



Minutes

Council Meeting

Monday 27 May 2024, 7:00 pm

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

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



Council Meeting Details

At the time of printing this Agenda, the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 27 May 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 Bob Milkovic](#)

[Deputy Mayor Richard Lim OAM](#)

[Cr Sean O'Reilly](#)

[Cr Phillip Danh](#)

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

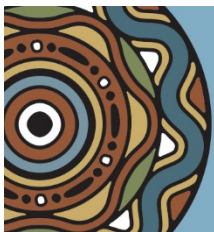
[Cr Tim Dark](#)

[Cr Loi Truong](#)

[Cr Rhonda Garad](#)

[Cr Angela Long](#)

[Cr Jim Memeti](#)



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

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

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 council@cgd.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.



The Gender Equality Act 2020

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

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

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

Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities

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

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

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



Consideration of Climate Change and Sustainability

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

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

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

Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks

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



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1 MEETING OPENING

1.1 OPENING OF MEETING BY MAYOR

Cr Lana Formoso opened the Meeting at 7.00 pm.

1.2 ATTENDANCE

Apologies

Cr Jim Memeti.

Councillors Present

Cr Lana Formoso, Mayor (Chair), Cr Richard Lim OAM, Deputy Mayor, Cr Phillip Danh, Cr Tim Dark, Cr Rhonda Garad, Cr Angela Long, 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.



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 were seated as Sr Wijeyavani (Vani) Wijeyakuma, a member of the Greater Dandenong Interfaith Network, read the following:

*"Om Shanti – First, breathe in peace, breathe out any tension, and again.
Now, relax the body, feet, shoulders, neck and your thinking, your mind.
Then, awaken a memory of your deepest feeling of peace & calm.
remember, listen, allow calm feelings to flow into you and through you.
Connect to this feeling of deep peace and calm, absorb it.
filling yourself with these feelings, gently return to your inner-most peace and calm
Finally, Feeling refreshed and empowered,
from the peaceful feeling of your calm centre, let this feeling of calm
and peace flow out into your life and into the atmosphere of the meeting
you are sharing this evening.
Om shanti"*



1.5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Meeting of Council held 13 May 2024.

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 13 May 2024 be confirmed.

MINUTE No.1061

Moved by: Cr Richard Lim OAM

Seconded by: Cr Bob Milkovic

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held 13 May 2024 be confirmed.

CARRIED 9 / 0

1.6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Jacqui Weatherill disclosed an indirect material conflict of interest of a pecuniary nature (s 128 of the *Local Government Act 2020*) in Item 4.2.3 Chief Executive Officer's Annual Review. Jacqui Weatherill is the incumbent and will directly benefit should the officer's recommendation be endorsed by Council. Jacqui Weatherill left the Chamber prior to discussion and voting on this item.

Cr Rhonda Garad disclosed an indirect material conflict of interest of a pecuniary nature (s 128 of the *Local Government Act 2020*) in Item 4.2.6 Request to purchase a property for Open Space (Confidential) as she has a close association with the property. Cr Rhonda Garad left the Chamber prior to discussion and voting on this item.



2 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 1

2.1 DOCUMENTS FOR SEALING

2.1.1 Documents for Sealing

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance, 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 are nine (9) items being presented to Council's meeting of 27 May 2024 for signing and sealing as follows:
- a) A letter of recognition to Doris Gonzalez, Community Strengthening for 20 years of service to the Greater Dandenong City Council;
 - b) A letter of recognition to Gilma Salas, Community Strengthening for 20 years of service to the Greater Dandenong City Council;
 - c) A letter of recognition to Margaret Warren, Community Strengthening for 20 years of service to the Greater Dandenong City Council;
 - d) A letter of recognition to Serene Chan, Community Strengthening for 20 years of service to the Greater Dandenong City Council;
 - e) A letter of recognition to Susan Van Weeghel, Community Strengthening for 20 years of service to the Greater Dandenong City Council;
 - f) A letter of recognition to Lynda McDermott, Community Strengthening for 20 years of service to the Greater Dandenong City Council;
 - g) A letter of recognition to Susana Rodriguez, Community Strengthening for 20 years of service to the Greater Dandenong City Council;
 - h) A letter of recognition to Elena Phelan, Community Strengthening for 20 years of service to the Greater Dandenong City Council; and
 - i) A letter of recognition to Melissa White, Community Strengthening for 10 years of service to the Greater Dandenong City Council.

Officer Recommendation

That the listed documents be signed and sealed.

MINUTE No.1062

Moved by: Cr Sophie Tan

Seconded by: Cr Angela Long

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 - 5 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

Council received one (1) new submission, no new petitions and no joint letters prior to the Council Meeting of 27 May 2024.

- A submission was received from 46 proponents regarding traffic and parking issues surrounding St Johns Regional College, Dandenong. This submission has been referred to the relevant Council Business unit/s for action.

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.

Officer Recommendation

That this report and its attachment be received and noted.

MINUTE No.1063

Moved by: Cr Loi Truong

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

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"> • properties have also had flood / ceiling damage into their homes due to excessive leaf/litter build up. • A branch fell onto the home causing damage and subsequent insurance claim. • 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. • There has been footpath repairs due to the existing roots from the trees on the western side of the street. • 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. 	36	Completed	<p>Responsible Officer: Chief Engineer & Major Projects.</p> <p>Acknowledgment letter sent 23/01/2024 to the head petitioner.</p> <p>Outcome letter sent 01/05/2024 to the head petitioner:</p> <p><i>“Council engaged an independent Consulting Arborist to prepare a Tree Assessment Report (TAR) and establish a monetary value on the avenue of semi-mature Yellow Box (Eucalyptus melliodora) in Longview Road, Keysborough. The trees were assessed from an arboriculture; aspect on their overall health, structural condition and retention value. The attributes used to calculate a tree’s monetary value as per the highly regarded City of Melbourne Urban Forest tree Amenity Value methodology were also collected.</i></p> <p><i>The trees in Longview Road are mostly of good health and structure with a prolonged useful life expectancy. They pose a low risk to the public and private properties. 33 of the 36 trees have been assessed to have a moderate retention value, 2 with a low retention value and 1 with a very low retention value. The total value of the tree assets as per the City of Melbourne valuation methodology is \$425,814. The proposal to remove and replace the current established avenue of trees will come at significant cost to Council both financially and through the loss of precious canopy cover that is providing many benefits to the residents of the street and neighbourhood and to the local fauna.</i></p> <p><i>Given Greater Dandenong’s low tree canopy coverage, preservation of existing canopy is considered a priority and assigning a monetary value assists in quantifying and protecting Councils Urban Forest. Based on the value and condition of the tree assets in Longview Road, the arborists’ recommendations are as follows:</i></p>

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>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the 33 trees within Longview Road assessed to have a moderate retention value • Remove and replace 3 trees identified with low and very low retention value • Consider undertaking sensitive pruning within the street to abate the residents' leaf litter concerns • Continue to inspect, monitor and prune the trees every two years as required in accordance with Council's cyclic tree inspection program <p><i>These recommendations have been reviewed and supported by Council's Parks Department and Executive team. The 3 tree removals will be done within the next 20 days with replanting of replacement trees to occur during the following planting season (early 2025). The pruning works for all other trees has been programmed to occur over the next 2 months.</i></p> <p>David Fice, Chief Engineer and Major Projects"</p>
27/03/2024	<p>We, the undersigned residents and businessmen of Greater Dandenong Victoria, demand immediate action on matters relating to hygiene and safety in Springvale Vic 3171. As residents and businessmen of Springvale VIC, Australia, we are living in a state of constant distress due to the hazardous conditions surrounding the property.</p> <p>Our peaceful neighbourhood is being polluted by trash and littered with drug needles. The noise pollution after 10 PM caused by people camping at the back of this house has made it impossible for residents to live peacefully. These issues have not only disrupted our lives but also pose a significant threat to our safety and well-being. According to a report from Clean Up Australia, improperly disposed syringes can potentially transmit infectious diseases like HIV and Hepatitis B & C (Clean Up Australia). Moreover, excessive noise pollution has been linked with various health problems including stress-related illnesses, high blood</p>	12	Completed	<p>Responsible Officer: Executive Director Community Strengthening.</p> <p>Acknowledgment letter sent 27/03/2024 to the head petitioner.</p> <p>Outcome letter sent 5/04/2024 to the head petitioner:</p> <p><i>"I write to acknowledge receipt of a petition from 13 proponents requesting that Council address hygiene and safety concerns in Springvale.</i></p> <p><i>Council officers from our Local Laws team attended this property on Wednesday 3 April 2024 and spoke with the said person.</i></p> <p><i>As this is a privately owned property, Council is not permitted to clean up the property or to ask this person to leave, however Council officers will contact the property</i></p>

Date Received	Petition Text (Prayer)	No. of Petitioners	Status	Responsible Officer Response
	<p>pressure, sleep disturbance, and even heart disease (World Health Organization).</p> <p>We urge local authorities to take immediate action on these pressing issues. We demand strict enforcement of hygiene standards around this property along with measures that ensure our safety from potential harm caused by discarded drug paraphernalia or unruly behaviour during late hours. Help us reclaim our peace and security in our own homes.</p>			<p><i>owner to inform them that they have the right to remove the rubbish and call Victoria Police to have the person removed under trespassing laws.</i></p> <p>Marcus Forster, Acting Executive Director Community Strengthening</p>
9/04/2024	<p>Please find attached "Save our Noble Park Remnant Red Gums" petition https://chng.it/dCpNRhjYwR</p> <p>Please help save the remaining red gum trees next to Noble Park railway station.</p> <p>The new development that has been approved plans to cut down these precious trees.</p> <p>We want to save them as they cool the streetscape, enhance architecture and help create fresh air amongst other benefits. Please sign the petition to help save them. Thank you</p>	<p>1341</p> <p>1366 as at 17/04/24</p> <p>1557 as at 01/05/24</p> <p>1707 as at 08/05/24</p>	Completed	<p>Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures.</p> <p>Acknowledgment letter sent 9/04/2024 to the head petitioner.</p> <p>Responsible Officer advised that a report will be provided at the 27 May 2024 Council Meeting for Councillor consideration.</p>
22/05/2024	<p>We the undersigned would like the Greater Dandenong City Council to address the traffic and parking issues faced by all residents in Power Street, Dandenong, especially those who live between Macpherson Street and Clow Street and surrounding side streets, when there are events held on the soccer grounds and also in the Sports Hall (religious gatherings & basketball) at St Johns Regional College – Dandenong campus.</p> <p>Over the last 12-month period, the residents enjoyed no traffic and parking issues for only a period of 4-6 weeks (mid December 2023 to mid to January 2024). From mid to late January 2024 the parking and traffic issues have already started and will quadruple at the start of Term 2. All throughout terms 2, 3 & 4 we faced issues regarding illegal parking (in No Parking zone), ½ on road ½ off road and at times driveways being blocked (partially and fully) by cars parking across and in driveways.</p>	46	In Progress	Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures.

Date Received	Petition Text (Prayer)	No. of Petitioners	Status	Responsible Officer Response
	<p>The main times of issue are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4.30pm to 7.00pm, Saturday mornings from 9.00am to 3.00pm / 5.00pm (which increases from 8 / 8.30am to 8.00pm during terms 2, 3 & 4 when the basketball competition also gets underway).</p> <p>Sundays when there are religious gatherings on a Sunday morning starting from 9 / 9.30am to 1.00pm (also on occasion longer).</p> <p>With this brings reduced access to driveways and along the road overall, if there has been rain, then people are parking on grassed areas and then subsequently getting bogged and then there is the added pressure of tow trucks blocking the road so that there is no traffic moving in either direction. It is also extremely dangerous if residents are trying to exit their driveway as it is extremely difficult to see oncoming traffic from either direction due to the number of cars parked partly off and on the street, often along both sides of the streets. Children crossing the street are also in danger. With all this also comes with people walking along the road, instead of crossing to the footpath and walking along it, instead of on the road.</p> <p>Also, during these times local residents are unable to have any functions involving friends and family in their homes, as there is nowhere for any visitors to park. For example at Orthodox Easter, several residents in Nova Drive, had no visitor access. There is also no where for families dropping off at school without dropping off illegally If for some reason there was a need for response by emergency services to any house there would be very little room and/or access for multiple vehicles eg all services responding such as Police, Fire and Ambulance services. One large fire tanker would have trouble navigating the winding street and then there would be no movement of traffic in either direction.</p> <p>We feel that if St Johns Regional College is going to hire out their facilities, then it is their responsibility to provide adequate off road / onsite parking facilities to ensure that there is no disruptions for local residents.</p>			

ATT 2.2.1.1 Petitions and Joint Letters

Date Received	Petition Text (Prayer)	No. of Petitioners	Status	Responsible Officer Response
	<p>Please note enclosed school plan which shows onsite parking for staff only and satellite image showing an area near Clow Street as a possible parking area with gate access.</p>			



2.3 STATUTORY PLANNING APPLICATIONS

2.3.1 Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – April 2024

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

Attachments: 1. Planning Delegated Decisions Issued – April 2024 [2.3.1.1 - 10 pages]

Executive Summary

1. This report provides Council with an update on the exercise of delegation by Council officers.
2. It provides a listing of Town Planning applications that were either decided or closed under delegation or withdrawn by applicants in April 2024.
3. It should be noted that where permits and notices of decision to grant permits have been issued, these applications have been assessed as being generally consistent with the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme and Council's policies.
4. Application numbers with a PLA#, PLN#.01 or similar, are applications making amendments to previously approved planning permits.
5. The annotation 'SPEAR' (Streamlined Planning through Electronic Applications and Referrals) identifies where an application has been submitted electronically. SPEAR allows users to process planning permits and subdivision applications online.

Officer Recommendation

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

MINUTE No.1064

Moved by: Cr Bob Milkovic

Seconded by: Cr Angela Long

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

CARRIED 9 / 0

Planning Delegated Decisions Issued from 01/04/2024 to 30/04/2024

City of Greater Dandenong

Application ID	Category	VicSmart	Property Address	Applicant Name	Description	Notes	Authority	Decision	Decision Date	Ward
PLA23/0027	PlnAppAmd	No	407 Princes Highway NOBLE PARK VIC 3174	A Zakeri	AMENDMENT TO: To use the land for the purpose of a Place of Assembly (Shisha Lounge) in conjunction with a Convenience Restaurant and to display two (2) internally-illuminated business identification signs (PLN14/0716)	Amend permit preamble and conditions relating to convenience restaurant	Delegate	NOD	22/04/2024	Yarraman
PLA23/0078	PlnAppAmd	No	1/11 Kelvin Grove SPRINGVALE VIC 3171	Abacus Design & Planning	AMENDMENT TO: Development of the land for ten (10) triple storey dwellings (PLN22/0121)	Amend endorsed plans to reflect internal changes the building footprint smaller and slight changes to setbacks	Delegate	AmendPerm	03/04/2024	Springvale North
PLA23/0097	PlnAppAmd	No	5 Romsey Street NOBLE PARK VIC 3174	AA Iyengar	AMENDMENT TO: Development of the land for four (4) double storey dwellings (PLN21/0706)	Amend endorsed plans to alter service lane between units 2 and 3	Delegate	AmendPerm	12/04/2024	Noble Park
PLA23/0100	PlnAppAmd	No	25-31 Souffi Place DANDENONG SOUTH VIC 3175	DWH Aitken & Associates Pty Ltd	AMENDMENT TO: The use and development of the land for a warehouse with reduction of the car parking, all in accordance with the endorsed plans (PLN14/0470)	Amend endorsed plans and Condition 11	Delegate	AmendPerm	10/04/2024	Dandenong
PLA23/0101	PlnAppAmd	No	26-30 Parsons Avenue SPRINGVALE VIC 3171	ZL Group Pty Ltd	AMENDMENT TO: Development of the land for two (2) warehouse buildings (PLN21/0173)	Amend endorsed plans to extend warehouse and add a fence	Delegate	AmendPerm	22/04/2024	Springvale North

ATT 2.3.1.1 Planning Delegated Decisions Issued –
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Application ID	Category	VicSmart	Property Address	Applicant Name	Description	Notes	Authority	Decision	Decision Date	Ward
PLA24/0008	PlnAppAmd	No	122 Lightwood Road NOBLE PARK VIC 3174	Southern Planning Consultants	AMENDMENT TO: Development of the land for eight (8) double storey dwellings and reduction of the car parking requirement (PLN17/0325.02)	Amend endorsed plans to include internal changes and to add an additional alfresco	Delegate	AmendPerm	10/04/2024	Springvale Central
PLA24/0013	PlnAppAmd	No	220 Chapel Road KEYSBOROUGH VIC 3173	220 Chapel Rd Keysborough Pty Ltd	AMENDMENT TO: Use of the land for accommodation, development of the land associated with the accommodation for no more than 110 dwellings and retail/shops with a basement & removal of native vegetation (PLA21/0057)	Amend endorsed plans to remove tree and replace with 2 River Red Gum trees	Delegate	AmendPerm	05/04/2024	Keysborough South
PLA24/0017	PlnAppAmd	No	69 Curtin Crescent DANDENONG NORTH VIC 3175	Design Be Kilik	AMENDMENT TO: Development of the land for three (3) double storey dwellings (PLN22/0164)	Amend endorsed plans to change garage layout	Delegate	AmendPerm	24/04/2024	Cleeland
PLA24/0018	PlnAppAmd	No	147 Corrigan Road NOBLE PARK VIC 3174	Aru Design	AMENDMENT TO: Multi Unit Development x 4 (Double Storey) (PLN11/0060)	Amend endorsed plans to convert balcony into study	Applicant	Withdrawn	16/04/2024	Noble Park
PLA24/0019	PlnAppAmd	No	27 Homestead Road BANGHOLME VIC 3175	Southern Planning Consultants	AMENDMENT TO: Development of the land for a single dwelling and associated shed and the removal of native vegetation (PLN23/0223)	Amend plans to alter layout of the dwelling	Delegate	AmendPerm	26/04/2024	Keysborough South
PLA24/0035	PlnAppAmd	No	13-37 Lonsdale Street DANDENONG VIC 3175	Harding Architects Pty Ltd	AMENDMENT TO: Building and Works (Infill entrance canopy) and Signage (Internally illuminated signage and Pole Sign) (PLN23/0365)	Amend endorsed plans to change pole sign	Delegate	AmendPerm	26/04/2024	Dandenong

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Application ID	Category	VicSmart	Property Address	Applicant Name	Description	Notes	Authority	Decision	Decision Date	Ward
PLN21/0284	PlnApp	No	242 Springvale Road SPRINGVALE VIC 3171	CD Le	Development of the land for a double storey food and drinks premises to the rear of the existing shop and to reduce the number of car parking spaces required under Clause 52.06-5 and Schedule 1 to the Parking Overlay	Commercial 1 Zone development of retail premises and second storey dwelling at rear of current retail premises, reduction in car parking requirements	Delegate	PlanPermit	29/04/2024	Springvale Central
PLN22/0499	PlnApp	No	16-30 Berends Drive DANDENONG SOUTH VIC 3175	David Barry Logistics Pty Ltd	Use of the land as a Store (Dangerous Goods)	Industrial 2 Zone	Delegate	PlanPermit	08/04/2024	Dandenong
PLN23/0010	PlnApp	No	1/1513 Heatherton Road DANDENONG NORTH VIC 3175	D Farrington	Construction of a single storey dwelling to the rear of an existing dwelling and alterations and additions to the existing dwelling	The proposal fails to satisfy Clause 15 (Built Environment and Heritage), Clause 21.05 (Built Form), Clause 32.08-4 (Garden Area), Clause 22.09-3.1 (Design Principles), Clause 22.09-3.3 (Incremental Change Area), Clause 52.06 (Car Parking), proposal fails to respond to objectives and purposes of GR1Z, Clause 55 and Clause 65	Delegate	Refusal	30/04/2024	Cleeland
PLN23/0044	PlnApp	No	160 David Street DANDENONG VIC 3175	Low Cost Draftsman	Development of the land for five (5) double storey dwellings with basement level car parking	Proposal fails to satisfy Clause 15 (Built Environment and Heritage), Clause 21.05 (Built Form), Clause 22.09-3.1 (Design Principles), Clause 22.09-3.3 (Incremental Change Area), Clause 52.06 (Car Parking), fails to meet various objectives of Clause 55, Clause 65 and fails to appropriately respond to purposes and decision guidelines of GR1Z	Delegate	Refusal	29/04/2024	Cleeland

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Application ID	Category	VicSmart	Property Address	Applicant Name	Description	Notes	Authority	Decision	Decision Date	Ward
PLN23/0079	PlnApp	No	17 Hughes Crescent DANDENONG NORTH VIC 3175	Farrington Architects	Development of the land for two (2) double storey dwellings to the rear of an existing single storey dwelling	General Residential 1 Zone, 695sqm	Applicant	Withdrawn	02/04/2024	Cleeland
PLN23/0146	PlnApp	No	10 Barnett Grove NOBLE PARK VIC 3174	Aru Design	Development of the land for three (3) dwellings (two (2) double storey dwellings, and one (1) single storey dwelling to the rear)	Proposal fails to satisfy Clause 15 (Built Environment and Heritage), Clause 21.05 (Built Form), Clause 55.02-2 (Residential Policy Objectives), Clause 52.06 (Car Parking) and Clause 55	Delegate	Refusal	10/04/2024	Yarraman
PLN23/0206	PlnApp	No	7 Dennis Street DANDENONG VIC 3175	T Kapilevich	Use of the land as a Caretaker's house in conjunction with a motor repairs business and the construction of a mezzanine floor	Proposal is inconsistent with Clause 13.07-1S (Land Use Compatibility), Clause 17.03 (Industry), Clause 21.04-3 (Land Use), Clause 65 (Decision Guidelines) and fails to meet purpose of Clause 33.01 (Industrial 1 Zone)	Delegate	Refusal	23/04/2024	Dandenong
PLN23/0210	PlnApp	No	22 Exell Drive DANDENONG NORTH VIC 3175	Jova Drafting Consultants	The removal of Covenant E687701 on Lot 112 on Plan of Subdivision 92362	Proposal fails to comply with Clause 52.02 (Easements, Restrictions and Reserves) and Section 60 (5) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987	Delegate	Refusal	19/04/2024	Dandenong North
PLN23/0222	PlnApp	No	1/53-59 Sinclair Road DANDENONG VIC 3175	Kee_Thdesign Pty Ltd	Buildings and works (mezzanine)	Industrial 1 Zone construction of internal mezzanine floor for use as an office	Delegate	PlanPermit	23/04/2024	Dandenong

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Application ID	Category	VicSmart	Property Address	Applicant Name	Description	Notes	Authority	Decision	Decision Date	Ward
PLN23/0235	PlnApp	No	151 Gladstone Road DANDENONG NORTH VIC 3175	Aru Design	Development of the land for two (2) double storey dwellings to the rear of the existing single storey dwelling and alterations and additions to the existing dwelling	General Residential 1 Zone, 856sqm	Delegate	PlanPermit	24/04/2024	Cleeland
PLN23/0262	PlnApp	No	67 Stud Road DANDENONG VIC 3175	Castra Silex Pty Ltd	To create access to a Transport Zone 2 (Medical Centre)	No response to further information request	Delegate	Lapsed	08/04/2024	Cleeland
PLN23/0267	PlnApp	No	2/63 Jellicoe Street NOBLE PARK VIC 3174	Bay Vista Building Design and Drafting	Development of the land for an extension to an existing dwelling on a lot less than 300 square metres	General Residential 1 Zone, 271sqm	Delegate	PlanPermit	05/04/2024	Yarraman
PLN23/0270	PlnApp	No	1/37 Princes Highway DANDENONG VIC 3175	SMART Town Planning Pty Ltd	Use of the land for a shop (hair and beauty salon) and to reduce the car parking requirement DECLARED AREA	Comprehensive Development 2 Zone, hair and beauty salon	Delegate	PlanPermit	26/04/2024	Dandenong
PLN23/0318	PlnApp	No	155 Kirkham Road DANDENONG VIC 3175	Your Design Group	Development of the land for two (2) double storey dwellings	General Residential 1 Zone, 530sqm	Delegate	PlanPermit	19/04/2024	Dandenong
PLN23/0337	PlnApp	No	9-11 Suffolk Road DANDENONG NORTH VIC 3175	Beaux Homes Concepts Pty Ltd	Development of the land for four (4) double storey dwellings	Neighbourhood Residential 1 Zone, 1301sqm	Delegate	NOD	05/04/2024	Dandenong North

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Application ID	Category	VicSmart	Property Address	Applicant Name	Description	Notes	Authority	Decision	Decision Date	Ward
PLN23/0343	PlnApp	No	14-16 Elliott Road DANDENONG SOUTH VIC 3175	Waste to Go	Use and development of the land for a Transfer Station	Industrial 1 Zone, 3131sqm, transfer station	Delegate	PlanPermit	15/04/2024	Dandenong
PLN23/0407	PlnApp	No	7 Reid Court DANDENONG NORTH VIC 3175	Universal Planning	Development of the land for two (2) double storey dwellings	General Residential 1 Zone, 632sqm	Delegate	PlanPermit	19/04/2024	Cleeland
PLN23/0454	PlnApp	No	204 National Drive DANDENONG SOUTH VIC 3175	C Bowler	To display five (5) business identification signs and two (2) directional signs	Industrial 1 Zone, Transport 1 Zone, 5 business identification signs, non illuminated	Delegate	PlanPermit	11/04/2024	Dandenong
PLN23/0465	PlnApp	No	126 Kelvinside Road NOBLE PARK VIC 3174	Mimar Design Pty Ltd	Use and development of the land for a Medical Centre	No response to further information request	Delegate	Lapsed	04/04/2024	Springvale North
PLN23/0470	PlnApp	No	96 Prosperity Way DANDENONG SOUTH VIC 3175	CRA Survey Pty Ltd	Subdivision of the land into five (5) lots adjacent to a road in a Transport Zone 2, creation of access to a road in a Transport Zone 2, creation of a reserve and creation of easements SPEAR	Industrial	Delegate	PlanPermit	30/04/2024	Dandenong
PLN23/0473	PlnApp	No	39 Sylvia Street DANDENONG NORTH VIC 3175	Summit Building Design	Development of the land for one (1) single storey dwelling to the rear of an existing dwelling and alterations and additions to the existing dwelling	Neighbourhood Residential 1 Zone, 669sqm	Delegate	PlanPermit	29/04/2024	Dandenong North

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Application ID	Category	VicSmart	Property Address	Applicant Name	Description	Notes	Authority	Decision	Decision Date	Ward
PLN23/0475	PlnApp	No	16 Mulgoa Avenue DANDENONG NORTH VIC 3175	Whitnall Designs Pty Ltd	Development of the land for three (3) double storey dwellings and a single storey dwelling to the rear	No response to further information request	Delegate	Lapsed	10/04/2024	Noble Park North
PLN23/0515	PlnApp	No	27 Scott Street DANDENONG VIC 3175	27 Scott Street Pty Ltd	Subdivision of the land into one hundred and thirteen (113) lots SPEAR (DECLARED AREA)	Commercial	Delegate	PlanPermit	30/04/2024	Dandenong
PLN23/0533	PlnApp	No	1/17 Agnes Street NOBLE PARK VIC 3174	Jova Drafting Consultants Pty Ltd	Subdivision of the land into two (2) lots	Residential	Applicant	Withdrawn	18/04/2024	Noble Park
PLN23/0538	PlnApp	No	11 Yiannis Court SPRINGVALE VIC 3171	Van Damme Design	Development of the land for an extension to the existing building	Industrial 1 Zone proposed storage shelter for existing warehouse	Delegate	Lapsed	11/04/2024	Springvale North
PLN23/0540	PlnApp	No	401-407 Hammond Road DANDENONG SOUTH VIC 3175	G P Smith Equipment Pty Ltd	Vegetation removal	Industrial 1 Zone	Applicant	Withdrawn	26/04/2024	Dandenong
PLN23/0560	PlnApp	No	11 Nicholas Drive DANDENONG SOUTH VIC 3175	FBJ Insulated Panel Systems Pty Ltd	Use of the land for a car park and associated buildings and works	No response to further information request	Delegate	Lapsed	12/04/2024	Dandenong

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Application ID	Category	VicSmart	Property Address	Applicant Name	Description	Notes	Authority	Decision	Decision Date	Ward
PLN23/0565	PlnApp	No	Specialty Shop 1-3/26 Princes Highway DANDENONG VIC 3175	El Jannah Pty Ltd	Development of the land for a Food and Drink Premise, display of internally illuminated business identification signage and a reduction in the car parking requirements of Clause 52.06 DECLARED AREA	Comprehensive Development 2 Zone, charcoal chicken takeaway shop, illuminated and non-illuminated signage and works to the internal and external facade	Delegate	PlanPermit	18/04/2024	Cleeland
PLN24/0003	PlnApp	No	2-106 Bayliss Road DANDENONG SOUTH VIC 3175	Salta Properties (Lyndhurst) Pty Ltd	Use and development of the land for a Food and Drink Premise (Excluding Bar and Hotel) and Office and the sale and consumption of liquor	Industrial 1 Zone, 701sqm, construction of licensed premises	Delegate	PlanPermit	29/04/2024	Dandenong
PLN24/0024	PlnApp	No	1 Frances Drive DANDENONG SOUTH VIC 3175	CV Signage	Development and display of one (1) Business Identification Panel Sign	No response to further information request	Delegate	Lapsed	12/04/2024	Dandenong
PLN24/0031	PlnApp	No	2 Kelly Court SPRINGVALE VIC 3171	SisterWorks Incorporated	Use of the land for an Arts and Crafts Centre and a reduction in the car parking requirements	Industrial 1 Zone, not-for-profit pre-employment training programs	Delegate	PlanPermit	10/04/2024	Springvale North
PLN24/0033	PlnApp	No	41-45 Hydrive Close DANDENONG SOUTH VIC 3175	Slattery Auctions Victoria Pty Ltd	Use of the land for Motor Vehicle Sales	No response to further information request	Delegate	Lapsed	11/04/2024	Dandenong
PLN24/0034	PlnApp	No	166 Stud Road DANDENONG NORTH VIC 3175	Linear Land Surveying Pty Ltd	Subdivision of the land into two (2) lots SPEAR	Residential	Delegate	PlanPermit	15/04/2024	Dandenong North

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Application ID	Category	VicSmart	Property Address	Applicant Name	Description	Notes	Authority	Decision	Decision Date	Ward
PLN24/0042	PlnApp	No	3 Cullimore Court DANDENONG VIC 3175	Nobelius Land Surveyors Pty Ltd	Subdivision of the land into three (3) lots SPEAR	Residential	Delegate	PlanPermit	18/04/2024	Dandenong
PLN24/0044	PlnApp	No	52 Lawn Road NOBLE PARK VIC 3174	Kirby Land Surveying Pty Ltd	Subdivision of the land into two (2) lots and creation of Party Wall Easement E-2 SPEAR	Residential	Delegate	PlanPermit	23/04/2024	Springvale Central
PLN24/0047	PlnApp	No	40 Power Street DANDENONG VIC 3175	HNS Corporate Pty Ltd	Subdivision of the land into six (6) lots SPEAR	Residential	Delegate	PlanPermit	16/04/2024	Dandenong
PLN24/0067	PlnApp	No	18 Bessemer Street SPRINGVALE VIC 3171	HG Yim	Subdivision of the land into four (4) lots SPEAR	Residential	Delegate	PlanPermit	18/04/2024	Springvale North
PLN24/0071	PlnAppVic	Yes	8/3 Olive Grove KEYSBOROUGH VIC 3173	Bayside Town Planning Pty Ltd	Buildings and works (mezzanine) VICSMART	Industrial 1 Zone	Delegate	PlanPermit	26/04/2024	Keysborough
PLN24/0078	PlnApp	No	Parkmore Shop Z03 3Z/317-321 Cheltenham Road KEYSBOROUGH VIC 3173	McCredie Group Pty Ltd	Display one (1) internally illuminated business identification sign	Commercial 1 Zone, internally illuminated business identification signage	Delegate	PlanPermit	17/04/2024	Keysborough

ATT 2.3.1.1 Planning Delegated Decisions Issued –
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Application ID	Category	VicSmart	Property Address	Applicant Name	Description	Notes	Authority	Decision	Decision Date	Ward
PLN24/0079	PlnApp	No	43-49 Buckley Street NOBLE PARK VIC 3174	Southern Planning Consultants	To construct or carry out works to the existing fire station facility and to construct a rear fence exceeding 1.2m in height	Commercial 1 Zone, development of staff car parking, rear fence and associated works	Delegate	PlanPermit	30/04/2024	Noble Park
PLN24/0081	PlnApp	No	10 Boyd Street DANDENONG NORTH VIC 3175	N Delibajric	Subdivision of the land into three (3) lots SPEAR	Residential	Delegate	PlanPermit	22/04/2024	Cleeland
PLN24/0095	PlnAppVic	Yes	27A Grace Park Avenue SPRINGVALE VIC 3171	CLR Surveys	Subdivision of the land into two (2) lots SPEAR (VICSMART)	Residential	Delegate	PlanPermit	12/04/2024	Springvale Central
PLN24/0097	PlnAppVic	Yes	23-25 Surrey Road DANDENONG NORTH VIC 3175	K Morley	Buildings and Works (Skylight) VICSMART	Neighbourhood Residential 1 Zone, skylight	Applicant	Withdrawn	02/04/2024	Dandenong North
PLN24/0099	PlnAppVic	Yes	14 George Street DANDENONG VIC 3175	Linear Land Surveying Pty Ltd	Subdivision of the land into two (2) lots SPEAR (VICSMART) DECLARED AREA	Commercial	Applicant	Withdrawn	08/04/2024	Dandenong



2.3.2 Planning Decisions Issued by Planning Minister's Delegate – April 2024

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures
Attachments: Nil

Executive Summary

1. This report provides Council with an update on the exercise of delegation by Planning Minister's delegate.
2. No decisions were reported for the month of April 2024.

