Merri-bek City Council

COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday 14 October 2026

Commencing 6.30 pm

Bunjil (Council Chamber), Merri-bek Civic Centre,
90 Bell Street, Coburg

Language Link

This is the Agenda for the Council meeting. For assistance with any of the agenda items, please telephone 9240 1111.

這是市政會會議的議程。您若在理解議程中有需要協助的地方，請打電話給“語言連接 (Language Link)”翻譯服務，號碼9280 1910。

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D26/451662

Acknowledgement of the traditional custodians of the City of Merri-bek

Merri-bek City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waterways in the area now known as Merri-bek, and pays respect to their elders past, present, and emerging, as well as to all First Nations communities who significantly contribute to the life of the area.

Information about Council Meetings

These notes have been developed to help people better understand Council meetings. All meetings are conducted in accordance with Council's Governance Rules.

WELCOME The Mayor, who chairs the meeting, formally opens the meeting.

APOLOGIES Where a Councillor is not present, their absence is noted in the minutes of the meeting. Council may also approve leaves of absence in this part of the meeting.

DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS INTERESTS A Councillor has a duty to disclose any direct or indirect financial or other interests, they may have in any matter to be considered by Council that evening.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES The minutes of the previous meeting are put before Council to confirm the accuracy and completeness of the record.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND OTHER MATTERS At each Council Meeting provision of 10 minutes will be made in the Agenda for the Mayor and Councillors to acknowledge and recognise achievements of local individuals and organisations; and raise matters considered important to Council.

PETITIONS Council receives petitions from citizens on various issues. Council formally accepts petitions at Council meetings.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME This is an opportunity (30 minutes), for citizens of Merri-bek to raise questions with Councillors.

COUNCIL REPORTS Council officers prepare detailed reports, which are considered by Councillors and a Council position is adopted on the matters considered. The Mayor can invite firstly Councillors, secondly Officers, and then citizens in attendance to identify Council reports which should be given priority by the meeting and considered in the early part of the meeting.

NOTICES OF MOTION A motion which has been submitted to the Chief Executive Officer no later than 12 pm (noon) 10 business days prior to the meeting which is intended to be included in the agenda. The motion should outline the policy, financial and resourcing implications.

NOTICE OF RESCISSION A Councillor may propose a motion to rescind a resolution of the Council, provided the previous resolution has not been acted on, and a notice is delivered to the CEO or delegate setting out the resolution to be rescinded and the meeting and date when the resolution was carried. If a motion for rescission is lost, a similar motion may not be put before the Council for at least one month from the date it was last lost, unless the Council resolves that the notice of motion be re-listed at a future meeting.

FORESHADOWED ITEMS This is an opportunity for Councillors to raise items proposed to be submitted as Notices of Motion at future meetings.

URGENT BUSINESS The Chief Executive Officer or Councillors, with the approval of the meeting, may submit items of Urgent Business (being a matter not listed on the agenda) but requiring a prompt decision by Council.

CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS Whilst all Council meetings of Council are open to the public, Council has the power under the *Local Government Act 2020* to close its meeting to the public in certain circumstances which are noted where appropriate on the Council Agenda. Where this occurs, members of the public leave the Council Chamber or Meeting room while the matter is being discussed.

CLOSE OF MEETING The Mayor will formally close the meeting and thank all present.

NEXT MEETING DATE The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 11 November 2026 commencing at 6.30 pm, in the Bunjil (Council Chamber), Merri-bek Civic Centre, 90 Bell Street, Coburg. The next Planning and Related Matters meeting will be held on Wednesday 28 October 2026 commencing at 6.30 pm.

WELCOME

1. APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

3. MINUTE CONFIRMATION

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9 September 2026 be confirmed.

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND OTHER MATTERS

5. PETITIONS

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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9. NOTICE OF RESCISSION

Nil

10. FORESHADOWED ITEMS

11. URGENT BUSINESS

12. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

12.1 PROCUREMENT EXEMPTION: EXE-2026-46: SEMI-AUTOMATED PUBLIC TOILETS

Pursuant to section 3(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 this report has been designated as confidential because it relates to Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.

7. COUNCIL REPORTS

7.1 2025-26 MERRI-BEK CITY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

Director Community, Eamonn Fennessy

Customer, Communications and Engagement

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Formally receives the Merri-bek City Council Annual Report 2025-26, provided as Attachment 1.
2. Authorises the Director Community to make minor changes to the report if required.

REPORT

Executive Summary

The Merri-bek City Council Annual Report 2025-26 contains Council's audited Financial and Performance Statements and provides information on Council operations and services delivered to and for the community for the 2025-26 financial year.

The report, at **Attachment 1**, contains the key highlights and achievements of Council for the year, including progress against the Council Plan.

Previous Council Decisions

Merri-bek City Council Annual Report 2024-25 – 8 October 2025

That Council:

1. Receives the Merri-bek City Council Annual Report 2024-25

…

1. Policy Context

Sections 98, 99 and 100 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 provide the statutory framework for Council to prepare and consider its annual report for 2025-26.

2. Background

The Merri-bek City Council Annual Report 2025-26, at **Attachment 1**, contains the audited Financial and Performance Statements. Council's Audit and Risk Committee recommended to Council that the Financial and Performance Statements be adopted in principle and subsequently at the Council meeting on 9 September 2026,Council approved in principle the Financial and Performance Statements.

The annual report meets the State Government's performance reporting framework that became mandatory from 1 July 2014. All councils are required to report results as part of their annual reporting requirements. The framework was introduced to ensure all councils measure and report on their performance in a consistent way.

3. Issues

The intent of the annual report is to inform the Merri-bek community and stakeholders of Council's performance in 2025-26 against the strategic indicators, major initiatives, and priorities outlined in the Council Plan 2025-29 and any other key highlights or legislated requirements as prescribed.

Community impact

The annual report is a statutory obligation. It will be available on request from Merri-bek City Council offices, libraries and on our website.

Climate emergency and environmental sustainability implications

There are no climate emergency or environmental sustainability implications associated with this report.

Economic sustainability implications

There are no economic sustainability implications associated with this report.

Legal and risk considerations

There are no legal and risk considerations applicable.

Human Rights Consideration

The implications of this report have been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities.

4. Community consultation and engagement

The annual report will be available on request at Council offices and libraries and published on Council's website.

5. Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Council officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest in this matter.

6. Financial and Resources Implications

The funds required to prepare and publish Merri-bek Council's Annual Report 2025-26 are included in Council's approved operating budget.

7. Implementation

The Annual Report will be published on Council's website on or after 15 October 2026.

Attachment/s

1⇩ Annual Report 2025-26 D26/451117

Merri-bek City Council

Merri-bek City Council Annual Report 2025-26

Welcome

About this report

This annual report documents Merri-bek City Council's performance within 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026, which is the 2025-26 financial year. The Local Government Act 2020 requires all local councils to report on their performance every year. This document is our full annual report.

We want you to know the range of services we delivered for our community, and how we helped you deal with challenges. You can find our annual report on our website at merri-bek.vic.gov.au/annual-reports

In this report we use 'First Peoples' and 'First Nations' to refer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We understand these terms are evolving and may change over time.

Acknowledgement of Country

Merri-bek City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waterways in the area now known as Merri-bek. We pay respect to their Elders past, present, and emerging, as well as to all First Nations communities who significantly contribute to the life of the area.

Council Plan

Our Council Plan 2025-29 is the guiding document for this annual report.

To view our Council Plan, please:

- visit merri-bek.vic.gov.au/council-plan
- call us on 9240 1111
- visit one of our customer service centres or libraries.

We also welcome your feedback on this annual report. You can:

- call us on 9240 1111
- TTY on 133 677
- Voice Relay on 1300 555 727 and ask for (03) 9240 1111
- email us at info@merri-bek.vic.gov.au
- send us a direct message on Facebook @merribekcitycouncil
- write to us at Locked Bag 10, Brunswick, Victoria 3056.

Our Customer Service Centres are open from 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

- Coburg Civic Centre, Woi-wurrung Country, 90 Bell Street, Coburg
- Brunswick Customer Service Centre, Woi-wurrung Country, 233 Sydney Road, Brunswick

- *Glenroy Customer Service Centre, Glenroy Community Hub, Woi-wurrung Country, 50 Wheatsheaf Road, Glenroy.*

You can also follow us on:

- *Facebook (@merribekcitycouncil)*
- *Instagram (@merri_bekcitycouncil)*
- *LinkedIn (Merri-bek City Council)*

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Mayor's message

This annual report outlines Council's achievements and performance during 2025–26. Guided by our Community Vision, which reflects the voices of our community, we worked together to shape a Merri-bek that celebrates diversity, cares for its environment and neighbourhoods, and acts on the issues that matter.

It has been an honour to serve as your Mayor this year and to work with Councillors to support our Community Vision: Merri-bek leads and leaves no one behind. Throughout 2025–26, we continued to build a more inclusive and connected community. Programs such as Community Connectors helped share important information with people from different cultural backgrounds, while Help at Home and Personal Care supported older people to live independently for longer.

One of the highlights of the year was the launch of Coburg is Here, Council's plan for the future of central Coburg. The plan includes new public spaces, a new library and public square, more housing options, improved shopping and business areas, and greener streets. It will help Coburg grow while keeping the character and diversity that make it unique.

We also continued to focus on sustainability and caring for the environment. The Brunswick Community Battery was launched to store renewable energy and help support lower household energy costs. Through the A Park Close to Home program, a new park opened in York Street, Pascoe Vale, and planning continued for a new park in Brunswick.

Council also advocated for the needs of our growing community, including better public transport, safer streets, affordable housing, quality sporting facilities and more green open spaces.

Throughout the year, I saw people from many different backgrounds working together and contributing to community life in Merri-bek.

I thank our residents, volunteers, community organisations, local businesses, Council staff and fellow Councillors for their contributions during the year. It has been great to see the many things that make Merri-bek such a welcoming, diverse and vibrant community.

Cr Nat Abboud
MAYOR

Chief Executive Officer's message

I am delighted to have joined Merri-bek as Chief Executive Officer and to serve our diverse and vibrant community. With our Council Plan setting the direction for the years ahead, I look forward to working closely with our Councillors, staff, and community to deliver our shared priorities and achieve great outcomes by working together across Merri-bek.

Throughout 2025–26, Council continued to deliver the essential services our community relies on every day. Some of the year's key highlights include:

- **56,472 meals delivered,** *helping residents to live well and independently at home*
- **3,087 trees planted** *across streets and open spaces, contributing to a greener and cooler Merri-bek*
- **733,319 library visits** *and* **1,298,393 library loans,** *connecting our community with learning, information and resources*
- **48,173 attendances at library programs,** *creating opportunities to learn, connect and participate*
- **34,679 kilometres of streets swept,** *helping keep our neighbourhoods clean and welcoming*
- **11,341 reports of illegally dumped rubbish managed,** *and* **1,635 graffiti reports responded to,** *supporting attractive and desirable neighbourhood amenity*
- **123,344 public bins emptied,** *helping maintain cleaner streets, parks and public spaces*
- **1,127,488 attendances at Active Merri-bek aquatic and leisure centres,** *supporting community health and wellbeing*
- **29,069 tonnes of kerbside waste diverted from landfill,** *including 16,968 tonnes of food and garden organics, 10,048 tonnes of commingled recycling and 2,054 tonnes of glass*
- **6,082 children and families supported** *through life changing Maternal and Child Health services*
- **12,847 vaccinations administered** *to children and young people across 175 immunisation sessions, supporting the health of our community.*

As well as delivering these core services, we stayed financially responsible by maintaining a strong focus on sustainable financial management, while continuing to invest in projects and infrastructure that matter to our community. This included delivering community-led initiatives identified through Community Budget Ideas and advancing major projects that will benefit Merri-bek for years to come.

We continued to invest in community infrastructure and public spaces, committing **$12.5 million** *to the Brunswick Early Years Hub, which is under construction, and progressing plans for the* **$60 million Coburg Library and Piazza.**

This year also marked an important milestone with the adoption of our **Community Vision 2025–2035** *and* **Council Plan 2025–2029** *in September 2025, setting a clear roadmap for Merri-bek over the coming years.*

To all our residents, ratepayers, volunteers, local traders and community organisations – thank you for your continued support. Your involvement strengthens our work and helps us create a better Merri-bek for all.

Kate McCaughey
Chief Executive Officer

About our municipality

Here we talk about our municipality, how we are meeting the challenges we face and our focus for the future.

About Merri-bek

Merri-bek is a diverse and welcoming community in Melbourne's north, between 4 and 14 kilometres from the city centre.

Merri-bek is bordered by:

- *Merri Creek in the east*
- *Moonee Ponds Creek in the west*
- *Park Street in the south*
- *The Western Ring Road in the north*

The City of Merri-bek includes these suburbs:

- *Brunswick*
- *Brunswick East*
- *Brunswick West*
- *Coburg*
- *Coburg North*
- *Fawkner*
- *Fitzroy North (part)*
- *Glenroy*
- *Gowanbrae*
- *Hadfield*
- *Oak Park*
- *Parkville (part)*
- *Pascoe Vale*
- *Pascoe Vale South*
- *Tullamarine (part)*

Merri-bek is home to people from many different cultures and backgrounds. It is a vibrant place to live, work and visit.

Challenges and future outlook

A growing population

By 2051, our municipality is expected to have a population of 256,000. We are continuing to plan for the services needed to support new residents, and greater pressure on infrastructure.

We have strategies on our key challenges:

- *transport and how we move around our city*
- *maintaining and increasing parks and open spaces*
- *reaching our zero carbon targets by 2040*
- *housing accessibility and affordability.*

A diverse population

In 2021, 33% of our residents were born overseas. At home, residents are most likely to speak Italian, Arabic, Greek or Urdu if not speaking English. In total, 35% of households in our community speak a language other than English at home (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021).

In 2025, there were an estimated 16,791 total registered businesses in Merri-bek, with Health Care and Social Assistance as the largest employers, together generating 10,303 local jobs in 2025.

Through our Community Connector program, we recruit volunteers to help facilitate meaningful engagement and communication between Council and our culturally diverse communities. Our Connectors ask our community what information they need, share information from Council and tell us how to improve our messages and translations. This year, Council piloted a Youth Connectors program, which is now integrated into the wider Connectors program.

Merri-bek households

People who live alone make up the largest proportion of households with 28% in our municipality, followed by couples with children making up 26% of households (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021).

We have also seen a steady increase in townhouse and apartment living in recent years (in 2021, 48% of all homes).

We are working for the best possible planning outcomes for our community. We are focusing on higher quality building design, increased canopy tree planting, redevelopment that maintains or increases local employment opportunities and protecting our valued heritage places.

How we move around

Overreliance on cars poses challenges for our city when it comes to getting people to work, education or leisure safely and sustainably. About 3 in 4 homes in Merri-bek are within a 5-minute walk of public transport, yet private car use accounts for more 25 per cent of carbon emissions in our municipality. This indicates that those 5-minute walks aren't always convenient, and as our population grows, this challenge becomes more prevalent. It is important that we work to create safer and easier-to-use streets so people can choose to walk, ride, or catch public transport safely and conveniently to reduce those transport-related carbon emissions.

Open space

In parts of Merri-bek, residents do not have access to public open space that they can walk to. Forecast population growth will continue to put pressure on access to open space. Our A Park Close to Home initiative aims to ensure every Merri-bek resident lives within 500m walking distance to a park or open space, and within 300m for those living in our most populated areas. Through this initiative we purchase land to turn into parks – including Yubup Park at Frith Street, Brunswick and Michelle Guglielmo Park at Sydney Road, Brunswick – helping ensure all residents have access to quality open space close to where they work, live and play. Throughout 2025-26,

we have delivered a new park at York Street in Pascoe Vale, and have begun design on a park at 568 Sydney Road in Brunswick.

Merri-bek has over 133 existing public playgrounds and we are responsible for upgrading and renewing these important community assets for the future. This year we upgraded 6 parks and created a new dog park at Sewell Reserve.

The climate crisis

Global heating is significantly affecting the people and local places we love — our families, homes, parks, waterways and wildlife. We are experiencing more extreme heat days, heavier rainfall and more frequent storms. This more extreme weather is impacting our health and wellbeing, the cost of household goods, the urgency of upgrades to community buildings, and disrupting community services and events.

Merri-bek is proud to be a local government leader in responding to the threat and impacts of an increasingly volatile climate. Across our municipality, the main sources of climate pollution come from coal and gas fired electricity (36%), gas (26%), transport (22%), waste (7%) and industrial processing (9%). We have ambitious goals to cut greenhouse gas emissions of Council and our community by 2030. So far, Council has reduced its own operational emissions by 64%.

We are also supporting our residents, including low-income households, to install rooftop solar, draught-proofing and insulation, and make the switch to energy efficient electric appliances. These upgrades make homes healthier, more comfortable and save on energy bills and climate pollution.

And of course, we continue to call on State and Federal governments to put in place the policies and investments that match the scale and urgency of the challenge.

Together, we can protect the people and local places we love, and create more resilient communities for generations to come.

Support for older people

We are committed to supporting our older residents to live and age well, remain independent at home for as long as possible, and stay connected to their community. This commitment is guided by our Living and Ageing Well Framework.

The aged care sector continued to experience significant reform during 2025-26, including the commencement of the new Aged Care Act on 1 November 2025. The Australian Government also announced that Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) services will continue until 30 June 2029, providing greater certainty for older people and service providers.

These reforms provide a clearer pathway for the future delivery of aged care services. Council will continue delivering CHSP services that support older residents to live safely and independently at home, while advocating for local, accessible services that meet the changing needs of our ageing community.

Achievements of the year

Here is a summary of our achievements for the past year under the five themes from our Council Plan 2026-29.

Theme 1: Care for nature and climate resilience

Council progressed key Council Plan priorities by delivering tree planting, biodiversity, integrated water management and community climate action initiatives to support a greener and more climate-resilient Merri-bek. During the year, we started our annual tree planting program with a goal of planting 2,800 trees. We also launched the Tree for Me pilot program to support tree planting in schools, retirement villages and home gardens. Council worked with community partners to encourage more people to get involved in planting trees.

We continued projects to improve biodiversity and manage water more sustainably. This included planting native plants at five locations, progressing stormwater and wetland projects, and including sustainable water design in planning for Coburg and Brunswick. Council also supported the Lizards with Bikes project, which transformed the Coburg Velodrome underpass with a new mural and landscaping.

Council also helped the community take action on climate change through energy efficiency and sustainability programs. Through the Home Energy Subsidy Program, 12 low-income households received energy-efficient home upgrades and three households received solar panel systems. More households are continuing to take part in the program.

These projects helped make Merri-bek greener, healthier and more resilient for the future.

Theme 2: Healthy and inclusive communities

We continued to support the wellbeing of the community and make sure people have opportunities to take part in community life. During the year, more than 400 young people shared their ideas to help us plan future free spaces where young people can meet, learn and spend time together. Council also supported the Take the Lead program, which helped young women build confidence, challenge gender stereotypes and promote respectful relationships.

Council expanded support for older residents and other community members who need extra assistance. The Outdoor Help Program supported 427 older residents, while the Age Well Program provided personalised support to 275 residents and connected with hundreds more people through community events and activities. Work also continued on important community facilities, including the Brunswick Early Years Hub.

We continued to work with First Peoples, community organisations and service providers to support a more inclusive and connected community. Initiatives included support for affordable housing, homelessness services and Library Social Work programs. More than 250 people attended Ballerrt Mooroop Day, celebrating the return of the site to Wurundjeri ownership and an important step towards First Peoples self-determination.

These programs and partnerships helped create a stronger, more inclusive and supportive community for everyone in Merri-bek.

Theme 3: Beautiful and liveable city

Aligned with Council Plan priorities to create safe, accessible and vibrant public spaces and support active and sustainable transport, Council invested in parks, streets and community infrastructure across Merri-bek. During the year, Council delivered upgrades to Gervase Reserve and H.M. Dowd Reserve, completed a new local park in Pascoe Vale through the Park Close to Home Program, and upgraded Gilpin Dog Park through the Community Budget Ideas program.

Amenity and safety improvements were also delivered across Merri-bek's public spaces, including the installation of 16 new in-ground market umbrellas in Victoria Mall in partnership with local businesses to increase shade and enhance the visitor experience. Hooning prevention measures were also implemented across reserve car parks in Glenroy and Hadfield, with detailed design work progressing to incorporate increased tree canopy, integrated water management, and water-sensitive urban design into future upgrades.

Active and sustainable transport initiatives continued to expand across the municipality, with the largest Ride & Stride e-bike subsidy program to date supporting more than 119 families. Active travel initiatives continued across 16 schools, Open Streets programs were delivered at five schools, and more than 20 Home-to-Street electric vehicle charging installations were completed to support the transition to lower-emission transport options.

Theme 4: Thriving economy and culture

Supporting a thriving economy and culture is a key Council Plan priority. Council continues to support local businesses, shopping areas, and creative industries, helping make Merri-bek a great place to live, work and visit. During the year, we ran workshops and networking events for businesses, helped businesses with permits and approvals, and continued improvement projects in Coburg and Glenroy. We also worked with RMIT University and Creative Victoria to deliver Melbourne Design Week in the Brunswick Design District. A new online directory was created to promote more than 100 creative businesses and creative spaces in Merri-bek.

We improved local shopping strips and community spaces. Streetscape improvement projects progressed in Hadfield and other activity centres, and we adopted the Places for People Plan, which sets out a long-term vision for high-quality public spaces, vibrant shopping areas, and welcoming community places.

Art and culture remained an important part of community life in Merri-bek. During the year, Council delivered five new public art projects featuring local and First Peoples artists. These projects celebrated creativity, strengthened community pride, and helped create welcoming public spaces for everyone.

Theme 5: Engaging and responsible council

Advocacy remained a key focus throughout the year, with Council working alongside State and Federal Governments, regional alliances, and sector partners to progress shared priorities. Council strengthened relationships with government and key partners to advocate for improved transport, community infrastructure funding, climate resilience, support for businesses and jobs and community cohesion. It published its 2026 Victorian State Election Advocacy Priorities, contributed to government inquiries and consultations, and secured $17,709,731 in nonrecurrent grant funding in 2025-26.

The Community Connectors Program expanded Council's reach and engagement with Merri-bek's diverse communities, with 20 Community Connectors representing more than 11 communities

and languages sharing Council information through trusted local networks. During the year, the program shared more than 180 multilingual Council messages, reached an audience of more than 65,000 community members, and contributed to increased participation across Council initiatives, including a 42% increase in multicultural participation in the Community Budget Ideas process and a 45% increase in kindergarten enrolments from multicultural families through targeted in-language communications.

Council has also conducted several major community engagement pieces throughout 2025-26, including engagement on the new $60 million Coburg Library and Piazza, the Coburg is Here framework, fortnightly rubbish collections, and the Local Law Review 2026.

Organisational resilience and long-term planning also advanced through climate risk management and financial sustainability initiatives that will inform future investment and decision-making. Detailed design and delivery planning for the Breese Street precinct improvements also progressed following Council's endorsement of the preferred concept design.

Financial overview

The 'Financial Report' section in this report includes comprehensive financial statements. These were prepared in accordance with relevant accounting standards and legislative requirements.

Some stakeholders and community members may find these detailed financial statements difficult to read and understand. This overview aims to simplify the key information about our financial performance for the financial year between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026.

Operating income

Our total income for the year was $283.4 million.

This was an increase in income of $2.4 million compared to 2024-25. This was largely due to the growth in rates income and an increase in grant income. Our major source of income is rates and charges, which generated 72.4% of our total income ($205.2 million).

Other major sources of income included:

- *government grants of $29.6 million (or 10.4% of total income)*
- *user fees and statutory fees and fines of $29.3 million (or 10.3% of total income).*

Operating expenses

Our total operating expenses for the year were $256.6 million.

The largest fraction of this was employee costs. This was $121.6 million (47.4% of total expenses). The next biggest cost was materials and services of $80.9 million (31.5% of total expenses).

The key figure to look at is the surplus or deficit for the year. The accounting surplus or deficit is the total revenue less the total expenses. We are reporting an accounting surplus of $26.9 million for the financial year. It is important to note that this accounting surplus is not spare money that builds up in the bank.

While Council may be generating a healthy accounting surplus, this is used to fund other items in our operations. This includes loan principal repayments, transfers to reserves to fund future projects, and rates-funded projects in the capital works program.

Council had an underlying surplus of $18.2 million. This surplus is required to contribute towards our rates-funded capital works program, transfers to reserves and loan repayments.

Reserves are already committed to future capital works expenditure or other important one-off items.

The underlying operating result is an important measure of financial sustainability. This measure demonstrates Council's ability to self-fund its operations and excludes funding relating to the capital works program.

Financial position in 2025-2026 financial year

Like all Victorian Councils, Merri-bek operates in a financially constrained environment shaped by rate capping, rising service delivery and construction costs, cost shifting from other levels of government, increasing community expectations, climate and infrastructure pressures, and the need to renew and maintain a substantial asset base. This annual report includes the audited 30 June 2026 Financial and Performance Statements.

The 30 June Financial Statements identify and inform financial sustainability measures including:

- *A reduction in unrestricted cash of $5.1 million (33%) which is the lowest in the past 5-year period. A key contributor to the lower cash position is a significant increase in rates arrears. Rates arrears increased by 3.3 million or 11.8% (excluding emergency services volunteer funds levies), which is the largest increase since the pandemic.*

The income statement shows that Council had an accounting surplus of 26.9 million for the period ending 30 June 2026. However, it is important to note that this includes items such as non-cash contributions, capital grants, loan redemptions and committed capital or operational expenditure for future years. The adjusted underlying surplus is $21.6 million which removes capital grants and contributions, non-monetary, from the accounting surplus. An unrestricted deficit of $2.9 million. The unrestricted deficit excludes non-cash items included in the accounting surplus, loan repayments, capital expenditure and committed funding requirements. This reflects the compounding financial pressures, meaning that Council has spent more than it earned in that year.

Operating expenditure profile for 2025-26

Operating Category	Percentage
Asset depreciation	16.9%
Administration	13.4%
Waste collection and recycling	10.6%
Aged, disability and socials services	7.5%
Parks and street trees	7.3%
Local laws and regulations	6.6%
Planning and economic development	5.0%
Arts, culture and libraries	4.6%
Systems and communications	3.7%
Governance	2.9%
Health and immunisation	2.9%
Customer service	2.8%
Street cleansing	2.7%
Youth and children's services	2.2%
Asset maintenance	2.1%
Roads and footpaths	1.9%
Recreation and leisure	1.7%
Sustainable communities and environment	1.5%
Capital works	1.4%
Transport	1.4%
Asset management	0.5%
Property services	0.4%
Grand Total	**100.0%**

Capital expenses

Our total completed capital expenditure for the year was $63.7 million. We continued to have a significant capital works carry forward, $41.1 million, into 2026-2027. This is a primary focus for us to deliver the 2026-27 capital works program while minimising any future carry forward.

We continued to address our asset renewal by delivering a capital works program with projects across a wide range of asset classes. Our total completed capital work spend was $21.9 million above the depreciation for the year.

Capital works by category delivered in 2025-26

Asset class	Amount
Roads	$21.6m
Parks, open space and streetscapes	$10.5m
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	$9.9m
Building improvements	$6.0m
Buildings	$5.5m
Footpaths and cycleways	$4.1m
Plant, machinery and equipment	$1.8m
Drainage	$1.3m
Library books	$1.1m
Computers and telecommunications	$1.0m
Bridges	$0.3m
Waste management	$0.2m
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	$0.2m
Artworks	$0.1m

Delivering services to you

We deliver a broad range of services that support our community every day.

Here are key figures about the services provided to our community from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026:

- *waste management*
- *delivering meals*
- *libraries and leisure centres*
- *parks and open spaces*
- *supporting local businesses*
- *regulating traffic*
- *supporting older people in their homes*
- *overseeing the planning permit process*
- *animal registrations*
- *street cleaning*
- *children and family services.*

These services, and our community infrastructure, support our community's wellbeing and prosperity. We also plan for development and ensure we are accountable for how we spend money.

Please read the 'Our performance' section of this report on page 44 to learn more about our achievements, how we delivered them and the challenges we faced.

Core service statistics for 2025–26:

- *3,087 trees planted across streets and open spaces*
- *1,309 planning permit applications determined*
- *56,472 meals delivered to Merri-bek residents*
- *34,679 kilometres of streets swept*
- *11,341 reports of illegally dumped rubbish managed*
- *946 reports of blocked pits and drains responded to*
- *1,635 reports of graffiti responded to*
- *180 graffiti removal kits distributed*
- *$3,300 in paint vouchers provided to support graffiti removal*
- *123,344 public bins emptied*
- *3,450 tonnes of waste removed from public bins*
- *More than 80 shopping precincts and high-profile public areas serviced each week*
- *733,319 visitors to our libraries*
- *1,298,393 library loans including physical items and e-resources*
- *48,173 people attended library program sessions*
- *975 program sessions were offered for children and young people, including Storytimes in French, Italian, Greek, Spanish, Turkish, Woi-wurrung and Nepali*
- *1,063 program sessions were offered for adults, including conversation clubs in Spanish and French, chatty cafés, craft groups, workshops and lectures, author talks, makerspace drop-in sessions, digital literacy sessions and book groups*
- *1,127,488 total attendances at Active Merri-bek Aquatic and Leisure Centres*

- 136,180 attendees at Active Merri-bek Aquatic and Leisure Centres water safety and learn-to-swim programs
- 132,256 total aquatic visits to seasonal outdoor pools (including swim carnivals and swim lessons)
- 92,202 casual swims at the seasonal outdoor pools
- 11,191 Active Merri-bek Aquatic and Leisure Centres members as at 30 June
- 4,706 Active Merri-bek Swim School members averaged over the year
- 20,009 animal registrations managed (7,909 cats and 12,100 dogs)
- 2,054 tonnes of glass collected
- 10,048 tonnes of commingled recycling collected
- 16,968 tonnes of food and garden organics collected
- 2,428 tonnes of booked hard waste collected
- 7,867 tonnes of garbage collected
- 29,069 tonnes of kerbside waste diverted from landfill
- 6,082 children, including Aboriginal children, accessed Maternal and Child Health services
- 7,427 client visits to the immunisation service
- 1,519 adult vaccinations administered
- 12,847 vaccinations administered to children and young people (0–17 years)
- 175 immunisation sessions delivered

Community satisfaction

Every year we ask our community how they feel about our services. This is our Community Satisfaction Survey. We interviewed 605 community members from 30 May 2026 to 30 June 2026.

The survey asks questions about these services:

- waste management and environmental sustainability
- parking, roads and footpaths
- recreational facilities
- planning
- consultation and engagement, decision-making and lobbying
- support services and libraries
- customer service.

In 2026, our top 4 service areas ranked highest for performance by the community were:

- library services (8.6/10)
- services for children from birth to 5 years (8.6/10)
- bookable hard rubbish (8.2/10)
- regular weekly garbage collection (8.2/10).

Our top-performing service area over the past 5 years is consistently library services.

In 2026, the results showed a significant improvement in service areas including Council events and activities for LGBTIQA+ identifying people and parking enforcement. Overall satisfaction with

Council was 67/100, which though a slight decline on the 2025 result (68), remains at a relatively stable level.

Community satisfaction with governance and leadership improved in 2026:

- *Satisfaction with Council's support of diversity, inclusion, and human rights was rated 77 out of 100.*
- *Rating of Council having a sound direction for the future was 69 out of 100.*
- *Consultation and engagement scored 71 out of 100.*
- *Responsiveness of Council to local community needs was rated 70 out of 100.*
- *Making decisions in the interests of the community was rated 70 out of 100.*

Awards and Citations

LGPro Awards

LGPro is the peak member association and leading professional body for people working in local government in Victoria. The LGPro Awards for Excellence is the premier awards program for the local government sector in Victoria, celebrating outstanding work delivered by council teams and individuals.

Winner, *Community Assets & Infrastructure (over $20M) for Balam Balam Place.*

Winner, *Community Assets & Infrastructure (under $5M) for Michelle Guglielmo Park.*

High Commendation, *Council Plan Development for the Council Plan 2025–29 and Community Vision.*

Other Awards

Winner, *Planning Institute of Australia Stakeholder Engagement Award 2026 for Calming the Storm.*

Winner, *Award for Heritage (VIC) 2026 Victorian Architecture Awards for Balam Balam Place*

Winner, *Award for Public Architecture (VIC) 2026 Victorian Architecture Awards for Balam Balam Place*

Winner, *Award for Urban Design (VIC) 2026 Victorian Architecture Awards for Balam Balam Place*

Commendation, *COLORBOND® Award for Steel Architecture (VIC) 2026 Victorian Architecture Awards for Balam Balam Place*

Commendation, *Sustainable Architecture (VIC) 2026 Victorian Architecture Awards for Balam Balam Place*

Winner *(one of three winners), Built Outcomes Category, 2026 Australian Urban Design Awards, for Balam Balam Place*

Our council

On 26 October 2024, our community elected 11 councillors to represent them. These councillors are elected from 11 wards across our municipality: Bababi Djinanang, Box Forest Ward, Brunswick West Ward, Bulleke-bul Ward, Djirri-Djiri Ward, Harmony Park Ward, Pascoe Vale South Ward, Pentridge Ward, Randazzo Ward, Warrk-Warrk Ward and Westbreen Ward.

Councillors

Merri-bek residents and ratepayers elect councillors every four years to represent the community. Councillors work together to make decisions in the best interests of the whole municipality. The next Council election is in October 2028.

Each year, councillors elect a Mayor and Deputy Mayor to provide civic leadership. Cr Helen Davidson held the office of Mayor for the first part of the 2025-26 reporting period, until 19 November 2025. In November 2025, Council elected Cr Nat Abboud as Mayor and Cr Dr Jay Iwasaki as Deputy Mayor. In March 2026, Council elected Cr Helen Davidson as Deputy Mayor. Cr Abboud and Cr Davidson will hold these offices until 10 December 2026, when the next Mayoral election will take place.

Councillors play an important role in representing the community and contributing to committees, organisations and forums that support Council's work. These include:

- *committees established by Council (advisory committees)*
- *peak bodies or sector associations*
- *local and regional forums.*

Council also appoints councillors to take a lead role in specific areas of interest through 'councillor responsible for' roles. These roles help strengthen councillor knowledge and ensure relevant information and community perspectives are considered when Council makes decisions in those areas.

Councillors, committees and responsibilities during 2025-26

All councillors are members of the Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Matters Committee.

Mayor, Cr Nat Abboud

Pentridge Ward

Elected to Council in 2016 and 2024. Elected Deputy Mayor in 2017 and Mayor in 2018 and 2025.
Advisory committees:, *Central Coburg Oversight Committee, Activity Centres Advisory Group, Merri-bek Community Recognition Committee (Merri-bek Awards), Older Persons Reference*
External committees: *Merri Creek Management Committee, Metropolitan Transport Forum, Municipal Association of Victoria, M9 Committee, Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action Executive (substitute), Northern Councils Alliance*

Councillor responsible for: *Economic Development; Older Persons*
M: 0487 258 044
E: nabboud@merri-bek.vic.gov.au

Deputy Mayor, Cr Helen Davidson

Djirri-Djirri Ward

Elected to Council in 2012, 2016, 2020 and 2024, elected Mayor in 2016 and 2024 and Deputy Mayor in 2022 and 2026.
Advisory committees: *Nil*
External committees: *Nil*
Councillor responsible for: *Sport and Recreation, Women (Gender Equality)*
M: 0403 709 948
E: hdavidson@merri-bek.vic.gov.au

Cr Sue Bolton

Bababi Djinanang Ward

Elected to Council in 2012, 2016, 2020 and 2024.
Advisory committees: *First Peoples Advisory Committee, Disability Reference Group*
External committees: *Nil*
Councillor responsible for: *Nil*
M: 0417 583 664
E: sbolton@merri-bek.vic.gov.au

Cr Chris Miles

Box Forest Ward

Elected to Council in 2024.
Advisory committees: *Central Coburg Oversight Committee,*
External committees: *Nil*
Councillor responsible for: *Economic Development, Older Persons, Sport and Recreation, Transport and Getting Around, Urban Planning*
M: 0439 685 801
E: cmiles@merri-bek.vic.gov.au

Cr Ella Svensson

Brunswick West Ward

Elected to Council in 2024.
Advisory committees: *Health, Wellbeing and Social Inclusion Advisory Committee, LGBTIQA+ Reference Group*
External committees: *Nil*
Councillor responsible for: *Early Years and Young People, Human Rights and Multiculturalism*
M: 0467 498 665
E: esvensson@merri-bek.vic.gov.au

Cr Dr Jay Iwasaki

Bulleke-bek Ward

Elected to Council in 2024 and elected Deputy Mayor in 2025.
Advisory committees: *Central Coburg Oversight Committee, Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience Advisory Committee, Merri-bek Arts Advisory Committee, Merri-bek Community Recognition Committee (Merri-bek Awards)*
External committees: *Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action Executive*
Councillor responsible *for: Arts and Culture, Climate and Nature*
M: *0429 431 760*
E: *jiwasaki@merri-bek.vic.gov.au*

Cr Helen Politis

Harmony Park Ward

Elected to Council in 2024 and elected Deputy Mayor in 2024
Advisory committees: *Audit and Risk Committee, Central Coburg Oversight Committee*
External committees: *Nil*
Councillor responsible for: *Economic Development, Human Rights and Multiculturalism, Sport and Recreation*
M: *0456 357 280*
E: *hpolitis@merri-bek.vic.gov.au*

Cr Oscar Yildiz JP

Pascoe Vale South Ward

Elected to Council in 2008, 2012, 2016, 2020 and 2024, elected Mayor in 2010, 2012 and 2014 and elected Deputy Mayor in 2019.
Advisory committees: *Merri-bek Community Recognition Committee (Merri-bek Awards)*
External committees: *Nil*
Councillor responsible for: *Economic Development, Sport and Recreation*
M: *0413 850 357*
E: *oyildiz@merri-bek.vic.gov.au*

Cr Liz Irvin

Randazzo Ward

Elected to Council in 2024.
Advisory committees: *Audit and Risk Committee, Central Coburg Oversight Committee, Activity Centres Advisory Group, Liveability Advisory Committee, Strategic Transport Reference Group*
External committees: *Merri Creek Management Committee (substitute), Metropolitan Transport Forum*
Councillor responsible for: *Older Persons, Sport and Recreation, Transport and Getting Around, Urban Planning*
M: 0472 846 861
E: *lirvin@merri-bek.vic.gov.au*

Cr Adam Pulford

Warrk-Warrk Ward

Elected to Council in 2020 and 2024 and elected Mayor in 2023.
Advisory committees: *LGBTIQA+ Reference Group*
External committees: *Friends of Aileu Community Committee, Municipal Association of Victoria (substitute)*
Councillor responsible for: *Climate and Nature, Economic Development, Transport and Getting Around*
M: 0417 835 793
E: *apulford@merri-bek.vic.gov.au*

Cr Katerine Theodosis

Westbreen Ward

Elected to Council in 2024.
Advisory committees: *Audit and Risk Committee, Health, Wellbeing and Social Inclusion Advisory Committee, Gender Equality Reference Group*
External committees: *Northern Councils Alliance (substitute)*
Councillor responsible for: *Arts and Culture, Human Rights and Multiculturalism, Women (Gender Equality)*
M: 0459 959 298
E: *ktheodosis@merri-bek.vic.gov.au*

Our people

Merri-bek City Council is led by a Chief Executive Officer and managed by a highly skilled and experienced executive and senior management team.

Our executive team

Our managers translate Council's strategic direction and goals into organisational plans. The executive team monitors and coordinates progress against these plans. Supporting this work is our organisational vision 'One team, brave and diverse, making a difference'.

Chief Executive Officer – Kate McCaughey

Senior officers report through their Directors to the Chief Executive Officer. The Branches and areas of responsibility throughout 2025-26 are outlined below.

Director Business Transformation – Sue Vujcevic

Responsible for the corporate functions of Council including:

- *Financial Services*
- *Governance and Strategy*
- *Information Technology*
- *Organisational Performance*
- *People and Safety*
- *Transformation Program*

Director City Infrastructure – Greg Rodwell

Responsible for the following branches:

- *Amenity and Compliance*
- *Capital Works Planning and Delivery*
- *City Services*
- *Open Space and Environment*

Director Community – Eamonn Fennessy

Responsible for the following branches:

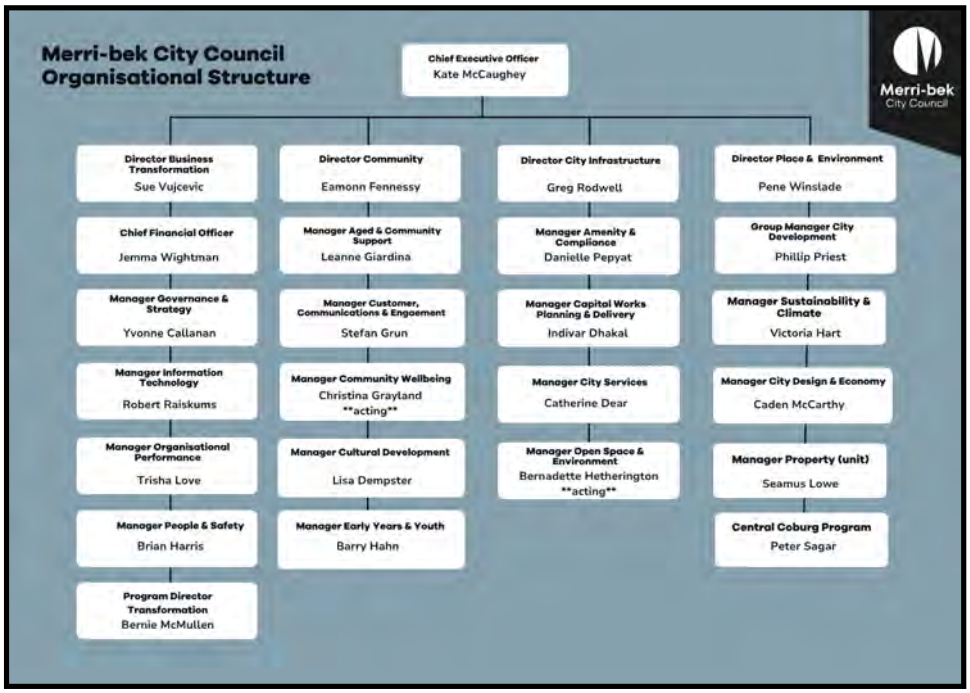
- *Aged and Community Support*
- *Community Wellbeing*
- *Cultural Development*
- *Customer, Communications and Engagement*
- *Early Years and Youth*

Director Place and Environment – Pene Winslade

Responsible for the following areas:

- *City Development*
- *City Design and Economy*
- *Property (unit)*
- *Sustainability and Climate*
- *Central Coburg Program*

Merri-bek City Council Organisational Structure



Our staffing profile

A summary of the number of FTE (full-time equivalent) staff, categorised by employment classification and gender.

Structure	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5	Band 6	Band 7	Band 8	SO/SEO/ other	Total
Classification	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE
Permanent full time – female	0.00	1.00	8.00	52.92	58.00	45.80	49.00	22.00	13.00	249.72
Permanent full time – male	0.00	0.00	38.00	81.00	95.00	46.00	46.00	14.00	20.00	340.00
Permanent full time – gender diverse	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	3.00
Permanent part time – female	13.12	41.40	12.99	19.24	29.89	21.56	25.27	8.95	0.95	173.37
Permanent part time – male	9.57	9.12	5.36	4.33	3.54	5.31	0.00	0.84	0.89	38.96
Permanent part time – gender diverse	0.00	0.00	0.67	0.80	0.40	0.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.26
Temporary female	0.86	0.70	4.48	5.25	9.92	7.68	9.56	2.80	12.40	53.65
Temporary male	0.00	0.60	2.73	3.75	3.37	7.68	2.00	1.00	14.64	35.77
Temporary – gender diverse	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Casual	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total FTE	23.55	52.82	72.23	167.29	200.12	136.42	132.83	49.59	61.88	896.73

A summary of the number of FTE staff categorised by directorate, employment status and gender.

Directorate	Business Transformation	Chief Executive Office	City Infrastructure	Community	Place and Environment	Total
Employment status	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE
Permanent full time – female	52.00	1.00	47.00	96.72	53.00	249.72
Permanent full time – male	34.00	0.00	223.00	37.00	46.00	340.00
Permanent full time – gender diverse	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	3.00
Permanent part time – female	11.73	0.00	12.69	133.55	15.40	173.37
Permanent part time – male	0.51	0.00	10.61	25.05	2.79	38.96
Permanent part time – gender diverse	0.80	0.00	0.00	1.46	0.00	2.26
Temporary female	11.60	1.00	8.77	22.91	9.37	53.65
Temporary male	5.00	0.00	12.89	11.04	6.84	35.77
Temporary – gender diverse	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Casual	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total FTE	**115.64**	**2.00**	**315.96**	**328.73**	**134.40**	**896.73**

Inclusive employment

Council is proud to ensure that employees work in a supportive, understanding and considerate environment and has several plans in place that support an inclusive working environment. These include the Council Action Plan, Gender Equality Action Plan, and First Peoples Employment Plan.

Key actions and achievements in 2025-26 include:

Creating a plan for increasing inclusion

Under the Gender Equality Act 2020, Council has a number of recurring obligations. The following obligations were completed and submitted to the Commission for Gender Equality in the Public Sector in the last financial year:

- *Council's Gender Equality Data Audit.*
- *Council's Gender Equality Progress Report, containing a record of the Gender Equity Impact Assessments completed during the reporting period, and a full analysis of the Data Audit alongside commentary on Council's progress against its Gender Equality Action Plan 2022–2025 and the seven key gender equality indicators.*
- *Council's new Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP) 2026–2029, containing 34 data-driven strategies to create meaningful change, alongside commentary on Council's commitment to a more inclusive workplace.*

Consultation with staff

- *More than 500 staff provided survey feedback, which informed Council's Progress Report and the development of the new GEAP.*
- *More than 100 staff took part in the consultations held as part of the creation of Council's new GEAP, which included interviews, focus groups, a survey and an anonymous feedback email. The feedback and ideas gathered through the consultation process ensured strategies responded directly to staff experiences.*
- *A new Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Group was created to facilitate ongoing staff feedback on current and future inclusion initiatives.*
- *The Women and Gender Diverse Network, for women and gender-diverse staff in male-dominated teams, continued to meet and provided valuable feedback.*

Leadership capability and accountability

Under the new GEAP, work began on the following strategies to strengthen people leader capability and accountability:

- *Inclusive accountabilities were included in the people leader position description template, to ensure ongoing accountability for leaders across the organisation.*
- *A question about flexible working was included in the Performance Development Review guidance to encourage transparent and supportive discussions between people leaders and their direct reports. Council's new Inclusive Leadership Program was developed to offer a range of short, in-the-moment modules focused on practical, inclusive behaviours.*

Connection and capability

Council continued to offer inclusion-related events and resources throughout the year to foster staff connection, increase capability, and celebrate the different communities represented in the workforce.

In early 2026, Council became a member of the peak industry body Diversity Council of Australia, which gives all staff free, on-demand access to extensive inclusion and diversity-related research, resources and webinars.

Events held to support an inclusive working environment included:

- *For Disability Pride Month, staff were offered a chance to learn basic Auslan from native Auslan users from Break A Finger. Alongside this, the Community Development and Social Policy team rolled out the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Scheme across Council's public-facing teams. For Trans Awareness Week, the short Australian film The Dreamlife of Georgie Stone was screened for staff.*
- *A Trans Connection afternoon tea was also held for trans and gender-diverse staff.*
- *Melbourne's Pride March saw a strong staff contingent, including executives and Councillors, marching under the Merri-bek banner.*
- *For International Women's Day, managers and executives participated in a leadership panel.*
- *For Cultural Diversity Week a presentation was delivered called Culture, identity and leadership: finding our voice across cultures.*
- *For IDAHOBIT, Vic NAIDOC Pride Awardee 2Joocee hosted a quiz and craft event. Council's new GEAP was launched, which gave staff a preview of upcoming strategies, and a series of activities allowed staff to share inclusive role models and make new connections.*

Council continues to offer the mandatory Core Inclusion and Unconscious Bias modules to all employees, alongside ongoing inclusion-related learning opportunities through both the online learning platform and the Learning and Development Calendar.

Staff induction sessions including running connection exercises and raise awareness of staff-facing inclusion-related projects and initiatives.

Recruitment refresh

As part of the ongoing recruitment refresh, Council applied an inclusive lens to existing resources and guidance. Work achieved to date focused on Updating the Recruitment and Selection Policy,

- *Updating and enhancing the job ad template, job application template and interview templates,*
- *Creating a new mandatory Inclusive Recruitment module and updating careers-related pages on Council's public website.*

Staff safety

- *Work began to update information related to Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs) and create an accessible, user-friendly template. PEEPs create a safety plan for staff who need assistance with emergency evacuations.*
- *Council is in the final stages of securing an anonymous reporting platform to help staff report inappropriate behaviour.*

First Peoples Employment

Council is dedicated to being an employer of choice for First Peoples. We strive to create a culturally safe and inclusive workplace that supports the diverse identities, values, and aspirations of First Peoples.

Guided by our Statement of Commitment to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and the broader First Peoples communities, we prioritise opportunities for growth, self-determination, and meaningful participation at all levels of the organisation.

Our First Peoples Employment Plan 2022-25 concluded with many positive outcomes, as outlined in the 24/25 annual report. Our First Peoples Employment Plan 2025-2028 has been launched with its key focuses:

- *Empower Positive Workplace Relationships*
- *Enhance Wellbeing and Retention*
- *Create and Sustain Meaningful Employment Opportunities*
- *Support Ongoing Learning and Development*

Key actions and achievements in 2025–26 include:

Empower Positive Workplace Relationship

- **Update of tiered cultural learning framework for all staff:** *this included the introduction of a 2-day induction for new starters, with the 2nd day including an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural awareness training workshop.*
- **Development of cultural learning framework for leadership:** *developed to include key training and development for SMT and leadership.*
- **Ongoing delivery of the First Peoples' Wellbeing Calendar and informal cultural learning:** *providing opportunities for staff to participant in on-Country learning opportunities that promote inclusion and celebration of First Peoples culture.*
- **Recognising allyship across Council:** *Volunteer positions and opportunities to support the delivery of the First Peoples' Wellbeing Calendar have been provided to allies. We have identified 'change champions' who have shown allyship and cultural safety in their work.*
- **Mob Matters all-staff monthly newsletter:** *Development and delivery of the organisation wide monthly newsletter showcasing First Peoples projects and initiatives across Council.*
- **Bagung wilam launch:** *Development of quiet/cultural connection space in Merri-bek Civic building for connecting, co-working has been finalised.*

Enhance Wellbeing and Retention

- **Mentoring for new starters:** *New staff are provided with the opportunity to access a coach or mentor via new starter email induction.*
- **Development of Kirrip Connect new starter buddy program:** *new starter and existing First Peoples staff member are connected to support the induction of new First Peoples staff.*

- **Development of First Peoples Hub intranet page:** *a source for First Peoples support information.*
- **Development of Merri-bek Mob Network (all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff):** *- a casual network, current staff are reminded of First Peoples Hub support, posts made in Merri-bek Mob (First Peoples Staff chat) to seek support when required, and First Peoples Employee Assistance resource 1 pager was created to connect staff to local, state and federal services, Merri-bek EAP and HRBP contacts.*
- **Cultural workshops:** *First Peoples staff are provided opportunities for cultural grounding and growth through the First Peoples' Wellbeing Calendar events. Events over the last quarter: Mob Meet, attending First Nations arts exhibition NAIDOC painting workshop, First Peoples' Working Group meetings.*
- **Cultural support for staff:** *ongoing cultural appropriate support is provided to all First Peoples staff.*
- **Wellbeing and connection:** *Regular informal connection opportunities provided to staff through First Peoples' Wellbeing Calendar's monthly mob meet (coffee catch up).*

Create and Sustain Meaningful Employment Opportunities

- **Inclusion lens on Recruitment and Selection procedure:** *the procedure was updated with First Peoples processes and identified recruitment measures.*
- **Support for the organisation:** *Support provided to hiring managers who have developed First Peoples identified roles or interviewing First Peoples candidates for open roles. Managers are provided with support documents to support new starters transition into the workplace and cultural safe workplace. Additional formal training provided to teams who have requested additional support.*
- **First Peoples Employment Program: '***Merri-bek Jobs for Mob' employment program developed and launched with the introduction of new 'First Peoples Career' webpage on Council website.*

Support Ongoing Learning and Development

- **Access to professional development:** *Ongoing sharing of current and relevant opportunities to Merri-bek Mob (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff). Staff are supported to engage with their counterparts across Council to develop networks and support their work.*
- **Development and implementation of First Peoples Professional Development program:** *'Professional Development for Merri-bek Mob'. Staff can request to attend relevant training, workshops, seminars etc.*
- **Professional development review support:** *PDR overview and suggestions/tips provided to staff to support PDR reviews and professional development opportunities. The option for staff to develop a career plan has been provided.*
- **First Peoples recognition:** *First Peoples staff are celebrated for their achievements in regular First Peoples' Working Group meetings, the Merri-bek Mob MS team chat, Mob Matters monthly newsletter & First Peoples' Wellbeing Calendar news.*

Partnerships and organisational support

Council maintains strong partnerships with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, neighbouring councils, and First Peoples employment networks.

Organisational support is evident through the endorsement of our First Peoples Employment Plan, advocacy from the First Nations Advisory Committee, and commitment from the CEO and executive team.

Across all levels, our staff are champions for culturally safe, inclusive hiring and development. The momentum generated by the First Peoples' Working Group and positive feedback from staff continues to

drive new initiatives, ensuring Council remains a leader in First Peoples employment and cultural inclusion.

Equal opportunity

Council is committed to equal employment opportunities in our policies and programs. These are designed to end discrimination and promote equal opportunity in employment for women and people in designated groups.

We aim to ensure there is no discrimination about the characteristics listed under the Equal Opportunity Act 2010.

We also aim to ensure the workplace is free from bullying and harassment. All employees are required to complete equal opportunity training and bystander training.

This year we supported and promoted equal opportunity in employment by:

- *Delivering unconscious bias training for people leaders to help recognise unconscious biases and the effects, which can impact hiring, promotions and daily interactions*
- *Delivering bystander training for all staff*
- *Ensuring our Contact Officers are suitably trained, with touchpoints over the year.*

Building our organisational capability

This year we had a key focus on supporting our First Nations staff and community through staff training and induction. We also undertook foundational work to support the Elevate transformation program.

Our Leadership Development approach had a strong focus on building coaching skills. Work to build team engagement and key focus areas for staff this year were Occupational Violence Prevention training and Diversity and Inclusion training.

Senior Management Team development

Our Senior Management Team completed a series of professional development sessions including a 'Beyond Colonialism' session to broaden understanding of the ongoing impact of colonialism on First Nations people, a leadership workshop on the next Merri-bek Customer Experience strategy, change framework learning, psychosocial hazards training, and strategic planning sessions.

Leader Development Program

We delivered a Leader Development Program for senior people leaders including a series of professional development and relationship building sessions.

Several senior leaders participated in a 360-degree feedback program to help them gain insight into their leadership style, strengths and development areas.

Several team leaders commenced a yearlong Diploma of Leadership and Management. This year, Council joined with other Northern Councils to take part in the pilot Northern Councils Alliance cross council coaching and mentoring program.

We participated in the Earn and Learn program, facilitated by RMIT in partnership with other Victorian tertiary institutions. The program was funded by the Victorian Government and designed to build skill capability in local government staff. As an evolution of our Learning to Lead program, two groups of emerging leaders were enrolled in a Diploma of Leadership and Management, and one group was enrolled in Certificate IV in Workplace Health and Safety.

Training for all staff

The Merri-bek staff training calendar this year offered 98 training sessions, as of 30 June 2026. These were attended by a total of 1098 employees.

Training offerings covered a range of areas including professional development, business needs, occupational health and safety, Occupational Violence Prevention training, and Diversity and Inclusion training.

Staff achieved 14,180 course completions across 84 different online learning modules through our Learning Management System, Litmos.

These training offerings reflect our ongoing commitment to compliance training, professional development and building a wide range of capabilities across the organisation.

Our Work Experience policy was reviewed, and a pilot partnership was formed with the Inner Northern Local Learning and Employment Network to provide an enhanced experience for both supervising staff and Year 10 work experience students.

LG Pro Training

Each year Merri-bek nominates a group of high performing staff in LGPro' s individual development programs including the competitive entry Emerging Leaders Program (ELP). In 2026 we enrolled one staff member each in the ELP program, mentoring program, Leading for Impact and Ignite programs, and two staff in the Ignite for Outdoor Workers program.

For the third year running we also selected six staff to take part in the Merri-bek Challenge, which involved representing Merri-bek in the LGPro Management Challenge and then completing a 'back to business' project.

Building Staff Engagement

This year we continued to embed our Organisational Vision, 'One Team, Brave and Diverse, Making a Difference' through a range of leadership and culture programs.

Each quarter our Executive Team host a series of face-to-face sessions with staff from across the organisation to discuss key issues and enable staff to ask questions of Executive.

Leaders and teams work together to improve how teams work, employing coaching, workshops and team development activities through a series of workshops.

Leaders are also offered one-on-one coaching to improve leadership, communication and team dynamics. There is support for leaders and teams to reflect on their ways of working, strengthen alignment and build shared ownership for improving culture and performance.

In-person Induction

In-person induction is a key avenue to ensure new Merri-bek staff are aligned and engaged, and part of our organisational culture.

This year, through the First Nations Employment Plan, we added a second day to the in-person induction program to support our First Nations staff and community through training for all staff to build cultural safety. We also committed the senior management team to annual First Nations focused training and developed a 'Cultural Connections' dedicated space.

Service recognition awards

Our Service Recognition ceremonies celebrate the dedication, commitment and valuable contributions of employees to our organisation and the broader community.

During 2025–2026, Service Recognition certificates were presented to 115 employees in recognition of service milestones ranging from 5 to 45 years.

Two employees achieved the remarkable milestone of 45 years of service, demonstrating an extraordinary level of commitment to the Merri-bek communities.

Project Management focus

Building Project Management internal capability continues as a key focus area for Merri-bek. Swinburne Edge was engaged to co-design and facilitate a series of three Project Governance Essentials workshops to support the development of 48 selected leaders and project sponsors across council.

Upskilling project managers and their managers in the effective use of the new project management application was a key focus for the year. Additionally, all new Project Managers and managers of business units that deliver projects have received introductory training to the new application and reporting tool to ensure a consistent foundation of knowledge and project management capability.

Occupational health and safety

Merri-bek City Council is committed to providing a healthy, safe and inclusive workplace for our employees, contractors, volunteers, visitors, members of the public and children/young people.

Our employees are our greatest asset, and creating a workplace where people can work safely and thrive remains a key organisational priority. We are committed to preventing work-related injury and illness, promoting both physical and psychological health, and fostering a positive safety culture through leadership, consultation and continuous improvement.

During 2025–26, Council continued implementing its Strategic Safety Plan 2025–2028, which provides a long-term framework for strengthening safety leadership, enhancing risk management, supporting employee wellbeing and embedding a proactive safety culture across the organisation.

Recognising that workplace health and safety extend beyond physical hazards, Council continued implementing its Psychosocial Hazard Framework to identify, assess and manage psychosocial risks. This work supports Council's commitment to creating mentally healthy workplaces while ensuring compliance with the Victorian Occupational Health and Safety (Psychological Health) Regulations 2025.

Safety management system

Council continued to strengthen its Safety Management System through the MoreSafe platform, supporting compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 and associated regulations.

Our dedicated Safety and Wellbeing team partners with leaders across the organisation to build capability, strengthen safety governance and support continuous improvement in health, safety and wellbeing.

Throughout 2025–26, Council continued to strengthen its health and safety systems by:

- *implementing initiatives identified within the Strategic Safety Plan 2025–2028*
- *embedding the Psychosocial Hazard Framework across Council through consultation, education and risk management*
- *reviewing and improving safety procedures, guidance material and governance processes*
- *enhancing incident reporting, investigation and data analytics through the Elumina incident management system*
- *monitoring safety performance and emerging trends to support informed decision making*
- *consulting with employees and Health and Safety Representatives on workplace risks and improvement initiatives*
- *delivering targeted education and training to strengthen organisational capability.*

Key safety initiatives undertaken during 2025-26 included:

- *continued implementation of the Strategic Safety Plan 2025–2028*
- *further implementation of Council's Psychosocial Hazard Framework, including psychosocial risk assessments, Health and Safety Representatives and employee consultation and leadership capability development*
- *ongoing implementation of Council's Fit for Work Policy and Alcohol and Other Drugs Procedure*
- *continued enhancement of workplace incident reporting and investigation through Elumina*

- *review and continuous improvement of safety procedures within the MoreSafe Safety Management System*
- *expansion of health and safety education across operational and corporate workgroups, including psychological health and wellbeing awareness*

Occupational Health and Safety training 2025-26

Course	Number of sessions completed	Number of participants attended
Initial HSR 5 Day Training	12	15
Injury Management Training	1	5
Safety and Wellbeing Essentials for People Leaders	1	10
Asbestos Awareness	1	12
Noise Awareness	2	14
First Aid	2	17
SunSmart UV Safety	7	81
Plant Safety	1	12
Handling Dangerous Goods and Hazardous Substances	1	2
Fire and Emergency Warden Training	2	12
Chief Warden Training	1	2
Mental Health and Crisis Support	1	6
OHS for Managers/Supervisors	2	19
Contractor Management	2	25
HSR Refresher	1	12
CPR Training	2	17
Occupational Violence Prevention	8	101
Psychosocial Hazards Training	4	142
Traffic Management and Traffic Control	1	12
Mental Health Awareness	1	8
White Card	1	14
Deaf Awareness	1	12
Psychosocial Risk Workshop	2	32
Totals	**57**	**582**

Council continued investing in education and capability development by delivering training across a broad range of occupational health and safety topics. Training supported legislative compliance, strengthened leadership capability and promoted safe work practices across the organisation.

Injury Management

Incidents reported (including injuries)	*812*
Injuries reported	*270*
Claims received (Standard)	*16*
Average claim cost	*$15,965*
Employees returned to work	*15*
Staff who remain unfit	*1*

Council's Occupational Rehabilitation and Wellbeing Adviser continued to coordinate injury management and return-to-work programs while providing ongoing guidance and support to employees and leaders throughout the recovery process.

Council recognises that early intervention is fundamental to achieving positive recovery outcomes. Prompt access to treatment, effective communication and suitable workplace support assist injured employees to recover safely and return to meaningful work as soon as reasonably practicable.

Council's early intervention program for 2025-2026 included:

- *onsite physiotherapy assessments*
- *provision of suitable alternative duties where appropriate*
- *development of individualised return-to-work plans aligned with medical advice and workplace requirements*
- *regular consultation between employees, leaders and treating health practitioners to support sustainable return-to-work outcomes.*

Employee Health and Wellbeing

Supporting employee health, safety and wellbeing remain a key organisational priority. During 2025–26, Council continued delivering a range of initiatives that promote physical health, psychological wellbeing and early intervention. These initiatives complement Council's Strategic Safety Plan and Psychosocial Hazard Framework by fostering mentally healthy workplaces and supporting a positive organisational culture.

Key wellbeing initiatives included:

- *Complimentary fitness classes available at the Coburg Leisure Centre and Oak Park Sports and Aquatic Centre.*
- *Free online yoga classes once a week*
- *Confidential counselling and support through the Employee Assistance Program (Converge), including individual counselling and critical incident support where required*
- *Continued promotion of Manager Assist services to support people leaders in managing employee wellbeing and responding to psychosocial matters*
- *Wellbeing education and awareness initiatives that encourage positive mental health and early support*
- *Continued promotion of resources that support respectful, healthy and safe workplaces.*

Child Safety

Council is committed to being a child safe organisation where children and young people are respected, valued and protected from harm.

We recognise that creating child safe environments is a shared responsibility and remain committed to embedding a strong child safe culture across all Council services, programs and facilities.

During 2025–26, Council continued strengthening its child safe practices through:

- *delivery of mandatory child safety education and awareness training*
- *maintaining clear child safe reporting, response and governance processes*
- *ongoing assessment of positions requiring Working with Children Checks*
- *specialist advice and support provided by Council's Child Safe Advisor*
- *engagement with children and young people to ensure their voices are considered in decisions that affect them.*

Risk management

Risk management is embedded across Merri-bek City Council's operations and culture. During 2025-26, we continued to strengthen our risk culture and enhance our approach to ensure it remains integrated, structured and aligned to Council's operating environment and strategic objectives.

Council's risk management activities span all levels of the organisation and address both strategic and operational risks. This work is guided by the Enterprise Risk Management Framework and Risk Management Policy, which define responsibilities, support consistent practice, and establish review and reporting requirements.

During the year, Council continued to strengthen accountability and oversight for both operational and strategic risks. Regular reviews of key risks supported the ongoing assessment of existing controls and the implementation of additional controls where required. The Risk Management Committee met bi-monthly to oversee monitoring and discussion of emerging and current risks. Staff capability was also supported through ongoing education in risk management, business continuity planning, and fraud and corruption prevention.

The Audit and Risk Committee continued to play an important role in overseeing audit, internal control and risk management arrangements. During 2025-26, the Committee met four times and provided independent advice to support Council's governance and risk oversight. Council's internal audit program completed eight audits across the organisation, with findings used to strengthen controls and inform updates to the Operational Risk Register.

Our performance

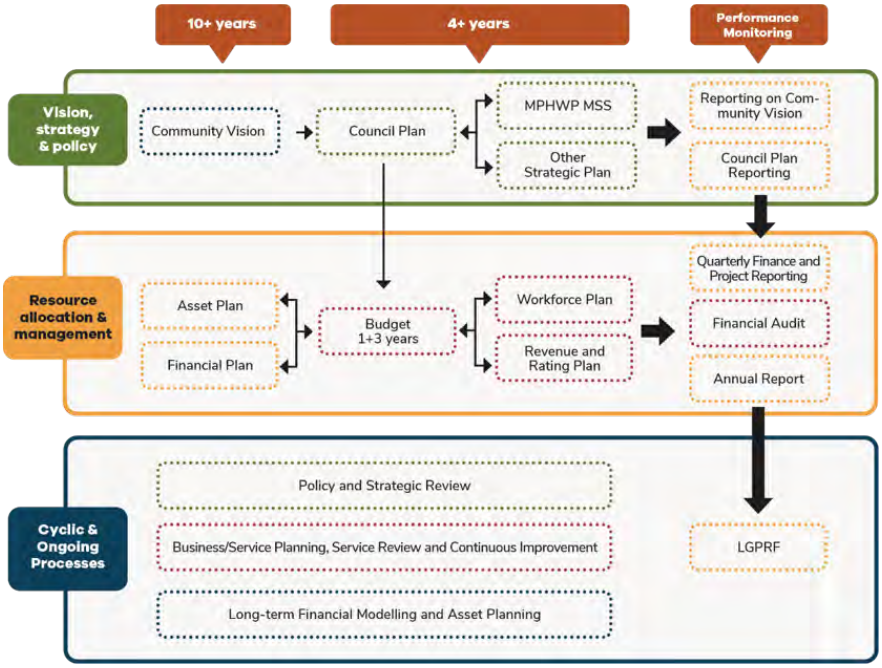
Integrated planning and reporting framework

Our integrated planning framework shows the relationship between our vision, strategies, plans, budgets and programs that drive our service delivery, projects and how we allocate resources.

The integrated planning framework guides Council in identifying community needs and aspirations over the long term through our Community Vision, Financial Plan and Asset Plan. Medium-term community needs and aspirations are recorded in our Council Plan, Workforce Plan, and Revenue and Rating Plan, and short-term in our Budget and Council Action Plan.

The framework supports Council accountability through the annual report and quarterly reporting. The diagram below depicts the integrated planning and reporting framework which applies to local government in Victoria.

At each stage of the integrated planning and reporting framework, there are opportunities for community and stakeholder input. This helps ensure transparency and accountability to residents and ratepayers.



Community Vision

The Merri-bek Community Vision was created in 2025 by people from our community. The vision describes what people want for Merri-bek in the future and helps guide Council's decisions and actions over the next 10 years.

Our Vision Statement is: Merri-bek leads and leaves no one behind.

In 2035:

- *We are a welcoming, safe and thriving community,*
- *We are sustainable and our environment is respected*
- *Our community is engaged and informed*
- *Our streets are full of life*

One community, proudly diverse

Council plan

Our 4-year Council Plan outlines our commitment to creating a resilient, inclusive, and engaged community in Merri-bek.

Developed through consultation with our Councillors and community members, these documents establish a strong foundation for our short, medium, and long-term goals.

The Council Plan outlines 5 strategic objectives, one under each theme, which together represent the strategic direction of Council over the next four years.

- **Care for nature and climate resilience;** *to create a flourishing and climate resilient Merri-bek by improving wildlife and nature connectivity, greening and cooling for healthier streets and public realm, and engaging the community in meaningful climate action.*
- **Healthy and inclusive communities;** *To support accessible facilities, programs, services, housing that promote community wellbeing, and connection for all ages, abilities, genders, and cultures, fostering a safe, inclusive, and thriving Merri-bek community*
- **Beautiful and liveable city;** *Create safe, accessible streets and public spaces that support vibrant communities, active travel, rest and relaxation, and community pride, while ensuring development and growth are well managed and local character is celebrated, ensuring Merri-bek is a welcoming, liveable, and connected place for all.*
- **Thriving economy and culture;** *A lively and inclusive Merri-bek where the economy supports local business and industry growth, celebrates artistic and creative expression, and connects the community through vibrant cultural experiences.*
- **Engaging and responsible council;** *a responsive and engaged Merri-bek that prioritises excellent service, embraces engaging communication methods, advocates community needs, and continues to uphold sustainable financial management and accountable governance that builds trust and collaboration with the community.*

In achieving each strategic objectives, the Council Plan 2025-29 also sets out:

- *A series of strategies which outline the outcomes the plan aims to achieve and how we will meet our objectives.*
- *Initiatives and Priorities: which describe what councils wants to achieve through services and programs, projects, and infrastructure delivery.*
- *Strategic Indicators: Measures to monitor progress against the objectives; and*
- *Related Strategies, Plans and Policies: other strategic planning documents that will support delivery of the Council Plan.*

As the Council Plan is integrated with the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP), the health and wellbeing priorities identified below are aligned with the actions outlined in this plan. These numbers indicate actions aimed at delivering positive health and wellbeing outcomes.

These areas are:

1. *Improving mental wellbeing and social connection*
2. *Increasing active living*
3. *Tackling climate change and its impacts on health*
4. *Preventing all forms of violence and discrimination*
5. *Improving food systems*
6. *Other Areas*
   6a) Reducing harm from tobacco and e-cigarette use
   6b) Increasing immunisations.

Each year, we will develop and implement an Action Plan to deliver the Council Plan and measure progress towards the outcomes we aim to achieve. We will report progress quarterly to Council and include it in the annual report.

Council Plan on a page

Care for nature and climate resilience

We want to protect our environment, make our streets cooler and greener, and involve our community in caring for the climate. We will achieve this by:

- Adding more trees and plants to make our streets and parks greener and cooler.
- Improving our natural spaces and waterways for people and wildlife to enjoy.
- Using eco-friendly ideas in building homes, roads, and public facilities around Merri-bek.
- Supporting and encouraging the local community efforts to fight climate change.

Healthy and inclusive communities

We want to create a safe, fair, and welcoming place where everyone can access services, housing, and spaces to enjoy and connect. We will achieve this by:

- Providing accessible spaces, facilities, and programs that support community health and safety.
- Helping all people, especially those on low incomes, find good housing and support their wellbeing.
- Providing affordable activities and spaces for youth, seniors, and families to participate and feel independent.
- Supporting local food initiatives to increase access to healthy, affordable food.

Beautiful and liveable city

We want to make streets and public spaces safe, nice, and easy to use so everyone can enjoy and be proud of where they live. We will achieve this by:

- Keeping public places, spaces, and areas well-maintained, safe, and inviting for community use.
- Fixing and improving streets and footpaths to make them more friendly for walking and riding.
- Encouraging walking, riding bikes, and scooting, especially for getting to school.
- Making it easier and safer to use public transport to move around.

Thriving economy and culture

We want to create a vibrant community with thriving local businesses and a strong arts and culture scene that brings people together. We will achieve this by:

- Developing busy shopping and activity areas that are attractive, green and inviting.
- Attracting new businesses and encouraging investment to create more jobs in Merri-bek.
- Supporting local shops and traders making it easier for them to do business and succeed.
- Promoting and supporting local art, festivals, and events celebrating our community's diversity.

Engaging and responsible council

We are here to serve the community. We will achieve this by:

- Providing high-quality services and responding quickly to community needs.
- Communicating better using many different ways to include everyone's ideas and feedback.
- Working with other levels of government to advocate for community priorities.
- Being honest and transparent about how money is spent and how decisions are made.

Report of operations

Performance against our objectives

Council's performance for the 2025–26 year has been reported against each strategic objective to demonstrate progress in achieving the 2025–29 Council Plan. Performance has been measured as follows:

- *Results achieved in relation to the strategic indicators in the Council Plan;*
- *Progress in relation to the major initiatives identified in the budget through our Council Action Plan 2025-26;*
- *Services funded in the budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided those services; and*
- *Results against the prescribed service performance indicators and measures (LGPRF), including results achieved for the preceding 3 years and an explanation of any material variation between results.*

We monitor and report on our performance through quarterly and annual reports. This ensures we are accountable, transparent and comply with legislation.

Here we have reported our performance against our 5 strategic objectives, which are:

- *Care for nature and climate resilience*
- *Healthy and inclusive communities*
- *Beautiful and liveable city*
- *Thriving economy and culture*
- *Engaging and responsible Council.*

Local Government Performance Reporting Framework

This is what is included in Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF) reporting:

- *aquatic facilities*
- *animal management*
- *food safety*
- *governance*
- *libraries*
- *maternal and child health (MCH)*
- *roads*
- *statutory planning*
- *waste collection.*

Some of the information below is repeated in the 'Performance Statement' section of this report on page 96 *This includes commentary and figures in addition to the LGPRF requirements met in the Performance Statement, which is auditable by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO).*

Theme 1. Care for nature and climate resilience

Strategic objective: *To create a flourishing and climate resilient Merri-bek by improving wildlife and nature connectivity, greening and cooling for healthier streets and public realm, and engaging the community in meaningful climate action.*

Strategic indicators

The following statements review Council's performance against the Council Plan, including progress against the strategic indicators.

If we are successful, we will see	Measures	*Target/Trend*	2025-26 Results & Comments
A positive increase in the canopy cover within the municipality.	Net increase in number of trees in public land in the municipality.	Over the next 4 years: • 5,000 new trees in open space. • 5,000 in streets.	*As the tree planting season spans a calendar year, the 2025 planting season results are used to report progress against this indicator:* • *574 trees planted in open space* • *2,513 street trees planted* • *554 trees lost or removed* • **Net increase of 2,533 trees.** *Council remains on track to achieve the four-year target of planting 5,000 trees in open space and 5,000 street trees.*
A positive reduction in Council greenhouse gas emissions to meet adopted Zero Carbon Targets.	Calculation of total greenhouse gas emissions each year from all relevant sources such as energy use, transportation, and waste.	80%-100% reduction by 2030 against financial year 2011-12 (baseline), excluding offsets.	*There is a reporting lag for this measure, as emissions data is externally verified after the end of the financial year. Accordingly, the 2025-26 Annual Report reports the 2024-25 result, which achieved a 67% reduction in emissions compared with the baseline year (2011-12).*

Major initiatives and priorities		
The following statements review Council's performance against the Council Plan, in relation to major initiatives identified through our Council Action Plan 2025-26 via the budget.		
#	*Actions: What we will do in 2025-26*	*Progress:*
1	*Plant and nurture suitable trees in tricky places, parks, and streets*	*The annual tree planting season commenced in May 2026 and is scheduled for completion by September 2026, with a target of planting 2,800 trees across Merri-bek. The program continues to prioritise increasing canopy cover and shade within parks and open spaces, supporting improved environmental outcomes and enhancing the comfort, liveability and amenity of public spaces for the community.*
2	*Investigate opportunities to reduce impacts of urban heat and increasing heatwaves by collaborating to get more shade trees in places like schools, retirement villages, and backyards*	*The Tree for Me pilot program, which supports tree planting in schools, retirement villages and residential backyards, has been developed. Engagement with a retirement village is ongoing, with a focus on tree maintenance, volunteer opportunities and exploring potential planting opportunities within the site. A planting date at a primary school has been confirmed, supported by strong leadership and engagement from the Junior School Council.*
3	*Facilitate native understorey planting trial project*	*The native understorey planting trial concluded during the year, with Council completing preparatory works across five project sites:* • *Moomba Park, Fawkner* • *Westbreen Creek, Pascoe Vale* • *Kernan Avenue Reserve, Pascoe Vale South* • *Park Street Linear Reserve, Brunswick East* • *Yaruk'ho Wilam Edgars Creek Parkland, Coburg North.* *Community planting days were also delivered or scheduled across several sites as part of the 2026 planting program.*
4	*Commence the biodiversity and climate change resilience top-up research grant program*	*Development of the biodiversity and climate change resilience top-up research grant program progressed during the year. Implementation is planned for 2026–27 following finalisation of the program guidelines and stakeholder engagement.*
5	*Facilitate the Lizards with bikes: revitalising the Coburg Velodrome underpass project*	*The project was completed, including a new mural and plantings at the Coburg Velodrome underpass. The completed project was celebrated with a community planting day and opening event in June 2026.*
6	*Deliver key stormwater harvesting and wetland projects as outlined in the Integrated Water Management Action Plan*	*Detailed design and planning for priority stormwater harvesting and water-sensitive urban design projects continued during the reporting period. Community engagement and feasibility work progressed, with some detailed design activities requiring further consultation, cultural heritage planning and alignment with updated flood modelling before they can be finalised.*

Major initiatives and priorities		
The following statements review Council's performance against the Council Plan, in relation to major initiatives identified through our Council Action Plan 2025-26 via the budget.		
#	Actions: What we will do in 2025-26	Progress:
7	**Deliver outcome-focused Integrated Water Management planning for the Coburg and Brunswick activity centres to enhance liveability, manage stormwater and flood, support water efficiency, and build climate resilience**	*Integrated Water Management planning in Coburg and Brunswick progressed through several initiatives:* • *Melbourne Water prepared the final Integrated Water Management Roadmap in partnership with Merri-bek and other Integrated Water Management Forum members, led by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.* • *Integrated Water Management considerations were incorporated into Merri-bek's submission to the Department of Transport and Planning on the Built Form Overlay for Brunswick and Coburg, supporting broader water-sensitive urban design outcomes.* • *Integrated Water Management principles were embedded in the Coburg Central Integrated Water Management Plan as part of the 'Coburg is Here' concept, with Council providing subject matter expertise through the project working group.*
8	**Promote and support an inclusive energy transition, including solar and thermal subsidies for low-income households**	*Highlights delivered throughout the 2025-26 financial year include:* • *Delivery of the Multi-Cultural Communities World Environment Day event in Fawkner, attended by more than 300 community members and featuring 29 community and Council stalls. Post-event evaluation found that 86% of attendees felt more motivated to make sustainable choices, while 100% reported feeling more connected to Council.* • *Implementation of the Home Energy Subsidy Program, which, following a delayed commencement, supported the installation of thermal upgrades (including insulation and draught-proofing) for 12 low-income households and solar photovoltaic systems for three households during the reporting period. A further 33 households are continuing to progress through the program.* • *Delivery of two DIY Draught-proofing for Renters workshops, attended by a total of 43 participants.* • *Delivery of a Community Energy information session attended by 18 community members.* • *Delivery of a winter communications campaign encouraging residents to transition to all-electric appliances to reduce household energy costs and improve home health outcomes, resulting in 136 residents seeking quotes through program partner Solar Savers.*
9	**Deliver circular economy community initiatives and trial a fortnightly rubbish service**	*The fortnightly rubbish trial was completed in 2025–26, with findings shared with trial participants and the broader community through a final stage of engagement. Following completion of the trial, Council decided to transition to a municipality-wide fortnightly rubbish service from July 2027. Circular economy initiatives delivered throughout the year included:*

Major initiatives and priorities		
The following statements review Council's performance against the Council Plan, in relation to major initiatives identified through our Council Action Plan 2025-26 via the budget.		
#	*Actions: What we will do in 2025-26*	*Progress:*
		• *community workshops on DIY eco skincare, cloth nappies and reusable period products* • *a Mending Circle hosted in partnership with Fashion Revolution Australia and Merri Menders* • *expansion of the reusable subsidy to include continence products* • *promotion of Circular Campus to Community events in collaboration with RMIT.*
10	*Increase awareness and capacity of the Merri-bek community on heat and flood risks to support resilience building*	*Implementation of the Climate Resilience Communication Plan has commenced. The Plan will provide web-based public information on climate risks in Merri-bek, which will in turn support face-to-face engagement with at-risk groups. An Urban Heat Forum was attended by around 60 participants from Council and various community groups in March. The forum has sparked community conversations about actions to address urban heat.*
11	*Commence Oak Park Sports and Aquatic Electrification and Plant Room Renewal Project*	*Building permits for the Oak Park Sports and Aquatic Electrification and Plant Room Renewal Project were completed, with construction works commencing. Works and commissioning are due to be completed by the end of September 2026, in preparation for the upcoming summer season.*
12	*Expand Council's practice to ensure Council buildings and infrastructure are environmentally sustainable in their planning, design, and implementation.* *In the first year, focus on tangible increases to recycled content.* *Over four years work towards new buildings and infrastructure that is 100% renewably powered, lower carbon, reflect circular economy principles, consider ways to be more climate resilient and adapted and work is prioritised to reflect greatest need.*	*This action was endorsed to be withdrawn from further reporting at the May 2026 Council meeting and were adopted in the 2026-27 Action Plan as:* • *Action 84: Deliver climate vulnerability improvements to the following Council owned facilities; Fawkner Maternal Child Health, Yooralla Community Hub and Newlands Senior Citizens Centre. 3 City Infrastructure* • *Action 85: Develop and implement a whole-of-program capital works prioritisation framework that integrates asset condition, service need, climate vulnerability, social, economic, disability, inclusion and environmental considerations.*
13	*Continue reducing carbon emissions of Council's fleet*	*Council continued the transition of its fleet to zero-emissions vehicles during 2025–26. Key progress included:* • *Six new zero-emissions light commercial vehicles ordered, with four delivered by 30 June and the remaining two due in the first half of July*

Major initiatives and priorities		
The following statements review Council's performance against the Council Plan, in relation to major initiatives identified through our Council Action Plan 2025-26 via the budget.		
#	*Actions: What we will do in 2025-26*	*Progress:*
		• *procurement planning commenced for a further six zero-emissions vehicles in 2026–27* • *Council's growing network of Council and community charging stations will support the energy needs of the expanding zero-emissions fleet.* *Evaluation and trials of zero-emissions heavy fleet vehicles also continued with industry to ensure future vehicles are safe, fit for purpose and supported by the energy infrastructure needed to maintain essential Council services.*
14	**Continue to advocate for Environmentally Sustainable Design outcomes in the planning scheme to State Government**	*Throughout 2025–26, Council worked with the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) and other councils to advocate for the retention of Environmentally Sustainable Development standards during significant Victorian planning reform.* *Key advocacy activities included:* • *engagement with the Department of Transport and Planning on Environmentally Sustainable Development outcomes* • *a joint submission with the Greenhouse Alliances to the Inquiry into Renewable and Affordable Energy for Apartments* • *contributing feedback to CASBE submissions and correspondence* • *participating in strategic workshops supporting collective advocacy across councils.*
15	**Promote the delivery of more climate resilient, less carbon intensive and more nature-inclusive private developments through providing clearer guidance for environmentally responsive design, promoting, and negotiating improved outcomes through the planning permit application process and subsequent proactive enforcement of planning conditions**	*Throughout the year, environmentally sustainable development outcomes continued to be progressed through the planning process and in line with planning reforms. This included:* • *supporting on-site stormwater management through measures such as rainwater tanks, raingardens and permeable paving* • *promoting external shading to protect north-facing windows from summer heat and supporting the installation of solar panels in new developments* • *continuing proactive enforcement of environmentally sustainable development requirements, including a focus on larger raingardens near creeks* • *exploring opportunities to improve the design quality and sustainability performance of new buildings through pre-application meetings and broader educational initiatives.*

Services 2025-26		
The following statement describes the services funded through the 2025-26 budget, including the sections of the community for whom the services are delivered.		
Service	Description	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance $'000
Open Space Design & Development	Partnering with the community, this service protects and enhances our green public open space which includes parks, reserves, playgrounds, sports fields, creek corridors and streetscapes. The service responsibilities of this service unit are: open space strategic planning and policy; bushland conservation; and park capital works planning, design and delivery.	2,637 2,701 64
Open Space Maintenance & Urban Forest	This service maintains open space assets such as playgrounds, sporting infrastructure, and park furniture; trees on Council land, roadside garden beds and street/footpath/laneway weeds; and grounds in community centres, child care centres and kindergartens located in Merri-bek. • Actively maintain open space – parks, reserves, plantations, nature strips: 618 hectares per annum • Number of street trees maintained: 68,361 per annum • Grass sportsfields maintained: 57 hectares per annum • Number of playgrounds maintained: 133 per annum	14,920 14,783 (137)
Sustainable Built Environment	This service is responsible for developing, implementing, and monitoring reporting on strategies, policies, programs and partnerships relating to Merri-bek's environmental sustainability. In particular relating to integrated water management, sustainable management of Council's buildings and infrastructure, promoting a sustainable built environment in new development, and promotion and expansion of our electric vehicle fleet and charging network.	1,332 1,631 299
Sustainable Communities	This service is responsible for developing, implementing, monitoring and reporting on strategies, policies, programs and partnerships relating to Merri-bek's environmental sustainability. In particular	2,352

	fostering community climate action and advocacy for zero net emissions, zero waste and a circular economy in Merri-bek.	2,828 476
Waste Services	*The waste collection service provides weekly general rubbish and food and garden organics collections, fortnightly mixed recycling collections, 4-weekly glass recycling collections and booked kerbside hard waste collections.* • *Volume of waste collected: 56,635 tonnes per annum* • *Volume of waste diverted from landfill: 29,450 tonnes per annum (52%)*	25,830 25,556 (273)

Service performance indicators 2025-26					
The following statement provides the results of the prescribed service performance indicators and measures including explanation of results in the comments.					
Service/ Indicator/ measure	Results				Comments
	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Waste Management					
Service standard *Kerbside collection bins missed* *[Number of kerbside garbage and recycling collection bins missed / Number of scheduled kerbside garbage and recycling collection bin lifts] x10,000*	*14.65*	*16.54*	*16.67*	*18.40*	*Missed kerbside bin collections increased by 10% compared with the previous year. Operational disruptions from April 2026 contributed to an increase in missed collections in the northern in-house service area, while a smaller increase was also recorded in the southern contracted service area. The total number of bins presented across the municipality remained relatively stable.*
Service cost *Cost of kerbside garbage bin collection service* *[Direct cost of the kerbside garbage bin collection service / Number of kerbside garbage collection bins]*	*$122.31*	*$120.97*	*$131.16*	*$160.87*	*The cost of kerbside garbage bin collection increased by 22.66% in 2025–26, from $131.16 to $160.87 per bin. With the number of garbage bins remaining relatively stable, the increase was driven by higher direct service costs, including increased collection contract costs and landfill disposal costs.*
Service cost *Cost of kerbside recyclables collection service* *[Direct cost of the kerbside recyclables bin collection service / Number of kerbside recyclables collection bins]*	*$74.17*	*$75.25*	*$44.40*	*$46.08*	*The cost of kerbside recyclables collection increased by 3.78% in 2025–26, from $44.40 to $46.08 per bin. With the number of recycling bins remaining relatively stable, the modest increase reflects relatively stable direct service costs.*
Waste diversion *Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill*	*48.42%*	*53.42%*	*51.07%*	*51.06%*	*Waste diversion from landfill remained stable at 51.06% in 2025–26, with only a marginal change from the previous year. While the result was below the 55% target, just over half of all kerbside waste*

[Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100					*collected was diverted from landfill through recycling and food and garden organics collection services.*

Theme 2: Healthy and inclusive communities

Strategic objective: *To support accessible facilities, programs, services, housing that promote community wellbeing, and connection for all ages, abilities, genders, and cultures, fostering a safe, inclusive, and thriving Merri-bek community.*

Strategic indicators
The following statements review Council's performance against the Council Plan, including progress against the strategic indicators.

If we are successful, we will see	Measures	Target/Trend	2025-26 Result & Comments
A positive increase in community connection.	*Social inclusion measures on a sense of belonging as a result of Council lead or partner events.*	*Increase from baseline year 2024.*	*During the 2025 calendar year, Council-led and partner events attracted more than 950 community members and demonstrated a strong positive impact on participants' sense of belonging. Across seven events, more than 80% of surveyed attendees consistently agreed or strongly agreed that the events increased their sense of belonging, with some events achieving up to 100% positive responses.* *Events included:* • *Day of Mourning – over 80% positive (150+ attendees)* • *Women's International Hockey Week – 94% positive (120 attendees)* • *Community Development Week – 84% positive (50 attendees)* • *Ballerrt Mooroop Day – 99% positive (300 attendees)* • *Refugee Week events – over 80% positive (approximately 150 attendees across two events)* • *National Volunteers Week – 100% positive (50 attendees)* • *Community lunches at Glenroy – over 90% positive (140 attendees across two events).*
A positive increase in the number	*Track the number of social and affordable housing projects*	*Achieve year-on-year growth in*	*During 2025-26, 106 new social and affordable homes were completed, contributing to an increased supply of affordable housing within the municipality.*

of social and affordable dwellings in new developments.	completed annually.	social and affordable housing availability.	

Major initiatives and priorities		
The following statements review Council's performance against the Council Plan, in relation to major initiatives identified through our Council Action Plan 2025-26 via the budget.		
#	Actions: What we will do in 2025-26	Progress:
16	Investigate possibility for renewal of Pascoe Vale Outdoor Pool	Investigations and costings for the Pascoe Vale Outdoor Pool have been completed, and a report is being finalised for presentation to Council outlining the overall investment required to maintain Council's six aquatic and leisure centres. This work forms part of the broader update to the Aquatic and Leisure Strategy 2018-2038, which has also been completed.
17	Review progress of the 20 years Aquatic and Leisure Strategy	The review of the Aquatic and Leisure Strategy has been completed, including investigations and costings associated with Council's six aquatic and leisure centres. A report is being finalised for presentation to Council, outlining the actions and investment required to maintain these facilities over the next 10 years and informing future capital works planning and budgeting.
18	Facilitate support for the Youth Holistic Outreach Program	Work progressed to support the future delivery of the Youth Holistic Outreach Program, including development of a new funding and service agreement and a revised program model. The revised model is planned to commence in the new financial year.
19	Challenging gender-based violence through youth led initiatives	The 'Take the Lead' program was delivered at Coburg High School and Pascoe Vale Girls College, providing young women with opportunities to explore gender-based violence, respectful relationships and the pressures and expectations affecting their lives. Key activities and outcomes included: • interactive sessions exploring gender stereotypes, respectful relationships, recognising red flags, help-seeking pathways and available legal and community supports • strong student engagement, with participants building confidence to discuss sensitive topics and share their experiences • young women co-designing campaign materials promoting women's empowerment and challenging restrictive gender stereotypes • consultation providing insights into how gender-based pressures and expectations can affect young women's wellbeing, relationships, confidence and future opportunities.
20	Scope options to provide additional free third spaces for children, young people, and families	More than 400 young people responded to a survey about their needs and aspirations for free third spaces. A Youth Summit was also held on 25 June 2026, bringing together students from primary and secondary schools across Merri-bek to further

Major initiatives and priorities		
The following statements review Council's performance against the Council Plan, in relation to major initiatives identified through our Council Action Plan 2025-26 via the budget.		
#	Actions: What we will do in 2025-26	Progress:
		explore what young people want from these spaces. The findings will inform a feasibility study and a report to Council, scheduled for late 2026.
21	Progress the development of the Brunswick Early Years Hub	The builder has been appointed, and ground works are underway on site. A formal sod-turning event with the Minister for Children is planned in the coming months to mark the commencement of the construction phase of the facility, which is scheduled for completion by late 2027.
22	Increase awareness of library early literacy programming through partnership with MCH	A partnership approach has been established between Merri-bek Libraries and Maternal and Child Health services to increase awareness of early literacy opportunities. Development of video resources promoting early literacy programs and services is underway and will support consistent messaging by Librarians and Maternal and Child Health Nurses when engaging with new parent groups.
23	Deliver and extend outdoor help program for seniors for 2025/26	The Outdoor Help Program continued throughout 2025–26, supporting older residents to maintain safe and accessible outdoor spaces and remain living independently at home. Demand remained strong, with participation increasing significantly compared with the previous year. During 2025–26, the program: • supported 427 older residents across all Merri-bek suburbs • recorded a 63% increase in participation compared with the previous year • reached residents from 19 different cultural backgrounds. A small number of more complex requests could not be completed within the financial year and will continue to be managed through ongoing program delivery.
24	Deliver the ageing well navigation support program to older residents	The Age Well Program provided personalised support to help older residents navigate the aged care system, connect with social and physical activity opportunities, and plan for the future. Monthly themed information sessions, presentations, workshops and community events were also delivered in response to community feedback and identified needs. During 2025–26, the program: • supported 275 older residents through personalised one-to-one assistance • engaged a further 883 people • delivered 60 outreach events across the year. Collaboration with medical professionals, charities, food relief providers and other essential services also continued to strengthen referral pathways and access to support.

Major initiatives and priorities		
The following statements review Council's performance against the Council Plan, in relation to major initiatives identified through our Council Action Plan 2025-26 via the budget.		
#	Actions: What we will do in 2025-26	Progress:
25	**Deliver programs addressing food security through local markets, referral, and voucher systems, strengthening local procurement and logistic**	*The VicHealth-funded Community Food Alliance project was launched in April, bringing together community members and local food organisations to strengthen access to food and opportunities to participate in local food initiatives. Alliance partners included Merri Food Hub, CIS Merri-bek, Fawkner Food Bowls and Open Table.* *The launch:* • *attracted more than 100 community members and representatives from local food organisations* • *promoted the twice-weekly Merri Food Hub markets* • *provided information about food voucher referrals and volunteering opportunities with partner organisations.* *Council also partnered with CERES to deliver the sold-out Olives to Oil Festival through the My Smart Garden program. Residents collected locally grown olives that may otherwise have gone to waste, which were processed and returned to participants as olive oil.*
26	**Review and implement Social Cohesion Plan**	*Implementation of the Social Cohesion Plan continued through initiatives focused on participation, inclusion, connection and addressing racism across the community. Key achievements included:* • *Women in Small Business Empowerment: Delivered with SisterWorks in Fawkner and co-designed with local women, the project supported 12 women from diverse backgrounds to build skills, confidence and connections to develop their business ideas.* • *Democracy Lab and Go Girls Foundation: The Democracy Lab engaged 23 Merri-bek participants across eight sessions, building skills and confidence in democratic and community participation. A further 15 women graduated from the Go Girls Foundation program at Glenroy Hub, which supported participants to build confidence, practical skills and independence on their pathway to employment.* • *Anti-Racism Support Network: The Hume and Merri-bek Anti-Racism Support Network hosted a community workshop to hear experiences and identify priorities for addressing racism, as well as two free training sessions for staff to strengthen their skills and confidence in responding to racism.* *Merri-bek Interfaith Network: The network brought people from different faiths together through activities including World Environment Day in Fawkner, a Places of Worship bus tour and a Peace Pole planting for World Interfaith Harmony Week, supporting greater understanding and connection between communities.*

Major initiatives and priorities		
The following statements review Council's performance against the Council Plan, in relation to major initiatives identified through our Council Action Plan 2025-26 via the budget.		
#	Actions: What we will do in 2025-26	Progress:
27	Evaluation and development of a human rights policy	The evaluation of the Human Rights Policy was completed, with findings informing engagement on the development of the next Policy and consideration by the Health, Wellbeing and Social Inclusion Advisory Committee. Key findings included: • the Policy has strengthened Council's systems, capabilities and practices to support human rights • it has contributed to more inclusive and accessible services and programs • community satisfaction with Council's support for diversity, inclusion and human rights remained high at 7.5 out of 10. The evaluation supports the continuation and strengthening of Council's approach to human rights through the next phase for 2026–2036.
28	Create Library of Things plan for Merri-bek libraries	A Library of Things Plan has been developed, and the collection will continue to grow in line with the plan.
29	Deliver the Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan including Functional Zero and Assertive outreach	Key achievements during the reporting period included the extension of the Assertive Outreach Program for a further three years. Opportunities to increase the sustainability and impact of the program through collaboration with neighbouring councils, including Banyule and Darebin, continue to be explored. Planning has also commenced for the Merri-bek Zero strategic workshop to identify shared priorities and strengthen access to services and supports.
30	Advocate for systemic changes to enable a socially just and climate resilient Merri-bek.	Throughout the year, Council officers appeared at a hearing of the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into renewable and affordable energy for apartments, contributing to advocacy on energy affordability and upgrades for apartment buildings. Council also worked with local government, strata and social sector partners to advocate for apartment energy upgrades in the lead-up to the Victorian State election.
31	Embed library social worker program	The Library Social Work Program commenced in April 2026, providing short-term assistance and referral support at Brunswick, Coburg and Glenroy libraries from Tuesday to Thursday. Referral processes were established and library staff were trained to identify and refer community members who may benefit from the service. Since commencing in April, the program has: • provided 39 secondary consultations to library staff • received 11 community referrals for support.

Major initiatives and priorities		
The following statements review Council's performance against the Council Plan, in relation to major initiatives identified through our Council Action Plan 2025-26 via the budget.		
#	Actions: What we will do in 2025-26	Progress:
32	Explore, including though partnership arrangements, ways to improve health, access and inclusiveness in public & private spaces for people in precarious housing such as access to toilets and bathrooms, seating under shelter, showers, lockers and a place to heat food as well as improved access to services	This action forms part of the broader Homelessness Strategy. During the reporting period, opportunities to strengthen partnerships with service providers have continued to be explored to increase access to facilities and support for people experiencing homelessness, including services such as mobile laundry and shower facilities. Council's leisure centres at Brunswick, Coburg and Fawkner have continued to provide access to shower facilities as part of this support.
33	Develop and implement Gender Equality and Family Violence Action Plan	During the reporting period, Council continued to strengthen the Family Violence Network and contribute to regional collaboration initiatives focused on family violence prevention and response, led by Women's Health in the North. Evidence and learnings gathered throughout the past 12 months are also informing the development of Council's new Human Rights Policy, the Gender Equality (Community) Plan 2026-2028, and other relevant strategic plans and actions.
34	Deliver an annual Tobacco education and enforcement program	Across the 2025-26 financial year, a total of 209 tobacco education visits were undertaken, including proactive visits to retailers, food premises and outdoor locations where signage is required. Signage was provided and installed at locations where required.
35	Develop and implement First Peoples Self-Determination Strategy	Development of Council's First Peoples Self-Determination Strategy progressed throughout 2025–26 through ongoing partnership and engagement with First Peoples communities and organisations. Key activities included: • Cultural consultation: Monthly consultations with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elders continued, providing strategic advice across Council policies, plans and projects. • First Peoples Advisory Committee: Ongoing engagement included the appointment of a new Aboriginal community Co-Chair in May 2026 and consideration of First Nations procurement opportunities and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung aspirations for the Ballerrt Mooroop site. • Organisational capability: Council delivered a Truth-Telling and Effective Allyship workshop in June 2026 to strengthen organisational capability and support a culturally informed approach to self-determination. • Treaty and reconciliation: Council participated in a Municipal Association of Victoria initiative with eight Victorian councils to strengthen public understanding of Treaty and develop positive, values-based narratives supporting self-determination and reconciliation. Community connections: Council's community grants program supported the establishment of The Brunswick Circle, a multicultural reconciliation initiative strengthening relationships between migrant, refugee and First Nations communities.

