



Minutes

Council Meeting

Monday 17 August 2026, 7:00 pm

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

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



COUNCIL OBLIGATIONS AND AGENDA REPORTS

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

Community Vision 2040 (Community Vision | Greater Dandenong Council)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Overarching Governance Principles of the Local Government Act 2020

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

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

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

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

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



The Gender Equality Act 2020

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

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

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

Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities

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

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

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



Consideration of Climate Change and Sustainability

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

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

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

Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks

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



Supporting Documents

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

Your Councillors

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

[Cr Bob Milkovic](#)

[Deputy Mayor Phillip Danh](#)

[Cr Sean O'Reilly](#)

[Cr Isabella Do](#)

[Cr Loi Truong](#)

[Cr Lana Formoso](#)

[Cr Melinda Yim](#)

[Cr Rhonda Garad](#)

[Cr Alice Phuong Le](#)

[Cr Jim Memeti](#)



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

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



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Acknowledging
Bunurong Country

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	MEETING OPENING	8
1.1	OPENING OF MEETING BY CHAIR	8
1.2	ATTENDANCE	8
1.3	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF LAND	9
1.4	OFFERING OF PRAYER, REFLECTION OR AFFIRMATION	9
1.5	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS	10
1.6	DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST	10
2	OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 1	11
2.1	STATUTORY PLANNING APPLICATIONS	11
2.1.1	Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – July 2026	11
3	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	12
4	OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 2	15
4.1	PROCUREMENT	15
4.1.1	Council Building Cleaning Services - Contract Extension.....	15
4.2	POLICY AND STRATEGY	20
4.2.1	End of Year Performance Report 2025-26	20
4.2.2	Draft Positive Ageing Strategy - Endorsement for Consultation	23
4.2.3	Springvale Revitalisation Action Plan - Annual Update	27
4.3	OTHER	32
4.3.1	Proposed MAV Notice of Motions (October State Council)	32
4.3.2	Report on Matters Discussed at Councillor Briefing Sessions and Pre Council Meetings...	36
4.3.3	List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors.....	41
5	NOTICES OF MOTION	42
5.1	NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 26 - EQUITABLE PLANNING OF ROOMING HOUSES.....	42
6	REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS.....	48
7	URGENT BUSINESS	58
8	CLOSE OF BUSINESS	59



1 MEETING OPENING

1.1 OPENING OF MEETING BY CHAIR

Cr Sophie Tan opened the Meeting at 7.00pm.

1.2 ATTENDANCE

Apologies

Cr Lana Formoso, Cr Isabella Do.

Councillors Present

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

Officers Present

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



1.3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF LAND

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

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

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

1.4 OFFERING OF PRAYER, REFLECTION OR AFFIRMATION

All remained standing as Mrs Rowena Eghanian, a member of the Greater Dandenong Bahá'í Community, read the following:

"O Thou kind Lord!

Thou hast created all humanity from the same stock. Thou hast decreed that all shall belong to the same household. In Thy Holy Presence they are all Thy servants, and all mankind are sheltered beneath Thy Tabernacle; all have gathered together at Thy Table of Bounty; all are illumined through the light of Thy Providence.

O God! Thou art kind to all, Thou hast provided for all, dost shelter all, conferrest life upon all. Thou hast endowed each and all with talents and faculties, and all are submerged in the Ocean of Thy Mercy.

O Thou kind Lord! Unite all. Let the religions agree and make the nations one, so that they may see each other as one family and the whole earth as one home. May they all live together in perfect harmony.

O God! Raise aloft the banner of the oneness of mankind.

O God! Establish the Most Great Peace.

Cement Thou, O God, the hearts together.

O Thou kind Father, God! Gladden our hearts through the fragrance of Thy love. Brighten our eyes through the Light of Thy Guidance. Delight our ears with the melody of Thy Word, and shelter us all in the Stronghold of Thy Providence.

Thou art the Mighty and Powerful, Thou art the Forgiving and Thou art the One Who overlooketh the shortcomings of all mankind.

-‘Abdu’l-Bahá Prayer For Humanity "



Mayor Cr Sophie Tan read out the below in relation to arrests on homophobic attacks.

"I'd like to note widespread news coverage last week of the arrests of five males, accused of 11 homophobic attacks in the Dandenong area.

Police allege these people used dating apps and social media to lure victims to locations before sexually assaulting and robbing some of the victims.

We are horrified by the homophobic nature of these attacks.

It seems the alleged perpetrators thought these victims would not report the crimes and perhaps chose quite vulnerable victims.

We applaud those who bravely reported their experiences to the police.

We offer our grateful thanks to Victoria Police for demonstrating that if people report attacks and crimes like this, they will be taken seriously and investigated.

We appreciate their persistence in these matters."



1.5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Meeting of Council held 20 July 2026

Recommendation

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

MINUTE No.417

Moved by: Cr Phillip Danh

Seconded by: Cr Melinda Yim

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

CARRIED 9 / 0

1.6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil.



2 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 1

2.1 STATUTORY PLANNING APPLICATIONS

2.1.1 Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – July 2026

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

Attachments: 1. Planning Delegated Decisions Issued - July 2026 [2.1.1.1 - 11 pages]

Officer Recommendation

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

Executive Summary

1. This report provides Council with an update on the exercise of delegation by Council officers.
2. It provides a listing of Town Planning applications that were either decided or closed under delegation or withdrawn by applicants in July 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.418

Moved by: Cr Bob Milkovic

Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad

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

John, Keysborough

What is the approximate cost of the floodlights at Oval 1 of Tatterson Park running for a 12-hour period?

Who pays when said lights are left on overnight is it the organisation that has used the Oval or the Council / Taxpayer?

I would hope council passes cost to the organisation, if this is not currently the case, will Council move towards this?

Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

Council initially pays all utility invoices associated with sporting infrastructure, including electricity costs for sports ground floodlighting. These costs are then recovered by invoicing the tenant sporting club, or clubs, that utilise the floodlighting throughout the season.

The approximate cost of operating the floodlights during winter at Tatterson Park Oval 1 for a 12-hour period is \$200.

Council works closely with tenant sporting clubs to ensure floodlighting is switched off after each use. While there may be occasional instances where this does not occur, Council continues to work with clubs to improve compliance and minimise unnecessary energy consumption.

Question

Gaye Guest, Keysborough

The 2026 council calendar did not reach many or any homes and no one seems to know where all the printed copies are. Council is continuing to run the calendar photography competition this year at an exorbitant cost to the rate payers with no practical results.

If they were to be printed again a better fair and equitable distribution method would need to be worked out maybe so residents can collect from service centres, pool, community centres and the like where the distribution company failed.

What was the actual cost of producing and supposed distribution of these calendars?



Response

Marjan Hajjari, Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services

Thank you for the question and for noting that the photo competition is currently open. We receive strong engagement in our photo competition, and we love to see our city through the 'lens' of the community's photos. Using community-sourced photos in the calendar is more inclusive than using professionally commissioned photos. The total cost of the photography competition is less than \$2,000.

We receive feedback that the printed community calendar is highly valued by some people, and not valued by others.

We agree that a calendar with a strong focus on sustainability and reducing waste should be distributed thoughtfully. We want to make sure it's available to those who want it, and not sent to those who don't want it.

In line with your suggestion, this year we will be asking people to collect their copy of the calendar from our libraries, customer service centres and other civic facilities. We will not be letter-boxing them. We will be communicating all these pickup locations over the next couple of months. This will reduce paper waste and ensure the production costs are kept in proportion.

Last year, the total cost of design, printing and distribution the calendar, including the photography competition, was less than \$60,000. We anticipate it will cost less this year due to our new distribution method.

Question

Gaye Guest, Keysborough

It appears on every street in Keysborough that sturdy homes are either being renovated or pulled down with no intervention from council or council controls.

A new medical centre in a residential home had multiple contractors working yesterday Sunday with power tools and they took it upon themselves to enter the neighbour's yard unannounced and cut a panel of the fence without asking and left the gaping hole overnight. The home owner is devastated at the lack of courtesy and the display of entitlement by the tradies. Where were the advertised PLN and plans?

At another property a protected tree on site now has a sewer pipe at its trunk sticking out of the ground after having its roots cut as Mt Keysborough evolved while the whole yard was trenched to lay pipes for a second dwelling under the guidance of a building surveyor who said they are not responsible for any of the infrastructure works.

There are no guidelines anymore and again no regard for residential amenity who have had to give up 50 cm of land to accommodate a driveway that was never measured by the attending council officer. This has now exceeded 100cm extra, no notification to the most affected neighbours when there are easements to be considered and heavy traffic volumes.

