



**Minutes**

**Council Meeting**

Tuesday 12 March 2024, 7:00 pm

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

[greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](https://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au)



## Council Meeting Details

At the time of printing this Agenda, the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 12 March 2024, will be open to the public to attend in person but will be subject to venue seating capacity. This will be a hybrid meeting consisting of Councillors attending in person and remotely.

If we are unable to accommodate you indoors, you will still be able to watch the webcast live on the Urban Screen in Harmony Square. To view the webcast and stay informed about the status of Council Meetings please visit Council's [website](#).

***The Civic Centre basement carpark will be opened to all members of the public during library opening hours. Any parking in this area will be subject to availability and time limits as notified by any signage posted.***

## Your Councillors

[Mayor Lana Formoso](#)

[Cr Sean O'Reilly](#)

[Deputy Mayor Richard Lim OAM](#)

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

[Cr Tim Dark](#)

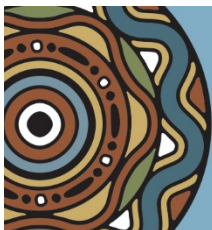
[Cr Loi Truong](#)

[Cr Rhonda Garad](#)

[Cr Angela Long](#)

[Cr Jim Memeti](#)

[Cr Bob Milkovic](#)



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](mailto:council@cgd.vic.gov.au)

 [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au)



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## 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 2021-25 (Council Plan 2021-25 | 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 neighbourhoods*
- *A green city committed to a sustainable future*
- *A city that supports entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes*
- *A Council that demonstrates leadership 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.



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## 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.



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## 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.



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## 1 MEETING OPENING

### 1.1 OPENING OF MEETING BY DEPUTY MAYOR

Cr Richard Lim OAM opened the Meeting at 7.00 pm.

### 1.2 ATTENDANCE

#### **Apologies**

Mayor, Cr Lana Formoso.

#### **Councillors Present**

Deputy Mayor, Cr Richard Lim OAM (Chair),  
Cr Tim Dark, Cr Rhonda Garad, Cr Angela Long, Cr Jim Memeti (remote), Cr Bob Milkovic,  
Cr Sean O'Reilly, Cr Sophie Tan, Cr Loi Truong.

#### **Officers Present**

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer; Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures; Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening; Andrew Foley, Executive Director Corporate Development; Lisa Roberts, Manager Governance, Legal & Risk.





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### 1.3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF LAND

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 Rhonda Garad read the following:

*"Change has come unbidden, and at times, unwelcome,  
there are many challenges to be faced and overcome,  
change can be daunting and scary, but it has come,  
ready or not, change is here, and must be accepted.*

*May we be equal to the task ahead of us,  
ready to renew ourselves, ready to take on the new,  
anxious to let go of old ideas that no longer fit,  
moving with confidence, into the future, our future.*

*Make us strong enough to triumph,  
flexible enough to grow and change as needed,  
optimistic enough to see the new opportunities  
as we move into the changing landscape of our lives.*

*We accept and welcome the change that has come,  
we are ready to embrace change and move swiftly forward,  
we are ready."*



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## 1.5 RECOGNITION OF CR LOI TRUONG - 15 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

Deputy Mayor, Cr Richard Lim OAM read the following:

*"On behalf of my Councillor colleagues, the Council Executive team, staff and residents, I would like to take a moment to recognise Cr Loi Truong's 15 Years of Public Service.*

*Since arriving in Australia in 1983, you have lived experience of adapting to the challenges of a new life, language and culture and one of your key goals has been to assist other migrants to integrate into their new Australian way of life.*

*This determination saw you elected as a Greater Dandenong Councillor in 2008, and you have represented Greater Dandenong with empathy, honesty and humility and use your voice to highlight invisible barriers or existing prejudices towards ethnic communities.*

*As an elected Ward Councillor, a community leader and Vietnamese elder - you certainly are a voice of experience and strong community connection.*

*This is something you should be very proud of Loi and something that we, as a Council and extended community, definitely acknowledge and celebrate.*

*Could you please come forward and accept this Certificate Under Seal and Councillor Service Award in recognition and appreciation of 15 Years Dedicated Public Service."*

## 1.6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Meeting of Council held 26 February 2024.

### Recommendation

**That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 26 February 2024 be confirmed.**

### MINUTE No.1002

**Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad**

**Seconded by: Cr Sean O'Reilly**

**That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 26 February 2024 be confirmed.**

**CARRIED 9 / 0**



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## 1.7 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil.



## 2 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 1

### 2.1 DOCUMENTS FOR SEALING

#### 2.1.1 Documents for Sealing

**Responsible Officer:** Manager Governance, Legal & Risk

**Attachments:** Nil

#### 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.
2. This report recommends that the listed documents be signed and sealed.



### Item Summary

3. There is one (1) item being presented to Council's meeting of 12 March 2024 for signing and sealing as follows:
- a) An Instrument of Appointment of Authorised Officer under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the *Local Government Act 2020*, the *Environment Protection Act 2017*, the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*, the *Road Management Act 2004*, the *Road Safety Act 1986*, the *Sex Work Act 1994*, Parts 2 and 3 of the *Subdivisions Act 1988*, the *Summary Offences Act 1966*, the *Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 1998* and the Regulations made under each of those Acts; the Local Laws made under the *Local Government Act 1989* and the *Local Government Act 2020*; and any other Act, Regulation or delegated legislation (including the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme) which relates to the powers of the Council made under the provisions and enactments described. This instrument enables the following Council officer to carry out the statutory responsibilities of the above Acts and is subject to policy and delegations previously adopted by Council:
- Tim Sproule

### Recommendation

**That the listed documents be signed and sealed.**

#### **MINUTE No.1003**

**Moved by: Cr Angela Long**

**Seconded by: Cr Loi Truong**

**That the listed documents be signed and sealed.**

**CARRIED 9 / 0**



## 2.2 PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

### 2.2.1 Petitions and Joint Letters

**Responsible Officer:** Manager Governance, Legal & Risk  
**Attachments:** 1. Petitions and Joint Letters [2.2.1.1 - 2 pages]

#### Executive Summary

1. Council receives a number of petitions and joint letters on a regular basis that deal with a variety of issues which have an impact upon the City.
2. Issues raised by petitions and joint letters will be investigated and reported back to Council if required.
3. A table containing all details relevant to current petitions and joint letters is provided in Attachment 1. It includes:
  - a) the full text of any petitions or joint letters received;
  - b) petitions or joint letters still being considered for Council response as pending a final response along with the date they were received; and
  - c) the final complete response to any outstanding petition or joint letter previously tabled along with the full text of the original petition or joint letter and the date it was responded to.
4. This report recommends that the listed items in Attachment 1, and the current status of each, be received and noted.



### **Petitions and Joint Letters Tabled**

5. Council received no new petitions and no joint letters prior to the Council Meeting of 12 March 2024.

*Note: Where relevant, a summary of the progress of ongoing change.org petitions and any other relevant petitions/joint letters/submissions will be provided in the attachment to this report.*

### **Recommendation**

**That this report and its attachment be received and noted.**

#### **MINUTE No.1004**

**Moved by: Cr Angela Long**

**Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad**

**That this report and its attachment be received and noted.**

**CARRIED 9 / 0**

Date Received	Petition Text (Prayer)	No. of Petitioners	Status	Responsible Officer Response
22/01/2024	<p>I wish to raise a formal petition to upgrade and replace the current trees in Keysborough South under the Governance Rules item 4.5.10. Some are dead, dying (with disease) and this type of tree that has been planted require extensive maintenance. We all collectively strongly dislike these trees due to the large amount of tree litter they release with excessive leaves, nuts, bark they drop every year and they are causing damage to our homes.</p> <p>Some of us that are a Single Storey dwelling regularly need to climb up onto the roof to clear the gutters and valley channels which is a dangerous and hazardous. This activity needs to be minimised and reduced for the safety of ourselves. One resident needs to wear a harness on their double storey to clean his gutters/channel valleys. This is very dangerous.</p> <p>Furthermore, excessive build up of these leaves/litter has contributed to flooding claims to property in which I have personally been involved with (twice in 5 years).</p> <p>Since speaking to the street residence about the Petition, I've found out that other Residents have had damage and issues with their homes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• properties have also had flood / ceiling damage into their homes due to excessive leaf/litter build up.</li> <li>• A branch fell onto the home causing damage and subsequent insurance claim.</li> <li>• Large branches also fell which blocked the road which was could of potentially damaged vehicles and/or injured a person – happened twice in the last 3 years.</li> <li>• There has been footpath repairs due to the existing roots from the trees on the western side of the street.</li> <li>• Trees heights affect solar panel effectiveness and one house cannot have Solar system installed due to the trees along Keylana Ave blocking their northern sun –they are asking to have their trees removed as well on that side. Please apply same plan to remove.</li> </ul>	36	In Progress	<p>Responsible Officer: Chief Engineer &amp; Major Projects.</p> <p>Acknowledgment letter sent <b>23/01/2024</b> to the head petitioner.</p>



ATT 2.2.1.1 Petitions and Joint Letters

Date Received	Petition Text (Prayer)	No. of Petitioners	Status	Responsible Officer Response
	<p>I am petitioning on behalf of the residents in our street and request the current trees to be replaced with smaller trees that require less maintenance (similar to others). I have been informed that over the last 10 years that over 100 streets in this Municipality have had their trees upgraded and seeking this also performed to our street. We are collectively keen to have the trees replaced.</p> <p>Our Local Councillor Rhonda Garad and Lead Arborist Gareth Pickard have both been to our property and are aware of my situation which has now led to this Petition.</p> <p>Please see following pages with the names the residents/home owners with trees that agree with the replacement of the existing trees along the nature strip.</p>			



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### 3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

#### **Question**

##### **Judith Sise, Dandenong North**

At the last Council meeting, in response to a question about resourcing climate change, the answer given was that budgets are guided by the Council Plan, and that preparations for the next Council Plan are underway and that climate change will be considered then. However, we are talking about now, not next Council term. The current Council Plan 2021-25 mentions climate change 36 times including stating that it is a high priority for Council, that Council will proactively respond, that it is a key focus, that Council has a duty of care, and that Council is leading our community's response. So, given this strong emphasis in the current Council plan, why is Council funding action on climate change so poorly that by its own admission in a public Council report in February last year it has less than half of the staff than other councils?

#### **Response**

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

Council has previously acknowledged that it has a relatively small sustainability team, and while it is a small team, they do a great job in helping Council address the significant challenge of climate change.

Council will consider requests for additional resources in the sustainability team, along with other areas of Council, as part of its upcoming annual budget process. As mentioned at the last Council meeting, Council can only consider requests for additional resources through its annual budget process.

Council will also soon begin developing its 2025-2029 Council Plan, and as such I would encourage residents to provide feedback to this process, as this will also guide budget allocations for future years.

#### **Clarification question**

##### **Judith Sise, Dandenong North**

Can you please confirm if you are referring to the current term that we are in, 2024-25?

#### **Response**

##### **Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer**

Council is currently in the process of developing the 2024-25 Budget, which will be out for community consultation. Members of the public are encouraged to provide their feedback for this budget.

#### **Question**

##### **Jacob Dudmun Doyle, Dandenong**

Can the dog park at Tatterson Park, Keysborough have a shade installed, especially over the swimming pool? This will make it safer for dogs and people on extremely hot days.

#### **Comment**

##### **Cr Rhonda Garad**

There should be no swimming pool there, Council removed it, even though it was important to keep the dogs cool. If it is back, it will likely be removed again.



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

We will take your request on board and investigate to see if this is an option.

**Question****Isabelle Nash, Keysborough**

Climate Emergency Australia, the network for councils that have declared a Climate Emergency, are having their conference on Friday, 19 April 2024. It will include discussions of practical actions about how councils can strengthen their council's climate emergency response and more effectively engage their communities in regards climate change. The conference is for both Council staff and Councillors. Will Greater Dandenong Council be represented at the conference, and if not, why not?

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

Council recognises that this is an important conference to further strengthen Council's climate emergency response, and as such several staff will attend this conference.

**Question****Isabelle Nash, Keysborough**

The draft Greater Dandenong Council's Climate Emergency Engagement and Mobilisation Plan was meant to have been exhibited last year for public comment. What is the current date for the public exhibition to start?

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

Officers are still aiming to inform the community by the end of the financial year.

**Clarification question****Isabelle Nash, Keysborough**

At a recent Council meeting it was advised that it would be April 2024, has that changed?

**Response****Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer**

Community consultation will commence in April 2024 and the whole engagement process will be finished by the end of the financial year.

**Question****Duncan Cumming, Springvale**

Will Council be publicly recognising the International Transgender Day of Visibility and if so, how?

**Response****Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening**

Council will recognise International Transgender Day of Visibility on Sunday 31 March by the illumination of the Drum Theatre in pink, white and blue, and sharing awareness raising information tiles on Council's social media and communication channels.

**Question****Duncan Cumming, Springvale**

Will Council be flying the transgender flag on the community flagpoles in Greater Dandenong on the 31 March 2024 and will the public be invited?



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## **Response**

### **Lisa Roberts, Manager Governance, Legal & Risk**

In addition to lighting up the Drum Theatre in the evening of 31 March 2024, the Transgender Flag will be raised in the morning of 31 March 2024 on the community flag poles in Harmony Square. A flag raising event as such is not organised at this time.

## **Question**

### **Elizabeth Grasso, Keysborough**

Greater Dandenong Council's Waste Strategy expired four (4) years ago. When will consultation with the community happen regarding the Council strategy to succeed it, which would need to include Greater Dandenong Council's approach to the Victorian Government's Circular Economy Plan?

## **Response**

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

The City of Greater Dandenong's Waste and Litter Strategy is currently under review.

Over the past two (2) years, the waste sector has experienced notable transformations, including the implementation of initiatives such as the Glass Bin and Container Deposit Scheme, landfill closures, advancements in waste processing technologies, the discontinuation of RedCycle and the need for soft plastic recycling, and an increase in incidents of illegally dumped waste.

These developments underscore the need for adjustments within the City of Greater Dandenong's Waste and Litter Strategy to effectively address current and emerging challenges in waste management. Once the initial works are completed, we will let you know the timeframes for community engagement.

## **Question**

### **Cr Rhonda Garad**

Are you saying that it will be updated? Is there a timeframe?

