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Greater Dandenong: An Overview

The City of Greater Dandenong is a dynamic and progressive Council located approximately 35km south east of Melbourne's central business district. Financial backing from the State Government to support its Victoria-wide planning strategy marks the region as a key activity centre, and Central Dandenong is fast becoming a residential city of national significance offering a flexible approach to development and providing high quality urban landscape.

Greater Dandenong's role in providing the employment, business, transport and education infrastructure for the south-east region of Melbourne will become even more important as the population of Melbourne's south-east expands significantly over the next 20 years.

The municipality has recently undergone a significant transition with a number of major projects either completed or underway. It boasts welcoming neighbourhoods and enjoyable leisure environments, based on strong partnerships and supported by well planned, integrated and sustainable service networks.

The population is currently 160,000, serving a regional catchment area with a projected growth of 21 per cent by 2030. Greater Dandenong is now the most multicultural municipality in Australia. Over half the city's residents are born overseas, 56 per cent from non-English speaking countries and representing 157 different nations. The city is a shining example of how harmony can exist in diversity and how that harmony, diversity and multi-culturalism are celebrated; truly a *City of Celebration*.

Council is working closely with all stakeholders, including the State Government, local businesses, organisations and various government departments based in our city. Greater Dandenong is a great place to live, work, invest and raise a family; truly a *City of Opportunity*.

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Projects we seek
Government funding
for

Keysborough South Community Hub

Introduction

Council has committed to establishing a Community Hub in Keysborough South where a range of early years' services, programs and flexible meeting spaces will be available for the local community. Council has been advocating for the provision of a primary school and community hub for over nine years.

The State Government purchased land for a primary school in Homeleigh Road, Keysborough South in 2017. Although Council was progressing discussions with the Department of Education and Training to co-locate the Community Hub at the new school site in Keysborough South this has not progressed due to the size of the land available.

Council is now looking at alternative sites in close proximity to the Homeleigh Rd School. A number of sites have been identified and are currently being investigated by officers to purchase land for the community hub.

Background

Research and community consultation undertaken by Council between 2013 and 2015 identified the need for increased

community services in Keysborough South.

After community feedback on draft concept plans, a number of priorities were raised including access for all, flexible meeting spaces for community involvement and programs, outdoor play areas, early years services and space for educational based and physical activity programs.

Current demand for Early Years Services

Council has completed an analysis of current population trends for early years services in Keysborough South. An additional 203 places are required now in 2018 for 4 year old kindergarten; 41 places required for 3 year old kindergarten; 261 places required in long day care and family day care and 1.6 EFT additional Maternal and Child Health Nurses to meet population growth.

Timeline

Discussions with the Department of Education and Training estimate that both the school and Community Hub will be completed in 2020-21, dependent on planning and purchasing of the land.

What we are seeking from the State Government:

- Capital grant funding of \$1.6 Million for the development of an Integrated Children's Centre within the Community Hub at Keysborough South

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Masonic Hall Art Gallery

The Masonic Hall Art Gallery proposed on a key pedestrian spine in the heart of central Dandenong is an exciting new initiative celebrating art, culture and heritage in the City of Greater Dandenong.

The innovative proposal offers a contemporary refurbishment and extension to the existing 1920s Masonic Hall to create a new arts centre featuring spaces for local and touring exhibitions and artists, as well as community and creative events.

The Masonic Hall is a significant heritage building in central Dandenong and an important enduring landmark for the community. In view of that, the proposal has been designed to respect the heritage and cultural importance of the site, while introducing a contemporary art space that contributes to the city's rich arts and cultural heritage.

The proposal includes:

- State-of-the-art exhibition spaces for touring content and local artists
- Community, creative and workshop spaces
- Cafe and micro retail opportunities
- Active outdoor edge that integrates with Halpin Way
- New and engaging public art

The City of Greater Dandenong's only dedicated public art gallery, Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre is located nearby. As noted in the Arts and Cultural Heritage Strategy, the current facility is limited in its ability to meet the future needs of a premium art exhibition space.

Council has prepared a full design and documentation package for the innovative refurbishment of the Masonic Hall project which is now ready for construction tender. This follows on from an extended design and consultation process to ensure that the new facility meets all future requirements.