The breaches have been endless thumping music of an evening, new fences built too high, other properties cutting out mature gardens and trees and concreting yards, trying to build extra rooms under an illegal carport come verandah wrapped around the existing dwelling.



When will council take responsibility for these breaches and check in person with tape measures in hand before work is completed as building surveyors cannot be trusted? Council is not in control of the carnage. Why?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Under the Building Act 1993, where a private building surveyor has been appointed for a building project, the appointed surveyor is responsible for ensuring the building work complies with the approved plans, relevant building permits and applicable building standards.

Where concerns exist regarding a private building surveyor's performance, conduct or failure to carry out their responsibilities, these matters may be referred to the Building and Plumbing Commission (BPC), which is the regulator responsible for investigating such complaints.

In addition, the Building and Plumbing Commission now has expanded powers to issue Rectification Orders where building work is found to be non-compliant. These orders can require defects or non-compliant work to be rectified by the responsible parties.

It is important to note that Council may investigate matters that fall within its jurisdiction, however, compliance with approved building permits and building regulations during construction remains the responsibility of the appointed building surveyor.



4 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 2

4.1 PROCUREMENT

4.1.1 Council Building Cleaning Services - Contract Extension

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

Attachments: 1. Makkim Business Profile [4.1.1.1 - 2 pages]
This report contains an attachment which is deemed confidential under s 3(1)(g) of the *Local Government Act* 2020. It contains private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that relates to trade secrets; or, if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** a further extension of Contract 2122-11 Council Building Cleaning Services to Makkim Pty Ltd ABN 68 20 6 1 96 trading as Australian Environmental Cleaning Services from 1 September 2026 to 30 April 2027 (10 months);
2. **AUTHORISES** the Chief Executive Officer to execute the contract agreements, and any associated documents with the above contracts;
3. **NOTES** that a review will be undertaken by the CEO prior to any future new council building cleaning services contract; and
4. **NOTES** that the CEO will provide a tender recommendation report to Council for consideration for any new council building cleaning services contract.

Executive Summary

1. This report outlines the process and evaluation for the contract extension for the experienced contractor for the provision of **Council Building Cleaning Services** for the City of Greater Dandenong.
2. Makkim Pty Ltd trading as Australian Environmental Cleaning Services were awarded the contract in May 2022 with an initial term of two (2) years with the option of three (3) twelve-month extensions.
3. Given the overall duration of this contract to date, this report recommends that Council approves and provides delegated authority to the CEO to execute the Council Building Cleaning Services final contract extension with the Makkim Pty Ltd for a period of ten (10) months from 1 September 2026 to 30 April 2027.

Background

4. Council entered a Building Cleaning Services contract for an initial term of two (2) years, with three (3) options to extend the contract by a further twelve (12) months each. The contract provides routine, periodic, responsive and emergency cleaning services across a broad range of Council-owned and managed facilities.



5. The contract supports the delivery of cleaning services to municipal offices, libraries, arts and heritage facilities, children's services centres, aged care facilities, community halls, senior centres and other civic buildings. It also includes Council's major high-use facilities, including the Dandenong Civic Centre and Springvale Community Hub and Library.
6. The scope of services includes scheduled cleaning activities, periodic deep cleaning, emergency response cleaning, specialist cleaning services and ad hoc works as required. Services are delivered under a fully managed model, with the contractor responsible for providing all labour, supervision, equipment, materials and consumables necessary to meet Council's service requirements.
7. The contract is valued at approximately \$3 million per annum and plays a critical role in maintaining Council facilities to a high standard of cleanliness, hygiene, safety and presentation for staff, residents and visitors. Service delivery is monitored through key performance indicators, regular inspections, and quality audits.
8. In accordance with the contract provisions, Council has the option to exercise the final twelve (12) month extension. This report seeks approval to exercise the final extension option for a reduced period of ten (10) months to ensure continuity of service delivery across Council assets and align the contract expiry with other Council cleaning contracts, providing an opportunity to explore future procurement efficiencies, including potential contract consolidation.

Key Issues and Discussion

9. As part of a broader organisational restructure undertaken in late 2025, the Building Maintenance team transitioned from the Capital Works department to the City Works department. This realignment brought building maintenance together with Council's other maintenance services, creating opportunities to improve operational efficiency, consistency and service delivery through the adoption of common workflows, work management systems, asset data, contract management practices, procurement processes, safety systems and quality assurance activities.
10. The integration of building maintenance within a unified maintenance team also creates the opportunity to explore future procurement efficiencies, including potential contract consolidation.
11. A contract extension of ten (10) months will align the final expiry date of the **Council Building Cleaning Services** contract managed by Building Maintenance with the **Cleaning of Public Toilets, BBQ's, Playgrounds, Picnic Shelters & Public Art** contract currently managed by the Cleansing team, allowing Council officers to consider the potential operational and financial efficiencies of a single combined contract before going back out to market.
12. In the interim, Makkim Australian Environmental Cleaning Services have performed well to date and there is low risk to Council in approving this final extension.
13. Since commencement of the contract in November 2023, the contractor has consistently delivered the required services across Council's diverse portfolio of facilities and has demonstrated a strong understanding of Council's operational requirements.
14. The contractor has consistently achieved key performance indicators relating to service quality, responsiveness, reporting, compliance and customer satisfaction. Regular inspections, audits and performance reviews indicate that service standards have been maintained across the contract period.
15. Annual contract budgets have been fully utilised in delivering the programmed scope of works. Expenditure has remained within approved budget allocations while ensuring service levels are maintained across Council's facilities.



16. The number of cleaning-related customer requests and complaints has reduced throughout the contract term. This reflects improvements in service quality, responsiveness to issues and proactive management of cleaning requirements across Council facilities.
17. Consistent routine and periodic cleaning activities have contributed to improved presentation, cleanliness and hygiene standards across Council buildings. The contractor's focus on preventative and periodic cleaning has assisted in maintaining asset condition and reducing the deterioration associated with high-use public facilities.
18. The contractor has worked collaboratively with multiple Council departments, including Building Maintenance, Community Services, Children's Services, Aged Care and Festival and Events teams. This collaborative approach has enabled consistent service delivery standards, and efficient management of cleaning requirements across Council.
19. The contractor has demonstrated the capacity to respond effectively to emergency cleaning requests, after-hours services, and specialised cleaning activities. This flexibility has been particularly valuable in supporting Council's high-use community facilities and major civic buildings.
20. Overall, the contractor has performed strongly throughout the contract term and has demonstrated the capability and resources required to continue delivering the services for the final extension period.

Financial Implications

21. This contract had an anticipated spend in the order of \$3 million + GST per year, which is accommodated within existing Council operating budgets for the Building Maintenance team.

Business Profile – Financial & Performance Assessment

22. Council has conducted an independent standard financial and performance assessment for Makkim Pty Ltd trading as Australian Environmental Services. Please see 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

The resource requirements associated with this report are \$ 3 million compared to the annual budget allocation of \$3 million for this purpose.

Asset Implications

24. This item does not affect any existing assets, however it is critical in the delivery of essential cleaning services of Building assets across the municipality.

Legal/Risk Implications

25. The contract includes provisions for an initial two-year term with three optional twelve-month extensions. The proposed extension represents the final extension available under the contract and is being exercised in accordance with the contract conditions.



26. Should the extension not be approved, Council would be required to undertake a new procurement process to ensure continuity of cleaning services. Failure to establish an alternative contractual arrangement prior to expiry may result in service gaps and could expose Council to operational and contractual risks.
27. The contractor has demonstrated strong performance throughout the contract term and has consistently met Council's service delivery requirements. Exercising the final extension mitigates the risks associated with service disruption, loss of site knowledge, and potential impacts on cleanliness, hygiene and public amenity standards.
28. If the extension is not approved, Council faces an increased risk of disruption to cleaning services at municipal offices, community facilities, libraries, children's services centres and aged care facilities. A new procurement process would require significant time and resources and may result in increased contract costs due to current market conditions. Any interruption to cleaning services could adversely affect staff and public safety, customer satisfaction and the presentation of Council assets.

