorian Government for these services to be deferred and all options reviewed
- Join the inter-Council advocacy group advocating for the Victorian Government to fully review the service and potential alternatives to the kerbside glass bin service

Background

5. In 2020 the Victorian Government released the “Recycling Victoria: a new economy” policy, also called the Circular Economy Policy (CE Policy) which details the ten-year action plan to establish a circular economy in Victoria. Kerbside reform is a key action of the CE Policy.
6. The CE Policy’s kerbside reforms are legislated and will be regulated by Regulations and a Service Standard made under Part 5, Division 1 of the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021.
7. More broadly, the kerbside reform is part of the CE Policy’s ten-year action plan which requires Councils to:
 - Standardise bin lid colours (red - garbage, yellow – co-mingled recycling, lime green - food and garden organics and purple - glass recycling).
 - Standardise bin content (what material goes into which bin across Victoria).
 - Provide all households access to a kerbside glass service by 1 July 2027.
 - Provide all households access to an expanded kerbside food and garden waste (FOGO) service with an ‘opt-out’ model by 1 July 2027.
8. The draft Service Standards for the CE Policy’s kerbside reforms were released in 2024 by the Victorian Government and are still yet to be finalised.
9. A further key action of the CE Policy was the introduction of the CDS, which commenced in November 2023. The CDS offers a 10 cent refund for every eligible drink container returned, including cans, bottles, and cartons. Since its introduction, the CDS has been highly successful with much higher uptake rates than originally anticipated. However, the CDS does not currently accept all glass bottles.
10. In Greater Dandenong, glass containers account for approximately 27% of kerbside co-mingled recycling bin (yellow lid) content, with approximately 3,200 tonnes of glass collected in 2025.
11. At the 27 October 2025 Council meeting, Council approved the implementation and commencement of the kerbside glass bin service by 1 July 2027.
12. However, since this time there have been significant changes in the global, national and local economy which have placed considerable financial pressures on Council and households in Greater Dandenong, many of whom are already in economically vulnerable or disadvantaged situations.
13. In terms of FOGO, Council currently provides residents the option to ‘opt-in’ to the kerbside FOGO bin service, meaning that residents can request this service from Council. Currently, 85% of households receiving a Council kerbside waste collection in Greater Dandenong also receive a FOGO collection.
14. The draft Service Standards indicate that Councils are required to provide an ‘opt-out’ FOGO kerbside collection by 1 July 2027. This means that Council would be required to provide this service to all households currently receiving a kerbside waste collection.
15. A household can choose to “opt-out” of the FOGO service if they can demonstrate effective controls to prevent food organics and garden organics waste entering the garbage bin. For example, if a household has arrangements to compost FOGO material and can re-use the compost on the property, they can choose to opt-out of Council FOGO service.



16. Proposing to dispose of this material in their garbage bin would not be deemed an acceptable reason to opt out of the FOGO kerbside collection based on the current draft Service Standards.
17. However, as mentioned above the draft Service Standards are yet to be finalised and endorsed, and as such there is a possibility that the 'opt-out' requirement could be altered to a different model.

Key Issues and Discussion

18. The key issues for consideration are as follows:

- Financial Impact
- Environmental Impact
- Availability of Information
- Alternative Options
- Compliance Considerations

Financial Impact

19. Initial estimates identified that it was likely to cost in excess of \$3 million to implement the kerbside glass bin service. Since this initial estimate was developed, further work has been undertaken by Council officers, and it is now anticipated to cost between \$2 million and \$3 million to implement the service, which primarily relates to the purchase and delivery of the bins. It would then cost approximately \$1.5 million per year (increasing with CPI each year) to collect and process the glass. These budget figures would need to be confirmed at a later date, following the completion of procurement processes.
20. In the first instance Council would need to fund the purchase of the glass bins in 2026/27, which would place considerable pressure on Council's already strained budget position. The cost of this service would then be passed on to residents via the annual household waste charge.
21. There would also be an additional cost to provide a FOGO bin to those households that currently do not receive a FOGO kerbside collection service. It would cost Council approximately \$500,000 to purchase the required additional FOGO bins. In terms of the additional cost to households, it currently costs between an additional \$56 and \$80 per year (depending on bin size) for residents to have this service in Greater Dandenong.
22. Given the current cost of living crisis that has rapidly escalated during 2026, and the fact that many Greater Dandenong residents will be among the hardest hit in Victoria due to the existing high levels of financial vulnerability and disadvantage, it is not considered appropriate or fair to further increase costs to residents at this current time.
23. The joint inter-Council advocacy group has also identified the financial implications of the kerbside glass bin service as a key concern and reason for advocating against the introduction of the service, particularly when there are potentially alternative options to recycle glass such as the expansion of the CDS.

Environmental Impact

24. There are likely to be environmental positives and negatives resulting from the kerbside glass bin service. Glass placed in the existing co-mingled recycling bin (yellow lid) often breaks, which results in the glass contaminating other recyclable material in the bin, with all material in that bin ending up in landfill rather than being able to be recycled. By removing glass from the existing co-mingled bin, it has the potential to improve recycling rates and reduce the amount of material going to landfill.



25. Removing glass from the co-mingled recycling bin would also allow for greater compaction rates in the collection trucks, resulting in an increased amount of recycling material being able to be collected by each truck, and therefore reducing the number of trucks required to collect the co-mingled bins.
26. However, the collection of glass in a separate glass bin will result in additional trucks being required to collect this additional bin, creating in further emissions.
27. To date the Victorian Government has not released the business case for the kerbside glass bin service, making it difficult to fully understand and assess the environmental benefits of the program.
28. In terms of FOGO, there are clear environmental benefits to this service, and its expansion is considered to be beneficial from an environmental perspective.

Availability of Information

29. It is difficult to fully understand the benefits and requirements of these services as a number of key documents have not been released and/ or finalised by the Victorian Government.
30. When developing the kerbside glass bin service, the Victorian Government developed a business case to justify the service, however this has not been made available to Councils and the community.
31. In addition, the Victorian Government's Service Standards need to be finalised and endorsed to establish the requirements Council's need to meet for the performance, consistency and delivery of the kerbside reform. This will include:
 - The acceptable and unacceptable contents for the four streams
 - The type of service to be provided for glass (kerbside collection, or drop-off points etc.)
 - The type of service to be provided for FOGO (opt-out, mandatory for all households etc.)
 - Clarity for exemptions where delivery is not 'reasonably practicable'
32. Despite the Act coming into effect in 2021, the proposed Service Standards are yet to be endorsed by the Minister for Environment, making it challenging for Council's to understand the requirements, and what exactly it is that is required to be implemented by 1 July 2027.
33. Given the lack of critical information currently being made available to plan, budget and implement these services, the legislated commencement date should be deferred until this information is made available, and Councils have a reasonable timeframe to review this and then plan accordingly for implementation.

Alternative Options

34. Glass is a highly recyclable product, and as such it is very important that all options are fully considered and assessed to ensure as much glass as possible is recycled in the most cost effective and efficient manner.
35. The Victorian Government introduced the CDS in November 2023. The CDS allows people to return eligible empty drink cans, bottles and cartons to refund points in exchange for money. This has been highly successful with much higher uptake rates than originally anticipated. However, the CDS does not currently accept wine and spirit bottles.
36. Given that the CDS was implemented after the Act that requires the implementation of the kerbside glass bin service, the need for the kerbside glass bin service should be reviewed in light of the positive impact the CDS has had, along with further consideration of the financial and environmental impacts of expanding the CDS to collect the glass material not currently able to be deposited through this program.



37. It is known that the CDS currently creates very low levels of contamination, with a very small loss of glass to landfill, which would likely continue if the service was expanded. Expansion of the CDS to accept wine and spirits bottles would not just provide a community benefit but would also harmonise the CDS with other states in Australia. In addition, existing infrastructure could be utilised in expanding the CDS, and the costs incurred by the newly included containers would be borne by the producers/ suppliers rather than Council's and the community.

Compliance Considerations

38. If Council was not to implement the kerbside glass bin service and the expansion of the kerbside FOGO bin service in accordance with the legislation it does risk being fined up to \$97,700 (indexed annually) and potentially be subject to prosecution.

Summary

39. While Council officers did recommend implementing and commencing the kerbside glass bin service by 1 July 2027 in the 25 October 2025 Council Report, which was adopted by Council, there have been substantial economic challenges that have occurred since that time due to global and local events. These challenges have placed considerable financial pressure on Council and residents in Greater Dandenong, many of whom are already financially vulnerable or disadvantaged. In addition, the Service Standards have still not been finalised and endorsed, making it very challenging for Council to know what level of service they are required to implement.
40. As such, it is no longer considered appropriate or fair to pursue the implementation and commencement of these services at this time, given the further financial pressures it will place on Council and the community.
41. Given these economic challenges, the Victorian Government should defer the implementation of the kerbside glass bin service, and in the meantime undertake a review of the need and appropriateness of the service (given the initial assessment occurred six or more years ago), as well as exploring glass recycling alternatives such as the expansion of the CDS program.
42. In addition, it is considered reasonable to defer the implementation of the kerbside FOGO bin service until the Service Standards are finalised and endorsed, and Council's have had the opportunity to review any potential implications of this.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

43. If this item is adopted as recommended it would not have a significant impact on existing human resources. However, if it is determined to continue to implement these services, this will affect 2 x EFT and increase the current workload in the Strategic & Environmental Planning department by 15 hours a week over the next 12 months.

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

Operating Budget Implications

43. If Council determines to continue the implementation of the kerbside glass bin service, the financial implications associated with this report involve an anticipated cost next financial year of between \$2 million and \$3 million to purchase the required bins and implement the service. It is then anticipated that it will cost approximately \$1.5 million per year (increasing annually) to collect and process the glass. The finalisation of these figures would be subject to the outcome of the required procurement processes.



44. If Council determines to expand the kerbside FOGO bin service to an 'opt-out' model, the financial implications associated with this report involve an anticipated cost next financial year of approximately \$500,000 to purchase the required bins and implement the service. There will then be on-going increases to our current collection and processing contracts.
45. The cost of implementing and operating these services would then be funded through the annual household waste charge paid by residents.
46. If Council determines not to continue to implement these services, the financial implications associated with this report include potential financial penalties of up to \$97,700 (indexed annually) for failing to comply with the Act. It is not clear as to how often these fines could be issued.
47. Any financial penalties would need to be funded from Council's annual budget, potentially placing greater pressure on the annual budget.

Asset Implications

48. If Council determines to continue to implement these services, this item increases the use of Council assets. The ongoing maintenance costs have been assessed and included in the operating and resource costings.
49. If Council determines not to continue to implement these services, this item would not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

50. The CE Policy's kerbside reforms are legislated and will be regulated via Regulations and a Service Standard made under the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021 (the CE Act).
51. The Act includes penalties for non-compliance with the legislated kerbside reforms. This includes potential financial penalties of up to \$97,700 (indexed annually), as well as potential court action.
52. There are legal and reputational risks with non-compliance.

Environmental Implications

53. The Environmental Implications associated with this report are set out in the Key Issues and Discussion section above.

Gender Impact Assessment

54. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

55. If Council determine to continue to implement these services, community engagement and education will be an important part of the implementation process. Council officers have developed a community engagement and education plan to support the implementation of the service.

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

56. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
 - Sustainable environment.
56. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29:
 - A green city committed to a sustainable future.



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

Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

- The Overarching Governance Principles of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
- Climate Change and Sustainability.

MINUTE No.375

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Bob Milkovic

That Council:

1. **NOTES** that Council currently provides a kerbside garbage (red lid) and co-mingled recycling (yellow lid) bin service to all relevant households, as well as an 'opt-in' kerbside Food and Garden Organics (FOGO) (lime green lid) bin service;
2. **DEFERS** the implementation of the kerbside glass (purple lid) bin service until the Victorian Government finalises and endorses the Service Standards, reviews the feasibility and appropriateness of implementing the kerbside glass bin service, and reviews the opportunities to expand the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS);
3. **DEFERS** the expansion of the kerbside FOGO bin service in an 'opt-out' model until the Victorian Government finalises and endorses the Service Standards;
4. **ADVOCATES** to the Victorian Government to defer the implementation of the kerbside glass bin service and expansion of the kerbside FOGO bin service, and:
 - Expand the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) to accept additional glass types
 - Review the feasibility and appropriateness of implementing these kerbside bin services by 1 July 2027 considering the current cost of living crisis
 - Share the business case it prepared on the kerbside glass bin service
5. **JOINS** the inter-Council advocacy group advocating for an expansion of the CDS and a review of the feasibility of the kerbside glass bin service.

CARRIED 7 / 2

For - Cr Lana Formoso, Cr Rhonda Garad, Cr Alice Phuong Le, Cr Bob Milkovic, Cr Sean O'Reilly, Cr Sophie Tan and Cr Melinda Yim

Against - Cr Phillip Danh and Cr Isabella Do



4.2.3 Reviewed Diversity, Access and Equity Policy

Responsible Officer:	Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services
Attachments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Draft Diversity Access and Equity Policy 2026 30 [4.2.3.1 - 11 pages]2. Detailed Table of Changes DAE Policy Review [4.2.3.2 - 10 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council APPROVE the updated Diversity, Access and Equity Policy (June 2026 to June 2030) as detailed in Attachment 1.

Executive Summary

1. Council's Diversity, Access and Equity Policy has expired and a review has taken place which includes benchmarking against similar policies held by other Victorian municipalities, and consultations with internal and external stakeholders.
2. The reviewed policy is classed as a discretionary policy within Council's integrated planning framework and has been transposed to the updated policy template.
3. The new template and review findings have resulted in a number of minor amendments made to the text, mainly to improve clarity and readability. The Policy appears as Attachment 1. A detailed table of all policy changes compared against the expired version is found in Attachment 2.

Background

4. Council's Diversity, Access and Equity Policy is a discretionary policy within Council's integrated planning framework tiers and expired in 2025. This report provides the findings of its four-yearly review.
5. The review process included direct consultations with residents, discussions with relevant Council staff and advisory committees, benchmarking against similar policies among Victorian municipalities, and feedback through Council's 'Your Say' consultation platform.
6. Consultation with key Council staff was conducted with those whose responsibilities entailed close and regular interaction with residents, such as Health Planning, Aged and Disability Services, Community Partnerships and Grants.
7. The review has resulted in a number of minor amendments to the policy text, chiefly to improve its clarity and produce a more concise, accessible document.
8. The Diversity, Access and Equity Policy affirms to residents and staff, Council's commitment to the delivery of respectful, fair and accessible programs and services to residents of all personal characteristics, circumstances and experiences.
9. The policy expresses Council's recognition of the diversity of backgrounds, abilities, values, beliefs and lifestyles of all residents. It acknowledges that diversity of individuals and among segments of the community may include differences in gender, ability, health, birthplace, spoken language, culture, faith, sexual orientation, income, education levels, family circumstances, housing situation and other personal characteristics or social circumstances.



10. It confirms to both staff and residents that Council strives to take due account of such differences in its conduct and interactions with residents, in fields such as advocacy, infrastructure development, communication, community participation, consultation and service provision.
11. In each of these spheres of responsibility, the policy outlines principles to guide: the conduct of Council programs, services and facilities; address discrimination; promote inclusiveness and partnership; foster community participation in social, civic and economic life; and meet the needs of all residents.

Key Issues and Discussion

12. Among residents consulted during the review, most were supportive of the kinds of diversity which are specified in the policy. Some cautioned the policy should make it clear that the scope of diversity is not confined to any specific selection of characteristics or circumstances. Accordingly, a sentence to this effect was added to the relevant section.
13. In remarks relating to Council partnerships and leadership, the phrase 'set an example' was added to show the importance of Council's efforts to address bullying, harassment and family violence and to extend equal opportunity for employment and career advancement to women.
14. The subject of language and communication attracted considerable interest and extensive comment, largely affirming the importance of Council employing a variety of ways to communicate with residents.
15. These include the use of social media, face-to-face meetings, pop-up meetings or consultations at events, the use of Your Say and similar means, reaching residents through community leaders, and the Council magazine. The importance of maintaining an accessible, navigable website was also affirmed.
16. While such observations did not result in amendments to the policy, they clearly confirmed the importance of the key points featured in the policy about this topic.
17. In relation to the section of the policy relating to acknowledgement and celebration of diversity, several people stressed the importance of Council including consideration of members of LGBTIQ+ communities in such activities. The draft policy clearly repudiates discrimination and prejudice and supports events, festivals, and other activities that promote pride and generate respect.
18. The section relating to inclusive places and spaces was amended to include a statement which affirmed Council's objective to 'improve safety in public places' as an issue of high priority for Council, as well as for residents and those consulted in this review.
19. A reference to infrastructure accessibility that specified its goal as a standard that meets or exceeds formal accessibility requirements was added in place of the previous statement referred to a standard 'that meets formal accessibility requirements'.
20. Finally, two points were added to the section about capability, one relating to inclusion of principles of diversity, access and equity in relevant documents, and the other concerning Council's intent to inform staff and residents about social trends and conditions.
21. In addition to these measures and modifications, a Gender Impact Assessment of this process of policy review has been prepared, reviewing the gender-related issues that were under consideration; the process of review and consultation, including sources of evidence and key findings; and the resulting proposed gender-related changes to the policy itself.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

22. 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**

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

Asset Implications

24. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment - Summary

27. The assessment highlights that safety, inclusion and accessibility remain as critical gendered issues, particularly for women and LGBTIQ+ residents. Addressing these requires clearer policy language, stronger recognition of gender equality, and intentional inclusion of diverse communities in both policy and practice.