Major initiatives and priorities		
The following statements review Council's performance against the Council Plan, in relation to major initiatives identified through our Council Action Plan 2025-26 via the budget.		
#	Actions: What we will do in 2025-26	Progress:
36	Partner with the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service to investigate options, locations and co-design culturally safe programs and services that promote and improve access to Councils Aquatic and Leisure Centres addressing a range of barriers for Aboriginal Victorians	Council continued to partner with the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service and the contracted aquatic and leisure service provider to investigate options, locations and the co-design of culturally safe programs and services that improve access to Council's aquatic and leisure facilities for First Nations communities. This work has focused on identifying barriers to participation and opportunities to strengthen culturally safe and accessible service delivery. This remains a priority area under the new contract term and the associated four-year rolling Strategic Plan.
37	Report the achievements of negotiated voluntary social and affordable housing outcomes through planning process in Quarterly Planning Permit Activity reporting to the Planning and Related Matters Council meeting	Information on social and affordable housing outcomes delivered through the planning process has been included in the City Development Quarterly Activity Reports throughout the 2025-26 financial year. The City Development Quarterly Activity Report for the fourth quarter of 2025-26 will be presented to the August Planning and Related Matters Committee meeting.
38	Progress plans and projects to revitalise and improve central Coburg	Council endorsed the updated Central Coburg Framework Plan and Development Standards in June 2026. The endorsed documents incorporate community feedback received during consultation on the draft Framework Plan undertaken between November and December 2025.
39	Deliver the Merri-bek Affordable Housing Action Plan	Throughout 2025–26, Council continued to work with government agencies and housing providers to advance accessible and inclusive housing opportunities, including First Peoples housing on Council-owned land. Key activities included: • preparing and submitting detailed analysis to the Department of Transport and Planning to inform consideration of amendments to affordable housing permit provisions for two major developments in Brunswick and Coburg proposed by Assemble Communities

		• *providing expert advice to support development of the Central Coburg Framework and Development Standards, which include a significant affordable housing contribution and were adopted by Council on 10 June 2026* • *continuing partnership and advocacy work with government agencies and housing providers to support affordable and inclusive housing opportunities.*
40	**Support the development of Ballerrt Mooroop site/community hub with engagement of local First Peoples communities and Traditional Owners**	*Ballerrt Mooroop Day, coordinated by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation with Council support, celebrated the transfer of the site from the State Government to Wurundjeri ownership. Around 250 people attended, with activities including a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony, community stalls, educational displays, a panel discussion with Wurundjeri leaders, children's activities and a Djirri Djirri Dance Group workshop.*

Services 2025-26		
The following statement describes the services funded through the 2025-26 budget, including the sections of the community for whom the services are delivered.		
Service	*Description*	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance $000
Aquatic & Community Facilities	*This service provides for the management, operations and service delivery of Merri-bek's six Aquatic and Leisure Centres through an external contracted service provider; including direction and oversight of the Active Merri-bek program and service development; compliance auditing across a range of functions to deliver the objectives and outcomes required; capital maintenance and infrastructure improvement planning and project supervision; and, policy development and review.* *This service also provides accessible well utilised Council managed community venues for hire facilities that meet community needs through 20 venues including small halls, senior citizen centres and external meeting rooms. It also oversees the work group around the Friendship agreement between Hume City Council, Merri-bek City Council and Friends of Aileu Committee.*	990 458 (532)

	• No. of aquatic and leisure centre attendances 983,000 per annum • No. of aquatic and leisure centre members 6,700 • No. of swim lesson students enrolled 7,400	
Ageing Well	This service provides Home Support Assessments for older people, people with a disability or illness and their carers, they provide referrals to and information about other related services, and assistance with care coordination. Clients are then either linked to support services as part of the Commonwealth Home Support Program or the Home and Community Care Program for Younger People.	800 715 (85)
Children's Services	This service supports children's access, participation and engagement in early childhood education and care programs, and children's participation through partnerships and collaboration. The key services provided are supported playgroups, centralised early learning centre and kindergarten enrolment, kindergarten outreach and inclusion support, early years service planning, professional development for the early years sector, parent information sessions, network facilitation, resourcing and support to early years service providers, facilitation of the Children's Reference Group, delivery of family day care and school holiday programs.	1,537 1,686 149
Community Development & Social Policy	This service advances social justice and community wellbeing by advocating for fairness. promoting equitable and inclusive policies, services, facilities, and programs within the Council. It facilitates collaboration by encouraging cooperation within the Council and with community partners to tackle current and future community needs. The service also supports local action by empowering local initiatives that promote human rights, accessibility, volunteering, community service networks, food security, social cohesion, reconciliation, gender equality, family violence prevention, and gambling harm prevention.	2,269 2,246 (22)
Environmental Health	This service works to support public health through inspecting food premises, manage infectious disease outbreaks, ensure prescribed accommodation is provided at required standards, nuisance complaint investigation and resolution, proactively manage tobacco control activities, manage residential noise complaints, provide support to the Municipal Emergency Management Plan and provide public health-related information to the community. • Registration/inspections of food premises: 1,336 per annum • Registration/inspections of public health premises: 195 per annum	(232) (274) (42)
Home Care	This service aims to assist eligible residents to remain living at home independently and in a safe and secure environment. Specific services include home maintenance	1,958

	and modifications, general home care and support, personal care, respite care, assistance with shopping and other activities. • No. of home support hours: 101,500 per annum	2,354 396
Maternal Child Health and Immunisation	This service supports the health and development of young children from ages 0-6 and families in their parenting role. Specific activities include: parenting support and education; breastfeeding support, sleep and settling, health promotion; monitoring of growth and development in children; and, early identification and attention to child and family health issues. Immunisation service provides a schedule of vaccines offered free under the National Immunisation Program and Victorian immunisation programs for children, adolescents and vulnerable adults. • No. of immunisations: 3,673 babies per annum and 2,239 school children per annum and 830 adults per annum • No. of key ages & stages visits: 18,400 per annum Sleep & Settling community education sessions: 200 per annum	4,375 4,321 (54)
Recreation Services	This service aims to improve sport and physical activity participation for people of all ages, gender, background and ability by promoting the use of recreation facilities and enhancing the capacity of local recreation, sporting clubs and community organisations to deliver services.	1,414 1,472 58
Social Support Services	This service delivers a number of specific social support programs, including Community Transport, Meals Production and Delivery, Social Support Connection Options (which provides activities, outings for socially isolated eligible residents), and the provision of information and support to older community residents. It also provides governance support and health and wellness info-sessions for senior citizens. • No. of meals delivered: 53,178 per annum (Merri-bek only) No. of trips by Community Transport: 14,960 per annum	1,305 1,512 207
Youth Services	This service aims to improve the lives of young people through the provision of safe, supportive and inclusive programs and spaces that promote youth participation and wellbeing. Specific service activities include: service planning and delivery; facility management and working in partnership with young people and the community to engage and empower young people in Merri-bek to influence Council decision making.	1,778 1,621 (157)

Service performance indicators 2025-26

The following statement provides the results of the prescribed service performance indicators and measures including explanation of results in the comments.

Service/ Indicator/ measure	Results				Comments
	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Aquatic Facilities					
Service standard *Health inspections of aquatic facilities* *[Number of authorised officer inspections of Council aquatic facilities / Number of Council aquatic facilities]*	*1.00*	*1.00*	*1.00*	*0.83*	*Five of the six aquatic facilities were inspected during 2025. While the result was slightly lower than the previous year due to one scheduled inspection not being completed, inspection levels remained above the minimum requirements and benchmarked averages.*
Utilisation *Utilisation of aquatic facilities* *[Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Population]*	*5.64*	*5.28*	*5.75*	*5.96*	*Aquatic facility utilisation increased slightly in 2025–26, with all six aquatic centres operating in line with their scheduled operating periods.*
Service cost *Cost of aquatic facilities* *[Direct cost of aquatic facilities less income received / Number of visits to aquatic facilities]*	*$2.37*	*$0.43*	*$1.17*	*$1.07*	*The net cost of aquatic facilities per visit decreased by approximately 8% compared with 2024–25. All six aquatic centres operated for a full 12-month period, contributing to increased attendance and improved cost efficiency per visit.*
Food Safety					
Timeliness *Time taken to action food complaints* *[Number of days between receipt and first response action for all food complaints / Number of food complaints]*	*2.92*	*2.18*	*1.92*	*3.04*	*Food-related complaints were actioned within an average of 3.04 days in 2025-26, remaining well within the expected range of 1 to 10 days. While results can vary from year to year depending on the nature and complexity of complaints received, Council continues to prioritise food-related complaints and respond promptly.*

Service standard *Food safety assessments* *[Number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that receive an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the Food Act 1984 / Number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that require an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the Food Act 1984] x100*	*71.82%*	*71.71%*	*96.34%*	*92.84%*	*Class 1 and Class 2 food premises were inspected during the 2025 calendar year, maintaining a high level of food safety assessment coverage. This remains a strong result, broadly consistent with the previous year and well within the expected range.*
Food safety samples *[Number of food samples obtained / Required number of food samples] × 100*	*New*	*New*	*100%*	*101.49%*	*In the 2025 calendar year, 268 food samples were required and the Environmental Health team completed 272 samples, ensuring sufficient samples to complete this measure.*
Service cost *Cost of food safety service* *[Direct cost of the food safety service / Number of food premises registered or notified in accordance with the Food Act 1984]*	*$586.59*	*$643.40*	*$347.64*	*$395.45*	*While costs increased marginally compared to last year, the average costs have been reducing over recent years and remain comparatively low in comparison with the sector.*
Health and safety *Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications* *[Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises] x100*	*100.00%*	*99.43%*	*100.00 %*	*100.00%*	*Council achieved a 100% compliance rate for attending critical and major non-compliance outcomes within the required timeframe in 2025–26. Performance has remained consistently high.*
Maternal and Child Health (MCH)					
Service standard *Infant enrolments in the MCH service* *[Number of infants enrolled in the MCH service (from birth notifications received) / Number of birth notifications received] x100*	*100.98%*	*100.67%*	*100.71 %*	*100.83%*	*Merri-bek achieved an infant enrolment rate of 100.83% in 2025-26, reflecting strong uptake of the Maternal and Child Health service. Results can exceed 100% where families move into the municipality after the birth of their child and subsequently enrol in the service.*

Service cost *Cost of the MCH service* *[Cost of the MCH service / Hours worked by MCH nurses]*	$69.28	$72.38	$77.52	$82.80	*Council investment in Maternal and Child Health increased modestly in line with enrolments and community need, including an increasing number of families requiring more intensive support. Investment also supports initiatives including breastfeeding support, whole-of-family engagement and Saturday appointments to improve access and outcomes for infants and families.*
Participation *Participation in the MCH service* *[Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100*	74.60%	75.51%	75.19%	74.97%	*Merri-bek achieved a Maternal and Child Health service participation rate of 74.97% in 2025-26, consistent with participation levels in recent years. Proactive follow-up, reminders and flexible service delivery options support families to access key health and development assessments for their children.*
Participation *Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children* *[Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100*	73.81%	80.00%	69.23%	73.68%	*Merri-bek achieved a participation rate of 73.68% for Aboriginal children in the Maternal and Child Health service in 2025-26. This result reflects ongoing efforts to provide culturally safe, accessible and responsive care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. Initiatives such as the Welcome Baby to Country event support early connection to culture, community and services, helping to strengthen engagement with Maternal and Child Health services.*
Satisfaction *Participation in 4-week Key Age and Stage visit* *[Number of 4-week key age and stage visits / Number of birth notifications received] x100*	87.73%	87.87%	88.45%	87.79%	*Merri-bek achieved a participation rate of 87.79% for the four-week Key Age and Stage visit in 2025-26. The result reflects continued strong engagement by families with the Maternal and Child Health service during the early postnatal period. Participation is supported through timely contact with families following birth notifications, proactive appointment scheduling and follow-up processes that encourage attendance at this important health and developmental assessment.*

Theme 3: Beautiful and liveable city

Strategic objective: *Create safe, accessible streets and public spaces that support vibrant communities, active travel, rest and relaxation, and community pride, while ensuring development and growth are well managed and local character is celebrated, ensuring Merri-bek is a welcoming, liveable, and connected place for all.*

Strategic indicators
The following statements review Council's performance against the Council Plan, including progress against the strategic indicators.

If we are successful, we will see	Measures	Target/Trend	2025-26 Result & Comments
A positive increase in streets that are safe, vibrant, accessible, and greener.	**Healthy Streets program indicator measures.**	**Increase on streetscape improvements.**	*The Streets for People Plan was adopted in August 2025, introducing the Healthy Streets Assessment as the methodology for measuring this indicator. As no projects delivered under the Plan were completed during 2025-26, there are no results to report for this year.* *Projects due for completion in 2026-27, including the Victoria Street Streets for People Project, Wheatsheaf Road Streetscape Improvements, West Street Shopping Strip Renewal and the Hope Street Streets for People Project, are expected to establish the baseline for future reporting.*
Improved footpath and bike path infrastructure.	**Average time to respond to trip hazards identified on footpaths.**	**Reduce each year.**	*This measure is currently being developed as part of a broader project to establish a consistent methodology for measuring response times in line with the Road Management Plan. A reportable result is not yet available for 2025-26. Once the methodology is finalised, it will establish the baseline for future reporting.*

Major initiatives and priorities		
The following statements review Council's performance against the Council Plan, in relation to major initiatives identified through our Council Action Plan 2025-26 via the budget.		
#	Actions: What we will do in 2025-26	Progress:
41	Facilitate additional public toilets in parks & reserves	Council has adopted the 2026-27 Capital Works Program, which includes the delivery of two new public toilets at Fran Reserve and Cox Reserve during 2026-27. These projects have been incorporated as actions within Year 2 of the Council Action Plan and will be reported on accordingly.
42	Deliver Park priorities	During the year, Council progressed several park projects across Merri-bek. Key achievements and milestones included: • completing upgrades to Gervase Reserve in Glenroy and H.M. Dowd Reserve in Pascoe Vale • delivering a new park at York Street, Pascoe Vale, through the Park Close to Home Program • progressing the concept design for a new park at 568 Sydney Road, Brunswick, with community consultation planned for late 2026 • commencing work on a new Park Close to Home project in Fawkner, with further information and community consultation planned for late 2026.
43	Deliver increased shade in Victoria Mall	In collaboration with local businesses, Council has delivered 16 new in-ground market umbrellas in Victoria Mall, improving shade and amenity within this important public space.
44	Implement hooning prevention measures in reserve carparks in Glenroy	Temporary hooning prevention measures were implemented and monitored during the year at: • Middle Street Reserve, Hadfield • A.T.C. Cook Reserve, Glenroy • Wallace Reserve, Glenroy. Following implementation of the interim measures, detailed design work commenced at the Glenroy sites to explore opportunities to increase tree canopy cover and incorporate integrated water management and water-sensitive urban design within the car parks. At Wallace Reserve, infrastructure affected by several instances of vandalism was reinstated and continues to be monitored.
45	Implement the outcomes of the community engagement for the Stage 1 Pilot - Dog Walking in Merri-bek initiatives at 8 different reserves, including improving Gilpin dog park	Stage 1 of the Dog Walking in Merri-bek pilot progressed following completion of detailed community workshops. Key outcomes included: • findings for seven of the eight Stage 1 sites were presented to Council and adopted as permanent arrangements in April 2026 • findings for the eighth site are scheduled to be presented to Council in the first quarter of 2026–27 • the Gilpin Park enclosed dog park upgrade was completed, including a new enclosed area for small dogs adjacent to Pearson Street.

Major initiatives and priorities		
The following statements review Council's performance against the Council Plan, in relation to major initiatives identified through our Council Action Plan 2025-26 via the budget.		
#	Actions: What we will do in 2025-26	Progress:
		Further implementation of the initiative will continue through the 2026–27 Council Action Plan.
46	**Engage the community in the review of and update of the Domestic Animal Management Plan**	*Community engagement was undertaken on Merri-bek's draft Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP). Public consultation and feedback to inform the development of the draft and subsequently for feedback on the draft was completed. Feedback obtained was considered in the development of the final DAMP endorsed by Council in the November 2025 Council meeting.*
47	**Engage the community in the review of and update of the Local Law**	*Community consultation on the Local Law review was undertaken between April and May 2026, with strong participation including:* • *129 survey responses* • *11 written submissions.* *Community feedback informed the next stage of the review, with a draft Local Law prepared and internal consultation undertaken. A legal review is scheduled for July 2026, followed by further community consultation in the second quarter of 2026–27.*
48	**Adopt a new Road Management Plan and implement the changes resulting from its review**	*The Road Management Plan was reviewed in time to meet the statutory deadline of 31 October and was subsequently endorsed by Council at the October Council meeting. The changes have now been implemented and embedded into ongoing operations.*
49	**Deliver the Streets for People Plan priority projects**	*Throughout the year, Streets for People projects progressed across several locations:* • *Hope Street and Breese Street: project proposals were refined in response to community feedback* • *Barrow Street, Coburg: Council approved a 12-month extension of the trial road closure, incorporating safety modifications and ongoing monitoring* • *Harding Street–Munro Street and Albert Street: planning for future projects progressed.*
50	**Deliver sustainable transport initiatives that improve options for people walking and riding throughout Merri-bek**	*Throughout the year, sustainable transport initiatives progressed across Merri-bek, including:* • *School Transport Precincts Program: engagement with the Merri-bek Primary School community to support access improvements* • *Walking and cycling infrastructure: planning progressed for improvements to the Merri Creek Trail at Bowden Reserve and Clara Street* • *Streets for People: priority projects continued to progress across multiple locations*

Major initiatives and priorities		
The following statements review Council's performance against the Council Plan, in relation to major initiatives identified through our Council Action Plan 2025-26 via the budget.		
#	Actions: What we will do in 2025-26	Progress:
		• *Sustainable travel: staff travel initiatives and participation in Healthy Streets training supported sustainable travel behaviour change.*
51	*Deliver the Ride & Stride behaviour change program plus priority infrastructure upgrades around schools, to foster safe and active travel to and from school*	*Highlights have included:* • *The launch of the largest Ride & Stride e-bike subsidy program to date, with more than 119 families supported. In response to the national fuel crisis, the program expanded beyond primary schools to include childcare centres and kindergartens. Of recipients, 67% identified as women or gender diverse.* • *Collaboration with the City of Kingston on the development of an Open Streets National Toolkit, scheduled to be launched in July.* • *Drafting of Council's first School Precincts Plan, including a co-design workshop with the first Ride & Stride school.* *Throughout the 2025-26 financial year, Council continued to work with 16 Ride & Stride schools, while Open Streets initiatives were delivered regularly at five schools, supporting increased participation in active and sustainable travel.*
52	*Support the expansion of the Electric Vehicle (EV) charging network across Merri-bek*	*Throughout 2025–26, electric vehicle charging infrastructure progressed across Merri-bek, including:* • *Home-to-Street Electric Vehicle Charging Trial: more than 20 chargers were installed, with the trial now progressing to evaluation* • *The Grove: installation of a dual electric vehicle charger neared completion, with final bay line marking and energisation by Jemena remaining* • *Brunswick: investigations continued into a potential fast charger near the Brunswick Tram Depot* • *Pole-mounted chargers: community consultation on their potential introduction was completed.*
53	*Deliver the Wheatsheaf Road Glenroy streetscape improvement project (over two years)*	*This action has been placed on hold for the remainder of the financial year, with Council endorsing this position at its February 2026 Council meeting due to external factors impacting delivery. As a multi-year initiative, the action has been included in the Year 2 Council Action Plan 2026-27.*
54	*Ensure Council is well briefed to support the best possible design outcomes from major planning applications*	*Most major planning proposals are determined by Council resolution at Planning and Related Matters (PARM) Council meetings. Generally, proposals that exceed structure plan height limits or major application referred to Council by the Minister for Planning, are considered by Councillors.* *All major planning applications undergo a review process with expert input from Council's urban design, environmentally sustainable development, and heritage advisory teams. In 2025/26 Council was briefed and considered the following major proposals at PARM Council meetings:*

Major initiatives and priorities		
The following statements review Council's performance against the Council Plan, in relation to major initiatives identified through our Council Action Plan 2025-26 via the budget.		
#	Actions: What we will do in 2025-26	Progress:
		• 253 -259 Brunswick Road, Brunswick - six storeys • 2 Florence Street, Coburg - seven storeys • 278-282 Albert Street, Brunswick - nine storeys • 932 Sydney Road, Coburg North - mixed-use development including warehouse, service station and convenience restaurant • 90 Bell Street, Coburg - Coburg Health Hub • 50-52 Breese Street and 655-661 Sydney Road Brunswick (Brunswick Market) - townhouses
55	Reporting on Ministerial planning permit decision-making through the Quarterly Planning Permit Activity Reporting to the Planning & Related Matters Council Meeting	The Quarterly City Development Activity Report includes details of Ministerial applications. In the 2025-26 financial year, the following Ministerial application has been reported to the Planning and Related Matters Council meeting: MIN/2025/7 - 50-52 Breese Street and 655-661 Sydney Road, Brunswick, for 43 townhouses, reported to the March 2026 meeting.
56	Ensure the review of the Merri-bek Planning Scheme leads to a framework that supports great housing, employment, and liveability in Merri-bek	This action is on track. Work is underway to ensure the Merri-bek Planning Scheme continues to provide a clear and effective framework of local policies and controls to guide the location and form of housing growth. A Planning Scheme Review, aligned with the Department of Transport and Planning's 2026 guidance note and the finalised Housing Target Scorecard, is being prepared and is on track to be presented to Council in October 2026.

Services 2025-26		
The following statement describes the services funded through the 2025-26 budget, including the sections of the community for whom the services are delivered.		
Service	*Description*	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance $000
Amenity & Compliance	*This service aims to improve the safety, amenity and access within the municipality. Specific services include: parking and road safety enforcement, local laws, animal management, business support, prosecutions and school crossings service.* • *No. of supervised school crossings: 77* • *No. of fines issued: 66,000 per annum* • *No. of animals registered: 22,000 per annum*	*(2,437)* *(3,150)* *(713)*
Engineering Services	*This service manages the design and construction of all road and drainage infrastructure, Onsite Detention Storage (OSD) and Flood Level Referrals for planning permits and private development works.*	*1,038* *1,085* *46*
City Works	*This service aims to create a more liveable city by providing a range of services to maintain and improve the safety and integrity of the City's Road Network. Specific services include: pot hole patching, road resheeting and various civil infrastructure maintenance activities. This service also supports emergency and urgent requests for road closures.* • *Roads maintained: 613 Kms* • *Footpaths maintained: 1,027 Kms*	*4,603* *5,465* *862*

Transport, Development & Asset Assurance	*This service provides strategic transport planning and transport engineering to support a liveable city by ensuring that the community has access to a variety of modes to travel around and that consideration is given to what is best for the environment, community and the economy. Specific services include strategic transport planning, transport engineering, road safety and accessibility, transport permits, and transport advocacy.*	*1,630* *197* *1,434*
Strategic Asset Maintenance	*This service aims to provide sound stewardship of Council's $3.0 billion asset base, undertaken through the development and implementation of Asset Management policies, strategies and plans and the provision of high quality Asset Management data to support informed decision making.*	*1,153* *957* *(196)*
Building Projects	*This service delivers Council's Capital Works Program for buildings and structures including design and delivery of new upgrades and renewals to local community facilities. It also provides construction advisory services across the organisation and to its stakeholders.*	*1,268* *1,018* *(250)*
Building Maintenance	*This service maintains Council buildings to appropriate standards and regulations, including responsibility of Essential Safety Measures in Council owned and managed buildings.* • *No. of responses to work requests: 7,400 per annum* • *No. of buildings maintained: 288*	*5,140* *3,875* *(1,264)*
Building Services	*This service aims to provide safe and habitable buildings for all stakeholders by meeting Council's statutory obligations under the Building Act 1993 and subordinate legislation. We engage customers, support the community and regulate the built environment through application assessments, permits and building compliance.* • *Building permits issued and consents granted: 720 per annum* • *Enforcement matters resolved: 650 per annum*	*484* *423* *(61)*
City Planning & Design	*This service is responsible for leading Council's response to population growth and land use and development trends to create sustainable neighbourhoods. The branch does this by keeping the Merri-bek Planning Scheme current and responsive to change, undertaking research to understand housing capacity and demand and implementing actions aimed at increasing the supply of social and affordable housing. This service also includes investment, industry and retail facilitation, business development and supporting local business, to enhance the reputation of Merri-bek as a progressive and prosperous municipality.*	*1,710* *2,383* *673*

Street Cleansing	*This service aims to maintain and enhance the quality of life for people who live and work in, and travel through Merri-bek, by improving the cleanliness and presentation of public spaces. This includes graffiti removal, pit and drain cleaning, street sweeping, street and park litter bin collection, shopping strip cleaning and removal of illegal dumped rubbish.* • *Streets cleaned: 31,253 kilometres*	6,433 6,117 (317)
Urban Planning & Planning Enforcement	*The Urban Planning service assesses and determines planning permit applications and other related matters as well as representing Council at hearings before the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal including applications for use, development and subdivision of land and fast-track services for simple matters and a commercial priority services to assist new and expanding businesses. investment decisions.* *The Planning Enforcement service oversees compliance with the Merri-bek Planning Scheme and planning permits through responses to complaints, proactively monitoring compliance with a select number of planning permits each year, and monitoring permits with legal agreements and land contamination considerations.* • *Planning permit applications received: 1,280 per annum* • *Planning permit applications determined: 1,206 per annum* • *Planning enforcement matters resolved: 360*	(4,313) (4,718) (406)

Service performance indicators 2025-26					
The following statement provides the results of the prescribed service performance indicators and measures including explanation of results in the comments.					
Service/ Indicator/ measure	*Results*				*Comments*
	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Animal Management					
Timeliness *Time taken to action animal management requests* *[Number of days between receipt and first response action for all animal management requests / Number of animal management requests]*	2.03	2.64	4.32	3.41	*Average response times for animal management requests improved by 21% in 2025–26, with the average time to action requests reducing from 4.32 days to 3.41 days. Additional service capacity, including the purchase of more cat cages, supported this improvement.*
Service standard *Animals reclaimed* *[Number of animals reclaimed / Number of animals collected] x100*	34.99%	29.64%	19.18%	17.30%	*The proportion of animals reclaimed remained below the expected range, largely due to the high proportion of cats entering the shelter system, which are less likely to be reclaimed than dogs. Council also reunites registered animals directly with their owners where possible, meaning these successful reunifications are not captured in this measure. Council continues to promote registration and microchipping to support the reunification of pets with their owners.*
Service standard *Animals rehomed* *[Number of unclaimed collected animals rehomed / Number of unclaimed collected animals] x100*	51.69%	63.64%	45.54%	48.78%	*The percentage of unclaimed registrable animals rehomed increased from 45.54% in 2024–25 to 48.78% in 2025–26. This improvement reflects continued efforts by the regional animal welfare service to achieve positive outcomes for unclaimed animals through rehoming and adoption initiatives.*

Service cost Cost of animal management service per population [Direct cost of the animal management service / Population]	$7.25	$8.32	$7.27	$9.18	The cost of Council's animal management service increased from $7.27 to $9.18 in 2025-26, reflecting higher costs associated with service delivery, including compliance, enforcement and animal welfare activities. Despite the increase, the result remains towards the lower end of the expected LGPRF range of $3 to $40.
Health and safety Animal management prosecutions [Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Number of animal management prosecutions] x 100	0.00%	100.00%	66.67%	100.00%	Council recorded 16 animal management prosecutions during 2025–26, compared with three in the previous year. All 16 matters were successfully determined, resulting in a 100% success rate. This result reflects effective investigation, evidence gathering and preparation of matters taken before the Court.
Roads					
Satisfaction of use Sealed local road requests [Number of sealed local road requests / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100	142.53	137.50	105.82	134.83	The number of customer requests increased by approximately 27% compared with 2024-25, from 106 to 135 requests per 100 kilometres of road. This is primarily attributable to increased community reporting of road defects and an ageing road network requiring additional maintenance. Reported defects continue to be assessed and prioritised in accordance with Council's Road Management Plan.
Condition Sealed local roads maintained to condition standards [Number of kilometres of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100	93.34%	92.37%	89.12%	87.22%	The percentage of sealed local roads below the intervention level decreased from 89.12% to 87.22%, reflecting the continued ageing of the road network and the challenge of balancing renewal demand against available funding. While the target was not met, the result remains within the Local Government Victoria-defined range for this indicator. Council continues to prioritise renewal works using condition data and risk-based asset management principles.
Service cost Cost of sealed local road reconstruction [Direct cost of sealed local road reconstruction / Square metres of sealed local roads reconstructed]	$347.04	$435.16	$308.44	$331.35	The average reconstruction cost increased by approximately 8% compared with 2024-25, from $308 to $331 per square metre. The increase reflects higher construction costs, including labour, materials and contractor pricing, as well as variations in project scope and site conditions across the annual road reconstruction program.

Service Cost Cost of sealed local road resealing *[Direct cost of sealed local road resealing / Square metres of sealed local roads resealed]*	$28.13	$32.20	$42.80	$33.33	*The average resealing cost decreased by approximately 22% compared with 2024-25, from $42.80 to $33.33 per square metre. The reduction reflects favourable contract rates and efficiencies achieved through the delivery of the annual resealing program.*
Satisfaction Satisfaction with sealed local roads *[Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads]*	51.00	68.00	68.00	71.00	*Merri-bek's score increased to 71 in 2026, compared with 68 in both 2024 and 2025, representing an improvement following two years of stable results.*
Statutory Planning					
Timeliness Time taken to decide planning applications *[The median number of days between receipt of a planning application and a decision on the application]*	106.00	86.00	80.00	78.00	*The median decision timeframe improved again in 2025-26, despite a 15% increase in planning applications received, reflecting good overall performance in managing increased application volumes.*
Service standard Planning applications decided within required time frames *[(Number of regular planning application decisions made within 60 days) + (Number of VicSmart planning application decisions made within 10 days) / Number of planning application decisions made] x100*	59.87%	74.91%	76.73%	71.66%	*71.66% of planning applications were decided within required timeframes in 2025-26, exceeding Council's target of 63%. This result was achieved despite significant planning reforms across the sector, including the introduction of two-dwelling applications into the 10-day statutory VicSmart assessment stream. This occurred alongside a 15% increase in planning applications for the year.*
Service cost Cost of statutory planning service *[Direct cost of the statutory planning service / Number of planning applications received]*	$2,447.28	$2,943.24	$2,275.83	$2,195.29	*The cost of the statutory planning service continued to decrease, with a further 3.54% reduction, following a larger 23% reduction the previous year. This occurred alongside a 15% increase in planning applications for the year.*
Decision making Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT *[Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside council's decision in relation to a planning application / Number of VCAT decisions in relation to planning applications] x100*	64.29%	85.29%	80.00%	83.33%	*Results are reflective of good decision-making and the change in Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) practices leading to an increased number of consent orders following mediated outcomes.*

Theme 4: Thriving economy and culture

Strategic objective: *A lively and inclusive Merri-bek where the economy supports local business and industry growth, celebrates artistic and creative expression, and connects the community through vibrant cultural experiences.*

Strategic indicators
The following statements review Council's performance against the Council Plan, including progress against the strategic indicators.

If we are successful, we will see	Measures	Target/Trend	2025-26 Result & Comments
A positive increase in local employment and business growth.	• Number of local jobs (National Institute of Economic and Industry Research) • Number of local businesses (ABS Counts of Australian Businesses).	Positive upward trends in both metrics over next 4-year period from 2025 data.	**Number of local jobs (National Institute of Economic and Industry Research):** • *Results for 53,549 (NIEIR 2025).* *While local jobs increased by 1.14% to 2025, it trailed population growth (1.95%). This reflects ongoing economic challenges in the wider economy and underscores the need to foster conditions that are supportive of business and employment growth.* **Number of local businesses (ABS Counts of Australian Businesses):** • *Results 16,791 local businesses in Merri-bek (GST-registered businesses) (ABS 2025)* *Trading conditions continued to be challenging in 2025. However, new local business GST registrations exceeded local business GST cancellations, to record net growth of 2.08% or 342 new businesses.*
A positive increase in opportunities for arts and cultural activity across the whole municipality.	• Increased venue and grant support for artists. • More flexible, innovative, and accessible Council-produced festival program.	Increase.	**Increased venue and grant support for artists.** *During 2025/26, Council delivered 79 community venue booking days for artists at not-for-profit rates, supporting activities attended by approximately 1,500 people. Council also developed a new arts grants program and secured funding for artist residency spaces at Brunswick Town Hall, with both initiatives commencing in 2026/27.* **More flexible, innovative, and accessible Council-produced festival program.** *During 2025/26, Council progressed a review and refresh of its festival program, including community consultation to inform a more flexible, innovative and accessible approach. Planning also commenced for an inaugural library festival. The refreshed festival program will be considered in December 2026.*

Major initiatives and priorities		
The following statements review Council's performance against the Council Plan, in relation to major initiatives identified through our Council Action Plan 2025-26 via the budget.		
#	*Actions: What we will do in 2025-26*	*Progress:*
57	*Continue to develop the Brunswick Design District in partnership with RMIT University and Creative Victoria, with a focus on supporting economic opportunities and job growth in design-related businesses*	*Over the reporting period, Council:* • *Partnered with RMIT University and Creative Victoria to deliver the Melbourne Design Week x Brunswick Design District Open Studios event, featuring a two-day public program across 12 design and creative studios in Merri-bek. Promotional videos were also produced for participating businesses to support ongoing marketing and engagement.* • *Delivered significant upgrades to the Brunswick Design District website, including the development of a new directory showcasing more than 100 creative spaces within and surrounding the precinct.* • *Commenced an update of the Brunswick Design District signature brochure to further promote the precinct's creative industries and destination.*
58	*Implement safety & amenity improvements in major activity centres including Glenroy, Brunswick, and Coburg*	*Throughout the year, safety, access and amenity initiatives progressed across Merri-bek's major activity centres, including:* • *Sydney Road: continued advocacy for improvements to the tram corridor, including alignment with the Victorian Government's accessible tram stop program* • *Local safety improvements: investigation of safety issues at the Barkly Street and Lygon Street intersection, with a school crossing request identified for future consideration* • *Access and parking: continued work through the Victorian Government's Activity Centre reform process* • *Road safety: development of the Road Safety Plan commenced, alongside work towards implementation of the Brunswick and Coburg 30 km/h speed limit trial zones.*
59	*Belair Street, Glenroy, on-street garden bed*	*Council has finalised the detailed design for the Belair Avenue streetscape project, which will enhance greening and improve the amenity and appearance of the precinct. Targeted community engagement has been undertaken with local businesses to inform and refine the final design. The project is now ready for delivery in the 2026/27 financial year.*
60	*Deliver the West Street Streetscape Renewal Project (over two years)*	*Council is progressing the delivery of streetscape improvements to West Street, Hadfield, to enhance the amenity and appearance of the shopping strip. Works remain on track for completion by the end of the calendar year, with progress to date meeting the delivery targets for this financial year.*
61	*Deliver priority actions from the Places for People Plan*	*On 10 June 2026, Council endorsed Merri-bek's Places for People Plan, Council's long-term strategy for delivering high-quality public spaces that support the vibrancy, sustainability and liveability of shopping strips and activity*

Major initiatives and priorities		
The following statements review Council's performance against the Council Plan, in relation to major initiatives identified through our Council Action Plan 2025-26 via the budget.		
#	Actions: What we will do in 2025-26	Progress:
		centres. Delivery of several high-priority opportunities identified in the Plan has commenced, including projects at West Street, Hadfield; Post Office Place, Glenroy; and 568 Sydney Road, Brunswick.
62	Develop a Public Art Policy	The Public Art Policy was adopted by Council in February 2026, with the associated budget referred to the 2026–27 budget process.
63	Deliver the Merri-bek Economic Development Action Plan	Throughout the 2025-26 financial year, including during the fourth quarter, the Economic Development Unit continued to deliver Year 2 actions under the Economic Development Action Plan, including: • Delivered six business events (and yearly total of 36 business skills workshops and networking events). • Delivered of a major Brunswick Design District event for Melbourne Design Week • Continued progression of Business Friendly Council service improvement initiative (ongoing during 2026). • Continued support to Sydney Road Brunswick and Central Coburg business associations, including regarding their proposed respective renewals. • Delivered a Shopfront Improvement project in Melville Road and commenced a similar project in Victoria Mall, Coburg; • Delivered ongoing social media support to West Street shopping strip during the Shopping Strip Renewal works. • Facilitated 66 business permit concierge processes. • Produced and distributed (incl. via YouTube, Council socials, Palace Cinema) new Investment Attraction video - Merri-bek: The Smart Choice for Business. • Progress two State Govt grant funded Multicultural Business Precinct Revitalisation projects in Coburg and Glenroy. • Launched, with three neighbouring Councils, new Greening our Business website and tool for businesses aspiring to greater environmental sustainability. • Supported six businesses to attend NorthLink Circular Economy forum to assist them to learn how to improve their circular business practices. • Council also held second annual Tourism Roundtable for Merri-bek's visitor-economy involved businesses, precincts and stakeholders.
64	Maintain the Commercial Priority Planning Service to facilitate well prepared planning permit applications that can deliver new or increased local employment opportunities	The Urban Planning Unit continues to provide its Commercial Priority Service to support new and expanding businesses in navigating the planning process. From July 2025 to June 2026, as a Business Friendly Council, Merri-bek processed 30 commercial priority planning applications through this service, to help facilitate new and/or expanding businesses that provide increased opportunities for local employment in Merri-bek.

Major initiatives and priorities		
The following statements review Council's performance against the Council Plan, in relation to major initiatives identified through our Council Action Plan 2025-26 via the budget.		
#	*Actions: What we will do in 2025-26*	*Progress:*
65	*Deliver expanded Merri-bek murals street art program*	*During 2025–26, five public art projects were delivered across Merri-bek:* • *Fleming Park, Brunswick East: a mural celebrating Treaty by artist Robert Michael Young* • *Shirley Robertson Children's Centre, Coburg: a mural co-designed with children and artist Amanda Newman* • *Oxygen Youth Space, Coburg: a mural by young local First Peoples artist Njarala Paton* • *Union Street, Brunswick: a mural by Camilo Delgado in collaboration with PRONIA* • *Glenroy Community Hub: a mural by Marco Pennacchia, delivered in response to the rainbow crossings/mural report.*
66	*Scope project to activate underutilised community spaces for arts and performance*	*Findings will be presented to Council in August 2026. This action will continue under the next stage of the scoping process which will be to establish three community venues for increased performance and arts usage.*
67	*Refresh festival program in line with community needs*	*Council deferred its decision on the refreshed festival program to allow for community consultation in July, with a Council decision scheduled for September. As this work extends beyond the current reporting period, it will continue under the Year two Council Action Plan as Community engagement and partnership planning to develop a refreshed festival program.*
68	*Redesign grants program to support more opportunities to create, learn and connect*	*The review and redesign of the Community Grants Program has been deferred to enable a more comprehensive program review and redesign process. Subject to Council endorsement, this work will be progressed through the Year 2 Council Action Plan during the 2026/27 financial year.*
69	*Develop scope for Fawkner Library redevelopment to increase opportunities to learn and connect*	*An information-gathering process has been undertaken to invite ideas from the Fawkner community on the future design of the library. A concept design has subsequently been developed and costed, incorporating a more flexible and functional layout with increased floor space.*
70	*Undertake design competition for the Coburg Library and Piazza concept design*	*The design competition for the Coburg Library and Piazza has been completed, with a winning concept design selected through a two-stage process led by an independent jury of design experts. The competition attracted multidisciplinary design teams and resulted in a contemporary concept featuring a new four-storey library integrated with a public piazza, designed to support cultural, community, and learning activities while creating a central gathering space for Coburg. The endorsed concept design will inform the next stage of project development, including Council consideration and community engagement.*

Services 2025-26		
The following statement describes the services funded through the 2025-26 budget, including the sections of the community for whom the services are delivered.		
Service	Description	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance $000
Arts & Culture	*This unit is responsible for enhancing opportunities for artistic and cultural experiences for the Merri-bek community and growing the capacity of Merri-bek's creative sector and local artists. Merri-bek has developed a strong reputation for the arts and our creative community is well-established and plays a significant role in contributing to the identity, community well-being and economic success of Merri-bek.*	3,361 3,107 (253)
Economic Development	*This service facilitates industry innovation, investment, and job creation to enhance the reputation of Merri-bek as a prosperous, progressive and business friendly municipality. It supports local businesses to help them grow and succeed, it seeks to support businesses, attract investments, assist different industries, enhance retail experiences and support traders, and promote tourism, all aimed at supporting local job growth and building a stronger, more vibrant community.*	1,882 1,803 (79)
Library Services & Resources	*This service provides library lending with books and other items in a variety of formats, and also includes literacy, digital and community programs, information services, makerspace equipment, internet access and wifi; and printing and scanning facilities across Council's five libraries.* • *No. of library members: 32,000* • *No. of people visiting libraries: 520,000 per annum* • *No. of items borrowed: 1,100,000 per annum*	6,546 5,562 (984)
Property, Place & Design	*This service delivers a wide array of projects, partnerships and internal services that define, strengthen, protect and celebrate Merri-bek's unique sense of place. The branch's primary functions are buying, selling and leasing Council's substantial portfolio of land and buildings, delivering place activation programs in our activity centres, conceptualising and delivering major urban revitalisation projects on Council's land, and designing and delivering upgrades to streetscapes, civic spaces and shopping strips.*	1,963 2,022 59

Service performance indicators 2025-26

The following statement provides the results of the prescribed service performance indicators and measures including explanation of results in the comments.

Service/ Indicator/ measure	Results				Comments
	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Libraries					
Resource currency *Recently purchased library collection* *[Number of library collection items purchased in the last 5 years / Number of library collection items] x100*	74.85%	70.54%	68.78%	63.17%	*The proportion of the library collection purchased within the last five years has decreased, reflecting slower renewal of the physical collection. Ongoing investment in digital collections continues to support access to both classic and contemporary titles while responding to changing customer demand.*
Service cost *Cost of library service per population* *[Direct cost of the library service / Population]*	$32.18	$34.73	$35.04	$44.57	*The increase reflects library collection purchases being included in the direct cost calculation, together with increased direct operating costs associated with delivering the library service.*
Utilisation *Loans per head of population* *[Number of library collection item loans / Population]*	New	New	6.57	6.87	*Merri-bek Libraries' continued investment in e-audiobooks with simultaneous loans has contributed to growth in the number of loans. The monthly Jigsaw Puzzle Swap complements the jigsaw puzzles added to our Library of Things collection.*
Participation *Library membership* *[Number of registered library members / Population] x100*	New	New	24%	25.10%	*Library membership increased during 2025-26, reflecting continued community engagement and participation in library services, including community book groups and borrowing of physical and digital collections.*
Participation *Library visits per head of population* *[Number of library visits / Population]*	New	New	3.61	3.88	*Visits to Merri-bek Libraries increased 7.36% from last year as we continued to build on our diverse community programs. Showcase events like the Mushroom Tapes authors talk, silent reading party Book Doof and the return of the Maurice Blackburn Oration all drew the community into libraries.*

Theme 5: Engaging and responsible council

Strategic objective: *A responsive and engaged Merri-bek that prioritises excellent service, embraces engaging communication methods, advocates community needs, and continues to uphold sustainable financial management and accountable governance that builds trust and collaboration with the community.*

Strategic indicators
The following statements review Council's performance against the Council Plan, including progress against the strategic indicators.

If we are successful, we will see	Measures	Target/Trend	2025-26 Result & Comments
A positive increase in Council's customer service performance.	Satisfaction with Council's customer service (Community Satisfaction Survey).	Increase from baseline year (2024).	The 2026 Community Satisfaction Survey recorded a customer service satisfaction result of 73%. While this is a slight decrease from the 2025 result (74%), it remains above the 2024 baseline (72%) and continues to indicate that the community rates Council's customer service performance as very good.
A positive increase in Council's engagement activities.	Interactions via Conversations Merri-bek.	Increase from baseline year (2025).	Community interaction with Conversations Merri-bek increased significantly during 2025-26, with 146,202 visitors and 9,100 contributions. This represents a 28.9% increase in visitors and a 2.7% increase in contributions compared with 2024-25, demonstrating increased community reach and participation and supporting Council's commitment to being an engaging and responsible Council.

Major initiatives and priorities		
The following statements review Council's performance against the Council Plan, in relation to major initiatives identified through our Council Action Plan 2025-26 via the budget.		
#	Actions: What we will do in 2025/26	Progress:
71	Develop Customer Experience Strategy	*A Customer Experience Strategy is currently in development and is scheduled to for delivery by August 2026.*
72	Deliver advocacy activities that support council priorities	*During 2025–26, Council secured $4.168 million in State and Federal Government funding for priority projects, including:* • *$2.968 million from the Victorian Government for the Raeburn and A.G. Gillon Reserve Stormwater Harvesting Scheme, McDonald Reserve Hockey Pitch Stage 1, and raised priority crossings in Glenroy* • *$1.2 million from the Australian Government for the Enhancing Edgars Creek Corridor Project.* • *Council also published its 2026 Victorian State Election Advocacy Priorities and continued engagement with State and Federal Members of Parliament and key advocacy partners.* *Broader advocacy included improved infrastructure funding for growing communities and submissions to the Victorian Government's Inquiry into Anti-LGBTIQA+ Hate Crimes and the Commonwealth Royal Commission into Antisemitism and Social Cohesion, advocating for strengthened government leadership, partnerships and initiatives that promote community cohesion.*
73	Increase editions and page count for Community News	*Council has successfully enhanced its communication reach by increasing both the frequency of Community News editions to bi-monthly and the number of pages per edition to 12. This improvement ensures more space for detailed updates, community stories, and accessible information on programs and services. By expanding content volume and distribution, Council aims to strengthen engagement, improve transparency, and cater to Merri-bek's diverse audiences through inclusive and easy-to-understand messaging.*
74	Continue the Merri-bek Community Connectors program	*During 2025–26, 20 Community Connectors representing more than 11 communities and languages shared Council information through trusted community networks, reaching an overall audience of more than 65,000 community members across Merri-bek.* *Key achievements included:* • *sharing more than 180 Council messages in multiple languages about services, programs, events, consultations and funding opportunities*

Major initiatives and priorities		
The following statements review Council's performance against the Council Plan, in relation to major initiatives identified through our Council Action Plan 2025-26 via the budget.		
#	Actions: What we will do in 2025/26	Progress:
		• contributing to increased multicultural participation, including 450 of 1,074 expressions of interest for the Council Plan Community Panel, a 42% increase in participation in Community Budget Ideas, and 31% of Advisory Committee applications coming from migrants and refugees • supporting a 45% increase in kindergarten enrolments from multicultural families following targeted in-language communications • reviewing translated communications for more than 55 major Council campaigns • providing community perspectives and feedback to inform Council planning, communications and service delivery.
75	Maintain the planning and building on-line booking service for improved customer convenience and freely accessible high-quality advice	Both the Urban Planning and Building Services online booking systems continue to operate effectively, providing improved access to professional town planning and building advice and services at no cost to community members who are unable to attend Council offices in person.
76	Integrate climate risk into Council processes and systems, focusing on risk management, finance, and asset management and capital works planning	During 2025–26, Council progressed work to integrate climate risk into organisational planning and decision-making. Key activities included: • reviewing operational risks from flooding to Council buildings and coordinating preparedness actions to reduce potential impacts • progressing assessment of climate and financial risk • identifying and quantifying climate change-related expenditure, including spending to reduce carbon emissions, respond to climate risk, loss and damage, and enable climate action. This work will inform future prioritisation of programs and activities, as well as capital and operational budget planning.
77	Update Merri-bek's open space and developer contribution models	During 2025–26, two key reforms to Merri-bek's developer and open space contribution models progressed: • Development Contributions Plan (DCP 2.0): authorised by the Minister for Planning, with formal public exhibition completed on 17 June 2026 • Public Open Space Contribution Rate: Amendment C235mbek continued through the Planning Panel process. Following receipt of the final Panel Report, Council will consider the recommendations and determine whether to adopt the amendment, with or without changes.

Major initiatives and priorities		
The following statements review Council's performance against the Council Plan, in relation to major initiatives identified through our Council Action Plan 2025-26 via the budget.		
#	Actions: What we will do in 2025/26	Progress:
78	Complete or commence construction of every project listed in Merri-bek's first Development Contributions Plan before 30 June 2026	*This action has been marked complete with all projects commenced or completed to enable acquittal of the Developer Contributions Plan. There are two projects that have not commenced construction, Kendall Harding Bridge and HK Kinder (Volga St), both projects are currently in the final stages of the design phase with significant enough progress made on each project to acquit the Developer Contribution requirements.*
79	Finalise designs for the Breese Street precinct improvements	*Option 2 - Central Shared Zone was endorsed by Council at its March 2026 meeting. Funding for detailed design has been included in the draft 2026/27 Budget. Detailed design and delivery planning are progressing, with construction staging to be aligned with the Level Crossing Removal Project*

Services 2025-26		
The following statement describes the services funded through the 2025-26 budget, including the sections of the community for whom the services are delivered.		
Service	Description	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance $000
Customer Service	*This service is the primary public contact point for the organisation and is delivered through three Customer Service Centres, the telephone contact centre and other multi-media channels.* • *Calls taken: 131,000 per annum* • *Customer requests received via phone: 41,000 per annum* • *Customer requests received online: 30,000 per annum*	3,536 3,296 (241)
People & Safety	*This service provides advice and support to the organisation regarding: the attraction, recruitment and selection for its employees; performance management; employee and industrial relations; development and implementation of HR policies, systems and processes including workforce planning; gender equality action planning; staff diversity and inclusion programs; and oversight of the health and safety processes including management of WorkCover claims and injured employees. In addition, there is a focus on the provision of health and well-being activities, inductions and workplace training which supports a proactive approach to workplace safety.*	3,794 3,332 (462)
Facilities	*This service co-ordinates the provision of town hall bookings, and meeting rooms with the civic buildings, including facility management, catering and security. It also supports delivery Citizenship cermonies.* • *Venue hire bookings: 5,210 per annum* • *Community venue hire spaces: 16*	3,320 2,583 (737)

Financial Services	*This service provides a range of financial services, including management of Council's finances, internal and external reporting, payments to suppliers of goods and services, staff payroll payments as well as procurement and contracting services. This services also manages the rating of properties within the municipality and the collection of debts owed to Council.* • *Invoices paid: 30,300 per annum* • *Rate notices issued: 345,000 per annum*	*5,397* *4,699* *(698)*
Corporate Finance	*This service undertakes the management of corporate level finances including loan interest repayments, bank fees, parental leave costs, and utilities.*	*(6,745)* *(7,329)* *(584)*
Fleet Services	*This service provides a fleet management and maintenance service for over 670 items of plant and equipment.* • *No. of mechanical services provided: 376 trucks and 302 light vehicles per annum*	*4,495* *4,402* *(93)*
Organisational Performance	*This service supports and leads Council's culture and leadership development, change and continuous improvement capability building and supports the organisation in service unit planning and process mapping. This service also supports project management systems, processes and reporting.*	*1,382* *1,516* *135*
Digital Transformation	*This service is transforming the systems, processes and ways of work used at Council and aims to modernise and enhance our services, processes, and customer experience through strategic digital initiatives.*	*4,173* *2,305* *(1,868)*
Governance, Strategy & Risk	*This service ensures good governance and transparent and responsible decision making, whilst providing support to the Council through the development and implementation of systems which support democratic and corporate governance.*	*2,657* *2,536* *(121)*
Information Technology and Records	*This service supports and maintains corporate computing, communication, geospatial and record management systems for Councillors, staff and users of our public internet services.*	*9,236* *9,602* *(366)*
Communications	*This service supports a number of corporate functions, including issues and reputation management, media management, marketing and branding services; website and social media, community engagement, corporate and internal communications, and delivers community information about Council work impacting the community and promotions of services, events, Council decisions, projects and community development initiatives.*	*2,180* *2,260* *79*

Community Engagement & Participation	*This service ensures that Council is providing the community with good information about the work it is doing and consulting the community about how it develops and delivers projects and services, including consulting the community about any changes to the way Council works. It allows Council to make decisions that best reflect the views of the community.*	1,169 1,196 27
Civic Leadership / General Overheads	*Includes corporate costs related to civic leadership.*	3,270 2,971 (299)

Service performance indicators 2025-26

The following statement provides the results of the prescribed service performance indicators and measures including explanation of results in the comments.

Service/ Indicator/ measure	Results				Comments
	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Governance					
Transparency *Council decisions made at meetings closed to the public* *[Number of Council resolutions made at meetings of Council, or at meetings of a delegated committee consisting only of Councillors, closed to the public / Number of Council resolutions made at meetings of Council or at meetings of a delegated committee consisting only of Councillors]* x100	3.67%	3.24%	5.00%	8.22%	*Of 292 decisions made at Council meetings in 2025-26, 24 were made in meetings closed to the public, primarily due to matters being commercial in nature. While this was an increase from previous years, the result remained below the expected range for this indicator.*
Consultation and engagement *Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement* *[Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on*	51.00	69.00	68.00	71.00	*Merri-bek's score increased from 68 in 2025 to 71 in 2026, reflecting an improvement in community satisfaction compared with the previous year.*

community consultation and engagement]					
Attendance *Councillor attendance at council meetings [The sum of the number of Councillors who attended each Council meeting / (Number of Council meetings) × (Number of Councillors elected at the last Council general election)] x100*	*89.97%*	93.56%	94.18%	94.24%	*Councillor attendance at meetings remains consistently high. When unable to attend, Councillors have provided apologies, and their absences have been acknowledged accordingly.*
Service cost **Cost of elected representation** *[Direct cost of the governance service / Number of Councillors elected at the last Council general election]*	*$54,385.73*	$58,645.00	$60,031.61	$71,886.36	*The cost of elected representation increased by 19.75% in 2025–26, reflecting one-off Chief Executive Officer recruitment costs together with statutory increases to Councillor and Mayoral remuneration contributions.*
Satisfaction *Satisfaction with council decisions [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed in making decisions in the interest of the community]*	*48.00*	68.00	69.00	*70.00*	*Merri-bek's score of 70 in 2026 continues the steady improvement recorded over the past three years.*

MERRI-BEK CITY COUNCIL

Performance Statement

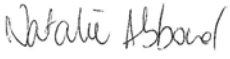
For the year ended 30 June 2026

Certification of the Performance Statement

In my opinion, the accompanying performance statement has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.*

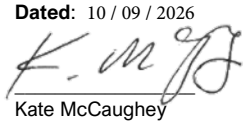
Jemma Wightman, Chief Financial Officer
Principal Accounting Officer
Dated: 10/09/2026

In our opinion, the accompanying performance statement of the *Merri-bek City Council* for the year ended 30 June 2026 presents fairly the results of council's performance in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.
The performance statement contains the relevant performance indicators, measures and results in relation to service performance, financial performance and sustainable capacity.
At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars in the performance statement to be misleading or inaccurate.
We have been authorised by the council and by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* to certify this performance statement in its final form.



Mayor Cr Natalie Abboud
Councillor
Dated: 10 / 09 /2026

Deputy Mayor Cr Helen Davidson
Councillor
Dated: 10 / 09 / 2026



Kate McCaughey
Chief Executive Officer
Dated: 10 / 09 / 2026

Independent Auditor's Report

Victorian Auditor-General's Office

To the Councillors of Merri-bek City Council

Opinion	I have audited the accompanying performance statement of Merri-bek City Council (the council) which comprises the: • description of municipality for the year ended 30 June 2026 • service performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2026 • financial performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2026 • sustainable capacity indicators for the year ended 30 June 2026 • notes to the accounts • certification of the performance statement. In my opinion, the performance statement of Merri-bek City Council in respect of the year ended 30 June 2026 presents fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of Part 4 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.
Basis for Opinion	I have conducted my audit in accordance with the *Audit Act 1994* which incorporates the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the performance statement* section of my report. My independence is established by the *Constitution Act 1975*. My staff and I are independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the performance statement in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.
Councillors' responsibilities for the performance statement	The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the performance statement in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 and for such internal control as the Councillors determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a performance statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Level 31 / 35 Collins Street, Melbourne Vic 3000
T 03 8601 7000 enquiries@audit.vic.gov.au www.audit.vic.gov.au

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the performance statement	As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the performance statement based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the performance statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of this performance statement. As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also: • identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the performance statement, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. • obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the council's internal control • evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the performance statement, including the disclosures, and whether performance statement represents the underlying events and results in a manner that achieves fair presentation. I communicate with the Councillors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

MELBOURNE
18 September 2026

Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Section 1 - Description of municipality

The City of Merri-bek lies between 4 and 14 kilometres north of central Melbourne. The City of Merri-bek is bounded by the Western Ring Road and Hume City in the north, the City of Darebin and Merri Creek in the east, the City of Yarra, the City of Melbourne and Park Street in the south, and the City of Moonee Valley and Moonee Ponds Creek in the west.

The City of Merri-bek covers the suburbs of Brunswick, Brunswick East, Brunswick West, Coburg, Coburg North, Glenroy, Gowanbrae, Hadfield, Fawkner, Oak Park, Pascoe Vale, and Pascoe Vale South. Partial sections of the suburbs of Fitzroy North, Parkville and Tullamarine are also part of the City of Merri-bek.

Estimated resident population for 2025-26 reporting year is 191,747 based on 2024 forecasting figures (Quantify, 2025). Our forecasts now suggest that our population will increase to a total population of 222,733 by 2036 (Quantify, 2025). This is 22,000 fewer residents than we previously forecast we would have by 2036 (Charter Keck Consultancy 2021).

Merri-bek is a highly culturally and linguistically diverse municipality. In 2021, 33% of Merri-bek residents were born overseas. At home, residents are most likely to speak Italian, Arabic, Greek or Urdu if not speaking English. In total, 35% of households in our community speak a language other than English at home (ABS, 2021). In 2023, there were an estimated 18,333 total GST registered businesses in the City of Merri-bek. In the City of Merri-bek, Health Care and Social Assistance is the largest employer, generating 8,680 local jobs in 2021/22.

People who live alone make up the largest proportion of households with 28% in our municipality, followed by couples with children making up 26% of households (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021). We have also seen a steady increase in townhouse and apartment living in recent years (in 2021, 48% of all homes).

Section 2. Service performance indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2026

Service	Results					Comments
Indicator / Measure	**22/23**	**23/24**	**24/25**	**25/26**		**Material Variations and Comments**
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	
Aquatic Facilities						
Utilisation						
Utilisation of aquatic facilities *[Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population]*	5.64	5.28	5.75	N/A	5.96	Aquatic facility utilisation increased slightly in 2025–26, with all six aquatic centres operating in line with their scheduled operating periods.
Animal Management						
Health and safety						
Animal management prosecutions *[Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Number of animal management prosecutions]* x 100	0.00%	100.00%	67.00%	N/A	100.00%	Council recorded 16 animal management prosecutions during 2025–26, compared with three in the previous year. All 16 matters were successfully determined, resulting in a 100% success rate. This result reflects effective investigation, evidence gathering and preparation of matters taken before the Court.
Food Safety						
Health and safety						
Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications *[Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises]* x100	100.00%	99.11%	100.00%	N/A	100.00%	Council achieved a 100% compliance rate for attending critical and major non-compliance outcomes within the required timeframe in 2025–26. Performance has remained consistently high.

Service	Results					Comments
Indicator / Measure	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26		Material Variations and Comments
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	
Governance						
Satisfaction						
Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement *[Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of Council]*	51.00	69.00	68.00	68.00	71.00	Merri-bek's score increased from 68 in 2025 to 71 in 2026, reflecting an improvement in community satisfaction compared with the previous year.
Libraries						
Participation						
Library membership *[Percentage of the population that are registered library members] x100*	N/A	22.34%	24.07%	N/A	25.10%	Library membership increased during 2025-26, reflecting continued community engagement and participation in library services, including community book groups and borrowing of physical and digital collections.
Maternal and Child Health (MCH)						
Participation						
Participation in the MCH service *[Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100*	74.60%	75.51%	75.19%	N/A	74.97%	Merri-bek achieved a Maternal and Child Health service participation rate of 74.97% in 2025-26, consistent with participation levels in recent years. Proactive follow-up, reminders and flexible service delivery options support families to access key health and development assessments for their children.
Maternal and Child Health (MCH)						
Participation						
Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children *[Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100*	73.81%	80.00%	69.23%	N/A	73.687%	Merri-bek achieved a participation rate of 73.68% for Aboriginal children in the Maternal and Child Health service in 2025-26. This result reflects ongoing efforts to provide culturally safe, accessible and responsive care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. Initiatives such as the Welcome Baby to Country event support early connection to culture, community and services, helping to strengthen engagement with Maternal and Child Health services.

Service	Results					Comments
Indicator / Measure	**22/23**	**23/24**	**24/25**	**25/26**		**Material Variations and Comments**
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	
Roads						
Condition						
Sealed local roads below the intervention level *[Percentage of sealed local roads that are below the renewal intervention level set by Council and not requiring renewal]*	93.34%	92.37%	89.12%	93.0%	87.22%	The percentage of sealed local roads below the intervention level decreased from 89.12% to 87.22%, reflecting the continued ageing of the road network and the challenge of balancing renewal demand against available funding. While the target was not met, the result remains within the Local Government Victoria-defined range for this indicator. Council continues to prioritise renewal works using condition data and risk-based asset management principles.
Statutory Planning						
Service standard						
Planning applications decided within the relevant required time *[Percentage of planning application decisions made within the relevant required time]*	59.87%	74.91%	76.73%	63.00%	71.66%	71.66% of planning applications were decided within required timeframes in 2025-26, exceeding Council's target of 63%. This result was achieved despite significant planning reforms across the sector, including the introduction of two dwelling applications into the 10-day statutory VicSmart assessment stream. This occurred alongside a 15% increase in planning applications for the year.
Waste Management						
Waste diversion						
Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill *[Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100*	48.42%	53.42%	51.07%	55.0%	51.06%	Waste diversion from landfill remained stable at 51.06% in 2025–26, with only a marginal change from the previous year. While the result was below the 55% target, just over half of all kerbside waste collected was diverted from landfill through recycling and food and garden organics collection services.

Section 3. Financial performance indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2026

Service	Results					Forecasts				Comments
Indicator / Measure	**22/23**	**23/24**	**24/25**	**25/26**		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**	**29/30**	**Material Variations and Comments**
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	
Efficiency										
Expenditure level Expenses per property assessment *[Total expenses / Number of property assessments]*	$2,542.84	$2,653.07	$2,849.05	$2,705.00	$2,870.06	$2,918.27	$2,792.48	$2,732.46	$2,572.67	The average expense per property assessment increased by 0.74%, primarily due to higher total expenses increasing at a faster rate than number of properties growth. Expense per property assessment is anticipated to increase in line with CPI in 2026-27 before projected property assessment growth in later years offsets continued expenditure growth.
Revenue level Average rate per property assessment *[Sum of all general rates and municipal charges / Number of property assessments]*	$1,832.70	$1,916.40	$1,914.20	N/A	$1,970.13	$2,041.70	$2,014.33	$1,977.25	$1,936.27	The results reflect the increase in the rate base by the 3% rate cap that is set by the State Government.
Liquidity										
Working capital Current assets compared to current liabilities *[Current assets / Current liabilities]* x100	357.24%	297.88%	264.05%	202.70%	292.38%	250.77%	255.30%	252.94%	243.41%	The current assets to current liabilities ratio increased by 10.73%. This improvement was driven by a 5.5% increase in current assets, primarily due to higher cash and cash equivalents and trade and other receivables, together with a 4.7% decrease in current liabilities. The reduction in current liabilities was mainly attributable to repayment of $12.1 million in interest-bearing borrowings during 2025–26. Future forecasts are impacted by Council's commitment to future borrowings to fund significant capital works projects in future years resulting in an increase in current liabilities to service loan repayments.
Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities *[Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities]* x100	-60.93%	-63.95%	-21.25%	N/A	-27.24%	-3.52%	-7.83%	-0.99%	-14.64%	This indicator decreased slightly from -21.25% to -27.24%. This change was driven by a 22.1% decrease in unrestricted cash, resulting from the increase in cash and cash equivalents reduced by increases in statutory reserves, trust funds and unspent grants. The reduction in current liabilities was mainly attributable to repayment of $12.1 million in interest-bearing borrowings during 2025–26. Cash and cash equivalents are anticipated to reduce in future years to pay for Council's planned capital works program.

Service	Results					Forecasts				Comments
Indicator / Measure	**22/23**	**23/24**	**24/25**	**25/2026**		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**	**29/30**	**Material Variations and Comments**
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	
Obligations										
Loans and borrowings Loans and borrowings compared to rates *[Interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100*	12.94%	16.15%	14.33%	N/A	6.68%	7.27%	6.35%	11.63%	9.64%	This is a positive decrease as Council has reduced its debt relative to rate income. The improvement is due to the repayment of the Local Government Funding Vehicle (LGFV) bond ($12.1 million) throughout the year as well as no new borrowings. This anticipated to increase in future years as Council has committed to new borrowings to fund significant capital works projects.
Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates *[Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100*	1.13%	1.11%	1.44%	N/A	7.34%	1.15%	1.36%	1.38%	2.18%	The ratio increased significantly due to the repayment of the Local Government Funding Vehicle (LGFV) bond of $12.1 million (which was interest-only) throughout the year. This forecast is anticipated to return to normal as all our remaining loans are principal and interest, rather than interest only.
Indebtedness Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue *[Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue] x100*	11.46%	13.86%	7.08%	N/A	5.99%	6.26%	5.42%	9.40%	7.83%	Non-current liabilities reduced throughout the year as principal loan repayments were made. This has resulted in a 15% decrease in non-current liabilities relative to own source revenue. Non-current liabilities are anticipated to increase in future years as Council has committed to new borrowings to fund significant capital works projects.
Asset renewal and upgrade Asset renewal and upgrade compared to depreciation *[Asset renewal and asset upgrade expense / Asset depreciation] x100*	118.36%	185.83%	182.88%	186.90%	131.68%	183.07%	148.18%	159.08%	158.52%	The ratio decreased by 28%, primarily due to delays in the delivery of capital renewal and upgrade projects across the municipality. Despite the reduction, Council continues to invest in renewing and upgrading its asset base at a level above annual depreciation, supporting the ongoing sustainability of its infrastructure. Council are planning to deliver delayed projects in 2026-27, resulting in a higher forecast before steadying at approximately 150% in future years.

Service										Comments
Indicator / Measure	**22/23**	**23/24**	**24/25**	**2025/2026**		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**	**29/30**	**Material Variations and Comments**
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	
Operating position										
Adjusted underlying result Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit) *[Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit)/ Adjusted underlying revenue] x100*	12.4%	7.91%	8.82%	N/A	7.77%	7.62%	10.02%	11.13%	14.55%	The 12% decrease in the adjusted underlying surplus ratio is primarily attributable to a $3.6 million reduction in Council's surplus during 2025-26. This indicator is anticipated to increase in future years due to Council's 4-year budget assumptions of employee growth, rate cap estimates and efficiencies with operating expenditure lower than CPI.
Stability										
Rates concentration Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue *[Rate revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue] x100*	73.10%	74.18%	70.76%	75.20%	73.56%	75.49%	75.80%	75.12%	75.14%	The 3.96% increase in the ratio of rate revenue to adjusted underlying revenue is primarily attributable to higher rate revenue recognised during 2025-26.
Rates effort Rates compared to property values *[Rate revenue / Capital improved value of rateable properties in the municipality] x100*	0.25%	0.26%	0.27%	N/A	0.28%	0.27%	0.27%	0.26%	0.25%	The result achieved remained consistent. The small increase shown is due to property valuations decreasing by 0.9% in 2023-24 and rates revenue increased 3.2%. Future years are anticipated to remain consistent with property value growth and reducing rate cap estimates.

Section 4. Sustainable capacity indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2026

Service	Results				Comments
Indicator / measure [formula]	**22/23** Actual	**23/24** Actual	**24/25** Actual	**25/26** Actual	**Material Variations and Comments**
Population					
Expenses per head of municipal population *[Total expenses / Municipal population]*	$1,228.54	$1,264.88	$1,343.62	$1,356.73	The result has remained relatively consistent, with the trend reflecting inflationary pressures and higher employee and service delivery costs.
Infrastructure per head of municipal population *[Value of infrastructure / Municipal population]*	$6,992.26	$6,820.13	$5,780.53	$6,543.83	Infrastructure per head of municipal population increased by 13.20%, primarily due to a significant increase in the value of property, plant and equipment following the 2025/26 asset revaluation.
Population density per length of road *[Municipal population / Kilometres of local roads]*	276.55	287.66	296.09	300.17	The result of this indicator has remained consistent.
Own-source revenue					
Own-source revenue per head of municipal population *[Own-source revenue / Municipal population]*	$1,210.90	$1,212.50	$1,259.72	$1,298.75	The result of this indicator has remained consistent.
Recurrent grants					
Recurrent grants per head of municipal population *[Recurrent grants / Municipal population]*	$115.91	$86.92	$131.14	$126.01	Recurrent grants per head of municipal population decreased, primarily due to a $0.6 million reduction in recurrent grant funding during 2025/26, together with continued growth in the municipal population.
Disadvantage					
Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage *[Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage by decile]*	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	Merri-bek's Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage remained at 7.00, consistent with the previous three years. The index ranks areas across Australia from 1 to 10, with a higher decile indicating relatively lower levels of socio-economic disadvantage. A score of 7 indicates that Merri-bek is above average in terms of socio-economic conditions with relatively less disadvantage overall compared with many other areas, although this municipality-wide measure can mask significant differences in disadvantage between communities and neighbourhoods within Merri-bek.
Workforce turnover					
Percentage of staff turnover *[Number of permanent staff resignations and terminations / Average number of permanent staff for the financial year] x100*	15.90%	9.60%	13.40%	9.85%	Staff turnover decreased from 13.40% in 2024-25 to 9.85% in 2025-26. While turnover can fluctuate from year to year due to a range of workforce factors, this year's result remains towards the lower end of the range for this indicator.

Section 5.1 Notes to the accounts – Basis of preparation

Council is required to prepare and include a performance statement within its annual report. The performance statement includes the results of the prescribed, service performance, financial performance and sustainable capacity indicators and measures together with a description of the municipal district, an explanation of material variations in the results and notes to the accounts. This statement has been prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.*

Where applicable the results in the performance statement have been prepared on accounting bases consistent with those reported in the Financial Statements. The other results are based on information drawn from council information systems or from third parties (e.g., Australian Bureau of Statistics or the Council's satisfaction survey provider).

The performance statement presents the actual results for the current year and the previous three years, along with the current year's target, if mandated by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*. Additionally, for the prescribed financial performance indicators and measures, the performance statement includes the target budget for the current year and the results forecast for the period 2026-27 to 2029-30 by the council's financial plan.

The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* requires explanation of any material variations in the results contained in the performance statement. Council has adopted materiality thresholds relevant to each indicator and measure and explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality thresholds unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

5.2 Definitions

Key term	Definition
Aboriginal children	means a child who is an Aboriginal person
Aboriginal person	has the same meaning as in the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
adjusted underlying revenue	means total income other than: • non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and • non-monetary asset contributions; and • contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to above
adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)	means adjusted underlying revenue less total expenditure
annual report	means an annual report prepared by a council under section 98 of the Act
asset renewal expenditure	means expenditure on an existing asset or on replacing an existing asset that returns the service capability of the asset to its original capability
asset upgrade expenditure	means expenditure that— (a) enhances an existing asset to provide a higher level of service; or (b) extends the life of the asset beyond its original life
critical non-compliance outcome notification	means a notification received by council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the *Food Act 1984* , or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that poses an immediate serious threat to public health
current assets	has the same meaning as in the Australian Accounting Standards
current liabilities	has the same meaning as in the Australian Accounting Standards
food premises	has the same meaning as in the *Food Act 1984*
intervention level	means the level set for the condition of a road beyond which a council will not allow the road to deteriorate and will need to intervene
local road	means a sealed or unsealed road for which the council is the responsible road authority under the *Road Management Act 2004*
major non-compliance outcome notification	means a notification received by a council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the *Food Act 1984*, or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that does not pose an immediate serious threat to public health but may do so if no remedial action is taken
MCH	means the Maternal and Child Health Service provided by a council to support the health and development of children within the municipality from birth until school age
non-current liabilities	means all liabilities other than current liabilities

own-source revenue	means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of council (including government grants)
population	means the resident population estimated by council
rate revenue	means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges
relative socio-economic disadvantage	in relation to a municipal district, means the relative socio-economic disadvantage, expressed as a decile for the relevant financial year, of the area in which the municipal district is located according to the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage of SEIFA
restricted cash	means cash, cash equivalents and financial assets, within the meaning of the Australian Accounting Standards, not available for use other than for a purpose for which it is restricted, and includes cash to be used to fund capital works expenditure from the previous financial year
SEIFA	means the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas published from time to time by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on its Internet site
unrestricted cash	means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash

5.3. Other Matters

Overview of 2026

During the financial year council experienced growth in residents and demand for services.

Extensive capital works were undertaken to improve infrastructure.

Governance and Management

Good governance, integrity and accountability are central to the Local Government Act 2020

The Act is based on 5 principles:

- *community engagement*
- *strategic planning*
- *financial management*
- *public transparency*
- *service performance.*

We embed these 5 principles in our decision-making, corporate governance and democratic governance. We have established governance rules to help us.

We seek to apply good governance to:

- *engage our community in sound and responsible decision-making*
- *achieve the best outcomes for the Merri-bek community, and future generations*
- *ensure the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information*
- *ensure our ongoing financial viability*
- *increase our performance*
- *identify and drive out inefficiencies*
- *reassure residents we are spending public money responsibly, accountably and wisely.*

Council meetings

Decisions on issues affecting the community are made at monthly council meetings. We hold council meetings to conduct the business of Council, and schedule Council meetings specifically for consideration of planning applications. These are called planning and related matters meetings.

Community members can observe the decision-making process at these meetings and ask questions. Where required, we may also hold special meetings.

We live-stream our council meetings to enable people to watch the proceedings in real time. Live-streaming council meetings offers greater access to information, decision-making and debate. It also underpins the principles of accessibility, openness, and transparency. Meetings are also recorded and available to watch later.

In accordance with Council's Governance Rules, we conducted council meetings from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 in a hybrid format, allowing for both in person and online attendance.

In 2025–26, the number of people watching council meetings online (live and the recorded) was 8179 and the number watching planning meetings was 1964.

Councillor attendance at meetings

In 2025–26, we held:

- *15 council meetings (includes meetings to elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor)*
- *5 special council meetings*
- *10 council meetings to consider planning and related matters.*

Table A shows councillor attendance for 2025–26, for the period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

Table A

Councillor	Council meetings (total 15)	Special council meetings (total 5)	Planning and related matters (total 10)
Cr Nat Abboud	15	5	9
Cr Sue Bolton	15	5	10
Cr Helen Davidson	15	5	8
Cr Liz Irvin	15	5	10
Cr Jay Iwasaki	15	5	10
Cr Chris Miles	15	5	10
Cr Helen Politis	13	2	7
Cr Adam Pulford	15	5	10
Cr Ella Svensson	15	5	10
Cr Katerine Theodosis	15	4	7
Cr Oscar Yildiz JP	14	4	8

[1]*Under the Victorian Local Government Reporting Framework, a councillor is recorded as attending a council meeting if they attended any part of the meeting, were on approved leave of absence, or were suspended from office or meetings during the relevant period.*

Councillor expenses and allowances

Expenses

We provide Councillors with resources and support to undertake their duties. This is so they can serve, engage and act in the community's best interests. We may make available funds to pay for resources or reimburse claims for out-of-pocket expenses.

Our Council Support Expenses and Resources Policy provides the level of expense and resources support provided.

We publish details of Councillor expenses (including those reimbursed) on our website quarterly. Councillor expenses for the 2025-26 year are outlined below.

Councillor	Travel / Mileage	Conferences, Seminars, Professional Development and Events	Accommodation	Refreshments	Subscriptions	Mobile and data	Totals
Cr Nat Abboud	$502.95	$2082.75	$830.01	$51.87		$370.80	$3,786.51
Cr Sue Bolton	$36.36					$370.80	$407.16
Cr Helen Davidson	$1,687.87	$1018.26	$585.45	$76.13		$579.96	$3,947.67
Cr Liz Irvin	$50.95	$523.09				$370.80	$944.84
Cr Dr Jay Iwasaki	$417.49	1,845.93	$1,074.55		$109.09	$477.32	$3,924.38
Cr Chris Miles						$502.62	$502.62
Cr Helen Politis		$896.67				$370.80	$1,267.47
Cr Adam Pulford	$45.45					$497.04	$542.49
Cr Ella Svensson	$73.19			$51.87		$370.80	$495.86
Cr Katerine Theodosis	$1,798.31	$25.25	$51.87			$390.80	$2,266.23
Cr Oscar Yildiz JP	$1,507.66					$606.23	$2,113.89

Allowances

Our Mayor and Councillors are entitled to receive an allowance while performing their duties as elected officials.

The Local Government Act 2020 creates a framework for allowances to be specified by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal, rather than the Minister and councils.

In accordance with Section 39 of the Local Government Act 2020, the Tribunal determined the following allowances for Category 3 councils (Merri-bek City Council being a Category 3) from 18 December 2024:

Mayoral allowance*: $146,319*

Deputy mayor's allowance*: $73,159*

Councillor allowance*:* $41,992

Base allowances payable to Mayors and Deputy Mayors from 18 December 2025, and Councillors from 1 July 2025.

The Tribunal determined that the value of the allowance payable to a councillor is inclusive of any Superannuation Guarantee Contribution amount, or equivalent, that may be payable under Commonwealth law to the councillor with respect to their service in that office.

Councillor Code of Conduct

From 26 October 2024, all councillors are required to observe the Model Councillor Code of Conduct, as prescribed in Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020.

The Model Code of Conduct sets out individual standards of conduct expected to be observed by councillors when performing their roles as councillors. The purpose of the Model Code of Conduct is to set clear standards that will improve councillor conduct and behaviour. It is available on Council's website.

Conflict of interest

Councillors, as elected representatives of residents and ratepayers, are required to act in the best interest of the community. This position of trust requires them to prioritise the public interest in all decision making.
Similarly, Council officers must also prioritise the public interest in the performance of their duties and functions.

We have procedures in place to manage conflict of interest disclosures. The opportunity to declare a conflict of interest is a standard agenda item at all Council meetings and is also provided throughout procurement and recruitment processes.

We maintain a register of all declarations that raise a conflict of interest from councillors and staff. During 2025-26, 18 conflict of interest disclosures were made at Council meetings and councillor briefings.

There were five conflict of interest disclosures added to the register for council officers.

The Councillor Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy sets out practices to reduce the potential for conflicts of interest arising from the offer or acceptance of gifts, benefits and hospitality. Procedures vary depending on the role involved and the circumstances of the offer, with the policy establishing clear thresholds and defined practices to support consistent decision-making.

A Lobbyists, Developers and Submitters Policy is in place to ensure interactions between Council representatives and lobbyists, developers and submitters are conducted in an open, transparent and accountable manner. Three interactions were recorded in the register in 2025-26.

Major committees

Audit and risk committee

The Audit and Risk Committee is established in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 ('the Act'). Its Committee Charter was adopted by Council on 8 October 2025.

As outlined in section 53(2) of the Act, the Committee operates in an advisory capacity to Council, with the objective of strengthening governance, risk management, providing financial oversight and promoting continuous improvement.

Consistent with this advisory role, the Committee assists Council in fulfilling its responsibilities under the Act through the following core functions:

- *monitoring the compliance of Council's policies and procedures with:*
  - *the overarching governance principles*
  - *the Act, regulations and any ministerial directions*
  - *other relevant laws and regulations*
- *monitoring internal controls*
- *monitoring Council's financial and performance reporting*
- *monitoring and providing advice on risk management and fraud prevention systems and controls*
- *overseeing internal audit functions*
- *overseeing external audit functions*
- *monitoring related-party transactions.*

The current committee consists of four independent members, John Watson (Chair), Lisa Tripodi, Marilyn Kearney and Jeff Rigby, and three councillors, Cr Helen Politis, Cr Liz Irvin and Cr Katerine Theodosis.

Throughout 2025-26 the Audit and Risk Committee met four times, 2 September 2025, 18 November 2025, 3 March 2026 and 2 June 2026. The following councillor attended the following meetings:

- *Tuesday 2 September 2025: Cr Helen Davidson, Cr Helen Politis and Cr Ella Svensson*
- *Tuesday 18 November 2025: Cr Helen Davidson, Cr Helen Politis and Cr Ella Svensson*
- *Tuesday 3 March 2026: Cr Helen Politis and Cr Liz Irvin*
- *Tuesday 2 June 2026: Cr Liz Irvin.*

Delegated committees

Council has not established any delegated Committees.

Governance and management checklist 2025-26.

Results of Merri-bek Council's assessment against the prescribed governance and management checklist as of 30 June 2026.

Checklist Item	Governance and Management Item	Assessment	
1	**Community engagement policy** (policy outlining Council's commitment to engaging with the community on matters of public interest)	**Current policy in operation and adopted in accordance with section 55 of the Act** **Reviewed and Adopted** 11-09-2024	☒
2	**Community engagement guidelines** (guidelines to assist staff to determine when and how to engage with the community)	**Current guidelines in operation** **Operational:** 9-12-2020	☒
3	**Financial Plan** (plan under section 91 of the Act outlining the financial and non-financial resources required for at least the next 10 financial years)	**Adopted in accordance with section 91 of the Act:** The 10-year financial plan was adopted by Council on 10 October 2025.	☒
4	**Asset Plan** (plan that sets out the asset maintenance and renewal needs for key infrastructure asset classes for at least the next 10 years)	**Adopted in accordance with section 92 of the Act:** 10-year Asset Plan adopted by Council on 10 October 2025.	☒
5	**Revenue and Rating Plan** (plan setting out the rating structure of Council to levy rates and charges)	**Adopted in accordance with section 93 of the Act** **Adopted: 23/06/2025** The Revenue and Rating Plan was adopted by Council on 23 June 2025 in accordance with section 93 of the Act.	☒
6	**Annual budget** (plan setting out the services to be provided and initiatives to be undertaken over the next 12 months and the funding and other resources required)	**Budget adopted in accordance with section 94 of the Act** **Adopted: 23-06-2025** The annual budget was adopted by Council on 23 June 2025 in accordance with section 94 of the Act.	☒
7	**Risk policy** (policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to minimising the risks to Council's operations)	**Current policy in operation** **Operational:** 6-12-2023	☒

Checklist Item	Governance and Management Item	Assessment	
8	**Fraud policy** (policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to minimising the risk of fraud)	**Current policy in operation** **Operational:** 7/04/25	☒
9	**Municipal emergency management planning** (Participation in meetings of the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee.)	**MEMPC meetings attended by one or more representatives of Council (other than the chairperson) during the financial year** **Date of MEMPC meetings attended:** 12 August 2025 18 November 2025 17 February 2026 12 May 2026	☒
10	**Procurement policy** (policy outlining the principles, processes and procedures that will apply to all purchases of goods and services by the Council)	**Current policy in operation and adopted in accordance with section 108 of the Act** **Reviewed and Adopted: 11-03-2026** The procurement policy was reviewed and adopted by Council on 11 March 2026 in accordance with section 108 of the Act.	☒
11	**Business continuity plan** (plan setting out the actions that will be taken to ensure that key services continue to operate in the event of a disaster)	**Current plan in operation** **Operational:** 28-05-2024	☒
12	**Disaster recovery plan** (plan setting out the actions that will be undertaken to recover and restore business capability in the event of a disaster)	**Current plan in operation** **Operational:** 31-11-2025	☒
13	**Complaint policy** (Policy under section 107 of the Act outlining Council's commitment and approach to managing complaints.)	**Current policy in operation and adopted in accordance with section 107 of the Act** **Date of commencement of policy:** 14-01-2025	☒
14	**Workforce plan** (Plan outlining Council's commitment and approach to planning the current and future workforce requirements of the organisation.)	**Established in accordance with section 46 of the Act** **Date of commencement of current plan:** 27-03-2024	☒

Checklist Item	Governance and Management Item	Assessment	
15	**Payment of rates and charges hardship policy** (Policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to assisting ratepayers experiencing financial hardship or difficulty paying their rates.)	**Current policy in operation** **Date of commencement of current policy:** 10-06-2026	☒
16	**Risk management framework** (framework outlining Council's approach to managing risks to the Council's operations)	**Current framework in operation** **Operational:** 31-10-2024	☒
17	**Audit and Risk Committee** (advisory committee of Council under section 53 and 54 of the Act)	**Established in accordance with section 53 of the Act** **Established:** 13-05-2020	☒
18	**Internal audit** (independent accounting professionals engaged by the Council to provide analyses and recommendations aimed at improving Council's governance, risk and management controls)	**Internal auditor engaged** **Engaged:** 1-09-2021	☒
19	**Performance reporting framework** (a set of indicators measuring financial and non-financial performance, including the performance indicators referred to in section 98 of the Act)	**Current framework in operation** **Operational:** 22-06-2026	☒
20	**Council Plan report** (report reviewing the performance of the Council against the Council Plan, including the results in relation to the strategic indicators, for the first six months of the financial year)	**Current reports:** **Reported 13-08-2025:** Council Action Plan 2024 –25 Fourth Quarter Performance Report. **Reported 11-02-2026:** Council Action Plan 2025-26 - Second Quarter Performance Report. **Reported 13-05-2026:** Council Action Plan 2025-26 - Third Quarter Performance Report.	☒

Checklist Item	Governance and Management Item	Assessment	
21	**Quarterly budget reports** (quarterly reports to Council under section 97 of the Act, comparing actual and budgeted results and an explanation of any material variations)	**Quarterly reports presented to Council in accordance with section 97 (1) of the Act** **Reported 8-10-2026: 2026-26** Fourth Quarter Financial Report, via Councils Annual Report. **Reported 12-11-2025: 2026-26** First Quarter Financial Report. **Reported 11-02-2026: 2025-26** Mid-Year Financial Report. **Reported 08-04-2026: 2024-25** Third Quarter Financial Report.	☒
22	**Risk reporting** (six-monthly reports of strategic risks to Council's operations, their likelihood and consequences of occurring and risk minimisation strategies)	**Risk reports prepared and presented:** A Strategic Risk report was presented to Executive on 2-12-2025, to the Audit and Risk Committee at each meeting (September 2025, November 2025, March 2026 and June 2026) and to Council on 11-03-2026.	☒
23	**Performance reporting** (six-monthly reports of indicators measuring the results against financial and non-financial performance, including performance indicators referred to in section 98 of the Act)	**Reported 13-08-2025:** Council Action Plan 2024 –25 Fourth Quarter Performance Report. **Reported 8-10-2026: 2026-26** Fourth Quarter Financial Report, via Councils Annual Report. **Reported 12-11-2025: 2026-26** First Quarter Financial Report. **Reported 11-02-2026:** Council Action Plan 2025-26 - Second Quarter Performance Report. **Reported 11-02-2026: 2025-26** Mid-Year Financial Report. **Reported 08-04-2026: 2024-25** Third Quarter Financial Report. **Reported 13-05-2026:** Council Action Plan 2025-26 - Third Quarter Performance Report.	☒

Checklist Item	Governance and Management Item	Assessment	
24	**Annual report** (annual report under sections 98 and 99 of the Act containing a report of operations and audited financial and performance statements)	**Annual report considered at a meeting of Council in accordance with section 98, 99 and 100 of the Act** **Considered:** 8-10-2025	☒
25	**Councillor Code of Conduct** (Code setting out the standards of conduct to be followed by Councillors and other matters.)	**As required by section 139 of the Act, Councillors observe the Model Councillor Code of Conduct.**	☒
26	**Delegations** (documents setting out the powers, duties and functions of Council and the Chief Executive Officer that have been delegated to members of staff)	**Delegations reviewed in accordance with section 11(7) of the Act and a register kept in accordance with sections 11(8) and 47(7) of the Act** **Registered Reviewed:** 16-04-2026	☒
27	**Meeting procedures** (Governance Rules governing the conduct of meetings of Council and delegated committees)	**Governance rules adopted in accordance with section 60 of the Act** **Reviewed and Adopted:** 14-05-2025	☒

I certify that this information presents fairly the status of Council's governance and management arrangements.

Kate McCaughey	**Cr Natalie Abboud**
Chief Executive Officer	**Mayor**
Signature	**Signature**
Date: 10 / 09 / 2026	**Date:** 10 / 09 / 2026

Statutory information

Merri-bek City Council was not the subject of any Victorian State or Federal Government investigations in 2025–26.

Legislative environment

We operate and deliver services under, and in accordance with, more than 80 different pieces of Victorian primary legislation and the regulations made under those Acts.

Many sections of this report address specific legislation, including the:

- *The Local Government Act 2020*
- *Domestic Animals Act 1994*
- *Road Management Act 2014*
- *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*
- *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008.*

We have highlighted key Acts below.

Governance rules

Council's Governance Rules continued to provide the framework for transparent, orderly and effective decision-making throughout 2025–26.

They supported the conduct of Council meetings by setting out clear procedures for meeting processes, decision-making and the recording of minutes.

Community engagement

Council is committed to engaging with our communities on decisions that affect them.

We continued to improve the process for engagement through the Community Engagement Policy and Implementation Plan, with the ongoing development of a digital engagement framework, and a training program to help council staff better engage with children and young people.

In 2025-26 Council carried out more than 262 planned engagement processes.

Council engaged with the community on the following key projects:

- *Fortnightly rubbish collections*
- *Coburg is Here*
- *A new Coburg Library and Piazza*
- *568 Sydney Road - A Park Close to Home*
- *Local Law review 2026*

Chief Executive Officer employment and remuneration policy

During 2025–26, Council continued to apply its Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Matters Policy.

This policy reinforces Council's commitment to good governance practices and provides a consistent, fair, and transparent framework for employment matters relating to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) including recruitment, contract terms, performance monitoring and annual review.

This policy is a requirement of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) and outlines the Council's approach to managing the employment cycle of its CEO.

Local laws

Merri-bek City Council had 2 local laws in effect during 2025-26:

- *the General Local Law 2018 and*
- *the Meeting Procedure Local Law 2018.*

During the year, we adopted the General (Amendment) Local Law 2025, which introduced updated provisions relating to the feeding of birds on private property and public land.

We also commenced a full review of the General Local Law 2018. The review included analysis of the existing Local Law, comparisons with other councils, internal consultation and the first round of community engagement. The community provided feedback on proposed changes relating to property amenity, animals, businesses, waste, building sites, Council assets and vehicles. This feedback will inform the draft General Local Law to be considered during 2026-27.

Most provisions of the Meeting Procedure Local Law 2018 have been superseded by Council's Governance Rules. The remaining provisions relate to the use of Council's Common Seal and penalties for certain meeting-related conduct.

Contracts

Council adopted the Procurement Policy 2025-2029 on 11th June 2025 and amended it again on 11 March 2026. The policy sets the public tender threshold to $350,000 (including GST).

The below table includes a list of all the 49 contracts entered into with a value above the public tender threshold amount from 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026.

A further 13 contracts have been advertised under the public tender process or expression of interest in 2025-26, however they have not yet been awarded i.e. contracts not signed.

Contract number	Contract name	Date published	Contract finalised (signed)
Public tenders awarded within the 2025-26 financial year			
RFT-2025-15	York Street Landscape Construction	12/04/2025	23/07/2025
RFT-2025-23	Road Reconstruction - Grandview Avenue, Pascoe Vale South (Brearley Parade to Princess Terrace)	10/05/2025	23/07/2025
RFT-2025-17	Road Reconstruction - O'Hea Street, Coburg (Sussex Street to Clifton Grove)	23/04/2025	23/07/2025
RFT-2025-16	Road Reconstruction - Herbert Street, Pascoe Vale	26/04/2025	28/07/2025
RFT-2025-6	Redevelopment - Narre Narre Basketball court	22/03/2025	29/07/2025
RFT-2025-4	Valuation Services	22/03/2025	04/08/2025
RFT-2025-19	Raised Intersection with Zebra Crossings - Landells Road and Essex Street, Pascoe Vale	19/04/2025	04/08/2025
RFT-2025-2	Holbrook Sports Pavilion	25/01/2025	08/08/2025
RFT-2025-29	Road Reconstruction – Ellenvale Avenue, Pascoe Vale South (Hillside to dead end)	07/06/2025	13/08/2025
RFT-2025-22	Refurbishment – James Martin Annex	10/05/2025	14/08/2025
RFT-2025-26	Road Reconstruction – Baxter Street, Coburg (Sydney Road to Railway Place)	24/05/2025	27/08/2025
RFT-2025-40	Sports Field Upgrade Works – Cole Reserve North	14/08/2024	27/08/2025
RFT-P-2025-1	Provision of Bluestone, Paving and Retaining Wall Maintenance Services	31/05/2025	03/09/2025
RFT-2025-35	Road Reconstruction - Garden Street, Brunswick (Belfast Road to Glenlyon Road)	12/07/2025	05/09/2025
RFT-2024-36	Outdoor Gardening Panel	20/07/2024	08/09/2025
RFT-2025-9	Sports Field Upgrade Works – Allard Park	21/06/2025	08/09/2025
RFT-2025-28	Road Reconstruction – Newman Street, Brunswick (Pearson Street to Westbourne Street)	07/06/2025	08/09/2025
RFT-2025-24	Road Reconstruction – Katawa Grove (Cooramina Street (Blyth to Katawa) to the dead end)	10/05/2025	08/09/2025
RFT-2023-504	Provision of Corporate Catering Services (Re-Tender – Part B only)	31/05/2025	11/09/2025
RFT-P-2025-7	Maintenance of Essential Safety Measures	07/06/2025	17/09/2025
RFT-2025-38	Road Reconstruction – Dalgety Street, Brunswick (Hope Street to Whitby Street)	01/08/2025	21/09/2025
RFT-2024-66	Enterprise Software	27/03/2025	25/09/2025
RFT-P-2025-5	Supply of Fruit and Vegetables	16/04/2025	25/09/2025
RFT-2025-1	Dunstan Reserve Childcare Centre Expansion	01/02/2025	25/09/2025

RFT-P-2025-4	Supply of Meat and/or Fish	16/04/2025	25/09/2025
RFT-P-2025-6	Provision of Dry Goods	16/04/2025	25/09/2025
RFT-P-2024-6	Provision of Drainage, CCTV Surveys, Drain Cleaning and associated works/services	27/11/2024	25/09/2025
RFT-2025-34	Road Reconstruction - Devon Road, Pascoe Vale (View Street to Oak Street)	03/07/2025	09/10/2025
RFT-P-2025-3	Panel of Building Maintenance Services Providers	15/03/2025	10/10/2025
RFT-2025-45	Road Reconstruction - Urquhart Street, Coburg (Alva Grove to Armstead Avenue)	16/08/2025	21/10/2025
RFT-2025-10	Mitchell Parade Retaining Wall	12/04/2025	23/10/2025
RFT-2025-18	New Modular Pavilion (Design and Construct) - Moomba Park	31/05/2025	27/10/2025
RFT-2025-36	Electrification of Oak Park Sports and Aquatic Precinct (OPSAP)	05/07/2025	07/11/2025
RFT-2024-63	Contact Centre Platform	18/01/2025	11/11/2025
RFT-2025-30	Drainage Improvement - Moama Crescent-Johnson Street, Pascoe Vale South	21/06/2025	21/11/2025
RFT-2025-44	Road Reconstruction - Ellenvale Avenue, Pascoe Vale South (Hillview Avenue to Winfred Street)	30/08/2025	28/11/2025
RFT-2025-42	Road Reconstruction - Tinning Street, Brunswick (Garnet Street to Walters Street)	16/08/2025	08/12/2025
RFT-2025-46	West Street Shopping Street Renewal	20/09/2025	09/01/2026
RFT-2025-49	Road Reconstruction - Jersey Street, Coburg (Gaffney Street to O'Hea Street)	20/09/2025	09/01/2026
RFT-2025-48	Road Reconstruction - Northumberland Road, Pascoe Vale (Fawkner Road to Longview Street)	20/09/2025	09/01/2026
RFT-2025-57	Sports Field Lighting Upgrade - Charles Mutton Reserve	28/10/2025	15/01/2026
EOI-2025-2	Coburg Library and Piazza Design Competition - Design Consultant Services	26/05/2025	24/02/2026
RFT-2025-56	Road Reconstruction - Northumberland Road Pascoe Vale (Crowley Court to Rhodes Parade)	15/11/2025	04/03/2026
RFT-2025-41	Merri-bek Home Energy Subsidy Program - Thermal Services	01/11/2025	10/03/2026
RFT-2025-47	Management of Councils Aquatic and Leisure Centres	22/09/2025	20/03/2026
RFT-2026-4	Brunswick Baths - 50m Pool Retile	19/02/2026	21/04/2026
RFT-2026-1	Road Reconstruction North Street, Hadfield (South Box Court to East Street)	24/01/2026	24/04/2026
RFT-2025-27	Traffic Calming - Various Locations	24/01/2026	30/04/2026
ST-2025-2	Brunswick Early Years Hub (Construction Only)	06/12/2025	14/05/2026

In compliance with the Procurement Policy's provision for exemption from the general publicly advertised tender and quotations, Council entered into eight other contracts valued at $350,000 (including GST) or more for goods or services without engaging in a competitive process.

Documents available for public inspection

We are committed to open and transparent governance under the Local Government Act 2020. We have a Public Transparency Policy in place. This outlines our commitment to being accountable to the community through:

- *transparency of information*
- *service data*
- *performance*
- *decision-making.*

We deliver a range of services to residents, businesses, and visitors to Merri-bek. We publish information about our services and administration activities on our website. We will also make this available on request.

The following documents are available on Council's website:

1. *Council and Delegated Committee meeting agendas and minutes*
2. *Advisory Committee Reports*
3. *Audit and Risk Committee Charter and Performance Report*
4. *Advisory Committee details and Terms of Reference*
5. *Registers of gifts, benefits and hospitality offered to Councillors or Council staff*
6. *Registers of Councillor attendance at Council Meetings, Delegated Committee Meetings and meetings arranged to brief Councillors*
7. *Registers of travel undertaken by Councillors or Council staff*
8. *Registers of conflict of interest disclosed by Councillors or Council staff*
9. *Submissions made by Council to state or federal processes*
10. *Details of any Memorandum of Understanding entered into by Council that is not subject to confidentiality clauses*
11. *Registers of donations and grants made by Council*
12. *Registers of leases entered into by Council, as lessor and lessee*
13. *Register of delegations*
14. *Register of Authorised Officers*
15. *Register of election campaign donations*
16. *Summary of personal interests.*

Domestic animal management

Council prepare a domestic animal management plan every four years. This is a requirement of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 (the 'Act').

Council endorsed our Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025–29 in November 2025.

The plan was developed through a sector-leading partnership with two neighbouring councils, Darebin and Whittlesea.

Key objectives in the plan include:

- *developing programs to promote and encourage responsible pet ownership and compliance with legislation*
- *educating the community on topics related to animal management*
- *increasing registration and identification of domestic cats and dogs*
- *ensuring animal management officers have appropriate training*
- *identifying dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs in the municipality to ensure they are kept in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations*
- *minimising the risk of dog attacks*
- *addressing overpopulation rates*
- *ensuring domestic animal businesses comply with legislation reducing any nuisance caused by cats and dogs.*

Implementation of the plan is spread across 4 years with specific actions planned for each year. As required under the Act, a progress report on the actions is provided to Council in December each year.

Highlights of the actions delivered during the 2025-26 financial period included:

- *Found new homes for 401 cats and dogs*
- *partnering with The Vet Project, a mobile vet clinic that performs cat desexing and other animal care for residents who may not otherwise have access to these services*
- *caring for 1165 Merri-bek animals at the wat djerring Animal Facility*
- *continuing our cat desexing program, including the extension to non-concession cardholders for a copayment of $50 to receive desexing, microchipping, first year registration free (for cats not already registered) and assistance with transport to and from the clinic if required*
- *received 20,009 animal registrations (7,909 cats and 12,100 dogs in the April 2026 to April 2025 registration year),*

Food Act ministerial directions

In accordance with section 7E of the Food Act 1984, there were no ministerial directions received by Merri-bek City Council during the 2025–26 financial year.

Freedom of information

The Freedom of Information Act 1982 gives the community the right to access certain documents held by Council. There were no significant changes to the Act during 2025–26.