## **Response**

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

We are unable to provide a timeframe at this stage.

## **Question**

### **Elizabeth Grasso, Keysborough**

When is the first Annual Progress Report for the Greater Dandenong Biodiversity Action Plan going to be publicly available?

## **Response**

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

Council officers are currently compiling information for the first annual progress report and will be published on the Council website late March 2024.



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## Question

### **Pam Naylor, Noble Park**

The Greater Dandenong Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan commits Council to annual reports on progress. The Council website has no annual progress reports on it.

#### Question 1

Which annual progress reports have been completed since the strategy and action plan was endorsed by Council in 2020?

#### Question 2

Which annual progress reports have not been completed and when will they be completed?

#### Question 3

When can the annual progress reports be put on the webpage alongside the Greater Dandenong Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan so the public can know which particular climate actions have been undertaken and which ones have not been undertaken?

## Response

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

Council undertook a review of the Sustainability Strategy in 2022, which included an update on the progress of actions in this strategy. This review also identified aligned actions from the Climate Emergency Strategy, however it is acknowledged that this did not include a progress report on the actions of the Climate Emergency Strategy.

Given the extent of actions to report on annually, officers are currently investigating potential reporting options to streamline the reporting process for both of these strategies, to establish if one annual report can be completed that addresses the actions of both strategies.

## Question

### **Gaye Guest, Keysborough**

At the last Council meeting I asked a question about updating City of Greater Dandenong's (CGD) Heritage Study. The question was not about which sites were on there now, but which important sites were not on there. When there was a Council debate about the jug house 1060 Heatherton Road, Noble Park, an iconic residential home that captured the interest state wide through ABC radio coverage there was a commitment by Council in 2021 to examine new sites for protection.

Three (3) years later nothing has happened, and our City's heritage continues to be lost. When is this examination of new sites going to occur before it is too late?

## Response

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

Prior to Council being able to consider the addition of further sites to its Heritage Overlay, it should first ensure that the controls for the existing heritage overlay sites are correct.

As advised at the last Council meeting, this review of the existing sites in the Heritage Overlay is underway.

Once this has been completed, Council will consider any potential further heritage actions or projects.



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### **Question**

#### **Gaye Guest, Keysborough**

In this year's budget will there be money set aside to employ additional full-time staff in the many areas that are understaffed especially cultural/heritage and sustainability/waste? In these areas we are dragging our feet in protecting our dwindling cultural and environmental heritage and not delivering vital programs to combat climate change and our waste issues.

As staff move departments or transfer out and an award winning health program loses staff, it is time to reinforce Council's personnel with additional staff to deliver timely, efficient and effective programs with real outcomes.

It is said that Council is a slow-moving machine, however time is passing rapidly and we need productive results before our heritage, whether cultural or environmental, is lost. Local councils are the guardians of our local heritage. We need positive action rather than just words and ideas as we have a track record in Greater Dandenong of treating our heritage disrespectfully. Historical and environmentally significant sites become tourist destinations so they have a positive economic impact as well.

### **Response**

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

As mentioned in my earlier response regarding resourcing in the sustainability team, all additional resource requests need to be considered in the annual budget process, which will be occurring shortly.

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**A question was asked by a resident which was not read out at the meeting and instead taken on notice. This question contained sensitive personal information about an individual. The resident will receive a direct response from the relevant officer.**

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### **Question**

#### **Matthew Kirwan, Noble Park**

It has been almost 4 years since the Vanity Lane concept design has been endorsed, when is construction of the laneway going to start? The building has not even been demolished yet.

### **Response**

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

The Vanity Lane Project has been delayed due to issues associated with the proposed demolition of the existing fire damaged building. It is expected that these issues should be resolved to allow demolition to proceed during the 2024/25 financial year. Timing for the future construction of the laneway is currently under review and subject to the successful carry forward of funding.

### **Further response**

#### **Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer**

As part of our quarterly reporting, we are looking to strengthen our reporting on projects.

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### **Question**

**Matthew Kirwan, Noble Park**

Will the colour and height of the raised platforms proposed for the Railway Parade, Noble Park traffic calming measures be the same as those recently installed in Bloomfield Road, Keysborough? I have found the height and in particular the bright red colour of those raised platforms very effective in slowing down the speeds of motorists in Bloomfield Road.

### **Response**

**Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures**

The geometric design of traffic calming devices are based on Council's Standard Drawings and generally consistent, slight variations are likely due to site specific conditions and constraints. Colour of the platform will be similar and consistent with recently completed works along Bloomfield Road.

### **Question**

**Matthew Kirwan, Noble Park**

Can there please be an audit of the Council Projects and Works webpage? Many of the projects listed in the "Current" section should be moved to the "Archive" section. There are projects completed 3 years ago that are still listed as Current.

### **Response**

**Andrew Foley, Executive Director Corporate Development**

Council is undertaking a review of the web pages to ensure they are all up to date.

### **Question**

**Nacera Burekovic, Dandenong**

When are the extra co-design sessions for the finalisation of the concept design of the Dandenong Community Hub going to occur?

### **Response**

**Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening**

As per my response at the Council meeting on 26 February 2024, I understand that there has been a request for additional workshops.

We are awaiting a report from the recent workshop facilitator and architect on the outcomes of the process so far and any further refinement required, noting this is a concept design process, not detailed design.

Once all of that information is available, officers will prepare a report for Council outlining outcomes, and recommended next steps, which may include further co-design sessions and/or consultation.

Once confirmed this information will be relayed to all workshop participants and communicated via the project page at Council's website.



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**Question****Vicki Green, Dandenong North**

At the Council meeting on the 23 October 2023, I was told in response to my question that the community consultation for the new nature sensory trail at Tirhatuan Park, Dandenong North was expected to occur in early 2024.

What is the latest regarding when consultation is expected to be held, as I have not seen anything on the Greater Dandenong City Council website yet?

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

The draft plan for the sensory trail at Tirhatuan Park has now been completed, and it is currently anticipated that community consultation will occur prior the end of this financial year.

**Question****Vicki Green, Dandenong North**

This years' Greater Dandenong Sustainability festival was another great success. I was wondering if Council would create an online survey so residents could suggest ideas for the 2025 festival and what could be improved. Would this be possible?

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

We agree that this years' Sustainability Festival was another success. It was great to see so many people engaging in the various activities on the day.

In terms of reviewing the event, officers undertake a detailed review each year, which includes surveying attendees on the day and stallholders.

The survey utilised for attendees is still available on the Sustainability Festival page of the Council website for anyone who may be interested in providing further feedback.

[www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/sustainability-festival](http://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/sustainability-festival)





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## Question

### **Lorelle Putland, Dandenong**

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. 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. Report 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.

How is this Council going to ensure there is no direct and significant bias against women when it is developing its programs and services for the community? Keeping in mind the Government's "Women's Budget Statement 2023-2024" states: "The majority of the data collected and reported in this Statement relate to sex, not gender. Sex is based on the person's sex characteristics, such as their chromosomes, hormones, and reproductive organs. Gender is a social and cultural concept. It is about social and cultural differences in identity, expression, and experience as a man, woman, or non-binary person." This Statement uses the terms women and men in reference to both sex and gender, but the terms female and male are used when presenting data collected on the basis of sex.

## Response

### **Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening**

Council is committed to the objectives and actions set out in the *Gender Equality Act 2020* and to promoting greater gender equality in our workplaces and across our community.

Council is committed to providing inclusive services and to making space for all members of our community to belong.

In making decisions or establishing new programs or policies, Council is also obliged to consider the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities and other anti-discrimination legislation. We also undertake a gender impact assessment to avoid reinforcing unintentional bias or inequalities.

Where there is a risk that sex-based rights or interests come into tension with gender identity-based rights or interests, Council will seek expert advice and consult relevant agencies, towards achieving the most equitable outcomes in balancing competing interests.



## 4 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 2

### 4.1 CONTRACTS

#### 4.1.1 Contract 2324-05 Receipt of Commingled Recyclables

<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Executive Director City Futures Deputy Director Chief Engineer & Major Projects
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Contract No 2324 05 Confidential Attachment 21 Feb 2024 [4.1.1.1 - 2 pages]

#### Executive Summary

1. This report outlines the tender process undertaken to select a suitably qualified and experienced contractor for the provision of **Receipt of Commingled Recyclables for the City of Greater Dandenong** (CGD). This is a Schedule of Rates based contract.
2. The initial contract term is two (2) years from the date of commencement, with an option to extend the contract by two (2), one (1) year extensions at the sole and absolute discretion of Council.
3. This report recommends that Council awards Contract 2324-05 to **Re.Cycle Operations Pty Ltd – ABN 29 656 197 134**.
4. The estimated budget expenditure for this contract over the initial two (2) year term is Four Million, Three Hundred and Eighty-Three, Seven Hundred and Eighty-Seven Dollars (\$4,383,787.00) excluding GST.



## Background

5. This Contract concerns the receipt, sorting and marketing of Commingled Recyclables for the City of Greater Dandenong.
6. The City of Greater Dandenong includes the suburbs of Bangholme, Dandenong, Dandenong North, Dandenong South, Keysborough, Lyndhurst, Noble Park, Noble Park North, Springvale, and Springvale South.
7. In February 2020, the Victorian Government released 'Recycling Victoria - A new economy policy and action plan' (Policy) that will influence the amount of recyclables deposited in the commingled bin through the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) commencing 1 November 2023.
8. The Policy also requires that Councils provide residents with access to a new glass bin or a glass service by 2027. It is Council's intention that the configuration of this latter service will be informed by community consultation and will be introduced in 2026/2027.

## AIMS

9. Council has the following principle aims in entering this Contract:
  - to maximize the diversion of Commingled Recyclables from the waste stream for recycling;
  - to educate the City of Greater Dandenong community to enable an understanding of the advantages of, and the need for recycling;
  - a commitment to ongoing communication and cooperation by the stakeholders (community, Council, and waste management contractors) for the purpose of maintaining and continuous improvement of the system of Commingled Recyclables collection, handling, transport, recovery, and recycling;
  - to have market security for recyclable products; and
  - to ensure that the Contractor is maintaining a high standard of performance in provision of the Services.

## Objectives

10. The Objectives of the Contract are to:
  - maintain the provision of a regular and reliable Materials Recoverable Facility (MRF) complying with all legislative requirements including OH&S legislation;
  - provide high standard services, based on best practice principles, that are complementary to national, state, and local waste management plans and policies;
  - provide cost-effective services that offers value for money that provides Council with a known or predictable cost for the Service;
  - minimize the amount of waste disposed to landfill by encouraging and facilitating waste minimization and maximizing recovery of recyclable and reusable components in the waste stream;
  - provide a reliable system for acceptance and sorting of the Commingled Recyclables into individual product types for sale and reprocessing into commodities, using best practice methods and systems;
  - to measure performance of Recyclables recovery including maintaining records of quantities of materials recycled and performance of the Contractor, with regular reporting on performance against key performance criteria specified in this Specification; and
  - establish and maintain community education programs that increase awareness of waste minimization principles and provide up-to-date information on types of recyclable materials.



## Tender Process

11. This tender was advertised in The Age Newspaper and on Council's website on Saturday 18 November 2023 and at the close of tenders at 2.00PM Thursday 21 December 2023 two (2) tender submissions were received as follows:
- **Cleanaway Pty Ltd – ABN 79 000 164 938**
  - **Re.Cycle Operations Pty Ltd – ABN 29 656 197 134**
12. Tenderers were required to complete and submit all of Council's tender schedules including the submission of a schedule of rates and prices per item as detailed on Tender Price Schedule 2.
13. Tenderers were also required to be registered with Rapid Global (Council's Workforce Management Software – Health and Safety Compliance) prior to the tender closing date.

## Tender Evaluation

14. The evaluation panel consisted of Council's Manager, Infrastructure Services, Service Unit Leader – Waste and Cleansing, Team Leader - Cleansing, Waste Services Liaison Officer and Contracts Officer with Occupational Health & Safety and Environmental Management consultants providing specialist advice.
15. The Tenders were evaluated using Council's Weighted Attributed Value Selection Method. The advertised evaluation criteria and the allocated weightings for evaluation are as follows:

	<b>Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
1	Price	40%
2	Relevant Experience	25%
3	Capability	20%
4	Social Procurement	5%
5	Local Industry	5%
6	Environmental	5%
7	OH&S Systems (Pass / Fail)	Pass / Fail
8	Environmental System (Pass / Fail)	Pass / Fail

16. The Evaluation Criteria 1- 6 are given a point score between 0 (Not Acceptable) and 5 (Excellent) as detailed in the following table:
17. Evaluation Criteria 7 and 8 are given a Pass or Fail via the Rapid Global (Council's Workforce Management Software – Health and Safety Compliance).
18. Tenders were ranked by panel members against each criteria. Points were awarded on a scale 0 to 5 based on the score parameters listed below.

<b>Score</b>	<b>Description</b>
5	Excellent
4	Very Good
3	Good, better than average
2	Acceptable
1	Marginally acceptable (Success not assured)
0	Not Acceptable



19. Each submission was assessed against all evaluation criteria, to ensure that the tenderers met the standards required for Council contractors. A fail in any criterion would automatically exclude tenderers from further consideration for this contract.
20. All submissions were assessed against all the evaluation criteria to ensure that the tenderers met the standards required for Council contractors. The weighted attribute points scores resulting from the assessment are shown in the following table:

Price Points	Price Points	Non-Price Points	Total Score	OH&S	EMS	Rapid Global
Cleanaway	0.38	2.80	3.18	PASS	PASS	Registered & Compliant in Rapid Global
Re.Cycle Operations	1.62	2.71	4.33	PASS	PASS	Registered & Compliant in Rapid Global

**Note:**

***The higher the price score – lower the tendered price.***

***The higher the non-price score – represents better capability and capacity to undertake the service.***

21. Based on the above point scores the evaluation panel agreed that this Contract should be awarded to Re.Cycle Operations Pty Ltd.

**22. Re.Cycle Operations Pty Ltd****The Company:**

- Re.Cycle Operations Pty Ltd was established in 2021, they are an Australian owned company who are part of the Re.Group group of companies that specialise in the recovery and recycling of resources. Their office, their Material Recoverable Facility (MRF) and Glass Beneficiation Plant (GBP) are located in Thomas Murrell Crescent in Dandenong South.
- In 2022 Re.Group acquired the recyclables processing assets from established recycling business, Polytrade Recycling (at the time, Council's contractor for the receiving of recyclables processing services since 2013). Re.Cycle Operations Pty Ltd is registered and compliant in Rapid Global.