Community and Internal Consultation

Purpose	To provide feedback for policy improvements by consulting with residents from a variety of personal circumstances including age, gender, cultural background, race, ability, socioeconomic circumstances, LGBTIQ+, and others.
Engagement period	The second half of 2025 and early 2026
Level of Influence:	Consult
Engagement Activities:	<p>Consultation with residents' groups, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee • Multicultural Communities Engagement Network • Disability Advisory Committee • The Positive Ageing Advisory Committee • Consultation with a selection of key managers and team leaders, with particular emphasis upon those whose responsibilities entail close and regular interaction with residents. • Council 'Your Say' webpage • Benchmarking, by comparison with other plans of similar intent and nature <p>Appraisal of the contents of the policy, including its scope, clarity and effectiveness as an explanation of Council's approach to the issues encompassed in its existing policy, noting any amendments which appear to be required.</p>
Communication reach and engagement numbers:	Approximately 40 residents in face-to-face meetings, and six staff



Summary of feedback:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The policy should be very clear and concise, to hold the attention of readers and make its meaning clear to all.• The emphasis upon acknowledgement of, and respect for diversity received strong support.• In its communications with residents, it is important that Council continues to employ various means of contacting, and listening to, residents.• Members of LGBTIQ+ communities should be listened to and engaged by Council. The commitment to this end reflected in the draft policy is welcomed.• In its consideration of development of inclusive spaces and places, Council needs to give emphasis to public safety. This step is reflected in an amendment to the draft policy which adds this priority to the relevant section.• The principles expressed in the policy were well supported.
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Links to Community Vision, Council Plan, Strategy, Notice of Motion

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

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

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

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

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

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



MINUTE No.376

Moved by: Cr Lana Formoso

Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad

That Council APPROVE the updated Diversity, Access and Equity Policy (June 2026 to June 2030) as detailed in Attachment 1.

CARRIED 9 / 0

Cr Isabella Do left the Meeting at 7.59pm and did not return.



4.2.4 Fixed Asset Policy 2026-27

Responsible Officer:	Chief Financial Officer
Attachments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Table of Changes Fixed Asset Policy 2026 27 [4.2.4.1 - 1 page]2. Fixed Asset Policy 2026-27 Update (marked up) [4.2.4.2 - 25 pages]3. Fixed Asset Policy 2026-27 Update (clean) [4.2.4.3 - 24 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council ADOPTS the updated Fixed Asset Policy (including Disposal or Sale of Council Assets) per Attachment 3.

Executive Summary

1. This report presents the annual update to Council's Fixed Asset Policy, with proposed amendments detailed in the attached marked-up version and finalised in the clean version
2. A detailed summary of all proposed amendments is also provided in the attached Table of Changes, which outlines each change, the rationale and the associated financial or governance impact to support clear and transparent decision-making.
3. The updates are targeted and technical in nature, focusing on:
 - refinement of useful life assumptions
 - clarification of asset classifications
 - strengthened guidance on asset write-offs and disposals
 - improved completeness of the asset framework
4. The updates strengthen compliance with Australian Accounting Standards, including AASB 116, and support consistent, transparent financial reporting.
5. The Policy also clarifies the accounting treatment of contributed and gifted assets, including developer-provided assets, to ensure alignment with contemporary accounting standards and audit expectations.
6. The revised useful life assumptions are estimated to reduce annual depreciation expense by approximately \$1.73 million, with no direct cash impact.
7. While the changes do not alter asset management practices or service levels, they refine key financial assumptions such as useful lives and depreciation.
8. Although an annual review is not legislatively required, Council undertakes this review as a matter of good governance to ensure continued compliance, alignment with asset valuations, and to meet audit expectations

Background

9. Council undertakes an annual review of its Fixed Asset Policy to:
 - maintain compliance with Australian Accounting Standards
 - ensure consistency with sector practice



- align asset accounting with asset management and valuation outcomes
10. The attached marked-up policy incorporates updates arising from recent revaluations, internal review processes and audit considerations.

Key Issues and Discussion

11. The proposed policy amendments fall into three main categories, as outlined below.

Useful Life Changes

12. A number of asset useful lives have been updated to better reflect:

- observed asset performance
- service potential
- sector benchmarking

13. The changes are summarised as follows:

Asset class / sub-class	Existing useful life	Revised useful life	Depreciation Expense impact
Drainage and stormwater pipes	100 years	125 years	↓ \$1.31 million
Playgrounds and play equipment	15 years	20 years	↓ \$321,000
Open space furniture assets	10 years	15 years	↓ \$207,000
CCTV assets (not attached to buildings)	10-20 years	10 years	↑ \$103,000
Total impact on depreciation expense			↓ \$1.73 million

14. The revised useful lives improve the alignment of depreciation expense with actual consumption of service potential in accordance with AASB 116.
15. These changes represent updates to accounting estimates only and do not change renewal, maintenance or safety practices, which remain condition-based.

Asset Classification and Write-Off Clarifications

16. Amendments have been made to improve clarity, consistency and auditability of asset classification and treatment.
17. Key clarifications include:
- reclassification of open-sided structures (e.g. shelters) as Recreational, Leisure and Community Facility assets rather than buildings
 - clearer identification and standardisation of standalone CCTV assets
 - clearer distinction between asset disposals and asset write-offs.
18. The updated policy outlines when assets are derecognised, approval and documentation requirements for write offs and treatment of revaluation reserves on disposal. These changes strengthen governance and reduce ambiguity, while detailed procedures continue to sit within the Fixed Asset Guidelines.



Recognition of New Asset Class – Waste Bins

19. The policy introduces a Waste Management asset class for wheelie bins used in kerbside waste and recycling services, including a defined useful life and capitalisation threshold.
20. This improves completeness of Council's asset framework. The rollout of glass bins (approximately \$3.6 million) will increase annual depreciation by approximately \$360,000, reflecting recognition of new assets rather than a change in accounting estimates.

Financial Implications

21. The proposed policy updates are estimated to result in a net reduction in annual depreciation expense of approximately \$1.37 million, comprising:
 - a reduction of approximately \$1.73 million from revised useful life assumptions; and
 - an increase of approximately \$360,000 associated with new wheelie bin assets.
22. While the proposed changes do not affect cash flows or asset management practices, the revised useful life assumptions influence depreciation expense which is an accounting adjustment only, and does not reduce renewal funding.

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

23. The proposed updates have been subject to internal review processes, including Finance and Asset Management functions, and have been considered by the Audit and Risk Committee and Executive Team.
24. The Policy is also provided to Council's external auditors each year as part of their audit procedures.
25. These processes provide assurance that the amendments are consistent with legislative requirements, accounting standards and Council's internal control framework.

Links to the Community Vision and Council Plan

26. This report is administrative in nature and does not directly relate to a specific principle in the Community Vision 2040.
27. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29:
 - A Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources, and a commitment to investing in the community.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

28. This report has considered Council's legislative and policy obligations (where applicable) including:
 - The Overarching Governance Principles of the Local Government Act 2020.
 - Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks (Fixed Asset Guidelines)
29. While an annual review of the Fixed Asset Policy is not mandated, regular review of useful lives and depreciation is required under Australian Accounting Standards and is considered good practice.
30. Table of legislative requirements for this Policy and related documents:



Requirement	LG Act 2020	AASB	Practical expectation
Fixed Asset Policy annual review	✗ Not required	✗ Not required	☑ Common practice
Asset Management Policy review	✗ Not prescribed	✗ Not prescribed	☑ Typically periodic
Asset Plan review	☑ Required (post-election cycle)	N/A	☑ ~4 yearly
Review of useful lives / depreciation	✗	☑ Required (regularly)	☑ Typically annual

31. The updated Policy also strengthens compliance with the land disposal provisions of the Local Government Act 2020, including requirements for public transparency, community engagement and independent valuation when disposing of Council land.

Conclusion

32. The updated Fixed Asset Policy introduces targeted improvements to:
- useful life assumptions
 - asset classification
 - write-off governance
 - completeness of the asset framework
33. The changes strengthen compliance with accounting standards, improve transparency and support consistent financial reporting.
34. While the updates do not change asset management practices or service delivery, they refine key financial assumptions and support alignment between asset accounting outcomes and Council's long-term financial planning.

Cr Sean O'Reilly left the meeting at 8.02pm.

MINUTE No.377

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Melinda Yim

That Council ADOPTS the updated Fixed Asset Policy (including Disposal or Sale of Council Assets) per Attachment 3.

CARRIED 7 / 0



4.2.5 Adoption of Revised Council Plan 2025-29 and Annual Action Plan 2026-27

Responsible Officer:	Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services
Attachments:	1. Final Annual Action Plan 2026-27 [4.2.5.1 - 28 pages] 2. Council Plan 2025-29 (Revised 2026) [4.2.5.2 - 54 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council ADOPTS the Council Plan 2025-29 (Revised 2026) and Annual Action Plan 2026-27, per Attachment 1.

Executive Summary

1. Council Officers have developed the Annual Action Plan (Attachment 1) and reviewed the Council Plan 2025-29 (Attachment 2) to address the priorities of our community and drive Council performance in 2026-27 and beyond.
2. At its meeting on 18 May 2026, Council resolved to “approve in principle” key strategic planning documents for community feedback from 19 May 2026 for a period of 14 days in accordance with Council’s Community Engagement Policy. 12 submissions were received in total during this community engagement period which closed on 2 June 2026.
3. This report recommends that Council, having undertaken community engagement adopts the Council Plan 2025-29 (Revised 2026) and Annual Action Plan 2026-27.

Background

4. In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* (Section 90), Councils must prepare and adopt a Council Plan by 31 October in the year after a general election, for a period of at least the next four financial years, and in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices. Preparation of the Council Plan was done in accordance with the strategic planning principles of the Act (Section 89) and was endorsed on Monday 23 June 2025. The plan was reviewed in 2026 to ensure Council is effectively measuring its performance.
5. The Annual Action Plan 2026-27 outlines the significant initiatives that will directly contribute to achieving the Community Vision and Council Plan 2025-29 and have a major focus in the budget.

Key Issues and Discussion

Council Plan 2025-29

6. The Council Plan 2025-29 was developed following an extensive community consultation process, including deliberative engagement as required by the *Local Government Act 2020*. The plan was adopted by Council on 23 June 2025 and has been reviewed in 2026 to ensure it continues to meet the needs of the community and enable Council to effectively measure its progress.
7. No changes have been made to the strategic objectives or priorities as these reflect the Community Vision and areas of most importance that were highlighted throughout the community consultation process.



8. Some minor changes have been made to the performance measures to reflect more effective ways in which to report on the progress of Council's key priorities. This includes the removal of occupancy rates as a measure of improved access to community facilities, with visitation rates a more meaningful way of showing progress. In Strategic Objective 6 four new measures have been added to better report on the awareness of services and supports available to our community and Council's investment in smarter technologies to create a digitally enabled future.

Annual Action Plan 2026-27

9. 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.
10. A number of strategies and plans are also being developed to 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; Economy and Place Strategy; and Creative and Cultural Strategy.
11. Actions have been included to address the key priority areas identified in the community consultation process:
 - a. Community safety – a new Community Safety Strategy is being developed for 2026-30 which will focus on people, places and partnerships
 - b. Environment and sustainability – actions from the new Our Bright Green Future strategy will begin implementation in a range of areas including biodiversity and trees and greening
 - c. Parks and gardens – the Open Space Five Year Improvement Plan will be implemented to improve facilities across the municipality
 - d. Roads and footpaths – road safety upgrades and footpath works will be delivered as per the capital works program.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

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

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

Operating Budget Implications

13. There are no financial implications associated with this report. Council's Budget and Long Term Financial Plan

Asset Implications

14. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

17. A gender impact assessment was undertaken in the development of the Council Plan 2025-29.



Community Consultation

18. The Annual Action Plan reflects the strategic priorities of our Council Plan 2025-29 which was developed after extensive consultation with the community and a deliberative community panel process. The actions included in the plan aim to deliver on these priorities and address the key concerns of the Greater Dandenong community.
19. Two phases were undertaken for the development of Council's strategic documents for 2026-27:

Phase 1

Purpose	To obtain feedback on where Council should focus its spending
Engagement period	22 October to 19 November 2025 Community Feedback Session – 9 December 2025
Level of Influence:	Consult
Engagement Activities:	Online and hard copy forms were provided to capture community feedback. The consultation was promoted through the Your Say consultation page, social media, the Greater Dandenong Council News magazine and through customer service centres. A Community Feedback Session was also held for those wishing to speak to their suggested projects.
Communication reach and engagement numbers:	391 people visited the online engagement portal and 43 people contributed ideas online or via hard copy form Seven submissions were received by community members and three people presented to Council.
Summary of feedback:	Community safety, environment and sustainability, parks and gardens, and roads and footpaths were key services of importance.

Phase 2

Purpose	Feedback on Council's key strategic documents
Engagement period	19 May to 2 June 2026
Level of Influence:	Inform
Engagement Activities:	Online and hard copy forms were provided to capture community feedback. The consultation was promoted through the Your Say consultation page, social media, the Greater Dandenong Council News magazine and through customer service centres.
Communication reach and engagement numbers:	172 people visited the online engagement portal. 12 people contributed, 10 using the online tool Social Pinpoint and 2 via email.
Summary of feedback:	The majority of comments received related to Council's proposed spending across the short-term (Budget) and long-term (Long Term Financial Plan). The two comments received specifically about the Annual Plan included a request for a community hub in Dandenong and a comment on Council's borrowing for large scale projects.



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

20. 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.

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 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

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

Cr Sean O'Reilly returned to the Meeting at 8.03pm.

MINUTE No.378

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council ADOPTS the Council Plan 2025-29 (Revised 2026) and Annual Action Plan 2026-27, per Attachment 1.

CARRIED 8 / 0

Cr Bob Milkovic left the Chamber at 8.07pm.



Mayor Sophie Tan read the following:

"I am pleased to present the Annual Action Plan for 2026-27.

This plan outlines the significant initiatives that will directly contribute to achieving the Community Vision and Council Plan 2025-29 and have a major focus in the Budget.

There are many important activities planned for the next financial year which focus on delivering quality, accessible services to our community.

We will be delivering health and wellbeing initiatives which reduce the harm of alcohol and other drugs, building community resilience through emergency management tools, strengthening our response to rough sleeping and reviewing our free vaccination programs.

We aim to improve the perceptions of community safety through infrastructure upgrades, improved lighting and enhancement of our CCTV network and will implement the new Community Safety Strategy 2026-30.

We will continue our commitment to sustainability and tackling climate change through the implementation of our new Our Bright Green Future Strategy and will implement our five year Open Space Plan to improve park facilities across the municipality.

Advocacy remains a priority for Council, along with our ongoing partnerships with Government, local agencies and other service providers. We will focus on the rights of People Seeking Asylum and Refugees, reducing poverty, affordable housing and improving transport options.

We will also be investing in technology improvements, enhancing our customer experience and developing a financial sustainability strategy to ensure we can continue to deliver long term sustainable outcomes for Greater Dandenong.

With the development of the new Council plan in 2025 we will also focus on reviewing and developing new strategies to shape our ongoing service delivery including the Children, Youth and Families; Positive Ageing; Creative and Cultural; Housing; and Economy and Place strategies."



4.2.6 Privacy and Personal Information Policy

- Responsible Officer:** Manager Governance, Integrity, Legal & Risk
Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services
- Attachments:**
1. Privacy and Personal Information Policy - 2026 Endorsed by ARC ammended 15 April [4.2.6.1 - 22 pages]
 2. Privacy and Personal Information Policy - 2021 superseded [4.2.6.2 - 20 pages]
 3. Privacy Policy - Table of Changes [4.2.6.3 - 1 page]

Officer Recommendation

That Council ADOPTS the *Privacy and Personal Information Policy per Attachment 1 to this report as required under the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014.*

Executive Summary

1. The Privacy and Personal Information Policy forms part of Council's operational policy framework and has been recently reviewed to ensure compliance with the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* and *Health Records Act 2001*.
2. While operational in nature, the policy is mandated under legislation. Consistent with best practice, it is recommended that all legislatively required policies be formally adopted by Council to ensure transparency, accountability and organisational compliance.

Background

3. Council is required to manage personal and health information in accordance with Victorian privacy legislation, including the Information Privacy Principles (IPPs) under the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* and the Health Privacy Principles (HPPs) under the *Health Records Act 2001*.
4. The current Privacy and Personal Information Policy was due for review to ensure continued alignment with legislative requirements, contemporary practice, and the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner (OVIC) guidance.
5. A comprehensive review has now been completed. This review considered:
 - current legislative obligations
 - OVIC practice notes and guidelines
 - Council's operational needs
6. updates to internal processes and data-handling practices
7. emerging privacy risks and expectations for public sector organisations.

Key Issues and Discussion

8. The revised policy was endorsed by the Audit and Risk Committee without amendment.
9. The policy will be reviewed biennially to ensure legislative compliance, or earlier operational changes occur or if required under legislation.



Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

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

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

Operating Budget Implications

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

Asset Implications

12. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

13. This policy is mandated under the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* and is subject to oversight by the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner (OVIC). Non-compliance may expose Council to regulatory scrutiny, enforcement action, reputational damage and potential legal liability. Implementation and adherence to this policy are essential to ensure compliance with statutory privacy obligations and to mitigate associated legal and operational risks.

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

15. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

16. There was no requirement for community consultation.

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

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

Not Applicable

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

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

Legislative and Policy Obligations

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*.
- Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.



MINUTE No.379

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council ADOPTS *the Privacy and Personal Information Policy per Attachment 1 to this report as required under the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014.*

CARRIED 7 / 0



4.2.7 Draft Disability Action Plan - Endorsement for Consultation

Responsible Officer:	Executive Director Community Strengthening
Attachments:	1. DRAFT Disability Action Plan 2026-2030 [4.2.7.1 - 23 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. NOTES that the Draft Disability Action Plan 2026-30 (per Attachment 1) builds on Council's previous five Disability Action Plans and has been informed from consultation with the community and the Disability Advisory Committee; and**
- 2. ENDORSES the Draft Disability Action Plan 2026-30 be released for the purposes of community consultation from 17 June until 14 July 2026.**

Executive Summary

1. The Draft Disability Action Plan has been developed with input from the community and the Disability Advisory Committee.
2. The draft Plan is tabled at the Council Meeting on 15 June 2026, seeking Council endorsement for public consultation to commence on 17 June until 14 July 2026.
3. Councillor and community feedback will be considered and, where appropriate, reflected in the final Plan for Council endorsement in September 2026.

Background

4. A Disability Action Plan sets out how Council will improve access, inclusion and participation for people with disability. Under the Victorian Disability Act 2006, councils must have a plan in place that reduces barriers to access and employment, supports inclusion and participation, and helps address attitudes and practices that discriminate against people with disability.
5. This plan replaces the 2017–2023 Disability Action Plan and continues Council's commitment to removing barriers, increasing participation, and ensuring people with disability have equitable access to opportunities across our community.
6. The draft Plan has been shaped by input from the Disability Advisory Committee, disability service providers, community networks and people with disability. It also draws on feedback from earlier engagement, including the Council Plan deliberative engagement process and the 2023 Aged and Disability Services Review.
7. Council endorsement is being sought at the 15 June Council meeting so the draft Plan can proceed to public consultation. Subject to Council approval, consultation will run from 17 June to 14 June 2026.
8. Feedback received through public consultation will be reviewed and, where appropriate, incorporated into the final Plan for Council consideration at the 21 September 2026 Council meeting.



Key Issues and Discussion

9. The draft Plan is built around four key themes:
 - a. Employment and Economic Participation,
 - b. Accessible and Inclusive Community Infrastructure,
 - c. Support to Carers, Families and Access to Services, and
 - d. Community Inclusion, Awareness and Leadership.
10. The Disability Action Plan is a Tier Three mandated plan within Council's Integrated Planning Framework. It is required under the Victorian Disability Act 2006 and sits alongside Council's other mandated plans.
11. The Plan supports Greater Dandenong City Council's Community Vision 2040 by setting out how Council will improve access, equity and participation for people with disability. In doing so, it supports a community that is welcoming, healthy and inclusive for everyone.
12. Earlier plans focused on improving access to buildings and facilities. Council has since delivered significant improvements in areas such as public transport access, inclusive parks and public spaces, and support a strong network of disability service providers in the municipality. More recent plans have also focused on inclusive communication, participation in community life and challenging attitudes that create barriers. These learnings have informed the priorities and actions in this Plan.
13. This sixth Disability Action Plan is the next step in Council's ongoing commitment to inclusion.
14. Government disability policy and programs may change over the four-year life of the Plan. As a result, some actions may need to be reviewed and adjusted to keep the Plan aligned with any policy changes that affect delivery.
15. In areas where Council has limited influence or direct control, the draft Plan highlights Council's advocacy role in helping to drive better outcomes.
16. The actions in the draft Plan will be delivered through existing equivalent full-time resources across Council and within current business and strategic plans. No additional resources are required beyond Council's annually adopted budget.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

17. Once the final plan is endorsed, existing workforce priorities will be reviewed to ensure the align to the plan deliverables.

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

Operating Budget Implications

18. Once the final plan is endorsed, existing operational budgets will be refocussed to ensure the align to the plan deliverables. Any new initiatives will be subject to Council's annual budget process.

Asset Implications

19. This report does not affect any existing assets, though all asset development should be underpinned by the principles outlined in the plan and related legislation.



Legal/Risk Implications

20. Under the Victorian Disability Act 2006, councils must have a plan in place that reduces barriers to access and employment, supports inclusion and participation, and helps address attitudes and practices that discriminate against people with disability.

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

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

Community Consultation

Purpose	Seek community feedback to help ensure the new Disability Action Plan reflects the views and lived experience of people with disability, builds on earlier engagement, and confirms practical and supported actions for the next four years.
Engagement period	17 June to 14 July 2026
Level of Influence:	Consult
Engagement Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have Your say survey promoted through Council channels, Council facilities, email lists and networks• Drop-in sessions at hub locations for people with lived experience of disability, family and carers
Communication reach and engagement numbers:	The consultation is intended to reach broadly across the community. Analysis of engagement will be completed once consultation is finalised.
Summary of feedback:	To be provided once consultation is complete.

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

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

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

24. This report aligns with the following strategic objectives in 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.



Legislative and Policy Obligations

25. This report has considered Council's legislative and policy obligations, where applicable, as outlined in the Report Considerations section at the front of this Agenda. The relevant 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.380

Moved by: Cr Melinda Yim

Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad

That Council:

1. **NOTES** that the Draft Disability Action Plan 2026-30 (per Attachment 1) builds on Council's previous five Disability Action Plans and has been informed from consultation with the community and the Disability Advisory Committee; and
2. **ENDORSES** the Draft Disability Action Plan 2026-30 be released for the purposes of community consultation from 17 June until 14 July 2026.

CARRIED 7 / 0



4.3 FINANCE AND BUDGET

4.3.1 Adoption of 2026-27 Budget and Long Term Financial Plan 2027-2036

Responsible Officer: Chief Financial Officer

Attachments:

1. 2026-27 Budget [4.3.1.1 - 165 pages]
2. Long Term Financial Plan 2027-2036 [4.3.1.2 - 74 pages]

Officer Recommendation 1 – Dandenong Market Pty Ltd Projects

1. That Council **APPROVES** the following capital expenditure projects in relation to the Dandenong Market Pty Ltd, prior to adoption of the 2026-27 Budget:
 - 3 Dandenong Market Renewal Program (Public Announcement System)
 - 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

Officer Recommendation 2 – Glass Bin Implementation

2. **RESOLVES** that:
 - a) where Council determines to proceed with the Glass Bin Service in 2026–27, the provision included in the 2026-27 Budget remains unchanged; and
 - b) where Council determines not to proceed with the Glass Bin Service in 2026–27, the associated funding provision:
 - i. will remain quarantined in the adopted 2026-27 Budget on an interim basis; and
 - ii. will be subsequently removed, along with the associated transfer from reserves funding, as part of the 2026-27 Mid-Year Budget Review.

Officer Recommendation 3 – Declaration of Rates and Charges

3. **DECLARES** the rates and charges for the 2026-27 financial year, as detailed in Section 4.1.1 of the 2026-27 Budget, including payment by instalments and due dates, the application of differential rates and any municipal or service charges, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989;
4. **AUTHORISES** the Chief Executive Officer to levy and recover the declared rates and charges in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and section 181H(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1989.



Officer Recommendation 4 – Parking Infringements

5. **FIXES** the penalties for parking infringements in contravention of the Regulations made under the Road Safety Act 1986 as specified in the Schedule of Fees and Charges (Section 6, page 27) of the 2026-27 Budget, until Council resolves otherwise.

Officer Recommendation 5 – South East Leisure

6. **DELEGATES** authority to the Chief Executive Officer to make payments to South East Leisure Pty Ltd for the provision of management services in the 2026-27 financial year, in accordance with the Management Services Agreement dated 13 September 2021 (Clauses 5.2 and 5.3) and South East Leisure's Annual Budget 2026-27.

Officer Recommendation 6 – New Borrowings in 2025-26 and 2026-27

7. **APPROVES** the raising of new loan borrowings of up to \$38.9 million for the 2026-27 financial year, as outlined in the 2026-27 Budget.
8. **DELEGATES** authority to the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, jointly, to:
 - a) negotiate, finalise and execute all required loan documentation and agreements relating to the approved 2026-27 borrowings; and
 - b) take all necessary actions to give effect to this resolution by 30 June 2027.
9. **NOTES** revised borrowings for 2025-26 of up to \$21.45 million (previously \$36.50 million in the 2025-26 Budget), associated with the Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing project, based on updated cash flow projections.
10. **DELEGATES** authority to the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, jointly, to:
 - a) negotiate, finalise and execute all necessary loan documentation and agreements relating to the adjusted borrowings for the Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing project within the current financial year; and
 - b) undertake all actions required to give effect to this resolution by 30 June 2026.

Officer Recommendation 7 – Adoption of 2026-27 Budget and Long Term Financial Plan 2027-2036

11. **THANKS** community members who participated in the community engagement process to inform the 2026-27 Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan 2027-2036 (LTFP) and notes their feedback has been considered.
12. **ADOPTS** the proposed 2026-27 Budget including the 2026-27 Schedule of Fees and Charges as attached to this report.
13. **ADOPTS** the Long-Term Financial Plan 2027-2036 as attached to this report.
14. **AUTHORISES** the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate to make any necessary administrative or minor editorial amendments to the 2026-27 Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan 2027-2036, and to finalise and publish the adopted documents.



Executive Summary

1. This report seeks Council's adoption of the 2026-27 Budget and the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) 2027–2036, forming part of Council's Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework.
2. Council previously considered the proposed Budget and LTFP at its meeting on 18 May 2026 and approved the documents in principle for the purpose of community consultation.
3. The 2026-27 Budget delivers an operating surplus of \$7.0 million, a cash surplus of \$0.8 million and a capital works program of \$105.5 million. The capital program is primarily focused on the Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing project and asset renewal across the region.
4. The Budget is supported by a combination of rates, fees and charges, grants, borrowings and reserve funding. Borrowings of \$38.9 million are included to support intergenerational infrastructure delivery.
5. The LTFP 2027-2036 confirms Council's short-term financial stability, however, highlights ongoing structural challenges, including constrained revenue growth under rate capping, increasing service delivery costs, underlying operating deficits across the forecast period and emerging asset renewal funding gaps following the peak investment period.
6. Since the draft budget documents were presented for consultation, the primary change has been the incorporation of final certified valuation data from the Valuer-General Victoria. As a result, Section 4.1.1 of the 2026-27 Budget has been updated to reflect the final rating valuations and updates to a small number of indicators impacted by the final rates and valuation data. Outside of this mandated change, only minor clarification edits have been made to the remainder of the document.
7. Community consultation has been undertaken in accordance with legislative requirements. Feedback received has been considered in finalising the Budget and LTFP, with no changes required to the proposed financial settings.

Background

8. The 2026-27 Budget and Long Term Financial Plan 2027–2036 have been prepared as part of Council's Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework.
9. The draft Budget and LTFP were considered by Council at its meeting on 18 May 2026 and approved in principle for community consultation, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020. Feedback received has been considered in finalising these documents for adoption.
10. The Budget provides the detailed financial plan for the 2026-27 financial year, including operating activities, capital works, funding sources and service delivery priorities.
11. The LTFP provides a ten-year financial outlook, supporting long-term financial sustainability goals and aligning with Council's strategic objectives, asset management planning and service delivery requirements.
12. Following the exhibition period, updates have been made to reflect final certified valuation data, along with minor editorial updates and adjustments to indicators impacted by final rating data.

Key Issues and Discussion

2026-27 Budget Overview

13. The 2026-27 Budget delivers a balanced operating position, including an operating surplus of \$7.0 million, a cash surplus of \$0.8 Million and a capital works program of \$105.5 million.
14. Rates and charges have been set in accordance with the State Government rate cap, with a general rate increase of 2.75 per cent.



15. The Budget reflects ongoing cost pressures, including inflation, contract cost increases and service demand growth, which have been managed through prioritisation and efficiency measures.

Capital Works Program

16. The 2026-27 capital works program totals \$105.5 million and is primarily focused on asset renewal, with approximately \$94.3 million allocated to upgrading and renewing existing infrastructure.
17. In addition, the program includes significant investment in major projects, most notably Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing, representing a substantial intergenerational infrastructure investment for the municipality.
18. The program is funded through a mix of operating cash flows, grants, borrowings and reserve funding.

Borrowings

19. Borrowings associated with the Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing Project have been updated to reflect revised cash flow projections. This has reduced the borrowing requirement in 2025–26, with borrowings deferred into 2026-27 and 2027–28 in line with the updated cash flow schedule.
20. These changes do not alter the overall project scope or total funding requirement, but ensure borrowings are aligned with forecast expenditure timing. The revised borrowings profile is reflected in Officer Recommendations 9 and 10.
21. Borrowings of \$38.9 million are included in the 2026-27 Budget to support the delivery of major capital projects.
22. This approach supports intergenerational equity by spreading the cost of long-life infrastructure across current and future beneficiaries.
23. While borrowings remain within Council's prudential limits, they reduce financial flexibility in the short to medium term and require careful ongoing management to ensure long-term sustainability.

Long Term Financial Plan 2027-2036

24. The Long-Term Financial Plan 2027–2036 provides a ten-year financial outlook and supports informed long-term decision-making.
25. The LTFP confirms that, while Council is in a stable financial position in the short term, there are ongoing structural challenges. These include constrained revenue growth under rate capping, increasing service delivery costs and underlying operating deficits across the forecast period.
26. The LTFP also identifies emerging asset renewal funding gaps following the peak capital investment period, highlighting the need for continued prioritisation and disciplined financial management.
27. These challenges will require ongoing monitoring, efficiency improvements and careful resource allocation across the planning horizon.

Community Consultation

28. Community consultation was undertaken in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020, with the draft Budget and LTFP publicly exhibited and submissions invited.
29. Council previously approved the documents in principle on 18 May 2026 to support this consultation process.
30. Feedback received from the community reinforced key themes including affordability, service levels, level of borrowings and infrastructure investment priorities.



31. Submissions have been considered in finalising the Budget and LTFP, with no changes required to the proposed financial settings.
32. Since exhibition, the primary updates relate to the incorporation of final certified valuation data from the Valuer-General Victoria. This has resulted in updates to Section 4.1.1 (valuation and rating data) of the 2026-27 Budget and minor adjustments to a small number of financial indicators. Other changes are limited to minor editorial updates.

Key Risks and Considerations

33. Key considerations for Council in adopting the Budget and LTFP include:
 - Ongoing cost pressures associated with inflation and service delivery
 - Constrained revenue growth under the rate capping framework
 - Reliance on borrowings to fund major capital projects
 - Emerging asset renewal funding gaps in the medium to long term
34. These factors highlight the importance of continued financial monitoring, prioritisation and careful long-term planning.
35. These risks are actively managed through Council's budgeting process, financial monitoring and long-term planning framework.

Council Resolutions

36. To implement the 2026-27 Budget and LTFP 2027-2036, a number of related resolutions are required as part of this report, as outlined below.

Dandenong Market Pty Ltd Capital Projects

37. Approval is sought for a suite of critical capital works at Dandenong Market, prior to formal Budget adoption to enable conflict of interest declaration and requirements to be met.

Glass Bin Service Implementation

38. Provision has been included in the 2026-27 Budget to support implementation of a city-wide glass bin service, funded from reserves.
39. Council is asked to consider the service via a separate report at the 15 June 2026 Council meeting.
40. Where Council determines not to proceed with the Glass Bin Service in 2026–27, the associated funding will remain quarantined in the 2026-27 Budget on an interim basis and may be removed (along with associated transfer from reserve funding) as part of the 2026-27 Mid-Year Budget Review.

Declaration of Rates and Charges

41. The 2026-27 Budget includes the basis for the declaration of rates and charges in Section 4.1.1. Council is required to formally declare these rates and charges as part of adopting the Budget.
42. Key elements include:
 - a 2.75% rate increase, in line with the State cap
 - application of statutory service charges and fees
43. Annual valuations do not increase total rate revenue but redistribute rates across properties based on updated property values.
44. Authority is delegated to the CEO to levy and recover these amounts.



Parking Infringement Penalties

45. Parking fines are set in accordance with the Schedule of Fees and Charges, supporting compliance and enforcement activities.

South East Leisure Payments

46. Delegation is provided to the CEO to make payments to South East Leisure Pty Ltd, in accordance with the Management Services Agreement dated 13 September 2021 (Clauses 5.2 and 5.3) and SEL's Annual Budget 2026-27.

Borrowings

47. Council is requested to approve (a) and note (b):

- a) up to \$38.9 million in new borrowings for 2026–27
- b) revised 2025–26 borrowings of \$21.45 million

48. Borrowings are required to part-fund delivery of the Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing project, with the balance of funding to be drawn in 2027-28, in line with project cash flow forecasts.