Officer Recommendation

That the report be noted.

MINUTE No.1065

Moved by: Cr Richard Lim OAM

Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That the report be noted.

CARRIED 9 / 0



Presentation of awards

Jacqui Weatherill, CEO presented the following awards received at the LGPro's 2024 Awards for Excellence to the Greater Dandenong City Council:

- Service delivery initiative with our refugee immunisation program; and
- Indigenous Australia health program new direction mother and babies program - in conjunction with other municipalities in the South East.



3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Question

Phillip Lamaro, Dandenong

In Greater Dandenong Councils' Activity Centre Tree Planting Policy has chosen 196 locations in central Dandenong, 122 in Springvale and 123 in Noble Park for areas that Council have selected that trees should be planted. This is a 10-year plan to have all these locations filled with trees which was started in 2020 and to be completed by 2030. In the past 4 years of this policy being introduced and endorsed by Greater Dandenong Council could I please be advised of how many of the 196 locations in central Dandenong have been planted in the last 4 years?

How many of the 196 locations in central Dandenong are to be planted this year?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

In 2020 Council undertook a comprehensive audit on the number of trees and levels of canopy cover for its three Activity Centre's in Dandenong, Springvale and Noble Park.

The data was used to develop a 10-year Activity Centre's Tree Planting Plan to increase street tree plantings, canopy coverage to improve urban cooling and reduce heat island effects.

Tree planting guided by the plan commenced in 2021. 58 of the proposed tree planting locations in the Dandenong Activity Centre have been planted. There are 24 tree planting locations scheduled for the 2024 planting season.

Question

Phillip Lamaro, Dandenong

Casey Council recently adjusted their Councillor Conduct Policy with two (2) amendments to reduce the possibility for Councillors to abuse their position.

These are:

- a) upon planning matters the proponent and all the parties involved, including the applicant, developer, landowner, and consultant, will be required to disclose reportable donations and other financial arrangements with relevant decision-makers.
- b) requires the Council to document alternate recommendations for any planning scheme amendment decisions to ensure transparency in decision-making.

Would Greater Dandenong Council look at introducing the same amendments to ensure Councillors are held at the same standards?

And if not, why not?



Response

Andrew Foley, Executive Director Corporate Development

Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council must review its Councillor Code of Conduct within four months of a Council Election.

Currently, State Parliament is considering a Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Bill 2024. At this time, this proposed legislation is mandating a Model Councillor Code of Conduct so we will await the legislation being passed and given Royal Assent, along with the new Council after Council elections in October this year, before reviewing the document.

Question

Isabella Do, Springvale

With the potential loss and removal of 'tree 2' that stands on 51A Douglas Street, which areas within Noble Park will the Council develop or enhance to ensure residents have access to shaded and recreational spaces, especially during the warmer months?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Council have planted 20,000 trees over the last 10 years to improve the canopy cover. We will continue to invest in Urban Forest Strategy to improve the canopy cover across Greater Dandenong.

Council will consider where best to plant new trees in Noble Park to provide the most benefit for the community.

Question

Christina Sharaf, Noble Park

I wish to add my voice to the chorus of concern about the removal of the gum trees on Douglas Street, Noble Park. Why can't you stipulate that the building plans of whatever is going up include the gums as local features? We locals love our trees.

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

The planning permit for this development, including the removal of trees, was approved at the direction of the Minister for Planning.

Council did object to the proposed development, however as the Minister approved this development, Council unfortunately cannot override this planning permit.



Question

Roz Blades, Noble Park

Could you please let me know what volunteer activities are occurring during Volunteer week?

Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

National Volunteer Week was celebrated from 20-26 May 2024.

Activities that occurred for Council Volunteers pre and during National Volunteer Week included:

- 16 May - Drum Theatre Show followed by appreciation Lunch with Mayor.
- 21 May - Interfaith Tour (morning tea, lunch, meditation).
- Volunteer Promotions:
 - Big Screens – Harmony Square and Springvale Community Hub.
 - Harmony Square Window Display.
 - Article in Council News.
 - Volunteer Thank you flags

On 22 May 2024, the Greater Dandenong Volunteer Resource Service held an appreciation lunch at Beletti's for local agencies.

Comment

Cr Lana Formoso, Mayor

We also held a dinner on Tuesday 21 May 2024 for SES and CFA volunteers for the February 2024 storm event response.

A question was received from Kim Handley, Clyde. This question was asked at the last Council Meeting, even though it was not read out because it did not comply with the Governance Rules and it was taken on notice. Council officers contacted Ms Handley directly post meeting to discuss the question.

Council officers have offered to investigate any alleged incident however to do so we require further information from Ms Handley.

This question is a repeat question and again was not read out at this meeting under Council's Governance Rules.

Question

Kim Handley, Clyde

This question has been modified to enable it to comply with the governance rules.

In 2023, Ms Handley and approximately 300 others signed a petition for greater Dandenong to have an LGBTIQ+ advisory board and has asked when will this advisory board be created?



Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

In February 2024, Officers advised of the work being undertaken at regional and local levels to determine how best an advisory type function could be established to support the City of Greater Dandenong (CGD).

As part of this, we are currently planning an informal forum for local LGBTIQ+ members and the idea is to gauge interest from a broader segment of the community.

We are currently working towards having a recommendation for the incoming Council to consider as part of our overall review of Council committees and advisory groups.

In the meantime, once announced, Council encourages the community to reach out to candidates for the local government elections to further express their desire for such a committee.

Question

Scott Peters, Dandenong

On Lonsdale Street and Palm Plaza there is approximately 10 water fountains for pedestrians and not one is accessible for dogs. Some councils have converted all their public water fountains to have dog accessibility, but Greater Dandenong has not done this.

Would Council look at least converting one (1) or more of these water fountains to have dog accessibility for people that are walking their dogs?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

The current drinking fountains are fit for purpose recognizing the Dandenong Activity Centre is a metropolitan activity centre. When these assets require replacement Council will consider replacing them with multi-functional drinking fountains.

Question

Elizabeth Grasso, Keysborough

What are the projections for canopy cover growth over the next decade in the Noble Park business area?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

The Noble Park activity centre currently has a canopy coverage of 11.5%.

Council is aiming to increase the canopy coverage across the municipality, including Noble Park, to 15% by 2028. To assist in achieving this, Council has implemented a 10-year activity centre tree planting program.



Question

Isabelle Nash, Keysborough

Over the past week I have walked up and down the Noble Park shopping precinct in Noble Park, ie Douglas and Ian Streets and the adjoining shopping streets, where I personally spoke with many shop keepers, business owners and local shoppers. Everyone I spoke with was shocked and deeply disappointed at the prospect of losing the river red gums at 51a Douglas Street and wanted to see the trees remain in place. What level of consultation was conducted regarding the decision to remove Tree 2 at the mentioned address, and how were the views and inputs from the Noble Park community incorporated into this decision?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

The Minister for Planning undertook community consultation during its assessment of the planning scheme amendment and planning permit application.

Following this notification period, 11 submissions were received by the Minister for Planning. Among these submissions (including Council's), concerns were raised in relation to the loss of native vegetation on the site.

The Minister subsequently granted approval to allow the removal of the trees.

Question

Isabelle Nash, Keysborough

How does the potential loss of tree 2 at 51a Douglas Street Noble Park align with the Council's long-term goals for canopy coverage and biodiversity in the area?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

The potential offset payment and use of these funds for increased planting in Noble Park will provide in the long term a greater canopy cover which is in line with Council's Urban Forest Strategy.

Question

Isabelle Nash, Keysborough

In this current Agenda document, CGD states as one (1) point of its Community Vision 2024 that "Our growing city is committed to environmental sustainability". Considering the low tree canopy and the likely age of approx. 300 years of River Red Gum Tree 2 at 51a Douglas Street, what measures are Council taking to protect and sustain this tree which provides a living link to our area's past, a sentinel stature in the landscape, and a plethora of biodiverse life and contribution to the local ecosystem?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Unfortunately, the Minister for Planning has made a decision that the trees removal is acceptable. Given this decision and that Council was directed to issue the permit, it has placed Council in a difficult position as we are responsible for the permit. Therefore, the ability to retain this tree during the planning scheme amendment and permit process was not within Councils' control and was decided by the Minister for Planning due to it providing affordable housing for the community.



Question**Pam Naylor, Noble Park**

How does the Council plan to address the impact on local wildlife habitats resulting from the removal of the large river red gum tree at 51a Douglas Street and what steps will be taken to ensure that displaced fauna have alternative habitats in Noble Park?

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

Council will work with the developer to identify any existing wildlife and protected as part of the tree removal process.

Cr Tim Dark arrived at 7.26 pm.

Question**Pam Naylor, Noble Park**

How does the potential loss of the community-owned tree 2 at 51a Douglas Street set a precedent for future development projects, particularly in balancing development needs with environment and community values?

Going forward, how will Council ensure that green spaces are preserved in Noble Park's urban planning decisions?

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

As previously noted, the decision to grant a planning permit for the site, including tree removal, was by the Minister for Planning. In Council's submission we objected to the removal of the trees and if Council would have been the responsible decision maker for the site, it is highly unlikely that Council would have granted a planning permit for the tree's removal.

However, we understand that the Minister made that decision to provide 97 affordable houses for the community.

When assessing planning applications, the retention of existing trees is assessed on a case by case basis.

Including factors such as the trees' health, species, location and the proposed landscaping plan outcomes as a result of the proposal (including increased canopy cover through increased tree planting on a site).

Question**Zoe Mohl, Springvale**

Can Council confirm if the poor health of tree 1 at 51a Douglas Street Noble Park is likely attributed to the impact of paving covering the root system?

If so, how will Council prevent this issue across the municipality going forward?



Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

A tree's health can be impacted by many environmental factors. We are unable to confirm if the amount of paving around the base of tree 1 has directly impacted the trees' health and vigor.

The impact of civil infrastructure surrounding trees within our Activity Centres can be negated by designing and investing in tree planting systems which provide adequate below ground space whilst supporting surrounding infrastructure.

These systems were successfully installed in Greater Dandenong within Lonsdale Street and Railway Parade.

Question

Zoe Muhl, Springvale

How does the potential loss of tree 2 at 51a Douglas Street Noble Park align with the Council's urban greening strategy and the village-like development strategy for Noble Park?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Utilising the \$155,000, Council will investigate the opportunity to offset the loss of canopy through strategic tree planting within and surrounding the Noble Park activity centre.

Question

Gaye Guest, Keysborough

At the Tree Canopy Exhibition at Heritage Hill, Les McLean outlined the history of the Natural Resource Conservation League (NRCL) which proudly started in Noble Park by Cr Cyril Issac a nurseryman, a trustee and then an MP till 1952. NRCL put Noble Park on the map for being at the forefront of conservation and sustainability after the devastation of the state wide bush fires and in 1944 there was massive community planting at Greaves Reserve recognising the importance of greening Victoria at the end of WW2. NRCL is now a trust supporting sustainable projects to this day. Considering the meagre investment of \$155,000 for only 15 new trees at 51a Douglas Street Noble Park, which equates to approximately \$10,333 per tree.

How does Council justify this cost per tree and is this considered standard in urban forestry practices given our parks team only support new trees for the first 2 years of their "lives"?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

The cost to install and establish a tree in a highly modified urban environment such as the Noble Park Activity Centre is high due to several factors.

An in-depth site analysis is required at each potential planting location to understand ground services and limitations.

The site analysis includes the assessment of available above and below ground space, to determine the level of intervention and civil works required to incorporate suitable growing systems whilst supporting surrounding infrastructure.

This estimated costing includes 2.5 m high semi mature trees to be planted in the activity centre.



Question

Gaye Guest, Keysborough

The experts I have engaged with over our magnificent sentinel trees have indicated that they are priceless, healthy and the two (2) gum trees are a pairing. One (1) protecting the other against our unpredictable climate conditions. The trees have been compared to the Bilston tree near Casterton, the biggest red gum in the world which was saved through community advocacy and ours are a similar age DBH 300 years old and stand because of the intermittent flooding Noble Park has experienced in its history.

Can Council provide a detailed breakdown of how and where the proposed poultry \$155,000 for the removal of tree 2 at 51a Douglas Street Noble Park will be allocated towards the replacement planning and maintenance of new trees in the area and will the community be consulted on this?

LXRP promised to seed collect back in 2015 from the 66 river red gums they destroyed in our rail corridor to replant saplings back in Noble Park and that was a broken promise.

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

As noted in the report in tonight's Agenda, the offset payment is to be allocated in the 2024/2025 budget to plant trees within Noble Park. This work can only commence once Council has made the decision to accept this option and the developer has paid the amount as stated.

Question

Gaye Guest, Keysborough

It was a sad day when important information about the sentinel river red gum trees only becomes known publicly 4 days before a Council meeting. This information was not shared in real time with Council's Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee, the Historical Society or the Greater Dandenong Environment group. The lack of transparency over local issues in a timely manner is alarming, given the historical significance of these trees that are of a great age and have kept watch over our suburb for many years. The Bilston river red gum was saved when the owner sold the land it stood on to the Department of Forestry to protect it. A wonderful heritage outcome.

Our own Council policy documents, at least 5 in total, should automatically protect these trees. Four (4) items in the Agenda tonight are a complete package and cannot be discussed as individual items. Would Council advocate for these two (2) river red gums to stay in the hands of the residents, for the deplorable sum of \$155,000 as this offer is a fire sale fraction of their actual worth?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Question taken on notice.



Question

Jennifer Batten, Noble Park

When crossing Kelvinside Road, Noble Park there is no footpath to cross the road alongside Corrigan Road.

Also, the ramp to cross to the other ramp on Memorial Drive from the playground to swimming pool is frequently blocked by a parked car. Photos can be supplied.

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Pram crossings and path upgrades at the intersection of Corrigan and Kelvinside Road have been identified in the active Transport Infrastructure Program priority list, which compare all active transport infrastructure requests across the municipality. Unfortunately we are currently unable to advise when funding will be available for construction of this path.

The illegal parking across the pram crossing has been reported to Council's parking enforcement team who regularly patrol around the Noble Park Aquatic Centre.

Due to the nature of the offending requiring a timely response, it is best to contact us via phone. Council's Parking Compliance Officers are available to respond to reports between the hours of 7am and 9pm Monday to Friday and will attend at the time of the report.

Question

Mark Dalton, Melton

How do you expect residents to follow your tree preservation rules when you ignore them yourselves. Use this instance to show how committed you are to saving our green cover. All the Eucalyptus camaldulensis that have been removed have been replaced with trees of a completely different species, not ideal. Seed collection from local red gums and grown on for planting around the city would be the way to go. The red gums in Memorial drive were grown from seed from huge red gums that were removed at Springvale railway station many years ago.

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

As previously noted, the decision to grant a planning permit for the site, including tree removal, was by the Minister for Planning.

In Council's submission we objected to the removal of the trees and if Council would have been the responsible decision maker for the site, it is highly unlikely that Council would have granted a planning permit for the tree's removal.

However, we understand that the Minister made that decision to provide 97 affordable houses for the community.

Question

Eddie Kolar, Keysborough

Dear Cr Garad, I have contacted you on 10 May 2024 without response – asking about trucks parking on Chapel Road, Keysborough after hours between Westwood Boulevard and Tyers Lane, causing potential accident traffic hazard.



Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

We will investigate and provide a response.

Comment

Cr Rhonda Garad

This resident contacts me every month as he is very conscientious. For 4 years we have been notifying Council of trucks in the area specified. Council issues fines but they just reappear.

Question

Frank Strangers, Bangholme

Given that I live only nine (9) kilometres from this Council building and a stones throw from large corporations, why is it that our road is still a dirt road, we still do not have sufficient street lighting and it looks like a rubbish tip. I have counted at least eight (8) large piles of concrete, building, rubble and soil. Each pile scattered on both sides of the road and sometimes on the road – which is a danger. It has been there for over a month. How long is this going to happen and why is our voice not heard?

Comment

Cr Rhonda Garad

A reason why that area is different to the commercial area is because it is part of the Green Wedge. The Green Wedge management plan advocates to keep it in a countrified way, so that is why there is minimal lighting.

Response

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

This matter was taken on notice at the last Council meeting but is still under investigation. The officer will contact you.

Question

Anita Tatnell, Noble Park

The tree roots and trunk encroaches on the footpath. The tree is partly owned by Council.

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

We will take this as a comment as there was no question raised.

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.

PUBLIC 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
13/05/24 PQT5	Frank Strangers, Bangholme	<p>Harwood Road - Bangholme Why is Harwood Road, Bangholme still a dirt road? Why do we only have two (2) streetlights for the whole road? Why are there no speed signs on our road and why has nothing been done with all the dumped rubbish?</p> <p>Comment Cr Rhonda Garad The dumped rubbish is an ongoing issue. 12 months ago, Council committed to putting cameras in that area but that has still not occurred.</p>	Executive Director City Futures	23/05/2024	<p>Initial response provided 13/05/2024: Question taken on notice.</p> <p>Further response provided 13/05/2024: I will ensure the claims made in the question are examined and a response provided.</p> <p>Further response provided 23/05/2024: Road surfaces are generally contingent on the adjacent land usage. The unsealed surface of Harwood Road is currently suitable for the adjacent land usage and would not become a priority to be altered (sealed) unless the adjacent land use changed substantially.</p> <p>With regards to the limited street lighting, again, this is generally associated with land use. Whilst suburban areas have more street lighting, roads in rural and sparsely developed areas generally have less street lighting, often only having flag lighting at intersections. If there are specific locations where you believe lighting may be appropriate, please let Council know and our engineers can investigate.</p> <p>On the matter of the speed limit signage, roads which do not have speed limit signs posted are subject to the default speed limit for either the built-up (urban) or rural areas.</p>

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
					<p>On Harwood Road, where conditions can vary greatly, drivers are required to drive to the conditions. Posted speed limits can create an expectation of a safe speed which may be inappropriate for the given conditions. With this in mind Council's engineers advise they have no current plans to install posted speed limits along this road.</p> <p>Illegally dumped rubbish is a significant (and growing) problem throughout the municipality, especially in the more remote 'rural' locations like Harwood Road, Bangholme. Despite several proactive initiatives including the dumped rubbish 'Hot Spots' program, installation of covert and overt CCTV cameras at 'problem' locations, and the recent dumped rubbish public awareness campaign, Council still relies on members of the public to report incidents of dumped rubbish once sighted, as we may not even be aware of these until they are reported.</p> <p>Once reported, illegally dumped rubbish is collected by Council staff within 10 working days. There has never been any prior discussion about the installation of cameras on Harwood Road, however this is something that the Waste and Cleansing team will now consider.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>



4 OFFICERS REPORTS - PART 2

4.1 POLICY AND STRATEGY

4.1.1 Canopy Cover Audit 2023

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

Attachments: Nil

Executive Summary

1. This report presents the outcomes of the 2023 canopy coverage audit as required by Council's *Greening Our Neighbourhoods Strategy 2021-28*.
2. The audit has shown an increase in canopy coverage across the municipality. The previous audits in 2016 and 2021 confirmed a municipal wide canopy coverage of 9.9% and 9% respectively at those times. The 2023 audit has confirmed an increase in canopy coverage to 14.1% across the municipality.
3. This report recommends Council note the results of the canopy coverage audit and continues to support the implementation of the *Greening Our City: Urban Tree Strategy 2018-28* and the *Greening Our Neighbourhoods Strategy 2021-28*.



Background

4. Change in climate is already impacting our municipality through increased average daily temperatures, less rainfall and increased intensity of storm and fire events. Greater Dandenong Council has declared a 'Climate and Ecological Emergency' committing Council to emergency action on climate change. The urban forest plays a significant role in reducing the impact of climate change and improving liveability by cooling our urban environment.
5. The *Greater Dandenong Urban Forest Strategy* was adopted in 2021 and is supported by *Greening Our City: Urban Tree Strategy 2018-28* (public land) and the *Greening Our Neighbourhood Strategy 2021-28* (private land). The strategies share a vision for 'a healthy, green and resilient urban forest that is well managed, protected and provides benefits to the community', and aim to increase canopy coverage across the municipality to 15% by 2028.
6. To monitor Greater Dandenong's progress to the targeted 15% canopy coverage, the *Greening Our Neighbourhoods Strategy* commits Council to measure canopy coverage every two (2) years to 2028.
7. Two (2) previous canopy coverage audits have been undertaken, the first of these was in 2016 during the development of the *Greening Our City: Urban Tree Strategy 2018-28*. This audit identified that Greater Dandenong had a municipal wide canopy coverage of 9.9% at that time. The second audit was undertaken in 2021 during the development of the *Urban Forest Strategy* and *Greening Our Neighbourhood Strategy 2021-28*. This audit identified that Greater Dandenong had a municipal wide canopy coverage of 9% at that time.

Key Points / Issues / Discussion

8. The 2023 canopy coverage audit has shown a significant increase in canopy cover across the municipality, with 14.1% of the municipality covered by tree canopy at the time of the audit. There are three (3) primary reasons for this, being the significant planting Council has undertaken over the last ten years, the increased educational work that has occurred to improve our community's knowledge of the benefits of trees, and climatic conditions.
9. Council officers engaged a consultant to conduct a measurement of canopy cover, utilising the same method used for the previous audits. The measurement used a point sampling method to measure canopy across the municipality. On receipt of the audit data, it was noted that there is a significant increase in canopy cover since the 2021. As such, officers requested a more detailed measurement (but still using the same method) to confirm these results. This more detailed measurement confirmed the figures as set out in the following table.

Area	Percentage Measurement		
	Canopy Cover 2016	Canopy Cover 2021	Canopy Cover 2023
Greater Dandenong	9.9%	9%	14.1%

10. As demonstrated in the table above, the 2023 audit has shown a significant improvement in canopy cover across the municipality and brings Council close to meeting its 2028 target of 15% canopy cover. There are three (3) primary reasons for this significant improvement.



11. Firstly, since 2014 Council has invested approximately \$9 million in its tree planting program and has planted more than 20,000 semi-mature trees over this ten-year period. This number does not include the trees planted as part of public open space and capital works projects. In addition, Council has a ten-year planting program in place for Noble Park, Springvale and Dandenong Activity Centres. Greater Dandenong is now starting to see the benefits of the trees planted in the early years of these programs as they start to grow into meaningful canopy trees. These efforts have made a huge contribution to cooling our public land.
12. Secondly, every year Council undertakes numerous educational programs to improve our community's knowledge and appreciation of the benefits of trees. These programs range from social media articles, articles in various publications, planting days, to festivals and events (i.e. Sustainability Festival and Discover Dandenong Creek Festival). In addition, Council introduced greater landscaping requirements for new developments through the Planning Scheme in 2018. Through the work of Council and the community, we are now seeing the positive influence these activities are having, which is particularly evident in the 3.3% increase in canopy coverage on private land.
13. Thirdly, in addition to the work Council has undertaken, weather patterns also influence canopy cover. Pre-2016 there were a series of drier than average years. This is likely to have caused canopy to shrink. Following 2016 we continued to see low average rainfall in the region. However, in the lead up to the 2023 measurement, the region has had very good rainfall throughout the growing seasons, during which time canopy expands. Furthermore, many of the trees planted by Council between 2014-2020 would have started showing significant canopy growth after the large amounts of rainfall since 2020.
14. The increase in canopy cover is within the expected trend of canopy growth since 2016 (4.2%). Given the seasonality change of tree growth, it is not unusual to see highs and lows when measuring canopy cover over time. Climate research has forecasted we will continue to see drier and hotter conditions across Australia. With these conditions intensifying due to El Niño, it may be that the next measurement in 2025 will be slightly lower.
15. However, canopy cover should be monitored as an overall trend from 2016 to the target date in 2028. A consistent increase, over time, until 15 percent is a baseline in dry years should be aimed for. It is in these hot and dry conditions that continuing to grow Greater Dandenong's canopy becomes vitally important to the wellbeing of the Greater Dandenong community.

Financial Implications

16. The financial implications associated with this report involve a cost in the current financial year of \$9,400 to undertake the audit, and anticipated ongoing costs in future years of \$9,400 bi-annually will be required for the audit. The future year costs are included in Council's Draft Long Term Financial Plan.

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

17. The information presented in this Council report will be promoted in a future edition of Council News and Our Bright Green Future along with the Council website and social media.

Links to the Community Vision and Council Plan

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



Legislative and Policy Obligations

20. 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:

- Climate Change and Sustainability.

This item supports the ongoing implementation of Council's Urban Forest suite of strategies which aim to cool the urban environment and increase our community's resilience to climate change by increasing canopy cover. By monitoring canopy coverage Council can prioritise planting in areas of need and ensure work is completed across Council to deliver greater canopy cover.

- Related Council Policies, Strategies or Frameworks.

This item directly relates to the Monitoring and Review action of the *Greater Dandenong Greening Our Neighbourhoods Strategy 2021-28* to measure Greater Dandenong's canopy coverage as a percentage across the municipality to inform Council's progress towards the targeted 15% canopy cover by 2028.

Conclusion

21. Greater Dandenong's canopy cover has increased to 14.1% and is currently on track to reach the targeted 15% as a baseline in 2028.

22. This increase is a result of the significant efforts and dedication of various Council teams and the community in planting canopy trees and delivering a suite of community planting days, educational programs, festivals and events to demonstrate the positive benefits of canopy cover and cooling Greater Dandenong's urban environment.

23. However, it is important that Council continue to support the objectives and actions of the *Greening Our City: Urban Tree Strategy 2018-28* and the *Greening our Neighbourhoods 2021-28* to continue to grow Greater Dandenong's urban forest, particularly as it is likely we will experience drier and hotter years moving forward.

24. The next canopy cover audit will be undertaken in 2025.

Officer Recommendation

That Council NOTES the outcomes of the 2023 canopy cover audit.

MINUTE No.1066

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Sophie Tan

That Council NOTES the outcomes of the 2023 canopy cover audit.

CARRIED 10 / 0



4.1.2 Draft Climate Change Community Engagement and Mobilisation Plan 2024-2029 - Community Consultation

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

Attachments:

1. Draft Climate Change Community Engagement and Mobilisation Plan [4.1.2.1 - 36 pages]
2. Final Consultation Report - Climate Change Community Engagement and Mobilisation Plan [4.1.2.2 - 16 pages]

Executive Summary

1. This report seeks approval to put the draft Climate Change Community Engagement and Mobilisation Plan (CEMP) out for public exhibition for a four (4) week period commencing in June 2024. Following public exhibition Council will consider formal support and adoption of the CEMP. The report also notes the associated additional operational budget and staff resourcing required to implement the draft CEMP.
2. This report recommends Council:
 - 1) Approves the Draft Climate Change Community Engagement and Mobilisation Plan (CEMP) for the purposes of community consultation for four (4) week period
 - 2) Notes the associated additional operational budget and staff resourcing required to implement theDraft CEMP; and,
 - 3) Notes that the CEMP will be presented to a subsequent Council meeting for adoption following the public exhibition period.



Background

3. Greater Dandenong City Council declared a Climate and Ecology Emergency in January 2020, committing itself to urgent climate action. Council also adopted the Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030 in August 2020. One of the key actions in this strategy is the development of a Climate Change Community Engagement and Mobilisation Plan (CEMP).
4. While the Climate Emergency Strategy is the parent document that sets out Council's overarching response to climate change, the CEMP focuses specifically on our community and increasing their ability to minimise and manage their personal risk as the impacts of climate change become more frequent and severe.
5. Community Satisfaction Survey results in recent years underscore the community's climate change concerns and expectations for Council to act.
6. Council has a heightened responsibility given the vulnerability of various segments of our community, including socio-economic factors, housing quality, communication challenges (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse status), people seeking asylum, people with disabilities, and others.
7. Council cannot tackle climate change alone; the whole community needs to play their part to contribute to a more resilient Greater Dandenong. The CEMP will enable the community to increase their knowledge and understanding of how they can take meaningful climate action.
8. There is a need to formalise our approach to community climate change engagement, replacing ad hoc activities with holistic, targeted and evidence-based strategies.
9. The CEMP is an evidence-based plan designed to:
 - Assess the community's current climate literacy and risk awareness.
 - Understand the community's needs to enhance climate risk awareness and self-management.
 - Identify and prioritise vulnerable cohorts at risk from climate impacts.
 - Establish a ground-up framework to support the community on their climate journey.
 - Facilitate increased collaboration with partners and stakeholders and leverage existing networks and connections to use resources wisely and minimise duplication of effort.
10. Extensive public consultation to inform initial development of the CEMP occurred during mid-2023, with 537 responses received. This process spanned a 10-week period and utilised diverse communication channels, including in-person sessions, events, hard-copy distribution at customer service centres, articles in Council news editions, and online platforms. A consultation summary report has been prepared and is attached to this report.
11. Public feedback emphasised that while respondents had some understanding of climate change and were already acting, barriers such as limited knowledge, confidence, time, support, and resources hindered further engagement. In response, the CEMP strategically focuses on:
 - Increasing knowledge.
 - Providing simple, time-efficient solutions by leveraging existing connections and networks (e.g., schools, community service organisations, and cultural groups).
 - Amplifying awareness and building capacity to access alternative funding streams, including Council's Community Grants program and the State Government's Victorian Energy Upgrade scheme.



12. Key findings from the consultation included:

- 49% of respondents were already taking some action in response to climate change.
- 42% cited financial constraints, lack of time, and lack of knowledge as key barriers.
- 65% identified a sense of responsibility and doing 'the right thing' as the main motivator for climate action.

13. Adopting the CEMP now lays the foundation for substantial future savings in both financial and staff resources. Empowering our community to undertake direct climate action fosters organic, community-led initiatives. As individuals become more proactive in managing climate risks, the need for extensive Council interventions diminishes.

14. Additionally, the CEMP deliberately targets community leaders who possess the ability to influence large segments of the community. This approach ensures maximum impact, leveraging the influence of key figures to amplify the reach of climate initiatives. By engaging influential voices within various community sectors, we aim to create a 'ripple effect', inspiring broader participation and fostering a shared commitment to climate resilience. This targeted strategy optimises our limited resources for greater community-wide influence.