Environmental Implications

29. The delivery of cleaning services across Council facilities has direct environmental implications, particularly in relation to chemical usage, waste generation and hygiene management practices.
30. The contract requires the contractor to maintain high standards of hygiene across all facilities, which supports public health outcomes, however this must be balanced against the environmental impact of increased use of cleaning agents and consumables. The contractor is responsible for the appropriate selection, storage and use of cleaning chemicals in accordance with Safety Data Sheets and relevant environmental and occupational health requirements. Where possible, environmentally preferable and low-toxicity cleaning products are utilised to reduce environmental harm, including impacts on indoor air quality and aquatic systems.
31. Waste generated through cleaning activities, including general waste, sanitary waste and contaminated materials, is required to be disposed of in accordance with current and relevant environmental regulations. The contractor is responsible for ensuring waste is appropriately segregated and disposed of through approved waste streams to minimise landfill contribution and environmental contamination.
32. The contract supports sustainable service delivery through structured cleaning practices, responsible chemical management and compliance with waste disposal requirements, while maintaining the necessary hygiene standards across Council's facilities.

Gender Impact Assessment

33. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

34. There was no requirement for community consultation.

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

35. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
 - Sustainable environment.
36. 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

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

- Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.

MINUTE No.419

Moved by: Cr Phillip Danh

Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** a further extension of Contract 2122-11 Council Building Cleaning Services to Makkim Pty Ltd ABN 68 20 6 1 96 trading as Australian Environmental Cleaning Services from 1 September 2026 to 30 April 2027 (10 months);
2. **AUTHORISES** the Chief Executive Officer to execute the contract agreements, and any associated documents with the above contracts;
3. **NOTES** that a review will be undertaken by the CEO prior to any future new council building cleaning services contract; and
4. **NOTES** that the CEO will provide a tender recommendation report to Council for consideration for any new council building cleaning services contract.

CARRIED 9 / 0



4.2 POLICY AND STRATEGY

4.2.1 End of Year Performance Report 2025-26

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services
Attachments: 1. End of Year Quarterly Performance Report 2025-26
[4.2.1.1 - 40 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council NOTES the progress against the priorities outlined in the Council Plan 2025-29 and Annual Plan 2025-26 for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 (refer Attachment 1).

Executive Summary

1. This report details Council's progress against performance targets outlined in the Council Plan 2025-29 and Annual Plan 2025-26.
2. This report recommends that Council notes the achievements against the Council Plan indicators and the actions of the Annual Plan.

Background

3. Council formally adopted the Council Plan 2025-29, and Annual Plan 2025-26 on Monday 15 June 2025.
4. The Council Plan 2025-29 outlines the vision and objectives of the current Council over the four years of its term in office. This document guides service delivery, innovation and good governance, and provides the foundation for the integrated planning framework for all business activities. The Council Plan also guides the budget, service delivery priorities and the continuous improvement of our services.
5. The Council Plan 2025-29, Annual Plan 2025-26 and Budget 2025-26 are made available to residents through the Customer Service Centres, libraries and on Council's website at www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

Key Issues and Discussion

6. The End of Year Performance Report provides a summary of key highlights for the 2025-26 financial year against the Council Plan, and Council's major capital works project, Oasis Wellbeing and Aquatics.
7. Progress against the Council Plan priorities and Annual Plan actions is outlined in the attachment to this report and details the achievements for the Council Plan strategic objectives for the period 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026.
8. This is the first year of reporting for the Council Plan 2025-29. 95 per cent of Annual Plan actions were either completed or are multi-year projects continuing into 2026-27. This includes a number of new strategies and plans which will strengthen Council's commitment to delivering on its environmental sustainability, arts and culture, positive ageing, and business sector priorities.



9. Highlights for 2025-26 include:

- a. The construction of Oasis Wellbeing and Aquatics is progressing well with construction of the 50m, learn to swim and warm water pools complete;
- b. Council's community satisfaction results continued to outperform the metropolitan average in the survey conducted by Metropolis Research;
- c. Over 100,000 people celebrated at major festivals across the city; and
- d. Advocacy continued on a range of issues affecting our community including sustainable housing and roads and transport network upgrades. Funding was received to deliver food relief and capability programs for those experiencing poverty and social inequity, and the Back Your Neighbour campaign continued to increase its engagement and reach strengthening advocacy for inclusive communities and refugee policy reform.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

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

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

Operating Budget Implications

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

Asset Implications

12. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

15. A gender impact assessment was undertaken through the development of the Council Plan.

Community Consultation

16. There was no requirement for community consultation.

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

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

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



18. 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

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*.
- 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.420

Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council NOTES the progress against the priorities outlined in the Council Plan 2025-29 and Annual Plan 2025-26 for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 (refer Attachment 1).

CARRIED 9 / 0



4.2.2 Draft Positive Ageing Strategy - Endorsement for Consultation

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Community Strengthening
Attachments: 1. Draft Positive Ageing Strategy 2026-2030 [4.2.2.1 - 25 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES** that the **Draft Positive Ageing Strategy 2026-2030 (per Attachment 1)** builds on Council's previous two **Positive Ageing Strategies** and has been informed by consultation with the community and the **Positive Ageing Advisory Committee**; and
2. **ENDORSES** that the **Draft Positive Ageing Strategy 2026-2030** be released for the purposes of community consultation from **18 August to 15 September 2026**.

Executive Summary

1. The Draft Positive Ageing Strategy has been developed with input from the community and the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee.
2. It is proposed that the draft Plan be endorsement for public consultation to commence on 18 August to 15 September 2026.
3. Feedback from Councillors and the community will be considered and, where appropriate, reflected in the final Strategy for Council consideration in November 2026.

Background

4. Positive Ageing Strategies outline how councils support older people to live well, stay independent, and remain connected to their community. Strategies do this by improving access to safe spaces, transport, inclusion and social opportunities, as well as clear information about health and support services.
5. This draft strategy replaces the 2017–2025 Positive Ageing Strategy and continues Council's commitment to older people by promoting social connection, improving accessibility, and providing information.
6. The draft Strategy has been developed through extensive consultation with older people, service providers, community networks and the broader community, using a range of engagement methods, with ongoing and significant input from the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee. It also draws on feedback from earlier consultations, including the Council Plan deliberative engagement process and the 2023 Aged and Disability Services Review, to help identify priorities and shape the final strategy.
7. Subject to Council approval, it is proposed that community consultation will occur from 18 August to 15 September 2026.
8. Feedback received through public consultation will be reviewed and, where appropriate, incorporated into the final Strategy for Council consideration at the 16 November 2026 Council meeting.



Key Issues and Discussion

9. The Positive Ageing Strategy is a Tier Four plan within Council's Integrated Planning Framework.
10. The Strategy supports Greater Dandenong City Council's Community Vision 2040 by outlining how Council will enhance wellbeing, inclusion and participation for older people. In doing so, it promotes a community that is welcoming, healthy and age friendly for everyone.
11. The draft Strategy is built around four key themes:
 - a. **Social Connections and Participation**
Older people are connected, valued and actively participating in community life;
 - b. **Transport and Access**
Older people can access services, activities and community spaces safely and independently;
 - c. **Safety, Health and Wellbeing**
Older people feel safe, supported and empowered to maintain their health, independence and quality of life; and
 - d. **Information and Communication**
Older people are informed, digitally included and actively engaged in shaping their community.
12. Previous Positive Ageing Strategies at the City of Greater Dandenong have focused on improving the health, wellbeing, independence and social inclusion of older people, responding to key community priorities such as transport, access to services, social connection and communication. These strategies have delivered a wide range of initiatives that support older residents to stay active and connected, and the new strategy will build on this work by continuing to strengthen age friendly environments, expanding opportunities for participation, and responding to emerging needs within the ageing community.
13. This third Positive Ageing Strategy is the next step in Council's ongoing commitment to older people.
14. Government aged care policy and programs may change over the four-year life of the Strategy. The Guiding Principles in the draft Strategy have been developed to ensure Council has a framework to use to review and adjust any actions within the Strategy.
15. Where Council has limited control or influence, the Strategy emphasises its advocacy role in working to achieve improved outcomes.
16. The actions in the draft Strategy 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 alignment 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 Councils 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. There are no legal / risk implications relevant to this report.

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

22. A Gender impact Assessment will be completed as part of the development of this Draft Strategy.

Community Consultation

Purpose	Seek community feedback to help ensure the draft Positive Ageing Strategy reflects the views and experience of older people, builds on earlier engagement, and confirms practical and supported actions for the next four years.
Engagement period	18 August to 15 September 2026
Level of Influence:	Consult
Engagement Activities:	• Have Your Say survey promoted through Council channels, Council facilities, email lists and community networks • Drop-in sessions at local hub locations for older people, families 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 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.



24. 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.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

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

MINUTE No.421

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Loi Truong

That Council:

1. **NOTES** that the Draft Positive Ageing Strategy 2026-2030 (per Attachment 1) builds on Council's previous two Positive Ageing Strategies and has been informed by consultation with the community and the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee; and
2. **ENDORSES** that the Draft Positive Ageing Strategy 2026-2030 be released for the purposes of community consultation from 18 August to 15 September 2026.