49. Debt levels:

- a) remain within prudential limits
- b) are forecast to peak and then reduce over time

50. Delegation is requested to be provided to the CEO and CFO to finalise loan documentation.

Adoption of Budget and LTFP

51. Council is requested to:

- a) acknowledge community input
- b) adopt the 2026-27 Budget
- c) adopt the LTFP 2027-2036
- d) authorise minor administrative updates prior to publication

Financial Implications

52. Adoption of the 2026-27 Budget and LTFP 2027-2036 establishes Council's financial framework for the financial year and longer term.

53. Updates since the proposed documents were approved in principle and are limited to the incorporation of final valuation data and minor adjustments to associated indicators, with no change to the overall financial position.

54. The Budget includes a \$105.5 million capital works program and an operating surplus, supported by a combination of rates, fees and charges, grants, borrowings and reserves.

55. The LTFP highlights that, while the short-term position is stable, ongoing structural financial pressures will require continued financial discipline and prioritisation to maintain long-term sustainability.

56. The 2026-27 Budget and LTFP 2027-2036:

- maintain compliance with financial sustainability principles
- support delivery of Council services and infrastructure
- require ongoing financial discipline and monitoring

57. Quarterly reporting will continue to ensure transparency and early identification of emerging financial risks.



Community Consultation

58. Community consultation on the Proposed 2026-27 Budget and LTFP was undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement policy and legislative requirements.
59. Consultation occurred through a two stage process (Nov 2025 and May 2026), comprising early engagement to inform priorities and a subsequent formal consultation period on the draft documents.
60. Participation identified key community priorities including safety, environment, infrastructure and service delivery. Twelve formal submissions were received on the draft Budget and LTFP, reflecting diverse views on spending priorities, financial sustainability, capital investment, borrowings, workforce resourcing and affordability within a constrained funding environment.
61. Overall, feedback highlighted the need to balance service delivery, asset renewal, major projects and ratepayer affordability. While the submissions informed the development of the Budget and LTFP, they did not identify any required changes to the proposed financial strategy, priorities or key assumptions.

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

62. 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.
63. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29:
 - A Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources, and a commitment to investing in the community.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

64. 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.
65. The preparation and adoption of the 2026-27 Budget and LTFP 2027-2036 comply with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020.



66. The Budget includes all required financial statements, disclosures and supporting information, including the declaration of rates and charges and the Schedule of Fees and Charges.

Conclusion

67. The 2026-27 Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan 2027–2036 provide a responsible and balanced financial framework for Council’s operations and investment program.

68. While the short-term financial position is stable, the LTFP highlights ongoing structural challenges that will require continued prioritisation and disciplined financial management.

69. It is recommended that Council adopt the 2026-27 Budget and LTFP 2027-2036 to support service delivery, infrastructure investment and long-term financial sustainability.

MINUTE No.381

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

1. That Council **APPROVES** the following capital expenditure projects in relation to the Dandenong Market Pty Ltd, prior to adoption of the 2026-27 Budget:

- 3 Dandenong Market Renewal Program (Public Announcement System)
- 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

Officer Recommendation 2 – Glass Bin Implementation

2. **RESOLVES** that:

- a) where Council determines to proceed with the Glass Bin Service in 2026–27, the provision included in the 2026-27 Budget remains unchanged; and
- b) where Council determines not to proceed with the Glass Bin Service in 2026–27, the associated funding provision:
 - i. will remain quarantined in the adopted 2026-27 Budget on an interim basis; and
 - ii. will be subsequently removed, along with the associated transfer from reserves funding, as part of the 2026-27 Mid-Year Budget Review.



Officer Recommendation 3 – Declaration of Rates and Charges

3. **DECLARES** the rates and charges for the 2026-27 financial year, as detailed in Section 4.1.1 of the 2026-27 Budget, including payment by instalments and due dates, the application of differential rates and any municipal or service charges, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989;
4. **AUTHORISES** the Chief Executive Officer to levy and recover the declared rates and charges in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and section 181H(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1989.

Officer Recommendation 4 – Parking Infringements

5. **FIXES** the penalties for parking infringements in contravention of the Regulations made under the Road Safety Act 1986 as specified in the Schedule of Fees and Charges (Section 6, page 27) of the 2026-27 Budget, until Council resolves otherwise.

Officer Recommendation 5 – South East Leisure

6. **DELEGATES** authority to the Chief Executive Officer to make payments to South East Leisure Pty Ltd for the provision of management services in the 2026-27 financial year, in accordance with the Management Services Agreement dated 13 September 2021 (Clauses 5.2 and 5.3) and South East Leisure's Annual Budget 2026-27.

Officer Recommendation 6 – New Borrowings in 2025-26 and 2026-27

7. **APPROVES** the raising of new loan borrowings of up to \$38.9 million for the 2026-27 financial year, as outlined in the 2026-27 Budget.
8. **DELEGATES** authority to the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, jointly, to:
 - a) negotiate, finalise and execute all required loan documentation and agreements relating to the approved 2026-27 borrowings; and
 - b) take all necessary actions to give effect to this resolution by 30 June 2027.
9. **NOTES** revised borrowings for 2025-26 of up to \$21.45 million (previously \$36.50 million in the 2025-26 Budget), associated with the Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing project, based on updated cash flow projections.
10. **DELEGATES** authority to the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, jointly, to:
 - a) negotiate, finalise and execute all necessary loan documentation and agreements relating to the adjusted borrowings for the Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing project within the current financial year; and
 - b) undertake all actions required to give effect to this resolution by 30 June 2026.



Officer Recommendation 7 – Adoption of 2026-27 Budget and Long Term Financial Plan 2027-2036

- 11. THANKS community members who participated in the community engagement process to inform the 2026-27 Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan 2027-2036 (LTFP) and notes their feedback has been considered.**
- 12. ADOPTS the proposed 2026-27 Budget including the 2026-27 Schedule of Fees and Charges as attached to this report.**
- 13. ADOPTS the Long-Term Financial Plan 2027-2036 as attached to this report.**
- 14. AUTHORISES the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate to make any necessary administrative or minor editorial amendments to the 2026-27 Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan 2027-2036, and to finalise and publish the adopted documents.**

CARRIED 7 / 0



Mayor Sophie Tan read the following:

"Thank you everyone. Tonight's debate was rigorous and thoughtful. Councillors carefully considered what's best for our community in the year ahead

Tonight, we have adopted a responsible, balanced and forward-looking Budget that continues to invest in the future of our city while supporting the needs of our community today.

It is the funding commitment behind our Annual Action Plan.

We're mindful about cost-of-living pressures, and we know our community relies on us to keep delivering well maintained assets and high-quality services.

This Budget reflects Council's ongoing commitment to delivering those services, as well as the infrastructure and community facilities that our residents rely on.

It also demonstrates our confidence in the future of Greater Dandenong as a growing, diverse and ambitious municipality.

The Budget includes a significant capital works program of more than \$105 million. That investment will help strengthen liveability, improve local infrastructure, support economic activity and create opportunities right across our city.

At the centre of this investment is the continued delivery of Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing — one of the most significant community infrastructure projects ever undertaken by this Council.

This project represents a once-in-a-generation investment in community health, recreation and wellbeing. It will provide modern, accessible and inclusive facilities that will serve our community for decades to come and support the needs of our growing population.

Importantly, this Budget also continues investment in the projects and services people see and use every day.

That includes road renewal programs, drainage upgrades, sporting facilities, playgrounds, public safety initiatives, waste and recycling infrastructure and ongoing improvements at the Dandenong Market.

We are also investing in community connection and creativity through projects such as Dandenong New Art and upgrades to our parks and reserves.

We're also providing for great programming across libraries and our popular festivals and events series, and making sure there's grant funding available to support our many sporting clubs and community organisations in the fantastic work they do.

This Budget has been developed carefully and responsibly in what remains a challenging economic environment.

Like households and businesses, councils continue to face rising costs, inflationary pressures, higher construction expenses and uncertainty in fuel and energy markets.

Those pressures affect both our day-to-day operations and the cost of delivering major infrastructure projects.

Despite these challenges, Council has maintained a balanced operating position while continuing to invest in long-term projects that will benefit our community for many years to come.

Importantly, Council has applied the Victorian Government's 2.75 per cent rate cap for 2026–27, with the average residential rate increase sitting at 2.11 per cent after revaluations and differential rates are taken into account.



We know many households continue to experience cost-of-living pressures, and Council remains committed to supporting residents through flexible payment arrangements and hardship support for those doing it tough.

I want to thank Councillors, Council officers and everyone in the community who contributed feedback throughout the budget process.

Community input is an important part of shaping our priorities and ensuring this Budget reflects the needs and aspirations of Greater Dandenong.

This budget sets us up for a great year of work ahead. Budget sets us up for a great year of work.

Thank you.



4.4 OTHER

4.4.1 Medium Grants Program 2026 Round 1

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Community Strengthening

Attachments:

1. Attachment 1 Recommended Applications Community Development Grants [4.4.1.1 - 1 page]
2. Attachment 2 Recommended Applications Climate Change Action [4.4.1.2 - 1 page]
3. Attachment 3 Recommended Applications Arts Festivals and Events [4.4.1.3 - 1 page]
4. Attachment 4 Recommended Applications Individual Artists Grants [4.4.1.4 - 1 page]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** the awarding of Community Development Grants to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 1 of this report;
2. **APPROVES** the awarding of Climate Change Action Grants to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 2 of this report;
3. **APPROVES** the awarding of Arts, Festivals and Events Grants to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 3 of this report; and
4. **APPROVES** the awarding of Individual Artist Grants to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 4 of this report.

Executive Summary

1. Through the Medium Grants Program Council offers not-for-profit community groups, organisations and individual artists the opportunity to apply for one-off grants to support delivery of projects, programs and events that benefit the Greater Dandenong community.
2. This report outlines the assessment of applications submitted to four (4) grant categories under the Medium Grants Program 2026 Round 1:
 - Community Development.
 - Climate Change Action.
 - Arts, Festivals and Events.
 - Individual Artist.
3. All applications have been checked for eligibility by Council officers and assessed by an independent Community Grants Assessment Panel. The Panel recommendations are presented in this report.

Background

4. The Community Funding Program and Policy Review was conducted from April to December 2023. As a result, Council adopted a new consolidated Community Grants Program Policy that includes strategic, governance and operational improvements and responds to emerging community needs.



5. The Medium Grants Program has two funding rounds each year. This report considers Round 1 applications for 2026.

Key Issues and Discussion

Eligibility Check

6. Applications to the Medium Grants Program undergo an eligibility check by Council officers to confirm that applicants are:
 - Incorporated non-profit organisations (unless auspice);
 - Meeting key compliance requirements of Consumer Affairs Victoria; and
 - Have met past grants acquittal reporting requirements of Council.
7. Eligible applications progress to assessment. Ineligible applications do not proceed, and officers will advise applicants of this outcome once this report is endorsed.

Community Grants Assessment Panels

8. Community Grants Assessment Panels include community representatives and Council officers with broad experience and diverse knowledge.
9. Panel members are guided by a Terms of Reference and a signed Code of Conduct. Each member completed an induction and was supported by Council officers throughout training and assessment.
10. For each grant category, panel members completed an initial online assessment. These scores were then consolidated and discussed at a panel meeting to inform the final recommendations.

Round 1 of the 2026 Medium Grants Program

11. Round One of the 2026 Medium Grants Program was opened online on 10 February 2026 and closed on 10 March 2026.
12. This round was highly promoted via electronic and printed material, through Council networks and social media.
13. Grant information and grant writing workshops were offered in person and online. Applicants could also access face-to-face and remote support from Council officers to help develop their applications.

Category 1 – Community Development Grants

14. This grant category offers single year grants of up to \$10,000 for projects that build community capacity, foster social inclusion, create healthy partnerships, prevent family violence, advance gender equity, and promote community harmony and participation.
15. A total of 60 applications were submitted to the Community Development Grants category. One (1) application was withdrawn, six (6) were ruled ineligible, and one (1) application was moved from the Climate Change Action category because it was a better fit for the Community Development Grants program.
16. This left a total of 54 applications to be assessed seeking total funding of \$471,557.74.
17. Community Grants Assessment Panel members individually assessed applications online from 17 April to 3 May 2026. The Panel met on 6 May 2026 to discuss the consolidated assessments and make final recommendations. It is recommended that **thirteen (13) applications** be funded for a total of **\$91,039.36**.
18. A list of all applications recommended for funding through the Community Development Grants category is provided in Attachment 1.



Category 2 – Climate Change Action Grants

19. This grant category offers single year grants of up to \$10,000 for projects that deliver climate-related or other positive environmental outcomes and support Council's commitment to addressing climate change. Funding for this category was increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000 to encourage greater participation and improve application numbers.
20. A total of nine (9) applications were submitted to the Climate Change Action Grants category. One (1) application was moved to the Community Development Grants category because it was a better fit.
21. This left a total of eight (8) applications to be assessed seeking total funding of \$48,206.66.
22. Community Grants Assessment Panel members individually assessed applications online from 17 April to 3 May 2026. The Panel met on 6 May 2026 to discuss the consolidated assessments and make final recommendations. It is recommended that **four (4) applications** be funded for a total of **\$22,998.66**.
23. A list of all applications recommended for funding through the Climate Change Action Grants category is provided in Attachment 2.

Category 3 – Arts, Festivals and Events Grants

24. This grant category offers single year grants of up to \$10,000 for projects that promote community connection, cross cultural exchange, and appreciation of cultural diversity. Arts, festivals, and events play an integral part in building and supporting broad community involvement and social cohesion.
25. A total of 42 applications were submitted to the Arts, Festivals and Events Grants category. One (1) application was withdrawn and two (2) were ruled ineligible.
26. This left a total of 39 applications to be assessed seeking total funding of \$357,770.80.
27. Community Grants Assessment Panel members individually assessed applications online from 17 April to 3 May 2026. The Panel met on 7 May 2026 to discuss the consolidated assessments and make final recommendations. It is recommended that **ten (10) applications** be funded for a total of **\$73,005.00**.
28. A list of all applications recommended for funding through the Arts, Festivals and Events Grants category is provided in Attachment 3.

Category 4 – Individual Artist Grants

29. This grant category offers single year grants of up to \$5,000 to individuals for community-based arts and cultural projects that build relationships with community and create art that responds to community needs.
30. A total of six (6) applications were submitted to the Individual Artist Grants category. One (1) application was ruled ineligible.
31. This left a total of 5 applications to be assessed seeking total funding of \$24,995.00.
32. Community Grants Assessment Panel members individually assessed applications online from 17 April to 3 May 2026. The Panel met on 7 May 2026 to discuss the consolidated assessments and make final recommendations. It is recommended that **two (2) applications** be funded for a total of **\$9,995.00**.
33. A list of all applications recommended for funding through the Individual Artist Grants category is provided in Attachment 4.



Support for Unsuccessful Applicants

34. All unsuccessful applicants will be contacted by officers and offered feedback and assistance to support them to apply to the next round of the Medium Grants Program.

Grant Acquittal Reports

35. Grant recipients' progress toward outcomes is monitored throughout the life of the program. Recipients must also submit an acquittal report within one month of completing the project. The report outlines the activities delivered, outcomes achieved and how the funds were spent.
36. Failure to submit the required acquittal or deliver the agreed outcomes may make the recipient ineligible for future grant funding.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

37. 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

38. The financial implications of this report are a one-off cost of **\$197,038.02** ($=\$91,039.36 + \$22,998.66 + \$73,005.00 + \$9,995.00$), with no ongoing costs in future budgets.
39. The Medium Grants Program has a budget of \$357,392 for the 2026-27 financial year, leaving **\$160,353.98** ($= \$357,392 - \$197,038.02$) to be allocated in Round 2.
40. All funding allocations are expressed exclusive of GST, and GST will be applied where relevant.

Asset Implications

41. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

44. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

45. Council's Community Grants Program is extensively promoted through electronic and printed materials, Council networks and social media. Grant information and grant writing workshops were offered both in person and online. Community groups could also access face-to-face and remote support from Council officers to help develop their applications.
46. During the assessment process, Council officers consulted with staff across the organisation to seek information and advice on the merits of the funding applications.
47. Officers carried out comprehensive eligibility checks, including review of compliance documents, financial reports, past grant acquittal history and other relevant matters.



48. All eligible applications were assessed by Community Grants Assessment Panels, which include community representatives and Council officers with broad experience and diverse knowledge.
49. The Community Grants Assessment Panels' recommendations for eligible applications are presented for endorsement.

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

50. 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.

51. 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

52. 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.382

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council:

- 1. APPROVES the awarding of Community Development Grants to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 1 of this report;**
- 2. APPROVES the awarding of Climate Change Action Grants to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 2 of this report;**
- 3. APPROVES the awarding of Arts, Festivals and Events Grants to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 3 of this report; and**
- 4. APPROVES the awarding of Individual Artist Grants to recommended recipients as outlined in Attachment 4 of this report.**

CARRIED 7 / 0



4.4.2 Australia Day Awards Review (Awards Category Process)

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Community Strengthening
Attachments: 1. Final Report - CGD Australia Day Review - 1 May 2026
[4.4.2.1 - 71 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES** the completion of the Australia Day Awards Review (per Attachment 1);
2. **ENDORSES** the Officer Recommendations as listed in Table 1 below.

Executive Summary

1. At its meeting on 11 August 2025, Council resolved to review the Australia Day Awards nomination process and public information.
2. Council then approved funding for an independent strategic review through the 2025 mid-year budget process at its meeting on 8 December 2025.
3. The review assessed whether the program remains relevant, inclusive, and reflective of Greater Dandenong's diverse community.
4. This report sets out the review findings and the officers' proposed program changes for Council's endorsement.

