

AGENDA

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2021 Commencing at 6:00 PM

At the time of printing this Agenda the Council Meeting to be held on Thursday 11 November 2021 will be closed to the public under the COVID-19 *Omnibus* (Emergency Measures) Act 2020 and the Local Government Act 2020.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong VIC 3175

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1 MEETING OPENING

1.1 ATTENDANCE

Apologies

1.2 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Conflict of Interest legislation is detailed in sections 128 and 129 the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act). Exemptions apply under section 129 of the Act. Any interest that a Councillor or staff member has deemed to be significant must be disclosed in accordance with section 130 of the Act and Council's Governance Rules. The *Local Government Act 2020* can be obtained by contacting the Greater Dandenong Governance Unit on 8571 5216 or by accessing the Victorian Legislation and Parliamentary Documents website at www.legislation.vic.gov.au.

If a Councillor discloses any interest in an item discussed at any Council Meeting (whether they attend or not) they must:

- complete a disclosure of interest form prior to the meeting.
- advise the Chairperson of the interest immediately before the particular item is considered (if attending the meeting).
- leave the chamber while the item is being discussed and during any vote taken (if attending the meeting).

The Councillor will be advised to return to the chamber or meeting room immediately after the item has been considered and the vote is complete.

1.3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of this land, the Bunurong People, and pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging while also recognising their deep and continuing connections to Climate, Culture and Country.

We also pay our respects to all Aboriginal peoples and their Elders who may be present at this meeting today and acknowledge their journey.

2 BUSINESS

2.1 ELECTION OF THE MAYOR

File Id:

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance

Report Summary

Section 25(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 requires that a Mayor be elected.

Section 25(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that the Chief Executive Officer must chair the Election of the Mayor.

Section 25(4) of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that the Mayor must be elected by an absolute majority. In the event that an absolute majority is not obtained, a recount will be undertaken. If an absolute majority is still not obtained, Council may resolve to adjourn the meeting for a short time to discuss the matter further.

Section 26(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that before the Election of the Mayor, a Council must determine by resolution whether the Mayor is to be elected for a one or a two year term.

Recommendation

This report recommends that the Mayoral term be for a period of one year. Councillors will elect the Mayor at the meeting.

2.1 ELECTION OF THE MAYOR (Cont.)

Background

Sections 18 and 19 of the Local Government Act 2020 set out the roles and powers of the Mayor.

The Mayor takes precedence at all municipal proceedings within the municipal district and must chair all meetings of the Council. In the normal course of events the office of Mayor becomes vacant at 6:00am on the day of the next Mayoral election. Any Councillor is eligible for election or re-election to the office of Mayor.

Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2020 outlines the procedures for electing a Mayor.

It is the responsibility of the temporary Chairperson (the Chief Executive Officer) to call for nominations for the position of Mayor. In the event that more than one Councillor is nominated for the position of Mayor for the 2021-2022 Mayoral term, then Councillors present at the meeting must vote for one of the candidates by a show of hands. Section 25(4) of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that the Mayor must be elected by an absolute majority. In the event that an absolute majority is not obtained, a recount will be undertaken. If an absolute majority is still not obtained, Council may resolve to adjourn the meeting for a short time to discuss the matter further.

After the election, the new Mayor will take the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Recommendation '	1
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That the N	Mayor is t	o be elected	for a one	year term.
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Recommendation 2	
That Cr	_be elected as Mayor for the 2021-2022 term.

2.2 ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR

File Id:

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance

Report Summary

Section 20A of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that an office of Deputy Mayor may be established.

Section 27 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that the Mayor must chair the Election of the Deputy Mayor.

Section 27 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that the Deputy Mayor must be elected by an absolute majority. In the event that an absolute majority is not obtained, a recount will be undertaken. If an absolute majority is still not obtained, Council may resolve to adjourn the meeting for a short time to discuss the matter further.

Section 27 of the *Local Government Act 2020* also states that before the Election of the Deputy Mayor, a Council must determine by resolution whether the Deputy Mayor is to be elected for a one or a two year term.

Recommendation

This report recommends that the Deputy Mayoral term be for a period of one year. Councillors will elect the Deputy Mayor at the meeting.

2.2 ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR (Cont.)

Background

Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2020 sets out the roles and powers of the Deputy Mayor.