Key Points / Issues / Discussion

15. Following the development of the draft CEMP, it is now proposed to undertake a final round of public exhibition. The exhibition is proposed to be undertaken over a four (4) week period commencing in early June 2024.

16. The public exhibition will occur using the following methods:

- Information on Council's website.
- Social media articles.
- Information in Council's e-newsletters.
- Hard copy flyers and posters at customer service centres.
- Sending letters to individuals and groups who provided submissions during the previous consultation, and wished to be kept informed of the plan.

17. Approval is now sought from Council to undertake public exhibition as set out above.

18. After completion of the public exhibition period, and consideration of any further comments received, a Council report will be tabled for formal adoption of the CEMP.

Financial Implications

19. There are no immediate financial implications associated with the proposed public exhibition that cannot be accommodated within existing budgets.

20. However, should the CEMP be formally adopted at a future Council meeting, there will be financial implications associated with the implementation of this plan. Council's existing financial and staff constraints have been recognised throughout the preparation of this plan, and balancing financial and staff constraints has been a key challenge.

21. The CEMP comprises of 47 actions, and it is considered that an appropriate balance between resourcing and the required action has been achieved.



22. Based on the actions, an additional operational budget of amount of \$225,000 p.a. (or \$1,125,000 over five (5) years) will be required to implement the CEMP. Furthermore, an additional 1FTE role will be required to deliver the CEMP at a cost of approximately \$510,000 over five (5) years.
23. The total cost of the CEMP over five (5) years is approximately \$1,635,000. There is no current amount allocated in Council's Annual Budget for these costs. This amount cannot be absorbed into current budget allocations.
24. If this additional resourcing is not available, Council will not be able to fully implement the CEMP.

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

25. During a 10-week initial consultation period in 2023, a total of 537 submissions were received, representing diverse voices from across the municipality. Surveys, community events, targeted consultations with key groups, and engagement via print and digital media ensured broad representation in shaping this plan based on our community's priorities. Feedback came from residents, businesses, cultural and religious groups, schools, and Traditional Custodians.
26. The key themes from the submissions were:
 - Majority understand climate change impacts.
 - Many already undertaking some climate action.
 - School students lack time for action.
 - Financial constraints limit community action, with time and knowledge as prominent factors.
27. The draft CEMP was developed from the ground up in line with community feedback and priorities resulting from this 2023 consultation.
28. Public exhibition of the draft CEMP is proposed to commence in June 2024 over a four (4) week period, through mechanisms including Council's digital platforms, traditional media, and customer service centres. Additionally, those who participated in the initial consultation will be contacted directly.

Links to the Community Vision and Council Plan

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

Legislative and Policy Obligations

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



Conclusion

32. The draft CEMP has been developed from the ground up in line with community feedback and priorities from the 2023 community consultation process. Approval is now sought to take the draft CEMP out to public exhibition. Following this, a further Council report will be tabled for formal adoption of the plan. It is also important to note that the CEMP will require additional staff and financial resources to implement.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** the Draft Climate Change Community Engagement and Mobilisation Plan (CEMP) for the purposes of community consultation for a four (4) week period;
2. **NOTES** the associated additional operational budget and staff resourcing required to implement the draft CEMP; and
3. **NOTES** that the CEMP will be presented to a subsequent Council meeting for adoption following the public exhibition period.

MINUTE No.1067

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Phillip Danh

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** the Draft Climate Change Community Engagement and Mobilisation Plan (CEMP) for the purposes of community consultation for a four (4) week period;
2. **NOTES** the associated additional operational budget and staff resourcing required to implement the draft CEMP; and
3. **NOTES** that the CEMP will be presented to a subsequent Council meeting for adoption following the public exhibition period.

CARRIED 10 / 0

Greater Dandenong Climate Change Community Engagement and Mobilisation Plan 2024-2029

Achieving a resilient and active community prepared for the challenges of a changing climate

DRAFT May 2024

Comments from Mayor and CEO

Mayor

Greater Dandenong City Council is pleased to present our Community Engagement and Mobilisation Plan (CEMP). Now more than ever before, cities across the world have a responsibility and moral obligation to take action and prioritise protecting the community from climate impacts. Our community has told us they think it is important for Greater Dandenong City Council to take action on climate change, and that they require our support to do so. Council recognises the local needs, priorities and different communication styles of our culturally diverse community which can influence climate action. We are all working towards the same goal to protect our planet, and the CEMP will help to streamline processes and improve environmental outcomes for all.

CEO

Greater Dandenong City Council is pleased to present our Climate Change Community Engagement and Mobilisation Plan 2024-2029 (CEMP).

Climate Change is the biggest threat modern society has faced, and we are already seeing its impacts. Equipping the Greater Dandenong community, including our most vulnerable, with the knowledge, confidence, and support to build their own capacity to respond to these impacts is a priority of Council.

To achieve a climate resilient community, urgent and transformative action is crucial. Council is actively moving past 'business-as-usual' in order to achieve impactful community action on climate change, and the CEMP provides the framework to do so.

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Executive Summary

The Climate Change Community Engagement and Mobilisation Plan (CEMP) has been developed to help Council drive change across the municipality and increase our community's understanding and ability to respond to the impacts of climate change. The plan frames how we will increase efforts to engage the community and help mobilise them to act, creating an environment that breaks down barriers and improves their ability to respond to increasing risks as the climate changes.

The CEMP aims to build community resilience to the climate emergency through increased awareness, empowerment, local ownership, and collaboration.

Bringing together all of Greater Dandenong is crucial in achieving our goals in response to climate change, and Council continues to undertake initiatives that bring everyone along on the journey. This plan is particularly focused on targeted work with specific sectors of the community based on the following parameters:

- Vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, and/or
- Potential to make a significant impact in climate change mitigation, and
- Influence many in the community.

The sectors specifically included in the CEMP are: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, businesses, Community Service Organisations, the multicultural community, people with a disability, residents, students and their education providers, and young people. Targeted work enables targeted responses that are effective in meeting the needs of our diverse community.

This plan reinforces Council's commitment to its community and to environmental sustainability. The CEMP is one piece of the puzzle in achieving the goals and objectives of Council's Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-2030.

Introduction

What is the Community Engagement and Mobilisation Plan?

Climate change is here, and its impacts are already affecting our environment, our society, and our economy.

While global efforts to tackle climate change are increasing, the science is clear that these efforts have not been enough to keep climate change from affecting life on earth in increasingly severe ways. With climate change already impacting our day to day lives, we need stronger, more urgent, and effective action in response to the climate emergency we are facing.

Greater Dandenong City Council joined a growing list of local governments around Australia and the world and declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency in February 2020. To guide Council's response, the 2020-2030 Greater Dandenong Climate Emergency Strategy and separate Action Plan were adopted in August 2020. A key action was the development of the CEMP.

The CEMP is a plan to achieve community mobilisation and action on climate change. It will help create an environment that breaks down barriers to action and improves the ability of the community to respond to the increasing risks of the changing climate. This plan forms part of the **transformational change** the City of Greater Dandenong requires to achieve community resilience in the face of climate change.

Why has the CEMP been developed?

The development of the CEMP is a direct action of the Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-2030. The CEMP is one component in achieving our Climate Emergency Strategy vision that *The City of Greater Dandenong is a resilient, net zero carbon emissions city*. The actions illustrate a proactive, planned response that aims to effectively and efficiently increase the municipality's long-term resilience to climate change. This plan will:

- Guide Council's approach to increasing community awareness and action on climate change.
- Enhance existing activities and support new opportunities to partner with the community to increase awareness through education and solution-based activities to trigger community mobilisation and action.

It will also support the efforts of Federal and State government agencies, as well as other not-for-profit community service organisations that are currently engaging and supporting our community, by:

- Advocating to and at times, on behalf of these organisations in supporting the needs of our community, particularly the more vulnerable members.
- Increasing the effectiveness of their initiatives by leveraging Council's strengths, such as our strong connections with the local community.
- Working with these organisations directly in a collaborative approach.
- Demonstrating leadership that can help inform the actions of others – either in the municipality, Victoria, or Australia, to accelerate actions to reduce the impacts of climate change.

How does the community view Council’s climate response?

Consultation in 2019 told us that:

92%	Are worried about climate change	94%	Think it is important that Greater Dandenong act	92%	Want targets of zero carbon emissions by 2050
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Recognising that a lot more work is needed to be undertaken and that our community has clearly shown a desire to act on climate change, Greater Dandenong City Council joined a growing number of cities around Australia in February 2020 by declaring a climate and ecological emergency.

Greater Dandenong is uniquely positioned when it comes to responding to climate change. With factors such as cultural diversity, financial hardship, social disadvantage, low tree canopy cover and a large industrial and commercial business sector, Council recognises that there needs to be targeted approaches to bring everyone along on the journey to becoming a thriving, sustainable and green city.

What support does the community seek for climate action?

To enable Council to meet the needs of its community, we undertook further consultation, this time asking our community about the barriers limiting them from taking action, reasons motivating them to act and how Council can best support this.

Consultation in 2023 revealed:

49%	Are already undertaking some action in response to climate change	42%	Told us financial constraints, lack of time and lack of knowledge are the main factors limiting them from taking climate action	65%	Told us their main motivator for taking climate action is that they have a responsibility, it's the right thing to do
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Table 1. Response to the 2023 CEMP consultation. Green boxes indicate the top answers (multiple choice) for respondents

	Main barriers hindering climate action				Main motivators for taking climate action				
	Limited time	Financial constraints	Lack of knowledge	Lack of confidence	Having a sense of responsibility	Reducing their carbon emissions	Protecting the environment for future generations	Reducing the risks of climate change to themselves, their friends and family	Making their home more comfortable to live in
People born overseas									
Young people (aged 5-24)									
Adults (aged 25-64)									
Older people (aged 65+)									

The consultation also told us that:

- The majority of respondents have a strong understanding of how climate change will impact them.
- Many respondents are taking some sort of climate action.
- School students are lacking time to take climate action and helping protect the environment was their main motivator for taking climate action.
- For older people having a sense of responsibility, making the home more comfortable to live in and helping protect the environment for future generations were the main motivators for taking climate action.

The majority of the wider community cite financial constraints/affordability as the main reason limiting them from taking climate action. Limited time and lack of knowledge were also prominent factors in limiting climate action, as well as a lack of support.

The full 2023 CEMP consultation report can be found at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/...

Breaking the barriers to empower our community

Any barriers the community face, *either real or perceived*, can slow or halt progress on climate action. To help drive the transformational change we are seeking to be a resilient, net zero carbon emissions city, Council aims to create an environment through development of this plan that helps to break down these barriers and empower our community to expand their 'comfort zones', making action on climate change more accessible.

Now: The community face barriers that prevent them from taking action on climate change, some are shown below



The plan: Breaking down the barriers, using a number of techniques, to achieve climate action



Who are we working with to implement this plan?

Whilst Greater Dandenong City Council can influence a range of climate related outcomes, we cannot tackle it alone. We are one piece of the puzzle when it comes to reducing the effects of climate change. The CEMP aims to facilitate this by enabling collaboration that helps to guide and support the actions of the Federal and State governments, their agencies, our partners, stakeholders, community, and businesses, to raise everyone’s capacity to reduce the risks of climate change and increase resilience.



Upwards	Sideways	Inwards	Outwards
<p>Who: Victorian State Government: They are responsible for managing the state’s environmental, social, and economic wellbeing in the context of a changing climate. They have a responsibility to respond to climate change under the Public Service Act.</p> <p>Australian Federal Government: They are responsible for representing Australia’s national interests and response to climate change. They lead national climate change mitigation and adaptation response.</p> <p>What Council can do: Advocate to State and Federal Governments to adopt and resource a climate emergency response based on the needs of its community, as well as the sector.</p>	<p>Who: Other Local Governments: They have strong local connections and knowledge meaning they are often best placed to respond at the local level. They are already widely recognised for their efforts in leading climate action, and this is underpinned by the requirement to respond to climate change under the Victorian Local Government Act.</p> <p>What Council can do: Collaborate with other councils to implement a climate emergency response, to increase their capacity and minimise inefficient use of resources from duplication of effort.</p>	<p>Who: Councillors: Local elected officials play a pivotal role in climate action. Engaged mayors and Councillors are key to ensuring a supportive policy environment and championing the vision of a more resilient community in the face of climate change.</p> <p>Council Executives and Management: The CEO is responsible for the overall management and performance of all Council operations. The CEO and Executive Team can use their influence to advocate for policies that promote sustainability and climate change.</p> <p>Council Departments and Business Units: Council Departments and Business Units are responsible for portfolios of work across Council. They are responsible for considering how climate change impacts their services and embedding consideration of this into their decision-making and operational processes.</p> <p>Council Officers: Climate change affects every aspect of Council and therefore all staff are impacted and have a role to play in responding to climate change.</p> <p>What Council can do: Ensure Councillors, Executive Management and Council staff understand and have the training and</p>	<p>Who: Greater Dandenong community: Everyone is responsible for doing their fair share to reduce carbon emissions as well as manage the risks of climate change impacts. The existing networks and skills of the community are an asset in our fight against climate change.</p> <p>Partners and Stakeholders: Key groups include community service organisations, not-for-profits, and education providers. They have considerable knowledge of the communities they serve and are able to help spread the messages and resources available to strengthen our community’s response to the climate emergency.</p> <p>What Council can do: Work with partners and stakeholder groups to disseminate climate change information on a larger scale than Council could reach on its own. We can also support the community to advocate on behalf of themselves.</p>

capacity to act through their roles as part of
the whole-of-Council response to the
climate emergency.

We recognise the community's varied views on climate change

The way people feel about climate change can dictate if and how they respond. Research undertaken by The Sunrise Project has resulted in the *Climate Compass* initiative. This research has divided Australians into one of seven audiences based on their climate change attitudes and beliefs. The Climate Compass tells us how people in each of the audiences tend to feel, think, and act when it comes to climate change. This information supports those working to change the community's response to climate change, by advising on the appropriate messaging ('the why') and unlock the desired behaviours (the 'what') depending on the audience being engaged (the 'who').

We can apply these learnings to our work in Greater Dandenong community to identify the different 'audiences' within our community that we aim to target with our work, and the messages and initiatives likely to be most influential.

The Climate Compass audiences explained and the 2022 results



ALARMED

26% of the Australian Population

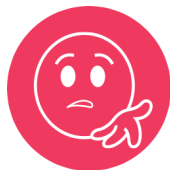
The Alarmed have the highest levels of concern about climate change. They believe humans are fully responsible for climate change and believe that climate change impacts will affect current and future generations



CONCERNED

23% of the Australian Population

The Concerned have slightly lower levels of worry about climate change but still see it as an important issue. They agree with the science of climate change but think it will be more of a problem for future generation, so they have less urgency for action.



ALERT

5% of the Australian Population

The Alert are highly concerned about climate change but think that other issues are more important. They also struggle to believe that any action they take will have an impact and some even believe that it is too late to take action on climate change at all.



CAUTIOUS

17% of Australian Population

The Cautious express some worry about climate change but overall feel it's an issue for the future and that other things are more important right now. Some of them don't fully believe that humans are responsible for climate change, and they are concerned about the risks of phasing out fossil fuels.



DISENGAGED

5% of the Australian Population

The Disengaged are not engaged in climate change or any political issues. They are uncertain on the science of climate change and think if it is real that it is a problem for future generations and won't affect them.



DOUBTFUL

14% of the Australian Population

The Doubtful are not convinced on the science of climate change and don't believe that humans are the cause so they don't agree that it will affect them or future generations or see any need for urgent action. They believe that moving away from fossil fuels will damage the economy or have other negative impacts.

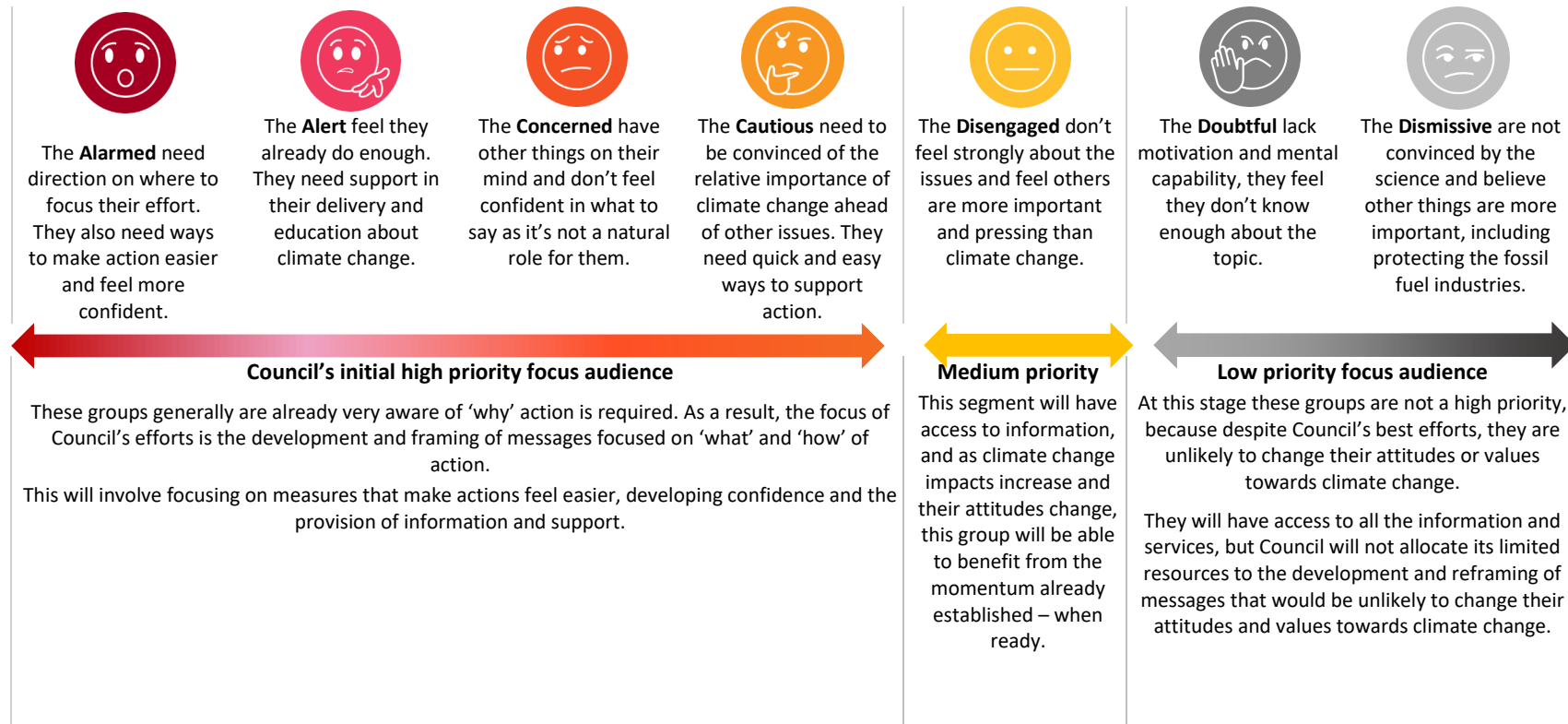


DISMISSIVE

10% of the Australian Population

The Dismissive are climate deniers, they either don't believe climate change is happening at all or think it is a natural process not influenced by humans. They may be actively taking action to try and delay or stop action on climate change.

Climate Compass audiences of focus for Council



We will utilise community connections and networks to reach a wider audience

Council cannot work directly with all of Greater Dandenong's approximately 170,000 residents, 60,000 households and 12,500 businesses. What we can do is support those segments of the community that align with *Alarmed*, *Alert*, *Concerned* and *Cautious* audiences, by working with key stakeholders who help us to disseminate information through their networks and programs.

The theory of diffusion

As we can't work directly with every individual in the municipality, Council is striving to create an environment that supports the diffusion of knowledge through community connections and networks. Diffusion involves innovations or learnings that are communicated through certain channels over time among the members of a social system. For example, by schools participating in environmental programs, learnings from students in the classroom are taken back home, shared with students' families and then throughout social networks into the community.

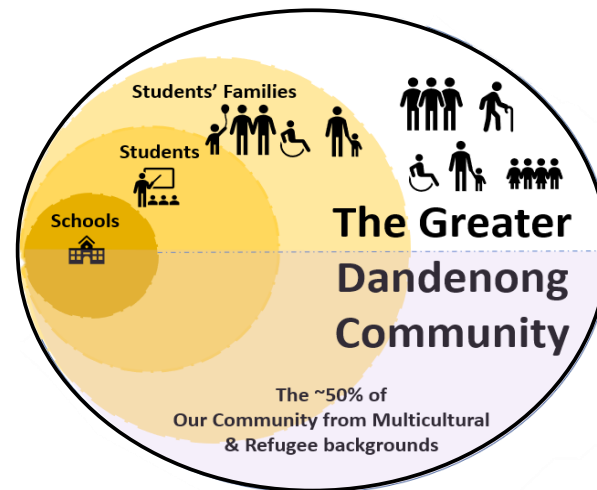
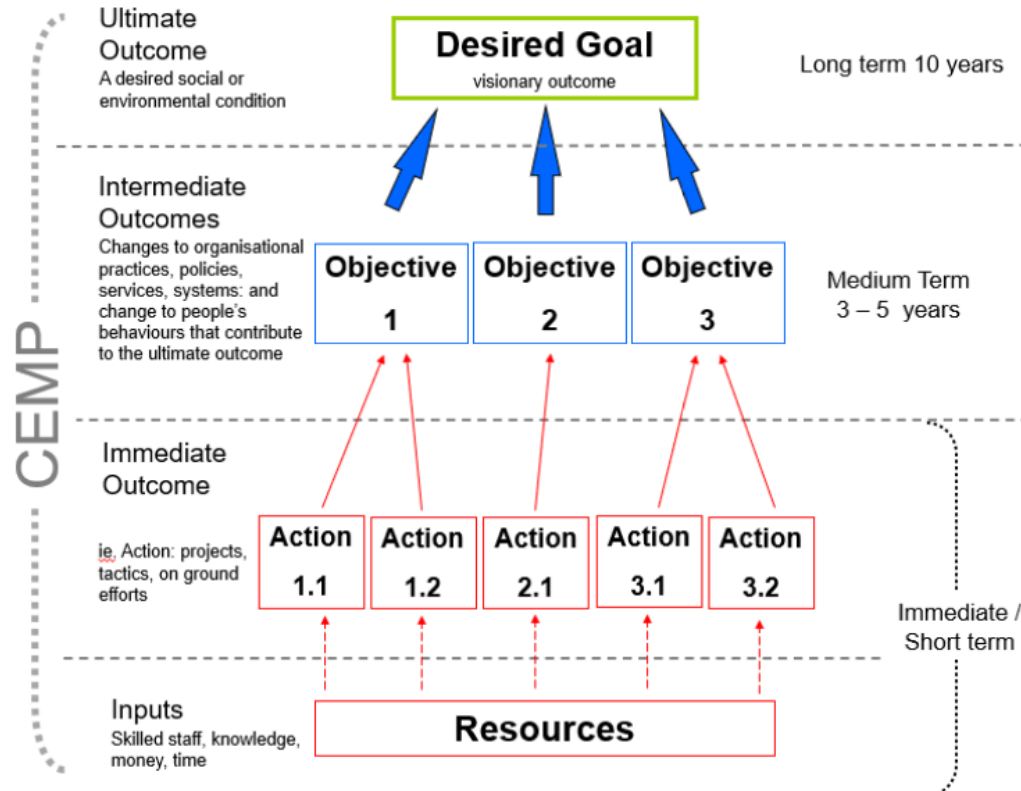


Figure 1. Theory of diffusion, with learnings diffusing from schools to the wider Greater Dandenong Community

To enable targeted responses that are effective in meeting the needs of our community, we are focusing on the following sectors

Sectors			
<p>Business</p> <p><i>All businesses who operate in Greater Dandenong, including small-to-medium enterprises, sole traders and home-based businesses.</i></p>	<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People</p> <p><i>Australia's First People, including the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which Greater Dandenong is based, the Bunurong People.</i></p>	<p>Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD)</p> <p><i>Greater Dandenong is the most multicultural community in Australia, with 61% of residents born overseas and 69% speaking a language other than English at home.</i></p>	<p>Students and their education providers</p> <p><i>Students across all educational institutions in Greater Dandenong, including Early Childhood Learning Centres, primary schools, high schools, and tertiary institutions.</i></p>
<p>Residents</p> <p><i>The general population, living in Greater Dandenong.</i></p>	<p>Youth</p> <p><i>Young people aged 25 and below.</i></p>	<p>People with a Disability</p> <p><i>People living with a physical or mental impairment that may restrict their participation in day-to-day activities.</i></p>	<p>Community Service Organisations</p> <p><i>Agencies that carry out care or welfare-based activities for particular groups within the community.</i></p>

The framework for each of the sectors is based on this approach:



Disclaimer: The monetary values and staff resourcing included in the following pages are estimations. The implementation of the CEMP will be subject to both funding being made available through Council's budgetary procedures, and staffing resources being available to undertake the actions.

Targeted Sector: Students and their education providers

Our long-term Goal: by 2034

Greater Dandenong Council’s supportive and collaborative approach with the education providers in the municipality enables effective learning environments that empowers our students and community to develop the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to act in ways that contribute to more climate resilient ways of living.

Why are we targeting this sector?

Students make up a large part of our community; 20% of our community study full time¹. As they all need somewhere to live – this can help us also reach the majority of the ~60,000 households in Greater Dandenong.

During consultation to inform this plan, members of our multicultural community (who do not speak English) stated that the best way to reach them is to educate their children, who can then carry these messages home.

There are more than 50 Primary and Secondary Schools in Greater Dandenong, as well as English language schools and centres for adult education.

Environmental issues, including climate change, was found to be the top concern held by young people in 2023.¹

A 2023 report found that two-thirds of young Australians said climate concerns are having a negative impact on youth mental health.²

It’s their future – students deserve a say, as well as the knowledge and skills that will be required to respond to the impacts and opportunities that a changing climate will create.

What are some of the barriers to action this sector face?

Schools and their teachers are already feeling overwhelmed in the face of ever-increasing demands³, which is limiting the incorporation of climate change, sustainability and health and wellbeing into the curriculum.

This creates a significant barrierⁱⁱⁱ that limits the willingness of teachers and schools to take on many of the broad range of initiatives and programs already developed and promoted by Council and other government agencies (such as Sustainability Victoria and Monash Health), targeted in response to our community’s current performance against key health and wellbeing and socio-economic indicators.

As a result, Council and the other government agencies spend much of their time and resources trying to connect with the schools, with uptake of these programs across the municipality generally limited, and in an ad-hoc manner, often based on previously established relationships.

What are the benefits for key stakeholders?

Schools	Teachers	Students	Council	State Government	Partners
Additional support will help to reduce the pressure on schools to deliver initiatives and programs through the curriculum.	A supportive community of practice for teachers to build capacity to better enable efficient delivery of sustainability learning outcomes across the Australian Curriculum.	Education about sustainability and climate change develops the knowledge, skills, and values necessary for people to act in ways that contribute to more sustainable patterns of living ^{iv} .	Will streamline the efforts of various Council teams, allowing them to spend more time working directly with schools on programs instead of advertising and recruiting participants.	With adequate resourcing, schools can be a key way to increase community awareness and responses to climate change – supporting the State’s efforts to achieve its mitigation and adaptation targets.	Greater access to and engagement with schools through a streamlined approach.

¹ Mission Australia, Youth Survey 2023 <https://www.missionaustralia.com.au/publications/youth-survey>

² Orygen, Climate of Distress 2023 <https://www.orygen.org.au/Orygen-Institute/Policy-Areas/Social-and-environmental-factors/Climate-of-distress-policy-paper>

ATT 4.1.2.1 Draft Climate Change Community Engagement and Mobilisation Plan

Objective 1: <i>Direct Programs and Services</i>	Objective 2: <i>Leadership, Information and Communication</i>	Objective 3: <i>Strategic Partnerships</i>
Provide inclusive and equitable access to Council programs, services, and resources to strengthen the awareness and resilience of our community	Facilitate equitable access to information on climate change and its effective dissemination through communication channels	Enhance partnerships with external organisations that strengthen our community's adaptive capacity
<i>Schools are critical to Greater Dandenong's efforts to engage and mobilise its community in response to climate change. The teaching of children, young people and adults about climate change will build their capacity to adapt to climate change impacts and risks. Evidence demonstrates that these learnings will also be taken home and help inform the broader community.</i>	<i>It is essential Council gains the support of local school principals and key staff if we are going to achieve the goal of our students and community developing the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to act in ways that contribute to healthier, more sustainable and climate resilient patterns of living.</i>	<i>Various government agencies provide programs and initiatives targeted at schools that aim to support the broader community. Awareness of such programs is often limited, resulting in less uptake. By increasing the reach of these key government agencies within our local schools, the programs can be better targeted and designed to meet their needs.</i>
Actions	Actions	Actions
<p>1.1. Ongoing provision of funds through Council's Community Grants Program specifically targeted to support schools' efforts that contribute to healthier, sustainable and climate resilient patterns of living for our community.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2024</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p>	<p>2.1. Council establishes an annual 'Climate Change Mayoral Roundtable for School Principals'</p> <p>Approximate cost: \$10,000/annum.</p> <p>Staff resources: Additional resources required.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2026</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p> <p>2.2. Continue to recognise and promote the achievement of schools through initiatives such as the annual Australia Day Awards (Sustainability category) and use of Council's publications and social media.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2024</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p>	<p>3.1. Council continues to facilitate collaboration between local schools and external stakeholders to provide education programs such as the CERES Student Environmental Leadership Summit.</p> <p>Approximate cost: \$15,000/annum.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2024</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p>

Targeted Sector: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

Our long-term Goal: by 2034

Foster collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People to uplift Traditional Custodians, emphasising their deep connection to and care for Country, while facilitating knowledge exchange to enhance climate resilience for the broader community.

Why are we targeting this sector?

Australia hosts the world's oldest living culture, spanning over 65,000 years. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People's profound connection to Country is central to their spiritual identity, health, relationships, culture, and identity.

The Bunurong People, Traditional Custodians of Greater Dandenong for over 1,000 generations, possess deep insights into the land, impacted by European colonisation that disrupted traditional knowledge.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People are disproportionately affected by climate change - 6.2% of those affected by severe flooding in New South Wales in 2022 were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, despite comprising only 3.3% of the general population.³

What are some of the barriers to action this sector face?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People have historically faced challenges in having their voices heard at a policy-making level. This means their unique perspectives and knowledge regarding the land and environment might not be included in broader climate change discussions.

Western climate change solutions might not always align with the traditional knowledge and practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This can create challenges in integrating traditional knowledge with modern climate action strategies. For example, the incorporation of more heat or drought resistance species of vegetation from northern NSW is of concern to Bunurong Elders due to potential impacts on Traditional Songlines.⁴

Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People communities lack the resources, infrastructure, and funding to implement climate action strategies or to adapt to changing environmental conditions due to ongoing marginalisation.

Due to the treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People by government bodies in the past, there may be significant distrust or unwillingness to engage with government initiatives.