**23. Relevant Experience/Track Record**

- Re.Cycle Operations is a proven and capable contractor for the provision of the Receipt of Commingled Recyclables.
- They have been providing all of the services required under this contract to the City of Greater Dandenong under its current entity for 2 years and have provided a very good service during that time.
- Parent company Re.Group is an Australian company that designs, builds, owns, and operates recycling systems. Founded in 2013, Re.Group has rapidly expanded to deepen the impact of recycling work around Australia and New Zealand.
- Re.Group is the parent company of multiple entity groups. This includes Re.Cycle Operations Pty Ltd, Material Recovery Facilities, Re.Grow FOGO Processing, Return-It Container Deposit Schemes and Re.Collect Container Collection.



## Financial Implications

24. This is a Schedule of Rates Contract.
25. The approved annual budget for services associated with this contract is \$2,156,845.00 excluding GST for the financial year 2023/2024 and expected budget for 2024/2025 is \$2,226,942.00.
26. The estimated budget expenditure for this contract over the initial two (2) year term is \$4,383,787.00 (excluding GST).

**Note:**

***Schedule of Rates – A schedule of rates contract is one under which the amount that is payable to the contractor is calculated by applying an agreed schedule of rates to the quantity (tonnage) of commingled recyclables received and processed by the contractor.***

## Social Procurement

### Re.Cycle Operations

27. Re.Cycle Operations are a local City of Greater Dandenong Business.
28. They employ people from social enterprises to work at their depots.
29. Where possible Re.Cycle Operations and its parent company say that they will look to achieve the following objectives for the Dandenong South (MRF) over the next 3 years.
- Spend with Victorian social enterprises:  
 3% of total annual contract spend in year 1  
 4% of total annual contract spend in year 2  
 5% of total annual contract spend in year 3
30. They are committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace that values and respects individuals from all backgrounds.
31. Actively engage with APM employment services, Max Employment, Wise Employment, and disability service providers.
32. They commit to increasing the job readiness and or employment of the long term unemployed and migrant, refugees, and asylum seekers.
33. They have a Workplace Anti-Discrimination Policy.

## Local Industry

34. Re.Cycle Operations have provided the following estimates for local expenditure.

Contractor	LOCAL CONTENT				Other
	Labour	Materials	Plant	Supervision	
<b>Re.Cycle Operations</b>	(56%) \$2.94M	(10%) \$240K	(10%) \$240K	(33%) \$64.5K	Re.Cycle Operations are a local Greater Dandenong company. Their office and Materials Recyclables Facility (MRF) are located in Dandenong South,



## Community and Stakeholder Consultation

35. During the tender evaluation process and in preparation of this report, relevant Council Officers from Council's Operations Centre and Council's Occupational Health & Safety and Environmental Planning were consulted.
36. This matter is not subject to Council's Community Engagement Policy under the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Community Engagement Planning Framework.

## Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

## Conclusion

38. Overview of Re.Cycle Operations Dandenong Material Recyclables Facility (MRF) in Dandenong South has an operational capacity of greater than 450 tonnes per day, historically 120,000 tonnes per annum;
39. Their overall highest score using Council's Weighted Attributed Value Selection Method. This includes the highest score for their lowest and very competitive price per tonne, for the receipt of commingled recyclables and their very good non price scores, reflecting the best value for money for Council;
40. They are a quality endorsed company and have demonstrated extensive management skills and experience operating its receiving, handling, sorting, processing, packaging, and marketing of recyclables at their materials recyclable facility (MRF) in Dandenong South for Council;
41. They have received a very strong result for the Standard Financial and Performance Assessment (Procurement) company check undertaken by Corporate Scorecard;
42. They are registered and compliant in the Rapid Global system (Council's Contractor risk management compliance database);
43. They have received a Pass for their Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S) and Environmental Management Systems;
44. Their cost per tonnes reflects a saving for Council based on their current rate per tonne; and
45. They are a triple certified company with Jas-Anz Certification (Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand, commonly known as JASANZ).



## **Recommendation**

### **That Council:**

- 1. awards Contract No. 2324-05 for the Receipt of Commingled Recyclables to Re.cycle Operations Pty Ltd – ABN 29 656 197 134 for an initial term of two (2) years from 31 March 2024;**
- 2. reserves the option to extend the initial contract term by two (2), twelve (12) month extensions at the sole and absolute discretion of Council; and**
- 3. authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute the contract agreements, any associated documentation with the successful contractor/s and execution of any contract extensions.**

### **MINUTE No.1008**

**Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad**

**Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan**

**That Council defers this item to the Council Meeting to be held on 25 March 2024 so that Council officers can provide further information to Councillors as requested.**

**CARRIED 9 / 0**





## 4.2 POLICY AND STRATEGY

### 4.2.1 Review of Council Policies - Policies for Abolition

**Responsible Officer:** Executive Director Corporate Development

**Attachments:** 1. Policies for Abolition (x 3) [4.2.1.1 - 11 pages]

#### Executive Summary

1. Council policies are in place to ensure accordance with relevant legislation, regulations and best practice. They provide a consistent approach to Council's operational requirements and promote accountability and transparency of Council decisions and actions.
2. Council consistently reviews its organisation policies and recently created a Policy Compliance Register. A significant number of policies have been reviewed and been found to be irrelevant to Council's requirements and/or are superseded and can now be formally abolished.
3. This report recommends that the policies outlined in this report and provided in Attachment 1 be abolished.



## Background

4. Essentially, policies developed by Council are aimed at ensuring good governance and decision-making processes, as well as the effective and efficient management of community resources and the day-to-day business of Council. They help govern how Council operates and provide a clear set of principles that provide a definite direction for Council.
5. Each policy is developed in order to address specific matters and objectives as outlined in the Council Plan 2021-25 or as required by legislation.
6. Existing council policies are subject to an ongoing review process to ensure they remain up-to-date and comply with current legislation. Policies are also reviewed and updated if legislation requires it; or when Council's functions, structure or activities change; or when technological advances or new systems are implemented.
7. Council policies should be read in conjunction with any related legislation, relevant internal policies, codes of practice or guidelines. A Council policy is considered to be automatically revoked upon readoption of the latest version of that policy.
8. When a policy is renamed superseded or replaced by an entirely new policy or is no longer required, it must be formally abolished by resolution of Council.

## Proposal

9. It is proposed that the following policies be abolished for the reasons provided in the table below:

<b>Policy Name</b>	<b>Reason for Abolition</b>
Community Partnerships Funding Policy	This policy was replaced by the Community Grants Program Policy endorsed by Council at its Meeting on 11 December 2023, however the resolution did not include abolition of the superseded policy.
Community Support Grants Policy	This policy was replaced by the Community Grants Program Policy endorsed by Council at its Meeting on 11 December 2023, however the resolution did not include abolition of the superseded policy.
Service Recognition of Mayors and Councillors Policy	This policy is guided by the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Councillor Service Awards and will be made into a procedure that reflects the same conditions outlined in the policy and within the MAV's Service Awards.

## Financial Implications

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

## Community and Stakeholder Consultation

11. Council's Policy Compliance Register is regularly reviewed and evaluated by the Executive Team and Senior Management.



### **Recommendation**

**That the policies outlined in this report and provided in Attachment 1 be abolished and Council's Policy Compliance Register be updated accordingly.**

#### **MINUTE No.1005**

**Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad**

**Seconded by: Cr Sean O'Reilly**

**That the policies outlined in this report and provided in Attachment 1 be abolished and Council's Policy Compliance Register be updated accordingly.**

**CARRIED 9 / 0**



# Greater Dandenong Policy

## Community Partnership Funding Policy

<b>Policy Endorsement:</b>	Endorsement required by Council		
<b>Policies Superseded by this Policy</b>	Not applicable		
<b>Directorate</b>	Community Services		
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Manager Community Wellbeing		
<b>Policy Type</b>	Discretionary		
<b>File Number:</b>	A2055433	<b>Version No:</b>	2
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Adopted by Council</b>	8 July 2013 Minute No.241	<b>Last Adopted by Council:</b>	25 March 2019 Minute No.1004
<b>Review Period:</b>	Three (3) years	<b>Next Review:</b>	March 2022

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to provide a framework for the operation and delivery of the Community Partnership Funding Program.

### 2. Background

Council recognises that fit-for-purpose funding programs can support capacity-building of important local services, support the delivery of projects that contribute to achievement of Councils Plans and Strategies, and provide social and economic benefit to the City of Greater Dandenong. Council also recognises that purpose-built funding programs that create collective action can provide value for money solutions to important issues.

### 3. Scope

This Policy applies to monetary grants provided through the Community Partnership Funding and applies to Council staff, Councillors, grant recipients and other parties that may become involved in the grants process.

### 4. Human Rights and Responsibilities Charter – Compatibility Statement

The aims of this Policy support and uphold the intentions of the Human Rights and Responsibilities Charter.



# Greater Dandenong Policy

## 5. References

- Endorsed at the Ordinary Council Meeting 25 March 2019
- Council Plan 2017-2021
- Community Development Framework November 2015.

## 6. Definitions

The following definitions apply in the reading of this Policy.

Grant	A payment of money by Council to a not-for-profit incorporated association or similar incorporated legal structure for an agreed purpose and subject to conditions.
Community Services	Not-for-profit service organisations, charities or voluntary service groups that provide services to support the community.
School based Community Hubs	Community Hubs based in schools in the City of Greater Dandenong only in relation to grant applications for activities that are not part of core school curriculum and student welfare based.

## 7. Council Policy

### Policy Statement

The Community Partnership Funding Program offers opportunities to a range of non-profit organisations and charities to apply for fit-for-purpose outcomes focused funding to support them build-capacity and deliver important services for the City of Greater Dandenong community.

### Policy Principles

The Policy builds on the Commonwealth Grant Guideline principles (2013), adapting these for the City of Greater Dandenong context:

- Collaboration and partnerships between funder and recipient
- Building-capacity of funded organisations
- Open and accessible funding programs
- Timely and efficient administration processes
- Transparent decision processes and outcomes
- Strategic alignment between funding and Council business
- Measurable outcomes from funded programs.



# Greater Dandenong Policy

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## Program Principles (Community Development Framework)

- Building resilience by identifying the strengths that exist within a community and helping harness these to address issues that affect them (Asset based)
- Focusing on neighbourhoods and places where people meet to identify community needs and understand opportunities for improvement (Place based)
- Involving residents in finding solutions to their needs and helping community leaders to foster positive change in their communities (Needs and outcomes focused)
- Supporting residents' active participation in their local community and encouraging them to work together on common goals (Connecting people)
- Supporting and linking residents together to make a difference in the civic life of their community and developing the skills, knowledge, values, and motivation to make the difference through political and non-political processes (Civic participation)
- Establishing partnerships and relationships with community members and organisations to develop trust and collaboration with council (Partnerships and relationships)
- Helping to secure community funding and resources that support community initiatives (Funding focus)
- Delivering initiatives that are developed in a manner that is respectful of diversity and promotes equity and equal access for all (Access and equity).

## Implementation Principles

- Budget – will be determined by Council through the annual budget process. Sub-category budgets will be determined at an operational level.
- Assessment and Decision making
  - Officers will conduct an eligibility check on all applications received
  - Multi-stakeholder Advisory Panels will assess applications against assessment criteria and make recommendations for funding
  - Funding recommendations and summary rationale for Building-Capacity Grants, Strategic Project Grants and Sponsorships will be presented to Council for final decision and endorsement
  - Reporting to the public after each round on Council's grant website and in the Annual Report.



# Greater Dandenong Policy

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- Conditions
  - Grants are subject to conditions which will be outlined in the grant agreement
  - Advisory Panels may recommend additional conditions for funding
  - Grant recipients will be required to complete period reports and acquit grants, including reporting on expenditure of funds and project outcomes
  - Where grant recipients fail to comply with conditions Council shall take appropriate action, such as designating the organisation as ineligible for further grants or taking action to reclaim funds already paid, dependent on the specific circumstances of the case.
  
- Promotion and Communications
  - The grant program will be widely promoted to ensure program is accessible to all suitable organisations.

## Related Documents

- Community Partnership Funding Guidelines.
- Diversity Access & Equity Policy



# Greater Dandenong Policy

## Community Support Grants Policy

Policy Endorsement:	Council		
Policy Superseded by this Policy	Community Support Grants Policy		
Directorate:	Community Services		
Responsible Officer:	Director of Community Services		
Policy Type:	Discretionary		
File Number:	A6121630	Version No:	3
1 <sup>st</sup> Adopted by Council	25 February 2013 Minute No. 99	Last Adopted by Council:	23 September 2019 Minute No. 1193
Review Period:	3 years	Next Review:	June 2022

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to provide a framework for the operation and delivery of the Community Support Grants Program that is based on good governance and a commitment to building community capacity and promoting self-reliance.

### 2. Background

Council recognises the significant role played by community organisations in providing valuable programs, activities and events that promote healthy community participation. Activities foster social inclusion, community resilience, and an enhancement of residents' health and wellbeing. They celebrate the diversity of the City of Greater Dandenong and promote harmony across the municipality.

Council provides annual funding resources to support, facilitate and encourage these activities through the Community Support Grants Program.

### 3. Scope

This Policy applies to one-off monetary grants of up to \$10,000 provided by Council.

This Policy covers grants provided by Council to individual artists, community groups and organisations through the Community Support Grants Program.

### 4. Human Rights and Responsibilities Charter – Compatibility Statement





# Greater Dandenong Policy

The aims of this Policy support and uphold the intentions of the Human Rights and Responsibilities Charter.

