



Minutes

Council Meeting

Monday 21 September 2026, 7:00 pm

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

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



COUNCIL OBLIGATIONS AND AGENDA REPORTS

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

Community Vision 2040 (Community Vision | Greater Dandenong Council)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Overarching Governance Principles of the Local Government Act 2020

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

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

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

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

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



The Gender Equality Act 2020

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

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

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

Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities

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

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

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



Consideration of Climate Change and Sustainability

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

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

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

Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks

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



Supporting Documents

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

Your Councillors

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

[Cr Bob Milkovic](#)

[Deputy Mayor Phillip Danh](#)

[Cr Sean O'Reilly](#)

[Cr Isabella Do](#)

[Cr Loi Truong](#)

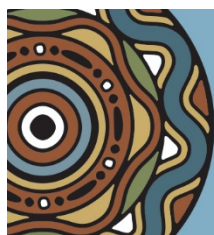
[Cr Lana Formoso](#)

[Cr Melinda Yim](#)

[Cr Rhonda Garad](#)

[Cr Alice Phuong Le](#)

[Cr Jim Memeti](#)



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

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



(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

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1 MEETING OPENING

1.1 OPENING OF MEETING BY CHAIR

1.2 ATTENDANCE

Apologies

Councillors Present

Cr Sophie Tan, Mayor (Chair)

Cr Phillip Danh, Deputy Mayor

Cr Jim Memeti, Cr Isabella Do, Cr Lana Formoso (Online), Cr Rhonda Garad, Cr Alice Phuong Le, Cr Bob Milkovic, Cr Sean O'Reilly, Cr Loi Truong, Cr Melinda Yim.

Officers Present

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer; Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures; Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening; Yuri Guzman, Chief Customer and Information Officer; Sophie D'Rozario, Acting Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services; Mark Burke, Chief Financial Officer; Dani Trimble, Acting 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 Phillip Danh, read the following reflection on :

" The importance of human connection is grounded in evolutionary biology. A meaning life must be found in the here and now — in the experiences we share, emotional bonds we create and relationships we build over time.

Human beings are social animals. Our brains are wired for cooperation, empathy and sharing. These traits evolved because they help us survive and thrive in groups. That's what living in a community is. It's what makes it exciting and joyous when our nation does well in sport.

When we build deeper human connections, even with those we have just met, we are tapping into mechanisms that have always helped us endure hardships, navigate uncertainty, and find purpose in a chaotic world.

Happiness is a state of being shaped by our choices and specifically our connections with others. Studies consistently show that people with strong social ties are healthier, live longer, and report greater life satisfaction. We all know this core truth: fulfillment comes from being seen and understood by others, providing mutual support, showing our vulnerability and laughing along with life.

Human connection offers comfort in the face of mortality, and a sense of belonging in a vast, indifferent universe. Happiness is cultivated through community, by showing compassion and having shared experience.

We treat others with kindness because we understand — through empathy and reason — that care and compassion enrich everyone's lives. Acts of love and generosity are meaningful, precisely because they are chosen, not commanded. Human connection allows us to be part of something larger than ourselves, without being eternal or supernatural.

Deep relationships and connection with many others provide essential anchoring. They help us navigate life. The shared experiences help us celebrate joy, construct personal narratives that feel worth living and endure suffering.

Knowing that life is finite, deepens the value of each moment shared with others. Every hug, every conversation, every act of trust becomes more profound when seen as part of our only known chance at existence.

Human connection is not just beneficial — like bees in a hive it is foundational. None of us can be our best selves without others — even those we haven't yet met. Connection creates meaning and happiness in a universe that offers no inherent promises. Connection is the closest thing we have to transcendence — not beyond the world, but deeply embedded within it.

Mr Knowles Tivendale

Friend of the Interfaith Network"



1.5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Meeting of Council held 17 August 2026.

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 17 August 2026 be confirmed.

MINUTE No.428

Moved by: Cr Bob Milkovic

Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 17 August 2026 be confirmed.

CARRIED 11 / 0

1.6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cr Sophie Tan disclosed a material conflict of interest in item 4.1.4- Investment Policy 2026 Update. As she is an employee of Commonwealth Bank of Australia. Cr Sophie Tan left the Chamber prior to discussion and voting on this item.

Cr Jim Memeti disclosed a material conflict of interest in item 4.3.1 - Dandenong Market Precinct Plan - Final Draft of Endorsement. As he is the Director of a company that has a stall at the Dandenong Market. Cr Jim Memeti left the Chamber prior to discussion and voting on this item.



2 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 1

2.1 DOCUMENTS FOR SEALING

2.1.1 Documents for Sealing

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

Officer Recommendation

That the listed documents be signed and sealed.

Executive Summary

1. Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, each Council is a body corporate and a legal entity in its own right. Each Council must therefore have a common seal (like any corporate entity) that is an official sanction of that Council. Sealing a document makes it an official document of Council as a corporate body. Documents that require sealing include agreements, contracts, leases or any other contractual or legally binding document that binds Council to another party.

Item Summary

2. There is one (1) item being presented to Council's meeting of 21 September 2026 for signing and sealing as follows:
 - a) A letter of appreciation to Mr Tim Cockayne for their service and contribution as Director on the South East Leisure Board.

MINUTE No.429

Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti

Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad

That the listed documents be signed and sealed.

CARRIED 11 / 0



2.2 STATUTORY PLANNING APPLICATIONS

2.2.1 Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – August 2026

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

Attachments: 1. Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – August 2026
[2.2.1.1 - 10 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 August 2026.
3. It should be noted that where permits and notices of decision to grant permits have been issued, these applications have been assessed as being generally consistent with the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme and Council's policies.
4. Application numbers with a PLA#, PLN#.01 or similar, are applications making amendments to previously approved planning permits.
5. The annotation 'SPEAR' (Streamlined Planning through Electronic Applications and Referrals) identifies where an application has been submitted electronically. SPEAR allows users to process planning permits and subdivision applications online.

MINUTE No.430

Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti

Seconded by: Cr Bob Milkovic

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

CARRIED 11 / 0



3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The questions submitted for consideration at this meeting may contain opinions, assertions, or views expressed by the individuals who have submitted them. Council wishes to make clear that the tabling of these questions does not constitute an endorsement, adoption, or expression of support by the council for any opinion or view contained within them.

Question

Melissa Karakasidis, Dandenong North

Under the Planning and Environment Act 1987, was Greater Dandenong formally notified as an affected council, given the boundary runs through the middle of the creek, less than 100 metres from the tower, and this 5G tower directly impacts our waterway, our home values and our park's visual feel? Whether you were notified and it slipped through, or weren't notified at all, how are you responding now, given a decision with this much impact on your own residents was made without your input?

Knox's own document discounted other candidate sites specifically because of proximity to residential properties and visual impact. No such test appears anywhere against the site they actually chose, the one that backs directly onto our Dandenong North homes and our park. Will this Council put that inconsistency to Knox in writing, and demand to know why residential impact was assessed for some sites and skipped entirely for the one that affects residents in the opposite council?

Our petition has over 600 signatures and more than 120 households have written individual objection letters. That's the scale of feeling in this community. It's not enough for this Council to simply say tonight that you object. What we need to know is: will you commit to lodging a formal, written objection with Knox City Council before the deadline, who will be responsible for drafting and sending it, and by what date will it actually be in Knox's hands?

Cr Isabella Do left the Chamber at 7.16pm.

Question

Anna Vanderbom, Dandenong North

Given that alternative sites for telecommunications tower proposals in the Knox municipality have been refused for reasons that include visual impact and proximity to nearby houses, what specific actions will Greater Dandenong councillors take to ensure the visual impact of this tower (Planning Application P/2026/6008) on Tirhatuan Park and the surrounding Dandenong North residential areas will be mitigated.

The Park is a valued community resource for recreation and is a frequently used part of the significant Dandenong Creek corridor. It is a beautiful park with largely uninterrupted views of the trees, nature and parkland without nearby infrastructure. I moved into the area in 2010 and used the Park extensively as a place to connect with nature, community, enjoy the many types of birdlife and natural scenery. In 2022 I moved to a house that backed onto the park with the most notable aspect being the beautiful vista that my backyard enjoys. So many people enjoy the park for social, exercise and many other recreational activities.



A strong reason for me being drawn to this park and enjoying it every day is because the park does not have infrastructure like this nearby unlike some other nearby parkland. I, and many others, would find that forever changed if a 36 meter communication tower were to be built overshadowing the Park for a long distance. The trees will not cover this.

How will Dandenong Council ensure that the proposed tower is properly assessed and weighed against those same visual amenity, safety and proximity standards for the Greater Dandenong Council residents and surrounding users of the Park? Will Council commit to lodging a formal written objection before the Knox Council meeting on 30 November and will the Council commit to continuing to take steps to ensure mitigation of impact on these aspects?

Response

Sophie D'Rozario, Acting Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services

Knox Council is the responsible authority for this planning application and is responsible for assessing and determining the proposal.

Where a site is located adjacent to a municipal boundary, this advertising extends into the neighbouring municipality to adjoining landowners which is why some residents in the City of Greater Dandenong were provided with notification letters.

Greater Dandenong City Council was also notified of the application. This is because Council is the owner of adjoining land at Tirhatuan Park and therefore has a direct interest in any potential impacts on Council-owned land. The Knox CEO also contacted the CEO at Greater Dandenong City Council to advise that this may be a potential emerging issue.

As the responsible authority, Knox City Council is responsible for assessing all aspects of the application, including consideration of submissions received from affected residents, the suitability of the proposed location, visual amenity impacts and any alternative site assessments.

Greater Dandenong residents who have concerns regarding these matters are encouraged to make submissions directly to Knox City Council so they can be considered as part of the statutory assessment process.

A Notice of Motion is being considered by Council tonight which proposes that the Mayor write to the Mayor and CEO of Knox expressing Council's concerns with the planning application being considered. Depending on the outcome of that motion, further action may be taken.

Question

Phillip Lamaro, Dandenong

2 years ago the Dandenong council via a Council Officer advised that the new garden beds on walker street at the Dandenong square area shopping centre would be planted and landscaped.

This was a promise the council made and it has not been delivered as they assured the public.

Can council advise why they did not deliver on this promise and when will it be done?



Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

The garden beds near Dandenong Square have recently been inspected. While there are opportunities to increase planting within these areas, the growing conditions beneath the established tree canopy are constrained by factors such as shade and competition for water and nutrients limiting options to successfully establish vegetation.

Council is committed to enhancing and improving these garden beds and will reassess the opportunities for additional planting. Subject to site conditions and the suitable species, infill planting is being considered as part of the 2026 planting program.

Question

Phillip Lamaro, Dandenong

When council converted the foot path on Hammond road to a shared bike line it caused multiple safety risks to drivers and cyclists.

In my complex we have had 22 near misses of a car hitting a cyclist on this strip.

As this strip is not legally compliant with the requirements of the width of a shared pedestrian/cyclist zone it is unsafe for residents and a fatality is soon to happen.

Can council please explain why this strip still has non-compliant signage and any accident will be legally and financially the responsibility of council as they are aware of it not being complaint with state and federal law?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Thank you Phillip for your question. I have assumed your questions refers to the Hammond Road shared path between Dalgety Street and Kirkham Road, upgraded in 2022, and relating to the concerns you raised at that time.

Whilst this path is on the narrower side for shared user paths, the path complies with Australian Standards and AustRoads guidelines. Users of the shared path or a footpath needs to keep a look out when crossing driveways and drivers exiting premises need to look out for pedestrians/bikes/prams crossing the pathway part of the driveway. Following construction, council officers reached out to the adjacent property owner to suggest modifications to their fence to improve sightlines at this driveway. Council understands the property owner completed these modifications in mid-2022.

Question

Gaye Guest, Keysborough

On Saturday 12 September it was Sustainability Saturday at SCH along with regular users participation. The town hall was also booked out for an extremely large event where all the car parking on site was full by 11am and the side streets had cars parked both sides of each street from Springvale Rd to View Road.



Wonderful to see our venues being used but tough on your staff who have to commute from KCH to SCH for work and cannot get staff parking and find a \$209 parking ticket on their windscreen. No one goes to work, to earn money to pay a fine! The staff member was devastated stating, "Do you arrive to work on time or late because you can or cannot not find a proper staff parking".

When the town hall is booked on weekends for particularly large functions that go all day and night, why aren't there staff parking allocated so they don't have to worry about being fined? Your staff are campaigning for better work conditions, so they need identifying cards on their dash boards like staff at NPAC to elevate this stressful problem. I hope the staff member has his fine waived because of the excessive demand on car parking at our large civic venues for popular events on that day.

Response

Sophie D'Rozario, Acting Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services

Council recognises that parking demand can be particularly high when major events are being held at its civic facilities.

Parking restrictions and penalties apply consistently to Council staff and members of the community. Council staff are not exempt from parking requirements, and any staff member who receives an infringement may seek a review through the usual infringement review process. Any application for review is considered in line with the same criteria that apply to any other members of the community.

Staff who are required to work across Council locations have access to a range of parking and travel options. When particular operational or parking issues arise, these can be raised internally with the relevant manager for consideration.

A question was asked regarding the Little India Precinct, this has been referred to Development Victoria.

Question

Liam, Dandenong North

The notice said "next door to 5 Police Road, Rowville", implying about 900 m away, and called the project a "telecommunications facility". It is a 36.3 m steel lattice tower, about 12 storeys, 207 m from Surrey Road homes. No image was displayed, and some residents were given 3 September to object while the park notice said 7 September. Will Council ask Knox to re-advertise properly, with a plain description, an image, direct notice to Greater Dandenong residents, and a longer objection period?

At least eight mobile sites already lie within 2.3 km: 1331 Stud Road, 7 Arthurs Road, 270 Stud Road, 307 Gladstone Road, Baden Powell Drive, 7A Second Avenue, Armstrong Way reservoir and 175-177 Gladstone Road. The application has no survey or coverage data showing poor reception, and Optus's checker shows good 5G at Tirhatuan Park. State policy encourages co-location. Is there any evidence of poor reception here? If so, why can't the applicant use existing towers?



The site is culturally sensitive and, per the applicant's ecologist, on Bunurong Country. The application names no Registered Aboriginal Party and records no consultation. Why were Traditional Owners not consulted, and will Council ask Knox to require it before deciding?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Knox Council is the responsible authority for this planning application. Planning applications are assessed and determined by the relevant responsible authority.

Where either a resident or Council objects to an application, the objection is given the same weight and is assessed on its planning merits. Also, objections can be made to a planning application right up until a decision is made.

Accordingly, any enquiries, objections or issues concerning the assessment or determination of the application should be directed to Knox City Council, as the determining council. While the City of Greater Dandenong may make representations to Knox regarding matters affecting our municipality and residents, it is not the responsible authority and does not determine the application.

Question

Rhonda Morrissey, Dandenong North

As a champion of riparian waterways and of the animals and plants drawn to them, Greater Dandenong Council has spent a lot of money, time and effort into preservation of our environment and also of returning such lands to their former states so we humans and the natural world can all benefit.

We know that in Tirhatuan Park and nearby there are 48 species of endangered animals and plants, some of these are very specialised.

Can Council please tell me the research they have carried out to ascertain the effects of 5g microwaves at close range to our very vulnerable bats and our other wildlife when the signals go day and night?

We also know that research tells us that these creatures are not just able to relocate successfully. Also what effect will the 36 metre tower have on the flight path of Latham's Snipe? This is a bird that has already lost great numbers in the area due to habitat loss and what are the repercussions of it dealing with the tower?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

These matters are assessed by Knox City Council. Greater Dandenong City Council has not undertaken any studies on 5G microwave impacts, and any relevant information should be submitted as part of the application to Knox City Council. We are happy to forward these questions to Knox City Council and encourage you to do the same.



Question

Rhonda Morrissey, Dandenong North

Could council please advise me of the studied effects of a 36 metre high lattice tower on wind in a given area.

The first part of this effect should concern the noise generated by the structure when wind blows through it. In Tirhatuan Park, there are substantial winds that blow through the valley on a regular basis.

As a resident, will the structure create a wind noise itself as the wind blows through it and also what studies have been done to show how great the wind disturbance of airflow will be through this structure?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

We do not have any information on this matter. We can forward your question to the Knox City Council Planning team and ask them to provide a response.



4 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 2

4.1 FINANCE AND BUDGET

4.1.1 Council 2025-26 Financial Report - Management Results

Responsible Officer: Chief Financial Officer

Attachments: 1. # Council 2025-26 Summary Financial Report - Management Results - Council 26-09-2026 - after VAGO [4.1.1.1 - 57 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council **APPROVES** the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2026, including the key operating and capital variances, cash and investment position, financial sustainability indicators and timing differences to be managed through the 2026-27 quarterly forecasting process. The results are presented following Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) audit clearance.

Executive Summary

1. This report presents Council's financial result for the year ended 30 June 2026 following Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) audit clearance.
2. It includes the principal variances to the 2025-26 Mid-Year Budget, capital delivery, cash and investments, liquidity and financial sustainability.

Background

3. The attached June 2026 Financial Report compares Council's performance and financial position for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 with the Mid-Year Budget adopted by Council on 8 December 2025.
4. It provides detailed information on operating performance, capital delivery, cash and investments, liquidity and financial sustainability.

Key Issues and Discussion

5. **Audit status.** The attached report presents Council's 2025-26 financial result following VAGO audit clearance. Any material matter arising through the annual reporting process will be reported to Council in accordance with established governance requirements.
6. **Year-end result.** Council recorded an operating surplus of \$19.29 million, which was \$3.22 million favourable to the Mid-Year Budget. Capital expenditure totalled \$85.84 million, \$60.11 million below budget. The operating result includes the early receipt of the 2026-27 Financial Assistance Grant and significant non-cash asset accounting entries; these factors should be considered when assessing the underlying result.



