

## Public Car Share Policy

Policy Endorsement:	Endorsement required by Council		
Policy Superseded by this Policy:	Not Applicable		
Directorate:	Business, Engineering and Major Projects		
Responsible Officer:	Manager, Transport and Civil Development		
Policy Type:	Discretionary		
File Number:	A6274077	Version No:	2
1 <sup>st</sup> Adopted by Council	25 November 2019 Minute No. 1275	Last Adopted by Council:	26 April 2022 Minuts No. 447
Review Period:	3 years	Next Review:	April 2025

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	POLICY PURPOSE.....	2
2.	BACKGROUND.....	2
3.	SCOPE .....	2
4.	DEFINITIONS .....	3
5.	POLICY.....	3
	Application.....	3
	Considerations.....	3
	Requirements .....	3
	Cancellation .....	4
	Financial Costs .....	4
	Performance Reporting .....	4
6.	RESPONSE TO THE OVERARCHING GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020.....	4
7.	CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006 – COMPATIBILITY STATEMENT .....	5
8.	RESPONSE TO THE GENDER EQUALITY ACT 2020 .....	5
9.	CONSIDERATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY .....	5
10.	RESPONSIBILITIES.....	6
11.	REPORTING, MONITORING AND REVIEW .....	6
12.	REFERENCES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS.....	6

## 1. POLICY PURPOSE

The Vision of the Greater Dandenong Sustainability Strategy is that the City of Greater Dandenong is one of the most sustainable cities in Australia by 2030.

This Car Share Policy highlights a Council commitment to encourage the use of sustainable transport options.

The purpose of this policy is to create a framework to facilitate the increased provision and uptake of car sharing facilities for residents, businesses and visitors to City of Greater Dandenong.

The policy applies to the provision of Car Share facilities within public land within the City of Greater Dandenong. It does not provide direction relating to the provision of car share facilities operated and managed within the private realm.

## 2. BACKGROUND

Car sharing is a mode of car rental where people can rent a car for a number of hours or up to a few days. Commercial car share providers will operate a vehicle out of an allocated parking space known as a car share pod. Users of these services can book the car online, using an app or over the phone and then go to the pod to pick up the car. Once they are done with the car they return it to the pod ready for the next person.

Personal benefits of the provision of car share services;

- Users have the flexibility of private transportation without having to pay for ongoing car ownership fees including registration, maintenance, fuel, etc. The average running cost of a personal car in Victoria in 2018 was \$209.50 per week.
- Encourages car share users to consider active transport (walking and cycling) and public transport whilst still having a flexible private transport option.
- Households can use car share services to provide an alternative to getting a second car

Community benefits of the provision of car share services:

- Complement nearby public transport services by providing a last mile transport option to connect to destinations in the local area
- Research indicates one car share vehicle has the ability to reduce the number of cars on our roads by approximately 10 cars – resulting in:
  - Reduced traffic and parking congestion on our roads.
  - Fewer cars on the road also resulting in reduced greenhouse gas emissions. (The average Victorian car generates over 2.5t of greenhouse gas per year)
- Increased opportunity for patronage to an area bringing more activity and commerce.

## 3. SCOPE

This policy applies to the provision of Car Share facilities within public land within the City of Greater Dandenong. It is aimed at enabling consistent and mutually beneficial agreements between Council and Car Share providers.

## 4. DEFINITIONS

**Car share pod:** the dedicated parking space that the car share vehicle is allocated the exclusive use of.

**Car share provider:** company that runs the car share service.

**Car share service:** a car rental arrangement that allows for users to rent a car by the hour or day via online, app and/or phone booking. These cars are available from car share pods and must be returned to the same pod at the end of the hire.

## 5. POLICY

### Application

The provision of car share pods on public land within City of Greater Dandenong is subject to approval by the City of Greater Dandenong Council.

Car share pods are to be leased for a minimum period of two years by the car share provider, with the option to renew the lease for a period of one or two years thereafter.

The City of Greater Dandenong will work with car share providers to notify nearby property occupiers prior to the provision of a car share pod in accordance with Council's consultation approach to any municipal parking changes. This notification will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback on the provision of a car share pod. All feedback will be considered by Council in the assessment of a car share pod.

Council's Parking Review Committee will determine the area to be covered, being the area within which there may be legitimate concerns or objections to the proposal.

### Considerations

The following considerations must be taken into account for the placement of car share pods:

- Car share pods are to be provided in areas maximising opportunity to end users including but not limited to; high pedestrian and vehicular traffic areas and activity generators such as employment centres, activity centres and community centres.
- Consideration must be given to the convenience of end users such that their proximity to a car share pod is no more than a 500 metre radius and/or no longer than a 10 minute walk from another car share pod or a train station or bus stop.
- Consideration must be given to the personal safety of end users with areas of high surveillance and lighting preferable.
- Placement of car share pods must not adversely impact road safety. Consideration must be given to traffic conditions of the area.
- Placement of car share pods must not adversely impact residential and commercial parking amenity.