## 5. References

- Previous Community Support Grants Policy - Adopted at the Ordinary Council Meeting 27 April 2015
- Council Plan 2017-21
- Community Development Framework (Current)
- Community Engagement Policy (Current)
- Diversity, Access and Equity Policy (Current)
- Electronic Gaming Policy (Current)
- Disability Policy (Current)
- Language and Communications Policy (Current)
- Commonwealth Grant Guideline Principle (2013)

## 6. Definitions

Not-for-profit	A not-for-profit is an organisation that does not operate for the profit, personal gain or other benefit of particular people (for example, its members, the people who run it or their friends or relatives).
Community Group	Not-for-profit or voluntary groups that receive minimal or no funding to run group activities or programs that provide benefit to members and/or the wider community. Includes groups deemed to be providing services and activities that involve and benefit residents of the City of Greater Dandenong, such as sporting and hobby clubs, seniors' groups, youth groups, children's and family's groups, cultural groups, service clubs, environmental groups, and social support groups (e.g. disability support groups).
Community Service Organisation	Not-for-profit service organisations, charities or voluntary service groups that provide services to support the community.
Community Support Grant	A sum of money given for a specific purpose and subject to conditions including that the money is used for an agreed purpose.
Schools	Primary and secondary schools in the City of Greater Dandenong only in relation to grant applications for activities that are not part of core school curriculum and include the broader community.



# Greater Dandenong Policy

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Local volunteer groups of affiliated government services

Government affiliated local volunteer groups that provide a civic service (such as Country Fire Authority or Victorian State Emergency Services) are eligible for community engagement and awareness raising activities beyond the scope of the Statutory Authority's support.

Individual Artist

An individual artist is defined as a practicing artist who is recognised by their peers, is committed to devoting significant time to artistic activity and/or has a history of public presentation.

## 7. Council Policy

### 7.1 Policy Statement

Council shall make one-off grants available to community groups and individual artists to support innovative and inspiring projects and activities that contribute to a healthy and vibrant community and enhance community capacity.

The policy objective of the Community Support Grants Program is to provide direct and tangible benefit to residents of the City of Greater Dandenong.

### 7.2 Policy Principles

The Policy builds on the Commonwealth Grant Guideline principles (2013), adapting these for the City of Greater Dandenong context. These are:

- Collaboration and partnerships between funder and recipient.
- Building-capacity of funded organisations.
- Open and accessible funding programs.
- Timely and efficient administration processes.
- Transparent decision processes and outcomes.
- Strategic alignment between funding and Council business.
- Measurable outcomes from funded programs.

### 7.3 Program Aims

The aims of the Community Support Grants are consistent with the Greater Dandenong Imagine 2030 Community Plan, the Council Plan and the Community Wellbeing Plan.

The goals of the Community Support Grants are to:

- Contribute to Council's vision and strategic priorities.
- Enhance community capacity in responding to local needs.
- Contribute to improvement of community safety, health and wellbeing.
- Encourage active participation in community life.
- Increase partnership and collaboration.
- Increase intercultural connections, promote understanding and celebrate diversity.



# Greater Dandenong Policy

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- Promote access and inclusion of individuals or groups that may experience exclusion.
- Have the best sustainable outcome for the local community.

## 7.4 Implementation Principles

- Budget
  - Determined by Council through the annual budget process.
  - Allocated over two funding rounds per financial year.
- Funding streams:
  - Community Development
  - Arts, Festival and Events
- Information and Support
  - Grant round information, including opening and closing dates are to be publicly advertised through a range of communication mediums.
  - Applicants are encouraged to review relevant documents.
  - Applicants encouraged to seek support from Council staff prior to developing and submitting an application.
- Assessment and Decision making
  - Officers will conduct an eligibility check on all applications received.
  - Multi-stakeholder Independent Assessment Panels will assess applications against assessment criteria and make recommendations to Council for funding.
  - Public reporting after each round on Council's grant website and in the Annual Report.
  - Conflict of Interest
    - Council employees and Councillors involved in the assessment and/or determination of grant applications must adhere to the requirements detailed in the Code of Conduct for Staff or Councillors. Where an Employee or Councillor believes they have a real or perceived conflict of interest the must contact the Governance Business Unit and complete a Conflict of Interest form.
- Conditions
  - Grant applicants are required to provide evidence to demonstrate good governance in their organisation's management and use of Council funds.
  - Where organisations are unable to demonstrate good governance or risks are identified, Council officers will offer support to identify opportunities and training to improve governance processes before a grant is approved.
  - Grants are subject to conditions which will be outlined in the grant agreement.
  - Assessment Panels may recommend additional conditions for funding.
  - Grant recipients will be required to complete period reports and acquit grants, including reporting on expenditure of funds and project outcomes.
  - Where grant recipients fail to comply with conditions Council shall take appropriate action, such as designating the organisation as ineligible for



# Greater Dandenong Policy

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further grants or taking action to reclaim funds already paid, dependent on the specific circumstances of the case.

- Continuous Improvement
  - Officers will seek to improve program effectiveness and accessibility. Where opportunities to significantly improve the program arise, Council will be notified of any procedural changes.

## 8. Related Documents

- Community Support Grants Program Guidelines
- Community Response Grants Policy
- Community Partnership Funding Policy



# Greater Dandenong Policy

## Service Recognition of Mayors and Councillors

Objective ID:	A37055	Authority:	Council
Directorate:	Corporate Services	Responsible Officer:	Manager Governance & Customer Service
Policy Type:	Discretionary	Version No:	3
1 <sup>st</sup> Adopted by Council	14 September 2009 Minute No. 288	Last Adopted by Council:	9 November 2015 Minute No. 1159
Review Period:	6 months following a general election	Next Review:	May 2017

### 1. Purpose

The City of Greater Dandenong aims to recognise the service provided by Councillors and Mayors to the Greater Dandenong community.

### 2. Background

This Policy gives recognition to Mayors and Councillors that have served the community during each full Council term. Further to this the Policy recognises years of extended service provided by Councillors.

### 3. Scope

All Councillors and Mayors who, after the date of endorsement of this Policy, serve the community of Greater Dandenong will be recognised for the contribution they have made to the City at the end of their Council term and upon completing significant terms of extended service.

Councillors who achieve extended terms of service as a Councillor of 10, 15, 20, 25 or 30 years, including time served with the former City of Dandenong and City of Springvale, will be recognised for long service to the community after their anniversary dates.

### 4. References

- Not Applicable.



# Greater Dandenong Policy

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## 5. Definitions

Not Applicable

## 6. Council Policy

### 1. Retiring Councillors

Retiring Councillors and Councillors not re-elected will be given a letter under seal recognising their service to the Greater Dandenong Community.

### 2. Mayoral Recognition

At the end of each Mayoral term the Mayor will be given their mayoral photo in a frame of their choice to the value of \$500 and a letter under seal as recognition of their leadership to the Council and the community.

### 3. Councillor Recognition

The City of Greater Dandenong will recognise the achievements of the Councillors and Mayors at the end of each full term of Council. A dinner will be held prior to Council entering into caretaker mode in the lead up to Council elections to acknowledge the service of the Council. Each Councillor will be able to invite a guest to share this dinner with them.

Councillors will receive a 200x300mm framed photo of the full Council each year.

### 4. Extended Service

Councillors who complete extended years of service will be recognised with a certificate under seal from Council for each milestone of 10, 15, 20, 25 or 30 years, including time served with the former City of Dandenong and City of Springvale. Total years of service will include the collective number of years served which may comprise consecutive years and/or a compilation over multiple elected terms.

The certificate under seal will be presented to the respective Councillors at a formal meeting of Council by the Mayor. Where the Mayor is the recipient of the letter, it will be presented by the immediate past Mayor.

Recipients of certificates for extended years of services may invite (1) guest to join them for dinner prior to the Council meeting at which they will be presented with their certificate.

## 7. Related Documents

Municipal Association of Victoria - Victorian Councillor Service Awards



## 4.3 OTHER

### 4.3.1 Draft Minutes of Sustainability Advisory Committee Meetings - March to November 2023

**Responsible Officer:** Executive Director City Futures

**Attachments:** 1. Draft Minutes of Sustainability Advisory Committee meetings March 2023 to November 20 [4.3.1.1 - 13 pages]

#### 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 Sustainability Advisory Committee meetings held on 8 March 2023, 3 May 2023, 12 July 2023, 6 September 2023 and 1 November 2023 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 the Community Vision and Council Plan

7. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
  - Sustainable environment.
8. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan
9. 2021-25:
  - A green city committed to a sustainable future.

## Recommendation

**That Council notes the Draft Minutes of the meetings for the Sustainability Advisory Committee as provided in Attachment 1 to this report.**

### MINUTE No.1006

**Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad**

**Seconded by: Cr Sean O'Reilly**

**That Council notes the Draft Minutes of the meetings for the Sustainability Advisory Committee as provided in Attachment 1 to this report.**

**CARRIED 9 / 0**



**Advisory Committee or Reference Group Name:** Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting

**Date of Meeting:** 8 March 2023

**Time of Meeting:** 5.30-7.00pm

**Meeting Location:** Hybrid – in person at Civic Centre (Room 5N1) and Online via Microsoft Teams

**Attendees:** Judith Sise (JS), Jody Bosman (JBJ), Ward Petherbridge (WP), Asher Coleman (AC), Isabelle Nash (IN), Cr. Rhonda Garad (RG), Graeme Pearman (GP), Jess Harrison (JH)

**Apologies:** Brett Jackson (BJ), Steph Karras (SK)

**Guests:** N/A

**Minutes:** Jess Harrison (JH)

Item No.	Item	Action	Action By
1.	<b>Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country</b>	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged Bunurong Country.	JB
2.	<b>Previous Minutes</b>	Minutes confirmed	ALL
3.	<b>Actions Arising</b>	N/A	
4.	<b>Draft Tree Protection Local Law</b>	<p>JB to provide a status update and speak to the Committee regarding the consultation process</p> <p><b>For noting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JB provided an update using presentation.</li> <li>• Message of importance of urban tree canopy cover possibly still hasn't permeated the community</li> <li>• Most concern seems to be around the fee associated with removal, but when considered as part of an overall permit application for development the fee is very minor</li> <li>• However, this is all still up for debate and the survey results will inform this further.</li> <li>• Cert 4 required for staff for enforcement (see policy slide)</li> <li>• Currently 63% oppose a local law</li> <li>• 7.6% are undecided</li> <li>• Could there be different fees for residents/owner occupiers vs developers? i.e. a very small or no fee for residents, very large fee for developers who will benefit and have the cash to spare. JB – the enforcement penalty would hopefully provide the disincentive for developers.</li> <li>• The large fee might be a barrier to entry and would cause people to just say 'never mind' and risk the enforcement fee.</li> <li>• GP – has around 200 trees of this diameter on his property. He feels he already has invested significantly in growing and maintaining the trees. Probably around 50-60% of his property is treed. Mixed feeling about the local law. The intent is fine – we do want more trees and greater coverage. However, it's quite complicated how it filters down to individuals. Around 7 trees have fallen down on his property in the past year and have required significant effort and cost to remove. JB notes that trees that are not structurally sound are exempt from the permit, but it's hard to know until the tree has</li> </ul>	JB

*If the details of the attachment are unclear, please contact Governance on 8571 5235.*



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JB recognised SK’s hard work, dedication and creativity in pulling off such a successful event and thanked her for her efforts.</li> <li>• IN suggested having a main stage and mini stage with alternating music and presentations, rather than a separate talk tent. Alternatively, the face painting stall could be directly next to the talk tent to encourage more people to listen to the presentations next year.</li> </ul> <p><b>For action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JH to share full evaluation document with SAC when completed.</li> </ul>	<p>JB</p> <p>IN</p> <p>JH</p>
8.	<b>Living Links Meeting 24/11/22</b>	<p>Discussion of meeting regarding Heatherton Rd Wetlands with Living Links</p> <p><b>For noting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previous Melbourne Water contact has moved on – BJ received new contact details on Monday this week</li> <li>• BJ will call new contact next week to bring them up to speed</li> <li>• We will then arrange a formal meeting to move this forward.</li> <li>• JS would like to know whether any conversations have been had with the City of Casey regarding an environmental overlay, or co-sponsoring a planning scheme amendment with Melbourne Water to better protect the land.</li> <li>• JS plans to reach out to The Hon. Gabrielle Williams MP again to keep her informed of the project and seek her support.</li> </ul>	<p>JS / JH (on behalf of BJ)</p>
9.	<b>General business</b>	<p><b>For noting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WP noted the ‘Trashed or Treasure’ dumped litter display in Harmony Square</li> <li>• JS would like the issue of single use coffee cups at the Springvale Community Hub to be investigated further, including investigating opportunities to enforce this through lease conditions in the future.</li> </ul> <p><b>For action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JH to further investigate coffee cup issue and report back to JS.</li> </ul>	<p>ALL</p> <p>JH</p>

**Advisory Committee or Reference Group Name:**

Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting

*If the details of the attachment are unclear, please contact Governance on 8571 5235.*

**Date of Meeting:** 3 May 2023  
**Time of Meeting:** 5.30-7.00pm  
**Meeting Location:** Online via Microsoft Teams

**Attendees:** Judith Sise (JS), Ward Petherbridge (WP), Rhonda Garad (RG), Graeme Pearman (GP), Jody Bosman (JB), Brett Jackson (BJ), Steph Karras (SK), Jess Harrison (JH)

**Apologies:** Isabelle Nash (IN), Asher Coleman (AC)

**Guests:** Luke Mullen (LM)

**Minutes:** Steph Karras (SK)

Item No.	Item	Action	Action By
1.	<b>Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country</b>	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged Bunurong Country.	BJ
2.	<b>Previous Minutes</b>	JB and JS confirmed previous minutes	JB / JS
3.	<b>Actions Arising</b>	N/A	
4.	<b>Draft Tree Protection Local Law and Draft Cat Curfew Local Law</b>	<p><b>For noting:</b></p> <p>LM presentation – <b>Cat Curfew:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cat Management Strategy 2022 (10-year plan) put in place, now cat curfew being added as one of a suite of tools to deal with cat overpopulation issue</li> <li>• Focuses: education, community ownership and involvement in issue, financial incentives, stronger laws (curfew and increased trapping capabilities)</li> <li>• Consultation – 356 written submissions received (57% supportive). Type of curfew (46% supported 24 hr, 32% support overnight and 22% not supportive)</li> <li>• Recommendation to Council – implement a 24-hour cat curfew</li> <li>• JS suggested education in primary schools. JB reiterated the education programs will be bespoke. LM noted a key for minority groups would be incentives (i.e. low desexing fees)</li> <li>• RG supported amnesty for those who haven't registered or have been late to register pets in the past (LM noted no existing infringements exist anyway)</li> </ul> <p><b>Tree Protection Local Law:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 226 written submissions (63% support local law)</li> <li>• Recommendations – to proceed with local law</li> <li>• JS wants to see the law stronger – concerned about height minimums and allowance to take down trees that don't belong in the area (feels we can't afford to lose any trees)</li> <li>• JS would like to see the permit fee lowered to \$50 and is concerned about property developments and lack of room for trees</li> <li>• JB – for developers, tree retention sits under the planning scheme not the local law, which is a focus on individuals</li> <li>• BJ – similar to cat curfew, this law is one part of a package of tools including education</li> </ul>	LM