Under the Act:

1. *People can request access to Council information.*
2. *Council must publish information about the documents it holds.*
3. *People can ask for their personal records to be corrected if they are inaccurate, incomplete, out of date or misleading.*
4. *People can appeal a decision to refuse access to information or amend a personal record.*

Protected disclosure procedures

The Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012 (the 'Act') encourages and facilitates the making of disclosures of improper conduct by public officers and public bodies. It also established a system for matters to be investigated.

The Act provides protection from detrimental action to any person affected by a protected disclosure. This is whether the person makes a disclosure, is a witness or is a person who is the subject of an investigation. Council adopted a Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower) Policy in December 2023. The policy is available on Council's website.

Under the requirements of the Act, we have also established a Public Interest Disclosure Procedure which is supported by a series of guidelines.

During the reporting period, we received 1 disclosure. Internal or external whistleblowers can contact our Public Interest Disclosures Coordinator on 9350 8782.

Road Management Act ministerial directions

In accordance with section 22 of the Road Management Act 2004, we must publish a copy or summary of any ministerial direction in our annual report. We did not receive any ministerial directions in 2025-26.

Carers Recognition

Where applicable, Council complied with the reporting requirements of the Carers Recognition Act 2012. Council recognised the role of carers through the delivery of community support services and reported on service performance and outcomes through its funded programs

National Competition Policy annual statement of compliance

Council has an ongoing commitment to comply with the National Competition Policy and we are obligated to adhere to competitive neutrality principles.

During the 2025-26 financial year, Council complied with the requirements of the National Competition Policy and did not receive any complaints in relation to competitive neutrality.

Infrastructure and development

In 2015, Council introduced a development contributions plan. On June 30th, 2026, this development contributions plan concluded. In accordance with section 46GM and 46QD of the Planning and Environment Act 1987— 'a council that is a collecting agency must prepare and give a report to the Minister for Planning on development contributions, with levies and works in kind'.

In lieu of providing an annualised report for the 2025-26 financial year, and to increase transparency of operations with the community, we have attached **Merri-bek DCP acquittal review 1 September 2026** *(Appendix 1) an overarching acquittal report of the development contributions plan. This report highlights the value of levies received and expended across the 11 operational years of the plan, as well as all projects funded from these levies.*

Climate disclosures

Council voluntarily provides climate-related financial disclosures to strengthen transparency, risk management, ensure accountability, and support long-term financial sustainability. Reporting covers how extreme weather and climate change may impact Council assets and services.

The global framework transitioned in July 2023 from the TCFD to the IFRS S1/S2 standards. Australia has since mandated AASB S2 reporting for large businesses and financial institutions from January 2025, though public sector organisations, including local governments are currently exempt.

Council has reported under TCFD recommendations since FY2022-23, covering governance, strategy, risk management, and metrics. Local government is not currently required to report under AASB S2. Council will continue to monitor these developments and consider future alignment where appropriate.

Introduction

Council is recognised for our leadership in environmental sustainability and climate action. In 2018, we declared a climate emergency and committed to urgent action. In 2021 Council set its targets to be more ambitious for both the community and council operations, reflecting the urgent need for action. Our target is an 80-100% reduction by 2030, precluding offsets.

In 2008, Council set an ambition to become carbon neutral by 2012. Council achieved certification under the Climate Active program from 2012 to 2023 through direct emissions reduction initiatives and the purchase of offsets for residual emissions. In 2025, Council paused the purchase of offsets. In 2026, Council decided to redirect the offsets budget to external verification of carbon reporting and direct corporate emissions reduction initiatives.

While Climate Active certification and offset purchasing are paused, Council remains committed to reducing corporate greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible through direct action.

In recognition of the unavoidable climate change impacts already affecting our community - impacts that are projected to intensify - Council endorsed the Climate Risk Strategy in 2022. The Strategy articulates Council's vision for 2030: to manage climate risk competently, accountably, and responsively; to foster a climate-resilient, leafy, and liveable Merri-bek; and to ensure our community is climate-ready and resilient, leaving no one behind.

Climate change governance

Council meetings and decisions

Councillors play a key role in shaping the Council Plan and approving the annual budget, including climate-related priorities. In addition to budgetary decisions, Councillors endorse strategies and action plans that guide resource allocation and inform the work of Council officers. To stay informed on the progress of these initiatives, Councillors may receive briefings from Council staff. Councillors may also submit notices of motion.

Examples of recent Council decisions related to climate change are:

- *Power Pole-Mounted Electric Vehicle Chargers – May 2026 that endorsed a trial of power pole-mounted EV charging at 8 sites to expand public EV charging infrastructure;*
- *Carbon Offsets update in June 2026 which redirected funding from international carbon offsets to external verification of carbon reporting and direct corporate emissions reduction initiatives.; and the*
- *Kerbside Waste Reform - Fortnightly Rubbish in June 2026 that saw a change in service from weekly to fortnightly rubbish collection, commencing in July 2027, to save costs to residents, particularly against rising state government landfill tax, lower landfill waste and related greenhouse gas emissions.*

Council reports across different topics typically include a section on the climate emergency, highlighting how each report addresses climate-related considerations. This allows for robust decision-making. Through regular meetings, Councillors also deliberate and make decisions on planning and related matters.

Audit and Risk Committee

The committee monitors and provides advice on risk management systems and controls including oversight of climate related risks.

One of Council's 9 strategic risks is the impacts of climate change, including physical and transition risks, are not appropriately planned for or responded to. In 2025-2026, two Climate Risk and Resilience Reports were presented to the committee.

Climate Board

In 2020, Merri-bek City Council established the Climate Resilience Integration Board (CRIB) to provide oversight and guidance on climate risk and resilience, and to manage the integration and embedding of climate risk management across Council's assets, services, and regulatory functions. The CRIB held 20 meetings between 2020 and 2026.

With the integration of carbon reduction, circular economy, and climate resilience action plans into the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP), endorsed in 2025, Council is moving toward an integrated governance model - consolidating oversight under a single Climate Board to govern climate action across Council.

The Climate Board is chaired by the Director of Place and Environment, and its membership includes Directors, the Chief Financial Officer, and relevant Managers from key action areas, supported by officers. The Board held its inaugural meeting in 2026 and will meet quarterly to discuss and resolve key climate action issues.

Risk Management Committee

The Risk Management Committee meets every six weeks to discuss and monitor operational, strategic and emerging risks. Meeting minutes are shared with the Executive and posted to Council's staff intranet. Climate-related operational risks and their management, emerging climate risks, and other related issues may be presented to the Risk Management Committee.

Other Project Control Boards

There are other governance mechanisms that support our work for reducing emissions, kerbside waste service, capital works planning and asset management that guide the work in these respective areas and that also support the management of climate risks.

Climate change strategy

The 2025 - 2029 Council Plan recognises climate change as a significant challenge for our community and integrates Council's climate response throughout the plan, particularly under the first strategic objective, Care for Nature and Climate Resilience. This objective aims to create a flourishing and climate resilient Merri-bek by improving wildlife and nature connectivity, greening and cooling for healthier streets and public realm, and engaging the community in meaningful climate action.

Our main climate-related strategies and actions plans are the Zero Carbon Merri-bek Framework and Climate Emergency Action Plan, the Climate Risk Strategy and Foundational Action Plan and the Circular Economy Strategy.

In addition to the strategic alignment and considerations described above, our work on climate change is guided Victorian legislative obligations under the Climate Change Act 2017, the Local Government Act 2020, and the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

Climate risk management

Scenario analysis

In the previous annual report, we mainly used Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 4.5 (medium emission scenario) and RCP 8.5 (high emission scenario) as the datasets provided through the Victorian Climate Projections 2019. Since then, the Victorian Government has expanded information to consider other scenarios, the SSP 1-2.6 low emission scenario and SSP 3 – 7.0 high emission scenario. RCP 8.5 now becomes a very high emission scenario.

We have not taken a view on which of the scenarios represent a plausible future. Instead, we recognise that different scenarios may be used for analysis of different risks. For example, in service assessments we used qualitative scenarios, and in RCP 4.5 and 8.5 on assessments of how climate change is already affecting and will affect community buildings. We reported on the findings of our building assessments in our last annual report. As a result of this work, we have created a rolling program of upgrades to improve resilience in buildings to start in the financial year 2025-26. *Attached* Merri-bek DCP acquittal review 1 September 2026 *(Appendix 1) an overarching acquittal report of the development contributions plan. For some of our larger buildings, the outcome of assessments will be considered in renewal plans according to the asset renewal schedules. Internal tools to assess the climate vulnerability of buildings have been developed both for new buildings and for retrofitting existing buildings.*

Risk identification and assessment

Climate-related risks are identified through our strategic and operational risk processes. We assess how climate impacts our operational risks. We have also developed risk tolerance statements for several key areas. Council has conducted a materiality assessment to identify climate-related risks that have, or may have, a material impact on financial sustainability, assets, services, community health and wellbeing, and the environment. This assessment helps prioritise key actions for monitoring through Council's climate governance arrangements. Emerging risks are monitored through a combination of external publications, internal escalation via our Risk Management Committee, and active knowledge exchange with other local governments. This collaborative approach ensures we remain informed of evolving climate-related challenges and opportunities.

Currently, our focus is on physical climate risks, including extreme weather events and long-term changes in climate patterns that may affect infrastructure, service delivery, and community resilience. We acknowledge the importance of transition risks – such as policy, legal, and market shifts associated with the transition to a low-carbon economy – and are exploring ways to incorporate these into future assessments.

Risk management approach

Climate risks are managed through existing governance structures and risk mitigation strategies. Our enterprise risk management framework supports the integration of climate considerations into decision-making processes, ensuring that climate-related risks are addressed alongside other strategic risks,

including through our risk register. Where appropriate, risk tolerance statements guide our response to climate impacts, helping to align our actions with organisational priorities and community expectations.

Continuous Improvement

Council is continuing to strengthen its climate risk management capabilities. This includes refining our risk identification methods, expanding our focus to include transition risks, and applying scenario analysis in assessing the impact and likelihood of our operational risks to better understand long-term climate impacts.

The scenario analysis can be complemented by our assessment of hazards, exposure, and vulnerability in Merri-bek that has been completed in 2025. This work can help us to have an integrated approach to addressing risks. Ongoing collaboration with peer councils and sector experts supports our efforts to build resilience and adapt to a changing climate.

Metrics and targets

Climate risk strategy monitoring and evaluation

Council has developed the following qualitative progress scorecards against the 5 goals of the strategy. A qualitative scale was developed to have five levels: beginning to build capacity, emerging capacity, establishing capacity, consolidating capacity, and succeeding and obtaining resilience benefits. We met all targets for 2025 and continue to work towards reaching 2030 targets to succeed and obtain resilience benefits. The summary of the 2025 status is below, with further detail in the last annual report.

Goal	2025 rating
Goal 1: *By 2025, Council has iterative risk management, reporting and decision-making processes in place to manage climate-related risk to assets, service delivery, finances, and liabilities.*	*Consolidating Capacity*
Goal 2: *By 2030, Council has improved the ability of its infrastructure, open spaces and natural environments to avoid, withstand and recover from climate impacts, while continuing to provide for community wellbeing, amenity and ecosystem services.*	*Establishing capacity*
Goal 3: *By 2030, Council services are resilient to climate impacts such that we can support our community through the shocks and stressors associated with climate change.*	*Establishing capacity*
Goal 4: *By 2030, Merri-bek residents and businesses have access to support and information from Council to take meaningful action to adapt and build resilience to climate change.*	*Establishing capacity*
Goal 5: *By 2030, Council collaborates with and influences a range of private, community and public sector partners to drive adaptation and build climate resilience in Merri-bek.*	*Consolidating capacity*

A suite of 22 indicators was also developed or linked to the Climate Risk Strategy relating to risk management, adaptive capacity, service performance, integrated water management, and others. Some of the same applicable indicators from the Council Action Plan were used to avoid duplication (for example: percentage of tree canopy cover, capacity of water harvesting systems for re-use and irrigation, and area of catchment treated by large-scale water sensitive urban design approaches).

The status update of the 2024-25 indicators (latest available indicator data).

Ref No.	Measure	Comments FY 2024 – 2025	Indicator Value FY 2023 - 2024	Indicator Value FY 2024 - 2025
C.R.P. 1.1 - PE	Risk Management controls are effective and task treatments are progressing on track	All of the controls are completed or progressing.	Two task treatments are progressing within their timelines and due dates.	5 task treatments are progressing within their timelines and due dates.
C.R.P. 1.2 - SC	Climate risk and adaptation actions are considered in Council evaluations when they occur and where relevant	Climate risk was considered in the evaluation for the Ageing and Living Well Framework and the Climate Emergency Action Plan.	Evaluation included in 3 plans: Zero Carbon Merri-bek, Social Cohesion Implementation Plan, and Living and Ageing Well Implementation Plan	Climate risk included in 1 additional plan.
C.R.P 1.4 FIN	Financial impacts of climate events and preparedness activities are measured and within a defined threshold to support financial sustainability	The team have undertaken activities to increase awareness and of understanding of climate risk, within the team, managers and Councillors.	NA	NA
C.R.P. 2.1 - CWPD	Number of community buildings that can be safely operated during extreme events (moderate to high resilience to occupant thermal stress and to stormwater flows)	A building retrofits program has been established for FY 2025 – 2026 ongoing with annual funding of around $150,000.	8 buildings assessed	24 buildings assessed through inspection
C.R.P. 2.2 - UF1	Tree canopy cover (%) relative to 2021 baseline of 13.42% municipal tree canopy cover	Tree canopy cover data is collected periodically, around 4-5 years.	14.4% canopy cover	No new data available
C.R.P. 2.2 - UF2	Net change in number of trees in public land in the municipality	In the 2024-25 financial year, 3,879 trees were planted and 1,658 trees were removed, which means a 2,221 net increase. At the end of the	1.54%	2.90%

		2022/23 financial year, there were 78,476 trees, corresponding toa net increase of 2,221 trees translates to 2.9%		
C.R.P. 2.2 - OSDD1	Number and size of new open space under Parks Close to Home program	Additional Park Close to Home: 14 Frith Street (Yubup) 2,700sqm 260 Sydney Road (Michelle Guglielmo) 570sqm	Additional 6626 sqm	Additional 3270 sqm
C.R.P. 2.2 - OSDD2	Number and area of low biodiversity value areas converted to high biodiversity value areas	JP Fawkner Reserve – 6000 sqm	Additional 4000 sqm	Additional 6000 sqm
C.R.P. 2.2 - OSDD3	Number of new native vegetation plantings in public land by Council	Over 30,000 indigenous tube stock plants.	Additional 20,000 tube stock plants	Additional 30,000 tube stock plants
C.R.P. 2.2 - OSDD4	Number of plants supplied to community groups	1674 plants supplied to schools, greening groups, community gardens and residents.	2500 plants	1674 plants
C.R.P. 2.2 - SBE1	Capacity of water harvesting systems for re-use and irrigation (ML)	Dunstan Reserve 10 ML / year capacity additional, completed construction in 2024/25	No additional ML	10 ML additional in 2025 total of 49 ML of water
C.R.P. 2.2 - SBE2	Area of catchment treated by large-scale water sensitive urban design approaches (sq km)	Delivered a few streetscape raingardens but with smaller impact on the bigger catchment.	2.94 Sq.Km	No material change
C.R.P. 3.1 - SC	Key Council services are reporting high adaptive capacity to continue to support service delivery during heatwaves and storms	The Maternal and Child Health and Immunisation and the Community Venues team will be invited to do the adaptive capacity checklist.	Two units have been assessed with level 3 and 4 on the 5-point adaptation scale.	No change
C.R.P. 3.1 - IRR	Reported incidence of service disruption due to extreme weather such as extreme heat, storms, and other climate events or failure of business continuity plan	A corporate incident reporting system and framework is planned to be developed and rolled out.	There is no formal corporate incident reporting system in place.	The Business Continuity Plan was not activated in the past quarter. There have been service disruption incidents due to extreme weather conditions in the past quarter.
C.R.P. 4.1 - SC	Households are reporting moderate to high adaptive capacity relative to baseline	No further survey responses have been gathered since FY 2023-2024. Complementary qualitative information on the experience of mothers of young children was made available through the RMIT research Towards Climate	Baseline established	No further survey responses. Qualitative information from RMIT research will become available once the report is finalised.

		Resilient Families, funded through the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation.		
C.R.P. 4.2 EM	Key Council services provide relevant information and support to community members that are most at-risk to extreme climate events, particularly extreme heat	The Extreme Heat Subplan and Communications Plan requires different services to send messages to the community through different channels.	Information dissemination occurred before and during high heat days - 2024 has had two alerts go out to the community	Two heat health advisories were issued on Jan 3 and November 20, based heat health warnings from Department of Health.
C.R.P. - 5.1 SC	Amount of grant funding secured and/or number of projects co-delivered with NAGA, CASBE, Stormwater Victoria and other networks and universities.	Partners in RMIT successfully received a grant from VicHealth to do further research on the experience of extreme heat of mothers of young children from culturally diverse backgrounds. This project is based on the project Toward heat resilient families in northern Melbourne / Naarm	$3,000 equivalent of in-kind funding secured from DEECA for climate resilience assessments of buildings RMIT secured $38,083 from the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation for a project with Merri-bek City Council	RMIT secured funding from VicHealth amounting to $219,000. The project includes Merri-bek City Council, Bendigo City Council and health partners.
C.R.P. 5.1 - SC2	Number of policies adopted with Council advocacy positions	Two major Victorian Government policies are consistent with Council advocacy positions, announced: - all new homes and commercial buildings must be built all-electric, including commercial kitchens. - Changes in minimum rental standards require replacement of electric appliances, electric cooling, insulation, and draughtproofing.		2 policies
C.R.P. 5.1	Number of partnerships established or strengthened with community organisations	The preparation for the DRF proposal on the Resilient Neighbourhood Hub involved the participation of the Merri Food Hub, Yooralla Disability, and other organisations that participate in the Glenroy and Fawkner Service Provider Network. While the grant proposal has not been approved, alternatives to deliver some of the envisioned outcomes are being investigated.	At least 3 community partnerships on climate adaptation	

C.R.P. 5.2 - CDSP	Community organisations such as Neighbourhood Houses and community service providers are reporting actions to improve resilience of community services	A workshop including services in the Glenroy Fawkner Service Provider network was conducted by RMIT for the project Towards Climate Resilient Families. This brought awareness of experiences of families and the roles of different services in extreme heat. Options to work with Neighbourhood Houses to bring community awareness on the power saving bonus and management of bills were discussed.		
C.R.P. 5.2 - ENF	Number of developments that have undergone a Proactive Planning Enforcement audit.	In 2024/25, 90 proactive audits were commenced, of developments currently under construction to ensure compliance with ESD requirements in planning permits. Of note, 62% of the audited sites had non-compliances rectified without it being escalated.	85 non-compliances were identified and voluntary rectified	56 non-compliances were identified and voluntary rectified
C.R.P. 5.3 - CWPD	Number of projects complying with ESD requirements, including measures to reduce climate risk	The Buildings Projects Unit delivered 8 projects with an Environmentally Sustainable Development matrix. Additionally, a full climate risk assessment was completed for the Brunswick Early Years Hub project.		8 construction projects and 1 design project

Council emissions 2024-25

For Council (corporate/operational) emissions, we have adopted a highly ambitious target range of between 80% and 100% reduction by 2030 (precluding offsets, against 2011-12 baseline).

Council is continuing to reduce corporate carbon emissions with the goal of meeting this target range. However, in 2025 Council decided to pause its Carbon Offsets Policy and associated offset purchasing until local, high quality and affordable offset options become available, or Council considers its post-2030 corporate emissions targets. Council will continue to undertake annual corporate carbon reporting, with regular independent external verification to maintain public transparency and accountability. The balance of the offsets budget has been redirected to support direct reduction of corporate carbon emissions.

Council has achieved a 67% reduction in emissions in 2024-25 compared to baseline, using the same reporting boundary as baseline. This has not yet been externally verified and is therefore subject to change. This reduction was achieved through a range of initiatives including purchasing electricity backed by renewable energy certificates (Melbourne Renewable Energy Project), purchase of electric

vehicles, electrification of heating and street lighting upgrades. Most recently Fawkner Leisure Centre was refurbished to be all-electric.

Emissions in 2024-25 were 7,010 tCO2e, an increase of 7% (+467 tCO2e) compared to 2023-24 using the same reporting boundary as baseline. Emissions from gas consumption decreased, largely due to the electrification of Fawkner Leisure Centre. However, emissions from water consumption increased significantly, with warmer conditions requiring more irrigation.

Future projects to reduce carbon emissions include:

- *Electrification of Oak Park Sports and Aquatic Centre (winter 2026)*
- *Installation of electrical transformers at Hadfield Operations Centre (2026/27). These will provide the additional electrical capacity necessary for more electrical vehicle charging infrastructure, facilitating the expansion of Council's electric fleet.*
- *Live monitoring to further improve water consumption at key sites*
- *Continued electrification of small Council sites*

Council aims to improve the coverage of its carbon reporting, and future reporting will include two reporting boundaries. One reporting boundary will match baseline and will be used to monitor performance against our carbon target. A second reporting boundary will expand over time to cover all relevant Scope 3 categories. This approach aims to identify new carbon hotspots and opportunities for further carbon reduction.

Community emissions – 2023-24

In 2021 Council increased our carbon targets ambitions. The updated target for the Merri-bek community is to achieve 75% emissions reduction by 2030 (against 2011-12 baseline), net zero by 2035 and drawdown ('negative emissions') by 2040. As figure 1 below highlights, the latest community emissions profile (2023-24) reflects 30% emissions reduction since the baseline year.

The latest data on community emissions are captured in figure 2 below for financial year 2023–24. There is usually a two-year time lag in the reporting to account for the time when the data sets become available and when they can be collected, analysed, reviewed and then shared. Our major emissions source is electricity consumption, due to the community's scale of population and commercial activity. The second largest source of emissions is gas consumption.

Source: www.snapshotclimate.com.au/locality/australia/victoria/merri-bek/

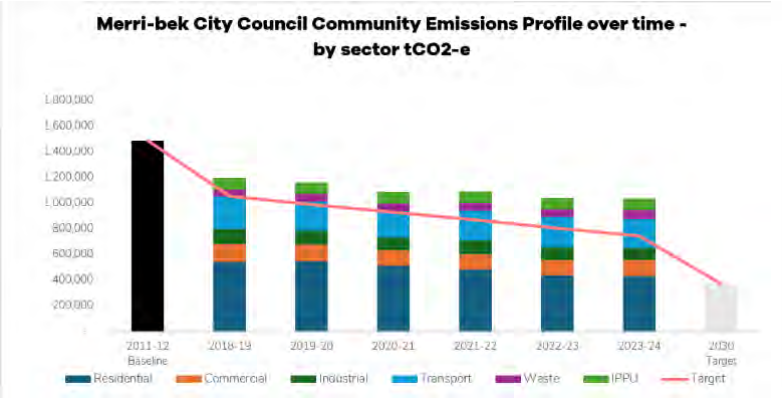


Figure 1. Snapshot tool estimate of 2023–24 Merri-bek community emissions over time compared to baseline.

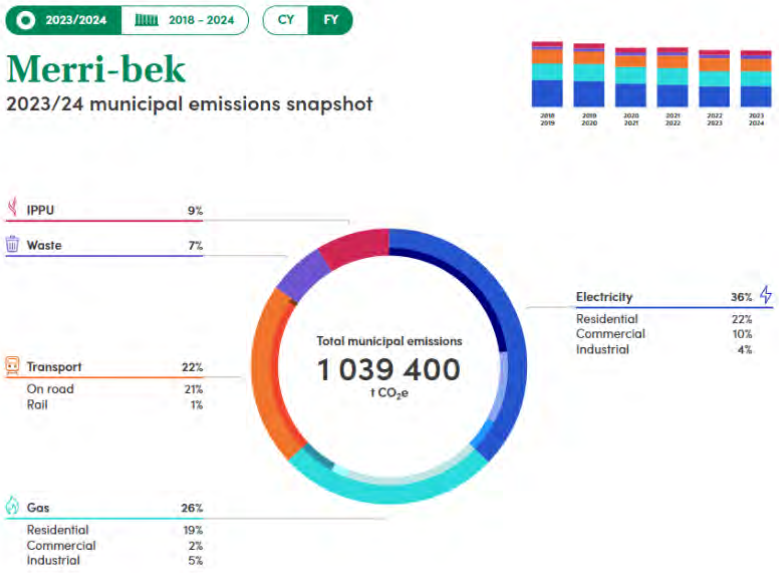


Figure 2: Snapshot tool estimate of 2023-24 Merri-bek community emissions across sources.

Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities commitment

The Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (the Act) sets out the basic rights, freedoms and responsibilities of all people in Victoria.

The charter requires governments, local councils and other public authorities to consider human rights when they:
- *Make laws*
- *Develop policies*
- *Provide services.*

Beyond compliance, Council takes a proactive approach to its commitment to the charter, promoting a culture of human rights across the organisation, primarily through our Human Rights Policy (2016-2026).

Managing Human Rights risk at Council

Council actively manages the medium-rated risk of breaching the Human Rights of workers or community members, particularly under the Act. Key causes include lack of staff awareness, poor consultation, inaccessible infrastructure, and insufficient leadership or complaint processes. Consequences range from legal sanctions and reputational damage to negative impacts on staff and community wellbeing.

To mitigate this risk, Council has implemented a range of effective controls, including policies, plans, training, and inclusive governance structures that embed human rights principles into everyday practice.

Key policies, plans and commitments

- *Merri-bek Human Rights Policy 2016-26*
- *Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2022-26 (DAIP)*
- *First People's Employment Plan 2022-25*
- *Gender Equality Action Plan 2022-25*
- *LGBTIQA+ Action Plan 2023-2026*
- *Social Cohesion Plan 2020 - 2025*
- *Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy – 2025 – 2029*

- *Child Safe Statement of Commitment*
- *Statement of Commitment to Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung People and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities in Merri-bek*
- *Gender Equality Statement of Commitment.*

Training and implementation

- *Human Rights Charter Assessment Training (via Corporate Training Calendar)*
- *Mandatory Human Rights online learning module for staff*
- *Human Rights Implementation Plan and associated action plans*
- *Gender Equity Impact Assessments.*

Advisory and reference groups

Council supports a range of Advisory Committees and Reference Groups that guide the Human Rights Policy and related strategies, with over 120 community members contributing their diverse lived experiences:

Disability Reference Group — 9

Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience Advisory Committee — 10

First Peoples Advisory Committee — 9

Gender Equality Reference Group — 7

Health, Wellbeing and Social Inclusion Advisory Committee — 11

LGBTIQA+ Reference Group — 10

Liveability Advisory Committee — 12

Merri-bek Arts Advisory Committee — 10

Older Persons Reference Group — 10

Strategic Transport Reference Group — 12

Arts Advisory Group – 10

Friends of Aileu Community Committee - 10

Human Rights training at Council

Learning and Development program delivers a wide range of training programs aligned with its Human Rights Policy, ensuring staff are well-equipped to uphold and promote human rights in all areas of service and engagement.

Scheduled sessions from the 2025–26 Learning and Development Calendar included:

- *Active Bystander Training*
- *Building Aboriginal Competency Workshop*
- *Children and Young Peoples Engagement*
- *Disability Inclusion*
- *Gender Affirmation Training for Managers*
- *Gender Equity Essentials*
- *Indigenous Cultural Awareness*
- *Introduction to Gender and Sexuality Training 101*
- *Thriving at work when you're Neurodivergent*
- *Understanding Neurodivergence when you're Neurotypical*

Online modules available through the Litmos learning system:

- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Safety*
- *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities*
- *Compliance Essentials – Anti-discrimination and Equal Opportunity*
- *Compliance Essentials – Sexual Harassment Prevention*
- *Compliance Essentials – Workplace Bullying*
- *Creating Value Through Diversity and Inclusion*
- *Cultural Competence Programs*
- *Cultural Safety Program*
- *Disability Awareness in the Workplace*
- *Equal Employment Opportunity Training*
- *Family Violence Awareness – A Workplace Issue*
- *Keeping Children and Young People Safe from Harm and Abuse*
- *LGBTIQ+ Inclusion in the Workplace*
- *Unconscious Bias*
- *Victorian Child Safe Standards – We All Have a Role to Play*

We continue to convene six local service provider and community networks to support the capacity, reach and good governance of community organisations that target priority groups, including:

- *Multicultural Settlement Services Network*
- *Fawkner and Glenroy Services Provider Networks*
- *Merri-bek Disability Service Provider Network*

- *Family Violence Network*
- *Hume Merri-bek Volunteer Network*
- *Merri-bek LGBTIQA+ Service Provider Network.*

New or revised policies, strategies, plans and programs considered human rights in line with charter responsibilities, and gender equality and intersectionality in line with the Gender Equality Act 2020.

A key goal of our human rights policy is to advance inclusion, social cohesion and respect in the community. We held celebratory and awareness-raising events for significant dates including: International Women's Day, Refugee Week, Cultural Diversity Week, International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT), Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC, 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence and International Day for People with a Disability.

The Merri-bek Interfaith Network brought people from different faiths together to build understanding and connection. Members took part in World Environment Day in Fawkner, ran a Places of Worship bus tour, and organised a Peace Pole planting for World Interfaith Harmony Week. These activities helped people learn from each other and build stronger community relationships.

Social cohesion

One key achievement of the Social Cohesion Plan was the Women in Small Business Empowerment project in Fawkner, delivered with SisterWorks. Co-designed with local women, it supported 12 women from diverse backgrounds to build skills, confidence, and connections to grow their business ideas, while providing a supportive space to share experiences and overcome barriers. Free childcare and interpreting made the program more accessible.

This year the Democracy Lab engaged 23 Merri-bek participants across eight sessions (four online, four in person), creating a practical space to explore democratic participation, share ideas, and build confidence, skills, and connections for community involvement.

In May 2026, 15 women graduated from the Go Girls Foundation program at Glenroy Hub. The program helped them build confidence, practical skills, and independence, supporting their path to employment through workshops, coaching, and community support.

The Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre (ASWC) in Brunswick received funding to work with a consumer led Advisory Group and hosted Refugee Week Party in June 2026 .

The Merri-bek Interfaith Network brought people from different faiths together to build understanding and connection. Members took part in World Environment Day in Fawkner, ran a Places of Worship bus tour, and organised a Peace Pole planting for World Interfaith Harmony Week. These activities helped people learn from each other and build stronger community relationships.

In 2025/26, the Hume Merri-bek Anti-Racism Support Network was established to coordinate anti-racism support in Hume and Merri-bek, with objectives to raise awareness of racism and discrimination and their impacts, build capacity among community organisations, groups, faith groups and leaders to identify and respond to racism and link people to support, and collect local data to inform advocacy and prevention.

With 17 local organisations represented, the network held its first regular meetings in early 2026. It also hosted a Community Workshop on 12 May 2026, attended by around 20 people, using a "Tree of Life" creative consultation to map community members' lived experiences and identify priorities for addressing racism.

Merri-bek and Hume Councils continued to distribute the translated Anti-racism Support Booklets. The network held two training sessions for staff, service providers and frontline community centre workers hosted by Hume Council and Glenroy Neighbourhood House over 4 workshops reaching 50 people.

The Merri-bek Multicultural and Settlement Network met five times, bringing together settlement services, welfare agencies, government departments and Council to share information and coordinate support for multicultural communities.
In August 2025 it heard about a client-led approach to service delivery from the Asylum Seekers Welcome Centre and about the Settlement Engagement and Transition Support programme for people arriving from Gaza.
The October 2025 meeting focused on housing challenges and opportunities for multicultural communities, with a presentation from VincentCare and updates from the Department of Home Affairs and Services Australia.
In December 2025 the network considered Aged Care reforms and their impact on multicultural communities, including the new Support at Home programme, changes to Home Care Packages, and Council services for older residents. The February 2026 meeting reviewed member survey results and set tentative priorities for the year ahead and the May 2026 meeting discussed the Merri-bek Human Rights Policy and related plans, including how they are being evaluated and what is planned next and stage of policy development.

First Nations engagement and cultural consultation

Council hosted a successful 26 January 2026 Day of Mourning ceremony at Coburg Civic Centre, attended by more than 300 community members. The event provided space for truth-telling, reflection, and recognition of the ongoing impacts of colonisation.

Merri-bek Libraries hosted more than 50 community members at a Treaty Information Session at Brunswick Library on 18 March 2026, delivered by the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria. An Aboriginal Health Expo was also held at Glenroy Hub on 15 April 2026

Council ran an Expression of Interest process for all advisory committees in 2025. The new members of the First Peoples Advisory Committee first met informally in December 2025 and then met formally three times in the first half of 2026, selecting a new community Co-Chair after the previous Co-Chair stepped back.

Across these meetings the committee received an induction on Council's structure and budget cycle, and heard from officers on procurement support for First Peoples suppliers, the First Peoples Strategy, and partnerships with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Aboriginal Housing Victoria. Members discussed expanding the local First Peoples business directory to include sole traders, procurement targets, clearer data on Aboriginal business engagement, and barriers Elders face accessing My Aged Care.

Ballerrt Mooroop was a recurring focus: members were told the land title cannot be transferred until rezoning is finalised and that the current lease expires in October 2026, and the committee recommended Council set aside any available 2026-27 budget surplus towards infrastructure at the site, reaffirming the June 2025 Council resolution.

Council also continued its monthly consultations with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elders as Traditional Owners, hosting five online meetings and supporting three in-person walk-on-Country consultations.

Topics included the Community Engagement Policy, waterway protection and dog walking in Merri-bek, the draft consultation procedure for Traditional Owners and the First Peoples Advisory Committee, the naming of the Harding Street Bridge, the Places for People Plan and streetscape improvements to Post Office Place in Glenroy, and harmful community narratives around Treaty and reconciliation.

Council also continued to increase its spend with First Nations Businesses in 2025-26, with a total spend of $1,239,144 (including GST) across 38 suppliers. This is an increase of $303,373 (24%) and an increase of 13 suppliers (34%) compared to the prior year.

Ballerrt Mooroop site

On December 15 2025, the State Government announced their intention to transfer the title of the remaining land of the Ballerrt Mooroop site to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. This is a significant and long-anticipated announcement marking an important step in cultural recognition and self-determination.

Council supported Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung to host the Ballerrt Mooroop Community Day in Glenroy on 24 May 2026, celebrating the commitment to return the site to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people.

The day commenced with a Welcome to Country and a smoking ceremony, setting a respectful and meaningful tone for the celebrations. Attendees were invited to listen to a panel discussion featuring Wurundjeri leaders, who shared insights into the cultural and historical importance of the site including potential future uses of the site. The program also included a dance workshop led by the Djirri Djirri Dance Group, along with a variety of community stalls, educational displays, and engaging children's activities, creating a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere for all who attended.

Gender equality and family violence prevention

Implementation of Gender Equity Impact Assessments (GEIAs) this year continued its focus on addressing the recommendations from the external review of Council's process and templates around the five action areas of GEIA template and guidance, Embedding into organisational processes. Governance and accountability. Education and capacity building and Communication and Promotion.

Monthly GEIA Circles for project leads to discuss their initiatives and the needs of Human Rights Policy priority groups with staff across the organisation are improving collaboration and accountability.

Examples of collaborations with community partners included three Community Forums focused on gender equality and family violence prevention that are informing further Council actions.

The Voices for Change Forum on 27 November 2025, supported by Respect Victoria as part of the 16 Days of Activism. brought together community members and leaders from our diverse community, councillors and dedicated Council staff to imagine a future without gendered violence and explore what we can do now to work towards this future.

The Women's Safety Forum on 12 February 2026 highlighted the need for a safe space for community members, people with lived experience and professionals from Victoria Police, Northern Community Legal Centre, Sisters4Sisters and No To Violence/ Men's Referral Service to share experiences and discuss how we can better support women, children and families to stay safe.

The Balance the Scales Event on 26 March was an opportunity to highlight the leadership and crucial support services provided by some of Council's community partners (Working Women 's Centre Victoria, Women's Health in the North and WIRE Support Service) around women's rights in key areas, such as health and reproductive health, employment and financial independence

LGBTIQA+ communities

Merri-bek remains committed to supporting our diverse LGBTIQA+ communities by reducing discrimination, celebrating strengths and advocating for positive change. This year saw the completion of Council's first LGBTIQA+ action plan (2023-2026) and associated activities. Many LGBTIQA+ programs have become business as usual across the organisation representing the success of the plan. Ensuring the rights of LGBTIQA+ people remain a core function of Merri-bek as demonstrated by the range of activities throughout the last year.

A significant piece of work in the LGBTIQA+ space over the year was the completion of two large scale public celebrations of Merri-bek's LGBTIQA+ communities. The Pride Pathway and Glenroy Hub mural both celebrate the historic, social and cultural impacts that LGBTIQA+ people have in Merri-bek. The Pride Pathway, features a largescale intersex inclusive progressive pride flag painted on the footpath on Sydney Road Brunswick. The Glenroy Hub mural by Marco Pennacchia offers a chance of quite reflection, while also being a visible celebration of the local LGBTIQA+ communities in the local context. These projects offered a catalyst for other programs in the space including partnering with Merri Food Hub to hold an IDAHOBIT event in Fawkner for the first time. This saw around 40 people attend a community talk from Transgender Victoria and morning tea. It offered a chance for Fawkner locals to celebrate local LGBTIQA+ communities and allies to learn more. These projects lay the foundation for Merri-bek's future LGBTIQA+ work across all of the municipality.

Building partnerships with local LGBTIQA+ organisations remained a priority throughout the year. This has included with Transgender Victoria, Many Coloured Sky and Our Point 3. Many LGBTIQA+ organisations remain under resourced, under significant political pressure and

logistical challenges. Merri-bek has supported these groups through grants, venues and in-kind resources.

Many Coloured Sky completed their commissioned research project into service gaps for LGBTIQA+ people from refugee, asylum and migrant backgrounds. The final report includes a range of key themes and valuable recommendations from education, housing and social inclusion for Council to implement. Our local LGBTIQA+ service providers remain connected through our service provider network which meet twice over the year. Partnerships with organisations and service providers will remain important as funding changes and political discourse continues to impact service delivery within the sector.

Global political narratives have continued to impact local LGBTIQA+ communities and Council's advocacy role has been important to ensuring the voices of LGBTIQA+ people are heard. Merri-bek contributed a submission to Victorian inquiry into anti-LGBTIQA+ hate crimes. This submission detailed instances of anti-LGBTIQA+ activities that have impacted the organisation and our local communities. The submission was completed with support from Thorne Harbour Health who provided additional recommendations. Rising transphobia and transmisogyny remain a concern and Merri-bek has been a keen supporter of actions to eliminate this from our communities. Working with Women's Health in North, Merri-bek publicly endorsed the Building a Respectful Community Partnership's Trans and Gender Diverse Inclusion Position Statement. The Statement affirms that efforts to prevent gender-based violence must include trans and gender-diverse individuals and communities.

Throughout the year Merri-bek continues to demonstrate its ongoing LGBTIQA+ programs in our leading library service, children's events and arts programming. Council's new LGBTIQA+ reference group was also recruited and commenced providing advice to the organisation. These ongoing programs are now central to the organisation and provide spaces for LGBTIQA+ people to connect, build capacity and contribute to Council decision making.

Merri-bek's LGBTIQA+ population is diverse, large and present across all communities in Merri-bek. As Council embarks on the planning of our next LGBTIQA+ plan, we will aim to continue to support capacity building, partnerships and opportunities for social connection. Merri-bek is proud of our large LGBTIQA+ population and remains committed to supporting them into the future.

Older people and communities

Council made strong progress in all areas of the Living and Ageing Well Implementation Plan (2025 to 2029), delivering a wide range of initiatives that promoted safety, wellbeing and social participation and connection.
A major achievement was the first stage of 'Bolder', an anti-ageism initiative using art and storytelling to challenge harmful ageist stereotypes that contribute to mistreatment and abuse of older people. Older community members were photographed and interviewed, with their stories shared through exhibitions, online platforms, public space projections and billposters. This creative approach elevated older voices and broadened understanding of ageing, especially amongst staff. In response to feedback, this campaign will deliver its second stage in the 2026-27 financial year, expanding its reach.

Council also partnered with Seniors Rights Victoria to deliver an engaging ageism and Elder abuse awareness session for community members for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Council developed and distributed the Living and Ageing Well Community Directory, with details on how to navigate local services and opportunities for older residents. This project responded to needs identified by community members and staff. This free resource is available in print and digital form, and has become a valued tool for older people, carers and the broader community.

Rates of dementia in Merri-bek are expected to increase significantly in the future. In partnership with Holstep Health, Council delivered information sessions and training with community members and staff about dementia, and how to support people with dementia and carers. These sessions were very well-received by staff and highlighted the need for more capacity-building initiatives. This will continue to be a priority under the Living and Ageing Well Implementation Plan.

Council progressed its objectives for our open spaces to be enjoyed by people of all ages and physical abilities, as well as creating physical exercise opportunities. Council teams hosted guided park walks for older adults, promoting accessible trails and encouraging older adults to explore Merri-bek's parks and waterways. This led to positive community outcomes, with older people taking the lead in organising Merri-bek walking groups in Northern Merri-bek as a result.

Council recruited and established a new Older Persons Reference Group of 10 community members with diverse lived experiences of ageing, who commenced an exciting new term, with insights to continue the legacy of our first reference group. Council continues to create opportunities to elevate the voice of older people including our ongoing Seniors Network meetings and linking community groups and individuals with each other and Council.

Friends of Aileu Community Committee

The Friends of Aileu Community Committee is a joint working group between Merri-bek City Council and Hume City Council, which helps to inform the two councils on their friendship relationship with their communities and the municipality and people of Aileu, Timor-Leste.

This relationship was established in the year 2000, in response to a call from East Timor's resistance leadership for local government and community partnerships to assist in the re-building of East Timor following the end of the Indonesian occupation and the destruction accompanying the departure of their military and militia.

The friendship relationship involves Council, local people and organisations sharing knowledge, skills and resources with Aileu and providing support for community development initiatives of Aileu and its community and is founded on the 2 councils and their communities' commitment to uphold human rights and support local democracy and locally led decision making.

The relationship was renewed in July 2025 with the signing of an updated Friendship Agreement and its value and achievements were recognised with the award by the President of Timor-Leste of the Medal Order of Timor-Leste to the Friends of Aileu and 16 other friendship groups in August 2025.

Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum

In 2025-26, the Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum continued its national advocacy through the Back Your Neighbour campaign, backed by close to 50 councils and around 90 community organisations across Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia and Tasmania. The campaign calls on the Federal Government for a pathway to permanent status, fair work rights, and access to essential services for people seeking asylum. During the year, 20,000 people who have lived in our communities for more than a decade gained permanent residency, and free legal help was made available to others. The Taskforce Chair, the Mayor of Greater Dandenong, noted, 750 people are still living with uncertainty, and the Taskforce kept calling on councils to back permanent protection for them. A key highlight was the delegation to Canberra in June 2026, where mayors and councillors met Federal MPs, ran a stand at the ALGA National General Assembly and marked eight years of the Taskforce, joined by two advocates with lived experience. The year also included the Palm Sunday 2026 event in Melbourne and Refugee Week activities across member councils.

Merri-bek is a proud Executive Member of the Taskforce and took an active part in its work throughout the year. Mayor Natalie Abboud helped to plan advocacy initiatives and and attended the National General Assembly in Canberra to call for fairer refugee policies. For the 2026 Refugee Week, Merri-bek supported the Brunswick Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre's celebration and hosted its own event to welcome people seeking asylum.

People with disability

Our commitment to advancing disability access and inclusion in 2025-26 was demonstrated through multiple activities across 5 key areas in Merri-bek's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2022-26. Please refer to page ## for more information.

People experiencing homelessness

In 2025-26, we built on our previous years' commitment to support people experiencing homelessness by continuing the Merri-bek Zero project, developing stronger partnerships between local organisations to address homelessness in the municipality.

We continued to fund the Assertive Outreach program, which received over 150 referrals in 2025-26, with number of referrals climbing as the service becomes more widely known in the community. The assertive outreach workers collaborate with local services such as CIS Merri-bek, VincentCare and other community organisations to provide pathways to secure housing for people sleeping rough. The number of people experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping in Merri-bek continues to rise as demand for services and housing far outstrips capacity and availability.

As part of delivering on the Homelessness Action Plan, we partnered with MOSS (Merri Outreach Support Service) and VincentCare to deliver training for Merri-bek staff on understanding and supporting people experiencing homelessness in the municipality. Panel discussions with homelessness lived experience advisors from Council to Homeless Persons and local services were held to raise awareness about the issue over Homelessness Week in 2025.

Community safety

This year Council has strengthened its community safety approach by better supporting existing safety related initiatives and developing new partnerships to support local responses to safety matters.

The Merri-bek Hotspots meetings have been remodelled and convenes on a fortnightly basis. The meeting is attended by key internal and external stakeholders, including Victoria Police, MOSS, VincentCare, Launch Housing, Street Cleansing, Open Space Maintenance and Local

Laws. The group meets to coordinate human centred responses to "hotspots" where rough sleeping, amenity and safety concerns converge.

Council hosted the Merri-bek Neighbourhood Policing Forum in April 2026, providing space and opportunity for Victoria Police to engage with the local community on safety issues. The forum was attended by more than approximately 50 people and resulted in constructive discussions between Victoria Police and community members, creating a shared understanding about safety priorities, operational challenges for Police and opportunities.

The Glenroy Safety Meeting convened in May 2026 with Council facilitating discussions and collaboration between community groups, traders, Victoria Police, State Government representatives and Council to address hyperlocal safety issues. The group will continue to meet on a regular basis.

Food Equity and Security

Council recognises access to healthy, safe affordable culturally relevant food as a significant equity issue. Council is committed to a holistic approach to food security by identifying the common gaps and needs across community-led organisations and implementing a collective response to maximise the impact and benefit for food insecure communities.
Council's 3-year (2024-26) funding and service agreement with CIS Merri-bek to support and strengthen the Food and Material Relief network has been renewed for another 3 years in 2026/27. Council secured a 3.5 year VicHealth grant (2025-2028) which includes a part - time Co-ordinator, to deliver the Merri-bek Community Food Alliance. Merri-bek Council is partnered with community-led organisations Merri Food Hub, Open Table, Fawkner Food Bowls, and CIS Merri-bek to expand on existing food security initiatives and activities targeting the specific food security needs of Merri-bek's diverse community.

Disability access and inclusion plan

Merri-bek Council's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan outlines our commitment to eliminate disability discrimination and make our city more accessible and inclusive of people with disabilities. During 2025-2026, we implemented the following actions which are aligned with the five key areas of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2022-26.

Equal access to all areas of community life

- *Completed major accessibility upgrades at Northwest Kindergarten, Rose Street, Brunswick.*
- *Completed major pedestrian accessibility upgrades and introduced shared zones on Albert Street and Victoria Street in Brunswick East.*
- *Installed entrance ramp at Coburg Basketball Stadium.*

- *Installed ramp at Glencairn Tennis Club to make courts 2 and 3 accessible.*
- *Delivered all projects scheduled for the kerb ramp renewal project.*
- *Developed accessibility checklist for electric vehicle charging stations to support the installation of accessible charging stations.*
- *Trialled changes to planning permit applications to have conditional requirements for improved disability access. Exploring implementing the changes in the trial.*
- *Reviewed and implemented new hearing loop system at Coburg library.*
- *Reviewed Accessible Communications Policy.*
- *Implemented fourth year of the Arts Merri-bek Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2022-26.*

Employment, education and economic security

- *Delivered multiple disability related training to council staff, including: 'Introduction to Universal Design', 'Understanding neurodivergence when you're neurotypical', 'Thriving at work when you're neurodivergent', 'Neurodiversity at work', 'Learn basic Auslan', 'Mental health and crisis support', 'Mental health awareness', and 'Disability inclusion'.*
- *Promoted council job advertisements to local Disability Employment Services.*
- *Renewed council's commitment to deliver a disability-specific work experience program – Integrated Practical Placement (IPP) program.*

Inclusion and participation in the community

- *Hosted a social dance event, 'Black & White', at Coburg Town Hall, in collaboration with Holstep Health, for over 150 residents of Supported Residential Services (SRSs).*
- *Hosted multiple events for International Day of People with Disability, including major event at Glenroy Hub with over 100 people with disabilities in attendance.*
- *Hosted multiple Come and Try sporting events, including walking football and modified cricket.*
- *Worked with Sport4All to build sporting clubs' disability awareness and confidence to boost sport participation of people with disabilities. Sport4All staff member was based at Council.*
- *Delivered a year-long free music-making and art-making program for people with disabilities in collaboration with 'Out Hear Art Collective'.*
- *Hosted multiple inclusive Storytime sessions at Merri-bek's libraries with a disability focus.*
- *Delivered fourth consecutive year of 'The Art Connection' program. This is a free art program at Coburg library for people with disabilities.*
- *Supported multiple community organisations to apply for council's community grants to fund major infrastructure projects that improve the accessibility.*
- *Convened the Merri-bek Disability Reference Group.*
- *Convened the Merri-bek Disability Service Provider Network.*
- *Chaired the Northern Metro Local Government Disability Planners' Network.*

- *Leadership committee member of the Victorian Local Government Disability Planners Network.*

Changing attitudes and practices that lead to discrimination

- *Adopted the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Program at council's customer service centres, Aquatic & leisure centres and libraries. Provided free Sunflower merchandise at these locations all year round.*
- *Provided advice and responded to more than 450 internal and external enquiries and complaints relating to disability.*
- *'Communication Access' accreditation was renewed for the Customer Service team.*
- *Advocated for several human rights issues for people with disabilities including: increasing wages for people with disabilities in sheltered workshops; increasing disability awareness among building surveyors and building designers; better treatment of neurodivergent people in assessment, health and education settings; equal access to public transport.*
- *Supported community-led advocacy for accessible tram stops along Sydney Road through public rallies, petitions, public notices, promotional resources and media representation.*
- *Made changes to Council's Procurement Policy to exclude procuring from Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs) who pay staff with disabilities sub-minimum wages.*
- *Convened regular staff working group meetings – The LAB – with the sole purpose of identifying, reviewing and removing physical access barriers in Merri-bek.*
- *All major policies and strategies reviewed in 2024-25 have incorporated access and inclusion as main priorities.*
- *Celebrated the winner and nominees for outstanding contributions to disability inclusion at Council's Community Awards.*
- *Hosted 'Accessible Cities' forum for council's planning teams. Panellists were made up of local residents with disabilities who provided their lived experience of navigating accessibility barriers in Merri-bek.*

Supporting health, wellbeing and safety

- *Provided regular in-home and community support services for over 150 residents with disabilities under the age of 65. The services included personal care, general home care, assisted shopping, respite, delivered meals, community transport and social support groups.*
- *More than 70 unpaid carers accessed council's Support for Carers program, which offers a range of support services for people who provide unpaid care for a loved one.*
- *Reviewed Council's emergency management procedures for people with disability and are looking to implement best practise framework known as person-centred emergency preparedness (P-CEP).*

A plain English guide to the Financial Report

We are committed to accountability and developed this guide to help you read and understand the Financial Report.

Our report complies with:

- *Australian Accounting Standards*
- *other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board*
- *the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act)*
- *the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 (the regulations).*

Some readers may not be familiar with terms required by the standards as we are a part of the public sector. Some of the terms used in private-sector company reports are not suitable for the public sector.

What is in the Annual Financial Report?

The report has two main sections – the financial statements and the notes.

There are 5 statements and 10 notes, which are:

- *prepared by our staff*
- *audited by the Victorian Auditor-General*
- *examined by our Audit Committee.*

Council approves in principle the Annual Financial Report and authorises its certification. The 5 statements are in the first few pages of the report including:

- *comprehensive income statement*
- *balance sheet*
- *statement of changes in equity*
- *statement of cash flows*
- *statement of capital works.*

The notes detail our accounting policies, and the make-up of values contained in the statements.

Comprehensive income statement

The comprehensive income statement shows:

- the sources of our revenue by income category
- the expenses incurred in running Council during the year.

The expenses relate only to Council operations. They do not include the cost associated with the purchase or building of assets. While asset-purchase costs are not included in the expenses, there is a line item for depreciation. Depreciation is a non-cash transaction. It represents the value of an asset decreasing over time due to wear and tear and becoming out-of-date.

The key figure to look at is the annual surplus or deficit. The accounting surplus or deficit is the total revenue less the total expenses. While Council may be generating a healthy accounting surplus, this is used to fund other items in our operations. This includes loan principal repayments, transfers to reserves to fund future projects and rates-funded projects in the capital works program.

Balance sheet

The balance sheet is a snapshot of the financial position as at 30 June. It shows what we own as assets and what we owe as liabilities. Towards the bottom of the balance sheet is a line showing net assets. This is the net worth of Council, which has been built up over many years.

The assets and liabilities are separated into current and non-current. Current means those assets or liabilities that will fall due in the next 12 months.

Current and non-current assets

- Cash and other financial assets include cash and investments. That is, cash held in the bank and in petty cash, and our investments.
- Receivables are monies owed to us by ratepayers and others.
- Investment property represents the value of property owned by Council as investment.
- Property, infrastructure, plant, and equipment is the largest component of our worth. It represents the value of all the assets held by Council. This includes land, buildings, roads, footpaths, shared paths, drains, vehicles, equipment, and parks, built up over many years.
- Right of use assets shows Council's right to use assets over the course of a lease.

Current and non-current liabilities

- *Payables are those who we owed money to as at 30 June.*
- *Provisions include accrued long service and annual leave owed to employees.*
- *Trust funds represent money held in trust by Council.*
- *Interest-bearing liabilities represent our outstanding borrowings.*
- *Unearned income represents money received for goods and services not yet provided.*

Net assets

This term is used to describe the difference between the value of total assets and the value of total liabilities. It represents the net worth of Council as at 30 June.

Total equity

This always equals net assets. It is made up of the following components:

- *asset revaluation reserve is the total of all post-acquisition fair market value changes for non-current assets*
- *other reserves are allocations of funds that have been set aside and act as a future funding source for specific purposes:*
    - *these reserve funds do not have bank accounts of their own but are a theoretical split up of cash that Council has on hand for a future identified need or obligation*
    - *our reserves are broken up into two categories – restricted and non-restricted*
- *accumulated surplus is the value of all surpluses and deficits accumulated over time.*

Statement of changes in equity

The statement of changes in equity summarises the transactions relating to the equity over the financial year. This statement shows the values of such changes and how these changes arose.

The main reasons for a change in equity stem from:

- *a surplus or deficit from operations for the year*
- *the transfer of money to reserves and the use of money from our reserves*
- *revaluation of the assets, which are undertaken cyclically based on condition assessment and fair market value.*

Statement of cash flows

The cash flow statement summarises our cash payments and cash received for the year. The values may differ from those shown in the income statement as it is prepared on a cash accounting basis. The cash flow statement includes the total value (including Goods and Services Tax (GST)). The income statement is prepared on an accrual basis and is excluding GST.

Our cash arises from, and is used in three main areas:

- *cash flows from operating activities:*
  - *receipts – all cash received into our bank account from ratepayers and others who owed money to us. Receipts can include grant payments, fees and fines or interest earnings from our cash investments*
  - *payments – all cash paid by us from our bank account to staff, creditors, and other persons*
- *cash flows from investing activities:*
  - *this section shows the cash invested in the creation or purchase of property, infrastructure, plant, and equipment assets. It also includes the cash received from the sale of these assets*
- *cash flows from financing activities:*
  - *this is where the receipt and repayment of borrowed funds are recorded.*

The bottom line of the cash flow statement states the cash held at the end of the financial year. This shows our capacity to meet cash debts and other liabilities.

Statement of capital works

The statement of capital works details all amounts expended by Council on capital works. The statement classifies the expenditure in line with our asset classes.

It categorises capital works expenditure into:

- *renewal of assets*
- *upgrading of assets*
- *expansion of assets*
- *creating new assets.*

Each of these categories has a different impact on our future costs.

Notes to the accounts

The notes are a very important and informative section of the report. We have given details of our accounting policies to help you understand how the values shown in the statements are established. We have described these throughout the notes as relevant.

The notes also give details behind many of the summary figures in the statements. The note numbers are shown beside the relevant items in the comprehensive income statement, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and statement of capital works.

Where we wish to disclose other information, which cannot be incorporated into the statements, we have shown it in the notes.

Notes include:

- *the breakdown of expenses, revenues, reserves, and other assets*
- *contingent liabilities*
- *transactions with persons related to Council.*

The notes should be read at the same time as, and together with, the other parts of the Financial Statements to get a clear picture of the accounts.

Statements by Principal Accounting Officer and Councillors

The certification of the Principal Accounting Officer is made by the person responsible for the financial management of Council that, in her opinion, the financial statements have met all the statutory and professional reporting requirements.

The certification of Councillors is made by two councillors, the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Executive Officer, on behalf of Council that, in their opinion, the financial statements present fairly the financial transactions of Council.

Auditor General's report

The independent audit report provides you with an external and independent opinion on the financial statements. It confirms the financial report is prepared in accordance with relevant legislation and professional standards, and it represents a fair picture of our financial affairs.

Our main office

90 Bell Street, Coburg

External auditor

Auditor-General of Victoria

Internal auditor

Crowe Australasia

Solicitors

Various

Bankers

Westpac Banking Corporation

Website address

merri-bek.vic.gov.au

Merri-bek City Council

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
for the year ended 30 June 2026

Merri-bek City Council

Annual Financial Report

for the year ended 30 June 2026

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Merri-bek City Council

Annual Financial Report

for the year ended 30 June 2026

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Content Overview

These financial statements are General Purpose Financial Statements and cover the consolidated operations for Merri-bek City Council.

All figures presented in these financial statements are presented in Australian currency.

These financial statements were approved in principle by the Council on Wednesday, 9 September 2026.

Council has the power to amend and reissue these financial statements.

Merri-bek City Council

Annual Financial Report

for the year ended 30 June 2026

Certification of the Financial Statements

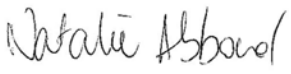
In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*, the Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

Jemma Wightman
Chief Financial Officer
Dated: 10/09/2026
Coburg, VIC

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial transactions of the Merri-bek City Council for the year ended 30 June 2026 and the financial position of the Council as at that date.

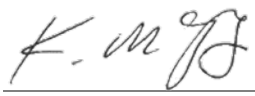
At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances which would render any particulars in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the Council and by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* to certify the financial statements in their final form.



Nat Abboud
Mayor
Dated: 10 / 09 / 2026
Coburg, VIC

Helen Davidson
Deputy Mayor
Dated: 10 / 09 / 2026
Coburg, VIC



Kate McCaughey
Chief Executive Officer
Dated: 10 / 09 / 2026
Coburg, VIC

Independent Auditor's Report

Victorian Auditor-General's Office

To the Councillors of Merri-bek City Council

Opinion	I have audited the financial report of Merri-bek City Council (the council) which comprises the: • balance sheet as at 30 June 2026 • comprehensive income statement for the year then ended • statement of changes in equity for the year then ended • statement of cash flows for the year then ended • statement of capital works for the year then ended • notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information • certification of the financial statements. In my opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the council as at 30 June 2026 and their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 4 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.
Basis for Opinion	I have conducted my audit in accordance with the *Audit Act 1994* which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report. My independence is established by the *Constitution Act 1975*. My staff and I are independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.
Councillors' responsibilities for the financial report	The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the *Local Government Act 2020* and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020, and for such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial report, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.

Level 31 / 35 Collins Street, Melbourne Vic 3000
T 03 8601 7000 enquiries@audit.vic.gov.au www.audit.vic.gov.au

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the council's internal control
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Councillors
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Councillors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the council's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Councillors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

MELBOURNE
18 September 2026

Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Merri-bek City Council

Comprehensive Income Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 $ '000	2025 $ '000
Income / Revenue			
Rates and charges	3.1	205,222	195,088
Statutory fees and fines	3.2	19,614	18,025
User fees	3.3	9,659	9,132
Grants - operating	3.4	23,936	25,531
Grants - capital	3.4	5,673	6,466
Contributions - monetary	3.5	7,788	13,570
Contributions - non monetary	3.5	437	503
Fair value increment on investment properties	6.3	1,418	818
Other income	3.7	9,689	11,918
Total income / revenue		283,436	281,051
Expenses			
Employee costs	4.1	121,568	115,692
Materials and services	4.2	80,857	78,352
Depreciation	4.3	41,809	39,312
Depreciation - Right of use assets		352	385
Net loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment and non-current assets held for sale	3.6	6,631	12,827
Allowance for impairment losses	4.4	3,765	2,423
Borrowing costs		816	853
Finance Costs - Leases		12	71
Other expenses	4.5	759	716
Total expenses		256,569	250,631
Surplus for the year		26,867	30,420
Other comprehensive income:			
Items that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods			
Net asset revaluation gain/loss	9.1	177,460	(194,747)
Total items which will not be reclassified subsequently to the operating result		177,460	(194,747)
Total other comprehensive income		177,460	(194,747)
Total comprehensive result		204,327	(164,327)

The above comprehensive income statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Merri-bek City Council

Balance Sheet

as at 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 $ '000	2025 $ '000
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1	44,572	36,116
Trade and other receivables	5.1	48,283	41,677
Other financial assets	5.1	52,000	60,000
Inventories		526	690
Prepayments		3,897	3,160
Non-current assets classified as held for sale	6.1	25,153	22,975
Other assets		3,636	4,156
Total current assets		178,067	168,774
Non-current assets			
Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries		2	2
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6.2	2,824,170	2,635,162
Investment property	6.3	38,674	37,232
Right-of-use assets		461	813
Total non-current assets		2,863,307	2,673,209
Total assets		3,041,374	2,841,983
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5.2	21,752	19,603
Trust funds and deposits	5.2	9,654	6,761
Contract liabilities	5.2	4,168	2,302
Provisions	5.4	23,058	20,922
Interest-bearing liabilities	5.3	2,169	14,209
Lease liabilities		102	121
Total current liabilities		60,903	63,918
Non-current liabilities			
Interest-bearing liabilities	5.3	11,498	13,667
Provisions	5.4	2,851	2,510
Lease liabilities		364	457
Total non-current liabilities		14,713	16,634
Total liabilities		75,616	80,552
Net assets		2,965,758	2,761,431
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		847,893	823,271
Reserves	9.1	2,117,865	1,938,160
Total Equity		2,965,758	2,761,431

The above balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Merri-bek City Council

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2026

	Note	Total $ '000	Accumulated Surplus $ '000	Revaluation Reserves $ '000	Other Reserves $ '000
2026					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		2,761,431	823,271	1,871,461	66,699
Adjusted opening balance		2,761,431	823,271	1,871,461	66,699
Surplus for the year		26,867	26,867	–	–
Other comprehensive income					
Net asset revaluation gain	9.1	177,460	–	177,460	–
Other comprehensive income		177,460	–	177,460	–
Total comprehensive income		204,327	26,867	177,460	–
Transfers to other reserves	9.1	–	(44,404)	–	44,404
Transfers from other reserves	9.1	–	42,159	–	(42,159)
Balance at end of the financial year		2,965,758	847,893	2,048,921	68,944
2025					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		2,928,509	785,732	2,066,208	76,569
Parking fine refund scheme		(2,751)	(2,751)	–	–
Adjusted opening balance		2,925,758	782,981	2,066,208	76,569
Surplus for the year		30,420	30,420	–	–
Other comprehensive income					
Net asset revaluation loss	9.1	(194,747)	–	(194,747)	–
Other comprehensive income		(194,747)	–	(194,747)	–
Total comprehensive income		(164,327)	30,420	(194,747)	–
Transfers to other reserves	9.1	–	(46,616)	–	46,616
Transfers from other reserves	9.1	–	56,486	–	(56,486)
Balance at end of the financial year		2,761,431	823,271	1,871,461	66,699

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Merri-bek City Council

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 Inflows/ (Outflows) $ '000	2025 Inflows/ (Outflows) $ '000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Rates and charges		201,940	194,509
Statutory fees and fines		15,434	14,046
User fees		9,671	9,142
Grants - operating		23,931	25,604
Grants - capital		7,532	1,787
Contributions - monetary		7,788	13,570
Interest received		4,503	4,652
Trust funds and deposits taken		70,496	48,957
Other receipts		4,328	9,044
Net GST (payment) receipt		(633)	166
Employee costs		(119,091)	(117,058)
Materials and services		(79,024)	(80,129)
Trust funds and deposits repaid		(67,603)	(48,361)
Other payments		(496)	(724)
Net cash provided by operating activities	9.2	78,776	75,205
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		(63,424)	(80,707)
Proceeds/(Loss) from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		253	(2,572)
Payments for investments		(59,000)	(69,182)
Proceeds from sale of investments		67,000	94,000
Net cash used in investing activities		(55,171)	(58,461)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Finance costs		(816)	(853)
Repayment of borrowings		(14,209)	(1,942)
Interest paid - lease liability		(12)	(71)
Repayment of lease liabilities		(112)	(149)
Net cash flow used in financing activities		(15,149)	(3,015)
Net Increase in cash and cash equivalents		8,456	13,729
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		36,116	22,387
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year		44,572	36,116
Financing arrangements	5.5	13,995	28,165

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Merri-bek City Council

Statement of Capital Works

for the year ended 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 $ '000	2025 $ '000
Property			
Land		–	5,040
Total land		–	5,040
Buildings		5,467	29,181
Building improvements		5,969	4,102
Total buildings		11,436	33,283
Total property		11,436	38,323
Plant and equipment			
Plant, machinery and equipment		1,825	4,334
Fixtures, fittings and furniture		172	216
Computers and telecommunications		1,009	886
Artworks		87	35
Library books		1,082	1,082
Total plant and equipment		4,175	6,553
Infrastructure			
Roads		21,638	18,801
Bridges		308	324
Footpaths and cycleways		4,061	2,457
Drainage		1,334	1,849
Recreational, leisure and community facilities		9,921	10,309
Waste management		248	200
Parks, open space and streetscapes		10,540	11,167
Other infrastructure		–	1,285
Total infrastructure		48,050	46,392
Total capital works expenditure	6.2	63,661	91,268
Represented by:			
New asset expenditure		8,608	19,374
Asset renewal expenditure		40,715	53,932
Asset upgrade expenditure		14,338	17,962
Total capital works expenditure		63,661	91,268

The above statement of capital works should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 1. Overview

Introduction

The Merri-bek City Council was established by an Order of the Governor in Council on 21 June 1994 and is a body corporate.

The Council's main office is located at 90 Bell Street, Coburg.

Statement of compliance

These financial statements are a general purpose financial report that consists of a Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Capital Works and Notes accompanying these financial statements. The general purpose financial report complies with Australian Accounting Standards (AAS), other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, the *Local Government Act 2020*, and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

The Council is a not-for-profit entity and therefore applies the additional AUS paragraphs applicable to a not-for-profit entity under the Australian Accounting Standards.

Accounting policy information

1.1 Basis of accounting

Accounting policies are selected and applied in a manner which ensures that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported. Specific accounting policies applied are disclosed in sections where the related balance sheet or financial statement matter is disclosed.

The accrual basis of accounting has been used in the preparation of these financial statements, except for the cash flow information, whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

The financial statements are based on the historical cost convention unless a different measurement basis is specifically disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The financial statements are in Australian dollars. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars unless otherwise specified. Minor discrepancies in tables between totals and the sum of components are due to rounding.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated judgements are based on professional judgement derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and also in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions made by management in the application of AAS that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates relate to:

- the fair value of land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.2.)
- the determination of depreciation for buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.2.)
- the determination of employee provisions (refer to Note 5.4.)
- the determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific so as to determine whether an arrangement is within the scope of *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers or AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* (refer to Note 3)
- the determination, in accordance with *AASB 16 Leases*, of the lease term, the estimation of the discount rate when not implicit in the lease and whether an arrangement is in substance short-term or low value.
- whether or not AASB 1059 *Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors* is applicable
- other areas requiring judgements.

Unless otherwise stated, all accounting policies are consistent with those applied in the prior year. Where appropriate, comparative figures have been amended to accord with current presentation, and disclosure has been made of any material changes to comparatives.

continued on next page ...

Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 1. Overview (continued)

Goods and Services Tax (GST)
Income and expenses are recognised net of the amount of associated GST. Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included with other receivables or payables in the balance sheet.

1.2 Impacts of other external events

Council has considered ongoing external events that have contributed to volatility in international markets, disrupted global supply chains and increased inflationary pressure, including the risk that they may cause significant changes in the carrying values of assets and liabilities in the next financial year, and has concluded that there is no material impact on the 2025-26 financial report that requires additional disclosure.

Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 2. Analysis of our results

Note 2.1 Performance against budget

The performance against budget notes compare Council's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. The *Local Government* (*Planning and Reporting*) *Regulations 2020* requires explanation of any material variances. Council has adopted a materiality threshold of the lower of 10 percent or $3 million where further explanation is warranted. Explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality threshold unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

The budget figures detailed below are those adopted by Council on 23 June 2025. The budget was based on assumptions that were relevant at the time of adoption of the budget. Council sets guidelines and parameters for revenue and expense targets in this budget in order to meet Council's planning and financial performance targets for both the short and long term. The budget did not reflect any changes to equity resulting from asset revaluations, as their impacts were not considered predictable.

These notes are prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.*

2.1.1 Income / Revenue and expenditure

	Budget 2026 $ '000	Actual 2026 $ '000	Variance $ '000	Variance %	Ref
Income / Revenue					
Rates and charges	202,778	205,222	2,444	1%	
Statutory fees and fines	19,323	19,614	291	2%	
User fees	8,899	9,659	760	9%	
Grants - operating	21,205	23,936	2,731	13%	1
Grants - capital	12,964	5,673	(7,291)	(56)%	2
Contributions - monetary	8,232	7,788	(444)	(5)%	
Contributions - non monetary	–	437	437	100%	3
Net gain on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	92	–	(92)	(100)%	4
Fair value increment on investment properties	–	1,418	1,418	100%	5
Other income	7,797	9,689	1,892	24%	6
Total income / revenue	281,290	283,436	2,146	1%	
Expenses					
Employee costs	116,144	121,568	(5,424)	(5)%	7
Materials and services	73,203	80,857	(7,654)	(10)%	8
Depreciation	43,621	41,809	1,812	4%	
Depreciation - right of use assets	236	352	(116)	(49)%	9
Allowance for impairment losses	3,153	3,765	(612)	(19)%	10
Borrowing costs	816	816	–	0%	
Finance costs - leases	–	12	(12)	(100)%	11
Net loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	–	6,631	(6,631)	(100)%	12
Other expenses	790	759	31	4%	
Total expenses	237,963	256,569	(18,606)	(8)%	
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	43,327	26,867	(16,460)	(38)%	

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 2.1 Performance against budget (continued)

(i) Explanation of material variations

Variance Ref	Explanation
1.	The variance is primarily attributable to the payment of 80% of the 2026/27 Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grant in June 2026 ($2.0 million), together with $0.7 million relating to one-off unbudgeted grant programs applied for during financial year.
2.	The variance is primarily attributable to the timing of capital grants being recognised and/or received, including $2.0 million for the Brunswick Early Years Hub, $1.5 million for the McBryde Street Reserve Pavilion Gender Toilets, $1.5 million for the Kendall/Harding Footbridge over Merri Creek, and $1.0 million for the AG Gillon Stormwater Harvesting project.
3.	The variance is attributed to Council receiving $0.4 million in gifted drainage assets from completed developments within the municipality.
4.	Council regularly sells rights of way (ROWs) to private landholders, budgeting for an average of one sale per financial year. As the value and timing of these sales are highly variable, no sales were recognised in 2025/26.
5.	The variance is primarily attributed to the outcomes of market valuations on investment properties conducted by qualified valuers.
6.	The variance is primarily attributable to favourable interest income, which has been influenced by higher interest rates on Council's investments.
7.	Employee costs were above budget, primarily due to higher than anticipated leave provisions $3.5 million and parental leave payments $0.8 million.
8.	Materials and services were above budget, primarily due to earlier than anticipated lifecycle project expenditure for Elevate of $2.1 million, increased costs relating to building maintenance of $1.2 million, and implementation of the parking infringement management system of $0.5 million, aquatic facilities of $0.5 million, open space maintenance of $0.5 million, and waste contract costs of $0.5 million.
9.	The variance is primarily attributable to the amortisation of Council’s printing and copier devices.
10.	Allowance for impairment losses was $0.6 million above budget, primarily due to increased impairment provisions associated with higher statutory fees and fines and user fee revenue in 2025/26.
11.	Finance costs of $0.01 million were incurred due to the lease of gym equipment.
12.	The variance is primarily attributed to the disposal of roads related infrastructure during the year that is not budgeted annually due to its ad-hoc nature. The variance primarily arises from the replacement of roads and other infrastructure assets occurring earlier than anticipated which resulted in the write-off of undepreciated balances.

continued on next page ...

Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 2.1 Performance against budget (continued)

2.1.2 Capital works

	Budget 2026 $ '000	Actual 2026 $ '000	Variance $ '000	Variance %	Ref
Property					
Buildings	8,910	5,467	(3,443)	(39)%	1
Building improvements	7,535	5,969	(1,566)	(21)%	2
Total buildings	16,445	11,436	(5,009)	(30)%	
Total property	16,445	11,436	(5,009)	(30)%	
Plant and equipment					
Plant, machinery and equipment	5,877	1,825	(4,052)	(69)%	3
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	171	172	1	1%	
Computers and telecommunications	1,125	1,009	(116)	(10)%	4
Artworks	47	87	40	85%	5
Library books	1,082	1,082	–	0%	
Total plant and equipment	8,302	4,175	(4,127)	(50)%	
Infrastructure					
Roads	27,223	21,638	(5,585)	(21)%	6
Bridges	3,334	308	(3,026)	(91)%	7
Footpaths and cycleways	6,662	4,061	(2,601)	(39)%	8
Drainage	2,946	1,334	(1,612)	(55)%	9
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	14,025	9,921	(4,104)	(29)%	10
Waste management	2,183	248	(1,935)	(89)%	11
Parks, open space and streetscapes	12,766	10,540	(2,226)	(17)%	12
Total infrastructure	69,139	48,050	(21,089)	(31)%	
Total capital works expenditure	93,886	63,661	(30,225)	(32)%	
Represented by:					
New asset expenditure	12,345	8,608	(3,737)	(30)%	
Asset renewal expenditure	60,647	40,715	(19,932)	(33)%	
Asset upgrade expenditure	20,894	14,338	(6,556)	(31)%	
Total capital works expenditure	93,886	63,661	(30,225)	(32)%	

continued on next page ...

Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 2.1 Performance against budget (continued)

(i) Explanation of material variations

Variance Ref	Explanation
1.	The variance is primarily due to delays in building works across various sites, including pavilion and community facility projects such as McBryde Street Fawkner pavillion.
2.	The variance is primarily due to the rescheduling of improvement works at various sites, including the Oak Park Aquatic Centre electrification project.
3.	The variance is primarily due to delays in the procurement of electric heavy plant and machinery due to supplier delivery constraints.
4.	The variance is primarily due to IT and lighting system modifications at Brunswick Baths progressing later than anticipated.
5.	The variance is primarily due to expenditure originally budgeted under other asset classes being reclassified to artworks.
6.	The variance is primarily due to delays in the commencement of some projects and expenditure on projects that remained in progress at year end and are expected to be completed in 2026/27. These are associated to some road resurfacing programs and construction projects such as Ellenvale Street Pascoe Vale South.
7.	The variance is primarily due to the deferral of construction of the Kendall Street/Harding Street Footbridge following community consultation. Design revisions are underway, with construction scheduled to commence in 2027/28.
8.	The variance is primarily due to the timing of footpath and cycleway works across various locations as a result of supplier constraints.
9.	The variance is primarily due to delays in road construction projects, with associated drainage works being delivered as part of the road construction program.
10.	The variance is primarily due to the rescheduling of improvement works at various sites, including projects funded through the Merri-bek Partnership Grants Program.
11.	The variance is primarily due to the deferral of bin purchases associated with the fortnightly rubbish collection rollout, which is now scheduled to commence in 2027/28.
12.	The variance is primarily due to delays in the commencement of some projects and expenditure on parks and streetscape projects that remained in progress at year end and are expected to be completed in 2026/27.

Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 2.2 Analysis of Council results by program

2.2.1 Analysis of Council results by program

Council delivers its functions and activities through the following programs.

Chief Executive Officer Management
Chief Executive Officer Management oversees the management executive group, manages overall operations and sets the tone, vision and culture of Council.

City Infrastructure
City Infrastructure delivers a large number of Council services, including waste, parking, local laws, animal management and maintenance of our parks, sports fields, building and civil infrastructure. The directorate also plans and delivers most of Council's capital program and develops strategy for open space and management of assets.

Business Transformation
Business Transformation is responsible for corporate functions relating to people, culture and business enhancement. This includes finance and procurement, human resources, corporate governance, organisational performance, information technology, and digital and customer transformation program.

Community
Community provides high quality community focused programs, service delivery and communication to residents. It is responsible for services relating to infants, children, youth, family and aged. Leading the achievement of our wellbeing outcomes including recreation, health, education, cultural vibrancy, safety and social cohesion.

Place and Environment
Place and Environment supports Council's urban development, environmental sustainability, economy and transport. It also advances city-shaping partnership projects and manages Council's property portfolio.

2.2.2 Summary of income / revenue, expenses, assets and capital expenses by program

Functions/activities	Income / Revenue $ '000	Expenses $ '000	Surplus / (Deficit) $ '000	Grants included in income / revenue $ '000	Total assets $ '000
2026					
Chief Executive Officer Management	–	704	(704)	–	3
City Infrastructure	51,820	86,565	(34,745)	4,267	2,466,838
Business Transformation	194,922	90,780	104,142	9,093	200,916
Place and Environment	16,364	23,196	(6,832)	617	2,565
Community	20,331	55,324	(34,993)	15,631	371,050
Total functions and activities	283,437	256,569	26,868	29,609	3,041,374
2025					
Chief Executive Officer Management	–	689	(689)	–	7
City Infrastructure	49,686	81,513	(31,827)	5,733	2,317,952
Business Transformation	188,401	93,194	95,207	9,166	198,909
Place and Environment	22,592	22,193	399	1,605	3,211
Community	20,372	53,042	(32,670)	15,493	321,904
Total functions and activities	281,051	250,631	30,420	31,997	2,841,983

Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 3. Funding for the delivery of our services

	2026 $ '000	2025 $ '000

3.1 Rates and charges

Council uses Capital Improved Value (CIV) as the basis of valuation of all properties within the municipal district. The CIV of a property is its total market value of the land plus buildings and other improvements.

The valuation base used to calculate general rates for 2025/26 was $72.9 billion (2024/25: $71.3 billion).

General rates	173,300	165,723
Waste management charge	26,704	24,713
Special rates and charges	596	597
Supplementary rates and rate adjustments	2,833	2,684
Interest on rates and charges	1,789	1,371
Total rates and charges	205,222	195,088

The date of the general revaluation of land for rating purposes within the municipal district was 1 January 2025 and the valuation was first applied in the rating year commencing 1 July 2025.

Annual rates and charges are recognised as income when Council issues annual rates notices. Supplementary rates are recognised when a valuation and reassessment is completed and a supplementary rates notice issued.

3.2 Statutory fees and fines

Infringements and costs	11,246	10,032
Court recoveries	1,082	693
Town planning fees	1,998	1,878
Land information certificates	584	514
Other fines	1,241	1,209
Permits	2,871	2,953
Parking	592	746
Total statutory fees and fines	19,614	18,025

Statutory fees and fines (including parking fees and fines) are recognised as income when the service has been provided, the payment is received, or when the penalty has been applied, whichever first occurs.

3.3 User fees

Aged and health services	3,187	3,175
Leisure centre and recreation	587	425
Registration and other permits	2,544	2,606
Building services	463	361
Valuation fees	88	–
Waste management services	212	220
Other fees and charges	2,578	2,345
User fees by timing of revenue recognition		
User fees recognised at a point in time	9,659	9,132
Total user fees	9,659	9,132

User fees are recognised as revenue at a point in time, or over time, when (or as) the performance obligation is satisfied. Recognition is based on the underlying contractual terms.

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 3. Funding for the delivery of our services (continued)

	2026 $ '000	2025 $ '000
3.4 Funding from other levels of government		
Grants were received in respect of the following:		
Summary of grants		
Commonwealth funded grants	17,884	20,913
State funded grants	11,725	11,084
Total grants received	29,609	31,997
(a) Operating Grants		
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government		
Financial Assistance Grants	8,234	8,992
Family day care	472	615
Aged care	8,319	8,481
Recurrent - State Government		
Home help	550	426
Families and Children	4,089	3,955
Food Services	19	20
Libraries	1,183	1,183
Other	105	–
Total recurrent operating grants	22,971	23,672
Non-recurrent - State Government		
Arts and Culture	–	103
Libraries	78	71
Employment Assistance	–	190
Recreation	–	400
Community welfare	5	14
Other	882	1,081
Total non-recurrent operating grants	965	1,859
Total operating grants	23,936	25,531
(b) Capital Grants		
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government		
Roads to recovery	859	791
Total recurrent capital grants	859	791
Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government		
Local Roads Community Infrastructure	–	355
Buildings	–	1,679
Non-recurrent - State Government		
Buildings	904	1,468
Recreation	1,868	577
Other	2,042	1,596
Total non-recurrent capital grants	4,814	5,675
Total capital grants	5,673	6,466

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 3. Funding for the delivery of our services (continued)

	2026 $ '000	2025 $ '000

(c) Recognition of grant income

Before recognising funding from government grants as revenue the Council assesses whether there is a contract that is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance with *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers*. When both these conditions are satisfied, the Council:

- identifies each performance obligation relating to revenue under the contract/agreement
- determines the transaction price
- recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement
- recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations, at the point in time or over time when services are rendered.

Where the contract is not enforceable and/or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the Council applies *AASB 1058 Income for Not-for-Profit Entities*.

Grant revenue with sufficiently specific performance obligations is recognised over time as the performance obligations specified in the underlying agreement are met. Where performance obligations are not sufficiently specific, grants are recognised on the earlier of receipt or when an unconditional right to receipt has been established. Grants relating to capital projects are generally recognised progressively as the capital project is completed.

(d) Unspent grants received on condition that they be spent in a specific manner:

Operating		
Balance at start of year	612	1,303
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	321	432
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(340)	(1,123)
Balance at year end	593	612
Capital		
Balance at start of year	1,342	231
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	2,319	1,342
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(626)	(231)
Balance at year end	3,035	1,342

Unspent grants are determined and disclosed on a cash basis.

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 3. Funding for the delivery of our services (continued)

	2026 $ '000	2025 $ '000
3.5 Contributions		
Monetary contributions		
Monetary	7,788	13,570
Total monetary contributions	7,788	13,570
Non-monetary contributions		
Non-monetary	437	503
Total non-monetary contributions	437	503
Total contributions	8,225	14,073

Contributions of non monetary assets were received in relation to the following asset classes.

Infrastructure	437	503
Total non-monetary contributions	437	503

Monetary and non monetary contributions are recognised as income at their fair value when Council obtains control over the contributed asset.

3.6 Net loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment and non-current assets held for sale

Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		
Proceeds of sale	253	6,443
Written down value of assets disposed (plant & equipment)	(419)	(41)
Written down value of assets disposed (infrastructure)	(6,465)	(2,727)
Written down value of assets disposed (property)	–	(9,015)
Written down value of assets held for sale disposed (property)	–	(7,487)
Total net loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(6,631)	(12,827)

The profit or loss on sale of an asset is determined when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

3.7 Other income

Interest	4,503	4,652
Investment property rental	1,406	1,209
Other rent	1,554	1,091
Recoveries	1,417	3,761
Sales	257	377
Other	552	806
Road occupancy/ Right of way closures	–	22
Total other income	9,689	11,918

Interest is recognised as it is earned.

Other income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is recognised when Council gains control over the right to receive the income.

Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 4. The cost of delivering services

	2026 $ '000	2025 $ '000

4.1 Employee costs

(a) Employee costs

Wages and salaries	100,865	94,834
Casual staff	6,096	6,446
WorkCover	3,053	2,425
Superannuation	11,635	10,928
Other	(81)	1,059
Total employee costs	121,568	115,692

(b) Superannuation

Council made contributions to the following funds:

Defined benefit fund		
Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	275	317
	275	317
Accumulation funds		
Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	3,887	3,973
Employer contributions - other funds	7,473	6,638
	11,360	10,611
Employer contributions payable at reporting date	–	785

Most employees in the Council are members of various accumulation funds including Vision Super, and other industry and retail funds. As of 30 June 2026, there were 20 employees in the defined benefit fund, local authorities superannuation fund (Vision Super).

For 30 June 2026 the Vested Benefits Index (VBI) for the defined benefits funds is 116.9% and in a good financial position, and therefore it is expected that there will be no change to the Defined Benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

In the event that the Fund Actuary determines there is a shortfall, the Fund's participating employers (Merri-bek City Council) would be required to make an employer contribution to cover the shortfall.

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 4. The cost of delivering services (continued)

	2026 $ '000	2025 $ '000
4.2 Materials and services		
General maintenance	15,798	15,805
Utilities	5,259	5,487
Cleaning and waste removal	22,142	18,821
Leisure management fees	263	–
Legal costs	894	792
Minor equipment and supplies	1,508	1,640
Office administration	2,535	5,141
Information technology and telecommunications	7,934	4,993
Insurance	3,357	3,436
Consultants and Contractors	11,895	12,360
Other materials and supplies	7,390	8,011
Council grants and contributions	1,882	1,866
Total materials and services	80,857	78,352

Expenses are recognised as they are incurred and reported in the financial year to which they relate.

	2026 $ '000	2025 $ '000
4.3 Depreciation		
Property		
Buildings - specialised	7,928	7,057
Total depreciation - property	7,928	7,057
Plant and equipment		
Plant and equipment	404	387
Furniture and fittings	310	242
Computer Equipment	793	919
Library books	1,034	1,018
Motor vehicles	1,967	2,125
Total depreciation - plant and equipment	4,508	4,691
Infrastructure		
Bridges/retaining walls	497	463
Footpaths	4,385	4,245
Drainage	4,150	3,627
Road surface	3,830	3,712
Road pavement	5,070	4,467
Kerb and channel	2,175	1,798
Other infrastructure	9,266	9,252
Total depreciation - infrastructure	29,373	27,564
Total depreciation	41,809	39,312

Refer to note 6.2 for a more detailed breakdown of depreciation charges and accounting policy.

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 4. The cost of delivering services (continued)

	2026 $ '000	2025 $ '000
4.4 Allowance for impairment losses		
Parking fine debtors	2,844	2,081
Other debtors	921	342
Total allowance for impairment losses	3,765	2,423
Movement in allowance for impairment losses in respect of debtors		
Balance at the beginning of the year	19,291	16,975
New allowances recognised during the year	3,990	2,423
Amounts already allowed for and written off as uncollectible	(4,883)	(107)
Balance at end of year	18,398	19,291

An allowance for impairment losses in respect of debtors is recognised based on an expected credit loss model. This model considers both historic and forward looking information in determining the level of impairment.

	2026 $ '000	2025 $ '000
4.5 Other expenses		
Auditors' remuneration - VAGO - audit of the financial statements, performance statement and grant acquittals	77	73
Auditors' remuneration - Internal Audit	140	155
Councillors' allowances	542	488
Total other expenses	759	716

Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations

	2026 $ '000	2025 $ '000
5.1 Financial assets		
(a) Cash and cash equivalents		
Current		
Cash on hand	3	3
Cash at bank	44,569	36,113
Total current cash and cash equivalents	44,572	36,116
Total cash and cash equivalents	44,572	36,116
(b) Other financial assets		
Current		
Term deposits	52,000	60,000
Total current other financial assets	52,000	60,000
Total other financial assets	52,000	60,000
Total current financial assets	96,572	96,116
Total cash and cash equivalents and other financial assets	96,572	96,116

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits at call, and other highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

Other financial assets are valued at fair value, at balance date. Term deposits are measured at original cost. Any unrealised gains and losses on holdings at balance date are recognised as either a revenue or expense.

Other financial assets include term deposits and those with original maturity dates of three to 12 months are classified as current, whilst term deposits with maturity dates greater than 12 months are classified as non-current.

(c) Trade & Other Receivables		
Current		
Statutory receivables		
Rates debtors	31,015	27,733
Parking Infringement debtors	19,660	19,816
Net GST receivable	3,744	3,181
Fire Services Property Levy Debtors	4,151	2,973
Allowance for expected credit loss - Parking infringements	(13,809)	(15,301)
Non-statutory receivables		
Other debtors	8,110	7,267
Allowance for expected credit loss - Other debtors	(4,588)	(3,992)
Total current trade and other receivables	48,283	41,677
Total trade and other receivables	48,283	41,677

Short term receivables are carried at invoice amount. An allowance for expected credit losses is recognised based on past experience and other objective evidence of expected losses. Long term receivables are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2026 $ '000	2025 $ '000

(d) Ageing of receivables

The ageing of the Council's trade & other receivables (excluding statutory receivables) that are not impaired was:

Current (not yet due)	2,086	1,939
Past due by up to 30 days	597	555
Past due between 31 and 180 days	154	143
Past due between 181 and 365 days	12	13
Past due by more than 1 year	673	625
Total trade and other receivables	3,522	3,275

(e) Ageing of individually impaired receivables

At balance date, other debtors representing financial assets with a nominal value of $4,588,336 (2025: $3,991,944) were impaired. The amount of the allowance raised against these debtors was $4,588,336 (2025: $3,991,944). They individually have been impaired as a result of their doubtful collection. Many of the long outstanding past due amounts have been lodged with Council's debt collectors or are on payment arrangements.

The ageing of receivables that have been individually determined as impaired at reporting date was:

Current (not yet due)	32	28
Past due by up to 30 days	112	98
Past due between 31 and 180 days	847	737
Past due between 181 and 365 days	990	861
Past due by more than 1 year	2,607	2,268
Total trade and other receivables	4,588	3,992

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2026 $ '000	2025 $ '000
5.2 Payables, trust funds and deposits and contract and other liabilities		
(a) Trade and other payables		
Current		
Non-statutory payables		
Trade payables	6,106	6,292
Accrued expenses	15,646	13,311
Total current trade and other payables	21,752	19,603
(b) Trust funds and deposits		
Current		
Refundable deposits	533	491
Trust funds	711	691
Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund	7,614	5,004
Retention amounts	760	588
Other refundable deposits	36	(13)
Total current trust funds and deposits	9,654	6,761

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2026 $ '000	2025 $ '000
(c) Contract liabilities		
Contract liabilities		
Current		
Grants received in advance:		
Grants received in advance - operating	118	123
Grants received in advance - capital	3,230	1,371
Total grants received in advance	3,348	1,494
User fees received in advance:		
User fees	820	808
Total user fees received in advance	820	808
Total current contract liabilities	4,168	2,302

Trust funds and deposits
Amounts received as deposits and retention amounts controlled by Council are recognised as trust funds until they are returned, transferred in accordance with the purpose of the receipt, or forfeited. Trust funds that are forfeited, resulting in Council gaining control of the funds, are to be recognised as revenue at the time of forfeit.

Contract liabilities
Contract liabilities reflect consideration received in advance from customers in respect of various contracts and operating funding agreements. Contract liabilities are derecognised and recorded as revenue when promised goods and services are transferred to the customer. Refer to Note 3.

Purpose and nature of items
Refundable deposits – deposits are taken by Council as a form of surety in a number of circumstances, including in relation to building works, contract deposits and the use of civic facilities.

Council currently maintains separate and distinct Trust Funds for the Gavin Environment Trust, the Blackburn Bequest Trust and the Inner Circle Linear Trust. These funds are held and administered in accordance with the Trust Deed arrangements.

Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund - Council is the collection agent for Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund on behalf of the State Government. Council remits amounts received on a quarterly basis. Amounts disclosed here will be remitted to the State Government in line with that process.

Retention Amounts - Council has a contractual right to retain certain amounts until a contractor has met certain requirements or a related warrant or defect period has elapsed. Subject to the satisfactory completion of the contractual obligations, or the elapsing of time, these amounts will be paid to the relevant contractor in line with Council's contractual obligations.

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2026 $ '000	2025 $ '000
5.3 Interest-bearing liabilities		
Current		
Treasury Corporation of Victoria borrowings - secured	1,665	1,619
Other borrowings - secured	504	12,590
Total current interest-bearing liabilities	2,169	14,209
Non-current		
Treasury Corporation of Victoria borrowings - secured	9,902	11,567
Other borrowings - secured	1,596	2,100
Total non-current interest-bearing liabilities	11,498	13,667
Total	13,667	27,876
Borrowings are secured by the rates of the Council		
a) The maturity profile for Council's borrowings is:		
Not later than one year	2,169	14,209
Later than one year and not later than five years	8,668	9,054
Later than five years	2,830	4,613
Total	13,667	27,876

Borrowings are initially measured at fair value, being the cost of the interest bearing liabilities, net of transaction costs. The measurement basis subsequent to initial recognition depends on whether the Council has categorised its interest-bearing liabilities as either financial liabilities designated at fair value through the profit and loss, or financial liabilities at amortised cost. Any difference between the initial recognised amount and the redemption value is recognised in net result over the period of the borrowing using the effective interest method.

The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the interest bearing liabilities. The Council determines the classification of its interest bearing liabilities based on contractual repayment terms at every balance date.

In classifying borrowings as current or non-current Council considers whether at balance date it has the right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting period. Council's loan arrangements include covenants based on Council's financial performance and position at the end of the reporting period. These covenants are assessed for compliance after the reporting period based on specified financial ratios.

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	Employee provisions $ '000	Total $ '000
5.4 Provisions		
2026		
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	23,432	23,432
Additional provisions	7,725	7,725
Amounts used	(10,001)	(10,001)
Change in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	4,753	4,753
Balance at the end of the financial year	25,909	25,909
Provisions		
Provisions - current	23,058	23,058
Provisions - non-current	2,851	2,851
Total Provisions	25,909	25,909
2025		
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	24,798	24,798
Additional provisions	7,458	7,458
Amounts used	(10,727)	(10,727)
Change in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	1,903	1,903
Balance at the end of the financial year	23,432	23,432
Provisions		
Provisions - current	20,922	20,922
Provisions - non-current	2,510	2,510
Total Provisions	23,432	23,432

	2026 $ '000	2025 $ '000
Employee provisions		
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months		
Annual leave	6,621	6,075
Long service leave	2,643	2,601
	9,264	8,676
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months		
Annual leave	2,029	2,052
Long service leave	11,761	10,191
Other	4	3
	13,794	12,246
Total current employee provisions	23,058	20,922
Non-Current		
Long service leave	2,851	2,510
Total Non-Current Employee Provisions	2,851	2,510

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2026 $ '000	2025 $ '000
Aggregate Carrying Amount of Employee Provisions:		
Current	23,058	20,922
Non-current	2,851	2,510
Total Aggregate Carrying Amount of Employee Provisions	25,909	23,432

The calculation of employee costs and benefits includes all relevant on-costs and are calculated as follows at reporting date.

Annual leave
A liability for annual leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits as a current liability because the Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability. Liabilities for annual leave are measured at:
- nominal value if the Council expects to wholly settle the liability within 12 months
- present value if the Council does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.

Liabilities that are not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in the provision for employee benefits as current liabilities, measured at the present value of the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

Long service leave
Liability for long service leave (LSL) is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. Unconditional LSL is disclosed as a current liability as the Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement. Unconditional LSL is measured at nominal value if expected to be settled within 12 months or at present value if not expected to be settled within 12 months. Conditional LSL that has been accrued, where an employee is yet to reach a qualifying term of employment, is disclosed as a non-current liability and measured at present value.

Key assumptions:		
- discount rate	4.84%	4.30%
- index rate	4.15%	4.25%

5.5 Financing arrangements

The Council has the following funding arrangements in place as at 30 June 2026.

Credit card facilities	328	289
Treasury Corporation of Victoria facilities	11,567	13,186
Other facilities	2,100	14,690
Total Facilities	13,995	28,165
Used facilities	13,924	28,084
Used facilities	13,924	28,084
Unused facilities	71	81

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

5.6 Commitments

The Council has entered into the following commitments. Commitments are not recognised in the Balance Sheet. Commitments are disclosed at their nominal value and presented inclusive of the GST payable.

(a) Commitments for expenditure

	Not later than 1 year $ '000	Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years $ '000	Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years $ '000	Later than 5 years $ '000	Total $ '000
2026					
Operating					
Consultancies	1,230	247	113	–	1,590
IT Systems Supports	9,230	4,789	8,720	–	22,739
Building Management	137	7	–	–	144
Parking	893	424	–	–	1,317
Total	11,490	5,467	8,833	–	25,790
Capital					
Consultancies	2,522	1,795	928	–	5,245
Works	17,665	7,200	–	–	24,865
Total	20,187	8,995	928	–	30,110
2025					
Operating					
Garbage collection	247	–	–	–	247
Consultancies	1,041	295	55	50	1,441
IT Systems Supports	2,216	1,544	147	–	3,907
Building Management	198	120	120	–	438
Parking	863	863	–	–	1,726
Total	4,565	2,822	322	50	7,759
Capital					
Consultancies	770	9	–	–	779
Works	10,429	13	–	–	10,442
Total	11,199	22	–	–	11,221

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2026 $ '000	2025 $ '000

(b) Operating lease receivables

The Council has entered into commercial property leases on its investment properties. These properties held under operating leases have remaining non-cancellable lease terms of between 1 and 15 years. All leases include a CPI based revision of the rental charge annually.

Future undiscounted minimum rentals receivable under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:		
Not later than one year	1,397	1,408
Later than one year and not later than five years	3,696	4,178
Later than five years	5,377	6,291
Total	10,470	11,877

Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 6. Assets we manage

	2026 $ '000	2025 $ '000

6.1 Current assets classified as held for sale

Current		
Land	24,830	22,975
Buildings	323	–
Total current assets classified as held for sale	25,153	22,975

Assets held for sale classified during the year relate to 10 Murrell Street, Glenroy. Assets classified as held for sale prior to the current financial year comprise 72–80 Bell Street, Coburg, 29–31 Urquhart Street, Coburg and 498–514 Bell Street, Pascoe Vale South.

Non-current assets classified as held for sale (including disposal groups) are measured at the lower of their carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell, and are not subject to depreciation. Non-current assets, disposal groups, and related liabilities are treated as current and classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered through a sale transaction rather than through continuing use. This condition is considered met only when the sale is highly probable and the asset's sale (or disposal group sale) is expected to be completed within 12 months from the date of classification.