7. **Operating variances.** The main favourable variances were employee costs \$12.67 million below budget, materials and services \$6.99 million below budget, early receipt of \$12.38 million of the 2026-27 Financial Assistance Grant, investment income \$2.46 million above budget and borrowing costs \$1.15 million below budget. The main unfavourable variances were capital grant income \$10.15 million below budget, net loss on non-financial asset \$8.87 million is largely attributable to asset write-offs of \$9.86 million, prior-year project-in-progress expenditure unable to be capitalised of \$4.90 million, depreciation \$4.05 million above budget, statutory fees and fines \$1.37 million below budget and an unbudgeted \$1.53 million fair-value adjustment to investment property.
8. **Capital program.** The \$60.11 million capital expenditure variance primarily reflects project deferrals, revised delivery timing and procurement and delivery delays. Major timing differences included Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing Centre, Dandenong New Art, Perry Road Stage 3 and the Blackspot Dandenong program. Deferred expenditure, associated grant income, reserve funding and forecast completion dates will continue to be monitored through the 2026-27 capital program and quarterly forecasting process.
9. **Cash, liquidity and restricted funds.** Cash and cash equivalents were \$37.04 million at 30 June 2026, \$1.88 million above budget. Total cash and investments were \$224.80 million, \$44.64 million above budget and \$12.27 million higher than at 30 June 2025. Of the closing balance, \$193.79 million was restricted for reserves, employee provisions, trust funds and deposits and other restricted purposes. The working capital ratio remained sound at 2.03.
10. **Financial sustainability.** Council's results were within the low to medium risk range across most of the VAGO financial sustainability indicators, with four of the seven indicators performing favourably. The adjusted underlying result was negative 3.28%, compared with negative 8.82% in the Mid-Year Budget. The internal financing ratio was 94.97% and continued to be affected by the scale and funding profile of the Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing Centre.
11. **Timing differences and forward monitoring.** The attached report identifies operating and capital timing differences to be managed in 2026-27 and later years. This includes \$12.37 million of the 2026-27 Financial Assistance Grant received in advance. These matters will be monitored through the quarterly forecast process in 2026-27.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

12. There are no additional human resource implications arising directly from this report. The employee cost variance reflects recruitment and onboarding delays, the timing of grant-funded programs, provision movements and operational savings. Workforce impacts and vacancies will continue to be managed through existing workforce planning, recruitment and service planning processes.

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

Operating Budget Implications

13. There are no additional financial commitments arising directly from consideration of this report. The report communicates the 2025-26 financial result following Victorian Auditor-General's Office audit clearance. Operating and capital timing differences, grant obligations, restricted cash, capital delivery and financial sustainability will be monitored through the 2026-27 quarterly forecasting and established governance processes.



Asset Implications

14. Capital expenditure was below budget primarily because of project deferrals and revised delivery timing. Asset write-offs and project-in-progress costs that no longer met the criteria for capitalisation were recognised in the 2025-26 result. Deferred capital works and related funding will continue to be monitored through the 2026-27 capital program, quarterly forecasting and established asset management and financial governance processes.

Legal/Risk Implications

15. The financial reporting risk associated with VAGO audit clearance has been addressed through completion of the clearance process. Ongoing financial reporting risks include the accurate recognition and monitoring of grant obligations, capital delivery timing and restricted cash. These risks will continue to be managed through annual reporting, quarterly forecasting and established financial governance controls.

Environmental Implications

16. There are no environmental implications arising directly from this report. Any environmental impacts associated with individual capital projects or service activities are considered through the relevant project planning, approval and delivery processes.

Gender Impact Assessment

17. A gender impact assessment is not required because this report presents Council's financial results and does not develop or vary a policy, program or service that directly and significantly affects the public.

Community Consultation

18. There was no requirement for community consultation.

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

19. This report supports the Community Vision 2040 principle:
- Responsible and transparent governance through clear reporting on Council's financial position and stewardship of public resources.
20. This report is consistent with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic objective:
- A Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources, and a commitment to investing in the community."
21. This report does not relate to a Notice of Motion.

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 applicable obligations include the overarching governance principles and financial management and annual reporting requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
 - The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.
 - Applicable Australian Accounting Standards.
 - Council's adopted financial policies and governance framework.



Cr Isabella Do returned to the Chamber at 7.33pm prior to voting on this item.

MINUTE No.431

Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council APPROVES the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2026, including the key operating and capital variances, cash and investment position, financial sustainability indicators and timing differences to be managed through the 2026-27 quarterly forecasting process. The results are presented following Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) audit clearance.

CARRIED 11 / 0



Mayor Sophie Tan read the following:

"Councillors, I was pleased to support this report and the recommendation to accept Council's 2025–26 financial statements, following audit clearance by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office.

The report shows Council recorded an operating surplus of \$19.29 million, which is \$3.22 million favourable to the Mid-Year Budget. Our cash and investments position also remains sound, and the working capital ratio is strong at 2.03.

It is also important to be clear that this result includes the early receipt of the 2026–27 Financial Assistance Grant and significant non-cash accounting entries. These factors need to be understood when looking at the underlying result.

The adjusted underlying result was negative 3.28 per cent, which is a clear improvement on the Mid-Year Budget position of negative 8.82 per cent. This shows careful and responsible management in a very challenging environment.

Like councils across Victoria, we are managing real structural pressures. Rate capping and constrained revenue limit what councils can raise, while the cost of delivering services, maintaining assets and meeting community needs continues to rise.

I want to commend the Chief Financial Officer and his team for their work in preparing these accounts, supporting the audit process and providing clear advice to Council.

I also want to acknowledge and thank the Chief Executive Officer and all Council staff for their responsible financial management throughout 2025–26. Their work has helped Council continue to deliver essential services and major projects while keeping long-term sustainability in focus.

These results show discipline, transparency and a strong focus on the future.

I understand the full Annual Report will be brought to Council to consider its adoption next month."



4.1.2 Transition from Multi-Budget Review Process to an Annual Budget and Quarterly Forecasting Framework

Responsible Officer: Chief Financial Officer

Attachments: 1. Transition to Quarterly Forecasting Framework 2026-27
[4.1.2.1 - 2 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **ENDORSES** the Annual Budget and Quarterly Forecasting Framework set out in Attachment 1, to take effect from the 2026–27 financial year;
2. **APPROVES** the replacement of the current Amended Budget, Mid-Year Budget and Current Year Forecast processes with three formal quarterly forecasts;
3. **NOTES** that the adopted Annual Budget will remain Council's approved financial baseline and that a forecast will not amend the Budget or authorise expenditure, borrowings, reserve use, changes to rates or fees, or material service or capital program changes;
4. **NOTES** that any matter outside officer delegations or otherwise requiring statutory or Council approval will be presented separately to Council before implementation;
5. **NOTES** that a detailed implementation and communications plan, including governance, system configuration, reporting, training, change management and assurance arrangements, is being developed and will be considered by the Executive Team; and
6. **NOTES** that the Chief Financial Officer will review the framework after its first full year of operation and report any material findings or recommended changes to Council.

Executive Summary

1. This report seeks Council endorsement of a revised financial management framework from 2026–27: one Council-adopted Annual Budget supported by three formal quarterly forecasts.
2. The change is intended to reduce repeated budget reconstruction and shift organisational effort toward timely analysis of the expected year-end position, emerging financial risks and opportunities, service and workforce changes, grant movements and capital delivery.
3. The adopted Annual Budget will remain Council's approved financial baseline. Forecasts will provide updated management estimates only and will not, by themselves, authorise additional expenditure, new borrowings, reserve use, changes to rates or fees, or material changes to services or the capital program.
4. Council will continue to receive quarterly financial reporting and will decide separately on any matter requiring Council approval. A detailed implementation and communications plan is being developed, including governance, MAGIQ configuration, reporting, training, change management and assurance arrangements, and will be discussed with the Executive Team.



Background

5. The organisation currently undertakes several budget review processes during the financial year:
 - Annual Budget
 - Amended Budget
 - Mid-Year Budget
 - Current Year Forecast
6. While these processes were established to ensure financial oversight, they often require managers and Finance teams to rebuild budgets multiple times throughout the year. This creates duplication of effort, additional review meetings and significant administrative workload.
7. Contemporary financial management practice increasingly favours a single approved budget supported by regular forecasting cycles that focus on expected outcomes rather than resetting approved financial targets. The proposed framework reflects this direction and supports stronger financial performance management across the organisation.

Proposal

8. The proposed future state framework can be summarised as:

"Budget once, forecast often."

Under the proposed approach:

Current Process	Proposed Process
Annual Budget	Annual Budget
Amended Budget	Forecast Q1
Mid-Year Budget	Forecast Q2
Forecast	Forecast Q3

9. Forecasts would provide updates to the organisation's expected year-end financial position using:
 - Actual financial performance.
 - Emerging risks and opportunities.
 - New operational requirements.
 - Changes in grant funding.
 - Savings initiatives.
 - Capital program delivery updates.
 - Workforce movements.
10. The existing Long-Term Financial Plan process would remain unchanged.
11. The indicative annual cycle, quarterly forecast production sprints, organisational benefits, key risks and proposed mitigation measures are detailed in Attachment 1.

Key Issues and Discussion

12. **Decision sought.** Council is being asked to endorse the forecasting framework and the replacement of the three existing in-year budget review processes with three quarterly forecasts. Council is not being asked to approve forecast movements as revised budgets or to delegate any additional spending authority.



13. **Council oversight and transparency.** Each quarterly report will compare year-to-date actuals and the latest full-year forecast with the adopted Annual Budget, explain material movements, identify risks and opportunities, outline management actions, and clearly identify any matter requiring a separate Council decision. This preserves accountability to the adopted Budget while giving Council earlier visibility of the expected year-end result.
14. **Authority and safeguards.** Forecasting is separate from approval authority. A forecast will not authorise expenditure above approved limits, new borrowings, reserve use, changes to rates or fees, or a material change to services or the capital program. Any action outside an officer's delegation, affecting a matter specifically approved by Council, or otherwise requiring statutory or Council approval will be presented through a separate approval process before implementation.
15. **Accountability and assurance.** Budget owners will prepare and certify complete, supportable forecasts. Finance Business Partners will review and challenge assumptions; Executive Team members will approve their respective directorate or portfolio forecasts; and the consolidated forecast will be endorsed by the Chief Financial Officer and approved by the Chief Executive Officer before reporting to Council. Material judgments, assumptions and movements will be documented to maintain an appropriate audit trail.
16. **Implementation.** Attachment 1 establishes the framework and indicative reporting cycle. A more detailed implementation and communications plan is being developed and will be discussed with the Executive Team. It will address process design, roles and delegations, materiality and escalation thresholds, MAGIQ configuration and testing, reporting templates, timetable and cut-off requirements, training, stakeholder communications, quality assurance, resourcing and post-implementation review. Council will be advised if implementation identifies any material cost, delay, control issue or change requiring approval.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

17. No change to the staffing establishment is proposed. Implementation will require targeted training, revised responsibilities for budget owners and Finance Business Partners, and short-term change management effort.
18. The detailed implementation and communications plan is being developed and will be discussed with the Executive Team. Communications and training will explain the purpose of forecasts, responsibilities, approval and escalation requirements, timetable, materiality expectations and the distinction between a forecast and authority to spend. Finance Business Partners will support budget owners through the transition.

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

Operating Budget Implications

19. Implementation is expected to be managed within existing operational budgets and staff resources, subject to completion of detailed planning. The plan will confirm the effort and cost of MAGIQ configuration and testing, reporting enhancements, training, change management and quality assurance. Any material unbudgeted cost or additional resourcing requirement will be progressed through the usual approval process before commitment.

Asset Implications

20. There are no direct asset implications arising from the proposed framework.



Legal/Risk Implications

21. The *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to prepare and adopt an Annual Budget each financial year. The proposed quarterly forecasts are not intended to replace or amend the adopted Budget and will operate as management reporting tools that update Council's expected year-end financial position.
22. Quarterly forecasts may identify expected changes in Council's financial outlook but will not amend the adopted Budget or authorise additional expenditure, new borrowings, reserve use, changes to rates or fees, or material changes to services or the capital program. Fully externally funded expenditure may be recognised where it creates no unfunded operating, maintenance or future-year financial commitment for Council and is approved under legislation, Council resolutions and applicable delegations. All other matters requiring additional Council funding or approval will continue through the usual governance processes before implementation.
23. Key transition risks are inconsistent forecast quality, optimism bias, unclear ownership, late submissions, system or reporting defects, misunderstanding of forecasts as spending approval, and insufficient capacity during peak reporting periods. These risks will be managed through documented roles and approvals, standard assumptions and materiality thresholds, Finance challenge, Executive oversight, system testing, training, clear communications, exception escalation and review of forecast accuracy. The Chief Financial Officer will review the framework after its first full year and report material findings or recommended changes to Council.

Environmental Implications

24. There are no environmental implications relevant to this report

Gender Impact Assessment

25. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

26. There was no requirement for community consultation.

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

27. This report supports the Council Plan 2025–29 objective of:
 - 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 applicable obligations include the overarching governance principles and financial management requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
 - the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.
 - Council's Governance Rules, delegations and relevant financial policies.

The attached framework preserves the Annual Budget as Council's approved financial baseline and requires separate approval for matters outside delegated or statutory authority.



MINUTE No.432

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council:

- 1. ENDORSES the Annual Budget and Quarterly Forecasting Framework set out in Attachment 1, to take effect from the 2026–27 financial year;**
- 2. APPROVES the replacement of the current Amended Budget, Mid-Year Budget and Current Year Forecast processes with three formal quarterly forecasts;**
- 3. NOTES that the adopted Annual Budget will remain Council's approved financial baseline and that a forecast will not amend the Budget or authorise expenditure, borrowings, reserve use, changes to rates or fees, or material service or capital program changes;**
- 4. NOTES that any matter outside officer delegations or otherwise requiring statutory or Council approval will be presented separately to Council before implementation;**
- 5. NOTES that a detailed implementation and communications plan, including governance, system configuration, reporting, training, change management and assurance arrangements, is being developed and will be considered by the Executive Team; and**
- 6. NOTES that the Chief Financial Officer will review the framework after its first full year of operation and report any material findings or recommended changes to Council.**

CARRIED 11 / 0



4.1.3 Consolidated 2025-26 Financial Statements and Performance Statement

Responsible Officer: Chief Financial Officer

Attachments:

1. Consolidated Annual Financial Report 2025-26 [4.1.3.1 - 80 pages]
2. Performance Statement 2025-26 [4.1.3.2 - 17 pages]
3. Management Representation Letter 2025-26 [4.1.3.3 - 6 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES** that VAGO audit clearance has been received for the Consolidated Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2026;
2. **APPROVES** the Consolidated Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2026 per Attachment 1;
3. **AUTHORISES** the Principal Accounting Officer to make any final formatting amendments to the Consolidated Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement as required or agreed with VAGO;
4. **NOMINATES** Mayor Sophie Tan and Councillor Melinda Yim to certify the Consolidated Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2026 in their final form, noting that the Chief Executive Officer and Principal Accounting Officer will also provide the certifications required by the prescribed statements;
5. **NOTES** that the Consolidated Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement, Councillor and Principal Accounting Officer certifications, and VAGO independent auditor's reports will be incorporated into Council's 2025-26 Annual Report; and
6. **NOTES** that VAGO's independent auditor's reports are not available at the time of preparing this report and will be incorporated into Council's 2025-26 Annual Report once issued.

Executive Summary

1. Council's Consolidated Annual Financial Report for 2025-26 comprises the consolidated financial statements of Council, Dandenong Market Pty Ltd and South East Leisure Pty Ltd. All inter-entity balances and transactions are eliminated on consolidation.
2. VAGO's appointed audit service provider, RSD Audit, has completed the audit of the Consolidated Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2026 and VAGO audit clearance has been received.
3. Council is required to approve the statements in principle and authorise two Councillors to certify them once finalised, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.
4. Authority for the Principal Accounting Officer's is sought to make any final formatting amendments to the Consolidated Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement as required or agreed with VAGO.



5. VAGO audit clearance has been received for the Consolidated Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement. Once the required certifications and VAGO's independent auditor's reports have been signed, the draft attachments will be replaced with the final documents and incorporated into Council's 2025-26 Annual Report.
6. VAGO has advised that no material audit differences have been identified. One unadjusted audit difference of \$3.2 million remains in relation to depreciation for the Ancillary Services building component. The difference is below audit materiality and is disclosed in VAGO's Closing Report.

Background

7. The consolidated financial statements include the value of all assets, liabilities, equity, revenue and expenditure of Greater Dandenong City Council and its controlled entities:
8. Dandenong Market Pty Ltd
9. South East Leisure Pty Ltd

Key Issues and Discussion

10. **Audit status and finalisation:** VAGO audit clearance has been received for the Consolidated Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement.
11. **Certification and audit opinions:** The final statements must be certified by the Principal Accounting Officer, the Chief Executive Officer and the two Councillors nominated by Council. The Management Representation Letter must be signed by the Principal Accounting Officer and the Chief Executive Officer. VAGO's independent auditor's reports on the financial report and performance statement will be attached when available.
12. **Approval:** Council's approval enables the statements to proceed to final certification.
13. **Annual Report:** Once finalised, the Consolidated Annual Financial Report, Performance Statement, certifications and VAGO audit opinions will be incorporated into Council's Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2026 and presented in accordance with the statutory timetable.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

14. This report does not have an impact on existing human resources beyond normal year-end financial reporting, audit and Annual Report finalisation activities.

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

Operating Budget Implications

15. There are no additional budget implications arising from the recommendations in this report. The Consolidated Annual Financial Report records the financial performance and financial position of Council and its controlled entities for the year ended 30 June 2026.

Asset Implications

16. The financial statements report Council's financial performance for the year ended 30 June 2026 and financial position at that date, including the carrying values and movements in Council's assets. This report does not itself affect the use, scope or maintenance requirements of Council assets.



Legal/Risk Implications

17. Council must prepare, approve and certify its financial report and performance statement in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*. The principal risk in preparing reports is that if there were outstanding audit matters or delayed certification, it could affect completion and publication of Council's Annual Report within the statutory timeframe. This is mitigated through upfront planning, the proposed amendment authority, Audit and Risk Committee oversight and Council notification of any material amendments throughout the year end reporting process.

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

19. A gender impact assessment is not required because this report concerns statutory financial and performance reporting and does not develop or review a policy, program or service that directly and significantly affects the public.

Community Consultation

20. There was no requirement for community consultation. The financial report and performance statement are statutory accountability documents. Following finalisation, they will be incorporated into Council's 2025-26 Annual Report and published in accordance with legislative requirements.

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

21. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
Not Applicable
22. 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.
23. This report does not relate to a Notice of Motion.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

24. This report has considered Council's legislative and policy obligations, where applicable, as outlined in the Report Considerations section at the front of this Agenda. The applicable obligations are:
- The overarching governance principles and financial and performance reporting requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*
 - The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.



MINUTE No.433

Moved by: Cr Phillip Danh

Seconded by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

That Council:

- 1. NOTES that VAGO audit clearance has been received for the Consolidated Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2026;**
- 2. APPROVES the Consolidated Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2026 per Attachment 1;**
- 3. AUTHORISES the Principal Accounting Officer to make any final formatting amendments to the Consolidated Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement as required or agreed with VAGO;**
- 4. NOMINATES Mayor Sophie Tan and Councillor Melinda Yim to certify the Consolidated Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2026 in their final form, noting that the Chief Executive Officer and Principal Accounting Officer will also provide the certifications required by the prescribed statements;**
- 5. NOTES that the Consolidated Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement, Councillor and Principal Accounting Officer certifications, and VAGO independent auditor's reports will be incorporated into Council's 2025-26 Annual Report; and**
- 6. NOTES that VAGO's independent auditor's reports are not available at the time of preparing this report and will be incorporated into Council's 2025-26 Annual Report once issued.**

CARRIED 11 / 0



4.1.4 Investment Policy 2026 Update

Cr Sophie Tan disclosed a material conflict of interest (s 128) in item 4.1.4 Investment Policy 2026 Update as she is an employee of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. Cr Sophie Tan left the Chamber prior to discussion of this item.

