

Minutes

Council Meeting

Monday 19 October 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

Deputy Mayor Phillip Danh

Cr Isabella Do

Cr Lana Formoso

Cr Rhonda Garad

Cr Alice Phuong Le

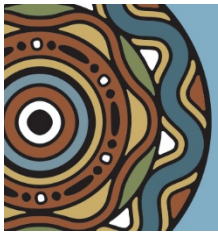
Cr Jim Memeti

Cr Bob Milkovic

Cr Sean O'Reilly

Cr Loi Truong

Cr Melinda Yim



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.

(03) 8571 1000

council@cgd.vic.gov.au

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

TTY: 133 677

Speak and listen: 1300 555 727

Online: relayservice.gov.au

TIS:13 14 50

Acknowledging Bunurong Country

Follow us:

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

1.7 ADOPTION OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 11

1.8 OUTGOING MAYOR/ DEPUTY MAYOR SPEECH AND PRESENTATION 13

2 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 1 16

2.1 STATUTORY PLANNING APPLICATIONS 16

2.1.1 Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – September 2026 16

3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME 17

4 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 2 18

4.1 PROCUREMENT 18

4.1.1 Contract 2526-30 (Parks & Open Space Maintenance Services Panel) 18

4.1.2 Dandenong New Art (DNA) Contract Award 24

4.2 POLICY AND STRATEGY 32

4.2.1 Council Support for 2027 Ramadan Night Market 32

4.2.2 Greater Dandenong City Council Annual Report 2025-26 36

4.2.3 Draft Community Safety Strategy 2027-2030 - Endorsement for Consultation 42

4.3 OTHER 48

4.3.1 Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme Review 48

4.3.2 Councillor Observer Roles on Council Owned Entity Boards 56

4.3.3 Chief Executive Officer's Annual Review 2026 63

4.3.4 Response to Notice of Motion No. 21 - Public Transparency of Major Project Costs 66

4.3.5 Draft Minutes of Advisory Committee Meetings 70

4.3.6 Report on Matters Discussed at Councillor Briefing Sessions and Pre Council Meetings 73

4.3.7 List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors....76

5 NOTICES OF MOTION 77

5.1 NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 29 - SMART GLASSES AND PRIVACY IN COUNCIL FACILITIES 77

5.2 NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 30 - DATA CENTRES....82

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS....85

7 URGENT BUSINESS 86

8 CLOSE OF BUSINESS 87

1 MEETING OPENING

1.1 OPENING OF MEETING BY CHAIR

Cr Sophie Tan opened the Meeting at 7.00pm.

1.2 ATTENDANCE

Apologies

Cr Melinda Yim.

Councillors Present

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

Officers Present

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer; Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures; Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening; Amrita Bhattacharyya , Acting 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 and 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 Cr Sean O'Reilly, read the following affirmation:

" We will not agree on everything tonight, and we should not expect to.

We affirm that honest disagreement, expressed with courtesy, strengthens the decisions we reach. Let us criticise ideas rather than people, listen properly before replying, and accept the outcome of each vote knowing that the debate was conducted in good faith."

At the request of Cr Rhonda Garad, the Chair noted the requirement under Governance Rule 4.10.2 that Councillors stand when speaking and exercised her discretion to permit Councillors to remain seated when speaking during the meeting.

1.5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Meeting of Council held 21 September 2026.

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 21 September 2026 be confirmed.

MINUTE No.451
Moved by: Cr Bob Milkovic
Seconded by: Cr Jim Memeti

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 21 September 2026 be confirmed.

CARRIED 10 / 0

1.6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cr Jim Memeti disclosed a general conflict of interest (s 127) in item 4.2.1 - Council Support of the Ramadan Night Market 2027. As he has a personal friendship with the President of the Bright Community Organisation, which is the organiser of the Ramadan Night Market. Cr Jim Memeti left the Chamber prior to discussion and voting on this item.

Cr Jim Memeti disclosed a material conflict of interest (s 128) in item 4.3.2 - Councillor Observer Roles on Council Owned Entity Boards. As he is the Director of a company that owns a stall at Dandenong Market. Cr Jim Memeti left the Chamber prior to discussion and voting on this item.

Chief Executive Officer, Jacqui Weatherill disclosed a material conflict of interest (s 128) in item 4.3.3 - Chief Executive Officer Annual Review 2026. As she is the incumbent in the position of the annual review and she would receive direct benefit if Council endorses the officer recommendation. Chief Executive Director, Jacqui Weatherill left the Chamber prior to discussion and voting on this item.

1.7 ADOPTION OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Audit and Risk Committee held a meeting on 11 September 2026 and Minutes of this meeting, as summarised in the following table, are presented to Council for adoption.

Item	Topic
1.	The Audit and Risk Committee reviewed actions arising from previous meetings.
2.	The Audit and Risk Committee reviewed, discussed and noted the following reports with Council officers: • Chief Executive Officer's Report • Risk Management Report, 2026-27 Insurance Renewals • Risk Management Framework & Policy • Council Status of Internal Audit Actions Report • Core Systems Replacement (CSR) Update • Incident Response Plan • Policy Register Status Update • Investment Policy 2026 Update • Review of CEO and Councillor Purchasing Card Transactions 1 July 2025 - 30 June 2026 • Performance of the External Auditor (verbal) • Review of FOI Performance 2025-2026 • Council's Gift and Travel Registers • Annual Report on Reimbursement of Councillor Expenses • Procurement Exemption Reporting
3.	The Audit and Risk Committee reviewed, discussed and noted the following reports with Council officers and the External auditor: • Council 2025-26 summary financial report - management results • Consolidated 2025-26 financial statements and performance statement • South East Leisure Pty Ltd 2025-26 Financial Statements and Financial Performance Report • Dandenong Market Pty Ltd 2025-26 Financial Statements and Financial Performance Report • End of Year Performance Report 2025-26 - June 2026 Management Results • LGPRF 2025-26 end of Year Financial Summary
4.	The Audit and Risk Committee reviewed, discussed and noted the following reports with Council officers and the internal auditor: • Privacy & Data Governance Update • Grant Thornton - Endorsement of Strategic Internal Plan Fy 2027 To Fy 2029 • Integrity Body Reports • HLB Mann Judd - Internal Audit Status Report • Sel Review of Cyber (Essential 8) Report

Officer Recommendation

That the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 11 September 2026 be adopted.

MINUTE No.452
Moved by: Cr Phillip Danh
Seconded by: Cr Jim Memeti

That the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 11 September 2026 be adopted.

CARRIED 10 / 0

1.8 OUTGOING MAYOR/ DEPUTY MAYOR SPEECH AND PRESENTATION

Chief Executive Officer, Jacqui Weatherill read the following:

" Good evening everyone.

Tonight marks the final Ordinary Council Meeting to be chaired by Mayor Sophie Tan before Councillors elect a new Mayor and Deputy Mayor on 12 November 2026. Shortly, we will hear Mayor Tan's outgoing Mayoral speech.

Before I hand over to the Mayor, I would like to personally thank both Mayor Sophie Tan and Deputy Mayor Phillip Danh for their commitment, enthusiasm and dedication in serving the diverse communities of Greater Dandenong over the past year.

Their passion, leadership and advocacy have been greatly appreciated by Council, staff and the community alike.

In accordance with Council policy, it is my pleasure to present a small token of appreciation to both our outgoing Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

I would also like to acknowledge their generosity in choosing to donate the value of these gifts, being $200 for the Mayor and $100 for the Deputy Mayor, to the Noble Park Community Centre Food Pantry.

Sophie, I am also pleased to present you with your Mayoral portrait and these beautiful flowers as a memento of your year in office."

Chief Executive Officer, Jacqui Weatherill presented Mayor Cr Sophie Tan with flowers and her mayoral portrait.

"Phillip, please accept these flowers as a token of our appreciation and thanks for your service as Deputy Mayor over the past year."

Chief Executive Officer, Jacqui Weatherill presented Deputy Mayor Cr Phillip Danh with flowers and his portrait.

"Please join me in thanking Mayor Sophie Tan and Deputy Mayor Phillip Danh for their outstanding contribution and commitment to our city."

Mayor Cr Sophie Tan delivered her outgoing speech:

"Councillors, Deputy Mayor, our Chief Executive Officer, Jacqui Weatherill, our executive staff, and everyone joining us here and online tonight: this is my last Council meeting as Mayor of Greater Dandenong. I will be honest: the year has gone quickly.

It has been an honour to represent Greater Dandenong. I live in this community and I am proud of it. Being Mayor has allowed me to see, up close, what makes this city so special in a way that I never could have otherwise.

It has been a busy year. I attended more than 200 events, from festivals and openings to quiet community gatherings. I also had the joy of welcoming more than 3,000 new citizens at our citizenship ceremonies. I never grew tired of those occasions. People arrive from all over the world and, when they take the pledge, you can see how much it means to them. Each ceremony also reminded me why this city matters.

This year, we also made our voice heard in the Victorian Parliament. I led our state election advocacy campaign, which was launched under a simple idea: A Great Future for Greater Dandenong. The campaign ensured that our community's voice was heard clearly on the issues that matter most, including transport, cultural spaces, housing, safety, sustainability and capital investment.

These will be long-term priorities across many mayoral and Council terms. This election is one opportunity to remind our leaders what Greater Dandenong needs for the long term. I met with many members of Parliament from both the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council, as well as several candidates, to make the case for our community.

I also continued to advocate for the Back Your Neighbour campaign and through Greater South East Melbourne, from Spring Street to Canberra. When many councils speak together, we are harder to ignore.

The advocacy work does not stop tonight. We are organising a candidate survey, and the responses will be published on our website so residents can see where candidates stand on the issues that matter here.

Closer to home, Council is in good shape. The budget remains in surplus, with an operating surplus of $19.5 million. We also received several awards for our work, including the 2025 Cities Litter Award for the Bin It or Take It Home With You campaign; an MAV Lab Innovation Award for the #Filtered Body Image Project; a National Award for Local Government for Voices for Safety; and a commendation at the Victorian Museums and Galleries Awards for HOME 25: Invisible Cities.

Major projects are progressing, including the Oasis Aquatic and Wellbeing Centre, which will be a place for families and neighbours to come together for many years. This once-in-a-generation investment will be a legacy for our Council, and it is something of which I am very proud.

We also opened the Dandenong Pathways to Employment Hub, which provides free, practical support for local people seeking employment, education or training. This innovative, localised approach has attracted the attention of ministers and members of Parliament from both the Australian and Victorian governments.

One of the year's most significant milestones was the launch of Muderra Way in Noble Park, Greater Dandenong's first Bunurong place name and first major Aboriginal gateway artwork. This important achievement was made possible through the strong relationship and partnership between Council, the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and the Victorian Government.

The Dandenong Market Bazaar upgrade is under way, and extensive renewal works are taking place in Palm Plaza. The Dandenong Art Gallery project is also on tonight's agenda.

Beyond Council-led projects, there is so much happening in our city. We welcomed the delivery of 97 much-needed new homes at the New Street community housing development. There is a real sense of momentum following the announcement of a $300 million upgrade to Dandenong Hospital. The first stage of the Revitalising Central Dandenong project has also begun in Thomas Street and will deliver a vibrant new space with homes, businesses and services.

These projects show that this is an exciting time for Greater Dandenong and that we can look ahead with confidence and optimism.

These achievements belong to the whole community. Throughout my mayoral term, I have been proud to recognise the young people, volunteers, community leaders, local organisations and businesses that make our city stronger every day.

Guided by our shared vision and the priorities of the Council Plan, we will continue building a vibrant, inclusive, sustainable and connected Greater Dandenong for current and future generations.

It has been an honour to serve as Mayor, and I look forward with pride and positivity to everything Greater Dandenong will achieve in the years ahead.

I also want to remind our community that, at 7 pm on Thursday 12 November, my colleagues and I will elect a new Mayor and Deputy Mayor. We would love you to join us for this important occasion.

I thank all Councillors, the Deputy Mayor, our Chief Executive Officer, our executive staff and all Council staff for their hard work and support throughout the year.

Once again, thank you, Greater Dandenong."

Deputy Mayor Cr Phillip Danh delivered his outgoing speech:

"As I conclude my term as Deputy Mayor, I'd like to take a moment to thank my fellow councillors, our Chief Executive Officer and officers, and of course the community we serve.
It's been a privilege to undertake this role over the past year.

As ward councillors, our focus is naturally on the communities we represent, and rightly so. While it is important and prudent that we make our decisions with all of Greater Dandenong in mind, it is normal to expect that we spend much of our time advocating for the needs and priorities of our own neighbourhoods. What this role has given me, however, is the opportunity to spend more time in parts of the city I wouldn't ordinarily find myself in.

Through that, I've had the chance to meet some incredible people and hear some remarkable stories. I've met residents who care deeply about their community, volunteers who dedicate countless hours to helping others, and organisations that quietly do important work every day without seeking recognition.

Through those experiences, one thing I've been reminded of time and time again is that regardless of where people live in our city, most of us want much the same thing. We want to feel safe. We want to live in a city that is thriving and well maintained. And we want Council to get the basics right, so people can get on with their lives without having to worry about that one extra thing.

I'm incredibly optimistic about the future of Greater Dandenong. This Council has a clear vision for what we want our community to become over the coming years. The construction of the new Dandenong Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing Centre, the Dandenong Market Precinct Plan, the continued revitalisation of our activity centres and the many other projects underway across the municipality is evidence that we are laying the foundations for that future.

We're seeing new families choose to make their home here, we're continuing to grow as a major centre for jobs and investment, and increasingly the wider public is recognising Greater Dandenong not just as a cultural capital with iconic street festivals and events, but now an economic powerhouse waiting to be unleashed.

Public office will always involve differences of opinion, but I believe we all come to this table because we care deeply about our community and want the best for the people we represent.
It has been a real privilege and honour to serve in this role and I want to thank everyone again for this opportunity."

2 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 1

2.1 STATUTORY PLANNING APPLICATIONS

2.1.1 Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – September 2026

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

Attachments:
1. Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – September 2026 [**2.1.1.1** - 14 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 September 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.

Cr Lana Formoso left the Chamber at 7.10pm.

MINUTE No.453
Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad
Seconded by: Cr Bob Milkovic

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

CARRIED 9 / 0

3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no Public Questions received prior to the Council Meeting.

4 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 2

4.1 PROCUREMENT

4.1.1 Contract 2526-30 (Parks & Open Space Maintenance Services Panel)

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

Attachments:

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Tender Report Contract No. 2526-30 (Parks & Open Space Maintenance Services Panel) [**4.1.1.1** - 20 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 Contract 2526-30 Parks and Open Space Maintenance Services Panel to the following service providers as a Schedule of Rates contract for a three (3) year term, commencing 1 January 2027 to 31 December 2029, with two (2) optional one (1) year extensions at Council's discretion:**

   a. **Service Category 1: Landscape/Civil Maintenance (Programmed & Reactive) to a panel of three (3) providers at an estimated total contract spend of $500,000 ex GST per annum. Successful tenderers recommended for inclusion are;**
      - **Urban Plumb & Scape (ABN 34 068 382 570).**
      - **Grant Oliva Excavations (ABN 26 084 034 579) and.**
      - **Programmed Property Services (ABN 66 106 015 632).**

   b. **Service Category 2: Parks/Playground Asset Maintenance (Programmed & Reactive) to Programmed Property Services (ABN 66 106 015 632) at an estimated total contract spend of $150,000 ex GST per annum;**

   c. **Service Category 3: Electrical Services (Reactive) to a panel of two (2) providers at an estimated total contract spend of $25,000 ex GST per annum. Successful tenderers recommended for inclusion are;**
      - **Commlec Services (ABN 48 055 185 718) and.**
      - **Teoma Group (ABN 91 109 743 008).**

   d. **Service Category 4: Plumbing and Irrigation Services (Programmed & Reactive) to a panel of three (3) providers at an estimated total contract spend of $200,000 ex GST per annum. Successful tenderers recommended for inclusion are;**
      - **Tees & Greens (ABN 74 125 592 207).**
      - **Hydrotech Services (ABN 35 083 931 766) and.**
      - **Hallett Plumbing (ABN 85 253 031 420).**

   e. **Service Category 5: Fencing and Safety Netting Repairs (Reactive) to a panel of two (2) providers at an estimated total contract spend of $75,000 ex GST per annum. Successful tenderers recommended for inclusion are;**
      - **The Fencing Man (ABN 54 455 957 092) and.**
      - **Melbourne Chainwire Fencing (ABN 91 609 191 460).**

f. **Service Category 6: Sportsground Turf Maintenance (Programmed & Reactive) to a panel of five (5) providers at an estimated total contract spend of $100,000 ex GST per annum. Successful tenderers recommended for inclusion are;**
   - **DGM Turf (ABN 92 683 097 501).**
   - **Green Life Group (ABN 26 626 197 582).**
   - **Elite Turf Services (ABN 83 616 207 697).**
   - **Turf Conditioning Services (ABN 37 678 358 408).**
   - **Evergreen Turf Group (ABN 17 007 427 536).**

g. **Service Category 7: Synthetic and Acrylic Surface Maintenance (Programmed & Reactive) to a panel of two (2) providers at an estimated total contract spend of $100,000 ex GST per annum. Successful tenderers recommended for inclusion are; and**
   - **Tuff Group Holdings (ABN 63 134 718 433).**
   - **Bildsports (ABN 15 659 410 778).**

2. **AUTHORISES the delegated authority to execute the two (2), one (1) year optional contract extensions subject to satisfactory performance.**

Executive Summary

1. This report seeks Council approval to establish the Parks and Open Space Maintenance Services Panel Contract for an initial term of three (3) years, with two (2) optional one (1) year extensions at Council's discretion.
2. The proposed contract term provides greater cost certainty and budget predictability, reduces procurement and administrative overheads, supports knowledge retention and performance monitoring, strengthens contractor relationships, encourages continuous service improvement and maintains competitive market pricing over the life of the contract.
3. The contract specification was developed following a comprehensive operational service review undertaken in consultation with key internal stakeholders and informed by benchmarking against comparable councils. This process ensured that the scope and service requirements align with industry best practice and Council's operational needs.
4. The recommended panel comprises several suitably qualified and experienced contractors capable of delivering a broad range of parks and open space maintenance services. Establishing a panel will improve service delivery flexibility, increase responsiveness to operational priorities and maintain a competitive supplier environment. This approach also recognises that the volume and diversity of programmed and reactive maintenance works exceed the capacity of a single contractor, while providing Council with the flexibility to allocate work based on contractor capability, availability, performance and value for money.