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

6.2 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

Summary of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	Carrying amount 30 June 2025 $ '000	Additions $ '000	Contributions $ '000	Revaluation $ '000	Disposal $ '000	Depreciation $ '000	Write-off $ '000	Transfers $ '000	Carrying amount 30 June 2026 $ '000
Property	1,893,165	3,684	–	79,814	–	(7,928)	–	5,498	1,974,233
Plant and equipment	19,833	3,019	–	624	(419)	(4,508)	–	410	18,959
Infrastructure	672,754	20,692	437	97,022	(6,465)	(29,373)	–	30,824	785,891
Work in progress	49,410	36,266	–	–	–	–	(1,649)	(38,940)	45,087
Total	2,635,162	63,661	437	177,460	(6,884)	(41,809)	(1,649)	(2,208)	2,824,170

Summary of Work in Progress	Opening WIP $ '000	Additions $ '000	Write-off $ '000	Transfers $ '000	Closing WIP $ '000
Property	10,274	7,864	(152)	(7,702)	10,284
Plant and equipment	388	1,159	2	(410)	1,139
Infrastructure	38,748	27,243	(1,499)	(30,828)	33,664
Total	49,410	36,266	(1,649)	(38,940)	45,087

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

	Land specialised $ '000	Land non specialised $ '000	Land under Roads $ '000	Total land and land improve-ments $ '000	Buildings specialised $ '000	Total buildings $ '000	Work in progress $ '000	Total property $ '000
Property								
At fair value 1 July 2025	1,208,028	343,990	4,879	1,556,897	472,784	472,784	10,274	2,039,955
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2025	–	–	–	–	(136,516)	(136,516)	–	(136,516)
	1,208,028	343,990	4,879	**1,556,897**	336,268	**336,268**	10,274	**1,903,439**
Movements in fair value								
Additions	2,693	151	–	2,844	840	840	7,864	11,548
Revaluation	27,927	(63)	235	28,099	43,636	43,636	–	71,735
Write-off	–	–	–	–	–	–	(152)	(152)
Transfers	657	(1,818)	–	(1,161)	6,102	6,102	(7,702)	(2,761)
	31,277	(1,730)	235	**29,782**	50,578	**50,578**	10	**80,370**
Movements in accumulated depreciation								
Depreciation and amortisation	–	–	–	–	(7,928)	(7,928)	–	(7,928)
Revaluation movement	–	–	–	–	8,078	8,078	–	8,078
Transfers	–	–	–	–	558	558	–	558
	–	–	–	**–**	708	**708**	–	**708**
At fair value 30 June 2026	1,239,305	342,260	5,114	1,586,679	523,363	523,363	10,284	2,120,326
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2026	–	–	–	–	(135,809)	(135,809)	–	(135,809)
Carrying amount	1,239,305	342,260	5,114	**1,586,679**	387,554	**387,554**	10,284	**1,984,517**

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

	Motor vehicles $ '000	Plant and equipment $ '000	Furniture and fittings $ '000	Computer equipment $ '000	Library books $ '000	Artwork $ '000	Total $ '000	Work in progress $ '000	Total plant and equipment $ '000
Plant and Equipment									
At cost 1 July 2025	25,460	5,178	3,727	3,850	11,135	1,969	51,319	388	51,707
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2025	(17,796)	(3,496)	(1,581)	(2,619)	(5,994)	–	(31,486)	–	(31,486)
	7,664	1,682	2,146	1,231	5,141	1,969	**19,833**	388	**20,221**
Movements in carrying value									
Additions	593	386	205	877	933	24	3,018	1,159	4,177
Revaluation	–	–	(6)	–	–	616	610	–	610
Disposal	(731)	(1,753)	(313)	(338)	(1,820)	(297)	(5,252)	–	(5,252)
Write-off	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	2
Transfers	79	289	(207)	119	127	3	410	(410)	–
	(59)	(1,078)	(321)	658	(760)	346	**(1,214)**	751	**(463)**
Movements in accumulated depreciation									
Depreciation and amortisation	(1,967)	(404)	(310)	(793)	(1,034)	–	(4,508)	–	(4,508)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	679	1,693	312	329	1,820	–	4,833	–	4,833
Accumulated depreciation on revaluation	–	–	14	–	–	–	14	–	14
	(1,288)	1,289	16	(464)	786	–	**339**	–	**339**
At cost 30 June 2026	25,402	4,100	3,405	4,508	10,376	2,315	50,106	1,139	51,245
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2026	(19,084)	(2,207)	(1,565)	(3,083)	(5,208)	–	(31,147)	–	(31,147)
Carrying amount	6,318	1,893	1,840	1,425	5,168	2,315	**18,959**	1,139	**20,098**

Plant and equipment are carried at historical cost.

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

	Road surface $ '000	Road pavement $ '000	Drainage $ '000	Footpaths $ '000	Kerb and channel $ '000	Bridges/ retaining walls $ '000	Other infra-structure $ '000	Total $ '000	Work in progress $ '000	Total infra-structure $ '000
Infrastructure										
At fair value 1 July 2025	116,169	480,059	363,761	196,008	147,305	36,947	231,580	1,571,829	38,748	1,610,577
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2025	(74,252)	(304,707)	(151,699)	(122,519)	(93,582)	(16,746)	(135,570)	(899,075)	–	(899,075)
	41,917	175,352	212,062	73,489	53,723	20,201	96,010	**672,754**	38,748	**711,502**
Movements in fair value										
Additions	4,061	1,901	4,892	3,347	1,495	730	4,263	20,689	27,243	47,932
Contributions	–	–	437	–	–	–	–	437	–	437
Revaluation	11,472	105,867	52,958	45,380	22,908	–	–	238,585	–	238,585
Disposal	(3,739)	(3,832)	(1,152)	(6,343)	(2,107)	(975)	(3,001)	(21,149)	–	(21,149)
Write-off	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	(1,499)	(1,499)
Transfers	6,049	2,831	7,294	4,987	2,228	1,088	6,351	30,828	(30,828)	–
	17,843	106,767	64,429	47,371	24,524	843	7,613	**269,390**	(5,084)	**264,306**
Movements in accumulated depreciation										
Depreciation and amortisation	(3,830)	(5,070)	(4,150)	(4,385)	(2,175)	(497)	(9,266)	(29,373)	–	(29,373)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	2,898	3,017	569	3,638	1,438	877	2,246	14,683	–	14,683
Revaluation movement	(9,384)	(67,934)	(19,652)	(29,370)	(15,223)	–	–	(141,563)	–	(141,563)
	(10,316)	(69,987)	(23,233)	(30,117)	(15,960)	380	(7,020)	**(156,253)**	–	**(156,253)**
At fair value 30 June 2026	134,012	586,826	428,189	243,378	171,830	37,790	239,193	1,841,218	33,664	1,874,882
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2026	(84,568)	(374,694)	(174,932)	(152,635)	(109,542)	(16,366)	(142,590)	(1,055,327)	–	(1,055,327)
Carrying amount	49,444	212,132	253,257	90,743	62,288	21,424	96,603	**785,891**	33,664	**819,555**

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

Acquisition
Initial measurement
Council initially measures its property, infrastructure, plant and equipment assets at cost. The cost of an acquired asset is the fair value of the consideration that Council has provided at the date of acquisition plus any incidental costs attributable to the acquisition.
Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Refer to Note 8.4 for more information on how Council measures fair value.

Where assets are constructed by Council, cost includes all materials used in construction, direct labour, borrowing costs incurred during construction, and an appropriate share of directly attributable variable and fixed overheads.

In accordance with Council's policy, the threshold limits have applied when recognising assets within an applicable asset class and unless otherwise stated are consistent with the prior year.

	Depreciation Period years	Threshold Limit $ ´000
Asset recognition thresholds and depreciation periods		
Land and land improvements		
land	n/a	–
land improvements	n/a	–
Buildings		
buildings	5-260 years	1
building and leasehold improvements	N/A	1
Plant and Equipment		
plant, machinery and equipment	3-10 years	1
furniture and fittings	7-10 years	1
computer equipment	1-5 years	1
library books	10 years	1
motor vehicles	up to 10 years	3
artwork	not applicable	1
Infrastructure		
roads surface	Up to 40 years	1
roads pavement	Up to 100 years	1
drainage	Up to 100 years	1
footpaths and cycleways	10-80 years	1
kerb and channel	10-80 years	1
bridges	Up to 200 years	1
Other infrastructure		
street furniture	10 to 20 years	1
recreational, leisure and community facilities	10 to 50 years	1
parks, open space and streetscapes	10 to 100 years	1
playground equipment and other structures	10 to 100 years	1
Right of use assets		
right of use assets	Lease Term	10

Land under roads
Land under roads acquired after 30 June 2008 is brought to account using the fair value basis. Council does not recognise land under roads that it controlled prior to that period in its financial report.

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

Depreciation and amortisation
Buildings, land improvements, plant and equipment, infrastructure, and other assets having limited useful lives are systematically depreciated over their useful lives to the Council in a manner which reflects consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets. Estimates of remaining useful lives and residual values are made on a regular basis with major asset classes reassessed annually. Depreciation rates and methods are reviewed annually.

Where assets have separate identifiable components that are subject to regular replacement, these components are assigned distinct useful lives and residual values and a separate depreciation rate is determined for each component.

Road earthworks are not depreciated on the basis that they are assessed as not having a limited useful life.

Straight line depreciation is charged based on the residual useful life as determined each year.

Depreciation periods used are listed above and are consistent with the prior year unless otherwise stated.

Repairs and maintenance
Where the repair relates to the replacement of a component of an asset and the cost exceeds the capitalisation threshold the cost is capitalised and depreciated. The carrying value of the replaced asset is expensed.

Leasehold improvements
Leasehold improvements are recognised at cost and are amortised over the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful life of the improvement, whichever is the shorter.

Valuation of land and buildings
Valuation of land and buildings were undertaken by a qualified independent valuer Brayden Roscoe (Qualified CPV valuer) from Opteon Property Group. The valuation of land and buildings is at fair value, being market value based on highest and best use permitted by relevant land planning provisions. The review methodology included analysis of recent land sales to determine the movement in values as displayed by the market. To ascertain a level of market value movement, Opteon Property Group reviewed the sales data throughout Merri-bek City Council to determine the material change in the underlying land value of each property sector. The property sectors referred to include residential, commercial and industrial property classifications. Where land use is restricted through existing planning provisions the valuation is reduced to reflect this limitation. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

Specialised land is valued at fair value using site values adjusted for englobo (undeveloped and/or unserviced) characteristics, access rights and private interests of other parties and entitlements of infrastructure assets and services. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement. Any significant movements in the unobservable inputs for land and land under roads will have a significant impact on the fair value of these assets.

Details of the Council's land and buildings and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2026 are as follows:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Date of valuation	Type of Valuation
Non-specialised Land	–	342,260	–	Mar-26	Revaluation
Specialised land	–	–	1,239,305	Mar-26	Revaluation
Buildings	–	–	387,554	Mar-26	Revaluation
Total	–	342,260	1,626,859		

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

Valuation of Infrastructure
Fair value assessments were performed on 31 March 2026 where it was determined that there was a material movement in fair value for the asset classes of Roads, Footpath, Kerb & Channel and Drainage Infrastructure.

The valuation of these asset classes was undertaken by a qualified independent valuer Mingzhi Lei (Bachelor of Civil Engineering) from Brightly (Asset Management Specialists) at fair value, determined using the replacement cost approach less accumulated depreciation, in accordance with the requirements of AASB 13 – *Fair Value Measurement* and AASB 116 – *Property, Plant and Equipment.*

The replacement cost revaluation was conducted in the current year, based on Merri-bek City Council's construction costs of assets within that category, Rawlinsons Australian Construction Handbook and construction cost indices from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The methodology included reassessment of each asset's replacement cost, condition and written down value. The valuation is at fair value based on current replacement cost less accumulated depreciation as at the date of valuation.

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Date of valuation	Type of Valuation
Road surface	–	–	49,444	Mar-26	Revaluation
Road pavement	–	–	212,132	Mar-26	Revaluation
Kerbs	–	–	62,288	Mar-26	Revaluation
Bridges	–	–	21,424	Jun-23	Revaluation
Footpaths and cycleways	–	–	90,743	Mar-26	Revaluation
Drainage	–	–	253,257	Mar-26	Revaluation
Recreational, leisure & community facilities	–	–	23,368	Jun-23	Index
Parks, open space & streetscapes	–	–	45,091	Jun-23	Index
Other Infrastructure	–	–	28,144	Jun-23	Index
Total	–	–	785,891		

Description of significant unobservable inputs into level 3 valuations

Specialised land and land under roads is valued using a market based direct comparison technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the extent and impact of restriction of use and the market cost of land per square metre. The extent and impact of restrictions on use varies and results in a reduction to surrounding land values between 10% and 95%. The market value of land varies significantly depending on the location of the land and the current market conditions. Currently land values range between $4 and $6,500 per square metre.

Specialised buildings are valued using a current replacement cost technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of buildings. Current replacement costs are calculated on a square metre basis and ranges from $350 to $15,000 per square metre. The remaining useful lives of buildings are determined on the basis of the current condition of buildings and vary from 5 years to 260 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of buildings are sensitive to changes in expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of buildings.

Infrastructure assets are valued based on the current replacement cost. Unobservable inputs are included in the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives. The remaining useful lives of infrastructure assets are determined on the basis of the current condition of the asset and vary from 5 years to 200 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of infrastructure are sensitive to changes in use, expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of infrastructure assets.

	2026 $ '000	2025 $ '000
Reconciliation of specialised land		
Land under roads	5,114	4,879
Parks and reserves	1,239,305	1,208,028
Total specialised land	1,244,419	1,212,907

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

6.3 Investment property

	2026 $ '000	2025 $ '000
Balance at beginning of financial year	37,232	36,024
Additions	24	390
Fair value increment	1,418	818
Balance at end of financial year	38,674	37,232

Investment property is held to generate long-term rental yields. Investment property is measured initially at cost, including transaction costs. Costs incurred subsequent to initial acquisition are capitalised when it is probable that future economic benefit in excess of the originally assessed performance of the asset will flow to the Council. Subsequent to initial recognition at cost, investment property is carried at fair value, determined annually by independent valuers. Changes to fair value are recorded in the comprehensive income statement in the period that they arise.

Valuation of investment property

Valuation of investment properties has been determined in accordance by a qualified independent valuer Glenn Boyd (Qualified CPV valuer) from Opteon Property Group who has recent experience in the location and category of the property being valued. The valuation is at fair value, based on the current market value for the property.

Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 7. People and relationships

7.1 Council and key management remuneration

(a) Related Parties

Parent entity
Merri-bek City Council is the parent entity.

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 7. People and relationships (continued)

(b) Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel (KMP) are those people with the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of Merri-bek City Council. The Councillors, Chief Executive Officer and Directors are deemed KMP.

Details of KMP at any time during the year are:

Councillors	Mayor Nat Abboud (Mayor from 19/11/25) Deputy Mayor Helen Davidson (Deputy Mayor from 27/03/26, Mayor from 01/07/25 to 19/11/25) Deputy Mayor Helen Politis (Deputy Mayor to 19/11/25) Councillor Jay Iwasaki (Deputy Mayor from 19/11/25 to 27/03/26) Councillor Adam Pulford Councillor Chris Miles Councillor Ella Svensson Councillor Katerine Theodosis Councillor Liz Irvin Councillor Oscar Yildiz Councillor Sue Bolton
Key Management Personnel	Chief Executive Officer Kate McCaughey (from 15/06/26) Chief Executive Officer Cathy Henderson (to 24/10/25) Acting Chief Executive Officer Sue Vujcevic (29/12/25 to 14/06/26) Acting Chief Executive Officer Eamonn Fennessy (25/10/25 to 28/12/25) Director City Infrastructure Anita Curnow (to 01/05/26) Acting Director City Infrastructure Greg Rodwell (27/10/25 to 24/11/25 and 29/12/25 to 30/06/26) Director Business Transformation Sue Vujcevic Acting Director Business Transformation Anita Curnow (27/10/25 to 24/11/25 and 29/12/25 to 01/05/26) Acting Director Business Transformation Yvonne Callanan (04/05/26 to 12/06/26) Director Place and Environment Pene Winslade Director Community Eamonn Fennessy Acting Director Community Stefan Grun (27/10/25 to 28/12/25)

	2026 No.	2025 No.
Total Number of Councillors	11	18
Total of Chief Executive Officer and other Key Management Personnel	9	6
Total Number of Key Management Personnel	20	24

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 7. People and relationships (continued)

(c) Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

Remuneration comprises employee benefits including all forms of consideration paid, payable or provided by Council, or on behalf of the Council, in exchange for services rendered. Remuneration of Key Management Personnel and Other senior staff is disclosed in the following categories.

Short-term employee benefits include amounts such as wages, salaries, annual leave or sick leave that are usually paid or payable on a regular basis, as well as non-monetary benefits such as allowances and free or subsidised goods or services.

Other long-term employee benefits include long service leave, other long service benefits or deferred compensation.

Post-employment benefits include pensions, and other retirement benefits paid or payable on a discrete basis when employment has ceased.

	2026 $ '000	2025 $ '000
Total remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:		
Short-term employee benefits	2,580	2,173
Other long-term employee benefits	21	40
Post-employment benefits	263	232
Total	2,864	2,445

	2026 No.	2025 No.
The numbers of key management personnel whose total remuneration from Council and any related entities, fall within the following bands:		
$1 - $9,999	1	1
$10,000 - $19,999	–	3
$20,000 - $29,999	–	9
$30,000 - $39,999	1	3
$40,000 - $49,999	7	–
$50,000 - $59,999	1	–
$70,000 - $79,999	–	1
$90,000 - $99,999	1	1
$110,000 - $119,999	1	–
$140,000 - $149,999	1	–
$220,000 - $229,999	1	–
$240,000 - $249,999	1	–
$280,000 - $289,999	–	2
$290,000 - $299,999	–	1
$310,000 - $319,999	2	1
$330,000 - $339,999	2	1
$350,000 - $359,999	1	–
$360,000 - $369,999	–	1
Total	20	24

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 7. People and relationships (continued)

(d) Remuneration of other senior staff

Other senior staff are officers of Council, other than Key Management Personnel, whose total remuneration exceeds $170,000 and who report directly to a member of the KMP.

	2026 $ '000	2025 $ '000
Total remuneration of other senior staff was as follows:		
Short-term employee benefits	3,044	3,466
Other long-term employee benefits	55	32
Post-employment benefits	373	378
Termination benefits	–	232
Total	3,472	4,108

	2026 No.	2025 No.
The number of other senior staff are shown below in their relevant income bands:		
Income Range:		
$170,000 - $179,999	–	2
$180,000 - $189,999	1	–
$190,000 - $199,999	4	1
$200,000 - $209,999	3	4
$210,000 - $219,999	3	4
$220,000 - $229,999	2	3
$230,000 - $239,999	–	2
$240,000 - $249,999	1	–
$260,000 - $269,999	1	–
$270,000 - $279,999	1	–
$280,000 - $289,999	–	1
$420,000 - $429,999	–	1
Total	16	18

	2026 $ '000	2025 $ '000
Total remuneration for the reporting year for other senior staff included above, amounted to:	3,472	4,108

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 7. People and relationships (continued)

7.2 Related party disclosure

(a) Transactions with related parties

During the year Council entered into related party transactions totalling $73,476.00 with Local Government Professionals Inc related to subscriptions, seminars and memberships. Council also entered into related party transactions totalling $46,860.00 with Spiire Australia Pty Ltd for consultancy services.

(b) Outstanding balances with related parties

There are no outstanding balances at the end of the reporting period in relation to transactions with related parties.

(c) Loans to/from related parties

The aggregate amount of loans in existence at balance date that have been made, guaranteed or secured by the council to a related party are nil as at 30 June 2026.

(d) Commitments to/from related parties

The aggregate amount of commitments in existence at balance date that have been made, guaranteed or secured by the council to a related party are nil as at 30 June 2026.

Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 8. Managing uncertainties

8.1 Contingent assets and liabilities

(a) Contingent assets
Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet, but are disclosed and if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable, respectively. As at 30 June 2026 there were no contingent assets identified by Council.

(b) Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities are:
- possible obligations that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council; or
- present obligations that arise from past events but are not recognised because:
  - it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation; or
  - the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

As at 30 June 2026, the following Contingent Liabilities have been identified by Council.

Superannuation
Council has obligations under a defined benefit superannuation scheme that may result in the need to make additional contributions to the scheme, matters relating to this potential obligation are outlined below. As a result of the volatility in financial markets the likelihood of making such contributions in future periods exists.

Insurance claims
Council is presently involved in several confidential insurance matters, which are being conducted through Council's insurer. As these matters are yet to be finalised, and the financial outcomes are unable to be reliably estimated, no allowance for these contingencies has been made in the financial report.

Legal matters
Council is presently involved in several confidential legal matters, which are being conducted through Council's solicitors. As these matters are yet to be finalised, and the financial outcomes are unable to be reliably estimated, no allowance for these contingencies has been made in the financial report.

8.2 Australian Accounting Standards issued but not yet effective

Certain new Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2026 reporting period. Council assesses the impact of these new standards.

The Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) has issued *AASB 18 Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements.* When applicable AASB 18 supersedes AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements.* AASB 18 aims to improve how entities communicate in their financial statements, with a focus on information about financial performance in the statement of profit or loss. It is expected to result in presentation and disclosure changes, primarily to Council's Comprehensive Income Statement. AASB 18 is expected to first apply to Council for the 2028-29 financial year.

8.3 Financial instruments

(a) Objectives and policies

The Council's principal financial instruments comprise cash assets, term deposits, receivables (excluding statutory receivables), payables (excluding statutory payables) and bank and TCV borrowings. Details of the material accounting policy information and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, in respect of each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument is disclosed in the notes of the financial statements. Risk management is carried out by senior management under policies approved by the Council. These policies include identification and analysis of the risk exposure to Council and appropriate procedures, controls and risk minimisation.

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 8. Managing uncertainties (continued)

(b) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of Council financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The Council's exposure to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk with only insignificant exposure to other price risks and no exposure to foreign currency risk.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the value of a financial instrument or cash flows associated with the instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. Council's interest rate liability risk arises primarily from long term loans and borrowings at fixed rates which exposes Council to fair value interest rate risk. Council does not hold any interest bearing financial instruments that are measured at fair value, and therefore has no exposure to fair value interest rate risk. Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has minimal exposure to cash flow interest rate risk through its cash and deposits that are at floating rates.

Investment of surplus funds is made with approved financial institutions under the *Local Government Act 2020*.
Council manages interest rate risk by adopting an investment policy that ensures:

- diversification of investment product;
- monitoring of return on investment; and
- benchmarking of returns and comparison with budget.

There has been no significant change in the Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing interest rate risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

Interest rate movements have not been sufficiently significant during the year to have an impact on the Council's year end result.

(c) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a contracting entity will not complete its obligations under a financial instrument and cause Council to make a financial loss. Council has exposure to credit risk on some financial assets included in the balance sheet. Particularly significant areas of credit risk exist in relation to outstanding fees and fines as well as loans and receivables from sporting clubs and associations. To help manage this risk:

- Council has a policy for establishing credit limits for the entities Council deals with;
- Council may require collateral where appropriate; and
- Council only invests surplus funds with financial institutions which have a recognised credit rating specified in Council's investment policy.

Receivables consist of a large number of customers, spread across the ratepayer, business and government sectors. Credit risk associated with the Council's financial assets is minimal because the main debtor is secured by a charge over the rateable property.

There are no material financial assets which are individually determined to be impaired.

Council may also be subject to credit risk for transactions which are not included in the balance sheet, such as when Council provides a guarantee for another party. Details of our contingent liabilities are disclosed in Note 8.1(b).

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date to recognised financial assets is the carrying amount, net of any allowance for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements. Council does not hold any collateral.

(d) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk includes the risk that, as a result of Council's operational liquidity requirements it will not have sufficient funds to settle a transaction when required or will be forced to sell a financial asset at below value or may be unable to settle or recover a financial asset.

To help reduce these risks Council:

- has a liquidity policy which targets a minimum and average level of cash and cash equivalents to be maintained;
- has readily accessible standby facilities and other funding arrangements in place;

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 8. Managing uncertainties (continued)

- has a liquidity portfolio structure that requires surplus funds to be invested within various bands of liquid instruments;
- monitors budget to actual performance on a regular basis; and
- sets limits on borrowings relating to the percentage of loans to rate revenue and percentage of loan principal repayments to rate revenue.

The Council's maximum exposure to liquidity risk is the carrying amounts of financial liabilities as disclosed on the face of the balance sheet and is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk.

There has been no significant change in Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing liquidity risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

With the exception of borrowings, all financial liabilities are expected to be settled within normal terms of trade. Details of the maturity profile for borrowings are disclosed at Note 5.3.

Unless otherwise stated, the carrying amounts of financial instruments reflect their fair value.

(e) Sensitivity disclosure analysis

Taking into account past performance, future expectations, economic forecasts, and management's knowledge and experience of the financial markets, Council believes the following movements are 'reasonably possible' over the next 12 months:

- A parallel shift of - 0.50% and + 0.00% in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end rates of 4.84%.

These movements will not have a material impact on the valuation of Council's financial assets and liabilities, nor will they have a material impact on the results of Council's operations.

8.4 Fair value measurement

Fair Value Hierarchy
Council's financial assets and liabilities are not valued in accordance with the fair value hierarchy. Council's financial assets and liabilities are measured at amortised cost.

Council measures certain assets and liabilities at fair value where required or permitted by Australian Accounting Standards. AASB 13 *Fair value measurement* aims to improve consistency and reduce complexity by providing a definition of fair value and a single source of fair value measurement and disclosure requirements for use across Australian Accounting Standards.

Council has considered the amendments to AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement* that apply for the 2025/26 financial year as a result of AASB 2022-10 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities*. For assets, where the Council adopts a current replacement cost approach to determine fair value, the Council now considers the inclusion of site preparation costs, disruption costs and costs to restore another entity's assets in the underlying valuation.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within a fair value hierarchy, based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole are described as follows:

Level 1 — Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities
Level 2 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and
Level 3 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

For the purpose of fair value disclosures, Council has determined classes of assets and liabilities on the basis of the nature, characteristics and risks of the asset or liability and the level of the fair value hierarchy as explained above.
In addition, Council determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by re-assessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

Revaluation
Subsequent to the initial recognition of assets, non-current physical assets, other than plant and equipment, are measured at their fair value, being the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. For plant and equipment, the carrying amount is considered to

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 8. Managing uncertainties (continued)

approximate fair value given short useful lives. At balance date, the Council reviewed the carrying value of the individual classes of assets measured at fair value to ensure that each asset materially approximated its fair value. Where the carrying value materially differed from the fair value at balance date, the class of asset was revalued.

Fair value valuations are determined in accordance with a valuation hierarchy. Changes to the valuation hierarchy will only occur if an external change in the restrictions or limitations of the use of an asset results in changes to the permissible or practical highest and best use of the asset. In addition, Council undertakes a formal revaluation of land, buildings, and infrastructure assets on a regular basis ranging from 1 to 4 years. The valuation is performed either by experienced council officers or independent experts. The following table sets out the frequency of revaluations by asset class.

Asset Class	**Revaluation frequency**
Land	1 to 2 years
Buildings	1 to 2 years
Artwork	5 years
Roads	1 to 4 years
Bridges	1 to 4 years
Footpaths and cycleways	1 to 4 years
Drainage	1 to 4 years
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	1 to 4 years
Waste management	1 to 4 years
Parks, open space and streetscape	1 to 4 years
Other infrastructure	1 to 4 years

Where the assets are revalued, the revaluation increases are credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve. In the case that an increase reverses a prior year decrease for that class of asset that had been recognised as an expense, the increase is recognised as revenue up to the amount of the expense. Revaluation decreases are recognised as an expense except where prior increases are included in the asset revaluation reserve for that class of asset. In that case, the decrease is taken to the reserve to the extent of the remaining increases. Within the same class of assets, revaluation increases and decreases within the year are offset.

Impairment of assets

At each reporting date, the Council reviews the carrying value of its assets to determine whether there is any indication that these assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use, is compared to the assets carrying value. Any excess of the assets carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the comprehensive income statement. If the asset is carried at the revalued amount, the impairment loss is recognised directly against the revaluation surplus in respect to the same class of asset if the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that same class of asset.

8.5 Events occurring after balance date

No matters have occurred after balance date that require disclosure in the financial report.

Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 9. Other matters

	Balance at beginning of reporting period $ '000	Increase (decrease) $ '000	Balance at end of reporting period $ '000
9.1 Reserves			
(a) Asset revaluation reserves			
2026			
Property			
Land & Land Improvements	1,217,818	28,099	1,245,917
Buildings	110,665	51,716	162,381
	1,328,483	79,814	1,408,297
Plant and equipment			
Fixtures Fittings & Furniture	–	8	8
Artwork	469	616	1,085
	469	624	1,093
Infrastructure			
Bridges	13,505	–	13,505
Footpaths & Cycleways	54,284	16,010	70,294
Drainage	163,973	33,306	197,279
Road Surface	43,061	2,088	45,149
Road Pavement	129,567	37,933	167,500
Kerb & Channel	46,073	7,685	53,758
Other Infrastructure	92,044	–	92,044
	542,508	97,022	639,530
Total asset revaluation reserves	1,871,460	177,460	2,048,920

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 9. Other matters (continued)

	Balance at beginning of reporting period $ '000	Increase (decrease) $ '000	Balance at end of reporting period $ '000
2025			
Property			
Land & Land Improvements	1,219,217	(1,399)	1,217,818
Buildings	110,665	–	110,665
	1,329,882	(1,399)	1,328,483
Plant and equipment			
Artwork	469	–	469
	469	–	469
Infrastructure			
Bridges	13,505	–	13,505
Footpaths & Cycleways	111,400	(57,116)	54,284
Drainage	144,557	19,416	163,973
Road Surface	74,527	(31,466)	43,061
Road Pavement	213,022	(83,454)	129,568
Kerb & Channel	86,803	(40,730)	46,073
Other Infrastructure	92,042	2	92,044
	735,856	(193,347)	542,509
Total asset revaluation reserves	2,066,207	(194,746)	1,871,461

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record the increased (net) value of Council's assets over time.

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Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 9. Other matters (continued)

	Balance at beginning of reporting period $ '000	Transfer from Accumulated Surplus $ '000	Transfer to Accumulated Surplus $ '000	Balance at end of reporting period $ '000
(b) Other reserves				
2026				
Waste Charge Reserve (Restricted)	3,120	–	(1,129)	1,991
Public Resort & Recreation Land Fund (Restricted)	15,781	7,468	(5,516)	17,733
Social & Affordable Housing Reserve	706	45	–	751
Defined Benefits Superannuation Reserve	13,500	–	–	13,500
Significant Projects Reserve	2,598	4,425	(971)	6,052
Local Government Funding Vehicle Reserve	8,787	3,313	(12,100)	–
Developer Contribution Plan Reserve (Restricted)	1,544	235	(1,779)	–
Carry Forward Reserve	20,663	28,918	(20,664)	28,917
Total Other reserves	66,699	44,404	(42,159)	68,944
2025				
Waste Charge Reserve (Restricted)	2,551	569	–	3,120
Public Resort & Recreation Land Fund (Restricted)	20,308	8,322	(12,849)	15,781
Social & Affordable Housing Reserve	496	210	–	706
Defined Benefits Superannuation Reserve	13,500	–	–	13,500
Significant Projects Reserve	9,833	14,196	(21,431)	2,598
Local Government Funding Vehicle Reserve	6,579	2,208	–	8,787
Developer Contribution Plan Reserve (Restricted)	2,026	447	(929)	1,544
Carry Forward Reserve	21,276	20,664	(21,277)	20,663
Total Other reserves	76,569	46,616	(56,486)	66,699

The Waste Charge Reserve, factors in under or over expenditure on the provision of kerbside waste services. The reserve is then used to offset the future waste charge calculation of service delivery, strategic projects, compliance, and long-term planning for Council's waste management responsibilities.

The Public Resort and Recreation Land Fund holds the balance of open space contributions paid to Council by developers and is utilised to fund the development of new open space and recreation assets, as well as upgrade or expansion of existing assets.

The Social and Affordable Housing Strategic Reserve provides funds for the purchase of community housing projects along with other housing initiatives.

Merri-bek Defined Benefit Reserve provides funds for payments requested by Vision Super to meet our superannuation obligations under the defined benefit scheme.

The Significant Projects Reserve accumulates funds to assist with the development of major Council assets. Currently the reserve is utilised to fund the redevelopment of Fawkner Leisure Centre and the construction of the Saxon Street Community Hub.

The Local Government Funding Vehicle reserve accumulates funds to be used to reduce the LGFV bonds held by Council. LGFV is a group borrowing scheme with interest only repayments.

The Developers Contribution Plan Reserve (DCP) accumulates development contributions paid to Council in respect of developments within particular Plan areas and is used to contribute towards delivery of a ten-year Capital works program within each of the twelve DCP areas.

continued on next page ...

Merri-bek City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 9. Other matters (continued)

Carry Forward Reserve is used to set aside funding for incomplete operating or capital works projects carried forward from the current financial year to future financial years.

	2026 $ '000	2025 $ '000
9.2 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus/(deficit)		
Surplus for the year	26,867	30,420
Non-cash adjustments:		
Depreciation/amortisation	42,161	39,697
Loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6,631	12,827
Fair value adjustments for investment property	(1,418)	(818)
Contributions - Non-monetary assets	(437)	(503)
Amounts disclosed in financing activities	828	924
Change in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(6,606)	(191)
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	164	(31)
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments	(480)	(2,671)
(Increase)/decrease in contract liabilities	1,866	(4,596)
(Increase)/decrease in other assets	263	(8)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	2,149	925
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	2,477	(1,366)
Increase/(decrease) in trust funds	2,893	596
Increase/(decrease) in fair value of investment properties	1,418	–
Net cash provided by operating activities	78,776	75,205

Merri-bek City Council

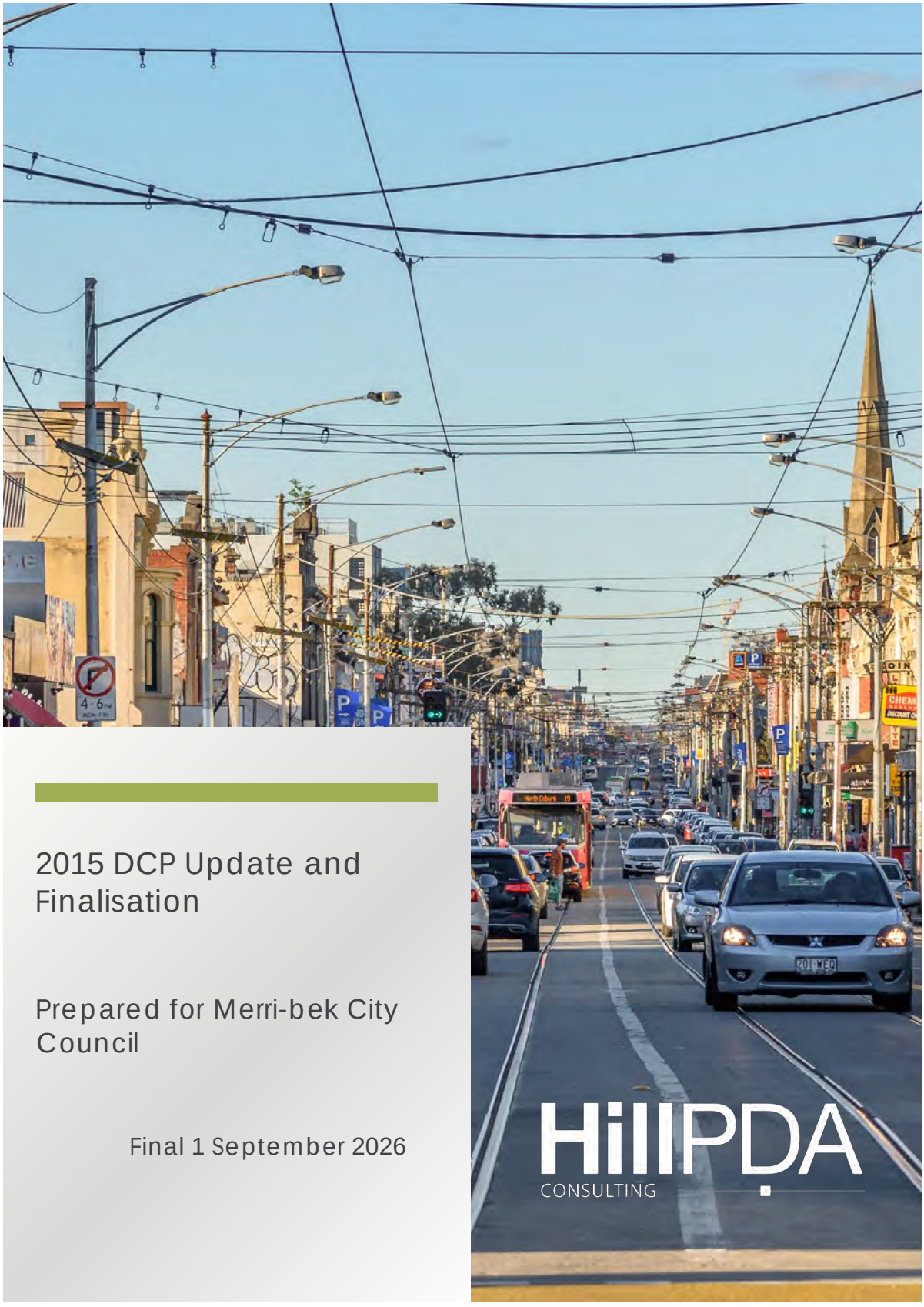
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 10. Changes in accounting policies

There have been no changes to accounting policies in the 2025-26 year.

Appendix 1:

Merri-bek DCP acquittal review 1 September 2026



2015 DCP Update and Finalisation

Prepared for Merri-bek City Council

Final 1 September 2026

HillPDA CONSULTING

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Merri-bek whole of municipality Development Contributions Plan (DCP) was incorporated into the Planning Scheme by Amendment C133, which following public exhibition and a Panel Hearing, was gazetted on 10 September 2015. In summary, the 2015 DCP included 842 projects with a total cost of $114,921,542 (June 2012 dollars). The June 2022 value of these projects was $149,822,076. The 2015 DCP was scheduled to end on 30 June 2023.

The DCP was based on Merri-bek's 10-year capital works program which was developed in 2011 and has been revised over the intervening years. Changes in policy priorities, receipt of grant funding and availability of new information since 2011 have generated changes to proposed works and the timing of works.

In addition, the concept of a 10-year DCP timeframe has proven to be too short for a large-scale DCP. This timeframe does not enable Council to reallocate projects over time as priorities change. Also, it does not allow sufficient time to implement the outcomes of a review of the DCP.

Planning scheme amendments C215 and C221 made significant changes to the DCP by extending the date for completion of the DCP as well as amending the project list by removing existing projects and incorporating new ones.

This review has concluded that all levies have been appropriately expended and only 9 (1.3%) projects are, at this stage, not completed.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to review the finalised Merri-bek DCP, particularly in relation to acquittal of the DCP levies and completion of projects.

This report reviews the DCP project list, levies collected and acquitted as well as the status of projects at the finalisation of the DCP on 30 June 2026 to assess whether Merri-bek City Council has met its DCP obligations.

The reasons for changes in the DCP have been fully explained in the following documents:

- 2015 DCP Addendum, and
- 2015 DCP Update and Finalisation.

To maintain consistency with the figures in these reports, all of the amounts in this report are in 2022 dollars which was the reference basis for the 2023 changes to the DCP.

2.0 MERRI-BEK DCP

2.1 Background

The Merri-bek whole of municipality Development Contributions Plan (DCP) was incorporated into the Planning Scheme by Amendment C133. The amendment inserted Schedule 1 to the Development Contributions Plan Overlay (DCPO1) and the Merri-bek Development Contributions Plan 2015 as an incorporated document. The Amendment also altered all planning scheme maps to include DCPO1.

Amendment C133 was authorised on 13 July 2012, exhibited between 11 April 2013 and 16 May 2013 and re-exhibited from 6 May to 6 June 2014. A total of 13 submissions were received to the exhibition of the Amendment. The Panel appointed by the Minister conducted the substantive hearing in October/November 2012 and, subject to changes, recommended that the Amendment be adopted. Council adopted the amendment and the Panel's recommendations on 11 February 2015 and Amendment C133 was gazetted on 10 September 2015.

The calculation of the DCP levies was based on a list of infrastructure projects to be delivered from July 2013 to June 2023. Inserting an end date of 30 June 2023 was one of the Panel's recommendations.

The primary reference documents for the list of infrastructure projects in the DCP was the Merri-bek Capital Works Program (CWP) and the Coburg Initiative Public Realm and Infrastructure Strategy.

2.2 Merri-bek Capital Works Program

The Council confirmed the CWP for 2012-2023 in 2011. The aim of the Council's 10-year CWP was to identify the need for and scope of projects to support existing and future communities and businesses in the area. The CWP projects included:

- Roads, including footpaths, bike paths and shared path replacements and reconstructions
- Streetscape works in Coburg
- Drainage works, and
- Building construction or upgrades, including pavilion upgrades, aquatic and leisure improvements, libraries, community centres and public toilet installations.

2.3 DCP project list

The following Tables 1 and 2 provide a summary of projects included in the DCP. The tables show the number of projects and cost breakdown by type of project. Table 2 shows the relationship of projects to charge areas within the DCP.

Projects in the DCP were nominated to service either one charge area or multiple charge areas in Merri-bek, based on an assessment of their Main Catchment Area (MCA). There are 12 charge areas in the DCP. Most road, footpath and drainage projects were nominated to service a single charge area. Community facilities were generally nominated to service multiple charge areas.

In summary, the 2015 DCP originally included 842 projects with a total cost of $149,822,076.

Table 1: 2015 DCP summary of projects

Infrastructure	Number of Projects	Cost June 2012$	Cost June 2022
Community Facility	110	$49,200,550	$64,142,270
Drainage	19	$3,738,000	$4,873,194
Planning	1	$126,000	$164,265
Roads	712	$61,856,992	$80,642,348
Total	**842**	**$114,921,542**	**$149,822,076**

Table 2: 2015 DCP projects by area and infrastructure type

Charge Area Name	Charge Area No.	Infrastructure Type	Number of Projects	Apportioned Cost to MCA	Cost June 2022
Brunswick East	**Area 001**	Community Facility	8	$2,525,162	$3,292,029
		Drainage	1	$240,000	$312,886
		Planning	1	$126,000	$164,265
		Roads	37	$1,941,183	$2,530,701
Brunswick	**Area 002**	Community Facility	13	$6,631,410	$8,645,304
		Drainage	4	$1,240,000	$1,616,576
		Roads	79	$5,499,638	$7,169,824
Brunswick West	**Area 003**	Community Facility	2	$2,268,505	$2,957,428
		Roads	48	$2,059,890	$2,685,458
Coburg	**Area 004**	Community Facility	12	$7,634,824	$9,953,444
		Drainage	4	$748,000	$975,160
		Roads	127	$21,726,488	$28,324,607
Pascoe Vale South	**Area 005**	Community Facility	8	$2,366,617	$3,085,335
		Roads	80	$7,435,679	$9,693,821
Coburg North	**Area 006**	Community Facility	15	$3,296,337	$4,297,402
		Drainage	1	$120,000	$156,443
		Roads	54	$4,737,592	$6,176,352
Pascoe Vale	**Area 007**	Community Facility	10	$7,713,074	$10,055,458
		Drainage	5	$1,195,200	$1,558,170
		Roads	79	$6,406,363	$8,351,912
Oak Park	**Area 008**	Community Facility	3	$1,980,217	$2,581,589
		Drainage	2	$134,800	$175,737
		Roads	24	$850,636	$1,108,966

Charge Area Name	Charge Area No.	Infrastructure Type	Number of Projects	Apportioned Cost to MCA	Cost June 2022
Fawkner	**Area 009**	Community Facility	11	$4,971,117	$6,480,796
		Roads	60	$4,370,758	$5,698,114
Hadfield	**Area 010**	Community Facility	4	$1,021,739	$1,332,031
		Drainage	2	$60,000	$78,221
		Roads	26	$1,597,310	$2,082,397
Glenroy	**Area 011**	Community Facility	19	$8,396,257	$10,946,117
		Roads	87	$4,778,795	$6,230,068
Gowanbrae / Tullamarine	**Area 012**	Community Facility	5	$395,290	$515,336
		Roads	11	$452,662	$590,131
Total			**842**	**$114,921,542**	**$149,822,076**

2.4 Amendment C221

Amendment C221 proposed to amend the incorporated document 'Merri-bek Development Contributions Plan, January 2015 (amended December 2022)' with the addendum titled '2015 DCP Addendum, December 2022' which was an updated infrastructure projects list to be funded by the DCP.

The DCP's updated infrastructure list was informed by Council's 4-Year Budget 2022-2026 for its delivery. The budget was prepared after completing community engagement and was adopted on 23 June 2022.

Exhibition of the amendment finished on 15 November 2022 and no submissions were made to the amendment. Council adopted the amendment in December 2022. The Minister for Planning adopted the Amendment on 8 March 2023 and it came into operation on 24 March 2023, when the notice of approval was published in the Victorian Government Gazette.

2.5 Legislative basis for changes

A DCP is enabled by the Planning and Environment Act Part 3B and further defined by the state government's DCP Guidelines (2007) and Ministerial Directions (April 2025).

A DCP is legally enforceable when it is incorporated into a Planning Scheme as an Overlay. The DCP Overlay (DCPO) is a summary of the DCP report which becomes an incorporated document under Clause 72.04 of the Planning Scheme. The DCP specifies contributions from development that applicants are required to make as cash payments (or works in kind) to Council to help pay for nominated infrastructure items located in a specified DCP Area (charge area).

A DCP can cover any form of capital works infrastructure investment, including roads, paths, drainage, community facilities, open space, and land purchase. Councils can decide whether to use open space levies (Clause 53.01) or a DCP for open space contributions but cannot use both tools for the same open space projects.

A DCP must list the infrastructure Council will build over the life of the DCP. The contribution amount is directly linked to the list of committed infrastructure projects. Council must use the contributions for the purpose for which it was obtained. If the contribution is cash, Council must credit the money to a separate DCP account and deliver the infrastructure project or projects listed in the DCP within the timeline specified in the DCP. On this basis, the accountability provisions in a DCP are strong. There must be a clear nexus between development sites making use of (or deriving benefit from) infrastructure, payment of DCP charges and receiving infrastructure within a specified period.

The method to prepare a DCP is outlined in detail in the 2007 Guidelines. The steps are summarised in the following extract from the Guidelines. Essentially, the key steps are:

- Identify infrastructure that is required to service an area or areas of the municipality.
- Identify development and projected future development in the area that will make use of the infrastructure (based on strategic or structure plans and Planning Scheme).
- Apportion the cost of the infrastructure across all anticipated existing and future users of the infrastructure using the method specified in the Guidelines.
- Summarise the information in tables that show:
  - charges required to be paid by development within an area
  - the infrastructure that the charges are based on and will be delivered within a specified period.

Section 46Q of the Planning and Environment Act outlines the responsibilities of a Council in relation to the DCP:

> ***46Q Responsibilities of municipal councils***
> *1) A municipal council must, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989, keep proper accounts of any amount of levy paid to it as a collecting agency or a development agency under this Part.*
> *(1A) A municipal council to which an amount of levy is paid as a collecting agency under this Part must forward to a development agency any part of the levy that is imposed for plan preparation costs incurred by the development agency or for the carrying out of works, services or facilities by or on behalf of that development agency*
> *(2) Subject to this section, a municipal council to which an amount of levy is paid as a development agency under this Part must apply that amount only—*
> *(a) for a purpose relating to plan preparation costs or the provision of works, services and facilities in respect of which the levy was imposed; and*
> *(b) in accordance with the approved development contributions plan.*
> *(3) A municipal council may refund any amount of levy paid to it as a development agency under this Part in respect of a development if it is satisfied that the development is not to proceed.*
> *(4) If—*

(a) an amount of levy has been paid to a municipal council as a development agency under this Part for plan preparation costs incurred by the council or for the provision by the council of works, services or facilities in an area; and
(b) that amount has not been expended within the period required by the approved development contributions plan—
the municipal council must within 6 months after the end of that period—
(c) with the consent of the Minister and in the manner approved by the Minister, pay that amount to the current owners of land in the area; or
(d) in accordance with Part 3, submit to the Minister an amendment to the approved development contributions plan to provide for the expenditure of that amount; or
(e) with the consent of the Minister and in the manner approved by the Minister, expend that amount for the provision of other works, facilities or services in that area.

The Act provides that within 6 months of the end of a DCP, where there are levies not acquitted against completed projects, the Council must do one of the following:

- Refund levies collected for projects not delivered to the current owners of the land with the consent of the Minister for Planning.
- Prepare an amendment to the approved DCP that provides for the expenditure of that amount and submit it to the Minister for Planning for approval.
- Expend the amount collected for the provision of other infrastructure in the area with the consent of the Minister for Planning.

With respect to 46Q(4)(e) it is likely the Minister would require a planning scheme amendment to formalise the changes.

For the last two options to be done, Council would need to be able to have a strategically justified case for replacing projects not delivered.

This occurred with the Darebin Municipal DCP where the Minister approved the allocation of $6 million contributions to be reallocated to a municipal community facility project.

Amendments C215 and C221 have been put in place to ensure that the finalisation of the DCP is consistent with Section 46Q and that Council will not have to refund any levies or seek the Minister's approval for an alternative arrangement. The Amendments altered the DCP to do all of the following:

- Substitute projects within the same charge area and type.
- Update all costs to 2022 dollars.
- Remove projects that will not be delivered.
- Add new projects through a planning scheme amendment process.

- Ensure new projects within the same geographic charge area, within the same infrastructure type and at least the same or higher cost in 2022 dollars.

2.6 Development Contributions Guidelines 2007

The Development Contributions Guidelines (Guidelines) assist by stating that changes can be made based on the calculation process and apportionment principles that applied at the time the DCP was originally prepared and approved. In other words, substitute projects should be in the same charge area and generally be of a similar nature, cost, and apportionment between charge areas.

2.7 Method

This report presents the findings of a review of the DCP in relation to the levies collected and expended and completion of the projects on the project list as at the completion of the DCP on 30 June 2026. The steps taken to review the 2015 DCP were:

- Obtain the following data from Council:
  - Detailed DCP projects list including status (completed, in progress or not started)
  - Levies collected to 30 June 2023
- Review the DCP documentation
- Review the DCP project list (refer to Appendix 1)
- Collate, analyse and report on the data by charge area, and
- Prepare a report.

2.8 Amendment C215

Amendment C215more changed the Incorporated Document 'Merri-bek Development Contribution Plan, January 2015', listed in the Schedule to Clause 72.04 Documents Incorporated of the Merri-bek Planning Scheme. Specifically, the amendment altered text at section 7.3 'Funds Administration' (page 20) to extend the date by which projects funded via this DCP will be delivered, from 30 June 2023 to 30 June 2026. The end date by which funds would be collected was not changed and remained at 30 June 2023.

Amendment C215more was submitted to the Minister for Planning following Council's resolution at the 10 November 2021 Council meeting.

Amendment C215more was approved by the Minister for Planning on 22 March 2022 and came into operation on 14 April 2022, when the notice of approval was published in the Victorian Government Gazette.

Extending the DCP deadline until the 30 June 2026 deadline meant all DCP infrastructure projects would have to be either completed or commenced by this date.

3.0 ANALYSIS

3.1 Levy acquittal

There are 670 projects listed in the DCP. This list includes 669 infrastructure projects and a single project for the costs of preparing a DCP which has a cost of $164,225 of which $35,875.47 is attributable to the DCP and apportioned to one or all charge areas.

Table 3 lists the total project costs by charge areas and infrastructure type of all projects, excluding the preparation costs.

Table 3: DCP project costs

Project Costs					
Charge Area	Number	Roads	Drainage	Community Facility	Total
Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	$2,571,147	$380,000	$4,205,156	$7,156,304
Brunswick	Area 002	$7,252,293	$2,860,194	$27,026,915	$37,139,402
Brunswick West	Area 003	$2,741,032	$114,000	$4,442,544	$7,297,575
Coburg	Area 004	$28,443,910	$979,241	$10,943,774	$40,366,926
Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	$10,161,551	$0	$1,227,382	$11,388,934
Coburg North	Area 006	$6,375,852	$1,048,408	$5,395,930	$12,820,190
Pascoe Vale	Area 007	$8,210,753	$3,052,361	$4,683,479	$15,946,593
Oak Park	Area 008	$1,255,019	$612,750	$7,674,595	$9,542,364
Fawkner	Area 009	$6,080,096	$0	$30,385,249	$36,465,345
Hadfield	Area 010	$5,201,604	$1,117,521	$2,015,635	$8,334,760
Glenroy	Area 011	$6,418,201	$0	$3,572,421	$9,990,622
Gowanbrae/Tullamarine	Area 012	$674,878	$0	$0	$674,878
Total		**$85,386,336**	**$10,164,476**	**$101,573,081**	**$197,123,893**

Table 4 shows the value of levies that could be acquitted on full completion of all projects.

Table 4: Total acquittal amounts available

Eligible acquittal amounts					
Charge Area	**Number**	**Roads**	**Drainage**	Community Facility	**Total**
Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	$682,205	$126,382	$2,998,774	$3,807,361
Brunswick	Area 002	$1,371,859	$612,830	$4,384,065	$6,368,754
Brunswick West	Area 003	$357,465	$17,027	$351,789	$726,280
Coburg	Area 004	$3,966,225	$159,444	$2,747,094	$6,872,763
Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	$794,077	$0	$139,984	$934,061
Coburg North	Area 006	$889,786	$114,551	$840,397	$1,844,734
Pascoe Vale	Area 007	$1,782,799	$715,607	$2,638,011	$5,136,417
Oak Park	Area 008	$244,507	$131,368	$346,551	$722,427
Fawkner	Area 009	$728,887	$0	$1,576,008	$2,304,895
Hadfield	Area 010	$789,957	$188,434	$1,111,012	$2,089,404

Eligible acquittal amounts					
Charge Area	**Number**	**Roads**	**Drainage**	Community Facility	**Total**
Glenroy	Area 011	$1,292,377	$0	$6,061,170	$7,353,547
Gowanbrae/Tullamarine	Area 012	$86,534	$0	$358,632	$445,166
Total		**$12,986,679**	**$2,065,642**	**$23,553,488**	**$38,605,810**

Table 5 details the total levies collected to 30 June 2023 and, based on the completion of all projects, the available acquittal amounts considerably exceeds the levies collected in all charge areas and infrastructure types.

Table 5: Total levies collected

Levies collected					
Charge Area	**Number**	**Roads**	**Drainage**	**Community Facility**	**Total**
Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	$345,471	$49,275	$422,101	$816,846.95
Brunswick	Area 002	$1,124,829	$307,038	$1,058,258	$2,490,124.38
Brunswick West	Area 003	$218,917	$0	$202,967	$421,883.56
Coburg	Area 004	$3,332,850	$108,746	$732,942	$4,174,537.11
Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	$254,831	$0	$127,888	$382,719.16
Coburg North	Area 006	$792,184	$17,997	$119,916	$930,096.91
Pascoe Vale	Area 007	$963,172	$183,882	$654,515	$1,801,570.05
Oak Park	Area 008	$156,330	$28,908	$263,639	$448,877.69
Fawkner	Area 009	$368,578	$0	$344,935	$713,513.37
Hadfield	Area 010	$315,817	$14,350	$154,322	$484,488.91
Glenroy	Area 011	$571,671	$0	$792,007	$1,363,677.90
Gowanbrae/Tullamarine	Area 012	$44,045	$0	$9,142	$53,186.77
Total		**$8,488,696**	**$710,196**	**$4,882,631**	**$14,081,523**

Table 6 makes this clear by subtracting the levies collected (Table 5) from the eligible levy amounts (Table 4) by charge area and infrastructure type. If the amount is zero or positive then all levies collected have been acquitted. A negative number indicates that there is a shortfall in the acquittal of the levy. On the basis that all projects are completed, the data indicates that Council has successfully acquitted all levies collected in accordance with Section 46Q (1A) and (2) of the Act and fulfilled its obligations.

It is important to note the DCP does not distinguish between community infrastructure (development infrastructure-DI) community infrastructure (community infrastructure-CI). Some of the data provided by Council categorised community infrastructure into CI or DI which is consistent with current DCP practice. However, for the purposes of this report and to be consistent with the DCP, the CI and DI have been combined into a single Community Facility category.

Table 6: Difference between levies collected and project completion acquittals

Levy acquittal status					
Charge Area	**Number**	**Roads**	**Drainage**	Community Facility	**Total**
Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	$336,733	$77,107	$2,576,673	$2,990,514.11
Brunswick	Area 002	$247,030	$305,793	$3,325,807	$3,878,629.91
Brunswick West	Area 003	$138,548	$17,027	$148,822	$304,396.90
Coburg	Area 004	$633,375	$50,698	$2,014,152	$2,698,225.64
Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	$539,246	$0	$12,096	$551,342.14
Coburg North	Area 006	$97,602	$96,554	$720,481	$914,637.48
Pascoe Vale	Area 007	$819,626	$531,724	$1,983,496	$3,334,846.69
Oak Park	Area 008	$88,177	$102,460	$82,912	$273,549.33
Fawkner	Area 009	$360,309	$0	$1,231,072	$1,591,381.78
Hadfield	Area 010	$474,140	$174,084	$956,691	$1,604,914.70
Glenroy	Area 011	$720,706	$0	$5,269,163	$5,989,869.06
Gowanbrae/Tullamarine	Area 012	$42,489	$0	$349,490	$391,979.14
Total		**$4,497,983**	**$1,355,447**	**$18,670,858**	**$24,524,287**

Because it applies across the entire municipality, the Planning project should be added to the total levies which would have the effect of reducing the total in (Table 6) by $35,875.47 to $24,488,840,411.53. The above analysis assumes that all DCP projects have been completed. The following section reviews project completion status.

3.2 Project completion

Putting the Planning project to one side because it was completed by the preparation of the DCP, Table 7 shows the total number of DCP projects by charge area and infrastructure type.

Table 7: Total DCP projects

DCP projects					
Charge Area	**Number**	**Roads**	**Drainage**	Community Facility	**Total**
Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	22	1	6	29
Brunswick	Area 002	36	14	11	61
Brunswick West	Area 003	19	1	5	25
Coburg	Area 004	107	5	22	134
Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	54	0	6	60
Coburg North	Area 006	56	7	9	72
Pascoe Vale	Area 007	45	21	13	79
Oak Park	Area 008	25	2	8	35
Fawkner	Area 009	60	0	13	73

DCP projects					
Charge Area	**Number**	**Roads**	**Drainage**	Community Facility	**Total**
Hadfield	Area 010	17	3	6	26
Glenroy	Area 011	54	0	8	62
Gowanbrae/Tullamarine	Area 012	13	0	0	13
Total		**508**	**54**	**107**	**669**

Table 8 lists the total number of DCP projects completed by charge area and infrastructure type. Given the annual nature of local government funding for infrastructure, any project with an 'in progress' status was counted as completed because it is likely that the completion of the project may occur after 30 June 2026. This is consistent with the DCP Guidelines. Consequently, as of 30 June 2026, a total of 662 of the 670 (98.8%) of all projects have been completed, made up of 699 infrastructure projects and one costs-of-preparation project. Projects marked as 'to be completed' are assumed to not have commenced as of 30 June 2026.

Table 8: DCP projects completed

DCP projects completed or in progress					
Charge Area	**Number**	**Roads**	**Drainage**	**Community Facility**	**Total**
Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	22	1	6	29
Brunswick	Area 002	36	13	11	60
Brunswick West	Area 003	19	1	5	25
Coburg	Area 004	107	5	22	134
Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	54	0	6	60
Coburg North	Area 006	53	7	9	69
Pascoe Vale	Area 007	45	21	13	79
Oak Park	Area 008	24	2	8	34
Fawkner	Area 009	58	0	13	71
Hadfield	Area 010	17	3	6	26
Glenroy	Area 011	53	0	8	61
Gowanbrae/Tullamarine	Area 012	13	0	0	13
Total		**500**	**53**	**107**	**661**

As of 30 June 2026, a total of eight projects listed in the 2015 DCP *Update and Finalisation* document project list (shown in Appendix 1) have not been completed. Of this total seven are road infrastructure and one is drainage infrastructure as shown in Table 10. The seven road projects that have not been completed have been replaced by other, higher priority road projects in the relevant charge area. Table 9 lists these projects, the cost attributable, the higher priority replacement project, its actual cost and the actual cost in 2022 dollars. In all cases the cost of the higher priority projects exceeds the cost originally attributable to the DCP projects. The one drainage project requires significant drainage upgrades and further investigation before it can proceed. Council delivered an alternative drainage project in the same charge area with a cost that exceeded that of the DCP Project.

Table 9: Expenditure on alternative projects

No	Original DCP project name/description	MCA cost ($2022)	Replacement project name/description	Actual cost	2022$ actual cost
DR102N	Union St From Millward St to Brunswick Rd, **Brunswick**, Drainage Works	$1,282,500	Drainage Works, Michael and Saxon St, **Brunswick**,	$1,589,124	$1,739,355
RD1208	Anselm Gve - Glenroy; A'beckett - Pascoe Vale:Both Carriageways **Glenroy**	$26,074	Everard Street - Morley to West, **Glenroy**	$75,457	$64,937
RD1370N	Murray Street from Hume Kerb Line to Mcdougall Centre Line, **Fawkner**, Road Resurfacing	$42,144	Piper - Lynch to Major, **Fawkner**	$47,976	$52,511
RD1377N	Wembley Road from Argyle Kerb Line to Lorne Kerb Line, **Fawkner**, Road Resurfacing	$32,462	Somerlayton Crescent - Anderson to Anderson, **Fawkner**	$54,224	$59,350
RD2033N	Claremont Street from Jackson Kerb Line to Elizabeth Kerb Line, **Coburg North**, Road Resurfacing	$35,670	Newlands Road - Carr to McMahons, **Coburg North**	$67,364	$73,732
RD2043N	Mantell Street from Williams Kerb Line to Mcdonald Kerb Line, **Coburg North**, Road Resurfacing	$24,650	Elizabeth St - Livingstone to Arthur to Jenkin, **Coburg North**	$45,719	$43,344
RD4005N	Treloar Street from Keady to Spry, **Coburg North**, Road Resurfacing	$34,003	Arthur St - Elizabeth to Dead End, **Coburg North**	$44,074	$48,241
RD4014N	Winifred Street from John to Sylvester , **Oak Park**, Road Resurfacing	$25,523	Jacaranda St - Willett to Victoria **Oak Park**	$41,657	$35,849
Total		**$1,503,025**		**$1,965,594**	**$2,117,320**

Table 10: DCP projects not completed

DCP projects not completed					
Charge Area	Number	Roads	Drainage	Community Facility	Total
Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	0	0	0	0
Brunswick	Area 002	0	1	0	1
Brunswick West	Area 003	0	0	0	0
Coburg	Area 004	0	0	0	0
Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	0	0	0	0
Coburg North	Area 006	3	0	0	3
Pascoe Vale	Area 007	0	0	0	0
Oak Park	Area 008	1	0	0	1
Fawkner	Area 009	2	0	0	2
Hadfield	Area 010	0	0	0	0
Glenroy	Area 011	1	0	0	1
Gowanbrae/Tullamarine	Area 012	0	0	0	0
Total		**7**	**1**	**0**	**8**

3.3 Multiple works listed as a single DCP project

A total of 13 individual DCP road and footpath projects have a nominated single project cost that is spread over roads or footpaths in multiple locations in some charge areas. Not all of the works listed in these projects need to be completed to satisfy the expenditure specified in the DCP. The expenditure in all these projects exceeds the amount specified in the DCP.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

There are two matters that completion of the DCP should address. One is full acquittal of the levies and the other is completion of the project list which is an incorporated document in the Merri-bek planning scheme. Comparing Table 5 to Table 11, all levies have been fully acquitted. Council has effectively fulfilled its obligations under the Planning and Environment Act.

Whilst not all projects listed in the updated incorporated document have been completed, Council has delivered other road projects with have a higher priority in the same charge area with a cost that exceeds that of the DCP projects. The single drainage project has been delayed because it needs further investigation before it can proceed. Council delivered an alternative drainage project in the same charge area with a cost that exceeded that of the DCP Project.

These minor changes effectively mean that Council has completed the projects and the expenditure it has committed to undertake. In addition, as Table 11 demonstrates, expenditure by Council on projects is far more than required to acquit the DCP. On this basis Council has finalised the Merri-bek DCP.

Table 11: Eligible acquittal amounts based on completed and in progress projects

Eligible acquittal amounts on completed projects					
Charge Area	Number	Roads	Drainage	Community Facility	Total
Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	$682,205	$126,382	$2,998,774	$3,807,361
Brunswick	Area 002	$1,371,859	$338,040	$4,384,065	$6,093,964
Brunswick West	Area 003	$352,847	$17,027	$351,789	$721,662
Coburg	Area 004	$3,966,225	$159,444	$2,747,094	$6,872,763
Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	$750,760	$0	$139,984	$890,744
Coburg North	Area 006	$877,694	$114,551	$840,397	$1,832,642
Pascoe Vale	Area 007	$1,782,799	$715,607	$2,638,011	$5,136,417
Oak Park	Area 008	$238,855	$131,368	$346,551	$716,774
Fawkner	Area 009	$722,685	$0	$1,576,008	$2,298,693
Hadfield	Area 010	$789,957	$188,434	$1,111,012	$2,089,404
Glenroy	Area 011	$1,287,958	$0	$6,061,170	$7,349,128
Gowanbrae/Tullamarine	Area 012	$86,534	$0	$358,632	$445,166
Total		**$12,910,378**	**$1,790,852**	**$23,553,488**	**$38,254,718**

APPENDIX 1: 2022 DCP PROJECT LIST

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0059	DI	Roads	Edward Street. Clarke to John	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$33,557
RD0713	DI	Roads	John Street. Miller to Miller	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$22,032
RD0459	DI	Roads	Lygon Street. Barkly to Weston (Right Carriageway)	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$21,263
RD1190	DI	Roads	Lygon Street. Barkly to Weston (Left Carriageway)	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$41,360
RD0463	DI	Roads	Lygon Street. Brunswick to Barkly (Left Carriageway)	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$30,529
RD0897	DI	Roads	Lygon Street. Blyth to Stewart (Right Carriageway)	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$29,409
RD0442	DI	Roads	Lygon Street. Brunswick to Barkly (Right Carriageway)	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$80,133
RD0699	DI	Roads	Lygon Street. Stewart to Albion (Right Carriageway)	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$38,398
RD0899	DI	Roads	Lygon Street. Victoria to Blyth (Left Carriageway)	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$21,263

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0918	DI	Roads	Lygon Street. Albert to Victoria (Left Carriageway)	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$26,611
RD0859	DI	Roads	Lygon Street. Albert to Victoria (Right Carriageway)	Road Reconstruction	Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$21,263
RD0912	DI	Roads	Lygon Street. Albert to Victoria (Right Carriageway)	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$26,611
RD0666	DI	Roads	Lygon Street. Barkly to Weston (Right Carriageway)	Road Reconstruction	Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$17,346
RD0900	DI	Roads	Lygon Street. Glenlyon to Pitt (Left Carriageway)	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$26,281
RD0803	DI	Roads	Lygon Street. Glenlyon to Pitt (Right Carriageway)	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$17,346
RD0906	DI	Roads	Lygon Street. Pitt to Albert (Left Carriageway) (Part A)	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$17,493
RD0913	DI	Roads	Lygon Street. Pitt to Albert (Right Carriageway)	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$21,915
RD1242	DI	Roads	Right of Way Methven Lane. Methven to rear 2 Jarvie	Laneway Reconstruction	Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$228,146

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD3017N	DI	Roads	Road Resurfacing Capital Works Program for Pascoe Vale	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$580,000
RD0827	DI	Roads	Albert Street. Sydney to Frith	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick	Area 002	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$33,717
RD0042	DI	Roads	Collier Crescent. Fallon to Barry	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick	Area 002	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$15,321
RD0493	DI	Roads	Drainage to Rear 23 to 35 Donald Street Rear Of Donald Street	Laneway Reconstruction	Brunswick	Area 002	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$230,236
RD0356	DI	Roads	Frederick Street. Albion to Mackenzie	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick	Area 002	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$26,074
RD0192	DI	Roads	Grant Street. Donald to Davies	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick	Area 002	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$14,042
RD0052	DI	Roads	Henkel Street. Alexander to Wendel	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick	Area 002	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$16,879
RD0050	DI	Roads	Horne Street. Edward to Glenlyon	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick	Area 002	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$37,404
RD0291	DI	Roads	Ingram Street. Ewing to Dead End	Road Reconstruction	Brunswick	Area 002	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$73,235

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0906	DI	Roads	Lygon Street. Pitt to Albert (Left Carriageway) (Part A)	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 002	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$12,157
RD1244	DI	Roads	Right of Way 21 Grant Lane. Grant to Rear 23 Grant	Laneway Reconstruction	Brunswick	Area 002	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$40,049
RD1236	DI	Roads	Right of Way 24 Ford Lane. 62 Hope to rear 25 Osborne	Laneway Reconstruction	Brunswick	Area 002	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$233,491
RD1235	DI	Roads	Right of Way 26 Austral Lane. Rear 26 Austral to rear 2 Austral	Laneway Reconstruction	Brunswick	Area 002	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$287,464
RD1234	DI	Roads	Right of Way rear 44 Cliff Lane. Wendel to rear 28 Cliff	Laneway Reconstruction	Brunswick	Area 002	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$230,362
RD0807	DI	Roads	Sheffield Street. Pearson to Dead End (Part A)	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick	Area 002	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$12,273
RD1208	DI	Roads	Anselm Grove. A'Beckett to Pascoe Vale	Road Reconstruction	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$26,074
RD0942	DI	Roads	French Street. Dawson to Williams	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$19,168
RD0937	DI	Roads	Ila Street. West to Farview (Part A)	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 010	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$4,723

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD3016N	DI	Roads	Road Resurfacing Capital Works Program for Pascoe Vale South	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$300,000
RD3015N	DI	Roads	Road Resurfacing Capital Works Program for Coburg	Road Resurfacing	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$300,000
RD3014N	DI	Roads	Road Resurfacing Capital Works Program for Brunswick	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick	Area 002	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$200,000
RD3013N	DI	Roads	Footpath Renewal Capital Works Program for Gowanbrae and Tullamarine	Footpath Renewal	Gowanbrae/Tullamarine	Area 012	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$62,000
RD3012N	DI	Roads	Footpath Renewal Capital Works Program for Fawkner	Footpath Renewal	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$300,000

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD3011N	DI	Roads	Footpath Renewal Capital Works Program for Oak Park	Footpath Renewal	Oak Park	Area 008	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$100,000
RD3010N	DI	Roads	Footpath Renewal Capital Works Program for Pascoe Vale	Footpath Renewal	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$790,000
RD3009N	DI	Roads	Footpath Renewal Capital Works Program for Pascoe Vale South	Footpath Renewal	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$500,000
RD0841	DI	Roads	Albion Street. Moonee to Change of Seal	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick West	Area 003	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$34,068
RD0467	DI	Roads	Collings Street. Dead End to Temple	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick West	Area 003	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$33,354
RD0032	DI	Roads	Coral Street. Perrett to Dead End	Road Reconstruction	Brunswick West	Area 003	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$52,148
RD0484	DI	Roads	Cumming Street. Bent to Melville	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick West	Area 003	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$46,624

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0364	DI	Roads	Egginton Street. Hope to Block 2	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick West	Area 003	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$27,324
RD0061	DI	Roads	Hope Street. Henderson to Dead End	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick West	Area 003	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$15,897
RD0323	DI	Roads	Howson Street. Collier to Dawson	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick West	Area 003	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$19,980
RD0321	DI	Roads	Owen Street. Dead End to Collings	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick West	Area 003	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$17,922
RD0301	DI	Roads	Perrett Street. Merri-bek to Dead End	Road Reconstruction	Brunswick West	Area 003	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$456,292
RD1233	DI	Roads	Right of Way 55 Newman Lane. 55 Newman to Straw	Laneway Reconstruction	Brunswick West	Area 003	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$556,154
RD0807	DI	Roads	Sheffield Street. Pearson to Dead End (Part A)	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick	Area 003	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$4,313
RD0327	DI	Roads	Temple Street. Hunter to Smith	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick West	Area 003	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$28,896
RD0937	DI	Roads	Ila Street. West to Farview (Part A)	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$20,139
RD0935	DI	Roads	Davies Street. Surrey to Gloucester	Road Resurfacing	Hadfield	Area 010	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$26,143

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0026	DI	Roads	Armstrong Street Batman to Ross Coburg	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$228,146
RD0458	DI	Roads	The Avenue. Nicholson to Dead End	Road Resurfacing	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$70,399
RD0036	DI	Roads	Batman Avenue. Gaffney to Ryan	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$78,221
RD1195	DI	Roads	Beckley Street. Crozier to Grant	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$391,107
RD0288	DI	Roads	Belgrave Street. Harding to Bell	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$586,661
RD0615	DI	Roads	Blair Street. De Carle to BarRight of Way	Road Resurfacing	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$221,228
RD0606	DI	Roads	Bruce Street. Munro to Reynard	Road Resurfacing	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$52,148
RD0085	DI	Roads	Butler Grove. The Grove to Rennie	Road Resurfacing	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$36,206
RD0329	DI	Roads	Clifton Grove. Murray to Bell	Road Resurfacing	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$30,540
RD0332	DI	Roads	Clifton Grove. O'Hea to Murray	Road Resurfacing	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$27,303

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0025	DI	Roads	Coburg Street. Change of Width to Walsh	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$195,554
RD0024	DI	Roads	Coburg Street. Hardwick to Change of Width	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$52,148
RD0018	DI	Roads	Coburg Street. Rennie to Hardwick	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$228,146
RD1192	DI	Roads	Cole Crescent. Grant to Crozier	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$456,292
RD0430	DI	Roads	Cole Crescent Harding to Grant Coburg	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$260,738
RD0482	DI	Roads	Craigrossie Avenue. Glencairn to Wattle	Road Resurfacing	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$338,959
RD0181	DI	Roads	Crozier Street. Cole to Nicholson	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$183,168
RD1196	DI	Roads	Dare Street. Edward to Rennie	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$286,812
RD0170	DI	Roads	Davis Street. Munro to Bell	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$521,476
RD0167	DI	Roads	Devon Avenue. Merri-bek to Lever	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$667,543

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD1193	DI	Roads	Edward Street. Chambers to Sydney	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$521,476
RD0173	DI	Roads	Franklin Street. Hardwick to Rennie	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$195,554
RD0183	DI	Roads	Glenora Avenue. Carlisle to Rennie	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$395,206
RD0306	DI	Roads	Glenora Avenue. Harding to Carlisle	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$271,168
RD0837	DI	Roads	Gordon Street. Munro to Bell	Road Resurfacing	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$65,185
RD0015	DI	Roads	Kelson Street. Munro to Victoria	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$258,131
RD0220	DI	Roads	Lygon Street. Merri-bek to Blair	Road Resurfacing	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$77,995
RD0021	DI	Roads	Merribell Avenue. Nicholson to Edna	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$430,218
RD0470	DI	Roads	Murray Street. Lonsdale to Montefiore	Road Resurfacing	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$65,185
RD0469	DI	Roads	Murray Street. Montefiore to Sussex (Part A)	Road Resurfacing	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$44,847

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0318	DI	Roads	Norman Street. Sydney to Cameron	Road Resurfacing	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$21,965
RD0650	DI	Roads	Queen Street. Merri-bek to Lever	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$302,000
RD0289	DI	Roads	Rogers Street. Ross to Dead End	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$260,086
RD0570	DI	Roads	Rolls Street. Rennie to Hardwick	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$391,107
RD0668	DI	Roads	Rose Street. Brearley to Bell	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$37,765
RD0597	DI	Roads	Rose Street. Princes to Brearley	Road Resurfacing	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$39,111
RD0029	DI	Roads	Ross Street. Gaffney to Rogers	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$260,738
RD1245	DI	Roads	Right of Way 2/4 Rennie Lane. Rennie to The Grove	Laneway Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$228,446
RD1227	DI	Roads	Right of Way 260/262 Reynard Lane. Reynard to Munro	Laneway Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$591,549
RD1197	DI	Roads	Right of Way 82 Moore Lane. East to Nicholson	Laneway Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$91,258

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0027	DI	Roads	Ryan Street. Ross to Batman	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$169,480
RD0051	DI	Roads	Soudan Street. Sussex to Cramer (Part A)	Road Resurfacing	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$24,399
RD0043	DI	Roads	Sutherland Street. Murray to O'Hea	Road Resurfacing	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$37,759
RD0001	DI	Roads	The Coburg Initiative	Streetscape Upgrades	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$5,214,760
RD0175	DI	Roads	The Avenue. De Carle to BarRight of Way	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$782,214
RD0182	DI	Roads	The Avenue. Dead End to De Carle	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$156,443
RD0035	DI	Roads	The Grove. De Carle to BarRight of Way	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$977,768
RD0166	DI	Roads	The Grove. Nicholson to Dead End	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$391,107
RD0168	DI	Roads	The Grove. Sydney to De Carle	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$305,333
RD0077	DI	Roads	Walsh Street. Chambers to Sydney	Road Resurfacing	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$81,543

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0215	DI	Roads	Walsh Street. Patterson to BarRight of Way	Road Resurfacing	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$13,037
RD0294	DI	Roads	Waterfield Street. Bell to Victoria	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$651,845
RD0920	DI	Roads	Murray Street. McDougall to William	Road Resurfacing	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$33,388
RD0917	DI	Roads	Dickinson Street. Walter to Middle	Road Resurfacing	Hadfield	Area 010	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$28,540
RD0915	DI	Roads	Glengyle Street. Nicholson to Kirkby	Road Resurfacing	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$17,236
RD0898	DI	Roads	Moonee Boulevard. Cross to Valley	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$46,641
RD3008N	DI	Roads	Footpath Renewal Capital Works Program for Coburg	Footpath Renewal	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$350,000
RD3007N	DI	Roads	Footpath Renewal Capital Works Program for Brunswick West	Footpath Renewal	Brunswick West	Area 003	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$110,000

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD3006N	DI	Roads	Footpath Renewal Capital Works Program for Brunswick	Footpath Renewal	Brunswick	Area 002	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$900,000
RD3005N	DI	Roads	Footpath Renewal Capital Works Program for Brunswick East and North Fitzroy	Footpath Renewal	Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$400,000
RD3002N	DI	Roads	O'hea Street. Bishop to Sussex	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$632,000
RD3001N	DI	Roads	Baxter Street. Sydney to Railway	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$380,000
RD3000N	DI	Roads	Beccles Street. Anderson to Lowson	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$777,150

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD2052N	DI	Roads	Orvieto Street. Mashoobra to Marama	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$32,980
RD2051N	DI	Roads	Mehegan Avenue. Peterson to Claremont	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$26,040
RD2049N	DI	Roads	Mathieson Street. Manly to Dead End	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$43,470
RD2048N	DI	Roads	Gould Street. Spry to Keady	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$29,900
RD2047N	DI	Roads	Carr Street. Sydney to Convent	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$28,275

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD2046N	DI	Roads	Nola Street. Newlands to Dead End	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$20,313
RD2045N	DI	Roads	Charles Street. Dawson roundabout to Williams	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$37,800
RD2044N	DI	Roads	Charles Street. Mercier to Dawson roundabout	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$40,293
RD2043N	DI	Roads	Mantell Street. Williams to McDonald	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$24,650
RD2041N	DI	Roads	Boyne Street. Elizabeth to east end of Ballard	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$46,905

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD2040N	DI	Roads	Boyne Street. East end of Ballard to west end of Ronald	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$44,398
RD2039N	DI	Roads	Dawson Street. Bakers to French	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$52,260
RD2038N	DI	Roads	Hossack Avenue. Gaffney to Charles	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$50,370
RD2037N	DI	Roads	Catherine Street. Bakers Road to Change Of Width	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$28,275
RD2033N	DI	Roads	Claremont Street. Jackson to Elizabeth	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$35,670

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD2032N	DI	Roads	Marama Street. Orvieto to Boundary	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$35,880
RD2029N	DI	Roads	Jackson Parade. Boyne to Boyd	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$41,180
RD2027N	DI	Roads	Borang Street. Mathieson to Dead End	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$17,160
RD2015N	DI	Roads	Sussex Street. Boundary to South	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$84,150
RD2014N	DI	Roads	Strachan Street. Pascoe Vale to Station	Road Resurfacing	Oak Park	Area 008	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$21,735

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD2013N	DI	Roads	Station Road. Kiama to Cartwright	Road Resurfacing	Oak Park	Area 008	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$60,775
RD2012N	DI	Roads	Lex Grove. Grevillia to Nerissa	Road Resurfacing	Oak Park	Area 008	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$49,120
RD2010N	DI	Roads	Victoria Street. Pascoe Vale to Sim	Road Resurfacing	Oak Park	Area 008	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$22,263
RD2009N	DI	Roads	Murphy Street. Marie to Xavier	Road Resurfacing	Oak Park	Area 008	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$18,688
RD1383N	DI	Roads	Paisley Court. Bluebell to Dead End	Road Reconstruction	Gowanbrae/Tullamarine	Area 012	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$180,500

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0157	DI	Roads	Derby Street to Turner Street	Alteration to roundabout and for pedestrian movements	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$22,684
RD0212	DI	Roads	Coonans Road. Lothair to Woodlands	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$117,036
RD0221	DI	Roads	Coonans Road. Parkstone to Reynard	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$100,902
RD0209	DI	Roads	Coonans Road. Woodlands to Parkstone	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$90,400
RD0431	DI	Roads	Daphne Street. Waratah to O'Hea (Part A)	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$54,755
RD0434	DI	Roads	Dickens Street. Woodlands to Parkstone	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$195,554
RD0033	DI	Roads	Disraeli Grove. Louisville to Walhalla	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$456,292
RD0207	DI	Roads	Hackett Street. Bell to Greenbank	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$23,744
RD0229	DI	Roads	Hackett Street. Greenbank to Thistle	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$16,948
RD1201	DI	Roads	Kathleen Street. Woodlands to Ellenvale	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$391,107

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0788	DI	Roads	Langtree Avenue. Lothair to Woodlands	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$174,694
RD0793	DI	Roads	Marsden Avenue. Dead End to Wadham	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$231,568
RD0219	DI	Roads	McKeon Avenue. Dead End to Hillview	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$13,037
RD0464	DI	Roads	Mitchell Parade. Hackett to Thistle	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$26,074
RD0476	DI	Roads	Mitchell Parade. Le Cateau to Vaux	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$39,111
RD0483	DI	Roads	Mitchell Parade. Reynard to Le Cateau	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$39,111
RD0791	DI	Roads	Mitchell Parade. Thistle to Bell	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$319,115
RD0433	DI	Roads	Mitchell Parade. Vaux to Hackett	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$76,266
RD0227	DI	Roads	Moascar Street. Mitchell to Gallipoli	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$26,074
RD0469	DI	Roads	Murray Street. Montefiore to Sussex (Part A)	Road Resurfacing	Coburg	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$7,301

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0218	DI	Roads	Northgate Street. Bolingbroke to O'Hea	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$22,609
RD0706	DI	Roads	Northgate Street. O'Hea to Cleve	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$15,524
RD0180	DI	Roads	O'Hea Street. Northgate to Burgundy (Part A)	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$122,547
RD0030	DI	Roads	Prendergast Street. Walhalla to Louisville	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$521,476
RD0846	DI	Roads	Reynard Street. Winifred to Lemnos	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$30,974
RD0293	DI	Roads	Somali Street. Gallipoli to Reynolds	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$260,738
RD0051	DI	Roads	Soudan Street. Sussex to Cramer (Part A)	Road Resurfacing	Coburg	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$3,972
RD0020	DI	Roads	Springhall Parade. Brearley to Bell	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$391,107
RD0023	DI	Roads	Springhall Parade. Princes to Brearley	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$391,107
RD1213	DI	Roads	The Boulevard. Henley to Dead End	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$17,250

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0474	DI	Roads	Thistle Street. Hackett to Mitchell	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$13,037
RD0436	DI	Roads	Vaux Street. Reynolds to Gallipoli	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$195,554
RD0576	DI	Roads	Wadham Street. Winona to Dead End	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$195,554
RD0670	DI	Roads	Waverley Parade. Brearley to Bell	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$356,820
RD0081	DI	Roads	Wentworth Avenue. Brentwood to Dead End North	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$41,066
RD0468	DI	Roads	Westgate Street. Anderson to Cumberland	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$39,111
RD0790	DI	Roads	Winona Grove. Wadham to Dead End	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$383,741
RD0481	DI	Roads	Greenbank Crescent. Divided Road to Bell	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$20,859
RD0860	DI	Roads	Jukes Road. William to Minona	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$52,376
RD0594	DI	Roads	Boyd Crescent. Claremont to Jackson	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$32,592

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0610	DI	Roads	Carr Street. Convent to De Chene	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$45,629
RD0663	DI	Roads	Carr Street. De Chene to De Chene	Road Reconstruction	Coburg North	Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$130,369
RD0679	DI	Roads	Galeka Street. Boundary to Orvieto	Road Reconstruction	Coburg North	Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$182,647
RD0214	DI	Roads	Glyndon Avenue. Delta to Shorts	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$21,524
RD0198	DI	Roads	Goleen Street. Sydney to Dead End	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$36,503
RD0789	DI	Roads	Lorensen Avenue. Orvieto to Dead End	Road Reconstruction	Coburg North	Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$83,273
RD0296	DI	Roads	Morris Street. McMahons to De Chene	Road Reconstruction	Coburg North	Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$260,738
RD0794	DI	Roads	Norris Street. Dead End to Shorts	Road Reconstruction	Coburg North	Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$176,448
RD0563	DI	Roads	Plaisted Street. Sydney to Bain	Road Reconstruction	Coburg North	Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$123,851
RD0593	DI	Roads	Ronald Street. Boyne to Boyne	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$65,185

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0325	DI	Roads	Smith Street. Fame to Bakers	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$16,061
RD0774	DI	Roads	Spry Street. Sydney to Gould	Road Reconstruction	Coburg North	Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$260,738
RD0772	DI	Roads	Trade Place. Newlands to Dead End	Road Reconstruction	Coburg North	Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$84,860
RD0600	DI	Roads	Ulm Street. Pallett to Guilfoyle	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$27,846
RD1203	DI	Roads	Whitton Parade. Outlook to Boyne	Road Reconstruction	Coburg North	Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$286,812
RD1202	DI	Roads	Whitton Parade. Peterson to Outlook	Road Reconstruction	Coburg North	Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$338,959
RD0842	DI	Roads	Middle Street. David to Davies	Road Resurfacing	Hadfield	Area 010	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$69,438
RD0834	DI	Roads	Melbourne Avenue. Salisbury to Granville	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$43,606
RD0034	DI	Roads	Wentworth Avenue. Brentwood to Dead End	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$391,107
RD0833	DI	Roads	Colorado Street. Watt to Quick (Part A)	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale	Area 008	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$5,071

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0828	DI	Roads	Glen Street. Hilton to Melbourne	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$48,150
RD0810	DI	Roads	Jukes Road. Minona to Tyson	Road Resurfacing	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$63,744
RD0798	DI	Roads	Seggan Circle. Gowanbrae to Dead End	Road Reconstruction	Gowanbrae/Tullamarine	Area 012	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$15,058
RD0783	DI	Roads	Albion Street. Hamilton to Pearson	Road Reconstruction	Brunswick West	Area 003	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$35,850
RD0758	DI	Roads	Peterson Avenue. Mehegan to Jackson	Road Reconstruction	Coburg North	Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$195,554
RD0710	DI	Roads	Lawrence Street. Middle to Walter	Road Resurfacing	Hadfield	Area 010	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$29,201
RD0157	DI	Roads	Derby Street to Turner Street	Alteration to roundabout and for pedestrian movements	Pascoe Vale South	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$16,426
RD0047	DI	Roads	O'Hea Street. Anderson to Davern (Part A)	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$36,310
RD0062	DI	Roads	Reynard Street. Reynolds to Lemnos	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$36,489
RD0431	DI	Roads	Daphne Street. Waratah to O'Hea (Part A)	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$205,983

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0073	DI	Roads	Hackett Street. Bell to Greenbank	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$39,111
RD0153	DI	Roads	Northgate Street. Bolingbroke to O'Hea	Traffic Control Devices (speed humps)	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$39,111
RD0165	DI	Roads	Mckeon Avenue. Dead End to Hillview	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$429,566
RD0195	DI	Roads	Arndt Road. Watt to Quick (Part A)	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$4,693
RD0287	DI	Roads	Dale Avenue. Bradley to O'Hea (Part A)	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$144,710
RD0310	DI	Roads	Princes Terrace. Waverley to Springhall	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$390,129
RD0335	DI	Roads	Callander Road. Snell to Watt (Part A)	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$23,028
RD0347	DI	Roads	Lochinvar Street. Woodlands to Dead End	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$24,625
RD0361	DI	Roads	Parkside Boulevard. Acacia to Peppercorn	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$17,999
RD0370	DI	Roads	Reynard Street Mitchell-Turnbull	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$39,268

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0371	DI	Roads	Henley Street The Boulevar-Brentwood	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$23,095
RD0461	DI	Roads	Vaux Street. Gallipoli to Mitchell	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$65,308
RD0477	DI	Roads	Vaux Street. Reynolds to Gallipoli	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$41,796
RD0479	DI	Roads	Hillview Avenue. Reynard to Purches	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$39,111
RD0559	DI	Roads	Thistle Street. Hackett to Mitchell	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$391,107
RD0578	DI	Roads	Greenbank Crescent. Divided Road to Bell	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$97,777
RD0601	DI	Roads	Mitchell Parade. Reynard to Le Cateau	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$63,521
RD0603	DI	Roads	Royal Parade. Bell to Brearley	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$24,286
RD0707	DI	Roads	Lewis Street. Plumpton to Waterloo	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$30,083
RD0705	DI	Roads	Kalang Road. Waterloo to Plumpton	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$29,083

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD1380N	DI	Roads	West Street Neighbourhood Centre	Streetscape Upgrade	Hadfield	Area 010	Neighbourhood Centres Strategy, 2022-26 Council Budget	$2,964,855
RD1379N	DI	Roads	Wroxham Court. Bungay to Dead End	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$15,362
RD0195	DI	Roads	Arndt Road. Watt to Quick (Part A)	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale	Area 008	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$18,773
RD1217	DI	Roads	Barak Court. Rhodes to Dead End	Road Resurfacing	Oak Park	Area 008	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$18,439
RD0335	DI	Roads	Callander Road. Snell to Watt (Part A)	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale	Area 008	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$6,495
RD0331	DI	Roads	Charlotte Street. Barina to Waterloo	Road Resurfacing	Oak Park	Area 008	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$20,371
RD0330	DI	Roads	Curie Avenue. Hermione to Grevillia	Road Resurfacing	Oak Park	Area 008	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$25,778
RD0427	DI	Roads	Gregory Street. Winifred to Dead End	Road Reconstruction	Oak Park	Area 008	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$252,916
RD0612	DI	Roads	Ridge Road. Pines to Willett	Road Resurfacing	Oak Park	Area 008	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$13,037

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0595	DI	Roads	Ridge Road. Willett to Victoria	Road Resurfacing	Oak Park	Area 008	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$25,930
RD0486	DI	Roads	School Court. Barak to Dead End	Road Resurfacing	Oak Park	Area 008	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$15,427
RD0046	DI	Roads	Snell Grove. Hermione to Nerissa	Road Resurfacing	Oak Park	Area 008	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$23,245
RD0928	DI	Roads	Victoria Street. George to William (Part A)	Road Resurfacing	Oak Park	Area 008	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$12,710
RD0090	DI	Roads	Waterloo Road. Jessie to Snell	Road Resurfacing	Oak Park	Area 008	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$31,043
RD0825	DI	Roads	Watt Avenue. Devon to Harra (Part A)	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale	Area 008	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$31,704
RD0832	DI	Roads	Watt Avenue. Harra to Malcolm	Road Resurfacing	Oak Park	Area 008	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$28,345
RD0715	DI	Roads	Alec Crescent. Anderson to Hogan	Road Resurfacing	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$38,929
RD0930	DI	Roads	Boston Street. Denys to Lowson	Road Resurfacing	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$19,236
RD0064	DI	Roads	Brockley Road. Lorne to Argyle	Road Resurfacing	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$22,812

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0078	DI	Roads	Denys Street. Boston to William	Road Resurfacing	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$39,150
RD0044	DI	Roads	Denys Street. Welch to Boston	Road Resurfacing	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$20,490
RD0911	DI	Roads	Leighton Crescent. Hedley to Anderson	Road Resurfacing	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$19,789
RD0711	DI	Roads	Lovely Street. Hume to Welch	Road Resurfacing	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$16,745
RD0351	DI	Roads	Major Road William to Dowling	Road Resurfacing	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$64,243
RD0344	DI	Roads	Marlborough Street. Albert to Princess	Road Resurfacing	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$37,902
RD0560	DI	Roads	Marlborough Street. Imaroo to Derby	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$274,764
RD0082	DI	Roads	Mcbryde Street. Claremont to Somerlayton	Road Resurfacing	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$15,656
RD0802	DI	Roads	McDougall Street. Jukes to Murray	Road Resurfacing	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$47,539
RD0369	DI	Roads	Mutton Road. Lynch to Yuroke	Road Resurfacing	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$40,749

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0724	DI	Roads	Patricia Drive. Lowson to Dead End	Road Resurfacing	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$14,643
RD0188	DI	Roads	Victory Street. James to Dead End	Road Resurfacing	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$18,338
RD0826	DI	Roads	Victory Street Mcbryde to James Fawkner	Road Resurfacing	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$21,134
RD0829	DI	Roads	Yuroke Street. Mutton to Wymlet	Road Resurfacing	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$20,693
RD0690	DI	Roads	O'Hea Street. Davern to Northgate (Part A)	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$22,032
RD0685	DI	Roads	Tyson Street. Jukes to Denys	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$259,630
RD0676	DI	Roads	Garden Street. Belfast to Glenlyon	Road Reconstruction	Brunswick	Area 002	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$149,273
RD0614	DI	Roads	Bruce Street. Major to Lynch	Road Resurfacing	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$48,471
RD0613	DI	Roads	Sharp Grove. Lorensen to Glyndon	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$14,762
RD0604	DI	Roads	Campbell Street. De Carle to Dead End	Road Resurfacing	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$26,074

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0592	DI	Roads	Daley Street. Cardinal to Glen	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$32,592
RD0572	DI	Roads	Bain Avenue. Plaisted to Boundary	Road Reconstruction	Coburg North	Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$198,161
RD0561	DI	Roads	Seacombe Street. Winn to Lock	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$156,443
RD1378N	DI	Roads	Winn Grove. Ledger to Lynch	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$27,588
RD1377N	DI	Roads	Wembley Road. Argyle to Lorne	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$32,462
RD1376N	DI	Roads	Vervale Avenue. Mcbryde to Tyrrell	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$44,987

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD1375N	DI	Roads	Tyrrell Crescent. Undera to Mcbryde	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$38,090
RD1374N	DI	Roads	Tucker Street. Lock to Major	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$35,506
RD1372N	DI	Roads	Rohan Court. Anderson to Dead End	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$7,268
RD1371N	DI	Roads	Princess Street. Queens to Argyle	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$31,193
RD1370N	DI	Roads	Murray Street. Hume to Mcdougall	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$42,144

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD1369N	DI	Roads	Miller Street. Major to Dead End	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$32,680
RD1368N	DI	Roads	Mcbryde Street. Tyrrell to Vervale	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$38,838
RD1367N	DI	Roads	Mcbryde Street. Lorne to Tyrrell	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$32,459
RD1366N	DI	Roads	Mcbryde Street. Argyle to Lorne	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$38,088
RD1365N	DI	Roads	Margaret Street. Mcdougall to Hume	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$55,176

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD1364N	DI	Roads	Maher Street. Mcdougall to Hume	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$45,458
RD1363N	DI	Roads	Lynch Road. Mutton to Tyrrell	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$61,940
RD1360N	DI	Roads	Leonard Street. Mcbryde to Dead End	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$8,127
RD1359N	DI	Roads	Leo Street. Dead End to Hume	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$42,793
RD1351N	DI	Roads	Hedley Street. Leighton to Eva	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$28,685

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD1342N	DI	Roads	Brian Street. Alec to Birchwood	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$41,681
RD1341N	DI	Roads	Basil Street. Bonwick to McDougall	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$16,459
RD1340N	DI	Roads	Baan Close. Imaroo to Dead End	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$8,075
RD1336N	DI	Roads	Albert Street. Argyle to Queens	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$31,184
RD1335N	DI	Roads	Grandview Avenue. Brearley to Princes	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$586,500

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD1334N	DI	Roads	Ellenvale Avenue. Winifred to Hillview	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$543,750
RD1333N	DI	Roads	Ellenvale Avenue. Hillview to Dead End	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$273,000
RD1332N	DI	Roads	O'Hea Street. Lonsdale to Montefiore	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$1,085,577
RD1331N	DI	Roads	Alva Grove. Urquhart to Bell	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$221,949
RD1329N	DI	Roads	Montifore Street. Murray to O'Hea	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$437,787

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD1328N	DI	Roads	O'Hea Street. Clifton to Lonsdale	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$952,321
RD1327N	DI	Roads	Urquhart Street. Alva to Keith	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$234,061
RD1326N	DI	Roads	O'Hea Street. Montefiore to Bishop	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$609,177
RD1324N	DI	Roads	Fowler Street. Walsh to Dead End	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$228,387
RD0720	DI	Roads	Domain Street. Middle to Stratford	Road Resurfacing	Hadfield	Area 010	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$37,455
RD0211	DI	Roads	Sutherland Street. Edgar to Samson	Road Resurfacing	Hadfield	Area 010	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$25,930

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0353	DI	Roads	Sutherland Street. Katoomba to Middle	Road Resurfacing	Hadfield	Area 010	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$21,575
RD0919	DI	Roads	Walter Street. Jensen to West	Road Resurfacing	Hadfield	Area 010	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$29,392
RD0756	DI	Roads	Greenwood Street. Bell to O'Hea	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$180,235
RD0472	DI	Roads	McPherson Street. Reynard to Berry	Road Resurfacing	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$19,555
RD0465	DI	Roads	Moonee Parade. Union to Jewell	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick West	Area 003	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$39,013
RD0454	DI	Roads	Hudson Street. Tyson to Minona	Road Resurfacing	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$30,744
RD0453	DI	Roads	Phoenix Street. Dead End to Sydney	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick	Area 002	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$26,926
RD0452	DI	Roads	Holroyd Street. Gaffney to O'Hea	Road Resurfacing	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$45,556
RD0432	DI	Roads	Keane Street. Carr to McMahons	Road Reconstruction	Coburg North	Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$325,923
RD0426	DI	Roads	Yungera Street. Wyuna to Mutton	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$235,968

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD1323N	DI	Roads	Mayfield Street. Victoria to Bell	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$46,000
RD1322N	DI	Roads	Mayfield Street. Munro to Victoria	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$49,000
RD1320N	DI	Roads	Strathearn Avenue. Craigrossie to Merri-bek	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$81,600
RD0858	DI	Roads	Andrew Street. May to Ward	Road Reconstruction	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$516,522
RD0616	DI	Roads	Apsley Street. Cardinal to Murray	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$26,032
RD0055	DI	Roads	Becket Street. Augustine to Gervase	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$16,219
RD0657	DI	Roads	Becket Street. Gervase to Muntz	Road Reconstruction	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$36,267

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0068	DI	Roads	Belair Avenue. Chapman to Augustine	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$127,891
RD0879	DI	Roads	Blenheim Street Glenroy to Murrell	Road Reconstruction	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$325,923
RD0200	DI	Roads	Chapman Avenue. Belair to Clovelly	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$63,443
RD0067	DI	Roads	Gladstone Parade. Chapman to Pascoe Vale	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$48,827
RD0552	DI	Roads	Glen Street. Bindi to View	Road Reconstruction	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$104,295
RD0224	DI	Roads	Hartington Street. Corrigan to Melbourne	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$43,606
RD0352	DI	Roads	Hartington Street. Melbourne to Marlborough	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$43,655
RD1194	DI	Roads	Isla Avenue. Hilda to Hilton	Road Reconstruction	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$417,181
RD0704	DI	Roads	Karin Crescent. Dead End to Augustine	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$23,964
RD0017	DI	Roads	Loongana Avenue. Palana to Pengana	Road Reconstruction	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$134,966

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0016	DI	Roads	Loongana Avenue. William to Palana	Road Reconstruction	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$210,198
RD0201	DI	Roads	Lytton Street. Chapman to William	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$65,185
RD0781	DI	Roads	Lytton Street. Pascoe Vale to Chapman	Road Reconstruction	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$53,742
RD0845	DI	Roads	Maude Avenue. Melbourne to Glenroy	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$30,366
RD0805	DI	Roads	May Street. Hilton to Evell	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$29,994
RD0316	DI	Roads	Melbourne Avenue. Widford to Beatty	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$32,592
RD0362	DI	Roads	Milton Street. Mackinnon to Patrick	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$19,134
RD0086	DI	Roads	Palana Street. Menana to Pengana	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$24,878
RD0348	DI	Roads	Patrick Street. Plumpton to Waterloo	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$31,438
RD0360	DI	Roads	Pengana Avenue. William to Palana	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$26,405