CARRIED 9 / 0



4.2.3 Springvale Revitalisation Action Plan - Annual Update

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures
Attachments: Nil

Officer Recommendation

That Council NOTES the annual update on the Springvale Revitalisation Action Plan (SRAP).

Executive Summary

1. The Springvale Revitalisation Action Plan (SRAP) is delivered through initiatives that are both tangible and operational, and relate to culture, economy, and public realm and include night-time economy initiatives, smart city technologies, improved streetscapes, pedestrianised zones, urban greening and passive/active surveillance initiatives.
2. The SRAP is a high-level, long-term framework, intended to guide the revitalisation of Springvale's Civic Heart, with staged delivery occurring over the next ten years.
3. The annual update is presented for noting and to promote the significant progress to the community.

Background

4. The Springvale Revitalisation Action Plan (SRAP) aims to identify actions for private and public sector investment, alongside supporting the Springvale community to grow.
5. As a catalyst for revitalisation, the SRAP aims to identify quickly deployable projects and initiatives that will draw investment and development to the Activity Centre. This holistic vision will breathe new life into the heart of Springvale in the short, medium, and long term.
6. The direction of the document is informed by a series of guiding principles that came from detailed community engagement.
7. These include:
 - Supporting thriving local experiences and economy
 - Fostering a diversity of activated places
 - Championing accessibility and inclusivity
 - Designing a distinctive public realm identity
 - Celebrating multicultural communities
 - Addressing issues of safety and cleanliness



8. The SRAP focuses on four key areas of the Springvale Activity Centre:

- Buckingham Avenue
- Multicultural Place
- Djeering Rail Corridor
- Warwick Avenue

Key Issues and Discussion

9. The Springvale Revitalisation Plan was endorsed in March 2024. Council has progressed with the implementation through:

Pedestrian Wayfinding Refresh

10. An audit of the wayfinding network confirmed that while signage content is outdated, existing structures remained in good condition. Maps and directional information have been installed with updated content using the current infrastructure, with new signage elements, including one new plinth installed in the centre.

Creative Wayfinding Treatment

11. A new mural installed on the side of the Balmoral 8 carpark wall. The mural is visible from Springvale Road and helps to draw people into Buckingham Avenue. This creative wayfinding treatment is further supported by neon accents that are visible at night and motifs on key light poles and bins.

Laneway Asphalt Artwork

12. Artwork has been inlaid into the asphalt on the ground plane of the laneway. The new asphalt artwork is intended to improve safety by encouraging drivers to slow down and be more alert for pedestrians. Currently this laneway is accessed by trucks, cars, pedestrians, and bicycles. It is proposed that the new artwork will enhance the pedestrian experience.

13.

Stub It. Bin It. Let's Keep Springvale Clean

14. Partnered with the waste education team to co-deliver a place-based education campaign on cigarette butt disposal. New messaging aims to make it easier for smokers to dispose of cigarette butts properly.

15.

The Lantern Village – Temporary Public Art Installation

16. Students from various schools in Springvale were invited to create artwork that celebrated Lunar New Year and the Year of the Horse, illustrating what makes it a special time of year for them. Artwork was transformed into a fabric pattern, with work illuminated inside the lanterns. Artwork was also displayed inside Springvale Community Hub, connecting the facility to the activity centre.

Yomeci Band – Urban Play

17. A series of Urban Play events with Yomeci Band were held across February and March 2026. Community were to “make” music simply by moving through a colourful footpath of artwork. As you walk, skip or dance across the drawings of curious creatures, the footpath becomes a musical track, with your movements activating sounds and compositions. A partnership with RMIT’s Future Play Lab and the Creative & Engaged City Team.



Light Up Buckingham

18. Council received grant funding of \$250k from the Victorian State Government's Department of Jobs, Skills and Regions for feature/decorative lighting in Springvale. Alongside support local culture and identity of Springvale, the project will support advocacy efforts and act as a potential stage delivery model of feature/decorative lighting in the centre. Delivery is planned for March - April 2027.
19. The Placemaking & Revitalisation team continues to provide specialised, place-based advice for activity centre planning, identifying opportunities for shared delivery, innovation, change and growth.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

20. This item does not currently have an impact on existing human resources. However, any potential investment from state government or grant funding has potential to affect resourcing requirements.

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

21. Subject to the approval of a capital carry forward request and successful advocacy, the following projects are being considered for implemented in the 2026/27 financial year:
 - Feature/decorative lighting treatment through the state government co-funded Light Up Buckingham project
 - Detailed design and implementation (subject to advocacy) of Multicultural Place. Draft design includes:
 - New street furniture including seating/tables for outdoor dining
 - Pavement upgrades
 - Lighting and Art interventions
 - Green spaces
 - Improved waste management infrastructure
 - Recreation and play spaces
 - Further engagement for delivery of a parklet program that was developed based on community support for increased public space. The parklet program will increase neighbourhood livability and safety through:
 - Slowing traffic
 - Increase passive surveillance and street activation
 - Creating welcoming, well-used public spaces
 - Foster social interaction and stronger community presence in public areas

It is acknowledged that there have been concerns from Springvale Shopping Centre traders regarding this, however there may be alternative parklet options that can be considered.



Operating Budget Implications

22. Any works to actualise the SRAP is subject to budget allocation from Council's capital improvement program.
23. Grants will be pursued, where the opportunity arises, to actualise small, quick deployable projects, however, significant investment is required to actualise the full scope of SRAP, including the upgrade to Multicultural Place – flagship project.

Asset Implications

24. This item may increase the use of council assets. The ongoing maintenance costs will be assessed and included in operating and resource costings, on a project by project basis.

Legal/Risk Implications

25. There is significant interest from the community in actualising the Springvale Revitalisation Action Plan.

Environmental Implications

26. Actualising the SRAP will create vibrant and sustainable communities by prioritising local needs, fostering social connections, and promoting ecological well-being, resulting in a more resilient and environmentally conscious communities.

Gender Impact Assessment

27. Larger scale projects will consider gender impact assessments as appropriate.

Community Consultation

28. Project specific community consultation is conducted as required and as appropriate.

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

29. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
- Safe and peaceful community.
 - Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.
 - Sustainable environment.
 - Mind, body and spirit.
 - Art and culture.
30. 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 Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources, and a commitment to investing in the community.



Legislative and Policy Obligations

31. 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.
- Climate Change and Sustainability.
- Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.

MINUTE No.422

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Seconded by: Cr Melinda Yim

That Council NOTES the annual update on the Springvale Revitalisation Action Plan (SRAP).

CARRIED 9 / 0



4.3 OTHER

4.3.1 Proposed MAV Notice of Motions (October State Council)

Responsible Officer:	Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services
Attachments:	1. Draft Notice of Motion to MAV Oct 2026 State Council [4.3.1.1 - 2 pages] 2. Kingston Council Proposed Motion re MAV MOU [4.3.1.2 - 1 page]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** the proposed motion to the next State Council meeting of the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) per Attachment 1, noting that provision can be made for Council's CEO to authorise any minor changes to improve the wording of the motion and/or to update the motion relative to any changes to the issues that may have occurred between the scheduled Council meeting and the date of its lodgement with the MAV; and
2. **ENDORSES** in principle **SUPPORT** for a proposed Kingston City Council's motion that advocates to release Victorian Local Governments from the obligations outlined in the MAV's 2017 Memorandum of Understanding for the Support of Victorian SES Units.

Executive Summary

1. **Notice of Motions for MAV** - MAV has called for its member councils to submit motions to be considered for adoption at its State Council Meeting on 23 October 2026.
2. Attachment 1 outlines a draft motion that calls for MAV to advocate to the Victorian Government to deliver a significant increase in Social Housing Supply.
3. Attachment 2 details a proposed Kingston City Council Notice of Motion that will be taken to their 24 August Council meeting for endorsement. Kingston seeking in principle support from Greater Dandenong Council so this can be noted in the submission process to MAV.

Background

4. **MAV State Council** - Formed in 1879, the MAV is a membership association and the legislated peak body for Victoria's 79 local councils. The type of support offered by the organisation to its members include specialist policy advice and advocacy, governance and legislative advice, sector development, insurance and procurement services.
5. The State Council Meeting provides Greater Dandenong City Council with an opportunity to draw state-wide attention across the local government sector to Council's advocacy and engagement priorities that have state-wide relevance.
6. MAV has called for its member councils to submit motions to be considered for adoption at its State Council Meeting on 23 October 2026. Motions are due to be submitted online no later than midnight on 24 August.
7. The proposed Notice of Motions conform to the requirements of MAV Guidance Notes.



