

Minutes

Council Meeting

Thursday 12 November 2026, 6:00 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

Cr Phillip Danh

Cr Isabella Do

Cr Lana Formoso

Cr Rhonda Garad

Cr Alice Phuong Le

Cr Jim Memeti

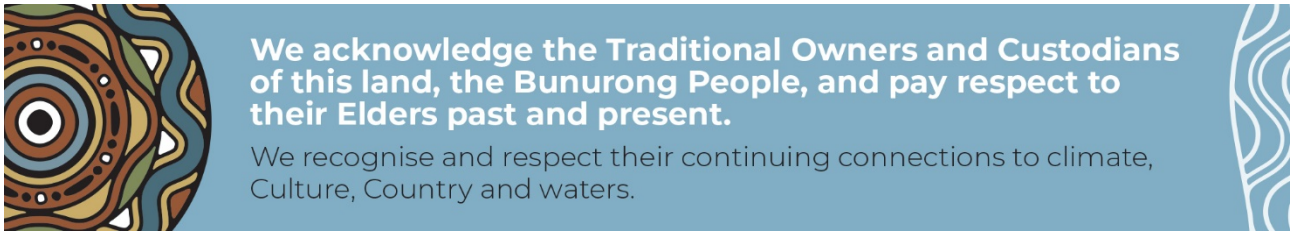
Cr Bob Milkovic

Cr Sean O'Reilly

Cr Sophaneth (Sophie) Tan

Cr Loi Truong

Cr Melinda Yim



(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 7

1.1 OPENING OF MEETING BY CHAIR 7

1.2 ATTENDANCE 7

1.3 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST 8

1.4 WELCOME TO COUNTRY 9

2 BUSINESS 10

2.1 ELECTION OF THE MAYOR AND MAYORAL ADDRESS 10

2.2 ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYORAL ADDRESS 12

2.3 NOTING OF ALLOWANCES FOR MAYOR, DEPUTY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS 14

2.4 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE 2027 16

2.5 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL LIAISONS AND REPRESENTATIVES TO COMMITTEES, PEAK INDUSTRY BODIES, REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATIONS 19

3 RECOGNITION OF FAITH LEADERS 33

4 CLOSE OF BUSINESS 34

1 MEETING OPENING

1.1 OPENING OF MEETING BY CHAIR

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Execdutive Officer opened the Meeting at 6.00pm.

1.2 ATTENDANCE

Apologies

Cr Bob Milkovic

Councillors Present

Cr Phillip Danh, Cr Isabella Do (online), Cr Lana Formoso (online), Cr Rhonda Garad
Cr Alice Phuong Le, Cr Jim Memeti, Cr Sean O'Reilly, Cr Sophie Tan
Cr Loi Truong, Cr Melinda Yim.

Officers Present

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

1.3 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cr Jim Memeti disclosed material conflict of interest (s 128) in item 2.5 Appointment of Councillor Liaisons and Representatives. 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.

1.4 WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Uncle Mark Brown a representative of the Bunurong Land Council attended the meeting and offered a Welcome to Country.

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.

Cr Rhona Garad left the Chamber at 6.12pm

Cr Isabella Do joined the meeting remotely at 6.13pm.

2 BUSINESS
2.1 ELECTION OF THE MAYOR AND MAYORAL ADDRESS

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Strategy and Corporate Services
Attachments: Nil.

Executive Summary

1. The *Local Government Act 2020* requires that a Mayor be elected and stipulates the methods by which that election must take place.
2. This report recommends that the 2026-2027 mayoral term be for a period of one year. Councillors will elect the Mayor at the meeting.

Recommendation 1

That the Mayor be elected for a one year term.

Recommendation 2

That Cr_____ be elected as Mayor for the 2026-2027 mayoral term.

Background

3. Sections 18 and 19 of the *Local Government Act 2020* set out the roles and powers of the Mayor.
4. The Mayor takes precedence at all municipal proceedings within the municipal district and must chair all meetings of the Council. In the normal course of events, the office of Mayor becomes vacant at the time and on the day of the next mayoral election. Any Councillor is eligible for election or re-election to the office of Mayor.
5. Section 26(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that before the Election of the Mayor, a Council must determine by resolution whether the Mayor is to be elected for a one (1) or a two (2) year term.
6. Section 25 of the *Local Government Act 202*0 outlines the procedures for electing a Mayor.
7. Section 25(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that the Chief Executive Officer must chair the Election of the Mayor. It is the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer to call for nominations for the position of Mayor. In the event that more than one Councillor is nominated for the position of Mayor for the 2026-2027 mayoral term, then Councillors present at the meeting must vote for one of the candidates by a show of hands.
8. Section 25(4) of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that the Mayor must be elected by an absolute majority.

9. Section 25(7) of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that absolute majority means the number of Councillors which is greater than half the number of the Councillors of a Council. At Greater Dandenong an absolute majority is therefore six (6).
10. In the event that an absolute majority is not obtained, a recount will be undertaken. If an absolute majority is still not obtained, Council may resolve to adjourn the meeting for a short time to discuss the matter further.
11. Section 4.16.10 of Council's Governance Rules provides that if an absolute majority cannot be obtained, the Mayor will be determined by lot.
12. After the election, the new Mayor will take the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

MINUTE No.1
Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti
Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That the Mayor be elected for a one year term.

CARRIED 7 / 0

MINUTE No.2
Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti
Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That Cr Phillip Danh be elected as Mayor for the 2026-2027 mayoral term.

CARRIED 7 / 0

Cr Rhonda Garad returned to Chamber at 6.16pm.

Cr Lana Formoso joined remotely at 6.20pm.

Cr Lana Formoso left the Chamber at 6.22pm.

Mayor Phillip Danh addressed the meeting as follows:

"Thank you, Jacqui Weatherhill, and thank you to my fellow Councillors for the support and trust, you have placed in me to serve as Mayor of our community for the next 12 months. The responsibilities that come with being Mayor are profound and it is a role that I will take seriously. Despite our differences in opinions from time-to-time, we have all chosen to serve, because we all want our community to be an even better place to live and to work. My commitment to you, the staff and our residents is that I will work every day to ensure that we keep getting one step closer to that goal.