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0225	DI	Roads	Reserve Crescent. Dead End to Augustine	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$16,338
RD0669	DI	Roads	Sadie Street. Morell to Bourchier	Road Reconstruction	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$28,801
RD0302	DI	Roads	Tudor Street. Waterloo to Plumpton	Road Reconstruction	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$325,923
RD0928	DI	Roads	Victoria Street. George to William (Part A)	Road Resurfacing	Oak Park	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$36,176
RD0342	DI	Roads	Widford Street. Daley Street Intersection	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$26,243
RD0373	DI	Roads	Canberra Street. Fifth to Fourth	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick	Area 002	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$18,417
RD0366	DI	Roads	Denys Street. William to Minona	Road Resurfacing	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$24,897
RD0358	DI	Roads	Ferriman Street. Dawson to Collier	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick West	Area 003	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$19,694
RD0354	DI	Roads	Glen Street. Delhi to Hilton	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$21,015
RD0343	DI	Roads	Chapman Avenue. George to Pascoe Vale	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$22,144

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0337	DI	Roads	Audrey Avenue. Lily to Bakers	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$39,111
RD0320	DI	Roads	Lanigan Street. Denys to Lowson	Road Resurfacing	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$20,812
RD0825	DI	Roads	Watt Avenue. Devon to Harra (Part A)	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$7,436
RD0233	DI	Roads	Glenfern Place. West to Dead End (Part A)	Road Resurfacing	Hadfield	Area 010	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$4,479
RD0233	DI	Roads	Glenfern Place. West to Dead End (Part A)	Road Resurfacing	Hadfield	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$12,113
RD0217	DI	Roads	De Carle Street The Avenue- The Grove	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$45,629
RD0208	DI	Roads	Electric Avenue. Plumpton to Waterloo	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$28,540
RD1319N	DI	Roads	Connolly Avenue. Goff to Meadow	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$27,400

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD1318N	DI	Roads	Barrow Street. Harding to Bell	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$129,300
RD1317N	DI	Roads	Fraser Street. O'Hea to Murray	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$41,100
RD1316N	DI	Roads	Meadow Street. Elizabeth to Connolly	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$53,900
RD1315N	DI	Roads	Alice Street. Victoria to Bell	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$45,200
RD1314N	DI	Roads	Grafton Street. Shaftesbury to Dead End	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$13,100

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD1313N	DI	Roads	Huntington Grove. Rennie to Carlisle	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$72,400
RD1312N	DI	Roads	Rogers Street. Sydney to Ross	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$16,900
RD1311N	DI	Roads	Mckay Street. Wilson to Bell	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$46,600
RD1309N	DI	Roads	Darlington Grove. The Grove to Rennie	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$26,600
RD1308N	DI	Roads	Portland Street. Reynard to Munro	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$71,900

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD1307N	DI	Roads	Connolly Avenue. Meadow to Goff	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$41,200
RD1306N	DI	Roads	Mavis Street. Willow to Dead End	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$9,500
RD1305N	DI	Roads	Liverpool Street. Reynard to Munro	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$71,400
RD1304N	DI	Roads	Barrow Street. Walsh to Sheffield	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$32,700
RD0341	DI	Roads	Bluebell Crescent. Clover to Elms	Road Resurfacing	Gowanbrae/Tullamarine	Area 012	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$119,522
RD0091	DI	Roads	Coventry Street. Malvern to Change Of Width	Road Resurfacing	Gowanbrae/Tullamarine	Area 012	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$39,111

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0037	DI	Roads	Coventry Street. Malvern to Change of Width	Road Resurfacing	Gowanbrae/Tullamarine	Area 012	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$35,270
RD0326	DI	Roads	Primula Boulevard. Dead End to South to Lanark	Road Resurfacing	Gowanbrae/Tullamarine	Area 012	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$28,731
RD0822	DI	Roads	Rose Court. Rutherglen to Dead End	Road Resurfacing	Gowanbrae/Tullamarine	Area 012	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$69,751
RD0203	DI	Roads	Middle Street. Lawrence to David	Road Resurfacing	Hadfield	Area 010	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$79,537
DR100N	DI	Drainage	White Street to Fitzroy North	Drainage Upgrades (location 37 in reference document)	Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	Drainage Improvement Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$380,000
DR101N	DI	Drainage	Charles Street and Dods Street	Drainage Renewal	Brunswick	Area 002	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$76,000
DR102N	DI	Drainage	Union Street. Millward to Brunswick	Drainage Renewal (location 24 in reference document)	Brunswick	Area 002	Drainage Improvement Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$1,282,500
DR103N	DI	Drainage	Patterson Street. Tinning to Albion	Drainage Renewal	Brunswick	Area 002	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$131,100
DR104N	DI	Drainage	Katawa Grove. Cooraminta to Dead End	Drainage Renewal	Brunswick	Area 002	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$128,250

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
DR105N	DI	Drainage	Peveril Street. Sydney to Cameron	Drainage Renewal	Brunswick	Area 002	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$136,800
DR106N	DI	Drainage	Carnarvon Street. Dorothy to Stewart	Drainage Renewal	Brunswick	Area 002	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$82,650
DR107N	DI	Drainage	Carnarvon Street. Blyth to Dorothy	Drainage Renewal	Brunswick	Area 002	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$125,400
DR108N	DI	Drainage	Newman Street. Pearson to Westboume	Drainage Renewal	Brunswick	Area 002	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$142,016
DR109N	DI	Drainage	Tinning Street. Walter to Patterson	Drainage Renewal	Brunswick	Area 002	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$219,126
DR110N	DI	Drainage	Tinning Street. Patterson to Garnet	Drainage Renewal	Brunswick	Area 002	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$90,844
DR111N	DI	Drainage	Shamrock Street	Drainage Renewal	Brunswick West	Area 003	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$114,000
DR128N	DI	Drainage	De Carle Street. Donald to Davies	Drainage Renewal	Brunswick	Area 002	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$213,273

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
DR131N	DI	Drainage	Fallon Street. Union to Collier (Left Carriageway)	Drainage Renewal (stage 2)	Brunswick	Area 002	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$114,000
DR132N	DI	Drainage	Fallon Street. Union to Collier (Right Carriageway)	Drainage Renewal (stage 3)	Brunswick	Area 002	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$58,995
DR130N	DI	Drainage	Fallon Street. Union to Collier	Drainage Renewal (stage 1)	Brunswick	Area 002	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$59,240
DR98	DI	Drainage	Merribell Avenue. Nicholson to Edna	Drainage Renewal	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$114,725
DR04	DI	Drainage	27 Devon Avenue to Merri-bek	Drainage Renewal	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$182,517
DR112N	DI	Drainage	Blair Street	Drainage Renewal	Coburg	Area 004	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$285,000
DR142N	DI	Drainage	Carlisie Street	Drainage Renewal	Coburg	Area 004	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$247,000
DR129N	DI	Drainage	Shore Grove. McMahons to Carr	Drainage Renewal	Coburg North	Area 006	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$209,655
DR134N	DI	Drainage	Keane Street. Carr to McMahons	Drainage Renewal	Coburg North	Area 006	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$128,681

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
DR137N	DI	Drainage	Peterson Avenue. Jackson to Outlook	Drainage Renewal	Coburg North	Area 006	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$163,048
DR140N	DI	Drainage	Peterson Avenue. Claremont to Mehegan	Drainage Renewal	Coburg North	Area 006	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$107,526
DR133N	DI	Drainage	Williams Road. Mantell to Gaffney	Drainage Renewal	Coburg North	Area 006	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$125,229
DR135N	DI	Drainage	Suvla Grove. Sydney to Dead End	Drainage Renewal	Coburg North	Area 006	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$188,499
DR138N	DI	Drainage	Mehegan Avenue. Murray to Peterson	Drainage Renewal	Coburg North	Area 006	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$125,771
DR15	DI	Drainage	Springhall Parade. Princes to Brearley	Drainage Renewal	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$52,148
DR99	DI	Drainage	Callander Road. Snell to Watt (Part A)	Drainage Renewal	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$45,890
DR23	DI	Drainage	Prendergast Street. Walhalla to Louisville	Drainage Renewal	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$91,258
DR01	DI	Drainage	Springhall Parade. Brearley to Bell	Drainage Renewal	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$260,738

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
DR113N	DI	Drainage	Moama Crescent and Jhonson Street	Drainage Upgrades (location 21 in reference document)	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Drainage Improvement Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$351,500
DR114N	DI	Drainage	Stennis Street. Lyking to Gaffney	Drainage Renewal	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$182,400
DR115N	DI	Drainage	Northumberland Road. Fawkner to Longview	Drainage Renewal	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$245,100
DR116N	DI	Drainage	Herbert Street. Pascoe Vale to Dead End	Drainage Renewal	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$42,750
DR117N	DI	Drainage	Bendigo Street. Alpine to Cumberland	Drainage Renewal	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$151,050
DR118N	DI	Drainage	Shedden Street. Derby to Sussex	Drainage Renewal	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$199,500
DR119N	DI	Drainage	Daley Street. Cumberland to Alpine	Drainage Renewal	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$156,750
DR120N	DI	Drainage	Northumberland Road. CRight of Wayley to Rhodes	Drainage Renewal	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$111,150

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
DR121N	DI	Drainage	Devon Street. View to Oak	Drainage Renewal	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$228,000
DR122N	DI	Drainage	Daphne Street. Waratah to O'Hea	Drainage Renewal	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$122,550
DR123N	DI	Drainage	Kent Road. Bawden to Derby	Drainage Renewal	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$160,794
DR124N	DI	Drainage	Northumberland Road. Arndt to CRight of Wayley	Drainage Renewal	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$333,504
DR136N	DI	Drainage	Hillview Avenue. Reynard to Purches	Drainage Renewal	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$17,558
DR127N	DI	Drainage	O'Hea Street. Anderson to Davern	Drainage Renewal	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$6,314
DR141N	DI	Drainage	South Street. Sussex to East Glenroy (Part B)	Drainage Renewal	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$115,106
DR139N	DI	Drainage	O'Hea Street. Davern to Northgate	Drainage Renewal	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$15,602

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
DR99	DI	Drainage	Callander Road. Snell to Watt (Part A)	Drainage Renewal	Pascoe Vale	Area 008	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$162,701
DR143N	DI	Drainage	Sim Crescent and Victoria Street	Drainage Upgrades (location 8 in reference document)	Oak Park	Area 008	Drainage Improvement Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$361,950
DR125N	DI	Drainage	718 Pascoe Vale Road (7 & 12 Clyde Court)	Drainage Renewal	Oak Park	Area 008	Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$250,800
DR97	DI	Drainage	Halsbury Street to Walter Street	Drainage Renewal	Hadfield	Area 010	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$65,185
DR126N	DI	Drainage	South Street. Everitt to West	Drainage Upgrades (location 12 in reference document)	Hadfield	Area 010	Drainage Improvement Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$1,039,300
CF087	CI	Community Facility	ATC Cook Reserve. 133 to 165 Daley Street	Pavilion Upgrade	Glenroy	Area 011 Area 012	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$321,959
CF091	CI	Community Facility	ATC Cook Reserve. 133 to 165 Daley Street	Tennis Facility Upgrade	Glenroy	Area 011 Area 012	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$284,726
CF085	CI	Community Facility	Bob Hawke Centre. 24 to 26 Hudson St	Meals on Wheels Facility Upgrade	Coburg	Area 001 Area 002 Area 003 Area 004 Area 005 Area 006 Area 007 Area 008 Area 009 Area 010 Area 011 Area 012	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$699,495

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
CF155N	CI	Community Facility	Bonwick Street, near 115 Jukes Road	Public Toilet Upgrade	Fawkner	Area 009	Public Toilet Strategy, 2022-26 Council Budget	$190,000
CF100	CI	Community Facility	Brearley Reserve. 1 to 25 Heliopolis Street	Community Facility Upgrade	Pascoe Vale South	Area 004 Area 005 Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$137,024
CF124N	CI	Community Facility	Brearley Reserve. 1 to 25 Heliopolis Street	Public Toilet Upgrade	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Public Toilet Strategy, 2022-26 Council Budget	$47,500
CF138N	CI	Community Facility	Brunswick Baths. 14 Dawson Street	Building Systems Upgrade	Brunswick	Area 002	Aquatic and Leisure Strategy, 2022-26 Council Budget	$114,000
CF139N	CI	Community Facility	Brunswick Baths. 14 Dawson Street	Building Renewal	Brunswick	Area 002	Aquatic and Leisure Strategy, 2022-26 Council Budget	$997,500
CF077	CI	Community Facility	Roberts Reserve. 50 to 2 Harrison Street	Brunswick Cycling Club Pavilion Upgrade	Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001 Area 002 Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$91,715
CF029	CI	Community Facility	Roberts Reserve. 50 to 72 Harrison Street	Pavilion Upgrade (Brunswick Cycling Club)	Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001 Area 002 Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$162,388
CF058	CI	Community Facility	Bush Reserve. 227a Bell Street	Bowls Facility Upgrade	Coburg	Area 004 Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$533,314
CF052	CI	Community Facility	Bush Reserve. 227a Bell Street	Tennis Courts Upgrade	Coburg	Area 004 Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$354,812
CF008	CI	Community Facility	Campbell Reserve. 11 to 49 Merri-bek Road	Public Toilet Upgrade (male toilet)	Coburg	Area 001 Area 002 Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$159,572

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
CF012	CI	Community Facility	CB Smith Reserve. 79 Jukes Road	Soccer Pavilion Grandstand Upgrade (stage 4 of 4)	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$1,290,653
CF140N	CI	Community Facility	CERES. 7 Lee Street	Community Facility Upgrade	Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	CERES Environmental Park Funding Agreement, 2022-26 Council Budget	$503,025
CF069	CI	Community Facility	Charles Mutton Reserve. 86 Lorne Street	Athletics Facility Upgrade	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$208,206
CF010	CI	Community Facility	Charles Mutton Reserve. 86 Lorne Street	Pavilion Upgrade	Fawkner	Area 006 Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$682,417
CF022	CI	Community Facility	Charles Mutton Reserve. 86 Lorne Street	Public Toilet Upgrade	Fawkner	Area 006 Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$56,319
CF108	CI	Community Facility	Charles Mutton Reserve. 86 Lorne Street	Tennis Facility Upgrade	Fawkner	Area 006 Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$119,640
CF141N	CI	Community Facility	Clifton Park. 377 Albert Street	Synthetic Soccer Upgrade	Brunswick	Area 002	Sport and Active Recreation Strategy, 2022-26 Council Budget	$617,500
CF105	CI	Community Facility	Clifton Park (Festival Site). 377 Albert Street	Public Toilet Upgrade	Brunswick	Area 001 Area 002 Area 003 Area 004 Area 005 Area 006 Area 007 Area 008 Area 009 Area 010 Area 011 Area 012	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$115,739

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
CF064	CI	Community Facility	Clifton Park. 377 Albert Street	Pavilion Upgrade	Brunswick	Area 002	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$225,043
CF123	DI	Community Facility	Coburg Children's Centre. 86 Bell Street	Childcare Facility Upgrade	Coburg	Area 004 Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$488,884
CF142N	CI	Community Facility	Coburg Pool. 50 Murray Road	Sand Filter Renewal	Coburg	Area 004 Area 005	Aquatic and Leisure Strategy, 2022-26 Council Budget	$380,000
CF143N	CI	Community Facility	Coburg Senior Citizens. 21 Harding Street	Community Facility Upgrade	Coburg	Area 004	2022-26 Council Budget	$190,000
CF039	CI	Community Facility	Cole Reserve. Cumberland Road	Community Facility Upgrade (north oval, football facility)	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$685,741
CF089	CI	Community Facility	Cole Reserve (South). 177b Cumberland Road	Soccer Facility Upgrade	Pascoe Vale	Area 005 Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$101,844
CF144N	DI	Community Facility	Derby Street Kindergarten Children's Centre. 122 Derby Street	Childcare Facility Upgrade	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Early Years Infrastructure Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$1,045,000
CF125N	CI	Community Facility	Pascoe Vale Pool. 7 Prospect Street	12x12m Diving Pool Upgrade	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Aquatic and Leisure Strategy, 2022-26 Council Budget	$23,750
CF145N	DI	Community Facility	Doris Blackburn Kindergarten. Shore Reserve. Reynard Street	Childcare Facility Upgrade	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Early Years Infrastructure Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$522,500

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
CF106	CI	Community Facility	Dunstan Reserve. 22 Peacock Street	Pavilion Upgrade	Brunswick West	Area 002 Area 003	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$877,175
CF115	DI	Community Facility	Dunstan Reserve Childcare. 49 to 55 Everett Street	Childcare Facility Upgrade	Brunswick West	Area 003 Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$2,078,212
CF126N	CI	Community Facility	Fawkner Leisure Centre. 79 to 83 Jukes Road	Outdoor Pool Rehabilitation	Fawkner	Area 009	Aquatic and Leisure Strategy, 2022-26 Council Budget	$380,000
CF127N	CI	Community Facility	Fawkner Leisure Centre. 79 to 83 Jukes Road	Facility Redevelopment	Fawkner	Area 009 Area 010 Area 011 Area 012	Aquatic and Leisure Strategy, 2022-26 Council Budget	$26,220,000
CF128N	CI	Community Facility	Fawkner Leisure Centre. 79 to 83 Jukes Road	Pool Blankets Rehabilitation	Fawkner	Area 009	Aquatic and Leisure Strategy, 2022-26 Council Budget	$47,500
CF050	CI	Community Facility	CB Smith Reserve. 79 Jukes Road	Fawkner Library Upgrade	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$602,305
CF129N	CI	Community Facility	Fawkner Reserve. Francis Street	Community Hall Upgrade	Fawkner	Area 009	2022-26 Council Budget	$142,500
CF146N	CI	Community Facility	Hosken Reserve. Pallett Street	Football Pitch Upgrade	Coburg North	Area 006 Area 007	Sport and Active Recreation Strategy, 2022-26 Council Budget	$2,764,500
CF063	CI	Community Facility	Gavin Park. Northumberland Cresent	Public Toilet Upgrade	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$15,058

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
CF147N	CI	Community Facility	Hadfield Sporting Club. Martin Reserve. Box Forest Road	Scoreboard Upgrade	Hadfield	Area 010	Sport and Active Recreation Strategy, 2022-26 Council Budget	$80,750
CF045	CI	Community Facility	Middle Street Reserve 90 Middle St, Hadfield	Hadfield Tennis Club Upgrade	Hadfield	Area 005 Area 007 Area 010	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$156,599
CF093	CI	Community Facility	Hallam Reserve. 144 Landells Road	Community Facility Upgrade	Pascoe Vale	Area 007 Area 010	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$262,824
CF075	CI	Community Facility	Hallam Reserve. 144 Landells Road, Pascoe Vale	Public Toilet Upgrade	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$166,872
CF148N	CI	Community Facility	Harold Stevens Athletics Track. Jacksons Reserve. Outlook Road	Fencing Upgrade	Coburg North	Area 006	Sport and Active Recreation Strategy, 2022-26 Council Budget	$142,500
CF130N	CI	Community Facility	Holbrook Reserve. Jewell Crescent	Upgrade for Female Friendly Change Rooms	Brunswick West	Area 003	Sport and Active Recreation Strategy, 2022-26 Council Budget	$1,187,500
CF066	CI	Community Facility	Hosken Reserve. 39a Shorts Road	Soccer - Footpath Facility Upgrade	Coburg North	Area 004 Area 005 Area 006 Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$274,329
CF067	CI	Community Facility	Hosken Reserve. 39a Shorts Road	Tennis Facility Upgrade	Coburg North	Area 004 Area 005 Area 006 Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$700,994
CF068	CI	Community Facility	Jackson Reserve. 1 Outlook Road	Football - Cricket Facility Upgrade	Coburg North	Area 004 Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$150,029

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
CF065	CI	Community Facility	James Martin Reserve. 80-82 Domain Street	Change Rooms Upgrade	Hadfield	Area 010	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$278,155
CF102	CI	Community Facility	James Martin Reserve. 80 to 82 Domain Street	Former Pigeon Club Facility Upgrade	Hadfield	Area 010 Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$98,559
CF107	CI	Community Facility	James Martin Reserve. 80-82 Domain St Hadfield	Social Pavilion Upgrade	Hadfield	Area 010 Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$369,049
CF149N	CI	Community Facility	Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve Upgrade-Ulm Reserve	Community Facility Upgrade	Glenroy	Area 011 Area 012	Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve Council Report (11 August 2021), 2022-26 Council Budget	$380,000
CF046	CI	Community Facility	Lake Reserve. Gaffney Street	Public Toilet Upgrade (north toilets)	Coburg	Area 004 Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$220,584
CF005	CI	Community Facility	Lake Reserve. Gaffney Street	South Public Toilets Upgrade	Coburg	Area 004 Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$211,198
CF150N	CI	Community Facility	Hosken Reserve. Pallett Street	Public Lighting Upgrade	Coburg North	Area 006	Aquatic and Leisure Strategy, 2022-26 Council Budget	$717,250
CF070	CI	Community Facility	Mailer Reserve. Merri-bek Road	Tennis Facility Upgrade	Coburg	Area 003 Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$299,960
CF042	CI	Community Facility	McBryde Street Reserve. Moomba Park. 276 McBryde Street	Social Rooms Upgrade	Fawkner	Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$256,185

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
CF002	CI	Community Facility	McDonald Reserve. 66 Bell Street	Public Toilet Upgrade	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$107,946
CF001	CI	Community Facility	Methven Park. 7 Methven Street	Public Toilet Upgrade	Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001 Area 002	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$56,319
CF026	CI	Community Facility	Morris Reserve. 11 Brentwood Avenue	Pavilion Upgrade	Pascoe Vale	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$536,912
CF031	CI	Community Facility	Morris Reserve. 11 Brentwood Avenue	Store (building) Upgrade	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$37,546
CF028	CI	Community Facility	Morris Reserve. 11 Brentwood Avenue	Public Toilet Upgrade	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$107,946
CF133N	CI	Community Facility	Narre Narre Stadium. 9 Hillcrest Road	Stadium Upgrade	Oak Park	Area 008	Sport and Active Recreation Strategy	$1,271,150
CF122	DI	Community Facility	North-West Brunswick Pre-School. 34 Rose Street	Pre-School Facility Upgrade	Brunswick	Area 002 Area 003 Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$304,301
CF006	CI	Community Facility	Oak Park Reserve. 563a Pascoe Vale Road	Pavilion Replacement	Pascoe Vale	Area 007 Area 008 Area 011 Area 012	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$1,308,175
CF015	CI	Community Facility	Oak Park Sports and Aquatic Centre. 563a Pascoe Vale Road	Aquatic Facility Redevelopment (stage 4 of 5)	Oak Park	Area 007 Area 008 Area 011 Area 012	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$1,955,535

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
CF020	CI	Community Facility	Oak Park Sports and Aquatic Centre. 563a Pascoe Vale Road	Aquatic Facility Redevelopment (stage 5 of 5)	Oak Park	Area 007 Area 008 Area 011 Area 012	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$1,694,797
CF121	DI	Community Facility	Park Street Child Care Centre. 785b Park Street	Childcare Facility Upgrade	Brunswick	Area 002 Area 003	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$228,671
CF134N	CI	Community Facility	Oak Park Sports and Aquatic Centre. 563a Pascoe Vale Road	Plant Room Renewal	Oak Park	Area 008	Aquatic and Leisure Strategy, 2022-26 Council Budget	$332,500
CF007	CI	Community Facility	Raeburn Reserve. 8 to 42 Landells Road	Public Toilet Upgrade	Pascoe Vale	Area 006 Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$215,891
CF135N	CI	Community Facility	Rayner Reserve. 46a Devon Road	Public Toilet Upgrade	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Public Toilet Strategy, 2022-26 Council Budget	$142,500
CF101	CI	Community Facility	Rayner Reserve. 46a Devon Road	Cricket - Soccer Facility Upgrade	Oak Park	Area 007 Area 008	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$296,498
CF061	CI	Community Facility	Reddish Reserve. 42 Domain Street	Soccer 2 Facility Upgrade	Glenroy	Area 010 Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$302,795
CF032	CI	Community Facility	Richards Reserve. 30 to 34 Charles Street	Community Facility Upgrade	Coburg	Area 006 Area 007 Area 009 Area 010	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$56,319
CF151N	CI	Community Facility	Richards Reserve. Charles Street	Natural Turf Renewal	Coburg North	Area 006	Sport and Active Recreation Strategy, 2022-26 Council Budget	$323,000

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
CF016	CI	Community Facility	Robinson Reserve. 104a Reynard Street	Public Toilet Upgrade	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$107,946
CF136N	CI	Community Facility	Saxon St Community Hub. Saxon Street	Community Facility Upgrade	Brunswick	Area 001 Area 002 Area 004	Saxon Street Development Concept Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$21,505,150
CF095	CI	Community Facility	Shore Reserve. Reynard Street	Football - Cricket Facility Upgrade	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$351,116
CF137N	CI	Community Facility	Snell Grove	Public Toilet Upgrade	Oak Park	Area 008	Public Toilet Strategy, 2022-26 Council Budget	$171,000
CF152N	CI	Community Facility	Allard Park. Donald Street	Sportsfield Lighting Upgrade	Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	Sport and Active Recreation Strategy, 2022-26 Council Budget	$380,000
CF153N	CI	Community Facility	JP Fawkner Reserve. Francis Street	Sportsfield Lighting Upgrade	Oak Park	Area 008	Sport and Active Recreation Strategy, 2022-26 Council Budget	$380,000
CF003	CI	Community Facility	Sussex Street Neighbourhood House. 237 Sussex Street	Community Facility Upgrade (Stage 2 of 3)	Coburg	Area 006 Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$1,955,535
CF013	CI	Community Facility	Sussex Street Neighbourhood House. 237 Sussex Street	Community Facility Upgrade (stage 3 of 3)	Coburg	Area 006 Area 007 Area 009 Area 010	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$1,955,535
CF019	CI	Community Facility	Temple Park. 24 Gray Street	Public Toilet Upgrade	Brunswick	Area 002	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$247,701

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
CF051	CI	Community Facility	Temple Park. 24 Gray Street	Senior Citizens Centre Upgrade	Brunswick	Area 002	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$254,611
CF154N	CI	Community Facility	Coburg Tennis Club. 227A Bell Street	Tennis Facility Upgrade	Coburg	Area 004 Area 005	Sport and Active Recreation Strategy, 2022-26 Council Budget	$304,000
CF047	CI	Community Facility	Lake Reserve. Gaffney Street	Public Toilets Upgrade (east of Harry Atkinson Art Centre)	Coburg	Area 004 Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$78,026
CF118	DI	Community Facility	Brunswick West Maternal & Child Heath Centre. 482 Victoria Street	Childcare Facility Upgrade	Brunswick West	Area 002 Area 003	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$222,931
CF079	CI	Community Facility	Wallace Reserve (North). 115 Justin Avenue	Community Facility Upgrade	Glenroy	Area 011 Area 012	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$344,956
CF096	CI	Community Facility	Wallace Reserve (South). 115 Justin Avenue	Community Facility Upgrade	Glenroy	Area 011 Area 012	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$344,614
DR12	DI	Drainage	Knole Street. South to Bond	Drainage Renewal	Hadfield	Area 010	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$13,037
RD0180	DI	Roads	O'Hea Street. Northgate to Burgundy (Part A)	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale South	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$138,191
RD0287	DI	Roads	Dale Avenue. Bradley to O'Hea (Part A)	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$50,844

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0190	DI	Roads	Jessie Street. Station to West End to Dead End	Road Resurfacing	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$40,845
RD0178	DI	Roads	O'Hea Street. Anderson to Davern (Part B)	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$295,541
CF097	CI	Community Facility	Wylie Reserve. 256-264 Union Street	Dog Club and Scout Hall Upgrades	Brunswick West	Area 003	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$76,725
RD0169	DI	Roads	De Carle Street The Grove-Rennie	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$260,738
RD0089	DI	Roads	Trevannion Street. Daley to View	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$14,179
RD1303N	DI	Roads	Chambers Street. Walsh to Edward Bend	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$16,500

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD1302N	DI	Roads	Urquhart Street. Armstead to Carpark	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$19,100
RD1301N	DI	Roads	Spring Street. Connolly to Connolly	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$40,100
RD1300N	DI	Roads	Grey Court. Meadow to Dead End	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$7,600
RD1299N	DI	Roads	Barrys Lane. O'Hea to Dead End	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$9,700
RD1298N	DI	Roads	Hawthorn Street. Merri-bek to Benny	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$63,000

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD1296N	DI	Roads	Preston Street. Munro to Reynard	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$73,000
RD1292N	DI	Roads	Upfield Shared Pathway at Batman Avenue	Pathway Upgrade	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$171,000
RD1291N	DI	Roads	Kendall to Harding bridge over Merri Creek	Footbridge Upgrade	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$404,700
RD1290N	DI	Roads	Mcpherson Street. Dead End to Reynard	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$237,500
RD1289N	DI	Roads	Marion Avenue. Whitby to Hope	Road Reconstruction	Brunswick West	Area 003	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$570,000

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD1288N	DI	Roads	Dalgety Street. Hope to Whitby	Road Reconstruction	Brunswick West	Area 003	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$627,000
RD1287N	DI	Roads	Brunswick Activity Centre. Wilson Avenue	Streetscape Upgrade	Brunswick	Area 002	Wilson Avenue Stage 2 Streetscape Improvement Drawings, 2022-26 Council Budget	$1,662,500
RD1286N	DI	Roads	Peveril Street. Sydney to Cameron	Road Reconstruction	Brunswick	Area 002	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$319,200
RD1285N	DI	Roads	Patterson Street. Tinning to Albion	Road Reconstruction	Brunswick	Area 002	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$305,900
RD1284N	DI	Roads	Newman Street. Pearson to Westboume	Road Reconstruction	Brunswick	Area 002	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$331,370

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD1283N	DI	Roads	Katawa Grove. Cooraminta to Dead End	Road Reconstruction	Brunswick	Area 002	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$299,250
RD1282N	DI	Roads	Carnarvon Street. Dorothy to Stewart	Road Reconstruction	Brunswick	Area 002	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$192,850
RD1281N	DI	Roads	Carnarvon Street. Blyth to Dorothy	Road Reconstruction	Brunswick	Area 002	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$292,600
RD1280N	DI	Roads	Brunswick Activity Centre. Stewart Street	Streetscape Upgrade	Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	Stewart Street Concept Plan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$1,425,000
RD1258N	DI	Roads	Chris Court. Devereaux to Dead End	Road Reconstruction	Oak Park	Area 008	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$218,500

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD1257N	DI	Roads	Waratah Street. Derby to Erica	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$346,810
RD1256N	DI	Roads	Waratah Street. Erica to Derby	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$355,217
RD1255N	DI	Roads	Stennis Street. Lyking to Gaffney	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$425,600
RD1254N	DI	Roads	Shedden Street. Derby to Sussex	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$465,500
RD1252N	DI	Roads	Northumberland Road. Crowley to Rhodes	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$259,350

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD1251N	DI	Roads	Northumberland Road. Arndt to Crowley	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$778,175
CF111	DI	Community Facility	Barry Beckett ChildCare Centre. 12 Connolly Avenue	Childcare Facility Upgrade	Coburg	Area 004 Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$777,912
CF112	DI	Community Facility	Anne Sgro ChildCare Centre. 45 May Street	Childcare Facility Upgrade	Coburg	Area 004 Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$1,580,072
CF113	DI	Community Facility	Hadfield MCHC. Volga Street	Childcare Facility Upgrade	Hadfield	Area 007 Area 010 Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$1,032,523
CF074	CI	Community Facility	Bridges Reserve City Oval. Bridges Reserve. Bell Street	Public Toilet Upgrade (south toilets, male and female)	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$135,519
CF049	CI	Community Facility	Middle Street Reserve. 90 Middle Street	Hadfield Community Hall Upgrade	Glenroy	Area 008 Area 009 Area 010 Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$459,942
CF043	CI	Community Facility	Parker Reserve. 2 Keady Street	Public Toilet Upgrade	Coburg North	Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$38,328
CF034	CI	Community Facility	Austin Crescent Reserve, opposite Gavin Park. 2 Austin Crescent	Community Facility Upgrade	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$131,412
CF054	CI	Community Facility	737 Pascoe Vale Road (relocated to 50 Wheatsheaf Road)	Glenroy Library New Facility	Glenroy	Area 008 Area 010 Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$1,133,428

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
CF080	CI	Community Facility	Parker Reserve (South). 2 Keady Street	Pavilion Upgrade	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$85,418
CF099	CI	Community Facility	Campbell Reserve. 11 to 49 Merri-bek Road	Soccer Facility Upgrade	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$261,729
DR3004N	DI	Drainage	Baxter Street. Sydney to Railway	Drainage Renewal	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$150,000
RD1250N	DI	Roads	Kent Road. Bawden to Derby	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$375,185
RD1248N	DI	Roads	Daley Street. Cumberland to Alpine	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$365,750
RD1247N	DI	Roads	Bendigo Street. Alpine to Cumberland	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$352,450

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD1245N	DI	Roads	Braemar Street. Melville to Reynard	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$311,000
RD1001NR	DI	Roads	Truscott Street. West to Farview	Road Reconstruction	Glenroy	Area 011	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$448,841
RD1000NR	DI	Roads	South Street. Sussex to East	Road Reconstruction	Hadfield	Area 010	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$482,144
RD0840NR	DI	Roads	South Street. Sussex to East Glenroy	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$268,580
RD0804NR	DI	Roads	Curtin Avenue. David to Sutherland	Road Reconstruction	Hadfield	Area 010	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$519,907

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0773NR	DI	Roads	Peterson Avenue. Claremont to Mehegan	Road Reconstruction	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$250,895
RD0088	DI	Roads	Glen Street. View to Delhi	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$34,981
RD0752NR	DI	Roads	Hatton Grove. Sydney to Dead End	Road Resurfacing	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$51,000
RD0690NR	DI	Roads	O'Hea Street. Davern to Northgate (Part B)	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$363,644
RD0688NR	DI	Roads	Lorne Street. Kiddle to Wilson	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$625,352

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0671NR	DI	Roads	Mehegan Avenue. Murray to Peterson	Road Reconstruction	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$293,465
RD0656NR	DI	Roads	Lonsdale Street. O'Hea to Murray	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$433,786
RD0651NR	DI	Roads	Lorne Street. Hume to Wembley	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$772,350
RD0609NR	DI	Roads	Maude Avenue. Hilda to Hilton	Road Reconstruction	Glenroy	Area 011	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$775,067
RD0580NR	DI	Roads	Trevannion Street. Corrigan to Hilton	Road Reconstruction	Glenroy	Area 011	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$489,298

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0579NR	DI	Roads	Peterson Avenue. Jackson to Outlook	Road Reconstruction	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$380,445
RD0574NR	DI	Roads	Daley Street. Trevannion to Hartington	Road Reconstruction	Glenroy	Area 011	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$671,650
RD0548NR	DI	Roads	Claremont Street. Whitton to Jackson	Road Reconstruction	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$300,228
RD0471NR	DI	Roads	Suvla Grove. Sydney to Dead End	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$439,831
RD0441NR	DI	Roads	Jersey Street. O'Hea to Gaffney	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$826,216

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0438NR	DI	Roads	Hillview Avenue. Reynard to Purches	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$341,413
RD0372NR	DI	Roads	Williams Road. Mantell to Gaffney	Road Reconstruction	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$292,201
RD0313NR	DI	Roads	Fallon Street. Union to Collier (Right Carriageway)	Road Reconstruction	Brunswick	Area 002	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$137,655
RD0312NR	DI	Roads	Trevannion Street. Melbourne to Corrigan	Road Reconstruction	Glenroy	Area 011	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$556,995
RD0299NR	DI	Roads	Fallon Street Union to Collier (Left Carriageway)	Road Reconstruction	Brunswick	Area 002	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$266,000

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0297NR	DI	Roads	Fallon Street. Union to Collier	Road Reconstruction	Brunswick	Area 002	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$138,227
RD0210NR	DI	Roads	Truscott Street. West to Farview	Road Reconstruction	Hadfield	Area 010	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$112,210
RD0184NR	DI	Roads	Flinders Street. O'Hea to Murray	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$475,000
RD0177NR	DI	Roads	Shore Grove. Mcmahons to Carr	Road Reconstruction	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$489,194
RD0174NR	DI	Roads	De Carle Street. Donald to Davies	Road Reconstruction	Brunswick	Area 002	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$497,638

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
CF027NR	CI	Community Facility	Fleming Park. 47 to 51 Albert Street	Other Community Buildings Upgrade	Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	Fleming Park MasterPlan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$3,011,710
CF094NR	CI	Community Facility	John Pascoe Fawkner Reserve. 1 Francis Street	Community Facility Upgrade	Oak Park	Area 007 Area 008 Area 011	Sport and Active Recreation Strategy, 2022-26 Council Budget	$1,573,115
CF103NR	CI	Community Facility	McBryde Street Reserve. Moomba Park. 276 McBryde Street	Pavilion Upgrade	Fawkner	Area 009	Sport and Active Recreation Strategy, 2022-26 Council Budget	$189,525
CF092NR	CI	Community Facility	Parker Reserve. 2 Keady Street	Basketball Facility Upgrade	Coburg North	Area 006	Sport and Active Recreation Strategy, 2022-26 Council Budget	$285,000
CF030NR	CI	Community Facility	Shore Reserve. Reynard Street	Public Toilet Upgrade	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Public Toilet Strategy, 2022-26 Council Budget	$71,250
RD0031NR	DI	Roads	South Street. Dickinson to Everitt	Road Reconstruction	Hadfield	Area 010	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$755,250
RD0022NR	DI	Roads	Moascar Street. Gallipoli to Reynolds	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$518,833

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
CF014	CI	Community Facility	Fleming Park. 47 to 51 Albert Street	Community Hall Upgrade	Brunswick	Area 001 Area 002	Fleming Park MasterPlan, 2022-26 Council Budget	$2,416,699
RD0069	DI	Roads	Grevillia Road. Snell to Albert	Road Resurfacing	Oak Park	Area 008	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$48,870
RD0833	DI	Roads	Colorado Street. Watt to Quick (Part A)	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$17,978
RD0424	DI	Roads	Budds Street, Bell to Change Of Seal	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$260,738
RD0667	DI	Roads	Muchell Grove, Rennie to Crozier	Road Reconstruction	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$287,464
RD0041	DI	Roads	Leinster Grove Jarvie-Dead End	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick East/North Fitzroy	Area 001	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$13,037
RD0045	DI	Roads	Hope Street Wallace-Melville	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick West	Area 003	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$33,564
RD0063	DI	Roads	View Street Trevannion-Maple	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$23,931
RD0084	DI	Roads	Row-2 Gladstone Lane Gladstone-1 Lytton	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$16,948
RD0193	DI	Roads	Victoria Street Boase-Sydney Right Carriageway	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick	Area 002	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$25,438

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0205	DI	Roads	Albion Street Sydney-Lillian	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick	Area 002	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$66,175
RD0317	DI	Roads	Hope Street Sutherland-Fraser-Both Carriagewayss	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick	Area 002	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$53,377
RD0334	DI	Roads	Calk Street Livingstone-Tilley	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$20,710
RD0359	DI	Roads	Henley Street The Boulevar-Brentwood	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$17,999
RD0910	DI	Roads	Reynard Street. Winifred to Lemnos	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$36,863
RD1188	DI	Roads	O'Hea Street. Sussex to Lansdown	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$24,405
RD0446	DI	Roads	Third Avenue Fourth-Fifth	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick	Area 002	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$17,086
RD0457	DI	Roads	Albion Street Leithead-Latrobe	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick	Area 002	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$38,068
RD0473	DI	Roads	Magdalen Street Cleve-Bell	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$19,555
RD0584	DI	Roads	Hilton Street Churchill-Cromwell	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$51,657

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0585	DI	Roads	Woodlands Avenue Hillview-Winifred	Road Resurfacing	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$39,111
RD0588	DI	Roads	Albion Street Lillian-Austin	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick	Area 002	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$59,485
RD0605	DI	Roads	Selbourne Street Shaftesbury-Clarendon	Road Resurfacing	Coburg	Area 004	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$26,074
RD0647	DI	Roads	Moonee Blvd Bikepath Ch 28-Ch 238	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$31,313
RD0712	DI	Roads	Adler Grove Boundary-Tonkin	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$29,201
RD0776	DI	Roads	Minona Street Jukes-Denys	Road Resurfacing	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$21,300
RD0778	DI	Roads	Jukes Road Boston-Change Of Seal	Road Resurfacing	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$80,241
RD0784	DI	Roads	Major Road Hume-Bonwick	Road Resurfacing	Fawkner	Area 009	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$79,331
RD0821	DI	Roads	Grandview Street Chapman-William	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$54,536
RD0896	DI	Roads	Hilton Street Hartington-Trevannion	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$33,065

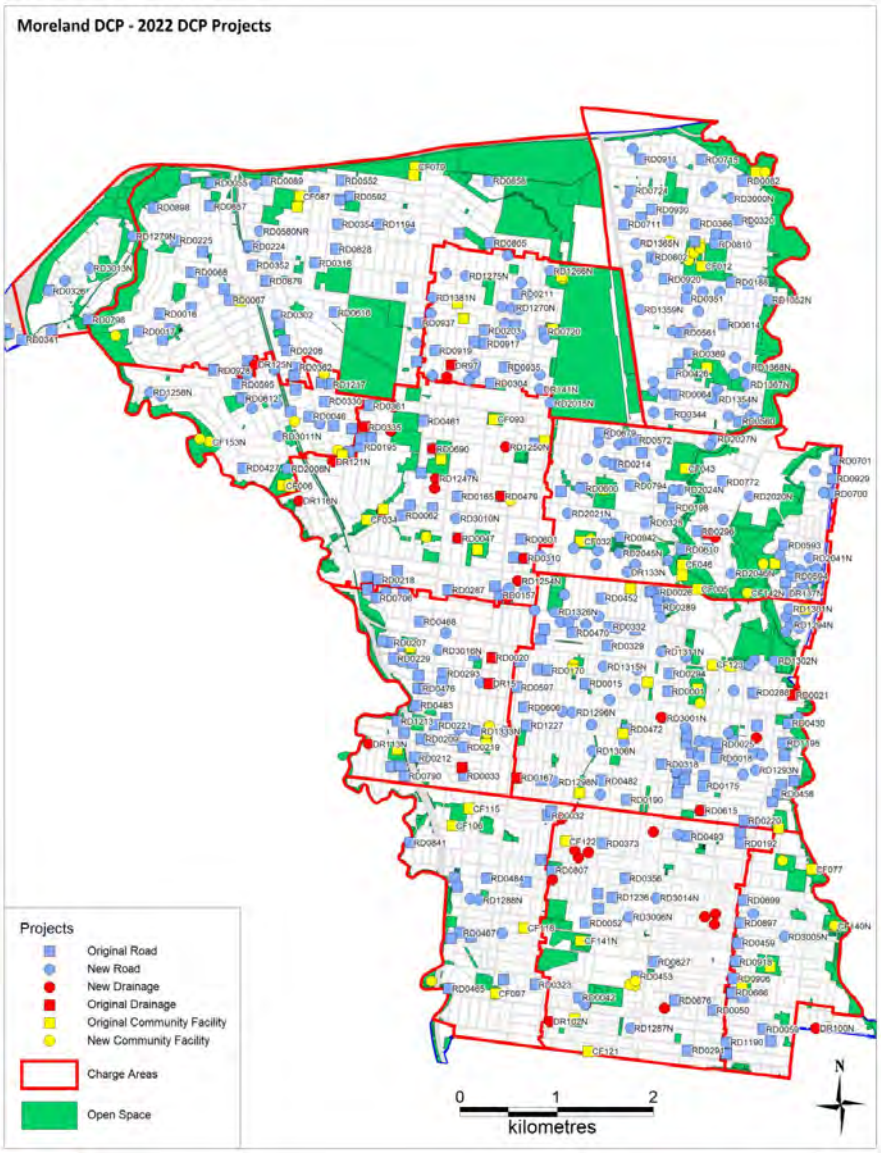
DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD0909	DI	Roads	Freeman Drive West-Liza - Part B	Road Resurfacing	Hadfield	Area 010	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$3,434
RD0909	DI	Roads	Freeman Drive West-Liza	Road Resurfacing	Glenroy	Area 011	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$12,921
RD1219	DI	Roads	Curtin Av - Brunswick West; Hopetoun - Dead End:Both Carriageways	Road Resurfacing	Brunswick West	Area 003	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$17,253
RD0231	DI	Roads	Princes Terrace Waverley-Springhall	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale South	Area 005	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$51,077
RD4000N	DI	Roads	Athens Place. Devereaux To Dead End	Road Resurfacing	Oak Park	Area 008	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$35,200
RD4001N	DI	Roads	Kerr Avenue . Devereaux To Vincent	Road Resurfacing	Oak Park	Area 008	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$33,896
RD4002N	DI	Roads	Primula Boulevard. From Lanark To Adelaide	Road Resurfacing	Gowanbrae	Area 012	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$70,399

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD4003N	DI	Roads	Winn Grove. From Major To Ledger	Road Reconstruction	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$886,509
RD4004N	DI	Roads	Guilfoyle Avenue. From Bakers To Ulm Centre Line	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$37,171
RD4005N	DI	Roads	Treloar Street. From Keady To Spry	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$34,003
RD4006N	DI	Roads	Merlyn Street. From Boundary To Orvieto	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$50,201
RD4007N	DI	Roads	Keady Street. From Sydney To Dead End	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$67,305

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD4008N	DI	Roads	Lily Street. From Sussex To Guilfoyle	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$49,508
RD4009N	DI	Roads	Audrey Avenue. From Bakers To Leslie	Road Resurfacing	Coburg North	Area 006	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$38,966
RD4014N	DI	Roads	Winifred Street. From John To Sylvester	Road Resurfacing	Oak Park	Area 008	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$25,523
RD4015N	DI	Roads	Ash Grove. From Vincent To Summit	Road Resurfacing	Oak Park	Area 008	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$41,565
RD4016N	DI	Roads	Hillcrest Road. From Plumpton To Cardinal	Road Resurfacing	Oak Park	Area 008	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$75,468

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD4017N	DI	Roads	Hare Street. From Mcbryde To Dead End	Road Resurfacing	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$57,657
RD4018N	DI	Roads	Alec Crescent. From Hogan To Anderson	Road Resurfacing	Fawkner	Area 009	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$64,679
RD4019N	DI	Roads	Seggan Circle. From Gowanbrae To Opp 31 Seggan	Road Resurfacing	Gowanbrae	Area 012	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$14,379
RD4020N	DI	Roads	Bluebell Crescent. From Lilac To Clover	Road Resurfacing	Gowanbrae	Area 012	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$25,080
RD4021N	DI	Roads	Iris Court. From Bluebell To Dead End	Road Resurfacing	Gowanbrae	Area 012	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$8,213

DCP No	Category	Type	2022DCP Project Location	Description	Suburb	Charging Area	Reference Document	2022 Cost
RD4022N	DI	Roads	Seggan Circle. From Gowanbrae To 1 Seggan	Road Resurfacing	Gowanbrae	Area 012	Annual Road Reconstruction & Resurfacing Program Information Sheet, 2022-26 Council Budget	$6,864
RD0431	DI	Roads	Daphne Street. Waratah to O'Hea (Part A)	Road Reconstruction	Pascoe Vale South	Area 007	Same as shown in 2015 DCP project list	$205,983


Moreland DCP - 2022 DCP Projects
Projects
Original Road
New Road
New Drainage
Original Drainage
Original Community Facility
New Community Facility
Charge Areas
Open Space
0
1
2
kilometres
N

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7.2 DRAFT PLANNING SCHEME REVIEW 2026 FOR ADOPTION

Director Place and Environment, Pene Winslade

City Design and Economy

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Adopts the draft *Planning Scheme Review 2026* (Review) at Attachment 2 to this report as the final Review for Merri-bek City Council, having undertaken the review in accordance with section 12B(1) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (Act).
2. Submits the final Review to the Minister for Planning in accordance with section 12B(5) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.
3. Authorises the Director Place and Environment to undertake any procedural and administrative actions necessary to give effect to this resolution.

REPORT

Executive summary

Council is required to review its planning scheme every four years to assess its effectiveness and efficiency and ensure it continues to respond to the changing needs of the municipality and the Victorian planning system.

Since the last review of the Merri-bek Planning Scheme (Scheme) in 2022, Victoria's planning system has undergone significant State-led reform, including new housing targets, residential development standards and increasingly standardised assessment pathways. These changes have reshaped how land use and development will be planned and managed in a growing and changing Merri-bek.

Given the extent of these reforms, earlier this year the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) issued the *Planning Scheme Reviews: Advisory Note, March 2026* (Advisory Note). The Advisory Note sets out matters for councils to consider when undertaking their reviews as part of the 2026 review cycle (refer to **Attachment 1**). Housing is a strong focus, reflecting the State Government's direction to increase housing supply and capacity.

For Merri-bek, some of the key matters arising from the Advisory Note include:

- Implications of State Government housing targets, including Merri-bek's target of 69,000 net additional dwellings by 2051, and potential additional capacity indicated by the State.
- Changes to the statutory planning framework and alignment with broader State planning directions.
- The new *Plan for Victoria*, including changes to the classification of activity centres.

The draft *Planning Scheme Review 2026* (Review) at **Attachment 2** considers the implications of these reforms for Merri-bek and finds that the Scheme remains broadly effective as a framework for managing land use and development. It identifies strategic priorities to ensure the Scheme remains contemporary and responsive to Merri-bek's future needs, as well as some non-material and routine updates.

Having regard to the Advisory Note, the Review adopts a two-track Roadmap:

- **Track A – non-material updates:** A routine amendment to improve the accuracy, consistency and operation of the planning scheme and align local content with recent State Government reforms.
- **Track B – strategic priorities:** Focus Council's effort within three pillars: Housing & Residential Development, Economy & Employment, and Climate, Risk & Environment.

The Roadmap represents a shift in Council's approach to strategic planning, from progressing individual projects and amendments towards a strategy-led approach, including proposed future work on a Housing Strategy, Spatial Economy & Employment Strategy, and Climate, Risk & Environment Framework.

This approach establishes the evidence and strategic direction before determining the statutory response, focusing Council's resources on a small number of priorities over the next four years. Adoption of the Review does not introduce new planning controls or commit Council to unbudgeted expenditure; future strategic projects and amendments will be subject to separate budget, engagement and statutory processes.

It is recommended that Council adopt the draft *Planning Scheme Review 2026* at **Attachment 2** as the final Review, in accordance with section 12B(1) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (Act) and submit it to the Minister for Planning by the end of October 2026, in accordance with section 12B(5) of the Act.

Previous Council Decisions

2022 Planning Scheme Review Report - 12 October 2022

That Council:

1. *Endorses the Planning Scheme Review 2022 report, at Attachment 1 to this report.*
2. *Submits the Planning Scheme Review 2022 report to the Minister for Planning in accordance with section 12B (1) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.*

The *Planning Scheme Review Report 2022* identified strategic actions relating to housing, employment, heritage, open space, development contributions and environmental sustainability. As outlined in the draft *Planning Scheme Review 2026* (Review) at **Attachment 2**, these actions have largely been progressed through planning scheme amendments or ongoing work, with some actions superseded by subsequent State planning reforms.

1. Policy Context

Merri-bek Community Vision and Council Plan 2025–2029

The *Merri-bek Community Vision* 2025–2035 sets the long-term aspirations for the municipality, while the *Council Plan 2025–2029* establishes Council's priorities for the current four-year period.

The Council Plan priorities most relevant to strategic planning include housing and inclusive communities, a thriving local economy, and climate resilience and environmental sustainability. These priorities provide the local context for the Review and help guide the strategic planning program proposed for the coming years.

Victorian Planning Framework

Planning and Environment Act 1987

Section 12B of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (Act) requires Council, as planning authority, to regularly review its planning scheme. The Review considers the effectiveness and efficiency of the Planning Scheme in the context of the planning framework established by the Act.

Plan for Victoria

Plan for Victoria: A Plan for Victoria, for Victorians, 2025 (Plan for Victoria) is the State's strategic planning framework for managing growth and change, including housing targets for each local government area.

Amendment VC283 amended the Merri-bek Planning Scheme to reflect Plan for Victoria, including changes to the Planning Policy Framework and State directions for housing growth, settlement and activity centres. For Merri-bek, Plan for Victoria establishes a target of 69,000 net additional dwellings by 2051. The Review has regard to this target and considers its implications for Merri-bek's future growth and the role of the Scheme.

The Review has also been prepared having regard to *Ministerial Direction No. 11 Strategic Assessment of Amendments*, *Planning Practice Note 46 Strategic Assessment Guidelines* and *Planning Practice Note 32 Review of Planning Schemes*.

Advisory Note

The Department of Transport and Planning's (DTP's) *Planning Scheme Reviews: Advisory Note, March 2026* (Advisory Note) at **Attachment 1** provides the framework for councils undertaking the 2026 review cycle. The Advisory Note describes the review as an assessment of the performance of the Planning Scheme. It identifies 14 matters for consideration in the 2026 reviews, including changes arising from *Plan for Victoria*, housing capacity, residential planning provisions, activity centre terminology, planning scheme tools and environmental risk mapping. Housing is a strong focus of the Advisory Note, reflecting the State Government's focus on increasing housing supply and capacity.

2. Background

Merri-bek population

Merri-bek is forecast to grow from approximately 189,000 residents in 2025 to around 256,000 residents by 2051. This growth will increase demand for housing, employment, infrastructure, services and open space, while also increasing climate and environmental pressures. As a growing inner-city municipality, Council needs to plan for and manage this growth, ensuring development is supported by the infrastructure, services and places needed. The Review considers whether the Planning Scheme remains effective and fit for purpose in planning for this growth and responding to the changing needs of the community.

Planning reform

Council last undertook a comprehensive review of its Planning Scheme in 2022. Since then, substantial State planning reform and local strategic work have changed the planning context, including more than 100 Victorian Council (VC) amendments, five Group Council (GC) amendments and 20 Council (c) amendments over the review period.

Major State reforms include Plan for Victoria, which establishes a State Government housing delivery objective and a municipal housing target, as well as activity centre and housing reforms, codified residential assessment pathways, canopy tree requirements, changes to car parking requirements and new streamlined approval pathways. These reforms have changed how development is assessed, the scope for local planning controls and the strategic context for planning for growth.

These reforms reflect an increased State Government focus on supporting housing supply and accommodating future housing growth.

Housing Capacity

The State Government housing target requires consideration of whether the Planning Scheme provides sufficient capacity to accommodate future housing growth. As part of the recent reforms, DTP has introduced a new tool to assess housing capacity, called the Housing Capacity Assessment Platform (HCAP). This is a statewide modelling tool that estimates potential capacity based on land, planning controls, development assumptions and relevant constraints.

DTP has indicated that using the HCAP tool, there may be a housing capacity shortfall against Merri-bek's housing target, although Council understands there is some refinement to come with the HCAP methodology. The Review has considered the HCAP methodology and identified matters relevant to its application in the Merri-bek context, including redevelopment opportunities, site consolidation, development assumptions and capacity within the Train and Tram Zone Activity Centres, including Brunswick and Coburg.

3. Issues

The Review identifies several strategic priorities arising from Merri-bek's growth and the changing State planning context. Together, these priorities require a coordinated, evidence-led approach to guide Council's future planning program

Responding to a changing planning system

The Victorian planning system has changed materially since the 2022 Review, affecting how development is assessed, the scope for local planning controls and the strategic context for managing growth.

The Review finds that the Merri-bek Planning Scheme remains broadly effective, with some non-material updates required to remove outdated or duplicated content, reflect current provisions and maintain alignment with the State planning framework. At the same time, Merri-bek's growth and the changing planning context require further strategic work to establish the evidence and direction needed to guide future planning decisions.

The Review therefore establishes three strategic pillars for Council's future planning program: housing and residential development; economy and employment; and climate, risk and environment.

Housing and residential development

The State Government's 69,000-dwelling housing target and continued population growth require a clear strategic approach to managing the scale and location of future residential development in Merri-bek.

DTP's initial assessment of housing capacity using the HCAP tool recommended that Merri-bek build in more housing capacity. Council's detailed work indicates that the HCAP assessment does not fully reflect the housing capacity available across the approximately 340 hectares of land identified as available for housing development in Merri-bek.. Council has identified opportunities to improve the assumptions and methodologies underpinning HCAP, and DTP has advised that further work will refine HCAP and its application.

Housing pressures also extend beyond overall capacity. Almost 41 per cent of renters experience rental stress, while demand for subsidised social and affordable housing is forecast to increase from 6,873 to 9,100 households by 2051.

Council therefore needs to consider not only the capacity for housing growth, but how and where that growth can be accommodated, alongside housing diversity, affordability and the capacity of infrastructure, services, employment and open space to support it.

Economy and employment

There is a critical need to strengthen the strategic planning framework for employment land and economic development, protect employment-generating land, and provide clearer direction for the future role of commercial areas, including activity centres, and industrial areas, while responding to changing business needs and employment patterns.

Population growth and changing economic conditions will increase demand and competition for employment land, commercial space, services and activity centres.

Merri-bek has 52,735 local jobs, up from 44,261 in 2021, with an additional 87,000 to 241,000 square metres of employment floorspace projected to be required by 2035. With the population growing, there is an urgent need to ensure that the Planning Scheme provides economic outcomes to meet the needs of current and future residents.

Employment growth must be considered alongside housing and transport. Only 19 per cent of Merri-bek residents work within the municipality, while key workers account for 72 per cent of the local workforce.

Climate, risk and environment

Population growth and urban intensification are increasing pressure on Merri-bek's climate resilience, environmental assets and urban environment.

Merri-bek is experiencing increasing risks from urban heat and flooding, particularly in areas with high levels of site coverage. Tree canopy cover was 13.4 per cent in 2021, below the Greater Melbourne average of 15.3 per cent, while the municipality has more than 577 hectares of open space. Population growth and urban densification will place further pressure on urban greening and the existing open space network.

There is a need to strengthen the strategic planning framework for climate resilience, environmental protection and risk management, including urban heat, tree canopy, open space, biodiversity, erosion and potentially contaminated land.

A strategy-led approach to planning

Taken together, these issues support a shift towards a more coordinated, strategy-led approach to Council's strategic planning program. Rather than progressing individual projects or planning scheme amendments in isolation, the Review proposes establishing the evidence and strategic direction first, before determining the appropriate statutory response.

The Review establishes a four-year roadmap focused on a small number of priorities that can realistically be delivered within Council's resources and organisational capacity.

Two-track approach

Having regard to the Advisory Note, the Review proposes a two-track roadmap:

- **Track A – non-material updates**: comprises housekeeping planning scheme amendments to ensure the Planning Scheme remains accurate, contemporary and aligned with recent State planning reforms.
- **Track B – strategic pillars**: focuses Council's strategic planning resources on major projects grouped under three pillars:
    - **Housing Strategy**: understand housing capacity and growth opportunities and identify appropriate locations for future housing.
    - **Spatial Economy and Employment Strategy**: support investment and employment, strengthen activity centres and employment precincts, and address planning barriers.
    - **Climate, Risk and Environment Framework**: strengthen the strategic response to climate and environmental risks, including erosion, landslide hazards and potentially contaminated land, significant tree protection, and environmental and landscape overlays.

Together, these projects will provide the strategic foundation for future Planning Scheme updates and place-based planning, including an Activity Centres Framework.

A monitoring program will track State planning reforms and emerging issues to inform future strategic planning and advocacy.

The draft *Planning Scheme Review 2026* at **Attachment 2** reflects the strategic approach outlined in this report. It is presented to Council for adoption as the final Review and submission to the Minister for Planning in accordance with section 12B of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

4. Community consultation and engagement

The Review establishes a strategic work program and Roadmap; it does not itself introduce new planning controls. The Review has been informed by feedback from Councillors and Council officers across multiple service areas. Community and stakeholder engagement will occur during the Roadmap projects and through the statutory process for any subsequent planning scheme amendments.

Affected persons rights and interests

It is noted that adoption of the Review does not directly alter the rights or planning controls applying to individual landowners or occupiers. Any future planning scheme amendments will be subject to the applicable statutory notice, exhibition and review requirements.

Communications

If Council decides to adopt the Review, it will be submitted to the Minister for Planning. Engagement and communications plans will be developed for individual strategic projects, as appropriate.

5. Officer declaration of Conflict of Interest

Council officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest in this matter.

6. Financial and resources implications

There is no direct budget implication associated with endorsing and submitting the Planning to the Minister for Planning. The Roadmap has been developed to align with Council's existing strategic planning resourcing and operating budgets, with the majority of identified work expected to be accommodated within existing funding. Where additional specialist support or new priorities are identified, any associated resourcing requirements will be considered through Council's annual budget, service planning and resource allocation processes. Adoption of this report does not commit Council to unbudgeted expenditure.

7. Implementation

Subject to Council's consideration and decision to adopt the draft, the final *Planning Scheme Review 2026* will be submitted to the Minister for Planning in accordance with section 12B of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. The Review's implementation will be guided by the 2027–2030 Roadmap at **Attachment 2**, which provides a staged and coordinated program of work comprising the Track A non-material updates amendment and the Track B strategic planning priorities.

Attachment/s

1⇩	Planning Scheme Reviews: Advisory note, March 2026 (Department of Transport and Planning)	D26/429069
2⇩	Draft Planning Scheme Review 2026 (October 2026, Merri-bek City Council)	D26/426442

Planning Scheme Reviews

Advisory note, March 2026

Section 12B of *the Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act) requires a planning authority to regularly review the provisions of the planning scheme.

The purpose of the review is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the planning scheme in achieving the objectives of planning in Victoria, and the objectives of the planning framework established by the Act.

The review must evaluate the planning scheme to ensure that it:

- is consistent with the Ministerial Direction - the Form and Content of Planning Schemes;
- sets out effectively the policy objectives for use and development of land in the area to which the planning scheme applies; and
- makes effective use of State provisions and local provisions to give effect to State and local planning policy objectives.

The review is an audit of the performance of the planning scheme at a point in time and will inform the continuous improvement of the planning scheme.

The review is likely to identify changes or additional strategic work that would improve the performance of the planning scheme. Any proposed improvements to the planning scheme that flow from the review should be carried out as planning scheme amendments separate to the review.

Upon completion of the review, the planning authority must without delay report the findings of the review to the Minister. The outcomes of each council's planning scheme review are due to be reported to the Minister for Planning by the end of October 2026.

The priorities for each planning scheme will depend on local circumstances.

This advisory note sets out the matters recommended by DTP to be addressed in a review undertaken in 2026.

Local policy and planning tools

1. Identify any inconsistencies between local policies and state and regional policies in the Planning Policy Framework (PPF) resulting from changes made by Amendment VC283 (*Plan for Victoria*) and other amendments to the PPF since the last planning scheme review.

2. Identify any conflicts between local policies and schedules, and changed state standard provisions, including:
   - clause 52.06 (Car parking) – amended
   - clause 52.27 (Licensed premises) – deleted
   - clause 52.37 (Canopy trees) – new
   - clause 54 (One dwelling on a lot or a small second dwelling on a lot) – amended
   - clause 55 (Two or more dwellings on a lot and residential buildings) – amended
   - clause 57 (Two or more dwellings on a lot and residential buildings of four storeys) – amended

Housing and residential development

3. Where DTP has advised that the planning scheme does not currently have capacity to meet its housing target, review residential zones and overlays in consultation with DTP to identify appropriate strategic responses to ensure the planning scheme has sufficient capacity as assessed by DTP's Housing Capacity Assessment Platform.

4. Where DTP has advised that the scheme is likely to have capacity to meet its housing target, review policy, zones and overlays to ensure increased housing is enabled in appropriate locations, particularly where access to opportunities and services is highest.

5. Consider the distribution of housing capacity to meet the greenfield and established area housing targets for growth municipalities and major regional cities (Ballarat, Greater Bendigo and Greater Geelong).

6. Review the application of residential zones considering Planning Practice Note 90 *Planning for Housing* and Planning Practice Note 91 *Using the residential zones*.

7. Review any neighbourhood character policy in the context of the reforms to the residential development provisions.

Settlement boundaries

8. In rural and regional areas, identify settlement boundaries or identify issues to be resolved to establish a settlement boundary.

Green wedges

9. For councils required under Part 3AA of the Act to prepare, adopt and review green wedge management plans (that is, councils with green wedge land), consider the requirements of the *Ministerial Direction on the preparation and content of Green Wedge Management Plans* to ensure plans are in place for all green wedges and existing plans are reviewed and up to date in planning schemes.

Form and content

10. Resolve any inconsistencies in terminology with Plan for Victoria activity centres hierarchy and regional settlement hierarchy.

11. Ensure all schedules align with their relevant schedule template.

12. Review special purpose zones to ensure land use terms are up to date.

Removing roadblocks to improvement

13. Assess whether new *Victoria Planning Provisions* tools would be more appropriate to implement planning objectives. For example, the Built Form Overlay in place of existing overlays or the Precinct Zone in place of the Activity Centre Zone or Special Use Zone.

Environmental risks

14. Identify where mapping of environmental risks should be updated.

Resources

Guide to Council Planning Scheme Reviews available from the Department of Transport and Planning Regional Planning Hub

Practitioner's guide to Victoria's planning schemes

Using Victoria's Planning System

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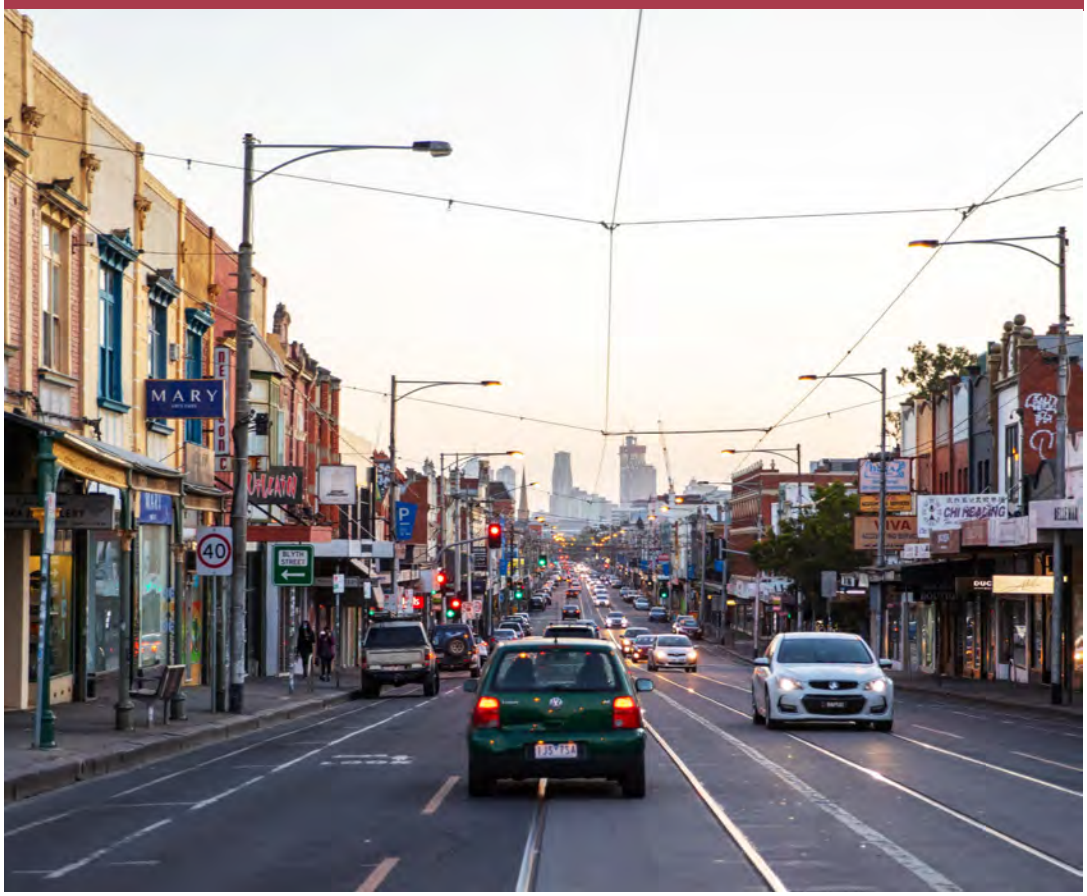
Merri-bek City Council

Planning Scheme Review 2026

A roadmap for Merri-bek's continued growth, prosperity, resilience and liveability



Version Control

Version 1 – Council Report Attachment – 14 October 2026

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Merri-bek City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waterways in the area now known as Merri-bek. We pay respect to their Elders past and present as well as to all First Nations communities who significantly contribute to the life of the area.

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Acronyms & abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACZ	Activity Centre Zone
BFO	Built Form Overlay
CBD	Central Business District
DTP	Department of Transport and Planning
EAO	Environmental Audit Overlay
ESD	Environmentally Sustainable Development
EMO	Environmental Management Overlay
ESO	Environmental Significance Overlay
GIS	Geographic Information System
GC	Group of Council Amendment
HCAP	Housing Capacity Assessment Platform
HCTZ	Housing Choice and Transport Zone
ICP	Infrastructure Contributions Plan
M9	Melbourne's Inner Metropolitan Group of Councils
MAV	Municipal Association of Victoria
MPS	Municipal Planning Strategy
NIEIR	National Institute of Economic and Industry Research
PPF	Planning Policy Framework
PPN	Planning Practice Note
PTAL	Public Transport Accessibility Level
SLO	Significant Landscape Overlay
SRL	Suburban Rail Loop
SUZ	Special Use Zone
VCAT	Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal
VC	Victoria Planning Provisions Amendment
VIF	Victoria in Future
VPP	Victoria Planning Provisions

Executive summary

Merri-bek is growing and changing rapidly, requiring **a planning framework that responds to its future housing, employment and environmental needs.**

This Planning Scheme Review provides the strategic Roadmap to ensure the Merri-bek Planning Scheme continues to support Merri-bek's Community Vision of a welcoming, safe and thriving municipality that is sustainable, inclusive and prosperous.

Merri-bek City Council (Council) has prepared the 2026 Planning Scheme Review in accordance with section 12B of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. The Review assesses the effectiveness and efficiency of the Merri-bek Planning Scheme in achieving the objectives of planning in Victoria. It has been undertaken having regard to the *Planning Scheme Review Advisory Note, March 2026* (Advisory Note).

The 2026 Planning Scheme Review (Review) represents a strategic shift from previous reviews, focusing Council's resources on a small number of strategic priorities that will have the greatest influence on Merri-bek's future use and development.

The Review has been undertaken during a period of significant and ongoing State planning reform. It assesses the Planning Scheme against the State planning framework applicable at the time the Review was undertaken, while recognising that state planning reform is ongoing and dynamic.

The Review considers how Council can best respond to recent State directions, including the target of 69,000 net additional dwellings in Merri-bek by 2051, differing assessments of housing capacity, changes to the statutory planning framework and changes to the *Plan for Victoria* classification of activity centres. It also identifies opportunities to strengthen the Planning Scheme and establish a clear evidence base to inform future strategic planning and advocacy.

To achieve this, the Review adopts a two track Roadmap. Track A addresses non-material matters, including inconsistencies in terminology, superseded provisions and administrative corrections, through a streamlined non-material updates amendment.

Track B consolidates Council's effort into three strategic pillars that respond to State planning reforms, reflect the Advisory Note, and address the findings of this review:

- Housing and residential development
- Economy and employment
- Climate, risk & environment

Key pieces of work under each pillar will build the evidence, strategic direction and actions to inform future planning scheme updates. The Housing Strategy will aim to respond to housing targets and guide the location, type, choice and affordability of housing; the Spatial Economic & Employment Strategy will seek to protect employment space and strengthen local jobs, services and activity centres; and the Climate, Risk & Environment Framework will respond to climate change and other risks and support greener, cooler and more resilient places.

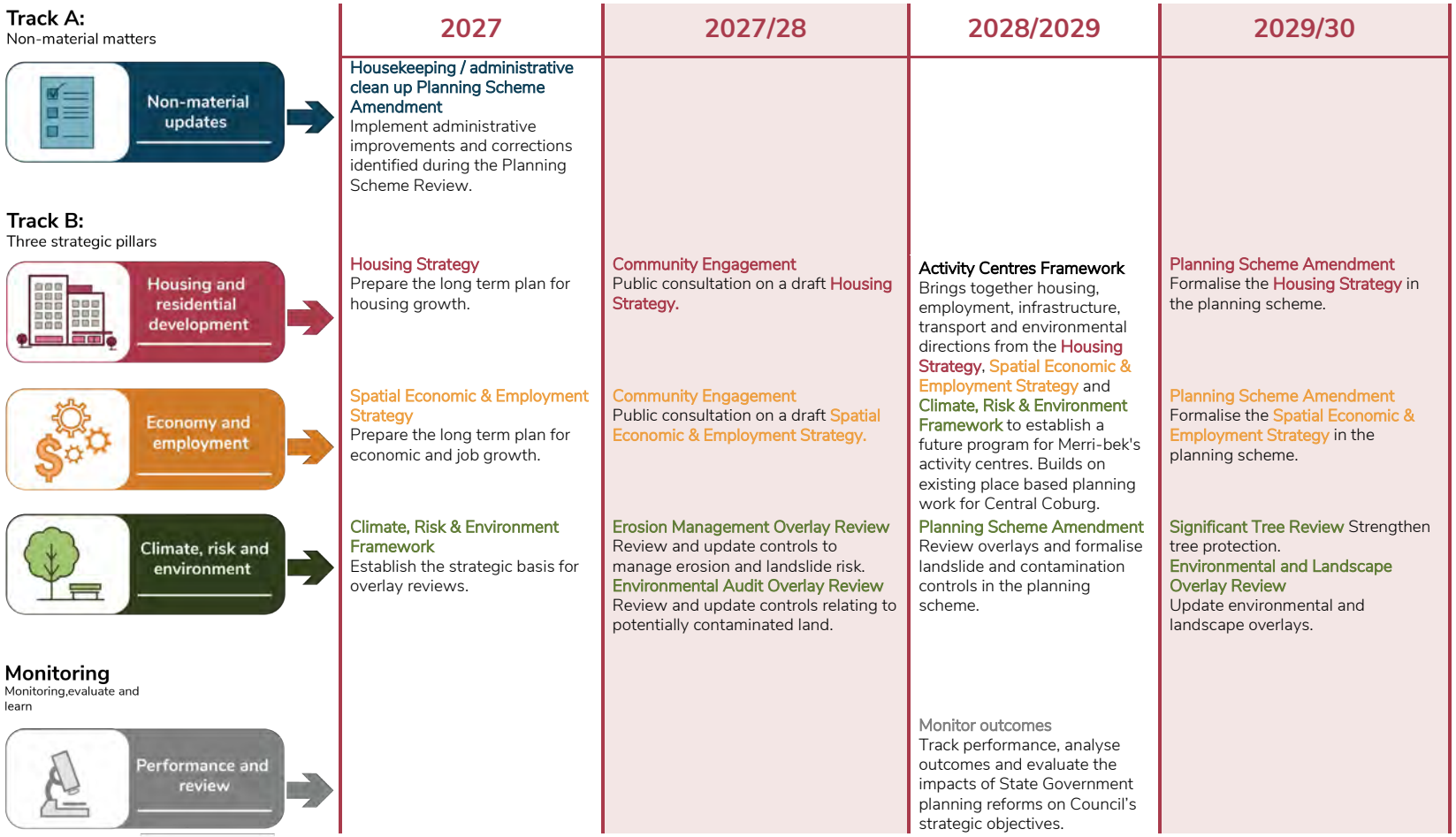
The two track roadmap enables Council to maintain a contemporary planning scheme while progressing the strategic work needed to respond to Merri-bek's future growth and development. The Roadmap is outlined in Figure 1.

The roadmap also recognises that some State planning reforms are still being implemented, and their outcomes are not yet fully understood. Ongoing monitoring and evidence gathering will be important to assess their local impacts and inform future strategic work and advocacy.

Together, this strategic foundational work will inform future planning scheme updates and place based planning. A key outcome of the roadmap is the preparation of an Activity Centres Framework. This framework will provide the municipality's principal place based planning framework and guide the future role, function and growth of Merri-bek's activity centres.

This Review provides a clear pathway for Council's planning work over the next four years, ensuring the Planning Scheme responds to changing needs and opportunities.

Figure 1. 2026 Merri-bek Planning Scheme Review four year roadmap (2027–2030)



1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose

A planning scheme regulates the use and development of land by identifying when a permit is required and, where discretion is engaged, providing the decision making guidance against which applications are assessed.

As the Planning Authority for the Merri-bek Planning Scheme (Scheme), Merri-bek City Council (Council) is required to review its Scheme every four years under section 12B of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act).

The 2026 Planning Scheme Review (Review) provides an opportunity to assess whether the Scheme remains effective, efficient and fit for purpose, and continues to provide an appropriate framework for managing land use and development in Merri-bek.

The scope of a planning scheme review under section 12B of the Act includes:

- Review the effectiveness and efficiency of the planning scheme in achieving the objectives of planning and the planning framework in Victoria.
- Align the planning scheme with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes.
- Ensure the planning scheme provides a clear narrative about how land use and development will be managed to achieve the area's planning vision and objectives.

More broadly, the planning scheme review process seeks to ensure the Scheme remains contemporary and continues to support a liveable municipality by balancing housing growth, economic development, environmental protection and community wellbeing. The 2026 Planning Scheme Review (Review) also considers the significant changes to the Victorian planning system since the 2022 Review and their implications for the role of local planning.

The Review therefore identifies where changes to the Scheme are required immediately, where further strategic work is needed, and where monitoring, implementation or advocacy is a more appropriate response.

1.2. Methodology

The Review has been prepared in accordance with the *Planning Scheme Review Advisory Note, March 2026* (Advisory Note) and relevant Council and Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) guidance.

The Review draws on:

- The Merri-bek Planning Scheme, including the Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS), Planning Policy Framework (PPF), zones, overlays, particular provisions, general provisions and incorporated documents.
- Changes to the Victorian planning system since the 2022 Review, including changes to legislation, State policy, planning scheme provisions and State led planning reforms.
- Council strategies, plans, policies, research and strategic planning projects undertaken since the 2022 Review.
- Demographic, housing, economic and environmental evidence relevant to Merri-bek's current and future planning needs.
- The outcomes of the 2022 Planning Scheme Review and subsequent planning scheme amendments, including the progress of actions identified in that Review.

This evidence is used to assess whether the Scheme remains effective, efficient, current and aligned with Merri-bek's strategic direction, and whether its policies and statutory controls continue to provide an appropriate framework for managing land use and development.

The assessment also considers the extent to which identified issues can be addressed through the planning scheme, recognising that some matters are influenced by State planning policy and reform, infrastructure investment, implementation, advocacy or other Council activities. The findings of this assessment inform the strategic priorities and actions identified in the Review and its Roadmap.

1.3. Actions from the last Merri-bek Planning Scheme Review

Council last undertook a comprehensive review of its Scheme in 2022. This Review builds on that work.

Of the nine key actions identified in the 2022 Planning Scheme Review, most have been progressed through specific amendments or ongoing advocacy, as outlined in Table 1. The remaining actions have either informed the strategic pillars identified in this Review or have been superseded by State planning reforms.

Reviewing progress against these actions provides an important link between the 2022 and 2026 Reviews, demonstrating what has changed, what has been progressed or superseded, and which issues continue to require a Council response.

Table 1. Progress since the 2022 Planning Scheme Review

Planning Scheme Review 2022 key actions	Status
Elevate **Environmentally Sustainable Development** (ESD) requirements in the scheme to achieve zero carbon development and climate resilient buildings.	**Amendment C223more** sought to elevate ESD requirements in the Scheme. The amendment was submitted for authorisation in July 2022 and remains under consideration by the Minister for Planning. It is noted that the State Government released the *Environmentally Sustainable Development of Buildings and Subdivisions: A roadmap for Victoria's planning system* in January 2021. Since C223more was submitted, the Roadmap has progressed through updates to the Planning Policy Framework and particular provisions of the Victoria Planning Provisions, establishing updated ESD policy and standards across the planning system. These changes will provide important context for the consideration of C223more by the Minister for Planning. Ongoing advocacy through CASBE with DTP will continue to consider the implications of these reforms for future planning scheme requirements.
As part of the refresh of the Open Space Strategy, update associated planning controls and design guidance to support the creation of new parks (including through a review of **Open Space Contributions**), ensure the long term protection and enhancement of our waterways, parks and valued vegetation, and to manage impacts from adjacent development, including overshadowing.	**Amendment C235mbek** proposes to update Public Open Space contribution rates. The amendment has been exhibited and considered by Panel and remains under consideration. **Sunlight to parks requirements in the Brunswick and Coburg Activity Centres** have been implemented through the State's Train and Tram Zone Activity Centre Program.
Update the Scheme to recognise the latest **stormwater** modelling from state and local drainage catchments.	**Amendment C196more** introduced Special Building Overlay Schedule 2 (SBO2) to reflect local drainage catchments and was gazetted on 8 January 2026. **Melbourne Water has also updated its 100 year stormwater flood mapping.** This updated mapping has not yet been incorporated into the Merri-bek Planning Scheme.
Update the built form and land use controls for the Brunswick Major Activity Centre to strengthen	**Amendment C230mbek** sought to update the built form and land use controls but was not authorised by the Minister for Planning due to its partial overlap with the State's Train and Tram Zone Activity Centre Program. Unresolved issues will

employment outcomes and simplify the controls.	be considered through the **Housing** and **Economic** Strategies recommended by this Review.
Prepare an **evidence base** to support a Residential Development Framework and a Commercial & Industrial Development Framework to holistically plan for the housing and economic growth forecast for the municipality.	**Research undertaken since October 2022** includes: • *Merri-bek Residential Development Monitor,* Merri-bek City Council • *Meeting Housing Need in Merri-bek: Building an Inclusive Future* (2025), Per Capita Centre for Equitable Housing • *Key Workers in Merri-bek* (2025), .id informed decisions • *Merri-bek Economic Health Check* (2023), .id informed decisions • *Major Activity Centres Precinct Economic Profiles* (2025), .id informed decisions • *Merri-bek Major Industrial Precinct Economic Profiles* (2026), .id informed decisions This evidence base, together with earlier housing and economic research, will inform the **Housing** and **Economic** Strategies recommended by this Review.
Continue to advocate for statewide **affordable housing** planning provisions and explore ways to embed local requirements for our activity centres and when rezoning land to allow residential uses.	**Focus Area 1 – Planning** of the *Merri-bek Affordable Housing Action Plan 2022–2026* supports this action through strategic land use planning, including activity centres and proponent led rezonings. **Ongoing advocacy** for statewide affordable housing planning provisions continues through M9 (Inner Melbourne Metropolitan Partnership of Councils) and the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) inter council Affordable Housing Working Group.
Investigate a new **Development Contributions Plan** to help establish funds for new and upgraded community facilities and infrastructure needs of the municipality.	**Amendment C236mbek** proposes a new Development Contributions Plan and has been exhibited and is progressing through the amendment process. **An Infrastructure Contributions Plan (ICP) for the Brunswick and Coburg Activity Centres** is proposed through the State's Train and Tram Zone Activity Centre Program.
Update the scheme to strengthen **Neighbourhood Character** and help facilitate better housing design outcomes for our residential areas.	**Strategic reviews were undertaken through *Designing Our Neighbourhoods* and *Merri-bek Better Quality Design: Townhouses*.** State reforms, including Amendments VC257, VC267, VC276, VC282, VC300 and GC270, have since substantially reduced Council's ability to implement local neighbourhood character and design controls. **The Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes** limits local guidance from introducing more restrictive development outcomes.
Review and update local **heritage policy** and the *Permit Exemptions Incorporated Document* to ensure it is consistent with State policy and easy to understand and apply.	**Current Amendment C233mbek** seeks to update local heritage policy and the *Permit Exemptions Incorporated Document*. The amendment has been authorised and is proceeding to exhibition.

1.4. Planning policy and statutory controls

The assessment of the Scheme considers both its strategic policy framework and the statutory controls through which land use and development are managed.

Victorian planning schemes comprise two broad elements:

- Policy contained in the Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and Planning Policy Framework (PPF), which establishes the strategic direction for land use and development.
- Controls contained in zones, overlays, general provisions, particular provisions and incorporated documents, which determine when a planning permit is required and provide the statutory assessment guidance.

This distinction is important to the Review because different issues require different responses. An identified issue may require a change to policy, a statutory control, or both. In other cases, further strategic work, implementation, monitoring or advocacy may be the more appropriate response.

This distinction is applied throughout the Review to determine whether identified issues are best addressed through changes to the Scheme or through other forms of Council action.

2. What is driving change

Merri-bek is experiencing significant change, with population growth, housing demand, economic change, climate risks and State planning reforms shaping the municipality's future planning needs. This chapter outlines the key trends and emerging pressures shaping Merri-bek's future, providing the strategic context for this Review and the work that follows.

2.1. Background and context

2.1.1. Merri-bek Community Vision and Plan

Community Vision 2025-2035

The Merri-bek *Community Vision 2025–2035* (Community Vision) sets the long term aspirations for the municipality and guides decision making.

It is complemented by the *Council Plan 2025–2029* (Council Plan), which sets Council's priorities and actions for the next four years.

The Community Vision is:

Merri-bek leads, and leaves no one behind.

We are a welcoming, safe and thriving community.

We are sustainable, and our environment is respected.

Our community is engaged and informed.

Our streets are full of life.

Council Plan 2025-2029

The Council Plan provides an important local policy context for this Review. The priorities most relevant to land use and development planning are summarised below in Table 2.

Table 2. Strategic planning priorities from Community Vision and Council Plan 2025-2029

Housing	
Council Plan 2025–2029	**Planning implication**
Healthy and Inclusive Communities *We want to create a safe, fair, and welcoming place where everyone can access services, housing, and spaces to enjoy and connect.*	Merri-bek is experiencing strong population growth and increasing housing demand, putting pressure on housing supply and affordability. The 2026 Planning Scheme Review (Review) will consider whether the Merri-bek Planning Scheme (Scheme) remains appropriately aligned with the State planning framework and supports housing growth and diversity. The Review will also identify matters for further strategic work to respond to the State housing target and guide where future housing growth occurs.
Economy and employment	
Council Plan 2025–2029	**Planning implication**
Thriving Economy and Culture *We want to create a vibrant community with thriving local businesses and a strong arts and culture scene that brings people together.*	Merri-bek has a diverse local economy supported by small businesses, retail, construction, health services and pockets of remaining manufacturing, alongside strong employment links to Melbourne's CBD and inner north. The Review will consider whether the Planning Scheme continues to support employment land, activity centres, local businesses and a diverse economy, with future employment needs to be addressed through strategic economic and employment planning.

Environment	
Council Plan 2025–2029	**Planning implication**
Care for Nature and Climate Resilience *We want to protect our environment, make our streets cooler and greener, and involve our community in caring for the climate.*	Merri-bek is experiencing increasing climate risks, including more frequent and intense heatwaves, urban heat island effects and heavier rainfall events that increase flash flooding risk in built up areas. The Review will consider whether the Planning Scheme remains appropriately aligned with the State planning framework and responds to key climate and environmental risks. The Review will also identify matters for further strategic work to strengthen climate resilience and environmental risk management.

Together, the Community Vision and Council Plan establish the local strategic direction for managing growth and change in Merri-bek. The demographic and economic trends below provide the evidence base for considering how the Planning Scheme needs to respond to this direction.

2.1.2. Merri-bek demographic snapshot

Merri-bek is experiencing sustained population growth and demographic change. The municipality has added approximately 42,000 residents since 2011 and is forecast to grow from around 189,000 people today to approximately 256,000 by 2051. This growth will increase demand for housing, employment, infrastructure, services and open space.

The following demographic trends provide the context for considering how the Scheme should respond to this growth and change. A more detailed demographic, housing, economic and environmental profile is provided in Appendix Three.

Housing and households

Merri-bek has a relatively high proportion of smaller households. 29.5% of households are lone person households and 32.8% are two person households, with an average household size of 2.37 people, compared with 2.6 across Greater Melbourne. Three bedroom dwellings are the most common dwelling size, while 48.2% of dwellings are medium or high density, compared with 34% across Greater Melbourne. This reflects Merri-bek's established urban form and the diversity of housing available across the municipality.

Housing affordability is a significant pressure. Renters account for 37% of households, almost 41% of renters experience rental stress and demand for subsidised social and affordable housing is forecast to increase from 6,900 to 9,100 households by 2051.

Economy and employment

Merri-bek has 16,063 businesses and 52,735 local jobs. However, employment self-sufficiency is relatively low, with 46.4 local jobs for every 100 employed residents. Only 19% of residents work within Merri-bek, while 60.1% of people working in Merri-bek live outside the municipality.

Key workers account for 72% of the local workforce, highlighting the relationship between employment, housing affordability and transport.

Environment

Tree canopy cover in Merri-bek was 13.4% in 2021, below the Greater Melbourne average of 15.3%. Council identifies increasing canopy as the most effective approach to cooling urban heat. Merri-bek has more than 577 hectares of open space, but population growth and urban densification will increase pressure on the existing network. Open space per resident is projected to decline in areas experiencing growth unless additional land is provided or existing spaces are enhanced.

2.2. State planning reform

The demographic, economic and environmental trends outlined above are driving growing demand for housing, employment, infrastructure and services, while also increasing environmental pressures. These changes are occurring within a Victorian planning system that has undergone substantial reform since the 2022 Planning Scheme Review.

For Merri-bek, a key change is the introduction of a housing target of 69,000 net additional dwellings by 2051 through *Plan for Victoria*. The target provides a new State Government direction for housing growth and is a key consideration for this Review.

Other reforms have changed how development is assessed and the scope for local planning controls. These changes are important to how Council responds to the growth and other pressures identified above.

This section outlines the key State Government planning reforms introduced since the 2022 Planning Scheme Review and their implications.

Implications for Council:

- The State Government's housing target will need to be addressed by identifying growth locations.
- Residential assessment is increasingly standardised, limiting opportunities for local variations.
- There is greater emphasis on strategic planning rather than development controls.
- Council's strategic planning effort should focus on areas where local discretion remains.

2.2.1. Summary of amendments since the last review and implications

The Victoria Planning Provisions (VPPs) are regularly updated through planning scheme amendments, together with updates to supporting practice guides and notes.

Since the 2022 Planning Scheme Review, the Merri-bek Planning Scheme has been amended extensively in response to State planning reform and local strategic planning priorities. The scale and pace of State-led reform has increased substantially. There have been 103 Victoria Planning Provisions amendments gazetted or currently in preparation during the four year review period, compared with 65 in the preceding four years and 35 between 2014 and 2018, equivalent to almost 26 amendments per year, or around one State led amendment every two weeks.

Appendix One provides an overview of changes in State Planning Policy. Appendix Two contains a complete list of planning scheme amendments gazetted, or pending gazettal since the 2022 Planning Scheme Review. It outlines their implications, where relevant, for the Merri-bek Planning Scheme and local decision making.

The extent and pace of change is an important consideration for this Review. The Merri-bek Planning Scheme is being reviewed while the Victorian planning framework continues to evolve, with further reforms being introduced in the lead up to the October 2026 Review deadline. The Review assesses the Planning Scheme against the State planning framework applicable at the time the assessment was undertaken, recognising that the framework may continue to change prior to submission to the Minister for Planning. Ongoing reform is also anticipated and the Roadmap allows Council to be agile in the way that it responds.

Amendments with significant implications

Figure 2 below summarises the major State Government planning reforms affecting Merri-bek since 2022, grouped by their broad purpose and implications for growth, development and liveability.

These reforms have changed the relationship between planning policy and statutory controls. Residential assessment is increasingly standardised, while local planning policy needs to have a clear relationship to the statutory framework.

The purpose of this Review is not to assess the merits of these reforms, but to consider their implications for Merri-bek and identify where Council can influence planning outcomes. The Review also has regard to the Department of Transport and Planning's (DTP) *Planning Scheme Review Advisory Note, March 2026* (Advisory Note) and considers where updates to the Planning Scheme may be required in response to State reforms. Where the effects of reforms are not yet clear, ongoing monitoring will inform future advocacy and strategic work.

Figure 2. Major State planning reforms affecting Merri-bek, grouped under theme

Planning for more homes	Faster and more certain housing delivery	Supporting growth and liveability
State Housing Target 69,000 net additional dwellings by 2051, providing a state set target to guide Merri-bek's strategic planning and housing capacity work.	**Townhouse and Low-Rise Code** Deemed to comply pathway for eligible townhouses and apartments up to three storeys, providing greater certainty and faster approvals where standards are met.	**Infrastructure contributions reform** New infrastructure funding arrangements for Train and Tram Zone Activity Centres, with councils proposed to collect contributions from development within the relevant Infrastructure Contribution Plan areas.
Train and Tram Zone Activity Centres Program More housing in and around Brunswick and Coburg, concentrating growth around public transport, jobs and services. The Merri-bek plans are now finalised and in effect.	**Mid-Rise Code** Deemed to comply pathway for eligible four to six storey apartment development in residential areas, supporting more medium density housing and faster approvals.	**Car parking reforms** More demand responsive on site car parking requirements, with rates generally reduced according to the level of public transport accessibility.
New planning controls New Housing Choice and Transport Zone (HCTZ) and Built Form Overlay (BFO) controls provide for increased housing capacity and establish built form requirements for height, setbacks, overshadowing, landscaping and design.	**Two dwelling, four dwelling and two lot reforms** 10 business day VicSmart pathways for eligible applications to construct two to four dwellings on a lot, with the four-dwelling pathway commencing in October 2026, and for certain two lot subdivisions.	**Tree canopy and landscape requirements** Stronger tree canopy and landscaping requirements for new residential development, supporting greener neighbourhoods as housing density increases. These requirements form part of the newer residential development standards.
Plan for Victoria Statewide strategic planning framework guiding housing growth, jobs, transport, climate resilience and liveability, including a stronger focus on accommodating housing growth within established urban areas.	**Development Facilitation Program** Expedited State planning pathways for eligible significant projects, including certain residential projects, together with case management and other facilitation services.	**Significant Landscape Overlays** Protection of significant landscape values, including vegetation, landscape character and visual amenity, through planning permit requirements for specified development and vegetation removal.

2.3. Drivers for change

The demographic, economic and environmental trends, Council's local priorities and the changes to the State planning framework outlined above shape the key planning pressures facing Merri-bek.

Table 3 brings these factors together, identifying the key drivers of change, Council's current response and the implications for the Planning Scheme.

Table 3. Broad drivers of change in Merri-bek

Housing		
Broad drivers of change	**Council actions**	**Planning Scheme review implications**
Merri-bek is expected to accommodate significant population and housing growth over coming decades, including to meet the State Government's housing target. Smaller households and housing affordability pressures are increasing demand for diverse housing, including affordable, accessible and environmentally sustainable housing. Growth will also place greater pressure on transport networks, open space and community infrastructure. An integrated and accessible transport system, supported by investment in public transport, walking and cycling, will be important to accommodate this growth.	Council is responding through the *Council Plan 2025–2029*, *Affordable Housing Action Plan 2022–2026*, *Moving Around Merri-bek Transport Strategy and Action Plan*, *Streets for People Plan*, *Places for People Plan*, *Open Space Strategy 2025*, *Urban Forest Strategy 2017–2027*, *Climate Emergency Action Plan 2025–2030* and Council advocacy priorities. Council is also delivering community facilities, open space and active transport infrastructure and advocating for social and affordable housing, improved public transport and sustainable neighbourhood development.	The Merri-bek Planning Scheme (Scheme) already supports housing supply, diversity and sustainable development. The Review should assess whether the planning framework provides sufficient capacity for projected housing growth, including the State housing target, in appropriate and well serviced locations. It should also seek to establish a robust evidence base regarding housing capacity, recognising that housing capacity assumptions influence infrastructure planning, investment priorities and long term city planning outcomes. It should also consider how effectively housing growth is integrated with transport, open space and community infrastructure.
Economy and employment		
Broad drivers of change	**Council actions**	**Planning Scheme review implications**
Merri-bek has a diverse and growing economy across retail, hospitality, manufacturing, health, education, professional services, creative industries and innovation. Employment has grown from 44,261 jobs in 2021 to an estimated 52,735 in 2023–24, with 87,000–241,000 square metres of additional employment floorspace projected to be required by 2035. Protecting employment land and commercial areas will be important to maintaining local jobs, attracting investment and supporting a resilient economy.	Council is responding through the *Council Plan 2025–2029*, *Economic Development Action Plan 2024–2027*, *Industrial Land Strategy 2015–2030*, *Arts and Culture Strategy 2023–2030* and *Zero Carbon Merri-bek 2040 Framework*. Council supports local business and industry, invests in arts, culture and placemaking, and promotes investment, innovation and local employment.	The Scheme protects employment land, commercial centres and industrial areas and provides for business growth. The Review should assess whether these controls continue to protect employment generating land, support viable and evolving activity centres, and provide flexibility for changing business needs and emerging employment sectors.
Environment		
Broad drivers of change	**Council actions**	**Planning scheme review implications**
Climate change is increasing risks from urban heat, flooding and extreme weather, while population growth is increasing demand for parks, open space and green infrastructure. With only 13.4% tree canopy and shrub cover, maintaining and expanding urban greening will be important to climate resilience and liveability. Future growth will increase the need for effective responses to biodiversity protection, habitat connectivity, tree canopy, open space,	Council is responding through the *Council Plan 2025–2029*, *Zero Carbon Merri-bek 2040 Framework*, *Climate Emergency Action Plan 2025–2030*, *Climate Risk Strategy*, *Urban Forest Strategy*, *Merri-bek Nature Plan*, *Integrated Water Management Strategy* and *Open Space Strategy*. Council is delivering urban greening,	The Scheme supports environmentally sustainable development, vegetation protection, water sensitive urban design and environmental risk management. The Review should assess whether existing controls adequately address biodiversity loss, habitat fragmentation, urban heat, tree canopy, open space and flooding pressures and whether there are opportunities to strengthen

water management and environmentally sustainable development, recognising that ecological systems have intrinsic value and contribute to the long term health and resilience of the municipality.	habitat restoration, water management, renewable energy and emissions reduction initiatives.	biodiversity conservation, ecological connectivity, urban cooling, climate resilience and sustainable development as population density increases.

Figure 3 below summarises the key drivers of change most relevant to this Review, including those within the scope of State planning reform and the Advisory Note.

Figure 3. Key drivers of change most relevant to the Merri-bek Planning Scheme Review

2.4. Conclusion

The Community Vision and Council Plan establish Merri-bek's strategic direction for managing growth and change. The demographic, economic and environmental trends identified in this chapter demonstrate the scale of the challenges facing the municipality, including increasing demand for housing, employment, infrastructure, services and open space, alongside housing affordability pressures and increasing climate and environmental risks.

The planning framework has also changed significantly since the 2022 Planning Scheme Review. The introduction of the 69,000 dwelling housing target, increased standardisation of residential development assessment and other statutory reforms have changed the scope for local planning. The Review therefore needs to consider both how the Scheme responds to Merri-bek's local needs and how local planning can continue to add value through strategic work.

These trends and changes provide the strategic foundation for the three strategic pillars identified through this Review:

- Housing and residential development, including responding to population growth and the State's 69,000 dwelling target, while supporting housing diversity and choice.
- Economy and employment, including protecting employment land, supporting local jobs and businesses, and responding to changing employment needs.
- Climate, Risk & Environment, including responding to increasing heat and flooding risks, protecting environmental values and ensuring growth is supported by adequate open space and green infrastructure.

The following chapters consider the performance of the Scheme in responding to these challenges and identify the strategic work and changes needed to support Merri-bek's future growth and liveability.

3. The Review

This chapter assesses the Merri-bek Planning Scheme (Scheme) against DTP's Planning Scheme Review Advisory Note, March 2026 (Advisory Note) and the key drivers of change identified in Chapter 2. It identifies updates required to keep the Scheme current, as well as strategic matters requiring further investigation and policy development.

3.1. Overview of the Advisory Note and Merri-bek's response

The Advisory Note provides direction to Council about what the Review should address. It contains 14 recommendations. Tables 4, 5 and 6 below summarise the recommendations and set out how they have been grouped for the purposes of this Review.

The recommendations have been grouped into two tracks, which provide the framework for the assessment in this chapter. Track A in Table 4 addresses non-material matters, including administrative updates to the Planning Scheme and alignment with recent State planning reforms. Track B in Table 5 addresses strategic matters requiring policy analysis and consideration of broader planning issues. Recommendations that are not applicable to Merri-bek's circumstances are addressed separately in Table 6.