Background

5. Council is responsible for maintaining an extensive parks and open space network to ensure these assets remain safe, functional and presented to a high standard for community use. To support the ongoing delivery of scheduled, programmed and responsive maintenance services, Council sought to establish a panel of suitably qualified contractors capable of delivering parks infrastructure repair and maintenance services efficiently and in accordance with operational requirements.

6. Given the scale and volume of works across the municipality, a panel arrangement provides the operational flexibility required to meet service demands, respond to seasonal and weather-related constraints, and maintain continuity of service delivery.
7. The existing Contract 2021-45 – Repair and Maintenance of Parks Infrastructure and Facilities commenced on 1 July 2021 and was due to expire on 30 June 2026. A six-month extension was approved to facilitate the procurement process and enable the establishment of the new contractor panel, anticipated to commence in January 2027.
8. To ensure continuity of these essential services, Council undertook a public tender process for Contract 2526-30 – Parks and Open Space Maintenance Services, which was advertised on 14 May 2026 and closed on 11 June 2026.

Key Issues and Discussion

Specification Development

9. Following the recent restructure of the Parks and Open Space Department and the establishment of an internal Reserve Response Team to deliver reactive maintenance across Council's parks and reserves, an operational service review was undertaken to determine the appropriate balance between in-house service delivery and external contractor support.
10. The review included benchmarking service delivery against comparable councils, consultation with existing service providers, and analysis of Council's asset data, maintenance schedules and operational requirements. The outcomes informed the consolidation of service requirements and the development of tender specifications across the following service categories:
    - Landscape and Civil Maintenance (Programmed and Reactive)
    - Parks and Playground Asset Maintenance (Programmed and Reactive)
    - Electrical Services (Reactive)
    - Plumbing and Irrigation Services (Programmed and Reactive)
    - Fencing and Safety Netting Repairs (Reactive)
    - Sportsground Turf Maintenance (Programmed and Reactive)
    - Synthetic and Acrylic Surface Maintenance (Programmed and Reactive)

Tender Evaluation Process

11. All compliant tender submissions were evaluated in accordance with the approved Tender Evaluation Plan. Tender Evaluation Panel members independently assessed the non-price criteria before participating in a moderated evaluation process to determine consensus scores. Prior to qualitative assessment, the Evaluation Chairperson undertook an initial review of the submitted Schedule of Rates for each service category to assess value for money. Where submissions were assessed as not representing value for money, they were excluded from further qualitative evaluation in accordance with the approved evaluation methodology and with the endorsement of Council's Procurement Business Partner.
12. Following moderation, tendered pricing was further analysed and benchmarked using a representative sample of Schedule of Rates items to identify pricing anomalies and determine weighted evaluation scores. The Tender Evaluation Panel subsequently recommended the preferred contractors for each service category, having regard to pricing, demonstrated capability, capacity, anticipated service demand and the need to maintain a competitive, flexible and resilient contractor panel.

13. A detailed Tender Evaluation Report is attached to this report as a confidential item.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

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

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

Operating Budget Implications

15. The estimated expenditure under the Contract for the first 12 months is approximately $1,150,000 (excluding GST) across the seven (7) service categories. Annual expenditure will be subject to the availability of approved operational budget allocations within the Parks and Open Space Department. Delivery of Parks and Open Space Maintenance Services Contract can be meet within existing recurrent operational expenditure. No additional funding to deliver these services are required.

Asset Implications

16. Appointment of a panel of suitably qualified service providers will assist Council in mitigating operational and asset management risks by ensuring the consistent delivery of scheduled and responsive maintenance services. This approach supports the proactive management of parks and open space assets, promotes public safety and contributes to maintaining service levels and asset performance across the municipality.

Legal/Risk Implications/Risk Implications

17. Failure to proceed with the establishment of the Parks and Open Space Maintenance Services Panel Contract would significantly impact Council's ability to deliver essential maintenance services across its parks/open space network. Without an appointed contractor panel, Council may be unable to meet operational service levels, respond to reactive maintenance requests in a timely manner, or deliver programmed maintenance works, increasing the risk of asset deterioration, service disruption and community safety issues.

18. There is also a procurement and governance risk associated with not proceeding. The current contract extension is intended as a transitional arrangement only, and failure to establish a replacement panel would limit Council's ability to procure services in accordance with its Procurement Policy and legislative obligations. This may result in increased reliance on ad hoc procurement arrangements, reduced value for money, diminished market competition and increased financial and operational risk.

Environmental Implications

19. The establishment of the Parks and Open Space Maintenance Services Panel Contract will support the ongoing maintenance and preservation of Council's parks, reserves and associated infrastructure, contributing to the sustainability and longevity of public assets. The contract includes service specifications that require contractors to undertake works in accordance with relevant environmental legislation, industry standards and Council policies, including the appropriate management and disposal of waste materials and the protection of surrounding vegetation and natural assets during maintenance activities.

20. Where practicable, contractors will be expected to adopt environmentally responsible work practices, including the efficient use of resources, minimisation of waste and compliance with relevant environmental management requirements.

Community Consultation

21. There was no requirement for community consultation.
22. Councils Community Engagement Policy has been reviewed. Under exemptions, community engagement will not occur in circumstances which relate to operational matters, confidential or commercial in confidence information, or when Council must make emergency or safety related decisions. Given the operational nature of Contract 2526-06, community consultation was not sought.

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.
    - Sustainable environment.
24. 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

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:
    - Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.

MINUTE No.454
Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad
Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council:

1. **APPROVES Contract 2526-30 Parks and Open Space Maintenance Services Panel to the following service providers as a Schedule of Rates contract for a three (3) year term, commencing 1 January 2027 to 31 December 2029, with two (2) optional one (1) year extensions at Council's discretion:**

   a. **Service Category 1: Landscape/Civil Maintenance (Programmed & Reactive) to a panel of three (3) providers at an estimated total contract spend of $500,000 ex GST per annum. Successful tenderers recommended for inclusion are;**
      - **Urban Plumb & Scape (ABN 34 068 382 570).**
      - **Grant Oliva Excavations (ABN 26 084 034 579) and.**
      - **Programmed Property Services (ABN 66 106 015 632).**

   b. **Service Category 2: Parks/Playground Asset Maintenance (Programmed & Reactive) to Programmed Property Services (ABN 66 106 015 632) at an estimated total contract spend of $150,000 ex GST per annum;**

c. Service Category 3: Electrical Services (Reactive) to a panel of two (2) providers at an estimated total contract spend of $25,000 ex GST per annum. Successful tenderers recommended for inclusion are;

- **Commlec Services (ABN 48 055 185 718) and.**
- **Teoma Group (ABN 91 109 743 008).**

d. Service Category 4: Plumbing and Irrigation Services (Programmed & Reactive) to a panel of three (3) providers at an estimated total contract spend of $200,000 ex GST per annum. Successful tenderers recommended for inclusion are;

- **Tees & Greens (ABN 74 125 592 207).**
- **Hydrotech Services (ABN 35 083 931 766) and.**
- **Hallett Plumbing (ABN 85 253 031 420).**

e. Service Category 5: Fencing and Safety Netting Repairs (Reactive) to a panel of two (2) providers at an estimated total contract spend of $75,000 ex GST per annum. Successful tenderers recommended for inclusion are;

- **The Fencing Man (ABN 54 455 957 092) and.**
- **Melbourne Chainwire Fencing (ABN 91 609 191 460).**

f. Service Category 6: Sportsground Turf Maintenance (Programmed & Reactive) to a panel of five (5) providers at an estimated total contract spend of $100,000 ex GST per annum. Successful tenderers recommended for inclusion are;

- **DGM Turf (ABN 92 683 097 501).**
- **Green Life Group (ABN 26 626 197 582).**
- **Elite Turf Services (ABN 83 616 207 697).**
- **Turf Conditioning Services (ABN 37 678 358 408).**
- **Evergreen Turf Group (ABN 17 007 427 536).**

g. Service Category 7: Synthetic and Acrylic Surface Maintenance (Programmed & Reactive) to a panel of two (2) providers at an estimated total contract spend of $100,000 ex GST per annum. Successful tenderers recommended for inclusion are; and

- **Tuff Group Holdings (ABN 63 134 718 433).**
- **Bildsports (ABN 15 659 410 778).**

2. AUTHORISES the delegated authority to execute the two (2), one (1) year optional contract extensions subject to satisfactory performance.

CARRIED 9 / 0

4.1.2 Dandenong New Art (DNA) Contract Award

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

Attachments:

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT 1 Tender Information 2526-25 Dandenong New Art (DNA) Redevelopment [**4.1.2.1** - 7 pages]

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

Purpose

1. To provide an update on the Dandenong New Art (DNA) Gallery redevelopment project and to outline the comprehensive procurement process undertaken to select a suitably qualified and experienced contractor for award of the Design and Construction Contract for the DNA redevelopment project.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES the update on the Dandenong New Art (DNA) Gallery project, including the delivery model;**
2. **AWARDS Contract 2526-25 for the Dandenong New Art Gallery (DNA) Redevelopment to Carelli Constructions Pty. Ltd., ABN: 75 606 840 331 for a fixed lump sum price of Six million seven hundred and ninety-six thousand and ninety-seven dollars ($6,796,097) excluding GST;**
3. **AUTHORISES the Chief Executive Officer to execute the contract agreements and any associated documentation; and**
4. **DELEGATES the Chief Executive Officer to make expenditure variations up to and not exceeding the total project budget.**

Executive Summary

1. This report updates Council on the Dandenong New Art (DNA) Gallery project, including its complex history and the actions taken to de-risk the site and progress the project following termination of the previous construction contract.
2. The report outlines minor scope refinements to improve gallery functionality and compliance, including replacement of the former glass extension, inclusion of a goods/service lift, and land consolidation to support upgraded building services.
3. Approval is sought to award Contract 2526-25 for the Dandenong New Art Gallery (DNA) Redevelopment and progress the project under a Design and Construct delivery model at the October 19 2026 Council Meeting.

4. Following a comprehensive EOI and tender evaluation process, Carelli Constructions Pty. Ltd. is recommended as the preferred contractor for a fixed lump sum price of $6,796,097 excluding GST. The project remains within the available budget and includes appropriate contingency provisions.

Background

5. The Dandenong New Art (DNA) Gallery project involves the redevelopment of the former 1920s Masonic Hall at 5 Mason Street Dandenong, with the aim of delivering a contemporary art facility that supports touring exhibitions, curated spaces, and community programs.
6. The project's initial design phase commenced in 2017 and was finalised in 2019. Following the completion of the design, the project proceeded to the engagement of a builder under a construct-only contract.
7. Construction began in 2020 but was paused in 2021 due to concerns regarding build quality, particularly structural issues associated with the steel frame of the building extension. These issues led to a dispute between Council and the builder.
8. In June 2023, Council and the Contractor finalised a termination agreement, formally concluding their contractual relationship for the project.
9. Prior to the project being paused, several construction components had been procured, including the lift system and elements of the mechanical and lighting systems. These items were retained by Council and are currently stored off-site for potential use in the project.
10. Due to the quality issues identified during construction, a significant portion of the completed works required review and/or rectification, including the steel structural, lift, inground services, and electrical components.
11. Council undertook inground services rectification works in 2024-25 to de-risk the site for future works.
12. A market sounding exercise undertaken in 2024-25 tested industry interest in completing the project. Feedback from prospective builders indicated significant concerns regarding the assumption of liability for works completed by others, citing unverifiable site conditions, insurance constraints, and the associated risk exposure. To mitigate these risks, builders advised that a substantial risk premium, estimated at approximately $2.5 million, would be required and ultimately borne by Council.
13. The market sounding exercise focused on the assumption that the DNA project was simply a paused construction project ready for resumption. As a result, it identified that the project required managing outdated design documentation, inconsistent site conditions, and uncertainty about the quality of previous works.

Project Delivery Approach:

14. Following the market sounding exercise, a comprehensive review of the DNA project was undertaken to determine the most appropriate path forward, considering the project's complex history and the findings of the market sounding exercise.
15. As a result of this review, the DNA project delivery is being treated as a new project rather than a paused construction. As such, a lightly revised concept design has been developed for construction, rather than solely relying on the previously completed design package.

    This approach is based on the following factors:

- Inconsistencies between the existing design documentation and actual site conditions.
- Quality concerns raised during the first construction process.

- Elements of the existing design no longer meeting current building standards and DDA compliance.
- Significant technological advances in lighting, air conditioning, audio-visual, and information technology systems since the original design was developed.

16. By treating the project as a new development, the focus shifts from managing legacy issues to delivering a fit-for-purpose outcome. This approach improves the delivery models, including options from detailed design through to construction completion, and supports a more strategic and risk managed procurement and delivery process.
17. For a project of this scale and the associated risks to be managed in finalising the design and construction works, the delivery model for completing the construction of the DNA Project will be a Design and Construct (D&C) contract. Whereby Council engages a single entity (builder) to both finalise construction design drawings and construct the project, based on a detailed concept, accompanied by performance and standards brief developed by Council officers.

High-Level funtionality Review:

18. The project originated as a placemaking and activation initiative under the Revitalising Central Dandenong (RCD) program, with design decisions driven primarily by precinct activation principles as opposed to gallery optimisation and functionality.
19. Introducing contemporary architectural design principles, key improvements have been made to functional operations for the DNA Gallery. This includes altering the glass façade, improved gallery-standard spaces and the introduction of a goods lift. Without these important initiatives, would restrict the building's ability to operate as a contemporary gallery compliant with current day, relevant museum and gallery standards.

External impression of the building with the glass extension



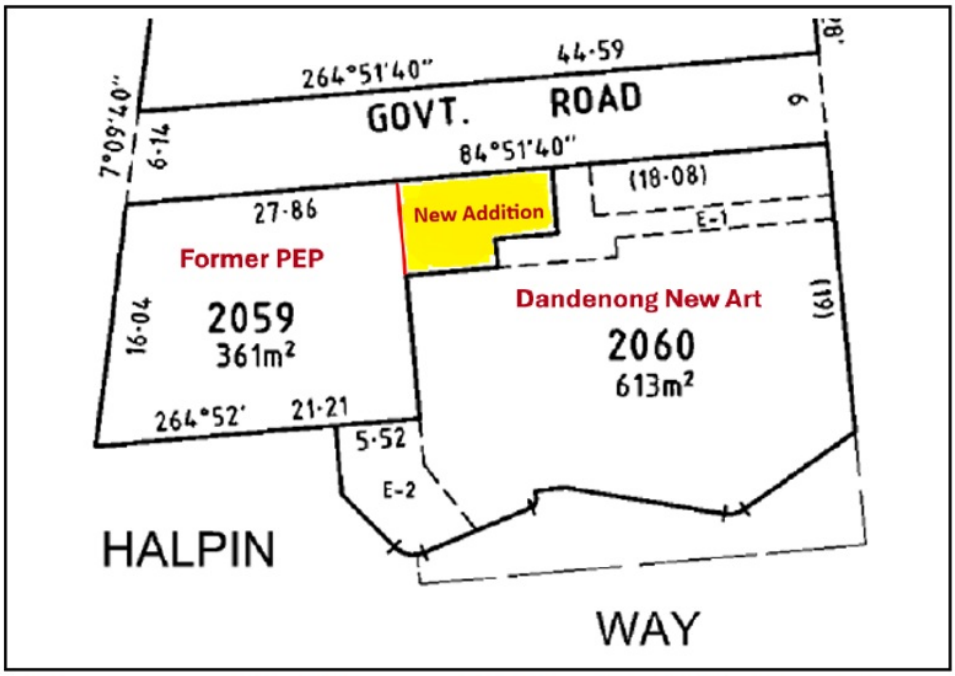
External Impressions of the building with changes to the glass extension – grey cladding



Land Consolidation and Services Upgrade

20. An opportunity has arisen since the adjacent Precinct Energy Plant (PEP) building has been demolished, a small portion of the former Precinct Energy Plant (PEP) land has been consolidated with the Dandenong New Art (DNA) site. The land consolidated is less than 50 square metres and will create a straight boundary between the two sites.

