































Our Great City

Greater Dandenong City Council provides over 100 services to improve the quality of life of all residents. The Community Vision, Council's strategic objectives and service strategies are outlined in the Council Plan 2021–25 and the Annual Budget. The delivery of services is measured by a set of service performance indicators and measures.

These services include:

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES	HEALTH AND WELLBEING	YOUR HOME	SPORT AND LEISURE	ROADS AND SAFETY	COMMUNITY
Youth services 	Disability services 	Planning permits 	Sportsgrounds 	Roads and footpaths 	Libraries 
Kindergartens 	Home maintenance 	Building permits 	Swimming pools 	Car parks 	Volunteering 
Maternal and child health 	Home and community care 	Pet registrations 	Leisure centres 	Street lighting 	Theatre and the arts 
Playgroups 	Meals on wheels 	Rubbish and recycling 	Parks and gardens 	School crossing supervision 	Grants 
Immunisation 	Food safety 	Graffiti removal 	Festivals and events 	Emergency management 	Community centres 



Our Community



700 asylum seekers

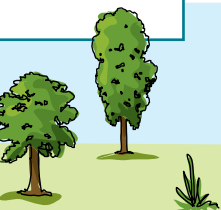
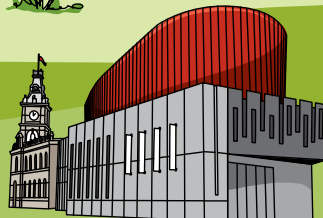
8% of people live with a severe or profound disability

114,506 people work within the City of Greater Dandenong



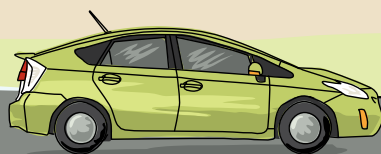
62% of people own or are purchasing their own home

615 residents are of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage



40,000 families live in Greater Dandenong

3/4 of families have parents born overseas



Note: The statistics on this page are from the 2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census