*If the details of the attachment are unclear, please contact Governance on 8571 5235.*

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LM - Replanting requirements are part of the permit</li> <li>WP asked about fines for unlawful tree removal - \$2,000 (penalty units set by state government)</li> <li>JB - Significant tree register has no statutory weight and no additional penalties for removal. Protection comes from trees on heritage register</li> </ul>	
5.	<p><b>Community Climate Change Engagement and Mobilisation Plan (CEMP)</b></p> <p><b>Update and group discussion of consultation approach</b></p>	<p><b>For noting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation to commence on 15 May and run for 6-8 weeks</li> <li>One-page summary of CEMP intention and then a one-page survey</li> </ul> <p><b>For action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SAC to please assist with distribution of CEMP consultation survey. Contact SK or JH for hard copies. Look out for an email on 15 May</li> </ul>	<p>JH</p> <p>ALL</p>
6.	<p><b>Mobile Environmental Education Trailer</b></p> <p><b>Update and group discussion of involvement</b></p>	<p><b>For noting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electric van – either Ford E-Transit or LDV E-Deliver 9 (which will be the first Council EV)</li> <li>SAC will have the opportunity to assist with designing the internal education component. JS would like to assist with this.</li> <li>To be charged at EV charger at CGD Operations Centre. A few more CGD fleet EVs to come also (passenger vehicles)</li> </ul>	JH
7.	<p><b>Gas Transition Feasibility Report</b></p> <p><b>Overview of work completed to date and next steps</b></p>	<p><b>For noting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feasibility of phasing gas out of Council's assets. Support from Council's Executive Team.</li> <li>Findings: Typical gas uses = hot water, kitchen and cooking, space heating (pool usage component to be assessed externally at a later date)</li> <li>Next steps: finalise report (internal only), embed into asset planning and budget processes, source quotes, complete education regarding benefits of electric kitchens use, seek grant fundings where possible</li> </ul>	JH
8.	<p><b>General business</b></p>	<p><b>For noting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JS re Springvale Community Hub café and their overuse of SUPs. Café owners were unavailable to meet with JH. Talks currently happening to strengthen requirements for commercial operators</li> <li>JS re Heatherton Road – BJ no update. BJ having difficulty reaching the ever-changing main contact. JS to reach out to Gabrielle Williams MP, support from BJ</li> <li>GP re rubbish dumping conversations at a recent street catch up he was at, with concerns about Council's perceived lack of action. RG – Council is currently doing a lot of work as part of a wider campaign to address this issue</li> <li>WP believes a significant amount of the dumping comes from small commercial operators (repeat offenders)</li> <li>RG re Biodiversity Action Plan. Upcoming meet up with multiple Council's to discuss setting up biodiversity network</li> <li>RG re SECCCA – would like to see an effective engagement plan so Councillors and the SAC know what the group is working on and achieving</li> </ul> <p><b>For action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information regarding anti-dumping campaign and opportunities for hard waste collection/drop off days to be shared with GP. These notes to also be sent</li> </ul>	JH

*If the details of the attachment are unclear, please contact Governance on 8571 5235.*

		<p>out with next SAC minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New anti-dumping/anti-litter campaign <a href="#">here</a></li><li>• Report dumped rubbish <a href="#">here</a></li><li>• Information about Homecycle (occurring between 13<sup>th</sup> of June and 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2023) <a href="#">here</a></li><li>• Hard rubbish collection information <a href="#">here</a></li></ul>	
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**Advisory Committee or Reference Group Name:**

Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting

*If the details of the attachment are unclear, please contact Governance on 8571 5235.*



		<p>continue to keep the committee updated on any progress.</p> <p><b>For action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JH to request a status update on the soft plastics investigation from the Waste Services team and communicate this back to IN and the committee.</li> </ul>	JH
6.	<b>Climate Changers Forum</b>	<p>JH provided an update on the recent forum held in partnership with Youth Services team.</p> <p><b>For noting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Almost 70 students from 5 secondary schools attended</li> <li>They heard from a youth climate activist, engaged in an environmental leadership workshop and participated in consultation to inform the CEMP</li> <li>IN noted that the timing of delivery of the forum was not ideal as it fell during exams. Additionally, more notice is always better for schools – IN's suggestion is 12 months ideally, but no less than 2 terms.</li> <li>JS noted the primary school environment workshop Council held in 2022 in partnership with CERES was very valuable and suggested running it again – JH noted this could be incorporated into the 2024 Sustainability Festival line up</li> <li>GP noted that 'energy' was not a topic the students had identified as of concern, or where support from Council was required. JH suggested this could be a gap that can be targeted (as energy is one of the biggest opportunities, we have for climate adaptation and mitigation presently). DW noted that the students may not have listed this as a higher priority as they take the transition to renewable energy as a given.</li> </ul>	JH
7.	<b>Sustainability Festival 2024</b>	<p><b>For noting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 2024 Sustainability Festival will be held on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> of February at Dandenong Market.</li> <li>JH shared key learnings from this year, including moving stalls conducting consultation away from the stage, and moving speakers to the main stage instead of having a standalone 'talk tent'.</li> <li>WP asked if the environmental education electric van will be present at the Festival? JH confirmed it will.</li> <li>JS suggested bringing back the Sustainability Awards, particularly for schools and businesses. She also supported the consultation bottle cap 'voting game' used this year.</li> <li>IN suggested a sustainable art competition for primary school students, secondary students and adults, and a vegan baking competition</li> <li>Multiple committee members suggested some kind of short video competition, with screening either at the Festival or on the Dandenong/Springvale big screens.</li> <li>GP noted that this summer is forecast to be the hottest on record, which could affect planning for the Festival. However, it could also be an opportunity to motivate people to take action. JH noted this is a consideration in planning for the Festival, and an interactive urban heat and shade tree installation is being planned to demonstrate the value of trees in passive cooling.</li> </ul>	JH
8.	<b>General business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JS thanked JB (not present) and his team for their work in preparing the Tree Protection Local Law, which was supported at the Council meeting held Monday 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2023.</li> <li>IN echoed JS' thanks and noted she would contact JB directly to ask a question regarding changes to the law. BJ clarified the changes were minor and not material.</li> </ul>	

*If the details of the attachment are unclear, please contact Governance on 8571 5235.*



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• WP asked about electric vehicle chargers at the Dandenong Market – JH noted there should now be two public chargers that are functional (as the charger previously had been very unreliable).</li></ul>	
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**Advisory Committee or Reference Group Name:**

Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting

*If the details of the attachment are unclear, please contact Governance on 8571 5235.*

**Date of Meeting:** 6 September 2023  
**Time of Meeting:** 5.30-7.00pm  
**Meeting Location:** Online via Microsoft Teams

**Attendees:** Judith Sise (JS), Brett Jackson (BJ), Ward Petherbridge (WP), Rhonda Garad (RG), Isabelle Nash (IN), Graeme Pearman (GP), Steph Karras (SK), Jess Harrison (JH)

**Apologies:** Jody Bosman (JB), Asher Coleman (AC)

**Guests:** Darren Wilson (DW)

**Minutes:** Steph Karras (SK)

Item No.	Item	Action	Action By
1.	<b>Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country</b>	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged Bunurong Country.	BJ
2.	<b>Previous Minutes</b>	Moved by GP, seconded by JS.	GP / JS
3.	<b>Actions Arising</b>	N/A	
4.	<b>Community Climate Change Engagement and Mobilisation Plan (CEMP)</b>	<p><b>For noting:</b>                      Summary of consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial constraints and lack of time were the main barriers for people not taking climate action.</li> <li>Motivators for taking climate actions were having a sense of responsibility, protecting future generations and reducing risks to themselves, family and friends.</li> <li>Most people understand how climate change will impact them, and most people are taking some sort of climate action.</li> </ul> <p>Draft 'schools' theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JS felt the introduction was good and this reflects what children think but recognising they do ask everything of schools.</li> <li>DW doesn't want an exhaustive list of indicators.</li> <li>The CEMP is broken down into sectors (instead of environmental themes) so we can be really targeted with our approach. DW is trying to build a business case.</li> <li>Schools example – strong focus on partnership with the Resource Smart Schools Program and have a coordinated approach.</li> <li>JS – many schools are struggling with wellbeing and poverty issues, absorbing all the attention of principals – the basics of school resourcing is under pressure. Importance of getting the CEMP out to schools early Term 4 as this is when school planning commences. Also commented that State Government may want certain additions to the curriculum, but this doesn't necessarily translate into actual school curriculums – it just can't fit.</li> <li>DW said we are also focusing on connecting with schools so that students filter information out to their families.</li> <li>GP spoke about a fundamental flaw of our education system – there is so much information out there, we don't need more but why are schools not accessing this? Sounds like we are facing difficulties getting our education system engaged.</li> </ul>	

*If the details of the attachment are unclear, please contact Governance on 8571 5235.*

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GP used an example of parents learning from their children through their take-home schoolwork.</li> <li>IN noted there are many passionate teachers but the biggest issues are time poor teachers – mental health and behavioural issues in the classroom leads to less time to do planning and seek (or even read!) the resources.</li> </ul> <p><b>For action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SK via JH to send summary on the outcomes of CEMP initial consultation.</li> <li>DW via JH to send updated draft ‘schools’ theme of CEMP.</li> <li>SAC to send any further feedback on the draft ‘schools’ theme structure to DW</li> </ul>	SK / JH DW / JH ALL
5.	<b>Environmental Education E-Van</b>	<p><b>For noting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launch on September 17<sup>th</sup> – Little Day Out at Ross Reserve</li> <li>Is fit-for-purpose for usage for the Sustainability, Waste and Parks teams.</li> <li>Kitted out with storage, fold out picnic tables, awning, solar phone charging.</li> <li>Custom number plate suggestions will be collected at Little Day Out and via Our Bright Green Future e-news.</li> </ul> <p><b>For action:</b> JH to circulate graphic design images of van to SAC.</p>	JH
6.	<b>Sustainability Festival 2024</b>	<p><b>For noting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SK presented</li> <li>RG would like to have someone speak about why climate change is causing heatwaves and hot days, by someone with both the climate knowledge and science communication skills.</li> </ul>	SK
7.	<b>General business</b>	<p><b>For noting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final meeting for the year is Wednesday 1 November, in-person with a dinner and hybrid option.</li> <li>JS asked about the Tree Protection Local Law and BJ noted he would request an update from the Manager Regulatory Services and circulate this back to the Committee.</li> <li>JS asked for an update on the SCH café single use plastic cups – BJ noted officers responsible for the leasing are well aware of this issue and will update the Committee in due course.</li> </ul> <p><b>For action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BJ to send update on Tree Protection Local Law to the Committee.</li> <li>JH to send list of soft plastic drop off points to SAC.</li> </ul>	BJ JH

**Advisory Committee or Reference Group Name:**

Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting

*If the details of the attachment are unclear, please contact Governance on 8571 5235.*

**Date of Meeting:** 1 November 2023  
**Time of Meeting:** 5.30-7.00pm  
**Meeting Location:** Hybrid – in person at Dandenong Civic Centre and Online via Microsoft Teams

**Attendees:** Judith Sise (JS), Ward Petherbridge (WP), Graeme Pearman (GP), Steph Karras (SK), Jody Bosman (JB), Brett Jackson (BJ), Jess Harrison (JH)

**Apologies:** Asher Coleman (AC), Rhonda Garad (RG), Isabelle Nash (IN)

**Guests:** Darren Wilson (DW)

**Minutes:** Steph Karras (SK)

Item No.	Item	Action	Action By
1.	<b>Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country</b>	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged Bunurong Country.	BJ
2.	<b>Previous Minutes</b>	Previous minutes were accepted and taken as read.	ALL
3.	<b>Actions Arising</b>	N/A	
4.	<b>Draft Community Climate Change Engagement and Mobilisation Plan (CEMP) update</b>	<p><b>For noting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The draft CEMP is currently being reviewed internally</li> <li>Many of the actions focus on utilising existing local connections and networks to effectively target a wider audience</li> <li>GP, JS and DW discussed the importance of equipping teachers with the knowledge to be able to teach about climate change, noting it's really the entire education system that needs to be changed to appropriately include climate change in the curriculum. This is where advocacy is important</li> <li>CEMP is currently scheduled for presentation to the Executive Team in December</li> </ul>	DW
5.	<b>Sustainability Festival 2024 – community EOIs</b>	<p><b>For noting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The community are invited to run their own sustainability activity or event during February as part of the Sustainability Festival.</li> <li>EOI forms can be found at <a href="#">Greater Dandenong Sustainability Festival   Greater Dandenong Council</a></li> </ul> <p><b>For action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please share the Sustainability Festival EOI with anyone in the community who might like to run an event during February 2024</li> </ul>	SK  ALL
6.	<b>End of terms and next steps</b>	<p><b>For noting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All members' terms have now expired</li> <li>An anonymous survey seeking your feedback on the Sustainability Advisory Committee and ideas for the future will be circulated shortly.</li> </ul> <p><b>For action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please complete the Sustainability Advisory Committee survey to be circulated by JH</li> </ul>	
7.	<b>General business</b>	<p><b>For noting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After 21 years JB will be finishing with Greater Dandenong Council in February 2024. All members thanked JB for his service and passion, and wished</li> </ul>	ALL

*If the details of the attachment are unclear, please contact Governance on 8571 5235.*

		<p>him good luck on his future endeavours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The environmental education e-van made its first public debut at Halloween in the Park and was well received by the community. JH will organise a time for interested committee members to view the van (likely in early 2024)</li> </ul> <p><b>For action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JH to organise a time for the committee members to view the e-van.</li> </ul>	<p>JH</p>
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*If the details of the attachment are unclear, please contact Governance on 8571 5235.*



### 4.3.2 List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors

**Responsible Officer:** Executive Director Corporate Development  
**Attachments:** 1. Correspondence Received 19 February - 1 March 2024  
[4.3.2.1 - 2 pages]

#### Executive Summary

1. Subsequent to past Council resolutions in relation to the listing of registered incoming correspondence addressed to the Mayor and Councillors, Attachment 1 to this report provides a list of this correspondence for the period 19 February – 1 March 2024.