Key Issues and Discussion

Regional Charter Group of Councils

8. Greater Dandenong City Council is part of a regional alliance of 13 councils, representing over 2 million residents across Melbourne's east and southeast, who have joined in a unified voice calling for urgent action for more social housing to end homelessness.
9. The Regional Local Government Homelessness and Social Housing Charter was established in 2020 and has guided collaborative advocacy and research efforts across the region in relation to homelessness and social housing advocacy.
10. In August 2025, Greater Dandenong City Council took on the role of Secretariat for the Charter Group, and in October 2025, the Charter Group convened a strategic forum to review and determine its key advocacy priorities moving forward.
11. The proposed Notice of Motion advocating for a significant increase in social housing supply (Attachment 1) reflects an ongoing priority for the regional charter group and augments those motions submitted by Greater Dandenong Council to the 29 May MAV State Council Meeting.
12. Attachment provides the draft Notice of Motion in full, accompanying rationale and the linkage of each motion to MAV's strategic priority areas.

Kingston City Council Proposed SES Notice of Motion

13. Greater Dandenong City Council has been informed that Kingston City Council will consider draft Notice of Motions for the Oct State Council meeting on 24 August.
14. A proposed NOM will advocate for the releasing of Victorian Local Governments from the obligations outlined in the MAV's 2017 Memorandum of Understanding for the Support of Victorian SES Units. The NOM and summary of the rationale appear in Attachment 2.
15. Greater Dandenong City Council is asked to provide its support for the Kingston NOM with the provision that it is formally approved for submission by Kingston Council at their 24 August Council Meeting.
16. City of Greater Dandenong acknowledges the significant contribution of the SES to community safety and resilience and, on that basis, has provided a range of in-kind support over recent years, including:
 - Council provides a peppercorn lease for the SES facility in Mills Road. Based on current rents in this locality, and allowing for all other costs, the total approximate in-kind support for this lease is in the vicinity of \$92,000 plus GST per annum.
 - Other operational in-kind contributions include:
 - ✓ Fire hydrant maintenance — Council contributes in excess of \$200,000 per annum;
 - ✓ VicPol loan vehicle;
 - ✓ Traffic management support; and
 - ✓ SES training exercises.
17. Council collected \$55.5 million for the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund in 2025/26 on the State Government's behalf.
18. With the advent of the ESVF, this motion seeks to make the point that continued financial contributions either in cash or kind mean that council ratepayers are paying twice for the same service.



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

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

24. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

25. There was no requirement for community consultation.

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

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

Not Applicable

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) 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.423

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad

That Council:

- 1. APPROVES the proposed motion to the next State Council meeting of the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) per Attachment 1, noting that provision can be made for Council's CEO to authorise any minor changes to improve the wording of the motion and/or to update the motion relative to any changes to the issues that may have occurred between the scheduled Council meeting and the date of its lodgement with the MAV; and**
- 2. ENDORSES in principle SUPPORT for a proposed Kingston City Council's motion that advocates to release Victorian Local Governments from the obligations outlined in the MAV's 2017 Memorandum of Understanding for the Support of Victorian SES Units.**

CARRIED 9 / 0



4.3.2 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 27 July 2026 that was declared confidential under section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 in Item 3 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 20 July – 10 August 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 20 July 2026 – 10 August 2026.



Matters Presented for Discussion

Item		Councillor Briefing Session/Pre-Council Meeting
1	General Discussions Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: a. Infrastructure/Grant Funding update; b. Creative Writing Series; and c. Electric Car Chargers in basement carparking. Agenda items for the Council Meeting 20 July 2026.	Pre-Council Meeting (PCM) – 20 July 2026
2	Risk Management Professional Development Session Councillors attended a professional development session on effective risk management and risk appetite, covering key risk management principles, decision-making, governance responsibilities and the proposed development of Council's Risk Appetite Statement.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 27 July 2026
3	Risk Management Professional Development Session – Part 2 – Family Day Care Case Study *Confidential*	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 27 July 2026
4	Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust – New Land Acquisition South East Melbourne Cemeteries Trust (SMCT) provided an overview of its proposal to acquire land in Bangholme for a future cemetery to meet projected regional demand for burial and memorial services. Councillor feedback was sought on the site's opportunities, challenges, planning considerations, potential planning scheme amendment requirements, and the proposed stakeholder and community engagement approach.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 3 August 2026



5	Planning Scheme Review Report Councillors were briefed on the outcomes of the statutory 2026 Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme Review, which assessed the Scheme's effectiveness and compliance with state planning requirements. The review identified a range of future strategic planning projects, including updates to housing, activity centre, industrial, environmental and planning policies. Officers recommend Council endorse the review and proposed further strategic work and undertake community consultation before reporting the review outcomes to the Minister for Planning.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 3 August 2026</i>
6	Dandenong Market Precinct Plan Councillors were briefed on the proposed adoption of the Dandenong Market Precinct Plan, a strategic framework to guide future development, investment and renewal within the precinct. The briefing covered the outcomes of extensive community consultation, which demonstrated strong support for the vision and key priorities including improved connectivity, public spaces, activation, parking and transport outcomes. Councillors were advised of refinements made in response to community feedback, including additional built-form guidance, parking and traffic considerations, prioritisation of Palm Plaza and intersection improvements, and a requirement for future developments to undertake Social Impact Assessments.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 3 August 2026</i>
7	General Discussions Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: a. Green Wedge Planning Alliance EOI; b. EOI Panel Members for Australia Day Awards Process; c. Suggestions for MAV State Council Motions; d. Bird flu update; and Agenda items for the Council Meeting 17 August 2026.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 3 August 2026</i>
8	Springvale Revitalisation Annual Plan (SRAP) Councillors were briefed on the significant progress on the 10-year revitalisation program, including new wayfinding signage, public art, community activation initiatives and securing \$250,000 in State funding for the <i>Light Up Buckingham</i> project. Further improvements to Multicultural Place and public spaces are planned, subject to funding.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 10 August 2026</i>
9	Proposed MAV Motions Councillors were presented with suggested Motions for tabling at the upcoming Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council meeting.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 10 August 2026</i>



10	Draft Positive Ageing Strategy – Endorsement for Consultation Council reviewed the draft strategy, developed through community and advisory committee consultation, and noted its planned public consultation period (18 August to 15 September 2026). The strategy focuses on social connection, transport and access, safety and wellbeing and information and communication for older residents.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 10 August 2026</i>
11	Council Meetings/Briefing Schedule Proposal 2027 Councillors were briefed on the proposed 2027 Council Meeting and Councillor Briefing Session schedule, continuing the 2026 governance model of monthly Council meetings and dedicated briefing sessions, with consideration of school holiday periods and improved planning and governance efficiency. This schedule will be tabled for adoption at the Annual Meeting of Council in November 2026.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 10 August 2026</i>
12	Council News Review Councillors provided feedback on a proposed new delivery model for <i>Council News</i> , aimed at reducing costs and reliance on print distribution while shifting to a more digital-first, flexible and sustainable communications approach that maintains access for residents who prefer printed information.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 10 August 2026</i>
13	<i>General Discussions</i> Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: a. Bird flu update; b. Tender and recruitment update; and Agenda items for the Council Meeting 17 August 2026.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 10 August 2026</i>

Apologies

- Councillor Jim Memeti, Councillor Loi Truong and Councillor Sophie Tan submitted apologies for the Pre-Council Meeting on 20 July 2026.
- Councillor Jim Memeti submitted an apology for the Councillor Briefing Session on 27 July 2026.
- Councillor Jim Memeti and Councillor Bob Milkovic submitted an apology for the Councillor Briefing Session on 3 August 2026.
- Councillor Loi Truong submitted an apology for the Councillor Briefing Session on 10 August 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.424

Moved by: Cr Melinda Yim

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

CARRIED 9 / 0



4.3.3 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 [4.3.3.1 - 2 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That the listed items for the period 29 June 2026 to 31 July 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 29 June 2026 to 31 July 2026.

MINUTE No.425

Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti

Seconded by: Cr Loi Truong

That the listed items for the period 29 June 2026 to 31 July 2026 provided in Attachment 1 to this report be received and noted.

