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# AGENDA OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

To be held on Tuesday 26 May 2026 at 6:00pm

**This Council Meeting will be held at Council Chamber,  
350 High Street, Preston.**

**This meeting will be a scheduled hybrid meeting, at which  
both councillors and members of the public may  
participate either in person or virtually.**

**This meeting will also be livestreamed and may be  
accessed from Councils website [www.darebin.vic.gov.au](http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au).**

Persons wishing to observe the meeting in person, submit a Question or make a Submission, are required to register by 12pm the day before the meeting.



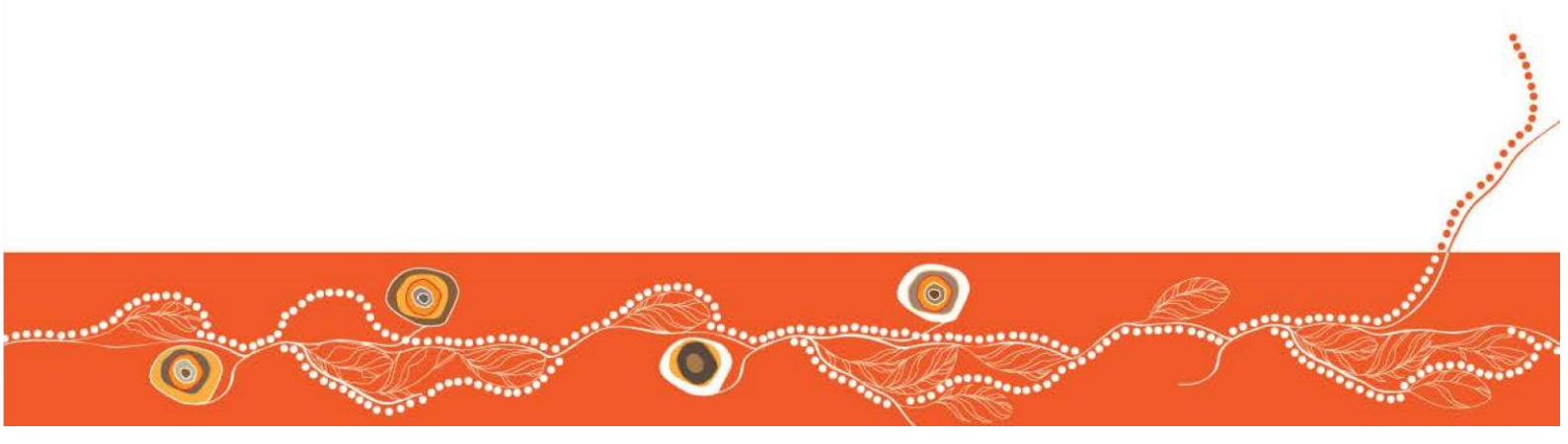
## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITIES IN DAREBIN**

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land we now call Darebin and pays respect to their Elders, past, present and future leaders.

Council pays respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Darebin.

Council recognises, and pays tribute to, the diverse culture, resilience and heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We acknowledge the leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the right to self-determination in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect.



### English

These are the Minutes for the Council Meeting. For assistance with any of the items in the minutes, please telephone 8470 8888.

### Arabic

هذه هي محاضر اجتماع المجلس. للحصول على المساعدة في أي من البنود في المحاضر، يرجى الاتصال بالهاتف 8470 8888.

### Chinese

这些是市议会会议纪要。如需协助了解任何纪要项目，请致电8470 8888。

### Greek

Αυτά είναι τα Πρακτικά της συνεδρίασης του Δημοτικού Συμβουλίου. Για βοήθεια με οποιαδήποτε θέματα στα πρακτικά, παρακαλείστε να καλέσετε το 8470 8888.

### Hindi

ये काउंसिल की बैठक का सारांश है। सारांश के किसी भी आइटम में सहायता के लिए, कृपया 8470 8888 पर टेलीफोन करें।

### Italian

Questo è il verbale della riunione del Comune. Per assistenza con qualsiasi punto del verbale, si prega di chiamare il numero 8470 8888.

### Macedonian

Ова е Записникот од состанокот на Општинскиот одбор. За помош во врска со која и да било точка од записникот, ве молиме телефонирајте на 8470 8888.

### Nepali

यी परिषद्को बैठकका माइन्युटहरू हुन्। माइन्युटका कुनै पनि वस्तुसम्बन्धी सहायताका लागि कृपया 8470 8888 मा कल गर्नुहोस्।

### Punjabi

ਇਹ ਕੌਂਸਲ ਦੀ ਮੀਟਿੰਗ ਵਾਸਤੇ ਸੰਖੇਪ ਸਾਰਾਂਸ਼ ਹੈ। ਸੰਖੇਪ ਸਾਰਾਂਸ਼ ਵਿਚਲੀਆਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਆਈਟਮਾਂ ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਵਾਸਤੇ, ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 8470 8888 ਨੂੰ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

### Somali

Kuwaani waa qodobadii lagaga wada hadlay Fadhiga Golaha. Caawimada mid kasta oo ka mid ah qodobada laga wada hadlay, fadlan la xiriiir 8470 8888.

### Spanish

Estas son las Actas de la Reunión del Concejo. Para recibir ayuda acerca de algún tema de las actas, llame al teléfono 8470 8888.

### Urdu

یہ کاؤنسل کی میٹنگ کا ایجنڈا ہے۔ ایجنڈے کے کسی بھی حصے کے بارے میں مدد کے لیے براہ مہربانی 8470 8888 پر فون کریں۔

### Vietnamese

Đây là những Biên bản Họp Hội đồng Thành phố. Muốn có người trợ giúp mình về bất kỳ mục nào trong biên bản họp, xin quý vị gọi điện thoại số 8470 8888.

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# Agenda

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## 1. OPENING OF MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP

Cr. Emily Dimitriadis (Mayor)  
Cr. Matt Arturi (Deputy Mayor)  
Cr. Connie Boglis OAM  
Cr. Ruth Jelley  
Cr. Julie O'Brien  
Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM  
Cr. Alexandra Sangster  
Cr. Vasilios Tsalkos  
Cr. Angela Villella

## 2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

## 3. APOLOGIES

## 4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

## 5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

<b>Recommendation</b>
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**That** the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 28 April 2026 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

## 6. COUNCIL'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES

## 7. QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME

Members of the public can lodge questions for Council to answer or make a Comment or Submission prior to a specific item listed on the Agenda of an Ordinary Council meeting.

### **QUESTIONS**

Members of the public wishing to ask questions at an Ordinary Council meeting must submit their question(s) before 12 noon on the day before the meeting. Up to three (3) questions may be submitted.

Questions not lodged by 12 noon on the day before the Council Meeting will not be accepted, and **no questions will be taken from the floor on the night of the Council Meeting.**

In accordance with the Council Governance Rules 2020, the Chairperson may disallow a question if it:

- a) relates to a matter outside the duties, functions or powers of Council;
- b) is defamatory, indecent, abusive, offensive, irrelevant, trivial or objectionable in language or substance;
- c) may lead to a breach of Council's statutory obligations;
- d) relates to a Notice of Motion, Petition or item of Urgent Business;
- e) deals with a subject matter already answered;
- f) is aimed at embarrassing a Councillor or an Officer; or
- g) deals with a matter that should be, or has been, considered as a confidential matter or relates to any matter in respect of which Council may close the Meeting to the public under section 66 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

No questions directed at an individual Councillor or Officer will be allowed.

### **SUBMISSIONS**

Members of the public wishing to make a 2-minute submission on a report listed on the Agenda (unless not permitted pursuant to the Councils Governance Rules) must register online before 12 noon on the day before the Ordinary Council Meeting and be in attendance (either in person or virtually) on the day of the Meeting to make their submission.

The person making the submission must clearly state their name and their suburb. The name of the submitter will be recorded in the Minutes, as an official record.

No member of the public can make a submission to a Notice of Motion, Petition (unless originator of petition or item of Urgent Business presented at a Council meeting).

**HOW TO REGISTER TO ATTEND THE MEETING, SUBMIT YOUR QUESTION OR MAKE A SUBMISSION**

Members of the public who wish to observe the meeting in person, ask a question, or make a submission to an agenda item, at an Ordinary Council Meeting are required to register by 12pm the day before the meeting in one of the following ways:

- (a) online at [darebin.vic.gov.au](http://darebin.vic.gov.au);
- (b) by calling the customer service team on 8470 8888, or
- (c) by mail to PO Box 91, Preston 3072

Council meetings can be viewed at the 'Watch Council and Planning Committee' meetings page via Council's website.

Agenda's will be available for viewing on Council's website at the 'Meeting Agendas and Minutes' page up to 6 days prior to the date of the meeting.

**8. PETITIONS**

## 9. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

### 9.1 NORTHCOTE TENNIS COURTS LICENSE AGREEMENT

**Author:** Senior Coordinator Recreation & Leisure  
Manager Recreation & Libraries

**Reviewed By:** Chief Executive Officer

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#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Officers have exclusively negotiated with Northcote Tennis Academy (NTA) to understand their proposed license/lease terms at the Northcote tennis courts following Council's Resolution in May 2025 to remove the site from the Property Expression of Interest process.

In alignment with Council's *Sporting Fees, Charges and Occupancy Agreement Policy* (2024) (**Appendix A**), NTA were assessed as a commercial business with community benefit (Category 2). This means the basis for the rental calculation is market rental with no discount.

A market rent assessment was sought (Confidential **Appendix B**). Council's proposed licence agreement terms are outlined in Confidential **Appendix C**.

NTA submitted three alternative proposals for consideration, offering financial returns well below market rent for dedicated bookings during peak periods ranging from 92 hours per week to 168 hours per week. Officers reviewed these proposals in line with Council's policy and communicated the relevant fee requirements. NTA has not agreed to terms aligned with Council's policy.

<b>Officer Recommendation</b>
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**That** Council:

- (1) Notes the Northcote Tennis Academy is a commercial business offering tennis coaching services.
  - (2) Notes the community benefit provided by Northcote Tennis Academy in promoting tennis to encourage health and wellbeing in the Northcote community.
  - (3) Approves the licence agreement terms and fees for Northcote Tennis Academy at the Northcote tennis courts, set as market rent in alignment with Council's *Sporting Fees, Charges and Occupancy Agreement Policy* as outlined in Confidential **Appendix C**.
  - (4) Endorses an open market expression of interest campaign seeking interested parties to lease/licence, manage/operate and/or invest in the Northcote tennis courts, should Northcote Tennis Academy decline Council's licence agreement terms and fees offer.
- 

#### BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION

##### Current agreement and court management

Prior to redevelopment of Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre (NARC), the six Northcote tennis courts were managed by YMCA under their NARC management contract.

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When YMCA's NARC contract ceased, management of these tennis courts reverted to Council.

NTA is a commercial tennis coaching services business operated by a sole trader. The business became a Northcote tennis court tenant in 2021 under an annual licence agreement, renewed annually until June 2024-25.

When the license agreement was established with NTA in 2021 through YMCA, the annual licence fee (for Courts 1-4 allocations for 138 hours across 6 days per week) was not set in line with Council's policy. The current fee structure (\$1.20 per court per hour) is significantly less than Council's policy as an annual licence agreement and when compared to casual court hire rates.

The full list of NTA's fees can be found at: [www.northcotetennis.com.au/fees](http://www.northcotetennis.com.au/fees). For context, adult group classes are charged at \$33 per hour per person, adult one-on-one private tennis coaching is charged at \$98 per hour and private groups of 3-4 players are charged \$40 per hour per player. Junior pricing ranges from \$23.50 per student for a 30-minute class up to \$30 per student for a 60-minute class.

Since 1 July 2025, the licence agreement has been in overholding under the same terms and conditions.

Northcote tennis courts are bookable by the public through an online court booking system, with casual court hire bookings \$20-25 per hour. Council currently generates revenue from casual court bookings, in addition to the annual license fee from NTA.

Council is responsible for cleaning, repairs and maintenance of the courts and surrounds, including provision of lighting. Council's annual operating costs for the site, which includes booking software licence fees, is approximately \$26K per year. These costs do not include capital asset renewal costs, noting the courts are 10-12 years old and will need to be resurfaced prior to end-of-asset-life.

### **License agreement proposals (first and second)**

NTA's initial proposal was for a management and operations model for the site, which was not aligned with Council's resolution, nor Council's *Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy* or the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic).

Officers considered the proposal and sought a commercial valuation (in line with the *Sporting Fees, Charges and Occupancy Agreement Policy* (2024)) to assess relevant components of that proposal. In September 2025, officers met with NTA to discuss and provide advice on options and opportunities going forward.

Following that meeting, NTA submitted a second proposal for exclusive access to six tennis courts for 168 hours per week during peak times, which meant an increase of 30 hours per week and two additional courts. NTA proposed to increase their annual license fee, however it remained significantly less than the initial market valuation.

The valuer undertook a second market valuation for Council using this new proposal. The valuation includes recognition of the loss of general community access and lost revenue to Council during those peak times through casual court bookings.

Based on the updated market rent valuation (Confidential **Appendix B**) and consultation with NTA, officers proposed a new license agreement. The proposed licence agreement terms and fees were as follows:

- Tenure: 3-year licence agreement (commencing 1 July 2026, review at end of term)

- Annual Licence Fee: Market rent plus electricity contribution with a deduction for provision of toilets and storage.
- 168 hours weekly court allocation:
  - Mon–Fri: Courts 1–4 (3–8:30pm), Courts 5–6 (5–7pm)
  - Sat: Courts 1–4 (8am–3pm), Courts 5–6 (8am–1pm)
  - Outside these times, courts remain available for public use/bookings
- Maintenance obligations:
  - Continue to be Council’s responsibility as per current agreement
  - NTA would maintain their toilet and office/storage container assets

### **Licence agreement proposal (third)**

Officers met with NTA in February 2026 to explore a staged transition over several years to the proposed market rent licence fee, this was declined by NTA.

In February 2026, NTA submitted a third alternative proposal for fewer hours (between 92-118.5 hours per week) for a five-year term commencing 2026-27, plus the electricity contribution – this proposal remained significantly less than the market valuation. As part of this proposal, NTA withdrew their provision of public toilet and storage facilities.

Officers researched and considered this proposal and identified a broad range of approaches and pricing across the sector for coaching and competitions, with significantly higher rates than proposed. These higher rates are aligned with Council’s current policy and contribute more fulsomely to asset maintenance and renewal.

Generally, there are three models for tennis court management:

- Tennis club management via a lease or licence – clubs rely on a membership model, supplemented by public court bookings; coaching offered to encourage participation and conversion to membership.
- Council-managed facilities – public court bookings.
- Commercial operator managed facilities – public court bookings, coaching and competition, sometimes supplemented by food and beverage and merchandise offerings.

### **Previous Council Resolution**

At its meeting held on 26 May 2025, Council resolved:

*‘That Council:*

- (b) Removes from the EOI process the Northcote Tennis Courts at 180 Victoria Road Northcote since there has been a licence in place for over 5 years with a commercial operator, and priority should be given to the current commercial operator to enter into a longer licence/lease term.’*

### **ALIGNMENT TO 2041 DAREBIN COMMUNITY VISION**

Pillar 1: Vibrant, Healthy and Connected

### **ALIGNMENT TO OUR DAREBIN PLAN 2025-29**

Strategic Direction 3: Health and Wellbeing - A City where everyone in the community can access the opportunities, infrastructure and services they need to be physically and mentally safe and healthy.

## DISCUSSION

Officers recommend Councillors endorse the current offer proposed to NTA in alignment with Council's *Sporting Fees, Charges and Occupancy Agreement Policy (2024)* and the market rent valuation. While officers recognise this fee is significantly higher than current fees, different payment arrangements have been considered to support NTA's cashflow requirements e.g. half-yearly or quarterly payments, instead of an annual lump sum.

See **Appendix C** for Proposed Fees (commercial-in-confidence).

The proposed per court per hour fee (based on the previous market rent assessment) is a significant discount when compared with casual booking fees of \$20-25 per hour.

## CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (2020) PRINCIPLES

### Financial Management

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic), Council must ensure any licence arrangement:

- Promotes the best outcomes for the municipal community (s.9(2)(b));
- Ensures transparency and accountability in decision-making (s.9(2)(g)); and
- Demonstrates sound financial management and stewardship of public assets (s.101).

Council officers have a fiduciary and moral responsibility to advise Council accurately while also recognising that NTA operates as a business and requires financial sustainability and site certainty.

### Community Engagement

As per the Council Resolution in May 2025, officers have been exclusively negotiating with NTA to understand their proposed license/lease terms at the site.

### Other Principles for consideration

#### Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Principles

- (b) priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;
- (i) the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.
- (g) the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured;

#### Public Transparency Principles

- (a) Council decision making processes must be transparent except when the Council is dealing with information that is confidential by virtue of this Act or any other Act;

#### Strategic Planning Principles

- (c) Strategic planning must take into account the resources needed for effective implementation;

**Service Performance Principles**

(c) quality and costs standards for services set by the Council should provide good value to the municipal community;

**COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS****Equity, Inclusion, Wellbeing and Human Rights Considerations:**

The Market Rent Valuation (Confidential **Appendix B**) takes into consideration the loss of general community access to the Northcote tennis courts under NTA's proposed hours of use during peak times.

**IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS**

Pending Council's decision, officers will communicate outcomes to relevant parties and prepare any relevant documentation to action Council's Resolution.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Nil.

**Attachments**

- Sporting Fees, Charges and Occupancy Agreement Policy (2024) (**Appendix A**) [↓](#)
- Market Valuation of Northcote Tennis Courts for Coaching Services (**Appendix B**)  
Confidential - enclosed under separate cover
- Commercial-in-Confidence Content relating to Northcote tennis courts (**Appendix C**)  
Confidential - enclosed under separate cover

**DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.



# Sporting Fees, Charges and Occupancy Agreement Policy

Adopted 2024

<b>Policy Owner/ Sponsor</b>	Manager Recreation and Libraries   General Manager Community
<b>Date Effective</b>	1 September 2024
<b>Next Review</b>	2025
<b>Version Number and Document ID</b>	V6 (A7668853)



Section 1	Introduction
<p><b>Purpose</b></p>	<p>The <i>Sporting Fees, Charges and Occupancy Agreement Policy</i> (Policy) seeks to encourage and support participation, access and use of Darebin's community sports infrastructure and contributes to building a stronger, healthier and happier community where everyone is welcome, valued and respected.</p> <p>Council's <i>Towards Equality Framework</i> strengthens this Policy to support people and groups who experience discrimination and disadvantage, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, children, older people, culturally and linguistically diverse people, migrants and refugees, women and girls, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) people, people with a disability, young people and people experiencing poverty, including intergenerational disadvantage.</p> <p>This Policy aims to deliver a clear, consistent, transparent and equitable approach to allocating and charging applicable fees for the use of community sports fields, pavilions and facilities in the City of Darebin.</p>
<p><b>Scope</b></p>	<p>This Policy applies to the allocation and related occupancy agreements, fees and charges of Council's sports fields, pavilions and facilities.</p> <p>The Policy's Performance Subsidy Program and allocation criteria supports Council to take positive action through tenant clubs and organisations to achieve equitable and inclusive access and participation, leadership and governance roles regardless of age, background or ability.</p>
<p><b>Objectives</b></p>	<p>Council resolved this Policy for fees, charges and occupancy agreements for Council-owned sporting and recreational venues based on the following broad objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide greater transparency and correspondence between the fees that are levied and the venue facilities provided.</li> <li>• To provide incentives for sporting clubs to achieve increased participation focused on social inclusion and gender equity, good governance and financial sustainability targets.</li> <li>• To balance the need for sustainable and equitable revenue collection with incentives to achieve participation targets.</li> <li>• To encourage shared use of sporting infrastructure by other community groups.</li> <li>• To reflect the organisation's capacity to generate revenue, and make sustainable payments for venue access, and to encourage capital co-contributions.</li> </ul> <p>To achieve these objectives, this Policy was developed and is based on the size and quality of the venue provided and incorporates performance subsidies targeting increased social inclusion and participation by people and groups who experience discrimination and disadvantage, while rewarding good governance and financial sustainability.</p>
<p><b>Background</b></p>	<p>Participation in sport and recreation has a number of benefits which address Council's Health and Wellbeing Priorities including the impacts of sedentary lifestyle and physical health, mental health and wellbeing, loneliness and social isolation, and community safety.</p> <p>Darebin City Council caters to a wide range of sports and currently maintains a diverse portfolio of outdoor sporting venues.</p>



Section 1	Introduction
	<p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 29 outdoor sporting reserves servicing outdoor sports such as cricket, Australian rules football, soccer and rugby.</li> <li>• 2 lawn bowling facilities.</li> <li>• 1 outdoor asphalt track cycling velodrome.</li> <li>• 8 tennis facilities comprising 41 separate courts.</li> <li>• 1 six-lane athletic track with provision for jumps, javelin and shot-put field events.</li> <li>• 1 baseball facility with one hard surface and one turf diamond.</li> <li>• 1 hockey facility with synthetic pitch.</li> <li>• 7 outdoor netball courts.</li> </ul> <p>The Policy sets out the fees applicable for the hire of all sports and leisure facilities, pavilions and ovals within the City of Darebin.</p> <p>The sports ground fee structure used for this policy assumes the recovery of a percentage (approximately 15%) of the maintenance costs for the reserve.</p> <p>A suite of occupancy agreements have been created to meet the needs of user groups while providing Council with a level of monitoring and control with respect to user performance and community access.</p>

Section 2	Policy Statements
<p><b>Casual Bookings &amp; Occupancy Agreements</b></p>	<p>Casual use agreements and allocations allow persons or organisations to use parkland, buildings and sporting facilities for a one-off or limited number of daily usages.</p> <p><b>Casual access eligibility criteria</b></p> <p>To be eligible for a casual occupancy agreement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicant must be an incorporated body with an appropriate level of public liability insurance.</li> <li>• Access must be for the purposes of sport and recreation or other use deemed appropriate by Council.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key access conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access between 9am and 4pm unless otherwise approved in writing by an appropriate Council officer.</li> <li>• Access to grounds will be subject to ground condition, relevant ground usage caps and availability.</li> <li>• Access to the playing surface and public toilets only.</li> <li>• No access to change rooms and amenities unless negotiated with an appropriate Council officer and the tenant club.</li> <li>• Approved casual access will also be subject to Sporting Reserves Conditions of Use Casual Ground Hire.</li> </ul> <p><b>Fees for casual access</b></p> <p>Casual access fees are based on the following bookable venue types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turf ovals or pitches – Neighbourhood, Local, District or Regional.</li> <li>• Athletics track at Edwardes Lake Park, Reservoir.</li> <li>• Hockey pitch at KP Hardiman Reserve, Kingsbury.</li> <li>• Outdoor netball courts at JE Moore Park, Merri Park.</li> <li>• Tennis courts at McDonnell Park, Northcote.</li> </ul>



Section 2	Policy Statements
	<p>Fee structures are determined by hiring organisation type:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community group, club or organisation.</li> <li>• Commercial or elite organisations or clubs.</li> <li>• Local schools – no charge.</li> </ul> <p>It should be noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Synthetic surface charges reflect the higher replacement and maintenance costs associated with the venues and are in line with similar fees charged by other Councils.</li> <li>• Fees are reviewed and set annually as part of Council's budget process and published on Council's website.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Seasonal Occupancy Agreements</b></p>	<p>Seasonal agreements allow persons or organisations to use parkland, buildings and sporting facilities for the duration of a winter and/or summer season of competition over a period of six to twelve months. Seasonal changeover occurs annually in March (summer to winter) and September (winter to summer).</p> <p>The seasonal agreement is the preferred base arrangement for sporting club access to facilities in Darebin, with conditions outlined in Darebin's Club Kit.</p> <p><b>Seasonal access eligibility criteria</b></p> <p>To be eligible for a seasonal occupancy agreement allocation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicant must be an incorporated body with an appropriate level of public liability insurance.</li> <li>• Applicant's previous utilisation of facilities must have conformed to Council's behavioural, maintenance, waste and litter management expectations, strategic priorities including fair access and Club Kit Conditions of Use.</li> <li>• Applicant must have no unpaid user charges. This includes utilities, ground fees and overdue capital co-contributions.</li> <li>• Applicant must be registered with and play within a competition run or sanctioned by the relevant State Sporting Association (SSA).</li> <li>• Applications by deliverers of junior development or starter programs (e.g. AFL Auskick, Cricket Blast, Soccer Mini Roos) may be submitted and processed under the umbrella of an affiliate tenant club.</li> </ul> <p><b>Priority for allocation of seasonal access agreements</b></p> <p>Where there is a competing demand for access to a particular sporting facility, allocation will be determined by a panel of Council officers convened by the Senior Coordinator Recreation and Leisure.</p> <p>Allocation will be guided by the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of participants residing in Darebin. This criterion will attract a weighting of 35%.</li> <li>• Demonstrated inclusive practice and increasing participation of under-represented target groups from Council's Towards Equality Framework. This criterion will attract a weighting of 50%.</li> <li>• Capital contributions made to developing and improving the facility within the past four seasons. This criterion will attract a weighting of 15%.</li> <li>• Not-for-profit community groups will be given priority of access over any commercial applicants.</li> </ul> <p>Ground allocations encourage sharing resources, space and/or times of use where the demand for facilities is strong.</p>



Section 2	Policy Statements
	<p><b>Fees for seasonal access</b></p> <p>The fee structure for seasonal access is based on three components – a pavilion access charge plus a ground charge that forms the base fee. The base fee may be reduced by a performance subsidy component. The diagram below demonstrates how seasonal fees are calculated.</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;"> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;"> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">Pavilion access charge</span> <span style="font-size: 1.5em; margin: 0 10px;">+</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">Ground charge</span> <span style="font-size: 1.5em; margin: 0 10px;">-</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">Performance subsidy</span> <span style="font-size: 1.5em; margin: 0 10px;">=</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">Total fee</span> </p> </div> <p><b>Pavilion access charge</b></p> <p>The pavilion access charge establishes a link between the fees paid by the user group and the quality, amenities and size of the pavilion.</p> <p>A figure of 0.15 per cent of the building’s insurable value has been calculated to retain revenue recoup of approximately 15 per cent of maintenance. Larger, better-appointed facilities record a higher value and, therefore, attract a higher pavilion access charge.</p> <p>User groups accessing sporting pavilions on a seasonal basis will pay 50 per cent of the annual pavilion access charge where access is limited to a summer or winter season.</p> <p>To further encourage sharing of pavilion facilities, the pavilion access charge will be apportioned between sharing parties where pavilion facilities are co-tenanted in the same season. Apportionment will be based on the number of user groups using the facility simultaneously.</p> <p>The insurable value of Council owned buildings is reviewed annually by Council officers.</p> <p><b>Ground charge</b></p> <p>Ground charges reflect the amenity, service level and support infrastructure at each category level of the reserve hierarchy. All grounds in the City of Darebin have been assigned a ground rating and respective fee by Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional</li> <li>• District</li> <li>• Local</li> <li>• Neighbourhood</li> </ul> <p>For each ground rating, there are four fee types based on the number of tenants sharing the use of the ground and/or facility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sole use – 100% of the fee.</li> <li>• Shared use – 75% of sole use fee.</li> <li>• Additional oval sole use – 50% of sole use fee.</li> <li>• Additional oval shared use – 38% of sole use fee.</li> </ul> <p>It should be noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fees are reviewed and set annually as part of Council’s budget process and published on Council’s website.</li> <li>• Council may re-classify grounds to Regional Level and levy the associated ground fees where facilities are required to be prepared to premier or state-level competition standards – i.e. National Premier League (NPL), Victorian Football League (VFL) and Victorian Premier Cricket (VPC).</li> </ul>



Section 2	Policy Statements															
<p><b>Performance Subsidies</b></p>	<p>Upon clubs meeting specific performance requirements, they become eligible for performance subsidies. The level of performance subsidy applicable is based on the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Women and girls' participation</li> <li>2. Inclusive participation</li> <li>3. Participation</li> <li>4. Women's committee and capacity building</li> <li>5. Club Governance</li> <li>6. Council Engagement</li> <li>7. Community Engagement</li> </ol> <p><b>Sporting fee performance subsidy application process</b></p> <p>Tenant clubs will be annually assessed for performance subsidies based on the criteria. Clubs will be required to complete an online sporting fee performance subsidy application form by the specified due date to determine the performance subsidy applicable for each season.</p> <p>Council officers will assess and score club performance against the criteria to determine the subsidy level (discount) and fees payable for a season.</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Late applications will not be accepted, unless an extension has been granted by Council officers.</li> <li>• Evidence must be provided where required.</li> <li>• All membership/participation data must relate to the current playing season.</li> <li>• Any activities recorded must have been undertaken in the past 12 months.</li> <li>• Council officers maintain the final right of authority in determining the subsidy level (discount) and fees due.</li> </ul> <p><b>Scoring</b></p> <p>Based on the assessment criteria, tenant clubs will receive a total score, and the level of performance subsidy for which the group may be eligible will depend on the number of points gained. The levels of performance subsidy discount are shown below:</p> <p><b>Levels of fee subsidies</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Level</th> <th>Score</th> <th>Fee subsidy</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Gold</td> <td>85+</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Silver</td> <td>70-84</td> <td>25%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bronze</td> <td>55-69</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No subsidy</td> <td>0-54</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Eligibility for subsidies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community sporting clubs with seasonal, licence or lease sporting occupancy agreements with Council are eligible.</li> <li>• Only not-for-profit community sporting clubs are eligible to apply for, and receive, performance subsidies.</li> </ul>	Level	Score	Fee subsidy	Gold	85+	50%	Silver	70-84	25%	Bronze	55-69	10%	No subsidy	0-54	0%
Level	Score	Fee subsidy														
Gold	85+	50%														
Silver	70-84	25%														
Bronze	55-69	10%														
No subsidy	0-54	0%														
<p><b>License Agreements</b></p>	<p>A licence is a form of permission to enter and use land or a facility for an agreed purpose for a stated period. The licensee does not have exclusive use of the facility, allowing Council to allocate to other user groups at different times and for access by the general public.</p>															



Section 2	Policy Statements										
	<p><b>Licence Agreement access eligibility criteria:</b></p> <p>A licence will be the preferred arrangement where user groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have an exemplary access history over at least five seasons, including gender inclusive equitable access and inclusive participation outcomes.</li> <li>• Wish to secure a longer period of tenancy in exchange for a partnership program or capital contribution to develop a facility. Capital contributions made by the club towards a project must be paid in full before the commencement of the project.</li> <li>• Demonstrate financial resources to ensure continued operational viability and sustainability.</li> <li>• Not-for-profit community groups will be given priority of access over any commercial applicants.</li> </ul> <p><b>Length of tenure</b></p> <p>License agreements will be for a standard period of three years, with options to extend for a further one or two periods of three years (3 + 3 or 3 + 3 + 3). This will depend on the duration of the partnership program and/or the extent of capital contribution.</p> <p>The following contribution threshold will be used to determine the length of tenure for longer-term license agreements:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Capital contribution</th> <th>Length of agreements</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>&lt;\$10,000</td> <td>Season</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$10,000 - &lt;\$50,000</td> <td>Three years</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$50,000 - \$100,00</td> <td>Six years</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over \$100,000</td> <td>Nine years</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Where clubs negotiate longer-term agreements based on participation partnership programs, the tenure of the agreement would match the expected duration of the participation program.</p> <p><b>Fees for licensed access</b></p> <p>Fees for licenced access to sporting facilities are calculated as per seasonal access above.</p> <p>Fees are reviewed and set annually as part of Council’s budget process and published on Council’s website.</p> <p><b>Maintenance obligations for tennis and sporting club tenants of tennis courts and synthetic playing surfaces</b></p> <p>Tennis or sporting club tenants of tennis or synthetic playing surfaces have specific maintenance and capital infrastructure obligations, in some cases in partnership with Council.</p> <p>The tenant club and Council have specific obligations to maintain, repair or renew assets such as court/synthetic surfaces, sports lighting, fencing and gates. These are to be clearly outlined in the respective License Agreement with Council.</p>	Capital contribution	Length of agreements	<\$10,000	Season	\$10,000 - <\$50,000	Three years	\$50,000 - \$100,00	Six years	Over \$100,000	Nine years
Capital contribution	Length of agreements										
<\$10,000	Season										
\$10,000 - <\$50,000	Three years										
\$50,000 - \$100,00	Six years										
Over \$100,000	Nine years										
<p><b>Lease Agreements</b></p>	<p>A Lease is a contract under which a tenant (or lessee) is granted exclusive possession of property for an agreed period in return for rental fees.</p> <p>Leases will be restricted to a relatively small number of venues where single users, such as bowls clubs, have exclusive use or management responsibilities for the entire year.</p>										



Section 2	Policy Statements
	<p>Leases are subject to relevant laws and regulations, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> legislates restrictions on the maximum duration of leases and specifies advertising requirements for leases of 10 years or more and for properties with rental fee value of more than \$100,000 per annum.</li> <li>• The <i>Retail Leases Act 2003</i> controls leases for premises that are used wholly or predominantly for retail goods and services.</li> </ul> <p><b>Lease agreement access criteria</b></p> <p>Eligibility for the granting of lease agreements will be determined by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where the facility is occupied by one user group exclusively.</li> <li>• That the organisation is a legal entity registered under appropriate legislation such as the Associations Incorporations Act 2012.</li> <li>• That the organisation has an Australian Business Number (ABN).</li> <li>• That the organisation is financially viable, with annual financial statements provided to Council, audited according to relevant legislative requirements.</li> <li>• That the organisation complies with relevant legislation governing its activities and holds any licenses or registration certificates required for continued operation.</li> <li>• That the organisation has a committee or team of management and appropriate governance arrangements with established accountability and reporting methods to the Council, its members and/or the community.</li> <li>• That the organisation has a business plan for the period of the lease detailing current and projected access hours, participation and memberships, social inclusion and gender equity initiatives, revenue and expenditure forecasts.</li> <li>• That there are reasonable grounds to believe a need or demand exists for the service or activity to be provided.</li> <li>• That the facility use is consistent with Council's vision, mission and goals as stated in the Council Plan.</li> <li>• That the service or activity can be accessed by groups targeted in Council's <i>Towards Equality Framework</i>, with strategies in place to review and remove barriers to participation.</li> <li>• That the proposed use of the facility is suitable for the nature and location of the site.</li> </ul> <p><b>Length of tenure</b></p> <p>Length of tenure will be negotiated taking into account the particular circumstances of the facility and tenant, including capital investment and long-term planning, and the intended use of the facility in line with the vision and goals of the Council Plan and Leisure Strategy. Length of tenure will be guided by the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The preferred lease term will be five years. Terms longer than five years may be offered where a prospective tenant invests or has invested significantly in a fixed asset (such as a building or playing surface) and/or assumes a portion of maintenance of the asset. The term offered will be calculated with reference to the projected asset life and the capital contribution by the tenant.</li> <li>• Options to extend will be broken into periods of no longer than five years, with options for the tenant to review on the same terms and conditions dependent on meeting community benefit criteria and continued demand for the activity and service.</li> <li>• Terms up to ten years or longer may be offered for categories of tenants who do not meet these criteria but are identified by the Council from time-to-time as requiring long-term planning certainty.</li> </ul>



Section 2	Policy Statements												
	<p><b>Fees for lease access</b></p> <p>The rental fees for lease access will be calculated as per the following table.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #1a4d4d; color: white;">Category</th> <th style="background-color: #1a4d4d; color: white;">Users type</th> <th style="background-color: #1a4d4d; color: white;">Basis for rental calculation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Category 1</td> <td>Lease for commercial purposes only – no community benefit</td> <td>Market rental plus 50% for loss of community benefit</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Category 2</td> <td>Lease for commercial purposes with community benefit</td> <td>Market rental – no discount</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Category 3</td> <td>Lease for non-profit community use</td> <td>As per Seasonal and Licence Agreements</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Users type	Basis for rental calculation	Category 1	Lease for commercial purposes only – no community benefit	Market rental plus 50% for loss of community benefit	Category 2	Lease for commercial purposes with community benefit	Market rental – no discount	Category 3	Lease for non-profit community use	As per Seasonal and Licence Agreements
Category	Users type	Basis for rental calculation											
Category 1	Lease for commercial purposes only – no community benefit	Market rental plus 50% for loss of community benefit											
Category 2	Lease for commercial purposes with community benefit	Market rental – no discount											
Category 3	Lease for non-profit community use	As per Seasonal and Licence Agreements											
<b>Miscellaneous Charges</b>	<p><b>Utility charges</b></p> <p>All tenant clubs will continue to be responsible for the payment of utilities in accordance with the occupancy agreement terms and conditions.</p> <p><b>Security bonds</b></p> <p>A key security bond of \$50 will be payable for casual users wishing to be issued a key to public toilets attached to pavilions, repayable on the return of keys.</p> <p>A security bond of \$400 per season will be payable by seasonal and licence agreement holders as an incentive for user groups to maintain venues in good order. The bond will be repaid at the completion of the season following the return of all keys, an inspection of the venue and a review of the club’s record of behaviour.</p> <p>Where a security bond is revoked due to behavioural issues, non-return of keys or unsatisfactory cleaning or maintenance, the bond will be increased by \$100 in the following season. Clubs with a continual poor record may be denied a ground allocation in the following season.</p>												



Governance	
<b>Parent Strategy/ Plan</b>	Leisure Strategy
<b>Related Documents</b>	<p>This Policy complements other key Council strategic documents for the delivery of sport and recreational opportunities across the municipality. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Leisure Strategy</i></li> <li>• <i>Outdoor Sports Infrastructure Framework</i></li> <li>• <i>Council Plan</i> including Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan</li> <li>• <i>Breathing Space – The Darebin Open Space Strategy</i></li> <li>• <i>Toward Equality Framework</i></li> </ul>
<b>Supporting Procedures and Guidelines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Club Kit: A guide for sports clubs in Darebin</i> for operational procedures and processes relating to sporting allocations and agreements, fees and charges.</li> </ul>
<b>Legislation/ Regulation</b>	<p>This Policy enables integration of relevant requirements of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Local Government Act 2020</i></li> <li>• <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i></li> <li>• <i>Retail Leases Act 2003</i></li> <li>• <i>Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008</i></li> <li>• Tenants are legal entities registered under appropriate legislation such as the <i>Associations Incorporations Act 2012</i></li> <li>• and other relevant legislative frameworks.</li> </ul>



Addendum: 2024-25 Action Plan				
Actions	Fair Access principle/s	Timeframe	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Responsibility, Stakeholder/s
<p><b>Sports Club Education:</b></p> <p>Educate and communicate to sports clubs Fair Access principles, gender equity challenges in sport, and practical examples of implementation of change.</p>	3, 5	2024-25	<p>Deliver 1 workshop on Fair Access Policy Roadmap and gender equity in community sport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>90% of Darebin tenant sports clubs attend</li> <li>5+ of Darebin non-tenant sports clubs attend</li> <li>3+ relevant articles in The Leisure Review</li> <li>1+ relevant item on Darebin webpage</li> </ul>	<p>Recreation Development Officer</p> <p>All sports clubs in Darebin</p>
<p><b>Sports Club Gender Action Plans:</b></p> <p>Each sports club supported to develop a Gender Action Plan to support women and girls participation as an outcome from sport club development workshops</p>	5, 6	2024-25	<p>Each (65) tenant club with a seasonal, license or lease agreement provided support to undertake and submit a gender impact assessment as part of their allocation or performance subsidy application.</p> <p>At least 40% of tenant clubs develop a gender action plan and submit via IMS by June 2025.</p>	<p>Recreation Development Officer</p> <p>Tenant sporting clubs</p>
<p><b>Capacity Building Partnerships:</b></p> <p>Initiate partnerships with leagues and SSAs to support and educate clubs on gender inclusivity, connect to training/accreditation and leadership courses/programs.</p>	5	2024-25	<p>Initiate partnership discussions with Football Victoria, AFL, Cricket Victoria, Tennis Victoria, Proud to Play, VicSport.</p> <p>Identify and promote 3+ women's training and leadership programs to sports clubs if available.</p>	<p>Recreation Development Officer</p> <p>State Sporting Associations, local leagues and industry bodies.</p>
<p><b>Champions of Change:</b></p> <p>Highlight success stories in gender equity in sport through social media and The Leisure Review.</p>	4	2024-25	<p>Create and publish at least 4 articles and/or videos by June 2025.</p>	<p>Recreation Development Officer</p> <p>Sports clubs</p>
<p><b>Supporting Increased Participation:</b></p> <p>Support sport clubs to deliver gender inclusive participation, good governance, and safe and welcoming environments.</p>	1, 3	2024-25	<p>Partner with or develop 1+ campaigns, event or activation to encourage increased participation</p> <p>4+ sports club driven programs in Get Active in Darebin to target women and girls' sport.</p>	<p>Recreation Development Officer</p> <p>Participation and Inclusion Officer</p> <p>Sports clubs</p>

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**9.2 DAREBIN NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE FUNDING AND LEASE AGREEMENTS**

**Author:** Coordinator Community Inclusion

**Reviewed By:** Chief Executive Officer

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council's Funding Agreements and Lease Agreements with Darebin's Neighbourhood Houses (NHs), are due to expire on 30 June 2026.

This report outlines Council's proposed approach to renewing the Darebin NHs Funding and Lease Agreements beyond that date.

The Darebin NHs operate within an increasingly competitive funding environment, where securing resources remains a significant challenge. Each NH is affiliated with Neighbourhood House Victoria and receives State Government funding through the Department of Health and Human Services' Neighbourhood House Coordination Program (NHCP). This funding varies across the sector with Houses receiving between 10 and 40 hours per week for a NH Coordinator role, at an average of \$130,000 per House per annum. NHs however rely heavily on additional funding including through Council, short-term grants, project based funding, and philanthropic contributions to maintain essential programs.

Darebin NHs have had funding from Council under several different models since 2004 (Appendix A). The current longer-term Funding Agreement model (5 years + 3 years) was developed in 2018 to support stability in operational planning, resource management and service continuity for the community, ensuring funds are administered effectively and aligned with Council's strategic objectives.

Officers have identified the need to strengthen transparency of funding arrangements, service performance, funding model approaches and processes. This includes benchmarking against other councils, reviewing service levels, geographic coverage, and clarifying how Council's contribution can best complement other funding sources such as the State Government's Neighbourhood House Coordination Program (NHCP).

Given the short timeframe, it is recommended that Council renew the Funding Agreements and Lease Agreements to ensure service continuity for partner agencies and the community, many of whom are vulnerable, while allowing sufficient time to undertake this review.

<b>Officer Recommendation</b>
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**That Council:**

- (1) Approves a 4-year Funding Agreement in line with existing funding levels, for each Darebin Neighbourhood House as listed below, subject to annual funding review:
  - a. Reservoir Neighbourhood House - ABN: 66 571 493 753
  - b. Prace (Preston/Reservoir Adult Community Education) - ABN: 93 736 262 050.
  - c. Bridge Darebin (Preston/Thornbury) - ABN: 66 801 857 062
  - d. Span Community House - ABN: 52 526 420 312

- e. Alphington Community Centre - ABN: 64 831 331 597
  - f. Jika Jika Community Centre - ABN: 16 321 101 846
- (2) Approves a total funding amount in 2026-2027 for Neighbourhood House renewed funding agreements of \$591,353.
  - (3) Approves the Lease Agreement tenure (for NHs) to align according to the tenure of the Funding Agreement.
  - (4) Continues to support the Darebin Neighbourhood Houses in their advocacy as part of the Neighbourhood Houses Victoria campaign seeking increased State Government funding.

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## BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION

There are seven Council-funded NHs in Darebin that provide welcoming spaces where people of all ages and backgrounds build meaningful connections within their local community, learn new skills and access support services.

They are Bridge Darebin (incorporates both Preston and Thornbury Houses), Jika Jika Community (Northcote), SPAN Community Centre (Thornbury), Reservoir Neighbourhood House, Alphington Community Centre and Prace (Preston Reservoir Adult Community Education, located in Reservoir). They all operate from Council-owned facilities at a peppercorn rent of \$64.90 per House per annum (including an annual CPI increase).

Darebin NH's operate under a community governance model, overseen by an independent, volunteer-based Committee of Management or Board responsible for strategic direction, financial oversight and organisational compliance.

The typical staffing structure consists of a paid Manager, Community Development Officer/Coordinator and part time administration role(s) and volunteers.

Darebin NH's deliver a broad range of community led programs and activities (either directly or by partner agencies) tailored to local needs including social connection programs, lifelong learning, digital inclusion, community events, volunteering opportunities and targeted support. Their services are shaped by the diverse demographics of their catchments, often engaging children and families, young people, older adults, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and people experiencing social or economic disadvantage.

Council's funding supports both the administrative functions and program delivery of Darebin NHs as a contribution to their overall operations. This includes funding for the core operational roles, such as administration officer salaries, as well as specific program activities.

The 'community value' generated by NHs across Victoria in the FY2024-25 has been estimated at \$921 million (Neighbourhood Houses Victoria Annual Report 2024-25). The latest local data provided by Neighbourhood Houses Victoria estimated that the 8\* NHs in Darebin generated \$28,728,018 of 'community value' in 2024, equating to \$2.38 for every \$1 of income and \$29.13 for every \$1 of NHCP funding (see Appendix B – Neighbourhood Houses in Darebin City: Real Value Real Impact 2024).

*\*NOTE: The eighth Darebin NH included in the analysis is Gurwidj Aboriginal Women's Neighbourhood House, funding is provided by other sources.*

**Previous Council Resolution**

At its meeting held on 18 June 2018, Council resolved:

- (1) *To enter into funding agreements for the term of 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2023 with the option to extend to 30 June 2026 with each of the following organisations.*
  - a) *Alphington Community Centre*
  - b) *The Bridge Preston and Thornbury Neighbourhood House*
  - c) *Jika Jika Community Centre*
  - d) *Reservoir Neighbourhood House*
  - e) *Span Community Centre*
  - f) *Preston Reservoir Adult Community Education (prace)*
  - g) *Darebin Informance and Volunteer Resource Service (DIVRS)*
- (2) *Authorise the Chief Executive to execute new funding agreements with each of the above mentioned organisations*
- (3) *That the funding agreements provide for annual funding of the same level as 2017-2018 with additional funding of \$20,000 per year for program delivery for each of the above mentioned organisations to be phased as follows:*
  - (a) *Additional \$10,000 per annum per organisation from 1 July 2018*
  - (b) *A further additional \$10,000 per annum per organisational from 1 July 2019*
  - (c) *Annual CPI adjustment to the annual funding be applied from 1 July 2020*
- (4) *Note that the above mentioned organisations would not be eligble to apply for community grants from 2018/2019*

**ALIGNMENT TO 2041 DAREBIN COMMUNITY VISION**

Pillar 1: Vibrant, Healthy and Connected

**ALIGNMENT TO OUR DAREBIN PLAN 2025-29**

Strategic Direction 2: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion - A City where our rich diversity is celebrated, everyone can thrive and belong, and our services, programs, places and spaces are equitable, responsive, inclusive and accessible to all.

Strategic Direction 3: Health and Wellbeing - A City where everyone in the community can access the opportunities, infrastructure and services they need to be physically and mentally safe and healthy

**DISCUSSION**

Council is committed to ensuring that the Darebin community receives the support they need in the most effective and sustainable way possible. This includes creating and maintaining strong partnerships with community organisations and periodically undertaking a review of funding arrangements with partner agencies.

Given the varied historic approaches to funding agreements with the NHs, it is timely for Council to undertake a review of its funding model and performance reporting requirements. This includes ensuring that funding arrangements remain transparent, equitable and aligned with the distinct roles different organisations play in strengthening community wellbeing and Council's strategic objectives.

Offering NHs a 4-year Funding Agreement subject to annual budget review provides the stability needed for effective operational planning, workforce/volunteer recruitment and retention and program delivery while Council undertakes its review.

Aligning Lease Agreement tenure with Funding Agreements creates consistency and simplifies governance and administration for both parties. Tenure alignment will also provide Darebin NHs with the certainty required to manage Council's facilities, meet compliance obligations and invest in improvements.

## CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (2020) PRINCIPLES

### Financial Management

The current funding arrangement for Darebin NH's forms part of the operational budget and is revised each year and included in the draft budget cycle. The total financial commitment from Council if the funding agreement was made for the proposed term of 4 years, with indicative CPI adjustments is set out below.

Table 1

	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Darebin NHs	\$591,353	\$606,137	\$621,289	\$636,822

### Community Engagement

Over the past 12 months, discussions with the seven Darebin NH's have increasingly highlighted the shrinking and highly competitive nature of funding streams across Federal, State, and Local Government. Through community roundtables, informal briefings, and local Darebin Council engagement sessions, repeated concerns have been raised regarding funding pressures and the long-term sustainability of NHs and the support they provide to the community.

Neighbourhood Houses Victoria is currently campaigning for an additional \$11.7 million in annual State Government funding, warning that without this investment up to 200 NHs across Victoria may be forced to close. The Darebin NH's have expressed a clear preference to continue with long-term lease arrangements and recurring funding.

### Other Principles for consideration

#### Service Performance Principles

- (a) services should be provided in an equitable manner and be responsive to the diverse needs of the municipal community;

## COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

### Environmental Sustainability Considerations (including Climate Emergency)

The Darebin Neighbourhood Houses support the Council Plan 2025–2029 through community education programs that promote climate emergency awareness, behaviour change, local leadership and pride in environmental action. They also advance climate justice by delivering practical sustainability workshops, community gardens, repair programs and offering welcoming spaces where people can stay connected and safe during heatwaves. These low-barrier, community-led activities help residents build resilience, reduce costs and adapt to a changing climate.

**Equity, Inclusion, Wellbeing and Human Rights Considerations:**

The Darebin NH's deliver services and programs that aim to support Darebin's most disadvantaged residents, many of whom experience isolation and loneliness and are not engaged in other services or programs. These initiatives are core to fostering social connection and strengthening community participation.

**Economic Development and Cultural Considerations**

Darebin NH's offer programs that support Darebin residents to engage in cultural experiences across the areas of dance, music and creative arts. These programs also provide opportunities for social connection for residents who are isolated and disconnected from their community.

Additionally, Darebin NH's strongly support Council Plan 2025-2029 by offering a range of accredited training, volunteering and learning opportunities to help improve the employment outcomes for residents and training opportunities to support small business and enterprise and promote lifelong learning.

**Legal and Risk Implications**

To ensure the proper and transparent use of funds, Darebin NH's will continue to provide mid-year and end of year annual reports prior to the release of future funds.

Neighbourhood House Victoria and State Government funding guidelines and requirements would need to be considered to ensure any changes from a Council perspective are not in conflict.

If Funding Agreements are not funded in 2026/27 financial year these vital community services will cease.

**IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS**

Development of the new Lease and Funding Agreements with Darebin Neighbourhood Houses (June – August 2026).

Conduct review to strengthen funding allocation and performance (2026/27 & 2027/28).

Provide support the Darebin NHs in their advocacy as part of the Neighbourhood Houses Victoria campaign as requested.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Nil.

**Attachments**

- A Historical Context of Council's Funding (**Appendix A**) [↓](#)
- Neighbourhood Houses in Darebin City: Real Value Real Impact 2024 (**Appendix B**) [↓](#)

**DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## Appendix A

### Historical Context of Council's Funding

Neighbourhood Houses: From 2004 to 2010, Darebin's Neighbourhood Houses were funded through the Community Grants Program under two, three-year partnership agreements, in the No Cap Category. The No Cap Category provided large community organisations the opportunity to apply for funding over the 'large grant category' cap of \$8000 for either annual or a three-year funding term.

At Council Meeting on 1 March 2010, it was recommended that Council resolve to invite the four (4) organisations funded under the No Cap Category to apply for an additional one year funding agreement whilst Council reviewed the community grant program in detail over the 2010/2011 financial year.

On 27 August 2012, following the decision by Council to restructure the Community Grants Program and discontinue the three-year grants program, to annual grants only capped at \$6000, it was recommended that the Darebin Neighbourhood Houses would move onto annual service agreements, effective 1 July 2014.

Darebin Information Volunteer Resource Services (DIVRS): In 2009 DIVRS closed its former office in Northcote at Council's request and moved to premises leased by Council in High Street, Preston. DIVRS and Council entered into an 18-month partnership agreement which ended in June 2010 and was then extended till end of June 2011.

In 2011 the partnership agreement was not renewed and DIVRS was requested to apply for funding under the "No Cap" category of the Community Grants program. Consequently DIVRS was funded \$105,000 per annum plus leasing costs of the High Street Preston building.

Following the removal of the No Cap Category from the Community Grants program in August 2012, DIVRS also moved to an annual Service Agreement in line with Neighbourhood Houses.

The annual process for both NH and DIVRS continued until 2017.

On 19 June 2017 Council resolved requesting a report on the potential to move to longer term funding agreements with Neighbourhood Houses and other community organisations such as 10-year agreements with increased funding. This included DIVRS.

The current long-term Funding Agreement model (2026) with the Darebin Neighbourhood Houses and DIVRS (as per council resolution below) was developed to support stability in operational planning, resource management and service continuity for the community. The Agreements were structured to facilitate the transfer of funds and ensure alignment with Council's strategic objectives and priorities.

At its meeting held on 18 June 2018, Council resolved:

- (1) *To enter into funding agreements for the term of 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2023 with the option to extend to 30 June 2026 with each of the following organisations.*
  - a) *Alphington Community Centre*
  - b) *The Bridge Preston and Thornbury Neighbourhood House*

- c) *Jika Jika Community Centre*
- d) *Reservoir Neighbourhood House*
- e) *Span Community Centre*
- f) *Preston Reservoir Adult Community Education (prace)*
- g) *Darebin Informance and Volunteer Resource Service (DIVRS)*
- (2) *Authorise the Chief Executive to execute new funding agreements with each of the above mentioned organisations*
- (3) *That the funding agreements provide for annual funding of the same level as 2017- 2018 with additional funding of \$20,000 per year for program delivery for each of theabove mentioned organisations to be phased as follows:*
  - (a) *Additional \$10,000 per annum per organisation from 1 July 2018*
  - (b) *A further additional \$10,000 per annum per organistional from 1 July 2019*
  - (c) *Annual CPI adjustment to the annual funding be applied from 1 July 2020*
- (4) *Note that the above mentioned organisations would not be eliglble to apply for community grants from 2018/2019*

# Neighbourhood Houses in Darebin City

## 2024 - Real Impact. Real Value.

**INCOME** \$12,076,028

**VALUE** \$28,728,018

### This figure includes the value of:

Improved quality of life through social connection: **\$6,536,889**

Volunteer contributions: **\$1,023,915**

Emergency relief provided: **\$3,045,088**

Services provided: **\$1,933,147**

Adult Community Education: **\$15,357,478**

Early childhood education and care: **\$555,461**

Social enterprise goods & services: **\$276,040**

### Emergency relief value includes:

- Food and groceries: **\$2,996,716**
  - Food vouchers: **\$1,500**
- Cash/prepaid or gift card: **\$5,352**
  - Public transport cards: **\$120**
  - Clothing: **\$26,640**
- Personal care & hygiene items: **\$14,760**

### Services value includes:

- Computer/internet usage: **\$5,112**
- Facilities use or hire: **\$1,156,572**
- Résumé assistance: **\$19,080**
  - Tax Help: **\$4,000**
- Auspicing other organisations: **\$7,590**
- Community lunch, frozen or other meals: **\$210,360**
  - School aged breakfasts: **\$203,923**
  - Fee for service activities: **\$326,510**

### This community value equates to:

**\$2.38** for every \$1 of income

**\$29.13** for every \$1 of Neighbourhood House Coordination Program funding

Over **\$1,118.56** each for every hour the neighbourhood houses were in use on average

### Employment value

133.4 FTE jobs

including 96.0 direct and 37.4 indirect Full Time Equivalent positions

These values are produced by Neighbourhood Houses Victoria based on data provided by Neighbourhood Houses in Darebin City in the 2024 Neighbourhood Houses Survey. Only a limited range of activities where a determinable valuation method exists are included.

## Just some of the value to communities from selected Neighbourhood House activities

### Basis of calculation

The 8 Neighbourhood Houses in Darebin City provided in excess of \$28,728,018 of value to the community for 2024. This is based on data provided through the Neighbourhood House Survey 2024.

This figure includes the value of:

- Improved quality of life through social connection: based on **3,254** participants in programmed activities per week
- Volunteer contributions: based on **394** volunteer hrs per week
- Food and groceries: based on **110,052 kgs** of food relief provided in 2024
- Food vouchers: based on an average of **\$125** of vouchers provided per month
- Cash/prepaid or gift card: based on **\$446** cash/card value provided per month
- Bill payments: based on **\$0** of participant bills paid for per month
- Fuel Vouchers: based on an average of **\$0** of vouchers provided per month
- Public transport cards: based on average **\$10** of travel cards value per month
- Clothing: based on **\$2,220** of clothing provided per month
- Personal care & hygiene items: based on **\$1,230** of items provided per month
- Emergency accommodation: based on **\$0** provided per month
- Internet usage: based on **213 hrs** of individual computer/internet use per month
- Facilities use or hire: based on **1,968** hours per month valued at **\$49/hr**
- Resume assistance: based on assisting with **53** resume's/ month
- Tax help: based on completing **40** tax returns for 2024
- Auspicing other organisations: based on auspicing **12** organisations or groups in 2024
- Community lunch, frozen or other meals: based on providing **1,753** meals/ month
- School aged breakfast programs: based on providing **416** breakfasts/month
- Fee for service activities: based on **\$326,510** fees paid for unsubsidised activities in the period covered by the applicable annual reports
- Government subsidised Adult Community Education: based on **\$891,322** of ACE funding from ACFE and or DET and **\$0** Federal Government Be Connected funding
- Childcare provided: based on **\$555,461** total annual childcare income
- 4-year-old kindergarten: based on **\$0** total annual kindergarten income
- Social enterprise goods & services: based on **\$276,040** enterprise sales income in the latest annual report

Additionally:

- Community value for every \$1 of 2024 Neighbourhood House Coordination Program funding based on **250** funded hours/week
- Community value for every \$1 of income based on **\$12,076,028** annual income
- Community value for every hour the Neighbourhood House is in use based on Neighbourhood House buildings in use for **545** hrs per week

Direct and indirect full-time equivalent employment positions created based on **3,647** hrs total weekly paid hours of employment.

### Notes

These valuations are based on volume of activity, so the outcomes are affected by organisational income and population size, with Neighbourhood Houses in localities with smaller populations generally expected to generate lower total community value. Additionally, some communities require activity types that are not

able to be valued within the scope of this work. These variations in organisations and communities make these measures unsuitable for comparisons between Neighbourhood Houses.

#### Use of 'community value'

We use the term 'community value' because the valuations above incorporate a range of methods depending on the available evidence. These include methods such as social return on investment (SROI), return on investment (ROI) and replacement cost.

All valuations are conservative and based on existing research by reputable organisations using widely used and/or well documented methods as well as benchmarked market values for replacement cost valuations.

#### Some of the value of some of the activities

The report does not include many community benefits that are not within the scope of the Neighbourhood House Annual Survey to reasonably value including:

- all services and activities not listed above or their flow on economic or social benefits (except social connection) including referral, counselling or social support, community transport etc
- agencies or brokered in services such as Centrelink, maternal child and health etc.
- social enterprise or the economic multipliers from indirect or induced economic activity
- intangible benefits such as community pride and sense of belonging, leadership development, community voice through advocacy, increased personal independence etc.

The total community benefit is significantly greater than what has been valued here.

## Calculation methods

### Social Connection

In 2018, Deloitte Access Economics produced a report<sup>1</sup> that determined a monetary value for the community connection work of Morwell Neighbourhood House. The method, detailed in the report, uses existing research to calculate the contribution of community connection to a Quality-Adjusted-Life-Years (QALYs). Quality-Adjusted-Life-Years is the most widely used approach for estimating quality of life benefits in economic evaluations<sup>2</sup>.

Different methods have been used to estimate the number of people who may potentially obtain social connection benefits. The 2018 The report assumed that 50% of the annual unique visitors to the neighbourhood house were one off or infrequent for the purpose of their calculations. Appendix C of their report outlines the detail on their method.

A subsequent Deloitte report<sup>3</sup> assumed that only new participants obtained social connection benefits. This assumption effectively discounts the importance of maintaining connections over the life course. Analysis from the Neighbourhood House Participants Survey<sup>4</sup> and the broader social isolation and loneliness literature<sup>5</sup> identify the value of maintaining social connections. Pioneering research in 2024 showed that restricting social connection and other behaviours associated with maintaining psychological health in healthy participants resulted in a rapid decline in mental wellbeing with increased symptoms of depression and anxiety<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.morwellnh.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/MNH\\_Social-Impact-Analysis\\_May-2018\\_.pdf](http://www.morwellnh.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/MNH_Social-Impact-Analysis_May-2018_.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/publications/publishing.nsf/Content/illicit-pubs-needle-return-1-rep-toc~illicit-pubs-needle-return-1-rep-5~illicit-pubs-needle-return-1-rep-5-2>

<sup>3</sup> <https://mannagumcommunity.files.wordpress.com/2020/08/nhg-sroi-2020.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> See [Social isolation and loneliness - a neighbourhood house perspective](#)

<sup>5</sup> See [https://www.beyondblue.org.au/docs/default-source/resources/408362\\_0318\\_bl1366\\_hrnt.pdf](https://www.beyondblue.org.au/docs/default-source/resources/408362_0318_bl1366_hrnt.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [A pilot study examining whether restricting and resuming specific actions systematically changes symptoms of depression and anxiety. A series of N-of-1 trials. — Macquarie University \(mq.edu.au\)](#)

The 2017 Neighbourhood House Participants Survey respondents clearly distinguished between the two distinct benefits used by Deloitte; “meet new people/make friends” and “spend time with other people as benefits”. The first benefit implies creating or expanding social networks through the Neighbourhood House whereas the latter implies maintaining existing social connections within the Neighbourhood House. Where both benefits were selected, the implication is that relationships are in a formative or expansion stage, or they have connection in the Neighbourhood House but want to make more.

NHVIC uses the number of people attending programmed activities to calculate social connection benefit because:

- Programmed activities are group activities run over a period of time and therefore not attended in a one-off or infrequent way,
- People maintaining existing relationships are not excluded

A 2024 survey of over 28,800 Neighbourhood House participants across Victoria further supports this approach. The survey established that 78% of respondents attend at least weekly and 64% have been attending for more than a year. The data shows that the proportion of participants reporting the social connection benefits increases both as their attendance frequency increases and duration of involvement increases.

The number of weekly participants in programmed activities is multiplied by the percentage of participants that identified “meeting new people/making friends” and/or “spending time with others” as benefits of attending their neighbourhood house based on each Neighbourhood House’s 2024 Participants Survey<sup>7</sup>. These two reported benefits are used in the Deloitte calculations and are most strongly associated with participants who identified attending for various programmed activities including, social and support groups, job training and support and other courses and classes. These benefits were reported at significantly higher rates in 2024 compared to 2017.

The \$ Values are expressed in 2024 equivalents i.e. Quality Adjusted Life Year value of \$245,000<sup>8</sup>, which is consistent with Deloitte’s method.

The value of your Neighbourhood Houses increased social connection is calculated using this formula:

**Number of participants in activities X 1 QALY (\$245,000) X percentage of people identifying a social connection benefit X contribution of social connection to a QALY (3.84%) X the extent to which contribution of social connection to a QALY can be attributed to attending the Neighbourhood House (28.57%).**

The use of the participants in programmed activities as the basis for the calculation is conservative as it excludes regular attendees that receive a connection benefit through drop-in, food relief or non-program activities<sup>9</sup>.

Deloitte further calculated the value of increased connection through increased participation in the broader community due to participation at the Neighbourhood House using the formula above for 10% of the participants. The 2024 survey established that 15% of participants had attended for 1 year or less and reported being more involved in community activities or groups outside the Neighbourhood House as a result of their attendance at their Neighbourhood House. Consequently, his reports applies the above formula to 15% of participants in activities.

<sup>7</sup> Where A Neighbourhood House’s participant data are absent or unreliable due to sample size, an average of Neighbourhood Houses in similar sized communities with similar incomes is used. Income is a proxy for volume of activities delivered through a Neighbourhood House.

<sup>8</sup> <https://oia.pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-10/value-of-statistical-life.docx>

<sup>9</sup> E.g., 31% of participants in the 2024 participant survey that attended solely to access food relief identified a social connection benefit

## Volunteering

Volunteering value is based on the replacement cost of volunteers' labour. This is valued at \$48.16 per hour derived from the "State of Volunteering" replacement cost calculator<sup>10</sup> for volunteers aged 55 -64 .