#### Recommendation

**That the listed items for the period 19 February – 1 March 2024 provided in Attachment 1 to this report be received and noted.**

#### MINUTE No.1007

**Moved by: Cr Loi Truong**  
**Seconded by: Cr Angela Long**

**That the listed items for the period 19 February – 1 March 2024 provided in Attachment 1 to this report be received and noted.**

**CARRIED 9 / 0**

# Objective

CONNECTED. COLLABORATIVE. COMMUNITY.

## Correspondences addressed to the Mayor and Councillors received between 19/02/24 & 01/03/24 - for officer action - total = 2

Correspondence Name	Correspondence Dated	Date Record Created	Objective ID	User Currently Assigned
A request to the Mayor for a meeting from the CEO of Ability Works Australia to discuss the work conducted by the organisation in Greater Dandenong.	16-Feb-24	19-Feb-24	fA309004	Mayor & Councillors
An invitation to the Mayor from Chandler Park Primary School to attend an assembly to present student leaders with their badges.	19-Feb-24	19-Feb-24	fA309026	Mayor & Councillors

NB: Users assigned may have changed by the time of the Council Meeting. Correct at time of report production only.

## Objective

CONNECTED. COLLABORATIVE. COMMUNITY.

### Correspondences addressed to the Mayor and Councillors received between 19/02/24 & 01/03/24 - for information only - total = 5

Correspondence Name	Correspondence Dated	Date Record Created	Objective ID	User Currently Assigned
A letter to the Mayor from Comms Declare asking Council to consider a ban on fossil fuel advertising on council-owned land and at council-sponsored events.	24-Feb-24	24-Feb-24	A10684263	Mayor & Councillors
A letter to the Mayor from the Minister for Planning/Minister for Suburbs regarding Victoria's Housing Statement and the creation of a dedicated case management service.	27-Feb-24	27-Feb-24	A10699369	Mayor & Councillors
An invitation to the Mayor from the Mauritian Golden Age Club to attend its Mothers' Day Celebration in May 2024.	29-Feb-24	01-Mar-24	A10703899	Mayor & Councillors
An invitation to the Mayor from Sikh Volunteers Australia Inc. to attend the Vaisakhi Celebrations/Volunteer Appreciation Day and Kitchen Facility Inauguration in April 2024.	29-Feb-24	01-Mar-24	A10703950	Mayor & Councillors
A request to the Mayor from RISE (Refugee Survivors and Ex-Detainees) to meet and consider a RISE proposal to establish a permaculture farm.	01-Mar-24	01-Mar-24	A10705559	Mayor & Councillors

NB: Users assigned may have changed by the time of the Council Meeting. Correct at time of report production only.





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## 5 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.



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## 6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

### Comment

#### Cr Rhonda Garad

It was pleasing to see the shade sales up at Westwood Boulevard Reserve, Keysborough on the weekend. The concept plan is almost complete, and it is looking fabulous. In the last 3 years, Council has planted 70 perimeter trees, installed new shade sales, a new nature play area with flagstone seating, an exercise station, a public toilet, a picnic table shelter, an upgrade to the basketball court, new concrete paths and resurfacing of the kick-around area. It is great to see.

### Question

#### Cr Rhonda Garad

Can Council provide information whether the Greater Dandenong City Council has significant business relations with Serbia that would necessitate direct personal contact with the Serbian Ambassador in Canberra?

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**Cr Bob Milkovic and Cr Loi Truong left the Chamber at 7.48 pm.**

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### Response

#### Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

Council has some relationships with Serbia, but no more than any other community that we have. We do not have any specific business with them.

### Question

#### Cr Rhonda Garad

Given the critical need for weather protection for our residents and the existing contract limitations with Greater Dandenong, has Council considered implementing temporary, cost-effective, and relocatable bus shelters as an interim solution? If such options have not been explored, could you explain the reasons?

Have we consulted Gabrielle Williams MP for Dandenong on this issue, given that she is the Minister for Public and Active Transport?

### Response

#### Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

We continue to advocate for bus shelters. It has been an issue that is important to this Council, and it is the State Government's responsibility to supply the bus shelters. It continues to be an issue that we are working on. I am happy to provide further details on specific advocacy at a future meeting.

### Question

#### Cr Rhonda Garad

So there has been no outcome for any advocacy to this point on that issue?



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## Response

### **Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer**

I believe the State Government has some financial constraints. There are a lot of councils that have been requesting bus shelters, and they do not have the financial capacity currently. I would not suggest that the quality of the advocacy has reflected in the lack of funding.

## Comment

### **Cr Rhonda Garad**

There is no casting of assertions on the quality of the advocacy at all. I am just saying there has been no outcome, so we are back to over three (3) years without any new bus shelters.

## Question

### **Cr Rhonda Garad**

Reflecting on the community's significant safety concerns regarding pedestrian crossing on Perry Road, Keysborough and the Council's previous commitment to seek Victorian Government support. What feedback or progress has been achieved following the formal request to Tim Richardson MP and other relevant MP's for funding the project?

## Response

### **Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer**

We will take the advocacy element of the question on notice.

## Further response

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

We have done some advocacy, and the State Government advised of grant funding opportunities, so we worked with them on that. Perry Road, Keysborough was not eligible for this funding, the primary reason given to us is that there were no accidents on that road. We continue to work with them to advocate further on that.

## Question

### **Cr Rhonda Garad**

Considering the importance of this issue, why does it not appear on our current CGD advocacy list as indicated on the Council's website? Can you please advise where their current designs and cost estimates are located as they were listed on the website a year ago?

Has there been any public consultation on those designs? I am not aware of any public consultation. Is it planned to invite the public to consult around the placement of that pedestrian crossing?

## Response

### **Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer**

Thank you for the feedback around advocacy, we will take it on board. Andrew Foley, Executive Director Corporate Development and his team will review that. The rest of your question will be taken on notice.

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**Cr Bob Milkovic returned to the Chamber at 7.53 pm.**



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## **Comment**

### **Cr Angela Long**

On Wednesday 28 February 2024, I attended the 39<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Italo/Spanish Club lunch.

On Friday 1 March 2024, I attended the soccer match between Dandenong City and Oakleigh Cannons, it ended in a draw with one (1) goal each.

On Wednesday 6 March 2024, I attended the Payne's "Courageous Me" presentation at the Drum Theatre, Dandenong.

On Thursday 7 March 2024, I attended the Napoli Family Club's 34<sup>th</sup> Anniversary lunch.

On Friday 8 March 2024, I attended the International Women's Day breakfast hosted by Greater Dandenong and Killester College at Springvale City Hall.

On Saturday 9 March 2024, I attended the premier cricket women's first eleven final, Melbourne Vs Prahan. Hosted by Dandenong Cricket Club, Melbourne won 259 to 96.

## **Question**

### **Cr Jim Memeti**

Last week Council sent letters to residents advising them of the Off-Leash Dog Park that is proposed at Keneally Street Reserve, Dandenong. We have received an email from a resident saying that they have concerns that there will be no fencing for the dog park, so that the dogs can run off to where the creek is and could easily drown. Has Council thought about that?

## **Response**

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

Question taken on notice. Please forward that email and we will work with that resident.

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**Cr Loi Truong returned to the Chamber at 7.56 pm.**

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## **Comment**

### **Cr Sophie Tan**

On Saturday 2 March 2024, I attended the Noble Park Community Fun Day, formally known as the Noble Park Big Day Out. Congratulations to the community, we had approximately 5500 people in attendance. Thank you to the State Government and Noble Park Revitalisation Board for contributing funding. Thank you to the Greater Dandenong Youth Services, Council staff and volunteers.

On Sunday 3 March 2024, it was Clean Up Australia Day. I attended the clean-up at Noble Park Activity Centre. The centre is a lot cleaner now. Thank you to our Council staff for doing great job.

## **Question**

### **Cr Sophie Tan**

How often are the public toilets cleaned on Douglas Street, Noble Park?

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**Response**

**Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures**

Question taken on notice.

**Question**

**Cr Sophie Tan**

A resident in Noble Park has on multiple occasions reported fallen tree branches from the storm a couple of weeks ago to Council with no response. Can this please be followed up?

**Response**

**Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures**

Question taken on notice

**Question**

**Cr Tim Dark**

The road surface on Warragamba Court, Keysborough has been washed away to the point where it is just gravel. Residents had previously put through a request for resurfacing and an area of 3 metres long by 1 meter wide was all that was resurfaced. Since then, the disintegration of the road has picked up quite a bit. Can we please look at what the options are or get it resurfaced?

**Response**

**Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures**

I have asked the team to inspect that road. Once the inspection report comes back, we will make those decisions.

**Question**

**Cr Tim Dark**

Cr Rhonda Garad and I have received correspondence about Koala Court, Keysborough regarding flooding issue. There seems to be an issue with the underlying infrastructure between Corrigan Road and Kingsclere Avenue, where a lot of water gets held during weather events. When there is a significant downpour, there are issues with the amount of water that is unable to move away. Have we done any flood modelling regarding the holding of watering in Barrington Close, Warragamba Court, and Koala Court, Keysborough? Are there options to add an additional pit to hold water if there is a bit of rain?

**Response**

**Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures**

I am aware of this matter. Council staff are investigating the drainage capacity. Melbourne Water have commenced the flood modelling process. We will work with them to understand the flood mapping for our entire area, which would help us plan for the future.

**Question**

**Cr Tim Dark**

I noticed this week the lights being installed at Rowley Allan Reserve, Keysborough. Can you please advise what the estimated time frame is for the activation of the lights and when they are planning on being commissioned?



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**Response**

**Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures**

Question taken on notice.

**Comment**

**Cr Tim Dark**

Over the weekend the Coomoora Cricket Club held the turf 3 finals against Berwick Springs. When I first met them, they were a club that were working on growing the membership and also being able to compete within the leagues. Council has invested heavily in infrastructure at the Coomoora Reserve. From that, they have been able to grow their membership quite significantly. They played Berwick Springs at Rowley Allan Reserve, Keysborough and were fortunate to become the turf 3 divisional premiers. I know the club is very ecstatic and speaking to a couple members, they are very happy. The benefit also being that Rowley Allan Reserve was able to host it. The cafeteria made quite a bit of money and a lot of it was thanks to the infrastructure that Council put in. Thank you to all the Directors involved.

**Question**

**Cr Jim Memeti**

Glasscocks Road, Dandenong South has not been sealed properly. I have had many businesses contact me today regarding the dust that goes onto their property and into their offices. It is costing them a lot of money to get the dust cleaned off. When will the road be fully sealed?

**Response**

**Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures**

We have a schedule for that but need to look at our asset management system and get back to you.

**Comment**

**Cr Jim Memeti**

I would like to give a big shout out to the two (2) local football clubs in the National Premier League (NPL). Dandenong City and Dandenong Thunder will be playing Friday 15 March 2024 in the local derby. I urge as many people as possible to attend. It is the biggest sporting event within our City. Good luck to both teams and I hope it is a great game.

I would like to wish our community who are practising Islam, Ramadan Kareem.

Congratulations to Cr Loi Truong on celebrating 15 years of service in the City of Greater Dandenong. It has been great working with you.

**Comment**

**Cr Angela Long**

At the upcoming Dandenong City vs Dandenong Thunder match, there might not be any spectators for this game due to rioting in the past.



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### **Comment tabled**

#### **Cr Richard Lim OAM, Deputy Mayor**

On Thursday 29 February 2024, I attended the Nazareth College Ceremony Mass & Blessing for the opening of the Food Technology, Media, Maker Space & Auditorium Lift.

On Saturday 2 March 2024, I attended the Big Walk for Refugees: Walking the Spirit of Enterprise Trail.

On Sunday 3 March 2024, I attended the Walk for Monash Children's Hospital to raise funds. Approximately 2000 people attended. Later that day, I attended the Clean up Australia Day with Mayor Lana Formoso and her family.

On Monday 4 March 2024, I attended a meeting with the Business Victoria Team. Later that day, I had a meeting about the Springvale Chamber of Commerce.

On Wednesday 6 March 2024, I attended the Victorian Afghan Student's Association birthday celebration, and received a donation of \$1,000.00 for Monash Children's Hospital. Later that day, I attended the South East Business Networks International Women's Day celebration at the Drum Theatre, Dandenong. I also attended the Labour Multicultural Launch in Melbourne.

On Friday 8 March 2024, I attended the International Women's Day breakfast hosted by CGD and Killester College. Later that day, I attended St. Anthony's Noble Park annual Harmony Day Celebration on behalf of our Council. I also attended the Noble Park Community Centre celebration of the Arts Awards (2024 Australia Day Award recipients).

On Sunday 10 March 2024, I attended the An-Nur Foundation Charity Festival with Mayor Lana Formoso. Later that day, I attended the Armenian-Australians Community Festival.