What are the benefits for key stakeholders?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People	Bunurong Land Council	Council	State Government	The Broader Community	Partner Organisations
<p>A platform to share ancient wisdom and traditional ecological knowledge.</p> <p>Strengthened cultural preservation and continuity as the community's connection to the Land is recognised and integrated into broader climate action efforts.</p> <p>Measures targeting inclusive and equitable outcomes as part of Council's response to the climate emergency.</p>	<p>Formalising existing partnerships and projects between the Bunurong Land Council and Greater Dandenong City Council, including greater certainty around continuity of important projects such as the Connecting to Country project and Dandenong Creek Art and Cultural Trail.</p>	<p>Facilitating collaboration between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and Greater Dandenong City Council can lead to more efficient and culturally sensitive climate initiatives.</p> <p>Fosters stronger community bonds and integration as both groups work together for a common goal. This work will also assist Council in meeting some of the objectives laid out in the Reconciliation Action Plan.</p>	<p>Engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities supports state-wide efforts to reconnect communities to our natural environment for cultural, economic, customary, and spiritual purposes.</p> <p>Promotes unity and inclusivity in the face of global challenges.</p>	<p>Enhances societal understanding of the culture and values of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, fostering respect and cohesion.</p> <p>Collaborative climate action that takes into account traditional practices may lead to more effective local environmental outcomes.</p>	<p>Acknowledgment of inclusive and culturally sensitive organisations, leading to a stronger sense of community.</p> <p>A holistic approach, incorporating the perspectives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, can lead to more comprehensive climate initiatives and a higher 'return on investment'.</p>

³ [Caring for Country means tackling the climate crisis with Indigenous leadership: 3 things the new government must do \(theconversation.com\)](https://theconversation.com/caring-for-country-means-tackling-the-climate-crisis-with-indigenous-leadership-3-things-the-new-government-must-do-121111)

⁴ Direct communication, meeting with Bunurong Land Council, 19 October 2023

Objective 1: <i>Direct Programs and Services</i>	Objective 2: <i>Leadership, Information and Communication</i>	Objective 3: <i>Strategic Partnerships</i>	Objective 4: <i>Preparedness for Emergencies</i>
<p>Provide inclusive and equitable access to Council programs, services, and resources to strengthen the awareness and resilience of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community</p>	<p>Facilitate equitable access to information on climate change and its effective dissemination through communication channels, and provide the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community with a voice in climate change conversations</p>	<p>Enhance partnerships with external organisations that strengthen our community's adaptive capacity</p>	<p>Facilitate equitable access to emergency services information and programs to support preparedness and recovery to climatic extreme events.</p>
<p><i>To foster a collaborative environment that integrates the traditional knowledge and practices of the Bunurong People with contemporary climate solutions. This will ensure both respect for traditional means of Caring for Country, and the effective implementation of localised strategies for Greater Dandenong that meet the needs of this community.</i></p>	<p><i>To facilitate the active participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in climate action responses that meets the needs of this marginalised community, including by helping to amplify the voices of the Bunurong People.</i></p>	<p><i>Enhancing social connectedness within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and with external agencies will facilitate a more inclusive approach to climate change adaptation.</i></p>	<p><i>To collaborate closely with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People from the Greater Dandenong region in designing and implementing person centred emergency preparedness strategies that take into account their unique vulnerabilities and strengths.</i></p>
Actions	Actions	Actions	Actions
<p>1.1. Continue to support the Connecting to Country program through financial contributions and Council staff in kind time</p> <p>Approximate cost: \$80,000/annum.</p> <p>Staff resources: Additional resources required.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2024</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p> <p>1.2. Continue to support the progression of the Dandenong Creek Art and Cultural Trail.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Additional resources required.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2028</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p>	<p>2.1. Establish an ongoing, quarterly environmental consultation session with the Bunurong Land Council, open to any Council staff who wish to engage and seek feedback on environmental issues. This would provide a two-way dialogue, enabling Traditional Wisdom to be shared with the community to improve climate resilience for all.</p> <p>Approximate cost: \$5,000/annum.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2025</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p> <p>2.2. Enable opportunities for consultation and engagement on climate change with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations to increase Council's awareness of their needs and prioritises.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2025</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p>	<p>3.1. Council to work with relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, including Community Advisory Groups, to better understand and facilitate collaborative community orientated climate response actions that respond to the needs of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Additional resources required.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2028</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p>	<p>4.1. Council to work with emergency response partners and stakeholders on ways to ensure emergency preparation, response and recovery efforts are inclusive and equitable for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Additional resources required.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2026</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p> <p>4.2. Work with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and other partners to distribute the Emergency Preparedness Booklet to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2024</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p>

Targeted Sector: Greater Dandenong’s Business Community

Our long-term Goal: by 2034

Greater Dandenong’s regional status as an economic powerhouse is maintained by a business sector resilient to both the direct physical impacts of climate change, as well as the indirect impacts of the global transition to a de-carbonised economy disclosing climate-related financial risks

Why are we targeting this sector?

Melbourne’s economic landscape has shifted from manufacturing to knowledge-intensive services, with ongoing changes anticipated due to automation and climate change impacts.

Recognising climate change impacts on a business is crucial, emphasising the need for businesses to understand both the physical effects and the risks and opportunities associated with transitioning to a decarbonised economy.

Local councils, as outlined in the Local Government Act 2020, play a role in supporting local economies with a focus on achieving the best outcomes and promoting sustainability.

Greater Dandenong is the home of business/ industry in south-east Melbourne and is crucial in supporting the economy and community in the wider region. Given the significance of this sector and the growing emphasis on climate risk exposure, there is a need for a strong focus on this group, and tailored responses across various industries.

What are some of the barriers to action this sector face?

Businesses, particularly small to medium enterprises, often have limited financial, technical, and human resources to plan for a complex and contested issue such as adapting to climate change. Competing issues that may take more immediate priority.

While there might be recognition by key decision makers that the climate is changing, there is uncertainty around the scale of these changes and what risks these mean for the business.

A lack of locally relevant and practical information about potential climate impacts may be compounded by a lack of technical expertise to interpret climate change projections for the local area, the business and supply chains.

SMEs often have limited funds to spend, and these are often prioritised to more immediate issues.

Leadership shapes the decision-making culture of the organisation. Applying good leadership can inspire creativity and action, while poor leadership makes meaningful action difficult.

The culture of an organisation may limit effective planning for climate change: for example, management’s attitudes and values will strongly influence the organisation’s response.

What are the benefits for key stakeholders?

Business Sector	Business Groups	Government Agencies	Council	Broader Community
Increased awareness and support will enable more members of our local business community to be part of the response to climate change, helping to create a broader movement demonstrating the capacity to prepare and respond.	Increased support and appreciation for the direct benefit their business members can obtain through the provision of relevant information, resources and programs that support their audience’s needs.	Increased collaboration will help empower and enable more members of our business community to be part of the response to climate change, supporting broader efforts of government agencies to support our diverse but disadvantaged community.	Supporting the ongoing viability of the driver of our region’s economy and employment.	It is by working together that we can respond to the challenges of climate change for the benefit of all Australians. Responding to climate change is a shared responsibility that requires sustained and ongoing action.

<p>Objective 1: <i>Direct Programs and Services</i></p>	<p>Objective 2: <i>Leadership, Information and Communication</i></p>	<p>Objective 3: <i>Strategic Partnerships</i></p>
<p>Provide inclusive and equitable access to Council programs, services, and resources to strengthen the awareness and resilience of our business community and local economy.</p>	<p>Facilitate equitable access to information on climate change as well effective dissemination of information through appropriate communication channels</p>	<p>Enhance partnerships with external organisations that strengthen our business community's adaptive capacity and resilience to climate related impacts</p>
<p><i>To establish programs that facilitate climate-resilient businesses less exposed to climate change impacts and better placed to respond to the risks and opportunities as global and local markets transition to an increasingly climate related regulated and low carbon economy.</i></p>	<p><i>While there is an overwhelming abundance of information, policies, and guidance materials available on climate change, there are a range of barriers limiting local businesses access and effective use of this information. This includes limited resources and capacity to access, analyse or utilise what is available.</i></p>	<p><i>To foster collaborations between the local business community and other key groups, with the goal of pooling resources and efforts. Through these strategic partnerships, the collective impact of addressing climate challenges can be scaled up.</i></p>
<p>Actions</p>	<p>Actions</p>	<p>Actions</p>
<p>1.1. Participation in the Business Renewables Buying Group to facilitate 100% renewable energy Power Purchasing Agreements for local businesses.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2024</p> <p>Action type: One-off pilot project, with possibility to extend.</p>	<p>2.1. Council to use its communication channels to amplify local businesses stories of impacts of climate change and stories of community resilience, to increase peer to peer learning and information sharing at the local level.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2026</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p> <p>2.2. Council to increase its understanding of our business community's needs and barriers in response to climate change.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2025</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p>	<p>3.1. Continue to support local businesses to transition to the zero-carbon economy through promotion of funding opportunities such as the Victorian Energy Upgrade scheme.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2025</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p> <p>3.2. Council, through the South East Business Network (SEBN) and Economic Development Unit, will proactively identify and implement measures within existing forums to enhance local business awareness of climate change impacts.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted programs informing businesses about climate change risks and opportunities Enhancing business resilience by building capacity to adapt Collaborating with local business groups like the South East Melbourne Manufacturers Alliance (SEMMA) for replicable resilience strategies at local and state levels. <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2025</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p> <p>3.3. Work with key partners to:</p> <p>Implement the 'Clean Energy For All' project in Greater Dandenong, a collaborative effort with Environment Victoria targeting the multicultural community, including local businesses.</p>

ATT 4.1.2.1 Draft Climate Change Community Engagement and Mobilisation Plan

		<p>Enhance existing collaboration with Sustainability Victoria to raise businesses' awareness and utilisation of programs focused on "Supporting Victoria's transition to a circular, climate-resilient community".</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2024</p> <p>Action type: One-off.</p>
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Targeted Sector: Greater Dandenong’s Multicultural Communities

Our long-term Goal: by 2034

Greater Dandenong’s culturally diverse community is leveraging their developed connections and strengths to share knowledge and skills, to act in ways that contribute to healthier, sustainable and climate resilient patterns of living.

Why are we targeting this sector?

Greater Dandenong is Australia’s most culturally diverse municipality, with 64% of the population born overseas from 154 different birthplaces.

The 2021 Census highlights that over 69% of residents speak a language other than English at home and nearly 23,000 people, or nearly a fifth of the population, have limited fluency in the use of spoken English, which is four times the metropolitan average.

The multicultural community, accounting for about half of Victoria and Australia’s population, faces disparities, with vulnerable members, such as recent arrivals, refugees and those with low English proficiency, at heightened risk of climate impacts. Ensuring equity in access to resources is crucial for building resilience, particularly in preparing for emergencies and disasters amid a changing climate.

What are some of the barriers to action this sector face?

While climate change will affect everyone, our multicultural communities face additional barriers – for instance, low English proficiency restricts their ability to access information which limits their ability to be informed, prepare for, or respond to climate impacts. Other factors include unfamiliarity with Australia’s physical and social environment, limited awareness of local hazards, undeveloped support networks and the impacts of previous traumatic experience.

Government departments and services often assume that people will access the internet or rely on television or radio for emergency alerts, but many people in multicultural communities cannot access or understand these mediums or are used to relying on other forms of communication.

What are the benefits for key stakeholders?

Multicultural community <i>(incl. Refugees and People Seeking Asylum)</i>	State Government	Council	Our community as a whole	Partners	Emergency Services
Increased awareness will help empower and enable more members of our multicultural community to be part of the response to climate change, building social capital. Equitable access to information about sustainability and climate change to facilitate improved knowledge, skills and values which enable them to better prepare for, respond to and recover from climate change impacts.	Greater Dandenong Council’s equitable response to climate change approach to support our Multicultural and Refugee community will have broader benefits, due to the strong connections within cultural groups across Victoria and Australia.	Responding to the needs of our community who may have limited awareness and ability to respond. Demonstrating leadership to diffuse knowledge through a sector of the community with greater level of needs but also barriers.	An inclusive and equitable approach to climate justice will benefit the whole of Greater Dandenong.	Greater Dandenong being a partner of choice by being recognised as a supportive community, facilitating a high ‘return on their investment’ of resources and support that help achieve their key project deliverables.	Responding to the recognised needs of Victoria’s multicultural and refugee communities to reduce their vulnerabilities. Ability to leverage increased connection with members of multicultural and refugee communities across the state.

<p>Objective 1: <i>Direct Programs and Services</i></p>	<p>Objective 2: <i>Leadership, Information and Communication</i></p>	<p>Objective 3: <i>Strategic Partnerships</i></p>	<p>Objective 4: <i>Preparedness for Emergencies</i></p>
<p>Provide inclusive and equitable access to Council programs, services, and resources to strengthen the awareness and resilience of our multicultural community.</p>	<p>Facilitate equitable access to information on climate change and its effective dissemination through communication channels and provide the multicultural and refugee community a voice in climate change conversations.</p>	<p>Enhance partnerships with external organisations that strengthen our community's adaptive capacity.</p>	<p>Facilitate equitable access to emergency services information and programs to support preparedness and recovery to climatic extreme events.</p>
<p><i>Environment and climate change is not a priority for most first-generation immigrants, for whom time is scarce and personal financial security and settling down in a new country often takes priority. CALD community members don't see their role in averting climate change and feel they have limited capacity to make a change^o.</i></p>	<p><i>To facilitate our community's response to climate change, there needs to be equity in access to resources, and their voices heard.</i></p>	<p><i>Enhancing social connectedness within our multicultural communities and with external agencies will facilitate a more inclusive approach to climate change adaptation^o.</i></p>	<p><i>Emergency preparedness starts with shared responsibility. Victorian communities – in all their diversity – need support to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies. For this support to be effective, it needs to be culturally responsive, context specific, community-led, and strengths-based^o.</i></p>
<p>Actions</p>	<p>Actions</p>	<p>Actions</p>	<p>Actions</p>
<p>1.1. Council's Community Grants Program to support climate adaptation initiatives which empower our multicultural community's response to climate change.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2024</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p>	<p>2.1. Continue to explore opportunities for collaboration with local organisations on the development and dissemination of translated information and plain language resources.</p> <p>Approximate cost: \$40,000/annum.</p> <p>Staff resources: Additional resources required.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2026</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p> <p>2.2. Council to increase its understanding of our multicultural community's needs and barriers in response to climate change.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Additional resources required.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2025</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p>	<p>3.1. Partner with multicultural community leaders to develop community-led climate programs. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing collaboration with key partners on existing projects including with the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria, Each (formerly ENLIVEN) and Environment Victoria. <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2024</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p>	<p>4.1. Facilitate representation from the Multicultural and Refugee community on the Greater Dandenong Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2026</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p> <p>4.2. Participate in the 'Strengthening Emergency Engagement and Communication for Multicultural Communities' (SEEC) collaborative research project.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Additional resources required.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2025</p> <p>Action type: One-off.</p>

Targeted Sector: Community Service Organisations

Our long-term Goal: by 2034

Resilient Community Service Organisations delivering their critical roles supporting our community as well as playing their part in building our community's climate resilience

Why are we targeting this sector?

There is a significant number of service organizations supporting Greater Dandenong, with over 400 'not-for-profit' organisations, including 234 Registered Charities. These community service organisations offer a variety of support services to specific groups, such as children, teenagers, women, men, families, senior citizens, people with disabilities, and more.

CSOs play a crucial role in Victoria's social infrastructure, responding to poverty and inequality, but they are already impacted by climate change, with a 2019 study revealing disruptions to services due to extreme weather or disasters. As climate change effects increase, CSO's ability to maintain services may be influenced by impacts on the community, existing clients, and operational challenges.

What are some of the barriers to action this sector face?

There is limited understanding of the vulnerabilities CSOs face regarding climate change, as well as their role in managing and mitigating risks for their clients and the broader community.

The implications of recent climate change policy conditions for Victorian CSOs are not well understood.

Many CSOs operate with constrained budgets and may lack the funds, staff resourcing, or equipment necessary to initiate or sustain required climate interventions.

While CSOs are deeply rooted in their communities and understand local needs, they might not always possess the technical expertise or access to updated information regarding best practice climate action.

Navigating regulations or coordinating with multiple agencies can be complex and time-consuming for CSOs aiming to implement climate projects.

While CSOs have deep community connections, they may still encounter resistance or indifference from segments of the community who are sceptical of or uninterested in climate change initiatives.

What are the benefits for key stakeholders?

Community Service Organisations	Clients of CSOs	Council	State Government	Grant Providers	The Broader Community
<p>A CSO that is prepared for climate change will be better placed to respond to both the acute and chronic impacts on its operations into the future.</p> <p>Partnering on climate action enhances the access of CSOs to resources, increases community resilience, and builds lasting networks for meaningful change.</p>	<p>Our local community will continue to access services that are best able to respond to their needs into the future and support for individuals, families and communities experiencing poverty and inequality during adverse changes in circumstances.</p>	<p>CSOs can provide direct channels to the community, facilitating faster and more successful implementation of programs, as well as increased trust between the community and local authorities.</p> <p>Climate impacts reducing CSOs ability to meet individuals and community needs will place increased pressure on other agencies, including Council.</p>	<p>CSOs are a critical part of the social infrastructure in Victoria. A reduction in the ability of CSOs to meet the needs of individuals and the community will place increased pressure on the State Government and other agencies.</p> <p>CSOs can play a role in supporting the State Government's climate change mitigation and adaptation goals and programs.</p>	<p>By funding CSOs that have existing strong links to the community, grant providers' risks are reduced, increasing confidence that their funds will have a tangible, grassroots impact.</p> <p>Initiatives developed with the community will have greater buy-in, increasing the likelihood of successful outcomes.</p>	<p>A communication channel enabling community access to resources and to become informed about climate action, voice concerns, and take part in solutions within a familiar, trusted framework.</p> <p>CSOs provide another source for the dissemination of knowledge by participants through social connections with the broader community.</p>

Objective 1: <i>Direct Programs and Services</i>	Objective 2: <i>Leadership, Information and Communication</i>	Objective 3: <i>Strategic Partnerships</i>	Objective 4: <i>Preparedness for Emergencies</i>
Facilitate climate resilient Community Service Organisations and support their efforts to empower our community in response to climate change.	Reducing barriers that climate change information overload places on Community Services Organisations efforts to create climate resilient organisations and communities.	Facilitate partnerships between Community Service Organisations, government bodies, universities, private industry, and other stakeholders to tackle climate change at a community level.	Support Community Service Organisations to assess their ability to prepare for and adapt to a rapidly changing climate.
<i>To establish programs that enable CSOs to respond to climatic challenges, including business continuity, services capable of meeting community needs, and increasing community awareness and resilience.</i>	<i>There is an overwhelming abundance of information, policies, and guidance materials available on climate change. CSOs have limited resources and capacity to access, analyse or utilise what is available. Improved channels of communication would assist peer to peer learning and capacity building.</i>	<i>To foster collaborations between CSOs and other key groups, with the goal of pooling resources and efforts. Through these strategic partnerships, the collective impact of addressing climate challenges can be scaled up.</i>	<i>To ensure CSOs are proactively prepared for a rapidly changing climate and increased frequency of severe weather events, with clear plans and procedures in place. These plans aim to keep CSOs and the community safe, informed, and equipped to handle climate challenges.</i>
Actions	Actions	Actions	Actions
<p>1.1. Assist the South-East Monash Legal Service (SEMLS) to develop and implement the 'South Eastern Climate Justice' project.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2024</p> <p>Action type: One-off.</p>	<p>2.1. Continue to recognise and promote the achievement of CSOs through initiatives such as the annual Australia Day Awards (Sustainability category) and use of Council's publications and social media.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2024</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p>	<p>3.1. Continue to build partnerships and encourage and support CSOs to apply for grant funding through Council's Community Grants program, as well as external grant providers.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2025</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p> <p>3.2. Participate in and support the Victorian Council of Social Services (VCOS) in establishing a climate network for community organisations to connect and share knowledge on climate change and related projects.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Additional resources required.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2024</p> <p>Action type: One-off.</p>	<p>4.1. Facilitate and help support efforts of local CSOs to seek opportunities through state and federal government funding to pilot renewable energy networks aimed at supporting continuity of services during power blackouts, particularly in emergency situations.</p> <p>Approximate cost: \$20,000/annum.</p> <p>Staff resources: Additional resources required.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2027</p> <p>Action type: One-off.</p> <p>4.2. Continue Council's collaboration with emergency preparedness organisations such as 'Sweltering Cities' and the 'Melbourne Heatwave Alliance' to support heatwave preparedness by our community.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2024</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p>

Targeted Sector: People with a disability

Our long-term Goal: by 2034

Greater Dandenong Council’s approach to ensuring an inclusive and equitable climate change response has increased the capacity of our community members with a disability to be aware and prepared for our changing climate.

Why are we targeting this sector?

The 2021 census reported that 7.7% of Greater Dandenong residents have a disability requiring them to seek daily assistance with communication, mobility and/or self-care. Among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents, this figure rises to 13.5%, nearly double the municipal rate.

Among 25–64-year-old residents, 13% hold paid employment compared to 72% without disabilities, and those living with disabilities often receive lower incomes.

People with disabilities are almost five times more likely to live in state-supported rental accommodation. Social disadvantages and climate change impacts exacerbate vulnerabilities, and disability intersects with multiple social vulnerabilities, increasing risks.

People with disabilities are 2 to 4 times more likely to die in disasters, experience higher injury and property loss risks, face evacuation challenges, and need more intensive health and social services during and after disasters.

What are some of the barriers to action this sector face?

In emergency situations, as well as response and recovery efforts, the needs of people with a disability are often overlooked. When disability is an afterthought, or something squeezed into an existing response plan, risk is created that could have been planned for and perhaps avoided.

The environmental movement has in many ways failed to take people with a disability into account leading to ‘eco-ableism’ with solutions that do not consider the needs of people with a disability and further excludes them.

What are the benefits for key stakeholders?

People with a Disability	Disability Service and Care Organisations	Council	State Government	The Community	Partners
<p>People-centred approaches place people living with a disability and their needs at the centre of responsive climate change capacity building and disaster management and also position them as the main agents of development and change.</p>	<p>Collaborating on inclusive climate change planning enhances Disability Service and Care Organisations' capacity to provide tailored support, ensuring the well-being and resilience of individuals with disabilities in the face of climate challenges, as well improved resilience and service continuity during extreme weather events.</p>	<p>Incorporating people with disabilities into climate change planning empowers Council to create more inclusive, resilient, and responsive strategies, aligning with its commitment to community well-being and equitable climate action.</p>	<p>Ensuring the meaningful inclusion of people with disabilities in climate change planning enhances the State Government's commitment to equity, resilience, and sustainable development, fostering a more comprehensive and just response to the impacts of climate change.</p>	<p>Disability movements have unique insights into access, flexible use, and interdependence that can benefit climate justice movements. As well as being a human right and a legal obligation, climate justice is an approach that will benefit everyone in society.</p>	<p>There is strength in unity. Working with partners to increase and enhance collaboration will help normalise and accelerate efforts that aim to support the awareness, resilience and adaptive capacity of people living with a disability respond to climate change.</p>

Objective 1: <i>Direct Programs and Services</i>	Objective 2: <i>Leadership, Information and Communication</i>	Objective 3: <i>Strategic Partnerships</i>	Objective 4: <i>Preparedness for Emergencies</i>
<p>Provide inclusive and equitable access to Council programs, services, and resources to strengthen the awareness and resilience of our diverse community</p>	<p>Facilitate equitable access to information on climate change and its effective dissemination through communication channels, provide people with a disability a voice in climate change conversations</p>	<p>Enhance partnerships with external organisations that strengthen our community's adaptive capacity</p>	<p>Facilitate equitable access to emergency services information and programs to support preparedness and recovery to climatic extreme events.</p>
<p><i>People with disabilities need clear and tailored information to make their own emergency plans and share them with their support networks.</i></p>	<p><i>To facilitate our community's response to climate change, there needs to be equity in access to resources, and their voices heard.</i></p>	<p><i>Enhancing social connectedness within the community of people with a disability and carers with external agencies will facilitate a more inclusive approach to climate change adaptation.</i></p>	<p><i>With more unpredictable and extreme climatic events, people with a disability must be included in emergency planning and need to be considered before disaster strikes and consulted in the aftermath of disasters. When thinking about how Greater Dandenong adapts to a changing world, how can people with a disability be included in response efforts?</i></p>
Actions	Actions	Actions	Actions
<p>1.1. Council to continue to seek opportunities to both enhance existing and develop new programs to ensure people with a disability are supported to improve their capacity to prepare for climate change related impacts and risks.</p> <p>Approximate cost: \$20,000/annum.</p> <p>Staff resources: Additional resources required.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2026</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p>	<p>2.1. Develop information as well as communication strategies that meet the needs of the members of our community with a disability, and support providers. This includes members of our multicultural community.</p> <p>Approximate cost: \$20,000/annum.</p> <p>Staff resources: Additional resources required.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2026</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p> <p>2.2. Facilitate more inclusive consultation and engagement about climate change with members of our community with a disability, and those that provide support, to increase awareness of their needs and prioritises that inform Council's actions.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2025</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p>	<p>3.1. Council to work with disability support organisations to better understand and facilitate collaborative community orientated actions to support people with a disability.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Additional resources required.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2026</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p>	<p>4.1. Council to continue to work with a range of partners and stakeholders on ways to ensure emergency preparation, response and recovery efforts are inclusive and equitable for people with a disability.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2025</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p>

Targeted Sector: Residential Community

Our long-term Goal: by 2034

An engaged and mobilised community that recognises we have a shared responsibility to act in response to a changing climate, and only our collective actions can increase our resilience.

Why are we targeting this sector?

Community consultation for our Climate Emergency Strategy in 2019 told us that 92% of residents are worried about climate change.

Greater Dandenong's population is estimated to be 173,000 people. Climate change will impact everyone in Greater Dandenong, and our residents are particularly vulnerable to the health impacts from climatic extreme events.

There are approximately 51,000 residential dwellings in Greater Dandenong, with an assessed capital improved value of \$30.9 Billion in 2021. Research clearly shows that parts of Greater Dandenong are considered to be more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change than other areas of Melbourne. Areas with high risks and therefore higher insurance premiums would be expected to see greater falls in property values.

We all have an individual responsibility to understand and reduce our exposure to the risks of climate change. Given that most of the assets and activities at risk from climate change are owned or managed by businesses or the community, it is reasonable to expect businesses and the community to manage their exposures. Individuals and groups are usually best placed to manage risks to their own assets and activities from climate change impacts.

What are some of the barriers to action this sector face?

Community Consultation undertaken in 2023 identified that the key barriers limiting action included:

1. Can't afford to take action (41%)
2. Lack of knowledge (35%)
3. Limited time (35%)
4. Don't have access to enough support (25%)
5. Lack of confidence (17%)

"I'm renting – so I can't use solar panels" - Renters are particularly vulnerable to climate change. A third of Greater Dandenong residents are renting their homes, and 27% of rental households are in the bottom 40% of incomes spending more than 30% of income on housing costs. Many of these rental properties, particularly for low-income tenants, live in older buildings that would be unlikely to meet current energy efficiency standards.

What are the benefits for key stakeholders?

Residential Community	State Government	Government Agencies	Council	Partners	Emergency Services
Breaking down of barriers in our community such as language, and limited ability to prepare for, respond to, or recover from the impacts of climatic extreme events. Ability to tap into the many strengths of our local community.	Community climate action is one piece of the puzzle that will contribute to Victoria's ambitious targets of net-zero emissions by 2045.	Increased community awareness and uptake of government programs and initiatives. Increased engagement with our community, which is often targeted due to its cultural diversity and levels of socio-economic disadvantage.	Action by residents on climate change has many co-benefits to the wider municipal community and helps address the health and wellbeing priorities of Council; a cleaner more pleasant local environment, improved physical and mental health, and reduced isolation and loneliness.	Greater Dandenong being a partner of choice by being recognised as a supportive community, facilitating a high 'return on their investment' of resources and support that help achieve their key project deliverables.	A more prepared and resilient community is less reliant on Emergency Services for assistance, reducing demand on resources during peak periods.

<p>Objective 1: <i>Direct Programs and Services</i></p>	<p>Objective 2: <i>Leadership, Information and Communication</i></p>	<p>Objective 3: <i>Strategic Partnerships</i></p>	<p>Objective 4: <i>Preparedness for Emergencies</i></p>
<p>Provide targeted and effective Council programs, services and resources that create a safe environment that empowers our community to increase their awareness and resilience</p>	<p>Facilitate equitable access to information on climate change as well effective dissemination of information through appropriate communication channels, and provide the community with a voice in climate change conversations</p>	<p>Enhance partnerships with external organisations that strengthen our community's adaptive capacity</p>	<p>Working with our partners to facilitate effective and efficient co-ordination of our municipal emergency management planning processes that support preparedness and recovery in response to climate change.</p>
<p><i>In recognition that we all have a shared accountability and our own responsibilities to manage the risks and impacts associated with climate change, Council's programs and services must play a role in facilitating the municipality's climate responses and resilience.</i></p>	<p><i>Residents of Greater Dandenong can only take effective action to adapt to climate change if they are well informed about its potential impacts and risks.</i></p>	<p><i>Organisations with greater adaptive capacity will be better placed to manage the risks and uncertainties posed by climate change to the communities they serve, and successfully adapt to future challenges.</i></p>	<p><i>The management of emergencies is a shared responsibility involving many organisations and people in the community.</i></p>
<p>Actions</p>	<p>Actions</p>	<p>Actions</p>	<p>Actions</p>
<p>1.1. Increase community awareness of Council's 'Community Grants Program' and other organisational grant opportunities for funding for environmental and capacity building projects.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2024</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p> <p>1.2. Council to continue efforts to deliver targeted programs that aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Inform the community of the potential impacts and risks of climate change to themselves and others b. Increase their capacity to increase resilience and health and wellbeing outcomes. <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2025</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p>	<p>2.1. Council to use its communication channels to amplify community member stories of local impacts of climate change, and stories of community resilience and adaptation, to increase community-building and information sharing at the local level.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2025</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p>	<p>3.1. Council to enhance collaboration with key stakeholders, including Sustainability Victoria, Solar Victoria, Monash Health, and other relevant partners, to promote community awareness and engagement in programs supporting Victoria's climate-resilient transition. This initiative will involve strengthening existing partnerships within the local government sector through initiatives such as the Victorian Greenhouse Alliances and Climate Emergency Australia, ensuring a coordinated approach to addressing climate change and integrating climate considerations into community health initiatives.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2026</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p> <p>3.2. Council to continue to support the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) in pursuing the Elevating Environmentally Sustainable Design Targets Planning Scheme Amendment, which would increase the environmental performance planning scheme requirements of private development.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2025</p> <p>Action type: One-off (project completion pending decision by Minister for Planning).</p>	<p>4.1. Council to drive the Greater Dandenong Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee's efforts to increase consideration of climate change as part of the planning, preparation, and implementation of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2026</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p> <p>4.2. Council to participate in collaborative efforts to embed consideration of the climate change into the community risk assessment process as part of the Victorian Climate Resilient Councils project, funded by Emergency Management Victoria, in with the Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA) and other partners.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2024</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p>

Targeted Sector: Young People (25 years and under)

Our long-term Goal: by 2034

Young people of Greater Dandenong are valued in the climate movement and supported to take climate action.

Why are we targeting this sector?

Children and young people are estimated to suffer more than 80 percent of the illnesses, injuries, and deaths attributable to climate change. Compared to their grandparents, it is projected that a child born in 2021 will live through seven times as many heatwaves.

Young people have demonstrable strengths, for instance social media savviness, the ability to connect across generations and countries, and a strong willingness to step up and act when facing extreme weather events.

Young people have a reasonable understanding of key climate change impacts to be informed actors in resilience building and are already engaged in various climate change and adaptation activities.

Youth participation is a human right, that is, youth are rights-bearing citizens and as such have the right to participate in decision-making that affects them.

Victoria has Australia's second highest youth population – over 1 million people aged between 12 and 25 live in our state.

What are some of the barriers to action this sector face?

Climate change has important implications for the health and futures of young people, yet they have little power to limit its harm, making them vulnerable to climate anxiety.

Young people often have limited opportunities to be involved in and influence policy decisions.

During public consultation for preparation of the CEMP, young people in Greater Dandenong told us lack of time was the main reason limiting them from taking climate action.

Many people of older generations underestimate the knowledge of young people and thus perceive them as not being informed and knowledgeable.

Young people want to volunteer and make a difference, but many can't easily find suitable opportunities.

What are the benefits for key stakeholders?