Section 27 of the Local Government Act 2020 outlines the procedures for electing a Deputy Mayor.

It is the responsibility of the Mayor to call for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor. In the event that more than one Councillor is nominated for the position of Deputy Mayor for the 2021-2022 term, then Councillors present at the meeting must vote for one of the candidates by a show of hands. Section 27 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that the Deputy Mayor must be elected by an absolute majority. In the event that an absolute majority is not obtained, a recount will be undertaken. If an absolute majority is still not obtained, Council may resolve to adjourn the meeting for a short time to discuss the matter further.

Recommendation 1

That the Deputy Mayor is to be elected for a one year term.	
Recommendation 2	

That Cr be elected as Deputy Mayor for the 2021-2022 term.

2.3 REVIEW OF MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance

Report Summary

It has been past practice for an incoming Council to note Councillor allowances for the coming term.

Sections 39 and 384 of *Local Government Act 2020* now provide for the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal (VIRT) to make a determination setting the value of the amount of the allowance payable for Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors. This determination must provide for Council allowance categories.

The Tribunal must make the first determination under section 384 to take effect on the day after the expiry of the period of six months after receiving a request from the Minister administering the *Local Government Act 2020* to make the first determination.

On 27 October 2020, the Minister for Local Government determined that no adjustment to councillor allowances would be made in 2020. This means that the councillor allowances valid for 2020 are still in effect.

2.3 REVIEW OF MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES (Cont.)

Background

Greater Dandenong Councillor allowances are currently set as follows:

	Greater Dandenong City Council
Councillors	\$31,444 per annum
Mayor	\$100,434 per annum

Note 1: Allowances are also subject to an additional 10% as required under the Commonwealth's Superannuation Guarantee. Under Council's Council Expenses, Support and Accountability Policy, Council will also provide the Mayor with the use of a fully registered, insured, maintained and fuelled Council vehicle for use by the Mayor on official duties and for private use.

Note 2: Greater Dandenong has been classified as a Category 3 Council since July 2005.

The above are the highest amounts payable within a Category 3 Council. The last review of Greater Dandenong's Councillor and Mayoral allowances was undertaken in May 2017. While awaiting the first determination of the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal of allowances for Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors (under the Local Government Act 2020), Council can review its current allowances if it decides to do so.

The Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal (VIRT) was requested by the Minister for Local Government to make its first determination of Mayoral, Deputy Mayoral and Councillor allowances in June 2021. The VIRT under the Local Government Act 2020, must make this determination within six months of the Minister's request. Council will be required to pay the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors the allowances determined by the VIRT.

Recommendation

That the current Mayoral and Councillor allowances be noted.

2.4 PROPOSED COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2022

File Id:

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance

Attachments: Council Meetings 2022

Report Summary

This report proposes a meeting cycle and decision making process for Council only for the 2022 calendar year.

Background

Council currently holds two (2) Ordinary Council meetings each month, usually on the second and fourth Monday evening, with the exception of January and December in 2021.

Councillor Briefing Sessions are also conducted on a weekly basis. All Councillor Briefings are scheduled with the agreement of Councillors and do not require formal resolution.

It has been customary for Council to resolve its meeting cycles for at least a twelve month period and this report proposes a continuation of that practice for 2022.

Proposal

This report proposes a meeting cycle for Council for the 2022 calendar year as follows:

Council generally holds two Council meetings per month with the exception of January and December 2022.

All Council meetings will be held in the Civic Centre at 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong.

It is also proposed that the regular program of Councillor Briefing Sessions be continued. These sessions provide Councillors with an opportunity to obtain detailed information on a range of issues affecting the City. Councillor Briefing Sessions also provide an opportunity for Council to hear submissions from community and business organisations when appropriate.

Financial Implications

Support for the meeting cycle and decision making structure outlined in this report is primarily provided through the staff and budget resources of the Governance Unit.

Policy Implications

The meeting structure proposed in this report is consistent with Council's governance obligations as set out in the Local Government Act 2020 and Council's current Governance Rules and other relevant legislation and guidelines. The proposed meeting cycle and decision making process will contribute to the effective governance of the City by providing a regular, publicly accessible process for Council decision making and will ensure that Councillors are fully informed of the issues before making decisions that are appropriate and responsive to the needs of the community.