The formula for calculating the community value of volunteering is:

Number of volunteer hours undertaken X volunteer hourly replacement rate

This is a conservative valuation. Replacement cost figure allows for some aging of Neighbourhood House volunteer population which averaged 50 years of age in 2012. The replacement cost for a 50-year-old is 11% greater (\$53.82) than the figure used here.

In addition, the valuation does not include the value of the services provided as a result of volunteering or the contribution to the economy and taxation from participating in volunteering, e.g. cost of travel to the place of volunteering.

## Emergency relief

### Food and groceries

The value to community of emergency food relief is based on work undertaken by Foodbank in Australia<sup>11</sup>. Their social return on investment analysis determined that food relief was valued at an average \$20.05 per kilogram of food in 2014 dollars. This valuation included the value of:

- Improved physical health (children)
- Better performance at school (students)
- Better social relationships
- Increased sense of self-worth
- Improved standard of living
- Improved physical health
- Increased emotional wellbeing
- Reduced waste and greenhouse emissions

Analysis of the Foodbank ROI report allows for adjustment to 2024 dollars for each component. Adjusting for inflation, increases in the wage price index and increase in the value of a statistical life, we calculate the ROI is now at least \$27.23 in 2024 dollars. Waste collection and disposal costs have exceeded inflation<sup>12</sup>, but this has been factored in at the inflation rate.

The formula for calculating the community value of food and groceries is:

**Number of Kgs distributed for an average month X 12 (months) X \$27.23**

### Food vouchers

The community value of providing food vouchers is based on the dollar value of vouchers given out. This is a conservative valuation as it does not include the benefit derived from accessing food such as improved health and wellbeing, improved school performance for children etc.

The formula for calculating the community value of food vouchers is:

**Total \$ value of food vouchers distributed in an average month X 12 (months)**

### Cash/prepaid or gift cards

The community value of providing cash/prepaid or gift cards is based on the dollar value of cash or gift cards given out. This is a conservative valuation as it does not include the benefit derived from items purchased such as improved health and wellbeing, improved school performance for children, added value to the economy etc.

<sup>10</sup> [Volunteer Replacement Cost Calculator - State of Volunteering](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Foodbank-SROI-June-2014.pdf](#)

<sup>12</sup> For example, landfill levy costs increased 160% from the \$48.40/tonne in 2012-13 to \$125.90/tonne by 2022-23. [Waste levy | Environment Protection Authority Victoria \(epa.vic.gov.au\)](#)

The formula used for calculating the community value of cash/prepaid or gift cards is:

**Total \$ value of cash/prepaid or gift cards distributed in an average month X 12 (months)**

#### Fuel Vouchers

The community value of providing fuel vouchers is based on the dollar value of vouchers given out. This is a conservative valuation as it does not include the benefit derived from increased access to transport or the alternative use of funds that would otherwise have been used for transport such as improved health and wellbeing, improved school performance for children etc.

The formula used for calculating the community value of fuel vouchers is:

**Total \$ value of fuel vouchers distributed in an average month X 12 (months)**

#### Bill payments

The community value of providing bill payments is based on the dollar value of bills paid by the Neighbourhood House for individuals in need. This is a conservative valuation as it does not include the benefit derived from increased access to services for which bills were paid or the alternative use of funds that would otherwise have been used for bills such as improved health and wellbeing, improved school performance for children etc..

The formula used for calculating the community value of bill payments is:

**Total \$ value of participants' bills paid in an average month X 12 (months)**

#### Public transport cards

The community value of providing public transport cards is based on the dollar value of public transport cards given out. This is a conservative valuation as it does not include the benefit derived from increased access to transport or the alternative use of funds that would otherwise have been used for transport such as improved health and wellbeing, improved school performance for children etc.

The formula used for calculating the community value of public transport cards is:

**Total \$ value of public transport cards distributed in an average month X 12 (months)**

#### Clothing

The community value of providing clothing is based on the dollar value of clothing cards given out. New clothing is valued at replacement cost whereas second-hand clothing is based on resale value such as in an opportunity shop. This is a conservative valuation as it does not include the benefit derived from increased access to clothing such as improved confidence and sense of wellbeing or the alternative use of funds that would otherwise have been used for clothing such as improved health and wellbeing, improved school performance for children etc.

The formula used for calculating the community value of clothing is:

**Total \$ value of clothing distributed in an average month X 12 (months)**

#### Personal hygiene items

The community value of providing personal hygiene items is based on the dollar value of personal hygiene items cards given out. This is a conservative valuation as it does not include the benefit derived from increased access to personal hygiene items such as improved confidence and sense of wellbeing or the alternative use of funds that would otherwise have been used for personal hygiene items such as improved health and wellbeing, improved school performance for children etc.

The formula used for calculating the community value of personal hygiene items is:

**Total \$ value of personal hygiene items distributed in an average month X 12 (months)**

## Services

### Facilities Usage

The community value of facilities usage is based on the number of hours of facilities use by external groups and organisations per month and the cost of hiring an equivalent space locally as determined by each Neighbourhood House. This figure reflects value provided to the community rather than income received as rooms and facilities are often made available to community groups at heavily discounted rates or gratis. The value also does not include the benefits to community of the room use activity e.g., improved health, improved access to information or services, reduced cost of services etc., relative to the activity type provided.

The formula used for calculating the community value of facilities usage is:

**Total number of hours of room hire in an average month x 12 months X cost per hour of local equivalent.**

### Internet/computer usage

The community value of internet/ computer usage is based on the number of hours of internet or computer use by individuals in an average month. This is benchmarked to the cost of a commercially available equivalent i.e. internet kiosk regardless of whether a commercial alternative is available. Note that free wifi is not an equivalent as there is no support or equipment made available. Commercial rates from \$3-\$5<sup>13</sup> have been benchmarked. A \$2 lower rate has been used to account for the variation in the equipment and software provided. The rate does not include non-market benefits such as family connection, benefits from accessing or managing government services etc.

The formula used for calculating the community value of internet/computer use is:

**Total number of hours of internet/computer in average month x 12 months X \$2**

### Resume assistance

The community value of resume assistance is based on the cost of a resume service for a fee. The fee was benchmarked at the median price of \$50 on airtasker.com<sup>14</sup>. The value was discounted to \$30 to account for the fact that Neighbourhood Houses may provide a participant with assistance in developing a resume rather than creating a full resume as a service.

The formula used for calculating the community value of resume assistance is:

**Total number of resumes assisted with in an average month X 12 (months) x \$30**

### Tax help

The community value of Tax Help usage is based on the cost of the cheapest commercial tax service found online<sup>15</sup> at \$100 per tax return. This is a conservative valuation as many tax help clients have multiple and/or complex returns which attract additional fees at commercial tax service providers.

The formula used for calculating the community value of Tax Help is:

**Total number of tax returns lodged in 2024 x \$100**

### Auspicings other organisations

The community value of auspicings other organisations is based on the cost of purchasing public liability cover which groups would have to take out if they were not covered by the Neighbourhood House under auspicings arrangements. The price is benchmarked at \$632.46 for annual cover provided by Local Community Insurance Services<sup>16</sup>

The formula used for calculating the community value of auspicings other organisations is:

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/dsinternet512/?f=710935435612179> <https://www.facebook.com/galaxysonicgaming> [SUBLINK](#)

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.airtasker.com/writing/resume-writing>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.taxtoday.com.au/information/fees>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.localcommunityinsurance.com.au>

### **Total number of organisations auspicied in 2024 x \$632.46**

#### Community lunch, frozen or other meals

The community value of offering community lunch, frozen or other meals is based on the cost of purchasing a meal commercially, this has been benchmarked at \$10 per meal. This is benchmarked based on the prices quoted by ING, and numbeo.com<sup>17</sup> ranging from \$13 to \$25. It is discounted to \$10 per meal to account for regional price variation.

While many meals provided at community lunches are likely to be a form of emergency relief, participants may attend community lunches for other reasons such as for company or a lack of cooking skills. Because we are unable to distinguish between the two, meals provided are not valued as emergency relief.

The formula used for calculating the community value of community lunches, frozen or other meals is:

**Total number of individual meals served/provided in an average month x 12 months x \$10**

#### School aged breakfast clubs

The value to community of food provided through school breakfast clubs is based on work undertaken by Foodbank in Australia<sup>18</sup>. Their social return on investment analysis determined that school breakfast clubs were valued at an average \$110 per kilogram of food in 2014 dollars. This valuation included the value of:

- Improved physical health (children)
- Better performance at school (students)

Analysis of the 2014 detailed report allows for adjustment to 2024 dollars for each component. Allowing for inflation and the increased value of a statistical life, we calculate the ROI is \$40.85 in 2024 dollars. The formula used for calculating the community value of school aged breakfast programs is:

**Total number of individual breakfasts served/provided in an average month x 10 months x \$40.85**

#### Fee for service activities

The value to community of fee for service activities is based on the actual fees paid for activities undertaken by community members where the activity was not subsidised by grants or third parties other than NDIS.

Many Neighbourhood House activities are provided at low cost and therefore the value is conservative as it is likely less than the replacement value if the activity was undertaken with a commercial or for-profit provider.

The formula used for calculating the fee for service activities is:

**Total value of fee for service activities from the period covered by the applicable annual reports**

#### Government subsidised Adult Community Education (ACE)

Based on analysis of the Allen Consulting's 2008 report, The Economic Benefit of Investment in Adult and Community Education in Victoria<sup>19</sup> commission by the ACFE Board. While there have been significant subsequent structural changes that have occurred in the VET sector, the work is most relevant because it examines the Victorian ACE sector specifically and includes pre-accredited as well as accredited training. The analysis discounts the value of pre-accredited compared to accredited training by estimating a proportional certificate equivalence.

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/in/Melbourne> , <https://blog.ing.com.au/money-matters/saving/dust-off-your-lunch-boxes/#article-1811>,

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.foodbank.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Foodbank-Hunger-in-the-Classroom-Report-May-2015.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> [https://melbourneinstitute.unimelb.edu.au/assets/documents/hilda-bibliography/other-publications/pre2010/ACG\\_economic\\_benefit\\_of\\_investment\\_adult\\_education.pdf](https://melbourneinstitute.unimelb.edu.au/assets/documents/hilda-bibliography/other-publications/pre2010/ACG_economic_benefit_of_investment_adult_education.pdf)

Its use to estimate community value is also adopted because it is conservative in that it does not;

- include the significant known non-market benefits such as improved health, reduced criminality and welfare dependency etc. estimated to be equal in value to the market benefits
- include 36.3% of student contact hours to account for those with no market benefit
- include the direct contribution of ACE provision to the economy (direct and induced economic impact of provider expenditure and wages)
- include the benefits provided to community from \$10.09 additional tax revenues from increased income and gross state product for each dollar invested by the Victorian government in ACE
- account for the increased focus on delivery of pre-accredited training with market benefits since 2008
- account for tighter targeting of vocational training to industry demand

This report effectively values two principal community benefits at \$17.23 for each dollar of government funding. It is the value created over a 25-year timeframe from the learning provided. This rate is comparable with other work conducted locally and internationally. From a single year of state government investment of \$36.7 million, the report models:

Future income – \$202 million

Increased gross state product – 2.13 times the income effect - \$202 million x 2.13 = \$ 430.26 million

Total \$632.26 million / \$36.7 million state government funding = \$17.23

By comparison, a 2017 study from the University of Adelaide's South Australian Centre for Economic Studies<sup>20</sup> showed a return on investment for Cert I foundation courses averaging just 34 student contact hours at \$6.50 for each dollar of funding. However, the average SCH rate of \$43.70 was about 4.8 times the value of \$9.10 ACFE rate so equates to over \$31 return on investment for the same volume of activity if conducted as pre-accredited in Victoria. The study also only included the benefit of increased income and Victorian transition rates to Cert III and above for Learn Local students, with the corresponding higher income earning potential, are much higher<sup>21</sup> than those in the South Australian study.

Work that includes a more comprehensive range of non-market benefits values Government subsidised Adult Community Education at much higher rates. A New Zealand analysis from Price Waterhouse Coopers<sup>22</sup> valued ACE returns, including a range of non-market benefits, up to \$72 for each \$1 invested. While the comparisons differ substantially in many ways, all add significant value because they focus on disadvantaged learners.

Any potential overstatement of community value due to the changes in the structure of ACE since 2008 are more than compensated for by the value of other benefits not included in the calculation.

The formula used for calculating the community value of Government subsidised Adult Community Education programs is:

**Total \$ value of government student contact hour subsidies in 2024 X 17.23**

### Be Connected

In 2020, Swinburne University of Technology's Centre for Social Impact released a social impact assessment of the Australian Government's Be Connected program. The report<sup>23</sup> found that the program provides \$4.01 for every dollar invested. Grant funding to providers accounted for 17% of the program costs with significant investment attributed to the support infrastructure while the value was generated

<sup>20</sup> South Australian Centre for Economic Studies. The Economic and Social Impact of the Adult Community Education (ACE) Sector. University of Adelaide; 2016.

<sup>21</sup>

[https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/research/acfepublications/Participation%20training%20outcomes%20and%20patterns%20report\\_FINAL\\_Nov%202017.pdf](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/research/acfepublications/Participation%20training%20outcomes%20and%20patterns%20report_FINAL_Nov%202017.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.crystaladventures.co.nz/ACE/ACE%20Price%20Waterhouse%20Coopers%20Research%20Summary%20V4.pdf>

<sup>23</sup> [Improving the digital inclusion of older Australians: The social impact of Be Connected \(dss.gov.au\)](https://www.dss.gov.au/improving-the-digital-inclusion-of-older-australians-the-social-impact-of-be-connected)

through outcomes from providers. \$13.2 million distributed to providers contributed to \$305.7 million in value. In effect, for every dollar received by providers resulted in \$23.11 of value created. However, the report includes value for social connection which is valued elsewhere in this report. After removing the social connection value, each dollar provided produced \$6.33 of value in digital capacity.

The method used here assumes that the proportion of government funding distributed to providers is consistent with the period covered by the report. It should be noted that the ROI is likely greater now as costs associated with establishing and maintaining the infrastructure are lower than in the initial period covered by the report.

The formula used for calculating the community value of Be Connected is:

**Total \$ value of Be Connected funding received in 2024 X 6.326**

#### Childcare

While there is research that suggests significant benefit from childcare for some cohorts within the community<sup>24</sup>, there is inadequate research to determine the value to community of occasional childcare beyond the actual value of the service for the broader population.

The formula used for calculating the community value of childcare is:

**Total \$ value of government subsidies + parent fees in 2024 X 1**

#### Four-year-old Kinder

The community value of four-year-old Kinder is based on a 2019 Price Water House Coopers study<sup>25</sup> which valued early childhood education in the year-before-school. It calculated a \$2 benefit for each dollar of costs.

The formula used for calculating the community value of four-year-old kinder is:

**Total \$ value of government subsidies + parent fees in 2024 X 2**

#### Social enterprises

The community value of running social enterprises is based on the value of sales from goods and services through Neighbourhood House run community enterprises in the most recent applicable financial reporting period. This reflects the market value of the goods and services provided. It does not include additional value generated such as avoided landfill, value of training and work experience, economic multipliers or the value of services or activities any profits support.

**Total \$ value of social enterprise sales from the period covered by the applicable annual reports**

### Community value relative to inputs

#### Community value for every \$1 of Neighbourhood House Coordination Program (NHCP)

Shows the total calculable community value from the organisation for each dollar of NHCP funding received. The NHCP provides the platform to develop and attract funding for the various activities the organisation undertakes.

The formula used for calculating the community value for each dollar of NHCP is:

**Total community value/ total NHCP for the reported year**

#### Community value for every \$1 of income

Shows the total calculable community value from the organisation for each dollar of income received.

The formula used for calculating the community value for each dollar of NHCP is:

<sup>24</sup> [Literature review of the impact of early childhood education and care on learning and development: working paper \(full report; 30 Sep 2015\) \(AIHW\)](#)

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.thefrontproject.org.au/images/downloads/ECO%20ANALYSIS%20Full%20Report.pdf>

### Total community value/ total annual income for the 2024 year

#### Community value for every hour the Neighbourhood House is in use

Shows the total calculable community value as an average for each hour the Neighbourhood House is in use. 'In use' includes any time of the week or day when activities are occurring, regardless of whether the organisation is staffed or open to the broader public. It does not reflect concurrent usage i.e. multiple activities occurring simultaneously for one hour are counted as 1 hour of use, even if these activities occur at different sites operated by the organisation. It is essentially an expression of community value from a building utilisation perspective.

The calculation assumes activities take place over 50 weeks in the year.

The formula used for calculating the community value for every hour the Neighbourhood House is in use is:

$$\text{Total community value} / (\text{hours per week the building/s is in use} \times 50)$$

#### Employment

Employment is calculated using the total hours of paid employment response combined with multipliers derived from 2017 analysis by Deloitte ACCESS Economics on the Economic contribution of the Australian charity sector for the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission<sup>26</sup>. The multipliers are based on employment data for the development and housing sector classification. This classification covers much of the work done by Neighbourhood Houses including community development and training (multiplier = 1.39). This means that for every full-time equivalent employee, a further 0.39 full-time equivalent jobs are supported elsewhere in the economy due to the economic activity created by wage spending.

Neighbourhood Houses engage in activities that fit in other classifications e.g. emergency relief, referral etc which fit within the social services classification (multiplier = 1.46) or recreational activities that fit within the culture and recreation (multiplier = 1.35). These classifications' multipliers are marginally higher and lower than the development and housing multiplier respectively, further supporting the use of a 1.39 employment multiplier for the sector.

The formula used for calculating the total employment effect is:

$$\text{Total reported hours of paid employment} / 38 \times 1.39$$

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.acnc.gov.au/2Ftools%2Freports%2Feconomic-contribution-australian-charity-sector&usg=AOvVaw2R-20vVOybpm8ctvW5xsCY>

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**9.3 DAREBIN INFORMATION VOLUNTEER AND RESOURCE SERVICE FUNDING AGREEMENT**

**Author:** Coordinator Community Inclusion

**Reviewed By:** Chief Executive Officer

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council's Funding Agreement with the Darebin Information Volunteer and Resource Service (DIVRS), is due to expire on 30 June 2026.

This report outlines Council's proposed approach to renewing the Darebin Information Volunteer & Resource Service's Funding Agreement beyond that date.

DIVRS operates in an increasingly competitive funding environment, where securing resources remains a significant challenge. It functions as an independent, not-for-profit organisation while maintaining affiliation with Community Information & Support Victoria (CISVic), the peak body representing community information and support agencies across the state. The service relies heavily on Council funding, short-term grants, project-based funding, philanthropic contributions, and substantial in-kind support from its volunteer workforce and students.

DIVRS applies for its core grant through a competitive tender process with the Federal Department of Social Services, a system that provides no guarantee of ongoing funding.

DIVRS has been funded by Council under several different models since 2004 (Appendix A). The current longer-term Funding Agreement model (5 years + options 3) was developed in 2018 to support stability in operational planning, resource management and service continuity for the community, ensuring funds are transferred effectively and aligned with Council's strategic objectives.

Officers have identified the need to strengthen transparency of funding arrangements, service performance, funding model approaches and processes. This includes reviewing current arrangements, benchmarking against other councils, assessing service scope and clarifying how Council's contribution complements other funding sources such as the Department of Social Services.

Given the short timeframe, it is recommended that Council renew the DIVRS Funding Agreement to ensure service continuity for partner agencies and the community, particularly those who experience disadvantage, discrimination and/or are at risk, (which are the cohorts that DIVRS supports), while allowing sufficient time to undertake the funding model review.

<b>Officer Recommendation</b>
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**That Council:**

- (1) Approves a 2-year Funding Agreement to the Darebin Information Volunteer and Resource Service - ABN: 80 927 699 259, with a further two-year option at Council's discretion subject to the outcome of a review in the first two-year term.
- (2) Approves a total funding amount in 2026-2027 for the Darebin Information Volunteer and Resource Service renewed funding agreement of \$150,892, with a provision in the 2027-2028 budget of \$154,654.

- (3) Notes that the Funding Agreement is separate to any support for lease arrangements.
- 

## **BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION**

Council has supported DIVRS since 2001 in many ways including through the provision of premises and operational funding for administration and core service delivery. In 2009, after the closure of the Preston Citizens Advice Bureau, Council requested that DIVRS consolidate its operations by closing the Northcote office and relocating to commercial premises on High Street, Preston.

The DIVRS Committee of Governance is a voluntary board responsible for providing strategic leadership, ensuring legal and financial accountability, and overseeing the ethical and effective operation of the organisation

DIVRS operates, and delivers services from its headquarters in Preston. They also deliver services across Darebin in partnership with Neighbourhood Houses and Council owned facilities such as East Preston Community Centre, Intercultural Centre and Reservoir Community Learning Centre.

The level of Council funding provided to DIVRS through their funding agreement has been aligned to their service model and related staffing requirements. The staffing structure includes a paid CEO, Health and Wellbeing Program Leader, Social Worker Complex Support (position funded until June 2026), Food Sharing Program Coordinator, Urban Food Program Leader and Farmers, L2P Program Leader, and an Administration Officer. At any given time, the organisation is also supported by approximately 160 volunteers and students.

DIVRS provides free, confidential and independent support to people across Darebin who are experiencing vulnerability, financial hardship, social isolation and systemic exclusion and disadvantage. As a frontline service, it delivers emergency relief and help with essential needs, alongside early intervention and holistic, wraparound support to also address the underlying issues contributing to a person's situation. Its programs span emergency relief, food and financial help, tax help, community information, referrals and advocacy, L2P (learner driver mentoring program) and volunteer support.

Through these services, DIVRS works to reduce disadvantage, strengthen community capacity and ensure that individuals and families can access the practical assistance and advocacy they need, stabilise their circumstances, navigate complex systems and improve long-term wellbeing.

DIVRS also plays a formal role in local emergency management, representing the emergency relief sector on the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC). This involvement reinforces its position as a key community support agency during both routine and emergency circumstances.

Council's current funding supports both their administrative functions and program delivery. This includes funding for core operational roles, such as Administration Officer salaries, as well as specific program activities.

In 2024–2025, DIVRS generated \$4.68 million in community benefit, delivering a return of \$5 for every \$1 invested. \$1.5 million in social value was contributed through the efforts of their dedicated volunteers and student placements (source: DIVRS Annual Report 2024/2025).

## **Previous Council Resolution**

At its meeting on held on 18 June 2018, Council resolved:

*That Council*

- (1) *To enter into funding agreements for the term of 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2023 with the option to extend to 30 June 2026 with each of the following organisations.*
  - a) *Alphington Community Centre*
  - b) *The Bridge Preston and Thornbury Neighbourhood House*
  - c) *Jika Jika Community Centre*
  - d) *Reservoir Neighbourhood House*
  - e) *Span Community Centre*
  - f) *Preston Reservoir Adult Community Education (prace)*
  - g) *Darebin Informance and Volunteer Resource Service (DIVRS)*
- (2) *Authorise the Chief Executive to execute new funding agreements with each of the above mentioned organisations*
- (3) *That the funding agreements provide for annual funding of the same level as 2017-2018 with additional funding of \$20,000 per year for program delivery for each of the above mentioned organisations to be phased as follows:*
  - (a) *Additional \$10,000 per annum per organisation from 1 July 2018*
  - (b) *A further additional \$10,000 per annum per organistional from 1 July 2019*
  - (c) *Annual CPI adjustment to the annual funding be applied from 1 July 2020*
- (4) *Note that the above mentioned organisations would not be eligble to apply for community grants from 2018/2019*

**ALIGNMENT TO 2041 DAREBIN COMMUNITY VISION**

Pillar 1: Vibrant, Healthy and Connected

**ALIGNMENT TO OUR DAREBIN PLAN 2025-29**

Strategic Direction 2: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion - A City where our rich diversity is celebrated, everyone can thrive and belong, and our services, programs, places and spaces are equitable, responsive, inclusive and accessible to all.

Strategic Direction 3: Health and Wellbeing - A City where everyone in the community can access the opportunities, infrastructure and services they need to be physically and mentally safe and healthy.

**DISCUSSION**

Council is committed to supporting vulnerable cohorts in the Darebin community in the most effective and sustainable way possible. This includes creating and maintaining strong partnerships with community organisations. Council has a long history of supporting and funding DIVRS based on its established service provision to the community.

Given the varied historic approaches to funding agreements with DIVRS, it is timely for Council to undertake a review of its funding model and performance reporting requirements. This includes ensuring that funding arrangements remain transparent, equitable and aligned with the distinct roles different organisations play in strengthening community wellbeing and Council's strategic objectives.

Offering DIVRS a 2-year Funding Agreement with a further two-year option provides a level of stability to support immediate continuation, operational planning, workforce/volunteer recruitment. and retention and program delivery while Council undertakes its review.

**CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (2020) PRINCIPLES**

**Financial Management**

The current funding arrangement for DIVRS forms part of Council’s operational budget and is revised each year and included in the draft budget cycle. The total financial commitment to Council (with indicative CPI adjustments) if the funding agreement was made for the proposed term of 2 plus the option of an additional 2 years is set out below.

Table 1

	2026-27	2027-28	2028-2029	2029-2030
DIVRS	\$150,892	\$154,665	\$158,531	\$162,494

**Community Engagement**

Over the past 12 months, discussions with DIVRS have increasingly highlighted the shrinking and highly competitive nature of funding streams across Federal, State, and Local Government. Through community roundtables, informal briefings, and local Darebin Council engagement sessions, repeated concerns have been raised regarding funding pressures and the long-term sustainability of services. DIVRS have expressed a clear preference to continue with recurring funding.

**Service Performance Principles**

- (a) services should be provided in an equitable manner and be responsive to the diverse needs of the municipal community;

**COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

**Environmental Sustainability Considerations (including Climate Emergency)**

DIVRS contributes to environmental sustainability through its Urban Food Program, which strengthens community resilience in the context of the climate emergency. By supporting local food growing, reducing food waste, and promoting sustainable gardening practices, the program helps reduce environmental impact while improving local food security.

DIVRS also contributes to climate justice through its energy work, providing in person support for people most at risk of climate impacts to address the health, wellbeing and financial impacts of extreme temperatures, build capacity to keep cool in summer and warm in winter and reduce energy costs through concessions, hardship programs and provider comparisons.

**Equity, Inclusion, Wellbeing and Human Rights Considerations:**

DIVRS places equity, inclusion, and human rights at the centre of its work, providing free, accessible support to individuals experiencing financial hardship, social isolation and/or systemic disadvantage.

**Economic Development and Cultural Considerations**

DIVRS contributes to local economic and cultural development by fostering community participation, strengthening social connections, and supporting culturally diverse communities through its volunteer-driven programs.

### **Legal and Risk Implications**

To ensure the proper and transparent use of funds, DIVRS will continue to provide mid-year and end of year annual reports prior to the release of future funds.

If this Funding Agreement is not funded in 2026/27 financial year these vital community services will cease

### **IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS**

Development of the new Funding Agreement with DIVRS (June – August 2026).

Conduct review to strengthen processes regarding procurement requirements, service performance, and funding model and level (2026/27 & 2027/28).

### **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Nil.

### **Attachments**

- A Historical Context of Council's Funding (**Appendix A**) [↓](#)

### **DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## Appendix A

### Historical Context of Council's Funding

Neighbourhood Houses: From 2004 to 2010, Darebin's Neighbourhood Houses were funded through the Community Grants Program under two, three-year partnership agreements, in the No Cap Category. The No Cap Category provided large community organisations the opportunity to apply for funding over the 'large grant category' cap of \$8000 for either annual or a three-year funding term.

At Council Meeting on 1 March 2010, it was recommended that Council resolve to invite the four (4) organisations funded under the No Cap Category to apply for an additional one year funding agreement whilst Council reviewed the community grant program in detail over the 2010/2011 financial year.

On 27 August 2012, following the decision by Council to restructure the Community Grants Program and discontinue the three-year grants program, to annual grants only capped at \$6000, it was recommended that the Darebin Neighbourhood Houses would move onto annual service agreements, effective 1 July 2014.

Darebin Information Volunteer Resource Services (DIVRS): In 2009 DIVRS closed its former office in Northcote at Council's request and moved to premises leased by Council in High Street, Preston. DIVRS and Council entered into an 18-month partnership agreement which ended in June 2010 and was then extended till end of June 2011.

In 2011 the partnership agreement was not renewed and DIVRS was requested to apply for funding under the "No Cap" category of the Community Grants program. Consequently DIVRS was funded \$105,000 per annum plus leasing costs of the High Street Preston building.

Following the removal of the No Cap Category from the Community Grants program in August 2012, DIVRS also moved to an annual Service Agreement in line with Neighbourhood Houses.

The annual process for both NH and DIVRS continued until 2017.

On 19 June 2017 Council resolved requesting a report on the potential to move to longer term funding agreements with Neighbourhood Houses and other community organisations such as 10-year agreements with increased funding. This included DIVRS.

The current long-term Funding Agreement model (2026) with the Darebin Neighbourhood Houses and DIVRS (as per council resolution below) was developed to support stability in operational planning, resource management and service continuity for the community. The Agreements were structured to facilitate the transfer of funds and ensure alignment with Council's strategic objectives and priorities.

At its meeting held on 18 June 2018, Council resolved:

- (1) *To enter into funding agreements for the term of 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2023 with the option to extend to 30 June 2026 with each of the following organisations.*
  - a) *Alphington Community Centre*
  - b) *The Bridge Preston and Thornbury Neighbourhood House*

- c) *Jika Jika Community Centre*
- d) *Reservoir Neighbourhood House*
- e) *Span Community Centre*
- f) *Preston Reservoir Adult Community Education (prace)*
- g) *Darebin Informance and Volunteer Resource Service (DIVRS)*
- (2) *Authorise the Chief Executive to execute new funding agreements with each of the above mentioned organisations*
- (3) *That the funding agreements provide for annual funding of the same level as 2017- 2018 with additional funding of \$20,000 per year for program delivery for each of theabove mentioned organisations to be phased as follows:*
  - (a) *Additional \$10,000 per annum per organisation from 1 July 2018*
  - (b) *A further additional \$10,000 per annum per organistional from 1 July 2019*
  - (c) *Annual CPI adjustment to the annual funding be applied from 1 July 2020*
- (4) *Note that the above mentioned organisations would not be eliglble to apply for community grants from 2018/2019*

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**9.4 2026-27 LOCAL SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND GRANT APPLICATIONS****Author:** Recreation Planner**Reviewed By:** Chief Executive Officer

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Officers are preparing for Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) to open the 2026-27 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund (LSIF) grant program.

The program is expected to be highly competitive; there is no guarantee Council will be successful with any application. Council can submit multiple applications; however, significant documentation is required for each application, often including designs and confirmed cost estimates. Furthermore, Council would be competing against itself (and others) and would be unlikely to receive multiple grants in one category. Officers recommend submitting one application per funding stream and continue to work on a forward pipeline of possible projects based on Council's current and projected capital works program.

Officers are seeking a Council decision on projects for submission to the 2026-27 LSIF.

A range of projects in Council's draft 2026-27 Capital Works Program were considered. Officers recommend the following three projects for 2026-27 LSIF applications:

- Design Mayer Park Sportsground Renovation – Planning Stream
- Construct Northcote Tennis Courts LED Upgrade – Community Sports Lighting Stream
- Construct Reservoir Leisure Centre Hot Water Upgrade (Changerooms) – Community Sports Facilities Stream

Other projects, while worthy, could be considered by Council at the relevant time for future funding rounds.

<b>Officer Recommendation</b>
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**That Council:**

- (1) Endorses the following projects for submission to 2026-27 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund:
  - (a) Design Mayer Park Sportsground Renovation to be submitted under the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund Planning Stream, supported by a Council contribution of up to \$75K.
  - (b) Construct Northcote Tennis Courts LED Upgrade to be submitted under the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund Community Sports Lighting Stream, supported by a Council contribution of up to \$80K.
  - (c) Construct Reservoir Leisure Centre Change Rooms Renewal to be submitted under the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund Community Sports Facilities Stream, supported by a Council contribution of up to \$1M.
- (2) Pre-allocates funds to meet its contributions to these three projects in the 2026-27 Capital Works Program Budget to demonstrate Council's commitment to delivery.

- 
- (3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to submit applications for the endorsed projects to the 2026-27 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund and enter into a funding agreement and execute the required documents for successful grant applications.
- 

## **BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION**

LSIF is a statewide competitive grants program which provides funding to develop high-quality, accessible community sport and active recreation infrastructure.

Council was recently awarded \$732.5K from the 2025-26 LSIF round for three projects: Pitcher Park Sports Ground Upgrade, Preston City Oval Sports Field Lighting Upgrade, and Edwardes Lake Park Athletics Track Lighting Plan.

Previous funding rounds have had three streams:

- Community Sports Facilities – grants up to \$500K maximum for projects such as new or redeveloped sports fields and courts, multi-sport (gender-inclusive) facilities, and supporting infrastructure like coaches boxes and safety netting.
- Community Sports Lighting – grants up to \$250K for new or redeveloped LED lighting installations to increase capacity and availability for sports fields and courts.
- Planning – grants up to \$40K for single site facility planning or municipal-wide strategic planning.

SRV's key priorities and considerations for preparing a competitive application are expected to be similar to previous rounds which focused on:

- Tender-ready or shovel-ready projects supported by documentation such as detailed designs, confirmed cost estimates, current site conditions.
- Confirmed financial contributions from Council and/or project partners, demonstrated through letters of support or confirmation of other grant funding.
- Commitment from tenant clubs to gender-equitable access and demonstrated participation initiatives that support and encourage involvement of women and girls both on- and off-field.
- Alignment with Victorian Government investment priorities, including inclusive participation, multi-use facilities, benefits to low socio-economic communities, active recreation, and economic impact.

## **Previous Council Resolution**

This matter is not the subject of a previous Council resolution.

## **ALIGNMENT TO 2041 DAREBIN COMMUNITY VISION**

Pillar 1: Vibrant, Healthy and Connected

## **ALIGNMENT TO OUR DAREBIN PLAN 2025-29**

Strategic Direction 3: Health and Wellbeing - A City where everyone in the community can access the opportunities, infrastructure and services they need to be physically and mentally safe and healthy.

## DISCUSSION

Officers considered projects listed in Council's draft 2026-27 Capital Works Program for submission and identified three projects for the 2026-27 LSIF funding round, based on their alignment with the grant criteria, Council's strategic priorities and timelines.

Project	Cost and Budget	Considerations
<p><b>Community Sports Facilities Stream:</b></p> <p><b>Construct Reservoir Leisure Centre Hot Water Upgrade (Changerooms)</b></p> <p>Upgrade hot water provision (heat pumps) and refurbish change facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due diligence commenced in 2025-26 with \$500K allocated in Council's Capital Works Program</li> <li>• \$500K allocated in draft 2026-27 Capital Works Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due diligence activities to date indicate the project would benefit from additional funding; costs are being value managed to current \$1M budget</li> <li>• Planning and documentation (designs and confirmed cost estimates) are underway and expected to be completed in time for anticipated grant timelines</li> <li>• There is demonstrable need and a compelling case to upgrade Reservoir Leisure Centre changerooms – would benefit 2,000+ members plus casual users, targeted demographics and aligns with gender-inclusion focus</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community Sports Lighting Stream:</b></p> <p><b>Construct Northcote Tennis Courts LED Lighting Upgrade</b></p> <p>Upgrade four tennis court lights to LED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$80K allocated in draft 2026-27 Capital Works Program (based on quotes)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and documentation (designs and confirmed cost estimates) are complete</li> <li>• Current lighting provision is often impacted by repair delays, reducing access to courts at night during peak times</li> <li>• Demonstrable need to upgrade lights to LED to address ESD and support participation by targeted demographics, aligns with gender-inclusion focus</li> </ul>
<p><b>Planning Stream:</b></p> <p><b>Design Mayer Park Sportsground Renovation</b></p> <p>Plan (including due diligence) and design to renovate sports ground</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$75K allocated in draft 2026-27 Capital Works Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrable need as the highest priority sports ground renovation in Council's Outdoor Sports Infrastructure Framework</li> <li>• The ground supports participation by: Darebin United Football Club (winter tenant) – 339 players, 270 men/boys and 59 women/girls; 10 all abilities; and Northcote Cricket Club (summer tenants) ~60 men/boys, with plans underway to establish women/girls teams in conjunction with Cricket Victoria</li> <li>• Football Victoria is supportive – high advocacy priority in their Facilities Strategy 2025-2035</li> <li>• Cricket Victoria is supportive due to poor outfield conditions</li> </ul>

**CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (2020) PRINCIPLES****Financial Management**

Should Council be successful, funding would be used to support the delivery of the selected project/s and, pending the circumstances (as outlined above), would either offset existing Council funding allocation or supplement current project funding.

**Community Engagement**

A community engagement and communications plan will be developed to support projects along with an Equity and Gender Impact Assessment, if not already completed. Relevant key stakeholders would be engaged in this project.

To meet grant guidelines, chosen projects would undertake the required engagement type (inform or consult) and deliver community engagement activities and reporting prior to application.

**Other Principles for consideration****Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Principles**

- (b) priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;
- (g) the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured;

**Public Transparency Principles**

- (a) Council decision making processes must be transparent except when the Council is dealing with information that is confidential by virtue of this Act or any other Act;

**Strategic Planning Principles**

- (c) Strategic planning must take into account the resources needed for effective implementation;
- (d) strategic planning must identify and address the risks to effective implementation;

**Service Performance Principles**

- (a) services should be provided in an equitable manner and be responsive to the diverse needs of the municipal community;
- (b) services should be accessible to the members of the municipal community for whom the services are intended;

**COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS****Environmental Sustainability Considerations (including Climate Emergency)**

Projects address Council's ESD policy in planning, design and construction phases.

**Equity, Inclusion, Wellbeing and Human Rights Considerations**

Project planning phases include an Equity and Gender Impact Assessment, consultation with relevant club/s on their needs, and align to the guidelines mentioned below to ensure women and girls have equitable access and facilities at a venue, leading to greater retention and attracting participants of all genders, ages, and cultural backgrounds.

All sports infrastructure projects are planned with consideration of the State Government's Female Friendly Sport Infrastructure Guidelines, Fair Access Policy and various sporting code requirements for gender-inclusive participation.

**Economic Development and Cultural Considerations**

Construction projects generally contribute to employment and local economic development opportunities.

**Operational Impacts**

None identified at this point.

**Legal and Risk Implications**

Should Council be successful, a funding agreement is required to be executed. Risks have been incorporated into the options listed above.

**IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS**

Pending Council's decision on projects to be submitted, officers will prepare required information and supporting documentation to meet the 2026-27 LSIF submission deadline once confirmed.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Outdoor Sports Infrastructure Framework

**Attachments**

Nil.

**DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

**9.5 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM 26/27****Author:** Coordinator Equity, Inclusion & Wellbeing**Reviewed By:** Chief Executive Officer**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report outlines a recommended structure for the delivery of the Community Grants Program.

The development of the proposed Community Grant Program structure involved identifying opportunities:

- for better alignment to Council’s strategic objectives;
- for administrative efficiencies;
- to respond to community feedback received during the Community Grants Review process (specifically regarding their prioritisation of Council’s strategic objectives and feedback about clarity, simplification and accessibility of the grants program); and
- to encourage community groups to apply for funds to address community division.

The proposed structure involves incorporating all existing annual grants into a single Community Grants program that aligns with the five community-facing strategic directions outlined in the *Our Darebin Plan 2025-2029*. Grants would open twice per year – in July and February. Proposed categories and recommended funding allocation for the Community Grant program is shown below:

Community Grant Program categories	Proportion of Community Grants Program budget (%)
Aboriginal Culture and Knowledge	25%
Equity, Diversity and Inclusion	25%
Health and Wellbeing	25%
Climate Leadership and Response	12.5%
Vibrant Places and Economy	12.5%
Total	100%

The proposed Community Grants Program structure is strongly aligned with the *Our Darebin Plan 2025-2029*, is easier to understand and navigate for community, delivers significant administrative efficiencies for Council, is more responsive to community need and feedback and enables significant investment in initiatives that address community division and discrimination.

**Officer Recommendation**

- (1) **That** Council endorses the proposed Community Grants Program structure and criteria to commence in 2026-2027, including:
- a. The five grant categories, and, the percentage allocation of community grants budget to each category as follows:

- i. Aboriginal Culture and Knowledge – 25%
  - ii. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion – 25%
  - iii. Health and Wellbeing – 25%
  - iv. Climate Leadership – 12.5%
  - v. Response and Vibrant Places and Economy – 12.5%.
- b. The suite of sub-program allocations to further direct the grant focus areas (**Appendix A**).
  - c. There are three core criteria for all projects being need, benefits and delivery, which are sufficient to provide strategic alignment *Our Darebin 2025-29* balanced with flexibility to enable a variety of opportunities to be assessed.
  - d. Providing the community with two opportunities a year to access the program.
- (2) Notes that the Chief Executive Officer will oversee operational delivery of the program in accordance with the amended Community Grants Program guidelines that will more explicitly reflect Council’s commitment to human rights and its position on anti-discrimination as outlined in the *Towards Equality: Equity, Inclusion and Human Rights Framework 2019-29*.

## BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION

In response to Council’s resolution at the Council meeting on **23 June 2025** to endorse a review of Darebin’s grant program, the review was undertaken and reported back to Council at the **March 2026** Council meeting. At that meeting, Council resolved that there should be further consideration of the categories, sub-program allocations and criteria of funding and their alignment with the strategic objectives of Council. The resolution also stated that consideration be given to the best way to encourage community groups and organisations to apply for grants that address community division.

### Current Community Grant Program

Council currently offers five annual community-focused grant programs (and 14 funding categories within) delivered over five grant rounds per year. Each of these grant programs are promoted and assessed separately. Each grant program and the categories within have similar but different assessment criteria. Historically, these programs are primarily offered in the first half of the year.

The current grant stream offerings are shown below.

Grant programs	Applications	Funds released
1. Annual Community Grants	Open: April Close: May	August
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small – must show alignment with at least one of the strategic directions</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium – Available under Environment &amp; Sustainability; Equity, Inclusion &amp; Wellbeing; or Creative Artist-led categories</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Venue hire</li> <li>• Youth</li> </ul>		
2. Older and Active Grants	Open: Jan Close: March	May

Grant programs	Applications	Funds released
3. FUSE Fund	Open: April Close: May	July
4. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Grants	Open: March Close: April	June
5. Emergency Food Relief Grants	Open: Sept Close: Oct	November

## 2022 VAGO Audit and Self-Assessment

Council's Community Grants program was last reviewed and restructured in 2019 with changes and budgets that took effect in 2020. In June 2022, Council received a letter from the Minister for Local Government drawing Councils' attention to a performance audit conducted by the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) titled 'Fraud Control Over Local Government Grants', which examined the processes and practices associated with council grant programs.

In response, Council's Governance and Risk team conducted a review and produced the 'Self Assessment Report - Grant Framework Review, July 2022'. The primary objective of the self-assessment was to review and assess Council's grant framework and processes to determine if they are well designed, mitigate fraud related risks and are operating as intended. Twenty-one improvement opportunities were identified, 17 of which have been actioned. The four outstanding recommendations relate to fraud and corruption and conflict of interest training for relevant staff.

## Benchmarking

A review of the number of grants programs and categories offered by other suburban Councils in the M9 shows significant variation in the structure of the programs across Councils. At the more complex end, the City of Port Phillip offers seven grant programs with 13 categories. The City of Yarra has taken a much more streamlined approach offering just two programs with the same six categories.

## Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held 23 June 2025, Council resolved:

*'That Council:*

1. *Endorses a review of Darebin's grant-making program to align the program to the Council Plan 2025-29, where:*
  - (a) *The review considers the value achieved for grantees and to the broader Darebin community, contemporary best-practice approaches to grant-making, and benchmarking against comparable Councils.*
  - (b) *Is informed by community engagement, including feedback from past and present grant recipients, and organisations who have an interest.*
  - (c) *Workshop options with council by November 2025, with a report to be tabled in March 2026 on recommendations to strengthen all council grant programs.*
2. *Endorses:*
  - (a) *Deferring the second round of the three-year partnerships grants until after Council considers the grant program review and endorses its revised approach to grant-making.*

- (b) *Endorses the extension of the current partnership grants for 12 months.'*

Following the presentation of the Grant Program Review on 24 March 2026, Council resolved:

*That Council:*

1. *Notes the Community Grants Program Review (Summary Report) at Appendix A.*
2. *Replaces 'Partnership Grants' with 'Multi-Year Funding' grants and introduces a program model for the Multi-Year Funding Agreements program as follows:*
  - (a) *Eligible community organisations will be able to apply and receive annual funding over a maximum period of three years.*
  - (b) *Agreements will be managed under four categories as follows:*
    - i. *Equity and Wellbeing Category with a sub-program allocation of \$200,000*
    - ii. *Arts Category with a sub-program allocation of \$60,000*
    - iii. *Youth Category with a sub-program allocation of \$50,000*
    - iv. *Environment and Sustainability Category with a total allocation of \$50,000*
  - (c) *Agreements will be established on a rolling 3-year cycle, with the funding once all agreements are in place having a total value of \$360,000 as follows:*
    - i. *An initial round of multi-year funding agreements will be established up to a total amount of \$160,000 in 2026-27.*
    - ii. *A further round of multi-year funding agreements will be established up to a total amount of \$100,000 in 2027-28 (resulting in a total budget allocation of \$260,000 in that year).*
    - iii. *A final round of multi-year funding agreements will be established up to a total amount of \$100,000 in 2028-29 (resulting in a total budget allocation of \$360,000 in that year).*
3. *Continues to offer a program of Annual Community Grants as follows:*
  - (a) *The total funding allocation to this program is to be determined through the annual budget process; and*
  - (b) *The categories and sub-program allocations and criteria are to be determined at the May 2026 Council Meeting to allow further discussion at briefing sessions about the categories and alignment to Council's strategic objectives.*
  - (c) *In establishing the Annual Community Grants consideration be given to the best way to encourage community groups and organisations to apply for grants that address division resulting from but not limited to racism, discrimination against LGBTIQ+ people, islamophobia and antisemitism in order to strengthen social inclusion.*
4. *Notes that a series of operational changes will be introduced as part of the forthcoming 2026-27 grant round to improve program accessibility, inclusivity and governance, and community engagement and capacity building."*

## **ALIGNMENT TO 2041 DAREBIN COMMUNITY VISION**

Pillar 1: Vibrant, Healthy and Connected

## **ALIGNMENT TO OUR DAREBIN PLAN 2025-29**

Strategic Direction 6: Decision Making, Community Engagement and Transparency - A City that is well-managed, transparent and trusted by its community and partners, with clear and respectful communication that builds confidence in Council's decisions.

The proposed model aligns with all other five strategic directions in the Council Plan.

**DISCUSSION**

There are opportunities to streamline Council grants, simplifying the program and processes for both community and Council. This responds directly to review feedback that the grants programs could be more accessible. Streamlining programs may also allow for the offering of grants more regularly throughout the year (for example July and February).

The proposal for the Community Grants Program to align with the five community-facing strategic directions of the *Our Darebin Plan 2025-2029* can be found below. A further breakdown of the categories and sub-program allocations can be found in **Appendix A**.

Community Grant Program (categories)	Rounds
Aboriginal Culture and Knowledge	Round 1 Open: July 2026  Round 2 Open: February 2027
Equity, Diversity and Inclusion	
Health and Wellbeing	
Climate Leadership and Response	
Vibrant Places and Economy	

Funds allocated to previous categories are re-allocated to the appropriate category or categories of the proposed structure, with two exceptions:

- FUSE funding - As the FUSE Festival is typically delivered in September, the FUSE funding that supports artists and community led events contributing to the festival will be taken out separately and managed through a transparent and governed process aligned with the Grants Policy that is conducive to the timing of the festival.
- Older and Active Grants - This stream has worked on its own for a lengthy period, partly due to the cohort this particular stream is currently serving. Many individuals and groups are elderly and from CALD background. The proposal for this stream is to run it as a distinct program in 2026-2027 with a view to assess the value of its incorporation into the Community Grants Program in 2027-2028.

**Community Grants Operational Framework**

The community grants program is overseen by an operational framework which includes the Community Grants Policy and with two supporting documents: Community Grants Program Guidelines and Multi-year Funding Guidelines.

This policy includes the following:

1. Principles for grant-making
2. Applicant eligibility
3. Conditions of funding
4. Grant program structure
5. Administration of grant programs
6. Requests for application outcome review

## 7. Allocation of budget.

**Assessment criteria**

Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

Criteria	Description
Need	<p>All projects</p> <p>Alignment with funding category and <i>Our Darebin Plan 2025-2029</i> strategic directions.</p> <p>Evidence of community need and clear articulation of how project activities will lead to intended outcomes.</p> <p>Demonstrated engagement with, and support of, the local community and partners.</p>
Benefit	<p>All projects</p> <p>Demonstrated and measurable benefit to Darebin residents.</p> <p>Clear evaluation plan to demonstrate outcomes.</p> <p>Strength, scale and sustainability of outcomes over time.</p> <p>Demonstration of how the project will promote gender equality and consider the different needs, interests, and circumstances of different genders.</p> <p>Demonstration of how the project will promote environmental sustainability and/or reduce the impact of climate change.</p> <p>Demonstration of how the project will consider Child Safety and meet legislated Child Safety requirements.</p> <p>Projects &gt;\$3,000</p> <p>Demonstration of how the project will provide equitable access to priority groups as outlined in the <i>Towards Equality Framework</i>.</p>
Delivery	<p>All projects</p> <p>Clear and achievable project plan.</p> <p>Clear and complete budget with quotes provided as outlined in relevant Guidelines document.</p> <p>Demonstrated organisational capability to deliver projects or programs of a similar scale to proposed activity.</p>

**Strengthened social inclusion focus under Equity, Diversity and Inclusion**

Funding allocation to the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion category will enable significant investment in initiatives that address community division and discrimination. This includes responding to racism, discrimination against LGBTIQ+ communities, islamophobia and antisemitism. To strengthen this focus, the Community Grants Program guidelines will be amended to more explicitly reflect Council's commitment to human rights and its position on anti-discrimination as outlined in the *Towards Equality: Equity, Inclusion and Human Rights Framework 2019-29*. This will ensure the grants program continues to operate as a practical mechanism for advancing Council's long-term equity, inclusion and human rights objectives, while supporting community led responses to discrimination and exclusion.

This commitment is further reinforced through the implementation of Council's recently adopted *LGBTIQA+ Action Plan 2025-29* and *Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Plan 2025-29*. These plans provide a clear and coordinated framework for advancing inclusion, addressing systemic discrimination, and promoting safety, visibility and belonging for LGBTIQA+ communities and culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Aligning the Community Grants Program Guidelines with these strategic documents strengthens the translation of Council's commitments into tangible outcomes.

### Summary

The proposed Community Grants structure has significant strengths compared to the existing structure. These include:

- Community Grants category alignment with the Our Darebin Plan 2025-2029.
- Improvement in clarity for community due to reduced number of grant programs and a clear and cohesive approach. Improvements to accessibility for community members will also be implemented including offering of information and applications in languages other than English, and expansion of information and support for applicants via the Volunteer Program and community information sessions in community spaces including libraries and community centres.
- Significant efficiency improvements in grant administration.
- Efficiency improvements may mean that the Community Grants program could be offered in two or three rounds annually, resulting in increased responsiveness to community need across the year.
- Fewer programs and categories lead to a larger budget for each stream.
- Feedback received via the Grants Review showed that the Health and Wellbeing; Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; and Aboriginal Culture and Knowledge strategic directions were most highly valued. This option proposes in the greatest allocation of funding towards the three categories and results in a higher percentage allocation across all three of these areas (compared with existing allocations).

In summary, the proposed structure has a strategic Council Plan focus, is simple to understand and is more efficient than the existing annual grants program. It is more responsive to community need in that it could be delivered over two rounds per year (July and February). It is acknowledged that the implementation of the proposal requires significant internal change consultation with senior leaders and clear and timely communication with the community.

## CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (2020) PRINCIPLES

### Financial Management

The option presented ensures that the Community Grants program continues to be aligned to the *Community Grants Policy* and the recommendations of independent and internal audits and reviews that ensure administration and assessment of all grants are transparent, equitable, clearly articulated and appropriately acquitted.

### Community Engagement

The Community Grants Review involved consultation with community members (n=113 including 86 community grant recipients) and Council Officers (n=27). The specifics of this engagement were outlined in the Community Grants Review that was presented to Council at the March 2026 Ordinary Council meeting.

The option presented here incorporates this feedback, specifically; the value placed on each of the *Our Darebin Plan 2025-2029* strategic directions; and the desire for simplicity, consistency and streamlining to the benefit of both applicants and Council staff.

A Communications Plan will be developed following Council’s decision that will detail how changes will be communicated to the community and internal stakeholders.

**COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

**Environmental Sustainability Considerations (including Climate Emergency)**

The option proposed maintain an environmental sustainability-focused grant stream and allocate a greater proportion of the grants budget to this stream. There is also an environmental consideration in the Assessment criteria that will be applied to all the applications.

**Equity, Inclusion, Wellbeing and Human Rights Considerations:**

The proposed realignment strengthens this with the introduction of a dedicated Equity, Diversity and Inclusion stream and the greater allocation of grants budget to this stream compared to the existing Equity and Wellbeing stream. An EIA of the Community Grants Policy will be undertaken.

**Economic Development and Cultural Considerations**

The option presented includes a dedicated funding stream for Vibrant Places and Economy.

**Operational Impacts**

The option presented provides opportunity to streamline the grant administration process however there will need for internal consultation to build a shared understanding and ensure effective administration for the proposed model.

**Legal and Risk Implications**

Ongoing adherence to the outcomes of the various independent and internal reviews, particularly as they relate to robust, transparent and equitable processes, will help to minimise risk around the Community Grant program.

**IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS**

Date	Action
June 2026	Internal communications and internal consultation of Community Grants Policy and Guidelines.
July 2026	External communications prior to grant round opening in August. <b>Community Grants round 1 opens.</b>
September 2026	Panel assessments.
October 2026	Panel recommendations for ELT endorsement.
November 2026	Grant allocations reported for noting at November Council meeting.

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Date	Action
February 2027	<b>Community Grants round 2 opens.</b>
April 2027	Panel assessments.
May 2027	Panel recommendations for ELT endorsement.
June 2027	Grant allocations reported for noting at May Council meeting.

**Attachments**

- Proposed Community Grant Program categories and sub categories (**Appendix A**) [↓](#)

**DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

**Appendix A – Proposed Community Grants Program categories and sub-categories**

Program categories aligned to Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 Strategic Directions.	Sub-categories (focus areas)
Aboriginal Culture and Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Support for Aboriginal-controlled organisations to deliver community programs</li> <li>➤ Story-telling, truth-telling, and local history initiatives</li> <li>➤ Cultural events, exhibitions, and language revitalisation</li> <li>➤ Knowledge-sharing between Elders, community, and younger generations</li> <li>➤ On-Country learning and cultural land management activities</li> </ul>
Equity, Diversity and Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Projects/programs supporting multicultural, refugee and asylum seeker communities</li> <li>➤ Initiatives led by and for people with disability</li> <li>➤ LGBTIQA+ community safety and inclusion projects</li> <li>➤ Gender equity, prevention of family violence, and respectful relationships</li> <li>➤ Youth, family, and ageing-well initiatives</li> <li>➤ Projects that respond to the impacts of racism, Islamophobia, antisemitism, homophobia and transphobia, with a focus on safety, inclusion and belonging</li> <li>➤ Education, awareness-raising and capacity-building activities that challenge prejudice, misinformation and harmful stereotypes</li> </ul>
Health and Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Social connection and loneliness reduction initiatives</li> <li>➤ Community-led mental health projects</li> <li>➤ Food relief, security, nutrition and physical activity programs</li> <li>➤ Youth, family, and ageing-well initiatives</li> <li>➤ Projects that address priority health and wellbeing issues including: social isolation; poor mental health; sexual and reproductive health issues; alcohol and substance use; tobacco use and vaping; gambling; healthy eating; food security; family violence; physical inactivity; and the health impacts of climate change.</li> </ul>
Climate Leadership and Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Community climate action and advocacy projects</li> <li>➤ Urban greening, biodiversity and water-sensitive initiatives</li> <li>➤ Climate resilience planning for vulnerable communities</li> <li>➤ Repair, reuse, and circular economy initiatives</li> <li>➤ Education programs supporting behaviour change and climate literacy</li> </ul>
Vibrant Places and Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Arts, culture and creative industries initiatives</li> <li>➤ Place-making, festivals and local activation projects</li> <li>➤ Social enterprise and community business development</li> <li>➤ Skills, employment and pathways for young people and diverse cohorts</li> <li>➤ Strengthening local shopping strips and neighbourhood hubs</li> </ul>

**9.6 PROPOSED AWARDING OF DELIVERED MEALS CONTRACTS**

**Author:** Coordinator Ageing Well Unit

**Reviewed By:** Chief Executive Officer

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Supported and Connected Living's delivered meals service to eligible community members has been subcontracted for several years. The current contracts will expire on 30 June 2026. For the new contract (CT20262) an open and transparent Request for Tender process was undertaken.

In accordance with Council's Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy (Procurement Policy) and Instrument of Financial Delegation awarding of new contract CT20262: Supply of Delivered Meals must be approved by Council.

**Officer Recommendation**

**That Council:**

- (1) Approves the awarding of Contract CT20262: Supply of Delivered Meals to the suppliers recommended in **confidential Appendix A**
- (2) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute the Contracts and any associated documentation required to give effect to this resolution, and to release the supplier's names in due course when it is no longer required to be confidential.
- (3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute any required extensions and variations during the life of the Contract subject to satisfactory performance.

**BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION**

Supported and Connected Living (S&CL) is contracted by the State and Commonwealth Governments to provide delivered meals to eligible residents under the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) and the Home and Community Care Program for Younger People (HACC PYP). CHSP represents the larger grant. 96% of all meals delivered YTD 2025/26 are under the CHSP program, and 4% are HACC PYP funded. See Figure 1 below.

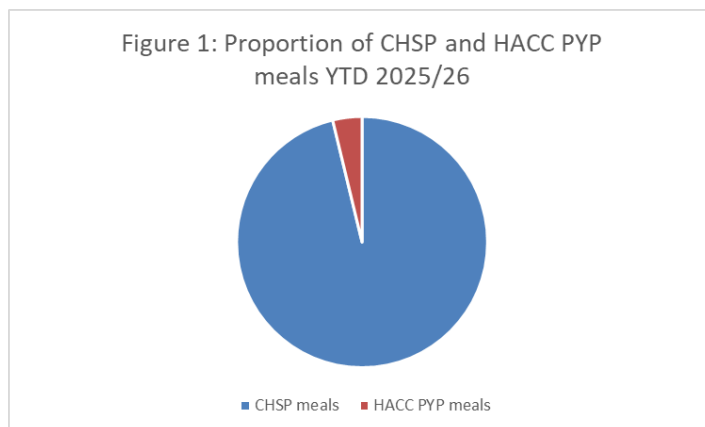


Figure 1.

The 'Commonwealth Home Support Program' (CHSP) guidelines require that funded meals programs provide a variety of fresh and frozen meal options. A component of the service description for CHSP meals is for provision of informal health and wellbeing monitoring of clients and that it can provide social interaction for clients.

The Victorian Government 'Home and Community Care Program for Younger People' (HACC PYP), funds Council for meal delivery to younger people who are at nutritional risk. This funding is for meals delivery only, not monitoring, and recognises that there are other complementary HACC PYP funding streams dedicated to capacity building around meal preparation, nutritional support and social interaction.

Based on client feedback and contractual obligations, the Delivered Meals service model consists of 2 categories of meals-

A – Chilled meal production, delivery and client monitoring.

B – Frozen meal production and delivery.

This model aims to offer choice, flexibility and value to clients in receipt of delivered meals.

Current contracts were awarded to Merri-bek Council for Category A (CT202533), and Lite n Easy for Category B (CT202532) for a contract period of 1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026 with no options for extension.

CT20262: Supply of Delivered Meals is to be awarded to a panel of delivered meals providers for ongoing delivered meals supply, commencing on 1 July 2026 for an initial term of 12 months with 2 x optional 12-month extensions. This is to provide maximum flexibility for the contract to align with current timelines for the Aged Care Reforms, where CHSP will be incorporated into the new Support at Home Program 'no earlier' than 1 July 2027. Once CHSP joins Support at Home, the model for meal provision may change. This also enables S&CL to monitor the marketplace to ensure financially and operationally favourable contracts in future if changes are required. A cost management measure aligned with the 1+1+1 year contract structure will be to undertake a performance review of the contract, incorporating cost and performance indicators, and to supplement this with market sounding to explore emerging options that could enhance future value for money.

Procurement for CT20262 was conducted via an open and transparent Request for Tender process.

The procurement was aligned with Council's Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy and overseen by an independent Probity Advisor.

Council approval for awarding the contract to the successful tenderers is required as the overall value of the contract exceeds \$1m, in line with Council's Instrument of Financial Delegation.

### **Previous Council Resolution**

At its meeting held on 15 May 2017, Council resolved:

*'That Council:*

- (1) Enters a contract with Regional Kitchen for a period of one year to 31 May 2018, with the option to extend for another year, for the supply of delivered meals.*
- (2) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute the contract.*
- (3) The Council resolution be made public but the report remain confidential.'*

At its meeting on 21 May 2018, Council resolved:

*'That Council:*

- (1) Establish the Review Panel on Creating an Age Friendly Darebin, with terms of reference as attached as Appendix B.*
- (2) Appoint Rhonda Galbally AO and Peter Allen as members of the Review Panel.*
- (3) Add a point 10 to the principles of the Terms of Reference to read "Is committed to open and transparent decision making processes and will therefore bring any recommendations emanating from the review process back to an open Council meeting for a decision by Councillors.'*

At its meeting on 3 September 2018, Council resolved:

*'That Council:*

- (1) Acknowledges that if the Commonwealth ceases block funding for aged care services as currently planned, this will inevitably affect how Council will provide services to older people.*
- (2) Notes that because of the Commonwealth's plan to cease block funding, Council has commissioned an independent 'Creating an Age Friendly Darebin' review for the express purpose of ensuring our older people continue to receive quality services they need.*
- (3) Calls on the federal government to extend block funding for the Commonwealth Home Support Program to provide certainty for community and staff, and writes to relevant ministers, shadow ministers and members of parliament requesting that a moratorium be put in place till such time the government conducts a comprehensive review of block funding to Councils.*
- (4) Encourages community members to participate in the independent panel review commissioned by Council, to help plan our services in the longer term.*
- (5) Notes that this Council commits to continue its annual \$6 million investment into the longer term in facilities, programs and services promoting the health and wellbeing of older people.*
- (6) Notes that the independent review terms of reference will investigate expansion of Council's services including the potential for Darebin Council to provide home care packages.*
- (7) Continues to provide commonwealth home support program services while in receipt of any block funding from the Commonwealth Government.'*

## **ALIGNMENT TO 2041 DAREBIN COMMUNITY VISION**

Pillar 4: Collaborative, Transparent and Responsible

### **ALIGNMENT TO OUR DAREBIN PLAN 2025-29**

Strategic Direction 3: Health and Wellbeing - A City where everyone in the community can access the opportunities, infrastructure and services they need to be physically and mentally safe and healthy.

## DISCUSSION

### Request for Tender (RFT)

The Darebin Council Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy states public tenders must be sought by Council if a planned Contract is estimated to have a value in excess of \$300,000, including GST.

In accordance with this policy, a Request for Tender (RFT) was released to the market on 10 March 2026 via the Darebin Council electronic tender portal and was advertised in the following newspapers:

Medium	Date advertised
The Age	7 March 2026

The RFT closed 8 April 2026.

### Community Engagement

Supported and Connected Living undertakes an annual client satisfaction survey in addition to gathering ad hoc client feedback when received. This data is compiled and used to inform the Department's Continuous Improvement plan and service delivery model, including subcontracted services. The current Delivered Meals service model has been directly informed by client feedback to offer quality, choice and flexibility.

A comprehensive communications plan to inform clients and staff of the outcome of this RFT will be undertaken by the Supported and Connected Living team.

### Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Principles

- (b) priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;

### Public Transparency Principles

- (a) Council decision making processes must be transparent except when the Council is dealing with information that is confidential by virtue of this Act or any other Act;

### Strategic Planning Principles

- (b) strategic planning must address the Community Vision;

### Service Performance Principles

- (a) services should be provided in an equitable manner and be responsive to the diverse needs of the municipal community;

## COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

### Environmental Sustainability Considerations (including Climate Emergency)

This procurement was conducted in alignment with Council's Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy and Guidelines, which require consideration of sustainability and a mandated weighting to these criteria in the overall assessment of responses. This included an essential requirement for all food containers to be recyclable in domestic recycling waste bins.