Young People	Youth Services	Schools and Education Institutions	State Government	Council	The Broader Community
<p>Being involved in climate action empowers youth, giving them a platform to influence their future actively which can assist in combating climate anxiety. It also offers valuable skills and experiences, fostering a sense of purpose and responsibility.</p>	<p>Working with young people on climate action reinforces the mission of Community Services Organisations, directly aligning with youth empowerment and development goals.</p>	<p>Engagement in climate action enriches the education of students, making learning more relevant and hands-on. It also prepares students to be proactive by equipping them with knowledge and a sense of responsibility.</p>	<p>Incorporation of young people's views will strengthen the Victorian Government's climate initiatives by ensuring they are forward-thinking and planned for the next generation.</p>	<p>Engaging youth ensures Council is tuned into the fresh perspectives and innovative ideas of the next generation. It also ensures we are meeting our commitment to being a Child Friendly City.</p>	<p>Young people who feel valued in their views and opinions have improved mental health, in adolescence and as adults. Connecting young people with their communities helps them build a sense of generosity and social responsibility to issues beyond climate change.</p>

<p>Objective 1: <i>Direct Programs and Services</i></p>	<p>Objective 2: <i>Leadership, Information and Communication</i></p>	<p>Objective 3: <i>Strategic Partnerships</i></p>	<p>Objective 4: <i>Preparedness for Emergencies</i></p>
<p>Support youth-led and youth-inclusive activities that help young people mitigate and adapt to climate change and eco-anxiety.</p>	<p>Elevate the voices of young people and support them to connect with other youth on climate issues.</p>	<p>Enhance partnerships with external organisations that strengthen young people’s adaptive capacity.</p>	<p>Provide young people with opportunities to contribute to Council’s emergency management planning process.</p>
<p><i>It is crucial to include the youth as partners and leaders within projects, rather than regarding them only as beneficiaries. Co-design recognises that young people are experts in their own lives with valuable insights into what they need to thrive.</i></p>	<p><i>Young people can play an important role in raising awareness and building capacity by influencing their peers and communities.</i></p>	<p><i>Working with external groups leverages knowledge and resources, helping young people handle the challenges of a changing climate.</i></p>	<p><i>Young people who are prepared through youth-focused programs are more confident and feel empowered during an actual emergency.</i></p>
<p>Actions</p>	<p>Actions</p>	<p>Actions</p>	<p>Actions</p>
<p>1.1. Provide opportunity for young people to have input into Council climate change and sustainability programs and activities e.g. The FReeZA stall at Sustainability Festival.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2024</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p> <p>1.2. Council to support Greater Dandenong Youth and Family Services to develop a youth environmental program with opportunities for young people to engage in projects that support the environment and sustainability, including addressing the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Approximate cost: \$10,000/annum.</p> <p>Staff resources: Additional resources required.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2025</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p>	<p>2.1. Council to effectively promote climate change activities and opportunities to young people through various channels such as social media, the Youth Services website, and radio, and regularly share the achievements, views, and advice of young people in response to climate change through primary communication channels.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2026</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p> <p>2.2. Council to create targeted engagement strategies for young people, extending beyond information and consultation activities. Collaborating with other Council departments, efforts will highlight the interconnectedness of climate change and youth-related issues. This includes actively listening to young people, understanding their needs, and advocating to amplify their voices in the climate action space.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2028</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p>	<p>3.1. Seek additional partnerships that provide young people with more opportunities to translate their ideas into action, and provide them with the necessary tools, knowledge, and financial support - empowering them to boost their impact.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Additional resources required.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2028</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p>	<p>4.1. Develop youth-focused preparedness programs that enable first responders to work with youth and cultivate positive relationships.</p> <p>Approximate cost: Within anticipated operational budget.</p> <p>Staff resources: Within anticipated existing resources.</p> <p>Targeted start date: 2028</p> <p>Action type: Ongoing.</p>

As detailed above, Council can undertake various actions to support the community meet the increasing challenges of climate change. However, it is vital that Council and the community are supported at other levels of government who have significant powers to influence climate change outcomes. As such, Council will also continue to advocate to the State and Federal governments the needs and priorities of our various communities regarding climate change.

ATT 4.1.2.1 Draft Climate Change Community Engagement and Mobilisation Plan

ⁱ Remplan

ⁱⁱ Teacher and Staff Wellbeing: Understanding the Experiences of School Staff [Faye McCallum June 2021](#) [Teacher and Staff Wellbeing: Understanding the Experiences of School Staff | SpringerLink](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ [Teachers don't have enough time to prepare well for class. We have a solution \(theconversation.com\)](#)

^{iv} Australian Education for Sustainability Alliance, *Education for Sustainability and the Australian Curriculum Project: Final Report for Research Phases 1 to 3*, AESA, Melbourne, 2014

^v Victorian Multicultural Honour Roll Inductee Dr Harpreet Singh Kandra. 2022 article: Source: [Climate change is a collective responsibility in a Multicultural Australia | Think HQ \(think-hq.com.au\)](#)

^{vi} 2013 National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) article: [Extreme heat and climate change: Adaptation in culturally and linguistically diverse \(CALD\) communities](#)

^{vii} P.9, Valuing strengths, building resilience Improving emergency management outcomes for multicultural communities in Victoria August 2022. ECCV & VCOSS

Greater Dandenong Climate Change Community Engagement and Mobilisation Plan

Consultation Outcomes Report



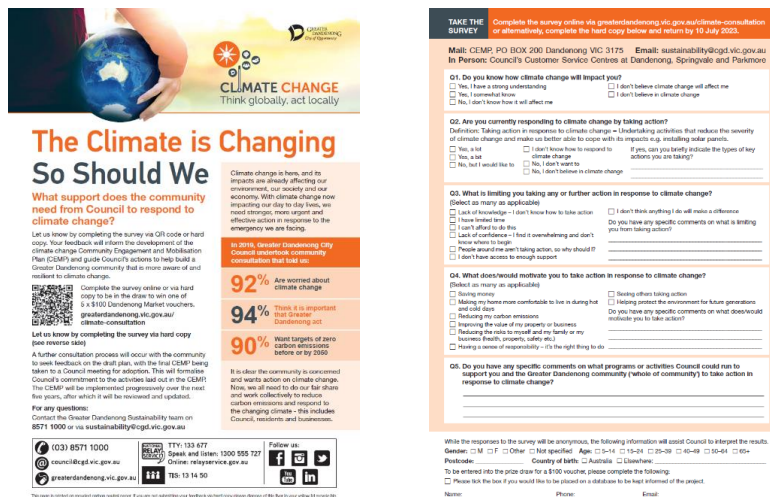
1. Introduction

This report details the results of the community engagement process that was undertaken to seek feedback on the needs of the Greater Dandenong community to take action on climate change. It includes a summary of feedback received in addition to copies of the detailed submissions.

The community engagement process outlined in this report represents the ‘first round’ of consultation undertaken as part of the development of the Community Engagement and Mobilisation Plan (CEMP). The outcomes from this consultation will inform the draft CEMP.

1.1 Consultation Methodology

A one-page summary of the intentions of the CEMP and a five-question survey in survey were placed on public consultation for a 10-week period. This was originally scheduled for 8 weeks however was extended to ensure it could also be included in the July edition of Council News.



Consultation opportunities were promoted in ways such as the following to maximise community awareness and engagement:

Digital

- Survey link on Council’s Have Your Say web page.
- Articles in the June and July editions of Council’s environmental e-newsletter *Our Bright Green Future*.
- Email distribution to community networks via Council teams.

Printed material

- Hard copies and QR codes at the Have Your Say display at Dandenong Civic Centre Customer Service.
- Hard copies, posters and flyers at Parkmore Shopping Centre Customer Service.
- Posters and flyers displayed at Springvale Community Hub Customer Service.
- Articles in the June and July editions of the Greater Dandenong Council News.

Council and Community Events

- Snow Fest.
- Refugee Week Celebration.

Social Media

- Facebook posts. Promotion of the survey via Council's Facebook was undertaken, however planned paid ads were blocked by Facebook as they were flagged as "political content".

Targeted consultation

Traditional Custodians

- Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation.

Cultural groups

- Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee meeting.
- Springvale Neighbourhood House.
- Afghan Women's Organisation Victoria.

People with a disability

- Springvale Park Special Development School Expo.
- Disability Advisory Committee June meeting.
- Article in Council's Disability and Inclusion e-newsletter.

Young people

- Youth Services Climate Changers Forum.
- St Anthony's Noble Park, Lighthouse College, Sirius College, Nazareth College and Cornish College.

Older people

- Be Well Stay Well Event – Enliven.

Interested parties

- Sustainability Advisory Committee. To assist in the development of specific actions in the Community Engagement & Mobilisation Plan, Council officers have also been discussing potential opportunities for increased collaboration. The outcomes of these discussions will be incorporated into the draft Community Engagement and Mobilisation Plan where appropriate.

2. Consultation Outcomes

A total of **537 responses/submissions** were received during the public consultation period via either the Survey Monkey online feedback form or hard copies. A schools-specific survey without demographic questions was also provided to schools. Noble Park Secondary College took the survey back to their school and had 139 students provide feedback (this number is included in the total submissions).

Detailed consultation results are provided on the following pages, however in summary:

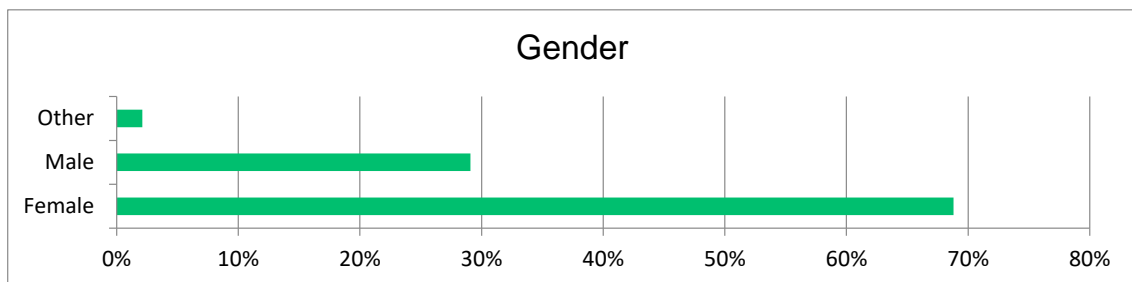
- The majority of respondents have a strong understanding of how climate change will impact them.
- Many respondents are taking some sort of climate action.
- School students are lacking time to take climate action.

- The majority of the wider community cite financial constraints/affordability as the main reason limiting them from taking climate action. Limited time and lack of knowledge were also prominent factors in limiting climate action, as well as a lack of support.
- For school students, helping protect the environment was their main motivator for taking climate action.
- For older people having a sense of responsibility, making the home more comfortable to live in and helping protect the environment for future generations were the main motivators for taking climate action.
- For the wider community, having a sense of responsibility was the main motivator for taking climate action, with making their home more comfortable to live in during hot and cold days, coming in second, followed by saving money and reducing the risks to them and their families.

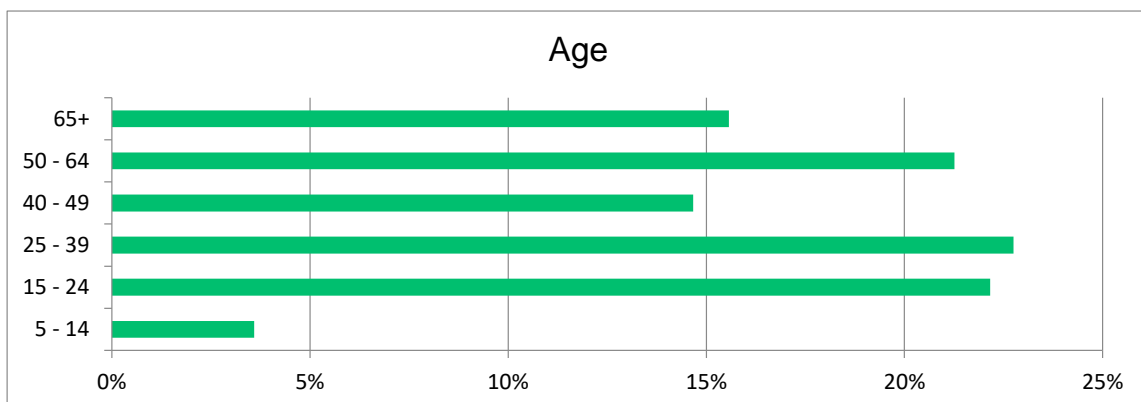
2.1 Consultation Results – Demographic Data

Top Postcodes	% of Respondents
Dandenong	32.8%
Noble Park	19.89%
Springvale	11.15%
Keysborough	8.71%
Springvale South	3.14%
Narre Warren	3.14%

Most of the respondents were from Dandenong and Noble Park.

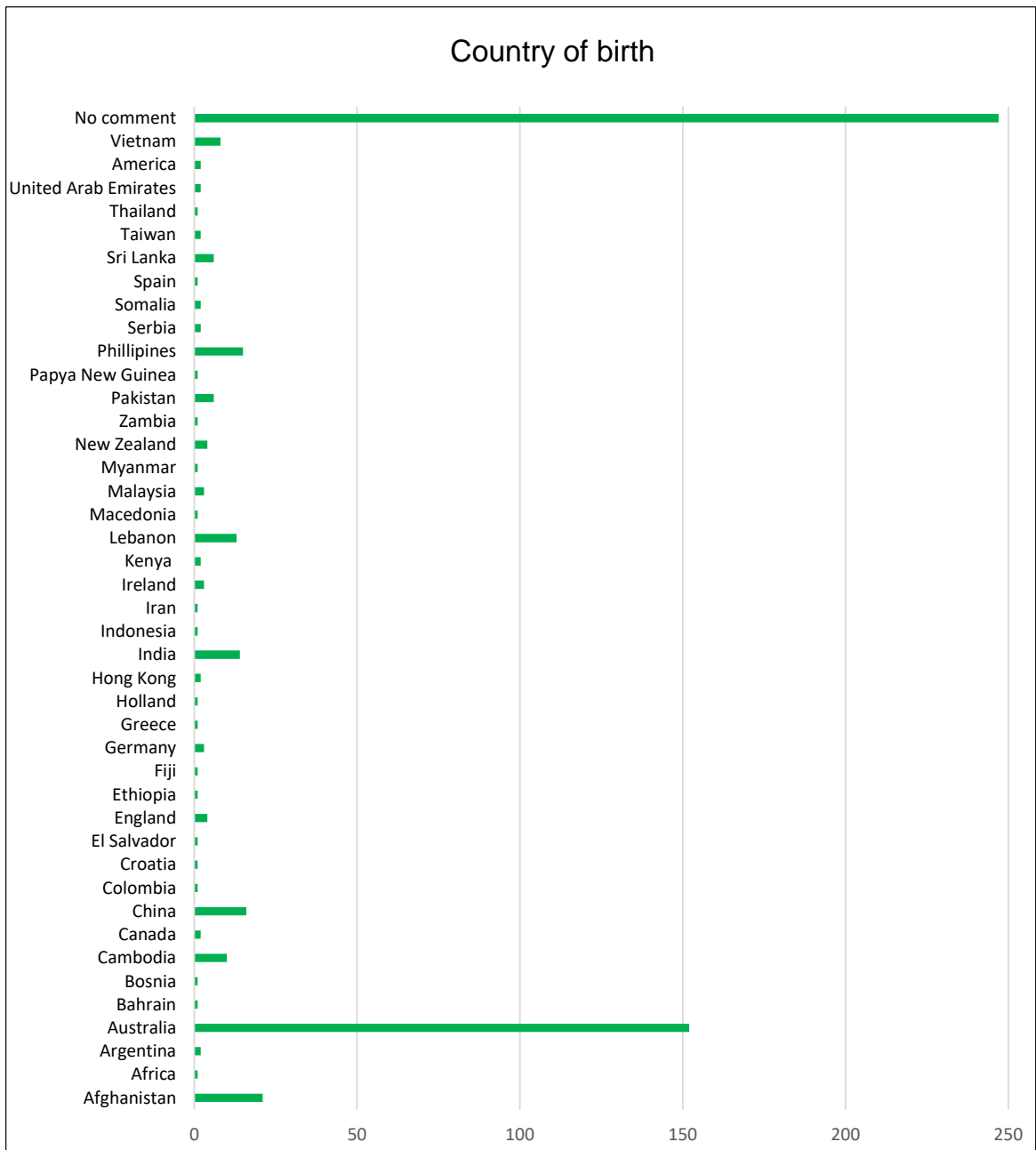


- 69% of respondents are female, whilst 29% are male.
- Note this question and other demographic questions were not included in the schools' survey.



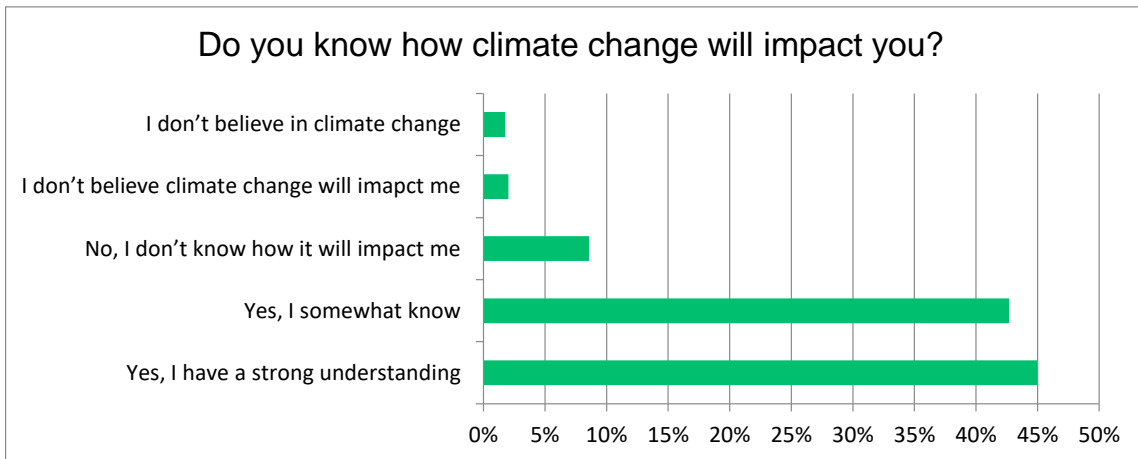
- Most of the respondents were aged between 15 and 39, and 50 to 64.
- 4% of respondents are aged between 5 to 14 years.
- 16% of respondents are aged 65+.

Note this question and other demographic questions were not included in the schools' survey.

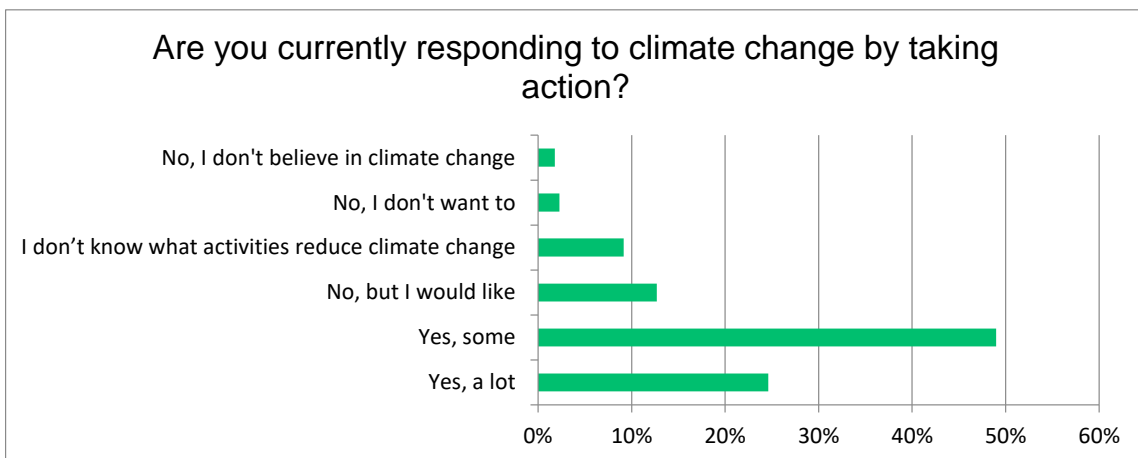


- People from 42 different counties participated in the consultation.
 - Of those survey respondents who identified their country of birth, most (152 people) were born in Australia, with Afghanistan (21) following as the second most prominent country of birth.
- Note this question and other demographic questions were not included in the schools survey.

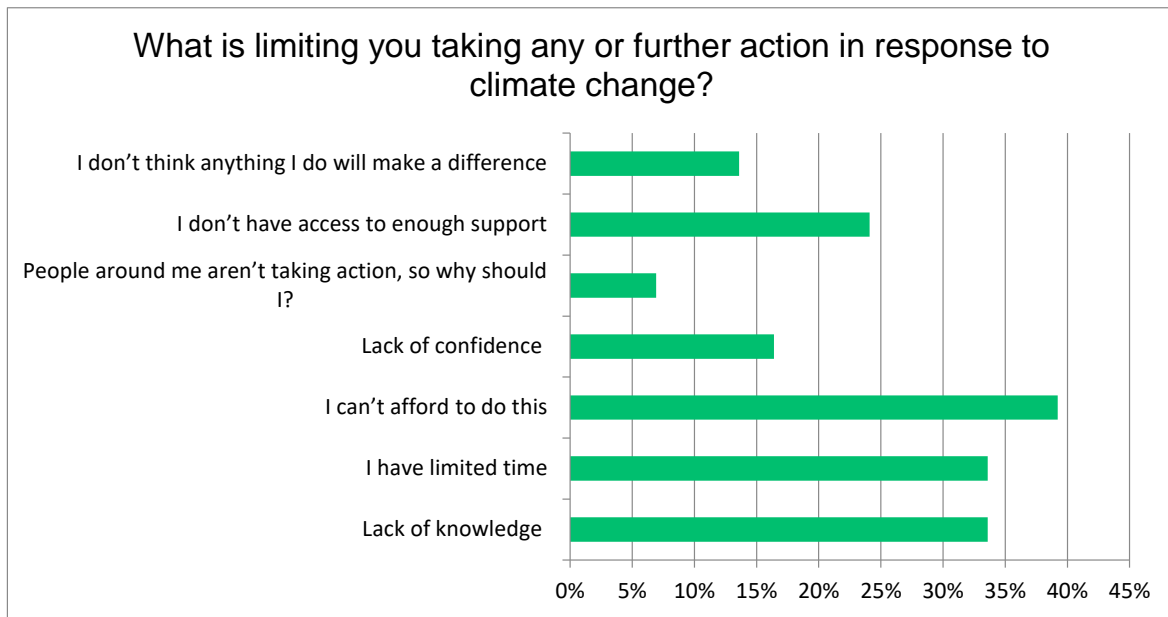
2.2 Consultation Results (multiple choice) – Whole community



- Most people (45%) have a strong understanding of how climate change will impact them, with 43% have some understanding.
- 2% don't believe climate change will impact them.



- Most people are taking action, with 25% feeling they do a lot and a further 49% saying they do some.
- Most of the remainder would either like to (13%), or don't know what they can do to reduce climate change (9%).

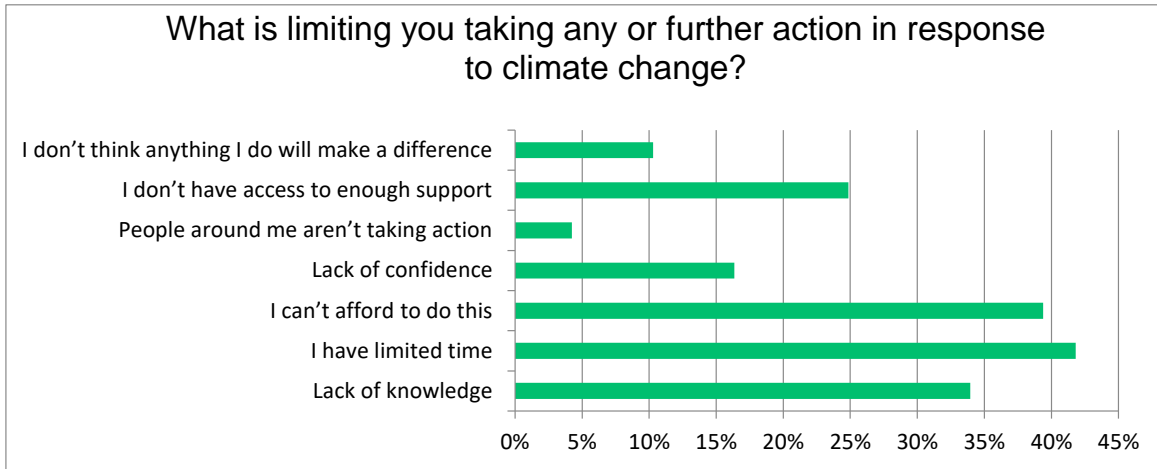


- Financial constraints were the main reason (42%) people are not taking climate action.
- Limited time, lack of knowledge and lack of access to enough support were also factors in limiting climate action.

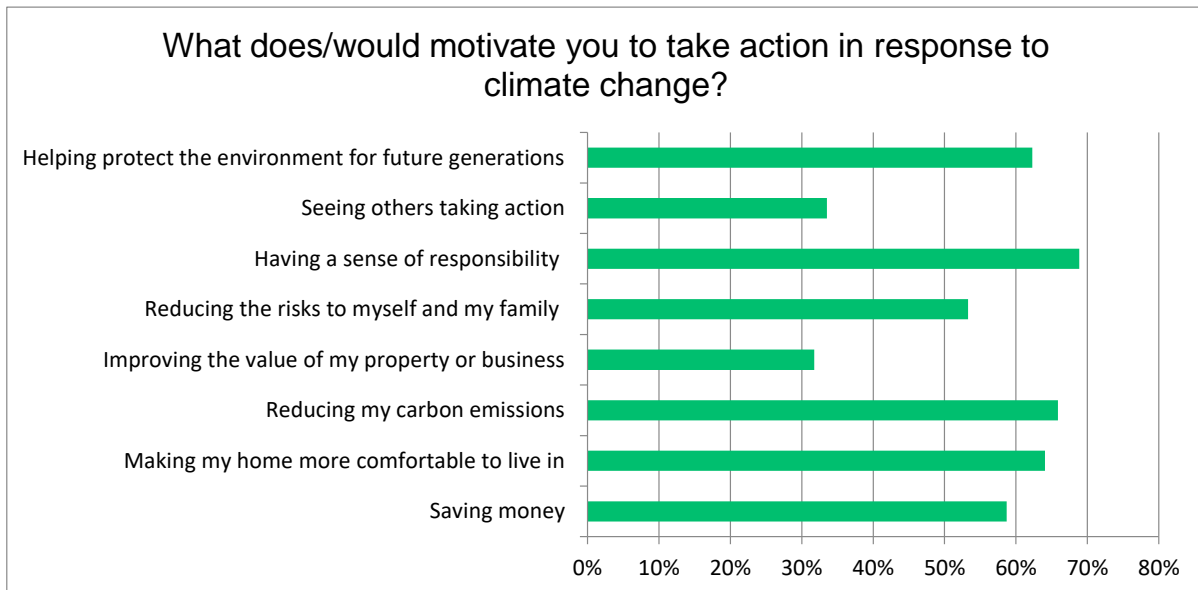


- Having a sense of responsibility was the main motivator (65%) for the wider community taking climate action.
- Making their home more comfortable, saving money, helping protect the environment for future generations and reducing carbon emissions were also popular motivators for the wider community to take climate action.
- Importantly, nearly 50% of survey respondents identify taking action to reduce the risks of climate change on themselves and their families, as a motivator.

Multiple choice - People born overseas and those who had not identified country of birth

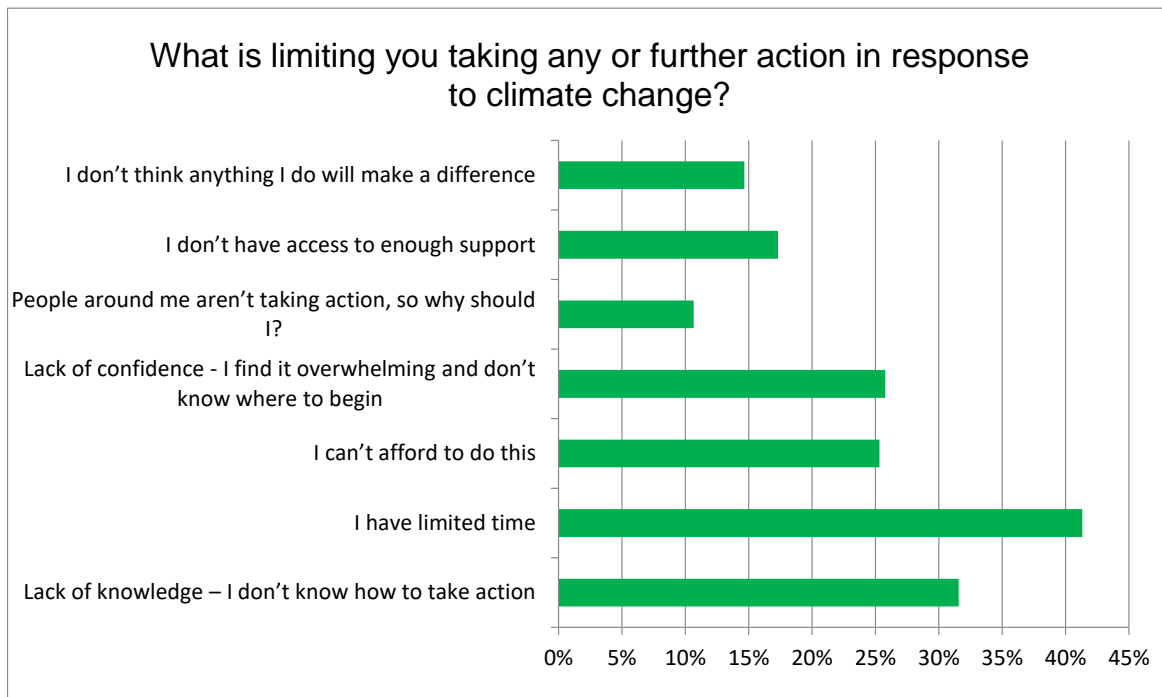


- Limited time (44%) and financial constraints (42%) were the main limitations for people born overseas (and those who had not identified country of birth) to take climate action.
- The next main barriers were lack of knowledge (34%) and not enough support (25%).



- Having a sense of responsibility (70%), reducing carbon emissions (67%) and making the home more comfortable (65%) were main motivators for people born overseas (and those who had not identified country of birth) to take climate action.
- Over 50% of respondents also identified the saving of money and reducing the risks to themselves and their families both as key motivators for action as well.

Multiple choice - Young people aged 5 – 24 years

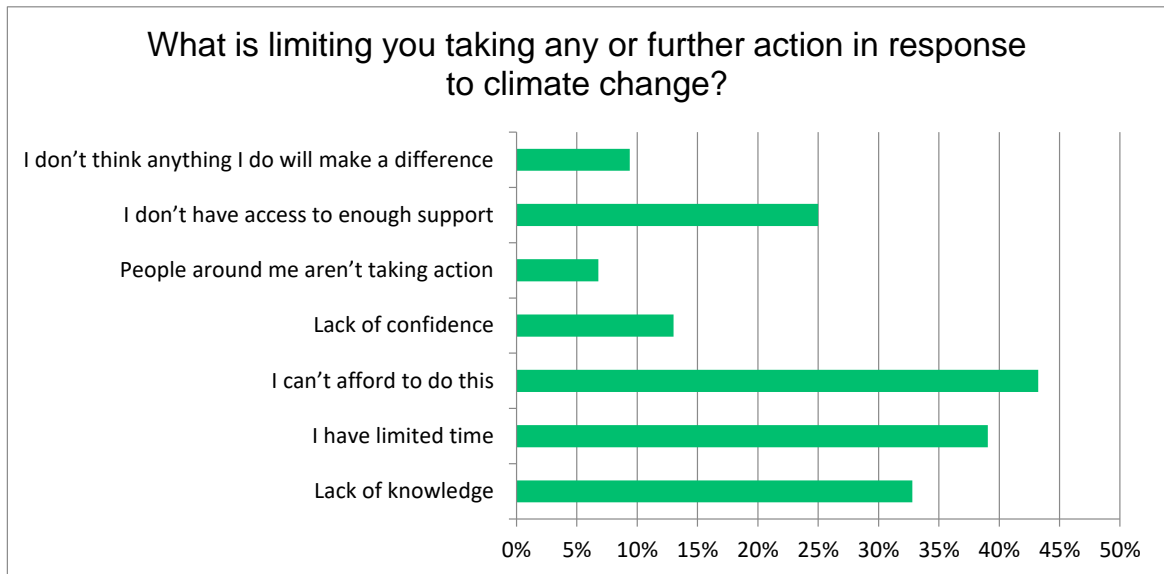


- Limited time (41%) was the main reason limiting young people from taking climate action.
- The next two biggest barriers limiting our youth from taking action is a lack of knowledge on how to take action as well as a lack of confidence.