Background

5. The Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards are an important civic recognition program. They celebrate people and groups who make a positive contribution to the community. The program runs each year, with nominations assessed by a panel of community members and Councillors.
6. The program was last reviewed in 2023. At its meeting on 14 August 2023, Council endorsed several changes, including:
 - a. combining the Awards and Citizenship Ceremony'
 - b. renaming the 'Citizen of the Year' Award to 'Community Leadership';
 - c. introducing an Outstanding Contribution to the Arts Award; and
 - d. limiting Living Treasure Awards at two annually.
7. Council did not support renaming the 'Australia Day Awards' to the 'Greater Dandenong Community Awards' or changing the day from 26 January.



8. The current Award Categories and the number of nominations received per category are:

Number of Nominations per Category	2026	2025	2024	2023
Community Leadership Award	11	4	6	4
Living Treasure Award	7	5	4	7
Community Group of the Year Award	10	4	3	6
Volunteer of the Year Award	10	5	7	4
Young Leader of the Year Award	13	8	7	2
Sustainability Award	3	8	2	2
Sportsperson of the Year	4	2	2	3
Corporate Citizen of the Year	4	3	2	2
Outstanding Contributions to the Arts Award* (*This award commenced in 2024)	2	2	3	
Total Nominations	64	41	36	30

9. After changes were introduced in 2023, nomination numbers increased strongly in 2026. This appears to be largely due to nominations opening earlier and remaining open for longer.

10. Nominations for the Sportsperson of the Year, Corporate Citizen of the Year and Outstanding Contributions to the Arts Award categories remain consistently low.

11. Sustainability Award nominations increased in 2025. However, many nominations this year were for businesses with sustainable practices rather than environmental organisations or individuals.

12. At its meeting on 11 August 2025, Council resolved to review the Australia Day Awards nomination process and public information.

13. At its meeting on 8 December 2025, Council approved funding for a further review of the program.

14. The strategic review considered the purpose of the program, the award categories, the nomination and assessment process, and how the program is delivered.

15. The review included extensive consultation with award recipients, nominees, nominators and panel members, including community members and Councillors, as shown in the table below.

Engagement activity	Participant group	Number of participants
Online community survey	People nominated for or in receipt of a Greater Dandenong Australia Day Award	17
Assessment panel engagement (online workshop, telephone interviews and email)	Assessment panel members (including one Councillor)	6
Online workshop	Community members who nominated Award recipients	5



Engagement activity	Participant group	Number of participants
In-person workshop	Council staff from across the organisation	22

16. The review was intended to produce practical recommendations to make the program more inclusive, transparent and easy to access.

Key Issues and Discussion

Strategic Review – Key Themes and Direction

17. The review confirms that the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards continue to play an important role in recognising community leadership, contribution and impact. It also highlights a clear opportunity to improve the program, so it better reflects our diverse community and is easier for people to understand and participate in.
18. The awards are more than a celebration event. They are also a way for Council to recognise the people and groups helping to build a more inclusive, connected, healthy and creative community.
19. The review supports keeping the overall structure of the program while making targeted changes to keep it current and relevant. This includes updating categories and criteria, sharpening the focus on impact in Greater Dandenong, and recognising a broader range of leadership, including grassroots and emerging contributions.
20. A key focus of the review is making the program easier to access and participate in. Proposed changes include clearer communication, simpler guidance and improvements to the nomination process to support stronger participation from culturally and linguistically diverse communities and other under-represented groups. The review also proposes stronger governance and assessment arrangements to support transparency and consistency.
21. Overall, the proposed changes would strengthen the program, increase community participation and improve confidence in the process. Most can be managed within current operations, but delivery will depend on clear priorities and available staff capacity. Without this, there is a risk to quality, timing and delivery, particularly during peak event periods.

Table One: List of Awards Program Changes

The table below summarises the review recommendations and the subsequent Officer recommendation for Council approval.

	Proposed Change Identified in external Review	Officer Recommendation
1.	Remove Corporate Citizen of the Year Award and incorporate into the Greater Dandenong Business Awards	Recommended as proposed
2.	Rename the Sportsperson of the Year Award to the Active and Healthy Award to better align with the Make Your Move Strategy and promote physical activity.	Officer alternate recommendation: Rename the award to the “Sports and Active Living Award.”
3.	Rename the Sustainability Award to the Environmental Sustainability Award.	Recommended as proposed



	Proposed Change Identified in external Review	Officer Recommendation
4.	Rename the Outstanding Contribution to the Arts Award to the Arts and Creativity Award.	Recommended as proposed
5.	Present the Living Treasure Award every two years to highlight long-term contribution and strengthen the significance of the award.	Officer alternate recommendation: One Living Treasure Award presented each year.
6.	Introduce a new Diversity and Inclusion Award to reflect Council and community priorities.	Recommended as proposed
7.	Rewrite all award criteria and guidance to make them clearer for nominators and the assessment panel.	Recommended as proposed
8.	Expand communication methods to increase awareness, particularly in under-represented communities.	Recommended as proposed
9.	Improve accessibility through multilingual information to support broader participation from diverse communities and more inclusive nomination practices.	Recommended as proposed
10.	Increase Council staff involvement to strengthen promotion and community engagement.	Recommended as proposed
11.	Adjust the nomination form to improve clarity, better define impact, and capture relevant context about the nominee. This includes word limits, clearer instructions, and a question about barriers or challenges the nominee has faced.	Recommended as proposed
12.	Maintain two-year panel terms and stagger membership to support continuity.	Recommended as proposed
13.	Introduce an initial staff review of nominations to check completeness, eligibility, relevance and referee details.	Recommended as proposed
14.	Provide more time and better tools for panel assessment to improve the quality of the evaluation process.	Recommended as proposed
15.	Continue recognising all eligible nominees at the awards ceremony.	Recommended as proposed
16.	Maintain the nomination period at two months.	Recommended as proposed
17.	Maintain the requirement for at least one referee in addition to the nominator.	Recommended as proposed
18.	Council staff will continue to manage the awards program and ceremony.	Recommended as proposed
19.	Renaming the program to the Greater Dandenong Community Awards and considering an alternative presentation date.	Not recommended. Council considered this option at its meeting on 14 August 2023 and did not endorse it.



	Proposed Change Identified in external Review	Officer Recommendation
20.	Establish a fully independent Assessment Panel of 4-6 community members only, including 2 CALD members, with delegated authority from Council to assess eligible nominations and no Councillor involvement.	Officer alternate recommendation: The assessment panel comprise of 3 to 5 community members, chaired by the Mayor or Deputy Mayor and supported by Council officers.
21.	Set quorum requirements based on panel size to strengthen governance: 2 (panel of 4), 3 (panel of 5), 4 (panel of 6)	Recommended as proposed

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

22. This work would be delivered within existing staffing resources. However, it would fall during a peak event delivery period, when staff capacity is already stretched. Any further expansion of the program may affect other service priorities unless workload and resourcing are reviewed.

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

Operating Budget Implications

23. The program already supports oral nominations, and planned improvements to translation features on Council's website will help make information more accessible in many languages.

24. To provide additional support for community members who do not speak English, a modest budget would be required to keep the nomination process accurate and accessible. Translating two pages of content is estimated to cost between \$120 and \$240 as a one-off program expense.

25. At this stage, there is no specific budget allocation for these costs in Council's annual budget. The expectation is that they would be managed within existing budgets and reviewed after the first year of implementation. Actual costs will depend on the number of nominations received and the level of translation or accessibility support required.

Asset Implications

26. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

27. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. However, there are operational and reputational risks linked to the proposed changes, including community sensitivity about award categories, assessment processes and the program's ongoing association with Australia Day.

28. The assessment process must also remain fair, transparent and consistent with Council's governance requirements. These risks would be managed through clear communication, strong assessment processes, and alignment with Council policy, procedure and legislative obligations.

Environmental Implications

29. There are no environmental implications arising from this report.



Gender Impact Assessment

30. A Gender Impact Assessment Summary, including a Diversity Impact Assessment, has been prepared.

Community Consultation

31. No additional community consultation was required for this report.

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

32. This report aligns with the following Community Vision 2040 principles:

- Safe and peaceful community.
- Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.

33. This report also aligns with the following strategic objectives in the Council Plan 2025–29:

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

Legislative and Policy Obligations

34. This report has considered the relevant legislative and policy obligations set out in the agenda report considerations. The key obligations considered are:

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

**MINUTE No.383****Moved by: Cr Lana Formoso****Seconded by: Cr Melinda Yim****That Council:**

- 1. NOTES the completion of the Australia Day Awards Review (per Attachment 1);**
- 2. ENDORSES the Officer Recommendations as listed in Table 1 below.**

Table One: List of Awards Program Changes

The table below summarises the review recommendations and the subsequent Officer recommendation for Council approval.

	Proposed Change Identified in external Review	Officer Recommendation
1.	Remove Corporate Citizen of the Year Award and incorporate into the Greater Dandenong Business Awards	Recommended as proposed
2.	Rename the Sports person of the Year Award to the Active and Healthy Award to better align with the Make Your Move Strategy and promote physical activity.	Officer alternate recommendation: Rename the award to the "Sports and Active Living Award."
3.	Rename the Sustainability Award to the Environmental Sustainability Award.	Recommended as proposed
4.	Rename the Outstanding Contribution to the Arts Award to the Arts and Creativity Award.	Recommended as proposed
5.	Present the Living Treasure Award every two years to highlight long-term contribution and strengthen the significance of the award.	Officer alternate recommendation: One Living Treasure Award presented each year.
6.	Introduce a new Diversity and Inclusion Award to reflect Council and community priorities.	Recommended as proposed
7.	Rewrite all award criteria and guidance to make them clearer for nominators and the assessment panel.	Recommended as proposed
8.	Expand communication methods to increase awareness, particularly in under-represented communities.	Recommended as proposed
9.	Improve accessibility through multilingual information to support broader participation from diverse communities and more inclusive nomination practices.	Recommended as proposed
10.	Increase Council staff involvement to strengthen promotion and community engagement.	Recommended as proposed
11.	Adjust the nomination form to improve clarity, better define impact, and capture relevant context about the nominee. This includes word limits, clearer instructions, and a question about barriers or challenges the nominee has faced.	Recommended as proposed
12.	Maintain two-year panel terms and stagger membership to support continuity.	Recommended as proposed
13.	Introduce an initial staff review of nominations to check completeness, eligibility, relevance and referee details.	Recommended as proposed



14.	Provide more time and better tools for panel assessment to improve the quality of the evaluation process.	Recommended as proposed
15.	Continue recognising all eligible nominees at the awards ceremony.	Recommended as proposed
16.	Maintain the nomination period at two months.	Recommended as proposed
17.	Maintain the requirement for at least one referee in addition to the nominator.	Recommended as proposed
18.	Council staff will continue to manage the awards program and ceremony.	Recommended as proposed
19.	Renaming the program to the Greater Dandenong Community Awards and considering an alternative presentation date.	Not recommended. Council considered this option at its meeting on 14 August 2023 and did not endorse it.
20.	Establish a fully independent Assessment Panel of 4-6 community members only, including 2 CALD members, with delegated authority from Council to assess eligible nominations and no Councillor involvement.	Officer alternate recommendation: The assessment panel comprise of 3 to 5 community members, <i>chaired by the Councillors appointed annually by Council</i> and supported by Council officers.
21.	Set quorum requirements based on panel size to strengthen governance: 2 (panel of 4), 3 (panel of 5), 4 (panel of 6)	Recommended as proposed

CARRIED 7 / 0



4.4.3 Annual Review of Advocacy Priorities and Action Plan

Responsible Officer:	Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services
Attachments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Attachment 1 Evaluation three priority campaigns action plans [4.4.3.1 - 18 pages]2. Attachment 2 Evaluation broader advocacy activities [4.4.3.2 - 9 pages]3. Attachment 3 Other advocacy activities conducted (unforecast) [4.4.3.3 - 2 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council NOTES the annual review of Council's Advocacy Priorities and Action plans for the 2025-26 financial year.

Executive Summary

1. The endorsed Strategic Advocacy Framework requires advocacy priorities and associated action plans to be reviewed annually to support Council's ability to influence policy and funding by strengthening the quality, credibility and impact of advocacy activities.
2. This report presents the annual review of Council's three priority advocacy campaigns for the 2025-26 financial year (Attachment 1 for detailed evaluation comments). The Campaigns are:
 - a. Mayoral Taskforce/ Back Your Neighbour
 - b. Anti-Poverty
 - c. Housing
3. The report also provides updates to Council's advocacy efforts across the other six identified campaign areas that did not receive dedicated EFT resourcing for their implementation (Attachment 2), and other advocacy activities carried out in response to specific unforeseen circumstances affecting our community (Attachment 3).

Background

4. Greater Dandenong's Strategic Advocacy Framework was endorsed by Council on 22 July 2024. The Framework provides a clear and consistent approach for identifying, prioritising and pursuing advocacy issues that align with community needs and Council objectives.
5. At the 24 March 2025 Council meeting, Council endorsed three strategic priority advocacy campaigns for the 2025-26 financial year with specific EFT resource allocation. They are: Back Your Neighbour (BYN) 1.0EFT, Anti-Poverty 0.5EFT, and Housing 1.0EFT.
6. Detailed action plans for each of these three priority campaigns were developed and endorsed by Council on 23 June 2025. The action plans outlined the purpose, key advocacy asks, strategic framing and messaging, advocacy tactics, stakeholders, campaign stages, estimated costs and associated risks for each campaign.
7. This report applies the Framework's assessment criteria to evaluate the three strategic advocacy campaigns as part of the annual review process. The evaluation assesses:
 - a. The effectiveness of advocacy activities in achieving outcomes,
 - b. The ability to build skills and knowledge capacity both internally and within community,



- c. The development of relationships, partnerships and networks,
 - d. The cost-effectiveness of advocacy efforts, including the efficient use of time and resources.
8. Alongside these three priority campaigns, Council also endorsed a broader set of advocacy priorities covering: transport, sustainability, sport and open space, business and employment, major projects, and community safety.
 9. These other priorities were to be progressed through flexible and responsive advocacy activity, integrated into Council's broader advocacy work, when EFT resourcing could be allocated and suitable opportunities arose.
 10. These broader priority areas do not have a dedicated action plan developed for each and they are not evaluated against the Framework's assessment criteria. Where progress has been made against individual priorities an update comment is supplied (Attachment 2).
 11. Additional advocacy activities have been conducted by Council over the 2025-26 financial year in response to emerging issues or opportunities that were not foreseen or forecast. A summary of these activities is included in Attachment 3.

Key Issues and Discussion

Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce/ Back Your Neighbour Advocacy Evaluation

12. The Back Your Neighbour campaign has been highly effective in advancing coordinated local government advocacy on behalf of people seeking asylum who remain in prolonged visa uncertainty.
13. Across 2025-26, the campaign remained strongly aligned with community need and delivered sustained engagement with Federal Government decision makers on key policy issues.
14. **Effectiveness in achieving outcomes:** The campaign demonstrated clear effectiveness in progressing its advocacy objectives through a combination of targeted lobbying and public engagement activities. This included Mayoral and Councillor delegations to Canberra, electorate-based meetings, joint correspondence with peak bodies within the sector, and digital mobilisation via social media channels.
15. This approach contributed to:
 - a. Sustained bipartisan engagement with Federal MPs and Ministers,
 - b. Increased national media visibility of the issue,
 - c. Continued growth of the campaign coalition, including 48 local governments and 90 community organisations,
 - d. Progressive resolution of a number of long-standing Fast Track cases.
16. While broader systemic reform remains complex, the campaign has maintained consistent pressure and visibility on key policy asks and advanced incremental progress.
17. **Capacity building (internal and external stakeholders):** The campaign made a strong contribution to building advocacy capability across participating councils and partners. Shared tools, templates and coordinated actions enabled councils to participate confidently in advocacy activities with a strengthened understanding of the issues and effective advocacy approaches.
18. The campaign also supported greater awareness of the impacts of visa insecurity within the community, contributing to a more informed and engaged advocacy base.
19. **Development of relationships, partnerships and networks:** The campaign significantly strengthened relationships, partnerships and networks across local government and the refugee support sector. Collaboration between councils, community organisations and peak bodies was a key feature, with the coalition continuing to expand over the reporting period.



20. This collective approach reinforced the campaign's legitimacy and positioned it as a credible and unified local government voice, enhancing its ability to influence decisionmakers at a national level.
21. **Cost effectiveness and efficient use of resources:** The campaign delivery model demonstrated strong cost-effectiveness, leveraging shared resources and coordinated effort to achieve national reach and influence without significant individual council expenditure.
22. Strategic alignment of activities with key political opportunities ensured that effort was targeted and proportionate, maximising impact relative to available resourcing.
23. **Concluding remarks:** The Back Your Neighbour campaign highlights the effectiveness of coordinated, sector led advocacy, particularly in complex policy environments where change is incremental. Identified risks, including political sensitivity and shifting policy contexts, were largely mitigated through coalition building, bipartisan engagement, and disciplined, consistent messaging.
24. Overall, the campaign has strengthened partnerships, maintained national attention on key issues, and contributed to ongoing policy progress on matters with significant and enduring community impact.