**Equity, Inclusion, Wellbeing and Human Rights Considerations:**

This procurement was conducted in alignment with Council's Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy and Guidelines, which require consideration of social objectives and a mandated weighting to these criteria in the overall assessment of responses.

**Economic Development and Cultural Considerations**

Culturally specific meal requirements were included in the RFT. The recommended suppliers were selected to ensure the client cohort had access to culturally appropriate meal options.

**Legal and Risk Implications**

The contract template was supplied by Maddocks law firm to ensure compliance with the Aged Care Act 2024.

Aged Care Act compliance obligations, such as monitoring Contractor workforce compliance with mandatory checks, such as Police and Banning order checks, will also be built into the contract management process.

**IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS****Communication**

A comprehensive communication plan will be developed and rolled out with client and relevant Department staff prior to contract commencement.

**Attachments**

- CT20262 Confidential Information (**Appendix A**) Confidential - enclosed under separate cover
- CT20262 Evaluation Matrix (**Appendix B**) Confidential - enclosed under separate cover
- CT20262 Probity Report- Aster Advisory (**Appendix C**) Confidential - enclosed under separate cover

**DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

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**9.7 NORTHERN RESERVOIR TRUCK MANAGEMENT PLAN****Author:** Transport Engineer**Reviewed By:** Chief Executive Officer

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report seeks Council endorsement to progress with stakeholder engagement with businesses, the freight industry and residents on the draft Northern Reservoir Truck Management Plan. The draft Plan is shown in **Appendix A**. A report with engagement results and proposed next steps will be returned to Council for consideration.

The Northern Reservoir Truck Management Project was endorsed by Council through the Your Street, Your Say Group A projects in 2022. Progress has now been made in understanding heavy vehicle demand, options, and Department of Transport and Planning's process for implementing area-wide truck controls.

Merri-bek Council, Maribyrnong Council, National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and Department of Transport and Planning have been consulted to inform the officer recommended approach.

<b>Officer Recommendation</b>
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**That Council:**

- (1) Endorses the draft Northern Reservoir Truck Management Plan (**Appendix A**) to be used for engaging the freight industry and Darebin community.
- (2) Receives a report before the end of 2026 that tables consultation feedback and recommended options for managing trucks in relation to safety in the Northern Reservoir area.

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**BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION****Community Feedback and Safety Risk**

Community feedback through the Your Street, Your Say Group A engagement showed that many residents living in the northern area of Reservoir are concerned about trucks using their streets.

Officers regularly hear directly from the community that they feel unsafe when trucks are present while walking and cycling.

**Northern Reservoir**

The land use zoning in the northern Reservoir area includes industrial land surrounded by residential properties.

Edwardes Street is a State Government Strategic Cycling Corridor, and the Reservoir Activity Centre is located on Edwardes Street.

There are local schools within the area.

### Traffic and Truck data

The main roads, Massey Avenue, Edwardes Street and Newlands Road, all have some residential properties and are designed to carry up to 10,000 vehicles per day.

Traffic data collected in the northern Reservoir area confirms that speeds are high and there are higher than average numbers of trucks.

The data collected about how trucks are currently accessing the area shows that smaller trucks prefer Massey Avenue and the longer trucks, including those that require a permit through the National Heavy Regulator, prefer Edwardes Street or Newlands Road.

Newlands Road is the nominated higher mass route for accessing the industrial estate. Not all over-dimensional vehicles can use Newlands Road so some receive permits to use Edwardes Street.

### Truck Sizes

All of Council managed roads can currently be used by vehicles classified as General Access Vehicles (GAV). The GAV category is controlled by the National Heavy Regulator and includes vehicles like concrete trucks, buses and semi-trailers. A semi-trailer is shown below.

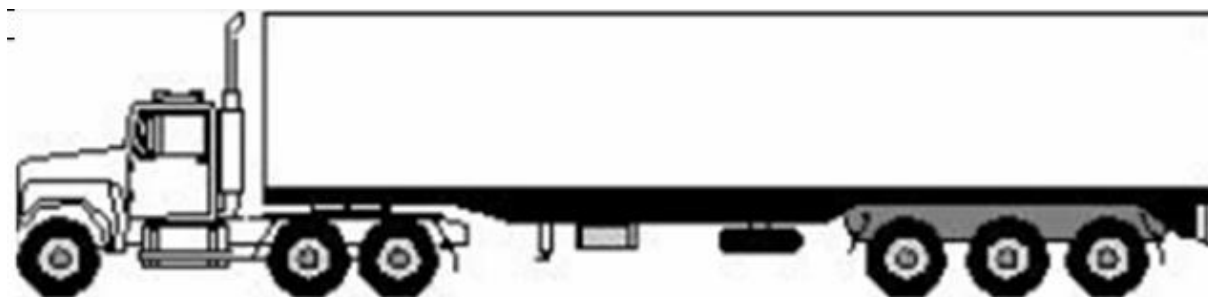


Figure 1 – 19 metre Semi-trailer (Source VicRoads Registration Website)

### **Project Considerations**

The Department of Transport and Planning and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator support looking at the management of trucks in this area, and want Council to consider the impacts on local businesses and ensure large trucks can still access the industrial zone. Their direction is for Council to consider either Massey Avenue or Edwardes Street as the primary access point.

Due to access to the industrial zone only being possible from the State roads (Mahoneys Road, Murray Road and High Street) via Council roads that all have residential frontages, truck access will need to be balanced with road safety for this area.

It may be possible to improve safety in some areas, but not all.

The freight industry has been affected by the recent shock to the fuel supply in Australia. Industry views are critical for this project and will be considered in preparing a final truck management plan for the Northern Reservoir area.

## Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held on 26 September 2022, Council resolved in part:

*'That Council*

*(1) Endorses the Your Street, Your Say Group A 2022 concept designs at Attachment A for design and delivery.'*

.....

## ALIGNMENT TO 2041 DAREBIN COMMUNITY VISION

Pillar 3: Sustainable, Green and Liveable

## ALIGNMENT TO OUR DAREBIN PLAN 2025-29

Strategic Direction 5: Vibrant Places and Economy - A City that is liveable with vibrant places and spaces, safe streets and a thriving local economy.

## DISCUSSION

Multiple options were considered for managing truck access in the northern Reservoir area before an officer recommended option for consultation was established.

Consideration was given to:

- Land use
- Active travel routes
- The size of vehicles currently using the area
- The existing conditions of the road network
- Why vehicles may be accessing roads in the area.

The officer recommended draft truck management plan to use for consultation is provided as a map in **Appendix A**.

The draft plan allows trucks up to 12.5 metres long on main routes. An image of a rigid truck that is 12.5 metres long is provided below. Buses are also 12.5 metres long.



Figure 2 – Rigid Truck (Source VicRoads Registration website)

A full truck ban on local roads is not possible because delivery, construction and removalist trucks still need access. Instead, signs that limit the truck size are proposed at key points.

Edwardes Street would become the primary heavy vehicle route with peak period truck ban for trucks longer than 12.5 metres.

Transport considerations for the draft truck management plan include:

Details	Benefits and Risks
<p>A series of full-time truck no-entry signs would be used for all local roads in northern Reservoir as shown in <b>Appendix A</b>.</p> <p>Massey Avenue would allow trucks up to and including 12.5m long.</p> <p>Edwardes Street would allow all trucks except for during the peak periods (everyday between 8-9am and 3-6pm) where truck sizes would be limited to 12.5m.</p> <p>Trucks longer than 12.5m would need to use Newlands Road during the part-time truck ban.</p>	<p><u>Risks:</u> Continued risk to vulnerable road users including pedestrians and cyclists on Edwardes Street who require access to activity centre, shops/amenities and Reservoir Station.</p> <p><u>Benefits:</u> Removes larger trucks from Massey Avenue and all trucks from local roads.</p> <p>Reduces the size of trucks that can use Edwardes Street during busy periods.</p> <p>Direct access to arterial roads for trucks (Spring Street and High Street) except for trucks longer than 12.5m during peak times.</p> <p>Some access is retained for vehicles up to 12.5 metres including rigid trucks and buses, which allows direct access to Mahoneys Road.</p> <p>Keeps B-doubles (a prime mover towing 2 semi-trailers) and larger trucks on routes identified by Department of Transport and Planning or previously permitted to be used as routes for over-dimensional vehicles.</p> <p>Maintains local truck access for delivery and construction as required.</p> <p>Improves safety for pedestrian and cyclists along Broadhurst Avenue.</p>

An alternative option to progressing the truck management plan is to only continue delivering priority safety changes and safer speeds.

This option focuses on addressing road safety risks through Council-endorsed infrastructure upgrades and the implementation of 40 km/h safer speeds on local roads.

It would improve safety on local roads with known risk locations and more broadly enhance safety outcomes for all road users by reducing vehicle speeds.

However, safety risks along the current preferred truck routes—Massey Avenue and Edwardes Street—would be unlikely to improve, because it does not include any truck management or control measures.

**CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (2020) PRINCIPLES**

**Financial Management**

The project can be delivered withing existing operating budgets.

## Community Engagement

Any changes to access routes for trucks could risk increased costs for industry. Stakeholder and community consultation will begin with sending letters directly to affected residents and businesses in the Northern Reservoir area. The letter will outline the draft truck management plan and invite feedback.

Feedback will be collected via online channels, meetings with local industry representatives and pop up/drop-in session.

Key external stakeholders will be engaged throughout the project including Department of Transport and Planning, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, and Freight Victoria to ensure industry and regulatory requirements are considered.

## Other Principles for consideration

The outcomes of this project align with Pillar 1 of the Community Vision of *Vibrant, Healthy and Connected*. The project will achieve a more *safe and accessible transport* network.

## Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Principles

- (b) priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;

## Public Transparency Principles

- (c) Council information must be understandable and accessible to members of the municipal community;

## Strategic Planning Principles

- (d) strategic planning must identify and address the risks to effective implementation;

## Service Performance Principles

- (c) quality and costs standards for services set by the Council should provide good value to the municipal community;

## COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

### Environmental Sustainability Considerations (including Climate Emergency)

Transport emissions are on track to be the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Australia by 2030<sup>1</sup>. The freight industry is included in this State Government assessment.

Altering access times may result in less delays caused by traffic congestion and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

### Equity, Inclusion, Wellbeing and Human Rights Considerations:

An Equity Impact Assessment was completed during the early stages of the Your Street, Your Say Group A project work. A follow-up assessment, including gender impact assessment, will be completed during the consultation period to inform the project.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/transport-and-infrastructure-net-zero-roadmap-and-action-plan.pdf>

## Economic Development and Cultural Considerations

This project has the potential to impact the businesses that operate from the Northern Reservoir industrial area. The engagement plan will support wide-reaching engagement with businesses.

It may be possible that the creative sector is impacted by the proposed truck access changes where a studio or workspace is within the industrial area. These properties will be contacted to request feedback like all others in the area.

## Operational Impacts

The addition of signs may result in higher long-term maintenance costs.

The signs would be designed to allow access for Council refuse collection routes.

## Legal and Risk Implications

The management of trucks on roads managed by the City of Darebin is a matter for Council with advice from Department of Transport and Planning, National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and Freight Victoria to be considered.

Approval for the use of a truck ban sign must be obtained from Department of Transport and Planning.

## IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

The following approach is proposed to deliver this project:

- (1) Community consultation with residents and businesses including freight industry
- (2) After community consultation adjust the proposal if required and seek endorsement on the layout of the truck management plan and timing of installation at Council.
- (3) Notify Department of Transport, National Heavy Regulator and other stakeholders about the project and Council's decision.
- (4) Seek approval from Department of Transport and Planning for the use of the signs required to deliver the project.
- (5) Implement Northern Reservoir Truck Management Plan.

## Timeline

Date	Activity
May 2026	Council meeting
August 2026	Consultation with stakeholders
Sept-Oct 2026	Review and update the draft Truck Management Plan
Nov 2026	Councillor Briefing
Dec 2026	Council decision about the project
Jan-Feb 2027	Notify stakeholders of the change, if any, and timing
March 2027	Seek approvals for the use of project signs
June 2027	Make the changes to truck access in northern Reservoir

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Your Street, Your Say Group A endorsed projects
- Darebin Transport Strategy 2007-2027
- Darebin Safe Travel Strategy 2018-2028
- Darebin Walking Strategy 2018-2028
- Victorian Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030

**Attachments**

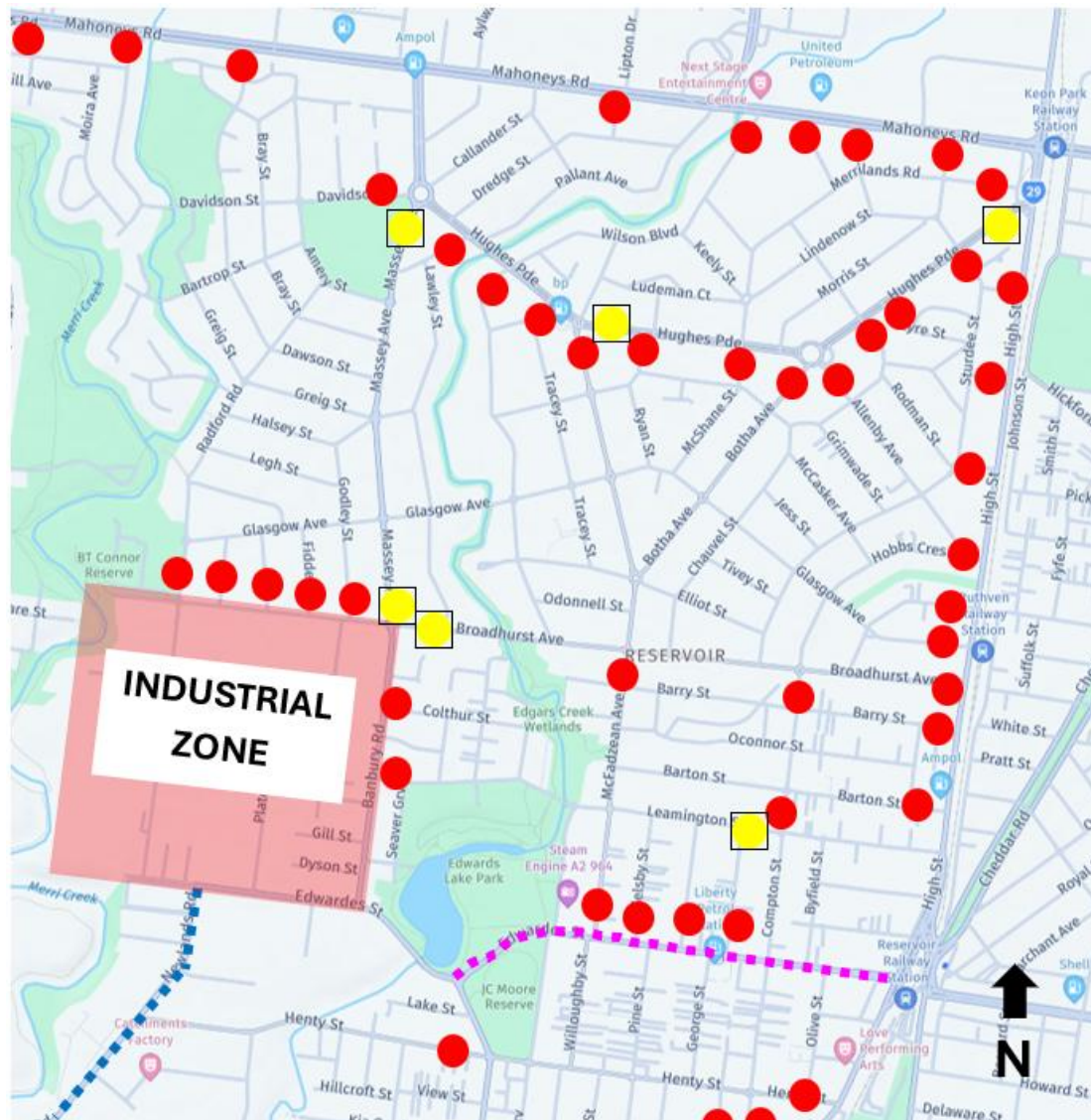
- Northern Reservoir - Draft Truck Management Plan (**Appendix A**) [↓](#)

**DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

### Northern Reservoir – Draft Truck Management Plan



LEGEND	
Truck Entry Ban (Council vehicle and buses excepted)	●
Truck ban (8am –9am and 3pm-6pm for trucks longer than 12.5 metres)	— — — — —
Truck Entry Ban for vehicles longer than 12.5 metres	■
Approved heavy vehicle route for over-dimensional trucks	— — — — —

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**9.8 APPROACH TO MANAGING TRANSPORT SERVICES****Author:** Senior Project Lead**Reviewed By:** Chief Executive Officer

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report considers how Council can provide an uplift in transport service improvements across Darebin over the coming years in a way that is both realistic in the current financial environment and transparent for our community members.

Council officers have reviewed the current approach to transport improvement planning and delivery in Darebin and identified the need for a more sustainable and customer-centred framework.

Council has an extensive portfolio of transport projects endorsed for design and delivery as funding becomes available. The list has been developed across six programs since 2018. The total program significantly exceeds expected funding levels over the next decade across all levels of government, and it would take more than 30 years to implement.

There are also opportunities to improve transport safety and access through operational changes and better alignment of planning activities.

This report recommends a new transport improvement approach focused on three areas:

- 1. Improving how we deliver transport services;** including accelerating the rollout of safer speeds of 40km/h on local roads by 2028, reviewing the parking change process and positioning the Transport Unit as an early adopter of the new Customer Experience Strategy.
- 2. Resetting how we deliver and prioritise capital improvements;** including refining the list of projects endorsed for design and delivery to align with the capacity of Council's capital works budget by prioritising projects using the Road Safety Investment Framework and safety criteria (**Appendix A**) and seeking external funding for Northern Trails Strategy projects.
- 3. Improving how we plan transport projects;** including developing a new Integrated Transport Strategy, pausing major network studies until the next Council Plan term, and introducing an annual internal transport safety review to identify and manage emerging risks.

These recommendations aim to deliver transport improvements in Darebin efficiently, transparently and aligned with Council's long-term strategic direction.

<b>Officer Recommendation</b>
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**That Council:**

- (1) Notes that since 2018 Council has endorsed transport improvements projects with a total estimated cost of \$55,008 million for the purpose of prioritising funding when available.
- (2) Notes that a recent review of the overall transport improvement projects has identified that the total program significantly exceeds expected funding levels over the next decade across all levels of government.

- (3) Supports in-principle the development of a revised, prioritised list of Council-endorsed capital transport improvement projects for delivery over the next four to six years, aligned to the capacity of Council's capital works budget.
- (4) Endorses the prioritisation framework for recommending projects to form the revised Council-endorsed list of capital transport improvement projects at **Appendix A**.
- (5) Receives a report at the July 2026 Council meeting, recommending a revised list of capital transport improvement projects within the capacity of Council's capital works budget and using the prioritisation framework at **Appendix A**.
- (6) Supports the Chief Executive Officer to deliver transport service improvements that focus on safety, access and improved customer experience, prioritising parking change requests and accelerating the rollout of Council-endorsed speed reductions.
- (7) Receives a report no later than February 2027 that includes a scoping paper for the new Transport Strategy.

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## BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION

### Road safety worse than average in Darebin

Road safety is a priority for the community. Recent crash data shows Darebin continues to experience serious and fatal injuries.

Over the past five years, Darebin recorded 17 fatalities and 605 serious injuries on Council and State-managed roads.

Victorian Government data shows Darebin performs worse than average across all transport modes, with cycling and motorbike crashes significantly higher than comparable areas.

As the coordinating road authority, Council is responsible for identifying safety risks and making improvements. Council's investment in safer speeds, transport infrastructure changes and behaviour change programs aligns with this responsibility.

### Customer requests increasing

Demand for transport services is increasing. In 2024–25, Council received 1,689 transport-related requests, a 33% increase over three years. The main types of requests from the community are:

- Parking (50% of all requests)
  - Parking congestion reduces access and increases safety risks.
  - Resident requests for a change to parking have long wait times.
  - There are over 50 requests for a parking change that are yet to be completed.
- Speeding (20% of all requests)
  - Safer speeds of 40km/h in local streets have reduced serious injury crashes in Darebin by 31% in those areas that received a safer speed change over 5 years ago.
  - Research shows that a safer speed of 40km/h or lower significantly reduces the risk of death for pedestrians and cyclists.
  - Around half of the municipality now has safer speeds of 40km/h or has an application for change with the Victorian Government for approval (**Appendix B**).

## Capital improvements constraints

Council is not currently resourced to deliver the full list of transport projects previously endorsed by Council for design and delivery:

- Since 2018, Council has endorsed projects valued at over \$55 million across six programs.
- After removing off-road trail projects in the Northern Region Trails Strategy, \$31.6 million of works remain. This would take around 30 years for delivery at current funding levels.
- The Your Street, Your Say Group C (YSYS C) projects are expected to be considered by Council in May 2026. The list will get longer with these projects. Finalising YSYS C completes an integrated, community informed safety review across the whole municipality.
- Darebin's population is expected to grow by 65,000 people by 2041, meaning transport needs will change significantly over time.
- Projects endorsed several years ago may no longer reflect future priorities.

**Appendix C** contains the full list of projects previously endorsed by Council.

## Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held on 15 December 2025, Council resolved in part:

*'That Council:*

- .....
- 3) *Receives further information at a briefing session in February 2026 regarding new approaches to prioritising and investing in network improvements to inform a report to a Council Meeting no later than April 2026.'*

## ALIGNMENT TO 2041 DAREBIN COMMUNITY VISION

Pillar 3: Sustainable, Green and Liveable

## ALIGNMENT TO OUR DAREBIN PLAN 2025-29

Strategic Direction 5: Vibrant Places and Economy - A City that is liveable with vibrant places and spaces, safe streets and a thriving local economy.

## DISCUSSION

A three-pronged approach is proposed that considers how to more effectively and responsively improve transport in Darebin.

### 1. Improving how we deliver transport services

#### Introducing safer speeds of 40km/h and 30km/h sooner

Speed zone changes are a cost-effective way of improving safety for all road users. At the current pace, it will take at least three years to introduce safer speeds of 40 km/h across all local roads. Any 30km/h zones or streets would follow.

Officers are recommending an accelerated rollout of its safer speed program, which would include:

- prioritising the rollout of safer speeds previously endorsed through the Your Street, Your Say program, aiming for completion by 2028;
- seeking to partner with Victoria Police on enforcement aligned with speed changes; and
- delivering a road safety campaign to encourage safer driving, consistent with the Victorian Road Safety Strategy 2021–30.

### Reviewing the Parking Change Request Process

A service review of how Council undertakes parking investigations will focus on improving the customer experience by reducing wait times, while ensuring continued meaningful engagement. The review will be guided by Council's Parking Management Operating Procedures ([endorsed 29 May 2023](#)).

If the review identifies that changes to the current process are necessary to meet service goals, officers will bring recommendations to Council supported by clear evidence.

### Improving Customer Experience

Council adopted its *Customer Experience Strategy* at its April meeting. The Sustainable Transport Unit will be one of the first services to implement the strategy.

## **2. Resetting how we deliver and prioritise capital improvements**

Officers propose a new transport capital improvement program to replace the existing \$55 million list of previously endorsed projects (**Appendix C**). The revised program would be a portfolio of projects to be delivered over the next 4 to 6 years, aligned to the capacity of Council's capital works budget.

This would replace the current long list of projects. The new program would:

- provide a clear, manageable list of priority projects that aligns with Council's capital works budget;
- improve transparency and certainty for the community about what Council can realistically deliver and what it will be advocating for; and
- allow Council to respond more effectively to changing transport needs as the population grows.

The new program of projects would begin in 2027–28. A final recommended list of projects is proposed to be presented to Council in July 2026, after Council adopts its 2026–27 Budget.

### How will projects be prioritised in the new Program?

Officers are recommending a new, consistent way to prioritise all previously endorsed projects. This approach uses two evidence-based assessments known as the Road Safety Investment Framework detailed in **Appendix A**:

- *Benefit–Cost Analysis* – compares the cost of a project with the benefits it delivers to the community.
- *Safety Risk Assessment* – uses the industry supported approach to assessing road safety risk.

This method aligns with the Australian Government's Black Spot Program decision-making protocol, promoting a rigorous, tested and transparent process when deciding which projects to deliver first.

The prioritisation of projects is proposed to occur in the following order:

- Your Street, Your Say (YSYS) projects:
  - YSYS projects would be prioritised for delivery first, with an equal funding allocation made to each area A, B and C. Previous funding commitments from both Council and grant funding to YSYS projects would count towards this allocation.
- All remaining Council endorsed transport projects listed in **Appendix C**, including those identified by the YSYS program, would then be considered and recommended to make up the balance of the program.

The prioritisation approach at **Appendix A** would be used to firstly recommend prioritised YSYS projects, and then, a list of prioritised projects from the remaining list to achieve a 4 to 6 year project portfolio.

This approach will help Council:

- compare projects fairly and transparently;
- invest in projects that deliver the greatest safety improvements;
- achieve value for money for the community; and
- strengthen future grant applications with the Victorian and Australian Government.

#### What happens to projects not included?

Projects that are not prioritised for delivery in the revised program will be reviewed each year through Council's internal annual road safety review, undertaken by Council's transport engineers. If risks change or new issues emerge, these can be brought back to Council for reconsideration.

#### Northen Trails Strategy

The new, recommended program would be drawn from on-road projects. Funding to deliver the off-road trails included in the Northen Trails Strategy would be pursued through grant opportunities.

#### Grant opportunities

When grants become available, officers will:

- apply using suitable projects from the revised transport improvement program; and
- if needed, seek Council approval to submit projects not on the revised transport improvement program. This would only happen if there were no suitable candidate projects on the revised transport improvement program.

Blackspot projects will continue to be managed separately, as they are based on Federal Government crash-risk criteria and are 100% grant funded.

### **3. Improving how we plan transport projects**

Long term planning must be a key consideration for a growing City. A new Transport Strategy will be developed that sets out Council's movement and access goals, and its strategies and actions to achieve these goals.

Officers will recommend the scope of the new strategy, for Council endorsement, no later than November this year.

Officers recommend that no major, Council-wide transport investigations (similar in scale to YSYS), be undertaken until the next Council term, after the new Transport Strategy is adopted by Council.

## **CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (2020) PRINCIPLES**

### **Financial Management**

Refining a scope of projects for delivery will align commitment with Council's funding capacity. The prioritisation method recommended by officers follows the current practice of recommending projects to Council as part of the budget development.

### **Community Engagement**

The projects identified, developed and endorsed by Council have been through two rounds of community engagement for their area over their development. No further consultation is planned for the list of projects already endorsed.

### **Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Principles**

- (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;
- (i) the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

### **Public Transparency Principles**

- (c) Council information must be understandable and accessible to members of the municipal community;

### **Strategic Planning Principles**

- (b) strategic planning must address the Community Vision;
- (c) Strategic planning must take into account the resources needed for effective implementation;
- (d) strategic planning must identify and address the risks to effective implementation;

### **Service Performance Principles**

- (c) quality and costs standards for services set by the Council should provide good value to the municipal community;

## **COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Environmental Sustainability Considerations (including Climate Emergency)**

Improving road safety also increases the choices of the community to travel by walking and riding. Increasing the share of active travel reduces the amount of greenhouse gas emissions.

### **Equity, Inclusion, Wellbeing and Human Rights Considerations:**

A gender and equity impact assessment was completed where relevant for each of the programs that contributed to the long list of transport infrastructure projects.

### **Economic Development and Cultural Considerations**

The way people move around and access their local shops can influence the economic outcomes for those traders.

### Operational Impacts

The delivery of new assets requires lifecycle maintenance to ensure they remain functional. This is considered in the material types through the design process.

### Legal and Risk Implications

Council as the coordinating road authority is required to maintain and improve safety of their road network. This work supports an evidence-based approach to a reasonable level of investment and approach to addressing road safety.

### IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

When	Item
May 2026	Council to consider Approach to Managing Transport Services in Darebin
June 2026	Budget endorsement of Capital Projects for delivery in 2026-27
July 2026	Council consideration and endorsement of a revised transport improvement program
November 2026	Transport Strategy scoping paper tabled at Council
May 2027	Annual progress report on Transport Service Improvements tabled at Council

### RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Darebin Transport Strategy 2007-2027
- Victorian Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030

### Attachments

- Road Safety Investment Framework and Safety Criteria (**Appendix A**) [↓](#)
- Safer Speeds Program Status (**Appendix B**) [↓](#)
- Full list of currently endorsed transport projects (**Appendix C**) [↓](#)

### DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## Road Safety Investment Framework

### Project allocation approach

The prioritisation of projects for delivery will occur in the following order:

- YSYS projects:
  - YSYS projects would be prioritised for delivery first, with an equal funding allocation made to each area A, B and C. Previous funding commitments from both Council and grant funding to YSYS projects would count towards this allocation
- All remaining Council endorsed transport projects listed in **Attachment C**, including those identified by the Your Street, Your Say program, would then be considered and recommended to make up the balance of the program.

The prioritisation approach set out below would be used to firstly recommend prioritised YSYS projects, and then, a list of prioritised projects from the remaining list to achieve a 4 to 6 year project portfolio.

### Safety Focused Prioritisation Criteria

#### **Criteria 1 - Benefit Cost Ratio (50%)**

The benefit cost ratio (BCR) has been the primary way of selecting the road safety projects through the Australian Government's Black Spot program.

The benefit cost ratio uses the following information to give each project one score, the BCR:

- Number and severity of injury collisions. Available from the State Government's road injury database. Includes other, serious and fatal injury types.
- The cost of collisions. This is the industry accepted cost of each injury type.
- The crash reduction factor. This is the industry accepted amount of improved safety for the type of intervention.
- Project lifespan. The industry accepted length of time a project will provide improvement for the proposed type of intervention.
- Cost of the project. Includes design, project management, construction.

The proposed prioritisation of Darebin's projects uses BCR in the following way:

- When the BCR is less than 2, the project score is 1
- When the BCR is between 2 and 4, the project score is 2
- When the BCR is between 4 and 6, the project score is 3
- When the BCR is between 6 and 8, the project score is 4
- When the BCR is above 8, the project score is 5

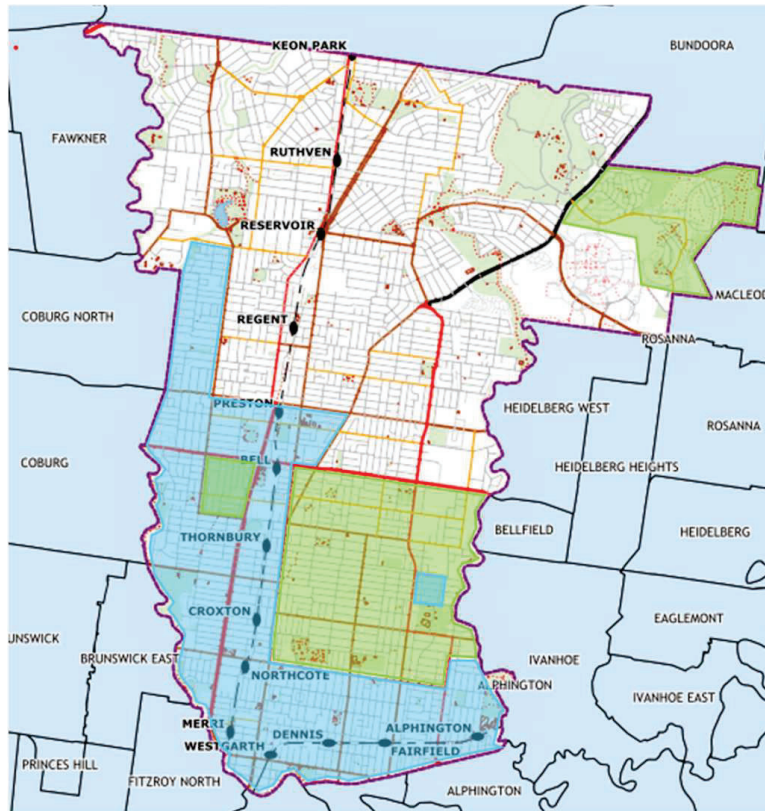
#### **Criteria 2 - Safety Risk Assessment (50%)**



The Australian Government's Black Spot program also considers projects using road safety risk. This approach uses the Austroads guide to Road Safety Part 6 – Road Safety Audit to determine the safety risk for each project.

The scoring has been applied in the following way:

- Medium risk of 'other' injury = 1
- High risk of 'other' injury = 2
- Medium risk (Fatal or Serious Injury – FSI) = 3
- High risk (FSI) = 4
- Extreme (FSI) = 5

Safer Speeds Program Status



-  Areas with safe speed of 40km/h
-  Areas with safe speed of 40km/h application with State for approval

Transport Portfolio as at 19 February 2026 (all estimates are construction costs only and shown as \$000's)								
YSYS Group C	YSYS Group B	YSYS Group A	Blackspot	Local Area Place Making	Northern Trails	Streets for People	Octopus Schools	Total
<b>Adopted and funded for Construction</b>								
	Newcastle Street, south of Young Street raised zebra crossing \$100	Miller Street, Bracken Avenue signalised pedestrian crossing \$250	Victoria Road and Mitchell Street intersection changes \$214			Harding Street Bridge - Replace bridge \$3,000		
		Northern Reservoir, truck management (signs) \$30	Dundas Street and St David Street intersection safety changes \$374					
		Clarendon Street, east of High Street - raised zebra crossing \$100	Edwardes Street / Banbury Rd intersection safety changes \$235					
		Newman Street and Comas Grove Trial intersection treatment (temporary kerbing) \$50						
<b>Total value of projects that are funded for construction</b>		<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$430</b>	<b>\$823</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$4,353</b>
<b>Designs complete and ready for construction funding</b>								
		Radford Rd between Edwardes to Broadhurst - Raised road safety treatments \$200		Raised crossing Emmaline Street at Leinster Grove \$120		Boldrewood Parade & McMahon Road - Raised crossings \$300		
		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$200</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$120</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$620</b>
<b>Detailed Designs underway for the following 'adopted' projects - construction not yet funded</b>								
	Union Street east leg at High Street -wombat crossing \$100	Gilbert Road and Henty Street - raised signalised intersection \$450					Murphy Street and Symons Street - road closure \$250	
		Edwardes St and Gilbert Rd - raised signalised intersection \$250		Cheddar Road signalised crossing at Crookston Road \$600				
		<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$700</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$600</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$250</b>
<b>Feasibility work complete and now need detailed designs to be funded</b>								
	Victoria Road, south of Clifton St - signalised pedestrian crossing \$600					Elizabeth Street near Raymond Street Pedestrian / cycle crossing (raised) \$400		
	Dundas Street, between Victoria and Matisi Street - separated bike lane \$1,000							
		<b>\$1,600</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$400</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>Feasibility work funded and underway</b>								
					Melbourne Water pipe track - Reservoir to Coburg \$1,500			
		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>
<b>Pending Blackspot funding</b>								
			Gilbert Rd corridor raised platforms and raised zebra crossings \$1,600					
		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,600</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,600</b>
<b>Projects referred to TAC: Detailed design complete – under active consideration for construction funding agreement**</b>								
		Cramer Street near Park Street – raised crossing \$150					Aberdeen Street at Dumbarton Street -Raised Pedestrian Crossing \$60	
							Hartington Street at Arthurton Road - Raised Pedestrian Crossing \$60	
							McIntosh Street at Westbourne Grove - Raised Pedestrian Crossing \$60	
							Steane Street at McColl Street - Raised Pedestrian Crossing with speed hump \$75	

Transport Portfolio as at 19 February 2026 (all estimates are construction costs only and shown as \$000's)									
YSYS Group C	YSYS Group B	YSYS Group A	Blackspot	Local Area Place Making	Northern Trails	Streets for People	Octopus Schools	Total	
							Clapham Street at Hutton Street - Raised Pedestrian Crossing	\$75	
							Greenock St at Aberdeen St raised crossing	\$80	
							Darebin Bvd/Greenock St Pedestrian crossing and speed cushions	\$60	
<b>Total value of projects that are funded for construction</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$150</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$470</b>	
<b>Projects referred to TAC: Detailed design in progress at direction of TAC (with TAC advice that projects very likely to be approved for construction funding)</b>									
	Matisi Street, Wombat crossing	\$130		Railway Place and Gillies Street - Raised intersection with zebra crossings	\$300				
	Separation Street and Perry Street - Raised intersection	\$300							
	Newcastle Street and Collins Street Raised zebra crossings	\$350							
	Jones Street and Collins Street, Thornbury - raised intersection	\$300							
<b>Total value of projects that are funded for construction</b>		<b>\$1,080</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,380</b>	
<b>Projects referred to TAC : Concept Plans only - direction from TAC to not progress for current program</b>									
	Clarendon Street, east of St David Street Wombat crossing, central median and speed cushions	\$100	Bracken Ave at Harold Street - Raised road crossing	\$100		Powell Street at Robinson Rd - Raised crossing	\$40	Tyler St and Laurel St - Raised intersection	\$150
	Gooch St, Thornbury Raised zebra crossing	\$130	Bracken Ave at Hutton Street - Raised road crossing	\$100		Car park access at Robinson Road - Raised crossings	\$40		
	Mansfield St, Thornbury raised pedestrian crossing	\$20	Bracken Ave at Rennie Street - Raised road crossing	\$100					
	Separation St, east of Sparks Ave raised crossing	\$130	Bracken Ave at Smith Street - Raised road crossing	\$100					
	Newcastle Street and Collins Street Raised zebra crossings	\$430							
<b>Total value of projects that are funded for construction</b>		<b>\$810</b>	<b>\$400</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$80</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$150</b>	<b>\$1,440</b>

Transport Portfolio as at 19 February 2026 (all estimates are construction costs only and shown as \$000's)												
YSYS Group C	YSYS Group B	YSYS Group A	Blackspot	Local Area Place Making	Northern Trails	Streets for People	Octopus Schools	Total				
The following projects are endorsed by Council but have no funding source identified at this time												
	Traffic signals Separation Street and Breavington Way	\$1,200	Zebra crossing at the Mary Street and Bell Street intersection	\$50	Pedestrian refuge Dunne Street at Darebin Creek Trail	\$60	Path connection at the St Georges Road / Merri Parade / Charles Street intersection	\$1,000	Clements Grove & McMahon Road – safety change	\$80	Greenock Street at Banff Street - Splitter Islands	\$70
	Wales Street Thornbury traffic calming measures	\$130	Oakover Road bike lane	\$50	Pedestrian refuge Dunne Street west of Stymie Street	\$60	Edgars Creek between Carrington Road to Edwardes Lake New trail	\$1,500	Cramer Street to the west of McDonald Street	\$90	Hickford Street Relocation of school crossing and provision of a speed hump	\$120
	Raleigh Street, Thornbury raised crossing and two speed humps	\$190	Regent Street bike infrastructure	\$300	Cheddar Road and Purinuan Road Install left-in left-out	\$50	Edgars Creek between Glasgow Avenue and the Metropolitan Ring Road New trail	\$1,800	Charles Street at the rail-line - raised pedestrian crossing	\$150	Black St at Rathcown Rd - Splitter Islands	\$30
	Separation Street between Hopetoun Street to Bennet Street safety treatments	\$1,500	Cuthbert Road Traffic calming	\$350	Hickford Street Traffic calming between Cheddar Road and Borrie Street	\$150	Northeast along the pipe reserve from the Northern Pipe / St Georges Road / Cheddar Road Trail	\$1,500	Broadhurst Avenue & McFadzean Avenue roundabout update	\$250	Borrie St/Miranda Road Raised intersection	\$180
	Victoria Road between South Crescent and Separation Street road safety improvements but not physically separated bike lanes	\$250	Mary Street between Bell Street and Cramer Street widen the footpath and install nature-strips	\$430	Darebin Boulevard Footpath between Ayr Street and Manoel Avenue	\$100	Southwest along the pipe reserve to Edwardes Lake Park from the Northern Pipe / St Georges Road / Cheddar Road	\$7,000	Cramer Street between Gilbert Road and Jessie Street bike lanes	\$90	Army Avenue at Carrington Road wombat crossing	\$100
	Dundas Street and Newcastle Street, Thornbury Raised intersection traffic lights	\$650	Left-turn only from Mary Street onto Cramer Street	\$20	Cheddar Road and Crookston Road Install left-in left-out	\$50	Darebin Creek Trail bridge near Plenty Road	\$3,000	New Street & Boldrewood Parade pinch points	\$200	Kia Ora Road and View Street intersections with Bonview Avenue raised threshold treatments	\$160
	Wingrove Street and Arthur Street, Fairfield T-intersection with raised pedestrian crossings	\$600	Broadhurst Avenue & Banbury Road - raised intersection traffic signals	\$500	Curve in Dumbarton St and Dole	\$80	Darebin Creek Trail, at Holt Parade	\$2,500	Cramer Street and Jessie Street Roundabout reconfiguration	\$300	Wattle Grove at Locksley Avenue raised threshold treatment	\$160
	Newcastle Street between Walton Avenue and Raglan Street, safety treatments	\$200			Cheddar Road and St Vigeons Road Install left-in left-out	\$50	Merri Creek Trail wayfinding	\$200	Stott Street Upgrade the rail interface	\$300	Arbor Avenue and Alamo Road intersections with Corben Street wombat crossing	\$160
	Separation Street and Northcote Plaza Entrance Remove all left turn slip lanes	\$500			Niblick Street Raised school crossing	\$100			Cramer Street between Jessie St and St Georges Rd Raised zebra crossing and two raised platforms	\$200	Banff St/Argyle St Pedestrian priority and speed cushions	\$60
	Raglan Street and Newcastle Street, Raised zebra crossings	\$300			St Vigeons Road at Invermay Street - raised intersection	\$250			Westbourne Grove near the rail-line Modify the pedestrian refuge	\$40	Corben / Knox / Livingston Street roundabout updates and a speed hump on Livingston Street	\$150
	Rossmoyne St, Thornbury Raised zebra crossing	\$130			Yarra Avenue Raised school crossing	\$100			Broadhurst Avenue & Edgars Creek Bridge crossing with speed cushions	\$200	Dwyer and Bourke Street intersections with Corben Street raised threshold treatments, with kerb extensions	\$160
	Flinders Street near Roberts Reserve, road safety treatments	\$130			Construct a roundabout at Dumbarton Street and Invermay Street	\$250			Gilbert Road tram stops improve lighting	\$100		
					Pedestrian refuge on Dunne Street at Wedge Street	\$60			McDonald Street at Cramer Street Raised treatment	\$80		
					Strathmerton Street and Cuthbert Road raised entry threshold	\$180			Ford Street at Cramer Street Raised treatment	\$80		
					Strathmerton Street Traffic calming	\$350			Park Avenue at Cramer Street Raised treatment	\$80		
					Darebin Boulevard Traffic calming	\$350			Reidford Avenue at Cramer Street Raised treatment	\$80		
					Browning Street / Keats Avenue / Scott Grove Traffic calming	\$350			Bond Street at Cramer Street Raised treatment	\$80		
					Gertz Avenue Traffic calming	\$350			Broadhurst Avenue & Hobbs Crescent roundabout	\$220		

Transport Portfolio as at 19 February 2026 (all estimates are construction costs only and shown as \$000's)											
YSYS Group C	YSYS Group B	YSYS Group A	Blackspot	Local Area Place Making	Northern Trails	Streets for People	Octopus Schools	Total			
				Hickford Street / Cheddar Rd raised traffic signals and reconsider traffic management west of Cheddar Road \$1,000		Cramer Street between James Street and Gilbert Road Shared vehicle and cycling \$400					
				Don Street Extend kerb at Darebin Boulevard \$180		Cramer Street with Grandview Street Raised treatments \$160					
				Raised pedestrian crossing Dunne Street at Stymie Street \$100		Cramer Street with Grange Street Raised treatments \$160					
				Link Street Raised pedestrian threshold at both ends \$200		Cramer Street with Belmont Street Raised treatments \$160					
				Leinster Grove, north of Gadd Street \$100		Ashfield Street at Broadhurst Avenue Raised treatment \$80					
				Borrie Street Midblock road closure \$150		Barron Street at Broadhurst Avenue Raised treatment \$80					
				Box Street / Borrie Street One-way treatment \$100		Fiddes Street at Broadhurst Avenue Raised treatment \$80					
				Darebin Boulevard Traffic calming near Don Street \$300		Godley Street at Broadhurst Avenue Raised treatment \$80					
				Scott Grove and Browning Street kerb realignment \$220		Lawley Street at Broadhurst Avenue Raised treatment \$80					
				Scott Grove and Keats Avenue intersection improvements \$220		Wilson Boulevard at Broadhurst Avenue Raised treatment \$80					
				St Vigeons Road Traffic calming \$350		Chauvel Street at Broadhurst Avenue Raised treatment \$80					
				Miranda Road Traffic calming Between Cheddar Road and Borrie Street \$150		Gellibrand Cres at Broadhurst Avenue Raised treatment \$80					
				Green Avenue Traffic calming \$350		Maclagan Cres at Broadhurst Avenue Raised treatment \$80					
				Flag Street / Bradshaw Street Traffic calming \$350		Crookston Road at New Street Raised treatment \$80					
				San Leandro Drive Traffic calming \$350		Eric Street Preston Bike-friendly pinch point with raised table \$60					
				Nicholson Avenue Traffic calming \$350		Cramer Street between Jessie St and St Georges Rd Dedicated bike lanes \$200					
				Tunaley Parade signal timing \$25		Lakeside Avenue at Broadhurst Avenue intersection \$50					
				Darebin Boulevard and Gourock Street road closure \$220		James Street between Hope Street and Cramer Street Vehicle restriction at James Street new pocket park \$250					
	\$0	\$5,780	\$1,700	\$0	\$7,655	\$18,500	\$4,860	\$1,350	\$39,845		
Total construction estimate	\$0	Total construction estimate \$9,470	Total construction estimate \$3,580	Total construction estimate \$2,423	Total construction estimate \$8,675	Total construction estimate \$23,080	Total construction estimate \$5,560	Total construction estimate \$2,220	\$55,008		

**9.9 YOUR STREET, YOUR SAY GROUP C ROUND 2  
CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PROPOSED CONCEPT  
PLANS**

**Author:** Senior Project Lead

**Reviewed By:** Chief Executive Officer

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report to Council:

- provides a summary of community consultation feedback, and
- recommends proposed concept projects for the *'Your Street, Your Say'* Group C area.

The second round of community engagement was undertaken between 27 January and 8 March 2026. As well as being invited to provide feedback on 20 draft concept plans, the community were asked about proposed speed limit changes and installing speed treatments through the road resurfacing program on local roads with high vehicle speeds.

A total of 748 people participated across all engagement activities. This included more than 2,000 individual pieces of feedback.

Feedback from the community was used to consider whether any changes were required to the draft concept plans. As a result, officers are recommending:

- some changes to several concept projects, and
- further targeted engagement for one project prior to seeking Council endorsement.

This report recommends that Council endorse the changes to the road network as shown in the concept plans. The changes will then be progressively considered for delivery through capital works programming.

**Officer Recommendation**

**That Council:**

- (1) Endorses the *Your Street, Your Say Group C* concept plans shown at **Appendix A** and considers them for design and delivery through capital works programming.
- (2) Endorses the commencement of additional consultation for the Walker Street concept project, to be reported back to Council in November 2026 for consideration. Feedback will be sought regarding a 12-month trial including:
  - a. the closure of Cunningham Street at High Street
  - b. opening the road closure of the High Street Service Road
  - c. introducing a one-way traffic arrangement at Walker Street and McLachlan Street intersection to allow improved access to the bridge across the creek.
- (3) Notes that the timelines for design and delivery of projects are subject to annual budget processes and funding availability, as well as successful grant applications.
- (4) Makes the *Your Street, Your Say Group C round 2 engagement summary* with recommended projects at **Appendix B** publicly available via the Darebin website.

## COUNCIL MEETING

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- (5) Endorses the implementation of safer speeds of 40km/h on local roads, and 30km/h around activity centres and schools in the Group C area.
  - (6) Thanks community members for their feedback and participation throughout the two rounds of consultation for *Your Street Your Say Group C*.
- 

## BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION

### Your Street, Your Say

The Your Street, Your Say program involves the community in identifying transport safety and access issues, and tailoring solutions for the study area. The program is guided by the Darebin Transport Strategy and aligns with the *Austrroads Guide to Traffic Management Part 8: Local Area Traffic Management*.

### Group C

The Group C area is the third and final of three groups of areas within the Your Street, Your Say program that will complete a road safety investigation across the entire municipality. The first round of engagement for Group C, which collected information from the community about their concerns, was completed in December 2024.

The shortlisting of issue locations and development of draft concept plans informed the second round of consultation, which ran from 27 January to 8 March 2026. The second round of consultation requested community feedback on:

- the draft concept projects; and
- two other questions about installing speed humps on roads with high speeds and safer speed changes around activity centres and schools.

### Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held on 24 November 2025, Council resolved:

*That Council:*

- 1) *Endorses the second round of community consultation for commencement using the draft concept plans in Appendix A*
- 2) *Writes to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety, Minister for Transport Infrastructure, and Minister for Public and Active Transport:*
  - a. *identifying the priority road safety issues raised through the consultation, including issues on state arterial roads, e.g. the roundabout at Broadway and Boldrewood Parade, and*
  - b. *requesting that the Department of Transport and Planning considers whether the Strategic Cycling Corridor along Beavers Road should be realigned along Arthurton Road between Merri Creek and Herbert Street.*
- 3) *Thanks the community for their contributions to the project and consultation phases.*

## ALIGNMENT TO 2041 DAREBIN COMMUNITY VISION

Pillar 3: Sustainable, Green and Liveable

### ALIGNMENT TO OUR DAREBIN PLAN 2025-29

Strategic Direction 3: Health and Wellbeing - A City where everyone in the community can access the opportunities, infrastructure and services they need to be physically and mentally safe and healthy.

### DISCUSSION

A summary of key community feedback for each draft concept project, how the feedback has been considered and the final recommended approach is provided in **Appendix B**. Where relevant, changes to the original plans are described.

Officers recommend undertaking further engagement with residents surrounding Walker Street. This is due to localised updates to the draft concept plan, following input from the community, not being possible with the site constraints at the intersection of Walker Street and McLachlan Street.

### CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (2020) PRINCIPLES

#### Financial Management

While not all identified infrastructure improvement projects can be delivered immediately, projects will continue to be considered in the coming years through Council's annual budget process. The Approach to Managing Transport Services report (also to be tabled in May), will be used to seek Council endorsement on how all transport improvement projects are prioritised for delivery.

#### Community Engagement

There was a total of 5 weeks of community engagement on the Your Street, Your Say Group C area draft concept plans. This round of engagement was targeted to seek feedback from the community near the locations with draft concept plans. Engagement closed on 8 March 2026 and the approach included:

#### *Campaign*

- Letter box drops of 2-page brochures to 29,500 households in the area (including translations in 6 key languages).
- 4323 letters sent to properties near where treatments were identified, with 152 letters addressed to properties returned to Council.
- Email with information sent to 128 people who registered for an update.
- Notifications alert sent to 744 followers who followed the Your Say Darebin project page.
- Schools within project area were sent Your Street, Your Say information update with engagement information.
- Consultation information was sent to 72 people of Victorian Sustainable Transport Interest Group.
- Darebin's website news article, Your Darebin e-newsletter, Departmental e-newsletters, Disability Access Newsletter, Staff to Staff internal newsletter was also used to promote Round 2 engagement.
- Dedicated social media posts on 12 February 2026.

A petition was tabled at the Council meeting on 24 March 2026 opposing the Gower Street bike lane and parking changes proposal. This feedback has been considered.

A second petition was also tabled at this meeting regarding Dunne Street, Kingsbury. This petition sought a further community engagement process that was specific to Kingsbury residents. Officers have engaged with the lead petitioner who has been provided more details about the draft concept plan at the intersection of Dunne Street and Stymie Street.

During the second round of engagement several key issues have been raised by the community. These include transparency, option selection and alignment with strategic transport planning. These concerns are welcomed and important in the project development process. Key concerns include:

### ***Process Issues Raised***

- Community concerns that ideas submitted in Round 1 were not reflected or included in the Round 2 shortlist.
- Perception that input was overlooked due to limited visibility of how earlier ideas were assessed.
- Unclear criteria for project selection and exclusion between rounds.
- Consultation letters being delivered late to some impacted properties.

### ***Officer response***

The established criteria for choosing which locations should have projects developed was used consistently. The consultation period was extended two weeks to 8 March to accommodate feedback about constrained response times.

### ***Crossing Locations Issues Raised***

- Proposed crossing points impacting property values.
- Community concern about loss of on-street parking, particularly in front of residences or near local businesses.
- Feedback that some proposed locations do not respond to observed user behaviour or existing safety issues.

### ***Officer response***

Road safety changes that have been developed and tailored to respond to local knowledge about the road layout have a primary objective of improving safety. The community feedback, data about traffic speed and volume and collision information has been used with technical assessment in-line with national design standards to prepare the proposed layout plans.

### ***Protected Bike Lane Issues Raised***

- Concerns that proposed bike lane treatments may conflict with strategic cycling corridor plans or long-term network objectives.
- Community concern about loss of on-street parking, particularly in front of residences or near local businesses.
- Impacts on driveway access and turning movements, including increased difficulty for residents entering or exiting properties.
- Risk of creating traffic pinch points or changing local circulation due to altered lane widths or buffer treatments.

### ***Officer response***

Road space within Darebin is limited and choices needed to be made about how to align its use with the strategic goals of Council. Some projects have been updated to respond to the feedback received through the second stage of consultation. Further details about the changes can be found in **Appendix B**.

Demographic data was not collected for this phase of engagement, as consultation activities were focused on hearing from the community located near the proposed treatments.

### **Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Principles**

- (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) the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making;
- (h) regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making;

### **Public Transparency Principles**

- (a) Council decision making processes must be transparent except when the Council is dealing with information that is confidential by virtue of this Act or any other Act;
- (c) Council information must be understandable and accessible to members of the municipal community;
- (d) Public awareness of the availability of Council information must be facilitated

### **Service Performance Principles**

- (d) a Council should seek to continuously improve service delivery to the municipal community in response to performance monitoring;

## **COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Environmental Sustainability Considerations (including Climate Emergency)**

Eighteen percent of the municipality's greenhouse gas emissions are from transport. Safer streets for local residents will encourage and support more people to walk and ride with personal wellbeing and community resilience benefits.

Where possible during the detailed design process, passive irrigation and water sensitive urban design principles and planting of trees will be applied to road safety treatments, along with landscaping to create permeable surfaces and canopy cover.

Increased frequency of extreme weather days may make walking and cycling more difficult, particularly for vulnerable people due to age and health. Planning transport treatments with tree planting will help keep streets cool and safe.

### **Equity, Inclusion, Wellbeing and Human Rights Considerations:**

An Equity Impact Assessment was completed in October 2024 before the first round of consultation began. In June 2025, the Equity Impact Assessment was updated.

Findings through the Equity Impact Assessment included:

- Having gone through 2 rounds of community engagement with two other areas (Group A and B) within this program and having heard from our community, officers consider a balanced and appropriate way to reach all ages and groups of community members who are reliant on public transport or sustainable transport networks has been established. Older people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, people with a disability and public housing tenants were also reached.
- Meaningful engagement was delivered with the various culturally and linguistically diverse groups.
- Well-designed road safety interventions are proposed/recommended for people of all abilities, gender and age.
- Access and mobility are fundamental parts of a free and dignified life.
- The local street network plays a crucial role in promoting social and economic inclusion. It forms the connection between people's homes, schools, workplaces, community facilities, social services, and friends and families.
- Recent research to inform the Darebin Health and Wellbeing Profile<sup>2</sup> found that a sedentary lifestyle remains a key health risk affecting our community and is above the Victorian average.
- This project prioritises walking and bike riding, particularly on the Principal Pedestrian Network and Key Cycling Corridors. Creating streets where people feel comfortable walking and cycling can improve physical and mental health, as well as fostering a greater sense of connectedness with the community.

### **Economic Development and Cultural Considerations**

Management of transport issues, including parking around activity centres, has the potential to impact local businesses positively or negatively. Economic development is one of the factors that is considered with any change that is proposed. Businesses are included in all community engagement relating to projects in their area to ensure their needs are understood.

Improving the quality of cycling and walking routes makes it easier for residents and visitors to use any mode of transport to work, shop and visit local centres. This support thriving local economies by activating centres with increased numbers of pedestrians and riders who are more likely to undertake multiple activities and spend more money in the one visit<sup>3</sup>. This approach would also help manage road congestion and parking pressure.

### **Operational Impacts**

Capital projects require ongoing funding to maintain the infrastructure. Officers are working across the organisation to ensure best value life cycle products are being used in the right places.

### **Legal and Risk Implications**

The prioritisation and treatment selection has been overseen by a Registered Professional Engineer. Road improvement designs in future stages will be to standards.

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<sup>2</sup> [Darebin Health and Wellbeing Profile 2021](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Article by Bicycle Network](#) referencing [Research](#) that found people who walk, ride or take public transport spend 40% more each

### IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

Each year through the annual budget process, Council will decide which projects to progress through design and construction.

November 2026: Present a report to Council on the outcomes of further community engagement for Project 20 – Walker Street, including recommended next steps.

### RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Darebin Transport Strategy 2007-2027
- Safe Travel Strategy 2018-2028
- Walking Strategy 2018-2028
- Victoria's Active Transport Plan 2026

### Attachments

- Your Street Your Say Group C - proposed concept plans (**Appendix A**) [↓](#)
- Key Project Consultation Themes and Assessment for 20 projects within the Your Street, Your Say Group C area (**Appendix B**) [↓](#)

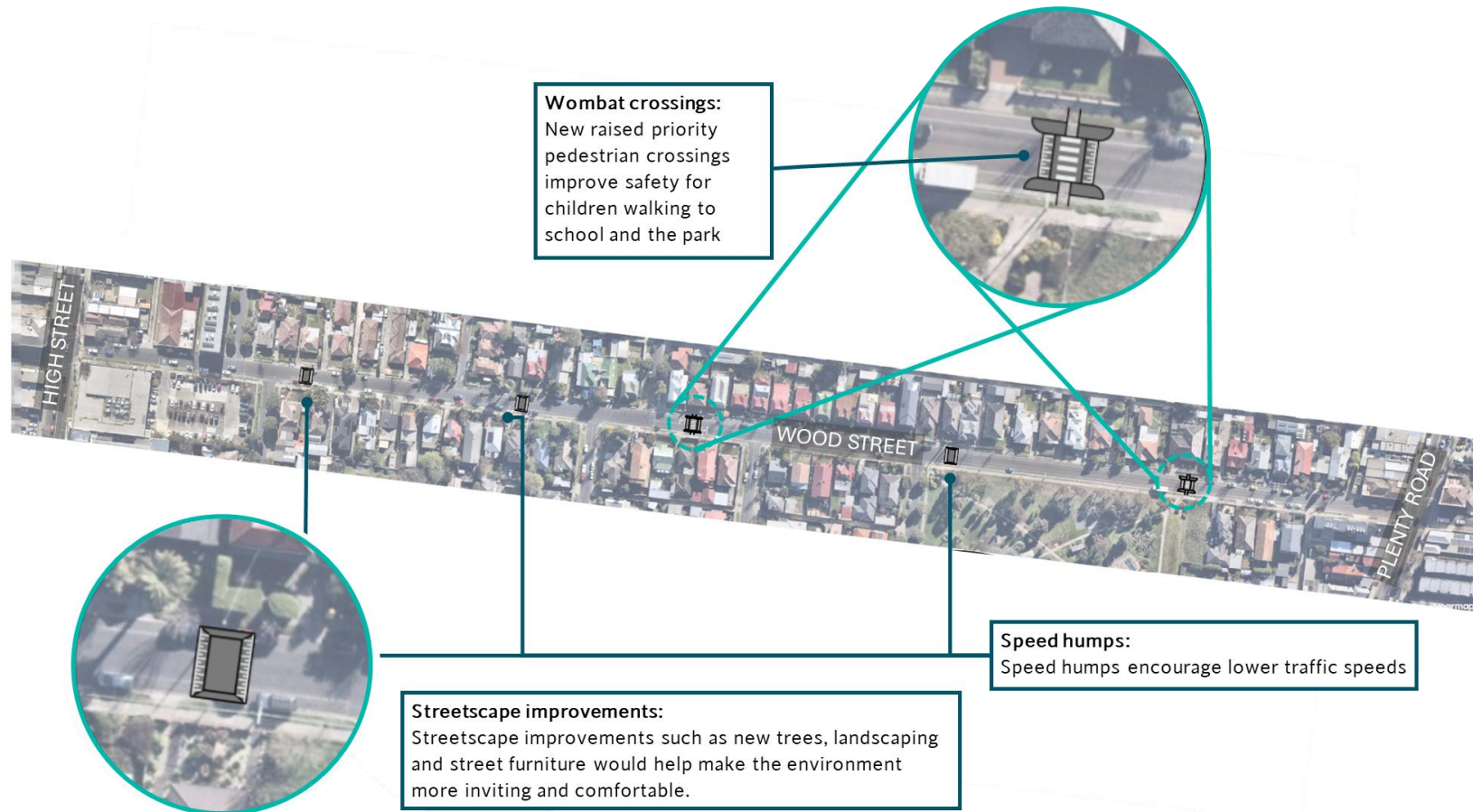
### DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.