CARRIED 9 / 0



5 NOTICES OF MOTION

5.1 NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 26 - EQUITABLE PLANNING OF ROOMING HOUSES

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

Author: Cr Rhonda Garad

Preamble

1. Greater Dandenong continues to carry a disproportionate share of Victoria's housing crisis. It has the state's highest level of homelessness and one of the highest concentrations of registered rooming houses.
2. This motion is not a criticism of rooming houses or the people who live in them. Rooming houses provide essential accommodation for many vulnerable Victorians.
3. Rather, it is a recognition that the increasing reliance on private rooming houses reflects a failure of State housing policy. Successive Victorian Governments have not built sufficient public, community and affordable housing, leaving the private market to fill a role that should be part of a properly planned housing system.
4. The disproportionate concentration of rooming houses has the potential to undermine neighbourhood amenity, discourage long-term owner-occupancy and family settlement, weaken community cohesion, and entrench socio-economic disadvantage.
5. The result is that municipalities such as Greater Dandenong are left to manage the cumulative planning and neighbourhood impacts of a statewide policy failure. Residents have legitimate concerns about parking, traffic, noise, waste, pressure on local infrastructure, the loss of family housing and the concentration of disadvantage. At the same time, councils have very limited planning powers to manage these cumulative impacts.
6. This motion seeks a balanced response: greater State investment in public, community and affordable housing, together with planning reforms that ensure rooming houses are distributed more equitably across metropolitan Melbourne and that no single municipality is expected to shoulder a disproportionate share of the burden created by the State's housing shortage.



Motion

That Council:

1. **ACKNOWLEDGES** that rooming houses provide essential accommodation for people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity;
2. **NOTES** that the rapid growth in rooming houses is a direct consequence of decades of inadequate investment by successive Victorian Governments in public, community and affordable housing, forcing the private market to provide accommodation that should form part of a planned housing system;
3. **NOTES** that Greater Dandenong has the highest number of people experiencing homelessness in Victoria and one of the highest concentrations of registered rooming houses, placing increasing pressure on neighbourhood amenity, local infrastructure and Council services;
4. **RECOGNISES** that while rooming houses are an important housing option, an excessive concentration within particular neighbourhoods can result in cumulative impacts including:
 - increased on-street parking demand;
 - increased traffic and noise;
 - increased waste and pressure on Council services;
 - the loss of family housing through conversion to high-occupancy accommodation;
 - reduced neighbourhood amenity; and
 - the concentration of disadvantage without corresponding investment in community infrastructure and support services.
5. **REQUESTS** a report to Council outlining:
 - the number and location of registered rooming houses within Greater Dandenong;
 - growth over the past ten years;
 - comparison with other metropolitan municipalities on both a total and per capita basis;
 - areas where rooming houses are highly concentrated;
 - the planning powers currently available to Council to manage cumulative impacts;
 - planning mechanisms used in other Australian jurisdictions, including separation distances, quotas or density controls; and
 - opportunities for Council to advocate for planning reform.
6. **ADVOCATES** to the Victorian Government to:
 - substantially increase investment in public, community and affordable housing across metropolitan Melbourne;
 - reduce reliance on private rooming houses as the default response to the housing crisis; and



- introduce planning reforms that enable councils to manage the cumulative concentration of rooming houses through appropriate planning controls where justified.

7. WRITES to the Municipal Association of Victoria requesting that it adopt this matter as a statewide advocacy priority and call on the Victorian Government to develop a metropolitan-wide planning framework that:

- ensures public, community, affordable and crisis accommodation is distributed more equitably across Victoria;
- provides councils with effective planning tools to manage the cumulative impacts of rooming houses;
- recognises that no single municipality should carry a disproportionate share of the impacts arising from the State's housing shortage;
- commits to significantly increasing the supply of public, community and affordable housing so that private rooming houses complement, rather than replace, government housing provision; and
- recognises that the disproportionate concentration of rooming houses within particular neighbourhoods can create cumulative impacts on neighbourhood amenity, residential stability, community cohesion, long-term family settlement and owner occupancy, and should be considered as a legitimate planning issue.

MOTION

Moved by: Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Bob Milkovic

That Council:

- 1. ACKNOWLEDGES** that rooming houses provide essential accommodation for people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity;
- 2. NOTES** that the rapid growth in rooming houses is a direct consequence of decades of inadequate investment by successive Victorian Governments in public, community and affordable housing, forcing the private market to provide accommodation that should form part of a planned housing system;
- 3. NOTES** that Greater Dandenong has the highest number of people experiencing homelessness in Victoria and one of the highest concentrations of registered rooming houses, placing increasing pressure on neighbourhood amenity, local infrastructure and Council services;
- 4. RECOGNISES** that while rooming houses are an important housing option, an excessive concentration within particular neighbourhoods can result in cumulative impacts including:
 - increased on-street parking demand;
 - increased traffic and noise;
 - increased waste and pressure on Council services;
 - the loss of family housing through conversion to high-occupancy accommodation;
 - reduced neighbourhood amenity; and



- the concentration of disadvantage without corresponding investment in community infrastructure and support services.

5. REQUESTS a report to Council outlining:

- the number and location of registered rooming houses within Greater Dandenong;
- growth over the past ten years;
- comparison with other metropolitan municipalities on both a total and per capita basis;
- areas where rooming houses are highly concentrated;
- the planning powers currently available to Council to manage cumulative impacts;
- planning mechanisms used in other Australian jurisdictions, including separation distances, quotas or density controls; and
- opportunities for Council to advocate for planning reform.

6. ADVOCATES to the Victorian Government to:

- substantially increase investment in public, community and affordable housing across metropolitan Melbourne;
- reduce reliance on private rooming houses as the default response to the housing crisis; and
- introduce planning reforms that enable councils to manage the cumulative concentration of rooming houses through appropriate planning controls where justified.

7. WRITES to the Municipal Association of Victoria requesting that it adopt this matter as a statewide advocacy priority and call on the Victorian Government to develop a metropolitan-wide planning framework that:

- ensures public, community, affordable and crisis accommodation is distributed more equitably across Victoria;
- provides councils with effective planning tools to manage the cumulative impacts of rooming houses;
- recognises that no single municipality should carry a disproportionate share of the impacts arising from the State's housing shortage;
- commits to significantly increasing the supply of public, community and affordable housing so that private rooming houses complement, rather than replace, government housing provision; and
- recognises that the disproportionate concentration of rooming houses within particular neighbourhoods can create cumulative impacts on neighbourhood amenity, residential stability, community cohesion, long-term family settlement and owner occupancy, and should be considered as a legitimate planning issue.



MINUTE No.426

Moved by: Cr Phillip Danh

Seconded by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

That Council considers an amendment to the Notice of Motion.

CARRIED 8 / 1

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

Against - Cr Rhonda Garad

MINUTE No.427

Moved by: Cr Phillip Danh

Seconded by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

That Council:

- 1. ACKNOWLEDGES that rooming houses provide essential accommodation for people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity;**
- 2. NOTES that the rapid growth in rooming houses reflects a range of factors including housing affordability pressures, socio-economic factors, and limited housing supply, and recognises that rooming houses can provide people experiencing housing insecurity an important source of accommodation;**
- 3. NOTES that Greater Dandenong has the highest number of people experiencing homelessness in Victoria and one of the highest concentrations of registered rooming houses, placing increasing pressure on neighbourhood amenity, local infrastructure and Council services;**
- 4. RECOGNISES that while rooming houses are an important housing option, inadequate regulation, compliance and enforcement can result in cumulative impacts on neighbourhood amenity and community wellbeing;**
- 5. REQUESTS a report to Council outlining:**
 - the number and location of registered rooming houses within Greater Dandenong;**
 - growth over the past ten years;**
 - areas where rooming houses have generated significant amenity, compliance or enforcement concerns.;**
 - the planning powers currently available to Council to manage cumulative impacts;**
 - planning mechanisms used in other Australian jurisdictions in relation to compliance and enforcement; and**
 - opportunities for Council to advocate for planning reform.**
- 6. ADVOCATES to the Victorian Government to:**
 - substantially increase investment in public, community and affordable housing across metropolitan Melbourne;**
 - reduce reliance on private rooming houses as the default response to the housing crisis; and**
 - strengthen regulatory, compliance and enforcement frameworks to ensure rooming houses are appropriately managed and to address adverse amenity impacts where they arise.**



- 7. WRITES to the Municipal Association of Victoria requesting that it adopt this matter as a statewide advocacy priority and call on the Victorian Government to develop a metropolitan-wide planning framework that:**
- ensures public, community, affordable and crisis accommodation is supported through effective regulation, compliance and enforcement mechanisms, alongside continued investment in housing supply;
 - provides councils with effective planning tools to manage the cumulative impacts of rooming houses;
 - ensures councils have access to appropriate enforcement, compliance and community support resources to address the impacts of rooming houses where they arise; and
 - commits to significantly increasing the supply of public, community and affordable housing so that private rooming houses complement, rather than replace, government housing provision.
 - recognises that poorly managed or inadequately regulated rooming houses can adversely affect neighbourhood amenity and community wellbeing, and that councils should be provided with effective regulatory and enforcement tools to address such issues where they arise.