- Helping protect the environment for future generations (51%) was the main motivator for young people to take climate action.
- Improving the value of their property/business (20%) was the least chosen motivator for taking climate action.

Multiple choice - People aged 25-64 years

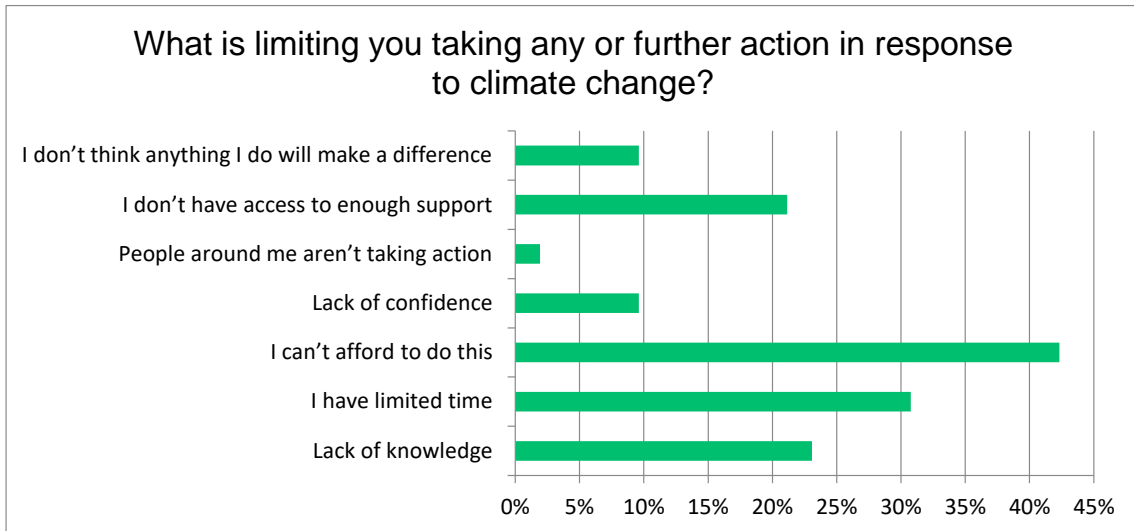


- Financial constraints (43%) were the main reason limiting people aged between 25 and 64 years from taking climate action.
- Limited time and lack of knowledge were also factors limiting action.

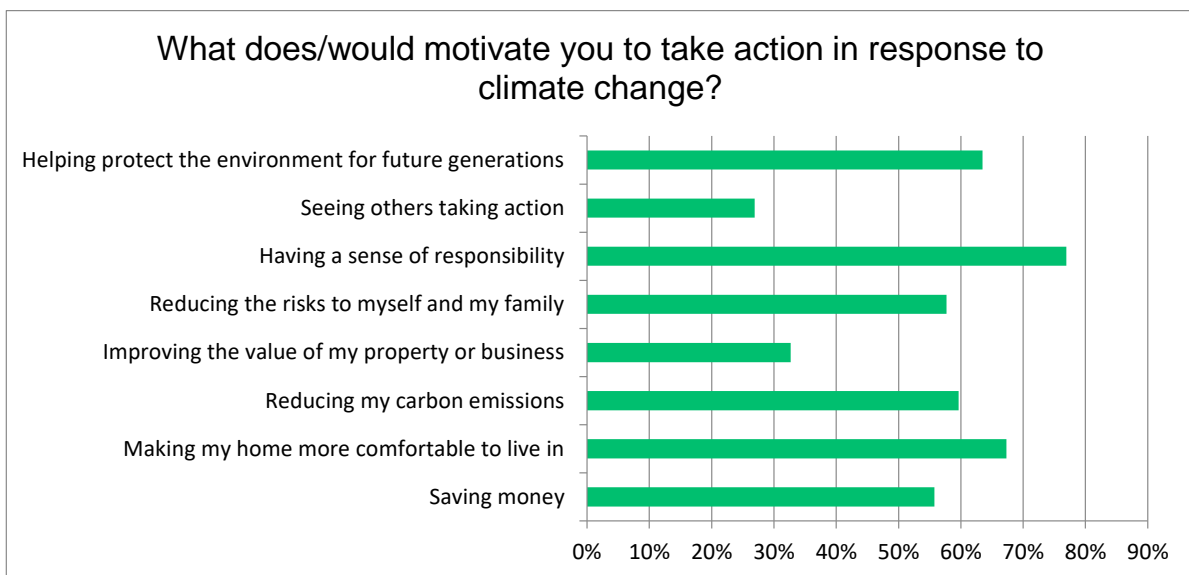


- Having a sense of responsibility (69%), helping protect the environment for future generations (68%) and reducing carbon emissions (67%) were the main motivators for people aged between 25 and 64 to take action on climate change.
- These were closely followed by making my home more comfortable (67%), saving money (63%), and then reducing risks (53%).

Multiple choice - People aged 65+ years



- Financial constraints (42%) was the main reason limiting people aged over 65 to take climate action.
- Limited time (31%) was also a reason for not taking action.



- Having a sense of responsibility (77%), making the home more comfortable to live in (67%) and helping protect the environment for future generations (63%) were the main motivators for people aged over 65 to take climate action.

2.3 Consultation Results (written feedback)

These are some of the comments provided via written feedback, across common themes.

1. Actions the community are currently taking in response to climate change	
Submission Content	Themes
Use recyclable products	Recycling
Using bins for bulbs, batteries and printer cartridges	Recycling
Reduce power usage	Energy
Change lights to LED lights	Energy
Solar panels	Energy
I don't usually put the heater on very high temperature	Energy
We replaced our gas hot water system with a heat pump water system	Energy
Improving home insulation	Energy
Line dry washing even though have a dryer	Energy
Double glazing	Energy
Planted trees	Biodiversity
Donating some forestry and rewilding projects	Biodiversity
Adding pot plants to the window sill	Biodiversity
We try to plant indigenous plants when planting	Biodiversity
Downloading the app that keeps track of the number of searches you did then plants trees in that number	Biodiversity
Providing fresh drinking water for wildlife	Biodiversity
Reduce water usage	Water
Collect clean domestic water for garden watering	Water
Water tank on the house	Water
Having short showers	Water
Use buckets to fill up water in the shower	Water
Use public transport	Transport
Reduce driving car and on foot instead	Transport
Driving an electric vehicle	Transport
Cycling	Transport
Ride sharing when possible	Transport
Not travelling by airplane	Transport
Trying to use a reusable water bottle as much as possible	Reusables
Used cloth nappies for two kids	Reusables
I'm picking up some reusable items from the rubbish people throw out and giving it a new life	Reusables
Return things to the soil	Green/food waste
Growing veggies	Green/food waste
Throw away less food	Green/food waste
Reduce using of plastic bags	Plastics
Buying in bulk	Plastics
Buying goods that can degrade in compost	Plastics

1. Actions the community are currently taking in response to climate change	
Submission Content	Themes
Opp shops	Textiles
Free monthly clothes swap	Textiles
I have also incorporated thrifting as a way to shop sustainably, while enjoying fashion simultaneously	Textiles
I have been involved in campaigning to get the council to declare a climate emergency	Advocacy
Preparing to host climate change discussion @ The Hub	Advocacy
Teaching my family to recycle properly	Advocacy
Encouraging people to plant green gardens	Advocacy
I'm involved with the Gardens 4 Wildlife program and an Environment group	Advocacy
Speaking and explaining to children to be aware of the impact Climate Change will have on their future - talk about what they can do now	Advocacy
Staying up to date with climate news and having conversations with those around me about the issue	Advocacy
Sharing information about climate changes impacts with our family and friends Pakistan Bangladesh India Jakarta Indonesia and some other countries and islands getting under the water by climate changes impacts	Advocacy
Disposing household problem chemical waste correctly	Other
Eat little lamb or beef	Other
Meat-free Mondays	Other
Participating in our company's goal into achieving net zero	Other
We participate in citizen scientist activities when possible	Other
Buy local foods	Other
Getting chooks	Other

2. Barriers to action	
Submission Content	Themes
As a rate payer, this is not your problem you should be directing my rates towards, and you cannot have any impact on something that is a normal global climate cycle	Financial
Money, I can't afford solar panels	Financial
Financially can't justify solar panels, water tanks, etc. Despite rebates offered by the government.	Financial
Would like to put in solar panels but considering moving and can't afford it at present	Financial
It costs more to be sustainable	Financial
I don't have time but always try to do what I can to protect the environment.	Time
If I had more time I would ride to work	Time
NO TIME	Time
There isn't enough fundraisers of community service around this area to act on climate change	Community

2. Barriers to action	
Submission Content	Themes
Where to find support for creating and implementing an environment program for community	Community
I'm trying to do what I can and I feel a lot of guilt about what I'm not doing. It also frustrates me to know that I am only one person and that any meaningful change would require contribution from the entire community	Community
Limited time as in my age now. Perhaps lack of energy to be more actively involved.	Age
My husband and are 86 and 80 years old and not in the best of health. The bulk of my time is for taking care of my husband	Age
Language - limited English	Language
Because of my English and lack of knowledge and confidence I can't do a lot.	Language
Lack of English	Language
It would be helpful if council developed and implemented various community skills for a Climate Action program. For council to program and facilitate networking opportunities for residents and businesses with Sustainability programs	Knowledge
Not in the media enough, not enough awareness, not enough support for society awareness	Knowledge
Let me know spelled out simple approaches/actions for me to take starting from my own home/backyard then to my wider environment	Knowledge
I'm renting so I can't use solar panels	Rental
Renting our home	Rental
If I had more time I would ride to work. I am not a property owner and the house I am renting is going to be demolished, so modifying the house by investing in rainwater tanks and solar is not an option	Rental
I am not a property owner and the house I am renting is going to be demolished, so modifying the house by investing in rainwater tanks and solar is not an option	Rental
Everything feels too small. Id like to be involved in bigger change.	Other
As an individual, it feels meaningless unless big companies (who contribute the most to pollution and global warming) act in a meaningful way	Other
Stop chasing your tail when WE (Australia) and not the polluters to environment	Other
The lifestyle we have gotten used to sort of makes it hard at times	Other

3. Motivations to act	
Submission Content	Themes
Financial incentives e.g. Cheaper food/drinks if I BYO container	Financial
Financial aid from council to support buying	Financial
Connecting to community	Community
Community group initiatives	Community

3. Motivations to act	
Submission Content	Themes
I would be more motivated with community education, adds or videos and educational community events or fund raising events for nature conservation	Community
Incentives for following sustainability practices, council projects that involve volunteering from community to improve sustainability on a larger scale	Community
Further information above recycling, composting, energy saving. Rewards program	Rewards
I have grandchildren, I am aware of what they may face if we do not act NOW	Future generations
Ensuring my children have a planet in the future	Future generations
Leaving a better world for my children and their children is very important to me	Future generations
Loss of biodiversity is most frightening because most people do not understand the pivotal part nature plays in keeping our planet working	Environment
The beautiful Mother Nature who sustains us all, motivates me!	Environment
Seeing more natural environment around us and less concrete!!	Environment
Perhaps small workshops/information days or evenings or Zoom meetings for information on Climate Change	Education
More educational knowledge about climate change	Education
I would be more motivated with community education, adds or videos and educational community events or fundraising events for nature conservation	Education
Living so close to large industrial estate	Other
Having access to more of these recycling programs and manufacturers stop wrapping everything in plastic and supermarkets selling in sustainable packaging	Other
Clean air would encourage me to take action on keeping it clear	Other

4. Suggested activities for Council	
Submission Content	Themes
1. Have training programs for residents on how to talk to other residents about climate change (through organisations like Climate 4 Change)	Education/training
Co-design with schools a program to build the next generation of climate leader	Education/training
Implement and run a Community Skills for Climate Action program, like Yarra, Meribek and Darebin have done	Education/training
Establish a Teachers' Environment Network like that run by Nillumbik and Banyule Councils	Education/training
Anything for homeschoolers - if you provide it, they'll/we'll come from miles around!	Education/training
Youth group to educate and bring in all diverse individuals to understand each other and ultimately learn from each other to keep their community safe and clean	Education/training
2. Reinstate the Greater Dandenong Sustainability Awards and have particular school awards for climate action, biodiversity action and sustainability	Rewards
Provide free gas, electricity, water	Rewards

4. Suggested activities for Council	
Submission Content	Themes
Make climate change educational events on weekends. Get community involved and interested and volunteering. Ask for volunteers and make volunteering fun	Volunteer opportunities
Provide grants to seniors and other community groups (particularly ethno-specific community groups) on heat wave and heat stroke, preventing illness and death but also improving understanding of the link between increasing extreme events and climate change	Grants/subsidies
For older persons there should be different programs to assist them financially	Grants/subsidies
Group buy schemes for hot water or cooling	Grants/subsidies
Provide subsidies to water tanks, compost bins, and solar panels batteries please	Grants/subsidies
Have stalls at Council events and places like Parkmore raising awareness of climate change	In-person presence
Provide more outdoor activities in parks	In-person presence
Have displays at high pedestrian traffic sites in the community to raise awareness of the climate emergency and how people can respond	In-person presence
Increase access to information in different languages - language is one barrier	Language
Help reduce language barriers	Language
The government can force the land lords to make and provide good and suitable facilities like solar panels for their rental houses. Till those who live in rental house live better without wasting energy	Renters
Cleaning days where community comes together to clean the streets. More advertisement about government initiatives about changing shower heads and install door stoppers	Other
Councils 'talks the talk but does not walk the walk', so show positive action first before expecting constituents to do it for them	Other
I saw Yarra has a library of things to hire out and info about climate change. That looks handy	Other
I think council does quite a bit already by having sustainability programs, subsidising the cost of purchasing worm farms/bokashi bins/compost bins and the Homecycle program and hard rubbish collections	Other
As a local artist, I am keen for council to commission public art that raises awareness about climate change in an inspiring and strengths-based way	Other



4.2 OTHER

4.2.1 No. 51a Douglas St, Noble Park - Affordable Housing Project - Request for Consent to Remove One River Red Gum (Tree 2)

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

Attachments:

1. City of Melbourne tree valuation policy [4.2.1.1 - 6 pages]
2. Tree Valuation Assessment [4.2.1.2 - 1 page]

Executive Summary

1. In 2022 and 2023, the Minister for Planning assessed a combined planning scheme amendment and planning permit application for the site at 51A Douglas Street, Noble Park. The Minister determined to approve the amendment and planning permit application, and on 8 June 2023 directed Council to issue the planning permit. As directed, the permit was issued by Council on the 13 June 2023. The planning permit allows for the construction of a 6 storey affordable housing development, with ground level retail and the removal of vegetation, among other matters. The development requires the removal of several trees, including a River Red Gum tree (known as Tree 2) which is co-owned by Council. To date, Council has not granted consent to remove Tree 2. The developer and the Minister for Planning have requested Council reconsider its position on removal of Tree 2.
2. This report considers the options for Council moving forward in relation to the request for consent for removal of Tree 2 as follows:
 - Option 1: Continue to not consent to the removal of Tree 2, or;
 - Option 2: Consent to the removal of Tree 2 subject to the developer making a \$155,000 offset payment (in accordance with the tree valuation assessment).
3. This report recommends that Council should proceed with option 2, as it will compensate the community for the loss of the tree. The funds can then be used to provide offset planting which will significantly increase canopy cover within Noble Park in line with Council's Urban Forest Strategy, while also facilitating the benefits of additional affordable housing for a shovel ready development amid Victoria's housing crisis.



Background

- The subject site at 51A Douglas Street, Noble Park is surplus rail land created by the Victorian Government's Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP).
- In 2022 and 2023, the Minister for Planning assessed a combined planning scheme amendment and planning permit application for the site as follows;

Planning scheme amendment	Rezone land known as Lot 1 on draft Plan of Subdivision 844109U from Transport Zone 1 – State Transport Infrastructure to Commercial 1 Zone.
Planning permit application	Subdivision, construction of a residential building with commercial uses at ground floor, removal of native vegetation, creation of an easement, and a reduction in car parking requirements.

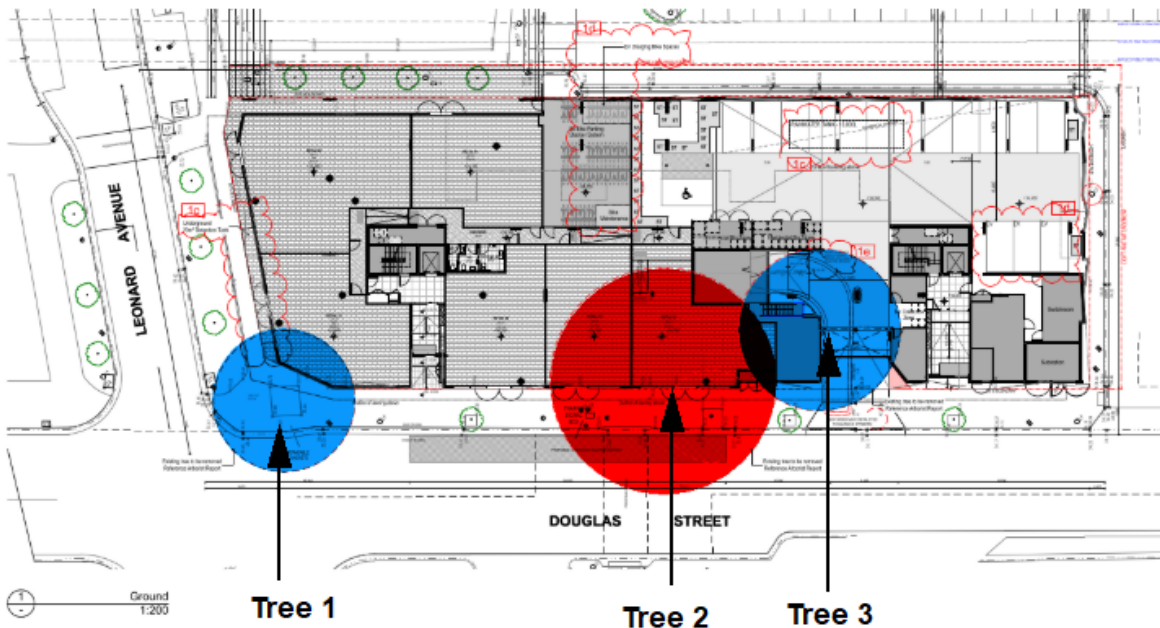
- The development approved by the planning permit is a for a six (6) storey building including the following:
 - Total 804sqm retail floor area across 6 ground level retail premises.
 - 97 apartments intended to be used as affordable housing on levels 1 to 5.
 - North facing communal open space on level 1.
 - 49 car parking spaces, including electric vehicle charging stations.
 - 98 bicycle parking spaces, including electric bike charging stations, with direct access to the Djerring Trail.
- During the consultation phase Council made a submission to the Minister, objecting to the proposal, and stating that Council did not support the removal of trees, and in particular the large river red gums, among other concerns (this matter was also raised by Council officers in several pre-application meetings).
- However, the Minister determined to approve the planning scheme amendment and planning permit application, and on 8 June 2023 directed Council to issue the planning permit. As directed, the permit was issued by Council on the 13 June 2023.
- Subsequently, once this permit was issued, under Section 96N of the *Planning Environment Act 1987*, the Council specified in the planning scheme becomes the responsible authority in respect of administering the permit. As such, Greater Dandenong City Council is now the responsible authority for this permit moving forward.
- Council officers and the Mayor have written to the Department of Transport and Planning, and Minister for Planning to unequivocally express strong disappointment in the process and the decision issued by the Minister for Planning at this site.



11. While Council remains very disappointed in the Minister's decision as a whole, it is the matter of the tree removal that is the consideration of this report. To remove the trees, a planning permit must be issued (which has occurred), and the landowner's consent must be provided. There are three (3) existing trees which are proposed to be removed:

Tree	Location	Council consent required	Council consent granted
Tree 1- Small Flowering Gum	On Council land	Yes	Yes- tree is in poor health.
Tree 2- River Red Gum	Partially on Council land	Yes	No
Tree 3- River Red Gum	On subject site	No- Council is not the landowner	N/A

12. Tree 2 is a large healthy River Red Gum tree with a height of approximately 20m and a diameter of 96cm at 1.4m above ground level. The tree trunk is located on the boundary, partly within the subject site and partly within the Council owned Douglas Street Road Reserve. Given this tree is co-owned by Council, Council's consent to remove it is required.



Above: Proposed site plan showing trees for removal, and their respective Tree Protection Zones. Trees highlighted in blue have been granted all required planning permits and consent to be removed. Tree 2 is highlighted in red and has not yet received Council consent to be removed.



Above: View of tree 2 looking south east along Douglas Street.

13. The developer is due to start works on the development in the coming months, and as such both the developer and Minister for Planning have requested that Council reconsider its position on the removal of Tree 2.

Key Points / Issues / Discussion

14. The site has a current planning permit for the removal of three (3) trees (among other matters), including the large river red gum partially on Council land (Tree 2). However, given Tree 2 is partially on Council land, Council consent is also required for the removal of this tree. Currently, Council consent to remove Tree 2 has not been provided, and as such the tree cannot be removed.
15. If this consent is not provided, then the development cannot proceed, and a series of planning permit conditions cannot be complied with.
16. The developer and the Minister for Planning have now requested that Council reconsider its position on providing consent for removal of Tree 2 on that basis that there has been a significant amount of investment into this project to date by the developer, and the lack of consent to remove Tree 2 is preventing the development of a site identified as a key development opportunity in the Noble Park Activity Centre Structure Plan.
17. The purpose of this report is to outline the options for Council moving forward. Officers have identified two (2) options moving forward as follows;



Option 1: Continue to not consent to the removal of Tree 2.

18. This option places Council in position of potential conflict in its decision making, and responsible for a permit that potentially cannot be acted upon.
19. If Council continues to not consent to the removal of Tree 2, the development cannot proceed as there are no realistic alternative design options to retain Tree 2.
20. If Council continues to not consent to the removal of Tree 2, it is possible that the developer will commence legal proceedings against Council. The developer has indicated that they have invested a significant amount of time and money into this project to date, and therefore, may seek full recovery of sunk costs and costs of delay from Council.

Option 2: Consent to the removal of Tree 2 subject to the developer making a \$155,000 offset payment (in accordance with the tree valuation assessment)

21. The second option is to propose a \$155,000 offset payment to be paid by the developer, and if accepted, Council to consent to the removal of Tree 2.
22. This \$155,000 figure has been determined by undertaking a tree valuation assessment for the amenity cost based on the City of Melbourne Council policy; '*Urban Forest Tree Valuations*' (See Attachment 1 for a copy of the City of Melbourne Council policy, and Attachment 2 for a full breakdown of the assessment for Tree 2).
23. The City of Melbourne use this policy to calculate public tree value and require payment from a developer to compensate the community on the loss of tree assets. Funds are then used to implement replacement planting and maintenance.
24. The amenity value formula used by City of Melbourne is derived from the formula (by Dr. Peter Yau, 1990) of the Maurer-Hoffman Formula, which takes into consideration the size of the tree, the species, aesthetics, locality and tree condition. **This is an established, industry based standard formula for valuing tree amenity.** Hobsons Bay Council, Manningham Council, Brimbank City Council, Monash Council and Golden Plains Shire Council all use a similar tree valuation formula for calculating public tree values. These municipalities also use this tree valuation method for calculating bonds to ensure public tree assets are not damaged during construction. The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) have also accepted this formula for establishing offset payments.
25. This \$155,000 could be used for significant replacement planting within the Noble Park Activity Centre to assist with meeting the outcomes sought by Council's Urban Forest Strategy.
26. The Greater Dandenong Urban Forest Strategy was adopted in 2021 and is supported by Greening Our City: Urban Tree Strategy 2018-28 and Greening Our Neighbourhoods 2021-28. The strategies share a vision for 'a healthy, green and resilient urban forest that is well managed, protected and provides benefits to the community', and aims to increase canopy coverage across the municipality to 15 per cent by 2028.
27. The 2023 canopy coverage audit identified that canopy cover within Noble Park has increased from 18% in 2016 to 19.8% in 2023. Furthermore, canopy coverage across the municipality has increased from 9.9% in 2016 to 14.1% in 2023.



28. Council's Parks Team have advised that \$155,000 could be used for replacement planting and maintenance of up to 15 trees, with a minimum planting height of 2.5 metres, within Noble Park.
29. Given that the \$155,000 amount has been calculated using an established, industry based standard formula used by numerous Victoria municipalities, it is considered that this request is reasonable.
30. While officers do not support the loss of significant trees in principle, and acknowledge the very important role they play, this is a unique and disappointing situation where Council has been placed in a position of having to issue a planning permit for tree removal (that it strongly objected to) by the Minister for Planning, making Council responsible for the permit, and the ability for it to be acted upon. If Council then does not consent to the removal of the trees on its land, it places itself in a potentially conflicted position, and in a situation where it has 'issued' a planning permit that cannot be acted upon due to its own actions.
31. This option will also provide a pathway forward to allow the development to commence without delay. The project involves the development of an affordable housing project, on a site well connected to public transport, bicycle trails, shops and services within the Noble Park Activity Centre.
32. State Planning Policy, the objectives of Planning for Victoria, and Council's own Housing Strategy seek to increase the supply of affordable housing within the activity centres on sites that were well connected to transport and services. The development also provides a significant amount of bicycle parking facilities, with direct connection to the Djerring trail, as well as meeting Council's expectations for environmentally sustainable design.
33. This option strikes a reasonable balance between allowing the project to progress in line with state housing policy, while also achieving a greater canopy cover through replanting in line with Council's Urban Forest Strategy.
34. Furthermore, the site is identified as a key development opportunity in the Noble Park Activity Centre Structure Plan. Allowing removal of the tree with adequate compensation to the community, will enable the development to proceed in line with the Noble Park Activity Centre Structure Plan, and provide much needed affordable housing for a shovel ready development amid Victoria's housing crisis.

Risk of legal action against Council

35. The following risk matrix outlines the risk of legal action against Council for the options outlined above.
36. Option 1: has a high risk of legal action against Council given that the developer has invested a significant amount of money into the project to date, continues to incur holding costs and other expenses associated with delayed commencement and may seek full recovery of costs from Council. Also, as Council is the responsible authority for the permit as per the Planning and Environment Act 1987, the liability attached to not being able to act on the permit due to Council's decision to not consent to the tree removal would be high as we are administering a planning permit that the applicant cannot develop.
37. Option 2: has a low risk of legal action against Council. If developer does commence legal proceedings against Council, Council will have a strong case to put forward to the Tribunal. Option 2 is well justified with regard to meeting Council's Urban Forest Strategy, and the tree valuation amount is based on an established, industry based standard formula for valuing trees which has previously been accepted by the Tribunal.



Financial Implications

38. No funds have been allocated in the 2023-2024 or 2024-2025 budget for any legal proceedings or compensation payouts that may result from this matter.

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

39. The Minister for Planning undertook community consultation during its assessment of the planning scheme amendment and planning permit application by;
- exhibiting all draft planning scheme amendment documents, the draft planning permit, architectural plans and all supporting technical reports.
 - giving notice to approximately 920 nearby owners and occupiers, as well as interested parties, key stakeholders, Greater Dandenong City Council and Prescribed Ministers and referral authorities.
 - Publishing a notice in a local newspaper (the Dandenong Star Journal).
40. Following this notification period, 11 submissions were received by the Minister for Planning. Among these submissions (including Council's), concerns were raised in relation to the loss of native vegetation on the site.

Links to the Community Vision and Council Plan

41. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
- Principle 3- Sustainable Environment- It is noted that option 2 is more in line with the Community Vision 2040 as it will result in higher canopy cover.
42. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan
43. 2021-25:
- A green city committed to a sustainable future- It is noted that option 2 is more in line with the Council plan as it will result in higher canopy cover.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

44. 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. Conclusion
45. As set out in this report, the options for Council moving forward in relation to the request for consent for removal of Tree 2 have been considered and are summarised below;
- **Option 1** (continue to not consent to the removal of Tree 2). This option will place Council in position of potential conflict in its decision making, and responsible for a permit that cannot be acted upon. It will mean that the development would not be able to proceed, and it is likely that the developer will commence legal proceedings against Council for their full recovery of costs.
 - **Option 2** (Propose that the developer make a \$155,000 offset payment and, if accepted, consent to the removal of Tree 2). This option will ensure that the tree removal is adequately compensated, and the benefits of additional canopy cover within the activity centre are provided as a positive outcome for the community. Furthermore, it will provide a pathway forward to allow the development of a much-needed affordable housing project to commence without delay amid Victoria's housing crisis.



46. While Council officers support the retention of significant trees in principle, as detailed in the report, this is a unique and disappointing situation, where Council has been placed in a position by decisions made by the Minister for Planning, whereby it needs to make a decision that will potentially have detrimental consequences to the community, whichever option it chooses.
47. It is recommended that Council should proceed with Option 2.

Officer Recommendation

That Council APPROVES to proceed with Option 2 as follows:

- 1. consent to the removal of Tree 2 subject to the developer making a \$155,000 offset payment (in accordance with the tree valuation assessment) ; and**
- 2. the offset payment is be allocated in the 2024/2025 budget to plant trees within Noble Park.**

MINUTE No.1068

Moved by: Cr Sophie Tan

Seconded by: Cr Rhonda Garad

That Council resolves to:

- 1. proceed with Option 1 (as contained within the report) and continues not to consent to the removal of Tree 2 from Council land;**
- 2. continue to negotiate with the developer and Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) to redesign and retain the River Red Gum Tree (Tree 2) which is located on the footpath; and**
- 3. acknowledge the importance of building affordable housing that balances with community amenity.**

Should Item 1 not be resolved in alignment with Option 1, Council accepts the developer will make an offset payment of \$155,000 (in accordance with the tree valuation assessment) and will allocate this offset payment in the 2024/2025 budget to plant trees in the Noble Park Activity Centre which must include community consultation.

MOTION

Moved by: Cr Tim Dark

Seconded by: Cr Bob Milkovic

That the point of order ruling by the Chair in relation to relevance not be upheld.

The Mayor vacated the Chair at 8.16pm and Deputy Mayor Cr Richard Lim OAM assumed the Chair.

For - Cr Tim Dark, Cr Bob Milkovic.

Against - Cr Lana Formoso Cr Rhonda Garad, Cr Richard Lim OAM, Cr Angela Long, Cr Loi Truong, Cr Phillip Danh, Cr Sean O'Reilly and Cr Sophie Tan.

**LOST
(in relation to Motion of Dissent)**



The Mayor resumed the Chair at 8.22pm.

**For - Cr Rhonda Garad, Cr Richard Lim OAM, Cr Angela Long, Cr Loi Truong,
Cr Phillip Danh, Cr Sean O'Reilly and Cr Sophie Tan.**

Against - Cr Tim Dark, Cr Lana Formoso and Cr Bob Milkovic.

**CARRIED 7 / 3
Relates to Minute No. 1068**



Tree Policy 2021

Tree Policy 2021

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1. Context

- 1.1. As set out in the Urban Forest Strategy, the City of Melbourne identifies its tree population as critical infrastructure and an asset that provides innumerable environmental and health benefits to the municipality.
- 1.2. All works that have the potential to impact public trees owned or managed by the City of Melbourne must abide by the protection and retention requirements outlined in this document.