Responsible Officer: Chief Financial Officer

Attachments:

1. Table of Changes [4.1.4.1 - 2 pages]
2. Investment Policy September 2026 (clean) [4.1.4.2 - 13 pages]
3. Investment Policy September 2026 (marked-up) [4.1.4.3 - 14 pages]
4. Current Investment Policy [4.1.4.4 - 13 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council ADOPTS the revised Investment Policy (September 2026), provided as Attachment 2.

Executive Summary

1. The Investment Policy has undergone its scheduled review to ensure it remains current and aligned with legislative, governance and organisational requirements. The revised policy is presented to Council for formal adoption following consideration by the Audit and Risk Committee and Councillors at the Councillor Briefing Session on 14 September 2026.

Background

2. The Investment Policy provides the framework for authorised officers to invest Council's surplus funds prudently, with preservation of capital, liquidity and return as the key objectives. The policy applies to all funds invested on behalf of Council and is due for its scheduled review in September 2026.

Key Issues and Discussion

3. There are four attachments to this report:
 - a) A summary table of changes;
 - b) A clean version of the revised Investment Policy proposed for adoption;
 - c) A marked-up version showing the proposed changes; and
 - d) The current Investment Policy.
4. The amendments are primarily governance and administrative changes. They include:
 - expansion of the prohibited investments list to include investments related to weapons, alcohol, tobacco and pornography, to better align investment decisions with Council's values.



- clearer requirements for oversight and independence of an investment adviser (where engaged by Council), including disclosure of any material use of artificial intelligence.
 - clearer arrangements for identifying, escalating and reporting policy breaches.
 - clarification of investment risks, including relevant non-financial risks.
 - strengthened monitoring, reporting and implementation requirements.
 - retention of Council's preference for environmentally and socially responsible investments where these meet the policy's risk, return and liquidity requirements.
 - and updated legislative, accounting and organisational references.
5. No changes are proposed to the core investment objectives, approved investment framework, investment thresholds, credit and institutional exposure limits, maturity settings or quotation requirements. The prohibited investments list has been expanded to clarify investments that Council will not undertake.
6. The proposed revisions were presented to the Councillor Briefing Session on 14 September 2026. Feedback and questions raised through that process have been considered in finalising the policy for Council adoption.
7. The next scheduled review is September 2029.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

8. The revised policy does not affect existing staffing levels. Implementation, monitoring and reporting will be undertaken within current Financial Services responsibilities and resources.

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

Operating Budget Implications

9. There are no direct operating budget implications associated with this report. The policy continues to support prudent management of surplus funds and the optimisation of investment returns within approved risk and liquidity parameters.

Asset Implications

10. This item does not affect any existing Council assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

11. The revised policy supports compliance with section 103 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and strengthens controls over investment risk, diversification, investment adviser independence, breach escalation and reporting. If the policy is not adopted, Council would retain outdated references and weaker governance arrangements, increasing the risk of inconsistent application, insufficient oversight or non-compliance.

Environmental Implications

12. The revised policy retains Council's preference for environmentally and socially responsible investment options, including fossil-fuel-free authorised deposit-taking institutions and green term deposits, where they meet the policy's return, risk and liquidity requirements. No direct environmental impacts arise from adoption of the policy.



Gender Impact Assessment

13. A gender impact assessment is not required because the policy governs the internal investment of Council funds and does not directly and significantly affect the public.

Community Consultation

14. There was no requirement for community consultation. The proposed updates were reviewed within Financial Services, considered through the internal review process and by the Audit and Risk Committee, and presented to Councillors at the Councillor Briefing Session. Feedback and questions raised through these processes were considered in finalising the policy for Council adoption.

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

15. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
Not Applicable
16. 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.
17. This report does not relate to a Notice of Motion.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

18. This report has considered Council's legislative and policy obligations (where applicable) as outlined in the Report Considerations section detailed in the front of this Agenda. The applicable obligations considered and applied are:
- The Overarching Governance Principles and sections 101, 102 and 103 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
 - The *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.
 - The *Gender Equality Act 2020*.
 - Climate change and sustainability considerations.
 - Applicable Australian Accounting Standards.
 - Related Council policies, strategies and frameworks.



Cr Sophie Tan vacated the Chair and left the Chamber at 7.38pm.

Cr Phillip Danh assumed the Chair at 7.38pm.

MINUTE No.434

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Loi Truong

That Council ADOPTS the revised Investment Policy (September 2026), provided as Attachment 2.

CARRIED 10 / 0

Cr Sophie Tan returned to the Chamber and resumed the Chair at 7.41pm.

Cr Phillip Danh returned to his seat at 7.41pm.



4.2 POLICY AND STRATEGY

4.2.1 Adoption of Disability Action Plan

Responsible Officer:	Executive Director Community Strengthening
Attachments:	1. Draft Disability Action Plan 2026-2030 (Final Version) [4.2.1.1 - 24 pages] 2. Draft Disability Action Plan Consultation (17 June - 15 July 2026) [4.2.1.2 - 10 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES** the community feedback received on the Draft Disability Action Plan 2026-30 and the minor amendments made in response; and
2. **APPROVES** the Disability Action Plan 2026-30, provided at Attachment 1, for implementation.

Executive Summary

1. At its 15 June 2026 meeting, Council endorsed release of the Draft Disability Action Plan 2026-30 for a four-week public consultation period commencing Wednesday 17 June 2026.
2. Community engagement demonstrated strong support for the Plan. Feedback has been analysed and only minor amendments have been made to improve clarity, inclusivity and alignment with community input.
3. The revised Disability Action Plan 2026-30, provided at Attachment 1, is now presented to Council for approval.
4. The report now summarises the consultation process, the key themes raised by the community and the minor changes made to the draft Plan before seeking Council endorsement of the revised document.

Background

5. A Disability Action Plan sets out how Council will improve access, inclusion and participation for people with disability. Under the Victorian Disability Act 2006, councils must have a plan that reduces barriers to access and employment, supports inclusion and participation, and helps address discriminatory attitudes and practices.
6. The development of the draft Plan was informed by input from the Disability Advisory Committee, disability service providers, community networks and people with disability. It also incorporated feedback from previous engagement activities, including the Council Plan deliberative engagement process and the 2023 Aged and Disability Services Review.
7. At the 15 June Council Meeting councillors approved the Draft Disability Action Plan to commence a four-week public consultation from Wednesday 17 June 2026.
8. Council undertook targeted community engagement to refine the Disability Action Plan, consulting with people with disability, carers, service providers, community organisations and the broader community. The consultation reached more than 700 people, attracted 420 webpage visitors and generated over 148 pieces of feedback, helping ensure the final Plan reflects a wide range of community perspectives and lived experiences (see Attachment 2).



9. Following targeted community engagement on the draft Disability Action Plan, Council made minor updates to strengthen inclusivity, reflect community feedback and improve clarity. These changes included:
 - clarifying that the Plan applies to people of all ages and diverse identities.
 - updating the consultation findings and key themes.
 - revising actions and measurable outcomes based on community input.
 - making minor grammar and consistency improvements throughout the document.
10. This plan replaces the 2017–2023 Disability Action Plan and continues Council's commitment to removing barriers, increasing participation, and ensuring people with disability have equitable access to opportunities across our community.
11. The Disability Action Plan 2026-30 (Attachment 1) is presented to Council for approval.

Key Issues and Discussion

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

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

20. Once the final Plan is endorsed, existing workforce priorities will be reviewed to ensure they align with the Plan deliverables.



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

Operating Budget Implications

21. Once the final Plan is endorsed, existing operational budgets will be refocused to align with the Plan deliverables. Any new initiatives will be considered through Council's annual budget process.

Asset Implications

22. This report does not have any direct implications for existing assets. However, future asset planning and development should continue to be informed by the principles outlined in the Plan and relevant legislation.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

25. The Gender Impact Assessment for the Disability Action Plan outlines actions to improve accessibility, inclusion, and participation for people with disability through accessible services, strengthened staff capability, and ongoing collaboration with the community and partner organisations. It identifies gender-related inequalities, including the significantly higher risk of violence experienced by women with disability, particularly where factors such as cultural background, language barriers, caring responsibilities, and social disadvantage intersect. The assessment recommends continuing inclusive and accessible engagement practices, maintaining partnerships with disability and family violence services, providing flexible participation and communication options, and ensuring women with disability remain involved in shaping, implementing, and evaluating actions under the plan.

Community Consultation Summary

Purpose	To seek community feedback on whether the Draft Disability Action Plan reflects the views and lived experience of people with disability, builds on earlier engagement, and identifies practical actions supported by the community for the next four years.
Engagement period	Wednesday 17 June until Wednesday 14 July
Level of Influence:	Based on IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum: Consult
Engagement Activities:	Engagement was delivered through Council's online Have Your Say survey, community drop-in sessions at local hub locations, targeted outreach to community organisations, and consultation with advisory committees and Council staff.
Communication reach and engagement numbers:	• The Disability Action Plan consultation attracted 420 unique visitors to the Have Your Say page, generated 637 page views, and resulted in 73 Plan downloads. • Community engagement reached 708 people through direct emails and stakeholder networks, with 47 online



	submissions and more than 148 individual feedback comments received. • Engagement activities included 11 face-to-face consultation sessions, comprising four community drop-in sessions and seven targeted discussions with disability and community groups. • Feedback was gathered through online submissions, face-to-face conversations with more than 50 participants, and targeted engagement with disability service providers, carers, support groups and community organisations. • Consultation materials were also accessed in several languages other than English, including Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Arabic, Greek, Punjabi, Vietnamese and Shinala.
Summary of feedback:	Consultation feedback demonstrated strong community support for the draft Disability Action Plan, with more than 86% of survey respondents supporting its overall direction. Participants reinforced the importance of improving inclusion, accessibility and participation, while also highlighting the need to continue reducing barriers and improving opportunities for people with disability. Feedback emphasised the value of involving people with lived experience in planning and decision-making. Overall, the consultation confirmed that the draft Plan aligned closely with community expectations and required only minor refinements before finalisation. Further information is available in Draft Disability Action Plan Consultation (Attachment 2).

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

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

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

27. This report aligns with the following strategic objectives in the Council Plan 2025-29:

- A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
- A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts.
- A city of accessible, vibrant centres and places.



Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

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

MINUTE No.435

Moved by: Cr Melinda Yim

Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad

That Council:

1. **NOTES** the community feedback received on the Draft Disability Action Plan 2026-30 and the minor amendments made in response; and
2. **APPROVES** the Disability Action Plan 2026-30, provided at Attachment 1, for implementation.

CARRIED 11 / 0



4.2.2 Complaints Policy and Implementation Plan

Responsible Officer:	Chief Customer & Information Officer
Attachments:	1. Complaints Policy - DRAFT V5 (Final) (A14132940) [4.2.2.1 - 16 pages] 2. Complaints Policy Review - Table of Changes - Council (A13888649) [4.2.2.2 - 6 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES** the outcomes of the review and community consultation on the draft Complaints Policy;
2. **APPROVES** the Complaints Policy be adopted per Attachment 1; and
3. **NOTES** the proposed implementation approach, including development of a supporting procedure, staff training and awareness, central recording through Council systems, performance reporting and assessment of future complaint-handling resource requirements.

Executive Summary

1. Council has completed a comprehensive review of its Complaints Policy in response to legislative obligations, the May 2025 internal audit, guidance from the Victorian Ombudsman and feedback from internal and community consultation.
2. The revised policy establishes a clearer, fairer and more consistent complaint-handling framework.
3. Key changes include a four-tier model for resolution and review, acknowledgement within two business days, tier-based response standards, regular progress updates for complex matters, clearer arrangements for sensitive complaints, stronger accessibility and privacy commitments, and defined responsibilities across the organisation.
4. The policy also strengthens organisational learning by requiring consistent recording of complaints, monitoring of performance and analysis of complaint data to identify recurring issues and service improvements.
5. Implementation will be delivered through Council's Complaints Handling Uplift Program. This will include a supporting procedure, staff training and awareness, centralised complaint recording and management through Merit CRM, improved reporting and consideration of dedicated oversight resources through a future business case.
6. Community feedback supported clearer, more concise and accessible information and raised concerns about accountability for complaints involving contractors. In response, complaints involving contractors will remain under Council's oversight, and customer-facing guidance, including Easy English information, will accompany implementation.
7. A detailed record of all amendments is provided in the Policy Review – Table of Changes (**Attachment 2**).



Background

8. A comprehensive update has now been completed, informed by:
- Legislative compliance requirements.
 - Internal Audit Report – Review of Complaints Management, May 2025.
 - The Victorian Ombudsman’s Councils and Complaints – Good Practice Guide (2nd edition).
 - The Victorian Ombudsman’s ‘Good complaint handling’ workshop.
 - Internal consultation sessions with senior leaders across the organisation.
 - Community consultation.
 - Feedback from the Executive Team, Audit and Risk Committee and Staff Consultative Committee.

Key Issues and Discussion

9. The key areas of change in the revised policy include:
- Improved clarity of scope and definitions.
 - Improved complaint handling framework (tiered approach).
 - Updated complaint handling service standards.
 - Enhanced guidance on sensitive and serious matters.
 - Established clear roles and responsibilities.
 - Inclusion of two new appendices outlining external complaint handling bodies and providing a comparison of service requests and complaints.
10. The revised Complaints Policy represents the first stage of Council's Complaints Handling Uplift Program, a multi-phase initiative.

Key initiatives to be delivered through the program include:

- Development and implementation of a Complaints Handling Procedure.
 - Introduction of a structured complaints training and awareness program.
 - Centralisation of complaint recording and management within the Merit CRM system.
 - Establishment of dedicated complaint handling resources to support oversight, reporting and continuous improvement, subject to business case approval.
11. To support successful implementation of the Complaints Handling Uplift Program, a Change Plan and Communication Plan have been developed.



Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

12. The revised policy will require staff training, implementation of supporting procedures, system enhancements and ongoing organisational oversight. While initial implementation will be managed within existing resources, the need for dedicated complaint-handling resources will be assessed through the Complaints Handling Uplift Program and considered through future workforce planning and budget processes.

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

Operating Budget Implications

13. The policy itself does not require additional funding. However, implementation of the Complaints Handling Uplift Program is expected to require investment in training, change management, complaint management capability, data reporting and system optimisation. Any future resource requirements will be subject to business case development and Council's normal budget and workforce planning processes.
14. The expected benefits include improved customer experience, stronger governance, reduced organisational risk and greater efficiency through consistent complaint handling practices.

Asset Implications

15. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

16. The Complaints Handling Uplift Program has been established in response to recommendations arising from the Internal Audit Report - Review of Complaints Management (May 2025).
17. Failure to implement the audit recommendations may result in continued inconsistency in complaint handling practices, reduced organisational oversight and reporting, non-alignment with recognised best-practice standards, increased scrutiny from future audits or external reviews, and reputational impacts to Council.

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

19. A gender impact assessment is not required.

Community Consultation

Purpose	We sought community feedback on the draft policy, particularly in relation to clarity, usability from a customer perspective and whether the process is fair and easy to follow.
Engagement period	The proposed policy was published on Councils 'Your Say' page from 3 June to 16 June 2026.
Level of Influence:	A 'consult' level of influence was available.



Engagement Activities:	The consultation was promoted on Council's website, at Council's customer service centres and via an email to 195 people who have subscribed to be kept up to date on consultations.
Communication reach and engagement numbers:	There were 112 visits to the consultation page, with 70 unique visitors. The draft policy was downloaded by 33 visitors.
Summary of feedback:	Submissions raised matters relating to accountability and responsiveness where the complaint is about a Council contractor, the usability and structure of the policy document and a preference for more concise and user-friendly information. In response, the policy has been updated to clarify that complaints will not be referred to contractors for handling. To improve usability and accessibility, website content will be published providing a summary of the Complaints Policy and outlining how complaints are managed, supported by fact sheets in Easy English.

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

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

- This policy supports the Community Vision 2040 aspiration of a Council that is responsive, accountable and focused on the needs of its community. Through fair, transparent and consistent complaint handling practices, the policy strengthens community trust and confidence in Council, encourages community participation and supports continuous improvement in service delivery.

21. 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

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.436

Moved by: Cr Loi Truong

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council:

- 1. NOTES the outcomes of the review and community consultation on the draft Complaints Policy;**
- 2. APPROVES the Complaints Policy be adopted per Attachment 1; and**
- 3. NOTES the proposed implementation approach, including development of a supporting procedure, staff training and awareness, central recording through Council systems, performance reporting and assessment of future complaint-handling resource requirements.**

CARRIED 11 / 0



4.2.3 Draft Integrated Children, Youth and Family Strategy - Endorse for Consultation

Responsible Officer:	Executive Director Community Strengthening
Attachments:	1. Integrated Children Youth and Family Services Strategy 2027-2031 DRAFT (Attachment 1) [4.2.3.1 - 30 pages] 2. Background Report Integrated Children Youth and Family Strategy, May 2026 (Attachment 2) [4.2.3.2 - 82 pages] 3. Community Engagement Summary Report (Attachment 3) [4.2.3.3 - 5 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES** the Draft Integrated Children, Youth and Family Strategy 2027-31 (Attachment 1) which builds on Council's previous two strategies: the Youth and Family Strategy 2021-26 and the Children's Plan 2021-26, and has been informed by consultation with the community and sector stakeholders; and
2. **ENDORSES** the Draft Integrated Children, Youth and Family Strategy 2027-31 for the purposes of public consultation (for a period of over 30 days) from 22 September to 31 October 2026.

Executive Summary

1. The Draft Integrated Children, Youth and Family Strategy (2027-31) outlines a five-year plan for Council to best direct services and supports to meet the needs of children, young people, and families. It adopts a 0–25 years life course approach, recognising that people experience needs and services across various stages of life, not in isolation.
2. The Strategy aligns with Council's shift to streamline plans through its Integrated Planning Framework, bringing together the former, discrete Children's Plan (2021–26) and Youth and Family Strategy (2021–26) into a single, clear, and integrated approach to guide future planning and delivery.

