

# 2010-2011 Annual Report



GREATER  
DANDENONG  
*City of Opportunity*



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## Great Place

- Dynamic and diverse city
- Recognised as the capital of the south east
- Victoria's manufacturing heartland
- Home to 9000 businesses
- Revitalisation of Central Dandenong underway
- 170 parks and reserves
- State of the art cultural facilities including multi-million dollar Drum Theatre
- Land area of 129.5 square kilometres

## Great People

- Over 140,000 residents
- People from 156 nations
- 56% of our 140,000 residents were born overseas
- 51% are from non-english speaking backgrounds
- Over 70,000 people employed locally
- Over 400 local community groups and service clubs
- An active and committed volunteer community



## Great Times

- Arts events and Festivals held monthly
- Sandown Racing – cars, horses and greyhounds
- Scenic bike paths stretching from Jells Park to Carrum beach
- 200 active sports clubs
- Largest basketball and volleyball stadium in the southern hemisphere
- Indoor and outdoor swimming pools
- Victoria's largest Lunar New Year festival
- Variety of bushwalks and talks held on regular basis

## Great Shops

- Dandenong Market Redevelopment officially opened 4 June 2011
- Little India and Afghan Bazaar cultural precincts
- Modern shopping complexes at Dandenong and Keysborough
- Wide variety of fresh produce, seafood and meat
- Over 50 Asian restaurants and specialty supermarkets
- Extensive range of factory outlets





## Our Vision:

Greater Dandenong is a City of Opportunity with quality buildings, places and facilities, and where people of all ages, cultures and backgrounds can reach their potential to live secure, happy and fulfilling lives for generations to come.

## Our Goals:

### A city planned for the future

- Places and buildings
- Travel and transport
- Activity and economy

### A thriving and creative city

- Employment and education
- Places and facilities
- Activity and economy

### A healthy community and environment

- Places and buildings
- Wellbeing in the community
- The environment

### A city of respect

- Community pride
- Living and working together
- The generations

### A leading Council

- Effective governance
- Excellence in local government
- The best place to work
- Engaging with the community
- Customer focus

## Mayor's Report by Councillor Roz Blades



Greater Dandenong celebrated a number of key milestones this year – with infrastructure renewal being high on its priority list.

There is no doubt the challenging global economic climate has meant Council has had to look at different ways to achieve a balance between service delivery, infrastructure renewal and community needs.

However as we reflect on the past 12 months it is pleasing to see how much has been achieved, given the constraints we faced.

One of the most notable projects completed this year was the \$26 million Dandenong Market Redevelopment. The market is now a bustling and vibrant shopping precinct which is already providing broad economic benefits to the entire city. Council's significant investment to revitalise the Market has not only helped position Dandenong as the regional shopping destination of the south-east but has also cemented the market's long-term future.

Springvale enjoyed the completion of several key projects including the "number 8" car park and Warner Reserve Community Facility. The "number 8" development in Balmoral Avenue, Springvale is nearing completion. The new multi-deck car park is complete and has seen car parking spaces on the site increase to more than 550. The additional car parking is a huge coup for Springvale and has been welcomed by visitors and local traders alike. Existing powerlines have been moved underground, a new roundabout installed, along with kerbside parking, footpaths, street furniture and new street trees. Once complete the "number 8" development, being delivered by a private developer, will also include four new buildings and a town square and will become a focal point of Springvale's shopping hub.

Warner Reserve's impressive \$2.4 million redevelopment of its community facility was also completed this year. The state-of-the-art facility marks a new chapter in the way Council approaches community buildings. The cleverly designed multi-use building boasts a state-of-the-art light commercial kitchen and swipe-card security system. A range of environmentally-friendly design techniques and materials have also been incorporated into the construction phase including rainwater collection, recycled building materials and cross-flow ventilation.

Council's partners VicUrban have made significant inroads into works in central Dandenong, the most noticeable of which is the completion of the \$20 million transformation of Lonsdale St, into a pedestrian friendly boulevard. As well as new trees, improved lighting and wider footpaths a number of visible changes are taking shape.

The \$29.5 million bridge on George Street which spans the railway line and links Cheltenham Road to the city centre was also completed. Stockmans Bridge will breathe new life into Dandenong's western Central Activities District, creating an environment where new businesses and homes can flourish.

Council spent \$33.881 million on the capital works program including \$10.496 million for major projects and \$7.788 million in asset renewal works.

Council recognises the community's need for quality facilities and invested significantly in projects that would add to the enjoyment of residents who live, work and play in Greater Dandenong.

One of the most significant projects which commenced construction this year was the Noble Park Pool through the "More than Just a Pool" Project. The \$20.7 million project has received \$12 million from Council, \$7.2 million from the Australian Government and an additional \$1.5 million from the Victorian Government. When complete the redevelopment will incorporate a new 50-metre outdoor pool, new water play areas for children and youth, multi-purpose community spaces, new barbecue and picnic areas and shading. This project will not only be an enormous community asset for Noble Park residents and Greater Dandenong but will also be a drawcard for visitors from the entire south east region.