3.1.1. Track A - Non-material matters

Table 4. Planning Scheme Review Advisory Note – Track A Non-material matters

AN#	Recommendation in Planning Scheme Review Advisory Note
Local policy and planning tools	
1	Identify any inconsistencies between local policies and state and regional policies in the Planning Policy Framework (PPF) resulting from changes made by Amendment VC283 (*Plan for Victoria*) and other amendments to the PPF since the last Planning Scheme Review.
2	Identify any conflicts between local policies and schedules, and changed State standard provisions, including: • Clause 52.06 (Car parking) – amended • Clause 52.27 (Licensed premises) – deleted • Clause 52.37 (Canopy trees) – new • Clause 54 (One dwelling on a lot or a small second dwelling on a lot) – amended • Clause 55 (Two or more dwellings on a lot and residential buildings) – amended • Clause 57 (Two or more dwellings on a lot and residential buildings of four storeys) – amended.
7	Review any neighbourhood character policy in the context of the reforms to the residential development provisions.
Form and content	
10	Resolve any inconsistencies in terminology with *Plan for Victoria* activity centres hierarchy and regional settlement hierarchy.
11	Ensure all schedules align with their relevant schedule template.
12	Review special purpose zones to ensure land use terms are up to date.

3.1.2. Track B - Strategic pillars

Table 5. Planning Scheme Review Advisory Note – Track B strategic pillars

AN#	Recommendation in Planning Scheme Review Advisory Note
Housing and residential development	
3	Where DTP has advised that the planning scheme does not currently have capacity to meet its housing target, review residential zones and overlays in consultation with DTP to identify appropriate strategic responses to ensure the planning scheme has sufficient capacity as assessed by DTP's Housing Capacity Assessment Platform.
4	Where DTP has advised that the scheme is likely to have capacity to meet its housing target, review policy, zones and overlays to ensure increased housing is enabled in appropriate locations, particularly where access to opportunities and services is highest.
6	Review the application of residential zones considering Planning Practice Note 90 *Planning for Housing* and Planning Practice Note 91 *Using the residential zones*.
Economy and employment	
13	Assess whether new Victoria Planning Provisions tools would be more appropriate to implement planning objectives. For example, the Built Form Overlay in place of existing overlays or the Precinct Zone in place of the Activity Centre Zone or Special Use Zone.
AN#	**Recommendation in Planning Scheme Review Advisory Note**
Climate, risk and environment	
14	Identify where mapping of environmental risks should be updated.

3.1.3. Not relevant

Table 6. Planning Scheme Review Advisory Note – Recommendations not applicable to Merri-bek

AN#	Recommendation in Planning Scheme Review Advisory Note
Settlement boundaries	
5	Consider the distribution of housing capacity to meet the greenfield and established area housing targets for growth municipalities and major regional cities (Ballarat, Greater Bendigo and Greater Geelong). Not directly applicable. Merri-bek is an established urban municipality rather than a designated greenfield growth area municipality or regional city. However, Merri-bek is expected to accommodate substantial housing and employment growth as part of Melbourne's long term growth strategy and has been assigned a housing target of 69,000 dwellings under *Plan for Victoria*.
8	In rural and regional areas, identify settlement boundaries or identify issues to be resolved to establish a settlement boundary. Not relevant. Merri-bek does not contain rural and regional areas.
Green wedges	
9	For councils required under Part 3AA of the Act to prepare, adopt and review green wedge management plans (that is, councils with green wedge land), consider the requirements of the *Ministerial Direction on the preparation and content of Green Wedge Management Plans* to ensure plans are in place for all green wedges and existing plans are reviewed and up to date in planning schemes. Not relevant. Merri-bek does not contain any green wedges.

3.2. Track A - Non-material updates

Track A comprises technical and consequential updates needed to keep the Scheme current and aligned with the State planning framework. These changes do not require new strategic policy work.

The assessment responds to the relevant recommendations of the Advisory Note (refer to Table 4) and identifies two main areas of work:

1. **Local policy and planning tools.**
2. **Form and content.**

3.2.1. Local policy and planning tools

Recommendations 1, 2 and 7 of the Advisory Note require Council to review local policy and planning tools to ensure they remain aligned with recent State planning reforms.

The Review identified a range of local planning scheme provisions that require updating to reflect changes to the State planning framework. These are primarily consequential changes that do not require new strategic work.

The recommended updates to the Municipal Planning Strategy, Planning Policy Framework, zones and overlays are set out in Tables 37–40 in Appendix Four. No issues were identified with the Particular Provisions, and one update is required to the Operational Provisions (Table 41).

The identified changes can be addressed through the Track A – Non-material updates amendment.

3.2.2. Form and content

This section responds to Recommendations 10, 11 and 12 of the Advisory Note. These recommendations relate to ensuring the form and content of the planning scheme remains aligned with recent State planning reforms.

Activity centre hierarchy

Recommendation 10 requires Council to resolve any inconsistencies in terminology with the *Plan for Victoria* activity centres hierarchy and regional settlement hierarchy.

The existing hierarchy in the Merri-bek Planning Scheme is based on *Plan Melbourne*. *Plan Melbourne* was based on a defined hierarchy of Metropolitan and Major Activity Centres, with each centre playing a distinct role in accommodating housing, jobs, services and infrastructure according to its scale.

Plan for Victoria retains the importance of activity centres but repositions them within a broader "*city of centres*" framework. It places much greater emphasis on directing housing growth to well serviced locations close to public transport, jobs and services and increasing housing choice while making efficient use of existing infrastructure. The plan also moves away from a predominantly hierarchical approach by introducing new centre types, including Housing Choice and Station Activity Centres. Housing Choice and Station Activity Centres are associated with all train stations in metropolitan Melbourne and are intended to support significant housing growth in well serviced locations.

As a result, *Plan for Victoria* has changed the way activity centres are classified, creating differences between the hierarchy used in the existing Merri-bek Planning Scheme and the new State hierarchy.

The Review identifies these differences and updates the terminology used in the Planning Scheme to align with the current State framework but does not propose any changes to existing activity centre boundaries at this stage.

The Review also recognises that Housing Choice and Station Activity Centres will play an important role in accommodating Merri-bek's share of Victoria's housing growth and supporting the achievement of State housing targets. This will be guided by the Housing Strategy and **Activity Centres Framework** identified in the Roadmap in Chapter 4.

Plan Melbourne identified three Major Activity Centres in Merri-bek: Brunswick, Coburg and Glenroy. Plan for Victoria has since introduced a new hierarchy focused on housing growth and access to sustainable transport, replacing the Major Activity Centre designation with Housing Choice and Station Activity Centres, centred on metropolitan Melbourne train stations.

The Review assessed the Scheme against the revised hierarchy and identified terminology that should be updated to reflect the current State framework. The *Plan for Victoria* hierarchy links housing growth more directly to access to sustainable transport and includes some locations in Merri-bek previously identified as Neighbourhood Activity Centres, reflecting their potential to accommodate additional housing and employment around train stations.

Plan for Victoria identifies 13 Housing Choice and Station Activity Centres in Merri-bek:

- **Upfield Line:** Jewell, Brunswick, Anstey, Moreland, Coburg, Batman, Merlynston, Fawkner and Gowrie.
- **Craigieburn Line:** Pascoe Vale, Oak Park, Glenroy and Jacana.

Some of these centres have also formed part of the State's Train and Tram Zone Activity Centres Program, which groups multiple stations into broader activity centre areas. In Merri-bek, Brunswick and Coburg Activity Centres have been identified as Train and Tram Zone Activity Centres.

For the purposes of this Review, existing activity centre core, catchment and zone boundaries have been mapped against the *Plan for Victoria* hierarchy to resolve terminology and align the planning scheme with the current State framework.

This exercise does not propose changes to activity centre boundaries. The mapping reflects the current State planning framework and illustrates the transition from the *Plan Melbourne* hierarchy to the *Plan for Victoria* hierarchy. Any future changes to activity centre boundaries will be considered through and informed by the Housing Strategy and **Activity Centres Framework** identified in the Roadmap in Chapter 4.

Figure 4 illustrates the terminology realignment with the *Plan for Victoria* activity centre hierarchy. Further detail is provided in **Tables 44–46 in Appendix Four**.

Planning scheme schedules

Recommendation 11 requires Council to ensure all schedules align with their relevant schedule template.

The Review assessed all schedules in the Merri-bek Planning Scheme against the relevant templates in the *Ministerial Direction – The Form and Content of Planning Schemes* (6 July 2026). No alignment issues were identified.

Special purpose zones

Recommendation 12 requires Council to review special purpose zones to ensure land use terms are up to date.

The Review assessed the relevant schedules against this requirement and identified outdated land use terminology in one Special Use Zone schedule and the Activity Centre Zone schedule. The recommended updates are set out in **Tables 42 and 43** in **Appendix Four**.

No issues were identified in Schedule 3 to Clause 37.01 – Special Use Zone (SUZ3) Brunswick.

3.2.3. Conclusion

The Review identifies a series of non-material updates required to keep the Scheme current, consistent with recent State planning reforms and aligned with its operative provisions.

These updates include changes to local policy and planning tools, alignment with the *Plan for Victoria* activity centre hierarchy, and updates to Special Use Zone Schedule 1 and Activity Centre Zone Schedule 1. The changes are consequential in nature and do not require new strategic policy work.

The updates can therefore be progressed through a targeted **Track A – Non-material Updates amendment**. This will address superseded or inconsistent local provisions while not pre-empting future strategic work, including consideration of activity centre boundaries and broader land use planning through the Housing Strategy, Spatial Economic & Employment Strategy, Climate, Risk & Environment Framework and subsequently, the **Activity Centres Framework**.

The Track A amendment should therefore be progressed as a priority, ahead of the strategic work identified under **Track B**.

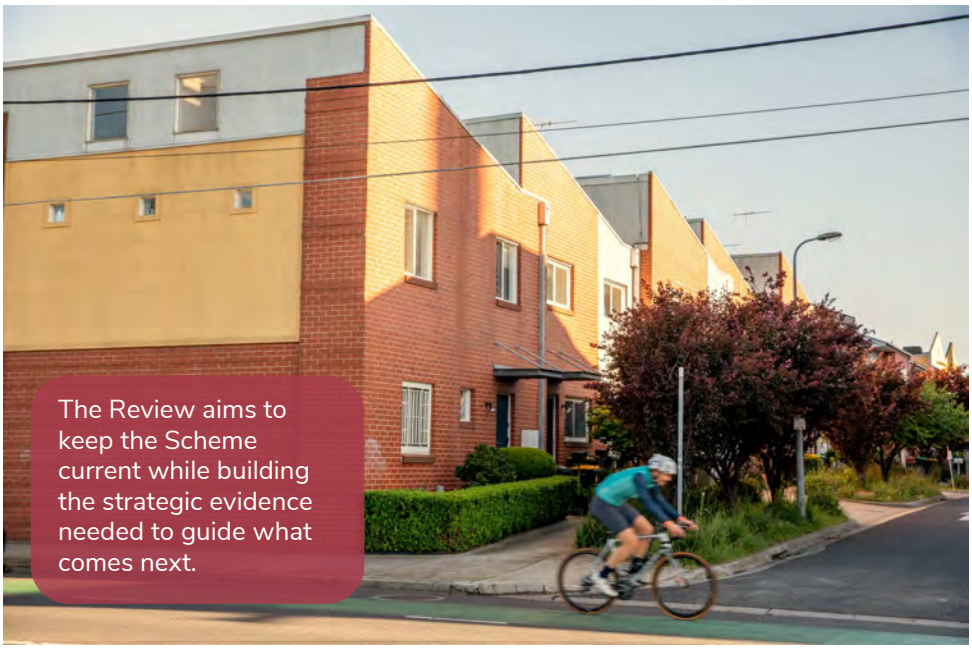
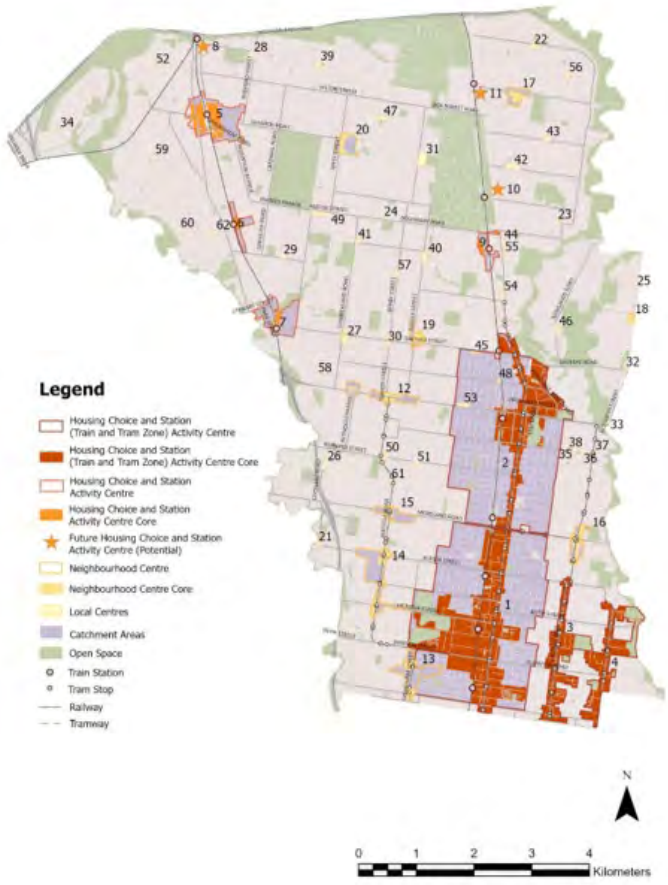


Figure 4. Plan Melbourne to Plan for Victoria – How Merri-bek's activity centre hierarchy has changed

***Plan Melbourne* activity centres hierarchy**

***Plan for Victoria* activity centres hierarchy**



3.3. Track B - Strategic pillars

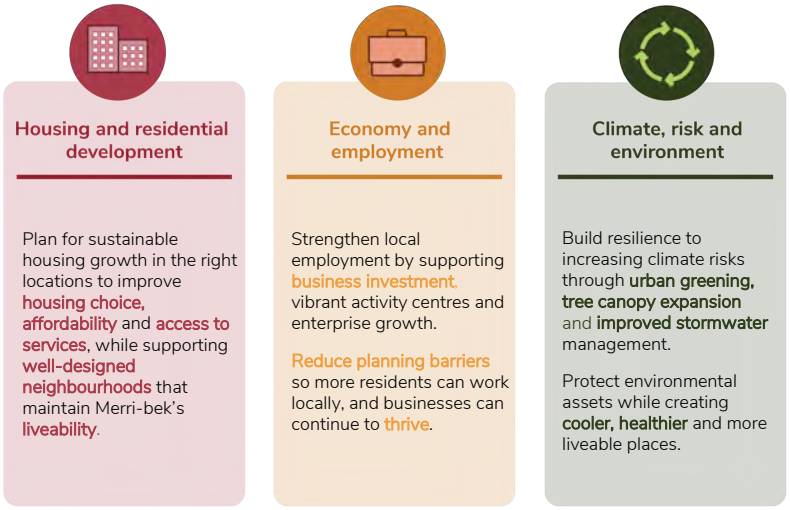
Track B comprises strategic matters requiring policy analysis and consideration of broader planning issues. These matters require further strategic work and may result in future planning scheme amendments.

The assessment responds to the relevant recommendations of the Advisory Note (refer to Table 5) and identifies three main strategic pillars:

- Housing and residential development.
- Economy and employment.
- Climate, risk and environment.

Together, these pillars provide the strategic framework for the further work identified in this Review.

Figure 5. From evidence to action – Merri-bek's strategic planning pillars



3.3.1. Housing and residential development

This section of the report responds to Recommendations 3, 4 and 6 in the Advisory Note. These recommendations form the principal strategic focus of the Advisory Note, reflecting the State's emphasis on planning for housing growth and implementing *Plan for Victoria*, together with recent reforms to the residential development provisions.

State and regional policies in the Planning Policy Framework most relevant to housing and residential development are set out in Table 7 below:

Table 7. Assessment of housing and residential development

Clause	Policy area	Relevance to housing and residential development
11.01 / 11.02 / 11.03	Settlement — Victoria / Managing Growth / Activity Centres and Precincts	**Primary**. Sets state and metropolitan housing targets (including Merri-bek's allocated share under *Plan for Victoria*), directs growth to activity centres and well serviced locations, and establishes the settlement framework within which residential development is planned.
12.06	Environmental and Landscape Values — Urban Forest	**Supporting**. Informs garden area, canopy cover and landscaping expectations that intersect with residential development standards.
13.01–13.06	Environmental Risk and Amenity — Climate Change, Bushfire, Flooding, Coastal Hazards	**Supporting**. Establishes site suitability constraints (hazard risk, climate resilience) that residential development must respond to.
13.07	Environmental Risk and Amenity — Amenity, Human Health and Safety	**Supporting**. Guides amenity impacts on and from residential development (e.g. interfaces with industrial/commercial uses, noise).
15.01	Built Environment and Heritage — Built Environment	**Primary**. Provides design quality, urban design and neighbourhood character direction that shapes the built form of residential development.
15.03	Built Environment and Heritage — Heritage	**Supporting**. Governs heritage conservation constraints affecting residential development in heritage areas.
16.01	Housing — Residential Development	**Primary**. The core housing policy clause setting housing supply, diversity, affordability and density objectives, including metropolitan housing targets and affordable housing provision.
17.01	Economic Development — Employment	**Supporting**. Addresses the jobs-housing balance and locating housing near employment opportunities.
18.01 / 18.02	Transport — Land Use and Transport / Movement Networks	**Primary**. Directs housing growth toward locations with good access to public transport (a central mechanism of the Housing Choice and Station Activity Centre model).
19.02	Infrastructure — Community Infrastructure	**Supporting**. Ensures community infrastructure capacity keeps pace with residential growth.

Housing target

Plan for Victoria sets the statewide vision for how Victoria will grow over time:

Enabling:

- ***More homes:*** *We'll aim to build 2.24 million homes across Melbourne and our regional cities and towns over the next 30 years. Local government housing targets will show us where these new homes will go.*
- ***Greater diversity:*** *We'll have a greater diversity of homes, so you have more choices and more opportunities to live where you want to live: close to your family, jobs, shops, public transport and community facilities and services at all stages of your life. These homes will be suitable for a variety of households, including families, singles and seniors.*
- ***Affordable and fair housing:*** *You'll be able to find a home that's right for you, including modern social and affordable housing.*

The housing target for Merri-bek is 69,000 dwellings. The State planning framework requires Council to plan for this growth and ensure the Planning Scheme provides sufficient realisable development capacity. The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) assesses this capacity using the Housing Capacity Assessment Platform (HCAP), a statewide modelling tool that identifies potential housing capacity and estimates whether planning schemes can accommodate their allocated housing targets.

HCAP will also embed the State's *Movement and Place 2.0 framework*, which along with Access to Transport, Opportunities and Services (ATOS) heat mapping in HCAP, prioritises housing capacity in *Plan for Victoria* in and around Housing Choice and Station Activity Centres. The State's *Urban Design 2.0 framework* will inform the updated planning controls to implement the Activity Centres Framework in the Roadmap in Chapter 4.

Housing Capacity Assessment Platform (HCAP)

The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) has advised Merri-bek City Council that the municipality has a realisable housing capacity shortfall of approximately 15,000 dwellings against the State Government's housing target.

HCAP arrives at this assessment by identifying potentially developable land, estimating dwelling yields based on planning controls and development assumptions and applying a series of weightings, exclusions and capacity discounts to account for factors such as access to transport, opportunities and services, heritage constraints and environmental considerations.

While HCAP provides a consistent statewide methodology, the assumptions and exclusions applied by the model can have a significant influence on the resulting capacity assessment.

The Review assessed the HCAP methodology and identified several areas where the methodology may produce different outcomes when applied in the Merri-bek context. These areas broadly relate to:

- Transparency and methodology: Limited transparency regarding some data inputs, assumptions, exclusion criteria and the application of capacity discounts and constraints.
- Treatment of redevelopment opportunities: The treatment of sites with demonstrated redevelopment potential, including sites with existing approvals and larger redevelopment sites, may result in some development opportunities being discounted or excluded.
- Site consolidation and inner urban redevelopment: Limited recognition of likely land assembly and site consolidation, and development assumptions that may not fully reflect redevelopment patterns commonly observed in established inner urban activity centres.
- Development feasibility and capacity assumptions: Capacity discounts and development assumptions may result in different capacity outcomes from those observed through development approvals and delivery within Merri-bek's activity centres.

- State led Activity Centre Program capacity: The model may not fully reflect development potential associated with Train and Tram Zone Activity Centre Program areas, including Brunswick and Coburg, which contributes to differences between the HCAP capacity estimate and Council's assessment.

These matters have been raised with DTP. Continued engagement with the Department will be important to support greater alignment and transparency in the assessment of housing capacity and strengthen the evidence base informing future strategic planning.

The Review's assessment indicates that land availability may not, in itself, fully account for the reported capacity shortfall. Approximately 340 hectares of land was identified as available for housing development, with HCAP outcomes being influenced by the assumptions, exclusions and discount factors applied within the model. The Review also identified that HCAP may underrepresent capacity by excluding or heavily discounting development opportunities that have already demonstrated their capacity to accommodate substantial housing growth.

The Review's assessment produces a materially different capacity outcome to the DTP HCAP assessment. While HCAP identifies a housing capacity shortfall of approximately 15,000 dwellings, the Review indicates that Merri-bek may have capacity for approximately 11,500 dwellings above the level required to meet the State Government housing target. This difference highlights the importance of developing a shared understanding of Merri-bek's housing capacity and a robust evidence base to inform future strategic planning. DTP has advised Council that the HCAP methodology is continuing to be refined, including in response to feedback from councils. Council officers will continue to engage constructively with DTP on these matters.

The significance of this difference extends beyond housing policy. Housing capacity assumptions influence infrastructure planning, infrastructure funding, activity centre planning and long term land use decisions. If housing capacity is underestimated, this may have implications for infrastructure planning and investment in established urban areas experiencing growth. Conversely, if capacity is overstated, infrastructure planning and investment may not align with actual development outcomes. Establishing a shared understanding of housing capacity is therefore important not only for housing policy, but also for infrastructure planning, growth management and the effective coordination of public investment.

For this reason, the Review identifies preparation of an Activity Centres Framework as a key implementation project. The Framework will translate municipality-wide directions relating to housing, employment, environment and infrastructure into clear, place-based outcomes for activity centres and other locations identified for growth.

Housing Strategy

The Review identifies preparation of a Housing Strategy as a priority strategic action.

While Merri-bek has not previously prepared a standalone municipality wide Housing Strategy, Council has undertaken strategic planning over many years to guide housing growth and inform the housing framework within the Merri-bek Planning Scheme. Building on this foundation, the Housing Strategy will bring this work together into a single, contemporary strategic framework.

The Strategy will provide a clear and coordinated approach to planning for housing growth, respond to significant changes in State policy and the planning system and guide how Merri-bek accommodates future housing needs.

Council will work with DTP through preparation of the Housing Strategy to address outstanding issues with HCAP and establish an appropriate evidence base for determining future housing capacity and planning responses.

This work will also assist in providing greater certainty for infrastructure planning and investment by developing a shared understanding of the scale and location of future housing growth across the municipality.

The Housing Strategy will apply the guidance in DTP Planning Practice Notes PPN90 – Planning for Housing and PPN91 – Using the Residential Zones, as well as further Housing Choice and Station

Activity Centre guidance currently being developed by the Department. It will also have regard to Council's recent research documented in Table 1, including unmet need for affordable housing and affordable housing opportunities for key workers.

The Housing Strategy will determine the appropriate planning tools required to implement its strategic directions. These may include the Precinct Zone (PZ), Built Form Overlay (BFO) and Housing Choice and Transport Zone (HCTZ), where appropriate. Any changes to the Planning Scheme will be determined through the Strategy and subsequent planning scheme amendment.

Infrastructure

Population growth and development increase demand for essential infrastructure. Responsibility is shared between developers and all levels of government.

Housing growth will need to be supported by infrastructure investment and delivery. Maintaining liveability, productivity and economic strength will depend on closer alignment between land use planning, infrastructure investment and funding arrangements.

Merri-bek is part of the M9 partnership, a collaboration between the nine metropolitan municipalities in Melbourne's north and west. The M9 Councils work collectively on issues that cross municipal boundaries and advocate for coordinated investment and policy responses to support the growth and development of established urban areas.

Merri-bek City Council is working collaboratively with M9 Councils to seek to modernise funding for established urban area growth, better align infrastructure delivery with growth and develop a coordinated spatial framework for the M9 region.

Recent M9 work highlights that accommodating growth within established urban areas will require significant investment in local, structural and city shaping infrastructure, together with funding arrangements that better reflect the challenges of growth in established urban municipalities.

This work is particularly important for Merri-bek's activity centres, which are expected to accommodate a significant share of future housing and employment growth. The timing and location of infrastructure investment will be a critical consideration in planning for the future role and capacity of all Housing Choice and Station Activity Centres.

3.3.2. Economy and employment

Recommendation 13 of the Advisory Note is addressed in this section.

State and regional policies in the Planning Policy Framework most relevant to the economy and employment are set out in Table 8 below:

Table 8. Assessment of economy and employment

Clause	Policy area	Relevance to economy and employment
11.01 / 11.02 / 11.03	Settlement — Victoria / Managing Growth / Activity Centres and Precincts	**Primary**. Directs economic activity and employment growth to activity centres, establishes the settlement framework that underpins commercial and industrial land use planning, and reflects State economic geography priorities.
13.07	Environmental Risk and Amenity — Amenity, Human Health and Safety	**Supporting**. Manages interface issues between industrial/commercial uses and sensitive uses (including residential), affecting where and how employment generating activity can operate.
15.01	Built Environment and Heritage — Built Environment	**Supporting**. Provides design quality and urban design direction for commercial and mixed use development that supports economic activity.

16.01	Housing — Residential Development	**Supporting**. Establishes the jobs-housing balance objective from the economic side, encouraging housing near employment and enabling workers to live close to where they work.
17.01	Economic Development — Employment	**Primary**. The core employment policy clause setting objectives for retaining and growing job opportunities, protecting employment land, and supporting economic diversification.
17.02	Economic Development — Commercial	**Primary**. Guides the location, scale and role of commercial (retail and office) development within the activity centre hierarchy.
17.03	Economic Development — Industry	**Primary**. Directs the protection and appropriate use of industrial land, including managing the transition of industrial areas to broader business uses.
17.04	Economic Development — Tourism	**Supporting**. Supports tourism related economic activity and associated development, where relevant to the municipality.
18.01 / 18.02	Transport — Land Use and Transport / Movement Networks	**Primary**. Supports access to employment via public transport, walking and cycling, and freight and logistics movement, which are central to economic productivity and job accessibility.
19.02 / 19.03	Infrastructure — Community Infrastructure / Development Infrastructure	**Supporting**. Ensures infrastructure capacity (utilities, digital connectivity, community facilities) needed to support business operation and growth.

Local employment and economic growth

Local employment is a critical component of Merri-bek's liveability. As the municipality continues to grow, ensuring that residents can access employment opportunities and services close to where they live will become increasingly important to reducing commuting pressures, supporting local businesses and services, and maintaining strong and connected communities.

Only 19 per cent of Merri-bek residents currently work locally, while many workers employed in the municipality, including key workers who support essential services, are unable to live locally because of housing affordability pressures. These trends highlight the importance of planning for employment alongside housing growth and ensuring sufficient land is available for employment, commercial and service uses.

The planning scheme therefore has an important role in protecting employment generating land, supporting investment and facilitating a diverse range of jobs and business opportunities as Merri-bek grows.

Employment demand and supply

In 2021, Council undertook comprehensive research examining employment demand and supply across the municipality. A *Job in Moreland* identified current and future employment trends, forecast employment floorspace requirements and assessed how Merri-bek's employment precincts can support future economic growth. The research found employment growth is expected to continue over the long term, driven by population growth, infrastructure investment and broader economic development initiatives. Employment in Merri-bek is forecast to increase by approximately 16,400 jobs over 15 years, with demand for additional commercial and employment floorspace across the municipality.

Merri-bek's economic strengths

The municipality benefits from several competitive advantages, including its inner metropolitan location, highly educated workforce, extensive public transport network, proximity to Melbourne's CBD and the

Parkville National Employment and Innovation Cluster and its established network of activity centres and industrial precincts.

Merri-bek is also recognised for its strong creative and cultural economy, diverse small business sector and emerging knowledge-based industries. RMIT University's Brunswick campus and the Brunswick Design District (BDD), a partnership between RMIT, Merri-bek City Council and Creative Victoria, further support the municipality's role as a centre for design, creative industries, education and innovation.

Music, performing arts and related creative occupations accounted for 391 jobs across Brunswick, Brunswick East and Brunswick West, with a further 194 jobs identified in Coburg. The 2022 *Victorian Live Music Census* also identified Merri-bek as having the third highest 'Revenue and Spending' among the participating metropolitan Melbourne local government areas.

These strengths provide significant opportunities for employment growth and economic diversification.

Growth sectors

Growth sectors identified through Council's economic research include:

- Health Care and Social Assistance
- Retail and Food Services
- Education and Training
- Professional, Scientific and Technical Services
- Construction
- Creative and Cultural Industries

Manufacturing also remains an important, though declining component of Merri-bek's economy and is forecast to continue as a significant employment sector.

Growth in these industries is expected to increase demand for a range of commercial and employment spaces.

Employment centres and precincts

Merri-bek's economy is supported by a network of strategically important activity centres, employment precincts and industrial areas that provide local jobs, services and investment opportunities. Maintaining this employment base will be important as residential growth continues, and the municipality's population increases.

Brunswick functions as Merri-bek's principal economic centre, supporting a concentration of jobs in professional services, hospitality, retail, education, cultural industries and creative enterprises. The Brunswick Design District further strengthens this role by fostering connections between education, innovation, design and creative production. Coburg performs an important role as a civic, commercial and community services hub, while Glenroy provides an important centre serving the municipality's northern catchment. Together, these centres support a diverse range of employment opportunities and provide focal points for future investment and economic activity.

Merri-bek's major industrial precincts, including Brunswick, North Coburg and Newlands, continue to play a critical economic role. While the local economy has gradually transitioned away from traditional manufacturing, these precincts increasingly accommodate advanced manufacturing, food and beverage production, creative production, urban services, warehousing and other employment generating activities. Protecting and modernising these precincts will be important to ensuring the municipality retains capacity to support a diverse range of businesses and jobs.

Future employment growth

Future employment growth is expected to be concentrated in both population serving sectors and knowledge intensive industries that align with Merri-bek's highly skilled resident workforce. Supporting

employment growth in these sectors provides an opportunity to improve jobs self-sufficiency, strengthen economic resilience and reduce the need for residents to travel outside the municipality for work.

Against this backdrop, the key strategic issue identified by the Review is whether the planning framework is sufficiently equipped to accommodate employment growth in appropriate locations while protecting the employment generating capacity of activity centres, commercial areas and industrial precincts. This includes considering how the Planning Scheme can respond to population growth, changing employment patterns and the need to accommodate housing and employment growth in a coordinated manner.

The Review also recognises the role of creative and cultural industries, within Merri-bek's broader economic ecosystem.

Spatial Economic & Employment Strategy

Council's current strategic direction for employment is guided by the *Moreland Industrial Land Strategy 2015–2030*, which provides the strategic framework for industrial land. The Strategy provides an important foundation for industrial land planning but does not provide a municipality wide framework for employment, commercial activity and economic growth, or respond to more recent State planning reforms.

The Scheme provides good policy direction for economic development and employment growth. However, the Review's assessment indicates that current market outcomes may not be sufficient to achieve the employment outcomes sought by policy. There is a risk that, without further strategic intervention, higher order activity centres will not achieve their intended economic role and opportunities for employment growth may be constrained.

The Review identifies preparation of a new Spatial Economic & Employment Strategy as a priority strategic action. The strategy will complement, rather than duplicate, Council's *Economic Development Action Plan 2024–2027* and its review. The current *Economic Development Action Plan 2024–2027* focuses on business development, industry support, investment attraction and economic activation initiatives, while the Spatial Economic & Employment Strategy will provide the land use planning framework for employment land, activity centres, commercial areas and industrial precincts. Preparation of the two documents should be coordinated to ensure a consistent economic vision and shared evidence base. The Strategy will establish a municipality wide framework for managing employment and economic growth, balancing residential development with employment needs.

As part of this work, the Strategy should consider the role of creative and cultural industries, including live music and performance venues, within Merri-bek's broader economic framework and the employment and economic activity they support.

The Strategy will also consider whether planning mechanisms are required to guide the location and decision making for land uses with high environmental impact and/or low employment generation, including data centres and storage facilities.

The Strategy will consider the future role and relevance of the *Moreland Industrial Land Strategy 2015–2030* and determine whether its provisions should be retained, updated or replaced.

The Spatial Economic & Employment Strategy will be prepared alongside the Housing Strategy to ensure housing growth and employment growth are planned for in an integrated and coordinated manner. The Strategy will identify the planning tools required to implement its strategic directions. Any changes to the Planning Scheme will be determined through the Strategy and subsequent planning scheme amendment.

3.3.3. Climate, risk and environment

Recommendation 14 of the Advisory Note is addressed in this section.

Strategic planning can help reduce long term exposure to natural hazards by directing growth appropriately, protecting environmental assets and ensuring new development contributes to cooler, greener and more resilient neighbourhoods.

Section 60(1)(e) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* requires that, in deciding a planning application, the responsible authority must consider any significant effects which the use or development may have on the environment, or which the environment may have on the use or development.

Table 9 assesses how the Planning Policy Framework gives effect to this duty.

Table 9. Assessment of climate, risk and environment

Clause	Policy area	Relevance to climate and environmental issues
13.01	Environmental Risks and Amenity — Climate Change Impacts (13.01-2S Coastal Inundation and Erosion; 13.01-3S Urban Heat)	**Primary**. This is the overarching State climate policy that underpins the framework. It is the driver behind escalating flood, erosion and heat risk, to which other environmental and risk policies are designed to respond.
13.03	Environmental Risks and Amenity — Floodplains (13.03-1S Floodplain Management)	**Primary**. Implements State floodplain management policy, managing flood risk to life, property and the environment from riverine, overland flow and urban stormwater drainage.
13.04	Environmental Risks and Amenity — Soil Degradation (13.04-1S Contaminated Land; 13.04-2S Erosion and Landslip)	**Primary**. Protects areas prone to erosion, landslip and land degradation, and ensures contaminated land is assessed and remediated as necessary before sensitive use is permitted.
13.07	Environmental Risks and Amenity — Amenity, Human Health and Safety (13.07-1S Land Use Compatibility)	**Supporting**. Manages separation distances and land use compatibility between hazardous or incompatible uses and sensitive uses.
12.01	Environmental and Landscape Values — Biodiversity	**Primary**. Protects biodiversity values, including habitat and ecologically significant sites.
12.03	Environmental and Landscape Values — Water Bodies and Wetlands	**Primary**. Protects waterway and wetland health and water quality.
12.05	Environmental and Landscape Values — Significant Environments and Landscapes	**Primary**. Protects valued landscapes, including visual, scenic and character qualities.
12.06	Environmental and Landscape Values — Sustainable Environment	**Supporting**. Supports urban forest and tree canopy objectives to improve environmental sustainability and liveability.

Ministerial Direction No. 22 — Climate Change Considerations

Ministerial Direction No. 22 (gazetted 11 September 2025) requires councils to consider the impacts of climate change on natural hazards, including bushfire, flood (riverine, drainage, overland flow and coastal), erosion, landslip, heatwave and drought, when amending their planning schemes.

The Review considered the available natural hazard mapping and identified the data required to support future planning scheme work, as set out in Table 10 below. Council's Natural Hazards Mapping project and internal GIS mapping system provide the current basis for this work.

Table 10. Climate mapping required to support future planning

Hazard	Data status	Required change	Next steps
Erosion / Landslip	Erosion incidents are recorded in Council's internal GIS system. The VicPlan EMO layer is also available as a state level reference.	Incident layer is adequate for tracking, but underlying hazard data is outdated.	Update Council's internal GIS system once an updated Landslide Hazard Assessment is completed.
Heatwave	The ABS Heat Health Risk Index (HHRI) 2021 SA1 layer is available in Council's internal GIS system. Victoria's Future Climate Tool is also available, but its current resolution (~4 km) is too coarse for local scale assessment.	Adopt HHRI as the primary heat hazard layer.	Supplement with the Future Climate Tool once its resolution improves.
Drought	No urban scale drought dataset exists.	No Council level GIS layer currently feasible	Continue to rely on Melbourne Water's 50 year strategic planning; revisit if a council scale dataset emerges.
Flood (riverine / drainage / overland flow)	VicPlan flood zones/overlays, Digital Twin Victoria 1% AEP layer, and local drainage mapping (from C196more) already integrated.	Data considered current and sufficient.	Incorporate Melbourne Water's updated regional 1 in 100 year stormwater map (SBO1) once released.
Bushfire	VicPlan BPA/BMO layers, reviewed twice yearly by the State.	No change required.	Monitor State updates; no council action needed.

The Review identifies three related areas requiring further work: updating climate and natural hazard mapping, assessing the currency and extent of existing environmental and risk overlays, and establishing a coordinated strategic framework to guide future planning scheme changes.

Climate, Risk & Environment Framework

A changing climate has implications that extend beyond environmental management. Heatwaves, flooding, biodiversity loss, habitat fragmentation and declining urban canopy affect the health and resilience of ecological systems as well as the comfort, health and liveability of neighbourhoods. Strategic planning has an important role in responding to these challenges by directing growth to appropriate locations, protecting and enhancing biodiversity and habitat networks, safeguarding natural assets and ensuring future development contributes to cooler, greener and more resilient places.

The Review identifies the Climate, Risk & Environment Framework as the appropriate mechanism for coordinating future work on climate, environmental and risk related planning controls.

The Review assessed the currency and completeness of climate, risk and environment overlays in the Planning Scheme, as summarised in Table 11 below.

Table 11. Climate, risk and environment planning controls

Overlay group	Overlays
Land Management Overlays	• Erosion Management Overlay (EMO) • Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) • Special Building Overlay (SBO) • Buffer Area Overlay (BAO)
Environmental & Landscape Overlays	• Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) • Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO) • Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO)
Other Overlays	• Environmental Audit Overlay (EAO)
Heritage and Built Form Overlays	• Heritage Overlay (HO)

Table 12 assesses the currency of each of these controls. Collectively, these overlays provide the statutory framework for managing climate and other risks and protecting environmental assets across the municipality.

Table 12. Currency of climate, risk and environment planning controls

Topic	Currency	Action required	Status
Erosion Management Overlay (EMO)	EMO manages landslip risk on ~2,400 susceptible properties, but the supporting Landslide Hazard Assessment dates to 2009 (15+ yrs old). Rainfall intensity has since increased, and 3 recent landslides have occurred outside the current EMO extent.	Update the Landslide Hazard Assessment; review EMO extent accordingly.	Not commenced.
Potentially contaminated land (EAO)	Land rezoned for sensitive uses before 2001 (pre-dating Ministerial Direction No.1) was never assessed for contamination. PPN30 guidance on weighing contamination risk without an EAO has been undercut by codified residential reforms and Cleeve v Yarra CC, where VCAT held contamination is not a relevant consideration absent an EAO and struck out related conditions.	Undertake a preliminary risk screening exercise and apply the EAO where warranted.	Substantial work; needs scoping and budget approval. Interim: Environmental Audit Procedure updated to direct applicants to EPA/OLR.
Environmental Significance / Landscape Overlay (ESO/SLO)	Reviews since 2010 have identified incomplete Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) mapping, outdated ordinance drafting, and some creeks and sites with no overlay at all. The 2021 review, *Between the Merri and the Moonee Ponds*, made recommendations that remain pending completion of the Open Space Strategy and the State Waterways of the West Action Plan.	Amend ESO/SLO informed by the 2021 review, Open Space Strategy, VC278 and PPN97.	2021 review complete; amendment not yet progressed.
Significant trees on private land (ESO/SLO/VPO)	Endorsed in 2018, the two stage approach comprised an interim Tree Works Permit and a full review. The 2021 Significant Tree Review (LiDAR and community nominations) recommended an Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) for approximately 500 trees, but this has not yet been completed or incorporated	Progress an amendment to implement the 2021 review's recommendations.	Peer review recommended before proceeding; further community consultation likely

	into the planning scheme. Implementation should have regard to housing capacity implications. Amendment VC289 (September 2025, Clause 52.37) introduced general canopy tree protection, but it does not replace the need for targeted protection of these specific trees.		needed given time elapsed.
Special Building Overlay – Sch 2 (SBO2, Council drains)	Covers overland flow from Council managed drains; based on updated local drainage mapping to reflect the 1% AEP benchmark.	Introduce updated Schedule 2 (1 in 100 yr overland flow paths, Council as drainage authority).	Complete - Amendment C196more (8 Jan 2026). No further action required.
Special Building Overlay – Sch 1 (SBO1, Melbourne Water drains)	Melbourne Water has released an updated regional 1 in 100 yr stormwater map, not yet incorporated into the scheme.	Incorporate Melbourne Water's updated map once available.	Timing/process set by Melbourne Water; no further Council action for now (rolling 5 yr reviews).
Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO)	Applies to Moonee Ponds Creek, Merri Creek, Edgars Creek and a Melbourne Water retarding basin. Moonee Ponds Creek mapping needed updating.	Update overlay extent.	Timing/process set by Melbourne Water; no further Council action.
Major pipeline infrastructure (BAO)	5,400km+ of licensed pipelines statewide (incl. ExxonMobil, APA VTS, AGN through Merri-bek). BAO (introduced 2020) currently applied only in Latrobe, and even there stops at the municipal boundary despite pipelines continuing beyond it.	Currently no statutory referral agency DTP to coordinate statewide/cross-municipal BAO application over licensed pipelines (PPN92 relevant).	No further action required by Council; issue flagged for DTP consideration.
Heritage Overlay (HO)	A permit is currently required for visible solar energy systems.	Further State reform is under consideration to exempt visible solar panels from requiring a permit as the default.	Review scheduled for 2027 in accordance with 11 March 2026 Council resolution if necessary, if state reform does not address this matter.

The Review identified nine overlay currency issues. Of these, two carry the greatest legal and safety exposure and should be treated as urgent: the outdated Landslide Hazard Assessment supporting the Erosion Management Overlay, and the absence of Environmental Audit Overlay risk screening for land rezoned before 2001.

The remaining issues vary in priority and dependency. Some require further strategic investigation before planning scheme changes can be considered, while others are dependent on State agencies or can be addressed through monitoring and future reviews.

The Review identifies a need for coordinated strategic work to update climate, risk and environmental planning controls. The Climate, Risk & Environment Framework will establish priorities for this work, including the two urgent matters identified through the assessment of overlay currency.

3.3.4. Place based planning

The Housing Strategy, Spatial Economic & Employment Strategy and Climate, Risk & Environment Framework explore the "why" dimension of planning for housing and economic growth, having regard to climate risks and the environment. The "what" and the "where" of future growth will be developed through a coordinated approach to place based planning. Council is already undertaking place based planning work in key locations, including Central Coburg, to better understand the future role, character, movement networks, public realm and development opportunities within strategically important centres. The Activity Centres Framework will build on this work, translating the strategic directions established through these strategies into place based directions for Merri-bek's activity centres and providing a municipality wide framework to guide their future role and development.

3.4. Monitoring

Recent State Government planning reforms have substantially changed the assessment of residential development and reduced opportunities for local discretion. The Review identifies monitoring as an important complementary workstream to assess the outcomes of these reforms and inform future Council advocacy and strategic planning.

Residential development quality and sustainability

Table 13 below catalogues the design and quality initiatives Council has already implemented.

Table 13. Residential development quality initiatives already implemented

Initiative	Mechanism	Description	Key dates
Moreland Apartment Design Code (Amendment C142)	Planning scheme amendment (Clause 22.07)	Introduced local design standards for buildings of five or more storeys to supplement the State's Better Apartments Design Standards (Clause 58), particularly in relation to building separation and lightwells.	Gazetted 14 Dec 2017
Virtual Merri-bek (formerly Virtual Moreland)	Digital planning tool	3D mapping, 3D modelling, Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality platform to assist planning assessment, improve design outcomes and visualise development impacts; a 3D digital model is now required for eligible multi storey applications in activity centres.	Began 18 Dec 2017; ongoing platform
Neighbourhood Centres Strategy (Amendment C159)	Planning scheme amendment / Residential zone schedule and DDO	Introduced the Moreland Neighbourhood Centres Strategy into the planning scheme, guiding residential design/quality for more intensive medium density development.	Gazetted October 2018
Good Design Advice Sheets	Guidance material	Clarified desired outcomes under Clause 55 (ResCode) and provided options for optimal resident and neighbour amenity in medium density development.	Launched 2018
Homes for Homes partnership	Affordable housing partnership	Merri-bek was the first Victorian council to partner with this social enterprise, channelling a voluntary developer contribution into affordable housing.	c. 2020
Design Excellence Scorecard	Voluntary benchmarking tool	Sets a design excellence benchmark for medium/high density residential development above standard scheme requirements; has supported affordability and sustainability outcomes (e.g. 100% affordable housing approval, Wilson Avenue, Brunswick).	Trial phase (2019–2021)

Streamlined VicSmart pathway for two dwellings (Amendment C190)	Planning scheme amendment / VicSmart pathway	Proposed a streamlined VicSmart approval pathway for high quality, planning scheme compliant two dwelling applications on a lot in the Neighbourhood Residential (NRZ) and General Residential (GRZ) zones, fast tracking permits to a 10 day process and exempting them from public notice and VCAT review.	Panel process (2020); overtaken by State reform
Better Quality Development (BQD) program, incl. Better Quality Two Dwellings (BQ2D)	Voluntary streamlined assessment process	Goes beyond standard planning scheme requirements to improve townhouse and two dwelling development quality, offering faster assessment (6 week turnaround) in exchange for meeting higher design criteria.	Council Plan 2021–2025
Achieving Zero Carbon in the Planning Scheme / ESD Policy v2.0	Policy uplift project	Seeks to elevate current planning scheme ESD requirements toward best practice / zero carbon outcomes.	Authorisation sought 2023
Townhouse Exemplar Designs	Design guide / pattern book	Suite of 8 pre-designed, cost effective 2–4 bedroom townhouse floorplans by a Melbourne architecture practice, giving developers a ready template for quality medium density housing. Funded via Australian Government Housing Support Program.	2025

Monitoring

The trajectory of recent State planning reform has been towards more standardised, deemed to comply assessment pathways that reduce opportunities for local discretion in decision making. The current suite of reforms, including the Single Dwelling Code (Clause 54), Townhouse and Low-Rise Code (Clause 55), Mid-Rise Residential Code (Clause 57), ongoing reforms to the Better Apartment Design Code (Clause 58), the Housing Choice and Transport Zone (HCTZ) and Built Form Overlay (BFO) introduced through the Train and Tram Zone Activity Centres Program, along with the implementation of the *Better Decisions Made Faster Act 2026*, have been framed by the Victorian Government as enabling "better decisions, made faster".

The reforms are underpinned by objectives to increase housing supply, improve affordability and expand housing choice, while reducing barriers to housing delivery through a more streamlined planning system. These objectives reflect the broader direction of the *Housing Statement* and *Plan for Victoria*, including commitments to accommodate significant population growth, provide a greater diversity of housing options, and improve access to homes in well located areas close to jobs, services and public transport.

The key question is whether the reforms are delivering their intended housing supply and planning efficiency outcomes while maintaining design quality, liveability and sustainability. Monitoring development outcomes over time will provide evidence of how the reforms are operating in practice and support future Council advocacy and strategic planning.

The reforms have now been implemented and are largely outside Council's direct control. Monitoring, implementation and advocacy are therefore more appropriate responses than seeking to duplicate or pre-empt State led reform through immediate local strategic work.

Detailed evaluation is proposed in the third year of the work program, when a meaningful cohort of developments approved under the new residential codes is expected to have been completed and occupied. The findings will inform future Council advocacy and strategic planning, including responses to emerging unintended consequences or gaps in the reformed planning framework. Monitoring will remain an ongoing workstream, with detailed evaluation undertaken once sufficient development has occurred to support meaningful assessment.

3.4.1. Conclusion

The Review identifies three strategic priorities requiring further strategic work: housing and residential development, economy and employment, and climate, risk and environment. Across these areas, the evidence indicates that the principal task is to develop contemporary strategic frameworks that respond to significant State planning reform while addressing Merri-bek's local growth, economic, climate and environmental challenges.

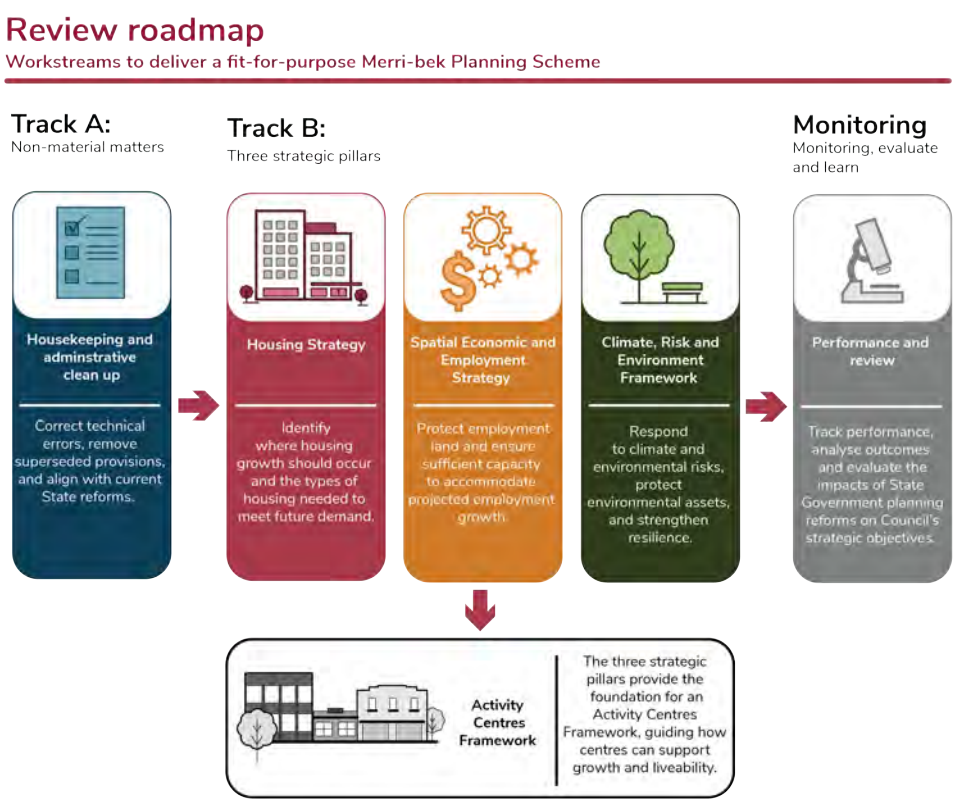
The Housing Strategy and Spatial Economic & Employment Strategy will provide strategic direction for managing housing growth and employment, while the Climate, Risk & Environment Framework will provide a coordinated basis for responding to priority climate, environmental and risk issues and reviewing related planning controls.

The Roadmap in Chapter 4 sets out the sequencing of this work, including preparation of the three strategic frameworks, development of the Activity Centres Framework, subsequent planning scheme amendments where required and ongoing monitoring of residential development outcomes.

Together, these actions provide a staged response to the issues identified through the Review: strategic work where further policy analysis is required, planning scheme amendments where strategic work identifies a need for change and advocacy where matters are primarily determined by State policy or implementation.

A summary of this work is provided at Figure 6.

Figure 6. The two track roadmap overview



4. Roadmap

4.1. A coordinated program to implement the review's recommendations

The Roadmap in Figure 7 and Tables 14-19 brings together the findings of the Review into a coordinated program of work. It distinguishes between a routine housekeeping amendment (Track A) that maintains the planning scheme and longer term strategic pillars (Track B) that will guide future planning work. Together, the two tracks ensure the planning scheme remains current while responding to the municipality's long term housing, economic and environmental challenges.

The Victorian planning policy framework has changed materially since the 2018 and 2022 Planning Scheme Reviews. The introduction of *Plan for Victoria*, the Housing Capacity Assessment Platform and other State planning reforms have superseded many of the assumptions, priorities and recommended actions contained in those earlier reviews, while also creating new strategic priorities. Accordingly, this Roadmap represents Council's current Planning Scheme Review implementation program and supersedes any outstanding or incomplete actions arising from previous review action plans, unless specifically identified for continuation within this document.

Track A focuses on administrative improvements that maintain the planning scheme, while Track B delivers the strategic projects identified through this Review, including the Housing Strategy, Spatial Economic & Employment Strategy and Climate, Risk & Environment Framework.

The approach under Track B is to establish the evidence and strategic direction first, before determining whether Planning Scheme amendments or other planning responses are required. This provides a stronger basis for future planning decisions and ensures statutory changes are informed by an agreed strategic position.

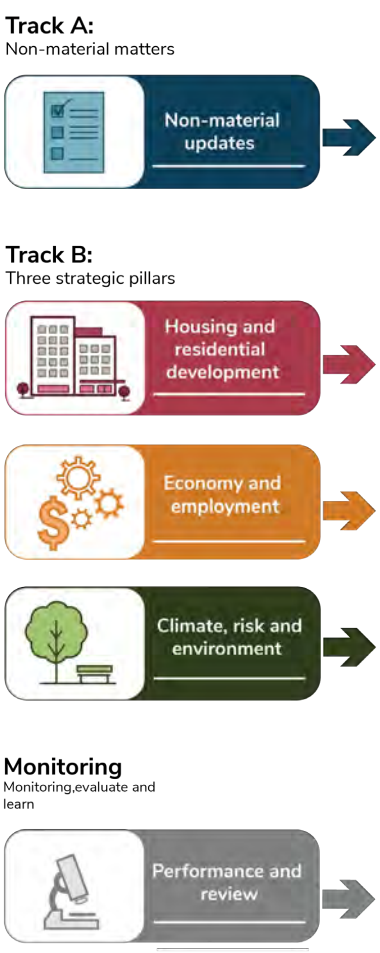
The Roadmap provides the sequencing for this work, with strategic projects undertaken before planning scheme amendments where further policy analysis is required. Progress against the Roadmap will be reported to Council, with timing and sequencing reviewed periodically as State planning reforms continue to evolve. The timeframes shown in Figure 7 are therefore indicative and may be refined as the work progresses.

4.1.1. Budget allocation

The majority of the work identified in the Roadmap, including strategic projects and Planning Scheme amendments, can be accommodated within the Strategic Planning Unit's existing base operating budget over the next four years. Delivery will remain subject to available resources, Council priorities and the relevant budget and statutory processes.

Where projects require specialist, expert, legal or consultancy support beyond existing resources, any additional funding required will be considered through Council's annual budget and service planning processes. Funding requirements will be assessed on a case-by-case basis as projects are developed and their scope and complexity are confirmed.

Figure 7. Merri-bek Planning Scheme Review four year roadmap (2027–2030)



2027	2027/28	2028/2029	2029/30
Housekeeping / administrative clean-up Planning Scheme Amendment Implement administrative improvements and corrections identified during the Planning Scheme Review.			
Housing Strategy Prepare the long term plan for housing growth.	**Community Engagement** Public consultation on a draft Housing Strategy.	**Activity Centres Framework** Brings together housing, employment, infrastructure, transport and environmental directions from the Housing Strategy, Spatial Economic & Employment Strategy and Climate, Risk & Environment Framework to establish a future program for Merri-bek's activity centres. Builds on existing place based planning work for Central Coburg.	**Planning Scheme Amendment** Formalise the Housing Strategy in the planning scheme.
Spatial Economic & Employment Strategy Prepare the long term plan for economic and job growth.	**Community Engagement** Public consultation on a draft Spatial Economic & Employment Strategy.		**Planning Scheme Amendment** Formalise the Spatial Economic & Employment Strategy in the planning scheme.
Climate, Risk & Environment Framework Establish the strategic basis for overlay reviews.	**Erosion Management Overlay Review** Review and update controls to manage erosion and landslide risk. **Environmental Audit Overlay Review** Review and update controls relating to potentially contaminated land.	**Planning Scheme Amendment** Review overlays and formalise landslide and contamination controls in the planning scheme.	**Significant Tree Review** Strengthen tree protection. **Environmental and Landscape Overlay Review** Update environmental and landscape overlays.
		Monitor outcomes Track performance, analyse outcomes and evaluate the impacts of State Government planning reforms on Council's strategic objectives.	

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4.2. Track A - Non-material updates

Track A comprises administrative and non-strategic improvements that can be implemented through a housekeeping amendment. These actions improve the accuracy, consistency and usability of the planning scheme by correcting outdated terminology, removing superseded provisions, aligning schedules with current policy and addressing other drafting anomalies identified through the Review. As State planning reforms continue to evolve, the scope of the amendment will be refined before reporting to Council to avoid duplicating or pre-empting further State led changes.

Table 14. Track A – Non-material update actions

Action	Deliverable	Timeframe
Prepare and implement a non-material planning scheme amendment to address the non-material updates identified through the Review.	Planning scheme updated to remove drafting anomalies, improve consistency with the Victoria Planning Provisions and ensure the Scheme remains accurate and contemporary.	2027

4.3. Track B - Strategic pillars

Track B comprises the strategic work program arising from the Review. These projects involve the preparation of new strategic work, evidence gathering, community engagement and planning scheme amendments. Together they provide the strategic foundation for the next generation of the Merri-bek Planning Scheme and will ensure the scheme continues to respond to housing growth, economic change, climate, risk and environmental challenges and broader State planning reforms.

4.3.1. Housing and residential development

This work will establish Council's long term strategic approach to accommodating housing growth while protecting liveability. It will respond to State housing reforms, including housing targets and HCAP, and provide the evidence base for a future planning scheme amendment.

Table 15. Track B – Housing and residential development actions

Action	Deliverable	Timeframe
Prepare a draft Housing Strategy using HCAP to meet housing targets and guide housing growth in the right locations.	Council endorsed draft **Housing Strategy** establishing the long term framework for accommodating housing growth and providing the strategic basis for planning scheme changes.	2027
Undertake community engagement to inform the final **Housing Strategy**.	Community and stakeholder feedback incorporated into the final **Housing Strategy**.	2027/28
Prepare and implement a planning scheme amendment to implement the **Housing Strategy**, using contemporary planning tools.	Planning scheme amended to implement the **Housing Strategy**.	2029/30

4.3.2. Economy and employment

The Review identified the need to modernise the strategic planning framework for employment land, activity centres and economic development. This work will establish the strategic direction for employment land, activity centres and economic development, and provide the basis for any planning scheme changes required to support future employment opportunities.

Timing of the Spatial Economic & Employment Strategy should be coordinated with Council's *Economic Development Action Plan 2024–2027* and its review to ensure strategic planning and economic development initiatives are informed by a consistent understanding of Merri-bek's future economic growth, employment needs and activity centres.

Table 16. Track B – Economy and employment actions

Action	Deliverable	Timeframe
Prepare a draft Spatial Economic & Employment Strategy to identify future employment land, activity centre and economic priorities.	Council endorsed draft Spatial Economic & Employment Strategy establishing the long term framework for future employment land, activity centres and economic development, and providing the strategic basis for planning scheme changes.	2027
Undertake community engagement to inform the final Spatial Economic & Employment Strategy.	Stakeholder input incorporated into the final Strategy.	2027/28
Prepare and implement a planning scheme amendment to implement the Spatial Economic & Employment Strategy, using contemporary planning tools.	Planning scheme updated to implement the Strategy and remove unnecessary barriers to investment and employment.	2029/30

4.3.3. Climate, risk and environment

This work addresses the Review's environmental and risk related matters. It combines strategic policy development with targeted implementation projects to reduce legal risk, improve environmental outcomes and resilience and ensure planning controls are supported by contemporary technical evidence.

Table 17. Track B – Climate, risk and environment actions

Action	Deliverable	Timeframe
Prepare a **Climate, Risk & Environment Framework** to guide future environmental, landscape and hazard planning controls.	Council endorsed **Climate, Risk & Environment Framework** providing the strategic overview for environmental, landscape and hazard planning controls.	2027
Review the Erosion Management Overlay (EMO) to reflect contemporary landslide hazard mapping.	Updated landslide hazard mapping and revised Erosion Management Overlay.	2027/28
Review the Environmental Audit Overlay (EAO) to identify potentially contaminated land.	Municipal risk screening completed and Environmental Audit Overlay priorities identified.	2027/28
Review the Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) and Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO) using contemporary evidence.	Updated environmental and landscape controls based on contemporary evidence.	2029/30
Review significant tree protections to determine where additional planning controls are justified.	Contemporary tree protection controls implemented where justified.	2029/30
Advocate for updated flood planning controls in coordination with Melbourne Water.	Council advocacy and coordination with Melbourne Water completed.	N/A
Advocate for State led planning controls for major pipeline infrastructure.	Council advocacy for State led action completed.	N/A
The residential monitoring action in Table 19 will include consideration of practical opportunities to improve the sustainability outcomes of new development, having regard to the limitations of the reformed Victorian Planning Provisions framework and Council's previous work on Amendment C223 to strengthen ESD requirements.	Evidence base established to inform future advocacy on the outcomes of the implementation of the State's ESD Roadmap.	2029/30
Prepare and implement planning scheme amendments to implement the **Climate, Risk & Environment Framework**.	Planning scheme amended to implement the Framework.	2028–2030

4.4. Place based planning

4.4.1. Activity Centres Framework

The Activity Centres Framework is a key implementation project arising from this Review. It will provide the principal place based planning framework for Merri-bek and act as the bridge between municipality wide strategic planning and centre specific planning outcomes. The Framework will draw together the directions of the Housing Strategy, Spatial Economic & Employment Strategy and Climate, Risk & Environment Framework, alongside infrastructure planning and existing place based projects such as Central Coburg, to establish a clear long term direction for Merri-bek's Housing Choice and Station Activity Centres. Collectively these strategic frameworks will inform a refresh of the Municipal Planning strategy in the Merri-bek Planning Scheme.

Table 18. Activity Centres Framework and Municipal Planning Strategy refresh actions

Action	Deliverable	Timeframe
Prepare an **Activity Centres Framework** using HCAP to meet housing targets and guide housing and economic growth in the right locations.	Council endorsed **Activity Centres Framework** to develop the 'what and the where' of place based directions for activity centres.	2028/29
Refresh the Municipal Planning Strategy to integrate the outcomes of the three strategic projects and align with current State planning policy.	A refreshed Municipal Planning Strategy integrating the outcomes of the three strategic projects, aligning with current State planning policy and providing a contemporary strategic framework for the Merri-bek Planning Scheme.	2030
Prepare and implement a planning scheme amendment to incorporate the refreshed Municipal Planning Strategy.	Updated Municipal Planning Strategy incorporated into the Merri-bek Planning Scheme.	2030

4.5. Monitoring

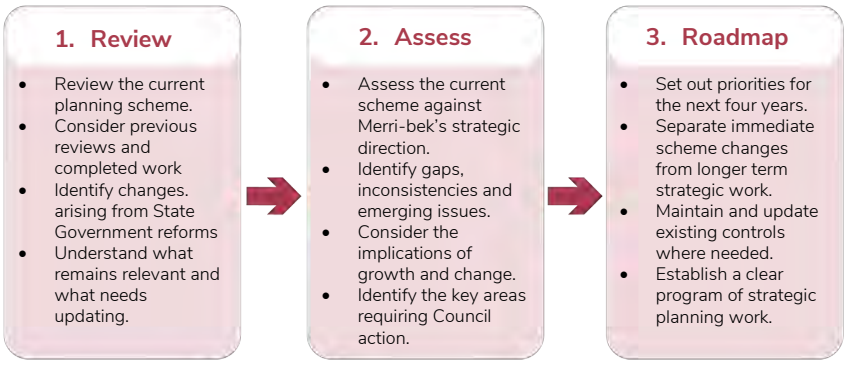
Monitoring will provide Council with an evidence-based understanding of how planning reforms are influencing development outcomes across Merri-bek. This information will support future advocacy, strategic planning and continuous improvement of the planning framework.

Table 19. Monitoring actions

Action	Deliverable	Timeframe
Monitor residential development outcomes to inform future planning and advocacy.	Evidence base established to inform future advocacy on the effectiveness of State residential planning reforms.	2029/30

5. Conclusion

Figure 8. 2026 Planning Scheme Review process



The Review concludes that the Scheme is generally operating effectively and provides a sound framework for managing land use and development. However, the Victorian planning system has changed substantially since the previous review, with significant State planning reforms reshaping the role of local planning scheme content and the scope of local decision making.

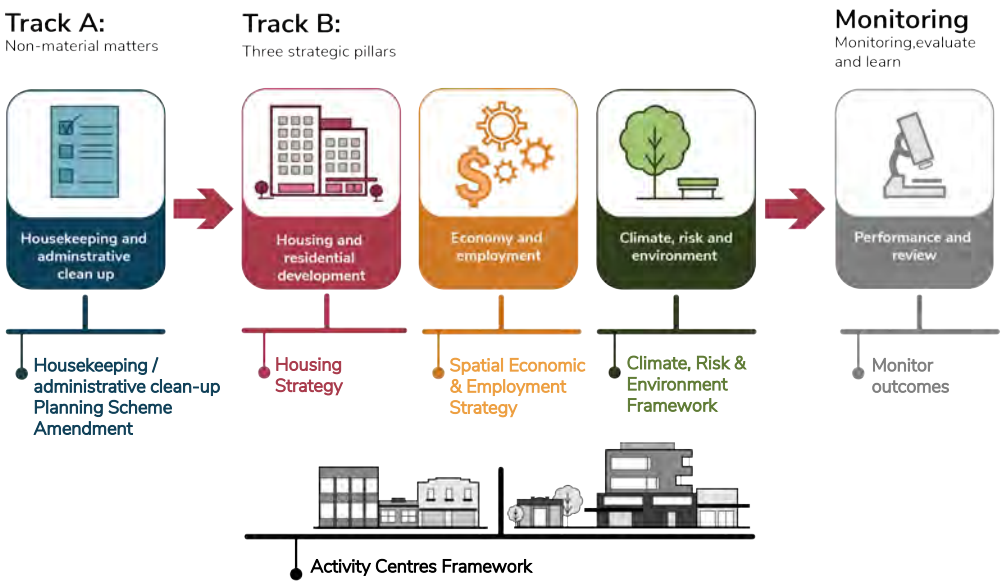
The Roadmap sequences this work over four years, with strategic frameworks informing subsequent planning scheme amendments where required. Monitoring and advocacy will complement this work where outcomes are primarily influenced by State policy, reform or implementation. This staged approach provides a proportionate response to the findings of the Review and sets a clear program for keeping the Planning Scheme current while responding to Merri-bek's longer term housing, economic, climate, risk and environmental priorities. A summary of this work is provided at Figure 9.

The Review identifies distinct streams of work:

- Track A comprises non-material updates to improve the accuracy, consistency and operation of the planning scheme. This housekeeping amendment will align local content with current State provisions, remove outdated or duplicated material, update terminology and ensure the planning scheme remains contemporary and efficient.
- Track B focuses Council's strategic effort on three priority areas where local planning continues to play an important role:
  - Housing & residential development
  - Economy & employment
  - Climate, risk & environment
- Monitoring establishes an evidence base to assess whether the planning reforms are delivering their intended outcomes and inform future advocacy and strategic planning.

These streams provide a coordinated response to the Review, establishing a clear program to manage growth and change while maintaining Merri-bek's liveability, economic strength and environmental resilience. The foundational strategic documents will guide future Planning Scheme updates and place-based planning across the municipality.

Figure 9. Review roadmap summary



Appendix One

Changes in State Planning Policy since the last review

Table 20 provides an overview of changes in State Planning Policy since the 2022 Review that informed the findings and recommendations in this report.

Table 20. Changes in State Planning Policy

Policy Initiative	Date / Status	Summary	Relevance to Merri-bek
Planning Amendment (Better Decisions Made Faster) Act 2026	Royal assent 17 Feb 2026; first part in force by Oct 2027	Most significant overhaul of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 in decades. Once fully implemented, allows affordable housing contributions as a condition of a planning permit. Updates the Act's objectives to include facilitating social and affordable housing alongside housing supply, diversity and affordability. The Act will continue to be amended over time.	The power to require affordable housing contributions is not automatic - Council will need to prepare a **Housing Strategy** identifying local housing requirements, amend the Merri-bek Planning Scheme to formalise affordable housing expectations, and assess where contributions are realistic given local land values and development economics.
Melbourne Industrial and Commercial Land Use Plan (MICLUP)	Released 2020; embedded in Victoria Planning Provisions via Amendment VC215, March 2023	State plan prepared as part of Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 to guide industrial and commercial land use across Melbourne.	Provides strong state level policy support to protect Merri-bek's limited industrial and commercial land, including the Brunswick industrial area and local employment precincts. Strengthens Council's ability to resist inappropriate rezoning to residential uses and guides sustainable transition and retention of employment/commercial floorspace.
Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Roadmap	Introduced 2020; ongoing	Statewide roadmap to enhance sustainability of building and subdivision developments and address climate change. Led to integration of climate change responses and ESD standards (energy, water, transport, greening) into building approvals. A new objective was added to the Planning and Environment Act 1987 requiring greenhouse gas targets and climate resilience to be considered in planning scheme amendments.	Work to elevate ESD targets in planning schemes continues, led by the Council Alliance for Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE), of which Merri-bek is a participant.
National Housing Accord	Signed Oct 2022; updated Aug 2023	Commits all levels of Australian government to delivering 1.2 million new well located homes nationally by 2029.	Councils are expected to support the Accord's objectives through zoning reform, streamlined approval pathways, and updated strategic policies that enable rather than constrain housing supply - reinforcing the need for Merri-bek to plan for increased density in well located areas near transport, jobs and services.

Policy Initiative	Date / Status	Summary	Relevance to Merri-bek
Victorian Housing Statement (The Decade Ahead 2024-2034)	Released Sept 2024	Sets a target of 2.24 million new homes across Greater Melbourne by 2051 (70% within established suburbs), and 800,000 new homes over the next decade. Key measures include rezoning for higher density in well located areas, 'deemed to comply' approval pathways, additional resourcing for permit backlogs, support for social housing, removal of permit requirements for small second dwellings, and support for innovative housing (e.g. office conversions).	Sets the overarching state housing agenda that Merri-bek's strategic planning must respond to and align with.
Plan for Victoria	2025	Victorian Government's overarching land use planning strategy, guiding growth through sufficient housing, faster planning decisions and stronger sustainability measures, and aligning local planning schemes with state priorities for transport, design quality and environmental outcomes.	Sets a housing target for Merri-bek of 69,000 new homes by 2051. Council must review its planning scheme to demonstrate capacity for this growth and, where needed, amend planning settings to accommodate it.
Economic Growth Statement 2024	2024	Outlines a vision for a prosperous and resilient Victoria, focused on cutting red tape, fostering innovation, expanding skills development, reaching regional communities, and cross sector partnerships.	Provides the broader economic policy context Council's planning and economic development work should align with.
Movement and Place in Victoria (incl. Brunswick and Coburg Framework)	Framework introduced 2019; Brunswick (Sydney Rd) and Coburg Activity Centre framework subsequently prepared	Sets out priority uses, performance measures and interventions for each road and street type. A specific Movement and Place Framework has been prepared for the Brunswick (Sydney Road) and Coburg Activity Centres, working alongside Council's Streets for People Plan.	Helps clarify street roles and identify suitable interventions for Merri-bek's busy activity centres and transport corridors and supports Council's local advocacy using consistent state terminology and assessment steps.
Infrastructure Victoria Strategy 2025-2055	2025	Identifies and advocates for priorities including planning for population growth in inner metropolitan areas, improved public and active transport, safer local streets (30 km/h zones), shared use of school grounds for community recreation, better coordination of waste/recycling infrastructure, reforms to infrastructure contributions and asset management, and long term sector plans aligning state and local priorities.	Priorities aim to streamline planning processes, increase housing supply, and focus growth in areas with strong access to jobs, services and public transport - relevant to Merri-bek as an inner metropolitan municipality.

Policy Initiative	Date / Status	Summary	Relevance to Merri-bek
Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes	July 2026	Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes is a legally binding instruction issued under Section 7(5) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. It dictates the structure, layout, formatting, and mandatory text requirements for all planning schemes and amendments to ensure consistency with the Victoria Planning Provisions.	The *Ministerial Direction on Form and Content of Planning Schemes* directs: • Local content cannot conflict with, duplicate, or override State planning requirements • A local schedule can only introduce more restrictive or localised development standards if the parent State clause explicitly provides a schedule slot allowing those modifications • More restrictive local controls are permissible only via State approved overlays or customised schedules where the State framework explicitly permits local variation. • In a schedule to a residential zone the Ministerial Direction limits their inputs. In relation to Clauses 54 and 55, they are only allowed to substitute numbers that relax the control to encourage a more intensive development outcome. • Council cannot use a local neighbourhood character policy to circumvent Clause 55. • Neighbourhood character is now defined solely by objective, measurable metrics: street setbacks, heights, site coverage, side/rear setbacks, walls on boundaries, access, tree canopy, and front fence. • Local residential zone schedules have no legal mechanism to vary Mid-Rise Code metrics in Clause 57.

Appendix Two

Amendments to the Merri-bek Planning Scheme since the last review

Table 21 provides the detailed assessment of planning scheme amendments since the 2022 Review that informed the findings and recommendations in this report.

Table 21. Planning scheme amendments since the 2022 review - 12 October 2022 – 18 September 2026

Amendment	Gazettal date	Brief description	Implications for Merri-bek
Victoria Planning Provision amendments			
VC313	18 September 2026	The amendment updates earth and energy resources policy.	**No implications.** Does not apply to the Merri-bek municipality.
VC312	16 June 2026	Corrections and updates to the Victoria Planning Provisions and planning schemes to ensure they are current and accurate.	**No implications.** Administrative correction.
VC311	09 June 2026	Amends clause 45.09 (Parking Overlay) to align with the changes made to clause 52.06 (Car parking) by Amendment VC277 in December 2025 as part of the car parking reforms. The amendment also makes consequential changes to clause 52.06.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC309	12 May 2026	The amendment clarifies that hemp brick production is included as a rural industry and requires a planning permit to produce hemp bricks in rural zones.	**No implications.** Does not apply to the Merri-bek municipality.
VC248	05 May 2026	The amendment improves bushfire planning by updating terminology and measures, increasing and clarifying planning permit exemptions for dwellings and other buildings, and updating decision guidelines that apply to the Bushfire Management Overlay. The amendment also inserts decision guidelines for specified development within the bushfire prone area at clause 53.02 Bushfire Planning.	**No implications.** Does not apply to the Merri-bek municipality.
VC232	28 April 2026	The Amendment changes the VPP and all planning schemes in Victoria by correcting and updating references to government departments, statutory authorities and ministerial portfolios in local provisions following Machinery of Government changes effective 1 January 2023.	**No implications.** Administrative correction.
VC307	20 April 2026	The Victoria Planning Provisions and all planning schemes are amended to increase the estimated cost of development thresholds for classes of VicSmart application to account for increased building construction costs in Victoria since their introduction and to provide for future cost inflation. Increasing the thresholds enables more applicants to benefit from the time, cost savings and certainty of the VicSmart application process.	**No implications.** Administrative correction.
VC308	17 April 2026	Changes the VPP and all planning schemes in Victoria to update all schedules to the Mixed Use Zone, Township Zone and Residential Growth Zone to align with the operation of the Mid-Rise Code introduced by Amendment VC300 and to correct technical errors associated with Amendment VC300.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC304	23 March 2026	Extends the expiry date of the Dependent Persons Unit temporary provisions.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC300	19 March 2026	Changes the VPP and all planning schemes in Victoria by implementing the Mid-Rise Code to introduce new deemed to comply assessment provisions for four to six storey residential development in residential zones.	**Moderate implications.** Updates assessment requirements.

Amendment	Gazettal date	Brief description	Implications for Merri-bek
VC245	13 February 2026	Amendment VC245 makes changes to give effect to the Surf Coast Statement of Planning Policy (SPP) and Bellarine Peninsula SPP. The amendment improves the clarity of the VPP and Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme by removing the particular provision at Clause 51.07 (Macedon Ranges SPP). The amendment also makes administrative changes to the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme.	**No implications.** Does not apply to the Merri-bek municipality.
VC271	06 February 2026	Supports the provision of energy-related infrastructure by facilitating the creation of new smaller lots for utility installations that transmit, distribute or store electricity in the Farming Zone and Rural Activity Zone.	**No implications.** Does not apply to the Merri-bek municipality.
VC265	04 February 2026	Amendment VC265 makes corrections and updates to the Victoria Planning Provisions and all planning schemes to ensure they are current and accurate.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC278	23 December 2025	Amendment VC278 applies Significant Landscape Overlays (SLOs) to 17 waterways within the Yarra (Birrarung) and Waterways of the West catchments. The controls preserve the unique landscape character, cultural values, amenity and ecological health of each waterway. The amendment also strengthens State policy for waterways and includes updates to existing SLOs within the Waterways of the West and Rivers of the Barwon catchments.	**Moderate implications.** Updates assessment requirements.
VC277	18 December 2025	Amends car parking requirements to align car parking rates with demand and reduce the number of car parks required in locations well serviced by public transport.	**Moderate implications.** Updates assessment requirements.
VC298	25 November 2025	Updates Clause 52.03 to reflect the Level Crossing Removal Project's (LXRP) name change to Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority (VIDA) Rail and expand the clause's application to projects carried out by or on behalf of VIDA Rail. The amendment also updates reference to the Guidelines for removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation (DEECA, 2025).	**No implications.** Administrative correction.
VC301	21 November 2025	Corrects Clause 52.37 table of permit exemptions to ensure public authorities and municipal councils do not require a permit to remove, destroy or lop a canopy tree to construct or maintain the transport system.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC297	19 November 2025	Creates an efficient approvals pathway for permits to facilitate the assessment of minor projects to support the delivery of the broader Suburban Rail Loop Authority transport program, including Suburban Rail Loop East.	**Moderate implications.** Updates assessment requirements.
VC290	13 November 2025	Changes the VPP and 63 planning schemes in Victoria by making Abattoir a section 1 use in the Table of Uses where specified siting, design and amenity conditions are met in clause 35.04 Green Wedge Zone, clause 35.07 Farming Zone and clause 35.08 Rural Activity Zone.	**No implications.** Does not apply to the Merri-bek municipality.
VC295	07 November 2025	The amendment changes the VPP and all planning schemes to align the provisions with the new name for Major Road Projects Victoria (MRPV) to VIDA Roads.	**No implications.** Administrative correction.
VC291	30 October 2025	Amendment VC291 updates the Victoria Planning Provisions and all planning schemes to replace the Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation, 2017 with the version published in 2025 and amend clause 66.01 (Subdivision Referrals) to enable the direct referral of planning applications to Fire Rescue Victoria for the existing fire hydrant referral matter.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.

Amendment	Gazettal date	Brief description	Implications for Merri-bek
VC294	27 October 2025	Amendment VC294 reforms sign provisions to exempt specified signs from planning permit requirements and remove mandatory permit expiration dates for most signs.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC296	17 October 2025	Reinstates the operation of the existing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and recovery exemption planning provisions until 30 June 2027.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC288	18 September 2025	The amendment extends the streamlined VicSmart assessment process to include planning permit applications for the construction of two dwellings on a lot and the subdivision of land into two lots.	**Moderate implications.** Updates assessment requirements.
VC289	15 September 2025	Introduces a planning permit requirement to remove, destroy or lop a canopy tree in residential areas at clause 52.37 (Canopy trees) into the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) and all planning schemes. Minimum canopy tree replacement requirements will apply to an application to remove a canopy tree. The amendment is required to implement Action 12 of *Plan for Victoria* to protect and enhance canopy trees.	**Moderate implications.** Updates assessment requirements.
VC292	11 September 2025	Makes changes to the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) and all planning schemes to include reference to the Neighbourhood Character Overlay (NCO) in the 'Application' section of clause 54 that was inadvertently omitted by Amendment VC282.	**No implications.** Administrative correction.
VC268	05 September 2025	Amendment VC268 is required to give effect to the Victorian Transmission Plan and update strategies to facilitate renewable energy development in declared renewable energy zones. Changes to references to the Climate Action Act 2017 are required to ensure that planning schemes are accurate.	**No implications.** Does not apply to the Merri-bek municipality.
VC283	02 September 2025	The Amendment changes the Victoria Planning Provisions and all planning schemes in Victoria to implement *Plan for Victoria* (Department of Transport and Planning, 2025), update and introduce policy, remove reference to Plan Melbourne 2017-2050: Metropolitan Planning Strategy and make general drafting improvements and clarifications.	**Significant implications.** Introduces a new planning framework.
VC279	21 August 2025	The amendment makes changes to the land use definition of Minor utility installation in the Victoria Planning Provisions and all planning schemes to ensure the appropriate planning assessment of large battery storage systems.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC282	11 August 2025	The amendment changes the Victoria Planning Provisions and all planning schemes in Victoria by introducing a new clause 54 (One dwelling on a lot or a small second dwelling on a lot), making consequential changes to give effect to the new residential development planning assessment provision and correcting technical errors made by Amendment VC267.	**Moderate implications.** Updates assessment requirements.
VC258	04 July 2025	The amendment improves the operation of the existing Development Facilitation Program (DFP) planning provisions at clauses 53.22 and 53.23 and expands the program eligibility to include gas projects and saleyards.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC219	02 July 2025	The Amendment changes the VPP and all planning schemes in Victoria to support the ongoing operation of extractive industry across Victoria and increase amenity protections for nearby accommodation.	**No implications.** Does not apply to the Merri-bek municipality.
VC286	01 July 2025	The Amendment changes the VPP and all planning schemes in Victoria by removing the requirement for a planning permit for licensed premises.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.

Amendment	Gazettal date	Brief description	Implications for Merri-bek
VC275	27 June 2025	The amendment introduces a planning exemption for outdoor dining on public land	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC281	14 April 2025	Amendment VC281 makes changes to the Victoria Planning Provisions and 34 planning schemes by amending clause 12.03-1R (Yarra River protection) to implement stage one of Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo, the Yarra Strategic Plan 2022-2032, February 2022. The amendment also introduces clause 51.06 to ensure responsible public entities have regard to the principles specified in the Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murron) Act 2017.	**No implications.** Does not apply to the Merri-bek municipality.
VC280	07 April 2025	Amendment VC280 introduces the Great Design Fast Track into the Victoria Planning Provisions and all planning schemes in Victoria. The Great Design Fast Track implements a new planning assessment pathway to facilitate the delivery of high quality townhouse and apartment developments.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC276	02 April 2025	Makes changes to the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) and all planning schemes to amend all residential zone schedules and Neighbourhood Character Overlay schedules to implement the new residential development planning assessment provisions and correct technical errors resulting from Amendment VC267.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC267	06 March 2025	Implements new residential development planning assessment provisions to boost housing construction to meet the housing needs of Victorians.	**Significant implications.** Introduces a new planning framework.
VC266	03 March 2025	The amendment extends the timeframe for the temporary planning provisions that allow for the use and development of land for a Dependent persons unit (DPU) by one year to 28 March 2026. The amendment also updates the permit requirements for DPU proposals affected by particular overlays.	**No implications.** Administrative correction.
VC274	28 February 2025	Amendment VC274 introduces the Precinct Zone (PRZ) at Clause 37.10 to support housing and economic growth in priority precincts across Victoria in line with Victoria's Housing Statement, The Decade Ahead 2024-2034 and the Victorian Government's vision for priority precincts, including Suburban Rail Loop precincts.	**Moderate implications.** Updates assessment requirements.
VC257	25 February 2025	Makes changes to the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) and all planning schemes to introduce Clause 32.10 Housing Choice and Transport Zone (HCTZ) and Clause 43.06 Built Form Overlay (BFO) to support housing growth in and around activity centres and other well serviced locations in line with Victoria's Housing Statement, The Decade Ahead 2024-2034	**Significant implications.** Introduces a new planning framework.
VC237	14 January 2025	The Amendment changes the VPP and all planning schemes in Victoria by introducing a permit exemption for a remote sellers packaged liquor licence under Clause 52.27, replacing references to EPAs Recommended Separation Distances for Industrial Residual Air Emissions document with the new Separation Distance Guideline and Landfill Buffer Guideline, replacing existing references to superseded state and regional waste and resource recovery plans with the new Victorian Recycling Infrastructure Plan, correcting typographical errors, updating formatting and ensuring language and references are accurate and up to date.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.

Amendment	Gazettal date	Brief description	Implications for Merri-bek
VC273	19 December 2024	Makes changes to clause 52.20 to apply to housing development that is wholly or partly funded by the Victorian or Commonwealth governments.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC272	18 December 2024	The amendment modifies the timeframes at clause 52.10 (Reconstruction After an Emergency) from 5 to 7 years.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC269	03 December 2024	The amendment makes changes to the VPP and all planning schemes to improve the operation of clause 53.24 Future Homes.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC263	22 November 2024	The Amendment makes changes to State policy relating to special water supply catchments and water quality, as well as improving references to the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 and updating references to policy documents	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC270	11 October 2024	Extends the outdoor dining planning exemptions under clause 52.18 (Coronavirus (COVID 19) pandemic and recovery exemptions) for a further 12 months.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC187	02 September 2024	Introduces a new particular provision, Housing by or on behalf of the Director of Housing at clause 53.20 of the Victoria Planning Provisions and all planning schemes to streamline the planning permit process to construct or extend a dwelling, or to construct or extend a front fence if the application is made by or on behalf of the Director of Housing. It amends clause 72.01 to specify the Minister for Energy, Environment, and Climate Change to be the responsible authority for the development of 10 or more dwellings and any apartment development.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC262	16 August 2024	Exempts applications to remove, destroy or lop vegetation that comply if a fire prevention notice has been issued under the Fire Rescue Victoria Act 1958.	**No implications.** Does not apply to the Merri-bek municipality.
VC255	03 May 2024	Changes the VPP and 52 planning schemes in Victoria by correcting obvious or technical errors and by making consequential changes to local schedules to align with Amendment VC243 and Amendment VC253.	**No implications.** Administrative correction.
VC252	26 April 2024	Changes the VPP and 64 planning schemes in Victoria by correcting obvious or technical errors and by making consequential changes to local schedules to align with Amendment VC243 and Amendment VC253.	**No implications.** Administrative correction.
VC261	04 April 2024	The amendment expands the operation of the existing Development Facilitation Program (DFP) planning provisions that fast-track the assessment of significant economic development by enabling an application for renewable energy facility, utility installation and associated subdivision to be assessed.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC259	28 March 2024	The amendment changes the VPP and all planning schemes in Victoria by extending the transitional arrangements for a dependent persons unit for a period of 12 months.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC256	15 March 2024	General omnibus amendment	**No implications.** Administrative correction.
VC244	16 February 2024	The amendment makes administrative corrections to Clause 72.04 and various schedules to Clause 72.04.	**No implications.** Administrative correction.
VC254	12 February 2024	The amendment makes changes to the Victoria Planning Provisions and all planning schemes related to Birrarung-Bolin Framework Plan, Proof of continuous use, signs in the Transport Zone and State projects.	**No implications.** Does not apply to the Merri-bek municipality.

Amendment	Gazettal date	Brief description	Implications for Merri-bek
VC178	01 February 2024	The amendment extends the expiry date for Clause 52.13-7 (2009 Bushfire - Recovery Exemptions) and amends the term stone extraction to extractive industry and the term solar energy facility to solar energy system to align with the intent of VC160.	**No implications.** Does not apply to the Merri-bek municipality.
VC249	15 January 2024	The amendment changes the Victoria Planning Provisions and all planning schemes in Victoria by exempting development for a small second dwelling from Development Contributions Plan requirements and correcting typographical errors related to small second dwellings.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC250	01 January 2024	The amendment supports Victoria's Gas Substitution Roadmap (Victorian Government, 2022) by prohibiting new gas connections for new dwellings, apartments and residential subdivisions where a planning permit is required.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC253	14 December 2023	Introduces a new land use term and siting, design and amenity requirements for a small second dwelling into the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) and all planning schemes to implement Victoria's Housing Statement: The decade ahead 2024-2034 by making it easier to build a small second dwelling.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC241	17 October 2023	The amendment removes prohibitions for specified sign types for a Freeway service centre, Service station and Open sports ground in a zone where Category 4 - Sensitive areas sign controls apply.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC247	06 October 2023	Amendment VC247 extends planning exemptions under clauses 52.07 (Emergency recovery) and 52.18 (Coronavirus (COVID 19) pandemic and recovery exemptions) and makes corrections to ordinance introduced in VC246 related to Container deposit scheme centres.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC016	03 October 2023	Introduces an Urban Growth Boundary and designates land outside the Urban Growth Boundary. Amends, introduces and restructures clauses of the State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF). Introduces a renewable energy policy in Clause 15.14 of the SPPF. Makes changes to the scheme relating to wind energy facilities, including introducing a new particular provision for the Table of uses in the Public Conservation and Resource Zone, amending clauses 62.01 and 62.02, and introducing general term and land use terms. Makes the Minister for Planning the responsible authority in all planning schemes for considering and determining applications for wind energy facilities with a capacity greater than 30 megawatts. Incorporates the *Policy and Planning Guidelines for Development of Wind Energy Facilities in Victoria, 2002* into all planning schemes	**No implications.** Does not apply to the Merri-bek municipality.
VC031	03 October 2023	Introduces a new Residential 3 Zone. Introduces a new Particular provision and amends Clause 19 to require an urban context report and design response for residential development of four (4) or more storeys. Includes a reference to Design Guidelines for Higher Density Housing in Clause 19. It also amends the ResCode provisions at Clauses 54.03-2 and 55.03-2 to give effect to residential height provisions.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.

Amendment	Gazettal date	Brief description	Implications for Merri-bek
VC034	03 October 2023	Introduces a new Clause 12 with consequential changes to other clauses in the SPPF. Includes reference to Alpine Resorts 2020 Strategy in Clause 15.13 and Activity Centre Design Guidelines and Safer Design Guidelines in Clause 19.03-3. Amends subdivision requirements in the Green Wedge Zone, Green Wedge A Zone and Rural Conservation Zone. Makes changes to provisions in the Rural Conservation Zone and Clause 57.01 regarding Wind energy facilities. Amends advertising sign controls along railway corridors in the Public Use Zone. Amends the Neighbourhood Character Overlay and Clauses 55 & 56 to refer to the Residential 3 Zone. Amends the Special Building Overlay for works that do not require a permit. Amends the Erosion Management Overlay, Salinity Management Overlay, Floodway Overlay, Land Subject to Inundation Overlay, Special Building Overlay, Public Acquisition Overlay, Airport Environs Overlay and Restructure Overlay to introduce exemptions from notice and review for permit applications. Clarifies requirements for extractive industry and private tennis courts in Clauses 52.09, 52.21 and 66.05. Introduces a definition for Metropolitan Melbourne in Clause 72 and introduces a Tramway definition and deletes reference to light rail. Introduces a new incorporated document, Activity Centres and Principal Public Transport Network Plan, 2003 in Clause 81.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC246	26 September 2023	Introduces new land use controls in the Victoria Planning Provisions and all planning schemes to improve facilitation of Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme. The amendment introduces a new land use term, Container deposit scheme centre, nested under Transfer station. The amendment also makes corrections to ordinance.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC243	22 September 2023	Amendment VC243 makes changes to the Victorian Planning Provisions (VPP) and all planning schemes to codify residential development standards, implement the Future Homes project across Victoria, remove permit requirements for single dwellings on lots of 300 square metres or more and introduce VicSmart permits for single dwellings on lots less than 300 square metres. These changes support the delivery of housing in Victoria.	**Moderate implications.** Updates assessment requirements.
VC242	20 September 2023	Amendment VC242 makes changes to the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) and all planning schemes by introducing two new particular provisions to facilitate significant residential development and significant economic development.	**Significant implications.** Introduces a new planning framework.
VC208	05 September 2023	Amends Clause 52.10 to apply the use, notice and review exemptions to other types of emergencies.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC236	14 August 2023	The amendment supports renewable hydrogen gas production and distribution and makes the Minister for Planning the responsible authority for large scale production of hydrogen gas.	**No implications.** Does not apply to the Merri-bek municipality.
VC238	03 August 2023	Changes the Victoria Planning Provisions and all planning schemes by amending clause 52.13, Victoria's container deposit scheme. The amendment changes the permit exemption threshold in clause 52.13 to enable an automated collection point to occupy 5 car spaces instead of 4 if the land contains 50 or more car spaces.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.

Amendment	Gazettal date	Brief description	Implications for Merri-bek
VC017	28 July 2023	Provides permit exemption in the Public Acquisition Overlay for proposals that are consistent with the purpose for which the land was or is to be acquired and provides permit exemptions and introduces an incorporated document for 3 Rail Infrastructure Projects (Rail Gauge Standardisation Project Regional Fast Rail Project and Fibre Optic Project) in 23 planning schemes.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC234	04 July 2023	The amendment clarifies noise requirements for wind energy facilities and the responsible authority for enforcement matters.	**No implications.** Does not apply to the Merri-bek municipality.
VC225	03 May 2023	The Amendment changes the VPP and all planning schemes in Victoria by making changes to correct obvious or technical errors and ensure they are current.	**No implications.** Administrative correction.
VC222	03 May 2023	Changes the Victoria Planning Provisions and all planning schemes to support the co-location of new government primary schools with kindergartens and facilitate projects that support the 2026 Commonwealth Games.	**No implications.** Administrative correction.
VC221	11 April 2023	The amendment facilitates all electric developments to support implementation of Victoria's Climate Change Strategy 2021 (Strategy) and Gas Substitution Roadmap 2022 (Roadmap). The amendment changes the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) and all planning schemes by amending clauses that require developments to be connected to reticulated gas and amending the referral requirements.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC220	11 April 2023	Supports the efficient delivery of neighbourhood batteries into the electricity distribution network through amendments to land use definitions.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC213	11 April 2023	Changes the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) and all planning schemes to ensure consistency with existing requirements under the Melbourne Strategic Assessment (MSA) Program to achieve specific biodiversity outcomes within Melbourne's growth corridors.	**No implications.** Does not apply to the Merri-bek municipality.
VC223	22 March 2023	Amends clause 73.01 (General terms) of the VPP and all planning schemes to define Minister for Planning to mean a Minister for the time being administering the P&E Act.	**No implications.** Administrative correction.
VC216	22 March 2023	The amendment makes changes to the Planning Policy Framework (PPF) in the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) and all planning schemes to support Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD).	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC229	20 March 2023	The amendment makes changes to the Victoria Planning Provisions and all planning schemes to correct obvious or technical errors and ensure they are current.	**No implications.** Administrative correction.
VC215	03 March 2023	The amendment implements the Melbourne Industrial and Land Use Plan (MICLUP) (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2020) in the Planning Policy Framework.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC230	08 February 2023	Revises clauses 52.20 and 72.01 to make the Minister for Planning the responsible authority for relevant applications to reflect the General Order dated 27 June 2022.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC218	20 December 2022	Strengthens policy relating to airport safeguarding.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.

Amendment	Gazettal date	Brief description	Implications for Merri-bek
VC201	16 December 2022	The amendment updates the Planning Policy Framework, introduces two new regional policies and a series of new Significant Landscape Overlays to recognise, protect and improve waterway health, amenity, access and community values.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC210	14 December 2022	Makes changes to the Victoria Planning Provisions and all planning schemes to ensure they are current and correct obvious or technical errors.	**No implications.** Administrative correction.
VC228	22 November 2022	Makes changes to the Victoria Planning Provisions and all planning schemes to facilitate Victoria's recovery from emergencies by allowing an exemption from operation hours for extractive industries.	**No implications.** Does not apply to the Merri-bek municipality.
VC227	14 November 2022	Makes changes to the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) and all planning schemes to support the facilitation of container deposit scheme (CDS) infrastructure under the Victorian Government's, Recycling Victoria: a new economy policy.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC226	04 November 2022	Makes changes to the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) and all planning schemes to support emergency recovery, telecommunications, solar energy systems and community care accommodation.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC224	28 October 2022	Amends the Victoria Planning Provisions and all planning schemes that relate to declared irrigation districts and solar energy facilities, delivery exemptions, electorate offices, Future Homes, healthy waterways, land use terms, stormwater management and tree removal under VicSmart.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC217	23 June 2022	The amendment changes the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) and all planning schemes to implement the decriminalisation of sex work.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
Victoria Planning Provision amendments awaiting gazettal			
VC306	11 September 2026 (notice of preparation)	The amendment proposes changes to the VPP and planning schemes to better facilitate small second dwellings and movable units.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC302	8 September 2026 (notice of preparation)	The amendment will improve and expand the operation of the Development Facilitation Program.	**Moderate implications.** Updates assessment requirements.
VC318	8 September 2026 (notice of preparation)	The amendment rezones land in 19 General Residential Zone schedules from the General Residential Zone to the Residential Growth Zone where existing General Residential Zone schedules allow residential development above 11 metres or three storeys.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC314	8 September 2026 (notice of preparation)	The amendment will change the definition of garden area in clause 73.01 (General terms).	**Moderate implications.** Updates assessment requirements.
VC299	7 September 2026 (notice of preparation)	The amendment will implement new environmentally sustainable development provisions for non-residential development and other accommodation development.	**Moderate implications.** Updates assessment requirements.
VC322	7 September 2026 (notice of preparation)	The amendment will implement the Victorian Government's commitment to protect Melbourne's green wedge land and Victoria's agricultural land from urban encroachment and inappropriate development.	**No implications.** Does not apply to the Merri-bek municipality.
VC319	2 September 2026 (notice of preparation)	The amendment will expand the number of dwellings eligible in the VicSmart assessment pathway from two to a maximum of four dwellings in all residential zones except for the Low Density Residential Zone.	**Significant implications.** Introduces a new planning framework.

Amendment	Gazettal date	Brief description	Implications for Merri-bek
VC317	1 September 2026 (notice of preparation)	The amendment will implement flood reforms, to update policy and introduce new flood planning controls that correspond to a risk based rating system.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC305	1 September 2026 (notice of preparation)	The amendment will change the VPP and all planning schemes to introduce new and updated provisions to support live music in Victoria.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC321	1 September 2026 (notice of preparation)	The amendment will introduce minimum standards for public open space in established areas to give effect to Action 13 of Plan for Victoria. The amendment also implements the updated Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria 2.0 and Movement and Place in Victoria 2.0 policy documents into the Planning Policy Framework to give effect to Action 14 and Action 15 of Plan for Victoria.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
VC310	25 August 2026 (notice of preparation)	The amendment changes the Bass Coast planning scheme to give effect to the Bass Coast Statement of Planning Policy and amends the Victoria Planning Provisions and all planning schemes to include Bass Coast Statement of Planning Policy as a policy document. The amendment also introduces and updates Significant Landscape Overlays in the Bass Coast, Greater Geelong, Queenscliffe and Surf Coast planning schemes in areas of identified state and regional landscape significance within the Bass Coast, Bellarine Peninsula and Surf Coast declared distinctive areas and landscapes.	**No implications.** Does not apply to the Merri-bek municipality.
VC315	7 August 2026 (notice of preparation)	The amendment introduces a series of refinements to the residential development requirements at Clauses 54, 55 and 57 to improve clarity, consistency and environmental performance across the residential codes. The amendment makes changes to Clause 52.37 (Canopy trees) to improve the operation of the provision.	**Moderate implications.** Updates assessment requirements.
Group of Council amendments			
GC236	02 April 2026	Applies the LSIO2 to flood affected land in Avondale Heights, Darraweit Guim and Keilor and inserts a new Schedule 2 to Clause 44.04 (LSIO2) into the Brimbank, Macedon Ranges and Moonee Valley Planning Schemes on an interim basis for two years, renumbers the existing LSIO in the Brimbank, Macedon Ranges and Moonee Valley Planning Schemes as LSIO1 and applies the LSIO to land along the Moonee Ponds Creek in the City of Merri-bek.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
GC270	31 March 2026	Facilitates the development of new homes within 25 Train And Tram Zone Activity Centres, grouped as Stage 1 of the Train and Tram Zone Activity Centres Program. The amendments do this by introducing new built form and height controls and applying those controls to the core of each activity centre, generally through new schedules to the Built Form Overlay (BFO). Also applies the Housing Choice and Transport Zone (HCTZ) to the catchments of each activity centre.	**Significant implications.** Introduces a new planning framework.
GC269	24 February 2026	GC269 corrects obvious or technical errors and makes consequential changes to local schedules to align with VC286.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.