21. This consolidation also provides improved operational value to DNA as the additional land is located directly behind the building services extension. The addition will accommodate the newly added goods lift and the upgraded mechanical plant for air conditioning.



The consolidated land highlighted in yellow

Walker Street Gallery

22. It should be noted that on 12 July 2021, Council resolved that the Council-owned land at 1-9 Walker Street, Dandenong, currently occupied by the Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, be identified as surplus to Council requirements following the opening of the Dandenong New Art (DNA) Gallery, with the future sale of the land to be considered at that time.
23. Any future consideration of the site's use, including potential disposal of the land, will be subject to further assessment, consultation with existing user groups, identification of suitable alternative accommodation or allocations where required, and a future Council decision. Relevant options and recommendations will be presented to Council for consideration at an appropriate time.

Procurement

24. A detailed procurement process has been undertaken to identify an appropriately experienced and qualified contractor to undertake the associated works to construct the Dandenong New Art (DNA) Gallery. The procurement process includes two key phases; Expression of Interest and Tender.

Expression of Interest Process

25. Following the high-level design review, utilising the established Victorian Government Construction Supplier Register (CSR), an invite-only Expression of Interest (EOI) was undertaken to identify suitably qualified contractors with demonstrated capability to deliver the project under a Design and Construct procurement / contract model.
26. The EOI was issued on Thursday, 2 April 2026 to fourteen (14) pre-selected contractors with proven experience in comparable projects particularly design and construct projects under $10M in heritage / art galleries / redevelopments.
27. A mandatory site inspection was conducted on Monday, 13 April 2026 of the fourteen (14) contractors invited, seven (7) attended the site inspection.
28. The EOI period closed on 28 April 2026, six (6) submissions were received, all from contractors who attended the site visit.
29. The EOI process was structured to:

- Test the market’s understanding of the project’s complexity and risk profile.
- Assess contractor capability, experience and resourcing before tender to reduce procurement risk and shortlist respondents best placed to deliver the project.
- Inform refinements to the tender approach and documentation.

30. Four (4) EOI submissions were shortlisted based on their alignment with the D&C procurement approach, understanding of risk and project complexity, project-specific methodologies, relevant experience, and demonstrated capability to manage design, approvals, construction and stakeholder coordination within the project budget.
31. All four contractors returned a satisfactory corporate score card result as well as a Rapid Global registration (Council’s workforce management software for health and safety compliance) at risk level one (1) rating.

Tender Process

32. The shortlisted contractors were invited to tender for the project. Tender 2526-25RFT Dandenong New Art Gallery (DNA) Redevelopment opened on 25 May 2026 and closed on 30 June 2026, with all four invited contractors submitting a proposal.
33. Each submission was assessed against all established evaluation criteria, to ensure that the tenderers met the standards required for Council contractors.
34. At the conclusion of the tender evaluation process, the evaluation panel recommends awarding Contract 2526-25 for the Dandenong New Art Gallery (DNA) Redevelopment to Carelli Constructions Pty. Ltd., ABN 75 606 840 331, for a fixed lump sum price of Six million seven hundred and ninety-six thousand and ninety-seven dollars ($6,796,097) excluding GST.
35. Carelli Constructions Pty. Ltd. demonstrated the best value for money for Council through its understanding of the project's complexity, relevant experience, and demonstrated capability to manage design, approvals, construction and stakeholder coordination within the project budget.

Budget

36. In 2019, Council allocated $9.5million, of which, significant portion was expended on the previous construction including on design documentation, project management fees, site works and contract termination.
37. Through the Major Projects Review in 2024, at the 8 July 2024 Council meeting, Council resolved to allocate an additional $6.24M to the project, bringing the total project budget since 2019–20 to $15.7 million.
38. Based on the recommended tender submitted by Carelli Constructions Pty. Ltd for $6,796,097, excluding GST, sufficient funding remains within the project budget to accommodate the recommended contract as well as other remaining project costs including but not limited to; project management costs, architects, superintendent, quantity surveyors, legal services.
39. The $6.80M cost to complete the construction project under a Design and Construct contract relates to the base building only. The detailed fit out, branding, marketing and operational costs, including the opening ceremony needs to be considered as part of the future operational model. The anticipated practical completion date for the project is at the end of June 2028.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

40. 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

41. There are no financial implications associated with this report. Appointment of the Contractor as recommended is within the allocated budget of the endorsed Capital Improvement Program. Future operational funds requirements will be considered in future budget considerations.

Asset Implications

42. This item relates to a current CIP project and does not change the scope/timeframe/budget for the project.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Community Consultation

45. There was no requirement for community consultation. As the project proceeds into the construction phase and future operational stage, there will be future communications undertaken to update and inform key stakeholders.

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

46. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
    - Education, training, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.
    - Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.
    - Sustainable environment.
    - Art and culture.
47. 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

48. 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.

Cr Lana Formoso returned to the Chamber at 7.22pm.

MINUTE No.455
Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly
Seconded by: Cr Jim Memeti

That Council:

1. **DEFERS consideration of the award of Contract 2526-25 for the Dandenong New Art Gallery (DNA) Redevelopment to the next practicable Council Meeting, to allow Council to consider the information in paragraph 2;**
2. **DIRECTS Officers to prepare a report for that meeting that sets out:**

    a) **the whole-of-life cost of DNA, including the base-building contract, the estimated $500,000 fit-out, and the projected $1.1 million annual operating cost, together with the current annual operating cost of the Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, so that the net additional cost to Council is clear;**

    b) **the exhibition floor area of DNA, the annual attendance projected in the business case, current attendance at the Walker Street Gallery, and the intended exhibition and education program that cannot be delivered at Walker Street;**

    c) **options for the future use of the property at 5 Mason Street, including a flexible, multi-purpose community facility or community hub, with indicative scope, cost and timeframe for each option;**

    d) **the future of the Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, including the implications of retaining it as Council's primary gallery space, any capital investment required to address compliance, accessibility, serviceability and operational requirements, future operational and lifecycle costs, and options to optimise community access and utilisation;**

    e) **the cost, program and procurement implications of deferral, including the validity period of the current tender and the basis of the estimated $200,000–$400,000 contract price increase; and**

3. **NOTES that no action will be taken to give effect to the resolution of 12 July 2021 regarding the land at 1–9 Walker Street, Dandenong pending Council's consideration of that report.**

CARRIED 10 / 0

4.2 POLICY AND STRATEGY

4.2.1 Council Support for 2027 Ramadan Night Market

Cr Jim Memeti disclosed a general conflict of interest (s 127) in this item as he has a personal friendship with the President of the Bright Community Organisation, which is the organiser of the Ramadan Night Market. Cr Jim Memeti left the Chamber prior to discussion and voting on this item.

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Community Strengthening

Attachments:
1. 2026 Ramadan Night Market Evaluation Report [**4.2.1.1** - 8 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES the findings of the 2026 Ramadan Night Market Evaluation Report, per Attachment 1;**
2. **APPROVES a funding allocation of $97,000 to the Bright Community Organisation for the 2027 Ramadan Night Market, payable post-event subject to the event meeting all governance, compliance and public safety requirements; and**
3. **NOTES that data collection for the 2027 event will be further targeted to enable a detailed cost-benefit analysis to be undertaken to underpin decision making for future events of this nature.**

Executive Summary

1. This report briefs Councillors on the 2026 Ramadan Night Market evaluation and matters to inform future Council support for the 2027 event, including the balance between public value, funding, governance and risk.
2. The 2026 event delivered significant community, cultural and economic value by celebrating Greater Dandenong's diversity and activating central Dandenong. However, the evaluation found that the event has outgrown aspects of its planning and governance arrangements, creating issues across compliance, traffic, public health, waste, public safety, stakeholder communication and readiness.
3. Council considered the organiser's 2027 funding application through the Large Grants Council Report endorsed on 16 March 2026. As the request exceeded usual program parameters, Council deferred the application pending a detailed assessment and separate recommendation.
4. Any funding decision will need to consider the level of Council funding, in-kind support and risk exposure required, and whether appropriate governance and funding conditions can support safer, better governed and more sustainable delivery in 2027.

Background

5. The Ramadan Night Market is one of Greater Dandenong's most significant multicultural events and a major annual activation in central Dandenong. It attracts visitors from across Melbourne and contributes to cultural celebration, social cohesion, economic activity and place activation.
6. In 2026, the event attracted strong attendance and created opportunities for local traders and food vendors, reinforcing its role in supporting connection, belonging and cultural celebration.
7. Bright Community Organisation delivered the 2026 event and achieved its primary community objectives. However, the evaluation found that growth has outpaced parts of the delivery model, with issues identified across governance, compliance, public safety, traffic, public health, waste, stakeholder engagement and planning.
8. The key issue is whether governance, compliance and operational systems have matured sufficiently to support an event of increasing scale, complexity and public risk exposure.

Key Issues and Discussion

Key Evaluation Findings

9. The evaluation found that the event now operates more like a large-scale regional event than a traditional community festival, with attendance, infrastructure needs, stakeholder expectations and regulatory obligations exceeding the original model.
10. Council support was required across multiple business units to support compliance, coordinate stakeholders and manage operational issues.
11. The review identifies key risk areas for 2027, the in-kind resource investment made in 2026, and funding and governance matters to inform any decision about future support.
12. A key principle for future support is that Council's role should focus on regulatory oversight, approvals, strategic support and public value stewardship, not operational coordination. The organiser should retain clear responsibility for planning, delivery, compliance and stakeholder management.
13. The review presents three options for the 2027 event: retaining the 2026 level of support, increasing support, or withdrawing support.
14. The review recommends Option One: Provide the same funding commitment as in 2025-2026 ($97,000), subject to the event meeting increased governance, compliance and public safety requirements.

Governance and Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

15. Peak-period resourcing will be required; however, it is expected to be managed within current workforce planning processes.

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

Operating Budget Implications

16. The recommended funding is expected to be managed within the remaining Large Grants Program allocation. Council's in-kind contribution, including officer time, operational support, regulatory oversight and compliance assistance, is expected to be managed within the current operational budget.

Asset Implications

17. If the 2027 event proceeds at Palm Plaza, remediation work for the area may need to be undertaken to ensure the site is suitable, safe and ready for an event of this scale.

Legal/Risk Implications

18. The report identifies legal and risk considerations relating to event permits, public safety, traffic management, food safety, waste management, stakeholder impacts and Council's financial and operational exposure. These matters are manageable only if addressed through clear funding conditions, confirmed governance arrangements, approved event documentation, appropriate cost recovery and compliance with all relevant permit and regulatory requirements before the 2027 event proceeds.

Environmental Implications

19. Environmental implications will be considered through the 2027 planning process, particularly in relation to waste management, oil and wastewater disposal, cleaning requirements and site impacts associated with a large-scale food-based event.

Gender Impact Assessment

20. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

21. Formal community consultation was not required for this evaluation report. However, community, trader and stakeholder impacts have been considered through the evaluation findings, including feedback, enquiries and complaints relating to road closures, parking, waste, noise, deliveries and service disruptions.

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

22. This report is consistent with the following Community Vision 2040 principles, particularly where the event supports cultural celebration, social connection, inclusive participation and safe, vibrant public places:
    - Safe and peaceful community.
    - Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.
    - Mind, body and spirit.
    - Art and culture.
23. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29, while also recognising that delivery of these objectives must be supported by appropriate governance, safety, compliance and financial controls:
    - 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

Not Applicable

Cr Jim Memeti left the Chamber at 7.49PM.

MINUTE No.456
Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly
Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council:

1. **NOTES the findings of the 2026 Ramadan Night Market Evaluation Report, per Attachment 1;**
2. **APPROVES a funding allocation of $97,000 to the Bright Community Organisation for the 2027 Ramadan Night Market, payable post-event subject to the event meeting all governance, compliance and public safety requirements; and**
3. **NOTES that data collection for the 2027 event will be further targeted to enable a detailed cost-benefit analysis to be undertaken to underpin decision making for future events of this nature.**

CARRIED 9 / 0

Cr Jim Memeti returned to the Chamber at 8.10pm.

4.2.2 Greater Dandenong City Council Annual Report 2025-26

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services

Attachments:
1. Greater Dandenong City Council Annual Report 2025-26 [**4.2.2.1** - 242 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES the Annual Report 2025-26 (per Attachment 1) in line with legislative requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*; and**
2. **AUTHORISES the Chief Executive Officer, or their delegate, to make amendments to the document to correct any minor drafting errors that do not materially alter the intent of the document.**

Executive Summary

1. The Annual Report 2025-26 has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and contains all mandatory information as outlined in the legislation.

Background

2. Council has a statutory obligation to prepare an Annual Report that is in accordance with sections 98 and 99 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The Annual Report must be prepared as soon as is practicable after the end of the financial year and Council is required to publicly consider the report within four months of the end of the financial year.
3. The Annual Report must contain:
   a. a report of operations of the Council;
   b. audited financial statements;
   c. an audited performance statement; and
   d. a copy of the Auditor's report on the financial statements under Part 3 of the Audit Act.

Key Issues and Discussion

4. The audited statements were approved in-principle by Council at the 21 September 2026 Council meeting. Subsequent to this, the Auditor-General's endorsement of the statements has been received with no further amendment.
5. The Greater Dandenong City Council Annual Report 2025-26 meets all legislative requirements.
6. Copies of the adopted Annual Report will be made available at Council's Customer Service Centres and on Council's website at www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au on 20 October 2026.
7. The Greater Dandenong City Council Annual Report 2025-26 also highlights Council's major achievements for the financial year ending 30 June 2026 and progress against actions from the Annual Action Plan.

8. Key highlights in 2025-26 included:
   a. significant progress on the new Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing centre;
   b. endorsement of the Reconciliation Action Plan, Council's first LGBTIQA+ Action Plan, Our Bright Green Future strategy and the Gender Equality Action Plan;
   c. $1.7 million invested in 183 projects as part of the Community Grants Program;
   d. $86 million invested in infrastructure projects supporting improved facilities, recreation spaces, roads and footpaths;
   e. over 2,000 participants in face-to-face community engagements;
   f. planting of 1,861 street trees;
   g. over 830,000 visits to Council libraries;
   h. more than 2 million visits to Councils website; and
   i. the highest overall community satisfaction score of all Councils participating in the Metropolis Community Satisfaction Survey.
9. Printed copies of the report will be available to interested members of the public upon request.

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. The Financial Statements of Greater Dandenong City Council, as included in the attached Annual Report, are a general purpose financial report that consists of a Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Capital Works and notes accompanying these financial statements. The report complies with Australian Accounting Standards (AAS), other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, the *Local Government Act 2020* and the Local Government (Planning Reporting) Regulations 2020.
12. These consolidated financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2026 comprise the results of operations for both Council and its wholly owned subsidiaries, namely the Dandenong Market Pty Ltd and South East Leisure Pty Ltd.
13. The Comprehensive Income Statement highlights that Greater Dandenong City Council's surplus for the financial year is $19.48 million ($30.91 million in 2024-25).
14. A comprehensive review of Council's asset valuations in 2025-26 resulted in a significant revaluation increase of $405 million, contributing to a $424 million surplus in the Comprehensive Income Statement. The uplift was driven by improvements in valuation methods, including more detailed assessments of asset features, location, and updated construction inputs. Key asset classes such as land and building, roads, drainage, footpaths, cycleways and off-street car parks saw notable increases. These changes reflect both market conditions and updates to accounting standards.

Asset Implications

15. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

18. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

19. There was no requirement for community consultation. The Annual Report 2025-26 has been compiled from information provided by the Executive Team, Managers and staff across the organisation regarding the various performance achievements.

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

20. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
    - Safe and peaceful community.
    - Education, training, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.
    - Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.
    - Sustainable environment.
    - Mind, body and spirit.
    - Art and culture.
21. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29:
    - A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
    - A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts.
    - A city of accessible, vibrant centres and places.
    - A green city committed to a sustainable future.
    - A city that supports business, entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes.
    - A Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources, and a commitment to investing in the community.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

MINUTE No.457
Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad
Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council:

1. **APPROVES the Annual Report 2025-26 (per Attachment 1) in line with legislative requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*; and**
2. **AUTHORISES the Chief Executive Officer, or their delegate, to make amendments to the document to correct any minor drafting errors that do not materially alter the intent of the document.**

CARRIED 10 / 0

Mayor Sophie Tan read the following:

"It is my pleasure to present the 2025/26 Greater Dandenong City Council Annual Report to the community.

The first year of our Council Plan was a time of achievement, progress and opportunity.

We adopted the Our Bright Green Future strategy, setting a strong direction for sustainability and climate action.

This builds on the important work underway restoring our natural areas, improving waterways, mobilising community action, embedding sustainability into our everyday operations and reducing our emissions by 80 per cent.

We invested $86 million in infrastructure projects, including improving community facilities, recreation spaces, roads and footpaths.

We continued to make significant progress on the new Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing centre.

This exciting project is a once-in-a-generation investment in community health, fitness and connection, supporting Council's vision of getting 'more people, more active, more often'.

Our commitment to innovation and community impact was recognised through several prestigious awards in arts, waste, health, safety and Bunurong placemaking.

At Council, we deliver more than 100 services, and this year community feedback shaped our work on roads, sport and recreation, animal management, libraries, arts, parks, playgrounds, health and the economy.

Thank you to the 18,000 people took place in online and face-to-face engagements.

We also strengthened support for local communities through a service agreement with seven

Neighbourhood Houses and Community Centres.