167,000 residents in 2024

Over 154 birthplaces

2/3 of people are born overseas

24,000 migrants have arrived since 2016

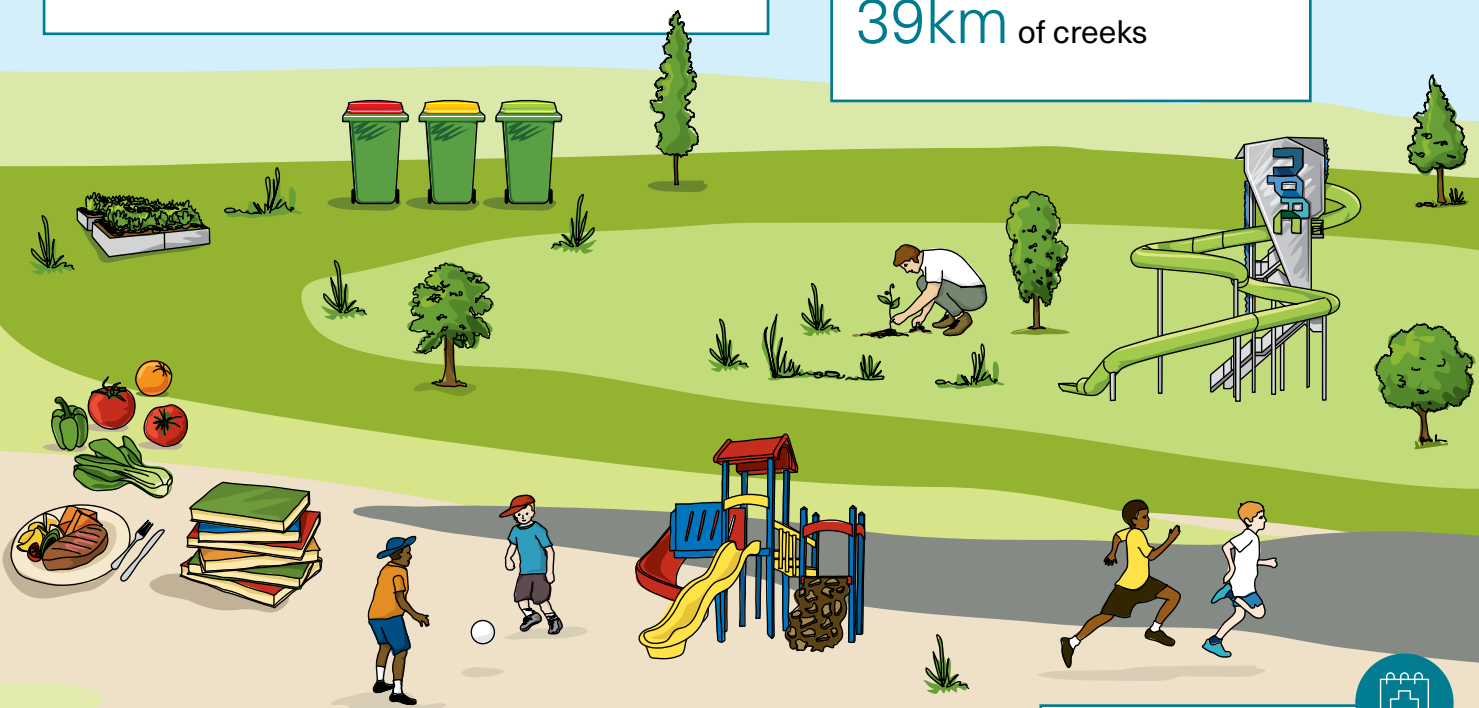


162 playgrounds

296 parks and reserves

145ha of bushland

39km of creeks



1,129km of pedestrian paths

533 hectares of open space

61km of bike and shared user paths



Manufacturing and Health care and social assistance are the city's two largest industries



Council's spending in 2023–24

\$54.75 million

Capital Improvement Program project costs (including operating expenses not capital in nature)



\$3.66 million

Business development and investment



\$19.43 million

Families, children and youth



\$23.64 million

Community facilities, parks, sport and recreation



\$29.96 million

Buildings, roads, drains and traffic management



\$4.41 million

Risk management, property and insurance



\$16.91 million

Libraries, arts, culture and community development



\$21.58 million

Planning, building and community amenity



\$27.54 million

Waste and cleansing



\$15.26 million

Health, aged and community services



Community Vision

In 2021 the City of Greater Dandenong created a new community vision which expressed their aspirations and hopes for the future of the municipality. This vision was developed through extensive broad consultation including workshops, surveys, pop up installations and online activities.

As required by the *Local Government Act 2020*, a deliberative engagement process was then undertaken, and the Greater Dandenong People's Panel was formed. This panel of 31 residents and business owners, representative of the community's diversity, were asked to consider the outcomes of the broad community consultation phase and background information provided by Council, to develop a new vision and principles. They spent three and a half days deliberating and reviewed all of the community engagement outcomes, heard from guest speakers from local businesses and community groups and discussed current and future challenges for our city.

The final vision created by the panel reflects the aspirations of the community and the principles outline what Council should focus on to help achieve this.

Our community's vision for 2040 is:

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.

To complement the vision, and further define what the community would like to see Greater Dandenong be in 2040, six principles were developed. These principles are:

1. Safe and peaceful community
2. Education, training, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities
3. Sustainable environment
4. Embrace diversity and multiculturalism
5. Mind, body and spirit
6. Art and culture

This vision and its accompanying principles influence Council's key strategic direction and the priorities that are set for each financial year.

The results of this project informed the planning stages of the Council Plan 2021–25, Annual Plan and other key strategic documents across Council.

Strategic Objectives

Council’s strategic objectives form the Council Plan 2021–25 and reflect the hopes and aspirations of the community as expressed in the community vision and accompanying principles:

- 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





Year in Review

Message from our Mayor and CEO

The past year has given Greater Dandenong City Council much to celebrate. We continue to work with our vibrant and diverse community to create a great place to live, work and play. We continued to invest in our community while addressing the growing cost of living pressures.

Continued infrastructure investment

We continued our commitment to invest in community facilities and infrastructure with a \$50 million capital works program.

We completed works on the \$10 million Ross Reserve Pavilion, which now provides a modern, female and junior friendly facility that meets all current sporting code and *Disability Discrimination Act* requirements.

We celebrated the opening of the \$5.5 million WJ Crowe Pavilion at Thomas Carroll Reserve in Dandenong, which provides updated changerooms and amenities, a multipurpose space for meetings or social gatherings and a new canteen.

Parks projects were completed at many sites across the city including Frederick Wachter Reserve, Bakers Reserve, Springvale Reserve and Spring Valley Reserve.

The Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve upgrade successfully won a Better Parks and Playgrounds grant worth \$220,000.

We were also successful for a Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Grant for \$1.02 million.