What we are seeking from the State Government:

A funding commitment to cost share construction of the new art gallery in the heart of Dandenong, which has a total estimated cost of \$6 million.

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Maternal and Child Health Services Funding

Background

The City of Greater Dandenong is Australia's most culturally diverse municipality. Council is seeking to address the increasing complexity associated with cultural diversity, and to request additional funding from the State Government in order to meet the impact of the demands on Maternal and Child Health services within the municipality.

Council is working with other councils of similar demographics including Hume, Wyndham, Brimbank and Whittlesea, to highlight the additional time and resources required to offer an equitable service.

The City of Greater Dandenong Maternal and Child Health service receives

approximately 2,440 birth notifications per year, with approximately 9,200 children in the 2016-17 Maternal and Child Health Annual Report available to access the Maternal and Child Health service for their Key Ages and Stages assessments for 0-4 year old children.

In addition to the Key Ages and Stages assessments, supporting families from multicultural communities, address issues including family violence, trauma and mental health conditions, substance use and other community resources - requires significantly more time and resources (including Interpreters daily), to ensure families are well supported in this community.

What we are seeking from the State Government:

Additional funding to support Council's Maternal and Child Health service and the increasing complexities in our culturally diverse community, to ensure equitable day to day operations of the service.

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Noble Park Level Crossing Removals - Grade Separations

Commitment to local project investment and delivery

Background

The City of Greater Dandenong will benefit from the grade separations at Corrigan Rd, Heatherton Rd and at Chandler Rd intersections, and is appreciative of being nominated in the first round of funded grade separations.

The Council has built a strong and collaborative working relationship with the State Government and the Level Crossing Removal Authority and that working relationship has sought to maximise benefits to all stakeholders involved.

Council believes the process of engagement by the LXRA with the community should be honest to the highly engaged consultative program in respecting its input into local issues, solution preferences, design preferences and deliverables.

The LXRA/ Alliance and Council have collaboratively addressed a range of issues such as urban design, landscaping, parking, traffic management and public transport coordination, in particular with buses. Council officers will continue to seek the best possible outcomes over and above the essential rail infrastructure.

Investment in local facilities and infrastructure- benefits to the local communities and economy

Projects such as this can be transformational in their outcomes and it is imperative that these be positive and add value to the host environment. The retail village that is Noble Park activity centre can reasonably expect more than just a new elevated station and some seating in new open space beneath the viaducts. Investment in the immediate precinct of the station and the adjacent Ross Reserve can be delivered in a true partnership between State Government and the City of Greater Dandenong. Noble Park deserves as much as part of the delivery of this project.

The above is not inconsistent with the approach brought by the level crossing removal works to revitalise Carrum, as announced by the Premier on 6 August 2017. This Council has a position that is not dissimilar to Carrum, and considers it reasonable to expect that there is complementary investment by the LXRA/ Alliance project in adjacent Noble Park infrastructure.

It is imperative that integrated design outcomes interface with council priority projects including the Ross Reserve masterplan to ensure future use, maintenance and joint objectives are met. Resources must be allocated to ensure seamless design outcomes so that spaces are not designed in isolation of the LXRA project boundary lines. Key park projects include the expanded Urban Park; implementing the new park road; car parking and supporting infrastructure that aligns with the rail corridor.

Noble Park Activity Centre is the priority for investment where the focus continues to build on its unique characteristic as a 'village', with a strong sense of community.

Investment in the following local projects should be included as part of the delivery of the Grade Separation Project.

1. Ross Reserve Masterplan Integration and Urban Park: a focal point for leisure and recreation activity investment, which includes:

- An all abilities playground (\$1.5m part contribution by the LXRA project);
- Undercroft and adjacent Ross Reserve open space amenities and facilities including a fenced dog-off-leash park; playground; parkour course; picnic facilities, and outdoor gym equipment (fully funded by the LXRA project).