Amendment	Gazettal date	Brief description	Implications for Merri-bek
GC282	29 January 2026	The Amendment provides exemptions for significant transport projects in waterway corridors subject to Significant Landscape Overlays (SLOs) to prevent delays in the delivery of State infrastructure projects. The amendment also improves the clarity and consistency of the SLOs and corrects typographical errors.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
GC230	01 December 2023	Amendment GC230 makes changes to zone schedules in 14 planning schemes to ensure alignment with Amendment VC217. Amendment VC217 implemented planning changes to support the decriminalisation of sex work in Victoria. Amendment VC217 was gazetted on 23 June 2022 and came into operation on 1 December 2023.	**No implications.** Administrative correction.
Council amendments			
C196more	08 January 2026	Introduces Schedule 2 to Clause 44.05 (Special Building Overlay) (SBO2) to land affected by stormwater overland flows associated with local drainage areas, where Merri-bek City Council is the local drainage authority.	**Moderate implications.** Updates assessment requirements.
C203more	20 October 2025	The amendment applies the PAO to land required for the upgrading of the intersection at the corner of Gaffney Street and Sussex Street in Coburg North and Pascoe Vale.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
C231mbek	02 October 2025	Implements policy direction from the Merri-bek Open Space Strategy (2025) and Moving Around Merri-bek Transport Strategy (2024).	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
C234mbek	24 April 2025	Implements Section 56 of the Heritage Act 2017 to ensure that places in the Planning Scheme are consistently identified with places in the Victorian Heritage Register.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
C232mbek	20 December 2024	Section 96A combined amendment and planning permit to facilitate the redevelopment of surplus education land at 22-38 and 27-31 The Avenue, Coburg for a mixed use development containing dwellings, publicly accessible open space and a food and drink premises.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
C174morept1	05 February 2024	Applies the Heritage Overlay on a permanent basis to 80 individual sites, 4 heritage precincts, 3 serial listings and 10 precinct extensions in Brunswick, Brunswick East, Brunswick West, Coburg, Coburg North, Glenroy, Fawkner, Fitzroy North, Oak Park, Pascoe Vale and Pascoe Vale South and introduces The Moreland Heritage Exemptions Incorporated Plan 2019 into the Moreland Planning Scheme.	**Moderate implications.** Updates assessment requirements.
C219more	29 June 2023	Removes the Specific Controls Overlay Schedule 4 from 42 St Phillip Street, Brunswick East and makes associated changes to the Merri-bek Planning Scheme.	**No implications.** Administrative correction.
C226more	08 June 2023	Implements Section 56 of the Heritage Act 2017 to ensure that places in the Planning Scheme are consistently identified with places in the Victorian Heritage Register. The amendment makes consequential changes to Moreland Heritage Exemptions Incorporated Plan 2023.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
C195more	08 June 2023	Corrections amendment to remove inconsistencies in local schedules with the Victoria Planning Provisions and Ministerial Direction - Form and Content of Planning Schemes as part of the Smart Planning Local Schedules Update.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.

Amendment	Gazettal date	Brief description	Implications for Merri-bek
C212more	08 June 2023	Deletes overlays identified in the Planning Scheme Review Report 2018 as no longer required. Makes the changes to the Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and Planning Policy Framework (PPF) identified during the translation of the Local Planning Policy Framework (LPPF) to the new format PPF. Implements 3D modelling application requirements for the Brunswick Activity Centre and Neighbourhood Activity Centres in support of Recommendation 4UD of the Moreland Planning Scheme Review Report 2018. Corrects anomalies by fixing ordinance, mapping and clerical errors, including rezoning of land. Rezones land purchased for new parks as part of the implementation of A Park Close to Home: a framework to fill open space gaps, 2017.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
C218more	18 May 2023	The amendment amends the Schedule to Clause 72.01 to make the Minister for Planning the responsible authority for matters under Divisions 1, 1A, 2, 3 and 5 of Part 4 and Division 2 of Part 9 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and any matters required by a permit or the scheme to be endorsed, approved, or done to the satisfaction of the responsible authority, in relation to the land at 699-703 Park Street, 182-192 Brunswick Road and 2-4 Sydney Road, Brunswick; and combined Planning Permit PA2201559.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
C208more	04 May 2023	To implement the recommendations of the Moreland Heritage Nominations Study 2022 by applying the Heritage Overlay on a permanent basis to 38 individual heritage places, 1 serial listing, 5 new precincts, 3 precinct extensions and 2 precinct reductions and deleting individual Heritage Overlays from 5 properties being included in the new serial listing. The amendment corrects a number of mapping and curtilage anomalies and makes related consequential changes to the Merri-bek Planning Scheme.	**Moderate implications.** Updates assessment requirements.
C221more	24 March 2023	Amend the incorporated document 'Merri-bek Development Contributions Plan, January 2015 (amended December 2022)' with the addendum titled '2015 DCP Addendum, December 2022' for an updated infrastructure projects list to be funded by the DCP.	**No implications.** Administrative correction.
C224more	22 March 2023	The Amendment amends the Schedule to Clause 72.01 to include a paragraph that was incorrectly omitted during the gazettal of Amendment C216more.	**No implications.** Administrative correction.
C222more	22 March 2023	The amendment rezones 2-2A Avoca Street, Brunswick to the Residential Growth Zone - Schedule 1	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
C201more	09 March 2023	The amendment implements the Moreland Industrial Land Strategy 2015-2030 by rezoning the land from Industrial 3 Zone and General Residential Zone Schedule 1 to General Residential Zone Schedule 1 and Mixed Use Zone and by applying an Incorporated Plan Overlay and Environmental Audit Overlay.	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.
C225more	14 February 2023	Renames the Planning Scheme from Moreland to Merri-bek to reflect the change of the name of the municipality on 26 September 2022. All references to Moreland in the planning scheme are replaced with Merri-bek except for policy and reference documents, roads and completed planning scheme amendment references which remain unaffected by the name change.	**No implications.** Administrative correction.

Amendment	Gazettal date	Brief description	Implications for Merri-bek
C077	13 February 2023	Amends the Planning Scheme overlay maps to remove properties from the Special Building Overlay and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay because they are not subject to the hazards managed by these overlays.	**No implications.** Administrative correction.
C227more	03 February 2023	Corrects a number of technical errors in the Moreland Planning Scheme resulting from Amendment C195more which sought to align the scheme with the Victoria Planning Provisions and Ministerial Direction - Form and Content of Planning Schemes.	**No implications.** Administrative correction.
C164pt2moreBmore	25 November 2022	Implements the land use directions of the Moreland Industrial Land Strategy 2015-2030 (MILS) for the Brunswick Activity Centre for Category 3 areas	**Minimal implications.** Administrative update.

Appendix Three

Merri-bek snapshot detail

Population summary

Table 22. Population growth driving future demand

Current (2025 ERP)	2036 forecast	2051 forecast
189,108[1]	**~222,000**[2,3]	**256,000**[2]
▲ +42k since 2011 census	▲ +17.8% from current	▲ +35% · ~66k new residents

Table 23. A young and growing population profile

Age group	Merri-bek	Comparison with Greater Melbourne
Babies and pre-schoolers (0 to 4)	5.7%[4]	▼ *Below average (avg) (6.2%)*
Primary schoolers (5 to 11)	7.1%[4]	→ *Similar to avg*
Secondary schoolers (12 to 17)	5.1%[4]	▼ *Below avg (5.9%)*
Tertiary / independence (18 to 24)	9.0%[4]	▲ *Above avg (8.1%)*
Young workforce (25 to 34)	**21.7%**[4]	▲ ***Well above (15.9%)***
Parents and homebuilders (35 to 49)	23.0%[4]	→ *Similar (22.8%)*
Older workers and pre-retirees (50 to 59)	10.8%[4]	▼ *Below avg (12.1%)*
Empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69)	7.6%[4]	▼ *Below avg (9.5%)*
Seniors (70 to 84)	7.3%[4]	▼ *Below avg (8.9%)*
Elderly aged (85 and over)	2.7%[4]	→ *Similar to avg*

DATA SOURCES

[1] ABS Estimated Resident Population 2025
[2] Merri-bek Planning & Population Growth Study, 2024
[3] Victoria in Future 2023 (VIF2023), Department of Transport & Planning
[4] ABS Census 2021

Household summary

Table 24. Smaller households shaping housing demand

Average household size	Lone person households	Couples with children
2.37 persons[4]	**28.4%**[4]	**26.0%**[4]
▼ Below Gtr Melbourne (2.6)	▲ Well above Gtr Melbourne (23.2%)	▼ Below Gtr Melbourne (31.9%)

Table 25. Household composition across Merri-bek

Household type	Merri-bek	Comparison with Greater Melbourne
Lone person households	**28.4%**[4]	▲ ***Well above avg (23.2%)***
Couples with children	26.0%[4]	▼ *Below avg (31.9%)*
Couples without children	23.9%[4]	→ *Similar (24.1%)*
One parent families	8.6%[4]	▼ *Below avg (9.6%)*
Group households	7.7%[4]	▲ *Above avg (4.8%)*

Table 26. Household size distribution

Household size	Merri-bek	Comparison with Greater Melbourne
1 person	29.5%[4]	▲ *Above avg (23.8%)*
2 persons	32.8%[4]	▲ *Above avg (31.1%)*
3 persons	16.3%[4]	▼ *Below avg (17.4%)*
4 persons	14.6%[4]	▼ *Below avg (17.5%)*
5 persons	4.6%[4]	▼ *Below avg (6.6%)*
6 or more persons	2.1%[4]	▼ *Below avg (3.4%)*

DATA SOURCES

[4] ABS Census 2021

Housing summary

Table 27. Housing growth and affordability pressures

Current dwellings	Renting	Forecast dwellings by 2036
78,309[4]	**37.1%**[4]	**101,689**[3]
▲ +8,800 since 2016 census	▲ Well above Gtr Melbourne (29.2%)	▲ +30% from 2021; ~23k new

Table 28. A diverse housing stock

Dwelling type	Merri-bek	Comparison with Greater Melbourne
Separate house	51.1%[4]	▼ *Below avg (~68%)*
Medium density	**35.4%**[4]	▲ ***Well above avg (~22%)***
High density	12.8%[4]	▲ *Above avg (~9%)*

Table 29. Housing tenure and rental pressure

Housing tenure	Merri-bek	Comparison with Greater Melbourne
Fully own their home	27.1%[4]	▼ *Below avg (28.7%)*
Purchasing (mortgage)	30.0%[4]	▼ *Below avg (35.6%)*
Renting	**37.1%**[4]	▲ ***Well above avg (29.2%)***
Rental payment stress	**40.9%**[4]	▲ ***Higher than avg***

Table 30. Growing need for affordable housing

Affordability & homelessness	Merri-bek	Trend
Affordable housing need 2025	6,873 households	▲ *Up from ~5,400 in 2016*
Forecast affordable housing need 2051	9,100 households	▲ *+32% 2025 baseline*
People experiencing homelessness	768[6]	▲ *Increased since 2016*

DATA SOURCES

[3] Victoria in Future 2023 (VIF2023), Department of Transport & Planning
[4] ABS Census 2021
[5] Meeting Housing Need in Merri-bek: Building an Inclusive Future, 2025
[6] ABS / Merri-bek Housing Submission 2023

Economy and employment summary

Table 31. A strong and growing local economy

Local businesses	Gross Regional Product	Local jobs
16,063[7]	**$7.89 billion**[7]	**52,735**[7]
▲ Growth since pre-COVID levels	▲ Strong local economic output	▲ Up from ~46k in 2016

Table 32. Employment patterns and commuting

Employment	Merri-bek	Trend / Context
Employment self-sufficiency – local jobs relative to working residents	**46.4%**[4]	**▼Well below average (75%-85%)**
Residents who commute outside municipality for work	**81%4**	***▲ Well above average (65% – 70%)***
Professional workforce	34.7%	*▲Gtr Melb average 26.8%*
Residents working in City of Melbourne LGA	32.2%[4]	*▲ Strong CBD employment link*
Merri-bek workers from outside Merri-bek	**60.1%**[8]	***▼ Labour imported from wider metro***

Table 33. A highly skilled resident workforce

Resident qualifications	Merri-bek	Comparison with Greater Melbourne
Bachelor or higher degree	**41.1%**[4]	***▲ Well above avg (32.8%)***
Resident unemployment rate	5.0%[4]	*▼ Slightly below Greater Melbourne (5.3%)*

DATA SOURCES

[4] ABS Census 2021
[7] ABS Business Register / economy.id; National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) / economy.id (Local jobs: June 2024)
[8] Key Workers in Merri-bek 2025, .id informed decisions

Environment summary

Table 34. Environmental assets and liveability

Tree canopy cover 2021 **13.42%**[9] ▼ Below Gtr Melbourne avg (15.3%)	Dwellings near open space **82%**[10] ▲ Above national avg for inner cities	Avg distance to public transport **229m**[10] ▲ Excellent access vs national avg

Table 35. Green space and tree canopy

Green space and tree canopy	Merri-bek	Trend / Context
Tree canopy cover 2021	**13.42%**[9]	▼ ***Below Greater Melbourne avg (15.3%)***
Dwellings within 400m of public open space	82%[10]	▲ *Above national avg for inner cities*

Table 36. Travel behaviour and sustainable transport

Car ownership and transport	Merri-bek	Comparison with Greater Melbourne
No motor vehicles	**12.6%**[4]	▲ ***Well above avg (~6%)***
1 motor vehicle	45.3%[4]	▲ *Above avg (~41%)*
2 motor vehicles	27.4%[4]	▼ *Below avg (~35%)*
3 or more motor vehicles	10.2%[4]	▼ *Below avg (~13%)*
Average distance to public transport	229m[10]	▲ *Excellent access vs national avg*
Take public transport to work	**~25%**[11]	▲ ***Well above Greater Melbourne avg (~16%)***
Walk or cycle to work	~8%[11]	▲ *Above Gtr Melbourne avg (~4%)*

DATA SOURCES

[4] ABS Census 2021
[9] Merri-bek City Council Urban Forest Strategy Report 2022
[10] Australian Urban Observatory 2021
[11] ABS Census 2016

Appendix Four

Track A detail

Table 37. Municipal Planning Strategy – Recommended updates

Theme	What needs to be done
Update outdated data and forecasts	Population, dwelling and open space forecast and figures need to be refreshed to reflect more recent sources, replacing older projections that predate recent shifts in growth patterns.
Align terminology with *Plan for Victoria*	References to the former activity centre hierarchy need to be replaced with the new State terminology and classifications. This needs to flow through to walking-catchment distances, activity centre role descriptions, the activity centre hierarchy table, and references to activity centres elsewhere in the strategy.
Refine growth and housing direction	Wording around where and how growth should occur needs to be updated to better reflect State housing objectives, and to distinguish between general housing affordability and dedicated affordable/social housing provision.
Streamline vision and context content	Condense vision content to remove wording that does not inform planning permit decision-making, alongside minor factual corrections to context statements.
Adjust environmental and amenity wording	Content on environmental risks, built environment and environmentally sustainable design needs to be refined to remove outdated and duplicated wording, reflecting changes in State policy and licensing arrangements.
Update economic development language	Wording on the role of industrial land and local employment needs to be adjusted to reflect a gradual shift toward broader commercial activity, along with a growing need for enabling both residents to work locally and workers to live locally.
Relocate misplaced content	Content that sits more appropriately within the Planning Policy Framework needs to be moved out of the Municipal Planning Strategy.
Update supporting framework plans	Key strategic framework plans need to be refreshed to reflect updated terminology and align with the new State-level framework.
Correct minor errors and inconsistencies	Several small corrections need to be made throughout, including outdated references, grammatical duplication, and capitalisation inconsistencies.

Table 38. Planning Policy Framework – Recommended updates

Theme	What needs to be done
Remove duplicative or redundant local policy	Several local policies need to be deleted where their content is covered by State policy, residential codes, overlays, other planning tools or are no longer applicable.
Streamline amenity and licensing-related policy	Content relating to licensed premises needs to be narrowed to focus on land-use amenity impacts, rather than matters that fall under separate licensing regimes, with related guidance consolidated and made more consistent.
Tighten niche-use policy	Guidance on student housing and caretaker's houses needs to be sharpened to require a clearer operational justification.

Theme	What needs to be done
Simplify housing-related policy	Content on housing density, typology and specific accommodation types needs to be simplified or removed where it duplicates State policy and residential code direction.
Refine housing affordability policy	Housing affordability policy needs to be updated to better reflect the distinction between market-affordable and subsidised affordable housing, and to align with current housing needs evidence.
Address duplicative development standards	Local standards for minimal and incremental change areas need to be reviewed where they duplicate or conflict with residential code and zone provisions.

Table 39. Zones – Recommended updates

Theme	What needs to be done
Remove redundant landscaping guidance	State planning reforms have switched off canopy tree and landscaping requirements in several residential zone schedules, necessitating updates to those schedules.
Review Residential Growth Zone Schedule 2	State reforms have overtaken the more restrictive intent of this schedule. Its requirements should be reduced, with the standard zone and code provisions applying.
Bring land use terms up to date	A handful of land use definitions no longer match current State terminology and should be corrected wherever they appear in the use tables.
Remove superseded bicycle parking rates	State-set bicycle parking rates are being increased, which may make the Coburg Activity Centre's local rate table obsolete.

Table 40. Overlays – Recommended updates

Theme	What needs to be done
Remove redundant built form guidance	The 2018 and 2022 Planning Scheme Reviews identified that many built form overlays in the Merri-bek Planning Scheme guide completed development and have no ongoing purpose. In other cases the need for a built form overlay has been superseded by State reform of VPP provisions or State-led activity centre requirements. These include: DDO2, DDO4, DDO5, DDO6, DDO7, DDO9, DDO10, DDO24, IPO3, DPO1, DPO6. Where height guidance is contained elsewhere in the scheme these provisions can be deleted in a housekeeping amendment (Track A). Where height guidance needs to be translated into a different control this should be addressed in implementing the proposed **Housing Strategy** (Track B).
Superseded references to Clause 55 requirements	DDO26 contains references to superseded ResCode standards. As it applies to this precinct, ResCode has been replaced by the Mid-Rise Code and the Better Apartment Design Standards. Clauses 57 and 58 apply in addition to the DDO and do not need to be cross-referenced. The superseded references should be deleted.

Theme	What needs to be done
BFO omissions	The Train and Tram Zone Activity Centres program introduced new Built Form Overlays (BFO1 Brunswick Sydney Road and BFO2 Coburg). A small number of omissions have been found since these controls were finalised. These include the application requirement for a 3D model, erroneous exclusion of guidance for 10-22 Cameron Street Coburg and absence of guidance for sites on the Victorian Heritage Register. Correcting these omissions will ensure the overlays operate as intended and provide consistent application requirements and decision-making guidance during permit assessment.

Table 41. Operational Provisions – Recommended updates

Theme	What needs to be done
Outdated documents	The schedules to Clauses 72.04 Incorporated Documents and 72.08 Background Documents contain references to some redundant documents which need to be removed.

Table 42. Special Use Zone Schedule – Recommended updates

13 land use terms reviewed · 2 issues identified.

Term used	Status	Current 73.03 term / equivalent
Search for stone	✗ Outdated term	Stone exploration
Tram	✗ Outdated term	Tramway

Table 43. Activity Centre Zone Schedule – Recommended updates

63 land use terms reviewed · 2 issues identified.

Term used	Status	Current 73.03 term / equivalent
Intensive animal husbandry	✗ Outdated term	Intensive animal production
Stone extraction	✗ Outdated term	Extractive industry

The Advisory Note recommends aligning local content with reformed state content to resolve inconsistencies in terminology with the *Plan for Victoria* activity centres hierarchy. **Tables 44, 45 and 46** below set out the terminology realignment to resolve the inconsistencies.

Table 44. Major Activity Centre comparison

***Plan Melbourne*: 3 Major Activity Centres**		***Plan for Victoria*: 11 Housing Choice and Station Centres**	
Tier	**Location**	**Tier**	**Location**
Major Activity Centres	1. Coburg Activity Centre 2. Brunswick Activity Centre 3. Glenroy Activity Centre	**Housing Choice and Station (Train and Tram Zone) Activity Centres**	*Upfield railway line & Route 19 tram corridor* 1. Brunswick (Sydney Road) Train and Tram Zone Activity Centre 2. Coburg Activity Centre Train and Tram Zone Activity Centre *Route 1 and Route 6 tram corridor* 3. Brunswick (Lygon Street) Train and Tram Zone Activity Centre *Route 96 tram corridor* 4. Brunswick (Nicholson Street) Train and Tram Zone Activity Centre
		Housing Choice and Station Activity Centres	*Craigieburn railway line* 5. Glenroy Housing Choice and Station Activity Centre 6. Oak Park Housing Choice and Station Activity Centre 7. Pascoe Vale Housing Choice and Station Activity Centre 8. Jacana Housing Choice and Station Activity Centre (potential future) *Upfield railway line* 9. Merlynston Housing Choice and Station Activity Centre 10. Fawkner Housing Choice and Station Activity Centre (potential future) 11. Gowrie Housing Choice and Station Activity Centre (potential future)

Table 45. Neighbourhood Centre comparison

Current: 12 Neighbourhood Centres		Retained: 9 Neighbourhood Centres	
Tier	**Location**	**Tier**	**Location**
Neighbourhood Centres	4. Grantham/Union Streets, Brunswick West 5. Melville Road/Albion Street/Victoria Street, Coburg/Brunswick West 6. Nicholson Street/Holmes Street/Moreland Road, Coburg/Brunswick/Brunswick East 7. Bell Street/Melville Road, Pascoe Vale South 8. Gaffney Street/Pascoe Vale Station, Pascoe Vale 9. Gaffney/Sussex Streets, Coburg North 10. Elizabeth Street, Coburg North 11. West Street, Hadfield 12. Bonwick Street, Fawkner 13. Snell Grove, Oak Park 14. Merlynston Station, Merlynston 15. Moreland/Melville Roads, Brunswick West	**Neighbourhood Centres**	***Route 58 tram corridor*** 12. Bell Street/Melville Road, Pascoe Vale South Neighbourhood Centre 13. Grantham Street/Union Streets, Brunswick West Neighbourhood Centre 14. Melville Road/Albion Street/Victoria Street, Coburg/Brunswick West Neighbourhood Centre 15. Moreland Road/Melville Road, Brunswick West Neighbourhood Centre ***Route 1 and Route 6 tram corridor*** 16. Nicholson Street/Holmes Street/Moreland Road, Coburg/Brunswick/Brunswick East Neighbourhood Centre ***No train line or tram corridor*** 17. Bonwick Street, Fawkner Neighbourhood Centre 18. Elizabeth Street, Coburg North Neighbourhood Centre 19. Gaffney Street/Sussex Street, Coburg North Neighbourhood Centre 20. West Street, Hadfield Neighbourhood Centre

Table 46. Local Centre comparison

Current: 42 Local Centres		Retained: 42 Local Centres	
Tier	**Location**	**Tier**	**Location**
Local Centres	16. Cumberland Road/Gaffney Street, Pascoe Vale 17. East Street, Hadfield 18. North Street, Hadfield 19. Harding/Nicholson, Coburg 20. Major Road, Fawkner 21. Anderson Road, Fawkner 22. Pascoe Street, Pascoe Vale 23. Tyson/Lowson Streets, Fawkner 24. Warwick Road/Derby Street, Pascoe Vale 25. Justin Avenue, Glenroy 26. Lynch Road, Fawkner 27. Danin Street/Devon Road, Pascoe Vale 28. Derby/Gaffney Streets, Pascoe Vale 29. Kent/Cumberland Roads, Pascoe Vale 30. Coonans Road/Parkstone Avenue, Pascoe Vale South 31. Kent Road/Sussex Street, Pascoe Vale 32. Daley/Widford Streets, Glenroy 33. Newlands Road/Carr Street, Coburg North 34. William Street/Menana Road, Glenroy 35. Argyle Street, Fawkner 36. Winifred Street, Oak Park 37. Elizabeth Street/Murray Road, Coburg North 38. O'Hea/Main Streets, Coburg 39. Woodlands Avenue/Melville Road, Pascoe Vale South 40. Reynard/Donne Streets, Coburg 41. Ridgeway Avenue/Marrson Place, Glenroy 42. Reynard Street/Melville Road, Pascoe Vale South 43. Boundary Road/Garden Drive, Pascoe Vale 44. Cool/Elizabeth Streets, Coburg North 45. Albion Street/Waxman Parade, Brunswick West 46. Gowanbrae Drive/Bluebell Crescent, Gowanbrae 47. Suffolk Avenue/Bell Street, Coburg 48. Mathieson Street/Sydney Road, Coburg North 49. Elizabeth/Bell Streets, Coburg 50. Xaivier/Josephine Streets, Oak Park 51. Westgate/Anderson Streets, Pascoe Vale 52. Molesworth/Gaffney Streets, Coburg 53. Sydney Road/Sulva Grove, Coburg North 54. Sydney Road/Ryland Street, Coburg North 55. Harding/Gladstone Streets, Coburg 56. Harding/Belgrave Streets, Coburg 57. Harding/Salisbury Streets, Coburg	**Local Centres**	21. Albion Street/Waxman Parade, Brunswick West Local Centre 22. Anderson Road, Fawkner Local Centre 23. Argyle Street, Fawkner Local Centre 24. Boundary Road/Garden Drive, Pascoe Vale Local Centre 25. Cool Street/Elizabeth Street, Coburg North Local Centre 26. Coonans Road/Parkstone Avenue, Pascoe Vale South Local Centre 27. Cumberland Road/Gaffney Street, Pascoe Vale Local Centre 28. Daley Street/Widford Street, Glenroy Local Centre 29. Danin Street/Devon Road, Pascoe Vale Local Centre 30. Derby Street/Gaffney Street, Pascoe Vale Local Centre 31. East Street, Hadfield Local Centre 32. Elizabeth Street/Murray Road, Coburg North Local Centre 33. Elizabeth Street/Bell Street, Coburg Local Centre 34. Gowanbrae Drive/Bluebell Crescent, Gowanbrae Local Centre 35. Harding Street/Belgrave Street, Coburg Local Centre 36. Harding Street/Gladstone Street, Coburg Local Centre 37. Harding Street/Nicholson Street, Coburg Local Centre 38. Harding Street/Salisbury Street, Coburg Local Centre 39. Justin Avenue, Glenroy Local Centre 40. Kent Road/Sussex Street, Pascoe Vale Local Centre 41. Kent Road/Cumberland Road, Pascoe Vale Local Centre 42. Lynch Road, Fawkner Local Centre 43. Major Road, Fawkner Local Centre 44. Mathieson Street/Sydney Road, Coburg North Local Centre 45. Molesworth Street/Gaffney Street, Coburg Local Centre 46. Newlands Road/Carr Street, Coburg North Local Centre 47. North Street, Hadfield Local Centre 48. O'Hea Street/Main Street, Coburg Local Centre 49. Pascoe Street, Pascoe Vale Local Centre 50. Reynard Street/Melville Road, Pascoe Vale South Local Centre 51. Reynard Street/Donne Street, Coburg Local Centre 52. Ridgeway Avenue/Marrson Place, Glenroy Local Centre 53. Suffolk Avenue/Bell Street, Coburg Local Centre 54. Sydney Road/Ryland Street, Coburg North Local Centre 55. Sydney Road/Sulva Grove, Coburg North Local Centre 56. Tyson Street/Lowson Street, Fawkner Local Centre 57. Warwick Road/Derby Street, Pascoe Vale Local Centre 58. Westgate Street/Anderson Street, Pascoe Vale Local Centre 59. William Street/Menana Road, Glenroy Local Centre 60. Winifred Street, Oak Park Local Centre 61. Woodlands Avenue/Melville Road, Pascoe Vale South Local Centre 62. Xaivier Street/Josephine Street, Oak Park Local Centre

7.3 CENTRAL COBURG PROGRAM ROAD MAP

Director Place and Environment, Pene Winslade

Central Coburg Program

Officer recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorses the Central Coburg Road Map at Attachment 1 to guide implementation of the Central Coburg Framework.
2. Receives a discussion paper on Community Wealth Building options in 2027.
3. Endorses the budgeted Waterfield West public realm and infrastructure works to proceed, which will deliver flood mitigation across the entire Waterfield West site, public realm upgrades around the Library and Piazza, and interim reconfiguration of the surrounding carpark to minimise disruption to the precinct as development is staged in the medium term.

REPORT

Executive summary

Council has established a long-term vision for Central Coburg and, with the Central Coburg Framework Plan endorsed in June 2026, the focus can now shift from planning the future precinct to delivering it.

The transformation of Central Coburg will take place over 10–20 years and will require Council to work differently across different sites and at different points in the development cycle. Current market conditions mean that traditional development models are not feasible at this time in the cycle. The Central Coburg Road Map provides a practical pathway forward, allowing Council to continue making progress where it can, while creating opportunities to test new approaches and respond as market conditions change.

A key part of this approach is exploring Community Wealth Building opportunities on selected Council-owned sites. This provides an opportunity to consider how public land assets can attract investment in Central Coburg with lasting community benefit, including through new partnerships and alternative ownership and delivery models. If successful, these initiatives will keep Coburg's distinctiveness and essence, strengthen the precinct and increase the value of other landholdings. At the same time, Council can continue to prepare sites for traditional market opportunities where and when they are viable.

The Road Map also identifies projects that Council can deliver directly to improve the precinct and create the conditions for future investment. The Waterfield West public realm and infrastructure upgrade is the first of these catalyst projects. It will prepare the site for the new Library and Piazza, improve the operation of the precinct and address infrastructure, access and parking requirements. Early works are proposed to commence in July 2027, ahead of construction of the Library and Piazza, currently planned for mid-2028.

Together, the Road Map and Waterfield West public realm and infrastructure upgrade provide the next step in delivering the vision for Central Coburg. They allow Council to keep moving forward now, while retaining the flexibility to shape the future of the precinct as new opportunities emerge.

Previous Council Decisions

The most recent and relevant Council decisions relating to Central Coburg are listed below:

- Central Coburg updated framework plan and Site A1 EOI process – 10 June 2026
- Central Coburg Program community engagement summary – 11 March 2026
- Central Coburg Program property matters (Confidential) – 11 March 2026
- Central Coburg Program (Confidential) – 8 October 2025
- Central Coburg Program scenario modelling update (Confidential) – 9 July 2025
- Central Coburg Program scenario modelling update (Confidential) – 14 May 2025
- Coburg Library and Piazza Location – 14 May 2025
- Central Coburg Program – scenarios for further investigation (Confidential) – 12 March 2025
- The Coburg Library and Piazza project – 12 February 2025
- Support for Central Coburg businesses and community – 11 September 2024
- The Coburg Conversation engagement findings and precinct objectives – 10 April 2024

1. Policy Context

Council Plan 2025-29

The Road Map supports a range of Council Plan strategies and initiatives, including:

1. Care for nature and climate resilience
    - Cool urban environments and beautify public spaces with nature, including seeking opportunities to reduce hard surfaces to increase permeability.
    - Improve parks and facilities to make them welcoming places to share and to enjoy activities.
2. Healthy and inclusive communities
    - Support the housing and wellbeing needs of all in the community particularly those on lower incomes to have access to housing in Merri-bek.
    - Partner with government and housing providers to develop accessible, inclusive housing, including First Peoples, on Council land including in Central Coburg and other locations, as well as advocating for more public and community housing.
3. Beautiful and liveable city
    - Maintain our streets, laneways, and public places so they are adaptive to community needs; places we are proud of and feel safe in
    - Make it easy and safe for people to move around Merri-bek, especially using public and active transport and zero emissions vehicles
4. Thriving economy and culture
    - Facilitate the further development of and investment into key commercial and industrial areas to attract investment and diverse job opportunities.
    - Nurture a vibrant arts culture by promoting diverse artistic activations and creating engaging experiences throughout the precincts right across Merri-bek, to celebrate creativity, attract visitors and reflect Merri-bek's unique culture and heritage. Champion the growth of performing arts spaces, advocate for artists' livelihoods, and promote diverse art forms to enrich the cultural landscape and empower the creative community in Merri-bek.

Council Action Plan 2025-26

Action 37: Progress plans and projects to revitalise and improve central Coburg.

2. Background

In June 2026, Council endorsed the Central Coburg Framework Plan, which sets out Council's long-term vision for six sites and surrounding streets in Central Coburg to become a vibrant civic, cultural and economic heart for the community. The Framework Plan builds on decades of planning and community engagement and provides a framework for the precinct's transformation over the next 10–20 years.

The vision is centred on a new Library and Piazza, supported by greener public spaces, more shops, businesses, hospitality and services, and around 1,000 new homes. Safer, greener streets and improved pedestrian and cycling connections will support greater activity and access across the precinct, with public parking consolidated into accessible and safe multi-deck car parks.

Council has endorsed the construction of the new Library and Piazza in the south-eastern corner of the Waterfield West site. A draft concept design was selected through a design competition, with community engagement on the concept undertaken in March and April 2026. Construction is scheduled to commence in April 2028, with completion expected in late 2029.

Figure 1: The vision for Central Coburg

3. Issues

The Central Coburg Framework establishes a long-term vision for the precinct, with implementation expected to occur over 10–20 years and in a changing economic and development environment. Key issues for Council's consideration include current market conditions, opportunities to achieve long-term community benefit through community wealth building, and the delivery of catalyst projects within Council's control that support the long-term transformation of the precinct.

Current market conditions

The development market has continued to evolve since the Central Coburg Framework was prepared, with higher construction costs, elevated financing costs and broader economic uncertainty affecting development feasibility.

Following Council's endorsement of the Framework Plan, a draft Precinct Business Case has been developed. This indicates that while the Framework Plan can deliver significant benefits, more favourable market conditions are required before sites can be progressed through traditional market-led development.

The Road Map responds to these conditions by providing a flexible approach to implementation. It allows Council to progress investment and enabling works within its control, while investigating alternative delivery models and maintaining the option to pursue market-led development as conditions and project readiness allow.

The Central Coburg Road Map

The Central Coburg Road Map establishes three complementary streams of activity to respond to current market conditions.

Council catalyst projects

Council will progress investment and enabling works that are within Council's control to improve the precinct and help catalyse future development. This includes works to improve access, infrastructure and public spaces, as well as other projects that address existing constraints and support better outcomes across the broader precinct. These projects can be progressed by Council independently of the timing of private sector development.

Community Wealth Building options

Community Wealth Building is an economic development approach that seeks to increase the amount of wealth that is created, retained and recirculated locally, so that economic activity delivers long-term benefits for residents and communities rather than leaking elsewhere. It typically focuses on how public institutions use their purchasing, employment, investment and property assets to strengthen the local economy.

Community Wealth Building can relate to a number of different pillars such as procurement and job creation. In Central Coburg it is proposed to investigate Community Wealth Building opportunities using publicly owned land, property and development opportunities to create lasting community benefit.

In this approach, Council will seek to retain more of the social and economic value generated by investment within the local community long term or in perpetuity. Rather than relying solely on traditional private ownership and development, it can involve community organisations, not-for-profits, cooperatives or other local partners having a role in owning, investing in, developing or operating assets.

These models can be complex to establish, requiring significant work to identify suitable partners, develop an appropriate ownership and governance structure, secure investment and establish a viable operating model. They are therefore likely to take longer to develop and deliver than a conventional market sale or development.

It is proposed to explore potential Community Wealth Building sites and partners within the precinct. At this stage, potential sites for further exploration include:

- Victoria Corner (Site A1),
- The current Coburg Library building (Site D), and
- The parking precinct at the southern end of Louisa Street (Site E)

It is also proposed to explore a Community Land Trust model as a possible vehicle for long-term affordable housing on Louisa Street (Site E).

The investigation of these sites may include community and prospective partner engagement to understand interest from local and broader community organisations, and partnership opportunities.

This does not commit Council to a Community Wealth Building model for all of these sites but will present Council with options to consider. It may ultimately be appropriate to progress one or two sites, which would deliver high impact outcomes for the precinct.

Traditional market model options

The third stream of the Road Map is to continue to progress project business cases and market-facing opportunities for traditional development (including social and affordable housing projects) and divestment as market conditions and project readiness allow.

Council may determine that some sites are best suited to straightforward market delivery, with minimal additional requirements or constraints on their development. This could provide an opportunity to generate stronger financial returns from land sales to help offset the costs or lower financial returns associated with Community Wealth Building projects. The Road Map therefore contemplates a mix of delivery approaches across the precinct, rather than all sites being expected to deliver the same balance of community and financial outcomes.

Further modelling through business cases will establish the appropriate development and delivery approach for individual sites, informed by market conditions and feasibility. This modelling will also consider how some sites could be developed for market only outcomes, with the potential for stronger financial returns to support the Community Wealth Building initiatives elsewhere in the precinct.

Waterfield West public realm and infrastructure works

The Waterfield West public realm and infrastructure works are the next project proposed to be progressed through the Council-led catalyst stream of the Road Map. The works are required to prepare the precinct for delivery of the Library and Piazza, addressing parking, access, drainage and infrastructure requirements.

Early works

The early works are proposed to be completed before construction of the Library and Piazza and include:

- Demolition of the former Bi-Lo building.
- Installing long term flood mitigation infrastructure that will serve the Library and Piazza as well as future development of the Waterfield West site.
- Utility upgrades required to enable the Library and Piazza and future development of Victoria Corner (Site A1).
- Redesign and resurfacing of the Waterfield West car park, including line marking, vehicle crossovers, lighting and pedestrian pathways.
- Provision of over 370 car parking spaces (subject to detailed design), representing approximately 98 per cent of the existing car parking provision, offsetting the car parking removed by the Library and Piazza development.
- Works to ensure the Victoria Corner site is functional while the Library and Piazza are developed

These works will establish the necessary site and infrastructure arrangements ahead of the Library and Piazza construction.

The Waterfield West car park is intended as an interim arrangement ahead of the future development of the site identified in the Central Coburg Framework. The design therefore focuses on providing safe, functional and accessible parking and improved pedestrian connections, without significant investment in landscaping or other features that would be removed when the site is ultimately developed.

The Waterfield West project includes optional scope for works to the Victoria Corner car park. The extent of these works will be informed by any opportunities identified by the Victoria Corner market sounding. Works to this car park may not be required if there is a clear pathway to future development of Victoria Corner.

Other works

The Waterfield West public realm and infrastructure upgrade will also deliver key public realm upgrades surrounding the Library and Piazza project:

- Station Triangle – a park and green space which incorporates integrated water management and improvements to public amenity.
- Station Walk (interim), providing pedestrian and cycling access to the Library and Piazza and a new connection to Coburg Station
- Mary Walk South (interim), providing pedestrian and servicing access to the Library and Piazza.

These works are indicatively planned to occur concurrently with construction of the Library and Piazza, although the timing may be brought forward ahead of the Library and Piazza as the construction program is refined.

Station Triangle will have an important integrated water management function and is not intended to operate as a conventional grassed park or open lawn. Its design will incorporate water management infrastructure with opportunities for seating, paths, trees and other features that improve amenity and provide benefits for people using the area.

Station Walk and Mary Walk South are proposed to be delivered initially as temporary streets, with permanent upgrades to occur following completion of development on adjacent sites. These permanent upgrades are outside the current scope of works. This approach will avoid investing in streets that may be damaged or altered by future development.

Figure 2: Indicative layout of the Waterfield West public realm and infrastructure upgrades

Human Rights consideration

The implications of this report have been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 and are not considered to conflict with any of the rights specified under the Charter, including the right to take part in public life.

The Central Coburg Framework Plan, which provides the basis for the Road Map, was developed following extensive community engagement. The Road Map provides a staged approach to implementing the endorsed Framework Plan and does not alter the outcomes established through that process or restrict opportunities for community participation.

The proposed commencement of the Waterfield West public real and infrastructure upgrade is also not considered to infringe any Charter rights. The project comprises enabling, public realm and infrastructure works associated with the future delivery of the Central Coburg Library and Piazza. The Library and Piazza project has itself been subject to community engagement, and the Waterfield West works form part of the broader works required to enable its delivery, including improved access to the future Council facility.

4. Community consultation and engagement

The Central Coburg Framework Plan, which provides the basis for the Road Map, was developed following extensive community engagement. The Library and Piazza project has also undergone extensive community engagement.

The Waterfield West public realm and infrastructure upgrades will be undertaken as early works for the Library and Piazza project. The community will be kept informed about the timing and any temporary impacts of the Waterfield West public realm and infrastructure upgrades, as the project moves towards construction.

Affected persons rights and interests

Before making a decision that affects a person's rights, Council must identify whose rights may be directly affected and provide an opportunity for that person (or persons) to convey those views regarding the effect on their rights and consider those views.

Surrounding residents, businesses and visitors to Central Coburg may experience temporary impacts during construction of the Waterfield West public realm and infrastructure upgrade. These impacts will be considered through the development of construction management arrangements as the project progresses, including maintaining safe access through the precinct. The broader outcomes of the Road Map and Library and Piazza project have been subject to community engagement.

5. Officer declaration of Conflict of Interest

Council officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest in this matter.

6. Financial and resources implications

The funds required to action the short-term next steps in the Road Map, including exploration of Community Wealth Building options and preparation of a traditional social and affordable housing business case, are budgeted for within the current year budget of the Central Coburg Program.

For the Waterfield West public realm and infrastructure upgrade, Council's adopted 5-year capital works budget has provisioned $6.7 million for Central Coburg public realm works. Officers are recommending that as a part of the upcoming budget development (2027-2031), the phasing of this spend is amended to bring forward some of this budget to enable the works to be undertaken prior to and concurrent with the Library and Piazza.

7. Implementation

Subject to Council endorsement, the next proposed implementation activities are:

Explore Community Wealth Building options

Commence preparation of a discussion paper exploring community wealth building options on key sites, with a report to Council in 2027. This work is likely to include working with a range of external expertise and experience. It may also include engagement with community organisations and prospective partners.

Business case

Develop a project business case for a traditional delivery of social and affordable housing project. This project business case would position Council to pursue potential future Commonwealth funding opportunities, including any future Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF) funding stream.

The preparation of a project business case would not commit Council to proceeding with the project. Any future decision to progress a social and affordable housing project would be subject to further consideration.

Further economic modelling will occur through future business cases to understand how some sites may be developed for market only outcomes, which could generate revenue to support Council's investment in Community Wealth Building initiatives.

Waterfield West public realm and infrastructure upgrades

The Waterfield West public realm project will involve the following activities:

- **Immediate:** Project preparation, including design work, necessary site investigations and approvals, procurement and other activities required to prepare the project for construction. Preliminary site investigations may involve contractors working within the existing car park but are not expected to have major impacts on its operation or parking availability.
- **July 2027:** Commence early works, including demolition of the Bi-Lo building and reconfiguration of the Waterfield West car park. These works are planned to be completed ahead of construction of the Library and Piazza, currently scheduled to commence in mid-2028.
- **Concurrent with Library and Piazza construction:** Construct Station Walk, Mary Walk and the Station Triangle open space.

Attachment/s

1⇩ Central Coburg Road Map D26/444996

Central Coburg Road Map

1. Purpose

The Central Coburg Road Map is a guide to implementation of the Central Coburg Framework.

2. Background / context

Central Coburg framework plan – a long-term view

Council has set a long-term vision to revitalise central Coburg using its own landholdings. This builds on decades of previous work and community engagement.

Council's long-term intent is for a thriving and welcoming town centre in Coburg – retaining Coburg's unique character. Anchored by a new library, piazza and community space, central Coburg will have strong community life, activation, jobs, and creative spaces. A framework plan sets out the vision which will be delivered in stages over the next 10-20 years.

Central Coburg remains a long term civic and economic priority. While Council's vision remains strong, current market conditions make immediate conventional development more difficult, but they also create a window for Council to further shape and curate the precinct.

Subdued market conditions

The Australian development market is currently subdued, with elevated construction and financing costs, labour shortages and weaker investor demand affecting the feasibility of many commercial and residential projects. Despite strong underlying demand for housing, industry research indicates that a significant proportion of approved developments are not proceeding, creating an opportunity to focus on planning, partnerships and project readiness until market conditions improve.[1]

3. Central Coburg Road Map

The Central Coburg Road Map (the Road Map) is summarised in Figure 1.

The Central Coburg Road Map provides a pathway for implementing the Central Coburg Framework while responding to current market conditions and maintaining momentum across the precinct. The Road Map is designed to unlock site potential, support future investment, and create opportunities for economic development, housing, community infrastructure and place activation. Rather than committing Council to a single delivery approach, it establishes a clear program of work to investigate options, develop business cases and inform future Council decisions.

The proposed Road Map comprises 3 complementary streams.

First, existing Council-led investments and enabling public works that will catalyse the precinct, improve amenity, reduce development risk and prepare key sites for future development.

Second, exploration of Community Wealth Building opportunities that may retain selected sites in community ownership or stewardship, delivering long-term public value through outcomes such as

[1] Charter Keck Cramer's State of the Market H1 2026.

affordable housing, affordable commercial and creative spaces, and other community benefits (refer section 5 of this report).

Third, development of business cases and market-facing opportunities to support traditional private sector investment and development when market conditions are favourable (refer section 6 of this report).

Importantly, the Road Map aims to make the precinct more attractive to private developers as we achieve outcomes from the first and second streams. It also seeks to maintain community control of the community outcomes and benefits – which can be compromised when integrated into market led solutions.

Together, these streams are intended to create a more attractive and investment-ready precinct, while ensuring Council retains flexibility to pursue the delivery models that best achieve community outcomes. Individual projects, funding commitments and land use decisions would continue to be subject to future Council consideration and approval.

Figure 1: Central Coburg Road Map

3

Figure 2: Conceptual map of sites where different types of delivery might be explored (explanation over the coming pages).

4. Council's investment to catalyse the precinct

A number of projects are already in train for delivery, as part of Council's capital works program. This is the first stream which relates to existing Council-led investments.

These works are important for two reasons. Some will serve to catalyse the precinct and bring community, activation, identity and value to the area. Others will help to prepare the way to make the rest of the precinct more attractive for future development – attracting better land prices and value at future delivery stages.

The program includes:

i. The **Library and Piazza**. Design is well underway to ensure this new facility meets the needs of our diverse community. The Library and Piazza will be the civic and social heart of the new precinct and Council is planning to ensure the new spaces are highly activated, connected, welcoming and programmed throughout the year. Like other successful cultural destinations around the world, Coburg Library and Piazza will help drive foot traffic, support local businesses, strengthen community connection and increase the attractiveness and value of surrounding development opportunities, making future investment and redevelopment across the precinct more viable.

i. **Public realm upgrades** to precinct drainage, public realm, and interim car parking, to deliver the library and piazza and facilitate future development. Almost $7 million has been budgeted in the capital works program to undertake a first stage of this work. It includes drainage infrastructure for the library and piazza (which will support delivery of the entire Waterfield West precinct), delivery of the Station Triangle open space, Mary Walk and Station Walk, and an interim upgrade to the Waterfield West carpark that will create parking capacity to stage future works.

ii. **Potential public realm** upgrades which will connect the Aspire centre (adjoining Site F) to the precinct and City Oval. The Aspire project has attracted $21 million in federal and state grants and will bring significant activation and community benefit to the precinct – and is also expected to deliver public realm upgrades.

iii. The adjacent **Munro and Harding Street Streets for People upgrade** is in train. A concept design for the Streets for People upgrades to Munro and Harding Street is currently out for community engagement. Funding of $1.4m is budgeted for this project, to be delivered over the next two years.

iv. Upgrades to **Victoria Street and Victoria Mall**, as well as a future upgrade to **Louisa Street**, are considered in the forward program but may be sequenced at a later time.

v. Broader service planning and engagement around **community festivals**, **third spaces for young people**, as well as **creative and cultural** programming.

5. Community Wealth Building models

"Community Wealth Building" approaches are delivery models that use land, assets, partnerships and investment to create long-term community benefits over time (and potentially in perpetuity). Rather than maximising immediate financial return, these models retain and recycle value locally through outcomes such as affordable housing, economic opportunity, cultural activity and community access, while remaining financially sustainable.[2]

These models can also contribute to the life and vibrancy of a precinct. They offset the gentrification effect that often occurs when major development occurs – bringing a unique community character to the area. They should be pursued where there is a robust analysis that demonstrates they can deliver public

[2] Refer also: Community Wealth Building — The Democracy Collaborative
Publications – Community Wealth Building: What will it take?

value that is not likely to be achieved through conventional market delivery – and where governance, financial and delivery risks are understood and more commonly used.

There are a range of examples, but at their heart Community Wealth Building models use Council land and partnerships to create assets that are owned by Council and/or the community and continue generating community benefit long after construction is complete. They can also leverage resources from multiple sources – achieving greater financial sustainability than traditional government or commercial models.

It is important to acknowledge that Community Wealth Building models are generally much more complex to deliver than traditional market-led delivery, and they do take effort, resources and commitment over the long-term. However, done well, these models can achieve something enduring and special – well beyond what the market can deliver. They also tend to achieve very distinctive and deliberately curated outcomes – helping to shape the long-term character of the surrounding precinct.

Illustrative examples of Community Wealth Building models include:

- Bryant Park in New York, where community leaders (funded by the Rockefeller Foundation) established the Bryant Park Corporation (BPC), a private, not-for-profit management company, to renovate and operate a previously unsafe and badly dilapidated park on behalf of the City of New York. Established in 1980 the park attracts high visitation and has generated significant economic activity in the surrounding area over nearly five decades. The BPC also has a special rate and charge scheme, as well as attracting other income.
- BRUDI in Brunswick, where a former school (Crown land, for which Council is the Committee of Management) is leased at a subsidised rate by a specialist social-impact property fund (Ethical Property Australia) to support start-ups and mission-aligned tenants. BRUDI currently supports around 30 businesses and 200 jobs – with a further building to be refurbished.
- Multi-use community hubs and precincts such as the Abbotsford Convent (Melbourne, Australia) or the Bok Building (Philadelphia, USA). The Bok Building is a nine-storey Art Deco former vocational high school transformed into a thriving creative and community hub. The Bok houses over 200 small businesses, artists, makers, non-profits, and entrepreneurs, including woodworkers, jewellers, ceramicists, a preschool, and ESL classes. It also features popular communal spaces, including a rooftop Bok Bar and restaurant spaces. The Abbotsford Convent precinct is managed as a not-for-profit site, and features 11 historic buildings housing over 100 artist studios, galleries, cafes, a radio station (3MBS), and schools like Sophia Mundi Steiner School.
- Another variant of community wealth models is Community Land Trusts. CLTs are a model of long-term affordable housing. A not-for-profit holds land in trust for the long-term. Residents own or lease the homes that are built on it, but do not own (or pay for) the land. The trust retains ownership of the land and applies resale or occupancy conditions that preserve affordability over time. The model balances individual housing security with enduring community benefit – preventing land value gains from being captured through private ownership. CLTs therefore make housing more affordable while retaining public land. They have been delivered in the US and Europe; a first Australian project is currently in its early stages – with a Trust established and land committed by Bellingen Shire.

In Central Coburg, we don't need every site to be a Community Wealth Building project. However, one or two catalytic projects are proposed to help achieve exceptional and unique long-term outcomes in Central Coburg. In a softened commercial market, Council has an opportunity to explore and develop some Community Wealth Building concepts. They could assist Council to realise housing and / or creative / commercial / community service floor space that may otherwise struggle to compete in a market led solution.

The Road Map proposes that Council develops a Discussion Paper that considers potential Community Wealth Building initiatives including:

i. Exploring potential Community Wealth Building sites and partners within the precinct. This work will help to understand interest from local and broader community organisations, and partnership opportunities. At this stage, potential sites for further exploration include:

   a. the Victoria Corner (Site A1),

   b. current Coburg Library building at Site D, and

   c. parking precinct at the southern end of Louisa Street. (A multi-deck paid carpark could also offset the inclusion of some affordable commercial and creative spaces within the building).

ii. Exploring a Community Land Trust model as a possible vehicle for long-term affordable housing. Site E on Louisa Street could potentially be an excellent site to explore the CLT model. NB: It is also proposed that a more traditional Community Housing Provider model be explored under traditional delivery models for social and affordable housing – with the potential for both projects to proceed, if the business cases are strong.

As noted, Community Wealth Building initiatives can be much more complex to deliver than traditional market developments. They are likely to take longer to initiate, design and develop – and will require sustained focus and investment from Council over the long term. However, they can deliver outstanding economic, social and activation outcomes for the community.

A project scoping and feasibility analysis of these opportunities will be developed and presented to Council for further consideration through a Discussion Paper in the first half of 2027. This may incorporate feedback from the Victoria Corner call for ideas and partnerships, and will include consideration of the potential timeframes and investment profile for different sites and models.

6. Traditional delivery

Council may determine that some sites are best suited to straightforward market delivery, with minimal additional requirements or constraints on their development. This could provide an opportunity to generate stronger financial returns from land sales to help offset the costs or lower financial returns associated with Community Wealth Building projects. The Road Map therefore contemplates a mix of delivery approaches across the precinct, rather than all sites being expected to deliver the same balance of community and financial outcomes.

A precinct business case based on traditional delivery models for Central Coburg is close to finalisation. It recognises the Library and Piazza as the precinct's catalyst project, with its activation and operation playing a critical role in attracting people, supporting economic activity and unlocking the value of surrounding sites.

The precinct business case will create a template for future project-based business cases, which will be developed as market conditions become suitable (as set out in the precinct business case).

The first project business case is proposed to be for a social and affordable housing development following a traditional delivery model. Anticipating that future federal funding streams are likely, there is benefit to developing a traditional social and affordable housing business case over the next year. This work might be done in partnership with a Community Housing Provider. *As noted above, this would be done separately from the CLT model – with the potential that one or both models could proceed should the business cases be strong.*

The timing of the next traditional delivery project business case (after the social and affordable housing business case) will be dependent on market conditions but could logically begin while the library and piazza are in construction.

An important consideration for project business cases will be the extent to which Council might specify or constrain the development that occurs on market development sites. Council's development standards seek good built form and design outcomes, but more flexibility on specific site outcomes may be worth considering. Decisions about traditional delivery models for individual sites will need to consider the

outcomes sought across the precinct as a whole, including the potential for financial returns from some sites to support other precinct investments.

7. Next steps

Council will keep progressing the long-term Central Coburg vision while introducing more innovative approaches and adapting delivery to current market conditions.

Short term

Indicative timelines and next steps are outlined below. These may evolve as the Road Map develops.

1. October 2026: Road Map presented to Council for decision, tabling the forward work program, including the Waterfield West upgrade project, to enable design and some delivery to be completed prior to the library works (which begin mid-2028).
2. October 2026: begin exploring Community Wealth Building models, with a discussion paper prepared for Council in the first half of 2027. This work may include community and prospective partner engagement to understand interest from local and broader community organisations, and partnership opportunities.

   At this stage, potential sites for further exploration include:

   i. Victoria Corner (Site A1),

   ii. The current Coburg Library building at Site D, and

   iii. The parking precinct at the southern end of Louisa Street. (A multi-deck paid carpark could also offset the inclusion of some affordable commercial and creative spaces within the building).

   This work will also explore a Community Land Trust model as a possible vehicle for long-term affordable housing, potentially on Site E on Louisa Street.
3. October-November 2026: completion of the traditional delivery Precinct Business Case and commencement of a project business case for a traditional model social and affordance housing project, potentially on Site C (or Site E).

   Further economic modelling will occur through future business cases to understand how some sites may be developed for market only outcomes to support the lower financial returns from Community Wealth Building initiatives.
4. In early 2027: commence the Victoria Corner call for ideas and partnerships, with a report back to Council considering next steps later in 2027.
5. These actions complement other work already in train including:

   a. Discussions with the Bachar Houli Foundation about potential public realm works around the future Aspire centre.

   b. Progressing towards delivery of the Library and Piazza project, including detailed design work, and future service and activation plan.

Medium term program

An indicative medium-term program is illustrated in the timeline below.

2026-27
2027-28
2028-29
2029-30
2030-31
2031-32
Central Coburg Road Map
Traditional precinct business case
Waterfield West upgrade project
Library and piazza
Aspire public realm works (potential)
Munro and Harding Street
Community wealth building discussion paper
Victoria Corner call for ideas & partnerships
Develop CLT affordable housing concept
Develop car park / economic concept
Develop existing library interim use concept
Affordable housing traditional model
Future project business cases
When market conditions appropriate
A road map to realise the Coburg vision
1. Council delivery
2. Community wealth building delivery
3. Traditional delivery

7.4 MERRI-BEK COMMUNITY LOCAL LAW 2026 - DRAFT FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Director City Infrastructure, Greg Rodwell

Amenity and Compliance

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorses the draft Community Local Law 2026 and draft Building and Works Code of Practice 2026 for community engagement.
2. Notes the community engagement period for the draft Community Local Law 2026 and draft Building Works Code of Practice 2026 will be from 15 October to 12 November 2026 and includes:
    a) Commencing the statutory process for making the proposed Community Local Law 2026 in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* by making a copy of the draft Community Local Law 2026 available at Council offices and on Council's website of its intention to make the Community Local Law 2026, stating its objectives and intended effect of the draft local law and the community engagement process that applies in respect of making the local law.
3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer make minor drafting amendments resulting from the outstanding external legal advice before the draft is released for consultation.
4. Notes that all submissions received during consultation will be considered before the final draft is legally certified and presented to Council for adoption in December 2026.

REPORT

Executive Summary

The General Local Law 2018 expires on 1 February 2028. Council has undertaken a comprehensive review and prepared a new draft Community Local Law 2026 (Attachment 1) and draft Building and Works Code of Practice 2026 (Attachment 2) for public consultation.

The draft has been informed by round 1 community consultation, two Councillor sessions, extensive internal review and external legal advice. It modernises and consolidates Council's local law framework, improves clarity and enforceability, and strengthens controls relating to amenity, safety, accessibility, environmental protection, Council assets, animals, vehicles, waste, businesses and building activity.

The draft also responds to emerging issues raised through the review process. This includes a proposed provision addressing the inappropriate use of recording devices in Council facilities, including emerging technologies such as smart glasses, where their use may impact privacy, safety, amenity or the orderly operation of a municipal place. More detailed restrictions for sensitive locations, such as change rooms and leisure facilities, will continue to be managed through facility-specific conditions of entry.

Round 1 consultation generated 138 direct contributions (Attachment 3). Strongest support related to building-site management, shopping-trolley controls, dangerous and unsightly land, hooning-related powers and animal containment. Consultation results are engagement evidence and are not statistically representative.

The review is funded within the approved Amenity and Compliance budget. No additional funding is sought through this report. Outstanding legal advice is being finalised and is expected to result only in minor drafting amendments before the draft is released for consultation.

The proposed commencement date of the Community Local Law 2026 is 1 April 2027.

Previous Council Decisions

General (Amendment) Local Law 2025 – 9 July 2025

That Council:

1. *Having:*

    a) *completed the statutory process under Division 3 of Part 3 of the Local Government Act 2020 for the making of the proposed General (Amendment) Local Law 2025;*

    b) *obtained a certificate under section 74(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 from a suitably qualified lawyer who states that they are of the opinion that the proposed General (Amendment) Local Law 2025 is consistent with the local law requirements, attached to this Report as Attachment 1; and*

    c) *undertaken community engagement in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy in respect of the proposed General (Amendment) Local Law 2025 and having considered all submissions,*

    resolves to make the General (Amendment) Local Law 2025 in the form attached to this Report (Attachment 2).

2. *Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to give public notice of the making of the General (Amendment) Local Law 2025 in accordance with sections 74(4) and 74(5) of the Local Government Act 2020.*

3. *Notes that after giving notice of the making of the General (Amendment) Local Law 2025 in accordance with sections 74(4) and 74(5) of the Local Government Act 2020, the Proposed General (Amendment) Local Law 2025 will come into effect from Monday 28 July 2025.*

General (Amendment) Local Law 2025 – 14 May 2025

That Council:

1. *Pursuant to section 73(3) of the Local Government Act 2020, publishes a notice that states:*

    a) *the objectives of the proposed local law, and*

    b) *the intended effect of the proposed local law; and*

    c) *that a copy of the proposed local law is available for inspection –*

    i *at the Council's office; and*

    ii *on the Council's internet site; and*

    d) *the community engagement process that applies in respect of the making of the local law (as outlined in section 4 of this report). The community engagement period will be from 15 May 2025 to 4 June 2025.*

2. *Receives a further report following the community consultation to consider the making of the local law.*

3. *Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make minor changes to the proposed local law before community engagement commences, where changes are required for correctness, clarity, formatting or the like.*

Adoption of the General Local Law 2018 – 6 December 2017

That Council:

1. *Adopts the Moreland City Council General Local Law 2018 at Attachment 1 to this report subject to the following amendments:*

a) *Amend Clause 10.15:*

- *In the first sentence replacing 'A person must minimise the risks' with 'a person must seek to eliminate the risks';*
- *Replacing the words 'stones or other refuse or pollutants' in part (a) with 'or stones;*
- *Replacing the words 'or other waste' in part (b) with 'other waste, refuse or pollutants';*

b) *Change the penalty in Schedule 1 of the General Local Law for 10.15 from 10 to 20 penalty units.*

c) *Add into the definition of mature tree:*

- *(c) has multiple trunks with a combined diameter that is 400 mm or wider measured 1.2 metres above ground level; or*

d) *After clauses 5.1 and 5.2 Keeping of animals, insert the words as a note: 'clauses 5.1 and 5.2 don't apply to a person who has a permit under the Wildlife Act to keep a native animal'.*

2. *Adopts the Prescribed Area – Possession and Consumption of Liquor in Public Places.*
3. *Determines that the Moreland City Council General Local Law 2018 shall come into effect on 1 February 2018, noting that the current General Local Law 2007 expires on 31 January 2018.*
4. *Revokes on 1 February 2018 the Environmental and Civic Assets Local Law 2014.*
5. *Delegates to the Director City Infrastructure the powers, duties and functions to amend any identified formatting or clerical errors prior to Gazetting the proposed General Local Law 2018.*
6. *Gives notice in the Government Gazette any by public notice specifying:*

   a) *The title of the local law;*

   b) *The purpose and general purport of the General Local Law 2018; and*

   c) *That a copy of the General Local Law 2018 may be inspected at Council offices.*

7. *Sends a copy of the General Local Law 2018 to the Minister for Local Government.*
8. *Thanks submitters for their contribution and notifies them of the decision.*

General Local Law 2018 -12 July 2017

Council resolves:

1. *To endorse the draft General Local Law and Community Impact Statement for public consultation subject to the following amendments being made to the draft attached as follows:*

   Behaviour

   2.1 (a) delete 'cause or commit any nuisance'

   2.1(d) add the word 'the mobility access' after obstruct

   Camping in Public Places

   Modify clause 2.7 to read: Camping in a vehicle, tent, caravan or any other type of temporary provisional accommodation is permissible in public areas of the municipality that are prescribed by Council. Camping for recreational purposes is not permissible in other public areas unless:

   (a) a person is homeless or is in need of secure accommodation; or

   (b) a person is experiencing challenging circumstances and is in need of additional support.

Consumption of Liquor

3.1 - add 'prescribed' before references to public place to read:

A person must not:

(a) In or at a prescribed public place or

(b) In or on a vehicle in or at a prescribed public place,

Consume any liquor or have in his or her possession any liquor other than in a sealed container.

Commercial Fitness Operators - Delete clauses 2.10, 2.11 and 2.13. Keep 2.12 and 2.14

Permit required for the soliciting of money etc.

Delete 7.1

Permit required for handbills

Delete 7.4

Permit required for filming and special events

7.5 Amend part (b) to read:

(b) Conduct any filming for commercial purposes.

Permit required for busking

Amend title to read 'Busking'

Amend 7.6 to read Busking is permitted without a permit in prescribed areas by Council.

Causing Obstruction

Delete 7.7 (a) and (b)

Furniture in a public place

7.8 Add a new part (b) A person cannot be prosecuted under 7.8 (a) if the person is homeless or in need of secure accommodation.

Interference with collection

Delete 9.10 Interference with Collection - A person must not interfere with any household rubbish, recycling or hard waste that has been placed out for collection.

Part 17 Permits

Amend 17.2 to read That Council will grant a permit subject to the permit conditions detailed in Appendix 'X' (insert relevant appendix number)

Delete 17.4

Offences by Corporations

18.4 add: that any commercial entity that is found guilty of the same act for a second time is charged double the penalty points paid for the first offence up to the maximum penalty of 20 points, i.e. if the first office was 15 the maximum they can pay is 20.

2. *Pursuant to section 119(2) of the Local Government Act 1989, to give public notice in the Victorian Government Gazette, on Council's website and in the local newspaper stating the purpose and general purport of the proposed Local Law and that any person affected by the proposed Local Law may make a submission under section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989, between the dates of 14 July 2017 – 13 August 2017.*

3. *In the event of any submission being received that they be heard by a meeting of the Council.*

4. *To note a further report will be presented to Council following the completion of the public exhibition period and that this report will include:*

   a) *Draft guidelines for the enforcement of the General Local Law that are aligned with the Victorian Human Rights Charter.*

   b) *A list of 'prescribed' areas referenced in the General Local Law.*

   c) *A list of the draft permit conditions that are referenced in the General Local Law.*

   d) *A list of the fees and charges applicable to permits referenced in the General Local Law.*

5. *That Council will only consider the final General Local Law once documents detailed in points 4.a-d are provided in draft form to Council. These documents will then be released for further public consultation, prior to their finalisation and this finalisation will occur within six months of the final approval of the General Local Law.*

1. Policy Context

Section 71(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* enables Council to make local laws in relation to matters within its functions and powers. The proposed Local Law must be consistent with other legislation, must not duplicate or conflict with the Merri-bek Planning Scheme, must be developed in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy, and must be certified by an appropriately qualified Australian lawyer before adoption.

The draft supports the Council Plan 2025–2029, the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and the Merri-bek Community Vision by promoting safe, healthy, accessible and inclusive neighbourhoods and public places.

2. Background

The General Local Law 2018 expires on 1 February 2028. The review commenced early enough to allow drafting, consultation, legal certification, adoption and implementation before expiry. The proposed timetable provides for adoption in December 2026 and commencement on 1 April 2027, allowing a staged implementation period.

The draft Local Law and supporting Code have been developed following round 1 community consultation, two Councillor sessions, cross-organisational review and external legal review by Macquarie Local Government Lawyers.

3. Issues

Key proposed changes

Animals – clarifies animal-keeping limits and exemptions, requires adequate fencing, strengthens animal-sale reporting and introduces controls on bird feeding.

Property – strengthens controls for unsightly or dangerous land, overhanging vegetation, protected trees, donation bins, shipping containers, heavy vehicles and short-stay accommodation.

Council land and roads – consolidates conduct, damage and obstruction controls; protects Council trees, nature strips and raingardens; and clarifies camping and compliance with Council signs.

Vehicles – strengthens controls for long-term storage, commercial and heavy vehicles, unregistered and recreational vehicles, shared e-mobility devices and attendance at hoon events.

Waste – incorporates the Kerbside Waste Services and Charge Policy and clarifies bin contamination, hard waste, trade waste and bulk-rubbish requirements.

Fire safety – clarifies prohibited and permitted burning, retains cultural and domestic-use exemptions and enables directions to extinguish a fire.

Businesses – incorporates footpath trading, parklet and event guidance, regulates awning attachments and strengthens shopping-trolley controls.

Smoking and alcohol – updates tobacco-product definitions to include vaping and enables directions to extinguish and dispose of tobacco products.

Community assets – introduces clearer Construction Management Plan requirements and a Building and Works Code covering pedestrian access, drainage, silt controls and tree protection.

Administration – streamlines permits, impounding and disposal and clarifies verbal directions, appeals, exemptions, offences, penalties and operator-onus provisions.

Inappropriate use of recording devices in Council facilities – more detailed restrictions for sensitive locations, such as change rooms and leisure facilities.

Outstanding legal matters

A small number of matters remain with external legal advisers. These are not expected to alter the overall policy direction of the draft but may result in targeted drafting changes.

Community impact

The draft aims to provide clearer and more proportionate regulation of local amenity, safety, accessibility and use of public places. Round 1 feedback supported a clearer and more enforceable Local Law while emphasising plain language, accessible reporting, education before enforcement where appropriate, consistent compliance action and a reasonable balance between amenity and local economic activity.

Climate emergency and environmental sustainability implications

The draft supports environmental outcomes through stronger tree, vegetation and raingarden protection, building-site stormwater and silt controls, clearer waste controls and restrictions on offensive emissions from burning. Implementation will align with Council's climate, waste, urban forest and integrated water management objectives.

Economic sustainability implications

The draft seeks to balance local amenity and safety with practical requirements for businesses, builders and other permit holders. Operational detail has been moved to policies and codes where appropriate to improve clarity and allow more responsive administration.

Legal and risk considerations

The draft has been prepared under section 71 of the *Local Government Act 2020* with ongoing external legal advice. It must be consistent with other legislation, must not duplicate or conflict with the Merri-bek Planning Scheme, and must be certified before adoption. Remaining legal advice is expected to result only in minor drafting amendments.

Key project risks include the need to finalise outstanding legal advice, achieve accessible and representative consultation reach, and ensure implementation readiness. These risks are being managed through external legal review, targeted engagement and a staged implementation program.

Human Rights Consideration

The implications of this report have been assessed in accordance with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006. Provisions affecting public-space use, camping, property, permits, enforcement, impounding, penalties and officer directions must pursue a lawful purpose and impose only reasonable and proportionate limitations on rights. A further Charter review will occur before Council consideration and final legal certification.

4. Community consultation and engagement

Round 1 consultation was undertaken before drafting through Conversations Merri-bek, an online survey, written submissions and two online Q&A sessions. It generated 129 survey responses and nine written submissions. The project page recorded 10,368 views and 7,950 visitors. The Local Law Review Community Consultation Round 1 Summary Report is detailed in Attachment 3 of this report.

Subject to Council endorsement, round 2 consultation will run from 15 October to 12 November 2026. The draft Local Law, Building and Works Code and Community Impact Statement will be available online and at Council offices. Feedback will be accepted through online and hard-copy surveys, written submissions, email and appointments.

Council advisory groups, representative committees, stakeholder organisations and existing project followers will be contacted directly. Communications will include statutory notices, web and social content, newsletters, signage, printed collateral and translated materials, with targeted support to reach under-represented groups.

Affected persons rights and interests

The draft may affect residents, property owners and occupiers, renters, people experiencing homelessness, pet owners, businesses, builders, permit holders and users of Council land and facilities. Round 2 consultation provides a further opportunity for affected people and organisations to comment before the Local Law is finalised.

Communications

A coordinated communications and engagement approach will support round 2 consultation and subsequent implementation. Key messages will focus on the purpose of the review, significant proposed changes, how the community can provide feedback, and the distinction between consultation on the draft and final Council adoption.

5. Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Council officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest in this matter.

6. Financial and Resources Implications

The Local Law review is funded within the approved Amenity and Compliance budget. No additional funding is sought through this report. Implementation costs for communications, training, systems and targeted compliance activity will be refined before adoption. Any pressure that cannot be managed within existing budgets will be reported through the normal budget and governance process

7. Implementation

Subject to Council endorsement, the following implementation timetable is proposed:

Activity	Timing
Community and stakeholder consultation on the draft Local Law	15 October – 12 November 2026
Review submissions and refine draft	November 2026
Council consideration for adoption	9 December 2026
Implementation, communications, training and systems changes	10 December 2026 – 30 March 2027
New Local Law commences	1 April 2027

Attachment/s

1⇩	Draft Community Local Law 2026	D26/438802
2⇩	Draft Building and Works Code of Practice 2026	D26/438803
3⇩	Local Law Review Community Consultation Round 1 Summary Report	D26/438808

Consultation Draft

Merri-bek City Council

Community Local Law 2026

This Local Law was made by resolution of Council on DATE
and commenced on DATE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Merri-bek City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waterways in the area now known as Merri-bek.

We pay respect to their Elders past and present, as well as to all First Nations communities who significantly contribute to the life of the area.

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INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

In accordance with section 76 of the Act, the following documents as made and amended by Council and published on Council's website, are incorporated by reference into this Local Law:

- Building and Works Code of Practice.
- Footpath Trading Guidelines.
- Parklet Guidelines.
- Nature Strip Guidelines.
- Kerbside Waste Services and Charge Policy.
- Vehicle Crossing Policy.
- Event Permit Policy.

PART 1: PRELIMINARY

1. Title

This Local Law is called the Community Local Law 2026.

2. Purpose of the Local Law

The purpose of this Local Law is to provide for:

(a) the peace, order and good government of the *municipal district*;

(b) a safe, healthy, accessible and inclusive environment so that residents, businesses, workers and visitors can enjoy a quality of life that meets the general expectations of the community;

(c) fair access to, and use of, *Council* and community assets and to prescribe measures to protect those assets;

(d) a business environment that enables operators to trade safely and with minimal unreasonable disruption, while protecting accessibility, safety, amenity, local character and *Council assets*;

(e) the protection, maintenance and enhancement of the natural environment, urban forest, waterways, biodiversity, streetscapes and cultural heritage of the *municipal district*;

(f) the prevention and suppression of unreasonable *nuisances* which may adversely affect the enjoyment of life or the health, safety, accessibility and welfare of *persons* within the *municipal district*;

(g) the regulation and control of activities which may be *dangerous*, unsafe or detrimental to a *person*'s health, amenity or the environment; and

(h) fair, proportionate, transparent and practical administration and enforcement of this Local Law.

3. Authorising Provisions

This Local Law is made under section 71 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and section 42 of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994.*

4. Commencement Date

This Local Law comes into operation on DATE.

5. Cessation Date

This Local Law ceases to operate on DATE, unless revoked earlier by *Council*.

6. Revocation

From the commencement of this Local Law, the General Local Law 2018 is revoked, save that any notice or approval given, permit issued or matter or thing commenced under the revoked Local Law, is not affected.

7. Application of the Local Law

(1) This Local Law applies and has operation throughout the *municipal district.*

(2) Nothing in this Local Law prevents any member, officer or employee of:

(a) an *emergency service*;

(b) a Commonwealth or State Government department;

(c) any military or civil-defence force; or

(d) the *Council,* including a contractor or agent directly engaged by the *Council* to undertake works or to provide a service

from performing any duties they are lawfully entitled or required to perform, and any *person* acting accordingly is not guilty of any offence under this Local Law.

(3) This Local Law does not apply where any act or thing is authorised by or under any Act, rule, Regulation or the *Planning Scheme*.

(4) *Council* may publish policies, guidelines or protocols to assist applicants and *permit* holders under this Local Law. Unless expressly stated to be an incorporated document under this Local Law, such material is for guidance only, does not form part of this Local Law, and may be taken into account by *Council* or an *Authorised Officer* when deciding an application or imposing *permit* conditions.

PART 2: DEFINITIONS

8. Definitions

In this Local Law, words which are not defined will adopt their ordinary meaning. Unless the contrary intention appears in this Local Law, the words identified in italics have the following meaning:

Words	Meaning
Act	Means the *Local Government Act 2020.*
Acceptable no smoking sign	Has the same meaning as in the *Tobacco Act 1987.*
Advertising sign	Includes any placard, inflatable sign, portable electric sign, illuminated, revolving, spinning or flashing sign, flag, banner, A-frame structure and other object or similar sign, being of a fixed or transient nature including being affixed to a vehicle, trailer, bicycle, tricycle, trolley, building structure or other object, which: (a) provides information about a business, industry, organisation, event or competition; (b) is used for the purposes of notifying a sale, soliciting sales, or notifying people of the presence the property or another property where goods or services may be obtained; or (c) promotes a candidate or political party associated with a local, state or federal election.
Amusement	Means an installation of an item for the purposes of providing amusement to people, including a jumping castle, pony ride, carnival ride or inflatable device.
Animal	Carries the ordinary meaning of animal and includes a bird, dog, cat, pig, cattle, horse, sheep, goat, poultry, fish, rabbit, ferret, a reptile and an insect.
Applicable organisation	Has the same meaning as in the *Domestic Animals Act 1994.*
Approved waste bin	Means a garbage bin, general recycling bin, glass recycling bin, food and garden organics waste bin or other designated bin as outlined in the *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021* and Council's *Kerbside Waste Service and Charges Policy.*
Assistance animal	Has the same meaning as in the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth).*
Assistance dog	Has the same meaning as in the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010.*
Authorised Officer	Means any person appointed by Council to be an Authorised Officer under section 224 of the *Local Government Act 1989.*

Builder	Means the person nominated as the builder on the subject building permit, or if no such application has been made, means the person in charge of the building works being carried out, or the person actually conducting the work, and includes the owner of the land on which the work is being carried out.
Building	Includes any structure or building, whether temporary or permanent, or any part of such building or structure.
Building site	Means any land on which building works are being, or are proposed to be, carried out.
Building and Works Code of Practice	Means the *Building and Works Code of Practice* adopted by Council that may be amended by Council resolution, and which is incorporated in this Local Law.
Building works	Includes any work for or in connection with: (a) the construction, demolition, renovation, alteration, re-blocking, underpinning or removal of any building or structure; (b) earthworks such as landscaping, excavation, digging or boring; or (c) delivery and removal of goods or materials used, proposed to be used for or associated with building works.
Bulk rubbish container	Means a bin, skip or other container used for the deposit of waste but excludes an *Approved Waste Bin.*
Busk	Means the sounding or playing of a musical instrument, singing, giving a recitation, or performing any conjuring, juggling, puppetry, mime, dance, footpath art or other entertainment or doing any of those things concurrently, with or without collecting money.
Camp	Has the ordinary meaning of camp and includes the use of a tent, annexe or similar structure, a caravan, camper van, mobile home, or any other moveable vehicle to provide accommodation.
Canopy tree	Has the same meaning as in the *Planning Scheme*.
Chief Executive Officer	Means the Chief Executive Officer of the Council, or any person acting in that position and includes a person authorised by the Chief Executive Officer to act on their behalf in relation to this Local Law.
Commercial premises	Means premises used primarily for commercial purposes.
Commercial vehicle	Means a vehicle: (a) used for or in connection with any trade, business or commercial activity; (b) bearing signage or equipment indicating it is used for a trade, business or commercial activity. (c) offered or exposed for sale.

Commercial zone	Means a commercial zone in the *Planning Scheme* and the Activity Centre Zone.
Construction Management Plan	Means a plan which details how *building works* will be carried out so as to minimise impacts on the nearby community, *Council asset*s, public safety, traffic, and amenity.
Corporation	Has the same meaning as in the *Corporations Act 2001*.
Council	Means the Merri-bek City Council.
Commercial filming	Has the same meaning as in the *Filming Approval Act 2014.*
Commercial vehicle	Means a vehicle: (a) used for or in connection with any trade, business or commercial activity; or (b) bearing signage or equipment indicating it is used for a trade or business; or (c) offered or exposed for sale.
Council asset	Includes any road, footpath pavement, drainage infrastructure, street *trees*, plant, raingarden, road sign or any other property owned, vested in or under the control of Council.
Council land	Means any land or road owned, vested in, managed by or under the control of Council and includes any building or structure on that land or road.
Dangerous	In relation to land, refers to the condition of land, and / or the storage of any item on that land, which in the opinion of an Authorised Officer is likely to cause a risk to health or safety. *Explanatory note:* *This definition excludes trees on privately owned land, unless such trees pose a safety risk to a public place.*
Designated material	Means any materials, products or substances that are accepted in an approved waste bin, trade waste bin or any other waste bin as may be determined by Council and published on Council's website.
Dilapidated	Means a building which is derelict, in a state of disrepair, damaged, defaced, incomplete or which given its condition, adversely affects the amenity of the neighbourhood.
Donation bin	Means a bin or similar structure used for the placement of donated items.
Dwelling	Means any building or portion of a building which is used, intended, adapted, or designed for use as a residence.
Electric scooter or bicycle	Has the same meaning as in the *Road Safety Road Rules 2017.*
Electric scooter or	Means any service in which electric scooters or bicycles

bicycle share scheme	are made available to individuals on a short-term basis for free or for a fee.
Emergency service	Means Victoria Police, Fire Rescue Victoria, the Country Fire Authority, Forest Fire Management Victoria, Ambulance Victoria, the State Emergency Service, and any organisation whose primary function is the provision of first aid response and any successor to any of the aforementioned organisations.
Event	Means an organised recreational, cultural, commercial or social event or a gathering of people, and includes a community market, procession, carnival, festival, and street party.
Event amusement	Includes but is not limited to a jumping castle, pony ride, carnival ride and inflatable device.
Event infrastructure	Includes but is not limited to a marquee, gazebo, generator, portable toilet, food or beverage vendor and stage.
Event Permit Policy	Means the *Event Permit Policy* adopted by Council that may be amended by the *Chief Executive Officer*, and which is incorporated in this Local Law.
E-waste	Means any waste item that uses a plug, battery or power cord, and includes computers, mobile phones, microwaves, power tools, televisions and light bulbs.
Footpath	Has the same meaning as in the *Road Safety Road Rules 2017.*
Footpath Trading Guidelines	Means the *Footpath Trading Guidelines* adopted by Council that may be amended by the *Chief Executive Officer*, and which is incorporated in this Local Law.
Graffiti	Has the same meaning as graffiti has to 'mark graffiti' in the *Graffiti Prevention Act 2007.*
Hard waste	Means items that cannot be accommodated in an *approved waste bin* and includes, but is not limited to, household furniture, e-waste, washing machines, dishwashers, fridges, mattresses, timber, carpets and scrap metal.
Hazardous substance or item	Means any solid, liquid, gas or mixture that, by reason of its chemical, physical or biological properties, may pose a risk to human health, safety, property or the environment, and includes any substance classified as dangerous goods or otherwise regulated under any applicable law of the State of Victoria or the Commonwealth.
Heavy vehicle	Has the same meaning as in the *Heavy Vehicle National Law (Victoria)*.
Hoon event	Means one or more motor vehicles being driven in a manner that intentionally or recklessly leads to the motor vehicle/s: (a) losing traction;

	(b) racing; (c) time trialling; or (d) emitting undue noise or smoke.
Incinerator	Has the same meaning as in the *Country Fire Authority Act 1958.* *Explanatory note:* *For the purposes of this Local Law, incinerator means a structure, device or contraption, (not enclosed in any building,) which is used, designed or is capable of being used for the purpose of burning any substance.*
Industrial zone	Means one of the industrial zones in the *Planning Scheme.*
Infringement Notice	Has the same meaning as in the *Infringements Act 2006.*
In the open air	Has the same meaning as under section 34A of the *Country Fire Authority Act 1958*.
Kerbside Waste Service and Charge Policy	Means the *Kerbside Waste Service and Charge Policy* adopted by Council that may be amended by the *Chief Executive Officer*, and which is incorporated in this Local Law.
Land	Includes any Council land or private land in separate or joint ownership or occupation.
Liquor	Has the same meaning as in the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998.*
Litter	Has the same meaning as in the *Environment Protection Act 2017*.
Livestock	Has the same meaning as in the *Impounding of Livestock Act 1994*.
Miniaturised motor cycle	Has the same meaning as in the *Road Safety Act 1986.*
Minor building works	Means: (a) *building work* valued at less than $10,000 but excludes demolition, underpinning, re-blocking and removal of *buildings* and structures (regardless of value); (b) landscaping works valued at less than $4,000; or (c) the construction (or reconstruction) of any driveway or masonry structure less than $4,000.
Motor vehicle	Has the same meaning as in the *Road Safety Act 1986*. *Explanatory note:* *The Road Safety Act 1986 defines a 'motor vehicle' as meaning –* *A vehicle that is used or intended to be used on a highway and that is built to be propelled by a motor that forms part of the vehicle but does not include.*

	(a) *a vehicle intended to be used on a railway or tramway; or* (b) *a motorised wheel-chair capable of a speed of not more than 10 kilometres per hour which is used solely for the conveyance of an injured or disabled person; or* (c) *a vehicle that is not a motor vehicle by virtue of a declaration under sub-section (2)(b) [of section 3].*
Municipal district	Means the municipal district of the Council.
Municipal place	Means any building which is on Council land and includes a public library and any recreation centre which is owned, occupied or under the management or control of Council.
Nature Strip	Means land vested in Council located between a private property boundary of land and the kerb but excludes a footpath and vehicle crossover where one exists.
Nature Strip Guidelines	Means the *Nature Strip Guidelines* adopted by Council that may be amended by the *Chief Executive Officer*, and which is incorporated in this Local Law.
Nuisance	Includes any behaviour or condition which in the opinion of an Authorised Officer is unreasonable by being dangerous to health, noxious or injurious to personal comfort or offensive.
Noxious weeds	Has the same meaning as in the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.
Occupier	Means a person in charge of or having the management or control of land; or who is legally entitled to occupy land (including premises) and includes, in relation to land which has a lot entitlement or lot liability in respect of common property, the Owners Corporation created on the registration of a Plan of Subdivision affecting that land.
Operator	Means the person who was driving or in charge of the vehicle or machinery at the time when it was involved in the commission of a relevant offence under this Local Law.
Outdoor eating facility	Means any tables and/or chairs located out of doors at which food or drinks may be served and consumed.
Owner	In relation to a building, means the owner of land on which the building is situated; In relation to a motor vehicle means - (a) The registered owner of the motor vehicle; or (b) A person who has possession of the motor vehicle. *Explanatory note:*

	For the meaning of 'owner' in relation to land see section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, which means – *The person who is entitled to receive the rack-rent for the land or who, if the land were let at a rack-rent, would be entitled to receive the rent.*
Parklet Guidelines	Means the *Parklet Guidelines* adopted by Council that may be amended by the *Chief Executive Officer*, and which is incorporated in this Local Law.
Parking permit	Means a vehicle parking permit (and includes but is not limited to a resident parking permit, beach parking permit, visitors parking permit and any other parking permits issued by Council in accordance with a Parking Permit Scheme Policy 2023 and Foreshore Parking Permit Policy 2022 established pursuant to Schedule 11 of the *Local Government Act 1.*
Parklet	A car parking space that is converted into an extended outdoor trading area.
Penalty unit	Has the same meaning as in the *Sentencing Act 1991.* *Explanatory note:* *For the purposes of this Local Law, section 110 of the Sentencing Act 1991 defines 'penalty units' to mean –* *A number of dollars equal to the product obtained by multiplying the number of penalty units by the amount fixed from time to time by the Treasurer under section 5(3) of the Monetary Units Act 2004.*
Permit	Means a permit in writing issued by Council for the purpose of the particular provision in this Local Law which the term is used.
Person	Includes a natural person, a corporation, an association incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*, a partnership, an unincorporated association and a public statutory corporation constituted by or under any law of the State of Victoria, any other State or Territory of the Commonwealth or the Commonwealth.
Person in charge	Includes - (a) a person in charge of a building site where building works are being carried out; (b) a person who causes or directs building works to be carried out; (c) the owner of the building site; (d) an occupier of land; or (e) the person in charge of an animal or bird.
Planning Scheme	Means the Merri-bek *Planning Scheme.*
Power-assisted pedal cycle	Has the same meaning as in the Vehicle Standard (Australian Design Rule – Definitions and Vehicle

	Categories) 2005 determined under section 7 of the *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989.*
Poultry	Includes ducks, chickens, geese, peacocks, pheasants, turkeys, and guinea fowl.
Premises	Includes a building, land, flat, unit, house and dwelling but does not include any building, land, flat, unit, home or dwelling owned or under the control of Council.
Protected tree	Means a tree that meets the definition of a *canopy tree* under the *Planning Scheme*.
Public place	Has the same meaning as in the *Summary Offences Act 1966* which includes any public highway, road, street, bridge, footway, footpath, court, alley, passage or thoroughfare.
Raingarden	Means a stormwater treatment asset, bioretention system, stormwater planter, tree pit or landscaped area that is designed, constructed or used to collect, detain, slow, filter, treat, convey or infiltrate stormwater runoff. This includes any inlet and outlet structures, filter media, and vegetated or structural treatment areas forming part of the *raingarden* system.
Raingarden Protection Zone	Means the area surrounding a *raingarden* as determined by *Council* and defined in *Council's* asset register, maintenance drawings, or marked on site. This includes any inlet and outlet structures, filter media, and vegetated or structural treatment areas forming part of the *raingarden* system.
Recreational vehicle	Means any miniaturised motor cycle, trail bike, motor cycle, motor scooter, go-cart, four-wheel drive vehicle or other vehicle propelled by a motor, which can be used for recreational purposes, but does not include: (a) a motorised wheelchair; (b) a power-assisted pedal cycle that meets the legislative requirements; (c) an electric scooter that meets the legislative requirements; or (d) a caravan, mobile home or camper van.
Reserve	Means open spaces, including parks and gardens which are owned, occupied or under the control of Council.
Residential zone	Means one of the residential zones in the *Planning Scheme*.
Retailer	Means a person who sells goods by retail and who provides trolleys to customers.
Road	Has the same meaning as in the *Local Government Act 1989,* and includes *footpaths*, *nature strips* and *road* pavement.
Sanitary facilities	means toilets and associated infrastructure for the hygienic collection, treatment and disposal of human

	waste, and includes any septic system, sewer connection or other approved waste disposal system, maintained to the satisfaction of the Council and in accordance with any applicable legislation.
Sell	Means to: sell by means of any machine or mechanical device; barter or exchange; agree to sell; offer or expose for sale; keep or have in possession for sale; or direct, cause or attempt any such acts or things.
Short Stay Rental Accommodation	Means accommodation for no more than 30 consecutive days or 1 month in a dwelling on land for commercial gain, excluding other accommodation premises required to be registered under alternate legislation.
Significant tree	Means any *tree* or group of *trees* listed on Council's Significant Tree Register (published on Council's website).
Smoke	Has the same meaning as in the *Tobacco Act 1987.*
Smoke free area	Means any area prescribed by Council to be a smoke free area for the purposes of this Local Law.
Street furniture	Includes furniture used for outdoor dining such as tables and chairs, and ancillary equipment such as heaters, screens, planter boxes, umbrellas, blinds, menu boards, and awnings.
Street litter bin	Means a receptacle provided by Council in a *public place* to receive packaging, papers and other litter arising during the occupation or use of the *public place* by any person.
Tobacco product	Includes an e-cigarette; and both tobacco product and e-cigarette have the same meaning as in the *Tobacco Act 1987*. *Explanatory note:* *For context, please also see the following definitions:* ▪ *Vaping device* ▪ *Vaping substance*
Trade waste	Means any waste, refuse, slops, or other matter arising from or generated by any trade, industry, or commercial undertaking.
Trade waste bin	Means a purpose-built container for the deposit of trade or commercial waste.
Trail bike	Means a motorcycle for use on rough terrain.
Tree	Includes the trunk, branches, canopy and root system of the tree.

Tree protection zone (TPZ)	Means the calculated radial distance extending in all directions from the centre of a ***tree's*** trunk that must be protected to maintain the ***tree's*** health, structural stability, and long-term viability, both above and below ground. The TPZ is determined in accordance with AS 4970:2025, including Amendment 1:2025 *Protection of Trees on Development Sites*, based on the ***tree's*** Diameter at Standard Height (DSH), which is measured at 1.4 m above natural ground level. The TPZ is calculated as: DSH × 12 = TPZ.
Unreasonable noise	Has the same meaning as in the *Environment Protection Act 2017*.
Unsightly	When used with respect to land, means land which contains: (a) excessive waste; (b) excessive building materials; (c) discarded, rejected, surplus or abandoned solid or liquid materials; (e) graffiti; (f) machinery or machinery parts stored on the land for more than 2 months; (g) dilapidated structures; (h) grass or weeds that are 200 millimetres above the surface of the ground; (i) unregistered, unroadworthy, disassembled, incomplete or deteriorated motor vehicles, caravans, trailers or similar, visibly stored on the land for more than 2 months; (j) anything being built which is left incomplete and is detrimental to the appearance of the surrounding area; or (k) any other thing making the land visually unsightly or detrimental to the general amenity of the area, including land which is neglected or unsecured.
Urban zone	Includes a residential zone, commercial zone, activity centre zone and industrial zone.
Utility	Has the same meaning as in the *Road Management Act 2004.*
Vaping device	Has the same meaning as in section 41P of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989.* *Explanatory note:* *A 'vaping device' means -* *(a) a device (whether or not filled with a vaping substance) that generates or releases, or is designed or intended to generate or release, using a heating element*

	and by electronic means, an aerosol, vapour or mist for direct inhalation by its user; or *(b) a device to which paragraph (a) would apply if the device were not temporarily or permanently inoperable, incomplete, damaged or unfinished.*
Vaping substance	Has the same meaning as in section 41P of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989.* *Explanatory note:* *A 'vaping substance' means -* *(a)(i) nicotine in solution in any concentration (including in a salt or base form); or* *(ii) any liquid or other substance for use in, or with, a vaping device; and* *(b) includes a container (other than a vaping accessory or vaping device), or part of such a container, in which a liquid or other substance referred to in subparagraph (a)(i) or (ii) is present.*
Vegetation	**I**ncludes *trees*, grass, shrubs, hedges and plants.
Vehicle	Has the same meaning as in the *Road Safety Act 1986.*
Vehicle crossing	Means a Council approved constructed access point between a privately owned property boundary and a road.
Vehicle Crossing Policy	Means the *Vehicle Crossing Policy* adopted by Council that may be amended from time to time by the *Chief Executive Officer* and which is incorporated in this Local Law.
Vermin	Includes cockroaches, European wasps, mice, rats or any animal which is destructive or a nuisance.
Wheeled Recreational Device	Has the same meaning as in the *Road Safety Road Rules 2017.* *Explanatory note* *The Road Safety Road Rules 2017 defines wheeled recreational device as: means a wheeled device, built to transport a person, propelled by human power or gravity (or in the case of a scooter, propelled by a person pushing one foot against the ground, or by an electric motor or motors, or by a combination of these), and ordinarily used for recreation or play, and –* (a) *includes rollerblades, rollerskates, a skateboard, a scooter (other than an electric scooter) that is not a motor vehicle, or similar wheeled device, but;* (b) *does not include-* *i. a golf buggy, pram, stroller or trolley,* *ii. a bicycle,*

iii. *an electric scooter (whether or not the electric scooter is a motor vehicle)*
iv. *an electric personal transporter;*
v. *a wheelchair or wheeled toy;*
vi. *a scooter that is a motor vehicle;*

Wheeled Toy Has the same meaning as in the *Road Safety Road Rules 2017*.

Explanatory note

The Road Safety Road Rules 2017 defines wheeled toy as: means a child's pedal car, scooter (other than a motorised scooter) or tricycle or a similar toy, but only when it is being used only by a child who is under 12 years old

Works Includes:

(a) building, excavating, soil disturbance, digging holes, changes to ground level or drainage, compacting and landscaping;

(b) erecting fencing, hoarding and scaffolding;

(c) using a mobile crane or travel tower or similar;

(d) constructing, removing, or altering a vehicle crossing; and / or

(e) installing fences, barriers or other items that restricts access to or movement on a road.

PART 3: ANIMALS

9. Permitted Quantity of Animals

(1) This Part does not apply to the keeping of any animals for other uses permitted under the *Planning Scheme,* including a planning permit issued under that Scheme.

(2) Subject to sub-clause 9(1), an *owner* or *occupier* of any *land* must not, without a *permit*, keep or allow to be kept on that *land,* more than the number of animals stated in the following table:

Animal	**Number allowed without a permit**
Dogs	2
Cats	2
Poultry	4
Rooster	0
Domestic birds (caged and not poultry)	15
Pigeons (non-racing)	5
Pigeons (racing)	20
Domestic rabbits, ferrets, guinea pigs, hamsters, rats or mice	6 animals in total
Any other agricultural animals	0

(3) If the above table specifies the number of animals allowed without a permit is nought (0), the keeping of that type of *animal* on that land is prohibited and a *permit* cannot be granted.

(4) The *Council* or an *Authorised Officer* may exempt any *person* or class of persons from the application of sub-clauses (1), (2) and (3).

(5) Notwithstanding anything in this Part, a *person* is allowed to keep an *assistance dog* or *assistance animal* on *land*, provided that the *assistance dog* or *assistance animal* is registered with *Council* or an appropriate body or *applicable organisation*, if required under legislation.

Explanatory note

Under the Domestic Animals Act 1994, all dogs and cats are required to be registered with Council when they reach six months of age.

10. Keeping of Animals

(1) An *owner* or *occupier* of *land* must ensure that any part of the *land* used for keeping an *animal* is:

(a) adequately fenced and the fence maintained to the satisfaction of *Council* or an *Authorised Officer,* so that any *animal* kept on the *land* cannot escape from that *land* during the period which it is required to be contained;

(b) any structure on the *land* which houses an *animal* is located so the *animal* may not cause a nuisance to any *person*;

(c) maintained in a clean, inoffensive and sanitary condition and does not cause a nuisance to any other *person,* including ensuring that:

(i) the *land* surrounding the place where the *animal* is kept is free from rubbish or *vegetation* that could attract or harbour *vermin*;

(ii) all *animal* food for consumption kept or stored on the *land* is kept or stored in a *vermin* and insect proof receptacle; and

(iii) all *animal* waste is removed from the *land* so as not to be offensive or a nuisance to any other *person*.

11. Responsible Breeding of Dogs and Cats

(1) A *person*, other than the proprietor of a registered domestic animal business or a member of an *Applicable Organisation* under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* with which a cat is registered, must not sell, or give away to any person any cat that has not been de-sexed except where the cat is ten (10) years of age or older.

(2) A *person* must, when selling or giving away a dog or cat, provide details of the dog or cat and details of the new owner to *Council* within seven (7) days of selling or giving away that dog or cat.

12. Wasps and Bees

(1) An *owner or occupier* of land must ensure that any European wasps on the *land* are destroyed.

(2) An *owner or occupier* of *land* must ensure that any honeybees that have a hive or are swarming on the *land* are removed from the *land* unless:

(a) the hive is registered in accordance with the *Apiary Code of Practice 2011*; and

(b) where a *permit* is required under the *Planning Scheme*, a *permit* has been issued for such keeping.

13. Animal Waste

(1) A *person in charge* of an *animal* must not allow any part of the *animal's* waste to remain on any *road, Council land* or *public place* and must immediately collect and properly dispose of the waste.

(2) A *person in charge* of an *animal* on any *road, Council land* or *public place* must carry a bag or other receptacle to collect and properly dispose of waste from that *animal*.

(3) A *person in charge* of an *animal* on any *road, Council land* or *public place* must produce a bag or other receptacle to collect and properly dispose of waste from that *animal* at the request of an *Authorised Officer*.

14. Feeding of Birds on Private Property

(1) An *occupier of* private *land* must not:

(a) feed or continue to feed; or

(b) allow or cause to be fed,

any bird on that private *land* if:

(i) the bird is not ordinarily kept on the private *land*; and

(ii) the circumstances in which the bird is fed are likely or do interfere with the material comfort of any other *person* or with a *person's* use and enjoyment of *land* they own or occupy.

(2) Sub-clause (1) does not apply to any bird that is feeding on any vegetation growing or that has grown on the private *land*.

15. Feeding of Birds on a Road or Council Land

(1) An *Authorised Officer* may direct a *person* on a *road* or *Council land* not to:

(a) feed or continue to feed; or

(b) allow or cause to be fed,

any bird on that *road* or *Council land*.

PART 4: YOUR PROPERTY

16. Condition of Land

(1) An *owner or occupier* of *land* must not keep or allow another *person* to keep that *land* in a manner which:

(a) is *unsightly*;

(b) is *dangerous* or likely to cause danger to life or property;

(c) contains *vermin;*

(d) contains *noxious* weeds, if that *land* is located in an *urban zone;* or

(e) is detrimental to the general amenity of the area in which the *land* is located.

(2) An *owner* or *occupier* of *land* must not, without a *permit*, store any matter, *hazardous substance or item,* or thing which is *dangerous* or likely to cause danger to health, life or property on that *land*.

17. Dilapidated Buildings

(1) An *owner or occupier* of *land* must:

(a) not allow a *building* on the land to become *dilapidated* or further *dilapidated;*

(b) take all reasonable steps to secure any *building* located on the land from unauthorised access; and

(c) maintain any *building* located on the *land* in a state of good repair, including undertaking temporary repairs as required to ensure on-site safety and security.

