

11 October 2024

**Topic:** Dog attack – Ross Street, Dandenong

**Please attribute the following statement to Greater Dandenong City Council Chief Executive Officer, Jacqui Weatherill:**

- We are distressed about yesterday's incident and the injuries to one of our residents. We remain concerned about her welfare.
- It is not appropriate to comment on yesterday's incident as it is under investigation.
- We can acknowledge that Council has received numerous complaints and concerns from neighbours about dogs at this property in the past.
- We have previously taken action in response to those concerns and visited the property.
- In relation to a dog-on-dog attack back in July, we have commenced a prosecution against another person who lives at that address. This matter is due to go to court in November.
- We have put extra resources into ensuring Council responds to community concerns in a timely way. There's a range of things we can do, from talking to owners and encouraging responsible pet ownership through to prosecution, and is part of a proactive approach to encouraging good pet ownership.
- We've seen around 250% increase in infringements we have issued to animal owners in the past two years. This reflects how seriously we take these matters.
- We encourage responsible pet ownership, including through animal registration and the vast majority of pet owners are responsible.
- We want to work constructively with our community, and we also don't shy away from taking enforcement action when warranted.

**ENDS**