I should start by going through my list of personal thanks, especially while everyone in the audience is still listening. I start by thanking my family and Tilly for the support they provide to me every day. I am incredibly fortunate to have a strong foundation of support in my life, and I would not be where I am without it. I'm also fortunate to have a network of friends, including former colleagues, who have contributed to our success in different but meaningful ways. Whether it was providing the extra push and encouragement that I needed, or the spare hour on weekends that you spent delivering leaflets on my behalf, I am very grateful. Further, I'd like to thank the residents of Yarraman Ward who reside in Noble Park and Dandenong, and the countless community groups, organisations and volunteers that I have encountered throughout my time on Council so far.

Government is about people and the interactions we have with residents, organisations and volunteers outside this chamber are a meaningful and powerful reminder of why we do what we do. I am constantly inspired by our local volunteers, who often work with limited resources and with a strong sense of service continue to make positive impacts in our community every day, and sometimes with little or no recognition. I paraphrase my comments from last year, that this Council would not operate if it was not for those who work tirelessly in the background, day-in-day-out, to keep our services moving for the community.

Those who turn up to work with the Greater Dandenong logo on their uniforms are the ones who care for our senior citizens, maintain our roads and ensure that there are safe spaces for our youth to study and learn at our two world-class libraries.

I also extend my acknowledgements to Jo, the Executive Assistant to all Councillors and for the support we are all provided throughout the year.

It is often said that local government is the level of government that is closest to the people, and when changes occur it is at a local council level that we notice those changes the most. We expect to drive on roads that are safe, to get our bins picked up once a week and to enjoy our beautiful open spaces that have been cared for. I've quickly learnt that our residents don't ask for much. That they just want Council to do the basics so they can get on with their own lives. They want our roads to be maintained, our parks to be kept clean and their rubbish to be picked up on time.

I am acutely aware that our community feels the impact of cost-of-living pressures harder than most. The continuation of conflict overseas has increased everyday expenses like groceries and petrol. And rate rises have added even more pressure to already tightened household budgets.

And while the disconnect between those who make the decisions in Martin Place and the impacts it has on working families grow more and more distant, it is more important than ever, that Council fulfils its duty to alleviate day-to-day pressures by upholding our end of the bargain.

Because every pothole fixed is one less expensive trip to the mechanic, every cracked footpath fixed means less time at a hospital and more time at work, and every sporting ground maintained nearby means more fuel saved from having to drive further away.

While Council's priority must be focused on the basics, it is clear, that our responsibilities also extend further than just roads, rates and rubbish. I believe that Governments at all levels have a crucial role to play in providing human-to-human services, and to give our most vulnerable a hand-up when markets fail to deliver. It is easy to recite unfavourable statistics attached to this community. Most of which have been used to weaponise, cause shame and embarrass. But if our shared experiences have taught me anything, it's that the scourge of unemployment, particularly amongst youth, is one that we must do everything we can to tackle.

Local councils cannot solve the problem of unemployment. But there are levers we can pull to ensure that the talents of the next generation in our own neighbourhoods do not go to waste. Greater Dandenong is now more than just a cultural capital. We are an economic and industrial powerhouse. Our Council is home to the largest industrial precinct in Victoria.

This coming year, I will bring together TAFEs and educators, local organisations and support services, industry leaders and our partners at the new Employment Hub, so that we can keep improving that pathway for jobseekers in our community.

Because any kid growing up in Dandenong, Noble Park, Springvale and Keysborough should have the same opportunities and prospects to succeed as those from other parts of town. And they deserve to find those opportunities in the same places that they have grown up in.

It was once said that the goals we set are not "a resting place" nor a "final objective" - but a challenge to be constantly renewed. And this is a challenge I am willing to confront.

This is just one part of our agenda for the year ahead.

- *Construction of Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing is well underway*
- *We are upgrading a number of Black Spot road safety improvements; and*
- *We are continuing to deliver on the services that matter most to our residents; our libraries, Maternal Child Health, Childhood Immunisation, youth services; and*
- *a long list of festivals and events which celebrates the rich, social fabric of our community in Greater Dandenong.*

Greater Dandenong is the most diverse community in all of Australia. It is not one of the most diverse, but factually and statistically WE ARE THE most culturally diverse community in all of Australia, home to people from over 150 nationalities and over 200 languages spoken in our homes. The current political environment has put a target on communities like ours. But we continue to prove, that we are a successful modern multicultural democracy.

There will always be those who have sought to divide on questions of identity, but they never have and never will win. While we may differ on gender, cultural background, religion, or sexuality, we are all bound by a stronger, more unifying theme, and that is our shared identities as Australians, and the common shared values which underpin it.

To conclude, Greater Dandenong is a community I am proud to serve – because this place is home. It is home to the workers that catch the first train every morning while the rest of their family are still asleep. It is home to those who found a second chance in life, where every new day is a bonus. And it is home to the aspirational "first-in-the-family's" who never gave up and grabbed every opportunity they could to succeed. Government is about people and I am humbled for the opportunity to serve."

Cr Lana Formoso joined the Chamber at 6.30pm.

2.2 ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYORAL ADDRESS

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Strategy and Corporate Services
Attachments: Nil.

Executive Summary

1. Section 20A of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that an office of Deputy Mayor may be established and it is the practice of Greater Dandenong City Council to elect a Deputy Mayor.
2. This report recommends that the 2026-2027 deputy mayoral term be for a period of one year. Councillors will elect the Deputy Mayor at the meeting.

Recommendation 1

That the Deputy Mayor be elected for a one year term.

Recommendation 2

That Cr_____ be elected as Deputy Mayor for the 2026-2027 mayoral term.

Background

3. Section 21 of the *Local Government Act 2020* sets out the roles and powers of the Deputy Mayor.
4. The Deputy Mayor must perform the role of the Mayor and may exercise any of the powers of the Mayor if the Mayor is unable, for any reason, to attend a Council Meeting or incapable of performing any duties of the office of Mayor. In the normal course of events, the office of Deputy Mayor becomes vacant at the time and on the day of the next election for the Deputy Mayor. Any Councillor (other than the Mayor) is eligible for election or re-election to the office of Deputy Mayor.
5. Section 27 of the *Local Government Act 2020* outlines the procedures for electing a Deputy Mayor. A Council must determine by resolution whether the Deputy Mayor is to be elected for a one or a two year term.
6. It is the responsibility of the Mayor (as they have taken the Chair for the Meeting) to call for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor. In the event that more than one Councillor is nominated for the position of Deputy Mayor for the 2026-2027 deputy mayoral term, then Councillors present at the meeting must vote for one of the candidates by a show of hands.
7. The Deputy Mayor must be elected by an absolute majority. Section 25(7) of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that absolute majority means the number of Councillors which is greater than half the number of the Councillors of a Council. At Greater Dandenong an absolute majority is therefore six (6).