2. Improvements to the Noble Park activity centre civic space and adjacent streetscape in Douglas Street and the intersections of the new link road at Leonard Avenue and Ian Street (\$1m part contribution by the LXRA project); and

3. Relocation of the existing Noble Park civic space artwork (\$200k fully funded by the LXRA project).

Council has demonstrated its cooperation to this State project from day one and has assisted and facilitated it by way of example by even agreeing to the use of adjacent prime sporting field in Ross Reserve as a laydown area and project works depot for the LXRA/ Alliance. It has placed a great deal of effort and commitment in its participation in forums such as COSEP and the urban design workshops and the opportunity of now delivering the station forecourt as an urban plaza and vibrant community space. That vision has been well embraced by all participants without exception.

Investment in local facilities and infrastructure – benefits to the State Government

Council is so committed to the value of this urban open space that separately, it has indicated its preparedness to discuss taking on the ongoing maintenance of the non-Council areas, in return for a long term State Government commitment to investment in the precinct. The dollar value to the State Government of the City of Greater Dandenong taking on that long term responsibility cannot be under-estimated.

What we are seeking from the State Government:

Commitment by the LXRA/ Alliance/ State Government that it will invest around \$5million in the local community by the very least in the list of local projects outlined above to the benefit of those local communities which are adjoining or adjacent to the new infrastructure works being delivered as part of the Government's grade separation projects and its promise to communities that they will benefit socially from this project.

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Team 11

The Cities of Greater Dandenong, Casey and the Shire of Cardinia have taken a lead in harnessing the interest in the south east of Melbourne for an A-League / W-League football (soccer) team.

Football Federation Australia has announced plans for the expansion of Australia's elite level competition, the A-League, with the introduction of two new teams by 2019-20. The combined Councils believe that working together to position the region creates an ideal opportunity for Melbourne's third team, alongside Melbourne Victory and Melbourne City.

The south east Melbourne region is understood to be the largest under consideration by the FFA for an A-League / W-League licence. The region is home to over 1.5 million people, expanding to 1.6 million by 2030 making it one of the fastest growing areas in Victoria. The region is also home to 160 nationalities, with Greater Dandenong recognised as the most diverse municipality in Australia.

Football is one of the most popular participation sports in Australia. Within the south east of Melbourne there are over 90 clubs, and approximately 17,300 registered participants. The sport is growing significantly in popularity and facility demands are continuing to increase across the region.

Council officers from the Cities of Greater Dandenong and Casey and the Shire of Cardinia have undertaken a number of activities to progress a coordinated position in relation to a potential A- League / W-League team. It has been agreed that the establishment of an elite team in this region would represent significant community and economic benefits through the localisation of elite sport in the growth suburbs of Melbourne's south east and provide investment attraction and job creation.

The vision for Team 11 is to:

Make south-east Melbourne the destination for a new A-League, W-League and National Youth League Club within a restructured and expanded football system with the aim of becoming Australia's largest football heartland.

This is supported by the following combined values:

1. Community First
2. Respect and Recognition
3. Diversity and Inclusion
4. Growth and Sustainability
5. Industry Leading

The overall vision for Team 11 involves the development of a stadium in proximity to the Dandenong Activity Centre which aligns with the Victorian State Government's established strategy of revitalising central Dandenong. The preferred site for the Stadium is located on Council owned land adjacent to the Dandenong Train Station making it easily accessible to residents of south east Melbourne and visitors to the area.



The vision also includes the development of an administration and training facility at Casey Fields, Cranbourne East, which is consistent with Casey's Leisure Facilities Development Plan 2014 which identifies Casey Fields as the location of a soccer centre of excellence.

The three Councils commitment to Team 11 was signified by the public signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in May 2017, followed by a launch event hosted by Greater Dandenong and attended by more than 150 people. This event was attended by the Premier of Victoria Daniel Andrews, local MPs Gabrielle Williams and Inga Peulich, representatives from more than 40 local soccer clubs and many prominent local businesses and community groups.

Since the official launch of Team 11, the Steering Committee (comprising representatives from the three Councils) has been working diligently to progress the proposal which has included an extensive community and stakeholder engagement program, marketing campaign, business planning for the proposed A-League / W League club, stadium feasibility and concept plans and a funding strategy.