This agreement will ensure these valued organisations continue fostering connection, learning and wellbeing.

Speaking of wellbeing, we're continuing our mission to create a community where everyone feels welcome.

This year we developed our first LGBTIQA+ Action Plan, a new Reconciliation Action Plan and continued our important work heading up the Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum.

We worked with local, state and federal government departments to run social cohesion workshops, and hosted high-quality and well-attended events and celebrations across Greater Dandenong.

Through our Community Grants Program, we provided more than $1.7 million to 183 projects, supporting local organisations and helping bring community-led ideas to life.

Our community is noticing our achievements too. In the middle of the year, we learned that our residents are once again the most satisfied of 19 metro council areas independently surveyed annually.

We are so proud of these community satisfaction results. Our Councillors, CEO, staff, volunteers and partners are genuinely driven by a shared passion and commitment to deliver for our residents, businesses and visitors.

Thank you all for your hard work and support throughout the year. Together, we continue to achieve great outcomes for Greater Dandenong.

To our community, I encourage you all to read the Annual Report, which outlines our many accomplishments of the past financial year.

We will also make a brochure of highlights available in our libraries over the next week.

Thank you."

4.2.3 Draft Community Safety Strategy 2027-2030 - Endorsement for Consultation

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Community Strengthening

Attachments:
1. Draft Community Safety Strategy 2027-30 [**4.2.3.1** - 26 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES the Draft Community Safety Strategy 2027-30 (Attachment 1) which builds on Council's Community Safety Strategic Framework and has been informed by consultations with stakeholder organisations and the broader community;**

2. **ENDORSES the release of the Draft Community Safety Strategy (Attachment 1) for a 28-day public consultation period commencing 9 November 2026 to 6 December 2026; and**

3. **NOTES that following the conclusion of public consultation, a summary report and final amended Community Safety Strategy will be presented to Council for formal adoption.**

Executive Summary

1. The Draft Community Safety Strategy 2027–2030 (the Strategy) provides a clear and coordinated direction for how Council, in partnership with Victoria Police and key State and Federally funded agencies, will act to improve perceptions of community safety across the municipality over the next three years.
2. The Strategy directly supports the delivery of Council's Council Plan 2025-29, particularly Strategic Objective 1: A socially connected, safe and healthy city. Community safety continues to be one of the most significant issues facing the municipality and underpins residents' ability to participate in community life, utilise public spaces and maintain a sense of wellbeing and belonging.
3. The Strategy establishes a coordinated and evidence-based approach to improving both actual and perceived safety outcomes through partnership, prevention and place-based initiatives.
4. The Strategy has been informed by extensive community and stakeholder engagement involving more than 4,000 interactions. This engagement identified community safety as the municipality's highest strategic priority, with key themes including stronger partnerships with Victoria Police, reduced alcohol and drug harm, support for vulnerable community members, safer public spaces, and improved community safety education.
5. The Strategy responds directly to community concerns raised through the 2025 Community Safety Survey, and more recent community engagements completed by Victoria Police, regarding the perceptions of safety in Greater Dandenong. It also responds to Council's Integrated Planning Framework as a priority Tier 3 strategic document.
6. The Strategy is structured around three focus areas; Safe People, Safe Places, and Safety Partnerships, and includes 19 implementation actions with measurable outcomes to be reported annually to Council.

7. The strategy acknowledges the role council plays in relation to community safety, acknowledging that we have limited direct impact, but play a critical coordinating, partnering and advocating function, on behalf of our community, and can have a real impact on the experience of safety within our community.

Background

8. The Strategy has been informed by an extensive engagement process involving more than 4000 community and stakeholder interactions. This included 3382 participants through Council Plan engagement activities, 258 responses to the Perceptions of Community Safety Survey, 402 Community Satisfaction Survey responses, consultation with 43 businesses, six pop-up engagement sessions, and direct engagement with community stakeholders and advisory groups.
9. The Strategy provides a clear and coordinated direction for how Council, in partnership with Victoria Police and key State and Federally funded agencies, will improve perceptions of community safety across Greater Dandenong over the next three years.
10. The Strategy focuses on strengthening how safety is experienced and perceived; through targeted harm reduction, safer and more activated public spaces, and the partnerships that enable coordinated, place-based responses to local safety concerns.
11. The Strategy builds on the Community Safety Strategic Framework 2024-25, which was noted by Council in 2024 and established the foundations for this longer-term work. It has been informed by community engagement, locally sourced data and research through many sources, including the Perceptions of Community Safety Survey, stakeholder consultation and wider-council departmental reviews.

Key Issues and Discussion

12. Community feedback identified six consistent priorities: strengthening social connection, improving collaboration with Victoria Police, addressing alcohol and other drug harm, reducing road safety trauma, supporting vulnerable community members, increasing community safety education, and fostering inclusive and equitable communities.
13. The community feedback directly informed the Strategy's focus areas and implementation priorities. The strategy is structured around three focus areas:

Safe People	Communities where people feel supported, connected and safe to participate in everyday life.
Safe Places	Our spaces are vibrant and safe for the community to enjoy.
Safety Partnerships	A strong network of recognised partners working together to improve community safety.

14. The Strategy has been shaped by research, data and community engagement, including the Perceptions of Community Safety Survey, pop-up engagement sessions, business consultation, and input from partner organisations and Council Advisory Committees.
15. A Governance and Communications Plan has been completed to guide the Strategy through endorsement, consultation, adoption and launch. This includes internal communications to staff, the community and key partners.
16. The Draft Community Safety Strategy is proposed to be released for a 28-day public consultation period in November 2026. Consultation will include six community pop-up sessions across Greater Dandenong, online engagement through the Have Your Say platform, engagement with community partners, stakeholder groups and advisory committees, with feedback informing the final Strategy prior to its presentation to Council for adoption in March 2027.

17. Responsibility for delivery sits primarily with the Community Safety team within the Department of Safe, Active and Connected Communities, however partners with teams across Greater Dandenong, and external agencies.

18. Progress will be tracked through an annual implementation framework, reviewed quarterly by the Community Safety Steering Committee, and reported annually to the Executive Team and Council. A full evaluation will be completed at the conclusion of the Strategy in 2030.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

19. Once the final Strategy is endorsed, existing workforce priorities will be reviewed to ensure they align the Strategy's implementation.

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

Operating Budget Implications

20. The Strategy includes 19 implementation priorities. Of these, 9 can be delivered within existing Council budgets. A further 9 priorities require dedicated operational funding to proceed. An annual allocation of $80,000 is identified as being required to support the delivery of this strategy, which will be proposed per the annual budget process.

Asset Implications

21. The Strategy includes the CCTV Renewal Project and targeted safety infrastructure upgrades in key activity centres, both of which are funded through existing capital and grant allocations. No additional asset implications arise from this report.

Legal/Risk Implications

22. Council is required to maintain a Community Safety Strategy as a Tier 3 strategic document. Failure to adopt and deliver against the Strategy presents reputational and governance risk. Where actions cannot be delivered due to insufficient resourcing, formal removal from the Action Plan is required and must be reported to Councillors. The Strategy has been developed in accordance with Council's Integrated Planning Framework.

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

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

Community Consultation

Purpose	The purpose of the community engagement process is to seek feedback on the Draft Community Safety Strategy, ensuring it reflects community priorities, concerns and aspirations in relation to safety and wellbeing. Feedback received will help validate the proposed strategic directions and actions, identify any emerging issues, and inform the development of the final Strategy for Council consideration.

Engagement period	Proposed: 9 November – 6 December 2026, minimum 28-day public exhibition period.
Level of Influence	Consult (IAP2 Spectrum) .
Engagement Activities	• Draft Strategy published on Council Have Your Say website. • Community stakeholder outreach and promotion. Including 6 community safety pop-up engagement sessions across Greater Dandenong, focusing on key activity centres. • Media release. • Social media promotion (Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn). • Source News article. • Dandenong Journal advertisment. • Communication to all key stakeholders.
Communication reach and engagement numbers	Consultation will include broad community engagement opportunities and targeted engagement with key stakeholders, community partners, local groups, and advisory committees. Feedback received throughout the consultation period will be reviewed and analysed, with a detailed community engagement report prepared to summarise findings and inform finalisation of the Community Safety Strategy.
Summary of feedback	To be provided once consultation is complete.

Internal Consultation

Key Stakeholders	• Community Compliance and Amenity • Infrastructure Strategy • Corporate Planning • Sports & Recreation • Community Partnerships and Volunteers • IT • Festival & Events • Youth and Family Services • Children's Services • Placemaking • Economic and Business Development • Community Care • Libraries • Statutory Planning • Emergency Management • Maternal and Child Health • Media and Communications
If this is a policy has it been reviewed by the Staff Consultative Committee	Not applicable

If this is a policy has it been reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee?	Not applicable
Has this been reviewed by Governance?	Not applicable

Links to Integrated Planning Framework

25. This report is consistent with the following tier of the Integrated Planning Framework:
    - Tier 1 – Council Plan and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.
    - Tier 2 – Annual Plan, Long Term Financial Plan, Asset Plan, Workforce Plan.
    - Tier 3 – Priority Strategies, Mandated Policies and Other Documents, Strategic Land Use Plans, Asset and Infrastructure Documents.
    - Tier 4 – Supporting Plans, Discretionary Policies, Procedures and other Guidelines.

Links to Community Vision and Council Plan

26. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
    - Safe and peaceful community.
    - Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.
27. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29:
    - A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
    - A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts.
    - A Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources, and a commitment to investing in the community.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

28. This report has considered Council's legislative and policy obligations (where applicable) as outlined in the Report Considerations section detailed in the front of this Agenda. The applicable obligations considered and applied are:
    - The Overarching Governance Principles of the *Local Government Act* 2020.
    - *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities* 2006.
    - Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.

MINUTE No.458
Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad
Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council:

1. **NOTES the Draft Community Safety Strategy 2027-30 (Attachment 1) which builds on Council's Community Safety Strategic Framework and has been informed by consultations with stakeholder organisations and the broader community;**

2. **ENDORSES the release of the Draft Community Safety Strategy (Attachment 1) for a 28-day public consultation period commencing 9 November 2026 to 6 December 2026; and**

3. **NOTES that following the conclusion of public consultation, a summary report and final amended Community Safety Strategy will be presented to Council for formal adoption.**

CARRIED 10 / 0

4.3 OTHER

4.3.1 Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme Review

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

Attachments:
1. Attachment 1 Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme Review 2026 [**4.3.1.1** - 48 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **ADOPTS the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme Review 2026 per Attachment 1, including the proposed further strategic work for the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme;**
2. **SUPPORTS the submission of the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme Review 2026 to the Minister for Planning prior to 30 October 2026; and**
3. **SUPPORTS officers commencing the further strategic work identified in the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme Review 2026**

Executive Summary

1. Council as the planning authority for the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme (planning scheme) is required to review its planning scheme under Section 12(B) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act).
2. The planning scheme review (the review) was undertaken by the strategic planning team in partnership with other Council departments and in consultation with internal and external stakeholders.
3. A key element of the review was a detailed assessment of the planning scheme provisions, including local planning policies, zones, overlays and schedules against state government requirements and relevant state and local policy.
4. The review identified future further strategic work for community consultation, including the list of further strategic work is provided as Attachment 1 to this report.

Background

5. The *Planning and Environment Act 1987* requires Council to review its planning scheme and provides guidance on how this should be undertaken.
6. Pursuant to Section 12B of the Act, the purpose of this project is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the planning scheme in achieving:
   - the objectives of planning in Victoria; and
   - the objectives of the planning framework established by the Act.
7. The review must evaluate the planning scheme to ensure that it:
   - is consistent in form and content with the directions or guidelines issued by the Minister under Section7(5) of the Act;

- sets out effectively the policy objectives for use and development of land in the area to which the planning scheme applies; and
- makes effective use of state provisions and local provisions to give effect to state and local planning policy objectives.

8. Following the completion of the Planning Policy Framework (PPF) translation of all planning schemes across Victoria, the state government now requires all Council's to undertake a planning scheme review by October 2026 in accordance with the *Planning Scheme Review Advisory Note, March 2026 (*Advisory Note*)*. The Advisory Note outlines guidance and matters recommended by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) to be addressed in the planning scheme review. The Advisory Note states:
    - The review is an audit of the performance of the planning scheme at a point in time and will inform the continuous improvement of the planning scheme.
    - The review is likely to identify changes or additional strategic work that would improve the performance of the planning scheme. Any proposed improvements to the planning scheme that flow from the review should be carried out as planning scheme amendments separate to the review.
    - Upon completion of the review, the planning authority must without delay report the findings of the review to the Minister for Planning. The outcomes of each Council's planning scheme review are due to be reported to the Minister for Planning by the end of October 2026.
    - The priorities for each planning scheme will depend on local circumstances.
9. Council last undertook a comprehensive review of the planning scheme in 2016 with the report presented to Council and then forwarded to the Minister for Planning, as per the reporting requirements of the Act in 2017. Council has made significant progress on the recommendations arising from the 2017 planning scheme review. Further detail is provided in Attachment 1 to this report.

Review Process

10. A thorough process has been undertaken to ensure the requirements of the Act and Advisory Note have been met. The review undertook a complete audit of each local provision in the planning scheme against the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes, *a Practitioners' Guide to Victorian Planning Schemes, Plan* for *Victoria* and relevant planning practice notes.
11. This required a detailed audit of the planning scheme provisions, including local planning policies, zones, overlays and schedules to ensure they met state government drafting and policy requirements.
12. Each provision was also assessed for its contribution to achieving the strategic objectives set out in the state, regional and local planning provisions.
13. The assessment included a review of state government and local policies, planning permit activity, state and local planning scheme amendments and Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) decisions.
14. Consultation was undertaken with statutory and strategic planning officers and other internal and external stakeholders that use the planning scheme on a regular basis. Community consultation was also undertaken and is discussed in that section of this report.
15. Engaging with representatives from a range of departments across the organisation has been an important component of the review. Valuable advice and input have informed the review, particularly regarding the operation of the planning scheme, local policy and the identification of key issues.
16. In addition, all relevant external referral and notice agencies were invited to provide their written comments and feedback on the performance of the planning scheme, in relation to their respective areas of responsibility.

17. All comments received from internal and external (referral authorities) stakeholders have been incorporated into the review and have been imperative in identifying the draft further strategic work.

Key Issues and Discussion

18. The review identified further strategic work is required to ensure the planning scheme meets state and local policy and is responsive to key planning and land use related issues.
19. This further strategic work will be made up of eleven (11) projects and requires policy to be amended in the planning scheme. This will require a strategic policy basis to be developed for each project to inform a planning scheme amendment. The eleven projects that make up the further strategic work have been organised by theme and are outlined below.

General Policy

Review and rewrite the Municipal Planning Strategy

20. The review undertaken established that the planning scheme including the Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) is required to be reviewed and re-written to meet the requirements of drafting and consistency with state government policy.
21. In addition, the MPS requires updating with statistics, adopted local policies including *Council Plan 2025-29* and *Our Bright Green Future and Action Plan 2025-35* and other key issues identified in the review. This includes but is not limited to, policy relating to activity centres, housing, sustainability and infrastructure.

Prepare a policy neutral planning scheme amendment to update all clauses that are out of date, inconsistent or require updated formatting as identified by the planning scheme review.

22. The review highlighted that there are local provisions and schedules within the planning scheme that require updating to ensure up to date referencing and compliance with DTP form and content directions.

Activity Centres

Following Minister for Planning approval of the DTP Activity Centres Program, ensure the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme has consistent and coordinated provisions for the Dandenong, Springvale, Noble Park and Yarraman activity centres.

23. The Activity Centre Program is a state government led program that aims to have homes developed in established centres which already have access to infrastructure, employment, services and can support higher density housing. The program is facilitated through introducing new planning provisions. The four activity centres in Greater Dandenong included in the Activity Centre Program are Dandenong, Springvale, Noble Park and Yarraman.
24. The state government gazetted Planning Scheme Amendment GC285 on the 22nd July 2026. This amendment introduced two new planning controls, the Housing Choice and Transport Zone (HCTZ) and the Built Form Overlay (BFO) into the four activity centres.
25. Further strategic work is now required to be undertaken to ensure consistency with the existing relevant planning provisions for the Dandenong, Springvale Noble Park and Yarraman Activity Centres.

Review Schedule to Clause 45.09 - Parking Overlay (Springvale Activity Centre - Core Retail West Precinct).

26. The review established that Clause 45.09 – 'Parking Overlay *(Springvale Activity Centre - Core Retail West Precinct)'* is in conflict with recent state government changes to Clause 52.06 - 'Car Parking' and will require further investigation and review.

Housing

Prepare a Greater Dandenong Housing Strategy (including a review of Clause 15 – 'Built Environment and Heritage' and Clause16 – 'Housing') and a planning scheme amendment to incorporate it into the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme.