Conclusion

The proposed Council Meeting schedule as provided in Attachment 1 to this report is consistent with Council's commitment to open and accountable government and involving the community in decisions that affect them. It will continue to build upon the established partnership between Council and the community in fostering effective governance of the City.

Recommendation

That Council adopts the meeting schedule as detailed in Attachment 1 to this report.

BUSINESS

PROPOSED COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2022

ATTACHMENT 1

COUNCIL MEETINGS 2022

PAGES 2 (including cover)

If the details of the attachment are unclear please contact Governance on 8571 5235.



COUNCIL MEETINGS DATES & LOCATIONS

2022

DAY	DATE	VENUE
Monday	24 January 2022	Dandenong
Monday	14 February 2022	Dandenong
Monday	28 February 2022	Dandenong
Tuesday*	15 March 2022	Dandenong
Monday	28 March 2022	Dandenong
Monday	11 April 2022	Dandenong
Tuesday*	26 April 2022	Dandenong
Monday	9 May 2022	Dandenong
Monday	23 May 2022	Dandenong
Tuesday*	14 June 2022	Dandenong
Monday	27 June 2022	Dandenong
Monday	11 July 2022	Dandenong
Monday	25 July 2022	Dandenong
Monday	8 August 2022	Dandenong
Monday	22 August 2022	Dandenong
Monday	12 September 2022	Dandenong
Monday	26 September 2022	Dandenong
Monday	10 October 2022	Dandenong
Monday	24 October 2022	Dandenong
Thursday [^]	10 November 2022	Dandenong
Monday	14 November 2022	Dandenong
Monday	28 November 2022	Dandenong
Monday	12 December 2022	Dandenong

Tuesday meeting due to Public Holiday on the Monday

Meeting to Elect Mayor/Deputy Mayor (commencing at 6pm)

All meetings shall be held in the Council Chambers (Level 2, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong) unless otherwise advised

Meetings will commence at 7pm unless otherwise advised

All Meetings listed are web cast live at www.greaterdandenong.com/councilmeetings
Council may, by resolution at any Meeting, alter the day, time and location upon which any Meeting shall

File Id:

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance

Attachments: 2021-2022 Councillor Representation

Nominations

Report Summary

In conducting the business of Council and representing Council's interests in the wider community, Greater Dandenong City Council has formal representation and liaison with a wide number of committees, peak industry bodies and regional and community associations.

While the Mayor of the day is typically Council's key representative, the number of associations where Council seeks an involvement is such that representation needs to be shared among all Councillors to ensure a manageable workload.

This report provides a schedule of the proposed appointment of Council liaisons and representatives to committees, peak industry bodies, regional and community associations for 2021-2022.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - AGENDA

2.5 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL LIAISONS AND REPRESENTATIVES TO COMMITTEES, PEAK INDUSTRY BODIES, REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATIONS (Cont.)

Proposal

Current appointments of Council Representatives on all representative bodies are provided in Attachment 1. The attachment also lists the proposed new appointments of Council Liaisons and Representatives on community organisations, committees, reference groups, peak industry bodies and regional organisations for 2021-2022. During the year, Council may receive additional requests and these will be presented for consideration at other Council Meetings. Councillors are able to report on their attendance, observations or important matters arising from their liaison or representation with groups for which the Councillor has been formally appointed by Council at all Council Meetings.

Recommendation 1

That, for the 2021-2022 Mayoral term, Council appoints Councillor Liaisons and Councillor Representatives to all of the community organisations, committees, reference groups, peak industry bodies and regional organisations listed in Attachment 1 but excluding Dandenong Market Pty Ltd.

Recommendation 2

That, for the 2021-2022 Mayoral term, Council appoints Cr	as
the Council Representative to the Dandenong Market Ptv Ltd.	

OTHER

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL LIAISONS AND REPRESENTATIVES TO COMMITTEES, PEAK INDUSTRY BODIES, REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATIONS

ATTACHMENT 1

2021-2022 COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION NOMINATIONS

PAGES 6 (including cover)

If the details of the attachment are unclear please contact Governance on 8571 5235.