At the time of drafting this Advocacy paper, the Steering Committee was preparing to make a formal submission of this region's interest to FFA. Subject to a favourable outcome of that submission (most likely in late June 2018), more work will be required in advancing the region's vision and more will be known about what support may be sought from both the State and Commonwealth Governments and the private sector.

What we are seeking from the State Government:

- Once the outcome of the Steering Committee's submission to FFA is known, any requests for funding or other support will become clearer and will be advocated accordingly.

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What we want the
State Government to
do

Lyndhurst Landfill

For over 20 years the City of Greater Dandenong and its community have been expressing their grave concerns about and opposition to the depositing of contaminated waste at the Lyndhurst Landfill facility and seeking its earliest possible closure. The facility commenced operations under permits granted in the early 1990s by the then Shire of Cranbourne.

Following Council amalgamations in the mid 1990s the landfill operates within the municipal boundary of Greater Dandenong Council.

The State Government, in abandoning the proposal of a site containment facility at Nowingi in north western Victoria, determined that the Lyndhurst landfill would accommodate prescribed industrial wastes until 2020. On 26 February 2007 Council passed an 8-point resolution reinforcing key expectations relating to the earliest possible closure of Lyndhurst, potential health risks, and the development by the State Government of a state wide strategy for the proper operation and management of waste.

That resolution was conveyed in letters of February 2007 to the Hon John Thwaites, Deputy Premier and Minister for Water, Environment and Climate Change, as well as to the Hon Justin Madden, Minister for Planning.

In the ensuing years there have been a number of communications with Ministers and with members of Parliament but unfortunately there has been no satisfactory response to Council's advocacy in seeing the activities on the site curtailed or in committing to an early closure of the facility.

The matter has remained one of significant concern to the community of the City of

Greater Dandenong and on 24 March 2014 Council passed a resolution that:

- 1) Council reaffirms its long held objective that the Lyndhurst Landfill Facility – and in particular, the Prescribed Waste Facility – be closed at the earliest possible date
- 2) Advice be sought from the Premier of Victoria on his Government's position, and the status of any work, on the development of an alternate State wide Strategy that would see the closure of the Lyndhurst site arising from the introduction of other disposal solutions elsewhere – a key element of Council's 2007 position
- 3) It be noted the numerous other facilities and actions have reportedly reduced demand for the Prescribed Waste Facility including modern, high technology soil facilities; and, State based landfill levies that have had a desired effect of redirecting waste from landfill and that these changes in direction, serve as a catalyst for State action to confirm an alternate State wide Strategy and close the current Lyndhurst facility and
- 4) The leaders of major parties in the (then) forthcoming State election; all candidates in the vicinity – deemed to include communities with a direct interest in the facility – publicly declare –
 - their position on the Lyndhurst Prescribed Waste Facility
 - action they will take to ensure the earliest closure of the facility and
 - a date by which they will seek to ensure that closure will occur and, for which they will be publicly accountable.



Twenty years on, Council remains firmly committed to the earliest possible closure of the landfill site and part of this advocacy on 3 June 2014 the then Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti wrote to the Premier of Victoria expressing this Council and community's concerns with its ongoing operation and seeking its early closure. A response dated 22 July 2014 received from the Hon Ryan Smith, Minister for Environment and Climate Change gave no comfort at all to the concerns raised.

On 6 December 2013 Council made a submission on Plan Melbourne – the final version of Plan Melbourne failed to address this major concern. And on 17 December 2015 a submission on the draft 'Victorian Government's Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation

Plan' using that opportunity to again raise the matter and drawing attention to the statement by former Premier Steve Bracks that "We should have determined exactly what we wanted to do and the reasons why we had to do it, then tied down the details. As it now stands, toxic waste continues to be stored at Lyndhurst, one of Melbourne's outer suburbs, which is a far-from-satisfactory outcome." - [Bracks, S, 2012, A Premier's State, pg 165, Melbourne University Press].

The above concerns have been consistently and vigorously conveyed to both State and Federal politicians over many years, with this topic appearing in each of Council's advocacy documents prior to the respective elections.