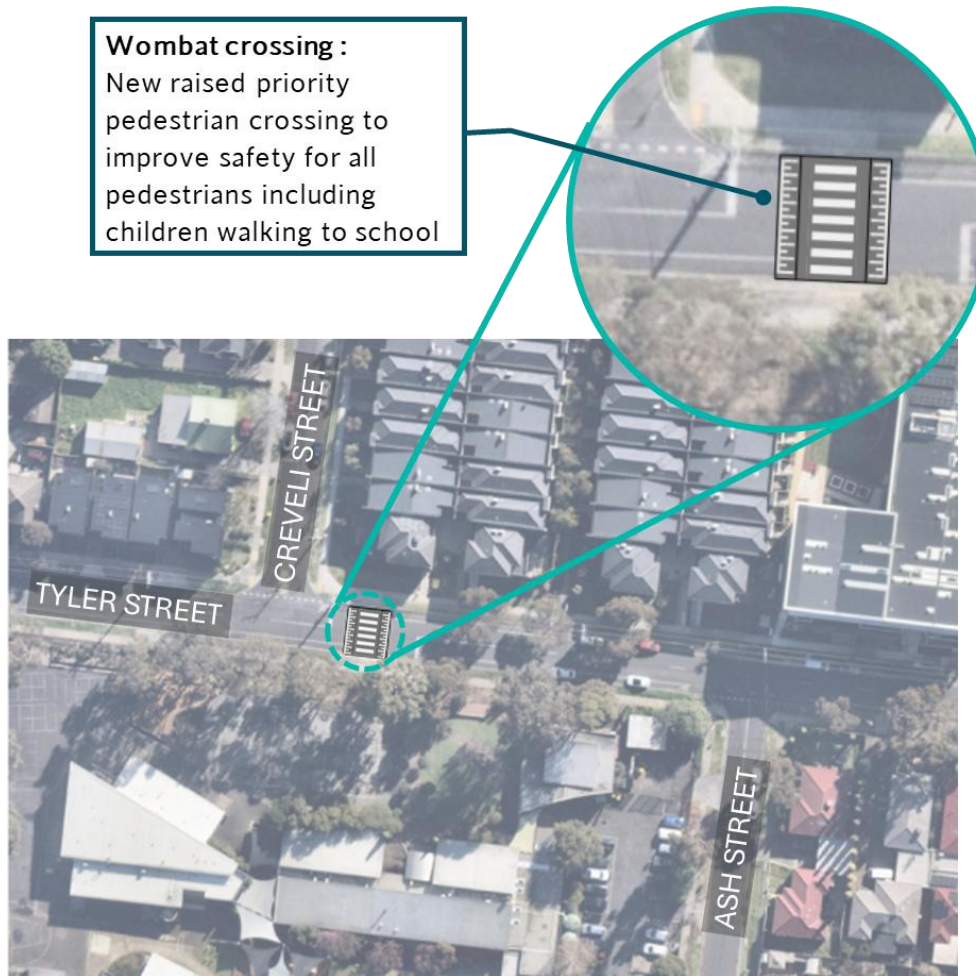
### 1 WOOD STREET, HIGH STREET TO PLENTY ROAD - PEDESTRIAN SAFETY





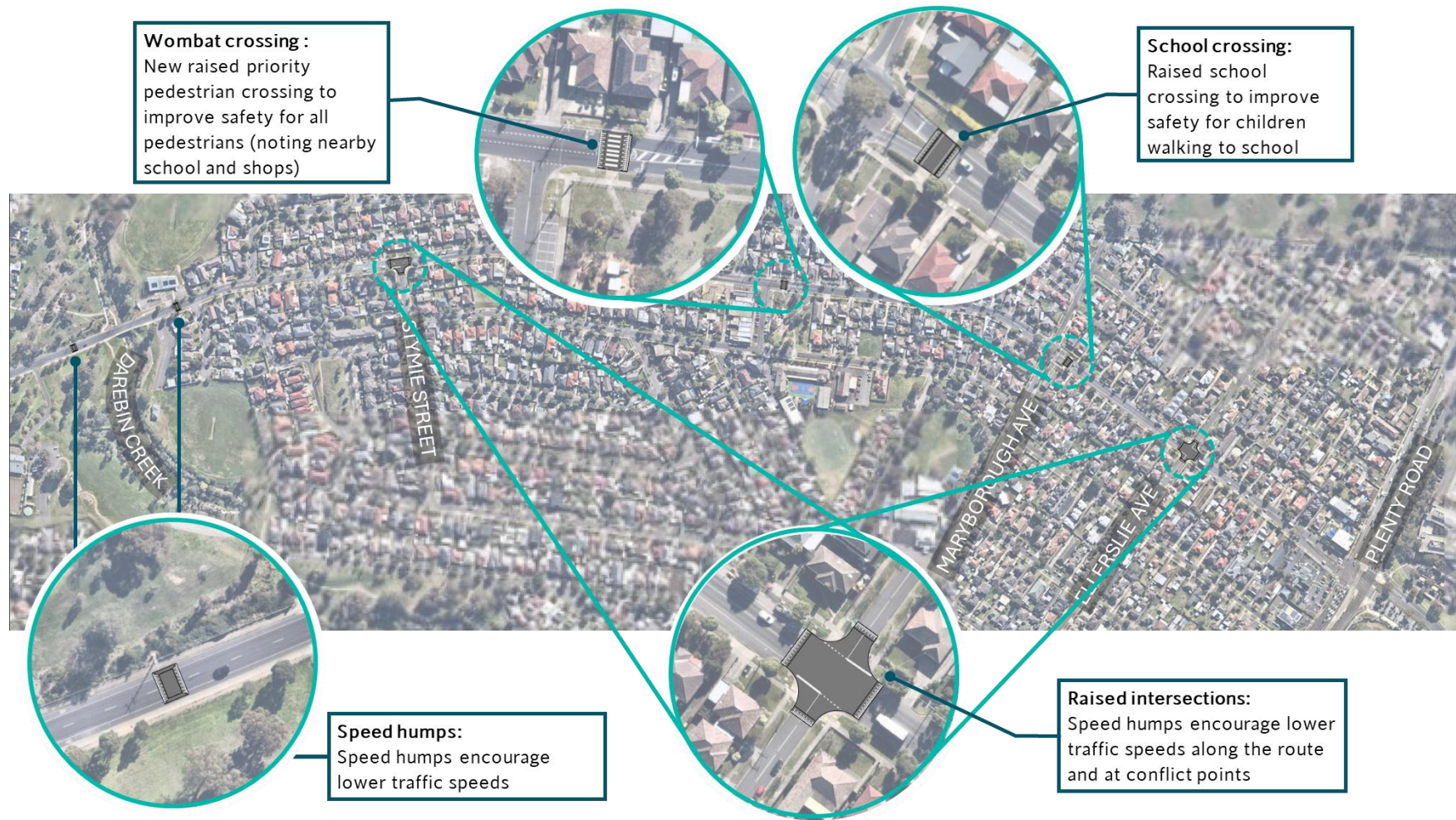
2 TYLER STREET, NEAR CREVELLI STREET, PRESTON - PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

**Wombat crossing :**  
New raised priority pedestrian crossing to improve safety for all pedestrians including children walking to school





### 3 DUNNE STREET, KINGSBURY - CYCLIST SAFETY





4 GOWER STREET, PRESTON (NEAR LIBRARY) - PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

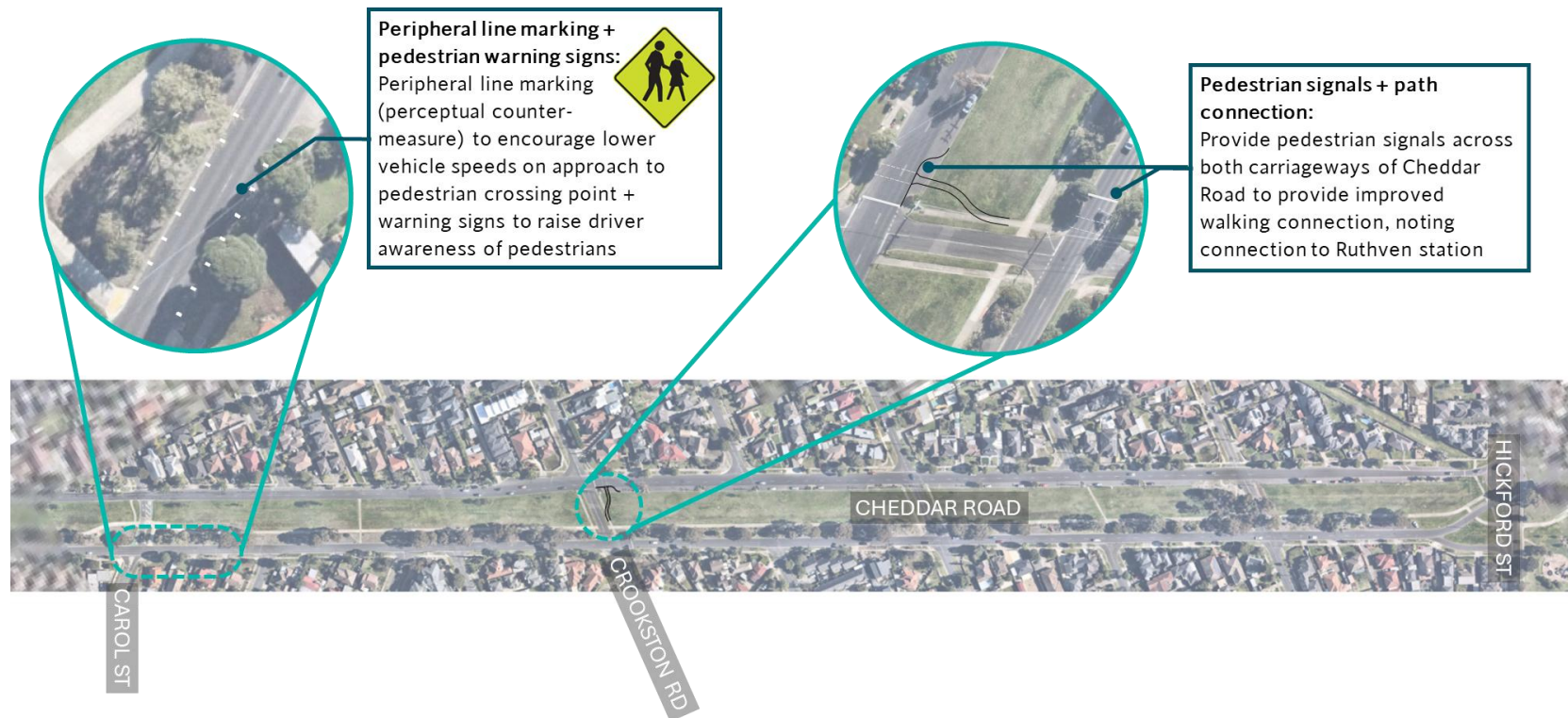


**Raised intersection + priority pedestrian crossings:**  
 New intersection with zebra (pedestrian priority) crossings on southern and western legs to improve safety for pedestrians (noting high number of pedestrian volumes due to surrounding land use – shopping precinct, nearby schools and childcare). Western leg crossing to include flashing lights.



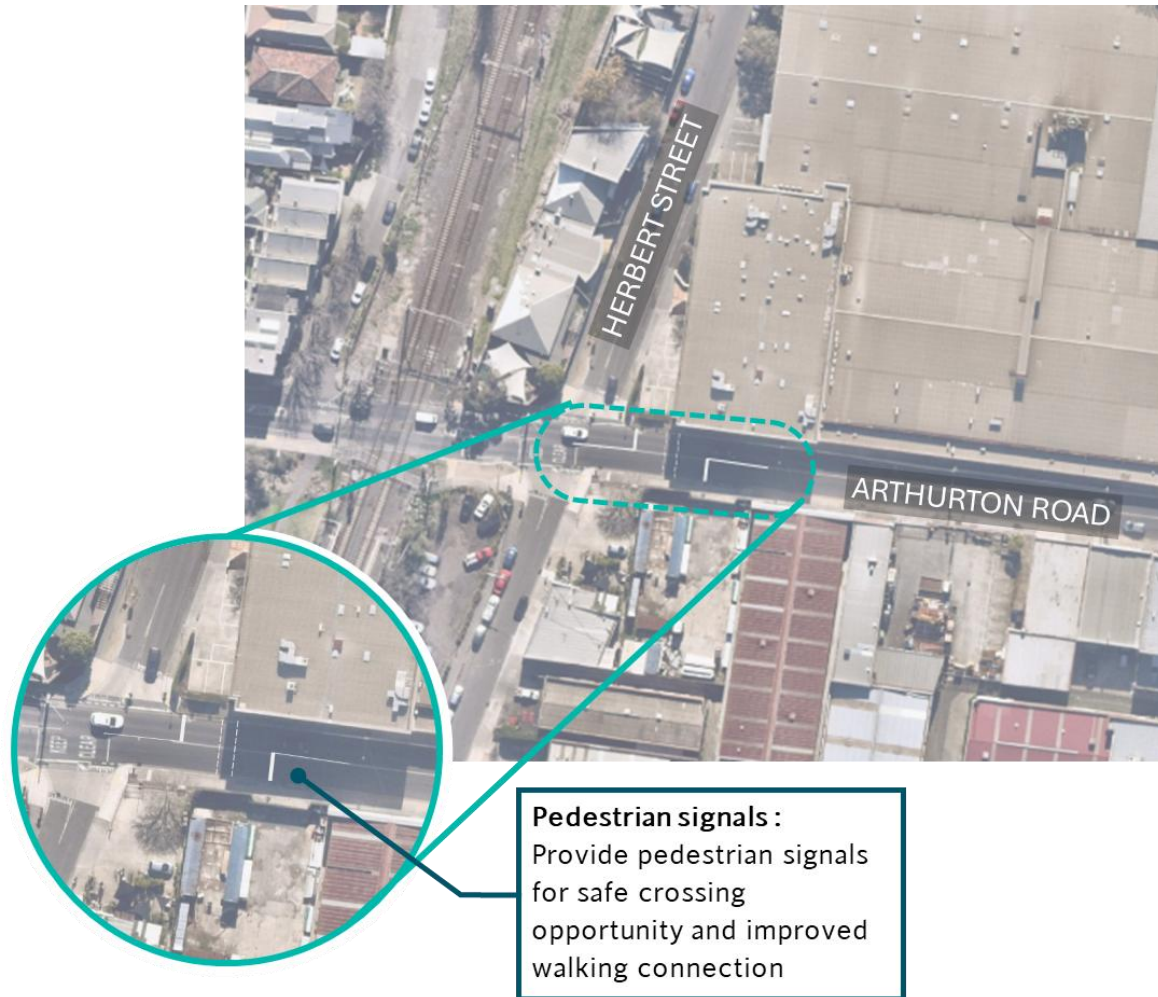


### 5 CHEDDAR ROAD, HICKFORD STREET TO CARROL STREET, RESERVOIR – PEDESTRIAN SAFETY





6 ARTHURTON ROAD, NEAR RAILWAY LINE, NORTHCOTE – PEDESTRIAN SAFETY



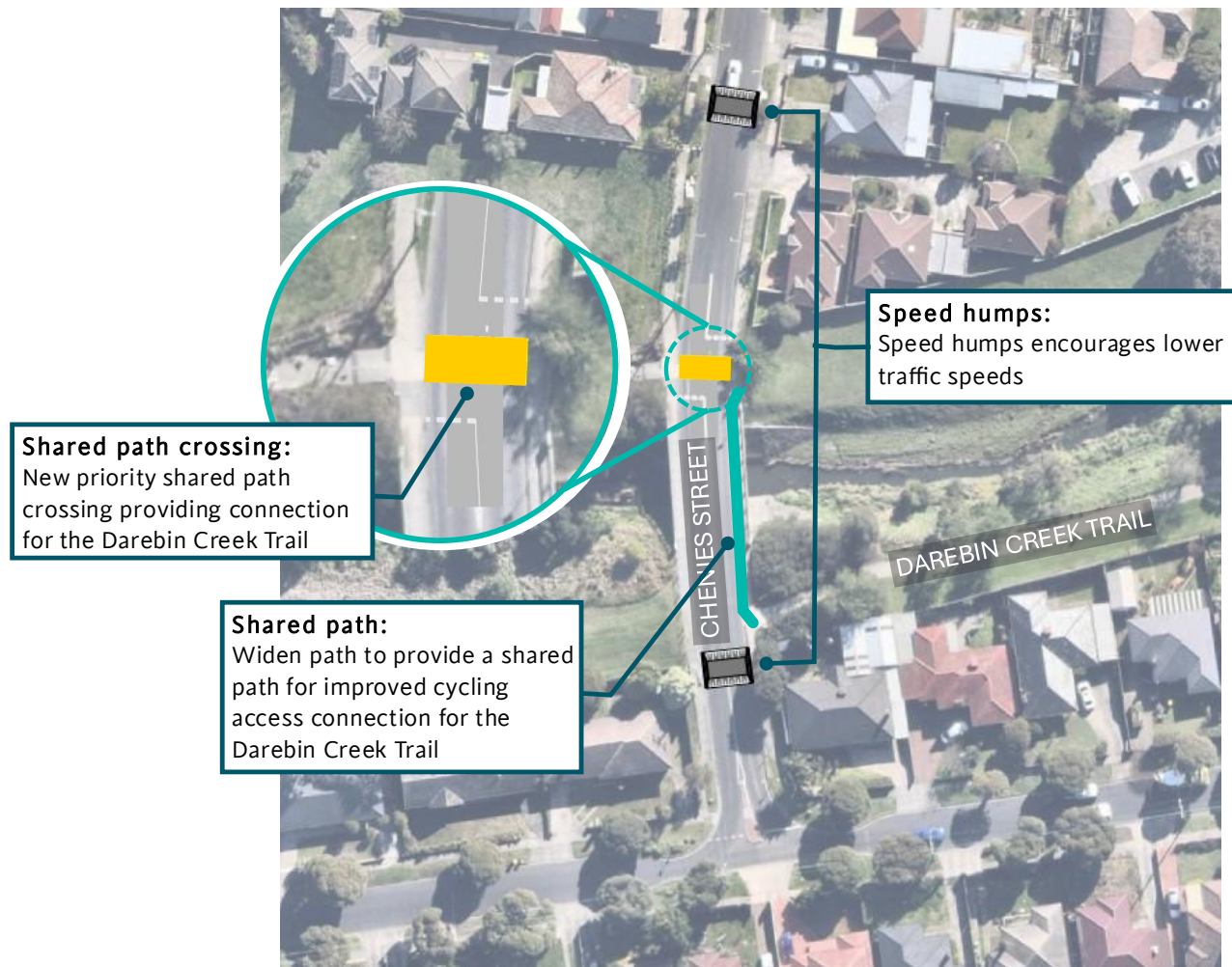


7 TYLER STREET, PLENTY ROAD TO DAREBIN CREEK, PRESTON – CYCLIST SAFETY





8 DAREBIN CREEK TRAIL AT CHENIES STREET, RESERVOIR – CYCLIST SAFETY



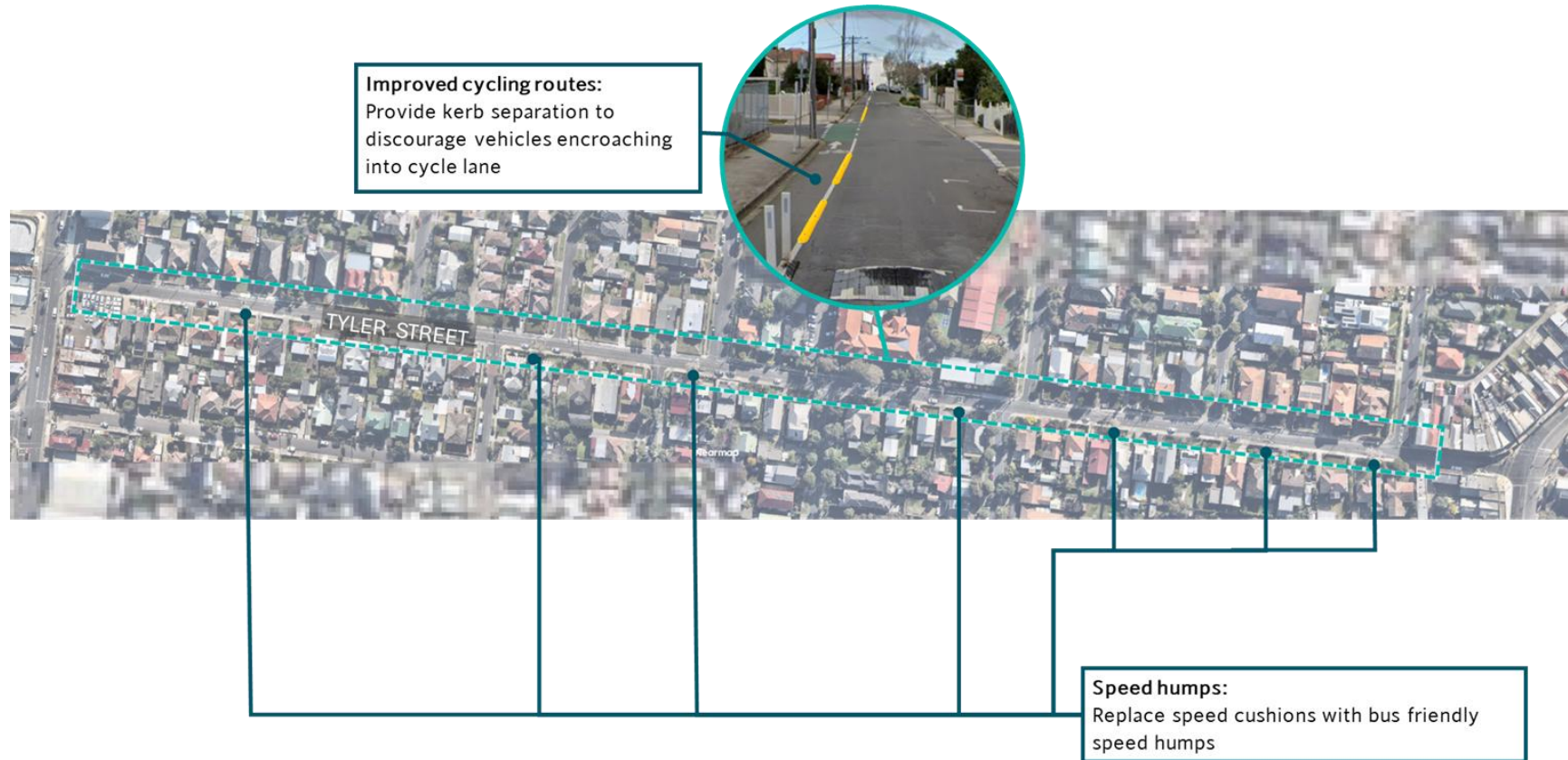


9 GOWER STREET, HIGH STREET TO PLENTY ROAD, PRESTON – CYCLIST SAFETY





10 TYLER STREET, HIGH STREET TO PLENTY ROAD, PRESTON – CYCLIST SAFETY





11 ARTHURTON ROAD, RAILWAY LINE TO HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE – CYCLIST SAFETY





12 ARTHURTON ROAD, NEAR WOOLHOUSE STREET, NORTHCOTE – PEDESTRIAN SAFETY





13 ARTHURTON ROAD, MERRI CREEK TO HERBERT STREET, NORTHCOTE – CYCLIST SAFETY



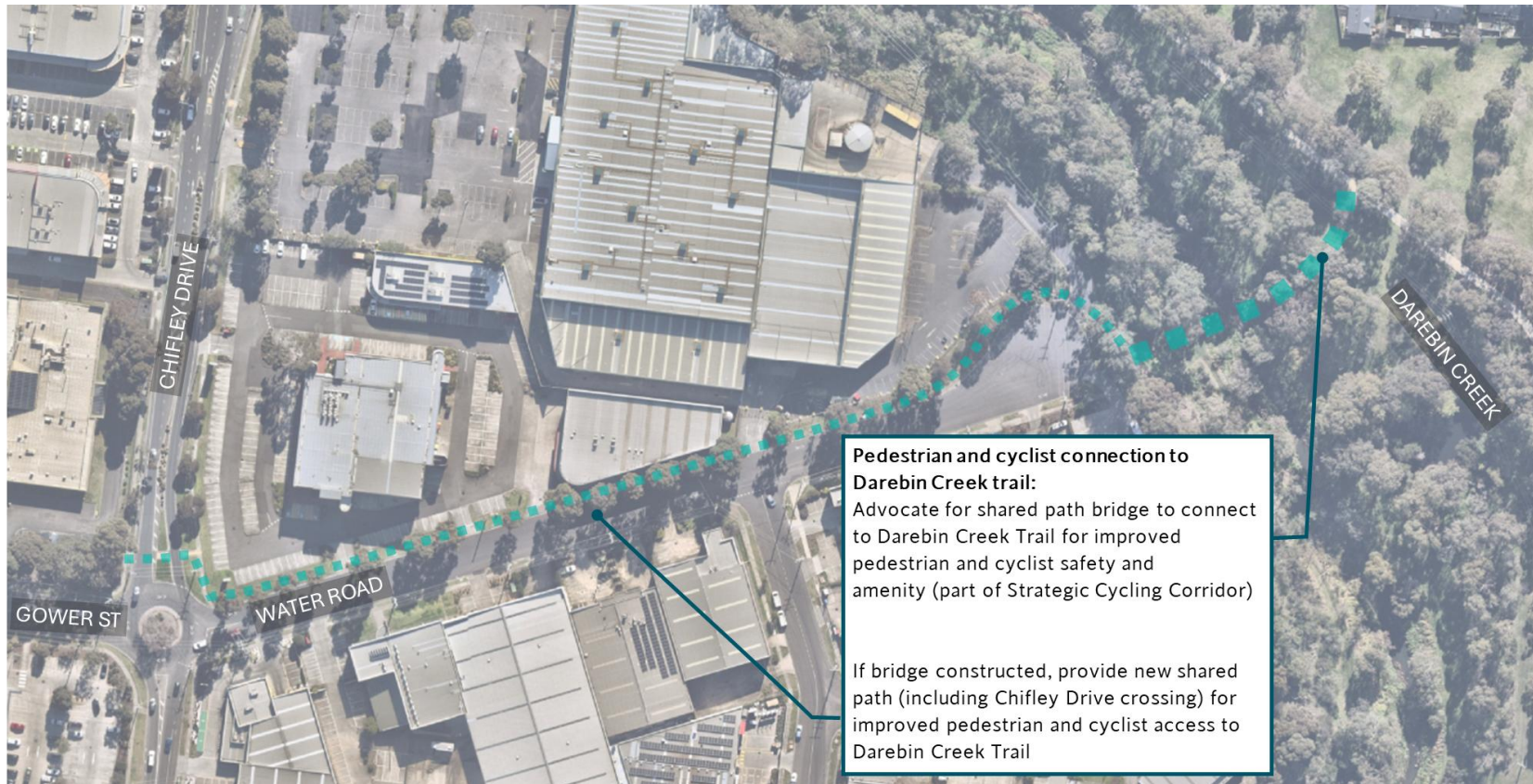


14 HICKFORD STREET, CHEDDAR ROAD TO BORRIE STREET, RESERVOIR – TRAFFIC CALMING





**15 GOWER STREET & WATER ROAD, CHIFLEY DRIVE TO DAREBIN CREEK TRAIL, PRESTON – CYCLIST SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY**





### 16 ACHERON AVENUE, RESERVOIR – TRAFFIC CALMING





17 TAMBO AVENUE & YARRA AVENUE, RESERVOIR – TRAFFIC CALMING

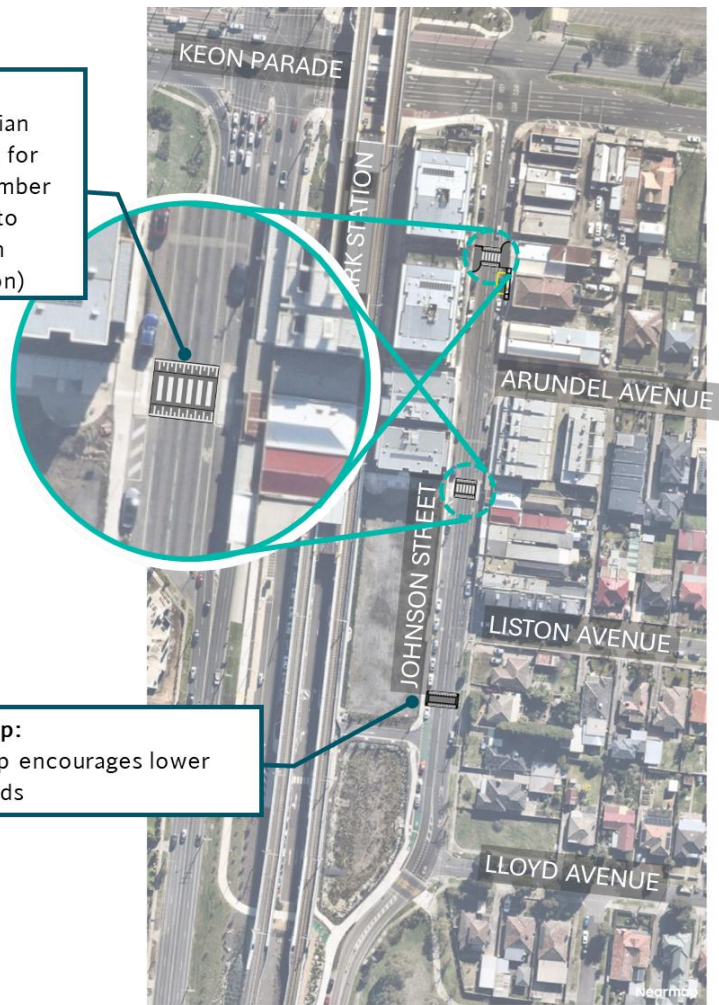




18 JOHNSON STREET, NORTH OF LLOYD AVE, RESERVOIR - PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

**Wombat crossings:**  
New raised priority pedestrian crossings to improve safety for pedestrians (noting high number of pedestrian volumes due to surrounding land use – train station, shops and recreation)

**Speed hump:**  
Speed hump encourages lower traffic speeds





19 NORTH ROAD AND MENDIP ROAD, RESERVOIR – TRAFFIC CALMING





20 WALKER STREET, NEAR MERRI CREEK TRAIL, NORTHCOTE – PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLIST SAFETY



## Key Project Consultation Themes and Assessment for 20 projects within the Your Street, Your Say Group C area

Location	Proposed Treatment (shared in February/March for consultation)	Reasons for proposed treatment	Key consultation themes	How consultation themes have been considered	Final recommendation
Wood Street, High Street to Plenty Road	Raised priority pedestrian crossing near park, raised platform at school crossing and 3 speed humps	Pedestrian safety concerns due to vehicle speeds and limited pedestrian crossings	Reduce speed limit to 40km more speed humps along this section of Wood Street Improve safety for pedestrians.	Speed reduction aligns with Council approach for installing safer speeds The spacing of the raised treatments aligns with design guidelines Raised children's crossing to be updated to be a raised zebra crossing to improve the level of service at all times of the day. Move the crossing to the park at the eastern end instead to space out the priority pedestrian crossings	Raised zebra crossing at the location of the current children's crossing, 3 raised speed platforms and a raised zebra crossing at the eastern end of the park.
Tyler Street, near Crevelli Street	Raised zebra crossing	Cars failing to give way at school crossing	Great treatment and makes safe for kids getting to and from school	The project aligns with feedback from the community. No changes	Raised zebra crossing
Dunne Street	Raised intersections at Ellerslie St & Stymie Street Raised platforms at 2 school crossings + 2 speed humps near Darebin Creek	Inadequate cycling facility between La Trobe Uni and Darebin Creek Trail Dunne Street is a Strategic Cycling Corridor	Make a concrete commitment to build the protected cycling facility. Dunne Street is a throughfare doesn't need speed humps	The call for a commitment to build a protected cycle way was heard. Dunne Street is a strategic cycling corridor identified by State Government. No information was provided about what the bike corridor could look like during consultation so has been removed from the recommendation.	Raised intersections at Ellerslie St & Stymie Street Raised zebra crossing near Link Street Raised platform at school crossing

Location	Proposed Treatment (shared in February/March for consultation)	Reasons for proposed treatment	Key consultation themes	How consultation themes have been considered	Final recommendation
	Trail crossing points Long term: protected cycling facility		Improvements to crossings	Key north-south safe travel routes for the schools south of Dunne Street are proposed to have raised crossings. Raised platforms and raised intersections improve safety by lowering conflict speed.	near Maryborough Ave 2 speed humps/platforms near Darebin Creek Trail crossing points
Gower Street, near library	Raised priority pedestrian crossing (with flashing lights) near library	Pedestrian safety concerns due to vehicle speeds and high pedestrian crossing demand	Crossing needs to be closer to school crossing should be traffic signals So many students crossing Cooma Street	Relocated the crossing closer to pedestrian desire line from school towards the library and incorporated a zebra crossing on Cooma Street.	Raised intersection at Cooma Street with zebra crossing of Gower Street to the south of Cooma Street with flashing lights and zebra crossing on Cooma Street.
Cheddar Road, between Carol Street and Hickford Street	Pedestrian operated signals at Crookston Road Pavement markings and pedestrian warning signs near Carol Street	Pedestrian safety concerns due to lack of safe crossing opportunities, particularly at Carol Street, Hickford Street	Every median opening should be signals, evidence to replace the roundabout with signals, increased traffic on side roads	Officers considered feedback, and don't recommend signals at every median opening because signals have been provided on key cycling/pedestrian routes crossings to improve safety to shared path. Signalisation of the roundabout of Cheddar Road and Hickford Street was removed following a review of the	Pedestrian operated signals at Crookston Road Pavement markings and Pedestrian warning signs near Carol Street

Location	Proposed Treatment (shared in February/March for consultation)	Reasons for proposed treatment	Key consultation themes	How consultation themes have been considered	Final recommendation
	Long term: traffic signals at Hickford Street	and near Ruthven Station		proposed traffic signal treatment that would not achieve a significant uplift in safety.	
Arthurton Road, near railway line	Pedestrian operated signals (to be delivered as part of residential development east of Herbert St)	Pedestrian safety concerns due to lack of safe crossing facility	Flashing Zebra crossing is a better treatment, Removal of level crossing	Level crossing removal is a State Government consideration, and outside the scope of this project. Due to volume of traffic and proximity to level crossing, a Flashing Zebra crossing isn't appropriate. Signals are the most appropriate treatment, because they must be linked to level crossing boom gates.	Pedestrian operated signals (to be delivered as part of residential development east of Herbert St)
Tyler Street, Plenty Road to Darebin Creek	Traffic calming: speed humps along route, raised platforms at 2 school crossings, raised priority pedestrian crossing (at Crevelli Street as per item rank 2)	Cyclist safety concerns due to cars parked in the bike lane and lack of separation between bike lanes and vehicular traffic	No improvement for cyclists, speed humps are uncomfortable for cyclists especially up hill.	Tyler Street is an informal cycle route, and the proposed treatments will improve safety for all road users. Bike friendly speed humps to be considered on uphill section of Tyler Street during the detailed design.	Traffic calming: 7 speed humps along route, raised platforms at 2 school crossings
Chenies Street at Darebin Creek Trail	Raised shared path crossing (remove refuge island) + shared path along	Pedestrian and cyclist safety concerns due to lack of safe	More speed humps to slow rat running traffic	Officers support including a speed hump either side of the crossing to slow down traffic approaching the crossing. This is in line with AustRoads	At grade shared path crossing, shared path along eastern side of

Location	Proposed Treatment (shared in February/March for consultation)	Reasons for proposed treatment	Key consultation themes	How consultation themes have been considered	Final recommendation
	eastern side of bridge	crossing facility		design guidelines. The raised priority shared path crossing has been changed to an at grade crossing to avoid dynamic loading from heavy vehicles damaging the bridge.	bridge with a speed hump either side of the crossing
Gower Street, High Street to Plenty Road	Protected bike lanes, requires removal of parking on one side of road	Cyclist safety concerns due to narrow bike lanes and risk of dooring	Strong opposition to removal of parking and introduction of protected bike lanes.	Gower Street is a key strategic cycling corridor identified by State Government. Officers considered the feedback and an alternative arrangement that would be less effective but retained on-street parking has been developed. Several crashes have been reported involving students on bicycles, therefore safety improvements are required.	Bike lanes with painted buffer for cyclists.
Tyler Street, High Street to Plenty Road	Cycle safe lane dividers, replace speed cushions with permanent speed humps (road width not sufficient to provide kerb along bike lane)	Cyclist safety concerns due to lack of separation between bike lanes and vehicular traffic	Make the speed humps in asphalt, rubber ones keep lifting	No changes required, as the project proposes replacing rubber treatments with permanent treatment (concrete island, asphalt speed humps)	Cycle safe lane dividers, replace speed cushions with permanent speed humps
Arthurton Road, Railway	Shared path on north side of Arthurton Road	Road width unsuitable for bike lanes –	Safer routes are needed for bikes. Manage the	The feedback has been considered and the width and layout of the shared path would go through the standard road	Shared path on north side of Arthurton Road

Location	Proposed Treatment (shared in February/March for consultation)	Reasons for proposed treatment	Key consultation themes	How consultation themes have been considered	Final recommendation
Line to High Street	between Herbert Street and High Street	unsafe for bike riders.	conflict with other road users	safety audit process to ensure safety is managed for all road users.	between Herbert Street and High Street
Arthurton Road near Woolhouse Street	Pedestrian operated signals	Pedestrian safety concerns due to lack of pedestrian priority at current crossing point.	Relocate closer to 150 Arthurton Road, Deliver with new development	Officers considered and supported the that the exact location to be confirmed during detailed design stage, delivery to be considered as part of development construction	Pedestrian operated signals. Exact location to be confirmed during detailed design stage
Arthurton Road, Merri Creek to Herbert Street	Short term: Extend clearways in short term (i.e. to remove parking from bike lanes during peak periods) Long term: Provide protected bike lanes	Cyclist safety concerns due to cars parked in the bike lane	Strong opposition to removal of parking and introduction of protected bike lanes	Officers considered and support accommodating a balance for residents' needs and the cycling network. Extending the clearway improves cyclist's safety during peak periods whilst still providing parking outside peak periods.	Extend clearways (i.e. to remove parking from bike lanes during peak periods)
Hickford Street, Cheddar Road to Borrie Street	Short term: 2 speed humps to reduce vehicle speeds, discourage rat running and	Cyclist and general safety concerns due to rat-running	Need more humps to slow down traffic near school	Officers considered this feedback and don't recommend additional speed humps. Current proposal has speed humps between 80-120m apart which is in accordance with AustRoads	2 speed humps between Cheddar Road and Borrie Street

Location	Proposed Treatment (shared in February/March for consultation)	Reasons for proposed treatment	Key consultation themes	How consultation themes have been considered	Final recommendation
	improve cyclist safety Long term: widen path on north side for shared path	traffic and vehicle speeds		design guidelines. The long-term solution was removed from the list of projects as students can already ride on the footpath.	
Gower Street and Water Road, Chifley Drive to Darebin Creek Trail	Provide cycling connection: Shared path crossing at Chifley Drive, shared path along north side of Water Road and bridge to connect to Darebin Creek Trail	Cyclist access and safety concerns due to missing connection between Gower Street and Darebin Creek Trail	Safer connection than using Murray Road	As the feedback was supportive in nature and the connection aligns with the State Government’s Strategic Cycling Corridors, no changes are proposed.	Shared path crossing at Chifley Drive and shared path along north side of Water Road.  Advocate to the State Government for a new shared path bridge across Darebin Creek
Acheron Avenue	3 speed humps along Acheron Avenue and Children Crossing signs near Oakhill Family Centre	Safety concerns due to vehicle speeds, noting proximity to kindergarten and childcare	Spacing to far away from centre	Officers have considered this feedback and don’t recommend additional humps. Current proposal has speed humps between 80-120m apart in accordance with AustRoads design guidelines	3 speed humps along Acheron Avenue and Children Crossing signs near Oakhill Family Centre

Location	Proposed Treatment (shared in February/March for consultation)	Reasons for proposed treatment	Key consultation themes	How consultation themes have been considered	Final recommendation
Tambo Avenue and Yarra Avenue	Splitter islands on Tambo Avenue north and south of Yarra Street	Safety concerns due to hooning	Need more speed humps to slow traffic on Yarra Avenue	Officers have considered this feedback. If Yarra Avenue is resurfaced and speeding is still a problem, the location of speed humps has been provided in the plan.	Splitter islands on Tambo Avenue north and south of Yarra Street, include speed humps on Yarra Avenue to be delivered during road resurfacing program
Johnson Street, north of Lloyd Ave	Raised priority pedestrian crossing	Pedestrian safety concerns due to lack of pedestrian priority at current crossing point.	Need a raised crossing closer to Keon Parade, Need more humps to slow cars down	Officers considered this feedback and support additional raised treatments. The concept is to be updated to include an additional crossing due to high pedestrian demand and include an additional speed hump to slow traffic within 80-120m as per AustRoads design guidelines.	2 Raised zebra crossings and a speed hump between Liston and Lloyd Avenue
North Road and Mendip Rd	3 speed humps along North Road and Children Crossing signs near Oakhill Family Centre	Safety concerns due to vehicle speeds, noting proximity to kindergarten and childcare	Consider 30km/h around centre, Extend treatments onto Mendip Road	Officers considered this feedback and support additional treatments that could be delivered as part of a resurfacing program if speeds remain high in the future.	3 speed humps along North Road and Children Crossing signs near Oakhill Family Centre, include speed humps on Mendip

Location	Proposed Treatment (shared in February/March for consultation)	Reasons for proposed treatment	Key consultation themes	How consultation themes have been considered	Final recommendation
					Road to be delivered during road resurfacing program
Walker Street, near Merri Creek Trail	Raised pavement at bend incorporating vehicle slow-point and provide path along south-western side for pedestrians	Pedestrian and cyclist safety concerns due to lack of safe walking and cycling infrastructure	Treatment is good but needs more to stop through traffic. Construct a footpath also on the south-east side of Walker Street, Upgrade the Bridge	The pedestrian bridge is outside the project area. Officers recommend reconsulting the community to respond to the serious concerns about rat-running traffic through this neighbourhood. Approval from Department of Transport and Planning would be required prior to the proposal shown as a trial could be implemented.	Re-consultant neighbourhood for a 1-year trail of: a road closure of Cunningham Street at High Street one-way section around bend from Walker Street to McLachlan Street reopen the road between Cunningham Street and High Street service road.

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**9.10 PROPOSED DEACCESSIONING OF FAIRFIELD PAVEMENT MOSAICS****Author:** Art and Collections Coordinator**Reviewed By:** Chief Executive Officer

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

At its October 2025 meeting, Council endorsed the Darebin Guidelines for Deaccessioning Public Art (**Appendix A**). At this meeting, officers identified the Fairfield Pavement Mosaics as a public artwork that should be considered for deaccessioning due to its age and condition. Council requested full community consultation be undertaken to inform decision-making around this artwork. This report provides detail on the outcomes of the consultation and options for Council to consider.

<b>Officer Recommendation</b>
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**That Council:**

- (1) Notes that the Community Consultation raised awareness of the mosaics and has informed this report.
- (2) Approves the recommended approach for the future management of the Fairfield Pavement Mosaics (Option 1).
- (3) Notes the proposed implementation strategy will include a small community event to celebrate the mosaics, prior to their removal, in addition to the installation of a plaque or display to record and commemorate the legacy of this long-standing public artwork.

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**BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION**

The Fairfield Pavement Mosaics were commissioned in 1994 and installed in 1995 by artist Simon Normand, together with Fairfield Primary School students, and this artwork has played a significant role in the local landscape of Fairfield. Over the past thirty years there have been extensive ongoing repairs and maintenance undertaken by the artist, as the mosaics are fragile and easily damaged by trolleys and chairs on the busy footpath. After three decades, the Mosaics have tiles missing, are uneven, and broken around the edges. Officers are recommending that this artwork should now be deaccessioned for the following reasons:

- **Inability to repair:** The artist has advised officers that 11 of the 15 mosaics are in such poor condition that they can no longer be restored in situ and could only be replaced with new mosaics.
- **Intended Lifespan:** The mosaics are now more than 30 years old, which exceeds the industry standard of a 20-year life span for a 'permanent' public artwork.
- **Contract with Artist:** The original contract with the artist includes an Addendum (dated 24.9.96) stating that the maintenance of the Mosaics would occur for "a period of seven years from the date of the Contract" after which the artist and the City of Darebin would meet to consider the maintenance, refurbishment, replacement or deaccession of the Mosaics. While no further contracts or formal agreements were evident, Council has continued to conserve the mosaics annually or biennially for a further seventeen years beyond the original seven.

- **Condition:** The artwork is in poor condition with deterioration likely to increase over time.
- **Safety:** The artwork will become a significant safety risk if left unaddressed or allowed to deteriorate further.
- **Responsible management:** Due to the materials used and the location of the artwork in the footpath, this work requires at minimum biennial restoration to keep it in good condition. To date, more budget has been spent on restoring the mosaics than the original cost of \$7,500 for the artwork's creation.
- **Equity & Diversity:** Of the 31 artworks in Darebin's public art collection, 13% (4 artworks) were created by one artist, Simon Normand.
- **Resources** – Due to the limited budget available for maintaining and conserving Public Art, works in our collection are prioritised in a rotating schedule every 3-6 years. Our budget is insufficient to fund regular, annual and indefinite conservation of public artworks.
- **Precedent:** If we don't decommission public artworks that meets multiple criteria in Council's endorsed Deaccessioning Guidelines, we set a precedent of not following our internal protocols. The Guidelines have been informed by national industry best practice.

### **Public Art Budget**

Darebin has an annual budget of approximately \$50,000 available to maintain and conserve both its significant indoor collection (over 400 artworks), and its outdoor (public) art collection (31 artworks).

Last financial year, more than 50% of the annual public art maintenance budget was spent on restoring another much-loved public artwork in Station Street, Fairfield, the Fairfield Industrial Dog Object (FIDO), a giant kinetic wooden sculpture of a dog. Artwork 14 on the Public Art Discovery Map (**Appendix E**), FIDO is co-located alongside the Fairfield Pavement Mosaics in Fairfield Village and is an iconic and revered sculpture that has status and reputation within and beyond Darebin. This artwork has had significant attention from the media and public alike over its lifetime and is engaged with by the Traders Association annually as part of their Christmas celebrations, during which they hang a giant wreath around FIDO's neck. With consideration to the strong community attachment to this artwork, Council has previously and continues to make significant investment in Fairfield through the conservation of this work.

### **Community consultation**

The following community consultation on the proposed deaccession of the Fairfield Pavement Mosaics has been undertaken:

- Your Say consultation platform: 4 February - 15 March 2026
- In person pop up consultation at Station Street Fairfield: Wednesday 11 February 4-5pm & Thursday 5 March 9-10am
- Direct email outreach to: Fairfield Traders Association and Darebin Public Artist database
- Digital community outreach: through Darebin Arts Facebook, Instagram and E-newsletter and through Bundoora Homestead Art Centre Facebook, Instagram and E-newsletter
- Postcard letter drop to Fairfield Residents.

### **Outcomes of consultation**

The community consultation on the Fairfield Pavement Mosaics garnered 93 responses. While respondents held strong opinions about the proposal, it is important to note that the majority of people spoken to during council officer's pop-up sessions in Fairfield declined to fill out a survey because they had no strong opinions on the proposal or the outcome, and many of those consulted had never noticed the mosaics before. Similarly on Council's online Your Say platform, 514 people visited the consultation page, but only 87 people (less than 20%) shared an opinion on the proposal. The opinions represented in the consultation report hereby represent only a small part of our community, albeit with some strong passion.

Of the 93 responses, 56% of respondents advocated for the removal of the mosaics with the remaining 44% of respondents advocating to keep the mosaics in situ.

Of the 56% who supported the removal of the mosaics, a number of different ideas were presented:

- 22.5 % respondents endorsed removing the mosaics and replacing with pavement
- 19.5% respondents advocated for removing the mosaics and creating a new artwork in their place
- 14% respondents advocated for removing the mosaics and displaying them elsewhere (such as an indoor location where they will be better protected)

Among the responses, the Fairfield Traders Association provided a statement strongly advocating for the mosaics to be replaced with a new public art commission, of which they wish to be part of the commissioning advisory committee.

A full and detailed community consultation report is attached (**Appendix D**).

### **Communication with the artist**

The artist has been contacted on several occasions over the past 3 years to discuss the future of the Fairfield Pavement Mosaics. On 21 April 2026 officers received the following advice from the artist:

- 4 of the 15 mosaics are still in reasonable condition. The remaining 11 will need to be replaced.
- The Artist no longer uses glass mosaics in cast concrete for ground installations (as was the case with these Fairfield Pavement Mosaics), due to their high maintenance requirements. They now use more durable materials such as stone or ceramic mosaic.
- The artist has provided a quote to commission a new set of mosaics for Fairfield, to replace the existing ones, as detailed in the Options table below (Option 5).

### **Previous Council Resolution**

At its meeting held on 27 October 2025, Council resolved:

*That Council:*

- (1) *Endorses the Deaccessioning Guidelines for Public Art in Darebin*
- (2) *Notes the significant role the Fairfield Pavement Mosaics have played in Darebin's cultural landscape for the past thirty years and thanks the artist for his contribution.*

- (3) *Authorises officers to undertake consultation in relation to the Fairfield Pavement Mosaics, including engagement with the Fairfield Traders and community.*
- (4) *Receives a report with the outcome of the consultation prior to any decision being made about the removal of Fairfield Pavement Mosaics.*

**ALIGNMENT TO 2041 DAREBIN COMMUNITY VISION**

Pillar 1: Vibrant, Healthy and Connected

Pillar 4: Collaborative, Transparent and Responsible

**ALIGNMENT TO OUR DAREBIN PLAN 2025-29**

Strategic Direction 5: Vibrant Places and Economy - A City that is liveable with vibrant places and spaces, safe streets and a thriving local economy.

**DISCUSSION**

There are five viable options available for management of the Fairfield Pavement Mosaics as outlined in the table below:

OPTION	BENEFITS	RISKS	ESTIMATE COST
<p>OPTION 1 Deaccession the Mosaics: Remove the Fairfield Pavement Mosaics from Station Street and return the street to regular paved footpath.</p> <p>Install a permanent visual sign on Station St to record and honour the mosaics’ legacy (Example attached in Appendix F).</p> <p>Or create a display of photographs of the mosaics inside the Fairfield Library.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aligns with Council’s endorsed Deaccessioning Guidelines and national industry best practice</li> <li>• Financially prudent</li> <li>• OH&amp;S benefits to the community by repairing the uneven footpath</li> <li>• Supports the limited public art budget in Darebin and allows more resources to be allocated to other artworks.</li> <li>• Fair and equitable approach to the management of limited resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negative community response – 44% of respondents to community consultation (41 people) want to see the mosaics preserved (noting number of responses was low)</li> </ul>	<p>\$10,000+ GST for removal and repair of concrete pavement. + \$5,000+ GST for installation of permanent signage or photographic display.</p> <p>As one-off costs these can be absorbed within the annual art collection maintenance budget</p> <p>No further ongoing costs</p>
<p>OPTION 2 Remove the Mosaics and gift them to the community to rehome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fairfield Traders Association</li> <li>• Fairfield Primary School or</li> <li>• Fairfield Community Garden</li> </ul> <p>Assist the community with the process of relocating and installing elsewhere</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the community sentiment who would like to see the mosaics preserved in some way</li> <li>• Community ownership of this cultural asset</li> <li>• Aligns with Council’s deaccessioning policy which presents ‘donating’ deaccessioned</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suitable space to house them needs to be located and agreed with community</li> <li>• Limited to 1-2 suppliers (public art experts) who could undertake this specialised relocation work.</li> <li>• Risk that some of the mosaics may be damaged during the</li> </ul>	<p>\$17,500 + GST for removal without destruction of artwork. Waiting on further quotes. This is for removal only. It does not take into consideration groundworks and surveying that may be required for this option.</p> <p>Further costs to be determined to transport + install in new location</p>

OPTION	BENEFITS	RISKS	ESTIMATE COST
	artworks as a valid pathway	removal process due to their age and fragility	depending on groundworks required. This option is above the art collection maintenance budget.
OPTION 3 Leave the Mosaics in situ but conduct no further maintenance or conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the community sentiment who would like to see the mosaics remain in situ</li> <li>No further financial investment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing OH&amp;S risks</li> <li>The artwork will continue to degrade, posing increased trip and slip hazards to the community and liability for Council</li> </ul>	No immediate cost implications
OPTION 4 Remove the mosaics and replace them with an alternative public artwork or simple footpath treatment by a new artist.  <i>(Examples might include a stencil, embossing or mural on the footpath.)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diversify Darebin's public art collection.</li> <li>Provide a new and equitable opportunity to contemporary artists living and working in Darebin</li> <li>Continue to enhance and uplift the Fairfield village and support traders with a new creative and cultural installation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher cost implication</li> <li>Requires additional staff resourcing to deliver a new commission</li> <li>Potential ongoing maintenance of artwork.</li> </ul>	\$10,000+ GST for removal and repair of concrete pavement. As a one-off cost this can be absorbed within the annual art collection maintenance budget Budget starting from \$40,000 for a new artwork EOI/design/mural commission
OPTION 5 Remove the Mosaics and commission the original artist Simon Normand to create a new set of mosaics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a replacement to a well-loved public artwork – would support community sentiment who would like to see the mosaics remain</li> <li>Could be created in partnership with Fairfield Primary School</li> <li>Could be created from a more durable mosaic material</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher cost implication and potential ongoing maintenance</li> <li>Requires additional staff resourcing to deliver a new commission</li> <li>Non-transparent approach without an EOI/competitive tender process</li> <li>Inequitable approach which does not provide an opportunity for contemporary artists or artists living/working in Darebin to apply to create a new work</li> </ul>	\$10,000+ GST for removal and repair of concrete pavement. As a one-off cost this can be absorbed within the annual art collection maintenance budget  \$37,500 for artwork delivery from Simon Normand + installation costs TBD + project management costs

**Additional options have been considered but not included in the table above as they have been deemed non-viable. These include:**

- Fully restore and maintain the mosaics.** This option has been deemed non-viable as the artist has advised that 11 of the 15 mosaics are in very poor condition and cannot be adequately restored in situ.

2. **Remove the mosaics and display them in an internal local such as the Fairfield library.** Due to the number, size and weight of the mosaics, this option has significant challenges including the need to find a suitable location large and safe enough to rehome this multi-part artwork, procurement of suitable display equipment, the need to monitor the display for safety and security, and the precedent set that all public artworks should be rehomed in a publicly accessible building when they are deaccessioned. The cost is in excess of \$100,000.00. It has been deemed to be not a viable option.

### **Key Messages**

- Our community is passionate about Public Art and we want to support this enthusiasm by managing our public art collection in the best way possible, within our resources, and with guidance from industry best practice.
- We have a limited budget to care for and maintain the many special and outstanding works in Darebin's indoor and outdoor (public) art collections. By continuing to invest funds in restoring aged artworks beyond their intended lifespan, we effectively take budget away from other artworks in our collection. Deaccessioning is part of the necessary life-cycle of Public Art.
- Artworks identified for deaccession have met several important criteria including age (intended lifespan), condition, artistic merit, relevance, financial resources and health and safety.
- Significant investment has recently been made towards restoring another major public artwork in Fairfield, the Fairfield Industrial Dog Object (FIDO), and an equitable approach to public art is delivered across Darebin, guided by our Public Art Framework (Attachment B).
- Fairfield Pavement Mosaics have made a rich contribution to the local cultural landscape of Station Street over the past thirty years. While we acknowledge that their lifespan is now coming to an end, we want to honour their contribution.
- Responsible management of our cultural collections will support new creative opportunities to emerge and allow pathways for contemporary artists in our municipality to contribute to the cultural identity of Darebin.

## **CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (2020) PRINCIPLES**

### **Financial Management**

Darebin Council has an annual budget for the maintenance and conservation of its public art collection of approximately \$25,000. This is directed towards cleaning and minor conservation of works and prioritised on assets which are within their intended lifespan. On average, each artwork in the Public Art collection is maintained every 3-6 years. The recommendation to deaccession public artworks that are beyond their intended lifespan and meet other criteria in the Guidelines is sound asset management that will allow Council to focus its resources on artworks that align with the pillars of its Public Art Framework.

### **Community Engagement**

Following endorsement of a preferred pathway from Council, officers will develop a detailed communications and engagement strategy for all stakeholders, including the artist, residents, Fairfield Trader's Association, and Station Street visitors.

## COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

### Equity, Inclusion, Wellbeing and Human Rights Considerations:

Of the 31 public artworks in Darebin's permanent public art collection 26% were created by just two artists, Simon Normand and Arhonda Orestia. Continued investment to indefinitely conserve or maintain artworks beyond their intended lifespan prevents resources being invested in contemporary artists in our community and creating new work in the future.

### Economic Development and Cultural Considerations

One of the deaccession criteria by which artworks are assessed is artistic merit and relevance. Public artworks reflect the culture, community, and time in which they were created. Over the artwork's intended lifespan (usually 20 years), the cultural landscape around the work evolves and changes. The commissioning of new public artworks, particularly temporary works of art, allows for contemporary ideas and cultural shifts to be shared and represented.

### Operational Impacts

Maintenance of cultural assets that are beyond their intended lifespan and continue to rapidly degrade requires a significant investment of human resources that may not be sustainable or operationally desirable. At present, Darebin Council does not have a Public Art Officer.

### Legal and Risk Implications

Due to Darebin's limited public art maintenance budget, not all of Council's public art collection can be conserved each year. If the Fairfield Pavement Mosaics are not fully conserved or removed from the public realm, they will continue to degrade and pose community health and safety risks (eg tripping hazards).

## IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

Officers acknowledge the community attachment to the Fairfield Pavement Mosaics, which have been installed in Station Street, Fairfield for 30 years, and that any decision to remove them from the public realm carries strong emotions.

Upon endorsement from Council of a recommendation to deaccession, rehome or replace the Fairfield Pavement Mosaics, officers will develop a sensitive approach to honour and commemorate the Mosaics, prior to their removal. This may include a small community event to celebrate the Mosaics, in which the artist is invited to speak about the origins of the artwork and professional archival documentation is taken. Officers are also recommending either a photographic display of the Mosaics in the Fairfield Library, or the installation of permanent signage in Station St to visually document the artwork and its history. This approach has been implemented with great effect in Rubie Thomson Reservice in Northcote after the Youth Mural was destroyed by vandalism. The original mural was reprinted onto signage and installed in the same location (**Appendix F**).

Officers will work closely with Traders to ensure a timeline and operational approach to the Mosaics' removal is developed to minimise any disruption to the precinct. Officers will work with the City Design and Economic Development teams to identify any other street design and improvement projects that can be communicated to the Fairfield community.

**Attachments**

- Darebin Guidelines for Deaccessioning Public Art (**Appendix A**) [↓](#)
- Darebin Public Art Framework 2019 (**Appendix B**) [↓](#)
- Fairfield Pavement Mosaics Deaccession Report (**Appendix C**) [↓](#)
- Community Engagement Results Fairfield Pavement Mosaics (**Appendix D**) [↓](#)
- Darebin Public Art Discovery Map (**Appendix E**) [↓](#)
- Youth Mural in Northcote (**Appendix F**) [↓](#)

**DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

## DEACCESSIONING GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC ART IN DAREBIN

### Purpose of Guidelines

The City of Darebin's vision and approach to public art, or art in the public realm, is guided by its *Public Art Framework 2019*. The internal process for commissioning, display, acquisition, and maintenance of public artworks and objects is directed by *Darebin's Public Art Guidelines 2021*. This Deaccessioning addendum to those documents provides criteria and a series of steps for artworks to be removed safely when required, and with respect to the artists and communities involved.

To deaccession an artwork or object from a public collection is to officially remove it from the registered holdings of the collection, either for sale, donation or disposal.

Deaccessioning is an integral part of collection management and enables the evolution of the collection and the best use of available resources. Deaccessioning is not a method for raising revenue, and any money generated by the sale of deaccessioned works will be used for the care and development of the collection. Councillors, Council staff, volunteers, advisory committee members and their families are prohibited from purchasing, or otherwise obtaining, an object that has been deaccessioned from the collection.

In cases where an artwork poses an immediate risk to public health and safety, it may be removed without consultation.

### Public art

Public art is defined as art specifically created to be experienced in the public realm outside the internal walls of a gallery or museum context. The work can be permanent such as sculpture, temporary or ephemeral such as an installation, a performance, or an event-based work. By its nature public art is accessible, free and available for all individuals and communities to experience and enjoy. The development of public art is a creative process led by the artist.

### Criteria for Deaccessioning Public Art

The Darebin Public Art Collection will be subject to periodic review to assess its relevance to the Public Art Framework 2019.

Works will be considered for deaccessioning against the following criteria:

- **Artistic merit:** The item does not align with the Darebin Public Art Framework 2019, would not be commissioned today, is irrelevant and/or lacking in originality and craftsmanship.
- **End of life:** The item is beyond its intended lifespan; the lifetime of the artwork has expired.
- **Poor condition:** The item is compromised by theft, loss, vandalism, damage or serious deterioration in condition and/or is damaged beyond repair.

- **Conservation:** The restoration costs are ongoing, greater than 50% of the value of the work and/or are beyond the means of Darebin Council.
- **No known provenance:** The item lacks a clear legal title or supporting information to enable proper identification and establish its relevance to the collection.
- **Context:** Significant changes to the environment in which the item is placed compromise the original intention and artistic integrity of the work.
- **Copies:** The item is a duplicate or reproduction of work already in the collection.
- **Exchange:** There is an opportunity to upgrade the item through exchange.
- **Ownership:** The artist makes a well substantiated request for the return of the item, or the item should be returned to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander or other community it came from.
- **Safety:** The item poses a risk to public safety, which cannot be mitigated or resolved.

Works that demonstrate multiple criteria listed above may be prioritized for deaccessioning. Among the listed criteria, *safety*, *poor condition* and *conservation* may be more heavily weighted than other criteria in the assessment of an artwork.

#### **Steps for Deaccessioning Public Art**

1. Nomination by Council's curator of a registered item for deaccessioning with a clear rationale provided for their recommendation.
2. Gather evidence to support the proposal, which may include a professional assessment of the item by a public art expert.
3. Consult with internal stakeholders to determine if there are any impediments to the removal of the item, the best method for its removal, and if there are other works being planned for that precinct.
4. Contact the artist, copyright holder and/or donor (in writing) to advise them of the recommendation and determine whether they would like the item returned to them.
5. Determine community interest and consult with external stakeholders who may be impacted or will need to be informed.
6. Confirm the method of removal of the item; transfer, recycle, return, sale, or destruction, and the budget required.
7. Draft a deaccession report which includes:
  - Full details of the artwork
  - Reasons for the recommendation & alignment to deaccessioning criteria
  - Assessment by external public art expert (if required)
  - Internal stakeholder consultation, including contractors

- External stakeholders, including the artist
  - Method of removal and budget
  - Community consultation and/or notification plan
  - Total budget required and funding options
  - Images, if relevant
8. Present the Deaccession Report to the Darebin Art & Heritage Advisory Committee for assessment and approval.
  9. Present a report to ELT and/or Council outlining the recommendation to deaccession the item.
  10. Finalise and deliver a communications plan including community consultation or notification actions as required. This may include:
    - Signage at the site
    - Letterbox drop
    - Website information
    - Social media
    - Your Say Darebin
  11. Undertake photographic documentation of the item for archival purposes and upload a record of the provenance and deaccessioning documentation to the appropriate archive files and the Darebin Arts website.
  12. Deaccession the item from the collection and remove the item from the public domain.

#### **Methods of Removal**

The removal of a deaccession item will be determined on a case-by-case basis, and may include:

- Transfer to an appropriate public gallery or collection by gift
- Return to the original donor
- Return to the artist or their family
- Sale by public auction with monies set aside for future acquisitions through the acquisitions budget
- Use as an educative / interpretive tool
- Destruction or recycling

#### **References**

This document was developed with reference to approaches taken by other Councils, museums and galleries, and professional associations.

# · PUBLIC · ART · IN · DAREBIN ·

## 1. INTRODUCTION



This Public Art Framework outlines the vision, broad direction, priorities and approach Darebin Council will take in developing public art in the municipality.

The Framework has been developed after an extensive period of internal and external consultation.

This document will form the basis for a comprehensive Public Art Policy and Guidelines – including internal processes, artist and community engagement guidelines, contracts, commissioning process, and de-commissioning process.

## 2. PUBLIC ART – WHAT IS IT?

Public art, art in the public domain, public realm art, urban art, outdoor art – these are all terms for the same thing. Public art is art specifically created to be experienced in the public realm outside the internal walls of a gallery or museum. By its nature it is accessible, free, and available for all of our community to come into contact with and enjoy.

**Permanent artworks** can be standalone sculptures, 2D or 3D wall pieces, installations, lighting or sound based works, multi-media pieces or artistic interventions. They can also be artworks integrated into a building or landscape or artist designed outdoor furniture, fittings or decorative elements. They are intended to be in-situ for an extended period of time.

Newly commissioned permanent artworks will normally have an expected lifespan of up to 20 years and will be required to be robust and long lasting. Some public artworks, due to the nature of the medium used, or site issues, may be considered ‘permanent’ even though they may be in-situ for a period of less than 20 years. Some existing statues, sculptures, memorials or other historic works of bronze or other long lasting materials may have been in place for more than 20 years.

New permanent public artworks in Darebin will be specifically commissioned from an artist in response to an artistic brief prepared or approved by Council. The best works are developed with an appreciation of their physical location and are responsive to the specific issues of the site.

Public Art forms a visual and tactile record or trace of the issues, thoughts, concerns, ideas and concepts that were/are important to the community at a particular point in time.



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**Temporary artworks** can encompass artworks in a wide variety of mediums and technologies. The majority of these artworks are developed by the artist specifically for the short term opportunity available. Others may be pre-existing artworks reimagined in a new context. The lifespan of a temporary public artwork or project can range from a few days to a number of months.

Temporary artworks are often experimental in nature and the artist may be responding to specific sites, themes, or opportunities. Due to their shorter anticipated exhibition period, these works may be made from less durable material and are often not able to adapt to longer term display. On occasion, works developed as temporary projects may be suitable for re-occurring display (video, banners, posters etc.)



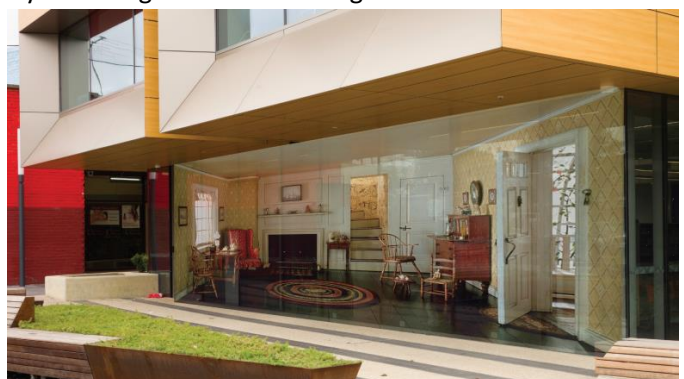
**Ephemeral artworks** include performance or event-based pieces that are experiential. They may be fleeting, providing an immediate and momentary experience for the viewer, or last a few hours. Ephemeral artworks can also be works made from materials that degrade quickly such as paper or ice, these works are specifically designed by the artist to disappear over a period of time and this disappearing is a key component of the concept.