Anti-Poverty Campaign Advocacy Evaluation

25. The Anti-Poverty Campaign has been effective in strengthening coordinated, place-based advocacy and local responses to poverty and cost of living pressures in Greater Dandenong. Across the reporting period, the campaign remained well aligned with community need and Council's strategic priorities, combining advocacy, partnership building and practical initiatives.
26. **Effectiveness in achieving outcomes:** The campaign demonstrated effectiveness through a combination of advocacy, community engagement and practical initiatives. Engagement with local MPs, the development of advocacy materials grounded in lived experience, and mechanisms to amplify community voice supported increased visibility and policy engagement on poverty related issues.
27. The campaign also delivered tangible outcomes through successful funding acquisition, including:
 - a. \$12,000 through the Game Change Grant to support co designed vocational workshops; and
 - b. \$76,000 in Food Relief funding to deliver culturally appropriate meals, employment readiness and financial literacy initiatives through community partnerships.
28. These outcomes strengthened local service delivery and supported coordinated responses to community need, while continuing to highlight these needs in a complex policy environment.
29. **Capacity building (internal and external stakeholders):** The campaign made a strong contribution to building advocacy capability across Council, community organisations and the community. Co design approaches and collaborative nature of the Consortium increased understanding of effective advocacy practice and strengthened the ability of stakeholders to advocate for poverty related issues.
30. The integration of lived experience into campaign design and implementation also supported greater community awareness and participation, contributing to a more informed and engaged advocacy base.
31. **Development of relationships, partnerships and networks:** The campaign significantly strengthened partnerships and collaborative networks, particularly through the expansion and activation of the Anti-Poverty Consortium. This brought together community organisations, service providers and Council to address service gaps, reduce duplication and coordinate responses.



32. Shared leadership, joint planning and partnership-based delivery enhanced collective impact and sector coordination, reinforcing Council's role as a convenor and partner in addressing complex social challenges.
33. **Cost effectiveness and efficient use of resources:** Campaign delivery demonstrated efficient use of resources, with activities largely implemented within existing staffing capacity. The integration of advocacy with practical service initiatives, such as financial counselling events and food relief coordination, enabled dual outcomes, delivering immediate community benefit while advancing advocacy objectives.
34. This approach supported cost effective delivery by leveraging partnerships and aligning effort with both policy engagement and service outcomes.
35. **Concluding remarks:** The Anti-Poverty Campaign demonstrates the value of coordinated place-based advocacy combined with community led responses to complex social issues.
36. Risks associated with limited staffing capacity and reliance on shared leadership were mitigated through strong partnerships and collaborative delivery models, although these constraints continue to influence the scale and sustainability of ongoing activity.
37. Overall, the campaign has strengthened partnerships, enabled coordinated action, secured targeted funding and delivered tangible outcomes for residents experiencing disadvantage, while highlighting the importance of sustained resourcing to maintain momentum and deepen impact.

Housing Campaign Part 1. Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy Evaluation

38. The Housing Advocacy Campaign – Part 1 has been effective in establishing a coordinated regional approach to housing policy advocacy, focused on legislative and regulatory reform. Greater Dandenong City Council provides 0.5EFT officer support to the Regional Charter Group of Councils and the campaign has responded to increasing housing stress and system pressures through collective, evidence-based engagement. This has strengthened alignment across councils and elevated regional influence on broader housing and homelessness policy discussions.
39. **Effectiveness in achieving outcomes:** The campaign demonstrated effectiveness through the development and advancement of shared regional advocacy positions on housing reform. A key outcome was the finalisation of collectively endorsed policy asks, reflecting both system gaps and lived experience.
40. These priorities were successfully elevated through joint Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) motions. These outcomes positioned Charter councils as a coordinated and credible contributor to broader housing policy discussions.
41. **Capacity building (internal and external stakeholders):** The campaign contributed to building policy and advocacy capability across participating councils, particularly in relation to housing system reform. Collaborative development of advocacy positions strengthened understanding of complex legislative and regulatory issues, while supporting a more confident and consistent approach to advocacy engagement.
42. The process also supported greater integration of evidence and local government challenges, improving the quality and relevance of policy positions.
43. **Development of relationships, partnerships and networks:** The campaign significantly strengthened regional collaboration and cross sector partnerships, particularly through Council's Secretariat role supporting engagement across 13 Charter councils. Structured forums enabled regular communication, shared learning and alignment of advocacy approaches.
44. Partnerships with peak bodies, including MAV and Greater South East Melbourne (GSEM), further enhanced the campaign's reach and credibility, supporting a more unified and coordinated regional voice in housing policy discussions.



45. **Cost effectiveness and efficient use of resources:** The campaign demonstrated efficient use of resources through a shared, regionally coordinated model. Leveraging collective effort and existing governance structures enabled progress without requiring significant additional resourcing at the individual council level.
46. A focus on research, alignment and consensus building in the early stages ensured that effort was strategically directed, supporting effective use of time and resources in a complex and evolving policy environment.
47. **Concluding remarks:** The Housing Advocacy Campaign – Part 1 highlights the value of coordinated, regionwide advocacy in addressing complex systemic issues such as housing. Challenges associated with aligning diverse council priorities and responding to a changing policy environment were managed through structured collaboration and shared governance.
48. Overall, the campaign has strengthened regional partnerships, clarified shared advocacy priorities and positioned Council as an active contributor to housing system reform, providing a strong foundation for continued engagement and future advocacy phases.

Housing Campaign Part 2. Local Projects Advocacy Evaluation

49. It should be noted that advocacy efforts for Part 2 have been delayed allowing for development of Council's Housing Strategy which is scheduled for public consultation in June 2026. The site specificity offered in the Housing Strategy would allow for more appropriate and targeted advocacy for local projects.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

50. 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

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

Asset Implications

52. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

55. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

56. There was no requirement for community consultation.

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

57. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
Not Applicable



58. 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

59. 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.384

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council NOTES the annual review of Council's Advocacy Priorities and Action plans for the 2025-26 financial year.

CARRIED 7 / 0



4.4.4 Oasis Squash Courts - Cost Estimate to undertake Feasibility Study

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Community Strengthening
Attachments: Nil

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES** recent community interest in retaining the existing squash court facilities at Dandenong Oasis following completion of the new Wellbeing Centre;
2. **NOTES** Council's current position that the existing Dandenong Oasis facility is to be demolished following completion of the new centre, with demolition scope and contract award to be the subject of a future Council decision;
3. **NOTES** that if Council directs officers to undertake feasibility work to assess retention of the squash courts and/or part of the existing facility, Council endorsement of the related costs is required; and
4. **DETERMINES** whether officers are to proceed with a feasibility assessment of retaining the existing squash courts and/or part of the existing facility following completion of the new centre and, if so, **APPROVES** the related feasibility assessment costs of up to \$46,000.

Executive Summary

1. This report responds to recent community interest in retaining the existing squash courts, and potentially part of the current Dandenong Oasis facility, once the new Wellbeing Centre opens.
2. The report recognises that the existing squash courts are valued by regular users, and that recent advocacy reflects a genuine desire to retain a familiar local recreation facility.
3. Council's current endorsed position is that the existing Oasis facility will be demolished following completion of the new centre, with the future demolition scope and contract award to be subject to a future decision of Council.
4. Design of the new venue was informed by an extensive multi-year planning and consultation process, including more than 2,400 engagements undertaken between 2019 and 2021.
5. That process included targeted efforts to engage all users of the existing facility. While the squash-user specific response to that outreach was limited, the decision not to include squash facilities in the new centre reflected both declining participation over time and the strategic focus of the new Wellbeing Centre on aquatic, wellbeing, allied health, fitness, education and passive recreation outcomes.
6. Current utilisation data shows that use of the squash courts is concentrated in a relatively small cohort of users and limited peak periods, with overall occupancy of 13% across the review period from 1 January to 17 May 2026. If Council wishes to explore retention of the squash courts and/or part of the existing facility, officers would need to undertake further feasibility work at an indicative cost of approximately \$32,000 to \$46,000.
7. Any retention option would need to take account of the condition of the existing facility, likely future renewal and upgrade requirements, and increased ongoing operational costs relating to security, access and management.



8. The central question for Council is whether it wishes to maintain its current endorsed position or instruct officers to undertake feasibility work to inform a future decision to possibly retain the existing facilities post completion of the new centre.

Background

9. At its meeting on 24 February 2025, Council awarded Contract 2425-05RFT for the construction of the new Wellbeing Centre.
10. The Council report noted that this contract was for construction of the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre only and did not include any works associated with the table tennis facility or demolition of the existing Oasis building. The scope for those works would be delivered under a separate contract, subject to a future Council resolution.
11. Council resolved in September 2019 to develop a new aquatic and wellbeing centre at Mills Reserve to replace the existing Dandenong Oasis, which is over 40 years old; is expensive to operate (due to a range of inefficiencies including high levels of energy consumption) and no longer meets the needs of the community.
12. This major infrastructure project is a key recommendation from Council's Aquatic Strategy, which identified the new aquatic centre as an indoor multi-purpose facility that will complement the nearby Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC) and have a targeted focus on allied health, passive activity, education, fitness and wellness.
13. The Business Case for the new Wellbeing Centre was prepared by Deloitte in accordance with Department and Treasury and Finance (DTF) guidelines and built on the outcome of the Aquatic Strategy to establish the investment rationale and delivery strategy for the proposed centre, with the view to maximise external funding support.
14. The design process was led by a multidisciplinary team, with support from specialist consultants. Each design phase was presented to Council and approval was received to proceed to the next stage of design.
15. An Advisory Group - MPAG (Mills Precinct Advisory Group) consisting of Councillors and Senior Project Officers was established to provide input into the design and advise on design enhancements. Additionally, the MPAG was briefed on other project matters such as sustainability, energy efficiency, operational matters, funding and budget etc. with any queries and questions addressed during the design development.
16. Although a robust design process was completed, a significant capital investment was required by Council to realise this project. As such, Council requested that additional independent peer reviews be undertaken before committing to the initiation of the RFT procurement process of the Head Contractor. This task was successfully completed and the project received Council's endorsement to proceed.
17. Construction of the new Wellbeing Centre is well underway and has been planned in a manner that enables construction while the existing Oasis facility remains open. This means that access is not impacted and community members can continue to use the existing facility while the new Centre is being constructed.
18. As a result, the existing squash courts will remain available until the new centre opens in late 2027. While it is understood that users would prefer not to have to commute any further distance, Officers have offered to assist users transition to nearby alternatives, including Carrington Park Squash Club and Monash University Squash Club, which remain available for those wishing to continue playing locally, and both offer public bookings during peak times.



Key Issues and Discussion

19. While there has been recent community interest in retaining the existing squash courts, current utilisation data indicates that demand is concentrated within a relatively small cohort of users and within limited peak periods. Over the review period from 1 January to 17 May 2026, 708 hours were booked out of 5,560 available hours, representing overall occupancy of 13 per cent.
20. There were 597 bookings made by 108 individual users during this period, with repeat use accounting for a substantial proportion of activity. Use is strongest on weekday evenings, particularly on Thursday evenings (5.00pm-9.00pm), while weekday daytime and weekend utilisation remains low. These figures provide useful context for Council, indicating that current demand is concentrated within a smaller group of regular users and limited peak periods, while also helping to explain why squash was not included in the new facility design.
21. It is also important to recognise that the existing squash courts are clearly valued by the people who use them, including residents from CGD and surrounding municipalities. For regular users, these courts represent more than a bookable recreation space; they are a familiar local facility that supports routine, social connection and ongoing participation in a sport they enjoy. The recent advocacy for retaining the courts reflects a genuine desire to preserve something that matters to this community of users, and that perspective should be acknowledged as part of a balanced consideration of the matter.
22. Against that background, Council's current endorsed position is that the old Dandenong Oasis will be demolished once the new Dandenong Wellbeing Centre is operational, with the scope of demolition works and any future contract award to be brought back to Council for decision. The recent request to retain the existing squash courts and potentially parts of the current facility therefore asks Council to reconsider an already established direction.
23. In considering this request, it is important to recognise that the new centre has been shaped through an extensive multi-year planning and consultation process, including more than 2,400 engagements undertaken between 2019 and 2021. This process informed the final design and included targeted efforts to engage all facility users, including direct invitations all members and extensive advertising of the proposed design and consultation opportunities. While the response to that targeted outreach from Squash users was limited, it formed part of the broader evidence base that informed the decision not to include squash facilities in the new centre.
24. That earlier decision also reflected declining participation in squash at Oasis over time, alongside the broader strategic intent for the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre to focus on aquatic, wellbeing, allied health, fitness, education and passive recreation outcomes.
25. While squash utilisation data obtained from the booking system at the time showed an overall participation decline of 76% between the design review years of 2016/2017 and 2020/2021, there was acknowledgement of site closure during initial COVID-19 lockdowns, and the subsequent the underlying decline being was consistent at ~20-22% annually.
26. The key issue for Council is whether it wishes to maintain its current endorsed position or authorise officers to invest in undertaking feasibility work on retaining the squash courts and/or part of the existing building.
27. Initial feasibility costs are estimated at approximately \$32,000 to \$46,000, comprising specialist assessment work and preparation of an options paper with ongoing cost analysis. If Council were ultimately to support retaining this section of the facility, further capital investment would also be required to upgrade amenities and associated services to contemporary standards, at a considerably higher cost. There is also a timing and governance consideration, as the existing facility is expected to remain open until the new centre opens in late 2027, but any decision to retain part of the current facility would need to be made early enough to inform future contract scoping, budget consideration and project sequencing.



28. The condition of the existing Oasis facility is also a relevant consideration in assessing any retention option. The complex contains a high density of specialist plant and asset infrastructure, including mechanical systems such as chillers, boilers, air handling units and split systems; electrical systems including switchboards, distribution boards and mixed legacy and newer lighting; fire systems; security systems; and building fit-out elements such as flooring, ceilings, wet area fixtures and finishes.
29. Many of these assets are ageing, and the condition profile indicates operational and service reliability risks, with a significant clustering of renewal needs likely within the next five to 10 years.
30. Compared with similar civic and leisure assets, the facility is in poor condition, suggesting that any retention option would likely require targeted lifecycle renewal and may also trigger the need for broader refurbishment or major upgrade planning. In addition, any retained section would need to consider increased operational costs associated with security, access and day-to-day management.

Asset category	Examples	Condition / implication
Mechanical	Chillers, boilers, air handling units, split systems	Ageing systems present operational and service reliability risks.
Electrical	Main switchboards, distribution boards, T8 fluorescent lighting, LED lighting, emergency and exit lighting	Renewal demand is likely to cluster within the next five to 10 years.
Fire systems	Fire indicator panels, smoke detectors, fast response sprinklers, EWIS speakers, hose reels	Any retention option would need to consider compliance, reliability and upgrade requirements.
Security	Access control, CCTV, duress alarms	Ongoing serviceability and system compatibility would need review.
Fit-out and finishes	Vinyl flooring, tiles, carpet, painted finishes, ceilings, wet area fixtures	Condition is poorer than comparable civic and leisure assets and may require refurbishment or replacement.
Overall implication		Any retention option is likely to require targeted lifecycle renewal and may also necessitate strategic refurbishment or major upgrade planning, together with increased operational costs relating to security, access and management.

31. This condition profile helps explain why any decision to retain part of the facility would first require targeted feasibility work to test viability, scope and and likely ongoing capital and operating cost implications.



Indicative feasibility costs

32. The table below outlines the indicative components of the feasibility work that would be required if Council wishes to explore a retention option further.

Feasibility activity	Indicative cost
Structural assessment	\$7,000–\$13,000
Decommissioning assessment	\$5,000-\$8,000
Options paper and ongoing cost analysis	\$20,000-\$25,000
Total indicative feasibility cost	Approximately \$32,000–\$46,000

33. If Council were to proceed beyond feasibility and support retention of this section of the facility, additional works may be required to bring the amenities and associated building services up to contemporary standards. These upgrade costs have not been estimated at this stage but would be explored through the feasibility, as well as operating costs such as security/access, cleaning, maintenance and court administration (ie, bookings, payments etc).

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

34. This report does not have any direct implications for existing human resources.

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

Operating Budget Implications

35. If Council resolves to proceed with feasibility work, the financial implications for the current financial year are estimated at approximately \$32,000 to \$46,000. This comprises a structural assessment estimated at \$7,000 to \$13,000, a decommissioning assessment of approximately \$5,000-\$8,000, and \$20,000 - \$25,000 to prepare an options paper and ongoing cost analysis. No budget allocation exists to undertake this work, and therefore If approved by Council, the cost would need to be funded through a budget adjustment. The cost variations reflect a range of unknowns associated with the structure and decommissioning options.

Asset Implications

36. If Council resolves to retain part of the existing Oasis facility, this would affect Council's asset base and create additional future renewal, upgrade and operating cost implications. The retained section contains ageing mechanical, electrical, fire, security and fit-out assets, with renewal demand likely to cluster over the next five to 10 years. Any retention option is therefore likely to require targeted lifecycle renewal and may also necessitate broader refurbishment or major upgrade works to bring amenities and associated services up to contemporary standards. In addition, retention would be expected to increase ongoing operational costs associated with security, access and day-to-day management (i.e., court administration, bookings, payments etc). These costs have not yet been fully quantified and would need to be considered as part of any future feasibility assessment and budget process.