What we are seeking from the State Government:

Over the last 12 years, the Greater Dandenong community has told Council loudly and clearly that it wishes to see this facility, the only licensed Prescribed Industrial Waste facility in Victoria, to be closed at the earliest possible time. Our community believes it presents an unacceptable risk to the health and safety of both Greater Dandenong and neighbouring Casey residents.

Council seeks support from candidates to advocate for state wide policy to recognise the role and need for landfills which receive solid Prescribed Industrial Waste and to provide options to facilitate unknown requirements which eventuate in the future, taking into account the very legitimate concerns of this Council and its community of it being in a location relatively close to residential areas.

Council has concerns that in the absence of State policy, the use of the Lyndhurst landfill facility may continue to have its life extended as has been the situation to date. We ask that the State Government commit to a process of planning and policy development which will address the matter of future land use and location of landfill sites, particularly in respect of Prescribed Industrial Waste, ultimately ensuring the earliest possible closure of this site.

Council also seeks the State Government to resource this work in part from the accumulated funds of waste levies for the identification of a suitable Prescribed Industrial Waste site for Melbourne in the decades ahead.

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Community Safety

Family Violence – Background

Family violence is a critical and widespread public health issue, with national surveys revealing that one in four Australian women is assaulted by a current or former partner in her lifetime, and on average, one woman murdered each week by a partner or former partner.

Family violence is also the principal cause of homelessness and the major cause of preventable death and disability among women aged 15 to 44 years.

Its consequences are enduring and traumatic, with children also affected, either as witnesses to such behaviour or as victims of violence themselves.

Greater Dandenong faces particular challenges in relation to family violence. In 2015/16, the rate of family-related offences recorded by police in this community rose to a level 34% greater than the State average and the highest in Melbourne. Recorded rates of family violence in this municipality have more than doubled in the past five years.

Greater Dandenong Council seeks to raise the profile of family violence and gender equity, support community-based initiatives to advance these objectives, and advocate for further resources to support to local families, women and young people at risk of, or experiencing, violence.

What we are seeking from the State Government:

- Support for community-based prevention programs that promote gender equity and respect toward women and extend equal opportunities for girls and women.
- The establishment of a support and safety hub in the region, under the State Government plan 'Ending Family Violence: Victoria's Plan for Change'.
- Further funding for specialist services such as 'In Touch', to address family violence among culturally diverse communities.
- Additional support, in accord with the recommendations of the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence, for crisis accommodation, refuges and public housing for women and children, and specialist family violence services in the region.

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Drug and Alcohol Misuse – Background

Harm associated with the misuse of alcohol and other drugs is an enduring concern in the City of Greater Dandenong, owing to its contribution to violent crime and property damage, family violence, drink driving offences, road injuries and fatalities, and ill-health.

In 2015-16, the rate of violent offences in Greater Dandenong was nearly double the metropolitan average, the highest rate in Melbourne outside the CBD, with Victoria

Police reporting that alcohol is implicated in more than half of all arrests

In relation to planning, recent research reveals a direct connection between the density of liquor outlets and the incidence of violence on the streets and in the home. Accordingly, Council's Alcohol Management Plan provides a framework and process for the assessment and management of liquor licenses, packaged liquor outlets and venues.

What we are seeking from the State Government:

- Collaboration across all levels of government to enable effective identification, monitoring and management of alcohol related harms.
- Funding for community-based initiatives to address the impacts of alcohol
- Expansion of flexible treatment alternatives, including rehabilitation services
- Access to improved alcohol sales and crime data for local governments to assist in identifying local solutions to alcohol-related harm

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Social Cohesion and Radicalisation – Background

Violent extremism, youth radicalisation and racism jeopardise community harmony and social cohesion.

Evidence suggests that the root causes of violent extremism are complex and include social isolation, family breakdown, lack of a sense of identity and belonging, and racism – all of which provide fertile ground for radicalisation.

As Victoria's most multicultural municipality Greater Dandenong has led a number of initiatives to foster social cohesion and prevent radicalisation, in partnership with other stakeholders. Such initiatives include:

- Professional development with Council staff, frontline workers and community service providers on identifying early indicators of vulnerability to youth radicalisation.