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**Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer tabled a listing of responses to questions taken on notice/requiring further action at the previous Council meeting. A copy of the responses is provided as an attachment.**

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## 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
26/02/24 CQT5	Cr Rhonda Garad	<p><b>Contract renewal with Polytrade</b> There have been recent reports where staff health and safety has been severely compromised. Will you be assessing those reports before you renew the contract?</p>	Executive Director Corporate Development	29/02/2024	<p><b>Initial response provided 26/02/24:</b> Question taken on notice. I am not aware of any recent reports.</p> <p><b>Further response provided 29/02/24:</b> As advised at the meeting, PolyTrade was acquired by Re.Group Pty Ltd in 2022.</p> <p>Our OHS team undertook further inquiries regarding the safety performance of ReGroup in the last 6 months. They were unable to identify any evidence of significant OHS related issues during this time.</p> <p>We also confirm that the business has the following current certifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ISO 45001:2018 OH&amp;S Management System</li> <li>• ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System</li> <li>• ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management System.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>COMPLETED</b></p>
26/02/24 CQT7	Cr Rhonda Garad	<p><b>Why is the Notice of Motion process not being followed regarding the model which should be finalised through a co-design process?</b></p> <p>Thank you for that response but it did not answer my substantive question, which is why the process is not following the NoM, which stipulated that the concept design would be finalised through a co-</p>	Executive Director Community Strengthening	12/03/2024	<p><b>Initial response provided 26/02/24:</b> Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening will respond to that in writing.</p> <p><b>Further response provided 12/03/24:</b> I understand that some members have requested additional workshops.</p> <p>We are also awaiting a report from the facilitator and architect on the outcomes of the</p>



Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
		design process. I would like that answer in writing.			<p>process so far and any further refinement required, noting this is a concept design process, not detailed design.</p> <p>Once all of that information is available, officers will prepare a report for council outlining outcomes, and recommended next steps, which may include further co-design sessions and/or consultation.</p> <p>Once confirmed this information will be relayed to all workshop participants and communicated via the project page at Council's website.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>COMPLETED</b></p>
26/02/24 CQT8	Cr Bob Milkovic	<p><b>Toilet roof at Tirhatuan Park, Dandenong North repair timeline</b></p> <p>In the recent storm it appears that part of the roof has been knocked down in Tirhatuan Park, Dandenong North and is now fenced off. Council provided some portable toilets. Can I please have an update or timeline as to when the roof will be reinstated and the facility put back in operation?</p>	Executive Director City Futures	01/03/2024	<p><b>Initial response provided 26/02/24:</b></p> <p>Question taken on notice.</p> <p><b>Further response provided 01/03/24:</b></p> <p>The recent storm caused substantial damage to the roof and veranda of the public toilet block but not the structural walls of the building. The ladies cubicles were damaged but the men and disabled toilets are still operational. The site was made safe and barricaded following the storm damage.</p> <p>Two portable toilets have since been provided for the public use until repairs are complete. The portable toilets are cleaned every Mondays and Fridays.</p> <p>Quotes are still being arranged and the work is expected to take between 6 to 8 weeks to complete.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>COMPLETED</b></p>

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
26/02/24 CQT9	Cr Bob Milkovic	<p><b>Boardwalk/s disrepair at Tirhatuan Park, Dandenong North</b> At Tirhatuan Park, Dandenong North there are a couple of boardwalks that need repair due to failing nails or screws. This is becoming unsafe as the boards are uneven. Can the relevant officer have this investigated and fixed so that it is safe for use?</p>	Executive Director City Futures	06/03/2024	<p><b>Initial response provided 26/02/24:</b> Question taken on notice.</p> <p><b>Further response provided 06/03/24:</b> Council conducts bi-annual inspections of all bridges and boardwalks within the municipality. The boardwalks in Tirhatuan Park were last inspected on the 8 February 2024 and a number of minor defects (loose fixings) were identified during these inspections.</p> <p>Works to rectify these have already been programmed and will be completed by the end of March 2024.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>COMPLETED</b></p>
26/02/24 CQT10	Cr Tim Dark	<p><b>Storage of tyres at the rear of 7-11 Kingsclere Avenue, Keysborough</b> A resident has raised an issue that I have previously brought to Council about the 7-Eleven on the corner of Cheltenham Road and Kingsclere Avenue, Keysborough. There is a stockpile of tyres and overgrown grass at the back between the 7-Eleven and the tyre centre. These tyres have been stockpiling for quite some time, getting close to residential houses. The resident has contacted 7-eleven with no response. They have contacted Council and also had no response.</p> <p>They very concerned, given recent hot weather about the potential for a fire to start amongst the dry grass and the tyres causing a hazard. Is Council aware of</p>	Executive Director City Futures	06/03/2024	<p><b>Initial response provided 26/02/24:</b> Question taken on notice.</p> <p><b>Further response provided 06/03/24:</b> Council officers have previously attended at the Complete Tyre and Auto business in 2022 in regard to excess tyre storage. As a result, Council and EPA intervention reduced the stockpile to an acceptable level.</p> <p>An officer attended at the business on 5 March 2024 and found that the scrap tyres were stored in bunded area. No further breaches were detected.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>COMPLETED</b></p>

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
		this situation and what can be done to rectify it?			
26/02/24 CQT11	Cr Tim Dark	<p><b>Reopening date of park at Colchester Court, Keysborough</b> Colchester Court Reserve has been closed with the recent wild weather. There have been calls from residents who had plans to have kids birthday parties there. I understand there are still large branches and debris at that location. Can an update be provided on when the playground is predicted to reopen and the park cleared up?</p>	Executive Director City Futures		<p><b>Initial response provided 26/02/24:</b> I will follow that up tomorrow. We are still dealing with a significant backlog of branches and issues since the storm. I encourage people to use Snap Send Solve to report these issues so that we can get them resolved quickly.</p> <p><b>FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED</b></p>
26/02/24 CQT13	Cr Tim Dark	<p><b>Bus shelter contract &amp; advocacy</b> There is a severe lack of bus shelters within our municipality. You often see people hiding under trees on Perry Road, Keysborough due to the heat. It might be worthwhile if we are able to vary the bus shelter contract and what potential options there are to ensure that there is enough coverage. It appears to me that that oOh! Media has got full media coverage. There always seems to be some level of advertising, which in turn tells me that there is profitability in it. I think that we could be having conversations with oOh! Media and the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) about ways that we can acquire additional shelter without either contravening the contract or varying the contract to add more.</p>	Executive Director City Futures	08/03/2024	<p><b>Initial response provided 26/02/24:</b> I will follow up with the DTP to understand if there is anything that we can do. If you have specific examples of locations, please send them to me, I could work with them to identify other solutions. We can look at the broader shelter contract as well.</p> <p><b>Further response provided 08/03/24:</b> DTP uses touch on data for any new bus shelters required within a route. If you have any specific location, you want us to explore for a new bus shelter please let me know. I am happy to work to DTP on that matter.</p> <p><b><u>Responsibility for Bus Stop and Shelter Infrastructure</u></b> The Road Management Act 2004 clearly identifies the relevant authority for providing bus stop infrastructure as the Head of Transport Victoria. The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) delivers on behalf of the Head of Transport Victoria, in consultation with the relevant road authority</p>

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
					<p>(Council). This means the DTP is responsible for and has the authority to install, maintain or remove infrastructure at bus stops under the Road Management (RM) Act. In practice this is done in consultation with local government. It does not prevent road managers installing their own infrastructure at a bus stop; however, the RM Act requires the infrastructure must comply with the DTP's guidelines.</p> <p><b><u>The City of Greater Dandenong's Contract with oOh! Media</u></b>                      The CGD's contract with OM includes a shelter advertising exclusivity clause. The clause prevents DTP from installing advertising shelters and therefore accessing revenue to fund its program. The DTP has stated it would be unfair to other councils to provide shelters within CGD without access to the advertising revenue.</p> <p>The reason being CGD is already using the advertising revenue from shelters to fund CGD's contract with OM. This means DTP cannot access shelter advertising revenue from within CGD to fund the shelters and the revenue would be generated from DTP advertising shelters in other councils (who aren't able to access this revenue source for their own municipalities).</p> <p><b><u>CGD and DTP Memorandum of Understanding</u></b>                      Council officers negotiated with the DTP and signed a MoU which will take effect as soon as the current contract with oOh! Media expires in late 2026. In terms of the MoU, all compliant CGD Council 'owned' shelters will be gifted to DTP for onward maintenance etc. In</p>

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
					<p>acknowledgement, as part of the MoU, DTP provided six new shelters. As part of the negotiation, it was made absolutely clear no additional shelters would be provided until CGD signs onto the DTP program in 2026.</p> <p><b><u>Scrutiny of the Existing Contract Between CGD and oOh! Media</u></b>                      Between 2019 and the end of 2021, Council officers reviewed the OM contract and exhausted options to resolve the current shelter supply issues. As the contract is clearly written and OM were willing to openly discuss options with Council officers, this has not required legal assistance. This scrutiny included exploring whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early contract cancellation was possible. Unfortunately, this would require a significant compensation (\$m's) from Council to OM.</li> <li>• Providing an exemption in the (CGD/OM) contract for the DTP to install advertising shelters. This would allow DTP a potential to get advertising funding from within CGD to support funding new CGD shelters.</li> <li>• Installing new shelters under the contract (CGD/OM).                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ OM advise they do not wish to install any new advertising or non-advertising shelters in Greater Dandenong at this time.</li> <li>○ Council currently has no budget item to fund new shelters + the on-going maintenance fees.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
					<p><b><u>The Department of Transport &amp; Planning's Contract with oOh! Media</u></b>  The DTP has a contract with oOh! Media (OM) which provides for the installation of shelters and their ongoing maintenance funded by the advertising revenue the DTP obtains from shelters. Following a recent tender, a new 10-year contract between the DTP and OM commenced on 1 March 2024.</p> <p>In order for the DTP to install any shelter within a participating council's municipal area, the DTP arranges a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with councils, as the road manager. The MoU clarifies further the roles, responsibilities, obligations, etc. not clearly outlined in the RM Act. The DTP then works with Council's to identify priority locations for the DTP's consideration for installing shelters.</p> <p><b><u>Exploring oOh! Media's Appetite to Review Previously Explored Options (given their new contract with the DTP).</u></b>  There may be potential to re-engage with OM regarding the option to provide a DTP advertising exemption now they have a contract with DTP beyond the CGD contract expiry date. Council officers will consider approaching DTP and/or OM in the next few weeks once the new contract has had time to go into effect and any changes be worked out behind the scenes.</p> <p><b><u>Alternative Mitigation for Heat Exposure</u></b>  As this issue is being considered in relation to bus users' potential exposure to adverse weather conditions (heat / rain), a risk management approach to reducing this exposure needs to be considered. As part of</p>

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
					<p>the Victorian Climate Strategy, the Building Victoria's Climate Resilience strategy identifies the need to "support passenger safety and wellbeing during heatwaves". Bus shelters are one solution, however are dependent on their specific location, orientation, and time of day to effectively provide shade and will not protect from radiant heat over an extended period. The DTP has support programs for vulnerable public transport users when travelling which could be improved, expanded and/or promoted. There is also the ability to reduce exposure with more frequent services or better real-time information (informing when to leave for the stop) which can mean shorter wait times. The Victorian Bus Reform is also looking at other supporting transport services which could be provided and may be an appropriate alternative for some vulnerable bus users.</p> <p>We appreciate the matter is relatively complex and trust both the information previously circulated by Daniel, along with the above information assist with clarifying the current situation, restrictions and opportunities.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>COMPLETED</b></p>
26/02/24 CQT14	Cr Tim Dark	<p><b>Does DoT or GDCC have final say over execution of contract and bus shelters</b></p> <p>Does the DTP have oversight over what is signed in terms of the contracts? Or is Greater Dandenong City Council (GDCC) the lead proponent of the allocation of where they are being placed with oOh! Media as final approval? We have significant issues having correspondence</p>	Executive Director City Futures	08/03/2024	<p><b>Initial response provided 26/02/24:</b></p> <p>I need to look at the contract details. In general, what normally happens is the DTP would have more oversight and Council would be providing support. I will provide a further update.</p> <p><b>Further response provided 08/03/24:</b></p> <p>Response as above in question 13.</p>

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
		with the DTP. If I cannot get them to mow some grass, I would find them being able to execute a substantial contract with bus shelters even harder than that. I would like to see what GDCC's power is in relation to these contracts.			<b>COMPLETED</b>
26/02/24 CQT15	Cr Tim Dark	<b>Has legal advice been sought on this contract</b> When I requested the contract, I was told it was commercial confidence and now the Director, who told me it was commercial confidence, is saying that they have not looked at the contract himself. Have we sought legal advice regarding this contract, and what is the feedback from that, particularly given the substantial impact that this is having?	Executive Director City Futures	08/03/2024	<b>Initial response provided 26/02/24:</b> Question taken on notice.  <b>Further response provided 08/03/24:</b> Response as above in question 13.  <b>COMPLETED</b>
26/02/24 CQT17	Cr Richard Lim OAM	<b>Continuing usage of QR codes in SAC</b> I have been asked many questions about Revitalising Springvale. I am aware the QR code for suggestions has already been closed but can we continue to use this QR Code until the end of February? Kevin Van Boxtel said that it could continue to the end of the month but if officers do not present to Council by the end of the month, can we continue past February? Business owners are really interested as some have not been aware of it up until recently.	Executive Director City Futures	06/03/2024	<b>Initial response provided 26/02/24:</b> Question taken on notice.  <b>Further response provided 06/03/24:</b> Council undertook two rounds of community consultation to develop the draft Springvale Revitalisation Action Plan (SRAP) over the last 18 months.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Round 1 of the consultation creatively explored key issues, opportunities, and ideas for Springvale through a series of face-to-face workshops, drop-in sessions and via online engagement.</li> <li>• Round 2 provided a platform for Council officers to present back the development themes and key moves as</li> </ul>



Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
					<p>per the feedback received from the broader community.</p> <p>The draft document was exhibited for 28 days as per the legislative requirement and officers are confident that we have engaged thoroughly on the plan, and it is now ready for final adoption by Council.</p> <p>Officers will continue to engage with the community post adoption of the SRAP through Social Pinpoint (we were awaiting broad Council licensing before this can occur), The City and in person engagement as we progress through the design and development of the priority place activation projects.</p> <p>An online portal on Revitalise Springvale Landing page will be live once social pinpoint is live across the organisation, this will enable further community engagement. Targeted consultations aligned with actual projects, will further provide the community ongoing opportunities to help reshape Springvale.</p> <p>A Councillor Briefing Session is scheduled for the 18th March and a report to Council is likely to be considered in early April.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>COMPLETED</b></p>
26/02/24 CQT18	Cr Jim Memeti	<b>Assistance with infringement notices</b> Residents are contacting me when they receive an infringement notice. Previously, I would recommend they visit	Chief Executive Officer	05/03/2024	<b>Initial response provided 26/02/24:</b> Question taken on notice. It is the first I have heard that there has been a change in approach. I will investigate and advise