Legal/Risk Implications/Risk Implications

37. There are no immediate legal impediments arising from this report. The principal risks are strategic, financial, asset and project-delivery related. If Council maintains its current endorsed position, there is a risk of continued concern from affected user groups; however, this is moderated by the extensive consultation previously undertaken and the fact that the current position remains consistent with Council's endorsed project scope.



38. If Council resolves to undertake feasibility work on retaining part of the existing facility, key risks would include creating expectations of retention before viability is established, potential impacts on project sequencing and future demolition planning, and exposure to additional renewal, upgrade and operational cost liabilities associated with ageing infrastructure. These risks can be managed through clear Council resolution, defined feasibility scope, and transparent communication that any further work would be exploratory only and subject to future Council decision.

Environmental Implications

39. There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report. If Council were to resolve to undertake feasibility work on retaining part of the existing facility, any environmental implications would be considered as part of that future assessment.

Gender Impact Assessment

40. A gender impact assessment is not required for this report. The report seeks direction on whether officers should undertake feasibility work and does not in itself establish or amend a policy, program or service that directly and significantly affects the public.

Community Consultation

41. Extensive community consultation informed the planning and design of the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre between 2019 and 2021, including surveys, workshops, public exhibition and targeted stakeholder engagement. More than 2,400 engagements were undertaken across four consultation rounds. This included targeted efforts to engage squash users at Oasis, including direct invitations to all members. While recent community interest has prompted the current report, no new formal consultation has been undertaken specifically for this matter at this stage.

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

42. 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.

43. 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

44. 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.385

Moved by: Cr Phillip Danh

Seconded by: Cr Lana Formoso

That Cr Rhonda Garad be granted an extension of time of one (1) minutes to speak against the item.

CARRIED 7 / 0

Cr Bob Milkovic returned to the Chamber at 8.22pm.

Cr Alice Phuong le left the Chamber at 8.25pm and returned at 8.36pm prior to the vote.



MINUTE No.386

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council:

- 1. NOTES recent community interest in retaining the existing squash court facilities at Dandenong Oasis following completion of the new Wellbeing Centre;**
- 2. NOTES Council's current endorsed position that the existing Dandenong Oasis facility is to be demolished following completion of the new centre, with the demolition scope and contract award to be the subject of a future Council decision;**
- 3. NOTES the current low utilisation data, which shows an overall occupancy of just 13% for the squash courts across the review period from 1 January to 17 May 2026;**
- 4. ACKNOWLEDGES the significant financial and strategic risks associated with retaining the ageing infrastructure, including the estimated \$32,000 to \$46,000 cost just to undertake the feasibility study, as well as the unbudgeted future capital investment required to upgrade amenities and services to contemporary standards;**
- 5. DETERMINES that officers will NOT proceed with a feasibility assessment to retain the existing squash courts and/or part of the existing facility following the completion of the new centre; and**
- 6. REAFFIRMS its commitment to the original, endorsed project scope for the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre, which includes the subsequent demolition of the existing Oasis building.**

CARRIED 5 / 3

For - Cr Phillip Danh, Cr Bob Milkovic, Cr Sean O'Reilly, Cr Sophie Tan and Cr Melinda Yim

Against - Cr Lana Formoso, Cr Rhonda Garad and Cr Alice Phuong Le

Cr Lana Formoso left the Chamber at 8.43pm.



4.4.5 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 1 June 2026 that was declared confidential under section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 in Item 10 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 5 May 2026 – 9 June 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 5 May 2026 – 9 June 2026.

**Matters Presented for Discussion**

Item		Councillor Briefing Session/Pre-Council Meeting
1	<i>South East Leisure (SEL) Draft Budget and Annual Plan</i> Councillors were provided with a briefing on South East Leisure Pty Ltd's 2026–27 Annual Plan and Budget, outlining the proposed Council contribution, key external cost pressures impacting the budget and establishment funding to support the opening of the Dandenong Oasis Aquatic and Wellness Centre, with the Plan setting the operational and financial framework for the year ahead.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 11 May 2026</i>
2	<i>Glass Bin Program Update</i> Councillors were provided with a briefing on the legislated requirement to introduce a kerbside glass service by 1 July 2027, Council's prior resolution to implement the service and subsequent consideration of available options, including associated benefits and risks.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 11 May 2026</i>
3	<i>Animal Pound Contract</i> Councillors were provided with a briefing on the outcome of a public tender process to appoint a provider for statutory Animal Pound Services, including the proposed award of Contract 2526-15 to The Lost Dogs Home, outlining service scope, contractual arrangements, and compliance with relevant legislation.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 11 May 2026</i>
4	<i>General Discussions</i> Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. New staffing appointment within Customer Service Strategy;b. SnowFest event update;c. Councillor Remuneration Tribunal Update; and Agenda items for the Council Meeting 18 May 2026.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 11 May 2026</i>
5	<i>General Discussions</i> Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Update on changes to the Immunisation program; and Agenda items for the Council Meeting 18 May 2026.	<i>Pre-Council Meeting (PCM) – 18 May 2026</i>



6	<i>Councillor Professional Development Session – Effective Communication</i> Councillors were provided with a briefing on the Intercultural Dialogue and Social Cohesion Initiative delivered across south-east Melbourne, with an overview of workshop outcomes, key insights on social cohesion in the region, and the identified role of local government in strengthening community connections. Additionally, Councillors were provided with a briefing on the increasing impact of disinformation and information integrity challenges, including the use of digital platforms and emerging technologies to influence public opinion and contribute to social division.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 25 May 2026</i>
7	<i>Heritage Overlay Review Update</i> Councillors were provided with an overview of Planning Scheme Amendment C249gdan which proposes to correct anomalies and mapping errors in the Schedule to Clause 43.01 Heritage Overlay (HO) in the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme to ensure the information and planning controls contained within the schedule are correct and accurate. The amendment affects 18 heritage places located in Greater Dandenong. The Council report to be tabled at the 20 July 2026 Council meeting will recommend Council resolve to continue the statutory process of Amendment C249gdan by supporting and adopting the amendment and seeking approval from the Minister for Planning.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 1 June 2026</i>
8	<i>Dandenong Market Precinct Plan – Final Draft for endorsement</i> Councillors were briefed on the Dandenong Market Precinct Plan which provides strategic direction for land use, urban design, economic investment, transport, public realm and community infrastructure. It was developed through stakeholder consultation and Councillor Briefings, with the draft exhibited from 3 March to 10 April 2026. Engagement attracted record participation from community members, traders, and visitors, indicating strong support. The Plan will be presented at a future Council meeting for adoption.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 1 June 2026</i>
9	<i>Australia Day Awards Review (Awards Category Process)</i> Council resolved to review the Australia Day Awards nomination process in August 2025 and subsequently funded an independent strategic review in December 2025. The review assessed the program’s relevance, inclusivity and alignment with Greater Dandenong’s diverse community. This briefing presents the findings and proposed changes for Council’s feedback.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 1 June 2026</i>



10	Service Review – Aged Care CONFIDENTIAL under s 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 1 June 2026
11	General Discussions Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: a. Australian Services Union Update; b. Upcoming Audit & Risk Committee Meeting; c. Changes to Councillor Professional Development Training schedule; and Agenda items for the Council Meeting 15 June 2026.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 1 June 2026
12	Community Engagement Feedback – Proposed 2026-27 Budget and LTFP 2027-2036 Councillors were provided with a briefing on the outcomes of community consultation for the Proposed 2026–27 Budget and Long Term Financial Plan 2027–2036, including key themes from submissions, the two-stage engagement approach, and confirmation that no changes were made to the proposed financial settings, with submitters also invited to attend the briefing to present their feedback directly to Councillors.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 9 June 2026
13	Draft Disability Action Plan - Endorsement for Consultation Councillors were provided with a briefing on the Draft Disability Action Plan, including its development through community and advisory input, proposed public consultation process, and timeline for finalisation and Council endorsement following feedback.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 9 June 2026
14	Annual Review of Advocacy Priorities and Action Plan Councillors were provided with a briefing on the annual evaluation of Council’s Strategic Advocacy Framework, including the performance of priority advocacy campaigns, progress across broader advocacy areas, and overall effectiveness in achieving outcomes, building capacity, and strengthening partnerships.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 9 June 2026
15	Sponsorships and Advertising Policy 2026 Councillors were provided with a briefing on the proposed Sponsorship and Advertising Policy, including key updates to consolidate existing policies, clarifying the focus on incoming sponsorships, enhancing transparency	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 9 June 2026



	and reporting requirements and alignment with best practice and Victorian Government standards.	
16	Catering Policy Councillors were provided with a briefing on the updated Catering Policy 2026, outlining a contemporary framework for the provision of catering services, including governance, procurement, sustainability and responsible financial management, and clarifying Council's position on alcohol at Council-funded events.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 9 June 2026
17	Young Leaders 2026 Program Overview Presentation Councillors were provided with a briefing from the Young Leaders group, who delivered a short presentation outlining their program for the year and key focus areas.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 9 June 2026
18	General Discussions Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: a. Upcoming closure of private housing at 2 locations within the Municipality; b. Upcoming crime forum being held at Dandenong Civic Centre; and Agenda items for the Council Meeting 15 June 2026.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 9 June 2026

Apologies

5. Councillor Isabella Do did not attend the Councillor Briefing Session on 11 May 2026.
6. Councillor Jim Memeti submitted an apology for the Councillor Briefing Session on 25 May 2026.
7. Councillor Jim Memeti, Councillor Sophie Tan and Councillor Loi Truong submitted apologies for the Councillor Briefing Session on 1 June 2026.
8. Councillor Jim Memeti, Councillor Alice Phuong Le and Councillor Loi Truong submitted apologies for the Councillor Briefing Session on 9 June 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.387

Moved by: Cr Phillip Danh

Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad

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 1 June 2026 that was declared confidential under section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 in Item 10 below remains confidential until further advisement unless that information forms the subject of a subsequent Council report.**

CARRIED 7 / 0



4.4.6 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 [4.4.6.1 - 2 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That the listed items for the period 4 May 2026 to 29 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 4 May 2026 to 29 May 2026.

MINUTE No.388

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Melinda Yim

That the listed items for the period 4 May 2026 to 29 May 2026 provided in Attachment 1 to this report be received and noted.

CARRIED 7 / 0



4.4.7 CEO Employment and Remuneration Update

Chief Executive Officer, Jacqui Weatherill disclosed a material conflict of interest (s 128) as it concerns the appointment of a consultant to review the CEO's remuneration. CEO Jacqui Weatherill left the Chambers prior to discussion and voting.

Responsible Officer:	Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services
Attachments:	1. CONFIDENTIAL - Summary of Fees [4.4.7.1 - 1 page] 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.

Officer Recommendation

That Council ENDORSES the decision made by the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee (CEOERC) to engage Christine Mileham from SAL Human Resources Management consulting as the Independent Advisor to the CEOERC for an initial period of 12 months with an option to extend.

Executive Summary

1. This report seeks Council endorsement of the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee's decision to appoint Christine Mileham as Independent Advisor to support the committee in meeting its obligations under the CEO Employment & Remuneration Policy. The Advisor will provide independent professional advice on CEO performance, remuneration and related executive matters.

Background

2. The Independent Advisor is responsible for providing independent professional advice to the CEOERC in relation to matters dealt with under the CEO Employment & Remuneration Policy in accordance with section 45(2)(a) of the Act.
3. The Advisor is expected to provide independent professional advice in relation to such matters. Specifically:
 - CEO performance planning and structured annual review facilitation
 - Development of measurable CEO performance plans with measurable KPIs that include strategic leadership, organisational culture, governance, financial sustainability and delivery against the Council Plan and strategic objectives.
 - Remuneration benchmarking and executive contract advisory
 - Executive recruitment and assessment

Key Issues and Discussion

4. The CEOERC resolved to invite proposals for the appointment of a new Independent Advisor.
5. Of the six shortlisted candidates, the committee identified four suitably qualified and experienced advisors to be invited to submit proposals.
6. Of the four invited candidates, two submitted proposals for the committee's consideration.
7. All members of the CEOERC were invited to participate in the interviews and provide a recommendation, with four members available to do so.



8. Both candidates were strong; however, based on experience, the interviews and referee checks, the committee agreed to appoint Christine Mileham of SAL Human Resources Management Consulting to support the CEOERC for an initial 12-month term, with an option to extend.

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. The resource requirements are in accordance with existing budgetary allocations.

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.

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

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

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

Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

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



CEO Jacqui Weatherill left the Chamber at 8.44pm.

MINUTE No.389

Moved by: Cr Melinda Yim

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council ENDORSES the decision made by the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee (CEOERC) to engage Christine Mileham from SAL Human Resources Management consulting as the Independent Advisor to the CEOERC for an initial period of 12 months with an option to extend.

CARRIED 7 / 0

CEO Jacqui Weatherill returned to the Chamber at 8.45pm.



5 NOTICES OF MOTION

5.1 NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 21 - PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY OF MAJOR PROJECT COSTS

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

Author: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Preamble

1. Greater Dandenong City Council (Council) regularly delivers a diverse range of major capital works and infrastructure projects to support the growth and prosperity of the Greater Dandenong community.
2. Local residents and ratepayers have an interest in tracking the progress, timelines, and anticipated costs of these municipal infrastructure assets.
3. Under the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic), Council is committed to public transparency, financial accountability, and making municipal information easily accessible.
4. Providing a standardised, simplified summary table, consisting only of the estimated project cost and key project dates, on the webpage for each major project will significantly improve transparency and streamline public enquiries.
5. This motion seeks to establish these standardised summary tables on the City of Greater Dandenong website for all active major capital works projects, ensuring that the published data remains accurate through regular, mandatory reviews.

Motion

That Council:

1. **NOTES** that the Greater Dandenong City Council delivers an extensive annual capital works program to improve local public spaces and infrastructure;
2. **REAFFIRMS** its commitment to transparency and the proactive, plain-language sharing of basic project details with ratepayers; and
3. **REQUESTS** the Chief Executive Officer arrange for the implementation of a standardised summary table displaying the overall estimated project cost on the dedicated webpage for all active major capital works projects over an established threshold (such as \$1 million), with the published information to be reviewed and updated at a minimum of every 12 months.
4. **FURTHER REQUESTS** that Council investigate enhanced reporting capabilities — including the potential use of visual public dashboards and additional project data fields — as part of its broader project reporting initiative, with options to be included in the briefing note provided to Councillors.



MINUTE No.390

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Seconded by: Cr Bob Milkovic

That Council:

- 1. NOTES that the Greater Dandenong City Council delivers an extensive annual capital works program to improve local public spaces and infrastructure;**
- 2. REAFFIRMS its commitment to transparency and the proactive, plain-language sharing of basic project details with ratepayers; and**
- 3. REQUESTS the Chief Executive Officer arrange for the implementation of a standardised summary table displaying the overall estimated project cost on the dedicated webpage for all active major capital works projects over an established threshold (such as \$1 million), with the published information to be reviewed and updated at a minimum of every 12 months.**
- 4. FURTHER REQUESTS that Council investigate enhanced reporting capabilities — including the potential use of visual public dashboards and additional project data fields — as part of its broader project reporting initiative, with options to be included in the briefing note provided to Councillors.**

CARRIED 7 / 0



5.2 NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 22 - EQUITABLE ACCESS TO COUNCIL FACILITIES

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Community Strengthening
Author: Cr Lana Formoso

Preamble

1. Council-owned facilities are important community assets that support participation, connection, recreation, learning and community wellbeing.
2. Council's commitment to equity requires consideration of whether all residents and community groups can reasonably access these facilities. While Council provides support through its Community Grants Program, reliance on grant funding may create additional barriers for some users, particularly low-income residents, newly established community groups, multicultural communities, volunteer-run organisations and others with limited capacity to navigate application processes. Grant funding may also be unavailable once annual allocations have been exhausted.
3. To ensure Council's facility hire arrangements align with its commitment to equitable access, it is appropriate to better understand whether any groups experience barriers in accessing Council facilities.

Motion

That Council REQUESTS a report be presented to Council within six(6) months outlining:

1. **the current fees and charges applicable to community use of Council facilities;**
2. **the role of Community Grants in supporting access to Council facilities;**
3. **any information available regarding barriers experienced by residents, community groups and not-for-profit organisations in accessing Council facilities, with particular consideration of low-income residents, newly established groups, volunteer-run organisations and culturally diverse communities;**
4. **current utilisation information for Council community facilities, where available; and**
5. **options available to Council to improve equitable access to Council facilities for residents and community organisations who may experience financial, administrative or other barriers to participation.**



MINUTE No.391

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Melinda Yim

That Council REQUESTS a report be presented to Council within six(6) months outlining:

- 1. the current fees and charges applicable to community use of Council facilities;**
- 2. the role of Community Grants in supporting access to Council facilities;**
- 3. any information available regarding barriers experienced by residents, community groups and not-for-profit organisations in accessing Council facilities, with particular consideration of low-income residents, newly established groups, volunteer-run organisations and culturally diverse communities;**
- 4. current utilisation information for Council community facilities, where available; and**
- 5. options available to Council to improve equitable access to Council facilities for residents and community organisations who may experience financial, administrative or other barriers to participation.**

CARRIED 7 / 0



6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

Comment

Cr Alice Phuong Le

Since the last Council Meeting I attended the following events:

On Saturday 30 May, I attended a Vietnamese community ceremony at Harmony Square, Dandenong.