CARRIED 7 / 2

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

Against - Cr Rhonda Garad and Cr Bob Milkovic

Procedural Note

Councillor Rhonda Garad requested that it be noted that the Notice of Motion was not intended to stigmatise residents of rooming houses. Councillor Bob Milkovic requested that his views regarding the matters raised in the Notice of Motion, including State Government responsibilities, be noted.



6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

Question

Cr Alice Phuong Le

My question is regarding the cleanliness of the Springvale Activity Centre.

I have received urgent concerns from residents and traders, including reports on social media and Facebook highlighting waste and cleanliness issues in the area. These concerns are also being raised directly with Councillors.

Can Council advise what immediate actions are being taken to address these issues and respond to concerns raised by the community and in the media?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

I acknowledge that there are challenges with cleaning in the Springvale CBD.

Council cleans the Springvale CBD, including bins and footpaths, seven days a week. However, we are seeing ongoing issues with illegal dumping and some traders using Council's public bins for commercial waste.

Council is taking enforcement action. Over the past 12 months, we have issued 30 infringements to traders. We continue to take enforcement action where required.

At the same time, we are working with traders to provide information and to connect them with commercial waste contractors in the municipality. We continue to support traders and take enforcement action to help keep the area safe and clean for all users.

Comment

Cr Bob Milkovic

I have no report for this meeting.

Question

Cr Jim Memeti

I have a question about the Webster Street level crossing removal project.

The new road appears to be close to completion. I ask when it will open. I also ask whether Cheltenham Road and Princes Highway will be connected as part of the works.

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

I do not have an exact date. However, my understanding is that the road is expected to open in October 2026. I am happy to confirm the details and provide an update to councillors.

Further question

Cr Jim Memeti

I am also aware that there is going to be a community celebration connected to the level crossing removal project.

Is Council involved, what role Council has and how we can let more people in the community know that it is happening?



Response

Cr Sophie Tan, Mayor

There is an event planned at Dandenong Park and Councillors are invited. The event is open to the community.

Further response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

Council is not organising the event, but we can attend. We can also take the question on notice and provide more information about how the community can be informed.

Further response

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

We are also celebrating the naming of streets in the area after two local women. We will circulate information to Councillors and make sure Council's communications team has the information so the community can be informed.

Comment

Cr Jim Memeti

October comes around quickly. I ask that Councillors are updated as soon as possible so we can let the community know.

I think this is a great project for the area. We do not like level crossings and Webster Street is finally having its turn. Some people think it should have happened earlier, but it is never too late.

Question

Cr Phillip Danh, Deputy Mayor

I have a question about aged care services.

The Age is reporting that Melton City Council is deciding to exit aged care services. I ask what Council's current position is and whether consultation with residents and service clients has occurred.

Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

The Australian Government is reforming aged care services. This includes transitioning the Commonwealth Home Support Programme to a new service model called Support at Home.

In 2023 and 2024, Council undertook detailed community consultation, including in-depth community discussion groups. The consultation was to seek the community's views about the best role Council can play in aged care in the future.

In March 2024, Council considered that feedback and decided that the City of Greater Dandenong continues delivering Commonwealth-funded aged care services until at least June 2027. Council will also continue to monitor the reforms.

The current Commonwealth contract for these services is ending in June 2027. Council officers will continue to assess the reforms and develop options for Council's consideration before June 2027.

Any further consultation will be subject to Council approval and undertaken in line with Council's consultation framework.

I also want to reassure the community that, regardless of Council's future role, Commonwealth-funded aged care services continue in the community. I do not want anyone to be concerned that they may lose services. That is not the case.



Further question

Cr Phillip Danh, Deputy Mayor

Can the relevant officer outline the broader range of support and services Council currently provides to older residents and how residents can access those services and programs.

Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

The Commonwealth-funded services include in-home support services such as domestic assistance, respite, personal care and Meals on Wheels.

Residents who want to access these services need an assessment by the Commonwealth Government. To arrange this, residents can call My Aged Care on 1800 200 422.

Council also directly provides planned activity programs, social connection programs, day trips, coffee outings and other opportunities, often several times a week.

We also have more than 75 seniors groups and clubs in the municipality. These groups support older residents and people with disability to stay connected.

Residents who are interested in Council's positive ageing programs can call the Positive Ageing team on 8571 5556.

Comment

Cr Phillip Danh, Deputy Mayor

I want to acknowledge Homelessness Week, which is observed last week.

Concerns about rough sleeping are always present in our community. Council officers work with agencies such as Launch Housing and Wayss to identify people sleeping rough and to make sure outreach workers from those agencies make contact and offer support.

Sometimes people choose not to take up the services offered. However, Council's service team and community safety team continue to make referrals to support agencies when required.

Response

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

I ask Marjan Hajjari to comment on Council's advocacy work around homelessness.

We have recently launched our advocacy program. That program includes involvement from Wayss, Launch Housing and other homelessness services. We are also working from a regional perspective and taking a leadership role in this area.

Response

Marjan Hajjari, Executive Director Strategy and Corporate Services

I thank the Chief Executive Officer for raising this.

The City of Greater Dandenong is a charter member of the Southern Region Councils group. This group includes 13 Councils and this year we are serving as secretary.

Homelessness is a major part of our advocacy at state and national levels. We are raising the issue across different platforms.

We also work with housing and homelessness organisations, including through the advocacy launch, to make sure our priorities reflect community need.



Council is working on homelessness at both strategic and operational levels. We are doing day-to-day work on the ground and we are also working with other councils and specialist organisations to advocate for long-term solutions.

Comment

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

I encourage people watching tonight's meeting to view the video from the Mayor's advocacy launch. It highlights important stories about homelessness and shows how Council works with other agencies.

Comment

Cr Phillip Danh, Deputy Mayor

Homelessness Week reminds us that there are real people behind this issue. Council plays an important role through advocacy and by working closely with frontline services to connect people with the support they need.

However, homelessness and housing are complex challenges that Council cannot address alone. Continued investment from State and Federal Governments in social housing, affordable housing and frontline services is essential to support the organisations doing this critical work in Greater Dandenong.

While progress can be slow, this is an issue that requires a coordinated effort and one we cannot afford to ignore.

Comment

Cr Melinda Yim

On Saturday 25 July, I attended the National Tree Day activity at Somerville Reserve. National Tree Day is held on Sunday 26 July 2026. I planted a few seedlings alongside trees planted in the previous year. This is a tangible example of the efforts of our community.

Later that day, I attend the grand opening of the Khmer Cultural Village on behalf of the Mayor. It is great to see Khmer cultural heritage being preserved. This helps younger generations understand their roots, appreciate the richness of our multicultural community and continue cultural traditions.

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

My question is for the Mayor.

The Suburban Rail Loop East will serve several eastern suburbs, but Greater Dandenong will not have a station. Other Councils are already advocating for frequent feeder bus services to connect their communities to the SRL, particularly key interchanges such as Clayton.

Given reports that Council does not intend to advocate for these connections, will the Mayor reconsider and support improved feeder bus services for Greater Dandenong residents and workers, consistent with Council's commitment to connecting people with employment opportunities?



Response

Cr Sophie Tan, Mayor

Major decisions on projects like the Suburban Rail Loop are made by the Victorian Government. As Mayor, I look forward to working with the Premier, relevant Ministers and the Victorian Government to advance Greater Dandenong's priorities.

Survey data shows 35% of residents in the Greater South East Melbourne region use buses, but many routes do not adequately connect people to where they need to go.

Council continues to advocate for better public transport, including a demand-responsive bus trial in Dandenong South, improved services to the Dandenong South Employment and Innovation Cluster, upgrades to Routes 828 and 800, SmartBus-standard services, and planning for Dandenong Station upgrades. These initiatives form part of Council's broader public transport advocacy program.

Further question

Cr Rhonda Garad

Thank you, but that response outlines Council's broader public transport advocacy and does not address my specific question.

My question is whether the Mayor will advocate for frequent 5 to 10-minute feeder bus services connecting Greater Dandenong to the Suburban Rail Loop, particularly the Clayton interchange.

Other Councils without a Suburban Rail Loop station are already advocating for these connections. Will the Mayor reconsider her position and support this advocacy for Greater Dandenong residents and workers?

Response

Cr Sophie Tan, Mayor

I believe this matter relates to the State Government. The State Government must make the relevant decisions.