Temporary and ephemeral artworks or any art projects, installations, events or activities happening in the public domain of Darebin will be curated or initiated by Council or developed and delivered by external providers with the express approval of Council.

Council is committed to engaging the community in many aspects of its public art program, however, our emphasis is to support public artworks that are created or led by **experienced professional artists**. We believe this provides the best opportunity for high quality outcomes. As the leading creative practitioners in developing public art projects, professional artists will sometimes work with expanded creative teams, professional fabricators or community members to deliver the artwork. For example, in the event Council supports a creative project that will occur in the public domain involving local community members, untrained artists or school children, our priority will be those projects involving professional artists who will oversee and direct the project. Likewise, we encourage professional artists to be engaged in Council or external projects for creative signage, play spaces, seating or other furniture or decorative elements in the public domain.

We do not believe that unsolicited graffiti such as tagging is public art. However, whilst not sanctioned or commissioned by Council, we are aware that there may be a range of unendorsed guerilla art interventions in the public realm such as stenciling, sprayed murals or other street art and craft practices that many community members are receptive to due to their artistic merit or because of their relevance to, or commentary on, local or community issues.

We are committed to public art in Darebin being high quality, engaging, relevant, well maintained and safe. We will regularly review artworks to ensure they meet these requirements and if necessary may choose to remove, relocate or replace unsuitable works.



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## 3. CONTEXT

Darebin is a municipality with an extremely varied range of communities living and working within its boundaries. We delight in our diversity, the range ages, abilities, genders, and experience, the mix of socioeconomic circumstances, and we embrace the varied backgrounds of our residents and workers, acknowledging and celebrating those with Indigenous and multicultural heritage. We enjoy what this diversity brings to our lives, the great range of restaurants and cafes, the unique retail offerings, and the other distinctive services and businesses in our neighborhoods. We delight in the unique character of individual places and people in our municipality.

As a Council we aim to retain and celebrate what we already have that is unique to Darebin, and we seek to encourage and support new innovations, ideas, projects and events that explore and activate our city in exciting ways.

**We will create diverse and changing experiences of public spaces and provide outstanding opportunities for local and national artists to create new works**

We already do this by ensuring significant heritage places, buildings and landscapes are preserved and maintained and we acknowledge their continued contribution to our environment. We encourage groundbreaking and responsive design for exciting new buildings and civic infrastructure, we are involved in reinvigorating our streetscapes, and we invest in green spaces and parklands. We support cultural practitioners to stay living and working in our municipality through various Council programs and grants and invest in numerous local cultural organizations because we know they are important contributors to the culture and ethos of Darebin. We find a myriad of ways to support community cultural activities that happen in our public spaces such as festivals, events and markets.

Our role is also to encourage, plan and design vibrant, safe and welcoming public spaces that are enjoyed and utilized by our residents, local workers and visitors. Embedding culture into the design and use of these spaces enhances and activates these environments.

We can bring culture into the public realm by supporting and encouraging public art – permanent, temporary and ephemeral. Public art offers a tangible way to express and animate our varied stories - our histories, our heritage, the past uses of our land and buildings, a celebration of those people who are important to us, our acknowledgement and appreciation of practices and rituals and issues of relevance to our various communities. Public art, especially experimental temporary art projects, also provide opportunities for our community to experience first-hand many emerging artistic trends and technologies that are impacting our world.



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# · PUBLIC · ART · IN · DAREBIN ·

## 4. BACKGROUND

Darebin has a proud record of encouraging and supporting public art. Public art provides Council an opportunity to demonstrate its commitment to placing community, creativity and ideas as central to its vision for Darebin as a forward thinking, responsive and exciting place to live and work. It provides physical evidence that the City of Darebin is committed to fostering *innovation, creativity and diversity*.

Over many years, the City of Darebin has supported public art through a variety of mechanisms, primarily through commissioned permanent artworks and temporary projects initiated or funded by the Council's Creative Culture & Events unit. There have also been a number of public art projects and activities that have come about through one-off projects, via external providers as well as by other Council departments.

Recently, there has been significant work done in trying to clarify Council's objectives in supporting public art, and to streamline internal processes to ensure best-practice mechanisms going forward and to avoid some of the ad-hoc approaches of the past.

Council's most recent Public Art Framework *Beyond FIDO, Darebin's Public Art Strategy* expired in 2015. In 2017 an independent consultant and a City of Darebin Arts Ambassador, Lindy de Wijn was engaged to create a Public Art Discussion Paper.

To inform the development of a new Public Art Framework, a community consultation process took place to explore what types of public art the community would like to experience and where. In late 2017, De Wijn's Discussion Paper was made available online through the Darebin's *Your Say* consultation page and local residents, artists and the broader community were encouraged to participate in an online survey and provide feedback. The online survey attracted 174 respondents. Accompanying this, an extensive internal engagement process with staff from across various departments was facilitated.

Council also supported a roundtable of public art specialists comprising professional artists living in the municipality and beyond including Indigenous artists, educators and academics, and representative of local arts organisations. They provided insight and recommendations about the opportunities in delivering and managing public art going forward.

Council staff also undertook a review of the policies and frameworks of City of Melbourne, City of Greater Dandenong, City of Moreland, and City of Yarra to gain insight into the approach of other municipalities with strong public art programs.

A key finding of the public and specialist consultation was the high level of enthusiastic support for Council's ongoing role in supporting and presenting public art within the municipality. **90% of those surveyed believed that public art in Darebin can make the community more inspiring and surprising and 92% would like to see more artists creating art in the public domain. The type of art ranked as of most interest to survey respondents was temporary and ephemeral public art projects.**

Given that 66% of the respondents were residents and another 26% worked in Darebin, this feedback provides strong evidence that the City of Darebin should feel confident in supporting new and engaging public art projects, especially temporary and ephemeral art projects in the public domain.

# · PUBLIC · ART · IN · DAREBIN ·

## 5. THEMES AND FOCUS AREAS.

Five themes for public art emerged through the review period. They were:

1. Public Art as an **ACTIVATOR** of public places
2. **VALUING, DOCUMENTING & MAINTAINING** the public art and heritage we have now, and in the future
3. **INTEGRATING ART** into urban design and planning at the preliminary stage of projects (master plans)
4. **ENCOURAGE THE PRIVATE SECTOR** to engage artists to ensure developments are innovative & dynamic
5. Quality public art projects, permanent and temporary, used to enhance brand, marketing & **CULTURAL TOURISM** for Darebin.

Following community and stakeholder feedback regarding these themes, some focus areas for public art have been identified. They can loosely be broken down into four key areas:

### TEMPORARY AND EPHEMERAL PROJECTS:

- An emphasis on temporary and ephemeral public art projects which provide more experimental but short term outcomes
- An aim to explore opportunities to create re-occurring temporary public art events or festivals
- Where possible, develop projects or opportunities in partnership with other organizations

**AIMS:**

- Artistic excellence
- Transformative, accessible, inclusive experiences
- Broad geographical reach
- Appropriate resources & processes
- Supporting artists
- Leadership and innovation

### PROVISION OF PERMANENT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR TEMPORARY ART:

- A recognition that Council should support the provision of a range of permanent infrastructure such as screens, light-boxes and projectors in order to facilitate programmed artistic content

### PERMANENT PUBLIC ART PRIORITIES:

- Closer alignment of permanent artworks with Council strategies, capital works, and renewal projects
- Ensure Creative Culture and Events staff are involved in early discussions about new developments in order to facilitate public art in these developments where possible
- Set up a rolling reserve to accumulate funds for more significant permanent projects to be commissioned by Council.
- Council to provide guidance to private developers, building owners and other external organizations regarding public art such as incorporating public art into new residential or commercial developments, or hosting public artworks or events. Council will encourage external providers to engage professional public art project managers, professional artists and to have clear briefs and legal agreements.

### ARTIST RESIDENCIES:

- Support artists to undertake short or long term residencies leading to public realm art outcomes. Such residencies might be community based or aligned with specific Council initiatives or in collaboration with local arts organization or educational institutions.

# · PUBLIC · ART · IN · DAREBIN ·

## 6. OTHER ISSUES INFORMING PUBLIC ART PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Collaborations, partnerships and communication are key to coordinating a successful public art program. We will further develop our positive relationships with locally based arts organizations and educational institutions and explore partnership or collaborative public art projects, events and related activities. We will foster relationships with internal and external partners including funding bodies, other government departments and agencies and private developers to deliver projects of a budget, scale or complexity that we do not currently deliver. We also seek to work in closer collaboration with other arms of Council to share opportunities, funds, and knowledge and to ensure a more consistent approach across Council that delivers quality outcomes.

Our public art program will be responsive to our community, and we will enable community connections and facilitate new relationships for civic engagement into our public art programs. For example, we will explore opportunities for community members and stakeholders to contribute to research, themes, and content (via a range of mechanisms including oral histories, workshops or other feedback avenues) which can then be interpreted and expressed by artists in new public art projects.

We also want to encourage an appropriate timeline for any new permanent public artwork being commissioned by Council or by private developers and ensure artists are engaged at the earliest stage of the project. Ideally:

- Year 1 scope sites and community engagement.
- Year 2 full design, due diligence and tender documents, procurement for construction.
- Year 3 construction and launch event.

Likewise, we want to ensure that budget provision is adequate for high quality artworks and that funds are earmarked for ongoing repair and maintenance at the time of commissioning.

## 7. PUBLIC ART SELECTION CRITERIA

Public Art projects will be assessed against the following criteria:

- relevance to the Public Art Framework
- artistic merit
- projects which are contemporary, are of a high quality, are innovative and engage with the issues, trends, materials and techniques of our time
- involvement of a professional artist in the project
- appropriateness and relevance to the site
- consideration of public safety, maintenance and durability requirements if longer term
- non-duplication of projects, or support for projects of a similar type to existing or previously supported artworks
- non-duplication of memorials or monuments commemorating same or similar events
- consistency with current planning, heritage and environmental policies and other Council programs

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## 8. ADMINISTRATION

Council does not currently have a Public Art Officer with responsibility for delivering the public art program.

Until such time as a Public Art Officer is appointed, public art commissioning and curation at Darebin will be managed by the staff of Bundoora Homestead Art Centre (BHAC) and overseen by the Manager, Creative Culture & Events.

BHAC staff will follow the guidelines for commissioning art projects in the public domain outlined in the Darebin Public Art Policy (currently in development). This policy will cover the commissioning process, briefs and agreements, rules and guidelines for acquiring and removal of artworks, guidelines for outside contributions (grants, donations, other non- government sources, gifting), etc.

A Darebin Public Art Quality Assurance Group (DPAQAG) to be led by Creative Culture & Events and representing a range of key Council departments will consider and advise on all public art projects in the early stage of planning. Recognizing there has previously been a dispersed and uncoordinated approach to planning and delivering art in the public realm, this new whole-of-Council approach is to be adopted to ensure best case outcomes for public art, cultural activations, and artwork commissions. This group will ensure that Council responds consistency to public art opportunities, that there is a uniform vision and whole of municipal approach, artists and community are at the heart of concept development, and that all ethical, moral and legal considerations are met.

The DPAQAG will meet quarterly or as required and will be guided by the professional expertise of the BHAC and Creative Culture & Events staff regarding the most appropriate process for selecting and engaging professional artists and the standards for artist agreements and project management systems. DPAQAG will also review guidelines and templates used by Council for public art projects.

A specialist Public Art Advisory Panel will be appointed on a case by case basis, dependent on the scale and complexity of any new public art initiative. This panel will include external visual art experts, BHAG Senior Curator, other Darebin staff members and relevant community participants. The Panel will not be involved in day-to-day planning or management of the public art program nor will they be involved in approval of individual projects.

## 9. RELEVANT COUNCIL DOCUMENTS THAT INFORM THE PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

- Darebin Council Plan 2017-2021
- Darebin Art Strategy 2014-2020
- Darebin Collection Policy
- Darebin Public Art Policy (currently in development)
- Council Graffiti Management Policy
- Any future documents approved by Council and any guidelines set out by the DPAQAG

## DEACCESSION REPORT

2026

## FAIRFIELD PAVEMENT MOSAICS

<b>Current # on Darebin Register of Public Art Database</b>	#15
<b>Title of artwork</b>	Fairfield Pavement Mosaics
<b>Artist</b>	Simon Normand
<b>Location</b>	Station Street, Fairfield
<b>Location description</b>	The collection of 15 mosaic artworks is inlaid into the footpath along Station Street shopping strip from the station end to about 500 metres north on both sides of the street. This section of Station Street is a busy shopping precinct which is well patronised and well maintained by Council.
<b>Date of installation</b>	1995
<b>Original artwork contract or documentation</b>	The original signed contract was found in archive boxes during the 2019 audit.
<b>Original budget</b>	\$7,500
<b>Intended lifespan of artwork, if known</b>	Unknown
<b>Description from register</b>	N/A
<b>Revised description (at the time of 2019 audit)</b>	The artwork consists of 15 individual mosaic artworks embedded in the footpath along Station Street, Fairfield. The artworks depict individual stories and locations from the municipality that comprise the one art project.
<b>Typology</b>	Pavement mosaic
<b>Medium</b>	Tile mosaic
<b>Summary of artwork repairs to date and estimated costs</b>	<p>The artist has undertaken periodic repairs and maintenance to the artwork, usually on a two-yearly basis, and has stated in writing that he has conducted regular repairs between 1995 - 2018.</p> <p>In 2017, the artist quoted for re-grouting and repairing all the works, with an anticipated cost of approximately \$70 per artwork or around \$900 in total. Based on these figures, it is estimated that repairs to the Fairfield Mosaics have cost approximately \$10,000 since installation.</p> <p>This is more than the original cost of the artwork and repairs of this kind would continue to be required to avoid public safety issues and to mitigate the ongoing degradation of the works.</p>

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## DEACCESSION REPORT

### Reasons for deaccessioning

The Fairfield Mosaics have been nominated for deaccessioning by the Darebin's Curator, for the following reasons:

- The mosaics are now 30 years old, which exceeds the generally agreed upon 10 - 20-year life span for a 'permanent' public artwork. Due to its age, it is no longer best practice to continue to restore this work.
- This is a very busy shopping strip, both as a destination and as a thoroughfare from the train station, and there is significant and ongoing wear and tear to these mosaic tiles.
- Despite periodic maintenance the mosaics are all damaged, have many missing tiles, and are broken around the edges.
- They have reached the end of their life and would now cost more to restore than their current or former value. The cost of repairs in perpetuity will impact on Council's other priorities and it is not fiscally responsible to continue to maintain this work.

### Alignment to deaccessioning criteria

Specifically, the item:

- Has reached the **end of its life**
- Is in **poor condition** due to serious deterioration
- Will become a public **safety** risk if left unaddressed and allowed to deteriorate further
- **Conservation** costs are ongoing, exceed the value of the item and are beyond the means of Council

### External assessment

An independent assessment of the artwork was undertaken by Global Art Projects (GAP) in December 2024 in which the assessor reiterated their comments from 2019:

*Whilst Simon Normand is a recognised mosaic artist and the works continue to have some aesthetic appeal, the increasing deterioration of the works and patchwork of repairs is impacting its visual impression and attractiveness. It no longer appears fresh or especially relevant and is not the artwork it was when first installed.*

*The artwork is over 24 years old and is continuing to deteriorate requiring ongoing attention to assess its condition and to maintain it to stop ongoing risk in this high pedestrian zone. There are ongoing costs for the artist to personally undertake repair of the work (estimated to be upward of \$1000 in 2019 and potentially more ongoing as it continues to deteriorate).*

*Although there is no official anticipated lifespan for the work, GAP believes the work has passed its best years and is on a slow and gradual physical decline. It is recommended that this work be put on the list of works slated for removal when streetscape improvements happen.*

## DEACCESSION REPORT

### Internal stakeholders

Internal stakeholders who have been consulted, are as follows:

Title	Department
Coordinator City Design	City Futures
Principal City Designer	City Futures
Team Leader City Design	City Futures
Coordinator Sustainable Transport	City Futures
Manager	City Futures
Capital Delivery Coordinator	Capital & Major Projects
Acting Coordinator Infrastructure and Fleet Maintenance	City Works
Infrastructure and Fleet Maintenance	Operations & Waste
Place Leader	Creative Culture & Economic Development
Coordinator, Place & Behavioural Economics	Creative Culture & Economic Development

No practical impediments to the removal of the Fairfield Mosaics were identified by these stakeholders, but questions were raised about resurfacing options, if and when the mosaics are removed.

A colour treatment compatible with the adjacent pavers, or other treatments, such as grid lines or embedded stencils, was proposed by some internal stakeholders.

There are currently no planned upgrades to the footpaths on Station Street, Fairfield.

A Council-approved contractor has visited the site and provided a quote for the removal of the mosaics.

### External stakeholders

The following external stakeholders have been identified to be consulted with regarding proposed removal of the Fairfield Mosaics:

- The Fairfield Traders Association
- Business owners and business workers along Station Street, Fairfield
- Local residents of Fairfield
- Darebin Artists
- Local visitors and tourists to Fairfield

These groups have been consulted with via a variety of communication channels as part of the February-March 2026 community consultation project.

### The artist

The artist has been contacted about the proposed deaccession of his work. He has advised that 4 of the 15 mosaics are in reasonable condition, but the remaining 11 should be removed and replaced. He has provided a quote for the commission of a new set of Mosaics.

## DEACCESSION REPORT

### Method of removal and costs

Removing the mosaics will require disruption to the footpath on both sides of the shopping strip and is estimated to take approximately one week, if they are all removed at the same time.

The mosaics and pavers around them will need to be dug out and replaced with fresh concrete, which could be colour matched to the adjacent pavers, and/or embossed with a pattern or design.

The removal of the mosaics would ideally be aligned with other streetscaping, but there are currently no other works planned for this section of Station Street.

An estimated budget of \$10,000 is required to dig up the 15 mosaics and replace them with fresh concrete (quote attached).

### Community consultation and/or notification plan

There are 15 different mosaic panels and removing them will be disruptive. A communications plan will be required to inform traders, residents, commuters, and the broader community of Council's intention to remove the mosaics.

Recommended communications would include:

- A web page dedicated to deaccessioning public art on Darebin Arts
- Mail out via trader's association mailing list
- Posters along the street, in supportive businesses
- Social media linking back to the Darebin Arts web page
- Signage of intent installed at either end of the footpaths on both sides, prior to and during the removal of the mosaics

### Total budget and funding options

A quote has been sourced for the excavation of the existing tiles and their replacement with fresh sandstone-tinted concrete. This does not include traffic management and community liaison.

Budget estimates:

Item	Supplier	Cost – ex GST
Removal and resurfacing, including sandstone treatment to new mix	Rezon Concreting Australia	\$9,800.00
Traffic management	TBA	\$2,000.00
Community liaison	Coordinator, Place & Behavioural Economics Bundoora Homestead Art Centre staff	N/A
Communications	Inhouse – signage, printing required	\$1,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$12,800.00</b>

**DEACCESSION REPORT**

Funding options:

The costs of removal can be covered by the 26/27 Public Art Maintenance budget with advisory support required from other Council departments.

**Image/s**





# Community Engagement Results Report

## BACKGROUND

At its meeting on 27 October 2025, Council endorsed new *Guidelines for the Deaccessioning of Public Art in Darebin* and authorised a community consultation on the removal of the Fairfield Pavement Mosaics. Council requested a report on the outcome of the consultation, prior to making a decision about whether or not to remove the mosaics.

### Objectives of community engagement:

To understand community preferences regarding the possible removal of the mosaics including

- The removal or restoration (for a period of time) of the Fairfield Pavement Mosaics
- The preferred timing of the removal, restoration or replacement works

### Questions asked of the community:

- What are your thoughts on removing the Fairfield Mosaics?
- Do you have any feedback on the timing of the removal of the Fairfield Mosaics?

### Engagement Key Messages:

*The Fairfield Pavement Mosaics are coming to the end of their life.*

*Created by artist Simon Normand, this well-loved artwork has played a special role in the cultural landscape of Fairfield for three decades and Council thanks the artist for his contribution.*

*Most public art has a lifespan of 20 years. Over time, the mosaics have become worn and damaged, and the ongoing cost of repairing them is no longer sustainable.*

*Removing them would make the footpath safer, cleaner and easier to use.*

*This will allow for opportunities to explore working with new artists to create more diverse artworks across Darebin in the future.*

*We'd like to hear your thoughts on the possible removal of the Fairfield Mosaics. Have your say in your language by 15 March 2026 at [www.yoursay.darebin.vic.gov.au/fairfieldmosaics](http://www.yoursay.darebin.vic.gov.au/fairfieldmosaics)*

## PARTICIPATION ANALYSIS

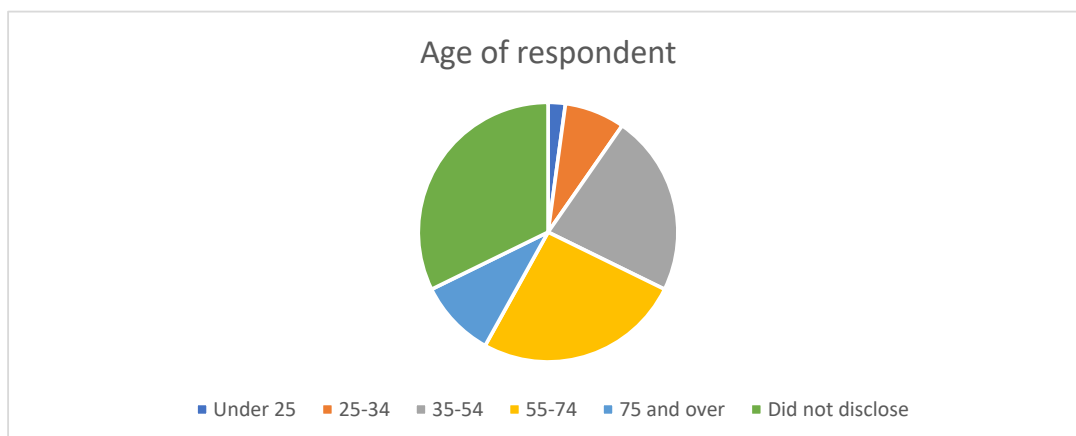
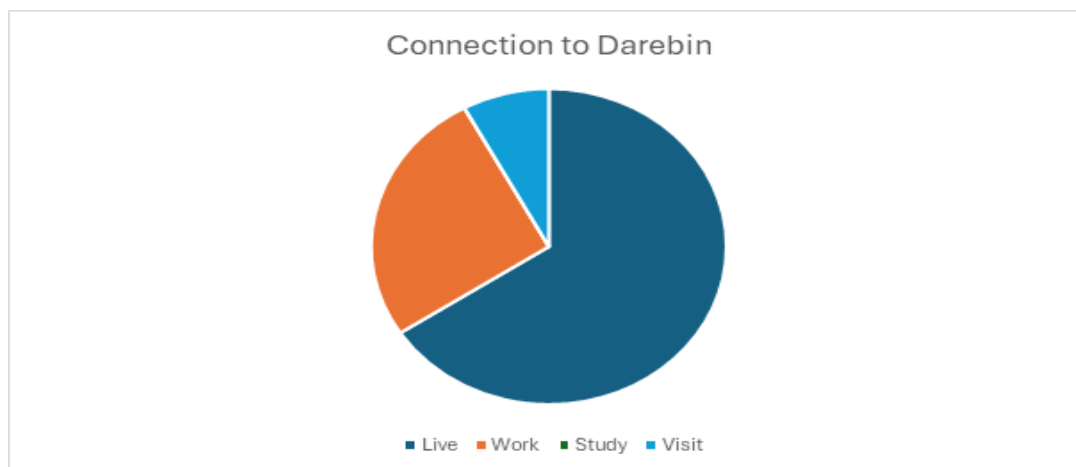
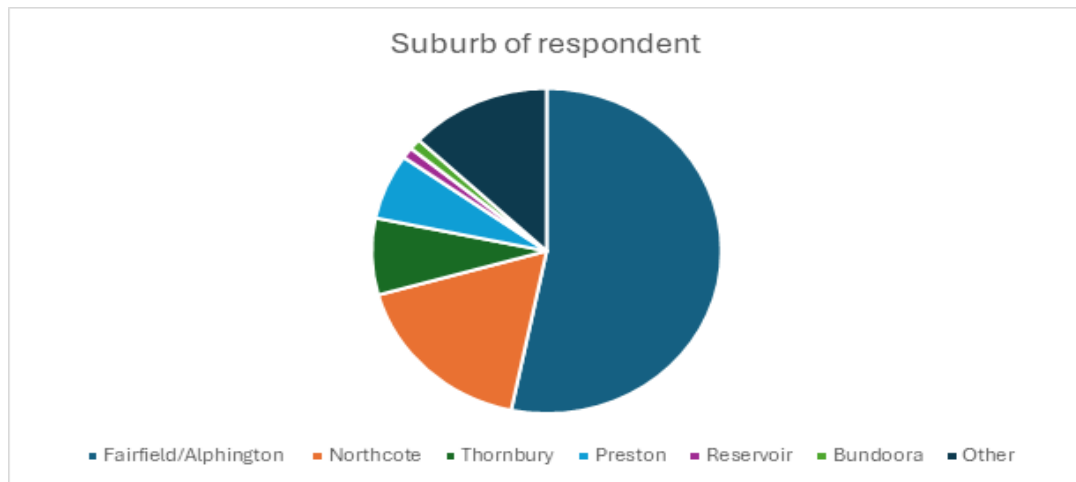
Engagement Activity	Number of participants/ people engaged	Targeted group
Your Say Darebin page	87 responses via online Your Say page	General Darebin community, residents and traders
Public Engagement pop-up sessions in Fairfield	Approximately 30 people spoken to across 2 sessions. 5 paper surveys completed	Residents, visitors and local traders of Fairfield
Postcard drop	200 postcards delivered to local residents of Fairfield	Residents of Fairfield

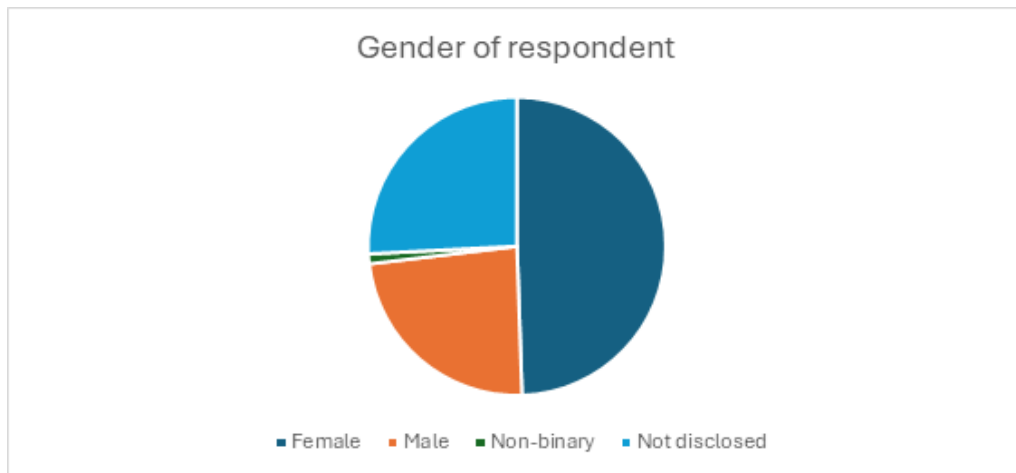
## COUNCIL MEETING

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<p><i>Promotion via:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Social media</i></li><li>• <i>Website</i></li><li>• <i>E-newsletters</i></li><li>• <i>Posters &amp; postcard</i></li><li>• <i>Translations into:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Greek</i></li><li>• <i>Italian</i></li><li>• <i>Mandarin</i></li><li>• <i>Spanish</i></li><li>• <i>Cantonese</i></li></ul></li><li>• <i>Direct emails to Fairfield trader's association and Darebin Public Artist Database</i></li></ul>		<p><i>General Darebin community, Fairfield Traders Association, Residents, Visitors to Fairfield</i></p>
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## DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS





## ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

- Total contributions via Your Say: 87
- Total contributions in person: 5
- Total contributions via email: 1
- Total Unique responses: 93

Response	Detail	Number of Responses
REMOVE THE MOSAICS	Deaccession the mosaics and replace with concrete	21
REMOVE THE MOSAICS AND REPLACE WITH NEW ARTWORK	Deaccession the mosaics and create a new artwork of some sort in its place	18
REMOVE THE MOSAICS AND DISPLAY THEM ELSEWHERE	Carefully remove the mosaics and display some/all of them in another location, such as Fairfield Library	13
KEEP THE MOSAICS	Keep the mosaics in their current location	41

### REMOVE THE MOSAICS – QUOTES FROM RESPONDENTS

- *“Agree at the end of their life. Remove them as planned and replace with normal concrete path. We don’t need any trip or slip items on the ground - the footpaths are dangerous enough for the elderly and the rest of us”*
- *“They have been lovely but I understand the concerns about tripping hazards etc.”*
- *“They are tired and old and should be removed.”*
- *“I live in Fairfield and whilst I enjoy the colour and vibrancy of the pavement artwork, they are really worn and not disability friendly. Given the current fiscal climate for many councils including Darebin, I don't want to have to commit to ongoing funding for maintenance where those funds could be diverted for other purposes like reducing the price of entry to the NARC, funding more librarians or tending to the giant overgrown trees on Grange Rd.”*
- *“I agree they are past their use by date”*
- *“I agree with the proposal for the removal of the mosaics as they have reached the end of their lifespan and spending on their maintenance and repair is not a wise use of council funds.”*

### REMOVE THE MOSAICS AND REPLACE WITH A NEW ARTWORK – QUOTES FROM RESPONDENTS

- *“Give the next generation of artists a chance to put their mark on our public spaces.”*
- *“As much as the removal of the mosaics will prompt an end of an era, I am optimistic that the potential engagement with new art/multiple artworks with a new artist/artists would benefit the area as well as help support local artists.”*
- *“I think it is reasonable to hope that the opportunity is taken to replace the mosaics with new artworks that capture how Fairfield has changed over time.”*
- *“I think that a public artwork of this sort (its materials) naturally come to their end and 30 years is a really good run. I am in favour of removing the mosaics if it means the council implements new opportunities for public art that reflects the changing community. A lot has changed in 30 years, it’s also a great opportunity for local artist to learn about the logistics and materials of public art, in developing new ideas.”*
- **“From The Fairfield Traders Association:**  
*Our Position: Art, Not Just Infrastructure*  
*The Fairfield Pavement Mosaics are more than just decoration; they are a hallmark of our precinct’s character. We find it entirely unacceptable for these artworks to be removed and replaced with standard concrete. Simply reverting to industry standard concrete that serves as a footpath in the village is not an acceptable solution. It is a step backward for the vibrancy of our local economy and the “village” feel that draws visitors to Fairfield.*  
*Our Requirements for Success:*  
*For the transition to be successful and supported by the local business community, the Fairfield Traders Association stipulates the following:*  
*A High-Quality Creative Alternative: We advocate for a “well thought out” art piece that honors the legacy of the original work while reflecting the modern diversity of Darebin.*  
*End-to-End Partnership: The Association expects to be an active partner in the selection and implementation process. This includes representation from the initial consultation phase through to the completion of the replacement works.*  
*Sustainability & Vision: Any new installation must be designed with both longevity and artistic merit in mind, ensuring Fairfield remains a destination for public art enthusiasts.*  
*“Replacing a beloved cultural landmark with concrete is a disservice to the traders and residents who have cared for this identity for three decades. We seek a creative evolution, not a removal. We look forward to a formal invitation to the working group for this project to ensure the next chapter of Fairfield’s streetscape is as iconic as the last.”*

### REMOVE THE MOSAICS AND DISPLAY ELSEWHERE – QUOTES FROM RESPONDENTS

- *“I understand the issue but really think they need to be saved. They should be restored and put up on the walls in the library complex.”*
- *“Preserve the mosaics after removing them.”*
- *“Display them vertically, perhaps in the library or some public location?”*
- *“Relocation of the mosaics to a wall in the corridor of the community centre, adjacent to the library would be a way of preserving this historic and social asset”*
- *“It would be great if they could be recorded in some way, like if photos of the artworks could be displayed in the community.”*
- *“Don’t remove them, relocate them. Eg out of the pedestrian wear and tear like the library”*

### KEEP THE MOSAICS – QUOTES FROM RESPONDENTS

- *“They are a part of Fairfield and we love that!”*

- *"I actually love that they have aged and would not be happy to see them removed. Restored would be preferred"*
- *"I think it would be a terrible shame to remove them. They are part of the history of the area and accessible public art. If cost is the barrier to restoring them, I and others would happily volunteer the labour."*
- *Keep them. You have no right to take away artist work and thus has an impact on all the community. They are integral to the community. They encourage children to be artists. Find money to keep them.*
- *"Please don't, they are beautiful and important to the character of the area."*
- *"Leave them there and repair. I don't understand why we are always replacing. Keep the links to the past. Respect and continue to celebrate the artists who made the work."*
- *"Very saddened by this. There is very little left of Fairfield from before its gentrification. Me and my friends at Fairfield Primary School helped create these mosaics. They're very sentimental to us."*
- *"I think that the pavement mosaics are a fantastic addition to Station St, Fairfield and should stay. This end of Darebin Council receives very little funding from council - leave the mosaics"*

# DAREBIN PUBLIC ART DISCOVERY MAP



Bundoora  
Homestead  
Art Centre



# ARTWORK LOCATIONS// DAREBIN AREA





**01. Westgarth precinct public art**  
**Helen Bodycomb, Chris Rak & Enver Camdal, 1998**  
 Installed in the Westgarth Shopping Strip, the artworks include aerial, street level and inlaid pieces. The installations include sculptural pieces of welded steel and stainless-steel mosaics depicting indigenous fauna.



**02. Baden Morgan Reserve Mosaic**  
**Ryhannen Cahill, Anita Georiatas, Christine Munster, Andrew Scott, Daniel Corretti, Layla Beavis and Jessica Sayers 2003**  
 A large pavement mosaic made from small glass tiles, created as part of a training and employment program.



**03. Homage to Victorian First Peoples**  
**Ray Thomas, 2005**  
 This large, vibrant painted bas relief mural features at Northcote Civic Square. The mural was created by Brabrawooloong Gunnai artist Ray Thomas (born Melbourne 1960) and is an iconographic recognition of ancient lineage and celebrates a respect for people and country.



**04. The Eye On High**  
**Simon Normand, 2002**  
 This artwork consists of a large work formed like a sign outside the Stuzzi Restaurant. A large, stylised eye, with steel eyelashes, the work is constructed from steel and fibreglass.



**05. The Gathering**  
**Irianna Kanellopoulou, 2003**  
 This work consists of three "piles of rock-like forms" set in vertical formations. The work is made from clay and cement. The clay used in these pieces reflects the history of the site by referring to the earth and to the brick manufacturing that took place in the area. The formations of the rocks represent the strength of the community and the building blocks of our multicultural heritage.



**06. Petals**  
**Arhonda Orestia, 2003**  
 Two petal-shaped forms made of galvanised steel. The petals represent voyage, destination and arrival to a new place.



**07. Vessel**  
**Arhonda Orestia, 2003**  
 A boat-shaped structure made from galvanised steel with panels of copper riveted onto the surface. The design reflects Darebin's cultural diversity and the history of the site.



**08. Windows**  
**Arhonda Orestia, 2003**  
 This sculpture features galvanised steel structures shaped like doors, with etched copper panels containing images and patinated surface colour. The designs reflect Darebin's cultural diversity and the history of the site, from the land of which the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people are the traditional custodians, to brick works (Northcote Brick Company) and the Northcote Landfill.



**9. Meeting Place**  
**Wendy Watjera Berick, (Constructed by Cathy Adams and Urban Colours) 2003**  
 This artwork features wooden poles made from treated pine with painted designs in acrylic paint. The work also includes 12 Redgum "stepping stones" set into the ground in concrete pads.



**10. The Dance**  
**Arhonda Orestia, 2003**  
 This is a sculpture made from bands of steel formed into tall "crown-like shapes". The work has panels of etched copper with text in different languages riveted onto areas of the steel that overlap. The design expresses and reflects on Darebin's cultural diversity and the history of the site.



**11. Mosaic**  
**Irianna Kanellopoulou, 2003**  
 This work consists of three mosaic forms described as "mounds". They are made from cement and ceramic tiles in different shades of blue. There are screen-printed images on some of the tiles and these forms combine a visual collage reflecting the past via historic photos and the present via children's drawings. They represent a metaphoric melting pot of memories and dreams.



**12. Snake**  
**Cathy Adams, 2003**  
 This work represents "Mindi" the Red-Bellied Black Snake, who is regarded by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin nation as a spirit of good fortune.



**13. Northcote Wayfinding Project Inlay**  
**Helen Bodycomb**  
 The Northcote Wayfinding project inlays are approximately 10 ornate disks set into the footpath around Claude St, Helen St and Turnbull Grove, Northcote.



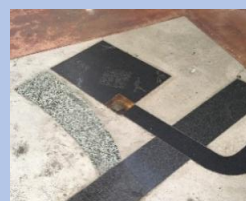
**14. Fairfield Industrial Dog Object (Fido)**  
**Alistair Knox, Jacqui Staude, Ian Sinclair, David Davies, 2000**  
 Through the use of sensors and digital controls, FIDO talks to passers-by, wags its tail, wiggles its ears and lights up at night. The materials used, the form and the interactive nature of this monumental work were chosen specifically to respond to the friendliness and vitality of Fairfield Village and enhance the sense of community for this dog-loving precinct.



**15. Fairfield Pavement Mosaics**  
**Simon Normand 1995**  
 These works consist of approximately twelve glass mosaic inlays set into the footpath particularly sited in the shopping block closest to the railway crossing in Station Street Fairfield.



**16. Ornamental Grille**  
**Carla Van Laar, 2000**  
 This artwork consists of a steel sheet that has cut out decorative forms in it with coloured glass inlays. The work is fixed to the façade of the entrance walkway to the Fairfield Library and Community Centre.



**17. Fairfield Library Walkway Inlays**

**By Caroline Beach, Adam Dettrick, Georgina Lewis, 2000**

This artwork features stone inlays cut and set into the floor along with found objects at the Fairfield Library and community centre uncover entrance.



**18. The Nest**

**David Bell and Gary Tippett, 2012**

The symbolic egg form at the heart of this design echoes the hope for recovery and new life, and for the rebirth of the land. The piece also references the conservation role of the park and in particular the role this park plays for the many birds that live and nest within. The 4 metre-high egg form is made from recycled timbers and is designed to be tactile, organic and peaceful within the environment.



**19. The Chimney Sculpture**

**Simon Normand, 2003**

Sponsored by Northcote Pottery, this work consists of handmade tiles and mosaic set onto concrete fencing around the perimeter and the entrance to Clyde Jones Reserve Thornbury.



**20. Sailing Down the Steps**

**Simon Normand, 2003**

This artwork features two large boat forms with mosaic inlays. The mosaic inlays have been crafted by local primary school students. The "Sunken" boat represents the Merri Creek and some of its important elements as if seen through a magnifying glass.



**21. Koori Mural**

**Megan Evans, Millie Yarran, Ian Johnson, Les Griggs, Elaine Trott & Ray Thomas, 1983**

The Koori Mural was designed by artist Megan Evans in consultation with a committee from the Aborigines Advancement League including the late Lin Onus, the late Molly Dyer, the late Ron Johnson and the late Elizabeth Hoffman. It was painted by Evans and renowned Aboriginal artist Ray Thomas with Ian Johnson, Millie Yarram, Les Griggs, Elaine Trott & several volunteers. The mural has great historical and cultural significance and refers to the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, from early colonial history to more recent struggles for social justice. In 2014 the mural was replicated onto a vinyl banner at its current site.



**22. Three Follies (3 Works)**

**Bush Projects, 2014**

Three Follies are a series of three structures made from recycled brick and concrete. The artwork reconnects residents to the isolated island oasis of Ray Bramham Gardens by providing an interactive work which honours the botanical theme of the park while subtly referencing both the site's industrial history and the local vernacular suburban architecture.



**23. The Connection**

**Michael Snape, 2007**

A curving stainless-steel sculpture of linked human figures, *The Connection* depicts many people coming together in an animated, lively way, with the separate components becoming one. It refers to the meaningful links between different groups in the community and the connections which contribute to harmony in Darebin.



**24. Well Place Preston**

**Velislav (Will) Georgiev, Zabelski Han, & Victoria Roxburgh, 2004**

Half horse, half human bronze sculpture, the work has a circular formation of rocks as a base and incorporates a water feature. Water slowly cascades from a bowl held by the human and offered to the horse. The work has a circular formation of rocks as a base.



**25. Untitled 8/73**

**Reg Parker, 1973**

The sculpture of welded 3mm oxidised mild steel features six rectangular blocks, joined along the edges and juxtaposed at various angles. The work is classified by The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) and was funded by the Visual Arts Board of the Australia Council for the Arts. The sculpture is an example of a classic formalist work by one of the early practitioners of the style in Australia.



**26. Remnant Bush Rock Wall**

**Anderson Hunt, Cameron Robbins, Janine Stratton, 1998**

This work is a large structure of stones, a cairn. It is constructed using volcanic rock from the area and has a number of metal plaques set into the sides of the rock structure. On one plaque the wording reads "Remnant Bush", another says "Urban Push" and the third plaque reads "Machine Axe & Fire".



**27. Blue Orchid**

**Anuradha Patel and Zabelski Han, 2011**

The work consists of a sculpture and seat. The sculpture is a tree form and the seat is based on a leaf shape. History is evoked through the flora and fauna imagery, from Indigenous plants to those of the farms, back-yards and kitchen gardens of the area, and diversity is evoked primarily through figures holding hands. Both pieces are fabricated from powder-coated mild steel.



**28. The Ramp**

**Caroline Beach, Adam Dettrick, Dale Stephens, 2000**

The artwork is constructed of laser-etched, anodised aluminium squares. It graphically represents the history of the area in a series of overlays. The curved lines of the creeks and waterways of the natural setting before European colonisation is the first level – the land of the Wurundjeri. Over this has been laid the grid lines of the original subdivision of Preston. The work represents how humans often impose on landscape in a series of regular patterns in attempts to make sense and order of it.



**29. The Source**

**Adrian Mauriks, 2005**

Six white sculptural components: a tall bud-like form, a reclining form that refers to various kinds of animals (possum, dugong), a round form that visitors to the park can sit on to view the artwork and three squarish forms that define the space the art is placed in and that park visitors can also sit on. The work relates to the themes the "Present" and "Future" with an emphasis on the natural environment. The colour and the reclining form, which appears embryonic, bring to mind birth and new beginnings and the bud, the flowering of life.



**30. Narrandjeri Stadium – Window work & Wall Work**

**Esther Stewart, 2021**

Esther Stewart's site-specific artwork responds to the unique light, space and architecture of Darebin City Council's Narrandjeri Stadium. An artist living and working in Naarm/Melbourne, Esther's work explores civic and domestic spaces—replicating lines found in built environments and echoing the visual language of plans, maps and interior spaces.



**31. SAFETYNET**

**James Nguyen, 2025**

SAFETYNET was commissioned by the City of Darebin to reflect upon the rich history of migration to the municipality. The sculpture is inspired by the motif of the Vietnamese fishing net. SAFETYNET honours the journeys of those who have migrated and resettled here, their hard-fought struggles and achievements on these Aboriginal Lands.

## CASE STUDY: *YOUTH MURAL AT RUBIE THOMSON RESERVE*

### Commemorating public artwork with an historical marker

In 2016, following a spate of graffiti and vandalism, a major public mural in Northcote known as the Youth Mural was defaced beyond repair. Due to the ongoing costs of restoration of the mural to that point in time, in 2016 Council made the decision not to recommission the mural, but instead to record and commemorate its history through the creation of an historical marker that provided a digital reprint of the artwork. The marker is still in place and in good condition ten years on.



**9.11 2025-26 Q3 PERFORMANCE REPORT (FINANCIAL & NON FINANCIAL) ENDING 31 MARCH 2026****Author:** Corporate Reporting & Performance Officer**Reviewed By:** Chief Executive Officer

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to present the 2025-26 Q3 Performance Report (Financial & Non-Financial) ending 31 March 2026.

This integrated mid-year report includes:

- (1) Non-financial performance, including Our Darebin Action Plan progress (**see Appendix A**) including Health & Wellbeing Update, Customer Experience Performance and Service Performance.; and
- (2) Financial performance, presenting 2025-26 Year-to-date (YTD) financial performance results for period ending 31 March 2026 and the full year forecast for the 2025-26 financial year (see **Appendix B**), for the purposes of:
  - Ensuring transparent and accountable financial management in line with public transparency principles and legislative requirements.
  - Continually assessing financial performance to evaluate cost pressures, risks and opportunities as the financial year progresses. Regular forecast reviews are critical for identifying new risks and considering if adjustments to the full year plan is needed.

The *2025-26 Our Darebin Action Plan* outlines Council's performance in delivering the year one actions that contribute to achieving the Initiatives set out in the *Our Darebin Plan 2025–29*. At the end of the third quarter, overall performance remains positive, with the majority of actions progressing. Out of the 94 actions, 72 (77%) are on target and 11 actions (12%) have been completed, reflecting continued delivery against planned commitments. Nine actions (9%) are off target, while two actions (2%) have been discontinued. Detailed commentary for all actions is provided in **Appendix A**.

The financial results for quarter ending 31 March 2026 indicate that Council's financial position remains stable, however requires continuous monitoring to improve underlying unallocated cash over the long term. Whilst higher than budgeted savings has been forecast at Q3, year-end unallocated cash is still projected to be deficit of \$3.6M highlighting structural budget challenges.

Further analysis of achieved savings is currently being undertaken to assess if any amendments could be considered in the 2026-27 draft budget including revaluation of future saving targets. Results of this analysis will be presented to ELT and Councillors in May 2026 for final budget consideration.

Refer to **Appendix B** for detailed financial analysis of YTD performance and full year Q3 forecast results.

This report includes:

- The **2025-26 Year To Date (July – March 2026) Financial Performance Report**. This summarises YTD financial results for the quarter ended 31 March 2026 compared to budget.

This reports on income received, expenditure incurred and cash management and includes progress of the Capital Works & Operating Projects Program.

- The **forecast for the full 2025-26 financial year as at the end of Q3 (31 March 2026)**; also referred to as the **Q3 forecast**. This outlines management projections of financial results for the full 2025-26 financial year. This forecast was undertaken as at 31 March 2026 and it accounts for: new or emerging cost pressures, and any new information arising from the YTD (Year To Date) results

### Officer Recommendation

**That** Council:

- (1) Notes the Q3 Performance Report (non-financial) at **Appendix A**.
  - (2) Defers action '6.4.2.1 Update the Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy to strengthen how well it helps achieve best value for community balancing financial, social and sustainability objectives' and reschedule in the context of Council's policy review project.
  - (3) Notes the Financial Report for the nine months ended 31 March 2026 at **Appendix B**.
  - (4) Notes the quarter three update of the Capital Works program at **Appendix C**.
  - (5) Notes the quarter three update of the Operating Projects program at **Appendix D**.
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## BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION

The 2025-26 Q3 Performance Report (**Appendix A**) provides an update on the delivery of the Our Darebin Action Plan along with Customer Experience and Service Performance metrics across key services. The inclusion of these metrics strengthens transparency and helps build trust with the community. Over time metric trends, supported by detailed commentary, offer valuable insights into progress and performance, demonstrating how Darebin is tracking in the delivery of its services.

Council reports its actual financial performance quarterly, alongside a forecast to estimate what the full-year results are likely to be. The forecast for both operating budget and capital is based on updated information since budget adoption. This approach ensures proactive financial management and informed decision-making.

Council utilises a range of financial measures to assess performance, with **one key profitability measure** and **one liquidity measure** as follows:

- Operating Surplus: Profitability
- Cash & Cash Equivalents: Liquidity

## Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held on 24 February 2026, Council resolved:

*'That Council :*

- (1) *Notes the Q2 Performance Report (non-financial) at Appendix A.*
- (2) *Discontinues the following actions in the 2025-26 Our Darebin Action Plan:*

- a. *'Action 2.1.4.1 Develop a decision-making assessment and reporting tool and pilot it on 4 projects due to this approach already being in place via reports to Council, and that there is other work underway that will strengthen outcomes.*
  - b. *'Action 4.1.1.1 Develop Aboriginal cultural training on climate, men's and women's business and caring for Country and begin delivering it to Council officers whose roles relate to land management and/or the natural environment by 2025' recognising that cultural awareness training is currently offered and that further training will be considered through the Balit marra, Council's partnership agreement with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Whole of Country Plan (2025-35)*
- (3) *Notes the Financial Report for the six months ended 31 December 2025 at Appendix B.*
  - (4) *Notes the quarter two update of the Capital Works program at Appendix C.*
  - (5) *Notes the quarter two update of the Operating Projects program at Appendix D.*
  - (6) *Notes the Chief Executive Officer, as required under Section 97(3) of the Local Government Act 2020 is of the opinion a revised budget is not required.'*

## ALIGNMENT TO 2041 DAREBIN COMMUNITY VISION

Pillar 4: Collaborative, Transparent and Responsible

## ALIGNMENT TO OUR DAREBIN PLAN 2025-29

Strategic Direction 6: Decision Making, Community Engagement and Transparency - A City that is well-managed, transparent and trusted by its community and partners, with clear and respectful communication that builds confidence in Council's decisions.

## DISCUSSION

### Non-financial Performance

#### 2025-26 Our Darebin Action Plan Performance Summary

This performance report demonstrates how Council is delivering on the Our Darebin Plan 2025–29 and contributing toward the Darebin 2041 Community Vision. Work is advancing well across all six strategic directions, from celebrating Aboriginal culture and knowledge to advancing equity and sustainability and supporting community wellbeing.

Progress is well underway with 89% of actions on target and/or completed. **Appendix A** provides a detailed progress update for each action and its current status.

The following table provides a comparative quarterly breakdown of performance:

Status	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Completed</b>	4 (4%)	6 (6%)	11 (12%)	/
<b>On Target</b>	83 (89%)	77 (82%)	72 (77%)	/
<b>Off Target</b>	3 (3%)	8 (9%)	9 (9%)	/
<b>Not Started</b>	4 (4%)	1 (1%)	-	/
<b>Discontinued</b>	-	2 (2%)	2 (2%)	/
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>94</b>	/

There are 9 Off Target actions at the end of Q3. Work is actively progressing on these actions, and while completion by the end of June is unlikely for all items, delivery will continue into the next financial year. A number of actions have already been incorporated into the draft 2026–27 Our Darebin Action Plan to support this ongoing work.

One Off Target action is being presented to Council for deferral. It is recommended to take a longer timeframe to develop the Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy to strengthen how well it helps achieve best value for community balancing financial, social and sustainability objectives' and to reschedule in the context of Council's policy review project.. The current Policy is operational and will remain in force until Council adopts a new policy. Council is required to review the Policy during its term.

### Customer Experience Performance

Service demand remained steady, with a slight decrease in total requests. On-time performance declined from 71% to 68%, while complaint volumes remained low as a proportion of overall requests. Request types remained consistent with previous quarters, with waste, parking and compliance-related issues continuing to drive demand.

Overall, performance is stable, with improved response times, although there is an opportunity to strengthen on-time delivery.

### Service Performance

As at the end of Q3, 93% of service performance indicators across the eight key services were on track to achieve the annual target and/or expected trend. **Appendix A** provides a detailed progress update for each indicator and its current status.

The following table provides a comparative quarterly breakdown of performance:

Status	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>On Target</b>	23 (85%)	26 (96%)	25 (93%)	/
<b>Off Target</b>	4 (15%)	1 (4%)	2 (7%)	/
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>/</b>

## Financial Performance

### Overall performance summary

The following table provides a high-level snapshot of the financial performance which are explained in more detail in **Appendix B, C and D**.

Performance measurement	Q3 summary commentary	Q3 Status
Operating Performance	Council's financial performance remains stable and forecasted to be better than budget. This is primarily due to one off savings identified. There will be ongoing monitoring of financial performance to improve unallocated cash performance.	Stable

Performance measurement	Q3 summary commentary	Q3 Status
Capital Performance	Capital works project delivery is generally progressing well considering the size of the program and is in line with prior years, although carry forward of a number of projects are expected.  Refer Appendix C for further details.	Stable
Operating Projects Program Performance	Operating project delivery is progressing, however a larger than usual number of projects are expected to carry forward into 2026-27 which means forecast expenditure is under budget for the current year due to this expected timing adjustment.  Refer Appendix D for further details	Stable
Financial Position	Council's cash position is higher than budget due to favourable timing of spend and receipts. Identified savings and higher than budgeted investment returns and project share also contribute to this result.	Stable

## CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (2020) PRINCIPLES

### Financial Management

The financial results YTD March 2026 indicate that Council's financial position remains **stable**.

### Community Engagement

The report will be shared with the community via the Darebin website.

### Other Principles for consideration

#### Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Principles

- (g) the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured;
- (i) the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

#### Public Transparency Principles

- (b) Council information must be publicly available unless (i) the information is confidential by virtue of this Act or any other Act; or (ii) public availability of the information would be contrary to the public interest;

#### Strategic Planning Principles

- (a) an integrated approach to planning, monitoring and performance reporting is to be adopted;
- (e) strategic planning must provide for ongoing monitoring of progress and regular reviews to identify and address changing circumstances;

**Service Performance Principles**

- (d) a Council should seek to continuously improve service delivery to the municipal community in response to performance monitoring;

**COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS****Environmental Sustainability Considerations (including Climate Emergency)**

There are no environmental sustainability considerations related to the 2025-26 Q3 Performance Report.

**Equity, Inclusion, Wellbeing and Human Rights Considerations:**

This report is based on performance across multiple areas. Equity, Inclusion, Wellbeing and Human Rights considerations are applied within individual actions, projects and service areas, rather than this report.

**Economic Development and Cultural Considerations**

This report is based on performance across multiple areas. Economic Development and Cultural Considerations are applied within individual actions, projects and service areas, rather than this report.

**Operational Impacts**

Operational impacts are considered when understanding performance trends.

**Legal and Risk Implications**

Reporting progress toward the Our Darebin Action Plan fulfils Council's legislative obligations in accordance with the principles of the *Local Government Act 2020* and its accountability to the community.

**IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS**

2025-26 Q3 Performance Report will be uploaded to the Council public website.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Darebin 2041 Community Vision
- Our Darebin Plan 2025-29
- Our Darebin Action Plan 2025-26
- Our Financial Plan 2025-26 to 2034-35
- Our Asset Plan 2025-26 to 2034-35
- Local Government Act 2020

**Attachments**

- Appendix A - 2025-26 Q3 Performance Report - Updated (**Appendix A**) [↓](#)
- Appendix B - Financial report period ended 31 March 2026 (**Appendix B**) [↓](#)
- Appendix C - Q3 Capital Works Status Update (**Appendix C**) [↓](#)
- Appendix D - Q3 Operating Projects Program Status (**Appendix D**) [↓](#)

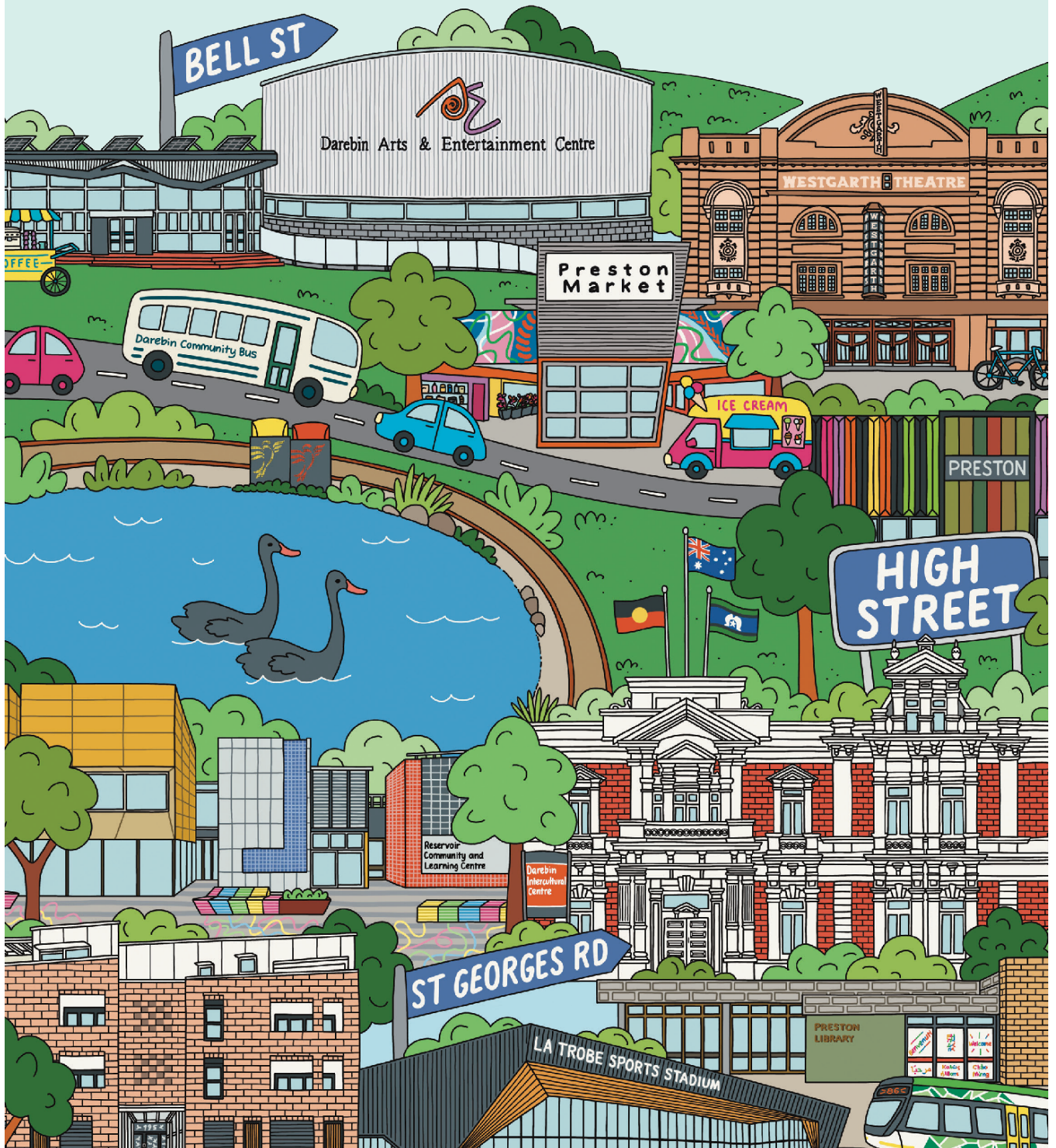
**DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.



# Quarter Three Performance Report 2025-26



## Translation Page

### English

This is Darebin Councils quarterly performance report. It provides information on the progress of Our Darebin Annual Actions, customer experience and service performance. If you would like to know more or require language support services, please contact Customer Service on (03) 8470 8888.

### Arabic

هذا هو تقرير الأداء الفصلي لمجالس داربيبن. ويوفر معلومات حول التقدم المحرز في إجراءات داربين السنوية وتجربة العملاء وأداء الخدمة. إذا كنت ترغب في معرفة المزيد أو تحتاج إلى خدمات دعم الترجمة الشفهية، فيرجى الاتصال بخدمة العملاء على (03) 8470 8888.

### Chinese Simplified

这是戴瑞宾市议会的季度绩效报告。本报告提供了关于“我们的戴瑞宾年度行动计划”最新进展、客户体验和服务表现的信息。如需了解更多详情，或需要语言协助服务，请致电客户服务中心：(03) 8470 8888

### Greek

Αυτή είναι η τριμηνιαία έκθεση απόδοσης του Δήμου Darebin. Παρέχει πληροφορίες σχετικά με την πρόοδο των Ετήσιων Δράσεων μας «Our Darebin», την εμπειρία των πελατών και την απόδοση των υπηρεσιών. Αν θέλετε να μάθετε περισσότερα ή χρειάζεστε υπηρεσίες υποστήριξης για διαφορετική γλώσσα, παρακαλούμε επικοινωνήστε με την Εξυπηρέτηση Πελατών στο (03) 8470 8888.

### Hindi

यह डारेबिन काउंसिल की तिमाही प्रदर्शन रिपोर्ट है। यह हमारी डारेबिन वार्षिक कार्रवाइयों की प्रगति, ग्राहक अनुभव और सेवा प्रदर्शन के बारे में जानकारी प्रदान करती है। यदि आप अधिक जानना चाहते हैं या भाषा के संबंध में सहायता सेवाओं की आवश्यकता है, तो कृपया ग्राहक सेवा से (03) 8470 8888 पर संपर्क करें।

### Italian

Questo è il rapporto trimestrale sulle prestazioni del Comune di Darebin. Fornisce informazioni sui progressi delle nostre azioni annuali di Darebin, sull'esperienza del cliente e sulle prestazioni del servizio. Per ulteriori informazioni o per richiedere assistenza linguistica, contattate il Servizio Clienti al numero (03) 8470 8888.

### Macedonian

Ова тримесечен извештај за постигнувањата на Општината Даребин. Во него се даваат информации за годишните активности на нашиот Даребин, за искуствата на корисниците и за постигнувањата на службите. Ако сакате да дознаете повеќе или ви требаат јазични услуги, ве молиме јавете се на Службата за потрошувачи на (03) 8470 8888.

### Nepali

यो डारेबिन काउंसिलको त्रैमासिक कार्यसम्पादन प्रतिवेदन हो। यसले हाम्रो डारेबिन वार्षिक गतिविधिहरूको प्रगति, सेवाग्राही अनुभव र सेवा कार्यसम्पादनको बारेमा जानकारी प्रदान गर्दछ। यदि तपाईं थप जान्न चाहनुहुन्छ वा भाषा सहयोग सेवाहरू आवश्यक छ भने, कृपया (03) 8470 8888 मा ग्राहक सेवालाई सम्पर्क गर्नुहोस्।

### Punjabi

ਇਹ ਡੈਰੇਬਿਨ ਕੌਂਸਿਲ ਦੀ ਤਿਮਾਹੀ ਕਾਰਗੁਜ਼ਾਰੀ ਰਿਪੋਰਟ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਡੈਰੇਬਿਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਡੀਆਂ ਸਾਲ ਦੇ ਦੌਰਾਨ ਕੀਤੀਆਂ ਕਾਰਵਾਈਆਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਹੋਈ ਤਰੱਕੀ, ਗਾਹਕਾਂ ਦੇ ਤਜਰਬੇ ਅਤੇ ਸੇਵਾ ਪ੍ਰਦਾਨ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਦਰਸ਼ਨ ਬਾਰੇ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਪ੍ਰਦਾਨ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਵਧੇਰੇ ਜਾਣਨਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਜਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ (03) 8470 8888 'ਤੇ ਗਾਹਕ ਸੇਵਾ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।



## Translation Page continued

### Somali

Tani waa warbixinta Golaha Darebin ee afar biloodlaha ah. Waxayna bixisaa macluumaad ku saabsan horumarka Feciladayada Sanadlaha ah ee Darebin, waaya-aragnimada macmiilaha iyo waxqabadka adeegyada. Haddii aad jeclaan lahayd inaad ogaato ama u baahan tahay adeegyada kaalmada luqada, fadlan la xiriir Adeega Macmiilaha (03) 8470 8888.

### Spanish

Este es el informe trimestral de desempeño del Concejo Municipal de Darebin. Incluye información sobre el progreso de las Acciones Anuales de Our Darebin, la experiencia de los clientes y el desempeño de los servicios. Si desea obtener más información o necesita servicios de apoyo lingüístico, póngase en contacto con el Servicio de atención al cliente, en el (03) 8470 8888.

### Urdu

یہ ڈیٹرین کاؤنسل کی سہ ماہی پرفارمنس رپورٹ ہے۔ یہ ہمارے ڈیٹرین کے سالانہ ایکشنز میں پیش رفت، صارفین کے تجربے اور سروس کی انجام دہی کے متعلق معلومات دیتی ہے۔ اگر آپ مزید معلومات لینا چاہتے ہیں یا آپ کو اپنی زبان میں مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو براہ مہربانی (03) 8470 8888 پر کسٹمر سروس سے رابطہ کریں۔

### Vietnamese

Đây là bản báo cáo hiệu quả hoạt động hàng quý của Hội đồng Thành phố Darebin. Bản báo cáo này trình bày thông tin về tiến độ thực hiện các Kế hoạch Hành động Thường niên Darebin Chúng ta, trải nghiệm khách hàng và hiệu quả dịch vụ. Nếu muốn biết thêm thông tin hoặc cần dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ, vui lòng gọi điện cho Bộ phận Dịch vụ Khách hàng theo số (03) 8470 8888.