- High-profile community awareness campaigns to reject racism and violence.
- Youth-specific social cohesion projects which seek to instil a sense of pride and purpose in young people, including the Creating Change Program which promotes their understanding of differing faiths and cultures.
- Strategic policy responses that promote community harmony and respect for all.

Council remains committed to sustained efforts to build social cohesion, promote understanding and foster respect for diversity.

What we are seeking from the State Government:

- An increase in the levels of police officers permanently allocated in Greater Dandenong
- Funding to enable continued investment in infrastructure, such as lighting in public places, that supports crime prevention through environmental design.
- Increased financial support for prevention and inclusion programs that address underlying social, economic and cultural causes of violence and anti-social behaviour.

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Gambling Reform

Greater Dandenong has the highest rate of gaming losses in Victoria and second largest number of gaming machines in the State.

In 2016-17, \$118 million was lost to gaming machines in Greater Dandenong, equivalent to \$956 per adult – the highest rate of losses per adult in Victoria, nearly twice the metropolitan level.

The highest gambling losses are largely incurred by those individuals and communities which can least afford them, with these high rates of gaming losses and gaming machines are borne by residents of one of the most socio-economically disadvantaged communities in Victoria.

956 gaming machines operate at venues within Greater Dandenong – the second highest number of EGMs in any Melbourne municipality.

Council therefore seeks reforms to the regulation of gaming in Victoria to ease the burden of gambling losses upon its residents and other vulnerable communities.

What we are seeking from the State Government:

- The introduction of \$1 bet limit on all gaming machines.
- Prohibition of EFTPOS facilities in gaming venues.
- Implementation of compulsory pre-commitment.
- Increased financial support for programs that prevent harms associated with problem gambling.
- Removal of deceptive features of gaming machine design.
- A greater say for local communities about applications for gaming machines or venues.
- A reduction in the caps, or municipal limits, upon gaming machine numbers in vulnerable communities.

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Manufacturing Connectivity Centre Development

Background

Approximately 94 per cent of the region's manufacturers are SMEs with limited resources. The Manufacturing Connectivity Centre Development will provide a single facility for SME manufacturers to access information on assistance programs, emerging technologies, research, skills development and training, support for exports and import replacement.

The facility will also:

- House representatives from Government Departments and Authorities to provide assistance/support for manufacturers (Federal, State and Local Governments)

- Offer space for service providers to display their offerings (such as R&D and ICT)
- Be in a visible and easily accessible location within the heart of industry
- Foster a culture of continuous improvement by promoting innovation, creativity, networking, collaboration and new technologies

Benefits:

- One location to access information, collaborate, network, and exhibit
- Access to a wide range of departments/agencies
- Access to current and future technology (a kick-start to innovation)
- A central repository of shared knowledge

What we are seeking from the State Government:

Fund the development of a facility.

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Productivity through Transport Infrastructure

Transport challenges for Dandenong South – Background

Dandenong South is a major manufacturing, warehousing and distribution and employment powerhouse in Victoria. It is home to thousands of businesses. These provide 15,061 manufacturing jobs; 5,867 wholesale trade; 5,023 construction; 3,476 transport, postal & warehousing as well as several thousand other jobs within the fast growing south east growth corridor. Planned growth will thousands more jobs created here.

Dandenong South is home to major industries such as Bombardier, Volgren, Iveco, Visy, Nissan, Kraft, Viridian World Glass (was Pilkington) and Jayco as well as numerous warehousing and transport companies.

Designated as a National Employment and Innovation Cluster (NEIC) in the Victorian Government's Plan Melbourne, together with other businesses in Greater Dandenong, it contributed \$13,447 billion real GRP (June 2016 prices). Reflecting a requirement to be more knowledge based, it is home to Victoria's first eco-industrial park, LOGIS which includes a 74 hectare Innovation Park.

The Salta Group is seeking to establish a major intermodal terminal including a rail siding. This facility will operate as a regional hub that can receive and distribute containers direct from the docks noting that Dandenong South is the largest single destination in Victoria for imported containers.