27. The *Greater Dandenong Housing Strategy 2014-24* was developed to provide Greater Dandenong with the policy framework and direction to plan for the sustainable supply of housing. Since the Housing Strategy was developed 12 years ago, housing affordability has further deteriorated and continues to be a barrier for many residents in securing affordable and appropriate housing.
28. An updated Housing Strategy will establish a contemporary, long-term framework to guide housing growth across the municipality. It will focus on improving access to affordable and secure housing, delivering a housing mix that reflects the municipality's diverse household profiles, enhancing design quality and sustainability outcomes, and advocating for policy and investment settings that support viable and appropriate housing delivery.
29. In addition, there have been a number of state government policy updates including *Plan for Victoria 2025* which identifies a housing target of 2.24 million homes to be constructed in Victoria over the next 30 years. To facilitate this target, municipal housing targets have been set for each local government area. Housing targets have been based on proximity to jobs, shops, public transport, community facilities and services, as well as planning considerations and constraints. Greater Dandenong's housing target is 52,500 new dwellings.
30. The state government have also introduced Planning Practice Note 90 *Planning for Housing* and Planning Practice Note 91 *Using the residential Zones.*
31. DTP have advised that the Clauses 15 and 16 relating to residential development, neighbourhood character and future change areas within the planning scheme require review having regard to *Plan for Victoria* and changes to the Victorian Planning Provisions.
32. Further strategic work is required to prepare an updated Housing Strategy in alignment with state government reforms and Council's broader strategic framework. It will respond to ongoing housing pressures while positioning Greater Dandenong to accommodate future growth in a manner that is resilient and sustainable. A planning scheme amendment will also be undertaken to incorporate the Housing Strategy and any consequential updates to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme.

Industry (Urban Design)

Review Clause 15.01-1L - Urban design in commercial and industrial areas.

33. Whilst Clause 15.01.1L – 'Urban design in commercial and industrial areas' continues to be a relevant policy for the assessment of planning applications in these areas, it is an older policy and somewhat out of date. Development application types and pressures have changed over time, and design requirements have evolved resulting in a need to review and update this policy.
34. On approval of Amendment C230gdan - Planning Policy Framework (PPF) - Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme Translation, an expiry clause was included on this policy. DTP advised that the expiry clause was applied as the built form controls could not be included in the PPF and were better placed in a Design and Development Overlay (DDO).
35. This requires Council to undertake further strategic work to review this policy, prepare an updated urban design policy, and planning scheme amendment to include this in the planning scheme.

Investigate opportunities for rejuvenation of industrial land use.

36. Greater Dandenong contains state significant industrial land in Dandenong South and is the premier industrial region in Victoria with exporting strengths in manufacturing, wholesale trade and transport and storage.

37. State government policy recognises the significance of the Southern State Significant Industrial Precinct (Southern SSIP) and the high demand for land and low vacancy within Dandenong South and the southern region.

38. Due to there being no future unzoned supply in the Southern SSIP to accommodate growth, it is critical that existing industrial land in this region is protected and preserved. Further strategic work is required to investigate industrial land and identify any opportunities for rejuvenation of industrial land across Greater Dandenong.

Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD)

Continue working with the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) to advocate to the state government to translate the* Victorian government's *ESD Roadmap and AmendmentC238gdan into the new codified pathway.

39. Recent state government changes to state policy in all planning schemes across Victoria, including the new Blue Factor tool and deemed to comply provisions (codified assessments), have resulted in the ESD provisions in the planning scheme being significantly reduced. As such, the current provisions are not considered strong enough to support ESD and climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

40. Council officers will continue to work with CASBE to advocate to the state government to translate the Victorian government's ESD Roadmap and proposed Amendment C238gdan - Elevated Environmentally Sustainable Development into the new codified pathway to ensure these factors are appropriately considered when determining planning applications.

41. This is an advocacy project as Council can only amend or request to amend the local provisions of a planning scheme. Changes to state policy such as this can only be made by the state government in accordance with the Act.

Potential environmental issues

Following the gazettal of Melbourne Water's Flood Management Strategy and subsequent update of the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO), review relevant clauses to ensure consistency in the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme.

42. Melbourne Water are currently undertaking a *Flood Management Strategy* to address future flooding risk across Melbourne. Following completion of the strategy, the LSIO in all relevant planning schemes will be updated via a planning scheme amendment. This will be undertaken by Melbourne Water.

43. Following the gazettal of this work, further strategic work will be required by Council to review all relevant clauses within the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme to ensure consistency.

Investigate planning options for buffer areas for environmentally sensitive areas.

44. With recent state government changes and the introduction of deemed to comply provisions, the review identified that there are potentially a number of environmental risks that result from these changes, including flooding and land uses requiring buffers such as landfills. Work is required to identify the most appropriate planning scheme tools to ensure these risks can be considered as part of the planning application process.

45. Further strategic work is required to review the extent of the issues and consider options to resolve the situation that may include advocacy to the state government to rectify the exemptions at Clause 55, the potential introduction of overlays in the planning scheme, or both.

Gaming

Review Schedule Clause 52.28 Gaming of the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme.

46. On approval of Amendment C230gdan - Planning Policy Framework (PPF), DTP advised that Council must review the Schedule to Clause 52.28 - 'Gaming' to ensure it is fit for purpose.

47. DTP require further work is undertaken to justify and support the inclusion of the gaming policy in the Planning Scheme.

48. Further strategic work is required to undertake this review and update the planning scheme if required.

Limitations of the planning scheme review

49. It is important to note that the planning scheme review cannot consider all issues that some stakeholders may wish to see included in the planning scheme.

50. The Act and associated DTP directions and guidance including the *Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes* and *A Practitioner's Guide to Victoria's Planning Schemes* articulate what can and can't be included in a planning scheme.

51. Content that is incompatible with or duplicates state policy, other local policy, zones, overlays, provision and schedules cannot be included. Further content that is outdated, ambiguous or matters that are not land use planning related can't be included. Provisions must be consistent with the Act and directions, have a strategic basis and relate to planning and/or land use.

52. For example, state policy provision Clause 52.37 - Canopy Trees requires a planning permit to remove, destroy or lop a canopy tree of a certain size (height, trunk circumference & canopy diameter) in residential areas. Council can't introduce policy into the planning scheme that amends any of these planning permit triggers (height, trunk circumference & canopy size).

53. Each project identified for further strategic work must meet these requirements. In addition, to be included as further strategic work within the planning scheme each project must be able to be undertaken and completed within a four (4) year timeframe.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

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

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

Operating Budget Implications

55. There are no direct financial implications associated with this report. However, the implementation of some of the further strategic work will require funding. It is anticipated that this funding can be accommodated within existing budgets.

Asset Implications

56. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Community Consultation

59. The planning scheme review is a statutory requirement of the Act and Advisory Note. There is no requirement by the state government for community consultation. However, Council officers recommended community consultation on the draft further strategic work.

60. Further strategic work is a key outcome of this review and will impact on the work program for Council and specifically the Strategic Planning team over the next four years.

61. Council undertook community consultation on the proposed future strategic work program. The consultation invited feedback on the eleven (11) proposed further strategic projects and sought community views on whether these projects reflected planning issues that matter most to the community. The consultation also sought comments on suggestions for any planning-related issues, gaps or opportunities that could be investigated in the future.
62. Community consultation was undertaken over a three week period from the 5 - 26 August 2026.
63. The consultation was primarily conducted through an online survey on 'Have Your Say' and was promoted through a range of sources including Council website, Council News, on hold messaging, media release and internal Source News article.
64. Community members were invited to:

    - Indicate the overall importance of the proposed work program.
    - Rate the importance of each proposed project.
    - Rank their top five priorities.
    - Provide open-text comments identifying additional planning matters for Council officers to consider.

65. In summary, Council received 185 page views on the 'Have Your Say' page over the period of the consultation. 112 unique community members visited the consultation page, and some of them followed the page to receive updates on the outcome of the consultation. Content was accessed in other languages other than English, including Punjabi, Dari, Sinhalese, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), and Khmer.
66. A total of seven (7) contributions were received online via the survey on 'Have your Say'. Key findings included:

- Strong support for the proposed further strategic work program.
- High levels of support for the Greater Dandenong Housing Strategy.
- Community members highlighted housing affordability, environmental sustainability, urban design and infrastructure planning as key priorities.

67. All eleven (11) projects are considered very important or important to our community. With the top three (3) priority projects noted as:

- Greater Dandenong Housing Strategy
- Review of the Municipal Planning Strategy
- Activity Centre planning consistency review

68. A summary of the open-text comments received, and a response is included as follows:

- ***"Require more landscaping and better design outcomes."***

  This will be addressed as part of the review of the Municipal Planning Strategy and review of the urban design in commercial and industrial areas projects as set out in the further strategic work.

- **"Perhaps the unique history and character of many parts**."

  This will be addressed as part of the review of the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Greater Dandenong Housing Strategy as set out in the further strategic work.

- ***"Prioritising the human and social outcomes of these areas."***

  This will be addressed as part of the review of the Municipal Planning Strategy as set out in the further strategic work.

- ***"We desperately need more affordable housing for families in the area. There are not enough homes to rent, and most are no longer affordable anyway."***

  This will be addressed as part of the review of the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Greater Dandenong Housing Strategy as set out in the further strategic work.

- ***"Better care of our footpaths and crossings at the ends of our streets to be more wheelchair friendly and paths wider due to overgrowth."***

  This is not a matter that can be addressed via the planning scheme, however may be considered through asset management planning.

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

69. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
    - Sustainable environment.
70. 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.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

71. 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.459
Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad
Seconded by: Cr Lana Formoso

That Council:

1. **ADOPTS the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme Review 2026 per Attachment 1, including the proposed further strategic work for the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme;**
2. **SUPPORTS the submission of the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme Review 2026 to the Minister for Planning prior to 30 October 2026; and**
3. **SUPPORTS officers commencing the further strategic work identified in the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme Review 2026**

CARRIED 10 / 0

4.3.2 Councillor Observer Roles on Council Owned Entity Boards

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

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance, Integrity, Legal & Risk

Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services

Attachments:

1. Response to Notice of Motion 20 Dandenong FINAL [**4.3.2.1** - 11 pages]
Response to Notice of Motion 20 – Dandenong Market Pty Ltd – Governance Clarification Report

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES governance considerations with Councillor observer appointments to the Boards of Council-controlled entities, Dandenong Market Pty Ltd (DMPL) and South East Leisure Pty Ltd (SEL);**
2. **NOTES the three governance models impacting Councillor observer representation outlined in this report;**
3. **APPROVES Option 3 - the removal of Councillor observer arrangements for Dandenong Market Pty Ltd and South East Leisure Pty Ltd and the implementation of enhanced shareholder reporting and engagement, as outlined in this report, ahead of the 2026 annual appointments; and**
4. **AUTHORISES the Chief Executive Officer to make or bring back to Council where Council approval is required any consequential amendments to governance instruments and administrative arrangements necessary to give effect to Council's decision.**

Executive Summary

1. As part of its core business, Council oversees the good management of its two Council-controlled entities, Dandenong Market Pty Ltd (DMPL) and South East Leisure Pty Ltd (SEL). Among its oversight practices, Council appoints Councillor observers to attend DMPL and SEL independent Board meetings.
2. While Councillor observers provide direct visibility of Board activities and support communication between Council and its controlled entities, the role raises governance considerations, relating to confidentiality, conflicts of interest and Board independence.
3. Council is presented with three oversight models ahead of its 2026 annual appointments: retain the existing arrangements; retain observer roles with strengthened governance controls; or remove the roles and strengthen formal shareholder reporting and engagement.
4. Having regard to Board independence, equitable access to information and Council's collective shareholder role, Option 3, an enhanced shareholder model, is recommended. This model would be supported by strengthened reporting and more regular engagement between Councillors and the entities.

5. The determination of Councillor observer arrangements is a shareholder governance matter for Council. Broader governance, service agreement, performance expectations and operating model matters relating to Council-controlled entities are separate considerations and may be the subject of future review and reporting to Council.

Background

Wholly owned yet independent entities

6. DMPL, a wholly owned entity of the City of Greater Dandenong, is governed by an independent, skills-based Board. Council exercises its role as sole shareholder through the Company's Constitution, Management Services Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), together with strategic approvals and reporting arrangements.
7. Council appoints one Councillor and one Executive Leadership Team member as non-voting observers to the DMPL Board; under the MOU, observers are not Directors or decision-makers and must respect Board independence, manage conflicts of interest and maintain confidentiality.
8. Council also appoints a Councillor representative/observer to SEL. Despite its different governance arrangements, as a Council-controlled entity governed by an independent Board, it is appropriate to consider Council's presence on both DMPL and SEL Boards.

Established and maturing governance

9. Both DMPL and SEL have established governance arrangements that continue to mature. It is timely to review the role of Councillor observers and consider whether Council's approach to shareholder oversight and engagement with its entities remains appropriate.
10. This is further supported by a review of mechanisms comparable Councils use to oversee council-owned entities that preserve the independence of entity Boards. For example, Queen Victoria Market Pty Ltd and Prahran market Pty Ltd operate without Councillor attendance at Boards, with the relationship between entities and councils supported through formal shareholder oversight and reporting arrangements.
11. Council has previously reviewed DMPL's governance arrangements compared to Queen Victoria Market (see Notice of Motion No. 20 attached) and is now asked to make a determination on the use of Councillor observers ahead of 2026 annual appointments.

Key Issues and Discussion

Governance considerations for Councillor observer model

12. When determining the appropriate model for the Councillor observer mechanism, governance considerations for Council review include the distinction between Council's shareholder role and Board governance responsibilities, Board independence, equitable access to information across Council, confidentiality and conflict management, and the effectiveness of formal shareholder reporting and engagement.
13. The Council and the entities' independent Boards perform distinct roles. While Councillors act collectively through Council, the Boards governs their entities and make decisions within their authority. Observer arrangements must therefore preserve Board independence, clearly distinguish the observer from a director or decision-maker, and support Council's ability to exercise its shareholder responsibilities collectively.

14. While Councillor observers provide direct visibility of Board discussions and can strengthen communication and understanding between Council and the entity, they may also receive confidential or commercially sensitive information that cannot be shared with other Councillors. This can result in unequal access to information across Council, and even potential or perceived conflicts when related matters subsequently come before Council. There may also be competing expectations about whether the observer represents Council or reports back on Board matters.

A range of oversight mechanisms in place

15. Council's shareholder oversight does not depend on the observer role. For example, DMPL existing mechanisms include approval of the Strategic Plan, Annual Business Plan and Budget, financial and performance reporting, officer engagement and formal shareholder approvals. Councillor observer roles may complement but do not substitute more structured shareholder reporting.

16. The earlier Notice of Motion report identified alternative governance models, including Queen Victoria Market Pty Ltd, where shareholder oversight operates without Councillor attendance at Board meetings. These comparators demonstrate that different governance models can support Board independence and shareholder accountability; they do not establish that one model is universally preferable.

An analysis of proposed options

17. The three options available to Council are summarised below. Each retains Council's ownership and shareholder oversight but uses a different mechanism to balance direct visibility, Board independence and collective access to information.

	Option 1 **Status quo**	**Option 2** **Strengthened observer model**	**Option 3** **Enhanced shareholder model**
Approach	• Current Councillor observer arrangements	• Retain Councillor observers • Strengthen governance protocols	• Remove Councillor observers • strengthen formal shareholder reporting • strengthen shareholder engagement
Direct Board visibility	• Retain current	• Retain current	• Replace with structured reporting and engagement
Governance arrangements	• Retain current	• Formal role statement • Confidentiality requirements • Conflict and recusal protocols • Clear limits on participation and representation • Chair exclusion rights • Induction and periodic review	• Enhance financial, performance and strategic risk reporting • Annual Chair/CEO presentation • Strategic briefings • Councillor engagement, site visits and networking opportunities • Escalation of material matters • Executive-level shareholder interface • Uplift DMPL & SEL Audit & Risk Committee independence
Benefits	• Continuity • Direct visibility • Existing relationships	• Retain visibility • Clearer role boundaries • More consistent governance controls	• Clearer institutional separation • Equitable access to shareholder information across Council

	Option 1 Status quo	Option 2 Strengthened observer model	Option 3 Enhanced shareholder model
			• Broader opportunities for Councillor engagement and relationship building • Stronger governance
Considerations	• Existing issues remain (confidentiality, information asymmetry, conflict, role clarity)	• More controls to manage but not remove existing issues	• Less informal Boardroom visibility • Greater reliance on timely formal reporting and engagement
Implementation	• Minimal change	• Governance documentation • Induction • Any other consequential amendments	• Enhanced reporting framework • Any other consequential governance amendments

Option 1: Retain current arrangements

18. Under Option 1, Council would continue to appoint Councillor observers to the DMPL and SEL Boards under the existing arrangements. This would retain direct visibility of Board discussions and existing relationships between Council and the entities, with no substantive implementation changes required.

19. The existing governance arrangements would continue to apply, including current confidentiality, conflict management and role requirements. The governance considerations identified in this report, confidentiality constraints and the distinction between an individual observer's knowledge and Council's collective position, would also remain. Differences in the information available to individual Councillors would also remain.

Option 2: Retain Observer roles with strengthened governance controls

20. Under Option 2, the existing observer model would be retained but supported by a more formal and consistent governance framework. This would include a standard Observer Role Statement or Agreement, confidentiality requirements, conflict and recusal protocols, clear limits on participation and representation, arrangements for exclusion from particular Board discussions, induction and periodic review.

21. These controls would provide greater clarity around the purpose and boundaries of the observer role, while retaining direct Councillor visibility of Board activities. They would manage, but not remove, the unequal access to information between Councillors, and confidentiality constraints inherent in an individual Councillor having access to Board information that cannot be shared with the remainder of Council.