Council will consider other locations where there is a demonstrated demand for car sharing facilities.

### Requirements

Car share providers must provide;

- Details for the proposed locations for car share pods and justification for their implementation. Justification must address considerations listed above.
- Report outlining the business model for their car sharing service.
- Confirmation of appropriate public liability insurance.

Car share pods are to be leased for a minimum period of two year by the car share provider. Car share providers will have the option to renew the lease for a period of one or two years subject to Council discretion.

### Cancellation

Should it be required to suspend or relocate a car share pod, Council will work with the relevant providers(s) to find a suitable alternative location.

Council may cancel the car share pod lease with six months written notice outlining the reasons for the cancellation. The car share provider will not be entitled to any compensation or damages of any kind from Council.

Council will always seek to work with car share providers to find a suitable alternative or resolve any issues before cancelling a car share pod lease.

### Financial Costs

To encourage the use of sustainable transport options, City of Greater Dandenong will not charge a fee for the leasing of a publicly available parking space for the use of a car share pod.

Council will absorb costs associated with lost revenue from parking spaces as well as the conversion and re-purposing costs of a parking bay including regulatory signs and line marking.

Council will maintain the car share pod as per the maintenance schedule in accordance with Council's Road Management Plan 2017-2021.

Council will enforce applicable parking restrictions as part of Councils normal parking management operations.

Where a car share provider wishes to provide additional signage, advertisements, road markings this cost is borne by the car share provider, including on-going costs such as maintenance. Noting that this may require agreement with Council and/or a planning permit.

### Performance Reporting

Car share providers are required to report performance figures to City of Greater Dandenong on a biannual basis.

The data collected will assist Council in assessing the use and demand for car share services within the municipality and inform future decisions regarding car sharing services.

Data that could allow for the identification of specific users of car share services will not be requested.

## 6. RESPONSE TO 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.

The review of this Policy has demonstrated Councils commitment to ensuring:

(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) innovation and continuous improvement is to be pursued;
- (e) collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought;
- (f) the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured;
- (g) the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

This is achieved through:

- the Policy is clear and focussed on matters managed by Council (on street parking management)
- the Policy clearly meets objectives of several Council Strategies, including Councils Sustainability Strategy
- the Policy considers economic, social and environmental sustainability and is anticipated to achieve its goals with minimal financial impact to Council

## 7. CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006 – COMPATIBILITY STATEMENT

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 of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* has been considered in the preparation of this report but is not relevant to its contents. The preparation of this report proposes the extension of a policy which has not impacted any of the rights set within the Charter.

## 8. RESPONSE TO 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.

Council's Diversity, Access and Equity Policy and the *Gender Equality Act 2020* have been considered in the preparation of this report but are not relevant to its contents.

The content/topic/issue (of this report) is purely administrative in nature and does not benefit any one gender group over any other.

## 9. 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.

This report relates to a policy which is targeted at achieving Sustainable Transport outcomes for the City of Greater Dandenong and is anticipated to increase community resilience and reduce emissions through:

- Increased travel choice, particularly for those that cannot afford a car
- Reduced need to own a second car
- Reduced congestion
- Reduced emissions

Consideration was given to additional incentives to increase provision of Car Share services through this policy. This is not recommended as providing good value at this time as organic growth is anticipated at an appropriate rate and further incentives would provide limited benefit.

## 10. RESPONSIBILITIES

Decisions regarding management / allocation of on street parking spaces are made by Councils Transport and Civil Development Unit within the Business, Engineering and Major Projects Directorate. Application of the policy will be undertaken by this Unit as part of this process.

## 11. REPORTING, MONITORING AND REVIEW

Effectiveness of the policy will be undertaken through review of collected data and usage detailed in the Performance Reporting component of the policy.

Review at the end of this policy duration is anticipated to consider whether Council should:

- Limit / control expansion of car share services to protect other uses;
- Generate income from providing land for car share services; or
- Further incentivise provision of car share services.

## 12. REFERENCES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

### Legislation

Local Government Act 2020

Road Management Act 2004

Road Management (General) Regulations 2016

### Related Council and Other Policies, Procedures, Strategies, Protocols, Guidelines

Greater Dandenong Integrated Transport Plan 2017-22

Greater Dandenong Municipal Parking Strategy 2017-2027

Greater Dandenong Sustainability Strategy 2016-2030