### Acknowledgement of Country

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land and waters we now call Darebin and affirms that Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people have lived on this land for millennia, practising their customs and ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal.

Council acknowledges that Elders past, present and emerging are central to the cohesion, intergenerational wellbeing and ongoing self-determination of Aboriginal communities. They have played and continue to play a pivotal role in maintaining and transmitting culture, history and language. Council respects and recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities' values, living culture and practices, including their continuing spiritual connection to the land and waters and their right to self-determination. Council also recognises the diversity within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities have had and continue to play a unique role in the life of the Darebin municipality. Council recognises and values this ongoing contribution and its significant value for our city and Australian society more broadly.

*Extract from Darebin City Council's Statement of commitment to Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 2019.*

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## CEO's message

I am pleased to share Darebin City Council's Quarterly Performance Report for the third quarter of 2025-26.

This quarter, Council continued to focus on what matters most to our community: dependable services, welcoming places, and a city that supports people to live well. Most of our annual actions remain on track, service performance continues to be strong, and we are translating our priorities into tangible outcomes across Darebin.

Across the city, residents are seeing ongoing investment in everyday infrastructure that supports daily life. This includes footpath and local road renewals that improve safety and accessibility, upgrades to community centres, libraries and sporting facilities to keep them safe and fit for purpose, and renewal works in parks and open spaces that support everyday use.

Major capital projects are continuing to progress, with grant-funded works prioritised to maximise external investment into Darebin. Like many organisations, Council is grappling with a challenging construction market, unexpected fuel challenges and supply chain uncertainty. After rigorous review, we are adjusting our forecast capital works spend for 2025-26. This updated forecast reflects that our project delivery will be lower than previous forecast, although still comparable or higher than previous years. Where projects experience delays due to approvals, market conditions or delivery timing, we are actively managing impacts to protect value for the community.

Council also continued to support connection, inclusion and wellbeing. Between January and March, our libraries, recreation and community facilities delivered hundreds of activities, attracting more than 11,000 attendances and helping neighbours connect. We supported 22 street parties that strengthened local ties, and reopened the newly built Maryborough Avenue Kindergarten, expanding access to high-quality early learning for local families.

Supporting health, wellbeing and social connection remains central to our work. This quarter, representatives from 17 organisations came together through the Darebin Health and Wellbeing Forum, strengthening collaboration and



helping shape future mental health initiatives across the community.

We also strengthened our commitment to Aboriginal culture, knowledge and self-determination through continued partnership with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. Community education sessions on the Statewide Treaty process and preparation for the Truth Telling display and garden, to be launched during Wurundjeri Week 2026, are creating lasting opportunities for reflection, learning and connection.

Council continued to take practical action on the climate emergency through initiatives that support households and community facilities. This included launching the Darebin Energy Upgrade Program, improving systems in community buildings, expanding support for energy efficiency and electrification, and continuing programs that help residents stay safe during extreme heat.

Strong financial management this quarter has helped Council maintain stability and continue delivering services in a challenging environment. As we move into the final quarter of the year, our focus remains on delivering practical outcomes, listening to our community, and making responsible decisions that support a fair, sustainable and thriving Darebin.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Anne Howard".

**Anne Howard**  
Chief Executive Officer

## Finance summary

The financial results for quarter ending March 2026 indicate that Council's financial position remains stable and in line with budget. The YTD operating surplus of \$46.1M is \$5.7M favourable to budget due to a combination of timing of spend and savings.

The full year forecasted operating surplus of \$128K deficit is \$1.6M unfavourable to budget. Excluding timing differences and non-cash adjustments, Council is forecast to achieve higher than budgeted savings of \$2.9M through savings and/or additional revenue.

Capital Works expenditure for period ending March 26 was \$14.0M which was \$8.4M less than budget primarily driven by timing of spend. The full year forecast at Q3 is \$29.9M, a reduction of \$8.6M due to identified carry forwards to next financial year.

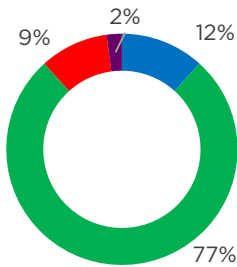
The following will be closely monitored:

- Labour budgets and costs. Labour costs being the largest cost base will be monitored closely to estimate the impact of the ongoing Multi-Employer agreement negotiation and its impact on the Long Term Financial Plan.
- Most Capital Works and Operating projects are generally progressing well although the Q3 forecast includes a proposed \$10.8M carry forward in capital works and \$931K in operating projects.

# Quarterly Performance Summary

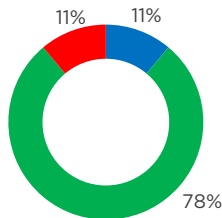


## Our Darebin Action Plan Progress



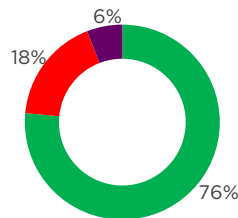
Overall performance for the quarter remains positive, with the majority of actions continuing to progress. Out of the 94 actions, 72 (77%) are currently on target, demonstrating steady progress across key areas. Eleven actions (12%) have been completed year-to-date, reflecting continued delivery against planned commitments. Nine actions (9%) are currently off target, while two actions (2%) have been discontinued. Focus will continue to be placed on supporting the areas that are off target to help bring them back on track where possible and maintain momentum as we move into the next quarter.

### Strategic Direction 1 Aboriginal Culture & Knowledge



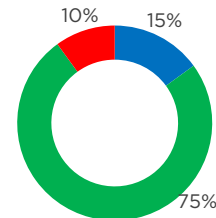
- Partnership agreement has been signed with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. The partnership agreement foreshadows treaty negotiations.
- Council has delivered community education events to support understanding of the Statewide Treaty. The events were run by the First People's Assembly.
- The final touches are being made to the Truth Telling display and garden in Bundoora Park Farm, including liaison with Elders. This garden and display will be officially launched and opened to the public in Wurundjeri week 2026.
- Ten successful applicants have received funding for the second round of Council's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community grant program.

### Strategic Direction 2 Equity & Diversity



- 363 community program sessions were delivered with 11,385 attendances. These include adult, children and youth programs across Darebin Libraries, Bundoora Park Farm, Recreation and Leisure, and Reservoir Leisure Centre.
- The newly constructed Maryborough Avenue Kindergarten commenced classes in early February with an expanded capacity of 38 licensed places.
- The Molly Hadfield Social Justice Oration was held at the Darebin Arts Centre in April. This event recognised as Darebin's International Women's Day celebration and feature prominent members of Darebin's music and creative industries as orators. The event was open to the public with approximately 140 people in attendance.

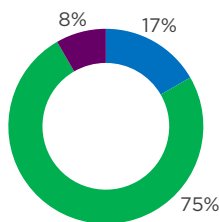
### Strategic Direction 3 Health & Wellbeing



- The Darebin Health and Wellbeing Forum were held on 24 February 2026 at the Darebin Intercultural Centre. In attendance were representatives from 17 organisations from different sectors including community health organisations, mental health service providers and education providers. Discussions focused on identifying ways in which stakeholders can strengthen collaboration to address health and wellbeing priorities.
- Placed Based community support continues at East Preston Community Centre focusing on the health and wellbeing needs in the local community. Programs included exercise, cooking skills, diabetes support, digital support and device learning as well as drop-in supports every Wednesday which include legal support, Alcohol & Other Drug support, fresh food, gardening, Centrelink, health checks, community support and complex case support.

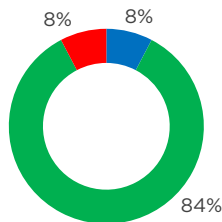
● Completed ● On Target ● Off Target ● Not Started ● Discontinued

**Strategic Direction 4  
Climate Leadership & Response**



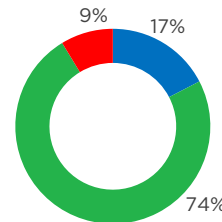
- Council has renewed and replaced air conditioning equipment at East Preston Community Centre and hot water system at Reservoir Leisure Centre.
- Darebin Energy Upgrade Program was launched on 8 February 2026 and the delivery is underway.
- Darebin Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030 is active and in its 2nd year of delivery. Key actions include electrification and circular economy education and resources, Keep Cool heat health program, launching the new Darebin Energy Upgrade Program, ESD policy implemented in new builds, electrification of Council buildings, climate advocacy and new EV charging stations.
- Council continues to deliver recycling services through kerbside bin collections, scheduled hard waste collections, and drop-off facilities at the Darebin Resource Recovery Centre. In addition, Council provides a comprehensive range of education initiatives and information resources to support community members in recycling effectively.

**Strategic Direction 5  
Vibrant Places & Economy**



- Progress is underway to deliver a detailed Feasibility Study for the proposed Melbourne Water Pipe Track Shared User Path between Elizabeth Street and the Mernda Rail line in Reservoir, consultation with the local community and stakeholders has started and will close on 16 April 2026. Feedback will be used to finalise the detailed feasibility study in May.
- Council is continuing implementation of the footpath renewal program. Renewal is on track as per the program.
- Initial work on the Festivals and Events Framework has commenced. The calendar of events will be delivered at the end of December once community consultation is complete.

**Strategic Direction 6  
Decision Making, Community Engagement & Transparency**



- Year one actions of the Community Engagement Improvement Plan have been implemented, and work has commenced on year two actions.
- For the pre-master-planning of 2 Wingrove Street site, round 1 community consultation was completed on 24 November 2025, and outcomes were reported to Council. Next steps include geotechnical investigations and vision development with the Community Reference Group in 2026.
- Council adopted the Darebin Housing Strategy Part 1 (Growth & Need) and Part 2 (Character & Design) in August 2025. Work is underway to implement the strategy through a planning scheme amendment with a draft amendment ready by mid-late 2026.

**Health & Wellbeing Quarter Focus**

Health and wellbeing initiatives continue to be embedded across the Our Darebin Plan, supporting positive outcomes for the community. During this quarter, Council progressed work with partners to finalise and prepare for the delivery of an educational and informational vaping harm prevention campaign in schools. Council also engaged with a local Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (ACCHO) in Darebin and commenced planning for the delivery of activities focused on preventing gambling related harm. These initiatives support the Plan’s aim to achieve positive health outcomes for multicultural communities, young people, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Darebin.



## Customer Experience Performance



Metric	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Full Year
<b>Service requests - Total volume</b>	21,354	22,352	21,451		
<b>Service requests - Actioned on time</b>	71%	71%	68%		
<b>Complaints - Total volume</b> <small>(not including missed bins - reported separately)</small>	349	402	447		
<b>Complaints - Avg days to action</b>	8 days	10 days	9 days		
<b>Complaints as a % of total service requests</b>	1.6%	1.8%	2%		
<b>Most frequent requests raised by the community</b>	Dumped rubbish removal Missed bin, courtesy collection Illegal parking report Traffic fine appeal or extension Abandoned vehicle report	Missed bin, courtesy collection Dumped rubbish removal Illegal parking report Traffic fine appeal or extension Damaged rubbish bin	Missed bin, courtesy collection Dumped rubbish removal Illegal parking report Traffic fine appeal or extension Damaged rubbish bin		

### Quarter comment

Quarter three results continued to be influenced by community feedback on the flag policy. Delays to Council’s adoption of the policy generated increased feedback, which eased following its adoption in March. Service demand remained steady, with a slight decrease in total requests. On-time performance declined from 71% to 68%, while complaint volumes remained low as a proportion of overall requests. Encouragingly, the average time to action complaints improved from 10 to 9 days. Request types remained consistent with previous quarters, with waste, parking and compliance-related issues continuing to drive demand. Overall, performance is stable, with improved response times, although there is an opportunity to strengthen on-time delivery. The new Customer Experience Strategy will be presented to Council in April for adoption. The Strategy aims to make every interaction with Council simpler, faster and easier for our community.

## Service Performance

The services we deliver help to shape and influence the lives of our community. At the end of quarter, we'll let you know how we went against these eight services. If you'd like to know service delivery over the year go to Appendix B.

Service	Measure	Yearly Target/ Desired Trend	Q3	Status
<b>Aged Care</b>	Number of Clients Supported	> 3,500	2,379	●
	Number of Seniors Clubs supported	≥ 25	47	●
	Number of Events	> 16	11	●
	Number of Event attendees	> 160	129	●
<b>City Amenity</b>	Compliance to scheduled cleansing of Activity centres	> 80	93	●
	Number of requests for graffiti removal from council assets	Decreasing	207	●
	Reported graffiti removed within timeframe	>90%	94.7%	●
	Kilometres of streets swept	> 42,000 Km	10,060 Km	●
<b>Families, Youth &amp; Children</b>	Total number of vaccines administered	≥ 20,000	3,249	●
	Number of young people attending Youth Services' programs and events	Stabilised	1,301	●
	Number of community members attending Intercultural Centre programs and activities	> 4,800	1,633	●
	Kindergarten places created through Kindergarten Expansion Program	Increasing	0	●
<b>Leisure &amp; Recreation</b>	Number of Sporting Attendance	Increasing	653,874	●
<b>Libraries &amp; Learning</b>	Number of library item loans & downloads	Increasing	302,224	●
	Number of libraries & lifelong learning visits	Increasing	154,398	●
	Number of Community program sessions	Increasing	363	●
	Number of Community program attendance	Increasing	11,385	●
	Number of technology usage sessions	Increasing	34,794	●
<b>Parks &amp; Open Space</b>	Number of new trees planted to support tree canopy growth	> 700	0	●
	Percentage of scheduled playground safety inspections completed	= 100%	100%	●
<b>Planning &amp; Development</b>	Number of standard planning permit applications received	> 540	172	●
	Number of VicSmart applications received	> 96	65	●
	Average Grade of Service for planning phone enquiries	> 70	86	●
<b>Waste Management</b>	Kerbside missed bins (per 10,000 bins collected)	< 20	17	●
	Percentage of kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill	≥ 56%	55.50%	●
	Percentage of Hard Rubbish collected that is recycled	≥ 25%	19.41%	●
	Number of hard rubbish bookings	> 30,000	4,107	●

● On Target ● Off Target

# Appendices



Strategic Direction One

# Aboriginal Culture & Knowledge

A city that celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, values, knowledge and traditions, respects the right for self-determination and takes deliberate action toward Truth-telling.






Strategic indicators that deliver on the strategic objective	Target / Desired Trend
Number of community engagement sessions targeting Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community on Council strategies, plans and projects.	Increase or maintain
Number of community education sessions on Aboriginal culture including Treaty.	Increase or maintain
Number of working relationships (partnerships) with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.	Increase or maintain
Number of Aboriginal community organisations supported through the community grants program.	Increase or maintain
Number of Aboriginal cultural community events and festivals.	Increase or maintain

*Strategic indicator data is collected annually. The quarter four (end of financial year) performance report will present the data, commentary and status against the annual target/desired trends.*

Initiative	Action	Comment	Progress	Status
<b>1.1.1</b> Support the Victorian Treaty.	Council formally release a position of support on the Statewide Treaty and deliver community education events on the Statewide Treaty, in collaboration with First Peoples' Assembly.	Council has delivered community education events to support understanding of the Statewide Treaty. The events were run by the First People's Assembly.	90%	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
<b>1.1.2</b> Continue to support Treaty through Truth-Telling in Darebin, progressing self-determination, justice and equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.	Complete stage one of Truth Telling project, opening a Truth-Telling display in Bundoora Park Farm to the public.	Final preparations are underway for the Truth Telling display and garden at Bundoora Park Farm, including consultation with Elders. The display will be officially launched and opened to the community during Wurundjeri Week 2026.	90%	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
<b>1.1.3</b> Finalise Darebin's Aboriginal Action Plan 2025-2029 and deliver actions in the plan.	Finalise the Aboriginal Action Plan and deliver year 1 activities.	Community engagement report is being finalised. Once completed the results will be integrated into the draft Aboriginal Action Plan.	80%	<span style="color: red;">●</span>
<b>1.1.4</b> Develop a partnership agreement with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, including entering into Treaty negotiations.	Undertake internal planning and research to determine best approach to develop a partnership agreement.	Partnership agreement has been signed with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. The partnership agreement foreshadows treaty negotiations.	100%	<span style="color: blue;">●</span>
<b>1.1.5</b> Deliver a community grants stream for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community groups and not-for-profit organisations to help resource community projects and programs.	Continue the Aboriginal grants program.	Ten successful applicants have received funding for the second round of Council's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community grant program and project delivery is underway.	95%	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
<b>1.2.1</b> Celebrate and commemorate days of significance in the national calendar of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.	Continue to celebrate Aboriginal Days of Significance.	Planning is underway for upcoming Aboriginal Days of Significance events, including Sorry Day.	75%	<span style="color: green;">●</span>

● Completed  
 ● On Target  
 ● Off Target  
 ● Not Started  
 ● Discontinued

Initiative	Action	Comment	Progress	Status
1.3.1 Develop a culturally competent organisation to deliver Aboriginal culturally safe Council services and programs.	Complete an organisational Aboriginal Cultural Safety Audit and identify priority areas for action in year 1.	Darebin Council is undertaking a Cultural Safety Assessment to embed culturally informed practices across its operations, fostering systemic transformation and a more inclusive working environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. All staff survey completed with 50% participation. Draft recommendations presented to the Aboriginal Staff network and the working group. Final recommendations to be presented to the Executive Leadership Team in May.	90%	
1.3.2 Continue to foster economic opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander People through employment networks and partnerships with businesses and organisations in Darebin.	Continue to facilitate the Aboriginal Employment Network that facilitates connection and collaboration between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses and employment service providers to grow the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce.	Partnerships with external employment services organisations in Darebin are progressing. Meetings are conducted every two months, with a strong participation rate from Darebin organisations and ongoing members of the network.	75%	
1.3.2 Continue to foster economic opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander People through employment networks and partnerships with businesses and organisations in Darebin.	Continue to create incentives for local jobs to be available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through Council's procurement practices.	Council is reviewing and updating procurement documents to capture data on employment outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Council is also actively engaging external organisations focussing on communities at risk of discrimination and disadvantage, to strengthen participation in Council's Approach to Market activities.	50%	

 Completed
  On Target
  Off Target
  Not Started
  Discontinued

Strategic Direction Two

# Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

A City where our rich diversity is celebrated, everyone can thrive and belong, and our services, programs, places and spaces are equitable, responsive, inclusive and accessible to all.






Strategic indicators that deliver on the strategic objective	Target / Desired Trend
Number of community-led festivals and events, including culturally diverse events across Darebin.	Increase or maintain
Community satisfaction with Council’s support of diversity, inclusion and fairness.	7.3 – 7.8
Community satisfaction with Council’s support of diversity, inclusion and fairness of people from multi-lingual households.	6.5-7.3
Number of Council plans, policies and programs that apply the Equity Impact Assessment (including the legally mandated Gender Impact Assessment) to their planning process, in line with the Towards Equality Framework and Gender Equality Act 2020	Increase or maintain

*Strategic indicator data is collected annually. The quarter four (end of financial year) performance report will present the data, commentary and status against the annual target/desired trends.*

Initiative	Action	Comment	Progress	Status
<b>2.1.1</b> Develop and implement a refreshed Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.	Develop a refreshed Darebin Disability Access and Inclusion Plan, including an annual action plan.	The existing Disability Access and Inclusion Plan continues to provide direction for Council's work.	10%	●
<b>2.1.2</b> Finalise and implement the Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan.	Continue to develop the Darebin Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan and implement year one activities.	The Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Plan (CDIP) was adopted by Council on 24 March 2026.	80%	●
<b>2.1.3</b> Finalise and implement the LGBTIQA+ Action Plan.	Continue to develop the LGBTIQA+ Action Plan and implement year one activities.	The LGBTIQA+ Action Plan was adopted by Council on 24 March 2026.	70%	●
<b>2.1.3</b> Finalise and implement the LGBTIQA+ Action Plan.	Construct a rainbow pedestrian crossing in Preston.	The Department of Transport and Planning have advised that they won't approve a rainbow crossing on a state managed road or on a local road where it might be mistaken for a standard crossing and create a safety risk. Alternatives are being developed.	50%	●
<b>2.1.4</b> Establish a Council-wide framework to integrate positive equity, gender equality, wellbeing and climate outcomes into projects and services, having regard to the Sustainable Development Goals.	Develop a decision-making assessment and reporting tool and pilot it on 4 projects.	Council discontinued this action on 24 February 2026 due to this approach already being in place via reports to Council, and that there is other work underway that will strengthen outcomes.	0%	●
<b>2.1.5</b> Deliver the Gender Equality Action Plan.	Deliver second Progress Report on the Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP) and develop new four-year GEAP by May 2026.	The second Progress Report on the Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP) was approved internally in March 2026. The finalised GEAP 2026-2030 is scheduled for internal approval in April 2026.	80%	●





● Completed ● On Target ● Off Target ● Not Started ● Discontinued

Initiative	Action	Comment	Progress	Status
<b>2.2.1</b> Grow community capacity and provide resources to enable local people to deliver local community-run events and social activities.	Provide opportunities for community-led programming and partnerships through Council venues such as libraries.	The Molly Hadfield Social Justice Oration was held at the Darebin Arts Centre in April. This event recognised as Darebin's International Women's Day celebration and feature prominent members of Darebin's music and creative industries as orators. The event was open to the public with approximately 140 people in attendance.	65%	
<b>2.2.1</b> Grow community capacity and provide resources to enable local people to deliver local community-run events and social activities.	Continue to provide lifelong learning opportunities to grow community capacity and resilience.	Between January and March 2026, Council delivered 363 community program sessions across Darebin Libraries, Bundoora Park Farm, Recreation and Leisure, and Reservoir Leisure Centre, recording 11,385 attendances. Programs catered to adults, children, and young people across the municipality.	75%	
<b>2.2.1</b> Grow community capacity and provide resources to enable local people to deliver local community-run events and social activities.	Waive Council's permit fees and provide half-day traffic controllers to support up to 20 community street parties.	Council has supported 22 community street parties this year through the Street Party Program, exceeding the target of 20. No further street parties are scheduled for the remainder of the year.	90%	


 Completed
  On Target
  Off Target
  Not Started
  Discontinued

Initiative	Action	Comment	Progress	Status
<b>2.2.2</b> Work in partnership to deliver initiatives to support people experiencing homelessness.	Deliver Darebin Zero: Ending Homelessness Together project with housing, health and community sector partners.	The project has added 81 people sleeping rough across Darebin to the By-Name List since August 2025, including 31 this quarter, enabling partner organisations to support our most vulnerable community members through collaboration across services. Four people have been successfully placed into long-term housing this quarter. The project is continuing to see people being placed into short and medium-term opportunities (such as transitional housing) that will lead to long term housing outcomes, supported by partners in the project.	75%	●
<b>2.2.2</b> Work in partnership to deliver initiatives to support people experiencing homelessness.	Deliver the Darebin Assertive Community Outreach (DACO) program to support people experiencing homelessness.	The Darebin Assertive Outreach Program continues to provide outreach and case management support to vulnerable community members experiencing homelessness this also includes the Community Shower Access Program at Reservoir Leisure Centre, Narrandjeri Stadium and Northcote Aquatic and Recreational Centre.	80%	●
<b>2.2.3</b> Work in partnership to deliver community development activities and place-based projects that respond to local community issues and needs.	Identify and scope place-based projects based on community needs and commence implementing year 1 activities.	The place-based project tender is being finalised in accordance with local government procurement requirements. The contract, which includes implementation of community initiatives, is expected to commence in 2026-27.	85%	●

● Completed ● On Target ● Off Target ● Not Started ● Discontinued

Initiative	Action	Comment	Progress	Status
<b>2.3.1</b> Deliver the Darebin Family, Youth and Children Strategy.	Develop an initial 2-year Action Plan to accompany the Family, Youth and Children Strategy.	Three workshops with internal and external stakeholders were held in March 2026 to identify projects and initiatives for the Family, Youth and Children Strategy 2-Year Action Plan. A draft Action Plan is now being developed.	70%	
<b>2.3.2</b> Expand community kindergarten facilities to enable access to three- and four-year-old kindergarten.	Expand Maryborough kindergarten to create additional kindergarten places.	The Maryborough Avenue Kindergarten Expansion is a key initiative in Council's four-year Capital Works Plan, jointly funded by Council and the Victorian State Government through the Building Blocks Partnership. Construction was completed at the end of 2025, two months ahead of schedule. The project is under budget with some savings expected to be returned. Council is working through minor defects during the defects liability period.	95%	
<b>2.3.2</b> Expand community kindergarten facilities to enable access to three- and four-year-old kindergarten.	Continue to plan and scope opportunities to expand kindergarten facilities.	The newly constructed Maryborough Avenue Kindergarten commenced classes in early February with an expanded capacity of 38 licensed places. Council is continuing its advocacy for several projects in areas of high unmet demand for kindergarten places.	75%	
<b>2.3.3</b> Deliver Age Friendly Darebin.	Complete Council response and actions to recommendations from the Age Friendly Darebin Report.	Council's response to the Age Friendly Darebin Report remains on schedule, with recommendations progressively implemented across the organisation. The final report and recommendations are on track for delivery in the fourth quarter.	95%	

 Completed  On Target  Off Target  Not Started  Discontinued

Initiative	Action	Comment	Progress	Status
2.3.4 Deliver Aged Care Reforms.	Complete a feasibility project to help council understand options when the Australian Government reforms are implemented.	A Councillor Briefing on Aged Care Reform was held on 3 March 2026, providing an update on Australian Government reforms and strategic advice to inform budget development and forward planning for the business system investments required to meet future obligations.	60%	

 Completed  On Target  Off Target  Not Started  Discontinued

Strategic Direction Three



# Health and Wellbeing

A City where everyone in the community can access the opportunities, infrastructure and services they need to be physically and mentally safe and healthy.







Strategic indicators that deliver on the strategic objective	Target / Desired Trend
Number of health promotion opportunities and educational resources distributed to the community for priority health concerns.	Increase or maintain
Number of participants in Darebin sport and recreation activities across the community, in particular, for people and communities who are at risk of discrimination and disadvantage.	Increase
Percentage of participants reporting increased levels of social connection from community led initiatives.	Increase or maintain
Number of gender inclusive infrastructure projects delivered per year.	2 or more
City-wide perceptions of safety - Day.	7.8 - 10
City-wide perceptions of safety - Night.	6.5 - 7.3




*Strategic indicator data is collected annually. The quarter four (end of financial year) performance report will present the data, commentary and status against the annual target/desired trends.*

Initiative	Action	Comment	Progress	Status
<p><b>3.1.1</b> Establish and deliver a Darebin Health and Wellbeing forum that brings together key partners to seek funding and enhance advocacy, projects, programs and services that respond to Darebin’s health and wellbeing priorities.</p>	<p>Establish a forum with founding partner organisations.</p>	<p>The Darebin Health and Wellbeing Forum was held on 24 February 2026 at the Darebin Intercultural Centre. In attendance were representatives from 17 organisations from different sectors including community health organisations, mental health service providers and education providers.</p> <p>Discussions focused on identifying ways in which stakeholders can strengthen collaboration to address health and wellbeing priorities. Participants also provided input to help design the Darebin Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum.</p>	<p>100%</p>	
<p><b>3.1.2</b> Work in partnership with health agencies and organisations, including culturally specific organisations (Aboriginal Community-Controlled organisations and others) to develop health promotion responses and distribute key messages and educational materials related to Darebin’s key modifiable health risks. This includes encouraging mental health, sexual and reproductive health, harm reduction for alcohol and substance use, and nutritious food choices.</p>	<p>Develop an information and education campaign for one priority modifiable health risk, in partnership with the Health and Wellbeing and other networks.</p>	<p>A reference group has been established to guide the development of the health information and education campaign. Key messages are currently being developed.</p>	<p>60%</p>	

 Completed
  On Target
  Off Target
  Not Started
  Discontinued

Initiative	Action	Comment	Progress	Status
<b>3.1.3</b> Continue to deliver community programs and services to support and strengthen Darebin's diverse communities in partnership with Neighbourhood Houses.	Deliver community programs and services in partnership with Neighbourhood Houses.	Council continues to support neighbourhood houses so they can deliver programs and services that strengthen community connection and reduce social isolation. These partnerships help ensure residents have welcoming, accessible places to meet, learn, and feel supported.	80%	
<b>3.1.4</b> Support activities, events and programs that promote social connection and address loneliness for Darebin's diverse community.	Continue to support activities and programs such as food relief, health care, legal support and other initiatives that emerge from community need during the year.	Placed Based community support continues at East Preston Community Centre focusing on the health and wellbeing needs in the local community. Programs included exercise, cooking skills, diabetes support, digital support and device learning as well as drop-in supports every Wednesday which include Legal Support, Alcohol & Other Drug support, Fresh food, Gardening, Centrelink, Health Checks, community support and complex case support.	75%	
<b>3.2.1</b> Support the community's access to mental health and wellbeing programs and services to respond to diverse experiences and needs.	Develop a forum for service providers and people with living and lived experience to map mental health and wellbeing activities, programs and services available in Darebin to identify future opportunities and support needs.	Planning continues in partnership with key mental health service providers to deliver the Darebin Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum, planned for April 2026.	75%	
<b>3.2.1</b> Support the community's access to mental health and wellbeing programs and services to respond to diverse experiences and needs.	Research available mental health and wellbeing activities, programs and services and identify opportunities for access and inclusion improvements for future programs.	Research into available mental health and wellbeing activities, programs, and services in Darebin is continuing to inform the upcoming mental health forum and identify opportunities to improve access and inclusion.	55%	

 Completed
  On Target
  Off Target
  Not Started
  Discontinued

Initiative	Action	Comment	Progress	Status
<b>3.2.1</b> Support the community's access to mental health and wellbeing programs and services to respond to diverse experiences and needs.	Deliver the Surround Project to provide 'safeTALKs' mental health training for young people, allies and youth workers and deliver a youth-led, wellbeing focused, Queer formal event for local LGBTIQ+ young people.	The Darebin Youth Services Queer Formal was held on 25 September as part of the Surround Project funded through the Victorian Government's HEY Grants. The event brought together 66 young people from across Darebin to celebrate identity, social connection and inclusion. It was co-designed with 6 young people from the Darebin Queer Collective and delivered in partnership with 10 young people from Darebin Amplify Committee, local youth services and Darebin Libraries. Attendees rated the event 4.5 out of 5 and reported feeling more connected, supported and aware of local services. The Surround Project also delivered safeTALK training for 11 young people, building mental health literacy and safety planning skills.	100%	
<b>3.2.2</b> Deliver the Electronic Gaming Machine Policy and Action Plan.	Deliver key actions and priorities in the Electronic Gaming Machine Policy and Action Plan.	Implementation of the Electronic Gaming Machine Policy and Action Plan 2023-27 continued this quarter, with key initiatives delivered to reduce gambling harm in the community.	60%	
<b>3.3.1</b> Deliver the Free From Violence project and develop sustainable ongoing commitment to embed gender equality and family violence prevention practices into programs and services.	Deliver the Free From Violence project.	The program has continued to focus on building staff and leadership capacity, with a strong emphasis on centering the rights of culturally and racially marginalised people.	80%	

 Completed  On Target  Off Target  Not Started  Discontinued

Initiative	Action	Comment	Progress	Status
<b>3.4.1</b> Implement and promote sport and leisure activities, including tailored activities and events for people and communities who are at risk of discrimination and disadvantage.	Deliver and promote programs to increase opportunities to engage in physical activities.	Through Get Active in Darebin's Summer program, 23 free programs delivered 138 sessions for over 1,640 participants to increase opportunities for our community to engage in physical activities. Activities included walking futsal, inclusive boxing, social squash, Dance for Health, Zumba, Mindful Yoga, Creative Movement, women's social cricket, chair yoga, sitting volleyball and meditation.	75%	●
<b>3.4.2</b> Extend community access to Darebin Libraries branches.	Launch and promote Extra Access at Preston Library.	As of March 2026, there are 254 registered Extra Access members with 86 induction sessions held. Inductions are held regularly, with evening and daytime sessions. The promotion of Extra Access has included eNews articles, a targeted social media campaign featuring a video, promotion in the library What's On brochure and a feature in Darebin Community News.	75%	●
<b>3.4.3</b> Continue activities to support redevelopment of Reservoir Leisure Centre.	Develop a business case including concept design plans for the Reservoir Leisure Centre redevelopment.	A Request for Quotation was issued to select consultants, with submissions due mid-April 2026. The contract is expected to be awarded by the end of April, and the business case completed by early July 2026. The business case will leverage existing studies and previously developed concept plans.	40%	●

● Completed ● On Target ● Off Target ● Not Started ● Discontinued

Initiative	Action	Comment	Progress	Status
<b>3.4.3</b> Continue activities to support redevelopment of Reservoir Leisure Centre.	Prepare an Advocacy and Funding Plan for Reservoir Leisure Centre.	The development of the Advocacy and Funding Plan is on hold and will commence after the business case is endorsed.	35%	●
<b>3.4.3</b> Continue activities to support redevelopment of Reservoir Leisure Centre.	Commence updating the change facilities at Reservoir Leisure Centre.	The Reservoir Leisure Centre Change Room Renewal Project (Hot Water Services) continues to progress well. The evaluation panel has assessed tender submissions for the lead consultant and is in a position to make a recommendation. The contract award for design services is expected in April 2026, with design works to commence shortly thereafter. The project is in the early stages of a multi-year program, with design work expected to be completed in the first half of next financial year (2026-27). Latest pricing has identified higher costs than expected for some components. The scope is being reviewed with the aim of keeping work within budget.	30%	●
<b>3.4.4</b> Maintain, renew, upgrade and/or expand parks, recreation and sporting infrastructure to offer opportunities for connection and health, and public toilets to support gender inclusion.	Commence design to upgrade and renew sporting infrastructure to support gender-inclusion at JC Donath Pavilion.	Council adjusted the scope in December 2025 to add change rooms. A lead design consultant is currently being selected, and Council expects to tender for a construction contractor in October 2026, and start construction anticipated from April 2027.	20%	●

● Completed ● On Target ● Off Target ● Not Started ● Discontinued

Initiative	Action	Comment	Progress	Status
3.4.4 Maintain, renew, upgrade and/or expand parks, recreation and sporting infrastructure to offer opportunities for connection and health, and public toilets to support gender inclusion.	Renew play space at DR Atkinson Reserve.	Playground equipment is currently in manufacture, with installation scheduled for mid-April. Landscape works will follow once installation is complete. The project is on track for completion by the end of June 2026.	40%	●
3.4.4 Maintain, renew, upgrade and/or expand parks, recreation and sporting infrastructure to offer opportunities for connection and health, and public toilets to support gender inclusion.	Renovate sportsground at Pitcher Park.	This is a multi-year project. All key technical investigations, and finalisation of tender-ready documentation is complete. Stakeholder consultation has confirmed support for the proposed scope and delivery strategy. At this stage construction is expected to start around October following the public tender process.	40%	●
3.4.4 Maintain, renew, upgrade and/or expand parks, recreation and sporting infrastructure to offer opportunities for connection and health, and public toilets to support gender inclusion.	Renew irrigation and turf at Johnson Park.	A contractor has been appointed to undertake irrigation and turf renewal works at Johnson Park. Installation is anticipated to commence in late April 2026.	60%	●
3.4.4 Maintain, renew, upgrade and/or expand parks, recreation and sporting infrastructure to offer opportunities for connection and health, and public toilets to support gender inclusion.	Complete the construction of KP Hardiman Pavilion.	Construction of KP Hardiman Pavilion is complete. An official opening was held on 7 November 2025.	100%	●
3.4.4 Maintain, renew, upgrade and/or expand parks, recreation and sporting infrastructure to offer opportunities for connection and health, and public toilets to support gender inclusion.	Commence the design work to replace Bill Lawry Pavilion.	Design work has commenced with the structural investigations, heritage considerations and internal stakeholder engagement.	20%	●

● Completed ● On Target ● Off Target ● Not Started ● Discontinued

Strategic Direction Four



# Climate Leadership and Response

A City that is a climate leader, drives opportunities for achieving zero emissions, adapts by transforming how we provide services, open spaces and infrastructure, and works with our community to build ongoing resilience.



Strategic indicators that deliver on the strategic objective	Target / Desired Trend
Emissions in Council operations.	Decrease
Number of new trees planted to support tree canopy growth.	Increase or maintain
Percentage of participants demonstrated increased knowledge and practices in climate change.	Increase or maintain
Number of climate actions and programs delivered annually.	Increase or maintain
Number of landfill tonnes (t) per ratepayer.	Decrease
Percentage of kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill.	Increase





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Initiative	Action	Comment	Progress	Status
<p><b>4.1.1</b> Build strong relationships with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to embed cultural knowledge into how we manage our natural resources and Country and grow our staff and community's cultural awareness.</p>	<p>Develop Aboriginal cultural training on climate, men's and women's business and caring for Country and begin delivering it to Council officers whose roles relate to land management and/or the natural environment by 2025.</p>	<p>Council discontinued this action on 24 February 2026 recognising that cultural awareness training is currently offered and that further training will be considered through the Balit marra, Council's partnership agreement with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Whole of Country Plan (2025-35)</p>	20%	
<p><b>4.1.2</b> Protect and manage creek corridors and waterways through partnerships with Traditional Owners, community groups, other government bodies and the Environment Protection Authority Victoria.</p>	<p>Continue to protect and manage creek corridors, waterways and biodiversity throughout Darebin directly and in partnership.</p>	<p>Planning for Autumn ecological and cultural burn programs continued this month.</p> <p>The Narrap Rangers are preparing a burn near Bundoora Park along the Darebin Creek Corridor.</p> <p>Council's Natural Resource Management Team has five burns scheduled, with several to be delivered in partnership with the Merri Creek Management Committee.</p> <p>As the warm season ends, Council is winding down its algal monitoring program at Edwardes Lake and reports no algal blooms occurred this season.</p> <p>Council is collaborating with local environmental groups to prepare for the City Nature Challenge in April. This annual citizen science event helps build knowledge of local biodiversity and informs management practices to support improved biodiversity outcomes in Darebin.</p>	75%	

 Completed
  On Target
  Off Target
  Not Started
  Discontinued

Initiative	Action	Comment	Progress	Status
<b>4.1.3</b> Maintain green spaces, connection to nature, tree canopy and biodiversity prioritising locations with lower tree canopy coverage.	Maintain and increase the number of trees in public places including streets and parks, prioritising the principal pedestrian network, locations with currently lower numbers of trees and parts of the city where the community experiences higher levels of disadvantage.	All three planting contractors have finalised their planting lists and are preparing to begin works in April. 1,250 trees are planned to be planted by the end of June 2026.	40%	●
<b>4.2.1</b> Deliver the Climate Emergency Plan and prepare a new three-year action plan by 2027.	Deliver the Climate Emergency Plan and develop a new three-year action plan - starting in 2026.	Darebin Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030 is active and in its second year of delivery. Key actions include electrification and circular economy education and resources, Keep Cool heat health program, launching the new Darebin Energy Upgrade Program, ESD policy implemented in new builds, electrification of Council buildings, climate advocacy and new EV charging stations.	75%	●
<b>4.2.2</b> Support the community to divert waste from landfill, through Council residential waste services.	Assess service options for introducing the new glass recycling service in line with Victorian Government direction including ways to improve recycling.	Council is investigating glass collection options that could best suit the Darebin community. Council's draft 2026-27 budget proposes that introduction of the new service be done a year later than planned - in 2028.	10%	●
<b>4.2.2</b> Support the community to divert waste from landfill, through Council residential waste services.	Continue to provide recycling services to residents and support the community to recycle better by sharing clear information on how to use the services.	Council continues to deliver recycling services through kerbside bin collections, scheduled hard waste collections, and more.  In addition, Council provides a range of education initiatives and information resources to support community members in recycling effectively.	75%	●

● Completed ● On Target ● Off Target ● Not Started ● Discontinued

Initiative	Action	Comment	Progress	Status
<b>4.2.3</b> Progressively transition to highly efficient and climate resilient buildings by implementing Council's Environmentally Sustainable Design policy for new builds, asset renewals and equipment replacement.	Renew and replace air conditioning equipment at East Preston Community Centre and hot water system at Reservoir Leisure Centre.	All works are completed with Gas supply now removed from East Preston Community Centre making it fully electric. Reservoir Leisure Centre is now covered by its own dedicated project which will take two years and is expected to finish in 2026-27.	100%	
<b>4.2.4</b> Deliver an Energy Support Program, including electrification support, that prioritises low-income households.	Develop Energy Support Program by September 2025 and commence delivery.	Darebin Energy Upgrade Program was launched on February 8th and the delivery is underway.	100%	
<b>4.3.1</b> Continue to respond to changing flood risk through community education, management of Darebin's local drainage network and through Council's statutory roles under the Planning and Environment Act and Building Act.	Support the Victoria State Emergency Service and Melbourne Water to share information with our community about flood preparedness and changing risk.	Council has largely finished its support work including helping share information with the community about flood readiness and changing risk. Council is waiting for Melbourne Water's updated flood data to be able to use the new data in all its town planning and building functions.	95%	
<b>4.3.1</b> Continue to respond to changing flood risk through community education, management of Darebin's local drainage network and through Council's statutory roles under the Planning and Environment Act and Building Act.	Deliver capital works to progressively increase the capacity of the drainage network and reduce flood risk in targeted locations.	The drainage capital works program is on schedule. Priority drainage upgrades have been completed, with planning continuing for further works to progressively reduce flood risk across targeted locations.	65%	

 Completed  On Target  Off Target  Not Started  Discontinued

Initiative	Action	Comment	Progress	Status
4.4.2 Respond to the impacts of climate change on the health and wellbeing of Darebin's diverse community.	Deliver a comprehensive heat health program to support residents most at risk of severe heat impacts including: developing a communications campaign to raise awareness of heat health risk; expand the reach of Keep Cool in Darebin campaign; and support at least 5 community organisations to build capacity around heat health.	<p>Council partnered with DIVRS, Your Community Health, Reservoir Neighbourhood House, MOSS, Haven Home Safe and SPAN Neighbourhood House to support people at risk of heat stress.</p> <p>Collectively the program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Distributed 150 fans &amp; 170 cooling neckties to households, 100 water bottles to people sleeping rough &amp; pool passes for families</li> <li>- Increased our reach - speaking with 500 people about how to stay safe and well during heatwaves</li> <li>- Developed Heat Health Factsheets, the Keep Cool Map, clear emergency management messages &amp; information about how to use a split system efficiently</li> <li>- Provided extended access to Libraries as key cooling centres</li> <li>- Designed an outdoor Cool Zone Garden that can be accessed 24/7 by community on extreme heat days.</li> </ul>	90%	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
4.4.3: Develop a coordinated, accessible and inclusive response to climate impacts.	Support community connectedness and preparedness through emergency management planning to ensure Darebin residents know what to do during unexpected shocks and where to go to get help during extreme events.	<p>Climate change impacts and risks to Emergency Management staff and the community are articulated in Darebin's Emergency Management Plan. Council officers delivered the Keep Cool campaign over the 2025-26 summer. Council worked with Span Neighbourhood house to develop and launch a misting cooling garden in March.</p>	80%	<span style="color: green;">●</span>

● Completed 
 ● On Target 
 ● Off Target 
 ● Not Started 
 ● Discontinued

Strategic Direction Five

# Vibrant Places and Economy


A City that is liveable with vibrant places and spaces, safe streets and a thriving local economy.



Strategic indicators that deliver on the strategic objective	Target / Desired Trend
Satisfaction with industry and business programs that support the growth of our local economy.	Increase or maintain
Spend data across Darebin.	Increase or maintain
Number of active planning scheme amendments and strategic planning projects underway.	>3
Casualty (fatal and serious injury) crashes per Darebin resident on Darebin local roads.	Decrease by 10% each year
Proportion of transport journeys within Darebin that are made using active and sustainable transport.	Increase or maintain
Number of missed bins annually.	Decrease
Number of dumped rubbish reports.	Decrease
Number of requests for graffiti removal from council assets.	Decrease
Number of community reports of shopping areas needing street cleaning.	Decrease

*Strategic indicator data is collected annually. The quarter four (end of financial year) performance report will present the data, commentary and status against the annual target/desired trends.*

Initiative	Action	Comment	Progress	Status
<p><b>5.1.1</b> Finalise and implement the Housing Strategy including design controls, planning scheme updates and roadmap for increasing social and affordable housing in Darebin.</p>	<p>Adopt the finalised Darebin Housing Strategy Part 1 (Growth &amp; Need) and Part 2 (Character &amp; Design) and prepare part 4 (Planning Scheme Amendment) to update residential zones and policy in the Darebin Planning Scheme.</p>	<p>Council adopted the Darebin Housing Strategy Part 1 (Growth &amp; Need) and Part 2 (Character &amp; Design) in August 2025. Work is underway to implement the strategy through preparing new planning controls (zones and overlays) and housing policy for residential areas across Darebin. Further work is required to consider newly released state-wide Mid-Rise Planning controls. Additional engagement with the community is planned prior to finalising the draft planning controls and will be considered by Council in late 2026 for engagement in early 2027. A planning scheme amendment will be ready in mid-2027.</p>	70%	
<p><b>5.1.3</b> Review and update the Open Space Strategy and seek a higher Open Space Levy through a planning scheme amendment.</p>	<p>Undertake research to inform Council's advocacy position and future strategy work.</p>	<p>Research to inform Council's advocacy and the updated Open Space Strategy is well underway. Data gathering and analysis of open spaces is substantially complete, with engagement with Traditional Owners now underway. A draft strategy is expected to be ready by early 2027.</p>	80%	





 Completed
  On Target
  Off Target
  Not Started
  Discontinued

Initiative	Action	Comment	Progress	Status
5.2.1 Maintain and improve the transport network, including pedestrian crossings, bike infrastructure, speed reductions and other road safety treatments to make Darebin's streets safer for everyone.	Design and construct priority transport safety infrastructure.	Council has applied to the State Government for 40km/h speed limit reductions in the Springthorpe and Thornbury areas. A feasibility study for a pedestrian crossing on Victoria Road near Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre will be presented to Council for consideration. A shared path near BT Connor Reserve has been completed with Australian Government funding, and a raised safety platform has been installed on McFadzean Avenue.	75%	●
5.2.1 Maintain and improve the transport network, including pedestrian crossings, bike infrastructure, speed reductions and other road safety treatments to make Darebin's streets safer for everyone.	Deliver a detailed Feasibility Study for the proposed Melbourne Water Pipe Track Shared User Path between Elizabeth Street and the Mernda Rail line in Reservoir.	Community and stakeholder consultation for the proposed Melbourne Water Pipe Track Shared User Path in Reservoir commenced this quarter, closing on 16 April 2026. Feedback will be used to finalise the detailed feasibility study in May 2026.	75%	●
5.2.1 Maintain and improve the transport network, including pedestrian crossings, bike infrastructure, speed reductions and other road safety treatments to make Darebin's streets safer for everyone.	Commence the replacement of Kendall-Harding Bridge, in partnership with Merri-bek Council.	Designs for the Kendall-Harding Bridge replacement have been completed and endorsed by Council in December 2025. As the Project Manager for the project, Merri-bek Council has commenced procurement for the construction phase, with work currently underway to finalise a project specific Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).  The project is expected to be completed in FY2026-27.	45%	●


● Completed ● On Target ● Off Target ● Not Started ● Discontinued

Initiative	Action	Comment	Progress	Status
<b>5.2.2</b> Engage the community to identify safety, accessibility and amenity concerns to inform improvements to the transport network.	Continue engaging the local community to review and update the priorities for transport safety and access infrastructure projects.	Community consultation on draft concept plans for 20 locations in the Your Street Your Say Group C area closed on 8 March 2026. Community feedback will be considered alongside technical design standards, with updated concept plans to be presented to Council in April 2026.	80%	●
<b>5.3.1</b> Continue to proactively protect Preston Market's social, cultural and historical value for generations to come through advocacy, community and stakeholder engagement, support of the Preston Market Traders and participating in future planning decisions including the development plan and planning permit decisions.	Respond proactively to a state referral on a Development Plan to ensure future development protects the market's significance and operations, while consulting and supporting traders and considering feasibility options for the Market's future.	There is currently no state referral on a Development Plan for the Preston Market Precinct. Early work on the Preston Market Feasibility Study has been completed and procurement is underway. Community engagement on the study is planned for mid to late 2026.	50%	●
<b>5.3.2</b> Develop and deliver the High Street Preston Streetscape Upgrades.	Finalise community engagement for preferred concept design and develop functional layout and detail design for the project.	Community engagement has been completed. Council endorsed the Final Concept Design for High Street Streetscape Upgrade in November 2025.  Work is now progressing on the detailed design. The State-Local Roads and Infrastructure Program (SLRIP) grant application has been lodged.	80%	●

● Completed ● On Target ● Off Target ● Not Started ● Discontinued

Initiative	Action	Comment	Progress	Status
<b>5.3.3</b> Collaborate with local community and Traders Associations to develop shared visions for Darebin's key activity centres (Reservoir, Preston, Northcote and Fairfield).	Develop Place Vision and Action Plans for Reservoir, Fairfield and Northcote to guide social and economic revitalisation and activation of activity centres.	A draft Engagement Plan and consultant procurement documents have been developed. The Engagement Plan will be presented for endorsement before a consultant is appointed. All four activity centres – Reservoir, Fairfield, Northcote, and Preston – will be engaged through this process.	20%	
<b>5.3.4</b> Revitalise the Active Space program to address increasing shopfront vacancies in main street destinations.	Review the Active Space Program model and undertake a pilot project.	Pilot locations for the Active Space Program have been identified, and Council is collaborating with the Preston Central Business Association to deliver the initial projects. A high-level review of the program model has been completed.	20%	
<b>5.4.2</b> Deliver a new Festivals and Events Framework to guide a refreshed annual program, with celebrations delivered across the municipality, within the northern, central and southern suburbs.	Develop a new Festivals and Events Framework to guide a refreshed annual events program tailored to meet community aspirations.	Initial work on the Festivals and Events Framework has commenced, with key foundational documents identified and internal consultation underway. The Framework will be presented for senior leadership consideration. A refreshed events calendar will be developed following community consultation.	50%	
<b>5.5.1</b> Deliver good standards of cleaning and maintenance of public places profiting high use parks, play spaces and civic areas.	Establish the new City Amenity team and share service performance results as part of Council's quarterly performance reports.	The City Amenity team has been established, and service performance indicators have been determined for the quarterly council performance report. As a new team, the focus is now on increasing efficiency and enhancing processes to create more value for the community.	100%	

 Completed  On Target  Off Target  Not Started  Discontinued

Initiative	Action	Comment	Progress	Status
<b>5.5.1</b> Deliver good standards of cleaning and maintenance of public places profiting high use parks, play spaces and civic areas.	Renew footpaths across the City based on condition assessments.	Council's footpath renewal program is continuing on track, with works progressing in accordance with the capital replacement program and condition assessment priorities.	75%	

 Completed  On Target  Off Target  Not Started  Discontinued

Strategic Direction Six

# Decision-making, Community Engagement and Transparency








A City that is well-managed, transparent and trusted by its community and partners, with clear and respectful communication that builds confidence in Council's decisions.

Strategic indicators that deliver on the strategic objective	Target / Desired Trend
Decisions made at meetings closed to the public	7% or less
Community satisfaction with council decisions.	60% or more
Community satisfaction with engagement.	70% or more
Procurement expenditure with Darebin businesses and suppliers.	Increase
Victorian Auditor General's Office adjusted underlying result.	Increase
Victorian Auditor General's Office asset renewal.	Increase
Victorian Auditor General's Office capital replacement.	Increase

*Strategic indicator data is collected annually. The quarter four (end of financial year) performance report will present the data, commentary and status against the annual target/desired trends.*

Initiative	Action	Comment	Progress	Status
<b>6.1.1</b> Develop and deliver strategic advocacy priorities.	Develop a 4-year advocacy framework including a one-year advocacy statement based on organisational strategic priorities.	The 2025-26 Advocacy Statement was endorsed by Council in February 2026. The updated Advocacy Framework will be finalised ahead of the current framework's expiry in June 2026.	75%	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
<b>6.1.2</b> Develop a Partnership Framework.	Review existing partnerships and Community Grant Program.	The review of the partnerships grants has been completed, and a program of multi-year funding agreements has been endorsed.  Development of the broader partnership framework is on hold until the community grants program review and advisory committee review are completed.	70%	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
<b>6.1.3</b> Improve community engagement by delivering the community engagement continuous improvement program.	Implement year 1 actions from the community engagement continuous improvement program.	Year one actions of the Community Engagement Improvement Plan have been implemented, and work has commenced on year two actions.	100%	<span style="color: blue;">●</span>
<b>6.1.3</b> Improve community engagement by delivering the community engagement continuous improvement program.	Implement actions to progress engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members.	None of the engagement projects that took place over the quarter ran engagement sessions where Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community members attended.	50%	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
<b>6.2.1</b> Deliver a Digital Darebin Program to upgrade our IT Systems.	Conduct a procurement process to select an IT partner to support us to upgrade our core systems.	Council published an open market technology tender in March 2026, with a closing date in May 2026, to select a partner for core systems upgrade. Preparation work is continuing to ensure Council is ready for implementation once a partner is selected.	55%	<span style="color: green;">●</span>





● Completed 
 ● On Target 
 ● Off Target 
 ● Not Started 
 ● Discontinued

Initiative	Action	Comment	Progress	Status
<b>6.2.1</b> Deliver a Digital Darebin Program to upgrade our IT Systems.	Deliver a new facilities and event booking system.	Implementation of the new facilities and event booking system is progressing in accordance with the agreed project plan. A governance committee has been established to provide oversight and strategic guidance throughout the project.	65%	
<b>6.2.1</b> Deliver a Digital Darebin Program to upgrade our IT Systems.	Upgrade our technology in meeting rooms to make it easier for community members and staff to conduct hybrid meetings.	Phase 3 (non-Preston precinct sites) equipment installation is now complete. Phase 2 (Preston precinct sites) installation completed in February. Minor adjustments/reconfiguring will be required as office renovations progress and meeting rooms updated. Training of staff also complete.	100%	
<b>6.2.2</b> Develop and implement a Customer Experience Strategy.	Adopt the Customer Experience Strategy and associated action plan.	The Customer Experience Strategy and Year 1 Action Plan is scheduled to be presented to Council for endorsement in April 2026.	90%	
<b>6.3.1</b> Develop and implement a good governance continuous improvement plan.	Adopt a good governance action plan and commence implementation.	The Good Governance Action Plan was adopted by Council at the 24 February meeting, and a copy has been submitted to the Minister for Local Government. The plan responds to issues raised in the recent Municipal Monitors' report and implementation has begun. Further changes to the plan will be guided by the response from the Minister, which is still pending.	70%	
<b>6.3.2</b> Take good care of community data to help Council make informed decisions and protect privacy.	Develop data governance framework to set the foundations for insight driven decision making.	A Request for Quotation has been released to identify a vendor partner to deliver the data governance framework.	20%	




 Completed  On Target  Off Target  Not Started  Discontinued

Initiative	Action	Comment	Progress	Status
<b>6.3.3</b> Take relevant action to protect Council systems and community data based on industry best practice and ongoing monitoring.	Continuously monitor cyber risk and take action appropriately.	Cyber risk monitoring is progressing, with regular reporting provided to the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) and the Security, Risk and Insurance Advisory Committee (SRIA).	75%	●
<b>6.3.4</b> Explore, understand and identify Darebin's response to adopting the UN Sustainable Development Goals.	Map how Our Darebin Plan initiatives align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and develop a clear, staged approach to integrate SDG alignment into planning, evaluation, and reporting. This will include identifying resource needs, timelines, and budget to support effective implementation and continuous improvement.	The desktop mapping of Our Darebin Plan 2025-29 Initiatives to UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the staged approach to integrating SDG alignment into planning and reporting was shared with Councillors in March. Work is occurring to align actions in the draft 2026-27 Our Darebin Action Plan to the SDGs.	80%	●
<b>6.4.1</b> Review the 10-year Financial Plan to ensure financial sustainability now and in the future.	Assess financial and risk indicators and consider whether a substantive review of the Long Term Financial Plan is necessary as part of the annual budget process.	Development of the 2026-27 budget is progressing, using the adopted 10-year Financial Plan as the foundation. At this stage, no substantive review of the Long Term Financial Plan is considered necessary.	80%	●
<b>6.4.2</b> Deliver good value for community through Council's procurement of new suppliers and management of contracts.	Update the Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy to strengthen how well it helps achieve best value for community balancing financial, social and sustainability objectives.	The Social Procurement Policy must be reviewed during the Council term. Whilst the review was initially planned in 2025-26, it is now re prioritised to 2026-27 due to unplanned work. The current policy is operational until the new policy is adopted by Council.  This action will be presented to Council for Deferral in May 2026.	35%	●



● Completed ● On Target ● Off Target ● Not Started ● Discontinued

Initiative	Action	Comment	Progress	Status
<b>6.4.3</b> Regularly review the Workforce Plan to make sure we are resourced to deliver the Council Plan.	Review existing Workforce Plan 2021-2025 and commence development of a new Darebin Workforce Plan 2026-2029.	A review of the Workforce Plan 2021-25 performance and desktop analysis findings for the Strategic Workforce Plan 2026-29 have been submitted for senior leadership consideration in April 2026.	50%	
<b>6.4.4</b> Obtain and improve the quality of data on community assets and use this to inform infrastructure renewal and maintenance plans, including the next update of the Asset Plan.	Survey the condition of assets and buildings, incorporating renewal, maintenance and fit-for-purpose data needs into the inspection program.	In 2025-26 the planned drainage asset class condition assessment has been completed.	35%	
<b>6.4.5</b> Implement a range of financial sustainability measures to reduce costs and improve revenue to fund community services and infrastructure.	Identify opportunities to invest in technology and assets to reduce costs and improve revenue.	Currently finalising the draft Project Plan and Business Case for Parking Modernisation, to be considered before 1 July 2026.	60%	
<b>6.4.5</b> Implement a range of financial sustainability measures to reduce costs and improve revenue to fund community services and infrastructure.	Investigate options for a voluntary levy for developers to contribute to regional drainage and water sensitive urban design initiatives.	A paper on water sensitive urban design (WSUD) levy options was presented to senior leadership in April 2026. Council is awaiting direction on whether to continue progressing the WSUD levy scheme in light of recent changes to the regulatory environment.	35%	

 Completed
  On Target
  Off Target
  Not Started
  Discontinued

Initiative	Action	Comment	Progress	Status
<p><b>6.5.1</b> Regularly offer available council properties for use by community and commercial organisations through a fair and accessible process.</p>	<p>Offer available Council properties via an EOI process, evaluate applications and establish leases or licences with tenant organisations.</p>	<p>The Property EOI process has been completed, with Council resolutions providing direction for 14 EOI sites across two tranches. The Property Team is implementing these resolutions, with license agreements, Heads of Agreement and commercial lease agreements either executed, drafted, or awaiting execution, and overall performance tracking at 90% and on target. All unsuccessful applicants have been formally advised of the outcome, with targeted engagement undertaken where appropriate as part of the close-out phase.</p>	100%	
<p><b>6.5.1</b> Regularly offer available council properties for use by community and commercial organisations through a fair and accessible process.</p>	<p>Undertake community engagement for the pre-master-planning of 2 Wingrove Street site.</p>	<p>For the pre-master-planning of 2 Wingrove Street site, round 1 community consultation was completed on 24 November 2025, and outcomes were reported to Council. Next steps include geotechnical investigations and vision development with the Community Reference Group in 2026.</p>	100%	
<p><b>6.5.2</b> Progressively review opportunities to enable better use of facilities, such as shared use, relocation or consolidation, when they are due for renewal.</p>	<p>Identify facilities due for renewal and assess opportunities as part of the annual budget development process.</p>	<p>Council resolutions for the Property EOI project recommended that funding for the two Wingrove Geotechnical Investigations and the Edwardes Lake Boathouse be considered as part of, and aligned with, the final budget adoption, noting the draft budget is currently under review.</p>	90%	

 Completed  On Target  Off Target  Not Started  Discontinued

Initiative	Action	Comment	Progress	Status
<p><b>6.5.3</b> Assess Council property holdings to ensure they are suitable for current and future service provision, considering opportunities for private use and reinvestment.</p>	<p>Undertake initial assessment of currently unused and/or surplus properties and consider divestment options for any sites identified.</p>	<p>Council has drafted acquisition and divestment principles based on local and state government best practice guidelines, to enable surplus land/properties to be selected and divested to enhance financial sustainability of Council operations. These will be presented to Council for endorsement in April 2026.</p> <p>Councillors were briefed of the proposed divestment shortlist in March 2026, and another briefing will be scheduled in quarter four. Valuation reports have been commissioned.</p>	80%	
<p><b>6.5.4</b> Undertake substantial work to redevelop one major Council owned site within Preston to revitalise the local area, improve amenity and access to community spaces.</p>	<p>Undertake a development feasibility study to inform the development strategy and program for one major Council owned site.</p>	<p>This project is progressing with slight delay. The procurement plan for the Feasibility Study has been developed and subject to commencement of procurement and appointment of a successful consultant. Completion of the Feasibility Study is anticipated by September 2026.</p>	40%	

 Completed 
  On Target 
  Off Target 
  Not Started 
  Discontinued

## Service Performance

### Aged Care

Support, advocacy and information for older residents, people with disability, and carers. Helping people live independently through social connection, community access and home support.

#### Quarter comments

Aged Care services continued to provide consistent support in quarter three, with 2,379 clients supported keeping the service on track against annual targets. The number of seniors' clubs supported increased to 47 this quarter, reflecting strong community network activity. With Q3 falling outside the major events season, 11 events were delivered with 129 attendees, consistent with expected seasonal fluctuation in programming activity.

Indicator	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Trends/Target	Status
Number of clients supported	2,454	2,410	2,379		> 3,500	●
Number of senior Clubs supported	26	26	47		≥ 25	●
Number of events	10	38	11		> 16	●
Number of events attendees	135	961	129		> 160	●

### City Amenity

The City Amenity service supports a clean, safe and welcoming Darebin through graffiti removal, cleaning, street sweeping and dumped rubbish management. These services protect local spaces, enhance community pride, and ensure our city remains safe and enjoyable for everyone.

#### Quarter comments

City Amenity services maintained strong performance in quarter three, supporting clean, safe and welcoming public spaces across Darebin. Scheduled cleansing targets were met, with 90% of bins and furniture high-pressure cleaned and 95% of streets cleaned. A targeted graffiti, sticker and bill poster blitz was completed along Edwardes Street and Spring Street, Reservoir, in preparation for the Taste of Reservoir event. Graffiti removal requests remained on track, with 94.7% completed within required timeframes against 207 requests received. Street sweeping reached 10,060 kilometres, with staff levels at full capacity and minimal machine downtime supporting a strong result this quarter.

Indicator	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Trends/Target	Status
Compliance to scheduled cleansing of Activity centres	88%	88%	93%		>80%	●
Number of requests for graffiti removal from Council assets	191	174	207		Decreasing	●
Reported graffiti removed within timeframe	99.0%	90.2%	94.7%		Increasing	●
Kilometres of street swept	9,426 Km	9,500 Km	10,060 Km		>42,000 KM	●

● On Target ● Off Target

### Families, Youth & Children

Services and programs for children, young people and their families including immunisations, maternal and child health services, family and parenting programs, playgroups, toy library, childcare and kindergarten registration system, resourcing and support, and youth programs.

**Quarter comments**

Families, Youth and Children services continued to support community wellbeing throughout quarter three. Vaccination numbers remain on track for the current period, with 3,249 vaccines administered. Youth Services saw strong participation, with 1,301 young people attending events including drop-ins at the HUB, Decibels and Leamington Street, as well as the Art Club and Test Kitchen programs. Attendance at Intercultural Centre (IC) programs increased to 1,633, supported by core IC programs including IC Nights. No new kindergarten places were created this quarter; however, advocacy to the State Government to secure further infrastructure projects is ongoing.

Indicator	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Trends/Target	Status
Total number of vaccines administered	4,983	3,570	3,249		>20,000	●
Number of young people attending Youth Services' programs and events	2,529	1,834	1,301		Stabilised	●
Number of community members attending intercultural centre programs and activities	1,196	349	1,633		>4,800	●
Kindergarten places created through Kindergarten Expansion Program	-	38	-		Increasing	●

### Leisure & Recreation

Effective planning, operation and maintenance of Darebin's recreation and sporting facilities. Programs and policies that support and encourage an active Darebin community.