8. In the event that an absolute majority is not obtained, a recount will be undertaken. If an absolute majority is still not obtained, Council may resolve to adjourn the meeting for a short time to discuss the matter further.
9. Section 4.16.12 of Council's Governance Rules provides that if an absolute majority cannot be obtained, the Deputy Mayor will be determined by lot.

MINUTE No.3
Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti
Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That the Deputy Mayor be elected for a one year term.

CARRIED 10 / 0

MINUTE No.4
Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad
Seconded by: Cr Jim Memeti

That Cr Alice Phuong Le be elected as Deputy Mayor for the 2026-2027 mayoral term.

CARRIED 6 / 0

Deputy Mayor Alice Phuong Le addressed the meeting as follows:

"Thank you to my fellow Councillors for the trust you have placed in me.

Tonight, I stand before you as the Deputy Mayor of Greater Dandenong. This role is more than a title to me.

It is a personal commitment to greater responsibility, deeper service and stronger unity for the almost 170,000 residents we represent. It is a commitment to giving back to the community that has given so much to me, and to working every day to make Greater Dandenong an even better place to live, work and belong.

Over my time on Council, and through decades of grassroots community work, I have learned one fundamental truth: our community does not care about internal politics or factional lines.

When small business owners in Springvale worry about safety, when young families look for better local infrastructure, and when vulnerable residents need a helping hand, they do not look at political affiliations. They look to us for practical, decisive leadership.

My background has prepared me for this moment. Before entering local government, I spent more than a decade running my own business, learning how to manage budgets, solve complex problems and deliver real results. As a former national athlete, I learned the value of teamwork, resilience under pressure and the importance of stepping up when the team needs you most.

Right now, our Council needs a Deputy Mayor who can bring people together and help foster a culture of respect and collaboration.

Someone who listens to every voice around this Chamber and is committed to finding common ground wherever possible.

Our community deserves leaders who put people before politics, and outcomes before differences.

As Deputy Mayor, I will be a dedicated, accessible and energetic colleague, working alongside not only our newly elected Mayor but also every Councillor in this Chamber, while remaining deeply connected to the community we are here to serve.

With the flexibility of my schedule, I am ready to be on the ground every day representing this Council at civic and community events, supporting our local traders, and ensuring Greater Dandenong continues to thrive as Australia's most vibrant multicultural city.

My passion for serving this community will never change.
We are colleagues first, united by a shared duty to the residents who placed their trust in us.

Together, we can achieve far more than any of us can alone.
Let us move forward with integrity, unity and purpose.

Thank you."

2.3 NOTING OF ALLOWANCES FOR MAYOR, DEPUTY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Strategy and Corporate Services
Attachments: Nil.

Executive Summary

1. The allowances payable to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors are determined by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal in accordance with section 39 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
2. This report outlines the current allowances applicable to Greater Dandenong City Council, effective from 1 July 2026, for Council's information and noting.

Recommendation

That Council NOTES the current allowances payable to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors, as determined by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and outlined in this report.

Background

3. Section 39 of the *Local Government Act 2020* provides for the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal (VIRT) to determine the allowances payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors, including the establishment of Council allowance categories.
4. The Tribunal made its first determination regarding allowances for Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors in March 2022 (Determination 01/2022). The allowances have subsequently been subject to annual adjustments, with the most recent adjustment taking effect on 1 July 2026.
5. Greater Dandenong City Council is classified as a Category C Council for the purposes of the Tribunal's determination. The current allowances applicable from 1 July 2026 are outlined below:

	Greater Dandenong City Council Base Allowances (Since 1 July 2026)
Mayor	$146,640
Deputy Mayor	$59,549
Councillors	$45,500

6. Note 1: The allowances outlines above are inclusive of the 12% Superannuation Guarantee. In addition to the statutory allowance, Council provides the Mayor with the use of a fully registered, insured, maintained and fuelled Council vehicle for their official duties and for private use, in accordance with Council's Expenses, Support and Accountability Policy.

7. Under section 23B of the *Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and Improving Parliamentary Standards Act 2019*, the Tribunal is required to make annual adjustments to the values of allowances set in its determinations. Council is not responsible for determining or approving these allowance amounts.

MINUTE No.5
Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti
Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad

That Council NOTES the current allowances payable to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors, as determined by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and outlined in this report.

CARRIED 10 / 0

2.4 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE 2027

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Strategy and Corporate Services
Attachments: 1. Council Meeting & CBS Dates 2027 [**2.4.1** - 1 page]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **ADOPTS its Council business cycle to hold one (1) Council Meeting per month (excluding January) as set out in the schedule per Attachment 1; and**

2. **ADOPTS its Council business cycle for Council Briefing Sessions to a minimum of two (2) per month (excluding January) as set out in the schedule per Attachment 1.**

Background

1. Since its establishment in 1994, Greater Dandenong has conducted Council business on Monday evenings, generally holding two Council Meetings per month.
2. Recent State Government reforms to the town planning framework have reduced the number of matters requiring Council decision, providing an opportunity to simplify the meeting cycle.
3. From January 2026, Council moved to holding one Council Meeting per month and two Councillor Briefing Sessions per month. The revised briefing format includes:
   - One session dedicated to long-term strategic and policy matters.
   - One session focused on immediate business for upcoming Council Meetings.
   - Time allocated for mandatory professional development under the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020*.
   - If a Monday falls on a public holiday, Council business will be held on the Tuesday.
4. Council retains discretion to schedule additional meetings when required.

Financial Implications

5. Reducing the number of Council Meetings delivered minor operational savings, particularly through reduced staff and technical support costs for livestreaming. These savings will be met within the existing Governance Unit budget.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

6. The proposed schedule complies with the *Local Government Act 2020, Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020*, and Council's Governance Rules.

Conclusion

7. The 2027 meeting cycle provides a balanced and efficient framework for Council decision-making. It maintains transparency and accountability while allowing greater focus on strategic priorities and Councillor development.
8. The proposed schedule, detailed in Attachment 1, continues Council's commitment to good governance and effective community representation.