This area is a key destination for workers in Melbourne's south east growth corridor, particularly the adjoining City of Casey, which has a net shortage of jobs. Dandenong South's industries are of critical importance to regional employment and implementation of the "20 minute city" concept in Plan Melbourne.

While Dandenong South has a surrounding freeway and arterial road network that provides access to the Port of Melbourne and the broader metropolitan area, it faces a range of short and long term transport problems. These include:

- Increasing peak-hours congestion on the limited East-West access roads, unduly delaying freight, constraining economic activity, as well as delaying employees accessing jobs and services.
- Poor direct East-West road network connectivity which adversely influences new investment, resulting in parts of Dandenong South not reaching their full development potential.
- Infrequent and limited-route public transport options, limiting access to employment, particularly for young employees/apprentices reliant on alternative transport. This constrains its potential to fully contribute to the region's liveability and social inclusion.

Fixing issues in Dandenong South

With expert help Council's transport planning proposes a range of infrastructure projects to fix existing problems and build for the future. Many of these are beyond the resources of Council to fund but are critical in ensuring that the National Employment and Innovation Cluster fulfils its role as an employment and economic powerhouse.

Short-term fixes include construction of Glasscocks Road, a new road-bridge crossing Eumemmerring Creek and a new crossing of the Cranbourne rail (Pound Road West to Remington Drive), and land purchase to enable development of Glasscocks Road.

In the longer term, proposals exit to extend the Dandenong Bypass to the South Gippsland Freeway and build the missing South to East link between the South Gippsland Freeway and M1; establish another connection to EastLink on Bangholme Road; and to duplicate arterial roads, like Glasscocks Road where required.

Improving external connections

While the aforementioned improvements are essential so called 'last mile issues', there are a number of major freight access routes serving Dandenong South that are now under pressure and impact on the productivity of Dandenong South and the \$63 billion output from the broader region.

A recently prepared Freight Strategy for the region cites some of these existing and future regional issues as:

- Connectivity of the existing arterial links back to the Monash Freeway
- Provision of more efficient access to the Port of Melbourne to reduce transportation costs
- Connectivity to the north of Melbourne providing options to reduce costs by avoiding inner Melbourne and potentially higher congestion
- Maintaining connectivity to the west of Melbourne, its storage and distribution areas and any possible future port in the west.



To address some of the shortfalls the strategy recommends a number of critical improvements:

- South East rail network: Port of Melbourne to Dandenong South intermodal terminal
- North East Link: Metropolitan Ring Road to Eastern Freeway - constructing the missing metropolitan orbital link between the end of the Metropolitan Ring Road and the Eastern Freeway
- Westall Road: Monash Freeway to Princes Highway – constructing an extension of Westall Road to the Monash Freeway resulting in better connectivity for traffic including freight
- Port of Melbourne Webb Dock: Webb Dock rail connection to metropolitan rail network - constructing a rail link to the Port of Melbourne's Webb Dock container terminals and connecting this to a metropolitan freight rail network to allow port rail shuttles to operate between metropolitan intermodal terminals, including at Dandenong South.

What we are seeking from the State Government

- Council's aim is to provide improved access to and within the Dandenong South ***National Employment and Innovation Cluster*** and support productivity and employment in this vital economic powerhouse.
- We seek support from the State Government to help fund 'last mile' projects within Dandenong South as well as complete major critical links like the extension of the Dandenong Bypass.

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Secondary School in Keysborough South

Funding was announced in the 2016-17 Victorian State Budget to purchase land for a primary school in Keysborough South.

Council welcomed this commitment by the State Government for educational facilities in Greater Dandenong.

Key findings from consultation with the Keysborough South residents at the end of 2015 on the development of a community hub (to be co-located with the school) provided clear support for a public primary and secondary school in Keysborough South.

Residents of Keysborough South continue to raise the provision of a secondary school as a priority for families, children and young people, including the concern that children and young people should have access within reasonable walking distance to a Secondary Public school and shouldn't have to travel by car or bus to other secondary schools in the region.

What we are seeking from the State Government

- A commitment by the State Government for a secondary school in the vicinity of the new estates of Keysborough South that would serve residents in that area and the nearby suburbs.

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