Councillor Representation on Committees, Community Organisations and Associations, Peak Industry Bodies and Regional Organisations - November 2021 – November 2022

NOTE:

The principle purpose of the item *Reports from Councillors/Delegated Members and Councillors' Questions* on any Council Meeting Agenda is for Councillors to report on their attendance, observations or important matters arising from their liaison or representation with groups for which the Councillor has been formally appointed by Council. In accordance with the documented 'protocol' that applies to either liaisons or representatives, Councillors should raise matters of importance at this item. Other matters may also be reported.

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Organisation	Past Councillor Liaison(s) 2020-2021 19 Nov 2020 – November 2021	New Councillor Liaison(s) 2021-2022 11 Nov 2021 – November 2022
Dandenong and District Historical Society	Cr Rhonda Garad	Cr Rhonda Garad
Dandenong Show Committee	Cr Bob Milkovic	Cr Bob Milkovic Alternate – Cr Jim Memeti
Greater Dandenong Interfaith Network	Cr Sophie Tan	Cr Eden Foster Cr Rhonda Garad
South East Community Links	Cr Tim Dark Cr Loi Truong	Cr Loi Truong
Springvale and District Historical Society	Cr Richard Lim OAM Cr Loi Truong	Cr Richard Lim OAM Cr Loi Truong
Springvale Benevolent Society	Cr Tim Dark Cr Richard Lim OAM Cr Sean O'Reilly Cr Loi Truong	Cr Richard Lim OAM Cr Sean O'Reilly Cr Loi Truong

Councillor Liaison

It is not essential for Council to be involved in these groups – Councillors are only involved when they have the interest, the time and the inclination.

Protocols

Councillor Liaisons act as a liaison point between the organisation and Council as a whole and provide advice to Council or the organisation when decisions or relevant policy matters are discussed. Councillor Liaisons will generally keep informed about the work and functions of the organisation and support the role of the organisation in accordance with Council policy or direction. If a Councillor chooses to stand as an office bearer of the organisation this is undertaken separately to the role of Councillor Liaison.

Councillor Representation on Committees, Community Organisations and Associations, Peak Industry Bodies and Regional Organisations - November 2021 – November 2022

COUNCIL GROUPS & COMMITTEES

Organisation	Past Councillor Representative(s) 2020-2021 19 Nov 2020 – November 2021	New Councillor Representative(s) 2021-2022 11 Nov 2021 – November 2022
Arts Advisory Board	Cr Rhonda Garad	Cr Rhonda Garad
Audit and Risk Committee (ARC)	Mayor of the Day Cr Rhonda Garad	Mayor of the Day Cr Rhonda Garad
Australia Day Community Assessment Panel	Mayor of the Day Cr Lana Formoso Cr Rhonda Garad Cr Bob Milkovic Cr Jim Memeti	Mayor of the Day Cr Lana Formoso Cr Richard Lim OAM
Business COVID-19 Recovery Taskforce	Mayor of the Day	Mayor of the Day
CEO Performance Review Committee	Mayor of the Day Cr Lana Formoso Cr Rhonda Garad Cr Richard Lim OAM Cr Angela Long Cr Bob Milkovic Cr Jim Memeti Cr Sophie Tan	Mayor of the Day Cr Lana Formoso Cr Eden Foster Cr Rhonda Garad Cr Richard Lim OAM Cr Angela Long Cr Bob Milkovic Cr Jim Memeti Cr Sophie Tan
Children & Family Partnership	Cr Sophie Tan Cr Loi Truong	Cr Sophie Tan Cr Loi Truong
Community Safety Advisory Committee	Mayor of the Day Cr Lana Formoso Cr Rhonda Garad Cr Angela Long Cr Sophie Tan Cr Loi Truong	Mayor of the Day Cr Angela Long Cr Sophie Tan
Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee	Cr Tim Dark Alternate - Cr Angela Long	Cr Angela Long
Dandenong Market Pty Ltd	Cr Tim Dark Alternate - Cr Angela Long	Cr Angela Long Alternate – Cr Tim Dark
Disability Advisory Committee	Cr Angela Long Cr Loi Truong	Cr Angela Long Cr Rhonda Garad Cr Loi Truong
Family Violence Advisory Committee	Cr Lana Formoso Cr Rhonda Garad Cr Angela Long Cr Sophie Tan Cr Loi Truong	Cr Lana Formoso Cr Eden Foster Cr Rhonda Garad Cr Richard Lim OAM Cr Angela Long Cr Jim Memeti Cr Sophie Tan
Community Partnership Funding Grants Advisory & Assessment Panel – Building Capacity Grants	Budget allocated for 2020-21 – no round expected to be held. No appointment required.	Cr Rhonda Garad

(contd on next page....)