MINUTE No.6
Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad
Seconded by: Cr Loi Truong

That Council:

1. **ADOPTS its Council business cycle to hold one (1) Council Meeting per month (excluding January) as set out in the schedule per Attachment 1; and**

2. **ADOPTS its Council business cycle for Council Briefing Sessions to a minimum of two (2) per month (excluding January) as set out in the schedule per Attachment 1.**

CARRIED 10 / 0

Cr Lana Formoso left the meeting at 6.44pm.

Greater Dandenong

Councillor Briefing & Council Meeting Dates 2027

Week	Meeting Type	Day & Dates	Comments
Week 1	Councillor Briefing (Strategic)	Monday 1 February 2027	
Week 2	Councillor Briefing (Council Meeting Agenda)	Monday 8 February 2027	
Week 3	Pre-Council Meeting & Council Meeting	Monday 15 February 2027	
Week 4	Councillor Briefing (Professional Development/Strategic)	Monday 22 February 2027	
Week 1	Councillor Briefing (Strategic)	Monday 1 March 2027	
Week 2	Councillor Briefing (Council Meeting Agenda)	Tuesday 9 March 2027	*Tuesday meeting due to Public Holiday on the Monday*
Week 3	Pre-Council Meeting & Council Meeting	Monday 15 March 2027	
Week 4	Councillor Briefing (Professional Development/Strategic)	Monday 22 March 2027	
Week 5	***No Council business proposed***	***Monday 29 March 2027***	***School holidays***
Week 1	***No Council business proposed***	***Monday 5 April 2027***	***School holidays***
Week 2	Councillor Briefing (Council Meeting Agenda)	*Monday 12 April 2027*	
Week 3	Pre-Council Meeting & Council Meeting	Monday 19 April 2027	
Week 4	Councillor Briefing (Professional Development/Strategic)	Monday 26 April 2027	
Week 1	Councillor Briefing (Strategic)	Monday 3 May 2027	
Week 2	Councillor Briefing (Council Meeting Agenda)	Monday 10 May 2027	
Week 3	Pre-Council Meeting & Council Meeting	Monday 17 May 2027	
Week 4	Councillor Briefing (Professional Development/Strategic)	Monday 24 May 2027	
Week 5	***No Council business proposed***	Monday 31 May 2027	*Fifth Monday of the Month*
Week 1	Councillor Briefing (Strategic)	Monday 7 June 2027	
Week 3	Councillor Briefing (Council Meeting Agenda)	Tuesday 15 June 2027	*Tuesday meeting due to Public Holiday on the Monday*
Week 3	Pre-Council Meeting & Council Meeting	Monday 21 June 2027	
Week 4	***Special Council Meeting to adopt Budget****	***Monday 28 June 2027***	***School holidays***
Week 1	***No Council business proposed***	***Monday 5 July 2027***	***School holidays***
Week 2	Councillor Briefing (Council Meeting Agenda)	Monday 12 July 2027	
Week 3	Pre-Council Meeting & Council Meeting	Monday 19 July 2027	
Week 4	Councillor Briefing (Professional Development/Strategic)	Monday 26 July 2027	
Week 1	Councillor Briefing (Strategic)	Monday 2 August 2027	
Week 2	Councillor Briefing (Council Meeting Agenda)	Monday 9 August 2027	
Week 3	Pre-Council Meeting & Council Meeting	Monday 16 August 2027	
Week 4	Councillor Briefing (Professional Development/Strategic)	Monday 23 August 2027	
Week 5	***No Council business proposed***	***Monday 30 August 2027***	*Fifth Monday of the Month*
Week 1	Councillor Briefing (Strategic)	Monday 6 September 2027	
Week 2	Councillor Briefing (Council Meeting Agenda)	Monday 13 September 2027	
Week 3	**Pre-Council Meeting & Council Meeting***	***Monday 20 September 2027***	***School holidays Compulsory meeting to approve/endorse the 2026/27 Annual Statutory accounts.***
Week 4	***No Council business proposed***	***Monday 27 September 2027***	***School holidays***
Week 1	Councillor Briefing (Strategic)	Monday 4 October 2027	
Week 2	Councillor Briefing (Council Meeting Agenda)	Monday 11 October 2027	
Week 3	Pre-Council Meeting & Council Meeting	Monday 18 October 2027	
Week 4	Councillor Briefing (Professional Development/Strategic)	Monday 25 October 2027	
Week 1	Councillor Briefing (Strategic)	Monday 1 November 2027	
Week 2	Councillor Briefing (Council Meeting Agenda)	Monday 8 November 2027	
Week 2	Annual Council Meeting (Election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor)	Thursday 11 November 2027	
Week 3	Pre-Council Meeting & Council Meeting	Monday 15 November 2027	
Week 4	Councillor Briefing (Professional Development/Strategic)	Monday 22 November 2027	
Week 5	***No Council business proposed***	Monday 29 November 2027	*Fifth Monday of the Month*
Week 1	Councillor Briefing (Strategic/Council Meeting Agenda)	Monday 6 December 2027	
Week 2	Pre-Council Meeting & Council Meeting	Monday 13 December 2027	
Week 3	***No Council business proposed***	***Monday 20 December 2027***	***School holidays***

**** Special Council Meeting to adopt Budget - This meeting will only proceed if necessary to adopt the budget in accordance with section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020.***

Red	**Legislative requirements, cannot be moved**
Purple	**School holidays**
Blue Background	**Council Meetings**

DRAFT

2.5 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL LIAISONS AND REPRESENTATIVES TO COMMITTEES, PEAK INDUSTRY BODIES, REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATIONS

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Strategy and Corporate Services

Attachments: 1. Councillor Representation Nominations 2026-2027 [**2.5.1** - 12 pages]

Cr Jim Memeti disclosed a general material conflict of interest (s 128) in this item. As he is 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.

Executive Summary

1. In conducting the business of Council and representing Council's interests in the wider community, Greater Dandenong City Council has formal representation and liaison with a wide number of committees, peak industry bodies and regional and community associations.
2. While the Mayor of the day is typically Council's key representative, the number of associations where Council seeks an involvement is such that representation needs to be shared among all Councillors to ensure a manageable workload.
3. This report provides a schedule of the proposed appointment of Council liaisons and representatives to committees, peak industry bodies, regional and community associations for 2026-2027.