2. Scope

- 2.1. This Policy applies to all trees in the municipality that are either owned or managed by the City of Melbourne, including but not limited to:
 - 2.1.1. VicRoads owned trees as contemplated by an Agreement under section 15 of the *Road Management Act 2004* ('the VicRoads Agreement') dated September 2005.
 - 2.1.2. Trees located on crown land and where City of Melbourne is the Committee of Management.
 - 2.1.3. Any tree which has a part of its trunk growing on council managed land and is known to the City of Melbourne.
- 2.2. All trees covered by this Policy shall be referred to as public trees.
- 2.3. Council currently manages over 80,000 public trees.
- 2.4. This Policy must be adhered to by any party that undertakes an activity that could negatively impact a public tree.
- 2.5. The practices and procedures detailed in this Policy are consistent with contemporary best practices in the arboricultural industry and are intended to promote healthy, structurally sound trees.
- 2.6. Subject to the City of Melbourne's Delegations Policy, a City of Melbourne Arborist may, at their discretion, apply this Policy so as to modify or add any condition,

practice or standard outlined, so long to do so would be within the parameters of best practice.

- 2.7. Privately owned trees are not covered by this Policy.
- 2.8. Tree planting and establishment is outside the scope of this Policy. This is covered by the Urban Forest Strategy, Urban Forest Precinct Plans and Tree Maintenance Contract.

3. Policy Objectives

- 3.1. To recognise the value and importance of public trees that comprise the City of Melbourne's urban forest and to provide adequate protection for those trees to ensure each tree has the best chance of growing to its full potential.
- 3.2. To promote the preservation of the existing tree canopy cover within the City of Melbourne's public urban forest.
- 3.3. To address the potential interaction between public trees and surrounding infrastructure.
- 3.4. To maintain and improve the long-term viability of public trees by ensuring that appropriate work methodologies, protection measures and maintenance requirements are implemented in accordance with best practice before, during and after construction or other events or activities that may adversely impact public trees.
- 3.5. To define the circumstances under which public trees may be pruned or removed.

4. Policy Statement

- 4.1. In recognition of the Urban Forest Strategy, all public trees covered by this Policy will be:
 - 4.1.1. Protected from any activity, including development, events or other activity that impacts their health and/or longevity.
 - 4.1.2. Protected from infrastructure conflict, with priority given to the relocation of infrastructure away from Tree Protection Zones to reduce the potential for immediate or future damage wherever reasonably practical.
 - 4.1.3. Given a priority status when the City of Melbourne is considering an application that has the potential to impact a tree, prior to the approval of any permit wherever reasonably practical.

5. Tree Protection Requirements

- 5.1. Trees grow in a delicate balance with their environment and any change must be minimised if trees are to remain healthy and fulfil their maximum potential. It is rarely possible to repair stressed or injured trees so damage must be avoided during any works within a Tree Protection Zone. Tree root systems are opportunistic and often extend far beyond the drip-line of a tree's canopy, especially in a highly modified urban environment. The disturbance of a tree's growing environment can result in soil structures that will not support root growth, which in turn could lead to disease, decline, structural instability or premature tree death.
- 5.2. In accordance with Australian Standard 4970-2009 '*Protection of trees on development sites*' tree protection should begin in the planning and design stage of any works that are proposed that may impact a Tree Protection Zone. An Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) must be prepared by a suitably qualified and

experienced Arborist (minimum Australian Qualification Framework Level 5, Diploma of Horticulture [Arboriculture] and/or equivalent experience).

- 5.3. An AIA must be submitted at the application stage for any permit issued by the City of Melbourne that has the potential to impact public trees.
- 5.4. Any AIA proposing public tree removal must demonstrate that requirements of Section 7 - Tree Pruning and Removal Criteria has been met (see below).
- 5.5. The AIA must be used to prepare a site specific Tree Protection Plan (TPP) to the satisfaction of a City of Melbourne Arborist. The TPP must be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced Arborist (minimum Australian Qualification Framework Level 5, Diploma of Horticulture [Arboriculture] and/or equivalent experience).
- 5.6. The TPP must be submitted to a City of Melbourne Arborist for approval prior to the commencement of any works (including demolition and construction). Once the TPP is accepted, a tree protection bond must be provided in accordance with Section 8 - Bonds and Payments.
- 5.7. A Tree Protection Zone must be established and maintained for the duration of any works that have the potential to impact the viability of any public tree.

6. Risk Management

- 6.1. The City of Melbourne will actively manage its tree population and the risk trees may pose to persons, property, surrounding assets and public safety in accordance with best practice tree risk assessment methodology and City of Melbourne Risk Management Corporate Policy (2015).
- 6.2. All public trees will be maintained in accordance to City of Melbourne's Tree Maintenance Contract.
- 6.3. All reasonable tree risk management controls will be considered to ensure public tree risk is within the City of Melbourne's accepted range.
- 6.4. All reasonable steps will be taken to minimise the potential impact of tree root damage to private infrastructure as detailed in Section 9 - Tree Roots and Infrastructure (see below).

7. Tree Pruning and Removal Criteria

- 7.1. The City of Melbourne will monitor its tree population in accordance with its Tree Maintenance Contract by undertaking general tree maintenance activities such as tree risk assessment inspections, tree pruning, tree removal and tree replacement where deemed appropriate.
- 7.2. Tree pruning or removal will not occur in any form without the written authority of a City of Melbourne Arborist.
- 7.3. Pruning of roots and branches will be in accordance with the Australian Standard AS 4373-2007 '*Pruning of amenity trees*', or any more recent standard.
- 7.4. All options for tree retention must be explored and exhausted to the satisfaction of a City of Melbourne Arborist before public tree removal is approved.
- 7.5. Tree pruning or removal will not be considered in the following circumstances:
 - 7.5.1. If there are practical means for canopy or tree retention.
 - 7.5.2. If the purpose of the pruning or removal is to reduce the height or size to minimise obstruction of views, vistas or commercial advertisement signage.
 - 7.5.3. To reduce leaf and fruit litter or debris from the tree or any fauna that may be inhabiting the tree.

- 7.5.4. For solar access to private property, gardens or solar panels.
- 7.5.5. For unjustified property damage claims.
- 7.5.6. For causing minor allergenic or irritant responses.
- 7.6. Tree pruning or removal will be considered by a City of Melbourne Arborist in the following circumstances:
 - 7.6.1. A tree poses an unacceptable level of risk to people or property following a tree risk assessment and there is no practical arboricultural intervention that could effectively reduce the risk.
 - 7.6.2. A tree is dead, dying or in severe decline from natural causes or irreversibly diseased, unless it is determined that it should remain in the landscape for habitat provision or other purposes.
 - 7.6.3. A City of Melbourne Arborist considers that a tree may be an inappropriate species for a location, having first consulted with the community and considered the strategic objectives of City of Melbourne's Urban Forest Strategy and Future Urban Forest documents.
 - 7.6.4. A City of Melbourne Arborist considers that all possible design solutions or construction and works methodologies to retain a tree have been exhausted and documented and the required permit documents have been issued.
 - 7.6.5. A City of Melbourne Arborist considers a tree is found to be causing damage to private infrastructure and there are no reasonably practical options to mitigate future damage.
 - 7.6.6. A City of Melbourne Arborist considers a tree is the primary cause of inducing severe allergenic or health response.
 - 7.6.7. A tree is defined to be a poor arboricultural specimen and contributes little amenity or ecological services.
 - 7.6.8. Property clearance pruning with consideration to tree health, structure and pruning dose as defined in AS 4373-2007 '*Pruning of amenity trees*'.
 - 7.6.9. If a development project results in an improvement to green space/infrastructure that would not be possible without the removal of existing trees.

8. Bonds and Payments

- 8.1. Where any works have the potential to impact public trees, a tree protection bond must be provided to the City of Melbourne.
- 8.2. The bond will be held for the duration of the works against the successful implementation of a City of Melbourne approved Tree Protection Plan (TPP), as confirmed by a Project Arborist Completion Report and released when any outstanding invoices for remedial works have been paid.
- 8.3. When a tree pruning or removal application is approved in accordance with City of Melbourne's Delegations Policy and Section 7 Tree Pruning and Removal (see above), all associated costs for the value of the tree must be agreed to in writing by the property owner or representative and paid prior to the pruning or removal of the tree(s).
- 8.4. The value of each tree will be calculated by a City of Melbourne Arborist using the City of Melbourne Tree Valuation Method.
- 8.5. The costs associated with removal of a tree include:

- A – Removal Costs: amounting to the fees incurred by the City of Melbourne for physically removing the tree.
 - B – Amenity Value: calculated in accordance with Council's Amenity Tree Valuation Formula.
 - C – Ecosystem Services Value: calculated in accordance with the i-Tree Eco tool.
 - D – Reinstatement Greening fee: calculated to cover the cost to the City of Melbourne to reinstate the growing environment to enable a replacement tree to grow to its full canopy potential, either in the same location or if the plot is lost, in an alternative location within the municipality.
- 8.6. If pruning to facilitate any project exceeds compliance with the City of Melbourne's Tree Maintenance Contract or legislative requirements, the associated costs must be agreed to in writing and paid by the applicant prior to the pruning occurring.
- 8.7. The costs associated with pruning will include:
- 8.7.1. Cost of works based on City of Melbourne's Tree Maintenance Contract Schedule of Rates.
 - 8.7.2. The value of the portion of the canopy removed by pruning, beyond the contract specification. The value will be determined as a percentage of total tree value (Section 8.5) assuming the pre-pruning canopy represents 100% of calculated tree value.

9. Tree Roots and Infrastructure

- 9.1. Tree growth is strongly influenced by below-ground conditions. Tree root growth is opportunistic and will proliferate wherever moisture, aeration, nutrition and soil structure are favourable. Tree root growth in the urban environment is highly modified and is not governed by property boundaries. The City of Melbourne will consider the need for tree root abatement measures such as tree root pruning or tree root barriers in certain circumstances where required and at the City of Melbourne's discretion.
- 9.2. The City of Melbourne will comprehensively investigate claims of property damage that are alleged to be a result from public trees.
- 9.3. The property owner is responsible for the maintenance, repair and replacement of pipes to the legal point of storm water discharge or sewer connection point.
- 9.4. The City of Melbourne will seek to resolve tree root conflicts in the following manner:
- 9.4.1. All claims of tree root damage from public trees will be investigated.
 - 9.4.2. The City of Melbourne will consider the need for tree root abatement measures such as exploratory trenches, tree root pruning or tree root barriers in certain circumstances where deemed required and at the City of Melbourne's discretion.
 - 9.4.3. Tree removal will only be considered if no practical arboricultural or engineering solution can be determined to mitigate proven damage to private infrastructure.
- 9.5. Claims of property damage from tree roots must comply with the City of Melbourne 'Guidelines for submitting a claim for damage to private property'.
- 9.6. The City of Melbourne will not remove public trees for unsubstantiated claims of storm water pipe damage, sewer damage or theoretical zones of influence.

10. Community Consultation and Involvement

- 10.1. The community is passionate about its trees and relies on the City of Melbourne to ensure the maintenance and preservation of public trees for the long-term benefit of the city. The City of Melbourne will:
- 10.1.1. Inform the community of scheduled notable public tree removals prior to removal occurring.
 - 10.1.2. Provide the community an opportunity to comment or request information on proposed tree removals.
 - 10.1.3. Utilise appropriate notification methods including: signage on site, site meetings, direct contact or letters to directly affected residents.
 - 10.1.4. Methods of notification will be determined in accordance with a number of factors including; the prominence of the location, the significance of the tree, the size of the tree, the number of trees and impact of removal.
 - 10.1.5. Provide the community with the reasons for public tree removal if prior notification cannot be undertaken.
- 10.2. Removal of public trees that are deemed to present an immediate, significant hazard to public safety will be undertaken immediately and may not necessarily provide a period of notification and community consultation.

Supporting material

City of Melbourne Delegations Policy (2020)
City of Melbourne Urban Forest Strategy (2012-2032)
City of Melbourne Urban Forest Precinct Plans (2012-2025)
City of Melbourne Tree Maintenance Contract Specification (2021)
City of Melbourne Risk Management Corporate Policy (2015)
City of Melbourne Tree Protection in the City of Melbourne (2019)
City of Melbourne Tree Valuation Method (2021)
City of Melbourne Code of Practice for Building and Works (2021)
City of Melbourne Guidelines for submitting a claim for damage to private property (2019)
Australian Standard 4970-2009 '*Protection of trees on development sites*'
Australian Standard AS 4373-2007 '*Pruning of amenity trees*'
American National Standards Institute A300 (2017)
Minimum Industry Standards (MIS) Arboriculture Australia
ISO AS/NZS 31000:2018 Risk Management (2018)

Policy Name: Tree Policy
Policy Owner: Parks and City Greening
Issue Date: August 2021
Docs Number: 14829697
Last Revised Date: August 2021

51A Douglas Street, Noble Park
Tree Valuation Assessment- Tree 2

Formula for Amenity value:

$$Value (V) = Basic Value (\$) \times Species (S) \times Aesthetics (A) \times Locality (L) \times Condition (C)$$

Assessment:

Criteria		Assessment			
Basic value	DBH= 96cm				\$77,695.62
Species Factor	Group 6 (trees of long life span (more than 150 years) or slow growth rate)				1.0
Aesthetics	Solitary feature specimen tree				1.0
Locality	City Centre Main Street, Principal Boulevard				2.5
Tree condition	Assessment Criteria	Criteria Condition	Score	0.8	
	Trunk	• solid and sound	5		
	Growth	• <5cm twig elongation	1		
	Structure	• healthy, stable and sound	5		
	Pests and Diseases	• minor symptoms of infestation	2		
	Canopy Development	• full but unbalanced, lop-sided	3		
	Life Expectancy	• >50 years	5		
	Total Score				
	TOTAL SCORE	TREE CONDITION	RATING		
19-22	good	0.8			

$$\$77695.62 \times 1.0 \times 1.0 \times 2.5 \times 0.8 = \underline{\underline{\$155,390.00}}$$



4.2.2 Response to Notice of Motion No 31 - Preparedness for Impacts of Climate Related Events

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Community Strengthening
Attachments: Nil

Executive Summary

1. This report responds to Notice of Motion 31: Preparedness of Impacts of Climate Related Events in Summer 2023-24.
2. It further clarifies and summarises Council's capacity and capability to respond to climate-related emergencies during the summer season and all existing emergency events.
3. It also includes advice to the development of a broader Climate Adaptation Action Plan.
4. This report recommends that Council continue to advocate for increased funding to support the existing and future Emergency Management programs and Climate Action.



Background

5. At the Council meeting held on Monday 10 July 2023, Cr Garad proposed Notice of Motion 31 – Preparedness of Impacts of Climate Related Events in Summer 2023-24.
6. It was unanimously carried with the addition of point “h) all existing emergency events.” which was suggested by Cr Dark.
7. Per Notice of Motion 31 a detailed report was prepared and tabled for the Council meeting on 11 December 2023.
8. At the Council meeting on 11 December 2023, the following resolution was adopted:

MINUTE No.960

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Angela Long

Whereas the report presented under Item 4.3.5, in response to Notice of Motion 31, primarily addresses Points 1. a) & b) and acknowledges the current inability of the Council to comprehensively respond to Points 1. c), d), e), f) & g), Point 2 & Point 3;

Further:

Council recognises the critical importance of a holistic response to the challenges posed by climate-related events, particularly in the context of the upcoming summer season 2023-24;

- 1. Council officers shall continue to engage in extensive consultation with the community to better understand and address the needs arising from the expected heatwaves;**
- 2. a comprehensive report addressing all the points listed in Notice of Motion 31 (including points 1. c) through g), point 2, and point 3) will be prepared and presented to the Council within the first quarter of 2024. This report will provide a detailed assessment of Council's preparedness and response strategies for the expected climate-related events;**
- 3. the findings and recommendations of this report will be incorporated into the development of a broader Climate Adaptation Action Plan. This strategy aims to enhance the resilience of the community and Council's infrastructure and services against the impacts of climate change and will be itemised for consideration in the 2024 budget; and**
- 4. Council commits to ensuring that the Climate Adaptation Action Plan is informed by the latest evidence, community co-design and best practices in climate resilience.**
- 5. This alternate motion demonstrates the Council's ongoing commitment to addressing the urgent challenge of climate change and prioritising the safety and wellbeing of its residents in the face of increasing climate-related events.**



Key Points / Issues / Discussion

9. Council's role in Emergencies is supported by the State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP), Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) and various sub plans.
10. This report clarifies information in responding to Notice of Motion 31 and provides further advice to the development of a broader Climate Adaptation Action Plan.
11. A summary of information related to points 1 c through g and Points 2 and 3 is as follows:

1 c) details of a direct and timely communication strategy from Council and emergency management organisations, with residents during climate-related events, including those not active on social media.

Council officers work collaboratively between various departments to ensure the community is well informed about key safety messages and advice about what to do before, during and after an emergency. Council actively communicates with our communities about emergencies.

Public Awareness and Community Education Campaigns have been expanded. For example, during the COVID19 Pandemic, Council deployed additional teams of community engagement staff covering the major shopping precincts, tourist areas, public transport locations and other areas where large groups of people gather. (Including information booths at Council run facilities and events). Community Engagement team members continue to deliver 'pop up' type information sessions on a weekly basis across the municipality.

Procedures are in place to proactively call our Community Care clients and those on our Vulnerable Person Register (VPR) during emergencies.

Recognising that many residents will not access websites or social media channels, routine engagement with community leaders, local charities, local press and locally based support agencies to help distribute key safety information through their networks and Client groups. To further strengthen the support to vulnerable residents, Council proactively recommends that our residents should consider taking advantage of the existing Red Cross program known as "[Telecross](#)". Red Cross can provide eligible residents with a daily telephone call to check on their wellbeing through a network of volunteers. During an emergency, Red Cross can assist Council to contact vulnerable residents.

Council has expanded the use of online content to incorporate language translation capability to over 100 languages.

Protocols are in place for sharing emergency warnings via our social media channels and community networks.

Council has published public water cooler/fountain locations via an online map located at <https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/emergency-management/heatwaves>.

Interested community members, businesses, organisations and agencies participated in a Heatwave Exercise held on 19th September 2023 at The Drum Theatre.

Greater Dandenong Council in partnership with Frankston City Council, Kingston City Council and Mornington Peninsula Shire produced [the Emergency Prepare website](#) and accompanying [booklet](#). The website is translatable into 106 different languages. Council distributes hard copies of the booklet at Council facilities, pop-up community engagement activities and events. Further work is being carried out to translate the videos with subtitles and voice overs.

With contributions from Country Fire Authority (CFA), Victoria State Emergency Service (SES), Fire Recue Victoria (FRV), Department of Health (DH) and Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), this is the first time that all the key safety messages relating to Heatwaves, Power outages, Fires, Floods, Storms, Smoke and Infectious Disease can be found in the one resource.



There are [8 short videos](#) accompanying the website, and the booklets are available for free in all our customer service centres, libraries and at selected community events as part of our broader community engagement and public awareness programs.

[The Department of Health launched their 'Preparing for Summer'](#) Media campaign, which Council will share online, through community and business networks, at Council facilities and events. This media campaign was launched on in October 2023 and Council officer promoted this via our social media channels.

While noting that not all residents have access to a smart phone, Council proactively recommends that every resident who does have access download [the Vic Emergency App](#) and set up a watch area for themselves and loved ones. Council also recommends those that do not have access to social media or a smart phone, ask a loved one, neighbour or friend to add them to their watch area.

1 d) assessment of the capacity of Council's emergency shelters to accommodate vulnerable residents.

Council regularly assess capacity and undertakes scenario planning for potential emergencies. Emergency Relief Centres (ERCs) and other locations are an important emergency management consideration.

If it was necessary to activate an ERC, Council would prioritise the use of the following facilities:

Ian Tatterson Pavilion and Jan Wilson Community Centre.

Both facilities have extensive operational plans and have been activated in live exercises. They are generally well equipped to accommodate vulnerable residents, with consideration of disability, cultural and linguistic diversity and health issues/age built into Council's Emergency Relief Centre Operations Manuals. Some of these considerations include:

- Space flexibility, allowing for various gender identities, cultural and religious considerations.
- Immediate access to translation services via the Translating and Interpreting Service hotline.
- On site first aid services available.
- Accessibility for users of wheelchairs and other mobility aids.
- Provision of drinking water and meals.
- Shower and bathroom facilities.
- Ample parking with good ambulance access.
- Designated space for animals and livestock.
-

Activation of an ERC is the responsibility of the Municipal Recovery Manager (MRM) within Council's Emergency Management Team. Detailed consultation with Victoria Police and other agencies would occur prior to any decision of the MRM.

An analysis of Council's other facilities and parks that could be considered for use in an emergency was captured in Appendix Two of the original report. Should any of these facilities be activated, an appropriate communication campaign would be enacted in conjunction with the appropriate emergency service agency.

Existing arrangements are in place with the Department of Families Fairness and Housing (DFFH), Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV) and other Local Governments ensure Council has additional capacity and capability should it be required.

1 e) identification of any existing gaps in the Council's ability to protect residents during climate-related events in the upcoming summer.

Council is continually reviewing, identifying gaps and learning from other agencies through the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC), the Victorian



Municipal Emergency Management Enhancement Group (MEMEG) and other similar forums, to protect residents for climate related and emergency management events. Planning for, responding to and recovering from emergencies is a shared responsibility across all levels of government and individuals within our broader community. [Council's role in Emergencies is well defined](#) and regularly practiced by Council Officers. In 2019, Council worked closely with Local Government Victoria (LGV) to deliver the [Councils and Emergencies Project](#). The multiyear project identified 94 emergency management responsibilities and activities councils can carry out before, during and after an emergency. Greater Dandenong Council then evaluated our preparedness against these responsibilities and activities and identified actions to address any areas for improvement. These actions form the ongoing continuous improvement work to support our local communities.

More recently, experience from the COVID19 Pandemic illustrated that Council has made significant improvements to our Emergency Management capacity and capability. During COVID19 Council mobilised all available resources and went far beyond legislated requirements and took the approach of “what more could we do to support our local communities?”

Council also works closely with the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and actively contributes to the various initiatives undertaken by the MAV. [Further details can be found here.](#)

1 f) recommendations outlining strategies and timelines to address identified gaps.

As mentioned in 1 e), Council officers continue to review and seek resources to close or minimise gaps to support and protect the community. As highlighted, Council is working to diversify our Emergency Preparedness videos and other materials by translating the voice and written text into other languages.

Further work is being undertaken to understand the capacity and capabilities of Council and local community groups to establish Cool Places if required in a Heatwave event. Of particular concern is the risk of losing power (electricity) to a designated Emergency Relief Centre or Cool Space. Additional solar panels, batteries and/or generators would need to be acquired and installed in some of these facilities, if air-conditioning and electricity is required. Council is currently working to establish how best this risk can be mitigated.



One of the lessons learnt during the COVID19 pandemic was the valuable role played by officers directly engaging with residents. Face to face engagement was the most effective way to dispel myths of COVID19, provide key health and safety information and increase vaccination rates.

Engagement staff are also critical to educate about what to do before, during and after an emergency. Officers work closely with partner agencies and other Councils noting external funding for community education staff will conclude on 30 June 2024 when grant funding concludes.

Community education campaigns are often rolled out as a reaction after a major event, not before. They are usually grant funded and inconsistent in the timeframes and outcomes of each program.

Therefore, Council should continue to advocate for increased funding to support the existing and future Emergency Management programs.

1 g) details of the establishment and activation of community networks to monitor and support vulnerable individuals in the community;

Council works with and supports community groups and networks and meets with interested groups to raise awareness and educate at every opportunity. An example of a great community focused network that is already active and recommended by Council was detailed in the original report. Also detailed above, it is a program [run by the Australian Red Cross and called Telecross.](#)

As a direct consequence of the Heatwave Exercise at The Drum Theatre on 19 September 2023, Council officers have consulted with various community groups and community leaders to identify who has the capacity and capability to help monitor and support individual in the community.

Plans are also being development for community groups to establish themselves as “Cool Places” for their community networks during extreme heatwaves. These arrangements will be included in the Extreme Heat Sub Plan of the 2024 – 2027 Greater Dandenong MEMP. More recently, Council officers have facilitated various meetings with community leaders, community groups and other local health providers to educate and inform residents on how they can better support themselves and their own broader communities.

Further community meetings will be held throughout the year with a focus on preparing for the 2024/2025 summer.

Point 2 - A distribution strategy for the report will also be included in the report and additionally, the report shall be published in plain language.

This report will be distributed according to Council’s governance rules and included within the minutes of the relevant Council meeting. Every effort will be made to ensure the report is published in plain language with active hyperlinks and acronyms explained.

Information for the community on Preparedness of the Impacts of Climate Related Events will continue to be promoted on Councils website, customer service centres, at Council events etc.



Point 2 - The comprehensive report shall be presented to Council during the second Council Meeting scheduled in October 2023 so that results and learnings from Council's Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA) on 22 August 2023 and Council's Heatwave Scenario Emergency Management Test on 19 September 2023 can be considered in the report.

The original report included several references to the most recent Greater Dandenong CERA meeting and Heatwave Scenario exercise at The Drum Theatre. The Greater Dandenong MEMPC and relevant Council officers have included learnings from each event into the revised production of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan 2024-2027 and various Sub Plans.

The 2024 – 2027 MEMP and sub plans for:

- Storm and Flood,
- Extreme Heat and
- Fire Management

have recently been reviewed, updated and submitted to the Southeast Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee (SMREMPC) for approval and endorsement at their next meeting on 30 May 2024. These plans will then be published on Council's website.

Point 3 - The findings and recommendations of this report will be incorporated into the development of a broader Climate Adaptation Action Plan. This strategy aims to enhance the resilience of the community and Council's infrastructure and services against the impacts of climate change and will be itemised for consideration in the 2024 budget; and

Point 4 - Council commits to ensuring that the Climate Adaptation Action Plan is informed by the latest evidence, community co-design and best practices in climate resilience.

Considering the comprehensive integration of adaptation measures across multiple documents, it is considered that Council already has a thorough plan for climate adaptation.

As such, it is not advisable to pursue the development of a standalone Climate Adaptation Action Plan, and rather staff resources should be focused on implementing the existing plans.

Pursuit of a new standalone plan would require significant resources, including the engagement of a consultant with an estimated minimum cost of \$50,000, escalating to over \$100,000 if a co-design process were to be followed.

Additionally, significant officer time (in excess of 3 months full time work) would be necessary, which would require new staffing resources to be obtained, or existing commitments to be paused.

Financial Implications

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



Community and Stakeholder Consultation

13. Various meetings have been facilitated with community groups and for over 12 months. Council's Emergency Management team have engaged with and educated our community at various public events and locations across Greater Dandenong. From distributing free COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Tests and face masks to presenting [key safety information](#) about what to do in a Heatwave, Fire, Storm or Flood, the team have connected with over 18,000 people. Survey results gathered by the team show that 54% of our community get their emergency information from Community Leaders, Family and Friends rather than from official sources.
14. Members of the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) have made contributions to the development of the updated MEMP and various sub plans.

Links to the Community Vision and Council Plan

15. This report is consistent with the following principles in the Community Vision 2040:
 - Safe and peaceful community.
16. This report is consistent with the following strategic objectives from the Council Plan
17. 2021-25:
 - A socially connected, safe and healthy city.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

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

Conclusion

19. At the time of writing the updated MEMP and various sub plans have been submitted to the Southeast Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee (SMREMPC) for discussion and approval at the next scheduled meeting on Thursday 30 May 2024.
20. Once approved, all the plans will be published on Council's website.



Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. NOTES the report in response to the Alternate Notice of Motion 31;**
- 2. NOTES the additional advice regarding the development of a broader Climate Adaptation Action Plan;**
- 3. NOTES that once the MEMP and sub plans are approved by the Southern Metro Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee, these will be published for Council consideration;**
- 4. NOTES that work is ongoing and will continue to develop over time, including further work with Community Groups and other stakeholders to identify location-specific opportunities to enhance preparedness; and**
- 5. CONTINUES to advocate for increased funding to support the existing and future Emergency Management programs within the City of Greater Dandenong.**

MINUTE No.1069

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Tim Dark

That Council:

- 1. NOTES the report in response to the Alternate Notice of Motion 31;**
- 2. NOTES the additional advice regarding the development of a broader Climate Adaptation Action Plan;**
- 3. NOTES that once the MEMP and sub plans are approved by the Southern Metro Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee, these will be published for Council consideration;**
- 4. NOTES that work is ongoing and will continue to develop over time, including further work with Community Groups and other stakeholders to identify location-specific opportunities to enhance preparedness; and**
- 5. CONTINUES to advocate for increased funding to support the existing and future Emergency Management programs within the City of Greater Dandenong.**

CARRIED 10 / 0



4.2.3 Chief Executive Officer's Annual Review 2023

Jacqui Weatherill disclosed an indirect material conflict of interest of a pecuniary nature (s 128) in this item. Jacqui Weatherill is the incumbent and will directly benefit should the officer's recommendation be endorsed by Council. Jacqui Weatherill left the Chamber prior to discussion and voting on this item.

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Corporate Development
Attachments: Nil

Executive Summary

1. Council is required to review the performance of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) annually as outlined in its CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy.
2. The review was completed in April 2024 with all Councillors invited to participate in the process and provide feedback to the CEO.
3. This report recommends an increase of 2.75% to the salary component of the CEO's total remuneration package (TRP) based on positive performance review results for the 2023 calendar year.



Background

4. The annual review of the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) performance is managed by the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee (CERC). The 2023 annual review was facilitated by independent adviser, Margaret Devlin, from the Centre for Organisation Development.
5. The CERC is comprised of the following councillors: Mayor Lana Formoso, Deputy Mayor Richard Lim, Cr Angela Long, Cr Sean O'Reilly, Cr Rhonda Garad, Cr Jim Memeti and Cr Sophie Tan.
6. The performance review of the CEO is based on six key performance measures. These are:
 - Financial sustainability
 - Customer experience
 - People and culture
 - Communication, engagement and advocacy
 - Systems and processes
 - General
7. The CERC was pleased with the overall performance of the CEO in her first year across all six key performance measures. Average ratings across all measures were either meeting expectations or strong performance. The CERC commented that the CEO had exceeded their expectations with her quick proactive approach to change management and organisational reform.

Financial Implications

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

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

9. While the CERC is comprised of a limited number of councillors, all councillors were invited to participate in the CEO's performance review.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

10. This report has considered council's legislative and policy obligations (where applicable) as outlined in the report considerations section detailed in the front of this agenda. The applicable obligations considered and applied are:
 - *Local Government Act 2020* (s45)
 - Council's Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy.

Conclusion

11. The annual review of the CEO's performance for the 2023 calendar year has been undertaken in line with the relevant council policy requirements. The review highlighted that the CERC is highly satisfied with the performance of the CEO and the positive impact she has had on the organisation to date.



-
12. The CERC recommends an increase of 2.75% to the salary component of the CEO's total remuneration package (TRP) based on the positive performance review results for the 2023 calendar year. This increase would be effective from the first anniversary of 12 months service, being Tuesday 19 December 2023 (backdated).

CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. NOTES that a comprehensive review of the performance of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has been undertaken by the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee in line with Council's CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy; and**
- 2. ENDORSES an increase of 2.75% to the salary component of the CEO's Total Remuneration Package (effective from 19 December 2023). This increase is consistent with the July 2024 percentage wage increase of Council staff covered separately by the Enterprise Agreement.**

Jacqui Weatherill left the Chamber at 8.30 pm.