However, we continue to strongly advocate for transport improvements based on the needs of our community.

Response

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

Through you, Mayor, I add that the City of Greater Dandenong is not currently a member of the Outer Melbourne Councils Alliance.

This is something Council may wish to consider. I am pleased to hear if there is interest from other parties and Councillors about Greater Dandenong potentially joining the alliance.

I am happy to bring a report to Council for consideration. Officers do not make that decision. It is a decision for Council.

Council has adopted its advocacy campaign, which includes increasing bus routes. I hear from Councillors that this is something you want. The Suburban Rail Loop feeder bus proposal is an additional element that Council can consider.



Comment**Cr Rhonda Garad**

I think it is critically important that we get involved. This is time sensitive and we need to act immediately.

We need to join the alliance. If we do not, we risk missing the benefits of the Suburban Rail Loop. I believe that would be a tragedy.

I look forward to the Mayor changing her position.

Comment**Cr Rhonda Garad**

I want to congratulate everyone who came out in Gardiner Street to stand against racism.

From Council's data, we know racism is a key issue in Greater Dandenong. It is very important that, as a community, we stand together when political figures or candidates try to divide us by race or religion.

Racism causes real harm to individuals. It is also destructive to social cohesion.

I am moved to stand with hundreds of people who support our community. We must strengthen ourselves against hate and division.

Greater Dandenong is a strong and united community. We will stay united.

I also thank Victoria Police. They were very helpful and worked with the protesters to ensure everyone in the community was safe.

Question**Cr Rhonda Garad**

I am very pleased to see that we are taking steps to make sure our city continues to thrive. I ask a further question on this matter.

What is the policy on plant cages, when do we use them and when would they not be considered, what is the attrition rate when we don't use them, particularly in high traffic areas?

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

I take that question on notice and will provide a detailed response.

Comment**Cr Sean O'Reilly**

I have no report for this meeting.

Comment**Cr Sophie Tan, Mayor**

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

On Wednesday 29 July 2026, I attended the MAV Regional Meeting (Metro South) via Teams and the Christmas in July lunch hosted by the Australian-Filipino Community Services. This is the first time the organisation has come to Dandenong to hold this event. Many people that attend are from Greater Dandenong.

On Sunday 2 August 2026, I attended the celebration of Quan Thanh's birthday hosted by the Teo Chew Chinese Association of Victoria.



On Tuesday 4 August 2026, I attended the Youth Voice and Local Democracy Forum hosted by Greater Dandenong Youth Services. Students from around nine local schools come together to learn about democracy and voting. It is good for young people who are reaching voting age to learn how democracy works

On Wednesday 5 August 2026, I attended the official opening of Mai Place Book Exchange and Café, AVWA's fifth Dementia Support Group in Springvale. The association has a large dementia support group in Springvale. It has about 450 staff and 100 volunteers. It also supports many people across Greater Dandenong and surrounding areas. Later that evening I attended two Citizenship Ceremonies.

On Thursday 6 August 2026, I attended the South East Homelessness & Housing Alliance and Dandenong Zero Homelessness Week event.

I congratulate Dandenong Zero and its partner agencies for their work in helping at least 45 people experiencing homelessness move into safe housing. While this is a positive outcome, significant challenges remain, and Council continues to advocate strongly on homelessness as a key priority ahead of the State election.

On Saturday 8 August 2026, I attended the Multicultural Harmony celebration hosted by the Ballroom Dance Group of the Chinese Professionals Club of Australia. This event is held for the first time at Menzies Hall in Dandenong North.

On Sunday 9 August 2026, I attended Citizenship Ceremonies, last week we welcomed 750 new citizens to Greater Dandenong. I thank Deputy Mayor Cr Phillip Danh for chairing two of those ceremonies. It was wonderful to see so many people proudly receive their citizenship and choose Greater Dandenong as their home.

On Thursday 13 August 2026, I attended the Greater Dandenong Business Awards Gala Dinner, where I presented the Community Impact/Customer Experience Business Award to Soap Aid. Soap Aid also won the Innovation and Sustainability Award.

The winner of the 2026 Business Award was Skate Co Pty Ltd. Skate Co also won two awards on the night. I thank Council staff and note that Council sponsors the Chamber of Commerce event

On Friday 14 August 2026, I attended the Italian Cultural Day 45th Anniversary celebration hosted by the Springvale Italian Senior Citizen Club. The club has at least 200 members and continues to grow in Springvale.

On Saturday 15 August 2026, I attended the celebration of 35 years of Ukrainian Independence hosted by the Association of Ukrainians in Victoria in Noble Park, later that day I attended a Bengali-language full-length play titled Detective at the Drum Theatre.

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.



Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
20/07/26 CQT1	Cr Rhonda Garad	Rates Revenue Forgone from Religious and Private Educational Exemptions Will Council provide data on the total value of rates foregone for religious and private educational facilities, including broad figures over a suitable period and an estimated cost per resident and per ratepayer?	Chief Financial Officer	11/08/2026	Initial response 20/07/26: Council would be pleased to provide data on the value of rates within those exemption categories. I will speak with the Chief Financial Officer following the meeting and arrange for a report to be prepared for Councillors. Further response 28/07/26: The requested information is not currently available in a consolidated format. Officers are compiling data on the value of rates forgone through religious and private educational exemptions, including broad trends over time and indicative costs per resident and per ratepayer. A briefing report will be provided to Councillors once the analysis has been completed. Updated and final response 11/08/26: Officers have undertaken a review of all current non-ratable properties within the municipality and found that they represent approximately 1.33% of the total property base. The non-ratable status of these properties is prescribed under Section 154 of the Local Government Act 1989 and includes land held by religious bodies, land used exclusively for charitable purposes, certain Crown and public land used for municipal or public purposes, and land used exclusively for mining activities.
Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
					As these properties are legislatively exempt from rating, Council does not maintain valuations for them, nor is there a rating category that would enable a reliable estimate of rates forgone to be calculated. Notwithstanding this limitation, given that non-ratable properties comprise a small proportion of the municipality's total property base, it is expected that the impact on ratable properties would be marginal. Ratable properties (the remaining 98.67%) are expected to generate \$158.0 million of general rates revenue in 2026/27. For additional context, private schools and religious occupancies currently account for only a small share of all properties within the municipality: - Private schools: 0.07% - Religious occupancies: 0.13% These figures indicate that the categories specifically referenced in the attached enquiry represent a very limited proportion of properties across the municipality. COMPLETED



Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
20/07/26 CQT3	Cr Bob Milkovic	Parking Meter Signage and Flexible Payment Options in Central Dandenong Can Council install signage on each parking meter showing the hourly fee and permitted parking duration? Can Council investigate whether the machines can be reprogrammed to accept smaller payments and provide shorter parking periods, particularly for older residents and pensioners making brief visits?	Executive Director City Futures	03/08/2026	Initial response 20/07/26: Council will consider how the parking costs and restrictions can be displayed more clearly for people using parking meters in central Dandenong. We will also investigate the available options for providing greater flexibility in the parking periods and payments and report back with further information. Further response 03/08/2026: Faulty cash boxes All faulty cash box issues within Dandenong are currently resolved, and all dual payment meters are accepting card and coin. The initial meter issues identified prior to 20 July were all resolved by 23 July. A further two meters have been affected since and each resolved. We are currently working towards a system that will see any issues resolved in much shorter timeframe. Minimum payment Historically, only card payments have had a minimum 1 hour fee associated with them at our meters. Coin payments have always accepted lesser payments for lesser time. The minimum card payment of 1 hour was a feature of Councils old parking meters and has been in place for around 9 years (this was partly due to the limitations of the old machines, and potentially a partly financial decision at the time). This is not considered to be an appropriate arrangement for a number of reasons: • It encouraged cash use (as you could purchase parking cheaper using cash) • It provided less flexibility for customers As a result, we ensured that our new parking meters are able to allow for a far more flexible card payment. However, it was determined to wait until almost the entire meter roll out had occurred and had been tested prior to implementing the flexible card payment option. I'm pleased to advise that this has now been rolled out to all meters (with a linear fee structure). Card payment options are now minimum 15 minutes and then 5 minute increments up to the maximum duration. Additional signage including fee at meters We are investigating appropriate ways to display the fee at the meters. We do have additional signage to be installed beside meters in all areas (see attached images). We are considering displaying any additional information on / below these signs as an option instead of / alongside anything on the meters. At the moment we are still obtaining feedback from users of the meters and will use this to inform further changes. COMPLETED



7 URGENT BUSINESS

No urgent business was considered.



8 CLOSE OF BUSINESS

The Meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Signature