Background

3. Greater Dandenong is a growing and diverse community, with more than 30% of residents aged 0–25. While the community is rich in cultural strengths and resilience, many children, young people, and families face challenges including financial pressure, mental health concerns, housing stress, and barriers to accessing support.
4. This Strategy aims to improve outcomes for children, young people, and families through a more coordinated and integrated approach across Council services. It focuses on promoting health, wellbeing and development, strengthening early intervention and prevention, supporting pathways to education, employment and participation, and ensuring services are inclusive and accessible.



5. At its heart, the strategy seeks to ensure all children, young people and families feel supported, included and empowered to thrive, contributing to a healthier, more connected, and resilient community.

Key Issues and Discussion

6. The Integrated Children, Youth and Family Strategy (2027-31) sets out Council's vision and priorities for children, young people, and families in Greater Dandenong.
7. Council's vision is that young people and families are valued, celebrated, and supported to reach their full potential.
8. This vision will be fulfilled by working across five key priority themes:

Leading and Partnering	Working together to improve access and outcomes.
Healthy and Thriving	Promoting health, wellbeing, and resilience.
Engaged and Valued	Ensuring every voice is heard and valued.
Belonging, Safety and Connection	Creating safe, inclusive, and connected communities.
Learning and Growing	Building skills, confidence, and future opportunities.

9. The Strategy is informed by both evidence and community voice. Development included a review of research, policy, demographic and service data, alongside extensive community and stakeholder engagement between January and June 2026. Through conversations, surveys, workshops, consultations and community events, valuable insights were gathered to ensure the Strategy reflects the needs, experiences and aspirations of children, young people, and families. A copy of the 'Integrated Children, Youth and Family Strategy, Background Report, May 2026 (Attachment 2); and Community Engagement Summary Report (Attachment 3), accompany this report.
10. Responsibility for implementing, monitoring and reporting on the Strategy will be shared by Children's Services and Youth and Family Services. Mobilised around five key themes, the Strategy brings together Maternal and Child Health, Children's Services, Youth Services and Family Services to support children, young people, and families from birth to 25 years. Delivery will be supported through annual action plans, with progress reported through Council's annual reporting processes.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

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

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

Operating Budget Implications

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

Asset Implications

13. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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



Community Consultation

16. Integrated Children, Youth and Family Strategy (2027-31) Public Exhibition Engagement Summary

Purpose	To seek community feedback on the draft Strategy and validate that the draft Strategy reflects the needs, priorities, challenges, and aspirations identified through the extensive community engagement process. Feedback during the public exhibition will inform any final refinements.
Engagement period	Proposed: 22 September – 31 October 2026, minimum four-week public exhibition period.
Level of Influence:	Consult (IAP2 Spectrum)
Engagement Activities:	• Draft Strategy published on Council Have Your Say website. • Online feedback survey/submission process. • Face-to-face community information and feedback. • Community stakeholder outreach and promotion. • Media release. • Social media promotion (Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn). • Source News article. • Communication to stakeholders who participated in Phase 1 engagement.
Communication reach and engagement numbers:	Consultation will include both broad reach across general community engagement pathways and targeted engagement and consultation with all stakeholders who participated in Phase 1 of engagement. Analysis of all engagement results will be completed once the consultation is finalised and included in a detailed engagement report.
Summary of feedback:	Phase 1 of community engagement feedback reinforced the priorities identified during the initial engagement phase and demonstrated broad support for the draft Strategy's vision, outcomes, and five priority areas. Our community told us that the following areas are especially important to them: • Access to services • Health and wellbeing • Learning and development opportunities • Community connection • Safety • Inclusion and ensuring the voices of children, young people and families continue to inform Council decision-making. A detailed summary of Phase 1 engagement feedback is provided in the accompanying Community Engagement Summary Report, (Attachment 3).



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

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

- Safe and peaceful community
- Education, training, entrepreneurship, and employment opportunities
- Sustainable environment
- Embrace diversity and multiculturalism
- Mind, Body and Spirit
- Art and Culture

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

- A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
- A city of accessible vibrant centres and places.
- A city that supports business, entrepreneurship, quality education, and employment outcomes.
- A Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources, and a commitment to investing in the community.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

Not Applicable

MINUTE No.437

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council:

1. **NOTES** the Draft Integrated Children, Youth and Family Strategy 2027-31 (Attachment 1) which builds on Council's previous two strategies: the Youth and Family Strategy 2021-26 and the Children's Plan 2021-26, and has been informed by consultation with the community and sector stakeholders; and
2. **ENDORSES** the Draft Integrated Children, Youth and Family Strategy 2027-31 for the purposes of public consultation (for a period of over 30 days) from 22 September to 31 October 2026.

CARRIED 10 / 0

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

Abstained - Cr Lana Formoso



4.3 OTHER

4.3.1 Dandenong Market Precinct Plan - Final Draft for endorsement

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

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

Attachments:

1. **Final Draft Dandenong Market Precinct Plan**
2. **'Have Your Say' Engagement Report**

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **ADOPTS the Dandenong Market Precinct Plan (per Attachment 1) to guide future development and investment in the precinct;**
2. **NOTES that the Implementation Strategy detailed in section 7.0 of the Plan is tentative and will be subject to the availability of future Funding and Resources; and**
3. **NOTES that a comprehensive Governance Framework will be presented to Council for endorsement prior to progressing major projects and the development of any land parcels which could be subject to land sale or long-term lease arrangements.**

Executive Summary

1. Dandenong Market Precinct Plan (the Plan) provides strategic direction to guide issues such as land use, urban design, economic investment opportunities, transportation, public realm, and community infrastructure for the precinct.
2. The Plan has been prepared through comprehensive stakeholder consultation and a series of Council Briefing Sessions.
3. The Draft Dandenong Market Precinct Plan package was exhibited for community consultation from 3 March to 10 April 2026. A series of meaningful engagement sessions were held both online and face to face to capture diverse voices across our community.
4. There was a record level of participation from the broader community, traders, business owners, and customers/visitors, demonstrating significant interest in and support for the Precinct Plan.
5. Following this strong community support, the draft Precinct Plan (Attachment 1) is now ready for Council adoption.

Background

6. The Dandenong Market Precinct is a large area, within the central Dandenong Metropolitan Activity Centre, with an extensive range of transport options, shops, facilities and services within easy reach. In this context, much of the land in the Precinct is underutilised, being occupied by at-grade car parking or undeveloped land secured for strategic purposes. There is opportunity to utilise this well-located, Council-owned land to accommodate a range of uses which benefit the community.



7. The Plan outlines a desired future and strategies to manage, influence, and facilitate growth and attract investment in the Dandenong Market Precinct (Market Precinct) over time. Key themes identified are built form and urban design principles, parking, movement and access, and property market opportunities for investment. The Plan ties together the strategic work that has occurred in the Revitalising Central Dandenong (RCD) program, into a broader strategic vision for the whole Study Area.
8. Council's design team and Dandenong Market Pty Ltd (DMPL) consultant team have held collaborative design workshops to inform the proposed plan.
9. Council officers working with consultants developed a draft vision, objectives and themes based on existing site conditions audit, economic analysis, benchmarking of state significant renewal projects and community engagement.
10. Potential strategies identified via the Plan are:
 - New and enhanced public open spaces
 - Business and retail spaces for local access
 - Housing development options
 - Council and community facilities
11. The Precinct Plan further outlines:
 - Precinct vision and objectives
 - Precinct wide principles to guide design and development
 - Future precinct urban structure, movement and access, and development uses
 - Potential opportunity/catalyst sites
 - Concept design for catalyst sites
 - Staging and implementation mechanism
 - Suggested project delivery models
12. The Precinct Plan ensures new development contributes to a distinctive precinct character and reinforces the Market's role as a destination of regional significance through a requirement for Social Impact Assessment (SIA) for all future projects. The SIA will ensure that community values associated with the Dandenong Market inform decision-making.

Key Issues and Discussion

13. The fully developed draft Precinct Plan was exhibited for community feedback from 3 March to 10 April 2026.
14. A series of face to face and online engagement was undertaken during the public exhibition period (phase 3 consultation).
 - 'Have your say' page – online
 - 20 engagement sessions – face to face
 - Multilingual Pop-ups at the Market & Dandenong Plaza
 - Walking Map tours with CALD community groups
 - Community leaders and Neighbourhood Centres
 - 'Have Your Say' page in top 9 languages
 - Printed Materials in 5 languages
 - o Translated flyers
 - o Easy-English versions
 - o Infographics
 - o Images and artist impressions
 - Bilingual officers (4 different languages)



- Conversation corners (1:1) at the Civic Centre

15. Council officers are confident that the level of engagement, both internal and external, has delivered a meaningful consultation with stakeholders and the community.

16. The strong participation and support received reflects broad community backing and indicates clear community support for the Precinct Plan.

17. Phase 3 engagement findings are:

a. Vision for the Precinct;

- **90% agree** with the vision for the precinct to become a vibrant, connected and welcoming destination.
- **10% do not agree**. Concerns include carparking provisions and traffic congestion.

b. Most strongly supported Precinct Plan themes were;

- Create a clear, walkable and connected street network that integrates with surrounding streets and lanes
- Use Council-owned land strategically to improve activation, safety, business vibrancy and community enjoyment
- Protect and showcase significant existing trees in the precinct
- Create food and dining areas that celebrate cultural diversity and attract locals and visitors.

c. The highest-rated aspirations for community were;

- Better car parking, public transport and connectivity
- High-quality streets, plazas, landscaping and gathering spaces
- More trees and green spaces
- Public-realm improvements

d. Priority Projects Top-ranked early actions;

- Refreshing Palm Plaza – highest priority
- Improving the Clow Street & Lonsdale Street intersection for pedestrian safety
- Running events and activities to attract visitors and encourage night-time use
- Advocating to Government & Agencies to invest in the Market Precinct renewal projects.

e. Additional feedback:

- Streetscape improvements
- Well-considered parking provision and traffic impacts
- Improved safety
- Sensible built-form transition
- Protect the market's core identity and affordability
- Improve parking and cleanliness around the Market
- Modernise thoughtfully while staying relevant
- Strengthen long-term sustainability and activation



- We received 124 submissions (proforma) linked to the Dandenong Community Hub proposal. The Precinct Plan aligns with the Council resolution of 8 Dec 2025, where Council confirmed that the design for the DCH should fit within the boundary set out in the Plan.

18. In response to community feedback, the following changes have been made to the Precinct Plan:

- Additional built-form guidance for Sites 10 and 12: Provide a sensitive and well considered transition of building heights, particularly along the northern and eastern edges of the precinct, to respect and respond positively to adjacent residential interfaces.
- Carparking and traffic: Ensure an appropriate number of well-designed on-site parking spaces with clear, safe, and efficient operation. Impacts on pedestrian crossings and the wider local movement network will continue to be assessed as part of the next phase of Precinct Plan work.
- Public spaces and streetscape improvements: Palm Plaza revitalisation and an audit of the Clow Street/Lonsdale Street intersection will be prioritised as immediate actions, subject to available funding.
- Social Impact Assessment (SIA) requirement: Introduce a requirement for all future developments within the precinct to prepare a Social Impact Assessment. The SIA will ensure that community values associated with the Dandenong Market inform decision-making.
- Housing opportunities for local people will be a key focus of the Plan. Housing availability and affordability are significant challenges at the local, national and international levels, highlighting the need for increased supply in well-located areas with convenient access to transport, jobs, shops and services. Consistent with the Victorian Government's housing targets and Council's Local Housing Strategy, the Plan will support a diverse range of housing types and tenure models, including affordable and key worker housing, to help meet future housing demand and respond to the needs of the local community.
- The Precinct Plan will celebrate Dandenong Market as the cultural, social and economic heart of the precinct by creating welcoming, inclusive and accessible places that showcase Dandenong's multicultural identity, heritage and stories, while supporting community gathering, cultural events, festivals and vibrant public life.

19. Council officers are confident that the draft Precinct Plan (Attachment 1) reflects the stakeholders and the community feedback and aspirations for the Market precinct and is now ready for Council adoption.

20. Timeframes in the Section 7 Implementation Strategy are tentative and will be subject to further resolution dependent on available funding and resources. The future implementation process will include further community engagement for specific projects as they are progressed.

21. Council recently adopted its 2026/27 budget which includes the following two catalyst infrastructure projects: -

- Clow Street Cleeland Street Intersection \$120,000
- Investigate intersection redesign options to inform delivery of a safer, more efficient intersection layout.
- New Palm Plaza Design \$250,000



- Prepare a robust concept design based on the Dandenong Market Precinct Plan design and place guidelines.

22. Council is currently preparing its draft Housing Strategy which is exploring the potential identification of key Council owned sites that could be considered for catalyst housing projects with the parcel 15 (corner of Clow/Lonsdale) a likely candidate that could be progressed to market sounding.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

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

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

Operating Budget Implications

24. There are no financial implications associated with this report at this time. The costs associated with development of the Dandenong Market Precinct Plan are in line with the annual budget provision for this project provided in the approved 2025/26 Council Budget. Any further funding will be considered as part of the annual budget process and subject to external funding.

Asset Implications

25. This item relates to a future CIP project that this not currently incorporated in the Asset Plan. Priorities related to the need for this item still need to be determined.

26. Strategic advocacy to State and Federal Government to fund major infrastructure initiatives proposed within this precinct is actively underway.

Legal/Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

28. There are no specific environmental implications relevant to this report at this time.

29. Sustainability is a key focus in the Plan objectives and recommendations.

Gender Impact Assessment

30. The draft Dandenong Market Precinct Plan has been developed in alignment with the City of Greater Dandenong's gender-equity obligations, including the requirement under the Gender Equality Act 2020.

31. This ensures that considerations of safety, accessibility and equitable use of public spaces for women and gender-diverse community members are embedded throughout the planning and design process.

32. Community engagement for the draft Plan has been delivered with a strong focus on inclusive and accessible consultation, supporting participation from diverse user groups especially women and girls from multicultural backgrounds and helping shape a precinct that meets the needs of all genders.



Community Consultation

Purpose	Consult with residents, local business owners, market traders, visitors and stakeholders to seek feedback on the draft Precinct Plan
Engagement period	A series of face-to-face and online engagements occurred during the public exhibition period from 3 March to 10 April 2026
Level of Influence:	Based on IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum: inform, consult
Engagement Activities:	Face to face (pop-ups, walking tour, information session, pop-up, multilingual conversations) and online (have your say website)
Communication reach and engagement numbers:	• The engagement program generated 363 written survey responses, providing detailed and considered feedback to inform refinement of the draft Plan. • In addition, officers facilitated approximately 720 face to face engagements through trader meetings, pop ups, walking tours, events and targeted sessions, enabling direct conversation with traders, shoppers, residents and community representatives. • Online participation was also substantial, with around 3,000 visits to the CGD people engaging digitally through CGD "Have Your Say" page. • Reflecting this high level of interest and transparency, the draft Precinct Plan was downloaded more than 1,000 times. • Highest level of social pinpoint engagement statistics with local and national media coverage. • Major media cut-through with 46 media items in 35 days, led by Herald Sun and ABC News multi-platform coverage, Architecture Australia • Strong positive narrative for the Precinct Plan with over 96% positive or neutral sentiment, with minimal negative coverage (3.1%) • Large audience reach accounting to nearly 3.9 million people reached across print, online, TV and radio • Broad media mix with consistent coverage across local, state and national outlets, amplifying consultation awareness during the public exhibition period.
Summary of feedback:	Council undertook a comprehensive three-phase community engagement program to inform the development of the draft Dandenong Market Precinct Plan. Phase 1 was an Inquiry by Design workshop coordinated by the consultant team in collaboration with Council staff, focusing on identifying key issues and a vision for the precinct. A short online survey was sent out to the Market traders by DMPL in March 2025. 17 submissions were received. Most of the feedback was about the immediate maintenance and safety upgrades to the market. Traders generally showed excitement and support for the need for a broader precinct plan approach.



	Phase 2 targeted stakeholder engagement occurred from June to July 2025. Phase 2 consisted of a series of targeted focus group discussions planned by Council's engagement team and delivered jointly by Council and the consultants, engaging specific stakeholder groups including local youth, children, community facility leaders, and market traders/business owners. The draft vision and directions were supported by the stakeholders. Feedback received during phase 2 consultation has informed the draft Plan. Comprehensive consultation was undertaken during the Phase 3 public exhibition period from 3 March to 10 April 2026. This phase 3 community engagement undertaken includes consultation with: - o Dandenong Market traders - o Dandenong Market visitors - o Dandenong Square Shopping Centre - o Traders & business owners within the precinct area - o Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL) - o Southeast Migrant Resource Centre and other lessees of Clow Street Community Facility - o Neighbourhood House - o Young Leaders Advisory Committee - o Children (Young Mayor) Committee - o Multicultural Community Engagement Network - o Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee - o LGBTQI++ Committee - o Wellsprings for Women - o Dandenong Residents - o Development Victoria - o Capital Alliance - o Department of Transport & Planning (activity centres) A series of meaningful engagement sessions were held both online and face to face to capture diverse voices across our community. There was a record level of participation from the broader community, traders, business owners, and customers/visitors, demonstrating significant interest in and endorsement of the Precinct Plan. Refer to Attachment 2: "Have Your Say" Engagement Report.
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Links to Community Vision, Council Plan, Strategy, Notice of Motion

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

- Safe and peaceful community.
- Education, training, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.
- Sustainable environment.
- Mind, body and spirit.



34. 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

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

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

Cr Rhonda Garad stated she would be abstaining from this item and left the Chamber at 7.48pm.

Cr Jim Memeti left the Chamber at 7.48pm.

MINUTE No.438

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council:

1. **ADOPTS** the Dandenong Market Precinct Plan (per Attachment 1) to guide future development and investment in the precinct;
2. **NOTES** that the Implementation Strategy detailed in section 7.0 of the Plan is tentative and will be subject to the availability of future Funding and Resources; and
3. **NOTES** that a comprehensive Governance Framework will be presented to Council for endorsement prior to progressing major projects and the development of any land parcels which could be subject to land sale or long-term lease arrangements.

CARRIED 8 / 0

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

Abstained - Cr Lana Formoso, Cr Rhonda Garad.

Cr Rhonda Garad returned to the Chamber at 7.49pm.

Cr Jim Memeti returned to the Chamber at 7.51pm.



4.3.2 Community Grants Impact Report 2024-25 (For Noting)

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Community Strengthening
Attachments: 1. Community Grants Impact Report 2024-2025 (A13806989)
[4.3.2.1 - 22 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council NOTES the Community Grants Impact Report 2024-25, per Attachment 1, which provides the the first consolidated assessment of the social, cultural, environmental and economic outcomes achieved through Council's Community Grants Program.