MINUTE No.1070

Moved by: Cr Rhonda Garad

Seconded by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

That Council:

- 1. NOTES that a comprehensive review of the performance of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has been undertaken by the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee in line with Council's CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy; and**
- 2. ENDORSES an increase of 2.75% to the salary component of the CEO's Total Remuneration Package (effective from 19 December 2023). This increase is consistent with the July 2024 percentage wage increase of Council staff covered separately by the Enterprise Agreement.**

CARRIED 8 / 0

**For - Cr Lana Formoso, Cr Rhonda Garad, Cr Richard Lim OAM, Cr Angela Long,
Cr Phillip Danh, Cr Sean O'Reilly, Cr Sophie Tan and Cr Loi Truong.**

Abstained - Cr Tim Dark and Cr Bob Milkovic.

Jacqui Weatherill returned to the Chamber at 8.33 pm.



4.2.4 List of Registered Correspondence to Mayor and Councillors

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Corporate Development
Attachments: 1. Correspondence Received 6-17 May 2024 [4.2.4.1 - 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 6-17 May 2024.

Officer Recommendation

That the listed items for the period 6-17 May 2024 provided in Attachment 1 to this report be received and noted.

MINUTE No.1071

Moved by: Cr Loi Truong

Seconded by: Cr Angela Long

That the listed items for the period 6-17 May 2024 provided in Attachment 1 to this report be received and noted.

CARRIED 10 / 0

Objective

CONNECTED. COLLABORATIVE. COMMUNITY.

Correspondences addressed to the Mayor and Councillors received between 06/05/24 & 17/05/24 - for officer action - total = 3

Correspondence Name	Correspondence Dated	Date Record Created	Objective ID	User Currently Assigned
A letter from a Noble Park resident expressing concerns about a council officer allegedly accessing their personal information and their lack of concern regarding alleged safe asbestos removal while demolishing the adjacent house (Note - now with Governance to be investigated.)	06-May-24	06-May-24	fA315823	Mayor & Councillors Office
A letter to the Mayor from Frankston City Council seeking support, along with the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) in calling on the Victorian Government to retain local community planning decision powers within councils in any proposed planning reforms.	09-May-24	14-May-24	fA316615	Mayor & Councillors Office
A request to the Mayor to consider more mountain bike tracks facilities (pump tracks) across Greater Dandenong and a basket ring/half court and Barry Powell Reserve.	15-May-24	15-May-24	fA316712	Mayor & Councillors Office

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 06/05/24 & 17/05/24 - for information only - total = 4

Correspondence Name	Correspondence Dated	Date Record Created	Objective ID	User Currently Assigned
A letter to the Mayor from Leadsun Australia Pty Ltd regarding its Victoria Walks educational seminar on best-practice public lighting in relation to Council's Open Space Strategy.	30-Apr-24	07-May-24	A10909548	Mayor & Councillors Office
A letter of congratulations to Greater Dandenong from the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) for being the winner in two categories in the LGPro Awards for Excellence 2024.	09-May-24			CEO's Office
A letter to the Mayor from the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) regarding the 2024 National General Assembly of Local Government.	15-May-24	15-May-24	A10943420	Mayor & Councillors Office
An invitation to the Mayor and CEO from the Scanlon Foundation Research Institute to join its Strengthening Democracy Research Project and the launch of the new Social Cohesion Compass.	16-May-24	17-May-24	A10953678	Mayor & Councillors Office

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



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

Responsible Officer: Executive Director Corporate Development
Attachments: Nil

Executive Summary

1. As part of Council's ongoing efforts to improve transparency in Council processes, matters discussed at Councillor Briefing Sessions & Pre-Council Meetings (other than those matters designated to be of a confidential nature) are reported on at Council meetings.
2. The matters listed in this report were presented to Councillor Briefing Sessions & Pre-Council Meetings during the period 15 April – 13 May 2024.
3. This report recommends that the information contained within it be received and noted.



Background

4. The Executive Team and associated staff at Greater Dandenong City Council host Councillor Briefing Sessions and Pre-Council Meeting on a regular basis (weekly) to inform Councillors about the work officers are undertaking, share information, obtain feedback and discuss strategies and options for current and future work.
5. To ensure transparency in this process matters discussed at Councillor Briefing Sessions and Pre-Council Meetings (other than those matters designated to be confidential under the *Local Government Act 2020*) are reported on at Council meetings. This report represents matters discussed at the Councillor Briefing Sessions & Pre-Council Meetings during the period 15 April – 13 May 2024.

Matters Presented for Discussion

Item		Councillor Briefing Session/Pre-Council Meeting
1.	<p>2024-25 Budget Councillors and officers discussed details in the proposed 2024-25 capital works program and corresponding budget.</p>	Councillor Briefing Session – 15 April 2024
2.	<p>General Discussion Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) planning issues at 51A Douglas Street, Noble Park; b) data issue with Council service provider; c) pavilion construction at St John’s College; and d) iCook Foods application to the Supreme Court. 	Pre-Council Meeting (PCM) – 22 April 2024
3.	<p>Potential Open Space Acquisition <i>Confidential under s 3(1)(a) & (g) of the Local Government Act 2020.</i></p>	CBS – 6 May 2024
4.	<p>Review of Neighbourhood Houses & Community Centres Council officers have reviewed funding for Neighbourhood Houses and Community Centres and have developed a position statement and funding options for Council consideration at the Council Meeting of 13 May 2024.</p>	CBS – 6 May 2024
5.	<p>Draft Council Plan Councillors and Council officers discussed the draft Annual Plan and community consultation planned for the Council Plan 2021-2025, Proposed Budget and Long-Term Financial Strategy.</p>	CBS – 6 May 2024



6.	General Discussion Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: a) LGPro Awards received by Great Dandenong teams; b) Municipal Association of Victoria funding opportunities; c) the proposed Sandown Racecourse redevelopment; d) the latest inquiry into local government sustainability, funding and services and Council's submission; e) the recent Greater South East Melbourne's jobs and skills summit; f) the Victorian State Budget release; g) community safety issues across Greater Dandenong; h) parking issues in Brady Road, North Dandenong; i) proposed legal reforms; and j) the cost of living crisis and its effects on Greater Dandenong communities.	CBS – 6 May 2024
7.	General Discussion Councillors and Council officers briefly discussed the following items: a) State Government late advice regarding landfill levies which will be included in the final budget; b) advocacy meeting with local federal members; and c) the proposed Sandown Racecourse redevelopment.	PCM – 13 May 2024

Apologies

6. Councillor Jim Memeti submitted an apology for the Pre-Council Meeting held on 22 April 2024.
7. Councillor Tim Dark and Councillor Sophie Tan submitted apologies for the Councillor Briefing Session held on 6 May 2024.
8. Councillor Sophie Tan submitted an apology for the Pre-Council Meeting held on 13 May 2024.

Legislative and Policy Obligations

9. 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.
10. Reporting on matters discussed at Councillor Briefing Sessions and Pre-Council Meetings gives effect to the overarching governance principles (in particular, section 9(i) of the *Local Government Act 2020* in that the transparency of Council actions and information is ensured.



Officer Recommendation

That:

- a) the information contained in this report be received and noted; and**
- b) the information discussed at the above listed Councillor Briefing Session held on 6 May 2024 that was declared confidential under section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* in Item 3 above remains confidential until further advisement unless that information forms the subject of a subsequent Council report.**

MINUTE No.1072

Moved by: Cr Angela Long

Seconded by: Cr Bob Milkovic

That:

- a) the information contained in this report be received and noted; and**
- b) the information discussed at the above listed Councillor Briefing Session held on 6 May 2024 that was declared confidential under section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* in Item 3 above remains confidential until further advisement unless that information forms the subject of a subsequent Council report.**

CARRIED 10 / 0



4.2.6 Request to Purchase a Property for Open Space (CONFIDENTIAL)

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

Attachments: Nil

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

Officer Recommendation

That, under section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) Council:

1. **RESOLVES** to hear this item in camera on the grounds that the information contained within the report is deemed confidential under section 3(1)(a) of the Act; and
2. **NOTES** that the information is deemed confidential because it contains financial and business information that would prejudice Council's position in commercial negotiations, and may unreasonably expose third parties to disadvantage, if prematurely released.

The meeting will be closed to the public.

Motion

That Council resolves to alter the standing order of business to move confidential item Request to Purchase a Property for Open Space (CONFIDENTIAL) from item 4.2.6 to item 8.1.

MINUTE No.1073

Moved by: Cr Sean O'Reilly

Seconded by: Cr Richard Lim OAM

That Council resolves to alter the standing order of business to move confidential item Request to Purchase a Property for Open Space (CONFIDENTIAL) from item 4.2.6 to item 8.1.

CARRIED 10 / 0



5 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.



6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/DELEGATED MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

Comment

Cr Loi Truong

On Monday 20 May 2024, I attended the Vietnamese Freedom Day Club 16th Anniversary with Mayor Lana Formoso.

On Wednesday 22 May 2024, I attended the Victorian Afghan Student's Association (VASA) Mother's Day celebration.

Comment

Cr Tim Dark

I would like to thank Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures regarding an ongoing drainage issue at Rivergum Place, Keysborough. I received another request from the resident who requested a meeting with Council officers. The officer attended and met with the resident and provided a solution to ensure that the storm water drains are protected and an upgrade is going to be undertaken also. The resident was very thankful.

The next stage of the master plan for Wachter Reserve, Keysborough has commenced. Fences have been installed next to the playground. There are new picnic shelters, barbecues and seating areas that are now being installed so that families attending have somewhere larger to congregate. There have been many kids' birthday parties held there and there has not been sufficient space to get that upgrade. It is really exciting. There is also a much larger toilet block being installed. It is going to become a fantastic playground. There has been regular correspondence on the Keysborough community noticeboard and the Humans of Keysborough Facebook page about the upgrades and how people are going there on the weekend.

Question

Cr Tim Dark

I received a query from a resident in Keysborough regarding Parkland Reserve, Keysborough. There have been upgrades performed to the reserve with a path and trail. It is not a large park, but it is one that does get a lot of use. The upgrades were done and then came to a halt. The resident was wondering whether there were any further upgrades, whether there is any potential for additional seating or planting. Could this please be investigated?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Question taken on notice.

Question

Cr Tim Dark

There is a significant block to the right-hand side of the Lawn Bowls Club at Rowley Allan Reserve, Keysborough. Conversation suggests there is a request from the Country Fire Authority (CFA) to house a new fire station there, in a Council reserve, in an area where there is not much open space. Has the CFA, State Emergency Service (SES) or any of the Ministers in the State Government had any conversations or correspondence to Council regarding this specific site and where is it currently at with that correspondence?



Response

Jacqui Weatherill, Chief Executive Officer

There have been some informal conversations about the possibility. I have been awaiting a formal letter from one of the agencies, and to date I have not received anything. I plan to contact the new CEO of the SES and discuss if there is any interest.

Question

Cr Bob Milkovic

I have received complaints from residents along Cardinia Close and Sylvan Court, Dandenong North regarding the Council owned land that runs along Brady Road up to number eleven Cardinia Close. There has been antisocial behaviour at all hours of night with many incidents and police are attending the property, which is apparently Council owned property. They have discovered a lot of stolen goods. Whoever operates this property, leases it out from Council or illegally uses it, they seem to be using and abusing. Could we organise a site inspection to determine ownership? Can this be stopped as residents directly opposite are disturbed at 3am? All those people bought houses along police paddocks so they can enjoy the peace and quiet.

Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

Question taken on notice.

Comment

Cr Rhonda Garad

I wish to thank Council for the positive outcome received last week for the Sikh temple. After 18 months of intense negotiation, which at one point, the temple was going to be required to spend over \$100,000 just to maintain a safe entry and exit from the temple. We have a very satisfactory outcome, and I wish to thank the relevant officer that we are finally at a point where they will have a safe entry into the temple which is what they should have had in the first place.

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

I have informed Council that several newly planted trees on Kingcote Drive, Keysborough have died. When will Council review this situation and implement a more effective planting strategy?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Council officers have inspected the trees today and identified two (2) trees in poor condition and have scheduled these for replacement in this planting season.



Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

A small number of residents have received notices about the consultation period for the Sandown development. However, many others who may be significantly affected, such as residents downstream in Noble Park who could face increased flood risk, have not been notified. What measures will Council take to ensure that these residents are given the opportunity to participate in this consultation process?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) are undertaking the public exhibition process for the Sandown redevelopment. DTP are notifying the community by sending approximately 4,600 letters to properties surrounding Sandown and placing information on the Engage Victoria website and in local newspapers. The public exhibition period is occurring from 20 May to 24 June 2024, during which time any interested residents may make a submission.

In addition to this, Council has provided a link on its website (greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/planning/greater-dandenong-planning-scheme-amendments/planning-scheme-amendment-c229gdan) to the Engage Victoria website and has placed information at its three (3) customer service counters. Council has worked with DTP to ensure these documents are available in the five (5) top spoken languages in the surrounding area.

Council also requested that DTP undertake community drop in sessions, however DTP determined not to proceed with these.

Question

Cr Rhonda Garad

Since CGD introduced the Councillor Contact Register in 2021 aimed at making all Councillor-developer contact transparent, the Sandon Review has taken place. Has Council received any advice or correspondence on updating or improving governance processes following the release of Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission's (IBAC) recommendations in June last year?

Response

Andrew Foley, Executive Director Corporate Development

We have not received specific advice, but we have received notification of the Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Bill 2024 which is currently before State Parliament (second reading moved on 1 May 2024).

This proposed legislation goes some of way to address the recommendations of IBAC's Operation Sandon Report and we await the final form of the legislation. Councillors are able to view the Bill at www.legislation.vic.gov.au.

If Councillors wish, the issue can be raised at a Councillor Briefing Session once the new legislation receives Royal Assent.



Comment**Cr Rhonda Garad**

The Amendment covers code of conduct and other issues related to Council laws and behaviour, it does not cover governance. It would be great if we could have a briefing session.

Comment**Cr Angela Long**

On Tuesday 14 May 2024, I attended the Mother's Day lunch for the Mauritian Golden Age Club.

On Friday 17 May 2024, I attended a soccer match between Avondale Soccer Club and Dandenong City, Avondale won 1:0.

On Tuesday 21 May 2024, I attended the civic reception for SES and CFA volunteers at Dandenong Civic Centre.

Sunday 26 May 2024 was National Sorry Day for our First Nation's people.

On Monday 27 May 2024, I attended the flag raising ceremony for reconciliation day in Harmony Square, Dandenong.

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

On Thursday 2 May 2024, I attended the Annual General Meeting for Burden Park Boarding Club. They need help from Council and the government.

On Monday 13 May 2024, I attended a meeting with Ahmadiyya Muslim Association of Victoria along with Mayor Lana Formoso.

On Thursday 16 May 2024, I attended the Special Councillor Briefing Session.

On Friday 17 May 2024, I attended the flag raising ceremony for IDAHOBIT at Harmony Square, Dandenong. Later that day, I had a meeting with my mentee from Monash University, Faculty of Pharmacy, to explain to her what a Councillors role is.

On Monday 20 May 2024, I attended the Freedom Day Club 16th anniversary with Cr Loi Truong and Cr Phillip Danh.

On Tuesday 21 May 2024, I attended the civic reception to acknowledge and thank the SES and CFA volunteers.

On Wednesday 22 May 2024, I had a meeting with a board member of Springvale RSL and a Monash Health Foundation staff member to discuss a gala dinner on 24 August 2024.



On Friday 24 May 2024, I attended the Sportsbet Sandown Cup supporting Springvale Rotary City. Later that day, I had a meeting with Cassandra Fernando Federal, Member for Holt to discuss the Springvale Revitalisation Action Plan (SRAP).

On Saturday 25 May 2024, I attended the 2024 Africa Day Australia gala dinner. It was very successful.

On Sunday 26 May 2024, I visited business owners in Springvale Activity Centre and spoke to visitors regarding the SRAP been endorsed by Council.

On Monday 27 May 2024, I attended the Reconciliation Week Flag raising ceremony. Later that day, I went to Noble Park community centre. I had another meeting with a committee member.

Later that day, I was raising awareness about the Monash Health Foundation.

Finally, I would like to thank the Mayor, our Council, the CEO, and all of the people that put in a lot of work and effort over the last 18 months to support the SRAP.

Question

Cr Sophie Tan

I have received more concerns from a business owner in Popes Road, Keysborough regarding abandoned or unregistered vehicles. They are causing damage to the business and the environment, also making it hard for people to find parking. Is there an update on this investigation yet?

Response

Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Executive Director City Futures

Currently, the parking and Local Law officers are investigating. I will provide you an update once the investigations are complete.

Question

Cr Sophie Tan

A resident has raised concerns about anti-social behaviour at Coles, Noble Park. Do police patrol our Activity Centre? How often do they patrol?

Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

We are aware that VicPol are under quite a bit of strain in terms of their resourcing. We have not been advised that they have stopped doing any of their normal patrols. We do know they will focus on areas that have known hotspots or areas that have had reported issues. I cannot answer you in terms of how frequently they are undertaking those reviews, but we can ask them for some further information.

Question

Cr Sophie Tan

Do we have a list of all the hotspot areas?



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

It is where multiple issues are reported to the police. They will then work with us if there are areas that they want to access CCTV. In terms of hotspots, there is not a list of its areas, it is a responsive thing in terms of where they are having regular issues and reports of issues from the community.

Comment**Cr Sophie Tan**

Thank you for the information. Residents and business owners do not feel safe, so if Council can do anything to help, that would be great.

Question**Cr Sophie Tan**

Can I please have an update on the CIP project for the Library locker install at Noble Park activity centre? This was requested last year and meant to be completed by this financial year.

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

We are really pleased that we have so far been able to deliver one (1) of the two (2) Library locker projects. The second one is well and truly in motion, however the land that it is proposed for does not belong to us. We are currently going through a licensing process with the landowner to make sure that we have got the appropriate approvals in place to be able to place the library locker where we are looking to have it. I can provide an update.

Comment**Cr Phillip Danh**

I would like to congratulate Council on hosting a wonderful flag raising event this morning to commemorate Reconciliation Week and also the artworks that are on display in Harmony Square and displayed here in the Council chambers. Now more than ever, it is an important reminder that the fight for justice in our First Nations communities are always ongoing. It is important for our community, the most multicultural Council in the country, to tackle racism when we see it and ensure everyone has equal access to prosperity regardless of who you are.

Last week was National Volunteers Week and I would like to acknowledge the work of all the volunteers in Noble Park and Dandenong West. Without you, there would not be sporting clubs and community organisations that bring so much to our vibrant neighbourhoods.

Question**Cr Phillip Danh**

I was approached by a member of the newly relocated Greater Dandenong football club who noted that the floodlights are currently faulty at Fotheringham Reserve, impacting the junior teams ability to train. Especially now that we are heading into the winter months and the evenings are beginning sooner. I was advised this has already been raised with Council in the past, but the club is still waiting for an update. Is there an update?



Response

Peta Gillies, Executive Director Community Strengthening

I will investigate and provide feedback. It is one of the facilities that we are looking to upgrade.

Comment

Cr Lana Formoso, Mayor

I will table all the events that I attended, but the one that I did want to mention was the flag raising ceremony this morning that marked the beginning of Reconciliation Week.

I would like to thank Anika, an Indigenous woman who grew up in this area, for her Acknowledgment of Country. It was really good to see an emerging Indigenous young person that was here to represent the community. We were joined by a large crowd of Council officers and community members, which was fantastic. National Reconciliation Week is a time for us to learn about the history, culture, and achievements of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. As part of our gathering, we remember that Aboriginal people have been in Australia for more than 60,000 years, and their continuing connection to this land is something we can all learn from.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags fly in Harmony Square and at Springvale Community Hub every day of the year. But today, by ceremoniously raising the flags together, Council signals its ongoing commitment to reconciliation and recognition of all First Nations people. We acknowledged the role of non-aboriginal people in our progress towards reconciliation this year. The theme for the week is 'Now More Than Ever'. This theme signifies a call to action. It is a reminder to all of us that the struggle continues for full equitable participation of Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander people in Australia, and the struggle for recognition of cultural rights must continue.

Now, more than ever, we need to work towards a true reconciliation and call out racism wherever we encounter it. I want to encourage you all to think about how you might be able to support reconciliation in your own lives. I hope reconciliation week sparks a desire to learn more about our shared history with First Nations people and gives you an opportunity to reflect on the role we can all play on the journey towards reconciliation. On behalf of Council, I want to thank Bunurong Land Council for their guidance, partnership, and support in helping us to deliver our Reconciliation Action Plan. We are currently working on our third plan, which will guide our actions over the coming years.

Comment tabled

Cr Lana Formoso, Mayor

On Tuesday 14 May 2024, I attended the Greater Dandenong Multicultural & People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee Meeting.

On Wednesday 15 May 2024, I attended the Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum meeting. Later that day, I met with Jenna Davey Burns, Mayor of Kingston.

On Thursday 16 May 2024, I attended the National Volunteer Week celebration for Council Volunteers. Later that day, I attended the Special Councillor Briefing Session (major projects update).



On Monday 20 May 2024, I attended the 16th Anniversary of The Vietnamese Freedom Day Club.

On Tuesday 21 May 2024, I attended the Camfil Australia new Head Office opening in Keysborough. Later that day, I attended the Civic Reception to acknowledge and thank the SES/CFA volunteers, Council workforce and relevant stakeholders following the February storms.

On Wednesday 22 May 2024, I attended the Remembering the Battle of Leyte Gulf and Unveiling of Commemorative Plaque (attending as a guest of the Consulate General of the Republic of the Philippines, Maria Lourdes M. Salcedo). I also attended the SEL Board Meeting and a Football Match: Tottenham Hotspur vs Newcastle United.

On Thursday 23 May 2024, I attended the Noble Park Suburban Revitalisation Board Meeting. Later that day, I had a meeting with Rachel Payne MP - Electorate Office Opening.

On Saturday 25 May 2024, I attended the 2024 Africa Day Australia Gala Dinner. I also attended the Tax Smart Café Best of the Best awards for small businesses.

On Monday 27 May 2024, I attended the Reconciliation Week flag raising ceremony in Harmony Square, Dandenong.

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.

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
13/05/24 CQT1	Cr Phillip Danh	<p>Walking path issue, Noble Park I have received feedback from the community regarding a walking path that connects Heatherton Road and Gatum Court, Noble Park. The path has a bend obstructing the view of the corner. Some elderly residents have nearly collided with cyclists or people out running. Sometimes, particularly when it is darker, it is a place where individuals can loiter, causing safety concerns. Can this be investigated and potentially install pedestrian mirrors? I am happy to email photos.</p>	Executive Director City Futures	23/05/2024	<p>Initial response provided 13/05/2024: My team will investigate and if you can send photos that would assist.</p> <p>Further response provided 23/05/2024: Council officers have inspected the pedestrian path running between Heatherton Road and Gatum Court, Noble Park. The footpath is a narrow enclosed location. As mirrors tend to distort the view and make objects appear further away, it is unlikely a mirror will assist in this location to slow cyclists down. Additionally, this is not a designated cycling path and as such the only people riding bikes on it should be under 13 years old or accompanying a rider under 13 years old. Unfortunately, any solutions to prevent cyclists accessing the path are only likely to create further issues for pedestrians especially those using mobility devices or prams.</p> <p>Council will schedule this section of the path for lux readings to determine how the existing public lighting measures up against current standards to allow upgrades to be looked into by United Energy (UE). These lux readings are likely to be completed by mid-June 2024 and Council officers will follow up with UE regarding any upgrade works.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
13/05/24 CQT2	Cr Jim Memeti	<p>Abandoned shopping trollies, Dandenong There are many abandoned shopping trollies in particular, Williams Avenue/Hammond Road/Kirkham Road and Stud Road are hot spots. I know that these trollies are picked up when reported however is there action that can be undertaken on a weekly basis?</p>	Executive Director City Futures	23/05/2024	<p>Initial response provided 13/05/2024: I am aware there is a strategy in place in partnership with local contractors, but I am not sure of the frequency of those pick-ups. I can investigate and respond to all Councillors providing details.</p> <p>Further response provided 23/05/2024: Abandoned shopping trollies have long been an ongoing issue for Council. In the past these were retrieved by Council staff and brought back to the Operations Centre for later collection by the shopping centres or store. In recent years the number of trollies has increased significantly, and Council no longer has the resources (or storage capacity) to retrieve these from out in the field.</p> <p>Nowadays the preferred approach is for members of the public to report abandoned trollies directly to the appropriate shopping centre or store for collection via mobile apps like Snap Send Solve or Trolley Tracker.</p> <p>Alternatively, residents can call Council's Customer Service team on 8571 1000 who will be able to provide them with the appropriate trolley hotline number to report the abandoned trolley. Depending on the particular shopping centre or store it may take up to two (2) weeks for a reported trolley to be collected.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
13/05/24 CQT3	Cr Jim Memeti	<p>Dumped rubbish, Dandenong Knowing the frequency would be helpful. They are picked up sometimes so perhaps that is a result of the 'Snap, Send, Solve' app reports. The same streets as stated previously are hard waste dumping hot spots also.</p>	Executive Director City Futures	23/05/2024	<p>Initial response provided 13/05/2024: Officers will investigate the dumped rubbish issue and the missing sign.</p> <p>Further response provided 23/05/2024: Council's dumped rubbish 'Hot Spots' program operates five (5) days per week (Mon-Fri) and proactively targets high profile locations (high density residential areas, CBD outskirts, collector roads) with greater than 12 reported instances of dumped rubbish per annum. Streets for inclusion on the program are reviewed on an annual basis. The frequency of collections for the streets you have identified are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hammond Road = twice per week (Friday & Saturday or Sunday) • Kirkham Road = once per week (Friday) • Stud Road = twice per week (Wednesday & Friday) <p>Williams Avenue does not currently form part of the 'Hot Spots' program and dumped rubbish from this location will only be collected on a reactive basis when it is reported to Council.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>
13/05/24 CQT4	Cr Jim Memeti	<p>Missing sign, Dandenong On the corner of Albert Street and Hammond Road, Dandenong the 'no standing' sign has been pulled out of the Nature Strip.</p>	Executive Director City Futures	23/05/2024	<p>Initial response provided 13/05/2024: Officers will investigate the dumped rubbish issue and the missing sign.</p> <p>Further response provided 23/05/2024: Council Works staff attended the site on the 21 May 2024 and reinstated the sign.</p>

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
					COMPLETED
13/05/24 CQT7	Cr Tim Dark	<p>Ross Reserve Pavilion, Noble Park I have raised the issue of the smell at Ross Reserve Pavilion, Noble Park previously. On the weekend Keysborough Soccer Club played at Ross Reserve against Springvale City. I have had some correspondence from the Keysborough Soccer Club that there was a sewerage smell in the change rooms. There are also issues with the sewage and water flow into the pavilion. They had toilets that would not flush which caused a massive issue for them running through the change rooms to the general area. Could we please get an update of where that was at? I believe there was an independent assessment done and a builder was engaged, we have organised plumbers, but I have not heard anything to date. They are playing there again this weekend and are concerned they will not be able to get through the game if the toilets are not fixed.</p>	Executive Director City Futures	21/05/2024	<p>Initial response provided 13/05/2024: Question taken on notice. If required, we will bring some temporary toilets in, depending on the situation.</p> <p>Further response provided 21/05/2024: Unfortunately, there was no water supply to the pavilion due to an issue with the water mains, which has now been resolved. All tenant clubs were aware of the issue.</p> <p>Smoke testing was conducted last week to identify potential leaks in the sewer system at Ross Reserve Pavilion. The test identified some air leaks within seals and caps which could be contributing to the smell around the site.</p> <p>Rectification works will be undertaken in the coming weeks.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>
13/05/24 CQT8	Cr Tim Dark	<p>Rapid Response team I noticed in the Herald that Frankston Council, through the Local Laws Team, have rolled out a Rapid Response team. They are particularly dealing with local laws in relation to the delinquents running around the streets, amongst other issues, as well as local laws breachers. According to the article, Frankston Council have had good responses and uplift. I want to know</p>	Executive Director Community Strengthening	27/05/2024	<p>Initial response provided 13/05/2024: I am not aware of the article but will investigate. I will also ask the Community Amenity team whether they have looked at it and corresponded with their colleagues around the application of a fast response Local Laws team.</p> <p>Further response provided 27/05/2024: Council officers have seen the article and have also discussed this initiative with Frankston City Council. Their Rapid Response team comprising</p>

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
		whether our officers have seen that article and if so, have they thought about talking with Frankston Council about potentially doing something similar?			<p>of three officers are independent and complement their local laws team. In addition to their daily and nightly patrols of Frankston CBD, Victoria Police also conduct joint patrols targeting anti-social behaviour with council's Rapid Response Team.</p> <p>Depending on the time of year, the team also conduct other community compliance duties such as beach patrols to ensure dogs are on leads etc.</p> <p>Council is always looking at innovative ways to improve perceptions of safety and a similar initiative will be considered as part of the comprehensive review of Council's community safety action plan, which aligns with Council's strategic priorities and outlines specific strategies and actions to improve safety in the municipality to ensure that the City of Greater Dandenong is a welcoming and safe space for all.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>
13/05/24 CQT9	Cr Tim Dark	<p>Footpath integrity and comprehensive review</p> <p>I was running around my ward on the weekend, preparing for a marathon and I looked at the state of our footpaths around the municipality. I know that the quality of the footpaths usually has been audited and I know in the past, we have had a separate contract that came to Council, where there the footpath was scanned with a truck with some lasers. It was done to assess the structural integrity of the footpath, the rise and fall, and the state's accord.</p>	Executive Manager Strategic Growth & Advocacy		<p>Initial response provided 13/05/2024:</p> <p>Yes, we had the comprehensive footpath review, I believe in 2021 or a bit earlier. At the moment, we are looking at some of the conditions of footpaths and the roads and a few other assets that we have, including buildings. We will update Councillors on the plans we have going forward. We are conscious of the time that has gone into the comprehensive collection.</p> <p>However, our team in the Operations Center are looking at the footpaths periodically. That comprehensive condition data that you are mentioning has not been done, but we are</p>

Date of Council Meeting	Question Asked By	Subject & Summary of Question	Responsible Officer	Date of Completion	Summary of Response
		I just want to find out if we are intending on doing that and how we are supposed to gauge the changes in footpath natural movement?			<p>working towards that through the budget and how we can do it again.</p> <p>FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED</p>



7 URGENT BUSINESS

No urgent business was considered.



8 REQUEST TO PURCHASE A PROPERTY FOR OPEN SPACE (CONFIDENTIAL)

8.1 REQUEST TO PURCHASE A PROPERTY FOR OPEN SPACE (CONFIDENTIAL)

Cr Rhonda Garad disclosed an indirect material conflict of interest of a pecuniary nature (s 128) in this item as she has a close association with the property. Cr Rhonda Garad left the Chamber prior to discussion and voting on this item.

Responsible Officer: Executive Director City Futures

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

Officer Recommendation

That, under section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) Council:

1. **RESOLVES** to hear this item in camera on the grounds that the information contained within the report is deemed confidential under section 3(1)(a) of the Act; and
2. **NOTES** that the information is deemed confidential because it contains financial and business information that would prejudice Council's position in commercial negotiations, and may unreasonably expose third parties to disadvantage, if prematurely released.

The meeting will be closed to the public.

MINUTE No.1074

Moved by: Cr Angela Long

Seconded by: Cr Richard Lim OAM

That, under section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) Council:

1. **RESOLVES** to hear this item in camera on the grounds that the information contained within the report is deemed confidential under section 3(1)(a) of the Act; and
2. **NOTES** that the information is deemed confidential because it contains financial and business information that would prejudice Council's position in commercial negotiations, and may unreasonably expose third parties to disadvantage, if prematurely released.

CARRIED 10 / 0

Cr Rhonda Garad left the Chamber at 9.05 pm prior to voting on this item.



The meeting moved in camera at 9.05 pm. The public gallery was cleared and the webcast paused at this time. The meeting moved out of camera at 9.08 pm at which time the public gallery reopened and the webcast resumed.

Cr Rhonda Garad returned to the Chamber at 9.08 pm.



9 CLOSE OF BUSINESS

The Meeting closed at 9.09 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lana Formoso". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Signature