**Quarter comments**

Leisure and Recreation services recorded strong community participation at quarter three, with more than 653,000 attendances across sporting facilities and programs. This measure reflects a combination of facility visits across the Reservoir Leisure Centre, Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre, golf courses and stadiums, alongside Get Active participation and casual sportsground bookings. Continued and growing demand reinforces the importance of accessible recreation opportunities in supporting physical activity, health and wellbeing across Darebin.

Indicator	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Trends/Target	Status
Number of Sporting Attendance	572,251	624,454	653,874		Increasing	●

● On Target ● Off Target

**Libraries & Learning**

Darebin’s digital and physical library branches and services at Fairfield, Northcote, Preston and Reservoir and services delivered at Bundoora Park Farm.

**Quarter comments**

Libraries and Learning services maintained high levels of community use during Q3. Physical and digital loans, downloads and streaming reached 302,224, while visitation to library branches and Bundoora Park Farm totalled 154,398. A total of 363 community program sessions were delivered across Darebin Libraries, Bundoora Park Farm, Recreation and Leisure and RLC sites, attracting 11,385 attendees. Technology access sessions reached 34,794, with continued demand for computer, laptop and Wi-Fi services reinforcing the role of libraries as key community hubs for learning, connection and digital inclusion.

Indicator	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Trends/ Target	Status
Number of library item loans & downloads	293,341	235,893	302,224		Increasing	●
Number of libraries & lifelong learning visits	175,697	156,124	154,398		Increasing	●
Number of Community program sessions	392	391	363		Increasing	●
Number of Community program attendance	15,041	16,585	11,385		Increasing	●
Number of technology usage sessions	35,203	33,616	34,794		Increasing	●

**Parks & Open Space**

Our Parks and Natural Space services are crucial to supporting Darebin’s natural eco-system, our plants and animals, and the health and wellbeing of our community. They work to develop our spaces to be more climate resilient, safer and accessible for the community, and maintained to a high standard.

**Quarter comments**

Parks and Open Space services remained focused on maintaining safe and accessible open spaces during Q3. All scheduled playground safety inspections were completed on time, meeting compliance requirements across the municipality. No new trees were planted this quarter; however, contractors have received their finalised planting lists, and a pre-season meeting confirmed all contractors have the resources and information required to begin works in April. Tree planting is on track to commence in April 2026 and be completed by end of June 2026, supporting future canopy growth, environmental sustainability and community wellbeing.

Indicator	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Trends/ Target	Status
Number of new trees planted to support tree canopy growth	-	-	-		>700	●
Percentage of scheduled playground safety inspections completed	100%	100%	100%		= 100%	●

● On Target ● Off Target

### Planning & Development

Guiding infrastructure investment and land use planning to provide for the housing, employment, and community infrastructure needs of the municipality over the long term. Assessment of new development to ensure it is well-designed, safe, accessible, respects local character, and is environmentally responsive.

**Quarter comments**

Planning and Development activity continued during Q3, with 172 standard planning permit applications received. VicSmart application volumes remained steady, with 65 applications received. Customer service performance continued to exceed targets, with an average service grade of 86% for planning phone enquiries against a 70% target, with monthly results of 87% in January, 84% in February and 87% in March. The service remains focused on timely assessments, quality development outcomes and responsive engagement with the community and development sector.

Indicator	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Trends/Target	Status
Number of standard planning permit applications received	200	239	172		>540	●
Number of VicSmart applications	40	47	65		>96	●
Average Grade of Service for planning phone enquiries	86%	87%	86%		>70%	●

### Waste Management

Waste Services are central to support Darebin's Climate Leadership and Response, driving waste collection, diversion, reduction and education programs that support a healthier, more sustainable city. Through initiatives like recycling, food and organics, hard rubbish collection, and the Resource Recovery Centre, we deliver positive waste outcomes for our community.

**Quarter comments**

Waste Management services continued to deliver reliable waste and recovery services during Q3. Kerbside missed bin rates remained under target at 17 per 10,000 bins collected. Diversion from landfill improved to 55.5%, supported by increased FOGO material collection compared to the previous period, with seasonal growth in green waste expected to contribute further as weather conditions drive increased vegetation growth. Hard rubbish recycling reached 19.41%, based on monthly results of 21.2% in January, 22.3% in February and 14.74% in March. Hard rubbish booking volumes declined slightly this quarter, though community demand for the service remains steady.

Indicator	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Trends/Target	Status
Number of kerbside missed bins (per 10,000 bins)	17	19	17		<20	●
Percentage of kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill	44.59%	54.10%	55.50%		≥ 56.00%	●
Percentage of hard rubbish collected that is recycled	1%	26.50%	19.41%		≥ 25.00%	●
Number of hard rubbish bookings	8,369	4,769	4,107		> 30,000	●

● On Target ● Off Target



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# **FINANCIAL REPORT**

## **Nine months ended**

## **31 March 2026**

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### Financial Report 2025-26 Quarter 3 - 9 months ended 31 March 2026

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## 1. Executive Summary

Council reports its actual financial performance quarterly, alongside a revised forecast to estimate what the full-year results are likely to be. The forecast for both operating and capital budgets is based on updated information since Council adopted its budget in June 2025. This approach ensures proactive financial management and informed decision-making.

### Headline Result:

**Year to date:** For quarter ending March 2026, the operating surplus was \$5.7M favourable to budget. This variance **does not represent savings**, as the YTD results include multiple timing-related influences. **Refer Note 1 for further detail on YTD actuals to budget variances.**

**Q3 Forecast:** Council is forecasting to deliver an operating deficit of (\$127K), which is \$1.5M unfavorable to budget. **Refer Note 2 for further detail on forecast to budget movements.**

Excluding timing influences, the end of year forecast result is to deliver **\$6.1M** savings to the budget, **\$2.9M** over and above the 2025-26 target of \$3.2M. These savings are substantially one-off in nature and mainly made up of the following:

- \$2.6M – One-off savings in Materials & Services across multiple business units due to tight financial management and budgetary control.
- \$1.7M – Unbudgeted Capital Grant income linked to Capital projects programmed for delivery in 2025-26.
- \$900k - interest on investments due to better-than- budgeted market conditions and higher cash position.
- \$897k - Profit Share will return greater than expected income across multiple contracts for the 2024-25 period.

### Long Term Impact of current Forecast Results - Structural Budget Challenge

While Council is forecast to achieve savings in 2025–26 more than the budgeted target, year-end unallocated cash is projected to be an improved deficit of **\$3.6M** compared to a budgeted deficit of \$6.5M. (refer table 1 – unallocated cash), an improvement of \$2.9M. Whilst the result is an improvement to budget, the unallocated cash deficit indicates that Council is utilizing its cash reserves which it has accumulated from prior years to fund its current commitments.

The result highlights a broader financial challenge, whereby cash generated from recurrent operations is insufficient to fund core financial obligations, including loan repayments, the planned capital works program, and operating projects. This is a result of a combination of cost pressures and increased commitments in a rate capped environment. In the longer term, This will require planning and corrective action whilst Council is investing to transform its services. This is consistent with the underlying assumptions noted in the draft 2026-27 budget papers.

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Council’s accumulated unallocated cash is expected to reduce significantly over the next four years, as presented in the draft 2026-27 budget documents. To build and maintain financial capacity, Council has incorporated a series of financial sustainability targets to be achieved over the next four years.

Council utilizes several key metrics to assess financial performance. For the quarter ended March 2026, the high-level summary of results against these metrics is as follows (*refer Note 4 for glossary of definitions*):

Table 1

<b>Financial Performance Metric</b>	<b>YTD Budget \$'000</b>	<b>YTD Actuals \$'000</b>	<b>YTD Variance \$'000</b>	<b>Annual Budget \$'000</b>	<b>Annual Forecast \$'000</b>	<b>Budget to Forecast Variance \$'000</b>
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	40,383	46,084	<b>5,701</b> (FAV)	1,420	(127)	<b>(1,548)</b> (UNFAV)
Recurrent Operating EBITDA	61,517	66,622	<b>5,105</b> (FAV)	30,008	30,103	<b>95</b> (FAV)
Unallocated Cash Surplus / (Deficit)	<i>Not Applicable</i>			<b>(6,573)</b>	<b>(3,696)</b>	<b>2,877</b> (Fav)
Cash & Investments Balances	70,389	87,457	<b>17,068</b> (FAV)	61,680	74,344	<b>12,665</b> (FAV)
Capital Works Program Expenditure	22,408	13,993	<b>8,415</b> (FAV)	38,547	29,895	<b>8,652</b> (FAV)
Operating Project / Initiatives Expenditure	1,567	701	<b>866</b> (FAV)	2,404	1,418	<b>985</b> (FAV)

Financial performance remains stable, however requires continuous monitoring to improve underlying unallocated cash for the long term.

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## 2. Capital Performance

### Year-to-Date Performance

For period ending 31 March 2026, the Capital Works Program expenditure was \$14.0M against a budget of \$22.4M, reflecting an **underspend of \$8.4M**.

The variance is primarily attributable to timing and project re-phasing, with 25 projects originally scheduled for delivery in 2025–26 now forecast to be delivered in 2026–27, representing a total value of **\$10.8M**. These projects remain approved and funded, with revised delivery schedules reflecting updated project conditions.

### Full-Year Forecast

The Q3 Full year forecast has been revised down to \$29.9M, a net reduction of \$8.7M compared to budget. Primarily driven by:

- (\$906K) increase to year end forecast reflecting **projects that were delayed at the end of 2024-25 and which are planned for completion in 2025-26** (work carried forward from prior year).
- \$10.8M decrease to year end forecast reflecting 25 x projects that were budgeted for completion at the end of 2025-26, however due to delivery timeframes will be completed in FY 2026-27 (work carried forward into next year).
  - (632K) – partially offset with forecast expenditure against 2 x projects receiving unbudgeted grant income.

**Refer to Q3 Capital Works Performance report for further details on project/program status.**

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**Note 1 - Analysis of YTD Operating Variances to budget**

The following section provides detailed variance analysis of the various revenue and expenditure categories.

Main drivers of the YTD variance to budget are as follows:

- \$1.8M - Higher Open Space Levy (OSL) receipts –though restricted to be spent on eligible capital works projects in the future.
- \$946k - Higher than budgeted interest on investments income due to favourable market conditions
- (\$1.4M) Lower operating grant income – Timing difference driven mainly by 50% (\$2.7M) of the Financial Assistance Grant received in the prior year.
- \$4.0M - Lower materials & services expenditure – a mix of savings and timing-related items, including invoicing delays (approx. \$2M) relating to Waste Services contracts.
- \$500K – Higher than budgeted Supplementary income resulting from completion of several large developments & subdivisions across the municipality.
- \$472K – Higher than budgeted capital grant income primary due to the advance receipt of funding for Maryborough Ave. kinder project (timing)

**Revenue**

No.	Item	YTD Variance \$M	YTD Commentary
1.	Rates & Charges	831k FAV	Higher than budgeted supplementary income realised due to several large developments and sub-divisions. (Permanent in-year variance)
2.	Contributions	1.8M FAV	Receipt of 2 unbudgeted Open Space Levy (OSL) transactions in August 25 (Permanent in-year variance / restricted).
3.	Grants – Operating	(1.4M) UNFAV	Largely related to YTD impact of 50% advance payment of the Financial Assistance Grant paid in prior FY (Permanent in-year variance).
4.	Grants – Capital	472k FAV	Primary due to the advance receipt of funding for Maryborough Ave. kinder (Timing/permanent in-year variance)
5.	Statutory Fees & Fines	533k FAV	Largely related to timing of Animal Control/registration fees (Timing)
6.	User Fees	(399k) UNFAV	Largely due to: Overestimation of original budget targets relating to Bundoora Park Operations (Permanent in-year variance).
7.	Other Income	1.2M FAV	Largely due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$946k FAV- Higher than budgeted interest on investments income due to favourable market conditions (permanent in-year variance).</li> <li>• \$872k FAV - Workcover recoveries budgeted under Salaries &amp; Oncosts (timing).</li> </ul>

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**Expenses**

No.	Item	Variance \$M	Commentary
1.	Salaries & Associated Costs	(74) UNFAV	Primarily due to the pending MEA negotiations offset by other timing differences. Will be monitored closely.
2.	Materials & Services	4.0M FAV	Primarily due to a timing of spend for projects and other one-off savings as reflected at Q3 forecast.
3.	Other Expenses	224k FAV	Minor YTD variances
4.	Depreciation & Amortization	(1.5M) UNFAV	Due to prior year asset revaluations.

**Balance Sheet**

No.	Item	Variance \$M	YTD Commentary	Outlook at Q3 for Full Year
1	Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$9.3M FAV	Reflects timing of operating and financial cash flows and higher opening balance.	Positive cash forecast, YTD impacted by timing of receipts and payments.
2	Financial Assets	\$7.8M FAV	As above	Positive cash forecast
3	Property, Infrastructure, Plant & Equipment	\$25.4M FAV	Reflects the 2024/25 year-end valuations and current year YTD favorable spend on capital works	No material impairments
5	Trust Funds/Deposits	(\$3.4) UNFAV	Timing of collection and repayments of asset protection bonds and ESVF	In line with budget
6	Contract/Other Liabilities	(\$907K) UNFAV	Primarily timing of payment and receipt of grant funding in advance of performance	In line with budget

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**Note 2 – Q3 Full Year Forecast to Budget Results**

The forecast full-year operating result for the quarter ended March 2026 (Q3) is an operating deficit of 127K, which is **\$1.5M** unfavourable to budget. Primarily made up of the following high-level adjustments:

**Total Council summary:**

- **\$2.9M** – Net Favourable (FAV) adjustments, improving unallocated cash performance

offset by

- **(\$4.4M)** – Unfavourable (UNFAV) timing & non-cash adjustments – No impact to unallocated cash performance:

**Broken down by:**

**Revenue Accounts**

No.	Item	Forecast to Budget Variance \$M	Commentary
8.	Rates & Charges	<b>\$500K FAV</b>	<p><i>Primarily made up of:</i></p> <p><u>Adjustments impacting unallocated cash:</u> <b>\$500k FAV</b></p> <p>Higher than budgeted supplementary general rates due to several large developments and sub-divisions.</p>
9.	Contributions	<b>\$1.4M FAV</b>	<p><i>Primarily made up of:</i></p> <p><u>Adjustments impacting unallocated cash:</u> <b>\$170k FAV</b></p> <p><b>\$124k FAV</b> – Unbudgeted contributions to be received from Government to deliver Domestic Assistance services.</p> <p><u>Timing related EOY Adjustments:</u> <b>\$1.2M FAV</b> (No impact to underlying cash)</p> <p><b>\$1.5M FAV:</b> Unbudgeted receipt of Open Space Levy Contributions as per YTD commentary. Funds restricted.</p> <p><b>\$200k FAV:</b> Unbudgeted receipt of Developer Contributions as per YTD commentary. Funds restricted.</p> <p><b>\$159k FAV</b> - Single Service Assessment – transfer budget from Operating Grants.</p> <p><b>(\$675k) UNFAV</b> – Budgeted LXRP funding to be received next FY – To be re-budgeted in FY 2026-27.</p>

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No.	Item	Forecast to Budget Variance \$M	Commentary
10.	Grants Operating	– (\$2.5M) UNFAV	<p><i>Primarily made up of:</i></p> <p><u>Adjustments impacting unallocated cash:</u> \$174k FAV</p> <p>\$168k FAV – Higher than budgeted School Crossing Supervisor grant</p> <p>\$131k FAV – Higher than budgeted Cladding Works grant</p> <p>\$175k FAV – Combination of minor net adjustments to forecast.</p> <p>(\$300k) UNFAV – Reduction to Aged Care Services income to align with annual escalation rates as per funding agreement.</p> <p><u>Timing related EOY Adjustments:</u> \$2.7M UNFAV (No impact to underlying cash)</p> <p>\$186K FAV – Unspent grants to be carried over into next year</p> <p>\$2.7M UNFAV – Advance payment of the Financial Assistance Grant paid in prior FY</p> <p>\$159k UNFAV – Single Service Assessment – transfer budget to Contributions.</p>
11.	Grants Capital	– (\$2.8M) UNFAV	<p><i>Primarily made up of:</i></p> <p><u>Adjustments impacting unallocated cash:</u> \$1.7M FAV</p> <p>Multiple projects receiving unbudgeted capital grant income.</p> <p><u>Timing related EOY Adjustments:</u> (\$4.5M) UNFAV (No impact to underlying cash)</p> <p>\$4.6M UNFAV – Capital grant income budgeted this year, however, will not likely be received until 2026-27 year.</p> <p>\$107k FAV - Unbudgeted capital income received to deliver Blackspot-High Street and Crawley Street project – budgeted to receive income in prior year.</p>
12.	User Fees	(\$139k) UNFAV	<p><i>Primarily made up of:</i></p> <p><u>Adjustments impacting unallocated cash:</u> \$155k FAV</p> <p>\$345k FAV - Unbudgeted contributions from the State Revenue Office will be received following the completion of historical FSPL acquittals – To partially fund part time position to administer Council’s FSPL/ESVF program.</p> <p>\$132K FAV – Combination of other minor adjustments</p> <p>(\$322k) UNFAV - Bundoora Park operations due to overestimation of original budget targets</p>

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No.	Item	Forecast to Budget Variance \$M	Commentary
			<p><u>Timing related EOY Adjustments: (\$294K) UNFAV</u> (No impact to underlying cash)</p> <p>(\$294k) UNFAV - DAC presenter adjustment – Transfer of budget to Other Income category</p>
13.	Other Income	\$2.4M FAV	<p><i>Primarily made up of:</i></p> <p><u>Adjustments impacting unallocated cash: \$2.1M FAV</u></p> <p>\$900k FAV - interest on investments due to better than budgeted market conditions and higher cash position.</p> <p>\$897k FAV - Profit Share will return greater than expected income across multiple contracts for the 2024-25 period.</p> <p>\$336K FAV – combination of other minor adjustment.</p> <p><u>Timing related EOY Adjustments: \$294K FAV</u> (No impact to underlying cash)</p> <p>\$294k FAV - DAC presenter adjustment – movement of budget between User Fee categories.</p>

Expenditure Accounts

No.	Item	Forecast to Budget Variance \$M	Commentary
1.	Salaries & Associated Costs	(\$288K) UNFAV	<p><i>Primarily made up of:</i></p> <p><u>Adjustments impacting unallocated cash: (\$1.3M) UNFAV</u></p> <p>\$293k FAV – Savings due to higher than budgeted vacancies.</p> <p>(\$1.6M) UNFAV – Combination of higher than budgeted annual Work Cover premiums and other employee cost pressures.</p> <p><u>Timing related EOY Adjustments: \$998K FAV</u> (No impact to underlying cash)</p> <p>\$1.4M FAV - Pending ongoing multi-employer negotiations. Amount to be quarantined from 2025-26 budget to fund to partially fund future payments once the outcome of the multi-employer negotiations is confirmed</p>

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No.	Item	Forecast to Budget Variance \$M	Commentary
			(\$380k) UNFAV - Transfer of budget from Materials & Services category.
2.	Materials & Services	\$2.5M FAV	<p><i>Primarily made up of:</i></p> <p><u>Adjustments impacting unallocated cash:</u> (\$825k) UNFAV</p> <p>\$2.6M FAV – In-year savings realised across multiple business units due to tight financial management and budgetary control.</p> <p>(\$3.2M) UNFAV – Achievement of 2025-26 budgeted savings target.</p> <p>(\$200K) UNFAV – Drainage Maintenance to cover high risk compliance safety works</p> <p><u>Timing related EOY Adjustments:</u> \$3.3M FAV (No impact to underlying cash)</p> <p>\$3.7M FAV - Digital transformation Project re-profiled to better align with planned procurement and implementation timings.</p> <p>\$380k FAV - Reallocation of budget to Salaries category</p> <p>\$931K FAV – Operating project carry forwards into next financial year due to delays in delivery.</p> <p>(\$1.1M) UNFAV – Prior year Budget Carry Forwards to be delivered in 2025-26.</p> <p>(\$580k) UNFAV Hard Rubbish collection &amp; disposal cost pressures.</p>
3.	Depreciation	(\$2.8M) UNFAV	<p><i>Primarily made up of:</i></p> <p><u>Timing related EOY Adjustments:</u> (\$2.8M) UNFAV (No impact to underlying cash)</p> <p>Due to prior year asset revaluations. Does not influence cash but reflects medium - long-term cost pressures associated with renewing infrastructure and assets at end of life.</p>

Note 3 – Financial Statements

DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL						
<b>Comprehensive Income Statement</b>						
For the 9 months ended 31 March 2026						
	YTD Budget \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Variance \$'000	Annual Budget \$'000	Annual Forecast \$'000	Forecast Variance \$'000
<b>Income</b>						
Rates and charges	164,193	165,024	831	<b>165,573</b>	166,073	500
Statutory fees and fines	7,294	7,827	533	<b>9,312</b>	9,312	-
User fees	11,141	10,742	(399)	<b>14,842</b>	14,723	(119)
Grants - operating	15,012	13,598	(1,414)	<b>19,720</b>	17,221	(2,499)
Grants - capital	2,079	2,551	472	<b>7,036</b>	4,217	(2,819)
Contributions - monetary	3,190	5,056	1,866	<b>4,281</b>	5,665	1,384
Other income	5,572	6,797	1,225	<b>7,767</b>	10,212	2,445
Net gain on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	350	256	(94)	<b>450</b>	450	-
<b>Total income</b>	<b>208,831</b>	<b>211,851</b>	<b>3,020</b>	<b>228,981</b>	<b>227,873</b>	<b>(1,108)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Employee costs	85,709	85,783	(74)	<b>112,523</b>	112,811	(288)
Materials and services	49,981	45,971	4,010	<b>71,864</b>	69,411	2,453
Depreciation	26,139	27,274	(1,135)	<b>34,823</b>	37,623	(2,800)
Amortisation - intangible assets	47	419	(372)	<b>81</b>	132	(51)
Amortisation - right of use assets	30	-	30	<b>51</b>	-	51
Bad and doubtful debts	1,012	1,000	12	<b>1,350</b>	1,351	(1)
Borrowing costs	1,083	1,087	(4)	<b>1,443</b>	1,435	8
Finance Costs - leases	1	10	(9)	<b>2</b>	14	(12)
Other expenses	4,445	4,221	224	<b>5,424</b>	5,223	201
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>168,447</b>	<b>165,765</b>	<b>2,682</b>	<b>227,561</b>	<b>228,000</b>	<b>(439)</b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>40,384</b>	<b>46,086</b>	<b>5,702</b>	<b>1,420</b>	<b>(127)</b>	<b>(1,547)</b>
<b>Less</b>						
Grants - capital (non-recurrent)	(1,561)	(1,699)	(138)	<b>(6,018)</b>	(3,092)	2,926
<b>Adjusted underlying surplus/ (deficit)</b>	<b>38,823</b>	<b>44,387</b>	<b>5,564</b>	<b>(4,598)</b>	<b>(3,219)</b>	<b>1,379</b>

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DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL							
Balance Sheet							
As at 31 March 2026							
	YTD	YTD	YTD	Annual	Annual	Forecast	Audited
	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget	Forecast	Variance	2025
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Current assets</b>							
Cash and cash equivalents	38,863	48,128	9,265	<b>30,153</b>	32,413	2,260	38,287
Trade and other receivables	57,288	66,611	9,323	<b>21,500</b>	26,888	5,388	27,158
Other financial assets	31,526	39,329	7,803	<b>31,526</b>	41,931	10,405	41,931
Inventories	61	94	33	<b>61</b>	93	32	93
Prepayments	324	2,495	2,171	-	2,788	2,788	2,983
Other assets	755	1,062	307	<b>961</b>	485	(476)	485
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>128,817</b>	<b>157,719</b>	<b>28,902</b>	<b>84,201</b>	104,598	20,397	110,937
<b>Non-current assets</b>							
Trade and other receivables	2,246	2,123	(123)	<b>2,582</b>	937	(1,645)	2,132
Other financial assets	6	6	-	<b>6</b>	6	-	6
Property, infrastructure, plant & equipment	1,901,898	1,927,323	25,425	<b>1,909,402</b>	1,933,339	23,937	1,940,735
Right-of-use assets	33	226	193	<b>20</b>	197	177	226
Investment property	9,840	10,788	948	<b>9,840</b>	10,760	920	10,760
Intangible assets	744	415	(329)	<b>726</b>	437	(289)	951
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>1,914,767</b>	<b>1,940,881</b>	<b>26,114</b>	<b>1,922,576</b>	1,945,677	23,101	1,954,810
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>2,043,584</b>	<b>2,098,600</b>	<b>55,016</b>	<b>2,006,777</b>	2,050,275	43,498	2,065,747
<b>Current liabilities</b>							
Trade and other payables	7,479	7,121	358	<b>11,309</b>	9,536	1,773	20,138
Trust funds and deposits	6,888	10,308	(3,420)	<b>6,953</b>	8,522	(1,569)	8,522
Contract and other liabilities	2,396	3,303	(907)	<b>2,396</b>	3,181	(785)	3,181
Provisions	23,027	23,915	(888)	<b>22,127</b>	22,702	(575)	22,722
Interest bearing loans and borrowings	4,537	4,563	(26)	<b>4,569</b>	4,623	(54)	4,441
Lease liability	72	48	24	<b>21</b>	60	(39)	48
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>44,399</b>	<b>49,258</b>	<b>(4,859)</b>	<b>47,375</b>	48,623	(1,248)	59,052
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>							
Provisions	2,485	2,979	(494)	<b>2,485</b>	2,979	(494)	2,979
Interest bearing loans and borrowings	31,393	31,345	48	<b>30,274</b>	29,919	355	34,780
Lease liability	-	191	(191)	-	135	(135)	191
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>33,878</b>	<b>34,515</b>	<b>(637)</b>	<b>32,759</b>	33,033	(274)	37,950
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>78,277</b>	<b>83,773</b>	<b>(5,496)</b>	<b>80,134</b>	81,656	(1,522)	97,002
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>1,965,307</b>	<b>2,014,827</b>	<b>49,520</b>	<b>1,926,643</b>	1,968,618	41,975	1,968,745
<b>Equity</b>							
Accumulated surplus	649,479	680,606	31,127	<b>607,384</b>	634,114	26,730	634,524
Asset revaluation reserve	1,301,563	1,321,200	19,637	<b>1,301,563</b>	1,321,200	19,637	1,321,200
Other reserves	14,265	13,021	(1,244)	<b>17,696</b>	13,304	(4,392)	13,021
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>1,965,307</b>	<b>2,014,827</b>	<b>49,520</b>	<b>1,926,643</b>	1,968,618	41,975	1,968,745

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<b>DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL</b>						
<b>Statement of Cash Flow</b>						
For the 9 months ended 31 March 2026						
	YTD Budget \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Variance \$'000	Annual Budget \$'000	Annual Forecast \$'000	Forecast Variance \$'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>						
Rates	129,293	126,456	(2,836)	<b>166,460</b>	166,916	456
Statutory fees and fines	7,246	6,313	(933)	<b>10,263</b>	7,961	(2,302)
User fees & charges (inclusive of GST)	12,153	9,724	(2,429)	<b>16,357</b>	16,184	(174)
Grants - operating	14,987	13,656	(1,331)	<b>19,789</b>	17,307	(2,482)
Grants - capital	2,079	2,567	488	<b>7,060</b>	4,234	(2,827)
Contributions - monetary	2,682	5,056	2,374	<b>4,281</b>	5,665	1,384
Other income	4,185	4,724	539	<b>6,328</b>	7,779	1,451
Employee costs	(87,198)	(85,158)	2,040	<b>(110,679)</b>	(112,709)	(2,031)
Materials and services (inclusive of GST)	(62,241)	(64,316)	(2,074)	<b>(85,900)</b>	(92,346)	(6,446)
Net ESVF refund / payment	1	612	611	-	-	-
	23,187	19,634	(3,553)	<b>33,959</b>	20,989	(12,971)
Interest	1,825	2,089	264	<b>2,433</b>	2,946	513
Trust funds and deposits	-	1,178	1,178	-	-	-
Net GST refund / payment	6,533	6,640	107	<b>3,955</b>	10,085	6,130
Net cash provided by operating activities	31,545	29,542	(2,004)	<b>40,347</b>	34,019	(6,328)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>						
Proceeds from sale of property, plant & equipment	362	261	(101)	<b>495</b>	450	(45)
Payment for property, infrastr, plant & equipment	(22,409)	(18,148)	4,261	<b>(38,547)</b>	(34,224)	4,323
Repayment of loans and advances	9	-	(9)	-	9	9
Payment for other financial assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net cash used in investing activities	(22,038)	(17,887)	4,151	<b>(38,052)</b>	(33,765)	4,286
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>						
Finance costs	(1,084)	(1,103)	(19)	<b>(1,444)</b>	(1,449)	(5)
Repayment of borrowings	(3,313)	(3,313)	(0)	<b>(4,450)</b>	(4,680)	(230)
Net cash used in financing activities	(4,397)	(4,416)	(20)	<b>(5,894)</b>	(6,129)	(235)
<b>Net increase / (decrease) in cash &amp; cash equivalents</b>						
	5,110	7,239	2,129	<b>(3,599)</b>	(5,874)	(2,275)
Cash & cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	65,279	80,218	14,939	<b>65,279</b>	80,218	14,939
<b>Cash &amp; cash equivalents at the end of the period</b>	<b>70,389</b>	<b>87,457</b>	<b>17,068</b>	<b>61,680</b>	<b>74,344</b>	<b>12,664</b>
Note: Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year includes term deposits with a maturity date exceeding 90 days which are classified as other financial assets in the Balance Sheet (\$31.52M).						

Financial Report  
2025-26 Quarter 3 - 9 months ended 31 March 2026

<b>DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL</b>						
<b>Statement of Cash Flow</b>						
For the 9 months ended 31 March 2026						
<b>Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus</b>						
	YTD Budget \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Variance \$'000	Annual Budget \$'000	Annual Forecast \$'000	Forecast Variance \$'000
Surplus for the year	40,384	46,086	5,702	<b>1,420</b>	(127)	(1,547)
Items not involving cash or non operating in nature						
Depreciation and amortisation	26,186	27,693	1,507	<b>34,955</b>	37,755	2,800
Interest expense	1,084	1,097	13	<b>1,445</b>	1,449	4
Net (gain) / loss on sale of assets	(350)	(256)	94	<b>(450)</b>	(450)	-
Decrease / (Increase) in trade and other debtors	(35,617)	(38,568)	(2,951)	<b>(1,931)</b>	1,355	3,286
Decrease / (Increase) in other operating assets	1,760	(972)	(2,732)	-	302	302
(Decrease) / Increase in Trade creditors	(2,725)	(7,246)	(4,521)	<b>1,105</b>	-	(1,105)
(Decrease) / Increase in other operating liabilities	(77)	516	592	<b>3,804</b>	(6,246)	(10,050)
(Decrease) / Increase in provisions	900	1,193	293	<b>(1)</b>	(20)	(19)
	<b>(35,759)</b>	<b>(45,076)</b>	<b>(9,317)</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>(4,607)</b>	<b>(7,584)</b>
Net cash provided by operating activities	31,545	29,542	(2,003)	<b>40,347</b>	34,019	(6,329)

Financial Report  
2025-26 Quarter 3 - 9 months ended 31 March 2026

<b>DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL</b>						
<b>Statement of Capital Works</b>						
For the 9 months ended 31 March 2026						
	YTD Budget \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Variance \$'000	<b>Annual Budget \$'000</b>	Annual Forecast \$'000	Forecast Variance \$'000
<b>Capital works</b>						
<b>Property</b>						
Land	585	84	501	<b>1,070</b>	319	751
Land Improvements	889	333	556	<b>2,450</b>	1,017	1,433
Buildings	7,262	6,266	996	<b>11,464</b>	8,899	2,565
Building improvements	149	82	67	<b>1,595</b>	1,284	311
<b>Total property</b>	<b>8,885</b>	<b>6,765</b>	<b>2,120</b>	<b>16,579</b>	<b>11,519</b>	<b>5,060</b>
<b>Plant &amp; equipment</b>						
Plant, machinery & equipment	1,955	1,341	614	<b>2,384</b>	2,456	(72)
Fixtures, fittings & furniture	40	20	20	<b>40</b>	20	20
Computers & telecommunications	1,001	341	660	<b>1,050</b>	1,211	(161)
Library books	550	478	72	<b>700</b>	700	-
<b>Total plant &amp; equipment</b>	<b>3,546</b>	<b>2,180</b>	<b>1,366</b>	<b>4,174</b>	<b>4,387</b>	<b>(213)</b>
<b>Infrastructure</b>						
Roads	4,374	1,166	3,208	<b>8,586</b>	6,463	2,123
Bridges	-	-	-	<b>1,040</b>	24	1,016
Footpaths & cycleways	2,631	2,121	510	<b>3,631</b>	3,208	423
Drainage	1,205	688	517	<b>1,504</b>	1,483	21
Recreation, leisure & community facilities	200	64	136	<b>300</b>	300	-
Waste management	302	208	94	<b>432</b>	441	(9)
Parks, open space & streetscapes	1,213	742	471	<b>2,218</b>	1,984	234
Off-street car parks	54	59	(5)	<b>83</b>	86	(3)
<b>Total infrastructure</b>	<b>9,979</b>	<b>5,048</b>	<b>4,931</b>	<b>17,794</b>	<b>13,989</b>	<b>3,805</b>
<b>Total capital works</b>	<b>22,410</b>	<b>13,993</b>	<b>8,417</b>	<b>38,547</b>	<b>29,895</b>	<b>8,652</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>						
Asset renewal	16,773	10,474	6,299	<b>28,851</b>	22,376	6,475
New assets	1,376	859	517	<b>2,367</b>	1,836	531
Asset expansion	2,606	1,627	979	<b>4,483</b>	3,477	1,006
Asset upgrade	1,655	1,033	622	<b>2,847</b>	2,208	639
<b>Total capital works</b>	<b>22,410</b>	<b>13,993</b>	<b>8,417</b>	<b>38,547</b>	<b>29,895</b>	<b>8,652</b>

Financial Report  
2025-26 Quarter 3 - 9 months ended 31 March 2026

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## Note 4 – Glossary of key terms

1. Operating Surplus (Deficit): The difference between Council's operating revenue and operating expenses over a period. A surplus if revenue exceeds expenses, or a deficit if expenses exceed revenue.
2. Unallocated Cash Surplus (Deficit): The net cash balance generated in-year that is not restricted or allocated to specific purposes, after funding existing commitments such as loan repayments, Capital investment and operating projects.
3. Cash & Investment balances: the total value of cash on hand and highly liquid financial investments held at a point in time, available to meet operational needs & fund commitments.
4. Capital Works Program: A planned portfolio of investment projects focused on creating, upgrading, or renewing physical assets (such as buildings, infrastructure, or major equipment) to deliver on Our *Darebin Plan 2025–2029*.
5. Operating Projects / Initiatives: Time-limited projects focused on improving Council services, efficiency, compliance, or community outcomes to deliver on Our *Darebin Plan 2025–2029* - without creating new major physical assets.
6. Re-budgeted items: Reassessing and resetting budget items to reflect current conditions. Removing the budget item in current year and including the budget item into a future year. Adjustments to be made to 'unallocated cash' to reflect timing differences.
7. Budget Carry Forwards: The practice of allowing unspent budget (funds) from one financial period to be transferred and made available for use in a future period, rather than lapsing at period end. Adjustments to be made to 'unallocated cash' to reflect timing differences.

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

As at 31 March 2026

Project Name	Adopted Budget FY25-26	Adjusted Budget FY25-26	YTD project cost	Grant Contribution FY25-26	Council Contribution FY25-26	Project Year	Status	Comments by Exception
<b>Bridges</b>								
Harding Street Bridge Replacement Design (CW-340002)	\$ 1,040,000	\$ 23,685	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,685	3 of 5		Design is delayed due to external approvals and community consultation. Construction is now expected to begin in May 2026, with funds been transferred into the 2026/27 financial year
<b>Building Improvements Program</b>								
John Cain Memorial Park gender inclusive facilities (CW-160121)	\$ 445,000	\$ 86,638	\$ 44,288	\$ 200,000	-\$ 113,362	3 of 4		
Lakeview Tennis Court Lighting Upgrade (100% grant funded) -(CW-196863)	\$ 150,000	\$ 149,992	\$ 31,081	\$ 150,000	-\$ 8	1 of 1		The recommendation and cost report has been submitted to internal stakeholders for funding approval from Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV). Any delays in receiving this approval may affect the project's ability to commence in the 2025/26 financial year.
Maryborough Avenue Kindergarten Expansion (CW-120009)	\$ 2,657,303	\$ 2,663,241	\$ 2,346,939	\$ 1,554,545	\$ 1,108,696	3 of 3		
Preston City Oval pitch upgrades (CW-196865)	\$ 700,000	\$ 329,672	\$ 29,368	\$ 225,000	\$ 104,672	1 of 2		
Solar lighting in the carpark at BT Connor Reserve, Reservoir to improve safety of users, in particular women and girls who are in danger of attack and sexual violence (CW-196864)	\$ 145,000	\$ 138,957	\$ 17,874	\$ -	\$ 138,957	1 of 1		
Three-Year-Old Kindergarten - Blake Street Expansion (CW-196866)	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	1 of 4		Council has been advised that the proposed expansion of Blake Street Kindergarten is not supported by the State Government (Department of Education) at this time, due to updated unmet demand projections in Darebin's Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan (KISP). As a result, the Capital Works funding allocated to this project has been returned.
Three-Year-Old Kindergarten - Gellibrand Crescent Expansion (CW-196867)	\$ 300,000	\$ 1,963	\$ 3,456	\$ -	\$ 1,963	1 of 4		
TYOK - JS Grey Kindergarten Expansion (CW-160086)	\$ 181,005	\$ 181,005	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 181,005	3 of 3		The project is on hold pending further discussions between Council and the State Government to determine the financial viability of the proposed redevelopment of JS Grey Kindergarten.
TYOK - New kindergarten design project (CW-160088)	\$ 175,000	\$ 175,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 175,000	3 of 3		
TYOK - Raleigh Street Kindergarten compliance works (CW-160087)	\$ -	\$ 45,782	\$ 41,262	\$ -	\$ 45,782	2 of 2		
<b>Buildings Renewal Program</b>								
KP Hardiman Pavilion Redevelopment (CW-160081)	\$ 2,474,850	\$ 2,028,360	\$ 1,878,347	\$ -	\$ 2,028,360	3 of 3		
BRP-2 Wingrove Street - Precinct Renewal Works (CW-166970)	\$ 60,000	\$ 57,816	\$ 58,214	\$ -	\$ 57,816	1 of 1		
BRP-2 Wingrove Street - Switchboard renewal (CW-166971)	\$ 40,000	\$ 43,025	\$ 7,206	\$ -	\$ 43,025	1 of 1		
BRP-Asbestos removal - Hayes Park Pavillion (CW-166972)	\$ 10,000	\$ 12,476	\$ 7,676	\$ -	\$ 12,476	1 of 1		
BRP-Asbestos Removal Darebin Childcare & Kindergarten (Preston Campus) (CW-166973)	\$ 50,000	\$ 47,976	\$ 37,876	\$ -	\$ 47,976	1 of 1		
BRP-Bill Lawry Oval (CW-160101)	\$ 260,000	\$ 58,129	\$ 28,453	\$ -	\$ 58,129	2 of 5		Due to extended due diligence, structural assessments, and a revised project approach requiring additional Council engagement, it is unlikely the full design will be completed before end of the financial year.
BRP-Building Automation upgrade (Airconditioning Controls) (CW-166974)	\$ 75,000	\$ 74,266	\$ 7,127	\$ -	\$ 74,266	1 of 1		
BRP-Bundoora Homestead Arts Centre - Switchboard renewal (CW-166975)	\$ 25,000	\$ 29,266	\$ 27,204	\$ -	\$ 29,266	1 of 1		

Completed On Track At Risk Off Track Not Started Deferred/On Hold Discontinued Not updated

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

As at 31 March 2026

Project Name	Adopted Budget FY25-26	Adjusted Budget FY25-26	YTD project cost	Grant Contribution FY25-26	Council Contribution FY25-26	Project Year	Status	Comments by Exception
<b>Buildings Renewal Program</b>								
BRP-Bundoora Park Farm Heritage Village Toilet Switchboard Upgrade (CW-166976)	\$ 50,000	\$ 52,565	\$ 42,529	\$ -	\$ 52,565	1 of 1		The required power upgrade works have been approved by Jemena. Arrangements to progress the works are underway; however, confirmation of delivery timeframes is still pending. This creates a potential risk to the overall project delivery schedule.
BRP-Bundoora Park Farm Visitor Centre Security System Renewal (CW-166977)	\$ 15,000	\$ 19,527	\$ 5,868	\$ -	\$ 19,527	1 of 1		
BRP-Bundoora Park Farm Visitors Centre Switchboard Renewal (CW-166978)	\$ 25,000	\$ 44,906	\$ 6,947	\$ -	\$ 44,906	1 of 1		Delays have occurred in obtaining the required approvals from Jemena, who own and manage the substation. Although arrangements are in place to progress the works, the timeline remains dependent on Jemena's approval processes.
BRP-Bundoora Park Golf Course Proshop Switchboard Renewal (CW-166979)	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	1 of 1		
BRP-Bundoora Park Golf Course Public Toilet Renewal (CW-166980)	\$ 200,000	\$ 43,379	\$ 33,308	\$ -	\$ 43,379	1 of 2		
BRP-Clyde Street Community Centre - Security system renewal (CW-166981)	\$ 20,000	\$ 16,916	\$ 15,916	\$ -	\$ 16,916	1 of 1		
BRP-Cranross Tennis Court Resurfacing (CW-166982)	\$ 100,000	\$ 102,060	\$ 4,509	\$ -	\$ 102,060	1 of 1		
BRP-Darebin Arts Centre ( DAC) - Security system renewal (CW-166983)	\$ 40,000	\$ 44,256	\$ 43,749	\$ -	\$ 44,256	1 of 1		
BRP-Darebin Arts Centre (DAC) - Fire Panel renewal (CW-166984)	\$ 50,000	\$ 26,607	\$ 25,757	\$ -	\$ 26,607	1 of 1		
BRP-Darebin Arts Centre (DAC) - Stormwater renewal (Design Only) (CW-166985)	\$ 25,000	\$ 27,910	\$ 9,801	\$ -	\$ 27,910	1 of 1		
BRP-Darebin Community Sports Stadium Roof & Insulation Renewal (staged) (CW-166986)	\$ 100,000	\$ 10,850	\$ 8,168	\$ -	\$ 10,850	1 of 3		
BRP-Darebin Community Sports Stadium Sewer Renewal (CW-166987)	\$ 250,000	\$ 231,148	\$ 27,661	\$ -	\$ 231,148	1 of 1		
BRP-Darebin International Sports Centre - Renewal & Upgrade of AirCon Units (CW-166988)	\$ 155,000	\$ 147,017	\$ 24,762	\$ -	\$ 147,017	1 of 1		As the project estimate significantly exceeds the approved budget, it is proposed that the allocated funds be returned in the current financial year and the project deferred to a future year. Asset condition assessments indicate that deferral will not affect current operations. Officers will explore alternative, more financially sustainable options to deliver the project objectives.
BRP-Darebin International Sports Stadium Security System Renewal (CW-166989)	\$ 35,000	\$ 32,495	\$ 21,075	\$ -	\$ 32,495	1 of 1		
BRP-Darebin North-East Community Hub - Decking Renewal (CW-166990)	\$ 25,000	\$ 16,866	\$ 17,458	\$ -	\$ 16,866	1 of 1		
BRP-Darebin North-East Community Hub - Security system renewal (CW-166991)	\$ 20,000	\$ 22,455	\$ 4,686	\$ -	\$ 22,455	1 of 1		
BRP-Darebin Resource Recovery Centre - Canopy roof renewal (CW-166992)	\$ 55,000	\$ 24,229	\$ 24,229	\$ -	\$ 24,229	1 of 1		
BRP-DRRC access & road network renewal program (CW-166993)	\$ 81,000	\$ 82,769	\$ 32,309	\$ -	\$ 82,769	1 of 1		
BRP-DRRC Walking floor renewal program (CW-166994)	\$ 50,000	\$ 45,144	\$ 144	\$ -	\$ 45,144	1 of 1		
BRP-East Preston Community Centre - Appliance renewal (Gas removal) (CW-166995)	\$ 10,000	\$ 12,609	\$ 9,849	\$ -	\$ 12,609	1 of 1		
BRP-East Preston Senior Citizen's Centre Switchboard Renewal (CW-166996)	\$ 15,000	\$ 30,047	\$ 15,797	\$ -	\$ 30,047	1 of 1		
BRP-East Reservoir Neighbourhood House - Security system renewal (CW-166997)	\$ 20,000	\$ 25,338	\$ 20,729	\$ -	\$ 25,338	1 of 1		
BRP-Emergency Lighting and Fire Extinguisher Renewals (CW-166998)	\$ 150,000	\$ 148,544	\$ 94,051	\$ -	\$ 148,544	1 of 1		

Completed On Track At Risk Off Track Not Started Deferred/On Hold Discontinued Not updated

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

As at 31 March 2026

Project Name	Adopted Budget FY25-26	Adjusted Budget FY25-26	YTD project cost	Grant Contribution FY25-26	Council Contribution FY25-26	Project Year	Status	Comments by Exception
<b>Buildings Renewal Program</b>								
BRP-Essential Reactive Capital Renewal Program (CW-166999)	\$ 150,000	\$ 202,867	\$ 240,289	\$ -	\$ 202,867	1 of 1	At Risk	Additional unexpected costs arose from installing the new air-conditioning unit at Darebin North-East Community Hub (DNECH) following existing unit failure
BRP-Fairfield Civic Centre - Renewal & upgrade to A/C Units (CW-167000)	\$ 185,000	\$ 198,595	\$ 26,457	\$ -	\$ 198,595	1 of 1	On Track	
BRP-Hot Water Boiler unit renewal (Various Locations) (CW-167001)	\$ 50,000	\$ 46,905	\$ 50,557	\$ -	\$ 46,905	1 of 1	At Risk	
BRP-IceHQ - Blake St Reservoir- Switchboards renewal (CW-167002)	\$ 40,000	\$ 64,948	\$ 28,948	\$ -	\$ 64,948	1 of 1	At Risk	
BRP-JC Donath East Pavilion Renovation (Design) (CW-167003)	\$ 250,000	\$ 101,074	\$ 56,158	\$ -	\$ 101,074	1 of 3	On Track	
BRP-John Cain Memorial Park - NCFC Pavilion - Airconditioning Renewal (CW-167004)	\$ 50,000	\$ 68,497	\$ 102,309	\$ -	\$ 68,497	1 of 1	At Risk	
BRP-Keon Park Children's Hub - Security system renewal (CW-167005)	\$ 25,000	\$ 27,777	\$ 5,868	\$ -	\$ 27,777	1 of 1	On Track	
BRP-Leinster Grove - Security system renewal (CW-167006)	\$ 10,000	\$ 14,777	\$ 14,449	\$ -	\$ 14,777	1 of 1	On Track	
BRP-Leinster Grove Hall - Floor renewal (CW-167007)	\$ 150,000	\$ 176,629	\$ 33,051	\$ -	\$ 176,629	1 of 1	At Risk	The project is currently experiencing significant scope changes driven by unforeseen conditions and the resulting need for additional structural works. These changes have impacted timeline expectations, scope and budget.
BRP-Mains Electrical supply capacity upgrade - A H Capp (CW-160122)	\$ -	\$ 18,245	\$ 19,123	\$ -	\$ 18,245	2 of 2	At Risk	
BRP-Mains Electrical supply capacity upgrade - Crisp Park (CW-160123)	\$ -	\$ 37,000	\$ 37,000	\$ -	\$ 37,000	2 of 2	At Risk	
BRP-Mains Electrical supply capacity upgrade - JE Moore Park (CW-160124)	\$ -	\$ 13,245	\$ 13,165	\$ -	\$ 13,245	2 of 2	At Risk	
BRP-Northcote Aquatic & Recreation Centre Heat Pumps (CW-167008)	\$ 300,000	\$ 56,975	\$ 28,668	\$ -	\$ 56,975	1 of 1	At Risk	Time delays have arisen during onboarding of third party switchboard suppliers, who originally constructed the NARC building.
BRP-Northcote Family Centre - Fire Panel renewal (CW-167009)	\$ 50,000	\$ 27,235	\$ 27,235	\$ -	\$ 27,235	1 of 1	At Risk	
BRP-Northcote Library Security System Renewal (CW-167010)	\$ 35,000	\$ 32,562	\$ 18,626	\$ -	\$ 32,562	1 of 1	At Risk	
BRP-Northcote Town Hall (Studio 2) Roof & Ceiling Renewal and AC Renewal (CW-176959)	\$ 370,000	\$ 146,168	\$ 54,340	\$ -	\$ 146,168	1 of 2	At Risk	Confirmation of the complex existing site conditions has resulted in delays to the project.
BRP-Preston City Oval Precinct Safety Improvements (CW-167011)	\$ 660,000	\$ 49,565	\$ 4,989	\$ -	\$ 49,565	1 of 2	On Track	
BRP-Preston Council Precinct - Air conditioning renewal (Solaris building) (CW-167012)	\$ 90,000	\$ 86,591	\$ 72,702	\$ -	\$ 86,591	1 of 1	On Track	
BRP-Preston Shire Hall - Sewer renewal works (CW-167013)	\$ 75,000	\$ 60,868	\$ 59,868	\$ -	\$ 60,868	1 of 1	At Risk	
BRP-Proactive Asbestos removal - Various Kindergarten & Childcare Buildings (CW-167014)	\$ 100,000	\$ 93,348	\$ 74,241	\$ -	\$ 93,348	1 of 1	On Track	
BRP-Reservoir Community & Learning Centre - Security System Renewal (CW-167015)	\$ 55,000	\$ 52,443	\$ 4,175	\$ -	\$ 52,443	1 of 1	On Track	
BRP-Reservoir Leisure Centre Change Facilities Renewal (CW-167016)	\$ 500,000	\$ 96,699	\$ 14,226	\$ -	\$ 96,699	1 of 2	On Track	
BRP-Reservoir Leisure Centre Essential Equipment & Infrastructure Replacement (CW-420006)	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 64,124	\$ -	\$ 300,000	1 of 1	On Track	
BRP-Reservoir Leisure Centre Plantroom Renewal (CW-167017)	\$ 60,000	\$ 56,947	\$ 8,337	\$ -	\$ 56,947	1 of 1	On Track	
Workplace office accommodation (CW-166969)	\$ 300,000	\$ 432,106	\$ 427,769	\$ -	\$ 432,106	2 of 4	On Track	

Completed On Track At Risk Off Track Not Started Deferred/On Hold Discontinued Not updated

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

As at 31 March 2026

Project Name	Adopted Budget FY25-26	Adjusted Budget FY25-26	YTD project cost	Grant Contribution FY25-26	Council Contribution FY25-26	Project Year	Status	Comments by Exception
<b>Computers and telecommunication</b>								
Darebin Libraries Customer Technology Renewal (CW-300100)	\$ 29,000	\$ 29,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29,000	1 of 1	Completed	
Darebin Libraries Northcote Library Meeting Room AV Renewal (CW-300101)	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	1 of 1	Completed	
Darebin Libraries Wireless Network Hardware Renewal (CW-300102)	\$ 61,000	\$ 61,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,000	1 of 1	Completed	
IT - Infrastructure - IT Refresh -Laptops, Desktops and Mobile Devices(CW-246968)	\$ -	\$ 72,000	\$ 70,241	\$ -	\$ 72,000	2 of 2	At Risk	
IT Improvement Program - Bookings, Events and Ticketing Management Systems (CW-250013)	\$ 100,000	\$ 185,458	\$ 96,412	\$ -	\$ 185,458	2 of 2	Completed	
IT Infrastructure Renewal - Council Chamber Technology (CW-300103)	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150,000	1 of 1	Completed	
IT Infrastructure Renewal - Meeting Room Technology (CW-250011)	\$ 200,000	\$ 203,988	\$ 131,148	\$ -	\$ 203,988	1 of 1	Completed	
IT Infrastructure Renewal - Network Switches & Physical security (CW-246973)	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 4,504	\$ -	\$ 120,000	1 of 1	Completed	
IT Monitor renewal (CW-300104)	\$ 380,000	\$ 380,000	\$ 27,621	\$ -	\$ 380,000	1 of 1	Completed	
<b>Drainage Renewal Program</b>								
Drainage Construction - 256 Plenty Road (CW-405013)	\$ 100,000	\$ 91,695	\$ 3,795	\$ -	\$ 91,695	1 of 1	Completed	
Drainage Design - 130 Tyler Street (CW-300105)	\$ 79,000	\$ 74,720	\$ 12,120	\$ -	\$ 74,720	1 of 1	Completed	
Drainage Design - 16 and 18 Clements Grove Drainage upgrade (CW-300106)	\$ 80,000	\$ 78,775	\$ 22,531	\$ -	\$ 78,775	1 of 1	Completed	
Drainage Design - 295 Mansfield Street (CW-300107)	\$ 70,000	\$ 64,290	\$ 14,290	\$ -	\$ 64,290	1 of 1	Completed	
Drainage Design - 40 Malpas Drainage (CW-300108)	\$ 70,000	\$ 27,129	\$ 26,129	\$ -	\$ 27,129	1 of 1	At Risk	
Drainage Design - 59 Flag Street, Kingsbury (CW-300109)	\$ 85,000	\$ 80,109	\$ 38,651	\$ -	\$ 80,109	1 of 1	At Risk	
Drainage Design - Stage 2 Investigation Gilbert Road/ Knox Street (CW-405012)	\$ 100,000	\$ 94,267	\$ 23,409	\$ -	\$ 94,267	1 of 1	Completed	
Drainage Repairs and Upgrades Program (CW-405015)	\$ 144,200	\$ 161,214	\$ 96,257	\$ -	\$ 161,214	1 of 1	Completed	
Drainage upgrades - Hartington St Stage 2 (CW-405011)	\$ 80,000	\$ 75,757	\$ 31,048	\$ -	\$ 75,757	1 of 1	Completed	
Drainage-Renewal & upgrade at Intersection Glasgow Avenue and Massey Avenue, Reservoir to Edgars Creek (CW-405010)	\$ 296,000	\$ 370,485	\$ 365,917	\$ -	\$ 370,485	2 of 2	At Risk	
Minor drainage upgrade - Bischoff and Beatrice Street (CW-300110)	\$ 400,000	\$ 364,794	\$ 237,244	\$ -	\$ 364,794	1 of 1	At Risk	Project is currently at risk due to budget pressures arising from additional costs in the Bischoff/Bruce Street works, and market-driven increases in material costs .
<b>Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture</b>								
Darebin Community Sports Centre Basketball Rings Replacement (CW-300111)	\$ 40,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ 20,000	1 of 1	At Risk	
Reservoir Leisure Centre Gym & Fitness Equipment Renewal (CW-1501)	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 39,843	\$ -	\$ 40,000	1 of 1	Completed	
<b>Footpaths and cycleways Renewal Program</b>								
BT Connor Reserve Shared Path (ATF Grant) - 50% grant funded (CW-300112)	\$ 316,000	\$ 305,945	\$ 213,164	\$ -	\$ 305,945	1 of 1	Completed	
Bundoora Park & Farm - Path & Road renewal program (CW-300113)	\$ 216,000	\$ 194,400	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 194,400	1 of 1	At Risk	The project is awaiting final scope confirmation before progressing to the next phase.
Footpath renewal Program (CW-1490)	\$ 2,858,832	\$ 2,677,228	\$ 2,115,591	\$ -	\$ 2,677,228	1 of 1	Completed	

Completed On Track At Risk Off Track Not Started Deferred/On Hold Discontinued Not updated

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

As at 31 March 2026

Project Name	Adopted Budget FY25-26	Adjusted Budget FY25-26	YTD project cost	Grant Contribution FY25-26	Council Contribution FY25-26	Project Year	Status	Comments by Exception
<b>Footpaths and cycleways Renewal Program</b>								
Safe Travel - Keon Park Children's Hub - construction (CW-300031)	\$ -	\$ 5,610	\$ 5,610	\$ -	\$ 5,610	1 of 1		
<b>Land Renewal</b>								
Contaminated Land Management Design & Construction projects (CW-300114)	\$ 150,000	\$ 135,000	\$ 47,740	\$ -	\$ 135,000	1 of 1		
Land Acquisition to Create New Parks (CW-1469)	\$ 920,000	\$ 69,048	\$ 39,482	\$ -	\$ 69,048	3 of 4		
Soil Contamination-Darebin Park Lands (CW-116127)	\$ -	\$ 29,556	\$ 50,948	\$ -	\$ 29,556	2 of 2		
<b>Library Books Renewal Program</b>								
Darebin Libraries Collection - Audiovisual (CW-1467e)	\$ 53,000	\$ 53,000	\$ -	\$ 18,000	\$ 35,000	1 of 1		
Darebin Libraries Collection - Community Languages (CW-1467h)	\$ 88,000	\$ 88,000	\$ 69,173	\$ -	\$ 88,000	1 of 1		
Darebin Libraries Collection - Digital (CW-1467b)	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 123,176	\$ -	\$ 150,000	1 of 1		
Darebin Libraries Collection - Digital Community Languages (CW-1467g)	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ 8,000	1 of 1		
Darebin Libraries Collection - Fiction (CW-1467c)	\$ 317,000	\$ 317,000	\$ 231,577	\$ -	\$ 317,000	1 of 1		
Darebin Libraries Collection - Non Fiction (CW-1467d)	\$ 66,000	\$ 66,000	\$ 62,810	\$ -	\$ 66,000	1 of 1		
Darebin Libraries Collection - Premiers Reading Challenge (CW-1467a)	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 17,478	\$ -	\$ 18,000	1 of 1		
<b>Off street car parks</b>								
Car park lighting projects (CW-450015)	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000	1 of 1		
Northcote Plaza carpark - Renewal of subsided section (CW-300115)	\$ 57,500	\$ 66,880	\$ 59,430	\$ -	\$ 66,880	1 of 1		
<b>Other Infrastructure</b>								
Commission, construction and installation of Migration Artwork (CW-225952)	\$ -	\$ 53,607	\$ 62,893	\$ -	\$ 53,607	2 of 2		
Direction signage to country of origin(CW-225951)	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000	3 of 3		The project is currently on hold pending Council resolution, which is scheduled for consideration at the April 2026 Council meeting.
Upgrade of street lighting to improve safety (design and construct) (CW-300116)	\$ 360,000	\$ 334,022	\$ 130,332	\$ -	\$ 334,022	1 of 1		
Art Collection Acquisitions (CW-1500)	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	1 of 1		
Unallocated Capital Works Budget (CW-000001)		\$ 114,730	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 114,730	1 of 1	N/A	
Project Management Fees Pool		\$ 663,609	\$ 123,497	\$ -	\$ 663,609	1 of 1	N/A	
<b>Parks, Open Space and streetscape</b>								
Asset Gap Fill - Various locations (CW-446992)	\$ 22,000	\$ 29,075	\$ 20,395	\$ -	\$ 29,075	1 of 1		
DR Atkinson Playground Renewal (CW-300117)	\$ 200,000	\$ 262,802	\$ 31,498	\$ -	\$ 262,802	1 of 1		
Duck Pond viewing platform renewal - Darebin Parklands (CW-300118)	\$ 30,000	\$ 49,495	\$ 62,606	\$ -	\$ 49,495	1 of 1		
Edwardes Lake Park - Surface renewal (Griffiths St Playground) (CW-300119)	\$ 100,000	\$ 118,620	\$ 111,066	\$ -	\$ 118,620	1 of 1		
H Swain Reserve Renewal - Train and playspace surface (CW-300120)	\$ 50,000	\$ 81,730	\$ 22,899	\$ -	\$ 81,730	1 of 1		

Completed On Track At Risk Off Track Not Started Deferred/On Hold Discontinued Not updated

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

As at 31 March 2026

Project Name	Adopted Budget FY25-26	Adjusted Budget FY25-26	YTD project cost	Grant Contribution FY25-26	Council Contribution FY25-26	Project Year	Status	Comments by Exception
<b>Parks, Open Space and streetscape</b>								
Merri Common and Surrounds Park Improvement (CW-440007)	\$ 600,000	\$ 117,734	\$ 35,781	\$ -	\$ 117,734	2 of 3	At Risk	Despite repeated follow ups, no formal correspondence has been received regarding approval of the concept designs or confirmation of maintenance responsibilities. Securing this feedback remains the Project Team's priority so that the broader program can proceed without delay.
Open Space Path Network renewal program (CW-440009)	\$ 100,000	\$ 129,989	\$ 58,991	\$ -	\$ 129,989	1 of 1	Completed	
Park Asset Renewal Program (CW-1499)	\$ 143,000	\$ 132,915	\$ 104,875	\$ -	\$ 132,915	1 of 1	Completed	
Playspace Renewal - Shoalhaven, Walsh and Whitby Reserves (CW-1519)	\$ 58,500	\$ 56,910	\$ 26,359	\$ -	\$ 56,910	1 of 1	Completed	
Retaining Wall Construction - Clyde St Kindergarten (CW-167018)	\$ 30,000	\$ 26,496	\$ 31,330	\$ -	\$ 26,496	1 of 1	At Risk	
Signage Renewal - Edwardes Lake Park (CW-300121)	\$ 30,000	\$ 27,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,000	1 of 1	Completed	
Street Furniture renewal (Including bins) (CW-1514)	\$ 54,000	\$ 54,178	\$ 24,954	\$ -	\$ 54,178	1 of 1	Completed	
Woolhouse Reserve - Playground Renewal (CW-300122)	\$ 100,000	\$ 190,838	\$ 181,214	\$ -	\$ 190,838	1 of 1	Completed	
<b>Plant, machinery and equipment</b>								
Arts Venues Asset & Equipment Renewal (CW-1506)	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 61,259	\$ -	\$ 75,000	1 of 1	Completed	
Heavy Vehicle replacement Program (CW-1502)	\$ 1,944,000	\$ 1,947,393	\$ 1,095,590	\$ 250,000	\$ 1,697,393	1 of 1	Completed	
Light plant & machinery replacement program (CW-1503)	\$ 275,000	\$ 275,000	\$ 148,954	\$ -	\$ 275,000	1 of 1	Completed	
Youth Services- Asset & Equipment Renewal (CW-1504)	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 13,226	\$ -	\$ 50,000	1 of 1	Completed	
<b>Recreational, Leisure and Community Facilities</b>								
Boat Covers & Electric Motor - Small Parks Boat (CW-300123)	\$ 8,000	\$ 18,809	\$ 11,346	\$ -	\$ 18,809	1 of 1	Completed	
Bundoora Park Golf Course Irrigation System Renewal (Design) (CW-116134)	\$ 50,000	\$ 53,447	\$ 11,536	\$ -	\$ 53,447	1 of 1	Completed	
Coaches Box Renewal - Crispe Park (CW-300124)	\$ 45,000	\$ 48,297	\$ 43,777	\$ -	\$ 48,297	1 of 1	At Risk	
Irrigation & Turf Renewal - Johnson Park (CW-116135)	\$ 200,000	\$ 196,087	\$ 35,872	\$ -	\$ 196,087	1 of 1	Completed	
Sportsground Renovation - Pitcher Park (CW-116138)	\$ 500,000	\$ 490,033	\$ 48,489	\$ 452,500	\$ 37,533	1 of 2	Completed	
Synthetic Cricket Wicket Renewal - CH Sullivan East (CW-116139)	\$ 50,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 47,388	\$ 15,000	\$ 30,000	1 of 1	Completed	
Pitcher Park upgrades coach's boxes (CW-300125)	\$ 45,000	\$ 100,830	\$ 15,937	\$ 100,000	\$ 830	1 of 1	Completed	
Pitcher Park upgrades sealing of the carpark (CW-300127)	\$ 100,000	\$ 84,155	\$ 11,135	\$ -	\$ 84,155	1 of 1	Completed	
New synthetic pitch on Ground 4 at BT Connor Reserve (100% grant funded) (CW-116136)	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 48,617	\$ 42,777	\$ -	\$ 48,617	1 of 2	Completed	
Safety Net Program - Northcote Golf Course 7th hole (CW-300126)	\$ 60,000	\$ 54,711	\$ 25,555	\$ -	\$ 54,711	1 of 1	At Risk	
Sportsground Renovation - CH Sullivan West (CW-116137)	\$ 150,000	\$ 154,643	\$ 90,701	\$ -	\$ 154,643	1 of 1	Completed	
<b>Roads Renewal Program</b>								
Dundas Street, Hotham Street and St David Street intersection (Blackspot) - 100% grant funded (within YSYS Group B area) (CW-300072)	\$ 300,000	\$ 37,525	\$ 20,800	\$ 40,000	\$ 2,475	1 of 2	Completed	