Option 3: Remove Observer roles and enhance shareholder reporting and engagement (Preferred)

22. Under Option 3, Observer roles would be removed and the existing shareholder oversight framework would be strengthened to ensure Council retains appropriate visibility of entity performance and material issues. This could include:
    - quarterly financial and performance reporting against the approved business plan and key performance indicators;
    - reporting on material strategic risks, emerging issues and matters requiring shareholder attention;
    - an annual presentation to Councillors by the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer;
    - scheduled strategic briefings between the Board and Council;
    - regular opportunities for Councillors to engage directly with the entities outside formal Board meetings, including site visits, tours, community engagement activities and other appropriate networking and relationship-building opportunities;
    - prompt escalation through the Chief Executive Officer of material matters requiring shareholder awareness or action;
    - retention of an appropriate Executive-level shareholder interface; and
    - ongoing monitoring of relevant regulatory and policy developments, including the Fair Jobs Code and any associated impacts on Council-controlled entities, to ensure Council remains informed of emerging governance, procurement and operating model considerations that may require future strategic review or Council decision.
23. The removal of the observer role would not be intended to reduce the relationship or connection between Councillors and the entities. Rather, the enhanced shareholder model would provide more regular and broader opportunities for Councillors collectively to engage with the entities, understand their operations and activities, and build relationships outside the formal Board environment. This may include increased reporting and briefings, site visits and tours, community-facing engagement and other appropriate opportunities for interaction between Councillors, Board members and entity leadership.
24. This model would avoid the governance considerations arising specifically from individual Councillor attendance at Board meetings, while placing greater reliance on the quality and timeliness of formal shareholder reporting and more regular, structured engagement between Council and the entities.
25. Broader governance and operating model matters affecting Council-controlled entities remain under active consideration. This includes review of service agreements, performance expectations, key performance indicators and evolving external regulatory requirements. While these matters are separate to the question of Councillor observer roles, they may influence future governance arrangements and may be the subject of separate reports to Council where required.

Implementation Considerations

26. As noted, for consistency in governance, it is recommended that Council's chosen model is implemented at both DMPL and SEL Boards. Relevant governance instruments would be updated as required to give effect to the selected model.

27. The Audit and Risk Committee is not proposed to be included in this decision. Its statutory assurance role and committee structure are materially different from the operational Boards of Council-controlled entities and will continue to be governed by its Charter and applicable legislative requirements.
28. Under Options 2 or 3, officers would work with the relevant Boards to implement Council's decision and identify any consequential amendments to governance instruments or administrative arrangements. Any amendments requiring Council or formal shareholder approval would be brought back to Council where required.
29. The governance model presented in this report is a matter for Council to determine in its role as shareholder. Consistent with this position, no consultation with the DMPL or SEL Boards has been undertaken prior to Council consideration of this report.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

30. No material human resource implications are anticipated. Options 2 and 3 would require officer time to develop or administer the relevant governance arrangements.

Financial/Asset Resource Implications

31. No material financial/asset resource implication is anticipated. Options 2 and 3 may involve minor administrative costs associated with governance documentation, reporting and engagement arrangements, which are expected to be accommodated within existing resources.

Legal/Risk Implications

32. Each option has governance implications relating to role clarity, confidentiality, conflicts of interest, information asymmetry, Board independence and shareholder reporting. No legal conclusion is made that the current observer model is unlawful or that any particular model is legally required. Relevant governance instruments would be reviewed and amended as necessary to implement Council's decision, with legal advice obtained where required.

Environmental Implications

33. There are no environmental implications arising directly from this report.

Gender Impact Assessment

34. A gender impact assessment is not required for the decision presented in this report.

Community Consultation

35. There is no requirement for community consultation in relation to the governance options presented in this report.

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

36. This report follows Council's consideration of Notice of Motion No. 20 concerning the governance arrangements applying to DMPL and supports Council's broader obligations in relation to good governance and accountable stewardship of Council-controlled entities.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

37. This report has considered Council's applicable legislative and governance obligations, including the overarching governance principles of the *Local Government Act* 2020 and the governance arrangements applying to Council-controlled entities. *The Corporations Act* 2001 (Cth) applies to the governance of the relevant companies and their Boards.

Cr Jim Memeti left the Chamber at 8.21pm.

MOTION
Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad
Seconded by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

That Council:

1. **NOTES governance considerations with Councillor observer appointments to the Boards of Council-controlled entities, Dandenong Market Pty Ltd (DMPL) and South East Leisure Pty Ltd (SEL);**
2. **NOTES the three governance models impacting Councillor observer representation outlined in this report;**
3. **APPROVES Option 3 - the removal of Councillor observer arrangements for Dandenong Market Pty Ltd and South East Leisure Pty Ltd and the implementation of enhanced shareholder reporting and engagement, as outlined in this report, ahead of the 2026 annual appointments; and**
4. **AUTHORISES the Chief Executive Officer to make or bring back to Council where Council approval is required any consequential amendments to governance instruments and administrative arrangements necessary to give effect to Council's decision.**

LOST 4 / 5

For - Cr Isabella Do, Cr Rhonda Garad, Cr Bob Milkovic and Cr Sean O'Reilly

Against - Cr Phillip Danh, Cr Lana Formoso, Cr Alice Phuong Le, Cr Sophie Tan and Cr Loi Truong

Cr Jim Memeti returned to the Chamber at 8.36pm.

4.3.3 Chief Executive Officer's Annual Review 2026

Chief Executive Officer, Jacqui Weatherill disclosed a material conflict of interest (s 128) in this item. As she is the incumbent in the position of the annual review and would receive direct benefit if Council endorses the officer recommendation. Chief Executive Director, Jacqui Weatherill left the Chamber prior to discussion and voting on this item.

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services

Attachments: CEO Annual Performance Review Report
CEO Performance Plan including KPIs
This report contains an attachment which is deemed confidential under s 3(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act* 2020. It contains personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES that a comprehensive review of the performance of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has been undertaken by the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee in line with Council's CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy; and**
2. **NOTES the delay in the CEO reviews due to personnel changes and the appointment of a new Independent Advisor; and**
3. **APPROVES an increase of 2.5% to the salary component of the CEO's Total Remuneration Package (TRP) in recognition of the CEO's performance for the 2025 calendar year effective from 19 December 2026; and**
4. **APPROVES an increase of 2.5% to the salary component of the CEO's TRP in recognition of the CEO's performance for the current review year effective from 19 December 2026; and**
5. **ADOPTS the CEO Performance Plan, including KPIs, developed by the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee.**

Executive Summary

1. Council is required to review the performance of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) annually in accordance with its CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy.
2. The CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee completed the review on 24 September 2026, with all Councillors invited to participate and provide feedback to the CEO.
3. Due to personnel changes and the appointment of a new Independent Advisor, the review covered the 2025 calendar year through to 30 June 2026 rather than the usual 12-month cycle.
4. Following positive performance review outcomes for the 2025 calendar year to June 2026, the report recommends a 2.5% increase to the salary component of the CEO's TRP, to recognise that no increase was applied in 2025 due to the missed review. A further 2.5% increase is also recommended for the current review year. Both increases would take effect from 19 December 2026.

5. The report also asks Council to adopt a new CEO Performance Plan, including KPIs, developed by the Committee and CEO.

Background

6. Council is required to review the performance of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) annually as outlined in its CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy.
7. The annual review of the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) performance is managed by the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee (CERC) which comprises of the following councillors: Mayor Sophie Tan (Chair), Councillor Sean O'Reilly, Councillor Rhonda Garad, Councillor Isabella Do, Councillor Lana Formoso, Councillor Melinda Yim and Councillor Jim Memeti.
8. The CERC is supported by an independent adviser, Christine Mileham, from Sal Corp.
9. Due to changes in personnel and the appointment of a new Independent Advisor, the CEO review cycle did not align with the usual 12-month period. The assessment therefore considered performance from the 2025 calendar year through to June 2026.
10. The CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee discussed the review over two meetings held on 27 August and 24 September 2026, with all Councillors invited to participate and provide feedback to the CEO.

Key Issues and Discussion

11. The performance review of the CEO is based on six key performance measures. These are: Financial Management, Customer Experience, People and Culture, Communication, Engagement and Advocacy, Strategic Development and General Leadership.
12. Based on positive performance review outcomes for the 2025 calendar year through to June 2026, the report recommends a 2.5% increase to the salary component of the CEO's TRP, in recognition of no increase being applied in 2025 due to the missed review. It also recommends a further 2.5% increase for the current review year. Both increases would take effect from 19 December 2026.
13. The Committee noted that the increase reflects the rate cap and Council's financial constraints.
14. In line with the requirements of the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy, Council must adopt an annual Performance Plan including KPIs for the CEO. The Performance Plan must be developed collaboratively between the CEO and the Committee.
15. Through its meetings and offline conversations, the Committee in collaboration with the CEO have developed a robust Performance Plan with KPIs for Council adoption.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

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

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

Operating Budget Implications

17. There are no financial implications associated with this report. The proposed increase is in line with the allocated budget for the current and next financial years.

Asset Implications

18. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

21. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

22. There was no requirement for community consultation. While the CERC is comprised of a limited number of councillors, all councillors were invited to participate in the CEO's performance review.

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

23. 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

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

- The Overarching Governance Principles of the *Local Government Act* 2020.
- Council's Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy.

Chief Executive Officer, Jacqui Weatherill left the Chamber at 8.37pm.

MINUTE No.460
Moved by: Cr Phillip Danh
Seconded by: Cr Jim Memeti

That Council:

1. **NOTES that a comprehensive review of the performance of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has been undertaken by the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee in line with Council's CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy; and**
2. **NOTES the delay in the CEO reviews due to personnel changes and the appointment of a new Independent Advisor; and**
3. **APPROVES an increase of 2.5% to the salary component of the CEO's Total Remuneration Package (TRP) in recognition of the CEO's performance for the 2025 calendar year effective from 19 December 2026; and**
4. **APPROVES an increase of 2.5% to the salary component of the CEO's TRP in recognition of the CEO's performance for the current review year effective from 19 December 2026; and**
5. **ADOPTS the CEO Performance Plan, including KPIs, developed by the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee.**

CARRIED 10 / 0

4.3.4 Response to Notice of Motion No. 21 - Public Transparency of Major Project Costs

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

Officer Recommendation

That Council NOTES the information provided in this report in response to Notice of Motion NO. 21 – Public transparency of Major Project Costs.

Executive Summary

1. Notice of Motion NO. 21 – Public transparency of Major Project Costs was passed at the 15 June 2026 Council Meeting. This report outlines the review and actions undertaken to address this NOM

Background

2. Greater Dandenong City Council (Council) regularly delivers a diverse range of major capital works and infrastructure projects to support the growth and prosperity of the Greater Dandenong community.
3. Local residents and ratepayers have an interest in tracking the progress, timelines, and anticipated costs of these municipal infrastructure assets.
4. Under the Local Government Act 2020 (Vic), Council is committed to public transparency, financial accountability, and making municipal information easily accessible.
5. Notice of Motion NO. 21 – Public transparency of Major Project Costs was passed at the 15 June 2026 Council Meeting:

- Clause 1 - NOTES that the Greater Dandenong City Council delivers an extensive annual capital works program to improve local public spaces and infrastructure;
- Clause 2 - REAFFIRMS its commitment to transparency and the proactive, plain-language sharing of basic project details with ratepayers; and
- Clause 3 - REQUESTS the Chief Executive Officer arrange for the implementation of a standardised summary table displaying the overall estimated project cost on the dedicated webpage for all active major capital works projects over an established threshold (such as $1 million), with the published information to be reviewed and updated at a minimum of every 12 months.

6. Clause 4 - FURTHER REQUESTS that Council investigate enhanced reporting capabilities — including the potential use of visual public dashboards and additional project data fields — as part of its broader project reporting initiative, with options to be included in the briefing note provided to Councillors.
7. Significant improvements have recently been made to the Council Website and reporting on Capital works. This has included creating and implementing:
    - a new template project page, (together with the new overall look and feel of the website);

8. an information architecture for Major Projects and Capital works web pages, so that they are logically organised and content is more findable;
9. a standard set of fields of data to appear at the top of each major project page, incorporating:
    - Project Title
    - Completion Date
    - Total Budget
    - Funding source:
    - Status (Planning, Designing, Tendering, Under Construction or Completed)
    - Location
    - Contact Details.
10. a section on the website for 'Major Projects', where the trigger is those projects costed at more than $1 million. This section has been populated with the projects already underway or planned to be undertaken in 2026/27 that meet this threshold. All Major Projects currently in this section have the standard data fields at the top of each page.

Key Issues and Discussion

Clause 3 Implementation of a standardised summary table displaying the overall estimated project cost on the dedicated webpage for all active major capital works projects over an established threshold (such as $1 million), with the published information to be reviewed and updated at a minimum of every 12 months.

11. A standard set of data fields has been created and populated for Major Projects with a total estimated cost over $1 million. These pages will be updated a minimum of once per year, but generally more frequently.
12. Most of these projects can also be found through a new project information architecture setting out projects in various categories, such as "Sports and Recreation" and "Transport, Roads, Footpaths and Drains" and "Master Plans."
13. Other projects, which don't meet the $1m threshold as a 'major' project, but are of significant community interest, will also be published as project pages using the same standard data fields, and within this architecture, so they should be intuitively findable for users.
14. As part of this project, many historic project or consultation web pages have been identified across different parts of the website map, with inconsistent content. These are being gradually archived or updated and folded into the new information architecture.
15. This clean-up of historic project pages is important. Having too many web pages makes it difficult for a websites search engine, or third party search engines and AI tools to find current and relevant content for users. Having too many project 'pins' will also make the maps crowded and difficult to read. It is important to retire old content, to make way for new project information over time.
16. The general principle will be to retire projects that were completed more than one year ago, unless they are iconic projects (such as the Keysborough Community Hub) or part of a Master Plan; in which case they will be retained for longer.
17. By the end of October 2026, all remaining project pages will have standard content, will be on the new projects template and will have been folded into the new project's information architecture.
18. New projects planned for this program year will then be developed as required.

19. A consistent approach to clusters or programs of projects, such as Black Spot road projects or drainage projects is also being developed. In some of these cases, the 'one project, one page' approach would lead to web clutter, and it will be more appropriate to have one page setting out a program of projects.
20. Separate to periodic review of the website projects and content (minimum annually), the creation and consideration of the annual Capital Works Program provides a regular opportunity to identify, discuss and consider key projects that will be incorporated onto the website.

Clause 4 Investigate enhanced reporting capabilities — including the potential use of visual public dashboards and additional project data fields — as part of its broader project reporting initiative, with options to be included in the briefing note provided to Councillors.

21. Council intends to be as transparent to the community as possible on the capital works program throughout the year. In addition to the improvements already implemented, there are a number of initiatives being undertaken that will provide later opportunity for enhanced reporting/transparency.
22. Council's newly established Project Management Office and the organisations investment in improved finance and record management systems will provide significant opportunity around how Council presents project/program data both internally, for governance purposes, as well as externally to the community for transparency.
23. It is proposed that options for enhanced reporting capabilities will be shared with Council from Q1 of 2027/28.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

24. 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

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

Asset Implications

26. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

29. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

30. There was no requirement for community consultation.

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

31. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
    - Safe and peaceful community.
    - Sustainable environment.
32. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29:
    - A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
    - A city of accessible, vibrant centres and places.
    - A 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.
33. This report relates to NO. 21 – Public transparency of Major Project Costs

Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

MINUTE No.461
Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly
Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council NOTES the information provided in this report in response to Notice of Motion NO. 21 – Public transparency of Major Project Costs.

CARRIED 10 / 0

4.3.5 Draft Minutes of Advisory Committee Meetings

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Community Strengthening

Attachments:

1. Draft Minutes of Disability Advisory Committee Meeting - 13 July 2026 [**4.3.5.1** - 2 pages]
2. Draft Minutes of Positive Ageing Advisory Committee Meeting - 13 August 2026 [**4.3.5.2** - 2 pages]
3. Draft Minutes of Arts Advisory Board Meeting - 19 August 2026 [**4.3.5.3** - 3 pages]
4. Draft Minutes of Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting 27 August 2026 [**4.3.5.4** - 3 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES the Draft Minutes of the meeting for Disability Advisory Committee held on 13 July 2026 (per Attachment 1);**
2. **NOTES the Draft Minutes of the meeting for Positive Ageing Advisory Committee held on 13 August 2026 (per Attachment 2);**
3. **NOTES the Draft Minutes of the meeting for Arts Advisory Board held on 19 August 2026 (per Attachment 3); and**
4. **NOTES the Draft Minutes of the meeting for Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee held on 27 August 2026 (per Attachment 4).**

Executive Summary

1. At the Council meeting held 23 April 2018, Council resolved in part to *invite Advisory Committees and Reference Groups to submit meeting minutes for Council endorsement*. This resolution also allowed interested Councillors (and those that attend these Committees and Reference Groups) to speak to the meeting about items discussed at these meetings.
2. This report recommends that the Draft Minutes of the following Advisory Committee meetings be noted by Council:

a. Draft Minutes of the meeting for Disability Advisory Committee held on 13 July 2026 (per Attachment 1);

b. Draft Minutes of the meeting for Positive Ageing Advisory Committee held on 13 August 2026 (per Attachment 2);

c. Draft Minutes of the meeting for Arts Advisory Board held on 19 August 2026 (per Attachment 3); and

d. Draft Minutes of the meeting for Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee held on 27 August 2026 (per Attachment 4).