Recommendation 1

That for the 2026-2027 Mayoral term Council appoints Councillor Liaisons and Councillor Representatives to all of the community organisations, committees, reference groups, peak industry bodies and regional organisations listed in Attachment 1 but excluding Dandenong Market Pty Ltd.

Recommendation 2

That, for the 2026-2027 Mayoral term, Council appoints Cr _____as the Council Representative to the Dandenong Market Pty Ltd.

Background

4. Current appointments of Council Representatives on all representative bodies are provided in Attachment 1. The attachment also lists the proposed new appointments of Council Liaisons and Representatives on community organisations, committees, reference groups, peak industry bodies and regional organisations for 2026-2027.
5. During the year, Council may receive additional requests and these will be presented for consideration at other Council Meetings. Councillors are able to report on their attendance, observations or important matters arising from their liaison or representation with groups for which the Councillor has been formally appointed by Council at all Council Meetings.

Cr Jim Memeti left the Chamber at 6.45pm.

MINUTE No. 7
Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad
Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That for the 2026-2027 Mayoral term Council appoints Councillor Liaisons and Councillor Representatives to all of the community organisations, committees, reference groups, peak industry bodies and regional organisations listed in Attachment 1 but excluding Dandenong Market Pty Ltd.

CARRIED 9 / 0

MINUTE No. 8
Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly
Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad

That, for the 2026-2027 Mayoral term, Council appoints Cr Phillip Danh as the Council Representative to the Dandenong Market Pty Ltd.

CARRIED 9 / 0

Cr Jim Memeti returned to the Chamber at 6.47pm.

Councillor Representation on Committees, Community Organisations and Associations,
Peak Industry Bodies and Regional Organisations – 13 November 2026 – 11 November 2027

NOTE:
The principal purpose of the item ***Reports from Councillors/Delegated Members and Councillors' Questions*** on any Council Meeting Agenda is for Councillors to report on their attendance, observations or important matters arising from their liaison or representation with groups for which the Councillor has been formally appointed by Council. In accordance with the documented 'protocol' that applies to either liaisons or representatives, Councillors should raise matters of importance at this item. Other matters may also be reported.

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Organisation	Past Liaison(s) 2025-2026 13 Nov 2025 – 12 Nov 2026	New Liaison(s) 2026-2027 13 Nov 2026 – 11 Nov 2027	Status Update	Meeting Date and Frequency
Dandenong and District Historical Society This organisation collects and displays historical information from the local area. *Executive Director Community Strengthening – Peta Gillies*	Cr Melinda Yim	Cr Melinda Yim	Current	Once a year in October The Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled on Sunday 18 October, 2pm
Dandenong Show Committee This committee is for discussion around running and promoting the show, maintenance, legislative matters, changes to insurance, Council matters. *Executive Director Community Strengthening – Peta Gillies*	Cr Melinda Yim Alternate – Cr Bob Milkovic	Cr Melinda Yim Alternate – Cr Bob Milkovic	Current	Biannually The Dandenong Show is scheduled for the weekend of 14-15 November.
Greater Dandenong Interfaith Network The Interfaith Network is a group of diverse religious faith leaders working in partnership to promote peace and harmony within the municipality. Meeting schedule is determined by the group. *Executive Director Community Strengthening – Peta Gillies*	Cr Sophie Tan	Mayor of the Day	Current	Each financial year, the IFN holds a minimum of: - 1 x Annual General Meeting - 4 x Executive Committee Meetings - 2 x Members' Meetings. The IFN AGM is scheduled on Wednesday 9 December 2026.

Councillor Representation on Committees, Community Organisations and Associations,
Peak Industry Bodies and Regional Organisations – 13 November 2026 – 11 November 2027

Organisation	Past Liaison(s) 2025-2026 13 Nov 2025 – 12 Nov 2026	New Liaison(s) 2026-2027 13 Nov 2026 – 11 Nov 2027	Status Update	Meeting Date and Frequency
South East Community Links South East Community Links provides a range of programs and support services for refugees and migrants, children, young people and volunteers. *Executive Director Community Strengthening – Peta Gillies*	Cr Isabella Do Alternate - Cr Sean O'Reilly	Cr Isabella Do Alternate - Cr Sean O'Reilly	Current	The SECL Board and Subcommittees meets 16-18 times per year. The Board meets 8-10 per year and the Subcommittees meet 6-8 times per year. Dates for 2027 have not yet been finalised, but meetings are still typically held once a month, usually on the second Tuesday.
Springvale and District Historical Society This organisation collects and displays historical information from the local area. *Executive Director Community Strengthening – Peta Gillies*	Cr Sean O'Reilly Cr Alice Phoung Le	Cr Sean O'Reilly Cr Alice Phoung Le	Current	Once a year in October The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was scheduled on Sunday 18 October 2026 at 2pm (combined with Dandenong and District Historical Society)
Springvale Benevolent Society The Springvale Benevolent Society provides assistance to families in crisis in the Springvale, Noble Park and Keysborough areas. *Executive Director Community Strengthening – Peta Gillies*	Cr Melinda Yim Cr Isabella Do Cr Alice Phuong Le Cr Loi Truong	Cr Melinda Yim Cr Isabella Do Cr Alice Phuong Le Cr Loi Truong Cr Sean O'Reilly	Current	The Board of Directors meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month, and their AGM is usually held on the fourth Tuesday of September.

Councillor Liaison
It is not essential for Council to be involved in these groups – Councillors are only involved when they have the interest, the time and the inclination.

Protocols
Councillor Liaisons act as a liaison point between the organisation and Council as a whole and provide advice to Council or the organisation when decisions or relevant policy matters are discussed. Councillor Liaisons will generally keep informed about the work and functions of the organisation and support the role of the organisation in accordance with Council policy or direction. If a Councillor chooses to stand as an office bearer of the organisation this is undertaken separately to the role of Councillor Liaison.