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
		<p>the Council office to complete a form detailing why they should not receive an infringement notice. Normally, somebody might help them, I am not sure how they help them. However, now they cannot get a form. They must do it online. To about 60 % of our community this is nearly impossible.</p> <p>My parents would have no idea how to get onto a computer and the Council webpage and fill in an infringement notice form. This is just not working. I keep on sending people to the Council. Unfortunately, Jo Thorn (Executive Assistant to Mayor and Councillors) has been taking on a few, but I cannot keep on sending them to her. Is there something Council can do at the customer service desk? Is there an opportunity? Is there a spare staff member to help people? We have a time frame on things like infringements. Is there some sort of strategy where we can help our constituents to be able to fill that form in? There might be other forms that I am not aware of that are now online. I think we need to look at this being a very culturally diverse municipality. This is a disadvantage in our community.</p>			<p>Councillors. Thank you for bringing it to our attention.</p> <p><b>Further response provided 05/03/24:</b> Council's customer service has paper forms and are happy to help assist where needed anytime.</p> <p>An appeal can be placed either online or in paper form (which can be collected from customer service centres). Residents also have the option to write the appeal in letter form (as long as they include their details and infringement number in the letter) or they can email councils generic email address.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>COMPLETED</b></p>
26/02/24 CQT19	Cr Jim Memeti	<p><b>Update on new off leash park in Keneally Street, Dandenong</b> There is a new off leash dog park in Keneally Street, Dandenong, which I am looking forward to. Is there an update on when that is going to start?</p>	Executive Director City Futures	05/03/2024	<p><b>Initial response provided 26/02/24:</b> Question taken on notice.</p> <p><b>Further response provided 05/03/24:</b> Council officers have completed the concept design for the new dog off leash park near Keneally Street, Dandenong, in accordance with Council's adopted Dog Off Leash</p>

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
					<p>Strategy. Information regarding this new off leash area has been sent to surrounding residents, and further information is also available on Council's website.</p> <p><a href="https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/kene-ally-street-reserve">https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/kene-ally-street-reserve</a></p> <p>The works for this off leash area are currently due for completion by 30 June 2024.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>COMPLETED</b></p>
26/02/24 CQT20	Cr Sophie Tan	<p><b>Update on branch clean up since storm</b> Regarding the recent storm event and branches falling on nature strips there are still many branches around Corrigan and Cheltenham Road, Noble Park. Can this please be cleaned up as soon as possible?</p>	Executive Director City Futures	01/03/2024	<p><b>Initial response provided 26/02/24:</b> There is a backlog throughout the entire municipality but please send through exact locations. All local governments, in particular the south each were hit hard and are struggling to deal with the fallout from the storm event.</p> <p>It is a really interesting dilemma for local government on climate change and what is happening in terms of the environment, how long this is taking us to clean up and we will review our resourcing for such events. This will come at an additional cost for Council and may require additional funds in the budget moving forward for such events. This will be considered and discussed as part of the budget process.</p> <p><b>Further response provided 01/03/24:</b> Given the volume of requests to date (now over 1,000) storm clean up works will continue over the next few months with priority given to hazard/safety responses, reopening closed</p>

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
					<p>parks, clearing fallen Council trees from private property or assets, cleaning up of public open spaces, etc... Branches sitting on a nature strip awaiting collection are a relatively low risk and low priority in the scheme of things and will probably be there for weeks to come.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>COMPLETED</b></p>
26/02/24 CQT21	Cr Sophie Tan	<p><b>Update on streetscape works near Yarraman station</b> I would like an update on the Railway Parade, Noble Park Streetscape project alongside Yarraman station?</p>	Executive Director City Futures	04/02/2024	<p><b>Initial response provided 26/02/24:</b> Council delivers more than 400 or 500 projects a year so I will take that question on notice and provide an update.</p> <p><b>Further response provided 04/03/24:</b> I am pleased to inform you both the civil and landscaping works on the Railway Parade have been completed and officers are working on public arts component at this stage.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>COMPLETED</b></p>



## 7 URGENT BUSINESS

### 7.1 PROPOSED MOTIONS FOR THE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA STATE COUNCIL MEETING - 17 MAY 2024

**Responsible Officer:** Manager Governance, Legal & Risk

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#### Recommendation

**That an item of urgent business be heard in relation to proposed motions for the Municipal Association of Victoria's State Council Meeting to be held on 17 May 2024.**

#### MINUTE No.1009

**Moved by: Cr Angela Long**

**Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad**

**That an item of urgent business be heard in relation to proposed motions for the Municipal Association of Victoria's State Council Meeting to be held on 17 May 2024.**

**CARRIED 9 / 0**

#### Executive Summary

1. Greater Dandenong City Council has membership with, and a Councillor representative for, the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV). This peak body organisation holds an annual State Council meeting to determine and discuss its strategic focus for the following year's activities. This meeting provides Greater Dandenong City Council with an opportunity to draw state-wide attention across the local government sector to Council's advocacy and engagement priorities that have state-wide relevance.
2. This report recommends that Council endorses the proposed motions outlined in this report and submits these motions in the format required to the MAV prior to the deadline of 18 March 2024.

#### Background

3. Formed in 1879, the MAV is a membership association and the legislated peak body for Victoria's 79 local councils. The associations offer support to its members which includes specialist policy and advocacy, governance and legislative advice, sector development, insurance and procurement services.
4. The next MAV State Council Meeting will be held on Friday 17 May 2024. At this meeting, the agenda will include consideration of motions from membership councils. The deadline for submission of motions is 18 March 2024.
5. The MAV Rules 2022 require motions to be of strategic relevance to the MAV or be of such significance to local government that they ought to be considered. They should also relate to the MAV's Strategic Plan 2024-2027 'Shaping our Future' which includes the following areas of priority and focus.
  - (a) active local democracy;
  - (b) connected places;
  - (c) health & wellbeing;
  - (d) sustainable economy;
  - (e) FutureGen;



- (f) First Peoples local government relations;
  - (g) climate & regenerative design;
  - (h) diversity, equity & inclusion;
  - (i) resilience & recovery; and
  - (j) intergenerational infrastructure.
6. As such, Greater Dandenong City Council is proposing that two motions be submitted to the MAV for its State Council meeting scheduled for 17 May 2024.



## Proposed Motions for Submission to MAV

### MAV Motion 1 - Supporting People Seeking Asylum within our Communities

#### Preamble

#### *Cost shifting to Local Government and Charities*

7. People seeking refugee protection in our communities face major hurdles in accessing federal government-funded support programs. Most are currently ineligible for the Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) Program, the Federal Program to support people seeking asylum during their protection application process.
8. As a result, they rely on support from local governments, community groups for charity or work in exploitative conditions. This cost shifting places huge burdens on local governments and their communities, needlessly places individuals and families at risk of destitution and erodes trust in government processes and institutions. The temporary status of this group creates added challenges, such as difficulty accessing women's refuges or homelessness services, and further education opportunities.
9. The Australian Federal Government has responsibility for immigration policy and providing people seeking protection with a clear and efficient Refugee Status Determination Process, with adequate support mechanisms for those in need.

#### *Details of current situation*

10. The SRSS Program has become so narrow and restricted that it fails to meet its intended purpose. Financial assistance delivered through the SRSS Program has been cut by 95% (from \$300 million in 2015-16 to \$15 million in 2022-23) and the number of people assisted has dropped from more than 13,000 in 2017 to 1,600 in 2023. Expenditure on SRSS financial assistance in 2022-23 (\$15 million) was underspent by \$22 million.
11. Charities cannot meet the need for emergency assistance. The demand for help far outstrips what charities and community groups have been able to provide. Homelessness services are reporting an increase in the number of people seeking asylum sleeping on the streets.
12. State governments are also winding back support. After providing some short-term assistance for filling the gap created by the Federal Government's cuts, state governments are now progressively withdrawing.
13. Lengthy delays in visa processing have made the situation much worse. This lack of access to assistance is coupled with large waiting times for decisions for people who apply for protection onshore, with people waiting more than eight years without access to a safety net for a final resolution of their asylum application.



### **Local Government Response**

14. Since 2018, the Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum has been advocating for the rights of people seeking asylum to the Federal Government. Established and chaired by Greater Dandenong City Council, the Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum is now made up of a growing membership of over 40 councils nationwide, who understand this is an issue of national importance – the advocacy for a fairer and swifter Refugee Status Determination System with adequate support systems in place for individuals and families at risk of destitution.
15. Right now, in Australia, there are more than 90,000 people waiting for their application for protection to be finalised. Applications for asylum are clearly stuck in a broken system. This overly slow approach prevents individuals and families gaining the stability that refugee status provides. The result is vulnerable people living in local government communities for years, without access to critical support service such as Centrelink, Medicare, public housing, education, mental health and food.
16. The following motion aligns with the MAV's strategic priorities health, wellbeing, diversity, equity and inclusion and falls within the role of the MAV to be an influencer and advocate as detailed in its 2024-2027 Strategic Plan 'Shaping Our Future'. It recommends that the MAV advocates for reforms or improvements in national community services programs that would help local governments support the Australia Government to deliver on its national objectives, and specifically, reforms to the federally funded Status Resolution Support Services Program so that people seeking asylum within our communities are appropriately supported.

### **MAV Motion 1 - Supporting People Seeking Asylum within our Communities Proposed Motion to be submitted to MAV State Council Meeting**

*The MAV calls on the Victorian Government to advocate to the Australia Government to:*

1. *ensure people seeking asylum have a valid bridging visa with associated work and study rights while they await decisions on their protection application, including automating the bridging renewal process;*
2. *expand the Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) Program eligibility and simplify the application process so that individuals and families seeking asylum who are in need and awaiting the outcome of their protection claims, or awaiting the outcome of the Administrative Appeal Tribunal (AAT) (or Administrative Review Tribunal once the AAT is abolished) can access healthcare, disability, housing support and other essential services; and*
3. *provide improved access to tertiary education options for people seeking asylum (and their children) awaiting the outcome of their protection claims or awaiting the outcome of the AAT (or Administrative Review Tribunal once the AAT is abolished).*

### **MAV Motion 2 - Road Safety Preamble**

16. Recently there has been an increase in casualty crashes involving vulnerable road users across the state. The Greater Dandenong community has raised safety concerns following recent fatal crashes on arterial roads involving school aged pedestrians, as they made their way to/from school.
17. There are currently several 'tools' used to reduce the risk to pedestrians, which are described below.





### **School Speed Zones (SSZ)**

18. SSZs serve a specific and important function in reducing risk to all road users on roads directly adjacent to schools. However, these risks can increase on neighbouring roads or road segments outside the extent of the SSZ, particularly for younger (school aged) pedestrians. This has been tragically demonstrated by recent fatal crashes which occurred on arterial roads outside of SSZ.
19. Whilst the speed limit signage associated with the SSZ provides visual cues to motorists, similar cues may not exist on nearby local and arterial roads. Motorists may not be aware that during specific times of the day there may be an increase in pedestrian activity along such routes and may not be exercising the same level of caution.

### **Children's (School) Crossings**

20. Such crossings aid younger pedestrians to safely cross the road and are often supervised. This may assist at 'satellite' sites, where a crossing is located away from a school along a major route. The Victorian Government has previously committed to the roll out of a new Schools Crossing Risk Assessment Framework, which would assist with identifying the suitability of suggested locations for such crossings. Earlier advice, provided in October 2023, indicated the roll out was imminent, however no further update has been forthcoming.

### **Drop off / Pick up and Parking Facilities**

21. Further to the above, there is additional strain on the local road network resulting from the Victorian Governments expansion, consolidation, or construction of new schools with limited to no input from local councils. This can make it extremely difficult to facilitate safe and efficient drop off, pick-up and parking activities. The Victorian Government should be liaising with local councils to address these issues at the planning stage and provide sufficient funding to address these matters wherever necessary.

### **MAV Motion 2 – Road Safety**

#### **Proposed Motion to be submitted to MAV State Council Meeting**

*The MAV advocates to the Victorian Government to:*

1. *develop broader road safety messaging and education campaigns to address risks on roads neighbouring schools (not just School Speed Zones);*
2. *implement and adequately resource the roll-out of the new School Crossing Risk Assessment Framework; and*
3. *provide local government with greater input on school planning decisions and provide investment to assist with pick-up, drop-off and parking facilities wherever necessary.*

### **Financial Implications**

22. There are no financial implications associated with the submission of motions to the MAV State Council Meeting.

### **Conclusion**

23. It is recommended that the proposed motions be endorsed by Council and submitted to the MAV under the submission criteria under which they will be accepted.



## Motion

### That Council:

1. endorses the proposed motions to the Municipal Association of Victoria as outlined in this report;
2. authorises the Chief Executive Officer and/or the Manager Governance, Legal & Risk to make any minor changes to improve wording of the motions and/or update the motions relative to the issues discussed in this report that may occur between this Council Meeting and the date of submission of the motions; and
3. authorises the Manager Governance, Legal & Risk to submit the motions outlined in this report to the Municipal Association of Victoria under the submissions criteria which they will be accepted.

### MINUTE No.1010

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Angela Long

### That Council:

1. amends Motion 1 to the Municipal Association of Victoria as follows:

*The MAV calls on the Victorian Government to advocate to the Australian Federal Government to:*

- a) *rapidly process valid bridging visas with work and study rights whilst they await decisions on their protection application, including automating the bridging renewal process;*
  - b) *expand the Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) Program eligibility and simplify the application process so that individuals and families seeking asylum who are in need and awaiting the outcome of their protection claims, or awaiting the outcome of the Administrative Appeal Tribunal (AAT) (or Administrative Review Tribunal once the AAT is abolished) can access healthcare, disability, housing support and other essential services; and*
  - c) *allow access to tertiary education options after the age of 18 for people seeking asylum (and their children) awaiting the outcome of their protection claims or awaiting the outcome of the AAT (or Administrative Review Tribunal once the AAT is abolished).*
2. endorses the proposed motions to the Municipal Association of Victoria as outlined in this report;
  3. authorises the Chief Executive Officer and/or the Manager Governance, Legal & Risk to make any minor changes to improve wording of the motions and/or update the motions relative to the issues discussed in this report that may occur between this Council Meeting and the date of submission of the motions; and
  4. authorises the Manager Governance, Legal & Risk to submit the motions outlined in this report to the Municipal Association of Victoria under the submissions criteria which they will be accepted.

**CARRIED 9 / 0**



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## 8 CLOSE OF BUSINESS

The Meeting closed at 8:07 pm.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M. Q.', written on a light blue background. The signature is stylized with a large loop and a long horizontal stroke.

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Signature