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Councillor Representation on Committees, Community Organisations and Associations, Peak Industry Bodies and Regional Organisations - November 2021 – November 2022

Organisation	Past Councillor Representative(s) 2020-2021 19 Nov 2020 – November 2021	New Councillor Representative(s) 2021-2022 11 Nov 2021 – November 2022
Community Partnership Funding Grants Advisory & Assessment Panel – Strategic Project Grants	Budget allocated for 2020-21 – no round expected to be held. No appointment required.	Cr Rhonda Garad Cr Jim Memeti
Community Partnership Funding Grants Advisory & Assessment Panel – Sponsorships	Budget allocated for 2020-21 – no round expected to be held. No appointment required.	Cr Sophie Tan
Community Support Grants Advisory & Assessment Panel – Community Development	Cr Rhonda Garad Cr Sophie Tan	Cr Lana Formoso Cr Sophie Tan
Community Support Grants Advisory & Assessment Panel – Arts, Festivals & Events	Cr Eden Foster Cr Jim Memeti	Cr Eden Foster Cr Jim Memeti
Indian Cultural Precinct Taskforce LG Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum	Mayor of the Day Mayor of the Day Cr Lana Formoso Cr Rhonda Garad	Mayor of the Day Mayor of the Day
Mills Reserve Precinct Advisory Group (MPAG)	-	Cr Lana Formoso Cr Eden Foster Cr Angela Long Cr Jim Memeti Cr Sophie Tan
Multicultural and People Seeking Asylum Advisory Committee	Cr Eden Foster	Cr Eden Foster Cr Rhonda Garad
Noble Park Revitalisation Board Positive Ageing Advisory Committee	Mayor of the Day Cr Sophie Tan	Mayor of the Day Cr Sophie Tan Cr Loi Truong
Reconciliation Working Group South East Leisure Pty Ltd	Cr Angela Long	Cr Angela Long Cr Lana Formoso (by resolution 09/08/2021)
Springvale Community Hub Committee	Cr Richard Lim OAM Cr Loi Truong	Cr Richard Lim OAM Cr Loi Truong
Sustainability Advisory Committee	Cr Rhonda Garad Cr Sophie Tan	Cr Rhonda Garad
Taylors Road Landfill Community Reference Group #	Cr Angela Long Alternate – Cr Sean O'Reilly	Cr Angela Long Alternate – Cr Sean O'Reilly
Young Leaders	Ambassador - Cr Tim Dark Ambassador - Cr Jim Memeti Ambassador - Cr Sean O'Reilly Ambassador - Cr Sophie Tan	Ambassador – Cr Tim Dark Ambassador – Cr Lana Formoso Ambassador – Cr Eden Foster Ambassador – Cr Rhonda Garad Ambassador – Cr Richard Lim OAM Ambassador – Cr Jim Memeti Ambassador – Cr Sean O'Reilly Ambassador – Cr Sophie Tan

Councillor Representative

An essential or mandatory appointment that it is in Council's best interests to engage in, the organisation's constitution requires a Councillor Representative or a Councillor or Council representative is a requirement of Council funding.

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Councillor Representation on Committees, Community Organisations and Associations, Peak Industry Bodies and Regional Organisations - November 2021 – November 2022

Protocols

Council representatives participate as a member of these groups by representing Council's views and to inform Council of key issues related to these organisations/groups. They act as a reference point between the organisation/group and Council as a whole and provide advice to Council or the organisation/group when decisions or major policy matters are discussed.

NB: # denotes alternate councillor required when nominated councillor cannot attend a meeting.