Councillor Representation on Committees, Community Organisations and Associations,
Peak Industry Bodies and Regional Organisations – 13 November 2026 – 11 November 2027

COUNCIL GROUPS & COMMITTEES

Organisation	Past Councillor Representative(s) 2025-2026 13 Nov 2025 – 12 Nov 2026	New Councillor Representative(s) 2026-2027 13 Nov 2026 – 11 Nov 2027	Status Update	Meeting Date and Frequency
Arts Advisory Board This committee is intended to meet quarterly and provide high level advice to Council regarding the strategic direction for arts, including Drum Theatre, within the municipality. It incorporates the functions of the former Public Arts Advisory Committee and the Drum Theatre Advisory Committee. *Executive Director Community Strengthening – Peta Gillies*	Cr Isabella Do	Cr Isabella Do	Current	Quarterly Next meeting: Thursday 19 November 2026, 6pm–8pm 2027 Dates: February, May, August and November – Usually the third Thursday of the month.
Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) This committee is required under the Local Government Act 2020 and considers a wide range of internal control issues, external audit, internal audit, risk management and performance measures of Council. Membership comprises three externally appointed members and two Councillors. The committee currently meets on a quarterly basis (March, June, September and November) *Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services – Marjan Hajjari*	Mayor of the Day – Cr Sophie Tan Cr Rhonda Garad *(stepped down from the Committee following 4 June 2026 meeting)* Alternate - Cr Melinda Yim	Mayor of the Day Cr Melinda Yim Alternate – Cr Lana Formoso	Current	Quarterly March June September December
Australia Day Community Assessment Panel *Executive Director Community Strengthening – Peta Gillies*	Mayor of the Day – Cr Sophie Tan Cr Lana Formoso Cr Alice Phuong Le	Mayor of the Day - Cr Lana Formoso Cr Alice Phuong Le	Current	Maximum of 3 Councillors (including Mayor/Deputy Mayor of the day) Panel application scoring occurs mid-late October every year. Panel Assessment meeting held in late October/early November every year.

Councillor Representation on Committees, Community Organisations and Associations,
Peak Industry Bodies and Regional Organisations – 13 November 2026 – 11 November 2027

Organisation	Past Councillor Representative(s) 2025-2026 13 Nov 2025 – 12 Nov 2026	New Councillor Representative(s) 2026-2027 13 Nov 2026 – 11 Nov 2027	Status Update	Meeting Date and Frequency
CEO Employment & Remuneration Committee (changed from CEO Performance Review Committee by Policy) This Committee is responsible for conducting performance reviews of the CEO and reporting outcomes back to the wider Council for consideration. *Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services – Marjan Hajjari*	Mayor of the Day Cr Isabella Do Cr Lana Formoso Cr Rhonda Garad Cr Jim Memeti Cr Sean O'Reilly Cr Melinda Yim Cr Isabella Do Cr Sophie Tan	Mayor of the Day - Cr Lana Formoso Cr Rhonda Garad Cr Jim Memeti Cr Sean O'Reilly Cr Melinda Yim Cr Isabella Do Cr Sophie Tan	Current	Biannually
Children & Family Partnership The partnership group meets bi-monthly to implement the Greater Dandenong Children's Plan, Greater Dandenong Communities for Children and Greater Dandenong Best Start projects. *Executive Director Community Strengthening – Peta Gillies*	Cr Lana Formoso	Cr Lana Formoso	Current	Quarterly, online with two in person network meetings at Keysborough Community Hub Dates 2026: 19 November 2026 (online) Dates 2027: 18 February 2027 (Online), 14 April 2027 (Face to face – Room TBC), 20 May 2027 (Online), 15 July 2027 (Online), 15 September 2027 (Face to face – Room TBC), 18 November 2027 (Online)
Community Safety Advisory Committee This group meets on a quarterly basis and advises Council on matters regarding perceptions of safety and actual levels of crime and safety in the municipality. *Executive Director Community Strengthening – Peta Gillies*	Mayor of the Day – Cr Sophie Tan Cr Phillip Danh Cr Isabella Do Cr Melinda Yim	Mayor of the Day – Cr Phillip Danh Cr Isabella Do Cr Melinda Yim	On Hold	TBC

Councillor Representation on Committees, Community Organisations and Associations,
Peak Industry Bodies and Regional Organisations – 13 November 2026 – 11 November 2027

Organisation	Past Councillor Representative(s) 2025-2026 13 Nov 2025 – 12 Nov 2026	New Councillor Representative(s) 2026-2027 13 Nov 2026 – 11 Nov 2027	Status Update	Meeting Date and Frequency
Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee This group meets on a quarterly basis and provides high level advice regarding Council's civic collection, plaques, memorials and historical archives. Membership comprises representatives from both historical societies from the municipality, Councillors, Council staff and industry representatives. *Executive Director Community Strengthening – Peta Gillies*	Mayor of the Day – Cr Sophie Tan	Mayor of the Day –	Current	Quarterly 2026 Dates: Thursday 26 November 2027 Dates: February, May, August and November – Usually the fourth Thursday of the month.
Dandenong Market Pty Ltd The Dandenong Market Pty Ltd is a company established by Council for the purposes of managing the Dandenong Market. Council is the sole shareholder of the company which reports regularly on its performance to Council under a Management Services Agreement between the two bodies. The Company is comprised of five Directors who oversee the work of staff employed directly by the Company. Company Board meetings are held monthly. *Executive Director City Futures – Sanjay Manivasagasivam*	Cr Rhonda Garad Alternate – Cr Bob Milkovic	Mayor of the Day -	Current	Monthly
Disability Advisory Committee The Disability Advisory Committee has been established to provide advice to the City of Greater Dandenong Council in relation to access, inclusion and services in the community and on the development or implementation of the Disability Action Plan. *Executive Director Community Strengthening – Peta Gillies*	Cr Melinda Yim	Cr Melinda Yim	Current	Bi-monthly on a Monday

Councillor Representation on Committees, Community Organisations and Associations,
Peak Industry Bodies and Regional Organisations – 13 November 2026 – 11 November 2027