Executive Summary

1. The Community Grants Impact Report 2024-25 (GIR) is Council's first consolidated assessment of the outcomes achieved through the Community Grants Program. The report demonstrates how Council's investment in community grants contributes to community outcomes and Council Plan priorities.
2. The report reflects Council's transition to an outcomes-based approach to grants management and reporting. Over several years, Council has progressively developed and refined an Outcomes Framework to measure and report on the outcomes achieved through grant-funded activities.
3. Drawing on data collected through Council's Outcomes Framework and grant acquittal processes, the report provides an assessment of outcomes achieved through approximately \$1.66 million in funding distributed through the Small, Medium and Large Grants Programs during the 2024-25 financial year. During this period, 192 grant-funded projects were delivered across the municipality.
4. The report identifies outcomes across six domains aligned with Council Plan priorities. It establishes a baseline for future impact reporting and supports ongoing monitoring, strategic planning, continuous improvement, evidence-based decision-making and accountability for Council's investment in community grants.
5. The report is intended to be shared on Council's website, and the data and stories within the report will be used to showcase the depth and breadth of impact, Council's Community Grants Program has on our community.

Background

6. Since 2018, Council has strengthened how it measures and reports the outcomes of community grant funding. This work responds to a broader shift within the grants sector towards better understanding the outcomes and longer-term impacts of funded activities.
7. Traditional grant reporting has focused on outputs, such as funding allocated, projects delivered and participation numbers. While these measures provide useful information about activity delivery, they do not fully demonstrate the broader outcomes achieved through grant funding. To address this, Council developed an Outcomes Framework to support consistent measurement and reporting across the Community Grants Program.



8. In 2022, Council introduced an outcomes-based approach to grants reporting, which was refined in 2024 to strengthen alignment with the Council Plan. During this period, Council also introduced a range of improvements across its grants programs through the Community Grants Program Policy Review, including streamlining grant categories, enhancing acquittal processes, aligning administrative processes, and progressively improving SmartyGrants data collection and analytics capability. These changes were designed to create a more consistent and proportionate approach to capturing outcomes information across grant programs.
9. The latest iteration of the framework was applied through the Large Grants Program for projects funded between 2024 and 2026. Under this approach, funded organisations report against defined community outcomes through their acquittal processes, providing Council with a more structured method for collecting, assessing and aggregating outcomes data. This enabled Council to move beyond reporting on funding distribution and project delivery and towards understanding the collective outcomes achieved through grant-funded activities.
10. The GIR represents the next stage of this work. Drawing on data collected through Council's Outcomes Framework and grant reporting processes, the report provides the first consolidated assessment of outcomes achieved through the Community Grants Program.
11. The GIR demonstrates how grant funding contributes to Council Plan priorities and community outcomes, while establishing a baseline for future impact reporting, continuous improvement, transparency and evidence-based decision-making. Council understands this report to be one of the first local government community grants impact reports of its kind in Australia.

Key Issues and Discussion

Measuring Community Impact

12. Historically, grant reporting focused on outputs such as the number of grants awarded, activities delivered and participants engaged. While these measures provide information about activity delivery, they do not capture the outcomes achieved through grant funding. Council's Outcomes Framework has enabled a shift towards measuring community outcomes and understanding how funded projects contribute to Council Plan priorities.
13. The report aggregates and analyses outcomes data across funded activities, establishing a baseline for future reporting, evaluation and continuous improvement.

Program Outcomes and Community Benefit

14. During 2024-25, Council distributed approximately \$1.66 million through the Community Grants Program, supporting 192 successful applications across the municipality. The report assesses outcomes achieved through grant-funded activities against six domains within Council's Outcomes Framework, which are aligned with Council Plan priorities:
 - Safe and Peaceful Community.
 - Education, Training, Entrepreneurship and Employment Opportunities.
 - Sustainable Environment.
 - Embrace Diversity and Multiculturalism.
 - Mind, Body and Spirit.
 - Arts and Culture.



15. The report indicates that Council's Community Grants Program contributes to a range of social, cultural, environmental and economic outcomes across Greater Dandenong. Reported outcomes include:
- 10,875 participants reporting increased food security.
 - 2,050 participants reporting increased social connection.
 - 1,176 participants reporting improved mental health.
 - 1,040 participants reporting increased skills development.
 - 369 participants reporting employment outcomes.
 - 490 participants reporting increased feelings of safety.
 - 26.5 tonnes of waste diverted from landfill through funded projects
16. The report also highlights the contribution of volunteers, community organisations and partner agencies in delivering outcomes that align with Council Plan priorities and support the wellbeing of Greater Dandenong residents.

Data Integrity and Reporting Challenges

17. Impact reporting relies on the collection of accurate and reliable data. To support data quality, information submitted through grant acquittals is reviewed and validated before being included in the report.
18. As this is the first year of consolidated impact reporting, funded organisations are at different stages in their ability to collect and report outcome data. Council will continue to refine reporting requirements and work with funded organisations to strengthen the quality, consistency and reliability of outcome data over time.

Continuous Improvement

19. The development of the GIR identified opportunities to further refine outcome measures, reporting requirements and data collection processes. Learnings from this work have informed ongoing improvements to grant management and reporting practices and will support the continued development of Council's outcomes measurement approach.
20. As Council's first consolidated impact report, it establishes a baseline for future reporting and supports a more systematic and evidence-based approach to evaluating the outcomes achieved through community grant funding.

Future Opportunities

21. Future impact reports will support trend analysis and provide greater insight into outcomes achieved through Council's Community Grants Program. As outcome data matures, it will support program development, strategic planning, evaluation and decision-making related to Council's investment in community grants.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

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

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



Operating Budget Implications

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

Asset Implications

24. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

25. There are no legal / risk implications relevant to this report. Key considerations relate to ensuring that public reporting is accurate, evidence-based and does not disclose personal, sensitive or identifying information without appropriate authority or consent.

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

27. A gender impact assessment is not required as this report is for noting only and does not introduce or amend a policy, program or service. The Community Grants Program Policy was informed by a Gender Impact Assessment and continues to promote equity, inclusion and participation through community funding.

28. There was no requirement for community consultation however anything that affects this report and future iterations will be included in Community Grants Program Policy Reviews.

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

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

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

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

- A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
- A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts.
- A city of accessible, vibrant centres and places.
- A green city committed to a sustainable future.
- A 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

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

- The Overarching Governance Principles of the Local Government Act 2020.
- Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.



MINUTE No.439

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council NOTES the Community Grants Impact Report 2024-25, per Attachment 1, which provides the the first consolidated assessment of the social, cultural, environmental and economic outcomes achieved through Council's Community Grants Program.

CARRIED 11 / 0



4.3.3 Council News - Revised Model for 2027

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

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. APPROVES a revised approach to the publication of the Greater Dandenong Council News from 2027, comprised of:**
 - a. Letterbox delivery of six (6) print editions per year, including 5-6 Councillor ward columns per edition, and**
 - b. Emailed distribution of fortnightly digital editions of Council News.**
- 2. NOTES that community market research was conducted in August 2026 to establish a baseline measure of awareness and perceptions of Council News. The effectiveness of the new approach will be assessed through an evidence-based review approximately 12 months after implementation.**

Executive Summary

1. It is proposed that Council amend its approach to the annual production and publication of the Greater Dandenong News, reducing the number of print editions from 11 to 6 publications per annum.
2. Consumer information and communication preferences and expectations are changing due to technology, with an increasing preference for online publications and materials.
3. Effective communication requires an integrated, multi-channel approach. Council must balance investment across traditional and digital channels to maximise reach, relevance and value for our diverse community.
4. The proposed approach maintains a commitment to the valued Council News publication in print and delivered by letterbox. However, it shifts to fewer print editions to redirect resources towards a more contemporary communication mix, with more digital products to enhance community engagement and reach, while also being faster and adaptive to emerging news.
5. The revised approach to the publication of the Greater Dandenong Council News will allow the reinvestment of around \$150,000 per year towards support and production of new digital communication materials and channels.

Background

6. Contemporary communication practice is increasingly digital-first, enabling information to be published and updated quickly and supporting more interactive, accessible and multilingual content.
7. Across the media industry, content is increasingly published digitally in the first instance and subsequently adapted for print where appropriate.



8. Council's current communications model remains heavily weighted towards the printed Greater Dandenong Council News. This limits Council's capacity to invest in and respond through a broader range of contemporary communication channels. Council currently produces 11 editions of Council News each year. Each edition is 16 pages, with a 20-page summer edition.
9. The production cycle for each edition is almost two months, limiting Council's ability to provide timely information and respond to emerging issues and community needs.

Evolving Communication Practices Across Local Government

10. Benchmarking of 10 councils across eastern and southern metropolitan Melbourne shows that Greater Dandenong and one other council continue to letterbox 11 editions each year. Several councils have reduced the frequency of printed publications and/or changed their distribution models in response to changing communication preferences and increasing distribution costs.

Most benchmarked councils also provide more frequent digital news offerings alongside their printed publications.

Council	Print Editions per year	Delivery method	Digital newsletters
Greater Dandenong	11	Letterbox	Monthly news
Monash	11	Letterbox	Monash Bulletin
Whitehorse	6	Supermarkets, civic outlets	Fortnightly 'What's Happening'
Casey	3	Civic outlets	Monthly Casey Catch up
Cardinia	3	Civic outlets & letterbox	Monthly Connect+
Knox	5	Letterbox	Weekly enews
Kingston	4	Letterbox	Monthly
Boroondara	6	Letterbox	Fortnightly Feed
Manningham	6	Letterbox	Monthly
Frankston	6	Letterbox	Monthly

Key Issues and Discussion

Current resource allocation limits communication flexibility

11. The cost of producing and distributing Council News has increased over time. Council currently spends significantly more on the printed publication than on its websites and social media channels combined.
12. The current allocation of resources limits Council's ability to invest in a broader mix of accessible and contemporary communication channels. Redirecting resources would provide greater capacity for multilingual content, targeted audience engagement, face-to-face community outreach and enhanced digital communication.



Print remains important, but digital continues to grow

13. The 2026 Community Satisfaction Survey found that the two most preferred methods for receiving Council information remain a newsletter delivered to the letterbox (55%, down from 63% in 2025) and email (52%, up from 50%).
14. Preferences for other communication channels increased substantially. Preference for Council's website increased from 26% to 43%, text messages from 23% to 36%, and social media from 19% to 23%.
15. These results demonstrate the continuing importance of Council News, while also supporting a more diverse, multi-channel approach to Council communications.

Proposed approach to the future of Council News

16. It is proposed that the revised approach commence in early 2027, allowing time to communicate the changes to the community.

Element	Current	Proposed approach
Distribution	Letterbox	Letterbox
Editions per year	11	6: Feb, April, July, Sept, Nov, Dec
Councillor ward columns	2-3 per edition; 2 per year, per Councillor	5-6 per edition; 3 per year, per Councillor
Pages per edition	16 (20 in the summer edition)	20
Digital enews	Monthly, following print	Fortnightly, digital first
Cost	\$624,000	\$300,000 (est, subject to procurement)
Re-investment capacity	N/A	\$150,000 to re-invest in digital and multi-lingual approaches.

Evaluation of new approach

17. Market research undertaken in August 2026 provides a baseline measure of awareness and perceptions of the print and digital editions of Council News.
18. The effectiveness of the revised approach will be reviewed approximately 12 months after implementation, with further market research undertaken in late 2027 using a similar methodology. The review will consider changes in awareness, readership, engagement preferences and community sentiment, as well as the effectiveness of new communication activities trialled during the year.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

19. This item does not affect existing human resources.

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



Operating Budget Implications

20. The proposal is cost-neutral overall. Approximately \$150,000 per annum currently allocated to the production and distribution of print editions would be redirected to digital and other communication channels. The estimated cost of the revised print model remains subject to procurement.

Asset Implications

21. This item does not affect Council assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

22. There are no identified legal or risk implications arising from this proposal.

Environmental Implications

23. Reducing the number of printed editions is expected to reduce paper use associated with Council News.

Gender Impact Assessment

24. A gender impact assessment is not required for this proposal.

Community Consultation

25. The proposed approach has been informed by communication preferences identified through the 2026 Community Satisfaction Survey and market research undertaken in August 2026.

26. The August 2026 research established a baseline measure of community awareness and perceptions of Council News.

27. Further research will be undertaken in late 2027 to assess the effectiveness of the revised approach and changes in community awareness, readership and communication preferences.

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

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

- Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.

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

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

Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

- Not Applicable



MINUTE No.440

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council:

- 1. APPROVES a revised approach to the publication of the Greater Dandenong Council News from 2027, comprised of:**
 - a. Letterbox delivery of six (6) print editions per year, including 5-6 Councillor ward columns per edition, and**
 - b. Emailed distribution of fortnightly digital editions of Council News.**
- 2. NOTES that community market research was conducted in August 2026 to establish a baseline measure of awareness and perceptions of Council News. The effectiveness of the new approach will be assessed through an evidence-based review approximately 12 months after implementation.**

CARRIED 11 / 0



4.3.4 S5 Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer

Responsible Officer:	Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services
Attachments:	1. S 5 Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer 260921 [4.3.4.1 - 4 pages]

Officer Recommendation

In the exercise of the power conferred by section 11(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), Greater Dandenong City Council (Council) resolves that:

1. there be delegated to the person holding the position, or acting in or performing the duties, of Chief Executive Officer, the powers, duties and functions set out in the Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer provided in Attachment 1 to this report, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument;
2. the Instrument comes into force immediately upon this resolution being made and is to be signed by the Council's Chief Executive Officer and the Mayor with the common seal of Council being affixed to the Instrument;
3. on the coming into force of the Instrument, all previous delegations to the Chief Executive Officer are revoked; and
4. the duties and functions set out in the Instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.

Executive Summary

1. Under the Local Government Act 2020, Council may delegate powers, duties and functions to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to ensure the efficient and effective operation of the organisation.
2. Council's Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer has been reviewed and a minor amendment is proposed to one of the conditions and limitations relating to the approval of contracts valued between \$200,000 and \$1,000,000 (excluding GST).
3. The amendment removes the reference to the Tender Board and replaces it with governance wording that reflects Council's current procurement governance arrangements, executive delegations, approval thresholds and workflow requirements. The proposed change aligns the Instrument with Council's procurement practices and governance framework.
4. Council is asked to endorse the updated Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer provided in Attachment 1.

Background

5. Council, as a statutory body, is responsible for carrying out various powers, duties and functions under a wide range of legislation and municipal local laws. To provide for the efficient and effective operation of the organisation, the Local Government Act 2020 enables Council to delegate many powers, duties and functions, particularly those of an administrative and operational nature, to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The CEO may then, in turn, sub-delegate a range of powers, duties and functions to Council staff.



6. Greater Dandenong City Council's Instrument of Delegation to the CEO is informed by the Maddocks Lawyers Delegations and Authorisations Service. The Instrument is reviewed periodically to ensure it remains consistent with legislative requirements and Council's governance arrangements.
7. Council endorsed the current Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer on 23 June 2025. An amendment to one condition and limitation is now proposed to ensure the Instrument accurately reflects Council's current procurement governance framework.

Key Issues and Discussion

8. The proposed amendment relates to the Condition and Limitation item 1.1 concerning contracts valued between \$200,000 and \$1,000,000.
9. The current Instrument includes a reference to the Tender Board. Since the Tender Board is not operating as an active approval body, the existing reference no longer accurately reflects Council's procurement governance arrangements.
10. It is proposed that wording be amended as follows:

Current wording	Proposed wording
The delegate must not determine the issue, take the action or do the act or thing: 1. if the issue, action, act or thing is an issue, action, act or thing which involves: 1.1 entering into a contract exceeding the value of \$1,000,000 (noting that contracts between \$200,000 and \$1,000,000 are considered and approved by the Tender Board which consists of the Executive Management Team and is chaired by the Chief Executive Officer);	The delegate must not determine the issue, take the action or do the act or thing: 1. if the issue, action, act or thing is an issue, action, act or thing which involves: 1.1 entering into a contract exceeding the value of \$1,000,000. (noting that contracts between \$200,000 and \$1,000,000 are considered and approved by the Executive Management Team Meeting Forum chaired by the Chief Executive Officer);

11. The amendment does not alter Council's procurement approval thresholds or decision-making authority. Rather, it clarifies and formalises the governance and approval arrangements that are already in operation across the organisation.
12. Approval and decision-making responsibilities for procurement activities continue to be exercised through existing delegated officers, financial delegations, procurement governance requirements and approved workflow processes. The amendment therefore represents a governance update that aligns the Instrument with current practice and reduces the need for future amendments should procurement advisory structures change.
13. The proposed change is administrative in nature and is not considered to have a material impact on Council's procurement approval processes.
14. Once the Instrument of Delegation to the CEO has been endorsed by Council, all the remaining Instruments of Delegation and Authorisations under the *Local Government Act 2020* and all other legislation will be reviewed and updated accordingly.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

15. 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

16. There are no financial implications associated with this report. Note that the Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer does not affect any salary to the CEO. It is purely a legislative tool that allows for the effective handover of administrative and operational duties from Council to the CEO.

Asset Implications

17. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

18. The proposed amendment ensures that Council's Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer accurately reflects current procurement governance arrangements and approval processes. This supports good governance practice and reduces the risk of ambiguity arising from references to governance structures that are no longer operating.

Environmental Implications

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

Community Consultation

20. There is no requirement for Council to consult with the community in relation to delegations, however, under Council's Public Transparency Policy and section 11(8) of the Local Government Act 2020, the Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer must be made available to the public and will be placed on Council's website.

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

21. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
- Not Applicable
22. 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

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



MINUTE No.441

Moved by: Cr Phillip Danh

Seconded by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

In the exercise of the power conferred by section 11(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), Greater Dandenong City Council (Council) resolves that:

1. there be delegated to the person holding the position, or acting in or performing the duties, of Chief Executive Officer, the powers, duties and functions set out in the Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer provided in Attachment 1 to this report, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument;
2. the Instrument comes into force immediately upon this resolution being made and is to be signed by the Council's Chief Executive Officer and the Mayor with the common seal of Council being affixed to the Instrument;
3. on the coming into force of the Instrument, all previous delegations to the Chief Executive Officer are revoked; and
4. the duties and functions set out in the Instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.