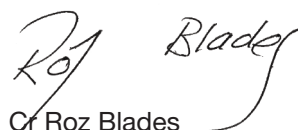
Renowned as a city offering exciting festivals and events, Council was again home to a variety of community festivals, ranging from the Dandenong Show, the Lunar New Year, Australia Day and Carols by Candlelight. This year also marked the second year Greater Dandenong was involved in the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival. Along with an Afghan Banquet visitors were able to attend a Progressive Yum Cha tour in Springvale and a Sicilian Regional Banquet.

The vibrancy and diversity of celebrations in Greater Dandenong is something we are very proud of and something Council will continue to foster in the year ahead.

Please take the time to read over the many highlights of 2010-2011 throughout this report. These are the results of the combined efforts of councillors, the executive team, staff, residents and our strategic partners, who I thank and congratulate.

This year has not only proved an exciting one for our city but an incredibly rewarding one for me personally.

It is a privilege to be Mayor of a city I am truly proud to call home.



Cr Roz Blades  
Mayor

“The vibrancy and diversity of celebrations in Greater Dandenong is something we are very proud of and something Council will continue to foster in the year ahead.”



# Chief Executive Officer's Report By John Bennie



2010-2011 has seen further progress in the evolution of Greater Dandenong as a prominent city in a developing region.

'Revitalisation' is now part of our broader vocabulary as we look beyond Dandenong and the significant work underway in that centre, to Springvale and Noble Park where exciting things are happening.

Whilst central Dandenong has continued its transformation, Springvale is emerging as another prominent activity centre through the planning and implementation of significant public and private works. Noble Park is also stamping its mark on the urban landscape with a state of the art recreational facility and village scale developments that will complement this centenary township.

The new look Dandenong Market was officially opened this year to great fanfare and celebration from traders and shoppers, who have been most patient during the extensive refurbishment work undertaken over the last two financial years.

Lonsdale Street has also reopened for business and we congratulate VicUrban on the quality of work that our community now inherit. What has emerged is a modern, elegant and exciting boulevard adjacent to which retailers now have their chance to make their contribution to this modern retail precinct. Other prominent outcomes include the opening of Stockmans Bridge; the rapid progress on the Government Services building; the upgrade of Walker Street; and the opening of the innovative 'pop-up park' on Foster Street.

In Springvale, the long awaited decked car park at 'number 8' Balmoral Avenue – and its ancillary retail, commercial and residential components – was finalised and a new dimension was added to the Springvale landscape.

The Noble Park 'More than just a Pool' project commenced construction and is earmarked for completion in early 2012.

Residential development on Council's 'Metro 3175' is about to move to its next stage with planned, higher density developments along and adjacent to Cheltenham Road.



The community's need for quality facilities and modern, flexible spaces was epitomised by the completion of the Springvale Service for Children; the Springvale Reserve Community Facility; the Keith Miller Pavilion at Shepley Oval; and the Warner Reserve Community Facility.

'Advocacy' remains very high on Council's agenda – advocating for grade separation on Springvale Road; advocating for Victorian Government funds to build an indoor pool component of the Noble Park "More than Just a Pool" project; advocating for a community health assessment in Dandenong South (now nearing finalisation); and advocating for a balanced outcome in the delivery of the Dingley Arterial Project, were just some of the success stories of this year.

Council remains financially sound but is always mindful of the challenges which lie ahead. It is critical that Council remains vigilant in the management of activity and expenses to ensure we continue to successfully meet the growing demands of our community.

An underlying operational surplus of \$3.157 million was achieved in 2010-2011. After considering non-operating income and expenditure, the surplus was \$31.446 million against a budget of \$26.338 million.

It is important to note that these surpluses are 'accounting surpluses' which include a range of non-cash items such as depreciation on Council assets, assets written off, assets gifted to Council by Developers (eg. roads and footpaths) and exclude cash costs such as capital expenditure.

Council spent \$33.881 million on capital improvements during the year, \$7.788 million of which was on renewal and upgrades to existing infrastructure assets and \$10.496 million on major projects which included \$6.705 million on the Noble Park 'More than Just a Pool' Project and \$2.413 million on the Warner Reserve Community Facility upgrade.

The funding of basic infrastructure – roads, footpaths and drains – remains a challenge but it is pleasing to report that in addition to the \$5.368 million spent on municipal wide road renewal works in 2009-2010, a further \$5.274 million was spent on this essential area in 2010-2011. This significant investment continues to underpin the importance of Council's maintenance and protection of existing assets.

The 2010-2011 stage of this ongoing journey of re-discovery in our city has now concluded and we immediately focus on 2011-2012 and beyond. Whatever we might have achieved becomes a new benchmark as we strive to exceed the community's expectations and consolidate this city's emerging position as a prominent player in an increasingly sustainable region.

I thank Council for its leadership and the many wonderful staff who remain committed to local government service and The City of Greater Dandenong.



**John Bennie**  
Chief Executive Officer

“...consolidate this city's emerging position as a prominent player in an increasingly sustainable region”