Organisation	Past Councillor Representative(s) 2025-2026 13 Nov 2025 – 12 Nov 2026	New Councillor Representative(s) 2026-2027 13 Nov 2026 – 11 Nov 2027	Status Update	Meeting Date and Frequency
LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee Establishment of the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee aligns with the Greater Dandenong Council Plan and the objectives of Council's Community Engagement Policy and Framework and contributes to Council's strong commitment to engaging LGBTIQA+ communities in a genuine and meaningful way by bringing together local knowledge, expertise, and stakeholders to support Council's decision-making process. *Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services – Marjan Hajjari*	Cr Isabella Do	Cr Isabella Do Cr Lana Formoso	Current	Every three months.
LG Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum Since 2018, the Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum has been advocating for the rights of people seeking asylum to the Federal and Victorian Government. *Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services – Marjan Hajjari*	Mayor of the Day – Cr Sophie Tan	Mayor of the Day –	Current	Bimonthly
Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee This group will meet quarterly to provide advice to Council on policies, plans and services that impact our multicultural communities. It will add value to other forms of community engagement used by Council to consult with and engage on issues relating to people seeking asylum, refugees and the broader multicultural communities. *Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services – Marjan Hajjari*	Mayor of the Day – Cr Sophie Tan	Mayor of the Day –	Current	Every 3 months

Councillor Representation on Committees, Community Organisations and Associations,
Peak Industry Bodies and Regional Organisations – 13 November 2026 – 11 November 2027

Organisation	Past Councillor Representative(s) 2025-2026 13 Nov 2025 – 12 Nov 2026	New Councillor Representative(s) 2026-2027 13 Nov 2026 – 11 Nov 2027	Status Update	Meeting Date and Frequency
Positive Ageing Advisory Committee The Positive Ageing Advisory Committee (PAAC) provides advice to the City of Greater Dandenong Council in relation to the needs, aspirations and wellbeing of older people in the community, and on the development or implementation of the Positive Ageing Strategy. *Executive Director Community Strengthening – Peta Gillies*	Cr Loi Truong Cr Melinda Yim	Cr Loi Truong Cr Melinda Yim	Current	Bi-monthly Remaining 2026 Dates: December – Usually second Thursday of the month.
South East Leisure Pty Ltd *Executive Director Community Strengthening – Peta Gillies*	Cr Lana Formoso *(stepped down from the Committee in March 2026)* Cr Philip Danh *(appointed as Cr Representative at the Council Meeting on 16 March 2026)* Alternate - Cr Isabella Do	Cr Phillip Danh Alternate – Cr Isabella Do	Current	Quarterly Commencing at 5pm-8pm
Sustainability Advisory Committee This group meets quarterly to support Council in engaging with the community on various sustainability and climate change matters, and to provide feedback on the development and implementation of sustainability projects, policies and strategies. *Executive Director City Futures – Sanjay Manivasagasivam*	Cr Isabella Do Alternate - Cr Melinda Yim	Cr Isabella Do Alternate – Cr Melinda Yim	New	Biannually

Councillor Representation on Committees, Community Organisations and Associations,
Peak Industry Bodies and Regional Organisations – 13 November 2026 – 11 November 2027

Organisation	Past Councillor Representative(s) 2025-2026 13 Nov 2025 – 12 Nov 2026	New Councillor Representative(s) 2026-2027 13 Nov 2026 – 11 Nov 2027	Status Update	Meeting Date and Frequency
Young Leaders The Young Leaders program provides leadership and project management skills and serves as a representative group of young people for Council consultation and engagement. *Executive Director Community Strengthening – Peta Gillies*	Mayor of the Day Ambassador - Cr Lana Formoso Ambassador – Cr Phillip Danh Ambassador – Cr Jim Memeti Ambassador – Cr Sean O'Reilly Ambassador – Cr Sophie Tan Ambassador - Cr Rhonda Garad Ambassador - Cr Melinda Yim Ambassador - Cr Alice Phuong Le	Mayor of the Day - Ambassador - Cr Lana Formoso Ambassador – Cr Phillip Danh Ambassador – Cr Jim Memeti Ambassador – Cr Sean O'Reilly Ambassador – Cr Sophie Tan Ambassador - Cr Rhonda Garad Ambassador - Cr Melinda Yim Ambassador - Cr Alice Phuong Le	Current	One Meet and Greet Session – (approx. June) One Young Leaders Presentation on their final projects at a Council Meeting (typically held September-October).

Councillor Representative
An essential or mandatory appointment that it is in Council's best interests to engage in, the organisation's constitution requires a Councillor Representative or a Councillor or Council representative is a requirement of Council funding.

Protocols
Council representatives participate as a member of these groups by representing Council's views and to inform Council of key issues related to these organisations/groups. They act as a reference point between the organisation/group and Council as a whole and provide advice to Council or the organisation/group when decisions or major policy matters are discussed.

NB: # denotes alternate councillor required when nominated councillor cannot attend a meeting.

Councillor Representation on Committees, Community Organisations and Associations,
Peak Industry Bodies and Regional Organisations – 13 November 2026 – 11 November 2027

PEAK INDUSTRY BODIES

Organisation	Past Councillor Representative(s) 2025-2026 13 Nov 2025 – 12 Nov 2026	New Councillor Representative(s) 2026-2027 13 Nov 2026 – 11 Nov 2027	Status Update	Meeting Date and Frequency
Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) # The ALGWA aims to assist in furthering knowledge and understanding of the function of local government and to encourage the participation of women in local government at all levels. It also protects the interests and rights of women in local government and acts in an advisory capacity to intending women candidates for local government elections. *Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services – Marjan Hajjari*	Cr Alice Phuong Le	Cr Alice Phuong Le	Current	ALGWA Victoria hosts monthly online forums, regular committee meetings, and an annual state conference
Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) # The MAV is the legislated peak body for local government in Victoria. Formed in 1879, it has a long tradition of supporting councils and councillors. Its role is to advocate local government interests, build the capacity of Victorian councils, facilitate effective networks, initiate policy development and advice, support councillors and promote the role of local government. *Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services – Marjan Hajjari*	Cr Sean O'Reilly	Cr Sean O'Reilly	Current	Biannually
Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) # The VLGA advocates for social change and empowers local governments by strengthening their capacity to engage with their communities. It is governed by an elected Board of councillor and individual members and is broad-based both geographically and politically. Its members are from rural and regional, interface and metropolitan areas and from a wide range of (or no) political affiliations. *Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services – Marjan Hajjari*	Cr Lana Formoso Alternate – Cr Isabella Do	Cr Lana Formoso Alternate – Cr Isabella Do	Current	Monthly

Councillor Representation on Committees, Community Organisations and Associations,
Peak Industry Bodies and Regional Organisations – 13 November 2026 – 11 November 2027

REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND COMMITTEES

Organisation	Past Councillor Representative(s) 2025-2026 13 Nov 2025 – 12 Nov 2026	New Councillor Representative(s) 2026-2027 13 Nov 2026 – 11 Nov 2027	Status Update	Meeting Date and Frequency
Alliance for Gambling Reform The Alliance for Gambling Reform is a collaboration of organisations with a shared concern about the harmful and unfair impacts of gambling and its normalisation in Australian culture. *Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services – Marjan Hajjari*	Cr Rhonda Garad Alternate – Cr Lana Formoso	Cr Rhonda Garad Alternate – Cr Lana Formoso	Current	Meetings are organised as required.
Eastern Transport Coalition The Eastern Transport Coalition (ETC) consists of Melbourne's seven eastern metropolitan councils. Combined, the ETC represents approximately one million residents and advocates for sustainable and integrated transport services that reduce car dependency. It aims to work with Federal and State governments to ensure the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of Melbourne's outer east. *Executive Director City Futures – Sanjay Manivasagasivam*	Cr Isabella Do Alternate – Cr Phillip Danh	Cr Isabella Do Alternate – Cr Phillip Danh	Current	Monthly Typically, the third Thursday of the month.
Greater South East Melbourne (GSEM) Greater South East Melbourne (GSEM) advocates for jobs, infrastructure, investment, liveability, sustainability and wellbeing for the southeast and everyone who works and lives in the region. GSEM includes the shires of Cardinia and Mornington Peninsula, and the cities of Casey, Frankston, Greater Dandenong, Kingston, Knox and Monash. *Chief Executive Officer – Jacqui Weatherill*	Mayor of the Day – Cr Sophie Tan Alternate – Cr Jim Memeti	Mayor of the Day - Alternate – Cr Jim Memeti	Current	Monthly CEO meetings.

Councillor Representation on Committees, Community Organisations and Associations,
Peak Industry Bodies and Regional Organisations – 13 November 2026 – 11 November 2027

MINISTERIAL APPOINTED MEMBERSHIP

Organisation	Past Councillor Representative(s) 2025-2026 13 Nov 2025 – 12 Nov 2026	New Councillor Representative(s) 2026-2027 13 Nov 2026 – 11 Nov 2027	Status Update	Meeting Date and Frequency
2020 Local Government Mayoral Advisory Panel The Local Government Mayoral Advisory Panel (LGMAP) is appointed and chaired by the Minister for Local Government. The panel advises the Minister on a range of legislative, regulatory, strategic and policy decisions which impact the local government sector. Meetings of the LGMAP are usually scheduled between March and October to account for mayoral terms and to enable the Minister to select and appoint new members each year. *Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services – Marjan Hajjari*	Appointment by Minister only	Appointment by Minister only	Current	In 2026, meetings were held on: 26 March 1 July Extraordinary meetings may be scheduled at the discretion of the Minister. Meeting dates for 2027 have not yet been published.
Recycling Victoria Local Government Advisory Committee The role of the Recycling Victoria Advisory Committee is to provide advice and insights to the Minister for Environment and Head, Recycling Victoria on Recycling Victoria's strategic priorities, to support Victoria's transition to a circular economy.	Appointment by Minister only	Appointment by Minister only	No representation required	
Taylors Road Landfill Community Reference Group This group meets monthly with SUEZ, the landfill operator. Membership comprises SUEZ representatives and local community members and meetings are chaired by SUEZ. Council participates in an observer capacity. The Committee plays an important role in monitoring compliance with environmental standards, facilitating communication between stakeholders and providing feedback on operational issues and community concerns. *Executive Director City Futures – Sanjay Manivasagasivam*		Cr Rhonda Garad Alternate – Cr Jim Memeti	Current	Monthly

Councillor Representation on Committees, Community Organisations and Associations,
Peak Industry Bodies and Regional Organisations – 13 November 2026 – 11 November 2027

Councillor Representative
An essential or mandatory appointment that it is in Council's best interests to engage in, the organisation's constitution requires a Councillor Representative or a Councillor or Council representative is a requirement of Council funding.

Protocols
Council representatives participate as a member of these groups by representing Council's views and to inform Council of key issues related to these organisations/groups. They act as a reference point between the organisation/group and Council as a whole and provide advice to Council or the organisation/group when decisions or major policy matters are discussed.

NB: # denotes alternate councillor required when nominated councillor cannot attend a meeting.

3 RECOGNITION OF FAITH LEADERS
3.1 RECOGNITION OF FAITH LEADERS

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

Executive Summary

1. The City of Greater Dandenong is known for its diversity in cultures and faith. The Interfaith Network is a leading organisation which represents a diverse range of faiths from within the City and members have attended Council meetings over many years to offer prayers at the beginning of each Council meeting.
2. It has been past practice for the President of the Interfaith Network to pledge its support to the new Mayor and the Greater Dandenong City Council. Tonight, the Interfaith Network is represented at this meeting by its Vice President Jasbir Singh Suropada.

Proceedings

3. The new Mayor acknowledged the role of all of the faiths within our diverse community and welcomed the Vice President of the Interfaith Network, Jasbir Singh Suropada.
4. The Mayor invited the Vice President of the Greater Dandenong Interfaith Network, Jasbir Singh Suropada to read the Common Statement on behalf of all faith leaders:

   COMMON STATEMENT OF THE FAITH COMMUNITIES

   We bring greetings from the faith communities to the Mayor, Councillors and people of Greater Dandenong.

   We offer to the City of Greater Dandenong our common commitment to seek to live together in peace and goodwill.

   We affirm our desire to promote respect and tolerance for the integrity of each other's beliefs, cultures and traditions. This desire arises not only from our common humanity but also from our being people of faith and people of prayer.

   We recognise that as neighbours, we have responsibilities to the community, the world and ourselves. We therefore urge all citizens, both religious and non-religious, to put aside intolerance, prejudice and divisiveness, to attain peaceful and fruitful co-existence in our City.

5. The Mayor accepted the Common Statement on behalf of Council and made an acknowledgement as follows:

   I reaffirm Council's desire to promote respect and acceptance for the integrity of all faiths, cultures and traditions of communities in the City of Greater Dandenong, in partnership with the Interfaith Network.

   Thank you to all of the faiths within the Greater Dandenong community and to all faiths within the Interfaith Network.

4 CLOSE OF BUSINESS

The Meeting closed at 6.50pm.

_____

Signature