CARRIED 11 / 0



4.3.5 Appointment of South East Leisure Board Director

Responsible Officer:	Executive Director Community Strengthening
Attachments:	1. CONFIDENTIAL - CONFIDENTIAL - Mark Anderson CV - NED [4.3.5.1 - 5 pages] 2. CONFIDENTIAL - CONFIDENTIAL - Lisa Hasker CV - NED [4.3.5.2 - 4 pages] 3. CONFIDENTIAL - CONFIDENTIAL - Karen Luu CV - NED [4.3.5.3 - 3 pages] This report contains an attachment which is deemed confidential under s 3(1)(i) of the <i>Local Government Act</i> 2020. It contains internal arbitration information, being information specified in section 145 of the <i>Local Government Act</i> 2020.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPOINTS** Mark Anderson and Lisa Hasker as Non-Executive Directors of South East Leisure Pty Ltd, a wholly Council-owned subsidiary, for a three-year term commencing 1 October 2026 and concluding 30 September 2029, inclusive;
2. **APPOINTS** Karen Luu as a Non-Executive Director of South East Leisure Pty Ltd, a wholly Council-owned subsidiary, for a two-year term commencing 1 October 2026 and concluding 30 September 2028, inclusive;
3. **REAPPOINTS** Caroline Patrick as a Non-Executive Director of South East Leisure Pty Ltd, a wholly Council-owned subsidiary, for a further three-year term commencing 1 January 2027 and concluding 31 December 2029, inclusive;
4. **REAPPOINTS** John Nguyen as a Non-Executive Director of South East Leisure Pty Ltd, a wholly Council-owned subsidiary, for a further two-year term commencing 1 January 2027 and concluding 31 December 2028, inclusive; and
5. **RECOGNISES** the contribution of Mr Tim Cockayne, outgoing South East Leisure Pty Ltd Director, through a signed letter under seal.

Executive Summary

1. South East Leisure Pty Ltd (SEL) is Council's wholly owned subsidiary responsible for managing four major aquatic and leisure facilities on Council's behalf.
2. Council established SEL following its 8 February 2021 resolution, and SEL commenced trading on 1 July 2022 under a Board appointed by Council as shareholder.
3. Under SEL's Constitution, Council may appoint Directors for terms of up to three years. Directors are eligible for reappointment, provided their total continuous term does not exceed nine years.
4. Several Director terms are approaching expiry, and one Director has ceased office. To maintain effective governance and Board continuity, SEL undertook a competitive market recruitment process using internal resources approved by the SEL Board.
5. The recruitment campaign attracted more than 210 applications through LinkedIn, Seek, Sportspeople, the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the SEL website. A strong field was shortlisted and interviewed in July 2026.



6. Candidates were assessed against the key selection criteria, with formal interviews, second-round interviews, reference checks and probity checks completed before the recommended appointments were finalised.
7. The report recommends appointing Mark Anderson and Lisa Hasker for three-year terms and Karen Luu for a two-year term as new Non-Executive Directors of SEL.
8. The report also recommends reappointing Caroline Patrick for a further three-year term and John Nguyen for a further two-year term.
9. Staggering the appointment and reappointment terms will support succession planning, preserve organisational knowledge and maintain governance stability while the Board continues to oversee services that contribute to community health and wellbeing.
10. Council also wishes to formally recognise Mr Tim Cockayne's contribution as an outgoing SEL Director, including his role during SEL's establishment and his contribution to advancing health and wellbeing outcomes for the Greater Dandenong community.

Background

11. After considering alternative management models, Council resolved to establish a proprietary company limited to manage four major aquatic and leisure facilities, namely; Dandenong Oasis Aquatic Centre, Noble Park Aquatic Centre, Springers Leisure Centre and Dandenong Stadium.
12. Following Council's February 2021 resolution, South East Leisure Pty Ltd (SEL) was established and commenced management of these facilities from 1 July 2022, with a Constitution and Board of Directors in place to provide governance oversight.
13. Clause 9.1.2(a) of SEL's Constitution allows Council, as shareholder, to appoint a person as a Director for a term of up to three years. A Director may be reappointed at the end of their term, provided their total continuous appointment does not exceed nine years.
14. The Constitution provides the following requirements for Board composition and appointments:
 - The Board will comprise a minimum of one (1) and a maximum of seven (7) Directors.
 - Directors will be appointed by the Shareholder (Council) for a term of up to three (3) years.
 - Directors will be limited to a maximum continuous term of nine (9) years.
 - The Shareholder will appoint the Board Chair.
15. The Shareholder may by resolution appoint any person as a Director under Clause 9.3.1 to replace a Director who has ceased to hold office.
16. In early 2024, Council engaged external auditors to complete a desktop review of SEL's governance systems and processes. The review considered governance arrangements and improvement opportunities, drawing on input from SEL Directors, the Company Secretary, the Chief Executive Officer and Council representatives.
17. The review found that SEL had established a sound governance framework and had supported confidence in the company's stewardship of Council's aquatic and leisure facilities.
18. The review also identified the value of staggering future Board appointments so that Director terms do not all expire at the same time. This approach supports continuity of Board leadership, preserves corporate knowledge and reduces governance risk.



Key Issues and Discussion

Appointment of three new Non-Executive Directors

19. With several Director terms approaching expiry and one Director ceasing office, SEL undertook a competitive market recruitment process. The SEL Board approved the allocation of internal resources to manage the process.
20. A strong field of candidates was shortlisted and interviewed in July 2026. The interview panel included SEL Board members Kirstan Corben, John Nguyen and Caroline Patrick, and Melissa Rist, SEL Risk and Compliance Manager and Company Secretary.
21. Second-round interviews were held in early August 2026 with Jacqui Weatherill, CEO, City of Greater Dandenong, and Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening.
22. Following reference and probity checks, the panel unanimously recommended the appointment of Mark Anderson, Lisa Hasker and Karen Luu as Non-Executive Directors of the SEL Board.
23. Mark Anderson brings senior executive and board experience across sport, tourism, governance and organisational transformation. His experience includes leading organisational change, strengthening strategy and culture, supporting commercial growth and building stakeholder partnerships.
24. Lisa Hasker brings governance and leadership experience across club, state and national sport, supported by qualifications in education, sports science, sport management, marketing and player wellbeing. Her experience includes strategic planning, financial oversight, risk management, stakeholder engagement and inclusion.
25. Karen Luu brings executive leadership experience in governance, risk, compliance, organisational performance and capital infrastructure. A resident of CGD, Karen's experience includes not-for-profit governance, local community connection and experience supporting positive community outcomes.
26. Collectively, the recommended candidates strengthen the Board's capability in executive leadership, governance, strategic planning, cultural renewal, commercial development, risk and community-focused service outcomes.

Reappointment of two Non-Executive Directors

27. In addition to the three new appointments, this report recommends reappointing John Nguyen and Caroline Patrick for further terms of two years and three years respectively. These reappointments provide continuity of knowledge and leadership, support succession planning and help maintain governance stability during the Board transition.
28. John Nguyen is a purpose-driven executive with more than 25 years' professional services experience, including senior leadership in people, corporate services, governance and risk.
29. John's governance experience includes Non-Executive Director and Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, and Independent Chair, Audit and Risk Committee, City of Casey.
30. Caroline Patrick has 25 years' experience across senior and executive roles in government, private, publicly listed and member-based organisations. She is currently Group Manager, Marketing, Communications and Engagement at South East Water, with responsibility for brand, marketing, campaigns, government relations, community and stakeholder engagement.
31. Caroline's governance experience includes Non-Executive Director and member of the Risk and Governance Committee, Chair of the Customer Engagement Committee at Cara, and Non-Executive Director and Chair of the Fundraising and Marketing Committee at the Women's and Children's Hospital Foundation.
32. The proposed appointments and reappointments complement the existing Board skills profile, as outlined in the combined skills matrix below:



Name	Kirstan Corban	John Nguyen	Caroline Patrick	Mark Anderson	Karen Luu	Lisa Hasker
Qualifications	BPhysio, MHealthProm, MOrgLead, GAICD	MBA, Bcommerce	BA (Hons), MBA, GAICD	BAppSc (PE), MBM	MBA, MLaw, BTourism, BBus (mgt), BA (Pol & Int Studies), DipWHS, GAICD	M Mktg, GradDipBus (Sports Mgt), GradDip SportSci, Bed, GAICD
Board Role	Chair & Non-Executive Director	Non-Executive Director	Non-Executive Director	Non-Executive Director	Non-Executive Director	Non-Executive Director
Term Expiry	Current term expiry: 31 Dec 2027	Current term expiry: 31 Dec 2026	Current term expiry: 31 Dec 2026			
Recommended term	For review in 2027	Reappointment term: 2 years 1 Jan 2027- 31 Dec 2028	Reappointment term: 3 years 1 Jan 2027- 31 Dec 2029	Recommended NED: 3 years 1 Oct 2026 - 30 Sept 2029	Recommended NED: 2 years 1 Oct 2026 - 30 Sept 2028	Recommended NED: 3 years 1 Oct 2026 - 30 Sept 2029
Area of Specialty*						
Governance/ Director experience	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Strategy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Financial		Y		Y		
Legal and Risk	Y	Y			Y	
People & Culture	Y		Y	Y	Y	
Sport and Leisure Experience	Y			Y		Y
Health & Wellbeing	Y			Y		Y
Marketing, Digital & Public Affairs			Y			Y
Connection to City of Greater Dandenong community	Y				Y	Y

* Y denotes area of specialty, noting all candidates have broad / generalist knowledge across all key competencies

Recognition of outgoing SEL Director (and former DMPL Director)

33. Council also seeks to formally acknowledge the conclusion of Mr Tim Cockayne's term as a Director of the South East Leisure Board.
34. Mr Cockayne has served on the SEL Board since its inception and contributed to the company's establishment and early governance from July 2021.
35. The City of Greater Dandenong acknowledges Mr Cockayne's contribution to SEL, as well as his service as a Director of Dandenong Market Pty Ltd from 2015 to 2021, and expresses its appreciation for his governance leadership and service to the Greater Dandenong community.



Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

36. The appointments do not affect existing Council staffing levels or employment arrangements. The recommended Board composition is intended to support SEL's governance capacity and continuity.

Operating Budget Implications

37. There are no direct Council operating budget implications arising from this report. Costs associated with the recruitment process and Director fees are incorporated within SELs operating budget.

Legal/Risk Implications

38. The appointments and reappointments are consistent with SEL's Constitution, including provisions for shareholder appointment, Director term limits and reappointment eligibility. Staggered terms reduce governance continuity risk by avoiding multiple Director terms ending at the same time.

Environmental Implications

39. There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report. The appointments support continuing governance oversight of facilities that contribute to community health, recreation and wellbeing.

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

40. The recommended appointments support Council's Community Vision 2040 by strengthening governance of aquatic and leisure services that contribute to a safe, healthy, inclusive and connected community.
- Safe and peaceful community.
 - Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.
 - Mind, body and spirit.
41. The report is also consistent with Council Plan objectives relating to a socially connected, safe and healthy city, accessible and vibrant centres and neighbourhoods, and Council leadership in community investment.
- A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
 - A city of accessible, vibrant centres and neighbourhoods.
 - A Council that demonstrates leadership and a commitment to investing in the community.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

42. 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.



MINUTE No.442

Moved by: Cr Phillip Danh

Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad

That Council:

- 1. APPOINTS Mark Anderson and Lisa Hasker as Non-Executive Directors of South East Leisure Pty Ltd, a wholly Council-owned subsidiary, for a three-year term commencing 1 October 2026 and concluding 30 September 2029, inclusive;**
- 2. APPOINTS Karen Luu as a Non-Executive Director of South East Leisure Pty Ltd, a wholly Council-owned subsidiary, for a two-year term commencing 1 October 2026 and concluding 30 September 2028, inclusive;**
- 3. REAPPOINTS Caroline Patrick as a Non-Executive Director of South East Leisure Pty Ltd, a wholly Council-owned subsidiary, for a further three-year term commencing 1 January 2027 and concluding 31 December 2029, inclusive;**
- 4. REAPPOINTS John Nguyen as a Non-Executive Director of South East Leisure Pty Ltd, a wholly Council-owned subsidiary, for a further two-year term commencing 1 January 2027 and concluding 31 December 2028, inclusive; and**
- 5. RECOGNISES the contribution of Mr Tim Cockayne, outgoing South East Leisure Pty Ltd Director, through a signed letter under seal.**

CARRIED 11 / 0



4.3.6 Recommended Appointments for Membership of Positive Ageing Advisory Committee

Responsible Officer:	Executive Director Community Strengthening
Attachments:	1. Recommended Appointments for Membership of Positive Ageing Advisory Committee [4.3.6.1 - 1 page]

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. APPOINTS the 11 applicants (per Attachment 1) as independent members of the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee for a two (2) year term from 22 September 2026 to 21 September 2028; and**
- 2. NOTES the Mayor will write to the proposed 11 applicants to confirm their appointment to the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee for the term specified in Recommendation 1.**

Executive Summary

1. To outline the Expression of Interest process undertaken to appoint new independent members to the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee (PAAC) for the 2026–2028 term and seek Council endorsement of the 11 recommended applicants listed in Attachment 1.
2. The recommended appointments will support the continuation of PAAC as an advisory forum that brings older residents' experiences, community knowledge and diverse perspectives into Council's planning, policy development and implementation of the Positive Ageing Strategy 2026–2030.

Background

3. The Positive Ageing Advisory Committee (PAAC) was established to provide advice to Council on policies, services and initiatives that support older people and promote positive ageing across Greater Dandenong.
4. The committee provides an important forum for older residents and community representatives to identify current and emerging issues, share lived experience, and inform Council's policy development and long-term strategic priorities.
5. PAAC complements Council's broader community engagement activities, including newsletters, focus groups, community consultations and other opportunities for community input.
6. The current PAAC has made a significant contribution to the development of the draft Positive Ageing Strategy 2026–2030.
7. Following endorsement of the Strategy, the incoming committee will support implementation by providing advice on priorities, monitoring emerging issues for older residents, and maintaining a strong connection between Council and older members of the community.



Key Issues and Discussion

8. An Expression of Interest (EOI) process to recruit members for the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee was conducted from 21 May to 31 July 2026. The EOI was promoted through multiple channels including Council's website, social media platforms, e-News, local community groups, and targeted engagement via senior networks.
9. The selection process was undertaken in accordance with the Committee's Terms of Reference. A total of 12 applications were received. One applicant withdrew during the process, and the remaining 11 applicants were assessed against the selection criteria.
10. A selection panel was convened to assess the applications against the agreed criteria and make a recommendation to Council for consideration and endorsement.
11. The 11 applicants listed in Attachment 1 bring diverse knowledge, skills and community connections to the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee.
12. Recruitment for the remaining vacant position will occur at a later date.

Governance Compliance

Human Resource Implications (consider Workforce Planning and Service Statements)

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

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

Operating Budget Implications

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

Asset Implications

15. This item does not affect any existing assets.

Legal/Risk Implications

16. There are no legal or risk implications arising from this report. The recruitment and selection process was undertaken in accordance with the Committee's Terms of Reference.

Environmental Implications

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

Gender Impact Assessment

18. The Positive Ageing Advisory Committee is open to people of all genders, backgrounds, and lived experiences. The Expression of Interest (EOI) process provided equal opportunity for participation by promoting the opportunity through a broad range of networks across Greater Dandenong. Promotional materials were developed using clear, inclusive, and gender-neutral language to encourage participation from all community members. The recruitment and selection process considered diversity and representation to support a committee that reflects the demographics, experiences, and perspectives of the Greater Dandenong community. As a result, the committee is expected to provide inclusive advice that considers the needs and experiences of older people of all genders.

Community Consultation

19. No separate community consultation was required for this report. The Expression of Interest process provided an opportunity for community members to nominate for membership of the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee.



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

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

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

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

- A socially connected, safe and healthy city.
- A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts
- A city of accessible, vibrant centres and places.
- A city that supports business, entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

22. This report has considered Council's legislative and policy obligations, where applicable, as outlined in the Report Considerations section at 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.443

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Melinda Yim

That Council:

1. **APPOINTS** the 11 applicants (per Attachment 1) as independent members of the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee for a two (2) year term from 22 September 2026 to 21 September 2028; and
2. **NOTES** the Mayor will write to the proposed 11 applicants to confirm their appointment to the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee for the term specified in Recommendation 1.

CARRIED 11 / 0



4.3.7 Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee Minutes

Responsible Officer:	Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services
Attachments:	1. Draft Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - 11 August 2026 [4.3.7.1 - 5 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council notes the Draft Minutes of the meeting for the Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee as provided in Attachment 1 to this report

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 Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee meeting held on 11 August 2026 as provided in Attachment 1 to this report be noted by Council.

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 resolution of Council made on 23 April 2018 provides for Minutes of meetings held by Advisory Committees or Reference Groups to be submitted to Council for information purposes and for noting. To ensure they are provided to Council in a timely manner, Minutes of these Advisory Committees or Reference Groups are submitted to Council typically in a draft form (in that they have not yet been adopted by the relevant Committee). If significant material changes occur when they are adopted by the Advisory Committee or Reference Group, then those particular Minutes would then be resubmitted to Council for noting.
5. As such, Draft Minutes are provided as Attachment 1 to this report.
6. There are no financial implications associated with the development and submission of this report.

Links to Community Vision and Council Plan

7. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
 - Safe and peaceful community.
 - Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.



8. 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

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

MINUTE No.444

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Isabella Do

That Council notes the Draft Minutes of the meeting for the Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee as provided in Attachment 1 to this report

CARRIED 11 / 0



4.3.8 LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Responsible Officer:	Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services
Attachments:	1. Draft LGBTIQ A+ Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes 18 August 2026 [4.3.8.1 - 4 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council

1. **NOTES** the Draft Minutes of the meeting for the LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee as provided in Attachment 1 to this report; and
2. **ENDORSES** the Committee's recommendation at Section 5 of the minutes requesting that Mayoral Letter be sent to Victoria Police's Local Area Commander expressing appreciation for their efforts in investigating recent homophobic incidences within Greater Dandenong.

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 LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee meeting held on 18 August 2026 as provided in Attachment 1 to this report be noted by Council.
3. Section 5 of the Committee's minutes recommends to Council that a formal Mayoral letter of appreciation be sent to the Local Area Commander of Victoria Police expressing appreciation of Victoria Police's efforts and commitment to community safety in relation to their investigation of recent homophobic incidences in Greater Dandenong.

Background

4. 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.
5. The resolution of Council made on 23 April 2018 provides for Minutes of meetings held by Advisory Committees or Reference Groups to be submitted to Council for information purposes and for noting. To ensure they are provided to Council in a timely manner, Minutes of these Advisory Committees or Reference Groups are submitted to Council typically in a draft form (in that they have not yet been adopted by the relevant Committee). If significant material changes occur when they are adopted by the Advisory Committee or Reference Group, then those particular Minutes would then be resubmitted to Council for noting.
6. As such, Draft Minutes are provided as Attachment 1 to this report.



7. There are no financial implications associated with the development and submission of this report.

Links to Community Vision and Council Plan

8. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
 - Safe and peaceful community.
 - Embrace diversity and multiculturalism.
9. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2025-29:
 - 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

10. 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.