Commitment to arts, culture and events

Council successfully delivered 11 major festivals and events, engaging almost 80,000 attendees. This included our most popular annual event Springvale Snow Fest, and family favourites such as Noble Park Community Fun Day, Little Day Out, Christmas Carols in Harmony Square, New Year's Eve and Keysborough's Big Picnic.

We recorded 813,506 visits to our libraries in Springvale and Dandenong, an increase of 14.2 per cent on the previous year.

Springvale Community Hub also saw an increase in visitors, recording more than 450,000 – up by 54,000 from the previous year.

Our arts and cultural facilities, including Heritage Hill, Drum Theatre and Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre welcomed more than 87,000 visitors.

Celebrating our bright green future

Annually we focus on sustainability initiatives which help improve our response to climate change and educate the community regarding waste disposal.

A recent audit of canopy cover in Greater Dandenong revealed that coverage has increased from just 9 per cent in 2018 to 14.1 per cent, which puts us on track to reach our goal of 15 per cent by 2028. Increasing our tree coverage is one way to reduce the impacts of climate change.



On top of our tree planting program Council introduced a Tree Protection on Private Land Local Law, to further protect mature trees growing on private property.

We also successfully introduced a cat curfew, with cat owners expected to confine cats to their property from dusk until dawn. This move aims to reduce the significant risk cat over population has on our environment.

Working towards better outcomes for our community

Following a persistent, sustained advocacy campaign we welcomed a commitment from the State Government to fund a traffic safety project on Stud Road.

The Back Your Neighbour campaign has continued to gain national support with 43 councils now members of the Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum, which strives to raise awareness, engage supporters and advocate for community priorities.

We conducted community engagement activities for the upcoming Council Plan 2025-29 with more than 2,500 people providing feedback.

We resolved to continue to deliver Disability and Aged Care Services to the Greater Dandenong community. Following extensive consultation with clients, community members and staff we affirmed our commitment to supporting older residents to enjoy healthy, active lives with strong social connections while living at home.

We won two local government industry awards through the LGPro Awards for Excellence, including the First Nations Partnership Initiative Category for the New Directions Project, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health program, and the Service Delivery Award for our refugee immunisation program.

Our support for business and industry growth in Greater Dandenong continued with the delivery of 33 network sessions, three workshop series and 15 program sessions to businesses in the manufacturing sector.

Mayor, Lana Formoso

CEO, Jacqui Weatherill

Mayor, Lana Formoso and Junior Mayor, Gemma



Message from our Junior Mayor

Hello City of Greater Dandenong, I'm Gemma your 2024 Junior Mayor.

One of the things I have enjoyed about being Junior Mayor is that I have been very lucky to meet so many nice people in our local Council and in our community. It is so nice to see what a multicultural place we live in, where so many cultures are celebrated throughout the City of Greater Dandenong.

I hope to be a positive role model for all kids in the City of Greater Dandenong to show them that we all have a voice, and we are all equal as one.

What do you love about the City of Greater Dandenong?

My favourite thing about living in the City of Greater Dandenong, is how everyone is so kind and welcoming. We live in such a multicultural community, I'm so proud to be a part of it. There is a variety of cultured restaurants, such as Asian, Indian, European and more, in our community. Things like the parks, libraries and community hubs are great ways to catch up with friends and family, which is something I really like about the City of Greater Dandenong.

How would you like to make a difference in the City of Greater Dandenong?

To me making a difference means someone who tries to make positive change. It involves empathy, thoughtfulness, creativity, taking action and leadership. As Junior Mayor, I promise to show all of these values. I believe that myself and everyone in the Student

Advisory Group shares this too. We are a group of kids that will try to make a difference in the community. By using these values, we can all help make a difference.



In my application for Junior Mayor, I talked about why we need to live in a sustainable environment. I mentioned ways on how we can fix this problem, by showing kids the importance of recycling different types of materials, and why we need to recycle and help the community. Another thing I spoke about was that we need to improve student's health and fitness, by getting kids to go outside and kick a ball or go for a walk and encouraging children to active travel to school every day. This is a great way to keep fit and active but also can help get rid of vehicles in congested areas at school times.

What does it mean to you that Greater Dandenong is a child friendly city?

I think that with all the great festivals and events that the City of Greater Dandenong has, it helps makes it a child friendly city because it gives students and their families a chance to be a part of the community. To have a child friendly city I believe that we need to have a safe community, clean environment and places for children and their families to enjoy.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gemma'. There is a small heart symbol above the letter 'a'.