Councillor Representation on Committees, Community Organisations and Associations, Peak Industry Bodies and Regional Organisations - November 2021 – November 2022

PEAK INDUSTRY BODIES

Organisation	Past Councillor Representative(s) 2020-2021 19 Nov 2020 – November 2021	New Councillor Representative(s) 2021-2022 11 Nov 2021 – November 2022
Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA)	Cr Sophie Tan	Cr Rhonda Garad Alternate – Cr Sophie Tan
Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)	Cr Sean O'Reilly	Cr Lana Formoso
#	Alternate - Cr Lana Formoso	Alternate - Cr Sean O'Reilly
Victorian Local Governance	Cr Lana Formoso	Cr Sophie Tan
Association (VLGA) #	Alternate – Cr Rhonda Garad	Alternate – Cr Eden Foster

REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND COMMITTEES

Organisation	Past Councillor Representative(s) 2020-2021 19 Nov 2020 – November 2021	New Councillor Representative(s) 2021-2022 11 Nov 2021 – November 2022
2020 Local Government Mayoral Advisory Panel	Appointment by Minister only	Appointment by Minister only
Alliance for Gambling Reform	Cr Lana Formoso Cr Rhonda Garad Cr Sean O'Reilly	Cr Rhonda Garad Cr Sean O'Reilly
Eastern Transport Coalition # (Name and structure likely to change)	To be advised	Cr Rhonda Garad
Greater South East Melbourne (GSEM)	Mayor of the Day	Mayor of the Day
Inter Council Aboriginal Consultative Committee (ICACC)	Cr Angela Long Alternate - Cr Lana Formoso	Cr Angela Long (ICACC may not proceed in 2022)
Local Governments'/Metropolitan	Cr Rhonda Garad	Cr Rhonda Garad
Waste Management Forum #	Alternate – Cr Jim Memeti	Alternate – Cr Jim Memeti
RoadSafe South East Inc.	Cr Lana Formoso Cr Angela Long	Cr Lana Formoso Cr Angela Long
South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA) Councillor Advisory Group	Cr Rhonda Garad	Cr Rhonda Garad
Welcoming Australia	Cr Eden Foster Cr Rhonda Garad	Cr Eden Foster Cr Rhonda Garad

Councillor Representative

An essential or mandatory appointment that it is in Council's best interests to engage in, the organisation's constitution requires a Councillor Representative or a Council representative is a requirement of Council funding.

Protocols

Council representatives participate as a member of these groups by representing Council's views and to inform Council of key issues related to these organisations/groups. They act as a reference point between the organisation/group and Council as a whole and provide advice to Council or the organisation/group when decisions or major policy matters are discussed.

NB: # denotes alternate councillor required when nominated councillor cannot attend a meeting.

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3 RECOGNITION OF FAITH LEADERS

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Responsible Officer: Manager Governance

Report Summary

The City of Greater Dandenong is known for its diversity in cultures and faith. The Interfaith Network is a leading organisation which represents a diverse range of faiths from within the City and members have attended Council meetings over many years to offer prayers at the beginning of each Council meeting.

It has been past practice for the President of the Interfaith Network to pledge its support to the new Mayor and the Greater Dandenong City Council. Tonight the Interfaith Network is represented at this meeting by its President Father Robert Stickland.

3 RECOGNITION OF FAITH LEADERS (Cont.)

Proceedings

The new Mayor will acknowledge the role of all of the faiths within our diverse community and will welcome the President of the Interfaith Network, Father Robert Stickland.

The Mayor will invite the President of the Greater Dandenong Interfaith Network, Father Robert Stickland to read the Common Statement on behalf of all faith leaders:

COMMON STATEMENT OF THE FAITH COMMUNITIES

We bring greetings from the faith communities to the Mayor, Councillors and people of Greater Dandenong.

We offer to the City of Greater Dandenong our common commitment to seek to live together in peace and goodwill.

We affirm our desire to promote respect and tolerance for the integrity of each other's beliefs, cultures and traditions. This desire arises not only from our common humanity but also from our being people of faith and people of prayer.

We recognise that as neighbours, we have responsibilities to the community, the world and ourselves. We therefore urge all citizens, both religious and non-religious, to put aside intolerance, prejudice and divisiveness, to attain peaceful and fruitful co-existence in our City.

The Mayor will accept the Common Statement on behalf of Council and make an acknowledgement as follows:

I reaffirm Council's desire to promote respect and acceptance for the integrity of all faiths, cultures and traditions of communities in the City of Greater Dandenong, in partnership with the Interfaith Network.

Thankyou to all of the faiths within the Greater Dandenong community and to all faiths within the Interfaith Network.

4 CLOSE OF MEETING