MINUTE No.445

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council

1. **NOTES** the Draft Minutes of the meeting for the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee as provided in Attachment 1 to this report; and
2. **ENDORSES** the Committee's recommendation at Section 5 of the minutes requesting that Mayoral Letter be sent to Victoria Police's Local Area Commander expressing appreciation for their efforts in investigating recent homophobic incidences within Greater Dandenong.

CARRIED 11 / 0



4.3.9 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 the information contained in this 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 17 August – 14 September 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 17 August 2026 – 14 September 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. Upcoming State Election Caretaker period; b. Changes to Councillor Briefing Session Schedule; and Agenda items for the Council Meeting 17 August 2026.	Pre-Council Meeting (PCM) – 17 August 2026
2	Economic Conditions, Industry and Investment Trends Councillors were presented with an overview of the national and local economic environment, Greater Dandenong's economic strengths and the trends influencing industrial land, logistics, investment and employment across Melbourne's south-east.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 24 August 2026
3	Business Audits and Activity Centre Performance Councillors were presented with the latest findings from Greater Dandenong's Business Audit program, a longitudinal study undertaken since 2016. The session explored key trends across Dandenong, Springvale and Noble Park Activity Centres, including business composition, vacancies, retail performance, cultural precincts and how the centres have changed over time.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 24 August 2026
4	Business, Investment and Economic Stakeholder Engagement Councillors discussed the importance of businesses to Greater Dandenong's prosperity, Council's role in supporting economic growth, placemaking and investment, and practical approaches to economic stakeholder engagement. The session explored how Councillors can help build productive relationships with businesses and industry, better understand local opportunities and challenges and contribute to informed economic decision-making.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 24 August 2026



5	Risk Appetite – Scyne Advisory Councillors participated in a Risk Appetite Workshop as part of the implementation of its refreshed Risk Management Framework, with the objective of defining the level and type of risk Council is willing to accept in pursuit of its strategic objectives. The workshop built on previous councillor and executive training and considered survey feedback to develop indicative risk appetite settings, discuss areas of differing views, and establish measurable risk tolerance thresholds to support informed decision-making across Council operations. While there are no immediate financial implications, the eventual risk appetite adopted may influence future investment in governance, compliance, assurance, systems, training and resourcing.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 7 September 2026</i>
6	Dandenong Market Board (DMPL) Presentation Councillors were presented with the 2026 Dandenong Market financial report by the Dandenong Market Board Members.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 7 September 2026</i>
7	Children, Youth and Families Strategy Council reviewed the draft Integrated Children, Youth and Family Strategy 2027-31, which provides a single five-year framework to guide services and support for children, young people and families across Greater Dandenong. Informed by extensive community consultation, the strategy outlines five key priority areas and will be presented to Council in September 2026 seeking endorsement for public exhibition and feedback.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 7 September 2026</i>
8	Complaints Policy and Implementation Plan Council were briefed on the revised Complaints Policy following a comprehensive review informed by legislative requirements, internal audit recommendations, Victorian Ombudsman guidance and stakeholder consultation. The updated policy introduces a clearer and more consistent complaints handling framework, strengthens accountability, accessibility and organisational oversight, and supports continuous improvement through enhanced recording, reporting and analysis of complaints. Council also noted the proposed implementation approach, including supporting procedures, staff training, centralised complaint management and future assessment of resourcing requirements through the Complaints Handling Uplift Program.	<i>Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 7 September 2026</i>



9	General Discussions Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: a. Christmas photos and welcome videos; b. Federal Government Comm Support at Home Program funding; c. Upcoming Audit & Risk Committee Meeting; d. Closure of all Libraries on Friday 11 September 2026; and Agenda items for the Council Meeting 17 August 2026.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 7 September 2026
10	Young Leaders Presentation Councillors received a presentation from the Young Leaders 2026 participants outlining the outcomes of their Youth & Democracy 101 Forum and project examining nitrous oxide use in the community. Participants presented key findings, community insights and recommendations aimed at reducing harm to young people, minimising community impacts and strengthening regulatory responses.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 14 September 2026
11	Dandy Vibe Pilot Program Review Councillors noted the outcomes of the Dandy Vibes Summer Activation Pilot Program 2025/26, which delivered 23 community-led activations across Central Dandenong and attracted more than 5,300 participants. The program enhanced community engagement, cultural participation and activation of public spaces, while identifying opportunities to improve future place activation initiatives.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 14 September 2026
12	2026 Ramadan Night Market Evaluation Council noted the findings of the 2026 Ramadan Night Market evaluation, which confirmed the event delivered significant cultural, community and economic benefits while highlighting the need for stronger governance, compliance and operational arrangements to support its continued growth. Councillors were advised that a further report will be presented to a future Council Meeting seeking direction on future support options and governance requirements for the 2027 event.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 14 September 2026



13	Councillor Representation for 2026/2027 Council noted the updated schedule of Councillor liaison and representative positions and invited Councillors to consider their preferred appointments for the forthcoming Mayoral term. Councillor nominations will be sought at the Councillor Briefing Session on 12 October 2026, with recommended appointments to be presented to the Annual Council Meeting for endorsement.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 14 September 2026
14	Finance Reports Annual Budget and Quarterly Forecasting Framework 2026-27 Council received a presentation on the proposed Annual Budget and Quarterly Forecasting Framework, which would replace the current amended budget, mid-year budget and forecast processes with a single annual budget supported by quarterly forecasts. The proposed framework aims to reduce administrative burden, improve financial oversight and strengthen the management of financial risks and opportunities. 2025-26 Financial Statements and Financial Report Council received a briefing on the draft 2025-26 financial results, including an operating surplus of approximately \$19.3 million, capital works expenditure of \$85.8 million and cash and investments of \$224.8 million. Councillors were advised that the results remain subject to final VAGO audit clearance and will be considered at the 21 September 2026 Council Meeting. Investment Policy 2026 Update Council received a presentation on the proposed update to Council's Investment Policy following its scheduled three-year review. The proposed changes strengthen governance and oversight arrangements while maintaining existing investment objectives and Council's preference for fossil fuel free and green investment options.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 14 September 2026
15	General Discussions Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed Agenda items for the Council Meeting 21 September 2026.	Councillor Briefing Session (CBS) – 14 September 2026



Apologies

5. Councillor Lana Formoso and Councillor Isabella Do submitted an apology for the Pre-Council Meeting on 17 August 2026.
6. Councillor Rhonda Garad submitted an apology for the Councillor Briefing Session on 7 September 2026.
7. Councillor Jim Memeti submitted an apology; Councillor Loi Truong did not submit an apology or a leave of absence for the Councillor Briefing Session on 14 September 2026.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

8. 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.
9. 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.446

Moved by: Cr Jim Memeti

Seconded by: Cr Bob Milkovic

That Council RECEIVES and NOTES the information contained in this report.

CARRIED 11 / 0



4.3.10 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 CM 260921 [4.3.10.1 - 2 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That the listed items for the period 3 August 2026 to 28 August 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 3 August 2026 to 28 August 2026.

MINUTE No.447

Moved by: Cr Lana Formoso

Seconded by: Cr Loi Truong

That the listed items for the period 3 August 2026 to 28 August 2026 provided in Attachment 1 to this report be received and noted.

CARRIED 11 / 0



5 NOTICES OF MOTION

5.1 NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 27 - PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO SEEK ASYLUM

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services

Author: Cr Isabella Do

Preamble

1. The Australian Government is reportedly considering changes to the protection visa system that could prevent people from lodging an application for protection if they do not apply within a specified period after arriving in Australia, potentially as short as 30 days.
2. This very short deadline could prevent people with a genuine need for international protection from having their circumstances properly assessed.
3. There are many reasons why a person may not be able to seek protection immediately after arriving in Australia. These may include trauma, limited English language skills, exploitation, family or domestic violence, lack of awareness of Australia's legal system, difficulty accessing immigration or legal assistance, or circumstances in a person's country of origin changing after their arrival.
4. A person does not cease to have a need for protection simply because they were unable to lodge a claim within a very short administrative timeframe.
5. The City of Greater Dandenong is the most multicultural community in Victoria, built on decades of refugees settling here from around the world. It has a longstanding commitment to supporting people seeking asylum and refugee communities and has previously advocated to State and Federal Governments on matters affecting people seeking asylum.
6. Greater Dandenong is also home to a significant community of people seeking asylum, with 249 residents seeking asylum as of March 2026, the highest number of any Victorian municipality. Council has an established role in national advocacy through the Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum which it started and leads. The taskforce is a coalition of over 40 local councils across Australia.
7. Council's advocacy on this issue is therefore consistent with its longstanding humanitarian advocacy and its existing role in representing and advocating for people seeking asylum in the community.

Note: The figures for people seeking asylum residing within the City of Greater Dandenong have been updated to reflect the most recent data.



Motion

That Council:

1. **EXPRESSES** its opposition to any proposal to introduce a short time limit on a person's ability to lodge an application for protection in Australia;
2. **CALLS** on the Australian Government to ensure that people who may have a genuine need for international protection have a fair and accessible opportunity to have their claims assessed on their merits;
3. **RECOGNISES** that people seeking protection may face circumstances that prevent them from making an application immediately after arrival, including trauma, language barriers, exploitation, family or domestic violence, lack of access to legal assistance, or changes in circumstances in their country of origin;
4. **REAFFIRMS** the City of Greater Dandenong's longstanding commitment to supporting people seeking asylum and its established advocacy role on matters affecting people seeking asylum and refugee communities, while recognising that any loopholes should be addressed to prevent misuse of the protection visa system and to ensure a more streamlined merits review process, including to reduce delays affecting migration, the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), Centrelink, aged care and other administrative review matters;
5. **WRITES** urgently to the Prime Minister and relevant Federal Ministers expressing Council's concerns to any arbitrary or excessively short time limit for protection applications and highlighting the potential impact on people seeking asylum living in Greater Dandenong;
6. **REQUESTS** that the Mayor, on behalf of Council, raise this matter through the Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum, seeking coordinated advocacy by local governments to the Australian Government;
7. **REQUESTS** that Council's Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee be informed of this resolution and invited to provide advice on any further advocacy or community engagement considered appropriate;
8. **REQUESTS** that other Victorian councils, particularly Refugee Welcome Zones and councils supporting significant communities of people seeking asylum, be contacted seeking their support for joint advocacy on this issue; and
9. **REQUESTS** that a media release be issued outlining Greater Dandenong Council's position and that Council's advocacy webpage be updated with this resolution and any associated advocacy actions.



MINUTE No.448

Moved by: Cr Isabella Do

Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad

That Council:

- 1. EXPRESSES its opposition to any proposal to introduce a short time limit on a person's ability to lodge an application for protection in Australia;**
- 2. CALLS on the Australian Government to ensure that people who may have a genuine need for international protection have a fair and accessible opportunity to have their claims assessed on their merits;**
- 3. RECOGNISES that people seeking protection may face circumstances that prevent them from making an application immediately after arrival, including trauma, language barriers, exploitation, family or domestic violence, lack of access to legal assistance, or changes in circumstances in their country of origin;**
- 4. REAFFIRMS the City of Greater Dandenong's longstanding commitment to supporting people seeking asylum and its established advocacy role on matters affecting people seeking asylum and refugee communities, while recognising that any loopholes should be addressed to prevent misuse of the protection visa system and to ensure a more streamlined merits review process, including to reduce delays affecting migration, the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), Centrelink, aged care and other administrative review matters;**
- 5. WRITES urgently to the Prime Minister and relevant Federal Ministers expressing Council's concerns to any arbitrary or excessively short time limit for protection applications and highlighting the potential impact on people seeking asylum living in Greater Dandenong;**
- 6. REQUESTS that the Mayor, on behalf of Council, raise this matter through the Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum, seeking coordinated advocacy by local governments to the Australian Government;**
- 7. REQUESTS that Council's Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee be informed of this resolution and invited to provide advice on any further advocacy or community engagement considered appropriate;**
- 8. REQUESTS that other Victorian councils, particularly Refugee Welcome Zones and councils supporting significant communities of people seeking asylum, be contacted seeking their support for joint advocacy on this issue;**
- 9. REQUESTS that a media release be issued outlining Greater Dandenong Council's position and that Council's advocacy webpage be updated with this resolution and any associated advocacy actions; and**
- 10. WRITES to local State and Federal Members of Parliament and Victorian Senators informing them of Council's position and seeking their support for fair and accessible protection arrangements.**

CARRIED 11 / 0



5.2 NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 28 - PROPOSED TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY – TIRHATUAN LAKES, ROWVILLE

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures
Author: Cr Rhonda Garad

Preamble

1. A planning application has been lodged with Knox City Council for a telecommunications facility on land adjoining 5 Police Road, Rowville, comprising a telecommunications tower approximately 35 metres high and approximately 36.3 metres in total height including antennas. Although located within Knox, the proposed site is immediately adjacent to the City of Greater Dandenong, and the tower would have a significant visual and amenity impact on neighbouring Greater Dandenong residents.
2. The proposal has generated significant community concern, with approximately 160 objections lodged and an online petition attracting 565 verified signatures as at 15 September 2026. The concerns include residential amenity, visual impact, native vegetation and potential impacts on Dandenong Creek, Tirhatuan Wetlands and associated habitat.
3. The City of Greater Dandenong supports reliable telecommunications infrastructure but considers that infrastructure should be located where it can meet community needs while avoiding or minimising impacts on residents and significant environmental and recreational areas. Council therefore seeks Knox City Council's support for a comprehensive assessment of alternative sites before the proposed location is approved.



Motion

That Council NOTES:

1. The proposed telecommunications facility on land adjoining 5 Police Road, Rowville, within the City of Knox, being Planning Application P/2026/6008, comprising a telecommunications lattice tower approximately 35 metres in height and approximately 36.3 metres in total height including antennas.
2. That the proposed development is immediately adjacent to the municipal boundary of the City of Greater Dandenong and has the potential to significantly affect residents, open space and environmental values within the City of Greater Dandenong.
3. That approximately 160 objections have been lodged with Knox City Council in relation to the proposed telecommunications facility, as reported by the community campaign on 10 September 2026.
4. The substantial community support opposing the proposed location, with an online petition recording 565 verified signatures as at 15 September 2026.
5. That residents of the City of Greater Dandenong have raised concerns regarding the proposed facility, including:
 - a. its visual impact and effect on residential amenity;
 - b. its proximity to Dandenong Creek;
 - c. potential impacts on Tirhatuan Wetlands and associated habitat;
 - d. potential impacts on threatened and migratory species;
 - e. the removal of native vegetation;
 - f. construction and traffic impacts;
 - g. the proposed access arrangements from Stud Road;
 - h. potential drainage and floodplain impacts; and
 - i. the broader impact of a 35-metre-plus telecommunications structure on a highly valued natural and recreational precinct.
6. That residents within the City of Greater Dandenong are directly affected by the proposed location notwithstanding that the responsible authority for the planning application is Knox City Council.
7. The documented ecological significance of the proposed location and its connection with Dandenong Creek, Tirhatuan Wetlands, Police Road Retarding Basin and Tirhatuan Park, including habitat for threatened and migratory species.
8. That residents have identified an existing telecommunications facility at the corner of Stud Road and Wellington Road, Rowville, which already accommodates multiple telecommunications carriers, and have called for co-location or expansion of existing infrastructure to be properly investigated as an alternative to constructing a new telecommunications tower.
9. The importance of reliable telecommunications infrastructure to the community and that the City of Greater Dandenong does not oppose the provision of telecommunications infrastructure where appropriately located.



10. However, that the provision of telecommunications infrastructure should seek to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on residential amenity, environmentally significant areas, community open space.

That Council REQUESTS:

11. The Mayor write to the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer of Knox City Council advising of the significant concerns of the City of Greater Dandenong regarding the proposed location of Planning Application P/2026/6008, and that Knox City Council to give particular consideration to the interests of residents of the City of Greater Dandenong who may be affected by the proposal, notwithstanding that the proposed facility is located within the City of Knox.
12. Knox City Council not support the proposed location and that, should a suitable alternative location be identified, Knox City Council encourage the applicant to pursue that location in preference to the proposed site adjoining 5 Police Road, Rowville.
13. The Chief Executive Officer to seek confirmation from Knox City Council regarding:
- a. the current number of objections and submissions received;
 - b. whether the submission period has been extended and, if so, the revised closing date;
 - c. whether co-location or expansion at existing telecommunications facilities has been fully investigated;
 - d. the environmental assessments undertaken in relation to Dandenong Creek, Tirhatuan Wetlands and associated habitat; and
 - e. how the interests of affected residents within the City of Greater Dandenong will be considered in determining the application.
14. That Knox City Council provide a written response to the Chief Executive Officer and that the response be circulated to all Councillors; and that the Chief Executive Officer report back to Council on the outcome of Council's representations and any response received from Knox City Council.

MINUTE No.449

Moved by: Cr Lana Formoso

Seconded by: Cr Loi Truong

That Councillor Rhonda Garad be granted an extension of time of two (2) minutes to speak in support of the motion.

CARRIED 11 / 0



MINUTE No.450

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Bob Milkovic

That Council NOTES:

1. The proposed telecommunications facility on land adjoining 5 Police Road, Rowville, within the City of Knox, being Planning Application P/2026/6008, comprising a telecommunications lattice tower approximately 35 metres in height and approximately 36.3 metres in total height including antennas.
2. That the proposed development is immediately adjacent to the municipal boundary of the City of Greater Dandenong and has the potential to significantly affect residents, open space and environmental values within the City of Greater Dandenong.
3. That approximately 160 objections have been lodged with Knox City Council in relation to the proposed telecommunications facility, as reported by the community campaign on 10 September 2026.
4. The substantial community support opposing the proposed location, with an online petition recording 565 verified signatures as at 15 September 2026.
5. That residents of the City of Greater Dandenong have raised concerns regarding the proposed facility, including:
 - a. its visual impact and effect on residential amenity;
 - b. its proximity to Dandenong Creek;
 - c. potential impacts on Tirhatuan Wetlands and associated habitat;
 - d. potential impacts on threatened and migratory species;
 - e. the removal of native vegetation;
 - f. construction and traffic impacts;
 - g. the proposed access arrangements from Stud Road;
 - h. potential drainage and floodplain impacts; and
 - i. the broader impact of a 35-metre-plus telecommunications structure on a highly valued natural and recreational precinct.
6. That residents within the City of Greater Dandenong are directly affected by the proposed location notwithstanding that the responsible authority for the planning application is Knox City Council.
7. The documented ecological significance of the proposed location and its connection with Dandenong Creek, Tirhatuan Wetlands, Police Road Retarding Basin and Tirhatuan Park, including habitat for threatened and migratory species.
8. That residents have identified an existing telecommunications facility at the corner of Stud Road and Wellington Road, Rowville, which already accommodates multiple telecommunications carriers, and have called for co-location or expansion of existing infrastructure to be properly investigated as an alternative to constructing a new telecommunications tower.
9. The importance of reliable telecommunications infrastructure to the community and that the City of Greater Dandenong does not oppose the provision of telecommunications infrastructure where appropriately located.