On Sunday 7 June, I attended the Vietnamese Museum fundraising event with the Mayor and Members of Parliament.

Cr Lana Formoso returned to the Chamber at 8.50pm.

Comment

Cr Phillip Danh, Deputy Mayor

On Sunday 14 June, I attended the Southern Migrant and Refugee Centre's Refugee Week celebration and spoke about the important economic, social and cultural contributions of refugees and migrants in Greater Dandenong.

I would also like to highlight the diversity of the Socceroos squad during the World Cup and how the team reflects multiculturalism in Australia. Football plays an important role in bringing communities together and I wish Dandenong local Ajdin Hrustic and the Australian team well in the tournament.

Cr Sean O'Reilly left the Meeting at 8.55pm and did not return.

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

I am raising concerns about the condition of the facilities at Lyndale United Soccer Club, including drainage issues and request that the Mayor write to the local Member of Parliament, inviting her to inspect the site and support further advocacy for improved facilities.

I refer to my notice of motion regarding fair and equitable access to council facilities. Residents, community groups and local organisations have raised concerns about difficulties in booking facilities, increased costs and additional requirements, including security at low-risk daytime events. These issues were creating barriers to community access.

I would also like to raise repeated safety concerns regarding the intersection of Browns Road and Police Road, including repeated collisions with a power pole by heavy vehicles. I request that Council write to the Minister for Road Safety seeking action in relation to this dangerous intersection.



Comment**Cr Rhonda Garad**

I welcome the commencement of Capital Alliance works in July, including demolition works in central Dandenong, it is positive to see visible progress after many years of planning.

Question**Cr Rhonda Garad**

I would also like to note the principal of Dandenong North Primary School has raised concerns about parking and traffic safety around the school due to its location near the hospital, senior secondary school and shopping strip.

Can I request a meeting between the principal, a Council officer and myself to discuss possible changes to parking arrangements to improve safety?

Question**Cr Rhonda Garad**

I would like confirmation following my recent meeting with the Chief Executive Officer, Head of Governance and the Mayor regarding a request by the Dandenong Market for me to be removed as Councillor representative. Was this Council's position that I would not be removed and whether council did not endorse the assertions made by the market chair?

I also ask whether governance gaps had been identified in the relationship and processes between Council and the Dandenong Market board?

Response**Sophie DRozario, Manager Governance, Integrity, Legal & Risk**

A formal response will be provided to yourself in due course.

The matters discussed at the meeting were being considered and that formal correspondence would confirm the outcome and next steps. The current advice indicates removal was either not possible or not recommended under the existing rules.

Council is reviewing its governance arrangements in relation to the board, and more broadly across council, with the aim of aligning them with best practice.

Comment**Cr Rhonda Garad**

I express my support for the Socceroos and the multicultural composition of the Australian team.

Comment**Cr Melinda Yim**

On Saturday 23 May, I attended a Bengali and Indian Cultural evening on behalf of the Mayor. The event included a performance of *Sagina Mahato*, a musical drama depicting the labour movement of 1942 to 1943 in north-east India. It was a valuable opportunity to celebrate one of the many cultures represented in Greater Dandenong.



Comment

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

The City of Greater Dandenong have received a national Excellence Award from the Planning Institute of Australia in the Technology and Digital Innovation category for the *Advancing AI Innovation in Local Government* project, delivered in partnership with the Municipal Association and Portable.

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer presented the award to Mayor Sophie Tan

Comment

Cr Sophie Tan, Mayor

Since the last Council Meeting I attended the following events:

On Tuesday 19 May 2026, I attended the National Volunteer Week celebration for Council volunteers.

On Wednesday 20 May 2026, I attended Citizenship Ceremonies.

On Wednesday 27 May 2026, I attended Greater Dandenong Council's Reconciliation Week "All In" Event and Council RAP Launch event.

On Thursday 28 May 2026, I attended the Bendigo Bank Community Grants evening.

On Friday 29 May 2026, I attended the Italian Republic Fest hosted by Belvedere Aged Care.

On Saturday 30 May 2026, I attended the annual flag raising ceremony hosted by the Vietnamese Community in Australia – Victoria Chapter.

On Sunday 31 May 2026, I attended the 23rd Annual Scottish Heritage Day.

On Monday 1 June 2026, I attended the Vietnamese Freedom Day Club 18th anniversary celebration.

On Thursday 4 June 2026, I attended the Greater Dandenong City Council Audit & Risk Committee meeting.

On Tuesday 9 June 2026, I attended the Greater Dandenong Young Leaders presentation to Councillors.

On Wednesday 10 June 2026, I attended Citizenship Ceremonies.

On Friday 12 June 2026, I attended the official opening of the Skillinvest Dandenong South Skills Centre, and the Local Crime Listening Forum with Gabrielle Williams MP, Anthony Carbines (Minister for Police), Cam Prins (Victoria Police), and Thomas Street Traders.

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
18/05/26 CQT1	Cr Alice Phuong Le	Support for Domestic Violence Does Council currently has programs specifically supporting women who have experienced family violence.	Acting Executive Director Community Strengthening	20/05/2026	<p>Initial response 18/05/2026: I will take this question on notice and provide a response after this meeting.</p> <p>Further Response 20/05/2026: At the Council meeting on 18 May 2026, you asked if we have any programs in our city to support women experiencing family violence.</p> <p>Information about Council's role in preventing family violence including the nature and impacts of family violence, sources of assistance and current Council initiatives, are maintained on Council's website Family Violence Greater Dandenong Council</p> <p>Additionally, at the Council meeting on Monday 25 November 2024, Councillors requested the development of a report outlining the extent to which Council supports initiatives for vulnerable families to address/prevent family violence, and the range of services available to victims of family violence.</p> <p>A copy of the report is attached for information. If you have any questions, please reach out.</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
18/05/26 CQT2	Cr Phillip Danh	Ongoing Issues with Hot Water at Parkfield Reserve, Noble Park 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.	Acting Executive Director Community Strengthening	25/05/2026	<p>Initial response 18/05/2026: I am happy to look into this matter and provide feedback to both Council and the relevant stakeholders at the reserve.</p> <p>Further response 25/05/2026: I can confirm that the issue was caused by one older hot water units becoming non-operational and unable to be repaired. As an interim measure, the line was redirected to an adjacent hot water unit in an effort to maintain service; however, this this repair did not provide sufficient hot water capacity.</p> <p>Following your question at the recent Council meeting, our Building Maintenance team installed a new gas instantaneous hot water unit to replace the faulty unit. We have also requested quotes for a more energy-efficient heat pump hot water system to replace the existing five gas instantaneous units.</p> <p>The club should now have full hot water capacity, with all units currently operational.</p> <p>Council officers will continue to follow up with the club over the coming weeks to ensure the system is operating effectively.</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
18/05/26 CQT3	Cr Lana Formoso	<p>Update on the Walking Track at Barry Powell Reserve, Noble Park North</p> <p>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.</p>	Executive Director City Futures		<p>Initial response 18/05/2026:</p> <p>I will take that question on notice and check with the relevant teams before providing an update.</p> <p>Further response 29/05/2026:</p> <p>The walking track at the Barry Powell Reserve was completed as part of the 2024-2025 financial year budget and is shown in the aerial photos provided.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>
18/05/26 CQT4	Cr Lana Formoso	<p>Wasp Nest Safety Risk – Dandenong City Soccer Club</p> <p>I would also like to raise an urgent safety issue regarding a wasp nest at the Dandenong City Soccer Club facility.</p> <p>This matter has been reported and ongoing for over 12 months, with limited resolution despite reports to United Energy, the club, and Council.</p> <p>I personally witnessed multiple young players being stung during the recent Dandenong City Girls Cup, which involved more than 60 teams.</p> <p>This raises serious concerns about public safety and risk management.</p> <p>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?</p>	Acting Director Community Strengthening	25/05/26	<p>Initial response 18/05/2026:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Further response 25/05/2026:</p> <p>1. Actions being taken to resolve this issue</p> <p>Council officers have been actively liaising with United Energy (UE), who are the asset owner of the power pole, which is housing the infestation, to ensure this matter is addressed as quickly as possible. UE have confirmed that a response crew attended the site on 30 April to investigate the issue. The crew identified that the nest within the pole is a bee colony, rather than wasps, and has consequently engaged a specialist bee removal contractor to safely relocate them.</p> <p>UE has advised that the removal is currently scheduled to occur by mid-June at the latest. Council officers have requested to be notified</p>

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
					<p>once the works have been completed and will continue to monitor progress.</p> <p>2. Follow-up processes for unresolved safety hazards</p> <p>Officers can confirm that the issue was initially reported to UE on 31 March (who have a 20 business day investigation response time frame), with acknowledgement of the request received by officers on 4 April. The UE site inspection, which occurred on 30 April, clarified the nature of the hazard and the requirement for a specialist response, which has informed the current timeframe.</p> <p>In the interim, Council officers have maintained communication with the club, advising that the matter has been logged and is being progressed. The club has been encouraged to keep members and visitors informed, and to avoid the affected area where possible.</p> <p>Officers can confirm this same issue was reported to Council in early 2025, with an infestation located in the same power pole. At that time, a request was lodged with UE to rectify the matter, which officers were of the understanding was completed.</p> <p>Council officers have requested all actions and dates/timelines from UE, related to the 2025 request, to ensure it was actioned accordingly. Officers are awaiting this information and will provide an update once we have received the relevant information from UE.</p>



Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
					<p>Council officers continue to work closely with clubs to manage occupational health and safety risks as they arise. This includes implementing appropriate interim measures, such as isolating or restricting access to impacted areas, until the risk can be removed or reduced to an acceptable level.</p> <p>Council remains committed to working with external agencies and community stakeholders to ensure risks to public safety are managed appropriately and resolved as promptly as possible.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>
18/05/26 CQT5	Cr Lana Formoso	<p>Security and Community Safety concerns at Dandenong Basketball Stadium due to increased crime</p> <p>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.</p> <p>I ask Council to clarify the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What CCTV coverage exists in the stadium car park; • Whether cameras are operational and reviewed following incidents; 	Acting Director Community Strengthening	25/05/26	<p>Initial response 18/05/2026:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>We will also provide context regarding any planned improvements relating to safety and security at the site.</p> <p>Further response 25/05/2026:</p> <p>The Dandenong Stadium experiences very high usage, with approximately 728,000 visitations recorded to 30 April this financial year and close to 1 million visits 2024/25 financial year. The site includes extensive parking, with a U-shaped car park surrounding the facility and additional</p>

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether there is any security presence or patrols during evening competitions; and • Whether there are any planned improvements to lighting, surveillance or security. 			<p>overflow parking available within the Dandenong Wetlands.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the combination of high visitation and large parking areas has contributed to an increase in incidents involving anti-social behaviour and theft from, and of, vehicles. This trend is not unique to Dandenong Stadium and is being experienced across many communities and facilities across the state, with increased reports of similar behaviours across these types of facilities, due to the transient nature of participants.</p> <p>South East Leisure is the operator of the stadium, with staff being aware of these issues, with most incidents reported directly to staff, who aid where possible and ensure incidents are appropriately documented. Victoria Police are contacted when required. In response to these concerns, Stadium management has engaged directly with Victoria Police, resulting in an increased police presence, including regular patrols and drive-through inspections of the car park.</p> <p>The facility is currently equipped with 16 CCTV cameras covering both internal and external areas, including sections of the car park. Footage is reviewed following incidents and provided to Victoria Police as requested. To further strengthen surveillance, Council committed \$90,000 to upgrade CCTV at the Stadium, which was allocated in the 25/26 financial year for delivery. This upgrade will include the installation of a camera with licence plate recognition capability at the main vehicle entry, three pan-tilt-zoom (PTZ) cameras with flexible monitoring capability, and four 360-</p>



Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
					<p>degree cameras positioned to reduce existing coverage gaps across the car park.</p> <p>The project to complete this work has been awarded to a contractor and is scheduled to take place over the next month, with the completion of the project to be active by the end of June, provided there are no issues associated with project delivery.</p> <p>Council officers and South-East Leisure will continue to work collaboratively with Victoria Police to deter this behaviour and reduce both the occurrence and impact of these incidents for visitors and the broader community.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>
18/05/26 CQT6	Cr Rhonda Garad	<p>Urgent concern regarding Walker Street / Orchestrate Gallery and the future of Fusion Theatre</p> <p>Fusion has been advised of planned refurbishments, including artist studios, and that they can no longer operate from the site. They were given just two days' notice to remove equipment and were not consulted during planning. When queried, they were reportedly told, "Why would we consult you?", which is concerning.</p> <p>Fusion Theatre is the only permanent local theatre group in Greater Dandenong and provides vital inclusive opportunities for people with disabilities. Losing it would be a significant loss to the community.</p>	Acting Director Community Strengthening	21/05/26	<p>Initial response 18/05/2026:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Further response 21/05/2026:</p> <p>Thank you for raising your concerns regarding Fusion Theatre's access to the Walker Street Gallery and associated spaces.</p> <p>I would like to assure you that Council officers are not at all indifferent to the value of Fusion Group's work, or the creative endeavours of members and participants. We fully appreciate the complexities of organising activities involving</p>

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
		I ask that officers urgently review this matter and explore options for Fusion Theatre to continue operating			<p>people with disability and facing barriers to participation.</p> <p>Following your enquiry, Council officers met with Fusion Theatre representatives onsite Wednesday at 4pm on 20 May to discuss the use of the Band Room, Black Box Theatre and related storage areas. Officers acknowledged the issues raised and the current circumstances impacting access.</p> <p>Council recognises and values Fusion Theatre's longstanding contribution to the local creative and disability arts community, and its history of using the venue. This history has shaped expectations regarding access to the Band Room and adjoining spaces.</p> <p>Officers identified a gap in communication regarding proposed works and the recent exhibition installation period. While no formal bookings were in place, we understand Fusion Theatre considered its funding application and historical use as tacit agreement to ongoing access. Council acknowledges that earlier and clearer communication would have been preferable.</p> <p>The Creative Studio Hub proposal remains under development and is not yet finalised. Current works are limited to compliance, safety and improving shared functionality. Officers will continue to consider the needs of existing users, including Fusion Theatre, as planning progresses.</p> <p>Officers also confirmed that Fusion Theatre has not been asked to vacate its storage area. Current activity relates to organising materials to meet compliance and safety requirements across shared spaces.</p>



Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
					<p>We also acknowledged the operational importance of appropriate green room and backstage facilities. Officers will continue working with Fusion Theatre to identify practical solutions and nearby alternatives where required during exhibition periods and future works, including in the coming weeks.</p> <p>Fusion Theatre's future bookings are being held provisionally pending the outcome of the current application process.</p> <p>Officers will also follow up on alternative neighbourhood visual arts space opportunities discussed with Fusion Theatre.</p> <p>To support improved communication, officers have proposed regular meetings with Fusion Theatre representatives to ensure ongoing, transparent and collaborative engagement.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>
18/05/26 CQT7	Cr Rhonda Garad	<p>Follow up on Urgent Notice of Motion from previous Council Meeting</p> <p>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?</p>	Executive Director City Futures	02/06/26	<p>Initial response 18/05/2026:</p> <p>I will take that matter on notice, review it with the relevant governance and legal teams and report back to Council.</p> <p>Further response 2/06/2026:</p> <p>At the April 2026 council meeting, the following NOM was carried.</p> <p><i>That the Executive Director of City Futures holds discussions with the Board and/or Dandenong Market manager urgently in relation to any potential legal exposure of the Council and/or any potential reputational harm regarding trader evictions before 1 May 2026.</i></p>

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
					<p>Carried 9/0</p> <p>In response to the Notice of Motion, I met with both the DMPL General Manager and the Board Chair to raise the matters outlined. DMPL subsequently provided a comprehensive response addressing these concerns. This detailed response from the DMPL Board was circulated to all councillors on Thursday, 30 April.</p> <p><u>Potential Legal Exposure</u></p> <p>The Traders at the Bazaar are covered under trader licence agreements. DMPL has obtained legal advice from its law firm to ensure the project is delivered in accordance with the terms of these agreements. DMPL is meeting its legal obligations through a comprehensive engagement and support program, ensuring traders are well informed and supported throughout the transition.</p> <p>It is important to note that trader licences are not governed by the Retail Leases Act. As DMPL is acting in accordance with the licence agreements and applicable legal requirements, there is no potential legal risk for Council.</p> <p><u>Potential Reputation Harm</u></p> <p>The Bazaar Revitalisation project is supported by a comprehensive trader engagement and communications plan. From a trader engagement perspective, this has included:</p>



Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
					<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written communications• Group meetings• Individual meetings <p>DMPL has conducted a series of group and individual meetings with Bazaar traders and continues to provide regular updates through written communications and a strong on-site management presence. Approximately 80% of Bazaar traders have participated in individual meetings with DMPL management to discuss their business needs and future, demonstrating a high level of engagement.</p> <p>In addition, DMPL has engaged a Public Relations consultant to support media releases and responses. Given the extensive trader engagement and communications approach implemented by DMPL, the potential for reputational harm to Council is minimal.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>



7 URGENT BUSINESS

No urgent business was considered.



8 CLOSE OF BUSINESS

The Meeting closed at 9.11pm.

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

Signature