Background

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

Links to Community Vision and Council Plan

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

Legislative and Policy Obligations

11. This report has considered Council's legislative and policy obligations (where applicable) as outlined in the Report Considerations section detailed in the front of this Agenda. The applicable obligations considered and applied are:
    - The Overarching Governance Principles of the *Local Government Act* 2020.
    - The *Gender Equality Act* 2020.
    - *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities* 2006.
    - Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.

MINUTE No.462
Moved by: Cr Isabella Do
Seconded by: Cr Lana Formoso

That Council:

1. **NOTES the Draft Minutes of the meeting for Disability Advisory Committee held on 13 July 2026 (per Attachment 1);**
2. **NOTES the Draft Minutes of the meeting for Positive Ageing Advisory Committee held on 13 August 2026 (per Attachment 2);**
3. **NOTES the Draft Minutes of the meeting for Arts Advisory Board held on 19 August 2026 (per Attachment 3); and**
4. **NOTES the Draft Minutes of the meeting for Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee held on 27 August 2026 (per Attachment 4).**

CARRIED 10 / 0

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

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

Officer Recommendation

That Council RECEIVES and NOTES:

1. **the information contained in this report; and**
2. **the information discussed at the below listed Councillor Briefing Sessions on 5 October 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 21 September – 5 October 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 21 September 2026 – 5 October 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. Australia Day Award Nominations; b. Council Building Plaques being stolen from Springvale Community Hub; and Agenda items for the Council Meeting 21 September 2026.	***Pre-Council Meeting (PCM) – 21 September 2026***
2	***GESM Update*** James Merlino, Greater South East Melbourne Board Member provided an overview of the advocacy work being undertaken by GSEM with both State and Federal Governments. The presentation highlighted GSEM's key advocacy priorities, which focus on improving regional connectivity and supporting growth through investment in transport infrastructure. Priority areas include enhanced bus services, road network improvements, better movement of people and goods, increased freight access, and targeted road upgrades across the region to address congestion and support economic development.	***Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 5 October 2026***
3	***Dandenong Wellbeing Centre Operational Review*** ***CONFIDENTIAL under s 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.***	***Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 5 October 2026***
4	***Councillor Observer Roles on Council Owned Entity Boards*** Councillors were briefed on governance arrangements for Councillor observers on the boards of Dandenong Market Pty Ltd and South East Leisure Pty Ltd, including governance risks, oversight models, options for future appointments, and potential changes to reporting, engagement, and governance processes.	***Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 5 October 2026***

5	***Councillor Candidature at the Upcoming State Election*** Councillors were briefed on their obligations under the Councillor Candidature in State or Federal Elections Policy, including requirements for Councillors seeking candidature in the upcoming State Election, maintaining a clear separation between Council duties and campaign activities and upholding Council's integrity and impartiality.	***Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 5 October 2026***
6	***General Discussions*** Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: a. Biannual Return Reminder; b. Community Safety Family Fun Day this weekend; c. Water Safety Month; d. Centenarian Celebration; and Agenda items for the Council Meeting 19 October 2026.	***Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 5 October 2026***

Apologies

5. Councillor Sophie Tan, Councillor Bob Milkovic and Councillor Loi Truong submitted apologies for the Councillor Briefing Session on 5 October 2026.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

6. 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.
7. 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.463
Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti
Seconded by: Cr Lana Formoso

That Council RECEIVES and NOTES:

1. **the information contained in this report; and**
2. **the information discussed at the below listed Councillor Briefing Sessions on 5 October 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 10 / 0

4.3.7 List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance, Integrity, Legal & Risk

Attachments:
1. List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors [**4.3.7.1** - 2 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That the listed items for the period 31 August 2026 to 2 October 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 31 August 2026 to 2 October 2026.

MINUTE No.464
Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti
Seconded by: Cr Loi Truong

That the listed items for the period 31 August 2026 to 2 October 2026 provided in Attachment 1 to this report be received and noted.

CARRIED 10 / 0

5 NOTICES OF MOTION

5.1 NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 29 - SMART GLASSES AND PRIVACY IN COUNCIL FACILITIES

Responsible Officer: Chief Customer & Information Officer
Author: Cr Isabella Do

Preamble

1. The rapid emergence of cheaper and more accessible camera-enabled “smart glasses” presents a serious and growing challenge to privacy, safety and dignity in community spaces.
2. Smart glasses can look like ordinary glasses while allowing the wearer to photograph, record video and audio, access artificial intelligence and, in some cases, livestream what they see. Unlike a person holding up a mobile phone or camera, someone wearing camera-enabled glasses can potentially record people without those around them immediately knowing.
3. Recently, in August, Kmart's $89 camera glasses sold out just after being made available, demonstrating how quickly wearable recording technology is in demand. "What was a niche problem is now a very serious privacy issue in our community, putting personal data and community safety at risk.” (Mat Morgan, 2026).
4. This creates particular concerns in places where children, families and community members should be able to participate without fear of being covertly recorded, including swimming pools, leisure centres, childcare facilities, playgrounds and change rooms.
5. Australia's privacy laws have not kept pace with this technology. The Federal Government has acknowledged the emerging privacy risks associated with smart glasses but has not committed to a temporary ban on their importation while Australia's privacy framework is brought up to date.
6. Importantly, the Federal Government has acknowledged that councils can act.
7. On 31 August 2026, Attorney-General Michelle Rowland said: “I would like other councils to consider what kind of public areas they have in their sphere of influence where this could apply.” The Attorney-General also said that “councils and businesses, such as retail shops with change rooms, could restrict the use of smart glasses as they saw fit.”
8. There is therefore no need for Council to wait for new federal legislation before taking reasonable and proportionate action within Council-controlled spaces.
9. Other councils have already demonstrated that action is possible.
10. On 25 August 2026, Brisbane City Council changed the conditions of entry at its 21 public pools to prohibit non-consensual filming and photography using camera-enabled devices, including smart glasses, mobile phones and action cameras.
11. Council officers in the City of Melbourne are already organising signage and provided staff education, advising that smart glasses are prohibited, without needing a Notice of Motion.
12. Last month, the City of Yarra resolved to restrict smart glasses at Council leisure centres, childcare centres and playgrounds, with appropriate exemptions for people who rely on the technology because of disability. Yarra also resolved to advocate for stronger federal privacy laws and a temporary restriction on imports.

13. Multiple Sydney Councils have also moved to ban AI smart glasses in public spaces and facilities over privacy and covert recording concerns, such as Canterbury-Bankstown Council, one of Sydney's largest councils, which has voted in favour to ban smart glasses from its leisure centres and pools, and Inner West Council which has banned smart glasses and other wearable recording devices in its venues and facilities, including pools, change rooms, childcare centres and public toilets.
14. These examples demonstrate that councils can act now, using their existing control over facilities and conditions of entry, while advocating for the comprehensive national reforms ultimately required.
15. Any Council policy must recognise legitimate accessibility applications for smart glasses, including for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, have low vision, or have other disability-related needs. Such uses should be protected through appropriate exemptions and reasonable adjustments.
16. Council-controlled facilities should be places where residents can swim, exercise, access childcare and recreation, and allow their children to play without the reasonable concern that another person may be discreetly photographing, filming or recording them.
17. The Federal Government has said councils can act because it won't. Other councils are already acting. Greater Dandenong should do so now.

Motion

That Council:

1. **DIRECTS officers to prepare a report on Council's current conditions of entry and relevant facility policies with a view to establishing what further steps can be taken to prohibit the use of camera-enabled "smart glasses" and other covert camera-enabled wearable technology for photographing, filming, recording or livestreaming people without their consent at:**
    - **Council leisure centres, swimming pools and recreation facilities;**
    - **Council-operated and Council-managed childcare and early-years facilities;**
    - **Council playgrounds; and**
    - **other Council-operated or Council-controlled spaces identified by officers as appropriate.**
2. **The report should:**
    a. **IDENTIFY appropriate exemptions and reasonable adjustments for people who use smart glasses or other wearable technology as a disability or accessibility aid, including people who are deaf or hard of hearing, have low vision, or have other disability-related needs;**
    b. **DISTINGUISH between possession or wearing of the technology and its use for recording, so that people are not unnecessarily prevented from accessing Council facilities because they possess legitimate accessibility technology;**
    c. **RECOMMEND what further steps can be taken, including consideration of:**
        - **ensuring clear and prominent signage at affected facilities;**
        - **increasing guidance and training to Council staff, contractors, facility operators and authorised personnel;**

- **clearly outlining the process for responding to suspected non-consensual recording; and**
- **providing staff with appropriate authority to direct a person to cease recording and, where permitted, require a person who breaches the conditions of entry to leave the facility; and**

d. INCLUDE a communications plan outlining changes to Council users and relevant stakeholders, including residents, families, childcare users, sporting clubs, community organisations and facility users, through signage, Council's website, social media and other appropriate channels;

3. WRITES to the Prime Minister, Attorney-General and relevant Federal Ministers expressing Council's concern about the privacy and safety risks associated with covert camera-enabled wearable technology and calling for urgent national action;

4. ADVOCATES to the Federal Government for:

- **amendments to the Privacy Act and related legislation to ensure that non-consensual filming, photography, collection, storage, use or disclosure of footage obtained through covert wearable technology is appropriately regulated;**
- **stronger protections against covert surveillance in public and semi-public places;**
- **appropriate powers for the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner and eSafety Commissioner to investigate and respond to harmful uses of covert wearable technology;**
- **mandatory safeguards for camera-enabled wearable devices, including clear and prominent recording indicators and other measures to reduce covert recording and livestreaming; and**
- **a temporary restriction or ban on the importation of smart glasses and other covert camera-enabled wearable devices, with appropriate exemptions for genuine disability and accessibility aids, until Australian privacy and data-collection laws are strengthened to adequately address the risks posed by these technologies.**

5. SHARES Council's resolution with the Municipal Association of Victoria and other Victorian councils, encouraging local governments to consider similar protections within Council-controlled facilities; and

6. RECEIVES this report from officers within 4 months.

MINUTE No.465
Moved by: Cr Isabella Do
Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad

That Council:

1. **DIRECTS officers to prepare a report on Council's current conditions of entry and relevant facility policies with a view to establishing what further steps can be taken to prohibit the use of camera-enabled "smart glasses" and other covert camera-enabled wearable technology for photographing, filming, recording or livestreaming people without their consent at:**
   - **Council leisure centres, swimming pools and recreation facilities;**
   - **Council-operated and Council-managed childcare and early-years facilities;**
   - **Council playgrounds; and**
   - **other Council-operated or Council-controlled spaces identified by officers as appropriate.**
2. **The report should:**
   a. **IDENTIFY appropriate exemptions and reasonable adjustments for people who use smart glasses or other wearable technology as a disability or accessibility aid, including people who are deaf or hard of hearing, have low vision, or have other disability-related needs;**
   b. **DISTINGUISH between possession or wearing of the technology and its use for recording, so that people are not unnecessarily prevented from accessing Council facilities because they possess legitimate accessibility technology;**
   c. **RECOMMEND what further steps can be taken, including consideration of:**
      - **ensuring clear and prominent signage at affected facilities;**
      - **increasing guidance and training to Council staff, contractors, facility operators and authorised personnel;**
      - **clearly outlining the process for responding to suspected non-consensual recording; and**
      - **providing staff with appropriate authority to direct a person to cease recording and, where permitted, require a person who breaches the conditions of entry to leave the facility; and**
   d. **INCLUDE a communications plan outlining changes to Council users and relevant stakeholders, including residents, families, childcare users, sporting clubs, community organisations and facility users, through signage, Council's website, social media and other appropriate channels;**
3. **WRITES to the Prime Minister, Attorney-General and relevant Federal Ministers expressing Council's concern about the privacy and safety risks associated with covert camera-enabled wearable technology and calling for urgent national action;**

4. **ADVOCATES to the Federal Government for:**
    - **amendments to the Privacy Act and related legislation to ensure that non-consensual filming, photography, collection, storage, use or disclosure of footage obtained through covert wearable technology is appropriately regulated;**
    - **stronger protections against covert surveillance in public and semi-public places;**
    - **appropriate powers for the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner and eSafety Commissioner to investigate and respond to harmful uses of covert wearable technology;**
    - **mandatory safeguards for camera-enabled wearable devices, including clear and prominent recording indicators and other measures to reduce covert recording and livestreaming; and**
    - **a temporary restriction or ban on the importation of smart glasses and other covert camera-enabled wearable devices, with appropriate exemptions for genuine disability and accessibility aids, until Australian privacy and data-collection laws are strengthened to adequately address the risks posed by these technologies.**
5. **SHARES Council's resolution with the Municipal Association of Victoria and other Victorian councils, encouraging local governments to consider similar protections within Council-controlled facilities; and**
6. **RECEIVES this report from officers within 4 months.**

CARRIED 10 / 0

Chief Executive Officer, Jacqui Weatherill returned to the Chamber at 8.45pm.

5.2 NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 30 - DATA CENTRES

The Notice of Motion was deferred at the Council Meeting 19 October 2026, due to advice that the proposed State Government protections relating to data centres are not applicable during the caretaker period and the State election. The motion was withdrawn and will be resubmitted to the December 2026 Council Meeting once the Victorian Government's position is known.

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures
Author: Cr Isabella Do

Preamble

1. The rapid growth of artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing and digital technologies is driving unprecedented demand for data centre infrastructure across Australia. While there are currently no known data centre proposals before the City of Greater Dandenong, the rapid evolution of the sector warrants consideration of its potential implications for the municipality and the broader south-eastern metropolitan region.
2. Recent developments in neighbouring municipalities, including the City of Casey, have highlighted growing community concerns regarding the environmental, infrastructure and amenity impacts of major data centre developments. These concerns include energy consumption, water use, waste heat, noise, emergency management, environmental impacts, community consultation and the cumulative impacts of multiple facilities within a region.
3. The Victorian Government has recently announced reforms relating to data centre development. While these reforms are a positive step, local government continues to advocate for stronger planning controls, community protections, environmental safeguards and transparency measures. The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) has further called for improved strategic planning, community engagement, cumulative impact assessments, sustainability requirements and community benefit frameworks relating to data centre development (MAV Sector Submission: Senate Inquiry into Artificial Intelligence and Data Centres, September 2026).
4. As artificial intelligence accelerates demand for digital infrastructure, Greater Dandenong has an opportunity to advocate for a planning framework that protects residents, respects Traditional Owners, promotes environmental sustainability and ensures host communities receive appropriate and enduring benefits from major digital infrastructure developments.

Motion

That Council:

1. **NOTES that:**
   a. **Artificial intelligence and digital technologies are driving significant growth in demand for data centre infrastructure;**
   b. **Data centres can create substantial demands on energy, water and other infrastructure and may impact local amenity and environmental outcomes;**
   c. **Neighbouring municipalities, including the City of Casey, are already experiencing significant community interest and concern regarding data centre development proposals;**

d. **The Municipal Association of Victoria has advocated for stronger planning, environmental and community protection measures relating to data centre development; and**

e. **Recent Victorian Government reforms, including measures relating to setbacks, renewable energy supply, water use and local community benefits, are a positive step. However, concerns remain regarding cumulative impacts, strategic siting, transparency, local government involvement in decision-making, community consultation requirements and the adequacy of protections for neighbouring communities.**

2. **RECOGNISES that:**

a. **The importance of meaningful community participation in planning decisions that may affect local neighbourhoods;**

b. **Planning decisions should promote equitable outcomes and ensure that no community bears a disproportionate share of environmental and infrastructure impacts;**

c. **Traditional Owners should be appropriately engaged and included in planning, consultation and benefit-sharing arrangements relating to developments affecting Country, consistent with principles of self-determination and respect for cultural heritage.**

d. **Communities hosting nationally significant digital infrastructure should receive meaningful and enduring social, economic and environmental benefits; and**

e. **Strategic planning should ensure that major digital infrastructure developments are located in appropriate locations.**

3. **CALLS on the Victorian Government to:**

a. **Require public notice and community consultation for significant data centre developments and major expansions;**

b. **Review and strengthen planning controls to ensure minimum separation distances between data centres, residential communities and sensitive land uses are evidence-based, account for noise, visual, traffic, heat and emergency management impacts, and are sufficient to protect community amenity and wellbeing;**

c. **Require transparent assessment, public reporting and independent review of energy demand, water consumption, greenhouse emissions, noise, heat, traffic, emergency management risks, environmental impacts and cumulative regional impacts;**

d. **Ensure the Local Investment Guarantee and any associated Community Benefit Framework are mandatory, transparent, proportionate to development impacts and deliver enduring social, economic and environmental benefits for host communities;**

e. **Require cumulative impact assessments where multiple data centres or associated infrastructure are proposed within a municipality or region;**

f. **Ensure affected local governments have meaningful input into assessment processes and strategic planning decisions relating to major data centre developments; and**

g. **Continue consultation with local government and Traditional Owners in the development of Victoria's data centre planning framework.**

4. **REQUESTS the Chief Executive Officer write to the relevant Victorian Ministers advising them of Council's position; and**
5. **ENDORSES Council officers advocating through relevant local government, sector and regional forums for stronger planning, environmental and community protection measures relating to data centre development and contributing to coordinated submissions on this matter, as appropriate.**

6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

Comment
Cr Sean O'Reilly
Since the last Council Meeting I have attended the following community events:

On Tuesday 22 September 2026, I attended the Springvale Benevolent Society Annual General Meeting (AGM)

On Tuesday 6 October 2026, I attended the Springvale Asian Business Association (SABA) AGM and dinner.