- 10. However, that the provision of telecommunications infrastructure should seek to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on residential amenity, environmentally significant areas, community open space.**

That Council REQUESTS:

- 11. The Mayor write to the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer of Knox City Council advising of the significant concerns of the City of Greater Dandenong regarding the proposed location of Planning Application P/2026/6008, and that Knox City Council to give particular consideration to the interests of residents of the City of Greater Dandenong who may be affected by the proposal, notwithstanding that the proposed facility is located within the City of Knox.**
- 12. Knox City Council not support the proposed location and that, should a suitable alternative location be identified, Knox City Council encourage the applicant to pursue that location in preference to the proposed site adjoining 5 Police Road, Rowville.**
- 13. The Chief Executive Officer to seek confirmation from Knox City Council regarding:**
- a. the current number of objections and submissions received;**
 - b. whether the submission period has been extended and, if so, the revised closing date;**
 - c. whether co-location or expansion at existing telecommunications facilities has been fully investigated;**
 - d. the environmental assessments undertaken in relation to Dandenong Creek, Tirhatuan Wetlands and associated habitat; and**
 - e. how the interests of affected residents within the City of Greater Dandenong will be considered in determining the application.**
- 14. That Knox City Council provide a written response to the Chief Executive Officer and that the response be circulated to all Councillors; and that the Chief Executive Officer report back to Council on the outcome of Council's representations and any response received from Knox City Council.**

CARRIED 11 / 0



6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

Question

Cr Lana Formoso

I again raise the need for a meeting about Lyndale United Soccer Club involving the local member, Council officers, the club and the Department of Education. The club and surrounding school community continue to face inadequate facilities, despite the club having a very large junior membership and strong female participation.

How can I support the draft Integrated Children, Youth and Family Strategy when basic needs are not being met? I urge that the meeting occur as soon as possible, particularly with an election approaching, so that commitments can be secured for the pitch orientation, drainage and the unsafe car park. I request a timeframe and regular updates.

Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

We understand the frustration. Council and the club have made several requests for a meeting, and the club has advocated strongly. We will continue seeking an appointment at the state level.

We have confirmed a meeting with the Minister for Community Sport, Ros Spence, for later this week as part of Council's advocacy program. We will raise community sport and ask whether the Minister can assist in prioritising the broader meeting.

Response

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

The Deputy Premier has indicated that she is willing to meet and wants Department of Education representatives present because the land is owned by the Department. Arranging the meeting therefore depends not only on the Deputy Premier's diary, but also on securing appropriate senior departmental representatives. We will continue pursuing the meeting.

Comment

Cr Isabella Do

I reflect on the first anniversary of the Keysborough Community Hub. Residents campaigned for more than 11 years for the facility and it is pleasing to see the hub busy with families and children. I look forward to seeing its role develop over the coming years and decades.

I congratulate the Home Interactive Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) program on its 15th anniversary and acknowledge the positive difference it has made for participating children and parents.

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

On Sunday 6 September 2026, I attended the Council-run Spring Thing event at Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve, Springvale South.

On Saturday 12 September, I attended the Vietnamese Museum of Australia Mid-Autumn Festival.

On Saturday 19 September 2026, I attended the Dandenong Market food tour, I encourage residents to attend the market food tour and note that local residents receive a discount.



Question

Cr Isabella Do

I also raise a resident's concerns about pedestrian and road safety near Ascot Reserve Park, Keysborough. Particularly vehicle speeds on Harlequin Drive, Keysborough and children crossing to access the park. Have officers assessed traffic conditions, pedestrian movements and the Harlequin Drive/Windermere Street intersection and considered traffic calming, improved crossings or fencing? If not, can an investigation be conducted?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

I do not know immediately whether the area has already been investigated. I will ask the Traffic and Transport team to follow up, investigate the matter and provide a response to the resident.

Comment

Cr Loi Truong

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

On Thursday 17 September 2026, I attended a community safety roundtable at the Springvale Community Room, the event was organised by local member Eden Foster MP and the Minister for Police and Multicultural Affairs, Paul Edbrooke and was attended by Victoria Police representatives and councillors.

On Saturday 19 September 2026, I attended the Opening Ceremony of the 2026 Children's Lantern Festival in Springvale hosted by the Vietnamese Community in Australia.

Comment

Cr Alice Phuong Le

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

On Saturday 29 August 2026, I attended the opening of the new Springvale Health Hub. Later that day, I attended the grand opening of the new indoor pickleball venue, PickleBoom, in Springvale. That evening, I attended the Gala Fundraising Dinner for the Springvale Benevolent Society, hosted by the Springvale RSL.

On Saturday 12 September 2026, I attended the 2026 Mid-Autumn Festival and the 15th anniversary celebration of the Golden Flower Chinese Friendship Association in Springvale.

On Sunday 13 September 2026, I attended the Shri Krishna Janmashtami hosted by Divya Jyoti Jagrati Sansthan in Springvale.

On Thursday 17 September 2026, I attended a community safety roundtable at the Springvale Community Room, the event was organised by local member Eden Foster MP and the Minister for Police and Multicultural Affairs, Paul Edbrooke and was attended by Victoria Police representatives and councillors. Community leaders raised concerns about safety, cleanliness and public amenity in Springvale Central, including recurring complaints and photographs of unclean public toilets and other areas.



On Saturday 19 September 2026, I attended the Dandenong & District Orchid Society Spring Show at Paddy O'Donoghue Centre in Noble Park.

On Sunday 20 September 2026, I attended Webster Street "Thank You Dandenong" event which included a preview of the new Dandenong road underpass ahead of its public opening.

Question

Cr Alice Phuong Le

How can Council coordinate with the local member and the Minister for Police to improve Springvale Central and respond more effectively to the complaints I receive each day?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

We are working closely with relevant agencies and support services on a number of issues, including homelessness. Cleaning services operate seven days a week in Springvale. We can consider extra cleaning, but this would involve additional costs and require discussion about whether those costs should be passed on to traders or the community.

Comment

Cr Jim Memeti

I welcome the completion of the Webster Street level crossing removal project and the opening of the new underpass tomorrow. The project will reduce congestion, improve traffic flow and provide a more reliable road network for our growing community. With the boom gates previously down for about 60 minutes during the morning peak, the project will make a meaningful difference to residents and motorists.

I thank everyone involved and acknowledge Deputy Premier and Dandenong MP Gabrielle Williams for advocating for the project, which is being delivered two years earlier than the previously expected 2028 completion. I also recognise the naming of Dow Court after Pat Dow, who dedicated 40 years to supporting local families and community organisations and Merle Parade after social justice advocate Merle Mitchell. I congratulate the Dow and Mitchell families on their long service to the community.

Question

Cr Phillip Danh, Deputy Mayor

Can the relevant officer provide an update on Council's aged care program, including any progress or changes since the previous month?

Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

We are preparing a report consistent with Council's current resolution to continue providing services until at least June 2027. The Australian Government has extended the Commonwealth Home Support Programme for a further two years, providing additional options for Council to consider. We also need to consider other matters, including Council's current subsidy for the service.

We will take the federal extension into account and return to Council in early 2027 with a report on Council's future role in aged care.



Question

Cr Phillip Danh, Deputy Mayor

I raise the poor condition of Heatherton Road, a state-managed road, particularly between Corrigan Road and the roundabout near Bergins Road. The road has severe potholes and some have been marked with graffiti. How does Council liaise with the Department of Transport and Planning and what timeframe applies to repairs?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

We work directly with Department of Transport and Planning officers and lodge maintenance requests through the department's portal. The department determines priorities and repair timeframes based on risk and its work program.

We have lodged several requests regarding Heatherton Road but have not yet received a response. We will continue following up.

Question

Cr Phillip Danh, Deputy Mayor

I raise concerns about an increase in dumped rubbish outside homes and ask whether reports lodged through Snap Send Solve continue to be attended to promptly. I acknowledge that same-day action is not always realistic, but residents and I have noticed longer turnaround times. Is there a backlog?

I also note recurring deliberate dumping in secluded areas of parks and reserves. I can provide specific locations for officers to investigate and I caution that the issue may become more common.

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Our hotspot program operates every day, with two trucks visiting known dumping locations. We encourage the community to lodge reports through Snap Send Solve. The standard turnaround is 10 working days, although we often complete the work sooner, depending on workload and staff availability.

We complete approximately 95 per cent of requests within the first week, although some individual matters can take longer.

Comment

Cr Melinda Yim

I celebrated Dandenong parkrun's 20,000th finisher. Dandenong parkrun began in January 2021 and has become a valued community event and a much-loved Saturday morning tradition.

Parkrun is a strong example of the Make Your Move initiative, which encourages people to find simple and enjoyable ways to include more movement in daily life. I invite everyone to walk, run, jog or volunteer at Dandenong parkrun at 8am each Saturday at Dandenong Park.



Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

I refer to correspondence from federal MP Clare O'Neil encouraging councillors to attend the Combat Antisemitism Movement Local Government Summit in Sydney. The cost would exceed \$20,000 if all councillors attended. Would that expenditure represent value for money, considering local options to address antisemitism, discrimination and social cohesion?

I am also concerned about the potential local consequences of adopting the IHRA definition.

Response

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

I do not consider it appropriate for officers to determine the value of councillors attending. The invitation has been provided to councillors, who have allowances and can exercise their own discretion.

Response

Cr Lana Formoso

I understand that no councillors are attending. If attendance requires Council approval, the matter will need to come before a Council meeting.

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

How prepared is Council for rapid growth in electric vehicle use, including the provision of accessible charging stations?

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?

Response

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

We will take these questions on notice because we need to obtain detailed information from the relevant teams. We are also considering organisational preparedness for rising fuel costs. An internal working group led by Peta Gillies is examining support for staff who use their own vehicles for work, including additional reimbursement for fuel costs.

We are purchasing a range of lower-emission fleet vehicles. We will prepare a report for Council consideration to address the broader questions.

Comment

Cr Sean O'Reilly

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

On Saturday 12 September 2026, I attended the Mid-Autumn Festival and the anniversary celebration of the Golden Flower Chinese Friendship Association.

On Saturday 19 September 2026, I also attended the Dandenong Market street food tour.



Comment

Cr Sophie Tan, Mayor

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

On Wednesday 19 August 2026, I attended the Greater Dandenong Interfaith Network's 38th Annual Signing of the Common Statement.

On Thursday 20 August 2026, I attended the Festival of Parkmore, being the official launch of Parkmore's new precinct celebrating the grand opening of Aldi, Rebel and TK Maxx.

On Friday 21 August 2026, I attended an advocacy meeting with Hon Tim Richardson, Minister for Local Government.

On Saturday 22 August 2026, I attended the opening of the YoMySunshine Childcare Centre in Dandenong North.

On Sunday 23 August 2026, I attended the 107th anniversary of Afghanistan's Independence Day, hosted by the Afghan Youth Association of Australia and the Afghan Australian Philanthropic Association.

On Wednesday 26 August 2026, I attended the Greater Dandenong City Council Audit & Risk Committee Meeting.

On Thursday 27 August 2026, I attended the CEO Remuneration and Performance Review Committee meeting.

On Friday 28 August 2026, I attended the opening of the Greaves Reserve Public Recreation upgrade.

On Saturday 29 August 2026, I attended the opening of the new Springvale Health Hub, including the Radiology Department at 578 Springvale Road, Springvale South. Later that day, I attended the Onam Festival hosted by the Malayalee Association of Victoria, celebrating the traditional harvest festival of Kerala and marking the Association's Golden Jubilee (1976-2026), recognising 50 years of cultural service, community leadership and contribution to Victoria. That evening, I attended the Gala Fundraising Dinner for the Springvale Benevolent Society hosted by the Springvale RSL.

On Sunday 30 August 2026, I attended the Victorian Tamil Association Women's Group Indoor Sports Day.

On Wednesday 2 September 2026, I attended Citizenship Ceremonies at Springvale City Hall.

On Friday 4 September 2026, I attended the launch of the Dandenong Pathway to Employment Hub. The Australian Government funded the three-year pilot with \$1.5 million to connect jobseekers with service providers. Since opening in early July, the Hub has supported more than 80 people, with three Council staff available on the ground floor four days a week. Later that day, I attended the Walkinshaw Automotive Group site visit with Hon Mark Dreyfus KC MP and GSEM.

On Saturday 5 September 2026, I attended the Australian Multicultural Food and Cultural Dance Gala Evening.



On Sunday 6 September 2026, I attended the CGD Spring Thing at the Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve.

On Wednesday 9 September 2026, I attended a site visit to the Trade Institute of Victoria to meet with Director of Training, Peter Giannopoulos. Later that day, I attended the Concern Australia Open Day.

On Thursday 10 September 2026, I attended the SEBN Showcasing Women in Business: A Journey to Work event.

On Friday 11 September 2026, I attended the Greater Dandenong City Council Audit & Risk Committee Meeting.

On Monday 14 September 2026, I attended the City of Greater Dandenong Young Leaders Presentation to Council.

On Wednesday 16 September 2026, I attended the official opening of ACO Eye Health in David Street, Dandenong.

On Thursday 17 September 2026, I attended Citizenship Ceremonies in celebration of Citizenship Day.

On Friday 18 September 2026, I attended the Australian-Filipino Community Services (AFCS) 35 year celebration.

On Saturday 19 September 2026, I attended the Dandenong Market Street Food Tour. Later that day, I attended the Opening Ceremony of the 2026 Children's Lantern Festival hosted by the Vietnamese Community in Australia – Victorian Chapter.

On Sunday 20 September 2026, I attended the Webster Street "Thank You Dandenong" event hosted by the LXRP/Victoria Big Build project team.

On Monday 21 September 2026, I attended the Keysborough Community Hub's First Birthday Celebration. In its first year, the hub welcomed more than 72,000 visitors, gained almost 1,200 library members, recorded over 58,000 loans and hosted more than 450 room bookings. Programs include free yoga, sustainability activities, hardship information and health-related support. I congratulate everyone involved in its success.

Cr Loi Truong left the Chamber at 8.56pm.



Mayor Sophie Tan read the following:

“Tomorrow is a significant day for central Dandenong.

The new road underpass at Webster Street will open to traffic. It connects Princes Highway and Lonsdale Street with Cheltenham and Hammond roads and is part of the Victorian Government’s Webster Street Level Crossing Removal.

Yesterday, Cr Memeti and I joined the thank-you event in Dandenong Park. We were among the first people to walk through the new underpass.

Tomorrow also marks the opening of the new Dow Court and Merle Parade. These new road names recognise the late Pat Dow and Merle Mitchell.

Pat and Merle were much-loved Greater Dandenong Living Treasures whose contributions continue to be felt across the community.

Their families will join us for a special celebration here next month.

Thanks to the teams across Council who have also contributed to the Level Crossing Removal project, with their technical advice and community information for local residents, businesses and road users.

Thanks also to our community for their patience while this happened.”



Cr Loi Truong returned to the Chamber at 9.00pm.

Cr Lana Formoso left the Council Meeting at 9:01pm and did not return.

Response to earlier question from Cr Formoso

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

I advise that the draft letter of appreciation to Victoria Police has been approved and circulated to all councillors. The final letter will be sent after the minutes are endorsed. I have also verbally conveyed the organisation's thanks to the Area Commander.

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
20/07/26 CQT2	Cr Rhonda Garad	Letters to be written to Australia Local Government Association (ALGA) Will Council seek an explanation from the ALGA and request that the consolidated motion not become ALGA policy? Would Council consider taking these actions and what would the appropriate process be?	Executive Director Strategy & Corporate Services	04/08/2026	Initial response 20/07/26: Council can write to ALGA to seek information about the process used and, once that information is received, determine any appropriate next steps. Further response: 4/8/26 Reply received from ALGA Administration Office which has provided the rationale for the consolidated motion process and the steps taken to appropriately inform affected Council representatives prior to the ALGA conference. The reply outlined the various opportunities for councils to withdraw from the consolidated motion process or amend their motions. A copy of comms provided by the ALGA President about the new process was also included in the ALGA response. This was a general communique to all councils about the consolidated Motion process. COMPLETED
17/08/26 CQT1	Cr Jim Memeti	Webster Street level crossing removal community celebration I ask whether Council is involved in the Webster Street level crossing removal community celebration, what role Council has, and how we let more people in the community know that the event is happening.	Executive Director City Futures	25/08/2026	Initial response 17/08/2026 I will clarify Council's role in the event, as we are not organising it and how the community will be informed. Further response 25/08/2026: At the Council meeting on 17 August 2026 you asked the following question about events at the end of the Webster Street Level Crossing Removal Project. A response to his query is below. The Level Crossing Project team are planning a "Family Thank You" event but have not locked in details yet. As soon as they do, we will forward this to Councillors (who they will also invite directly) and relevant community stakeholders. The information we do have regarding the proposed event is: • Aim: a Thank You celebration targeted at local residents, traders, community groups and schools • Location: Dandenong Park • Content: no formalities other than a Welcome to Country, a walk thru of the new underpass, music and dance performances, craft, market stalls • Date: 20 September • Time: TBC The new underpass is expected to open to traffic at 5am on 22nd September, so the event will provide the opportunity for attendees to be amongst the first to pass through the new underpass. In addition to the above, Council will be looking to separately celebrate the two new road names created as part of the project, celebrating local treasures (Dow Court and Merle Parade). COMPLETED



Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
17/08/26	Cr Rhonda Garad	Steps to ensure the city continues to thrive What is the policy regarding the use of plant cages? Under what circumstances are they required, and when would their use not be considered appropriate? Additionally, what is the attrition rate of plants in areas where cages are not used, particularly in high-traffic locations?	Executive Director City Futures	25/08/2026	Initial response 17/08/2026: I will take the question on notice and will provide a detailed response. Further response 25/08/2026: Council does not have a specific policy regarding the use of plant or tree protection cages. The use of tree guards is determined on a site by site basis, considering factors such as location, surrounding infrastructure and the risk of vandalism or accidental damage. Permanent tree guards are generally installed where trees are integrated into urban and civil infrastructure, including streetscapes, car parks and pedestrian areas to provide ongoing protection and to support successful establishment. Temporary guards are used in locations with a higher risk of vandalism or damage during the establishment period. Tree guards are generally not considered necessary in areas where the risk of damage is low and protection measures are unlikely to provide additional benefit. Council does not maintain specific attrition data for uncaged trees in high traffic locations. However, Council's overall tree establishment success rate exceeds 90%, with most losses attributed to theft, vandalism, accidental damage, or missing trees rather than the absence of tree guards. 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 9.03pm.

Signature