Completed On Track At Risk Off Track Not Started Deferred/On Hold Discontinued Not updated

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

As at 31 March 2026

Project Name	Adopted Budget FY25-26	Adjusted Budget FY25-26	YTD project cost	Grant Contribution FY25-26	Council Contribution FY25-26	Project Year	Status	Comments by Exception
<b>Roads Renewal Program</b>								
Edwardes Street and Banbury Road Intersection upgrade (Blackspot) - 100% grant funded (CW-300073)	\$ 235,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 13,875	\$ 35,000	\$ -	1 of 2		
Road Resurfacing Program (CW-1512)	\$ 1,950,000	\$ 1,790,659	\$ 45,621	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 790,659	1 of 1		
Blackspot: Victoria Road / Mitchell Street intersection safety improvements (100% grant funded) (CW-300067)	\$ 246,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	1 of 2		
Construction of McFadzean Ave raised platform (Within YSYS Group A) (CW-300068)	\$ 50,000	\$ 23,117	\$ 22,117	\$ -	\$ 23,117	1 of 1		
Construction of Rainbow Crossing in High Street Preston (CW-300069)	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000	1 of 1		The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) has advised that it does not support the installation of a rainbow crossing at the Cramer/Gower/High Street signalised intersection. Alternative locations have been proposed, with a potential preferred site currently under consideration.
Design and construct accessible parking bays (CW-300049)	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,000	1 of 1		
Design of Your Street, Your Say Priority Projects (including \$25,000 for the Gilbert and Henty Intersection) (CW-300071)	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000	1 of 1		Group C priority projects under the Your Street Your Say program are scheduled to be confirmed in April 2026, subject to Council endorsement. This timeline is at risk due to limited remaining time in the 2025/26 financial year for design work to be completed.
Feasibility study to improve safety for people using Murphy and Symons Streets, Reservoir at school pick-up and drop-off time (CW-300070)	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	1 of 1		
Jacka Street (North Side) (CW-300074)	\$ 95,500	\$ 88,828	\$ 2,878	\$ -	\$ 88,828	1 of 1		
Minor Infrastructure Projects (CW-300075)	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000	1 of 1		
Minor Kerb & Chanel renewals program (CW-1509)	\$ 326,700	\$ 306,320	\$ 117,756	\$ -	\$ 306,320	1 of 1		
New additional renewals not included by Asset Strategy (CW-300076)	\$ 48,600	\$ 46,618	\$ 2,878	\$ -	\$ 46,618	1 of 1		
Right of Way rehabilitation -Rear 36 - 114 Beavers Rd (CW-300077)	\$ 500,000	\$ 465,968	\$ 18,863	\$ -	\$ 465,968	1 of 1		
Road Access infrastructure renewal (CW-300078)	\$ 43,200	\$ 41,758	\$ 2,878	\$ -	\$ 41,758	1 of 1		
Road Rehabilitation - Jessie Street from Westgarth to Franan Street (CW-300079)	\$ 550,000	\$ 20,356	\$ 11,780	\$ -	\$ 20,356	1 of 2		
Road Rehabilitation - Knox St & Corben St Intersection, Reservoir (CW-300080)	\$ 350,000	\$ 336,607	\$ 23,871	\$ -	\$ 336,607	1 of 1		
Road Rehabilitation -Wilmoth from Speight to Clarandon (CW-300081)	\$ 700,000	\$ 662,128	\$ 134,291	\$ -	\$ 662,128	1 of 1		
Road Rehabilitation -Wilmoth Street from Darebin to Christmas (CW-300082)	\$ 700,000	\$ 662,265	\$ 167,367	\$ -	\$ 662,265	1 of 1		
Roundabout renewal program (CW-300083)	\$ 189,000	\$ 172,978	\$ 2,878	\$ -	\$ 172,978	1 of 1		The project is currently awaiting final scope confirmation before proceeding to the next phase.
RRP-Road Design & Construction - Botha Avenue (Allenby to McFadzean Av ) (CW-300065)	\$ 300,000	\$ 434,835	\$ 435,259	\$ -	\$ 434,835	2 of 2		
RRP-Road Design & Construction - Hickford St. / Darebin Blvd Intersection - Preston (CW-300064)	\$ -	\$ 24,000	\$ 17,306	\$ -	\$ 24,000	2 of 2		
Speed cushion replacement program (CW-300084)	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,378	\$ 15,086	\$ -	\$ 25,378	1 of 1		
TAC-Aberdeene Street and Dundee Street - Raised threshold-Construction (CW-300087)	\$ 260,000	\$ 15,510	\$ 11,910	\$ 400,000	\$ -384,490	1 of 1		

Completed On Track At Risk Off Track Not Started Deferred/On Hold Discontinued Not updated

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

As at 31 March 2026

Project Name	Adopted Budget FY25-26	Adjusted Budget FY25-26	YTD project cost	Grant Contribution FY25-26	Council Contribution FY25-26	Project Year	Status	Comments by Exception
<b>Roads Renewal Program</b>								
TAC-Clapham Street south - raised threshold on south side Hutton Street (CW-300085)	\$ 70,000	\$ 80,739	\$ 17,039	\$ -	\$ 80,739	1 of 1	On Track	
TAC-Cramer Street near Ford Cres - Raised zebra crossing (CW-300090)	\$ 100,000	\$ 130,662	\$ 22,696	\$ -	\$ 130,662	1 of 1	On Track	
TAC-Hartington Street and Arthurton Rd - Raised Threshold (Zebra) (CW-300089)	\$ 100,000	\$ 12,155	\$ 11,419	\$ -	\$ 12,155	1 of 1	On Track	
TAC-McColl Street and Steane Street Reservoir - Raised threshold (CW-300088)	\$ 100,000	\$ 7,011	\$ 6,011	\$ -	\$ 7,011	1 of 1	At Risk	The project is awaiting grant approval before works can commence, placing the delivery timeline at risk.
TAC-McIntosh Street and Westbourne Street Northcote - raised Threshold (CW-300086)	\$ 70,000	\$ 78,975	\$ 15,275	\$ -	\$ 78,975	1 of 1	On Track	
TAC-Raised intersection and Zebra - Design (CW-300091)	\$ 600,000	\$ 152,873	\$ 2,873	\$ -	\$ 152,873	1 of 2	On Track	
Timber retaining wall reinstatement - Edwardes Street (South Side) (CW-300092)	\$ 136,500	\$ 129,119	\$ 12,208	\$ -	\$ 129,119	1 of 1	On Track	
Traffic Signal Design Edwardes Street and Gilbert Road (YSYS Group A) (CW-300093)	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 1,580	\$ -	\$ 50,000	1 of 1	On Track	
Traffic signal renewal (design and construction) (CW-300094)	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000	1 of 1	On Track	
Traffic Speed control infrastructure renewal (CW-300095)	\$ 43,200	\$ 43,200	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 43,200	1 of 1	On Track	
Transport - Construct - Miller St / Bracken Ave / Devon St pedestrian operated signals(CW-360011)	\$ 240,000	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000	2 of 2	At Risk	Design drawings are being revised to address DTP requirements and resubmitted for approval, which is still pending. Delays in receiving consent from DTP External Projects have been escalated and are expected to impact signal delivery, with construction now anticipated across the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years.
Transport-Construct-Construct Clarendon Street raised zebra crossing - Psarakos Market (CW-300056)	\$ -	\$ 90,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 90,000	2 of 2	At Risk	The project timeline may be impacted as the design documentation is still being finalised. Updated drawings from the consultant are pending, and additional specialist support may be required to complete the design. Work is continuing to progress the documentation so it can be handed over to the delivery team as soon as possible.
Transport-Construct-Quick Wins YSYS (CW-300053)	\$ -	\$ 25,000	\$ 69,219	\$ -	\$ 25,000	2 of 2	On Track	
Transport-Design-Design Pedestrian Operated Signal and Raised Shared Path Crossing Cheddar Road at Crookston Road (CW-300052)	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000	2 of 2	On Track	
Transport-Design-Priority projects identified in the Your Street Your Say Program (CW-1513)	\$ 135,000	\$ 135,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 135,000	1 of 1	On Track	
Road Rehabilitation - Design -High St including Lighting Design Upgrade (CW-300066)	\$ 150,000	\$ 104,050	\$ 10,604	\$ -	\$ 104,050	1 of 2	At Risk	A budget shortfall has been identified for the design phase due to scope expansion. Additional risks include delays in securing approvals from external authorities.
Road Rehabilitation - Design Edwardes St (CW-300097)		\$ 40,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,000	1 of 1	On Track	
<b>Waste management Renewal Program</b>								
Waste Services - Green and Red Bin Replacement Program (CW-300096)	\$ 432,000	\$ 440,589	\$ 209,899	\$ -	\$ 440,589	1 of 1	On Track	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 38,546,890</b>	<b>\$ 29,895,289</b>	<b>\$ 15,026,153</b>	<b>\$ 4,440,045</b>	<b>\$ 25,455,244</b>			

Completed On Track At Risk Off Track Not Started Deferred/On Hold Discontinued Not updated

Operating projects Status Report: 2025-26 Quarter 3 – 9 months ended 31 March 2026

**FY 2025-26 Operating Projects Program - Progress Status Report**

Project Description	YTD Actuals	2025-26 Full Year Budget	2025-26 Full Year Forecast (Q3)	2025-26 Budget to Forecast	2025-26 Transfer to Unallocated Operating Account	2025-26 Budget Carry Forwards	Project Status	Supporting Commentary
Property Development Strategy	-	100,000	-	100,000		100,000	Delayed Delivery - Carry Forward Required	This project is progressing with slight delay. The procurement plan for the Feasibility Study has been developed and subject to commencement of procurement and appointment of a successful consultant. Completion of the Feasibility Study is anticipated by September 2026.
RLC business case and design.	-	80,000	40,000	40,000		40,000	Delayed Delivery - Carry Forward Required	A Request for Quotation was issued to select consultants, with submissions due mid-April 2026. The contract is expected to be awarded by the end of April, and the business case completed by early July 2026. The business case will leverage existing studies and previously developed concept plans. Approximately \$40,000 is expected to be carried forward into the next financial year, with the remaining project deliverables planned for completion in the first quarter of 2026-27.
2 Wingrove Street - Master planning with Community Consultation	47,077	60,000	70,000	(10,000)			Full Delivery - Over Budget	Project on track. Geotechnical work is progressing. Community Reference Group has been established with second meeting occurring in March 2026 with all stakeholders.
Lighting feasibility and concept design at Edwardes Lake Athletics Track, Reservoir	-	30,000	30,000	-			Full Delivery - On Budget	Council has secured \$30,000 in grant funding for this project, enabling works to commence. Council is planning to finalise the design work by end of financial year.
Feasibility study & community consult - Half-court basketball court & ring at Rubie Thomson Reserve, Northcote	7,850	20,000	20,000	-			Full Delivery - On Budget	Project on track - First draft of the report has been received. Officers are reviewing and refining feasibility work which is scheduled for April 2026.
Housing Strategy	1,326	60,000	30,000	30,000		60,000	Delayed Delivery - Carry Forward Required	Council adopted the Darebin Housing Strategy Part 1 (Growth & Need) and Part 2 (Character & Design) in August 2025. Work is underway to implement the strategy through preparing new planning controls (zones and overlays) and housing policy for residential areas across Darebin. Further work is required to consider newly released state-wide Mid-Rise Planning controls. Additional engagement with the community is planned prior to finalising the draft planning controls and will be considered by Council in late 2026 for engagement in early 2027. A planning scheme amendment will be ready in mid-2027.
Melbourne Water Pipe Track Feasibility Study	283	45,000	75,000	(30,000)			Full Delivery - Over Budget	Project on track. Draft feasibility study will be submitted to Council in June
Preston Market Study	-	30,000	15,000	15,000		15,000	Delayed Delivery - Carry Forward Required	Carry forward required. Project has commenced.
Investigation of business cases new opportunities for revenue generation	-	50,000	-	50,000		50,000	Delayed Delivery - Carry Forward Required	Carry forward required. Early planning work has commenced.
Open Space Strategy Update	2,733	40,000	52,091	(12,091)			Full Delivery - Over Budget	Project on track. Currently in procurement stage with consultant expected to be appointed by early April 26.
Community Street Party Support (Regarding permit fees and traffic control)	7,735	30,000	10,000	20,000			Full Delivery - Under Budget (Savings)	Project on track.
Parking Enforcement Modernisation	-	50,000	-	50,000		50,000	Delayed Delivery - Carry Forward Required	Likelihood of carry over needed. Project is progressing and will extend into 2026-27.
Towards Zero Homelessness Project	89,110	140,000	140,000	-			Full Delivery - On Budget	Project is on track. Partner organisations continue to grow, with eight partners signed on for the project.
Placed Based Projects	-	125,000	-	125,000		125,000	Delayed Delivery - Carry Forward Required	The place-based project tender is being finalised in accordance with local government procurement requirements. The contract, which includes implementation of community initiatives, is expected to commence in 2026-27.
Darebin Assertive Outreach Program	276,686	370,000	370,000	-			Full Delivery - On Budget	Project on Track. The program continues to provide outreach and case management support to vulnerable community members.
Financial support to DIVRS: Complex Support Program in partnership with the Reservoir Neighbourhood House.	52,500	52,500	52,500	-			Full Delivery - On Budget	Project on Track.

Operating projects Status Report: 2025-26 Quarter 3 – 9 months ended 31 March 2026

Project Description	YTD Actuals	2025-26 Full Year Budget	2025-26 Full Year Forecast (Q3)	2025-26 Budget to Forecast	2025-26 Transfer to Unallocated Operating Account	2025-26 Budget Carry Forwards	Project Status	Supporting Commentary
Development of Council Plan & Associated documents 2029/2033	8,247	35,000	13,500	21,500			Full Delivery - Under Budget (Savings)	Project on track and expected to come in under budget.
Contaminated Land Management Plan Implementation	39,711	111,000	81,000	30,000		30,000	Delayed Delivery - Carry Forward Required	Further technical assessments have confirmed this project will need to carry-over into 26-27. This project is a requirement.
Develop a refreshed Darebin Disability Access and Inclusion Plan	-	20,000	-	20,000		20,000	Delayed Delivery - Carry Forward Required	The existing Disability Access and Inclusion Plan continues to provide direction for Council's work.
Develop a Partnership Framework	-	40,000	-	40,000		40,000	Delayed Delivery - Carry Forward Required	The review of Partnerships grants is complete, and a program of multi-year funding agreements has been endorsed. The development of the broader partnership framework is on hold until community grants program review and advisory committee review are completed.
Develop the Darebin Cultural Diversity Inclusion Action Plan	3,080	40,000	1,540	38,460		37,000	Delayed Delivery - Carry Forward Required	Carry forward into 26-27 required, to support implementation of actions. Plan was adopted By Council in March 2026.
Develop an LGBTIQ+ Action Plan	18,692	40,000	6,216	33,784		34,000	Delayed Delivery - Carry Forward Required	Carry forward into 26-27 required, to support implementation of actions. Plan was adopted By Council in March 2026.
Finalise Aboriginal Action Plan and deliver year 1 activities	35,797	80,000	45,000	35,000		35,000	Delayed Delivery - Carry Forward Required	Community engagement report is being finalised. Once completed the results will be integrated into the draft Aboriginal Action Plan.
Funding key actions from Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan	18,480	100,000	65,000	35,000		36,000	Delayed Delivery - Carry Forward Required	A number of actions completed, and some to be carried forward. Actions that have been completed include Darebin Health and Wellbeing Forum with representatives from 17 organisations including community health organisations, mental health service providers and education providers, establishment of a reference group to guide the development of the health information and education campaign, planning in partnership with key mental health service providers to deliver the Darebin Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum, planned for April 2026 and research into available mental health and wellbeing activities, programs, and services in Darebin to inform the upcoming Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum.
Wurundjeri Truth telling project at Bundoora Park Farm - Re-Budgeted	9,524	30,000	20,000	10,000		10,000	Delayed Delivery - Carry Forward Required	Project nearly at completion. Further spend to occur on display at Bundoora Park Farm. Carry forward request into 26/27 for official launch in August 26.
Climate Emergency Plan Action: Deliver a Household Energy Support Program targeting low-income households	17,592	200,000	82,772	117,228		118,000	Delayed Delivery - Carry Forward Required	Darebin Energy Upgrade Program was launched on February 8th and the delivery is underway.
Supporting Flood Implementation Roll out	54,425	120,000	54,425	65,575	65,000		Full Delivery - Under Budget (Savings)	This project was completed in late 2025 and was delivered under budget.
Introduce a voluntary levy option for developers to fund regional drainage & WSUD initiatives.	-	30,000	-	30,000			Full Delivery - Under Budget (Savings)	Project on track. Work to investigate this option for Council consideration is on track for completion in 2025-26.
Mature Street Tree Planting - Increase to Overall Canopy	-	165,000	134,000	31,000		31,000	Full Delivery - Carry Forward Required	Planting is planned to commence in April 2026 in the annual planting season. It is on track for all planting to be completed.
Financial support to Heidelberg State Emergency Service (SES)	10,000	10,000	10,000	-			Full Delivery - On Budget	Project is completed. Agreed contribution has been distributed to SES.
Aged Care Reforms	-	100,000	-	100,000		100,000	On Hold – Carry Forward	To be commenced in 2026-27
<b>Total Operating Projects</b>	<b>700,848</b>	<b>2,403,500</b>	<b>1,418,044</b>	<b>985,456</b>	<b>65,000</b>	<b>931,000</b>		

Operating projects Status Report: 2025-26 Quarter 3 – 9 months ended 31 March 2026

**High level Summary**

No. of projects Full delivery - On Budget	6
No of Projects full delivery - Over Budget	3
No of projects full delivery - Under Budget (Savings)	4
No. of projects where funds are to be carry forward into next FY	18
No. of projects off track - Required to re-apply next FY	0
<b>Total No. of projects</b>	<b>31</b>

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**9.12 PROJECT AND INITIATIVE BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS**

**Author:** Capital Delivery Coordinator  
Project Performance & Reporting Officer  
Manager Assets & Capital

**Reviewed By:** Chief Executive Officer

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Every year Council delivers capital works projects, operating projects and other initiatives to support community, reform policy, renew and improve a wide range of community assets such as drainage, buildings, roads, footpaths, cycle lanes, parks, and more.

Occasionally, it becomes necessary to revisit initial project budget allocations to ensure projects remain aligned with their intended scope and objectives. In keeping with Council's commitment to transparency and responsible financial stewardship, any recommended adjustments to project budgets are outlined in Table 1 and Table 2 of this document.

To enable Council's consideration of project budget adjustments each month, two 'project accounts' (within the financial system) have been established that have the effect of quarantining returned or unallocated program budget funds – one for Capital Works Program funds and one for unallocated Operating Projects and Special Initiatives funds. A key purpose of quarantining these funds is to enable Council to respond should projects encounter budget challenges or unplanned needs or to consider time critical initiatives that may arise outside of the annual budget cycle.

If Council approves the recommended adjustments, the quarantined funds would be:

- Unallocated Capital Works Program Account: \$196,376
- Unallocated Operating Projects and Special Initiatives Program Account: \$135,000

<b>Officer Recommendation</b>
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**That** Council:

- (1) Notes the Project Budget updates and **approves** adjustments for the Capital Works Program as per Table 1 of this report.
  - (2) Notes the Project Budget updates and **approves** adjustments for the Operating Projects as per Table 2 of this report.
- 

**BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION**

Council's adopted 2025/2026 budget includes an operating projects program budget of \$2.4M and a Capital Works Program budget of \$38.5 million (comprising 179 individual projects).

This report seeks Council endorsement to reserve identified project savings for the purposes of reallocating them to other projects if necessary, and, where appropriate, to authorise additional expenditure.

This approach reinforces good project management practice, sound financial management and the organisation's dedication to open governance. It ensures transparency with community.

### Previous Council Resolution

This report has become a standing item at Council's regular meetings. Each report stands alone and previous resolutions are not relevant to this report.

### ALIGNMENT TO 2041 DAREBIN COMMUNITY VISION

Pillar 4: Collaborative, Transparent and Responsible

### ALIGNMENT TO OUR DAREBIN PLAN 2025-29

Strategic Direction 6: Decision Making, Community Engagement and Transparency - A City that is well-managed, transparent and trusted by its community and partners, with clear and respectful communication that builds confidence in Council's decisions.

### DISCUSSION

The following project budget adjustments are presented for Council consideration and transparency to the community. Amounts are presented as exclusive of GST as per Council's adopted budget and financial reporting.

**Table 1: Project Budgets requiring adjustment - Capital Works Program**

Transfer From (funding source)	Transfer to (receiving project budget account)	Reason for adjustment	Amount (ex GST)
KP Hardiman Pavilion Redevelopment (CW-160081)	Unallocated Capital Works Program funds	The project was delivered under budget and practically completed in 2025. The remaining funds were retained through the Defects Liability Period to support commissioning, and any post-occupancy adjustments required for the new facility. The balance is now being returned.	\$117,943 (savings)
Drainage Design - Stage 2 Investigation Gilbert Road/ Knox Street (CW-405012)	Unallocated Capital Works Program funds	The budget is being returned as feasibility investigations showed no material flood mitigation benefit could be realised from the project at this location. Although multiple drainage upgrades were assessed, constraints from the catchment size and an undersized upstream Melbourne Water asset meant no viable engineering solution could be developed. The project therefore concluded at the feasibility stage and remaining funds are no longer required.	\$70,588 (savings)
Direction signage to country of origin (CW-225951)	Unallocated Capital Works Program funds	On 28 April 2026 Council resolved to return \$5,000 in unspent funds to the Capital Works budget due to the installed Migration Monument delivering the objectives and recognition sought by this project.	\$5,000 (savings)

Transfer From (funding source)	Transfer to (receiving project budget account)	Reason for adjustment	Amount (ex GST)
Roundabout renewal program (CW-300083)	Unallocated Capital Works Program funds	The budget is being returned because the originally scoped renewal works at the Edwardes Street and Gilbert Road roundabout are no longer required. Council has committed to a separate project to replace the roundabout with a fully signalised intersection, delivering the necessary safety and operational upgrades. As this new Council-funded signalisation project supersedes the renewal scope, the allocated renewal budget is no longer required.	\$172,978 (savings)
Maryborough Avenue Kindergarten Expansion (CW-120009)	Unallocated Capital Works Program funds	The project has been successfully completed on time and under budget. Remaining funds were retained through the Defects Liability Period. As no further expenditure is required, the balance is now being returned.	\$270,000 (savings)
Unallocated Capital Works Program funds	BRP-Bundoora Park Farm Heritage Village Toilet Switchboard Upgrade (CW-166976)	The works are essential and well advanced, making it impractical to halt the project at this stage. Costs associated with the power authority have remained difficult to finalise; however, additional funding is required to complete the works, ensure full compliance, and future-proof the site's power supply.	\$15,000 (increased costs)
Unallocated Capital Works Program funds	BRP-Leinster Grove Hall - Floor renewal (CW-167007)	<p>The Leinster Grove Community Hall Project has experienced delays due to unforeseen site conditions under the floor identified during early works. Councillors were advised of these challenges in February 2026, and since that time officers have been working to determine a viable and sustainable path forward.</p> <p>As a result, the project scope has been carefully reassessed. To renew the floor, detailed site levelling, re-stumping is needed and recommended.</p> <p>This site is very well used by community within a public park and recreation zone. Proceeding with renewal has a high community benefit.</p> <p>The project continues to be carefully managed to ensure tight budget control.</p>	\$340,921 (increased costs)
Unallocated Capital Works Program funds	Road Resurfacing Program (CW-1512)	This request seeks additional budget to support intersection works at Regent St to be delivered as part of the road resurfacing program.	\$105,756 (increased costs)
Unallocated Capital Works Program funds	Drainage Construction - 256 Plenty Road (CW-405013)	Due to increased pipe procurement costs and the added complexities and expenses associated with undertaking works adjacent to VicRoads assets, additional funding is required to successfully deliver the project.	\$30,000 (increased costs)

Transfer From (funding source)	Transfer to (receiving project budget account)	Reason for adjustment	Amount (ex GST)
Unallocated Capital Works Program funds	Minor drainage upgrade - Bischoff and Beatrice Street (CW-300110)	Additional funding is required due to increased pipe procurement costs and project delivery complexities.	\$25,000 (increased costs)

Balance of unallocated Capital Works Program account

The balance after the above transfers is **\$196,376**, up from the balance at end March 2026 of \$76,544.

**Table 2: Operating Projects and Special Initiatives budget adjustments**

Transfer From (funding source)	Transfer to (receiving account)	Reason for adjustment	Amount
Introduce a voluntary levy option for developers to fund regional drainage & WSUD initiatives	Unallocated Operating Projects and Special Initiatives Program	Investigation into this levy has found that it will not achieve additional community benefit and would increase cost and risk for Council. Therefore it is recommended to be closed as outlined in a briefing to Council on 5 May 2026. All work to date has been undertaken by in house teams and the funds are recommended to be returned.	\$30,000 (returned funds)

Balance of unallocated Operating Projects and Special Initiatives Program account

The balance of the 2025/2026 Unallocated Operating Projects and Special Initiatives Program fund is **\$135,000**.

**CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (2020) PRINCIPLES**

**Financial Management**

This report contributes to financial management principles by recording the allocation and movement of project funds that may impact on the budget, current and future.

Given the favourable financial result, there are no material risks associated with this adjustment.

**Community Engagement**

Community engagement was a critical part of developing the 2025/2026 Budget. This report aims to transparently report progress and challenges with implementation of the Budget to ensure accountability with community.

**Other Principles for consideration**

**Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Principles**

- (i) the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.
- (g) the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured;

**Public Transparency Principles**

- (a) Council decision making processes must be transparent except when the Council is dealing with information that is confidential by virtue of this Act or any other Act;

**Strategic Planning Principles**

- (a) an integrated approach to planning, monitoring and performance reporting is to be adopted;
- (c) Strategic planning must take into account the resources needed for effective implementation;
- (d) strategic planning must identify and address the risks to effective implementation;
- (e) strategic planning must provide for ongoing monitoring of progress and regular reviews to identify and address changing circumstances;

**Service Performance Principles**

- (a) services should be provided in an equitable manner and be responsive to the diverse needs of the municipal community;
- (c) quality and costs standards for services set by the Council should provide good value to the municipal community;

**COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS****Environmental Sustainability Considerations (including Climate Emergency)**

Projects address Council's ESD policy in planning, design and construction phases.

**Equity, Inclusion, Wellbeing and Human Rights Considerations:**

An Equity and Gender Impact Assessment are applied to individual projects during the planning and design development stage.

Some renewal projects given their scope and nature do not require an EIA/GIA. Although compliance with federal and state anti-discrimination legislation, accessibility standards and NCA standards are applicable.

**Economic Development and Cultural Considerations**

Construction projects generally contribute to employment and local economic development opportunities.

**Operational Impacts**

None identified at this point.

**Legal and Risk Implications**

This report enables management of project budget and timeline risk. There are no legal risks associated with this report.

**IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS**

Implementation of Council's decision will be undertaken by the responsible officers within Council. Project partners and stakeholders will be notified of Council's decision where relevant by the Project Sponsor or Project Manager.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- 2041 Darebin Community Vision
- Our Darebin Plan 2025-2029
- 2025/2026 Council Plan Action Plan
- Annual Budget 2025/2026
- Financial Plan 2025/2026 to 2034/2035
- 2024/2025 Annual Report

**Attachments**

Nil.

**DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

**9.13 GOVERNANCE REPORT - MAY 2026****Author:** Team Leader Governance Services**Reviewed By:** Chief Executive Officer

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- Summary of Councillor attendance at Advisory Committee Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors (**Appendix A**)
- Activity Reports by Mayor and Councillors
- Responses to Public Questions taken on notice at the 28 April 2026 Council Meeting (**Appendix B**)
- Status of petitions tabled during the current Council Term (November 2024 to April 2026) (**Table A**)
- 2025-26 Q3 Councillor Expenses (**Appendix C**)
- Quarterly reporting of Freedom of Information (FOI) statistics (FY 25/26, to date). (**Table B**).
- Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Summary Minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2026 (**Appendix D**).

<b>Officer Recommendation</b>
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**That Council:**

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – May 2026.
  - (2) Notes the Summary of attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors at **Appendix A** to this report.
  - (3) Notes that the activity reports by Mayors and Councillors submitted prior to the meeting and circulated to Councillors, will be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.
  - (4) Notes the responses provided at **Appendix B** public questions taken on notice at the Council Meeting on 28 April 2026.
  - (5) Notes the status of petitions tabled during the current Council term (November 2024 to April) (**Table A**).
  - (6) Notes the Freedom of Information (FOI) statistics shown in **Table B**, for the current financial year 2025/26 to 31 March 2026 (Q3).
  - (7) Notes the Councillor Expenses for Q3 FY 2025/26 - 1 January to 31 March 2026 (**Appendix C**).
  - (8) Notes the Summary Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 18 March 2026 (**Appendix D**).
- 

**BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION**

Pursuant to Council's Governance Rules 2020, the agenda for each Ordinary Meeting is required to list certain governance/administrative matters in addition to other specified items.

These include Reports of Standing Committees i.e. Hearing of Submissions Committee, Summary of Meetings i.e. Briefings, Advisory Committee, responses to Public Questions taken on notice, reports by Mayor and Councillors, Councillor expenses and a range of other governance matters.

In accordance with best practice, good governance principles, transparent and accountable reporting, officers deem it appropriate to consolidate governance/administrative reports into one standing report to provide a single reporting mechanism for a range of statutory compliance, transparency, and governance matters. This also ensure compliance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* ('the Act'), Council's Governance Rules and related regulations

### **Previous Council Resolution**

This matter is not the subject of a previous Council resolution.

### **ALIGNMENT TO 2041 DAREBIN COMMUNITY VISION**

Pillar 4: Collaborative, Transparent and Responsible

### **ALIGNMENT TO OUR DAREBIN PLAN 2025-29**

Strategic Direction 6: Decision Making, Community Engagement and Transparency - A City that is well-managed, transparent and trusted by its community and partners, with clear and respectful communication that builds confidence in Council's decisions.

### **DISCUSSION**

Matters covered in this report are:

#### **Summary of Advisory Committees, Councillor Briefing and other informal meetings of Councillors**

Pursuant to Council's *Governance Rules 2020*, a summary of any meeting of an Advisory Committee, as established by Council and attended by at least one Councillor, or a scheduled or planned meeting to discuss the business of Council, including briefing Councillors, and which is attended by at least half of the Councillors and one member of Council staff (excluding Council, Delegated Committee or Community Asset Committee meetings) must tabled at the next convenient Council meeting.

The Summary of Advisory Committees, Councillor Briefing and other informal meetings of Councillors is provided at **Appendix A**.

#### **Activity Reports by Mayor and Councillors**

By 4.00pm on the day of each Ordinary Council Meeting, the Mayor and Councillors are required to submit a report detailing their attendance at various functions and activities since the last Council Meeting. These reports will be recorded in the minutes of this meeting.

#### **Responses to Questions taken on notice on 28 April 2026 Council Meeting**

Questions taken on notice at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 April 2026 and subsequently responded to, are provided at **Appendix B**.

**Status of Petitions tabled during the current Council Term (November 2024 to 30 April 2026)**

Petitioning is a long-established process for members of the community to demonstrate community support for a request or views on a matter, and for that request or view to be presented directly to Council.

During the current Council Term, there have been 25 petitions tabled, there are currently 5 petitions in progress, shown in **Table A** below.

**Table A**

	<b>Date Tabled</b>	<b>Petition</b>	<b>Status</b>
1	24 November 2025	Community Garden	<b>Closed</b> - Officers have assessed the petition, and a response outlining the outcome has been provided to the petitioner via letter.
2	24 February 2026	Ensuring Access, Equity & Quality for Local Kindergarten Families (JS Grey)	<b>Closed</b> - Officers have assessed the petition, and a response outlining the outcome has been provided to the petitioner via letter.
3	24 February 2026	Request for City of Darebin construct a toilet block in Johnson Street, Keon Park	<b>In Progress</b> - Officers are assessing the petition, and a response will be provided to the petitioner via letter.
4	24 March 2026	Oppose the proposed bike lane and parking changes for Gower Street from High Street to Plenty Road	<b>Closed</b> - Officers have assessed the petition, and a response outlining the outcome has been provided to the petitioner via letter.
5	24 March 2026	Hold a public, in-person information and consultation session for the ratepayers, residents, and community members of Kingsbury	<b>In Progress</b> - Officers are assessing the petition, and a response will be provided to the petitioner via letter.
6	24 March 2026	Save the Palestinian Flag – Protect Democracy in Darebin	<b>In Progress</b> - Officers are assessing the petition, and a response will be provided to the petitioner via letter.
7	28 April 2026	Traffic Calming Feature on Clough Parade	<b>In Progress</b> - Officers are assessing the petition, and a response will be provided to the petitioner via letter.
8	28 April 30 2026	Fix Legs Lane	<b>In Progress</b> - Officers are assessing the petition, and a response will be provided to the petitioner via letter.

**2025-26 Q3 Councillor Expenses**

The Councillor Expenses Report for the period from 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026, is included at **Appendix C** and will also be made available on Council's website.

**Freedom of Information**

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* extends as far as possible, the right of the community to access information in the possession of the government bodies constituted under the law of Victoria (such as Council) for certain public purposes by:

- a. making available to the public information about the operations of agencies and, in particular, ensuring that rules and practices affecting members of the public in their dealings with agencies are readily available to persons affected by those rules and practices; and*
- b. creating a general right of access to information in documentary form in the possession of Ministers and agencies limited only by exceptions and exemptions necessary for the protection of essential public interests and the private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom information is collected and held by agencies.*

As part of Council's commitments made under the Public Transparency Policy, a snapshot of the number of FOI requests made and the outcomes of those requests will be presented to Council on a quarterly basis. The below snapshot encompasses the FOI Statistics for current financial year 2025/26 to 31 March 2026 (Q3).

**TABLE B**

<b>FOI Statistics FY 25/26 -</b>	<b>COUNT</b>
<b>Total Number of Requests Received (1 July 2025 – 31 March 2026 Q3)</b>	58
<b>Outcome of Requests (Valid from FY 25/26)</b>	
Access granted in full (no exempt material)	11
Access granted in part (some exempt material)	19
Access denied in full (all material exempt)	0
Withdrawn	4
Administrative Release	0
Not Proceeded With	9
Act does not apply	0
No Documents found	6
Not yet finalised	9
<b>VCAT Appeals</b>	
VCAT appeals lodged	0
VCAT confirmed agency decision	0
VCAT varied agency decision	0
VCAT Overturned agency decision	0

**Audit and Risk Committee Meeting – Summary Minutes**

The summary minutes of Audit and Risk Committee meetings are provided for transparency for both Council and the Darebin community. The summary minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2026 (**Appendix D**) are attached to this report.

**CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (2020) PRINCIPLES****Financial Management**

Not Applicable.

**Community Engagement**

Not Applicable.

**Other Principles for consideration****Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Principles**

- (a) Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law;
- (i) the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

**Public Transparency Principles**

- (a) Council decision making processes must be transparent except when the Council is dealing with information that is confidential by virtue of this Act or any other Act;
- (b) Council information must be publicly available unless (i) the information is confidential by virtue of this Act or any other Act; or (ii) public availability of the information would be contrary to the public interest;
- (c) Council information must be understandable and accessible to members of the municipal community;
- (d) Public awareness of the availability of Council information must be facilitated

**Strategic Planning Principles**

- (d) strategic planning must identify and address the risks to effective implementation;

**Service Performance Principles**

- (e) service delivery must include a fair and effective process for considering and responding to complaints about service provision.

**COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS****Environmental Sustainability Considerations (including Climate Emergency)**

Not applicable.

**Equity, Inclusion, Wellbeing and Human Rights Considerations:**

Not applicable.

**Economic Development and Cultural Considerations**

Not applicable.

**Operational Impacts**

Not applicable.

**Legal and Risk Implications**

Not applicable.

**IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS**

- The Councillor expenses will be published on the Council website.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- *Local Government Act 2020*
- Governance Rules

**Attachments**

- Summary of Councillor Attendance Records (**Appendix A**) [↓](#)
- Record of Questions taken on notice - 28 April 2026 (**Appendix B**) [↓](#)
- 2025-26 Q3 Councillor Expenses (**Appendix C**) [↓](#)
- Summary Minutes - ARC Meeting - 18 March 2026 (**Appendix D**) [↓](#)

**DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.



## SUMMARY OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS AND OTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

<b>MEETING DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Darebin Gender Equity Advisory Committee
	<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 26 March 2026 (Last GEAC meeting in line with sunsetting June 2026)
	<b>Location:</b>	Council's Birnum Djirri room
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors</b>	1. Councillor Kristine Olaris
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Staff present for the entire meeting: 1. Vanessa Petrie, GM City Sustainability and Strategy (online) 2. Samuel Muchoki, TL Health and Social Policy (online) 3. Charity Dodoo, Free from Violence Cultural Inclusion Officer 4. Jade Myconos, Gender Equality Officer
	<b>Other:</b>	<b>Community advisory committee members present</b> <u>In person:</u> 1. RV 2. LR 3. GDS 4. RG 5. MC (WHIN)  <u>Online:</u> 1. ZB 2. MBu
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		<b>Apologies:</b> 1. Cr. Ruth Jelley 2. AW 3. SL  <b>Absent:</b> 4. JWN 5. Mbo 6. CLJ

The Meeting commenced at 5.35pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED	DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1 <b>Darebin's <a href="#">Free from Violence program</a> (FFV)- community activities (Council Plan Action 3.3.1)</b>	Nil.
2 <b>General Business:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recognition of this being the last GEAC meeting due to Committee sunsetting June 2026, and member certificates of appreciation handed out.</li> <li>- Molly Hadfield Social Justice Oration event 1 April 2026.</li> </ul>	Nil.

The Meeting concluded at 6.30pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b> <b>Officer Title:</b>	Jade Myconos Gender Equality Officer
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## SUMMARY OF COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS AND OTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

<b>MEETING DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Councillor Briefing Session
	<b>Date:</b>	14 April 2026
	<b>Location:</b>	Function Room (Hybrid Meeting)
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr. Emily Dimitriadis (Mayor) (Chairperson) Cr. Matt Arturi (Deputy Mayor) Cr. Connie Boglis OAM Cr. Ruth Jelley Cr. Julie O'Brien (online) Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM Cr. Alexandra Sangster Cr. Vasilios Tsalkos Cr. Angela Villella
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Anne Howard, CEO Caroline Buisson, General Manager Customer & Corporate (Item 4.2) Nina Cullen, General Manager Community Rachel Ollivier, General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance (Item 4.3) Vanessa Petrie, General Manager, City Strategy and Sustainability (Item 4.1) Enna Giampiccolo, Executive Manager Governance & Communications Meagan Merritt, Manager City Futures (Item 4.1) Allan Middlemast, Coordinator Sustainable Transport (Item 4.1) Kevin DeLeeuw, Team Leader Transport Strategy and Programs (Item 4.1) Lisa Wheelhouse, Manager Customer & Corporate Performance (Item 4.2) Julie Wyndham, Coordinator, Corporate Strategy & Performance (Item 4.2) Srini Krishnan, Chief Financial Officer (Item 4.2, 4.3) Dean Gibbons, Head of Financial Planning and Analysis (Item 4.3) Lee McKenzie, Manager Buildings, Property and Capital (Item 4.3)
	<b>External Attendees:</b>	Nil.
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		Nil

The Meeting commenced at 4.39pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
4.1	Transport Follow up	No disclosures were made
4.2	Draft Our Darebin Action Plan Prior to Public Exhibition	No disclosures were made
4.3	Draft 2026-27 Budget Prior to Public Exhibition	No disclosures were made

The Meeting concluded at 8.16pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b>	Enna Giampiccolo
	<b>Officer Title:</b>	Executive Manager, Governance & Communications



## SUMMARY OF COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS AND OTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

<b>MEETING DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Councillor Briefing Session
	<b>Date:</b>	21 April 2026
	<b>Location:</b>	Function Room (Hybrid Meeting)
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr. Emily Dimitriadis (Mayor) (Chairperson) Cr. Matt Arturi (Deputy Mayor) Cr. Ruth Jelley Cr Julie O'Brien (online) Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM Cr. Alexandra Sangster Cr. Vasilios Tsalkos Cr. Angela Villella Cr Connie Boglis OAM
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Anne Howard, CEO Caroline Buisson, General Manager Customer & Corporate Nina Cullen, General Manager Community (Item 4.1) Rachel Ollivier, General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance (Item 4.4) Vanessa Petrie, General Manager, City Strategy and Sustainability (Item 4.3) Enna Giampiccolo, Executive Manager Governance & Communications (Item 4.2) Jo Smale, Manager Community Services & Development (Item 4.1) Michele Burton Manager Equity & Climate (Item 4.3) Srini Krishnan, Chief Financial Officer (Item 4.4) Kathie Duncan Coordinator Community Inclusion (item 4.1) Jody Brodribb Coordinator Governance Services (Item 4.2)
	<b>External Attendees:</b>	Nil
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		Nil

The Meeting commenced at 5.06pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
4.1	<b>Darebin Neighbourhood House and Darebin Information &amp; Volunteer Resource Service (DIVRS) Funding &amp; Agreements</b>	Cr Tsalkos disclosed a material conflict of interest in this item as he is a board member of the Reservoir Neighbourhood House and left the briefing at 5.08pm. Cr Tsalkos returned at 5.35pm.
4.2	<b>Governance Rules amendment post community engagement</b>	No disclosures were made.
4.3	<b>Proposed Council Advisory Committee Model</b>	No disclosures were made.
4.4	<b>Draft Budget Review</b>	No disclosures were made.
	<b>Council Agenda Review</b>	

The Meeting concluded at 8.45pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b>	Enna Giampiccolo
	<b>Officer Title:</b>	Executive Manager, Governance & Communications



## SUMMARY OF COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS AND OTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

<b>MEETING DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Councillor Briefing Session
	<b>Date:</b>	7 April 2026
	<b>Location:</b>	Conference Room (Hybrid Meeting)
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr. Emily Dimitriadis (Mayor) (Chairperson) Cr. Matt Arturi (Deputy Mayor) (from 6.20pm) Cr. Ruth Jelley Cr Julie O'Brien (online) Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM (online) Cr. Alexandra Sangster (online) Cr. Vasilios Tsalkos Cr. Angela Villella (online)
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Anne Howard, CEO Caroline Buisson, General Manager Customer & Corporate (Item 4.2, 4.3 & 4.4) Nina Cullen, General Manager Community (Item 4.5 & 4.6) Rachel Ollivier, General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance (Item 4.1) Vanessa Petrie, General Manager, City Strategy and Sustainability (Item 4.7, 4.8 & 4.9) Enna Giampiccolo, Executive Manager Governance & Communications Srini Krishnan, Chief Financial Officer (Item 4.1) Dean Gibbons, Head of Financial Planning and Analysis (Item 4.1 & 4.5) Lisa Wheelhouse, Manager Customer & Corporate Performance (Item 4.2, 4.3 & 4.4) Alison Brice, Customer Experience Lead (Item 4.2) Marisa Uwarow, Acting Manager Supported & Connected Living (Item 4.5) Anja Hauenschild, Coordinator Ageing Well (Item 4.5) Jo Smale, Manager Community Services & Development (Item 4.6) Seb Cunningham, Coordinator Community Planning and Initiatives (Item 4.6) Meagan Merritt, Manager City Futures (Item 4.7, 4.8 & 4.9)

		Kevin De Leeuw, Team Leader Transport Strategy and Programs (Item 4.7, 4.8 & 4.9) Vasili Nicolaidis, Team Leader Transport Safety & Access (Item 4.7, 4.8 & 4.9)
	<b>External Attendees:</b>	Nil.
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		Cr Connie Boglis OAM

The Meeting commenced at 4.38pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
4.1	2026-27 Draft Budgeted Waste Charge	No disclosures were made
4.2	2026-27 Draft Budgeted Waste Charge	No disclosures were made
4.3	Strategy Alignment to Our Darebin Plan 2025-29	No disclosures were made
4.4	Tier 1 Priorities Progress – February 2026	No disclosures were made
4.5	Aged Care Service Provision and Performance	No disclosures were made
4.6	Response to NoM Regarding Kindergarten Unmet Demand in Preston West and Expansion Options at JS Grey Reserve Kindergarten	No disclosures were made
4.7	Your Street Your Say Group C Round 2 Engagement	Cr. Ruth Jelley disclosed a general conflict of interest in relation to item 4.7.
4.8	Future of Transport in Darebin	No disclosures were made
4.9	Northern Reservoir Truck Management Plan	No disclosures were made

The Meeting concluded at 8.30pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b>	Enna Giampiccolo
	<b>Officer Title:</b>	Executive Manager, Governance & Communications



## SUMMARY OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS AND OTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

<b>MEETING DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Darebin Interfaith Council
	<b>Date:</b>	04 May 2026
	<b>Location:</b>	Darebin Intercultural Centre, 350 High St, Preston
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr Alexandra Sangster
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Ana Galvez Kathie Duncan Jo Smale Nina Cullen Anne Howard
	<b>Other:</b>	West Preston Baptist Church, Focolare Movement, Victoria Police, Northern Community Church of Christ, Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church, Sikh Interfaith Council of Victoria, Saint George Cathedral Melbourne, Preston Mosque
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		Bahai Community of Darebin, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia, Australian Shia Gathering and Masjid Ahlulbait Mosque, Taste of India, St Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church

The Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country & Apologies Opening Prayer	No disclosures were made
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Past faith-based celebrations attended by Committee members (since last meeting)</li> </ul>	No disclosures were made

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
<b>3</b>	<p>Committee discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared Collective Reflection: “What We’ve Built Together”</li> <li>• A Story Circle - each person to share “A Moment that Changed Me” by being part of the Darebin Interfaith Council</li> <li>• “What Must Continue?”</li> <li>• Closing Ritual Time &amp; Certificates of Appreciation</li> </ul>	<p>No disclosures were made</p> <p>No disclosures were made</p> <p>No disclosures were made</p> <p>No disclosures were made</p>

The Meeting concluded at 7.30 pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<p><b>Officer Name:</b> Officer Ana Galvez</p> <p><b>Officer Title:</b> Community Development Officer – Interfaith &amp; Multicultural</p>
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## SUMMARY OF COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS AND OTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

<b>MEETING DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Councillor Briefing Session
	<b>Date:</b>	5 May 2026
	<b>Location:</b>	Council Chamber (Hybrid Meeting)
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	<p>Cr. Emily Dimitriadis (Mayor) (Chairperson)            Cr. Matt Arturi (Deputy Mayor), until 6.09pm            Cr. Connie Boglis OAM (online)            Cr. Ruth Jelley            Cr Julie O'Brien            Cr. Kristine Olaris OAM            Cr. Alexandra Sangster            Cr. Vasilios Tsalkos (online), until 6.20pm            Cr. Angela Villella</p>
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	<p>Anne Howard, CEO            Caroline Buisson, General Manager Customer &amp; Corporate            Nina Cullen, General Manager Community (Items 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.7),            Rachel Ollivier, General Manager Infrastructure, Operations &amp; Finance            Vanessa Petrie, General Manager, City Strategy &amp; Sustainability (Items 4.5 and 4.6)            Enna Giampiccolo, Executive Manager Governance &amp; Communications            Leah Crossman, Acting Manager Creative Culture &amp; Economic Development (Items 4.1 and 4.2)            Cam Perkins, Head of Economic Development &amp; Activation (Item 4.2)            Melanie McCarten, Manager Recreation &amp; Libraries (Item 4.3)            Suranga Dissakarunaratne Senior Coordinator Recreation &amp; Leisure (Item 4.3)            Marisa Uwarow, Acting Manager Supported &amp; Connected Living (Item 4.4)            Anja Hauenschild, Coordinator Ageing Well (Item 4.4)            Michele Burton, Manager Equity &amp; Climate (Items 4.5 and 4.6)            Ilz Aslan, Senior Coordinator Equity, Inclusion &amp;</p>

		Wellbeing and Partnerships (Items 4.5 and 4.6)
	<b>External Attendees:</b>	Nil.
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		Nil.

The Meeting commenced at 4.30pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
4.1	<b>Proposed Deaccessioning of Fairfield Pavement Mosaics</b>	No disclosures were made
4.2	<b>Engagement Plan for Activity Centre Place Visions</b>	No disclosures were made
4.3	<b>Northcote Tennis Courts Licence Agreement</b>	No disclosures were made
4.4	<b>Proposed Awarding of Delivered Meals Contracts</b>	No disclosures were made
4.5	<b>Community Grants Program 2026-27 proposed approach</b>	No disclosures were made
4.6	<b>Community Advisory Committees – <i>No report discussion only</i></b>	No disclosures were made
4.7	<b>Cr Gaetano Greco Memorial - <i>No report discussion only</i></b>	No disclosures were made

The Meeting concluded at 8.24 pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b>	Enna Giampiccolo
	<b>Officer Title:</b>	Executive Manager, Governance & Communications

**Question and Submission Time – Questions taken on Notice**

At the Council meeting held on 28 April 2026, the following question was taken on notice.

- **Karen Bayly**
- 2. Preston City Oval is the only major central open space. Given Council policy requires active and passive recreation, contemplation, climate resilience and biodiversity, and that in 2023 facilities were removed and 26 mature trees felled, what is the plan to reinstate passive recreation, and when will the 70 replacement trees be planted?

**Response From General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance**

2. You've raised this question with us via a letter to the CEO. Thank you for meeting with us recently to share more about what you are seeking. In general Council replaces trees at end of life and for many years has increased the number of trees across Darebin. In this location it's not clear that we've done this and I am currently looking at this matter in more detail. I aim to respond further by the end of this week.

**Response From General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance post-meeting**

*Council will have a landscape designer and arborist work together to develop an updated planting plan for this location. Council anticipates replacing at least the trees removed by the end of the 2027 planting season and in the 2-3 year period, increasing the number to around twice that over time (subject to detailed planning).*

- **Ninette & Arthur Markulis**
- 1. What action is available to me (as a ratepayer) if I wish to purchase (either part of or in full) a right of way with the adjoining owner and this same neighbour not answering my request for consent, but is trying to obtain the entire Right of Way under Adverse Possession?

**Response From General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance**

1. I would encourage you to consider if you need separate advice or legal advice about this. Council cannot provide you advice about your specific circumstances. What we can do is let you know about actions available via council relating to this matter. I understand that Council's Property Services team has corresponded with you on this matter previously. I will ask for them to follow up again this week to see if there's anything else we can clarify about Council's processes. Council has an established policy governing the sale of rights of way, with further information available on Council's website Purchasing Council property City of Darebin. Council does not support claims of adverse possession; however, where an application has been lodged, the outcome is ultimately determined by Land Use Victoria.

#### **Response From General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance post-meeting**

*The Property Management team contacted the resident on Friday 1 May to discuss their questions. During the call, we stepped through Council's role in this matter and outlined the options available to the resident should they wish to pursue them.*

*The resident expressed appreciation for the follow-up call and was clear on the next steps, should they decide to proceed with the potential purchase of the right of way (ROW) in question.*

- **Serena O'Meley**

#### **FOLLOW UP QUESTION**

Were negotiations entered into with the state government for a diminished sale with ministerial approval because at the moment the data that was given to the Councillors to make this decision appears to be at full market value?

#### **Response From Chair**

This question will be taken on notice.

#### **Response From General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance post-meeting**

*Council's consideration of the Clements Reserve site was informed by independent valuation advice, consistent with standard government land transaction practices.*

*In March 2026, Council engaged the same specialist valuation consultant that prepared the earlier assessment to provide an updated market valuation, taking into account the site's history and constraints. The update identified only minor variations in land value and refreshed previous advice using current sales evidence at the relevant valuation date.*

*The valuation process was undertaken to confirm market value only and was not intended to support renegotiation of sale terms. Existing planning advice and the prior contamination report were considered. As both parties will remediate land within their respective ownership, Council did not enter into negotiations for a diminished value sale and did not seek ministerial approval for such.*

*The updated valuation was provided to Council confidentially before its March 2026 decision.*

## Q3 Councillor Expenses - 1 January 2026 - 31 March 2026

	Cr Arturi (Deputy Mayor 20/11/25)	Cr Boglis	Cr Dimitriadis (Mayor from 20/11/25)	Cr Jelley	Cr O'Brien	Cr Olaris	Cr Sangster	Cr Tsalkos	Cr Villella	Total
										\$
Councillor Allowances	16983	9690	33,967	9690	9690	9690	9690	9690	9690	118,784
Mobile & Laptop (Usage & Data Plan)	123	123	123	123	150	123	123	123		1,009
Travel (Cabcharge/misc travel expenses)		35								35
Family care										-
Conferences (Inc. all related costs/travel/meals/accom)	375	375		375	375	375	375			2,250
Training & Development				9,200		682				9,882
Functions/events										-
Subscription / Memberships										-
Stationary / printing / equipment										-
Mayoral Vehicle			3,562							3,562
Mandatory Councillor Professional Development										-
Councillor Conduct Matters										-
<b>Total net expenses</b>	<b>17,481</b>	<b>10,223</b>	<b>37,652</b>	<b>19,388</b>	<b>10,215</b>	<b>10,870</b>	<b>10,188</b>	<b>9,813</b>	<b>9,690</b>	<b>135,522</b>

**Notes:**

Telephone and internet charges are recorded in the month they are incurred. All other expenses are reported on a cash basis in the month that they are paid.

Amounts rounded to nearest \$

If applicable, GST is excluded

[Further explanation of expense categories is available in the City of Darebin Councillor Support and Expenses Policy 2025.](#)



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# SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Wednesday 18 March 2026 at Darebin Civic Centre, 350 High Street Preston, Ngurungaeta Room, (Council Chamber)

Summary minutes released to the public on 26 May 2026.

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**WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 2026 - 2.00PM - DAREBIN CIVIC CENTRE  
350 HIGH STREET PRESTON NGURUNGAETA ROOM (COUNCIL  
CHAMBER)**

**Committee Members**

- Ms Lisa Tripodi – Independent External Member and Chairperson
- Dr Marco Bini – Independent External Member
- Mr Jonathan Kyvelidis – Independent External Member
- Cr Emily Dimitriadis – Mayor / Councillor Member
- Cr Vasilios Tsalkos – Councillor Member ^

**Attendees**

**Internal Auditor – NTT**

- Pat Scanlon – Partner, NTT

**External Auditors**

- Nick Bell – CEO, RSD Audit \*

**Officers**

- Anne Howard – Chief Executive Officer
- Caroline Buisson – General Manager Customer & Corporate
- Nina Cullen – General Manager Community
- Rachel Ollivier – General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance
- Vanessa Petrie – General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy
- Enna Giampiccolo – Exec. Manager, Governance, Risk and Communication
- Kimmie Pham – Risk Advisor
- Lalitha Koya – Chief Information Officer (Item 8.4)
- Winston Fernando – Cyber Security & Compliance Specialist (Item 8.4)
- Jeanne Poustie – Manager, Supported and Connected Living (Item 8.6)
- Anja Hauenschield – Coordinator Ageing Well (Item 8.6)
- Srini Krishnan – Chief Financial Officer (Items 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4)
- Dean Gibbons – Head of Financial Planning and Analysis (Item 9.4)
- Rosie Ferreira – FOI and Integrity Officer (Item 11.2)
- Alicia Schulz – Chief People Officer (Item 11.3)
- Keith McKellar – Manager Operations & Waste (Item 12.2)

**Observers**

- Cr Kristine Olaris – Councillor \*

**Minutes**

- Tristan Glennon – Audit & Compliance Officer (minutes)

\* These participants attended virtually

^ Apology

## 1. WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The CEO gave an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed the Committee members, and all attendees and observers present at the meeting.

## 2. IN-CAMERA

*There was no In-Camera session held.*

## 3. APOLOGIES

*The Chair opened the meeting at 2:05pm*

Apologies:

- Cr Vasilios Tsalkos – Councillor Member
- Jared Lingard – Coordinator Audit and Risk

## 4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No Conflicts of Interest declared.

## 5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 10 December 2025, as approved out-of-session, were noted.

## 6. CONFIRMATION OF MEETING AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed.

Committee members were provided written responses to queries received prior to the meeting which were reviewed as each report was tabled.

## 7. CONFIDENTIALITY

The Committee noted the confidentiality statement included in the agenda.

## 8. STANDING REPORTS

### 8.1 ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The Audit and Risk Committee noted the status of the action items from previous meetings.

**AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES**

**18 MARCH 2026**

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**KEY FINDING**

- Management will continue to work towards the completion of the open actions and provide an update at the 17 June 2026 meeting.

**8.2 CEO REPORT**

The Audit and Risk Committee noted the CEO Report.

**KEY FINDING**

- The Committee received a quarterly update from the Chief Executive Officer on matters including emerging risks, governance, finance, workplace and compliance matters.

**8.3 REGULATORY SERVICES: INFRINGEMENTS, ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE UPDATE**

The Audit and Risk Committee noted the Regulatory Services: Infringements, Enforcement & Compliance Update report.

**8.4 INFORMATION SERVICES REPORT**

The Audit and Risk Committee noted the Information Services Report.

**KEY FINDINGS**

- Management will continue to monitor and report on information services risk management, projects and ICT & Digital Strategy implementation.
- 2025/26 Information Services projects are addressing key risks including Cyber Security, IT Disaster Recovery and Data Governance.

**8.5 DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION REPORT**

The Audit and Risk Committee noted the Digital Transformation Report.

**KEY FINDING**

- Management have progressed the planning for Digital Transformation to ensure the approach is adequate, planning is completed and council has insights into key areas of focus required to ensure successful preparation and technology selection.

**8.6 AGED CARE SERVICE PROVISION AND PERFORMANCE**

The Audit and Risk Committee:

- 1) Noted the Aged Care Service Provision and Performance report, and
- 2) Provided feedback on the information that will be provided to the Committee for information, on an ongoing basis.

**KEY FINDING**

- Supported and Connected Living are following good practice by presenting the Responsible Persons report to the Audit and Risk Committee.

**9. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**9.1 FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Audit and Risk Committee noted the Quarterly Financial Report, including:

**AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES**

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- 1) the Financial report for the (6) months ended 31 December 2025 (Appendix A) and Supplementary report (Appendix B)
- 2) the Capital Works Status Update Q2 2025-26 (Appendix C)
- 3) quarter two update of the Operating Projects program (Appendix D)

**KEY FINDING**

- Council is monitoring and managing its financial position, key controls and addressing procurement capability and compliance.

**9.2 DRAFT FIXED ASSETS POLICY**

The Audit and Risk Committee noted the Draft Fixed Assets Policy report.

**9.3 2025-26 ASSET VALUATION UPDATE**

The Audit and Risk Committee noted the 2025-26 Asset Valuation Update report.

**9.4 DRAFT 2027-2035 BUDGET UPDATE**

The Audit and Risk Committee noted the progress update and the next steps to completion of the draft 2026-27 Budget.

**10. EXTERNAL AUDIT**

**10.1 VAGO EXTERNAL AUDIT STRATEGY 2025-26**

The Audit and Risk Committee noted the Audit Strategy Memorandum – Darebin City Council for the financial year ending 30 June 2026.

**KEY FINDING**

- VAGO Service Provider: RSD Audit on behalf of the Victorian Auditor General's Office will deliver the external audit of Darebin City Council for the year ending 30 June 2026.

**11. RISK MANAGEMENT**

**11.1 RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT**

The Audit and Risk Committee noted the Risk Management Report, including:

- 1) Review of Darebin Council's Risk Profile
- 2) Key Metrics reported in the Compliance Report (Appendix A)
- 3) Council's insurance renewal
- 4) Insurance Claims
- 5) Systems and Processes that Monitor Compliance with Legislation and Regulations

**KEY FINDINGS**

- Management is progressing the update on strategic risks and risk appetite statements.
- Management is monitoring and reporting key metrics including Freedom of Information Requests, Privacy Impact Assessments, Privacy Breaches, Cyber Incidents, Fraud Allegations, Policies and Mandatory Training.
- Management has provided an update on systems and processes to monitor compliance with legislation and regulations.

## 11.2 RISK REPORT – FRAUD & CORRUPTION CONTROLS

The Audit and Risk Committee noted the annual Fraud and Corruption Indicators and Detection Review.

### KEY FINDING

- Management has provided an update on systems and controls in place to manage fraud and corruption risks.

## 11.3 SAFETY REPORT

The Audit and Risk Committee noted the Safety Report.

### KEY FINDING

- Management has measures in place to support and monitor health, safety and wellbeing across the workforce.

## 11.4 REVIEW OF EXPENSES AND REGISTERS

The Audit and Risk Committee noted the Review of Expenses and Registers report, including:

- 1) Review Report on Gifts, Benefits, and Hospitality; Interstate or Overseas Travel
- 2) Review of Councillor Expenses
- 3) Review of CEO Credit Card Transactions

### KEY FINDINGS

- Management has controls in place to oversee and report on offers and receipt of Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality.
- Management has controls in place to oversee and report on Councillor Expenses.
- CEO Credit Card transactions are in accordance with relevant policies and reflect appropriate expenditure.

## 12. INTERNAL AUDIT

### 12.1 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRAM STATUS, CONTRACT & SIAP

*Based on discussion by Committee members, the recommendation as included in the agenda was modified as follows and resolved.*

The Audit and Risk Committee:

- Noted the Internal Audit Program Status report.
- Noted the Review of Internal Audit Contract.
- Endorsed the proposal to remove the 'Governance' review from the annual audit program.
- Endorsed year one of the 'Strategic Internal Audit Plan – 2026 to 2029' with Committee feedback to be incorporated into an updated plan to years two and three.
- Endorsed the ToR - Budget Model Review.

### KEY FINDINGS

- Delivery of the annual internal audit program continues to be a challenge, but officers are working to ensure that all audits are completed prior to the June 2026 Committee meeting.
- Council is tendering for new Internal Audit Service Providers.
- A draft 3-year Strategic Internal Audit Plan (FY2026/27 to FY2028/29) has been developed for consideration by the committee.

**AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES**

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**12.2 COMPLETED INTERNAL AUDITS**

The Audit and Risk Committee noted the:

- Completed Internal Audits Report
- Follow-up of Internal Audit Recommendations Report
- Emergency Management Internal Audit Report

**KEY FINDING**

- The 2025/2026 Internal Audit Program will continue to be delivered with updates provided at each meeting.

**12.3 OUTSTANDING AUDIT ACTIONS STATUS REPORT**

The Audit and Risk Committee noted the Outstanding Audit Actions Status Report.

**KEY FINDING**

- Management is progressing the completion of outstanding audit actions.

**13. GOVERNANCE**

**13.1 COMMITTEE MANAGEMENT REPORT**

The Audit and Risk Committee noted the Committee Management Report.

**13.2 COMMITTEE WORKPLAN STATUS REPORT**

The Audit and Risk Committee noted the Committee Workplan Status Report.

**14. OTHER BUSINESS**

*Nil.*

**15. COMMITTEE MEMBER CONFERENCE**

*Not required.*

**16. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Audit Committee will be held at 2.00pm on Wednesday 17 June 2026.

**17. CLOSE OF MEETING**

As there was no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 5:28pm.

**10. ITEMS TO BE TABLED**

Nil

**11. NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil

**12. URGENT BUSINESS**

### 13. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL

In accordance with Section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council may resolve to close the meeting to members of the public to consider the following items, deemed to be confidential in accordance with Section 3(1) of the Act for the reasons indicated:

#### 13.1 Strategic Biodiversity Corridor Opportunity

This item is designated confidential because it is Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released, pursuant to Section 3(1) (a) of the Act.

#### 13.2 CEO Performance Review

This item is designated confidential because it relates to personal information, pursuant to Section 3(1) (f) of the Act.

### CLOSE OF MEETING

**Recommendation**

**That** in accordance with section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council resolves to close the meeting to members of the public to consider the matters are confidential in accordance with Section 3(1) of the Act.

### RE-OPENING OF MEETING

**Recommendation**


That the meeting be re-opened to the members of the public.

### 14. CLOSE OF MEETING

**CITY OF  
DAREBIN**  
274 Gower Street, Preston  
PO Box 91, Preston, Vic 3072  
T 8470 8888 F 8470 8877  
E [mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au](mailto:mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au)  
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T 8470 8470

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