On Tuesday 13 October 2026, I attended Springvale waste and street cleanliness forum. I thank Council officers for organising the community forum. I will follow up on the actions arising from that discussion.

On Friday 16 October 2026, I attended the opening night of the Noble Park Community Art Show, representing the Mayor.

On Sunday 18 October 2026, I also represented the Mayor and attended the Pink Bloom pickleball fundraiser at Pickleball Powerhouse in Noble Park North.

Comment
Cr Rhonda Garad
I acknowledge the important work of the Dandenong Community and Learning Centre Homework Club. Cr Lana Formoso and I visited the club this afternoon and saw the outstanding work being undertaken. I also acknowledge Council's strong support for this initiative.

Question
Cr Rhonda Garad
I am reporting from the committee concerned with resource recovery and waste, including the prescribed industrial waste facility.

The committee has been advised that Veolia has lodged an application with the Environment Protection Authority to extend both the operating life and the geographic area of Cell 31 at the waste facility. It is understood that this could extend the life of the prescribed industrial waste operation by approximately six to 12 years and significantly increase the amount of prescribed industrial waste received in Greater Dandenong.

Council's position for more than a decade has been to oppose further development of this landfill and to seek the cessation of activity at the site. Can Council confirm whether it will object to the proposed extension of Cell 31?

Cr Loi Truong left the Chamber at 8.52pm.

Response
Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures
Thank you for the question. Council is aware of the application and intends to brief Councillors next Monday. A report will also be presented to the November Council meeting so that Council can consider a submission.

Comment
Cr Lana Formoso
On Sunday 11 October 2026, I had the great pleasure of attending the consecration of my parish church, St Stefan Serbian Orthodox Church in Keysborough. His Holiness Patriarch Porfirije of Serbia presided over the consecration.

I have been part of this parish throughout my life. Seeing the church completed and consecrated was a beautiful and significant moment for my family and me. The project was long overdue. The building was completed several years ago, and the parish had waited for the consecration.

Question
Cr Lana Formoso
Is St Stefan Serbian Orthodox Church connected with Council's Interfaith Network and included in the tours of churches, mosques and other places of worship across Greater Dandenong? If it is not included, I ask that it be considered for the tour.

Response
Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening
Thank you for the question. The Interfaith Network manages its own membership. We will contact the network to confirm whether the church is included and, if it is not, ask the network to invite the church to become a member. Please provide the church's contact details to me.

Question
Cr Lana Formoso
I have received complaints from residents about the Council website and its difficult navigation. Having recently used the website myself to find basic information, I experienced similar issues.

The website may present particular challenges for older residents and those from culturally and linguistically diverse communities who rely on easy access to Council information and services.

Could Council review the website's usability and advise whether similar complaints have been received? I also request comparative website usage data for the current period and previous years to assist in assessing whether website performance, accessibility and user engagement are improving.

Response
Marjan Hajjari, Executive Director Strategy and Corporate Services
Thank you for the question. It would be helpful if the feedback from residents could be provided to us. Council has made significant improvements in recent months, although we recognise that further work is required.

The team, under the Communications and Engagement Manager, is undertaking extensive work on the external website. It remains a work in progress, and feedback from residents would be valuable. We are aware of the work still required and it is progressing. We can bring the relevant information back to a Councillor briefing.

Cr Loi Truong returned to the Chamber at 8.54pm.

Comment
Deputy Mayor Cr Phillip Danh
Cr O'Reilly referred to another successful Noble Park Community Art Show. The exhibition again demonstrated the considerable artistic talent in our community and gave local people an opportunity to showcase their skills. I encourage members of the community to participate next year, although I will spare everyone from my own artistic efforts.

I also wish to speak about manufacturing in Greater Dandenong. At a recent Councillor briefing, James Merlino provided an update on the work of Greater South East Melbourne, an alliance of eight councils working to attract investment, create local jobs and support regional economic growth.

Greater Dandenong is central to that work. We are home to Victoria's largest industrial precinct and form part of Australia's largest manufacturing region. This creates significant opportunities for growth, investment and employment. However, unemployment remains a challenge, and local residents must have the skills and connections needed to access the jobs being created.

Question
Deputy Mayor Cr Phillip Danh
What is the City of Greater Dandenong's role in Greater South East Melbourne, what are Council's immediate priorities, and how can the potential of the region be unlocked for the benefit of local residents?

Response
Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer
Greater South East Melbourne brings together eight councils. The City of Greater Dandenong has more manufacturing activity than other municipalities in the group.

The organisation has a manufacturing subcommittee, chaired by James Merlino, in which I participate. Greater South East Melbourne is principally an advocacy organisation. It advocates for the region, which is a national manufacturing powerhouse with an annual economic output of approximately $89 billion.

Advanced manufacturing is experiencing significant growth. Council is seeking to support economic development through improved infrastructure and better alignment between local, state and federal governments. Greater South East Melbourne advocates particularly for major projects.

We welcomed the recent announcement concerning the intermodal port proposed by Salta Properties. There has also been encouraging information from candidates in the forthcoming election about the Thompsons Road extension.

Many other major infrastructure projects would support economic development and manufacturing growth. Council will continue to receive updates as the election progresses and as advocacy continues.

Comment
Deputy Mayor Cr Phillip Danh
I wish to conclude on a serious matter. During this meeting, reports emerged that Helen Haines MP had been involved in a serious incident earlier this evening. Without knowing all the details, I do not wish to speculate about the circumstances.

Our democracy depends on elected representatives being safe and able to engage, speak and debate openly and respectfully. An attack on an elected representative is an attack on democratic participation. I believe I speak on behalf of everyone in wishing her well and hoping for a speedy recovery.

Comment
Cr Jim Memeti
Since the last Council Meeting I have attended the following community events:

On Tuesday 22 September 2026, I attended the Springvale Benevolent Society Annual General Meeting (AGM).

On Tuesday 6 October I attended the SABA AGM and dinner, where Tonii Tran was elected as the association's first female president. I congratulate Daniel Cheng, who served as president for the past 12 years and made a significant contribution. This also included the launch of the Springvale Lunar New Year Festival, which will celebrate the Year of the Goat. The festival is always a wonderful event held during the hot January and February period.

On Friday 9 October 2026, I attended the 160th birthday celebration of Dandenong Market. A large cake was made by a stallholder, and the community gathered to sing Happy Birthday to the market. It was a pleasure to celebrate this milestone with the community.

Comment
Cr Jim Memeti
As this is Deputy Mayor Cr Phillip Danh's final ordinary meeting in the role, I wish to acknowledge his contribution.

In my 21 years on Council, he is the only Councillor I recall contesting and winning two elections in one year. He has done an excellent job as Deputy Mayor while working full-time as a young lawyer. His commitment to Council and the community has been outstanding. It has been a pleasure working with him during the past 12 months. Well done.

I also acknowledge Mayor Sophie Tan, it has been a pleasure to work with you over the past seven years and particularly during your year as Deputy Mayor. This year you have stood up and done a fantastic job as Mayor, as you have said you have been to hundreds of functions throughout the year, represented our community well, well done on your mayoral year. I am sure you will cherish the year you have had. Well done.

Cr Phillip Danh left the Chamber at 9.05pm.

Comment
Cr Alice Phuong Le
Since the last Council Meeting I have attended the following community events:

On Tuesday 6 October 2026, I attended the SABA AGM and would like to congratulate Tonii Tran on becoming the association's first female president.

On Sunday 11 October 2026, I represented the Mayor and delivered a speech at the Double Ten Day celebration dinner and an the 160th anniversary of the birth of Dr Sun Yat-sen.

On Tuesday 13 October 2026, I attended Springvale waste and street cleanliness forum with local residents and traders.

On Saturday 17 October 2026, I attended the grand opening of the Vietnamese Museum Australia. The community worked towards this outcome for approximately five years after land was secured. The opening ceremony was a significant occasion for the Vietnamese community.

Cr Phillip Danh returned to the Chamber at 9.07pm.

Question
Cr Alice Phuong Le
Following the Springvale community discussions, traders have asked what the next steps will be. I am working with Cr Sean O'Reilly on a flyer for distribution to local businesses so that traders understand the proposed actions.

Residents and traders also understand that an identified structure near 55 Buckingham Avenue is to be removed. They would like to know when it will be removed and whether any other structures will also be removed. Can Council provide an update?

Response
Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening
Thank you, Councillor. We will take the question on notice and provide a response. Please also send the details to me by email.

Comment
Cr Loi Truong
Since the last Council Meeting I have attended the following community events:

On Tuesday 13 October 2026, I participated in the Springvale waste and cleanliness street forum with local traders in central Springvale, together with Cr Sean O'Reilly and Cr Alice Phuong Le.

On Saturday 17 October 2026, I attended the official opening of the Vietnamese Museum Australia. It was a well-attended event, with many members of Parliament and councillors present.

Comment
Cr Bob Milkovic
I also attended the consecration of St Stefan Serbian Orthodox Church. The parish was honoured by the presence of His Holiness Patriarch Porfirije of the Serbian Orthodox Church during his Australian visit. He consecrated the church, and the service was followed by a lunch and celebration of Serbian culture.

Cr Lana Formoso also attended, together with local members of Parliament and other dignitaries, including Julian Hill, Gabrielle Williams and Lee Tarlamis. It was an outstanding event.

The consecration was long overdue. Completion of the church's frescoes had been delayed during the COVID-19 pandemic because the specialist artist could not travel. The completed church is a site to behold. I agree with Cr Formoso that it should be included in the Interfaith Network tour if it is not already included.

I was unable to attend one of my favourite annual events, the celebration of our centenarians, because I was unwell and did not wish to risk passing illness to attendees. I understand that approximately 10 centenarians were recognised this year. I wish them all the best and thank everyone who attended.

Comment
Cr Isabella Do
I wish to highlight the importance of Council’s ongoing advocacy through the Local Government Working Group on Gambling to reduce gambling harm and support healthier community outcomes.

Having recently attended the group’s meetings, I found them highly valuable in sharing advocacy strategies and learning about emerging research, policy developments and evidence-based approaches to harm prevention. The group brings together councillors and council officers from across Victoria to collaborate on improving community wellbeing.

I also congratulate the Vietnamese Museum Australia on its official opening. This is a significant milestone for Victoria's Vietnamese community and an important addition to the state's cultural landscape. I encourage residents to visit and learn about the history, culture and contributions of Vietnamese Australians.

Entries are now open for Council's 9 by 5 Exhibition, returning to the Drum Theatre next year. The exhibition welcomes artists of all ages and experience levels, with entries closing on 20 December or earlier if capacity is reached. I encourage anyone with an interest in art, from beginners to established artists, to participate and showcase their work.

Finally, I have supported smaller community-led activities at the Keysborough Community Hub, including community lunches, movie nights and sustainability workshops. These gatherings provide opportunities for people to connect and feel less isolated. Given the positive response, I will continue to help facilitate these activities where possible through community engagement efforts.

Comment
Mayor Cr Sophie Tan
I have also been busy since the previous Council meeting. I thank the councillors who supported and represented me during the past two weeks while I was unwell.

I congratulate Deputy Mayor Cr Phillip Danh and thank him for his support throughout the year. When I was unable to attend, he represented me at events, presided over citizenship ceremonies, chaired Council meetings and attended civic functions. Balancing those duties with full-time employment is difficult, and I congratulate him on his service.

I welcome the news that the application for telecommunications towers at the former Testamant site has been withdrawn. Council is proud to have stood with the community and advocated for the best possible outcome for local people and the natural environment. I congratulate everyone involved in that advocacy.

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

On Tuesday 22 September 2026, I attended the People's Republic of China National Day reception, hosted by the Consul-General Mr Fang Xinwen, marking the 77th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

On Wednesday 23 September 2026, I attended an advocacy meeting with state members of Parliament, together with the Chief Executive Officer, Jacqui Weatherill. We met representatives from the upper and lower houses and from different political parties. I look forward to their responses before the election on matters important to Greater Dandenong.

On Thursday 24 September 2026, I attended Father's Day celebration hosted by the Vietnamese Australian Senior Association of Victoria Inc.
On Sunday 27 September 2026, I attended the Lantern Festival hosted by South Eastern Melbourne Vietnamese Associations Council (SEMVAC). Later that day I attended the Moon Festival & National Day celebration of the People's Republic of China hosted by the Mazu Culture Association, which launched their theme song "One Ocean One Heart".

On Tuesday 29 September 2026, I attended National Police Remembrance Day, Blue Ribbon Day and End of Day Reflection Service with Cr Jim Memeti.

On Wednesday 30 September 2026, I met with Settlement Services International, as well as Council representatives and its leadership team. The meeting focused mainly on employment. It was encouraging to hear about an employment hub in Greater Dandenong that assists people looking for work, including people with disability and others experiencing barriers to employment. Approximately 80 people have been assisted so far, and I hope many more will receive help by the end of the year.

On Saturday 3 October 2026, I attended a Cambodian ancestor celebration hosted by the Cambodian Association of Victoria.

This is my final ordinary Council meeting in the Chair. The next Special Council Meeting will be held on 12 November 2026 at 7.00 pm.

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.

COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE/REQUIRING FURTHER ACTION

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
21/09/26	Cr Rhonda Garad	**Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure and Readiness** How prepared is Council for rapid growth in electric vehicle use, including the provision of accessible charging stations?	Executive Director City Futures	30/09/2026	**Initial response 21/09/26:** We will take these questions on notice because we need to obtain detailed information from the relevant teams. **Further response 30/09/26:** Councils Public Electric Vehicle Charging Policy was reviewed earlier in 2026 and provides clarity to Electric Vehicle Charger providers that there is no barrier to providing chargers in public locations within the municipality if and when needed. While the vast majority of increase in public electrical vehicle charging infrastructure within the municipality has been on private property, our Policy has been checked against the requirements of providers operating on street in other Councils (JOLT, Evie, Chargefox etc.). Officers are very confident than Council is not a barrier to market driven expansion of "rapid" charging facilities. The trend of increased charging and home and work, and significant reduction in proportion of public "fast" charging, has also been monitored. We expect that higher demand from staff and worker/trader permit holders to have access to charging opportunities during the day will be the most notable rapid increase in demand in coming While these "slower" chargers are significantly less costly to install (generally recoverable through charges), power supply and power load management systems will be required at some of these car parks to meet anticipated demand – and these items are being developed through renewal and upgrade plans for certain car parks. Several major technology improvements to Councils parking payment and parking permit systems have recently been / are being implemented which were required to facilitate appropriate access to parking options (essentially Councils newer digital systems will enable us to offer permits with and without charging options to staff and traders in future). **COMPLETED**

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
21/09/26	Cr Rhonda Garad	**Electric Vehicle Charging Targets and Policy Effectiveness** What target does Council consider appropriate for the number of chargers and how successful has Council's existing policy been in encouraging businesses to invest in charging infrastructure across Greater Dandenong?	Executive Director City Futures	30/09/2026	**Initial response 21/09/26:** We will take these questions on notice because we need to obtain detailed information from the relevant teams **Further response 30/09/26:** Officers are monitoring this from two perspectives as detailed above – demand for "rapid" and demand for "slow" charging opportunities. "Rapid" Charging While the proportional demand for rapid chargers (as opposed to at home or work) is decreasing, the increase in electric vehicle fleet is clearly sufficient to be increasing demand in this space. Our key monitoring of this is: • Ensure that number of EV charging stations (regardless of whether on public or private land as long as they are publicly accessible for rapid charge opportunity) is increasing • Ensure that the EV charging stations (regardless of whether on public or private land) have tolerable availability Essentially by monitoring the likes of Plugshare and Chargefox, we are able to gain an understanding of the communities access to charging. Specifically in relation to Councils Policy and the provision of "rapid" chargers on Council managed land, we do not have targets (we don't currently plan to intervene unless needed). Several providers have contacted us referencing the policy looking to install on Council managed land, however to date these providers have sought exclusivity / market advantage clauses which we have not considered appropriate due to the risk that they could harm further roll out. "Slow" Charging While Councils own fleet already has accelerated targets, Councils provision of charging for holders of staff/trader/worker permits in areas where long term parking is a service Council provides does not currently have a policy target. As part of Councils parking "modernisation" projects underway (payment technology, permit systems etc.), development of the system to support permit holder access to charging facilities and a base provision matching the local passenger fleet (around 1.5% or so at the moment) is anticipated. Review of Councils Municipal Parking Strategy (scheduled for 2027) will provide opportunity to consider investment/subsidy options to drive behaviour change, or whether to adopt a market driven / responsive approach (where permit holders are more likely to charge at home as opposed to work as it would be cheaper, but the option would be available). **COMPLETED**

7 URGENT BUSINESS

No business may be admitted as urgent business unless it:

a) relates to or arises out of a matter which has arisen since distribution of the Agenda; and

b) cannot safely or conveniently be deferred until the next ordinary meeting and unless agreed to by a majority of those Councillors present at the meeting.

8 CLOSE OF BUSINESS

The Meeting closed at 9.19pm.



Signature