(2) For the purposes of sub-clause (1), a *building* is *dilapidated* if it is in a state of disrepair or has deteriorated or fallen into a state of partial ruin as a result of age, neglect, poor maintenance, misuse or has become damaged or defaced.

Explanatory note:

For the purposes of this clause, 'building' includes buildings of heritage significance as identified by the Planning Scheme.

18. Fencing and Securing of Land

(1) If an *Authorised Officer* determines that vacant *land* is *unsightly*, has waste dumped on it, or is *dangerous*, or that a *dilapidated building* exists on any *land,* they may, by written notice, direct the *owner* or *occupier* of that *land* to:

(a) Erect, repair, replace or modify fencing to enclose the *land;* or

(b) Secure or better secure the *building.*

19. Overhanging Obstructions or Vegetation

An *owner or occupier* of *land* must not permit any thing, including *vegetation*, located on the *land* to:

(a) overhang a *road, public place* or *Council land* at a height of less than 3 metres from the surface of the *road, public place* or *Council land;*

(b) overhang the boundary of the *land* so as to obstruct the clear view of a pedestrian or the driver of any *vehicle* approaching the intersection or travelling along the *road* abutting the *land*;

(c) encroach upon any *road, public place* or *Council land*;

(d) obscure, interfere with, or cause damage to streetlights, street signs, street furniture or a traffic control device;

(e) interfere with or cause damage to any fixture or other structure on a *road, public place* or *Council land;* or

(f) otherwise prejudice the safe and convenient use of any *road, public place* or *Council land* by pedestrians or drivers.

20. Tree and Vegetation Protection on Private Land

(1) A *person* must not, on private *land,* without a *permit:*

(a) cut, lop, trim, destroy, damage, remove, poison or otherwise interfere with any *significant tree* or *protected tree*; or engage, allow, authorise or direct any *person* to do so; or

(b) carry out any works or store any thing within the *tree protection zone* of a *significant tree* or *protected tree,* or engage, allow, authorise or direct any *person* to do so.

(2) Sub-clause (1) does not apply:

(a) if the *tree* is a *canopy tree* regulated under clause 52.37 of the *Planning Scheme*;

(b) where any requirement in the *Planning Scheme* applies to the *tree* and requires a planning permit for the same matters that are regulated in sub-clause (1); or

(c) to the extent necessary for an *owner* or *occupier* of *land* to comply with clause 19 (Overhanging Obstructions or Vegetation).

21. Urgent Safety Works – Tree and Vegetation on Private Land

(1) If *Council* or an authorised officer reasonably believes that any *tree* or *vegetation* on *land* presents an immediate and serious risk to public safety, a *road*, *footpath*, *Council land, Council asset*, drainage asset, adjoining *land* or property, An *Authorised Officer* may, without prior notice where notice is impracticable, enter the *land* and prune, lop, cut, remove or otherwise make safe so much of the *tree* or *vegetation* as an *Authorised Officer* considers reasonably necessary to remove or reduce that risk.

22. Property Numbers

(1) An *owner* or *occupier* of *land* must not number or display a property number in respect of that *land* unless the number has been allocated to or approved for use by *Council.*

(2) If *Council* has allocated a property number to the *land* or approved the use of a number for the *land*, the *owner* or *occupier* of the *land* must ensure:

(a) the *land* is marked with the number allocated to or approved for use by *Council;* and

(b) the number is of sufficient size, free from obstructions and kept in such a state of repair that it can be clearly read under normal lighting conditions from the *road* immediately adjacent to the front boundary of the *land.*

23. Donation Bins on Private Land

An *owner* or *occupier* of land on which a *donation bin* is located, must ensure that items do not accumulate or remain outside the confines of the *donation bin.*

24. Shipping Containers on Private Land

(1) An *occupier* of private *land* must not, or must not allow another *person* to, keep, store, place, repair or in any other manner use a shipping container on that *land* without a *permit* issued under this Local Law, unless permitted under the *Planning Scheme*, or for which the *Planning Scheme* requires a planning *permit* for such use and a planning *permit* under the *Planning Scheme* has been issued.

Explanatory note:

A permit under this Local Law does not authorise the use of a shipping container for any purpose that requires a building permit under the Building Act 1993 or Building Regulations 2018, and any such permit must be obtained prior to that use.

A shipping container must not be used as a dwelling, habitable structure, or other building unless all required planning and building approvals have been obtained.

25. Heavy and Long Vehicles on Private Land

(1) An *owner* or *occupier* of *land* in a *residential zone,* must not, without a *permit*, keep, park, store, repair or allow another *person* to keep, park, store or repair:

(a) a *vehicle* over 7.5 metres in length (including any trailer and fittings); or

(b) a *heavy vehicle.*

(2) Sub-clause (1) does not apply to:

(a) a *vehicle* that is parked, kept, stored or repaired for less than one hour, or when the driver is picking up or setting down goods;

(b) one caravan and one boat being stored on land by the *owner* or *occupier* of that land; or

(c) the keeping, parking, storing or repairing of a *vehicle* permitted under the *Planning Scheme.*

26. Short Stay Rental Accommodation

(1) An *owner* or *occupier* of *land,* who causes or allows the *land* to be used for *short stay rental accommodation* during any twelve (12) month period, must not receive three (3) or more complaints substantiated by Council to the effect that:

(a) a *person* on the *land* has caused a *nuisance*; and / or

(b) a *person* on the l*and* is demonstrating anti-social behaviour that has unduly interfered with the use and enjoyment of another residential premises.

PART 5: COUNCIL LAND AND ROADS

27. Behaviour on Council Land and Roads

A *person* must not:

(a) act in a manner that is likely to interfere with the reasonable use and enjoyment of a *road* or *Council land* by other persons;

(b) create a nuisance on a *road* or *Council land*;

(c) act in a manner which endangers any other *person* on a *road* or *Council land*;

(d) act contrary to any restriction, prohibition or direction contained on a *Council* sign on a *road* or *Council land*;

(e) use or interfere with any lifesaving or emergency device located on a *road* or *Council land*, unless using the device in an emergency or participating in instruction or maintenance approved by *Council*;

(f) damage, destroy, deface, remove or interfere with anything in or on any *building*, including an improvement or other structure of any kind on a *road* or *Council land*;

(g) organise, conduct or hold a function or *event* on a *road* or *Council land* without the written consent of *Council* or an *Authorised Officer*;

(h) erect, operate or cause to be erected or operated any *amusement*, without a *permit*, on a *road* or *Council land*;

(i) obstruct, hinder or interfere with a *Council* staff member in the performance of their duties on a *road* or *Council land*;

(j) act contrary to any reasonable direction of an *Authorised Officer* or *Council* staff member given on a *road* or *Council land*, including, without limitation, a direction to leave the *road* or *Council land*, whether or not a fee for admission has been paid; or

(k) remain on a *road* or *Council land* after being directed to leave by an *Authorised Officer* or *Council* staff member.

Explanatory Note

Council acknowledges that there are people in the community who are sleeping rough and acknowledges their rights. This clause is not intended to adversely affect individuals experiencing homelessness.

The Merri-bek Homelessness Strategy provides a framework to:

- *Facilitate a coordinated and compassionate response that respects the human rights of people experiencing homelessness the provision of information for people to access housing and support;*
- *Support early intervention for people who are vulnerable or at risk to avoid homelessness; and*
- *Investigate partnerships with prevention programs to address risk factors that lead to homelessness.*

28. Use of Recording Devices in a Municipal Place

(1) A *person* must not use a photographic, audio, video or other recording device in a *municipal place* in a manner that:

(a) unreasonably interferes with the privacy, safety or causes unreasonable distress or discomfort to another *person*;

(b) unreasonably interferes with another ***person's*** use or enjoyment of the *municipal place;* or

(c) interferes with the safe or orderly operation of the *municipal place.*

(2) An *Authorised Officer* or *Council* staff member may direct a *person* to cease or modify the use of a recording device in a *municipal place* if the *Authorised Officer* reasonably believes that the ***person's*** use of the device contravenes, or is likely to contravene, subclause (1).

(3) This clause does not apply to:

(a) recording undertaken or authorised by *Council;*

(b) recording undertaken by a public authority in the lawful performance of its functions; or

(c) the reasonable use of assistive or accessibility technology.

29. Access to a Municipal Place

(1) The *Council,* an *Authorised Officer* or a *Council* staff member may determine the hours when any *municipal place* will be open to the public.

(2) A *person* must not, without the consent of *Council,* an *Authorised Officer* or a *Council* staff member:

(a) act contrary to any conditions of entry or membership applicable to a *municipal place*;

(b) enter or remain in a *municipal place* after being directed to leave by an *Authorised Officer* or a *Council* staff member;

(c) enter or remain in a *municipal place* during hours when the *municipal place* is not open to the public;

(d) bring any *animal* into, or allow any *animal* under their control to remain in a *municipal place*, except for an *assistance dog* being used by that *person*; or

(e) bring any *vehicle*, *wheeled recreational device* or *wheeled toy* into a *municipal place*, except for:

(i) a pram or pusher being used by a child; or

(ii) a wheelchair being used by a physically disabled person.

(3) A *person* must not act contrary to any reasonable direction of an *Authorised Officer* or *Council* staff member given in or on a *municipal place*.

(4) *Council* may issue a Notice of Prohibition from Entry where there is an ongoing threat to safety or well-being of other lawful users, visitors or *Council* staff in any

municipal place for a period of time, not exceeding one year with a further extension of up to six months.

(5) A *person* must not enter any specified *municipal place after* having been directed to leave by an *Authorised Officer or Council* staff member and being served with a Notice of Prohibition from Entry.

30. Obstructions on or over Council Land and Roads

(1) A *person* must not, without a *permit,*

(a) allow, place, store or leave any thing on or over a *road* or *Council land,* unless allowed under any other Act or Regulation;

(b) cause or allow unreasonable obstruction or interference with the passage of pedestrian or vehicular traffic in or on a *road* or *Council land;* or

(c) erect a fence or otherwise occupy a *road* or *Council land.*

(2) Subclause (1) does not apply to the *works* or activities of a *utility.*

Explanatory Note:

This clause also includes items which could cause an obstruction to pedestrians or vehicles or constitute a danger.

31. Tree and Vegetation Protection on Council Land

(d) A *person* must not, on *Council land,* a *road* or in a *public place,* without a *permit*:

(d) cut, lop, trim, destroy, damage, remove, poison or otherwise interfere with any *vegetation* or engage, allow, authorise or direct any *person* to do so; or

(e) carry out any *works* or store any thing within the *tree protection zone* of a *tree* or engage, allow, authorise or direct any other *person* to undertake such *works*.

(e) Sub-clause (1) does not apply to:

(a) a *person* authorised by *Council* to undertake any such *works*; or

(b) a *person* acting in accordance with an instruction or direction from an *Authorised Officer.*

(f) A *person* must not, without a *permit* or the written consent of *Council* or an *Authorised Officer*, plant any *vegetation* on *Council land,* a *road* or a *public place* except in accordance with the *Nature Strip Guidelines.*

32. Protection of Raingardens

(1) A *person* must not, on *Council land,* a *road* or a *public place*, without a *permit* carry out any *works* within the *raingarden protection zone* of a *raingarden* or engage, allow, authorise or direct any other *person* to undertake such *works*.

33. Nature Strip Planting

(1) A *person* must comply with the *Nature Strip Guidelines* when carrying out any of the following activities on a nature strip:

(a) landscaping; or

(b) planting any *vegetation*.

(2) The *owner* of *occupier* of any *land* adjacent to a *nature strip* on which activities under the *Nature Strip Guidelines* are undertaken, must ensure that *nature strip* area is maintained to *Council's* satisfaction.

34. Activities in or on a Reserve

A *person* must not, without a *permit,* in or on any *reserve*:

(a) use, ride, drive or park a *vehicle*, except on a signed or dedicated path or laneway reserved for such a *vehicle*;

(b) play, engage in or practise any game or sport, whether or not in accordance with a *permit* issued under this Local Law, in a manner that is likely to unreasonably interfere with the reasonable use or enjoyment of any other *person*;

(c) conduct any fitness training or health and wellbeing activity for commercial purposes;

(d) organise, conduct or participate in an organised competitive sport, competition, league, tournament, academy, coaching program or other formalised sporting activity, unless authorised to do so under an appropriate licence agreement or with the written consent of the *Council* or an *Authorised Officer*. This clause does not apply to informal, social or recreational sport or physical activity that does not require exclusive use of the *reserve* or *Council* allocation; or

(e) install, or permit to be installed, a gateway on or other means of access to or from a *reserve.*

35. Camping on Council Land or a Road

(1) A *person* must not, without a *permit*, *camp* in or on any *Council land* or *road.*

(2) A *person* is not guilty of an offence under sub-clause (1) where that *person* establishes that they:

a) are homeless or in need of secure accommodation; or

b) have complex needs or is in the need of additional assistance because of mental or physical disability or illness.

Explanatory Note

Council acknowledges that there are people in the community who are sleeping rough and acknowledges their rights. This clause is not intended to adversely affect individuals experiencing homelessness.

The Merri-bek Homelessness Strategy provides a framework to:

- *Facilitate a coordinated and compassionate response that respects the human rights of people experiencing homelessness the provision of information for people to access housing and support;*
- *Support early intervention for people who are vulnerable or at risk to avoid homelessness; and*
- *Investigate partnerships with prevention programs to address risk factors that lead to homelessness.*

36. Donation Bins

(1) A *person* must not, without a *permit*, place a *donation bin* on a *road*, *Council land* or in a *public place*.

- A *person* or holder of a *permit* permitted to place a *donation bin* on a *road*, *Council land* or in a *public place,* must ensure the items do not accumulate or remain outside the confines of the *donation bin*.

37. Interfering with Roads, Council Land, or Infrastructure

A *person* must not, without a *permit*:

(a) destroy, deface, interfere with, or cause damage to a *road*, *Council land, Council* infrastructure or a *Council asset* or allow another *person* to do so; or

(b) remove any thing from a *road* or *Council land* or allow another person to do so.

38. Council Sign

A *person* must comply with any sign erected or installed by or on behalf of *Council* on a *road* or on *Council land.*

PART 6: VEHICLES ON COUNCIL LAND AND ROADS

39. Repair of Vehicles

A *person* must not dismantle, *paint, carry out maintenance on or repair a vehicle, or leave a vehicle* whilst in the course of carrying out such actions, on a *road or Council land*.

Explanatory Note:

This clause does not apply to timely repairs carried out in response to a mechanical breakdown, tyre repairs or the replacement of car parts that are required to enable the lawful use of the vehicle

40. Display of Vehicles

(1) A *person* must not, without a *permit*, display a *vehicle* for sale or hire on a *road, Council land* or in a *public place.*

(2) *Council* may grant an exemption from sub-clause (1) to a *person* conducting a business for the sale or hire of *vehicles*.

41. Storage of Caravans, Boats or Trailers on Council Land or Roads

A *person* must not, without a *permit*, place, store or allow to be placed or stored, a boat, caravan, or trailer in or on *Council land,* including moving that boat, caravan or trailer to a nearby or adjoining area, for a period exceeding 14 days across 60 consecutive days.

42. Heavy Vehicles on Council Land or Roads

(1) A *person* must not, without a *permit*, drive or cause to be driven a *heavy vehicle* on a *road* or *Council land* in an area designated by *Council* to be a prohibited or restricted place for the purposes of this clause.

(2) The *Council* or an *Authorised Officer* may erect, or cause to be erected, signage indicating prohibitions or restrictions on the use of a *road* by *heavy vehicles*.

43. Commercial and Other Vehicles on Council Land or Roads

(1) A *person* must not park any *vehicle* on *Council land* or a *road* if it causes a nuisance or obstruction to local amenity.

(2) A *person* must not, without a *permit*, store or park a *commercial vehicle* on *Council land* or a *road* for the purpose of:

(a) offering the *vehicle* for sale;

(b) conducting, promoting or facilitating commercial activity; or

(c) storing *vehicles* associated with a business or commercial activity

44. Abandoned and Unregistered Vehicles

(1) A *person* must not leave or allow to be left, a vehicle on a *road* or *Council land* that is:

(a) abandoned;

(b) unregistered;

(c) accident damaged;

(d) dilapidated;

(e) immobile; or

(f) causing a danger or an obstruction to other road users or pedestrians.

Explanatory Note:

For the purposes of this clause, a vehicle will be considered by Council to be abandoned if the vehicle has not been moved for 2 continuous months.

45. Wheeled Toy or Wheeled Recreational Device

A *person* must not, on a *road* or *Council land*:

(a) use, place, leave or allow another *person* to use, place or leave a *wheeled toy* or *wheeled recreational device* in such a manner as to unreasonably interfere with the passage of, or cause annoyance or danger to, any *person* on or using the *road* or *Council land*; or

(b) use or allow another *person* to use a *toy vehicle* in an area designated by *Council* to be a prohibited place for the purposes of this clause.

46. Use of Recreational Vehicles in a Public Place

A *person* must not without a *permit*, in a *public place*, ride, or cause or allow to be ridden any *recreational vehicle***,** except where the use is authorised by signs placed on the *land* by *Council* or is permitted under an Act or Regulation.

47. Electric Scooter or Bicycle Share Scheme

(1) A *person* who owns an *electric scooter or bicycle* used for the purpose of an *electric scooter* or *bicycle share scheme* must not, without a *permit,* allow any *electric scooter or bicycle* owned or operated by that *person* to be within the *municipal district.*

(2) A *person* must not make available for use, or permit to be used, in the *municipal district*, an *electric scooter* or bicycle used for the purpose of an *electric scooter or bicycle share scheme* that does not have a device which is attached to it and used so as to ensure the return of the *electric scooter or bicycle* to an area specifically designated for the storage of *electric scooters or bicycles.*

(3) *Council* may exempt a *person* or a class of *persons* from the application of sub-clause (1) if an *electric* scooter or bicycle for the purpose of an *electric scooter or bicycle share scheme* is left or placed in an area prescribed by *Council.*

(4) A *person* who owns or operates an *electric scooter or bicycle* used for the purposes of an *electric scooter* or *bicycle share scheme* is guilty of an offence if such an *electric scooter or bicycle* is:

(a) left or placed in a way that unreasonably interferes with the use of any *road* or *Council land;* or

(b) left or placed in a place that detrimentally affects the amenity of any *road* or *Council land.*

(5) A *person* who owns or operates an *electric scooter or bicycle* used for the purpose of an *electric scooter* or *bicycle share scheme* must:

(a) remove within 24 hours of notification any *electric scooter or bicycle* in contravention of sub- clause (4);

(b) remove within 24 hours of notification any *electric scooter or bicycle* that is damaged or missing any part.

48. Behaviour Involving Motor Vehicles

(1) A *person* must not participate in, encourage, or attend a *hoon event* on *Council land* or *roads*.

(2) The driver of a *vehicle* must not stop or park *on Council land* or a *road*, for the purposes of attending a *hoon event*, within 200 metres of a *motor vehicle* involved in a *hoon event*.

PART 7: WASTE

49. Household Waste

(1) Household waste material from any *land* must only be placed out for collection on such days and at such times as are prescribed by the *Council* for the collection of that waste.

(2) The *Council* or an *Authorised Officer* may determine under this clause whether an *approved waste bin* is to be used for the deposit of waste by the *owner* or *occupier* of *land*, and the *owner* or *occupier* of the *land* must comply with any such determination.

(3) An *owner* or *occupier* of *land* for which *Council* provides a waste collection service must ensure that all household waste is placed in the *approved waste bin*, provided by *Council* in accordance with the *Kerbside Waste Services and Charge Policy;*

(4) An *owner* or *occupier* of any *land* to which *Council* does not provide a household waste collection service must remove any waste from the property and dispose of it into an appropriate receptacle or to a waste disposal facility in a manner that is clean, inoffensive and does not harm the environment.

50. Hard Waste Collection

(1) A *person* must not place, cause or allow to be placed, any thing (other than an *approved waste bin*) on a *nature strip* or other part of a *road*, except for the purposes of a *hard waste* collection service provided by *Council*.

(2) A *person* must not, without the consent of the *owner* or *occupier* who placed a thing on a *nature strip* or other part of a *road* for the purpose of a *hard waste* collection service, or the consent of *Council* or an *Authorised Officer*, add to any thing left for collection under sub-clause (1).

(3) A *person* must only place *hard waste* out for collection in accordance with the *Kerbside Waste Services and Charge Policy*, or as directed by an *Authorised Officer*.

(4) A *person* must not place, cause or allow to be placed, *hard waste* for collection on a *nature strip* or other part of a *road* more than 7 days prior to the:

(a) booked collection date; or

(b) advertised commencement date of a *hard waste* collection for the *land* where the *hard waste* is placed.

51. Trade and Commercial Waste

(1) A *person* must not, without a *permit*, store or allow to be stored any bin, hopper or *trade waste bin* on *Council land, a nature strip* or other part of a *road.*

(2) *Council* may designate any *Council land* or *road* for the purpose of storing *trade waste bins.*

(3) *Trade waste* from any *land* must only be collected on such days and at such times as are designated by *Council.*

(4) Where engaging in such activities, the *owner or occupier* of a commercial premises must comply with clauses 49 and 50.

(5) Notwithstanding clause 49(1) a *person* must not place a *trade waste bin* from a commercial premises out for collection on *Council land a nature strip* or other part of a *road* prior to 4.00pm the day prior to collection and must return that bin to the premises by 10.00am on the day of collection.

(6) A *person* must not, without a permit, collect or allow to be collected, any *trade waste* except between the hours of

(a) 6.30am and 8.00pm Monday to Saturday; or

(b) 9.00am and 8.00pm Sundays and Public Holidays.

(7) A *person* who places a *trade waste bin* on *Council land, a nature strip* or other part of a *road,* to be emptied must ensure that it does not cause any obstruction or danger to any *person.*

(8) A *person* who has placed a *trade waste bin* on *Council land,* a *nature strip* or other part of a *road*, must repair any damage to the *Council land, nature strip* or *road* or any works in the *road*, including a vehicle crossing, that results from placing the *trade waste bin* on the *Council land, nature strip* or *road* or emptying it.

(9) The *owner or occupier* of a commercial premises must: ensure that a *trade waste bin* provided for the storage of trade waste is:

(a) constructed of impervious materials, watertight and pest proof;

(b) regularly emptied to prevents the contents from becoming offensive;

(c) maintained and kept in a clean, sanitary and odour-free condition;

(d) adequately constructed, located or secured in such a way as to deny access to the public; and

(e) clearly labelled with ownership details.

(10) A *person* must not place any waste generated at a *commercial premises* into a *street litter bin.*

52. Bulk Rubbish Containers and Shipping Containers

A *person* must not, without a *permit*, place or cause to be placed, a *bulk rubbish container* or *shipping container* on a *road* or *Council land*.

PART 8: FIRE SAFETY

Nothing in this Part permits a person to light a fire during a declared Fire Danger Period (including a day of Total Fire Ban) or otherwise in contravention of the Country Fire Authority Act 1958 or the Fire Rescue Victoria Act 1958.

In this Part "in the open air" has the same meaning as under Section 34A of the Country Fire Authority Act 1958.

53. Incinerators, Fires and Open Air Burning

(1) A *person* must not light or allow any fire to be lit in an *incinerator* on any *land.*

(2) A *person* must not, without a *permit* light or allow any fire to be lit in the open air on any *Council land.*

(3) A *person* must not, without a *permit* light or allow any fire to be lit in the open air on any *private land:*

(4) Sub-clauses (1), (2) and (3) do not apply to:

(a) a barbeque, pizza oven or other properly constructed appliance while it is being used for cooking food;

(b) a fire in a properly constructed brazier, fire pit or chimenea while it is being used for heating;

(c) a fire which is approved by a *permit* for a special event or cultural ceremony; or

(d) an Elder or chosen Aboriginal person undertaking a welcome to country or a sorry business healing ceremony.

(5) For the purpose of sub-clause (4) a *person* must not light or allow to be lit on any *land*, a fire in the *open air* to burn:

(a) green or wet vegetation;

(b) non timber based materials;

(c) rubber or plastic, including plastic mulch, plant pots and packaging materials;

(d) furnishings or carpet;

(e) manufactured chemicals or pressurised cans;

(f) petroleum or oil products;

(g) paint or any container in which paint is or was kept;

(h) food waste;

(i) manure or straw;

(j) carcasses or dead *animals*, or

(k) other offensive, noxious or toxic matter.

54. Direction to Extinguish Fires

(1) A *person* who has lit or allowed a fire to remain alight contrary to the provisions of this Local Law, or which in the opinion of an Authorised Officer may adversely impact a person's health or amenity, must extinguish the fire immediately on being directed to do so by:

(a) an *Authorised Officer*; or

(b) a member of Victoria Police, or Fire Rescue Victoria.

Explanatory note

In accordance with clause 7 of the Local Law, nothing in this Local Law prevents any member, officer or employee of:

- *an emergency service;*
- *a Commonwealth or State Government;*
- *any military or civil-defence force; or*
- *the Council, a contractor or agent directly engaged by the Council to undertake works or to provide a service,*

from performing any of the duties they are lawfully entitled or required to perform while engaging in those duties and any person acting accordingly is not guilty of any offence under this Local Law.

PART 9: BUSINESSES IN MERRI-BEK

55. Signage

(1) A *person* must not, without a *permit* or an appropriate license agreement with Council, place or allow to be placed an *advertising sign* on a *road* or *Council land.*

(2) Sub-clause (1) does not apply to moveable *advertising signs* that are placed for the purpose of real estate open for inspections or auctions, no more than 1 hour before and removed no more than one 1 hour after a real estate open for inspection or auction.

56. Display of Goods

(1) A *person* must not, without a *permit* or an appropriate license agreement with *Council,* place or display, or allow another *person* to place or display, any goods on a *road* or *Council land*.

(2) A *person* must, in addition to sub-clause (1), comply with any *permit* conditions and additional requirements applicable to them in *Council's:*

(a) *Footpath Trading Guidelines;* and

(b) *Parklet Guidelines.*

57. Roadside Trading or Performing

(1) A *person* must not, without a *permit*, erect or place on any *road* or *Council land* a vehicle, caravan, trailer, table, stall or other similar structure for the purpose of selling or offering for sale any goods or services.

(2) A *person* must not, without a *permit*, or unless otherwise authorised by *Council* in writing or pursuant to a licence agreement, on any *road* or in any *municipal place, busk* or play any musical instrument or use any sound amplification equipment for the purpose of public entertainment or performance.

58. Use of a Municipal Place for Outdoor Eating Facilities

(1) A *person* must not, without a *permit* or an appropriate license agreement with Council, use or allow to be used any *road* or *Council* land for the purposes of an *outdoor eating facility.*

(2) A *person* must, in addition to sub-clause (1), comply with any *permit* conditions and additional requirements applicable to them in *Council's:*

(a) *Footpath Trading Guidelines;* and

*(*b) *Parklet Guidelines.*

59. Shop Awnings, Signs and Attachments

Unless approved under a building permit, a *person* must not, without a *permit,* install, place, hang, attach, alter, maintain or allow to remain any awning, sign, flag, bunting, banner, air-conditioning unit, pipe, cable, fixture, fitting or other attachment on, over, attached to, or adjoining a *road*, *Council land* or *municipal place.*

60. Street Collection and Distribution

A *person* must not, without a *permit*, solicit, distribute, or collect any donations, monies, pamphlets, flyers or subscriptions from a *road* or *Council land.*

61. Spruiking

A *person* must not, without a *permit*, spruik, tout, or solicit the sale of any goods or services on a *road* or *Council land* or from any land adjacent to a *road* or *Council land*.

62. Shopping Trolleys

(1) A *person* must not leave a shopping trolley on a *road, Council land* or vacant *land,* except in an area designated by *Council* for the return of shopping trolleys.

(2) A *retailer* who provides shopping trolleys intended for the use of customers must ensure that *retailer's* trading name is clearly marked on the shopping trolleys.

(3) A *retailer* who provides 25 or more shopping trolleys for use by customers, must ensure that each shopping trolley is fitted with a functioning coin deposit and release mechanism, or an alternate locking mechanism approved by *Council.*

(4) A retailer must ensure that shopping trolleys left outside of their *premises* when the business is closed are secured so as to prevent any shopping trolley being used.

(5) If a shopping trolley has been left on a *road*, vacant *land* or *Council land,* an *Authorised Officer* may direct the retailer who provides the shopping trolley, or the *person in charge* of the retail premises from which it has been transported, to remove the shopping trolley within a specified period.

(6) A *person* to whom a direction is given under sub-clause (6) must comply with that direction.

(7) *Council* or an *Authorised Officer* or a *person* engaged by *Council* for this purpose may, on behalf of *Council*, seize and impound any shopping trolley which has been left on a *road, vacant land* or on *Council land* in contravention of this Local Law.

63. Commercial Filming

A *person* must not, without a *permit*, conduct or allow any *commercial filming* on a *road* or *Council land*.

Explanatory note:

For the purposes of assessing permit applications, Council must comply with the Victorian Film Friendly Guidelines, made under the Filming Approvals Act 2014.

64. Circuses, Carnivals, or Events

(1) A *person* must not, without a *permit*, or without the written consent of *Council* or an *Authorised Officer*, hold or allow to be held a circus, carnival or *event* on *Council land.*

(2) A person must, in addition to sub-clause (1), comply with any permit conditions and additional requirements applicable to them in the *Event Permit Policy.*

(3) Sub-clauses (1) and (2) do not apply to a social gathering of one hundred (100) *persons* or less on *Council land*, except where the social gathering includes the installation or use of an:

(a) An *event amusement*; or

(b) *Event infrastructure.*

PART 10: SMOKING AND ALCOHOL

65. Smoking in a Smoke Free Area

(1) *Council* may designate any *Council land* or *road* to be a *smoke free area* and may prescribe times and dates during which a *person* must not *smoke* in such an area.

(2) Any designation of areas, times and dates under sub-clause (1) must be published by *Council* by giving public notice at least 14 days before the restrictions are to be introduced by:

(a) giving notice in multiple media streams, including where appropriate in a newspaper generally circulating throughout Victoria and on Council's website; and

(b) posting notices on a publicly accessible notice board at the principal, municipal office of *Council*.

(3) A *person* must not *smoke* a *tobacco product* or *vaping device*, filled with a *vaping substance,* or a shisha pipe or associated apparatus, in a *smoke free area*.

(4) Where an *Authorised Officer* believes on reasonable grounds that a *person* is contravening or has contravened sub-clause (3), the *Authorised Officer* may direct the *person* to extinguish and then dispose of the *tobacco product* or *vaping device*.

(5) A *person* to whom a direction is given under sub-clause (4) must comply with that direction.

66. Consumption and Possession of Liquor

(1) *Council* may declare certain parts of the *municipal district* where the consumption of *liquor* or the possession of *liquor* is restricted.

(2) A declaration made by Council will not have force or effect unless signs advising of the declaration are erected in the relevant, declared area of the *municipal district*.

(3) A *person* must not:

(a) consume any *liquor*; or

(b) have in their possession or control, any *liquor* other than in a sealed container;

in parts of the *municipal district* where Council has declared that the consumption of *liquor* or possession of open containers of *liquor* is restricted.

(4) Sub-clause (3) does not apply to a *person:*

(a) who consumes *liquor* in a licenced premises or authorised premises or any other place where the consumption of any *liquor* or the possession of *liquor* in an unsealed container is permitted under the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998*;

(b) taking part in an *event* in respect of which the *Council* has granted a *permit* for *persons* to consume *liquor* or to have in their possession or control any *liquor* other than *liquor* in a sealed container; or

(c) who has been granted a *permit* to take *liquor* into an area declared by *Council.*

(5) If an *Authorised Officer* believes on reasonable grounds that a *person* is contravening or has contravened sub-clauses (3) or (4), the *Authorised Officer* may

direct the *person* to seal any container or dispose of the contents of any unsealed container.

(6) A *person* to whom a direction is given under sub-clause (6) must comply with that direction.

PART 11: PROTECTING COMMUNITY ASSETS

67. Occupation of Roads and Council Land

(1) A *person* must not, without a *permit,* occupy (either wholly or partially) a *road* or *Council land* for any works that involve:

(a) fencing off part of the *road*;

(b) erecting a hoarding, gantry, scaffolding or overhead protective awning;

(c) using a mobile crane, hoist, lift, travel tower, concrete pump or similar machinery;

(d) making a hole or excavation;

(e) filling a hole or excavation;

(f) leaving or storing any building, paving or other construction materials or any tools, machinery, plant, or equipment;

(g) installing or erecting public safety precautions on or over a *road* alignment; or

(h) altering the traffic flow or any parking provisions affecting a *road* or *Council land*.

(2) Sub-clause (1) does not apply to the *works* or activities of a *utility*.

Explanatory note:

In accordance with section 63 of the Road Management Act 2004, where Council is the coordinating road authority for the road, the written consent of Council is required in respect of any works in, on, under or over a road in order to conduct the proposed works.

68. Asset Protection Permits

(1) A *person* who proposes to carry out *building works* (other than *minor building works)* on a *building site* must obtain an *asset protection permit* at least 7 days prior to the commencement of the *building works* on the *building site*.

(2) An application for an *asset protection permit* must:

(a) be accompanied by such fee as is fixed by *Council*;

(b) include a statement and photographs from the *person in charge* of the *building works* about the location and the extent of any pre-existing damage to public infrastructure assets adjacent to the *building site*; and

(c) be lodged with *Council* prior to commencement of the activity for which the Asset Protection Permit is required.

(3) A *person* to whom an *asset protection permit* has been issued must comply with all conditions of the *permit.*

(4) *Council* may exempt a *person* from one or more of the obligations imposed by sub-clauses (1) and (2) subject to such conditions it considers appropriate.

(5) *Council* or an *Authorised Officer* may approve the carrying out of work by another *person*, or carry out the work itself where:

(a) damage, alteration, compromise or interference has occurred to a *Council* asset as a result of *building works*; or

(b) there is a danger to life, safety, property, or the environment.

(6) Where work under sub-clause (5) is carried out by *Council* or another *person* on behalf of *Council, Council* may recover the cost of the work from the *owner, occupier of land or builder.*

(7) For the purposes of sub-clause (5), *Council* or an *Authorised Officer* may determine the reasonable cost of conducting repairs to *Council* assets.

69. Construction Management Plans

(1) If required by *Council,* a *person* who proposes to carry out *building works* on a *building site* that requires a *building permit* under the *Building Act 1993* must submit a *Construction Management Plan* which must be approved prior to commencement of the *building works*.

(2) A *person* must comply with any approved *Construction Management Plan.*

70. Requirement for a Bond

(1) If in the opinion of *Council* or an *Authorised Officer,* it is likely that any *Council* asset may be damaged, altered, compromised or interfered with in the course of any *building works* for which an Asset Protection Permit has been issued, the *owner, occupier of land or builder* may be required to pay a bond to *Council*.

(2) The amount of any bond under sub-clause (1) must be determined by *Council* or the *Authorised Officer* having regard to the probable cost of repairing any damage, alteration, compromise or interference that is likely to be caused.

(3) Any bond or part of a bond paid to *Council* under sub-clause (1) may be retained by *Council* to meet the cost of repairing any damage, alteration, compromise or interference which an *owner* or *occupier* of *land* or the *builder* has failed to repair in accordance with their obligations under clause 68.

(4) *Council* must refund any bond, or part of a bond, paid to it under sub-clause (1) if *Council* or an *Authorised Officer* is satisfied that:

(a) there has been no damage, alteration, compromise or interference to *Council* assets as a consequence of the *building works*; or

(b) any such damage, alteration, compromise or interference has been repaired in accordance with clause 68.

71. Building and Works Code of Practice

A *builder* or *person* who carries out *works* on a *building site* must comply with all requirements in the *Building and Works Code of Practice*, being a document incorporated by reference and forming part of this Local Law.

72. Works on Council Land or Roads

(1) A *person* must not, without a *permit*, undertake *works* in, on, under or over a *road* or *Council land* or allow another *person* to do so.

(2) Sub-clause (1) does not apply where a consent under Section 63 of the *Road Management Act 2004* is in place.

(3) In granting a *permit* under sub-clause (1), *Council* may require the *person* who undertakes the *works* in, on, under or over the *road* or *Council land* to:

(a) pay a bond proportionate to the estimated cost of repairing any damage to the *road* or *Council land*; and

(b) take such precautions during and before the *works* to protect the safety of the public as *Council* may require and to Council's satisfaction.

(4) The bond may be held for the duration of the *works,* plus a maintenance period of twelve months and must be refunded at the end of this period or applied by *Council* to offset the cost of repairing the damage.

73. Vehicle Crossings

(1) An *owner* or *occupier* of *land* must not access or allow any *person* to access the *land* by *vehicle* across a *footpath* or *nature strip*, other than over a *Council* approved vehicle crossing.

(2) An *owner* or *occupier* of *land* must ensure that each point of vehicular access from a *road* to the *land* has a properly constructed *vehicle crossing*, constructed in accordance with *Council's Vehicle Crossing Policy.*

(3) A *person* must not, without a *permit*, construct, remove or relocate or alter a vehicle crossing.

(4) The *Council* or an *Authorised Officer* may by notice in writing to the *owner* or *occupier* of *land*, require the construction of a permanent or temporary vehicle crossing to any *land* with the full cost of such construction works to be borne by the *owner* or *occupier* of the *land*.

(5) A *vehicle* crossing must be constructed and sited to the satisfaction of *Council* or an *Authorised Officer*.

(6) If *Council* or an *Authorised Officer* has required the *owner* or *occupier* of *land* on which *building works* are to occur to construct a *vehicle* crossing under sub-clause (4), *building works* must not commence until the *vehicle* crossing has been constructed.

(7) *Council* or an *Authorised Officer* may by notice in writing to the *owner* or *occupier* of *land* require the repair of a *vehicle* crossing, which is in a state of disrepair, with the full cost of such repair to be borne by the *owner* or *occupier* of the *land*.

(8) *Council* or an *Authorised Officer* may by notice in writing to the *owner* or *occupier* of *land* require the removal of a *vehicle* crossing and reconstruction of the kerb, channel, drain, culvert and *footpath* if the *vehicle* crossing is, in the opinion of an *Authorised Officer*, no longer required, with the full cost of such removal to be borne by the *owner* or *occupier* of the *land*.

(9) An *owner* or *occupier* of *land* must, at the *owner* or *occupier's* own cost, ensure that the *vehicle* crossing between the *road* and the boundary of such *land* is maintained and kept in good condition.

74. Drainage

(1) An *owner* or *occupier* of *land* must ensure that:

(a) the *land* is adequately drained to the satisfaction of an *Authorised Officer*;

(b) water does not discharge from an air conditioner or other equipment on that *land* onto a *footpath*; and

(c) a private stormwater drainage system or on-site stormwater detention system serving a residential, commercial or other property is maintained in a condition that is not:

(i) dangerous to health or safety in the *road;* or

(ii) hindering, obstructing, or interfering with the intended operation of the drain as approved by *Council.*

(2) An *owner or occupier* of *land* must not without a *permit*, alter the course of an overland flow of water, whether or not there is an easement over the flow path;

(3) A *person* must not discharge or cause to be discharged any material into a drain or watercourse, which is vested in or under the control of *Council*, except for the discharge of stormwater.

(4) A *person* must not damage, obstruct, interfere with or cause or allow to be caused damage, obstruction or interference with a drain, which is vested in or under the control of *Council*.

(5) A *person* must not, without a *permit*, tap into any drain, culvert or sewer vested in or under the control of *Council.*

75. Spoil on Roads

(1) A *person* must not allow any soil, earth, mud, clay, cement slurry, liquid waste, or other *litter* to fall or escape from a *vehicle* onto a *road* in the course of any trade, industry, or commercial undertaking.

(2) A *person* must not allow any fuel, grease, oil, mud, clay, cement slurry, paint, detergents, or other *litter* to run from a *vehicle* whilst being cleaned and to be deposited onto a *road*, or into a drain or gutter.

(3) If the *operator* of the *vehicle* cannot be found, the *owner* or *occupier* of the *land* or the *person in charge* of the building or works at the *land* where the *vehicle* is likely to have been soiled, is guilty of an offence under sub-clauses (1) or (2).

(4) An *owner or occupier* of private *land* must not allow any soil, earth, mud, clay, cement slurry, liquid waste, or other litter to be discharged from that *land* onto a *road* or *Council land*.

76. Direction to Cease Building Works

(1) An *Authorised Officer* may inspect a *building site* at any reasonable time and may direct any *person* found carrying out *building works* in contravention of this Local Law, the *Building and Works Code of Practice,* a *Construction Management Plan* or a *permit* issued under this Local Law, to cease carrying out the *building works* immediately or within any period the *Authorised Officer* considers reasonable.

(2) A *person* to whom a direction is given under sub-clause 76(1) must comply with that direction.

PART 12: ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Division 1: Administration

77. Exercise of Discretion

(1) In exercising any discretion contained in this Local Law, *Council* and an *Authorised Officer* must have regard to:

(a) the objectives of this Local Law; and

(b) any other relevant matter.

78. Impounding

(1) An *Authorised Officer* may seize and impound a thing which has been or is being used or possessed in contravention of this Local Law.

(2) Where a thing has been impounded under this Local Law, *Council* or an *Authorised Officer* must, if it is practicable to do so, serve notice of the impounding personally or by registered mail on the *person* who appears to be the owner of the impounded thing.

(3) If the identity or whereabouts of the owner of a thing impounded under this Local Law is unknown, the *Authorised Officer* must take reasonable steps to ascertain the owner's identity or whereabouts prior to exercising their powers under clause 79. This includes working with relevant support services and organisations operating to assist people experiencing homelessness.

(4) An impounded thing must be surrendered to:

(a) its *owner*; or

(b) a *person* acting on behalf of the owner who provides evidence to the satisfaction of an *Authorised Officer* of their authority to do so, provided that:

(i) evidence to the satisfaction of the *Authorised Officer* is produced of the owner's right to the thing; and

(ii) payment of any fee and reasonable costs of impounding determined by *Council* or an *Authorised Officer* is paid.

(5) Sub-clause (4) does not apply where the impounded thing cannot reasonably be kept or possessed in accordance with this Local Law.

79. Disposal

(1) An *Authorised Officer* may sell, destroy, dispose of, or give away any thing impounded under this Local Law if:

(a) the impounded thing has not been returned to the owner or a *person* acting on the owner's behalf within fourteen days of service of the notice of impounding;

(b) the owner of the thing or a *person* acting on the owner's behalf has not paid the fee and reasonable costs of impounding determined by *Council* or an *Authorised Officer* within fourteen days (14) of service of the notice of impounding; or

(c) no notice of impounding has been able to be served on the owner of the impounded thing.

(2) If the impounded thing is perishable and will not survive the period specified in sub-clause (1), the *Authorised Officer* may dispose of the thing sooner.

(3) *Council* is entitled to retain the proceeds of sale of any impounded thing towards its reasonable costs incurred in impounding, keeping, and selling the thing.

80. Permits - General

(1) An application for a *permit* under this Local Law must be:

(a) submitted in a form approved by *Council* or an *Authorised Officer*; and

(b) accompanied by the fee prescribed by *Council*, unless waived by *Council* or an *Authorised Officer*.

(2) *Council* or an *Authorised Officer* may require an applicant for a *permit* to supply more information before *Council* or the *Authorised Officer* deals with the *permit* application, or to give notice of the application in a manner specified by *Council* or an *Authorised Officer*.

(3) *Council* or an *Authorised Officer* may in their absolute discretion decide:

(a) to grant a *permit* with or without conditions; or

(b) to refuse a *permit*.

(4) *Council* or an *Authorised Officer* may cancel a *permit* if:

(a) there has been a serious or ongoing breach of the conditions of the *permit*;

(b) a Notice to Comply has been issued, but not complied with within 7 days after the time specified in the Notice to Comply;

(c) there was a significant error or misrepresentation in the application for the *permit*;

(d) there has been a significant error in relation to the grant of the *permit*; or

(e) there has been a significant change of circumstances since the grant of the *permit*.

(5) *Council* or an *Authorised Officer* may correct a *permit* if that *permit* contains:

(a) an unintentional error or an omission;

(b) a significant miscalculation of figures; or

(c) a significant mistake in the description of a *person*, thing, or property referred to in the *permit*.

(6) *Council* or an *Authorised Officer* may, during the period of a *permit* alter the conditions of the *permit* if it considers it appropriate to do so.

(7) Before cancelling or correcting a *permit* or altering the conditions of a *permit* under sub-clauses (4) to (6), *Council* or an *Authorised Officer* must provide the *permit* holder an opportunity to make written submissions on the proposed cancellation, correction or alteration.

(8) *Council* may exempt a *person* or class of persons from the requirement to obtain a *permit* under this Local Law.

(9) Except where expressly stated in this Local Law or in a *permit*, a *permit* expires one year after the date it was granted.

(10) The holder of a *permit* granted under this Local Law must comply with all *permit* conditions and any requirements in a *Council policy* or incorporated document applicable to that *permit.*

(11) A *person* must not make a false representation or declaration or intentionally omit significant information in an application for a *permit* or *permit* exemption.

81. Parking Permits

(1) A *person* who has been allocated a *parking permit* must not sell, hire out, lease or license to another *person* or offer to sell, hire out, lease or license that *parking permit* to any other *person*.

(2) A *person* must not purchase, hire, lease, license or receive, or offer to purchase, hire, lease, license or receive a *parking permit* from a *person* who has been allocated a *parking permit*.

(3) A *person* must not:

(a) forge or counterfeit a *parking permit*; or

(b) use a forged or counterfeit *parking permit*.

(4) A *person* must not contravene the conditions of a *parking permit* issued under this Local Law.

82. Setting Fees and Charges

The *Council* may determine the fees, charges or bonds to apply under this Local Law, which may include an administrative or processing fee or charge.

83. Differential or Structured Fees and Charges

In determining any fees and charges, *Council* may establish a system or structure of fees and charges, including minimum and maximum and pro-rata fees or charges.

84. Waiver of Fees and Charges

Council or the *Chief Executive Officer* may waive the whole or part of any fee or charge otherwise payable under this Local Law, with or without conditions, upon receipt of a written submission from the applicant stating reasons why any such fee or charge should be waived.

Division 2: Enforcement

85. Notice to Comply and Verbal Direction

(1) An *Authorised Officer*, who reasonably believes that a *person* has contravened any provision of this Local Law, may give a verbal direction to, or serve a Notice to Comply, or both, on a *person* to do a thing or carry out work to remedy the contravention.

(2) A written record of the verbal direction given must be made by the *Authorised Officer.*

(3) A verbal direction given or a Notice to Comply issued in accordance with this Local Law must state the time and date by which the thing must be done, or the work carried out.

(4) The time required by a verbal direction given or Notice to Comply issued under this Local Law must be reasonable in the circumstances, having regard to:

(a) the amount of work involved;

(b) the degree of difficulty;

(c) the availability of necessary materials or other necessary items;

(d) climatic conditions;

(e) the degree of risk or potential risk; and

(f) any other relevant matter.

(5) If a *person* who was given a verbal direction or served with a Notice to Comply, fails to carry out any work or remedy anything stipulated in the verbal direction or Notice to Comply, *Council* or the *Authorised Officer* may approve the carrying out of the work or the remedying of the thing by another *person* or carry out the work itself.

(6) A *person* may make representations, within the specified compliance timeframe after being given a verbal direction or served with a Notice to Comply, to *Council* or the *Authorised Officer* about matters contained in the verbal direction or Notice to Comply.

(7) A *person* to whom a verbal direction or Notice to Comply is issued under sub-clause (1) must comply with the verbal direction or Notice to Comply.

86. Infringement Notices

(1) If an *Authorised Officer* believes on reasonable grounds that a *person* is contravening or has contravened any provision under this Local Law, the *Authorised Officer* may, as an alternative to a prosecution for an offence, serve on that *person* an *Infringement Notice*.

(2) The penalties fixed for *Infringement Notices* are set out in Schedule 1.

87. Power to Act in Certain Circumstances

(1) An *Authorised Officer* may, where a contravention of this Local Law occurs or unless restrained is likely to occur or reoccur, take action considered necessary to prevent any danger to the environment or any nuisance arising, provided that:

(a) the *Authorised Officer* considers the circumstances to be sufficiently urgent and that the time necessary, or potential difficulty in serving a Notice to Comply, may place a *person*, *animal*, property, or the environment at risk or in danger of substantial detrimental effect;

(b) the *Chief Executive Officer* of the *Council* or their delegate, not being the *Authorised Officer* administering this clause, approves of the proposed action; and

(c) details of the circumstances and the remedial action taken are as soon as practicable forwarded to the *person* or persons who have contravened or are likely to contravene this Local Law.

(2) Action taken by an *Authorised Officer* under this clause shall not extend beyond what is necessary to cause the immediate abatement or minimisation of the risk or danger.

(3) Where *Council* undertakes work in accordance with this clause, it may recover the cost of performing the work from the *person* who has contravened or who is likely to contravene this Local Law.

88. Offences and Penalties

(1) A *person* who contravenes or fails to comply with:

(a) any provision under this Local Law, including the requirements of any incorporated document;

(b) any condition contained in a *permit* issued under this Local Law or any requirements in the *Council Policy* applicable to that *permit*;

(c) knowingly submits erroneous, inaccurate or misleading information in an application for a *permit*;

(d) any *Council* sign;

(e) any verbal direction issued by an *Authorised Officer*; or

(f) any Notice to Comply by the date specified in the Notice to Comply

is guilty of an offence and is liable to a penalty of:

(i) twenty *penalty units*; and

(ii) a further penalty of one *penalty unit* for each day during which the contravention continues.

89. Offences by Corporations

(1) If a *person* charged with an offence against this Local Law is a *corporation*, any *person* who is concerned with or takes part in the management of that *corporation* may be charged with the same offence.

(2) If the *corporation* is found guilty of an offence against this Local Law, a *person* charged with the same offence may also be found guilty and liable to the same penalty, unless that *person* proves that the act or omission constituting the offence took place without their knowledge or consent.

90. Operator Onus Offence

If the *operator* of a *motor vehicle* that is used in the commission of an offence under this Local Law cannot be found, after reasonable enquiries have been made, the registered owner of that *motor vehicle*, is guilty of that offence.

Division 3: Delegation

91. Delegation

(1) Pursuant to section 78(c) of the *Act*, *Council* delegates all its powers, functions and duties under this Local Law to the person holding the position of *Chief Executive Officer*.

(2) Pursuant to section 78(d) of the *Act*, *Council* authorises the person holding the position of *Chief Executive Officer* to sub-delegate a power, function or duty delegated to the *Chief Executive Officer* under sub-section (1) to the holder of an office or position as a member of *Council* staff.

SCHEDULE 1: INFRINGMENT NOTICE PENALTIES

Clause	Topic	Penalty units
	Part 3 – Animals	
9	Permitted quantity of animals	2
10	Keeping of animals	2
11	Responsible breeding of dogs and cats	2
12	Wasps and bees	2
13	Animal waste	2
14	Feeding of Birds on Private Property	2
15	Feeding of Birds on a Road or Council Land	2
	Part 4 - Your Property	
16	Condition of land	2
17	Dilapidated buildings	5
18	Fencing and securing of land	5
19	Overhanging obstructions or vegetation	2
20	Tree and vegetation protection on private land	5
21	Urgent safety works – tree and vegetation on private land	5
22	Property numbers	1
23	Donation bins on private land	2
24	Shipping containers on private land	2
25	Heavy and long vehicles on private land	2
26	Short stay rental accommodation	5
	Part 5 – Council Land and Roads	
27	Behaviour on Council land and roads	2
28	Use of recording devices in a municipal place	2
29	Access to a municipal place	2
30	Obstructions on Council land and roads	2
31	Tree and vegetation protection on Council land	5
32	Protection of raingardens	5
33	Nature strip planting	2
34	Activities in or on a reserve	2
35	Camping on Council land or a road	2
36	Donation bins	2
37	Interfering with roads, Council land or infrastructure	5
38	Council sign	2
	Part 6 – Vehicles on Council Land and Roads	
39	Repair of vehicles	2
40	Display of vehicles	2
41	Storage of caravans, boats or trailers on Council land or roads	2
42	Heavy vehicles on Council land or roads	3

Clause	Topic	Penalty units
43	Commercial and other vehicles on Council land or roads	3
44	Abandoned and unregistered vehicles	2
45	Wheeled toy or wheeled recreational device	1
46	Use of recreational vehicles in a public place	2
47	Electric scooter or bicycle share scheme	2
48	Behaviour involving motor vehicles	5
	Part 7 – Waste	
49	Household waste	1
50	Hard waste collection	1
51	Trade and commercial waste	5
52	Bulk rubbish containers and shipping containers	2
	Part 8 – Fire Safety	
53	Incinerators, fires and open air burning	5
54	Direction to extinguish fires	5
	Part 9 – Businesses in Merri-bek	
55	Signage	2
56	Display of goods	2
57	Roadside trading or performing	3
58	Use of a municipal place for outdoor eating facilities	3
59	Shop awnings, signs and attachments	3
60	Street collection and distribution	1
61	Spruiking	1
62	Shopping trolleys	1
63	Commercial filming	5
64	Circuses, carnivals or events	5
	Part 10 – Smoking and Alcohol	
65	Smoking in a smoke free area	2
66	Consumption and possession of liquor	3
	Part 11 – Protecting Community Assets	
67	Occupation of roads and Council land	5
68	Asset protection permits	5
69	Construction management plans	5
70	Requirement for a bond	5
71	Building and Works Code of Practice	5
72	Works on Council land or roads	5
73	Vehicle crossings	5
74	Drainage	5
75	Spoil on roads	5
76	Direction to cease building works	5
	Part 11 – Administration and Enforcement	
80	Permits - general	5
81	Parking permits	5

Clause	Topic	Penalty units
85	Notice to Comply and verbal direction	5
	Other	
	Any offence not referred to elsewhere in this table	2

Draft

Merri-bek City Council

Building and Works Code of Practice 2026

Annexure to the
Community Local Law 2026

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PART 1 – PRELIMINARY

1. Title

(1) This Code of Practice is the Building and Works Code of Practice 2026.

2. Preamble

(1) This Code of Practice (Code) has been developed as a tool to manage the effects of building development within the *municipal district*, enhancing sustainable infrastructure and supporting the wellbeing of local communities and the environment.

The Code describes the minimum performance requirements and encourages responsible site management to reduce infrastructure damage and protect public amenity and safety.

The Code applies to developments, including commercial, institutional, industrial and residential building and demolition activities.

Major types of infrastructure damage occurring within the municipal district include:

- Broken footpaths, kerbs and drainage pits.
- Road pavement damage (sealed and unsealed).
- Silt on roads and in drains.
- Dispersal of builder's refuse.
- Pollution of downstream and receiving water bodies.

3. Objective

(1) The objective of the Code is to protect public assets and infrastructure during building works and to provide an environment where activities related to building sites and building work complement the safety and amenity of the community.

4. Relationship with the Community Local Law 2026

(1) This Code has been incorporated by reference into the Community Local Law 2026 (Local Law).

Clause 70 Building Works Code of Practice provides that:

A *builder* or *person* who carries out *works* on a *building site* must comply with all requirements in the *Building and Works Code of Practice*, being a document incorporated by reference and forming part of this Local Law.

Clause 75 Direction to Cease Building Works provides that:

(1) An *Authorised Officer* may inspect a *building site* at any reasonable time and may direct any *person* found carrying out *building works* in contravention of this Local Law, the *Building and Works Code of Practice,* a *Construction Management Plan* or a *permit* issued under this Local Law, to cease carrying out the *building works* immediately or within any period the *Authorised Officer* considers reasonable.

(2) A *person* to whom a direction is given under sub-clause 75(1) must comply with that direction.

5. Definitions

Any word defined in the Local Law has the same meaning in this Code.

PART 2 – BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITE AMENITY

6. Pedestrian and Traffic Hazards and Safety

(1) A *person* who carries out *works* on a *building site* must ensure that *building* works do not cause detriment to pedestrian or vehicular traffic, or become unsafe.

Explanatory Note:

For the purposes of this Code, detriment to pedestrian or vehicular traffic includes but is not limited to:

(a) mud or debris on a road;

(b) materials referable to building works on a road;

(c) equipment referable to building works or other works on a road;

(d) excavation on or immediately adjacent to a road;

(e) building works on a road;

(f) damaged footpaths and nature strips; or

(g) any similar obstruction.

7. Site Identification

(1) Prior to the commencement of any *building works* on a *building site* that requires a building *permit* under the *Building Act 1993*, the *builder* must erect and maintain in a conspicuous position accessible to the public and close to the main entrance to the *building site* identification which:

(a) is at least 600 millimetres in width and 900 millimetres in height;

(b) is clearly visible and legible from the *road*;

(c) contains the street address of the *land*, as described in *Council's* property database;

(d) identifies the name, registration number (if applicable), telephone contact number and postal address of the *builder*;

(e) identifies the name, registration number and contact details of the relevant building surveyor, where a building surveyor has been appointed; and

(f) identifies the building permit number and the date of issue of the permit.

(2) The site identification described in sub-clause (1) must continue to be displayed and remain visible and legible for the duration of the *building works*.

8. Stormwater Protection – Including Silt, Mud and other Pollutants

A *person* who carries out *works* on a *building site* must ensure that the *building site*

is developed and managed to effectively minimise the risks of stormwater pollution, through the contamination of run-off by chemicals, sediments, animal waste or gross pollutants or other associated builder's refuse. This includes, but is not limited to, adoption of measures to:

(a) prevent mud, dirt, sand, soil or stones from being deposited on the abutting *road* and/or adjoining *land* or washed into the stormwater system by installing silt barriers;

(b) prevent building clean-up, wash down or other waste and builder's refuse being discharged offsite or allowed to enter the stormwater system;

(c) ensure all *vehicles* delivering materials to the *building site* are prevented from depositing mud, sand, soil, or stones onto *Council's road* network;

(d) ensure that any *footpath* adjacent to the *building site* or likely to be affected by the *building works* is kept clear of mud, dirt, stones and all loose debris at all times; and

(e) ensure that the *building site* is managed and controlled in accordance with the principles of relevant best practice guidelines as issued from time to time by the Environmental Protection Authority, Melbourne Water, or any other relevant organisation that may come into operation.

9. Dust

A *person* who carries out *works* on a *building site* must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the *building site* is managed to effectively minimise the risk of detrimental effects to the health and amenity of nearby residents through reduced visibility, reduced air quality and the effects of deposition of dust generated from the *building site*.

Explanatory note:

This clause should be read in conjunction with guidance published by the Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA Victoria) relating to dust generation and control on construction sites.

Under the Environment Protection Act 2017 (Vic), all persons engaging in construction activities are subject to the General Environmental Duty (GED), which requires risks of harm to human health and the environment from pollution (including dust) to be eliminated or, where not reasonably practicable, reduced so far as reasonably practicable.

10. Site Fencing

(1) A *person* who carries out *building works* on a *building site* must ensure that:

(a) all *building works* are undertaken entirely within the *building site*; and

(b) materials are not deposited, stored or stockpiled on any part of the *road* or *Council land* without the approval of *Council*.

(2) Prior to the commencement of any *building works* on a *building site* that requires a building *permit* under the *Building Act 1993* and for the duration of the *building works*, the *builder* must ensure that the *building site* is provided

with adequate hoarding or site fencing to the satisfaction of the *Authorised Officer* that:

(a) is not less than 1.8 metres in height;

(b) is structurally sound;

(c) is capable of preventing *litter* from being transported from the *building site* by wind;

(d) has each vehicular access opening to the *building site* located to correspond with the location of a permanent or approved temporary vehicle crossing for the *building site*, and is kept closed at all times when *building works* are not in progress;

(e) when erected on the boundary of the *building site's* property line, it does not protrude into or onto any *land* other than the *building site;* and

(f) may enclose more than one *building site* where the *owner, occupier of land or builder* is responsible for adjoining *building sites.*

(3) The requirement to provide hoarding or site fencing under this clause may be waived or varied in writing by *Council* or an *Authorised Officer*.

11. Tree Protection Zones

(1) A *person* who carries out *building works* on a *building site* must ensure that prior to the commencement of any *works* and then for the duration of those *works*, a *tree protection zone* is provided, with adequate temporary fencing around any *tree* within the adjacent *Council land* or *road*, including *nature strips.*

12. Containment and Removal of Waste

(1) Prior to the commencement of any *building works* on a *building site*, and for the duration of the *building works*, the *builder* must:

(a) provide a closed waste facility suitable for the disposal of *builder's* waste which may become wind-blown;

(b) place the waste facility on the *building site* and keep it in place (except for such periods as are necessary to empty the facility) for the duration of the *building works*;

(c) not place a waste facility on any *Council land* or *road* without a *permit*;

(d) ensure that all *builder's* waste which requires containment is placed in the refuse facility;

(e) keep the waste facility closed to prevent wind-blown litter refuse escaping from the waste facility; and

(f) empty the waste facility whenever full and, if necessary, provide a replacement facility during the emptying process.

(2) The requirement to provide a waste facility may be waived at *Council's* discretion.

(3) On *land* on which *building works* have been carried out, the *builder* must

remove and lawfully dispose of all *builders'* waste within fourteen days of completion of the *building works.*

(4) The *builder* must not deposit any waste generated at the *building site* into a *street litter bin* or an *approved waste bin* designated for household waste material.

13. Sanitary Facilities

An *owner, occupier of land or builder* must ensure that appropriate sanitary facilities are provided on a *building site* for the duration of the *building works.*

14. Hours of Building Work

(1) A *person* must not, without a *permit,* carry out or cause or allow any *works* to be carried out on the *building site* other than between the hours of:

(a) 7am and 6pm Monday to Friday;

(b) 9am and 3pm on Saturday for construction and demolition sites in a *residential zone*;

(c) 7am and 3pm on Saturday for construction and demolition sites other than those located within a *residential zone* or on *land* used predominantly for residential purposes; and

(d) not at any time on a Sunday or Public Holiday.

(2) Subclause (1) does not apply where *minor building* work is being undertaken.

Explanatory note:

Construction times are aligned with the same time of noise nuisances as per the Environment Protection Act 2017.

May 2026

Review of General Local Law

Community Consultation Round 1 Summary Report (consultation prior to development of a new Local Law)

May 2026

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Consultation Overview

Introduction

Merri-bek City Council is reviewing its General Local Law to ensure it continues to meet current community expectations while protecting community health and safety, Council assets and facilities, and neighbourhood amenity.

The General Local Law guides Council's compliance and enforcement activities across a range of local matters, including property amenity, construction sites, waste, public space use, vehicles and roads, and the keeping of animals.

Feedback from this initial round of consultation will help Council consider emerging issues and community sentiment when preparing the new General Local Law.

Background

Council commenced an internal review of the Local Law in October 2025. The current General Local Law expires in 2028, and a new Local Law is expected to be adopted in December 2026 following two rounds of community engagement and external legal review.

The current Local Law was made under the *Local Government Act 1989*. The *Local Government Act 2020* has since moved local law development from a more prescriptive approach to a principles-based approach, with a different emphasis on compliance and enforcement.

Consultation Approach

Round 1 engagement was conducted from **8 April to 6 May 2026** through the Conversations Merri-bek project page, an online survey, written submissions, online Q&A sessions and promoted in-person engagement.

The engagement asked community members to choose the topics they wanted to comment on and rate their support for proposed areas of change. Respondents could also provide open-ended feedback about issues or improvements.

Communications

The consultation was promoted through the Conversations Merri-bek project page and email campaigns. The project page described proposed changes, provided FAQs and a document library, and invited the community to complete the survey or provide a written submission by Wednesday 6 May 2026.

Response Rate

A total of 138 direct contributions were collated for this report: 129 online survey responses and 9 written submissions from individuals, community groups and a business association.

Project Page Reach

During the consultation period, the Conversations Merri-bek project page recorded 10,368 views, 9,448 visits and 7,950 visitors. The page also attracted 93 followers.

Stakeholders and Community

Stakeholder Type	Community / stakeholders
Community	Merri-bek residents, ratepayers, visitors, students and workers
Stakeholders	Merri-bek businesses, community organisations, activity centre stakeholders, internal Council departments and Councillors
Interest groups	Animal welfare, business, transport, accessibility, neighbourhood amenity and community safety stakeholders

Consultation Findings Snapshot

Overview

Overall, Round 1 engagement indicates strong community interest in a Local Law that protects neighbourhood amenity, improves safety and accessibility, and is clear enough to be understood and enforced. Support was strongest for building site management, shopping trolley rules, dangerous and rundown land/buildings, hooning-related powers and animal containment.

Respondent Profile

Survey respondents were largely Merri-bek residents. Respondents were spread across age groups, with the largest group aged 35 to 44, followed by 45 to 54. People who identified as women / girls represented the largest gender group among respondents who provided a gender response.

Consultation Findings – Summary Outcomes

Community consultation identified broad support for changes that improve safety, amenity, waste management, animal containment, construction site management and vehicle-related issues. Feedback also highlighted concerns about fairness, affordability, overregulation and the need for education and consistent enforcement.

Community Support for Proposed Local Law Changes

Theme	Proposed Change	Support Level	Summary of Feedback
Private land and amenity	Stronger laws for dangerous and rundown land/buildings	Very high 43/57 (75.4%)	Feedback supported stronger provisions for unsafe, neglected or unsightly properties. Comments focused on vacant or poorly maintained properties, graffiti removal, shopfront presentation and the need for enforceable standards and timeframes.
Animal management	Reviewing the number of animals that can be kept on private property	Moderate 58/92 (63.0%)	Most respondents supported reviewing animal numbers, while comments balanced stronger responsible-pet controls with concern about overreach or impacts on existing pets and owners.
Animal management	Increasing the number of cats allowed in high-density areas from 1 to 2	Mixed 48/92 (52.2%)	This was the most mixed proposal. Supporters saw the change as practical for apartment living and consistent with cat confinement, while opponents were concerned about wildlife impacts, nuisance and enforceability.
Animal management	Stronger rules about how to house animals so they do not get out	High 67/93 (72.0%)	There was strong support for rules that keep animals contained on their owner's property, especially to reduce impacts on wildlife and neighbours. Practicality and affordability of

Theme	Proposed Change	Support Level	Summary of Feedback
			containment were recurring concerns.
Business activity and public space	Stronger rules about shopping trolleys	Very high 33/41 (80.5%)	Although relatively few open comments focused on trolleys, survey support was very strong. Comments linked dumped trolleys with amenity, obstruction and retailer accountability.
Business activity and public space	Stronger rules around attachments, like signs, on shop awnings	High 28/41 (68.3%)	Feedback supported clarity around signs, banners and shopfront attachments. Business submissions emphasised practical definitions, simple permit pathways and support for greening or shopfront presentation.
Business activity and public space	Revising rules around bins used by trade and commercial businesses	Moderate 46/81 (56.8%)	Comments emphasised commercial bin storage, timing and the need to keep footpaths accessible. Stakeholder feedback supported using rear or side access where available and managing loose cardboard and packaging.
Waste and recycling	Clearer rules on how to dispose of domestic and hard waste	High 55/81 (67.9%)	Waste and rubbish were a major open-text theme. Respondents wanted clearer rules, better enforcement of dumped rubbish and practical disposal options that reduce incentives for illegal dumping.
Council assets and construction	Stronger rules to protect Council assets like buildings, land, trees, vegetation and roads	High 39/60 (65.0%)	Comments often referred to damaged or blocked footpaths, nature strips, trees, roads and kerbs. Respondents sought stronger accountability for builders, contractors and repeat offenders.
Council assets and construction	Stronger rules about building sites, including fencing, stormwater protection and road management	Very high 50/61 (82.0%)	This proposal recorded the highest survey support. Comments focused on footpath closures, fencing, crossovers, debris, site amenity, stormwater protection and clearer responsibilities for builders and developers.
Vehicles and roads	Introducing parking permits for caravans, boats, trailers and commercial vehicles kept on Council land for long periods	High 68/99 (68.7%)	Support was strong but comments highlighted implementation risks. Respondents wanted action on long-term street storage and commercial use of residential streets, while some cautioned against unfair impacts on residents without off-street storage.
Vehicles and roads	New police powers to address gatherings of spectators at hooning activities	High 74/99 (74.7%)	Hooning, speeding and road safety were prominent concerns. Respondents supported stronger powers and visible enforcement, with some also calling for traffic calming or vehicle-focused responses.

Consultation Findings Key Themes

1. Enforcement, clarity and community confidence

A recurring theme across open-text responses and submissions was that Local Laws need to be clear, practical and actively enforced. Participants raised concerns about inconsistent enforcement of parking, waste, dumped rubbish, footpath obstruction, animal management, building site amenity and unsightly properties.

2. Unsightly land, shopfronts and activity centre amenity

Respondents and community organisations supported stronger standards for neglected properties, graffiti removal, vacant commercial premises, shopfront presentation and property maintenance. Feedback from Glenroy and Coburg stakeholders linked improved presentation with safety, local pride and business vitality.

3. Vehicles, roads and long-term street storage

Vehicles and roads was the most selected survey topic. Comments raised long-term parking of caravans, trucks, trailers, damaged vehicles, rental vehicles and commercial vehicles, as well as hooning, speeding and sightline impacts near schools, narrow streets and activity centres.

4. Pets, animals and wildlife

Animal management feedback was the most polarised. Many respondents supported stronger containment of cats and other animals, citing wildlife and nuisance impacts. Others were concerned about impacts on existing pets, feasibility of containment and Council overreach into responsible pet ownership.

5. Waste, bins and public-space cleanliness

Survey comments frequently raised dumped rubbish, hard waste, recycling, bin storage and commercial waste. Respondents wanted rules that are clear, enforceable and paired with practical options so residents and businesses can comply.

6. Construction, Council assets and accessibility

Footpath obstruction, damaged nature strips, tree protection, site fencing, stormwater, road management and construction debris were recurring concerns. Feedback emphasised accessibility for pedestrians, older people, people with disability, cyclists and families with prams.

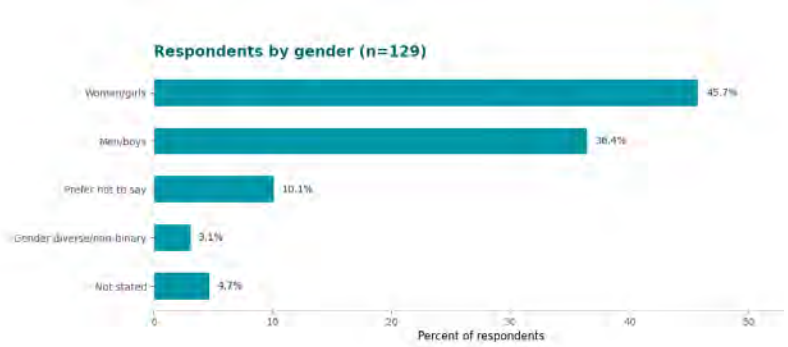
Community Survey Outcomes

Overview

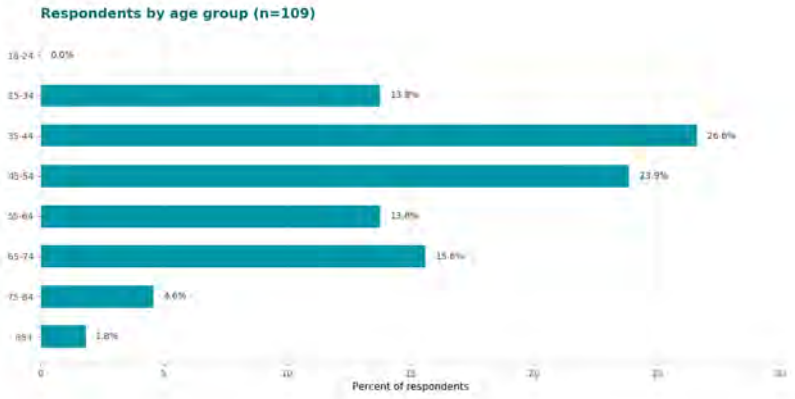
129 online survey responses were received. Respondents could select as few or as many topic areas as they wished, and the survey displayed follow-up rating questions based on the topics selected. Individual comment themes within open-ended fields were coded and categorised to provide context and enable analysis of themes evident.

Respondent Demographics

Gender



Age group

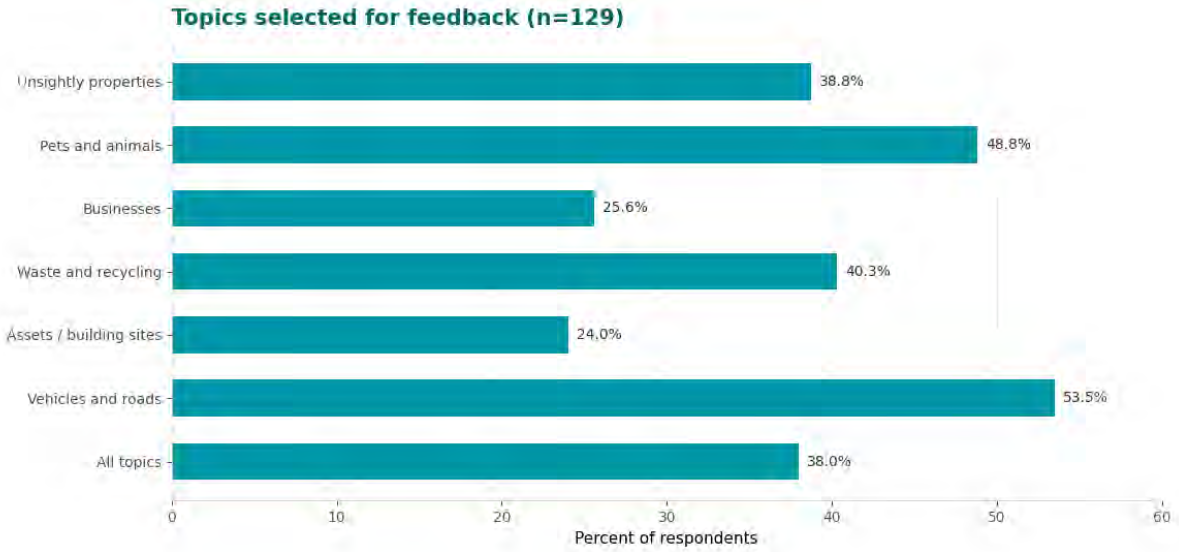


Connection to Merri-bek

Profile area	Summary
Connection to Merri-bek	Of 124 respondents who answered the connection question, 122 identified as residents. A small number also identified as business owners, visitors, workers or students.
Suburb	Responses were received from across Merri-bek, with the highest counts from Brunswick, Coburg and Glenroy. Two respondents indicated they lived outside Merri-bek.
Born overseas	50 respondents answered. 39 selected "No", 8 indicated an overseas country and 3 preferred not to say.
Language spoken at home	48 respondents answered. 39 selected English only, 3 indicated English and another language, 2 preferred not to say and 2 indicated another language.
Identity / lived experience	52 respondents answered. 10 identified as a parent/guardian of children, 9 as a person living with disability, 7 as a member of the LGBTIQA+ community and 4 as caring for a person living with disability. Respondents could select more than one option.

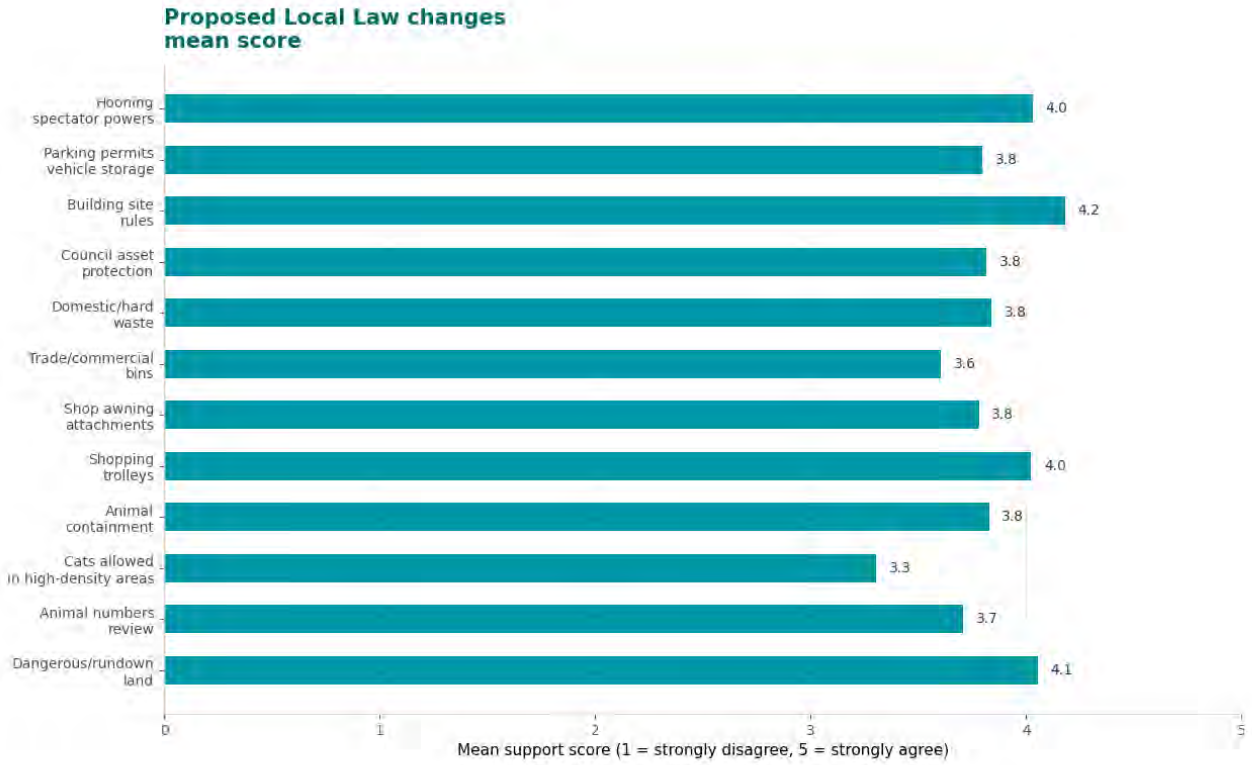
Topics selected for feedback

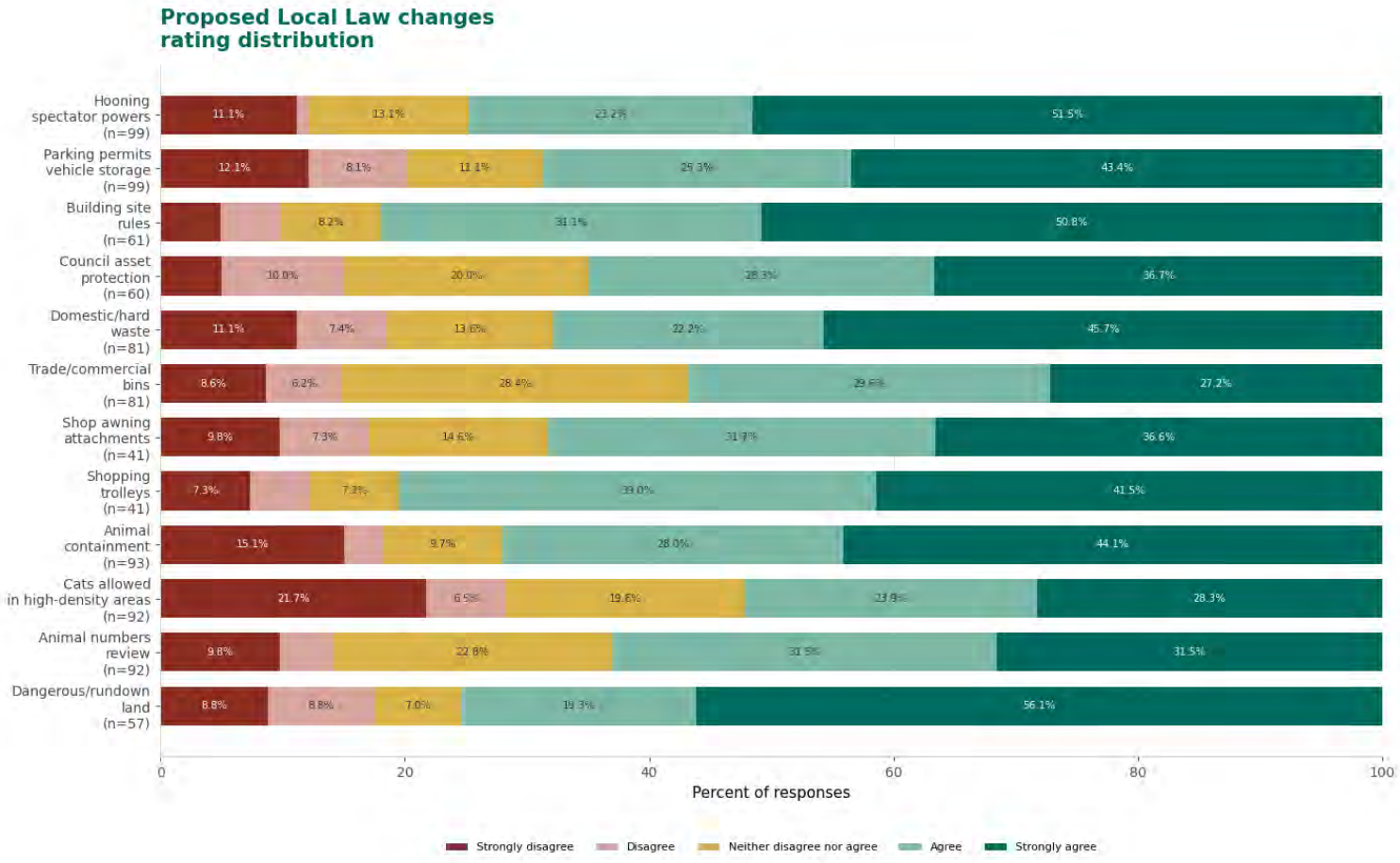
The most selected topic was vehicles and roads (53.5%), followed by pets and animals (48.8%), waste and recycling (40.3%) and unsightly properties, dangerous land and dilapidated buildings (38.8%).



Proposed changes to the Local Law mean scores

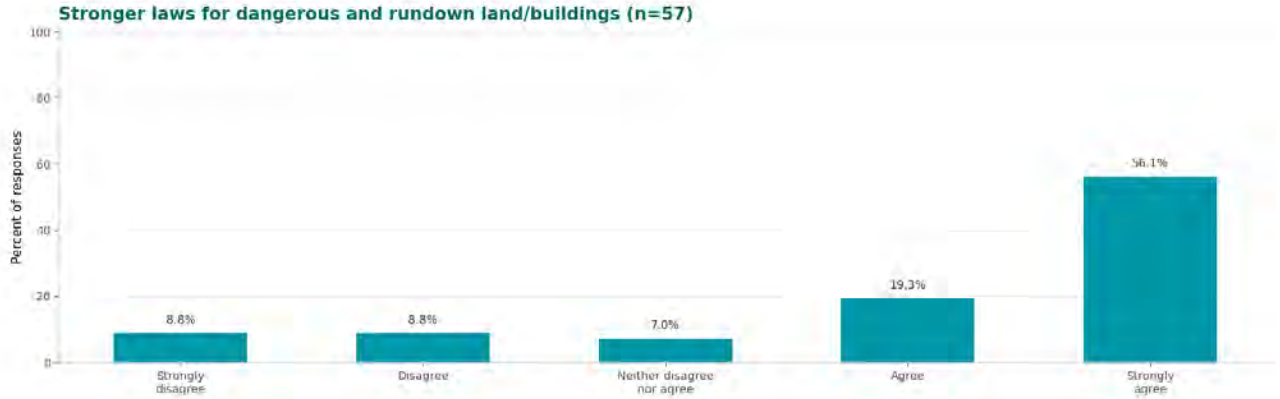
Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with proposed areas of change relevant to the topics they selected. The following summary charts show the mean support score and the rating distribution across the proposed changes.




Proposed Local Law changes rating distribution
Hooning spectator powers (n=99)
Parking permits vehicle storage (n=99)
Building site rules (n=61)
Council asset protection (n=60)
Domestic/hard waste (n=81)
Trade/commercial bins (n=81)
Shop awning attachments (n=41)
Shopping trolleys (n=41)
Animal containment (n=93)
Cats allowed in high-density areas (n=92)
Animal numbers review (n=92)
Dangerous/rundown land (n=57)
11.1%
13.1%
23.2%
51.5%
12.1%
8.1%
11.1%
25.3%
43.4%
8.2%
31.1%
50.8%
10.0%
20.0%
28.3%
36.7%
11.1%
7.4%
13.6%
22.2%
45.7%
8.6%
6.2%
28.4%
29.6%
27.2%
9.8%
7.3%
14.6%
31.7%
36.6%
7.3%
7.3%
33.0%
41.5%
15.1%
9.7%
28.0%
44.1%
21.7%
6.5%
19.6%
23.9%
28.3%
9.8%
22.8%
31.5%
31.5%
8.8%
8.8%
7.0%
19.3%
56.1%
0
20
40
60
80
100
Percent of responses
Strongly disagree
Disagree
Neither disagree nor agree
Agree
Strongly agree

1. Stronger laws for dangerous and rundown land/buildings

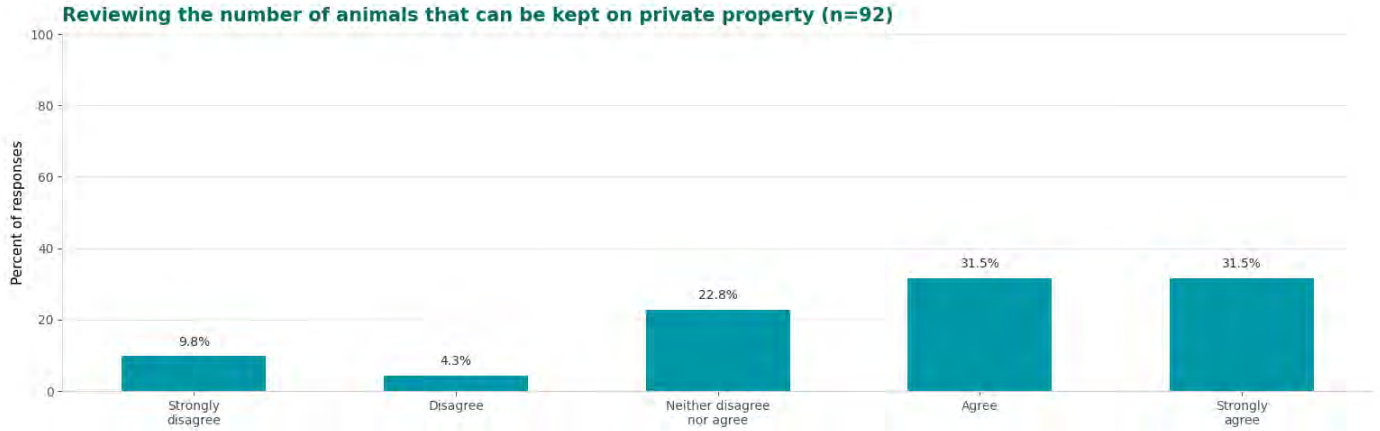
57 respondents answered this question. 43 respondents (75.4%) agreed or strongly agreed, 4 (7.0%) were neutral, and 10 (17.5%) disagreed or strongly disagreed.



Key theme	Count	Comment summary
Neglected, dilapidated or land-banked properties	18	Respondents and submissions described abandoned, overgrown or poorly maintained properties as affecting safety, fire risk, neighbourhood pride and visual amenity.
Graffiti, vacant shopfronts and commercial presentation	14	Community and business submissions linked vacant premises, graffiti and poor frontage presentation to perceptions of neglect in activity centres and shopping strips.
Clear standards, timeframes and enforcement for property issues	19	Comments called for clear owner responsibilities, stronger compliance pathways and practical timeframes so that poor property condition does not remain unresolved.

2. Reviewing the number of animals that can be kept on private property

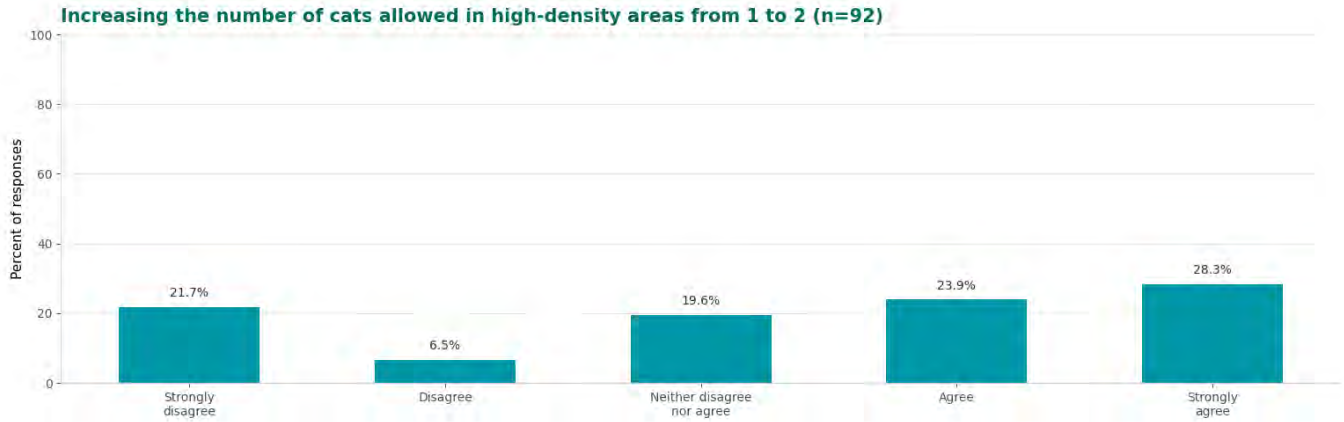
92 respondents answered this question. 58 respondents (63.0%) agreed or strongly agreed, 21 (22.8%) were neutral, and 13 (14.1%) disagreed or strongly disagreed.



Key theme	Count	Comment summary
Animal numbers, limits and responsible ownership	28	Comments discussed whether current limits remain appropriate and how animal numbers should be managed in different housing types.
Concerns about overreach, wellbeing or impacts on existing pets	11	Some comments cautioned that pet ownership is important for wellbeing and that new limits or controls should not unfairly affect responsible owners or existing pets.
Dog behaviour, off-leash controls, excrement or barking	6	Dog-related comments raised off-leash behaviour, excrement, barking and the need for clearer expectations in shared parks and public places.

3. Increasing the number of cats allowed in high-density areas from 1 to 2

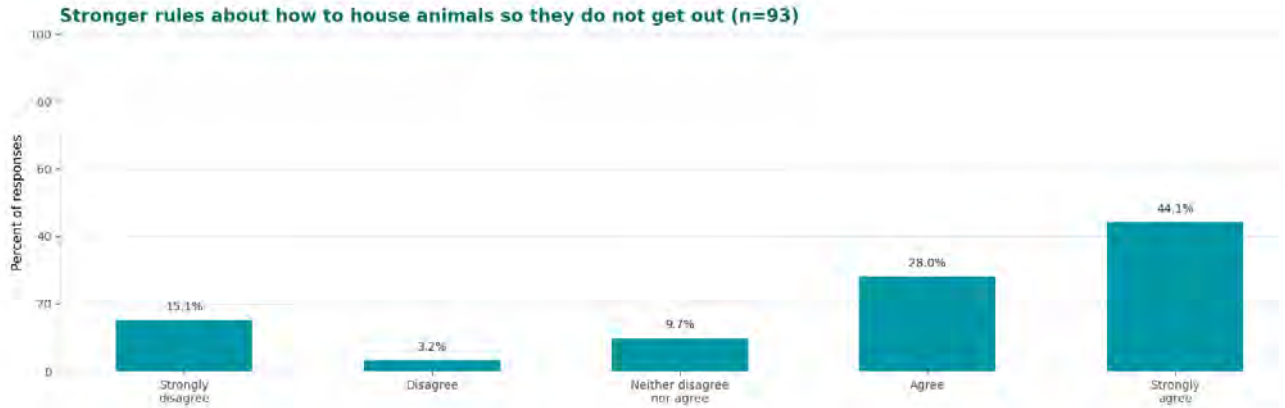
92 respondents answered this question. 48 respondents (52.2%) agreed or strongly agreed, 18 (19.6%) were neutral, and 26 (28.3%) disagreed or strongly disagreed.



Key theme	Count	Comment summary
Support for allowing two cats in higher-density homes	14	Supportive comments viewed two cats as reasonable in higher-density homes, particularly where cats are confined and well cared for.
Wildlife, nuisance and roaming-cat impacts	23	Opposing comments focused on impacts of roaming cats on birds, possums and neighbours, and concern that higher numbers could worsen nuisance if not enforced.
Containment, curfews and enforceability	23	Many comments linked this proposal to cat confinement, curfews and the practical ability of Council to enforce responsible containment.

4. Stronger rules about how to house animals so they do not get out

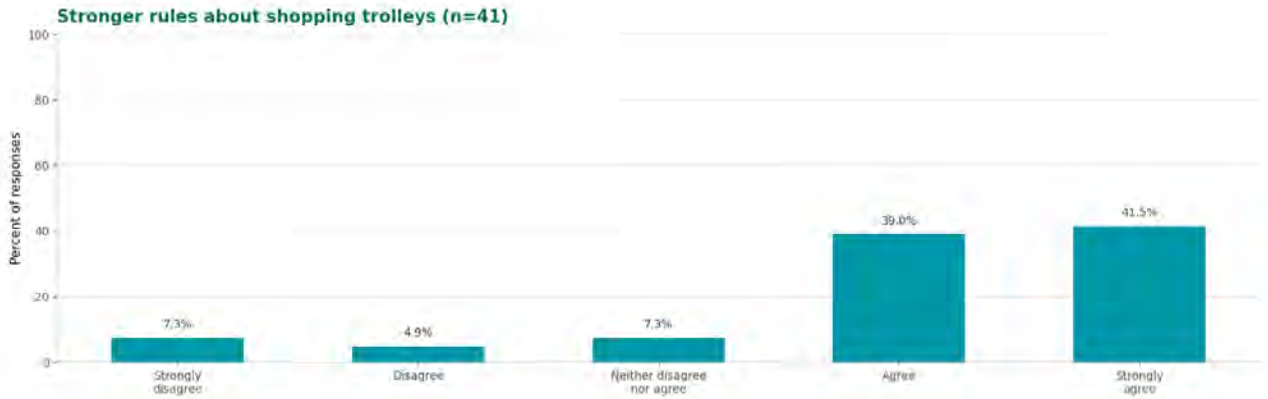
93 respondents answered this question. 67 respondents (72.0%) agreed or strongly agreed, 9 (9.7%) were neutral, and 17 (18.3%) disagreed or strongly disagreed.



Key theme	Count	Comment summary
Contain animals on their owner's property	16	Comments supported stronger expectations that animals remain on their owner's property unless properly restrained or supervised.
Protect wildlife and reduce nuisance on neighbouring properties	28	Wildlife impacts, cats entering neighbouring gardens, animal waste and nuisance were common reasons given for stronger containment rules.
Practicality for existing pets, outdoor access and cost	16	Some respondents stressed that existing outdoor cats, rental homes, small dwellings and cat-run costs need to be considered before enforcement.

5. Stronger rules about shopping trolleys

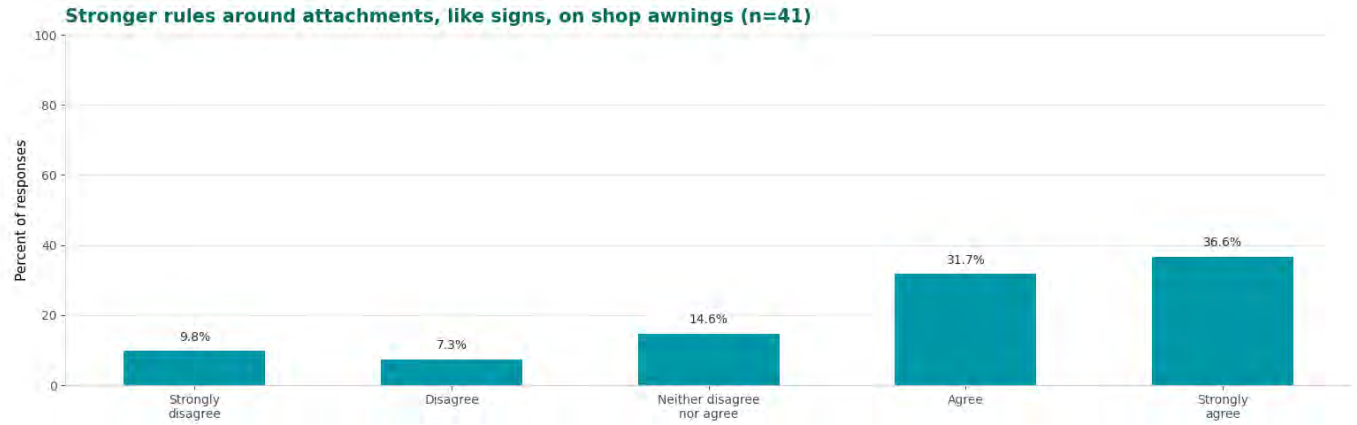
41 respondents answered this question. 33 respondents (80.5%) agreed or strongly agreed, 3 (7.3%) were neutral, and 5 (12.2%) disagreed or strongly disagreed.



Key theme	Count	Comment summary
Dumped trolleys affecting amenity and access	3	Comments described abandoned trolleys as a visible amenity issue and a source of obstruction near shops and housing areas.
Retailer accountability, identification and recovery	2	Respondents supported stronger obligations on retailers and supermarkets to identify, recover or prevent trolleys being left away from stores.
Fines or responsibility for people removing trolleys	2	A small number of comments suggested fines or clearer personal responsibility for people who remove trolleys from shopping areas.

6. Stronger rules around attachments, like signs, on shop awnings

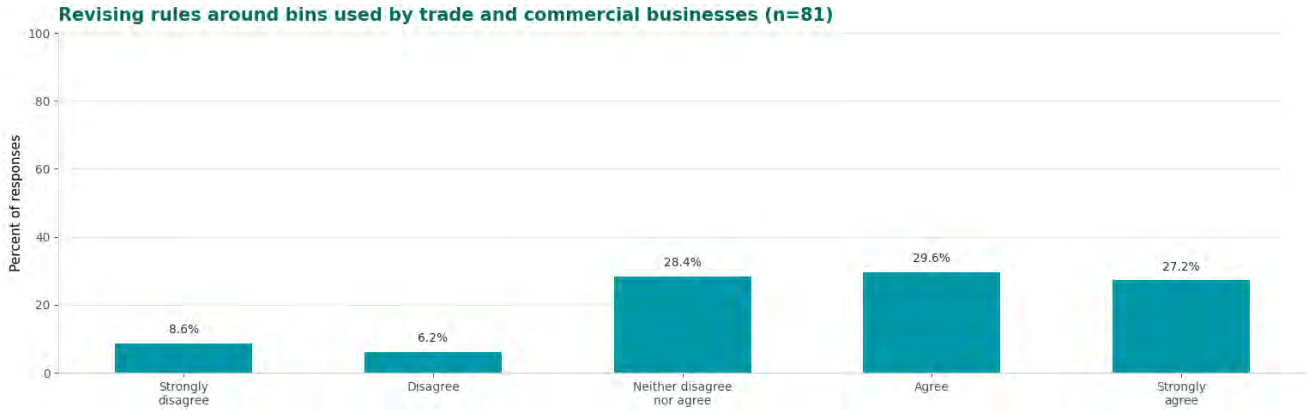
41 respondents answered this question. 28 respondents (68.3%) agreed or strongly agreed, 6 (14.6%) were neutral, and 7 (17.1%) disagreed or strongly disagreed.



Key theme	Count	Comment summary
Clear definitions and simple approval pathways	7	Business feedback asked for plain definitions and a single, consistent approval pathway for flags, banners, teardrop signs and similar display items.
Safety, heritage, drainage and maintenance concerns	1	Comments noted that poorly maintained or unsafe attachments can affect amenity, safety, drainage or heritage outcomes.
Greening, planter boxes and shopfront presentation	4	Submissions supported low-risk improvements such as planter boxes and greening, provided the approval process is simple, low-cost and consistent.

7. Revising rules around bins used by trade and commercial businesses

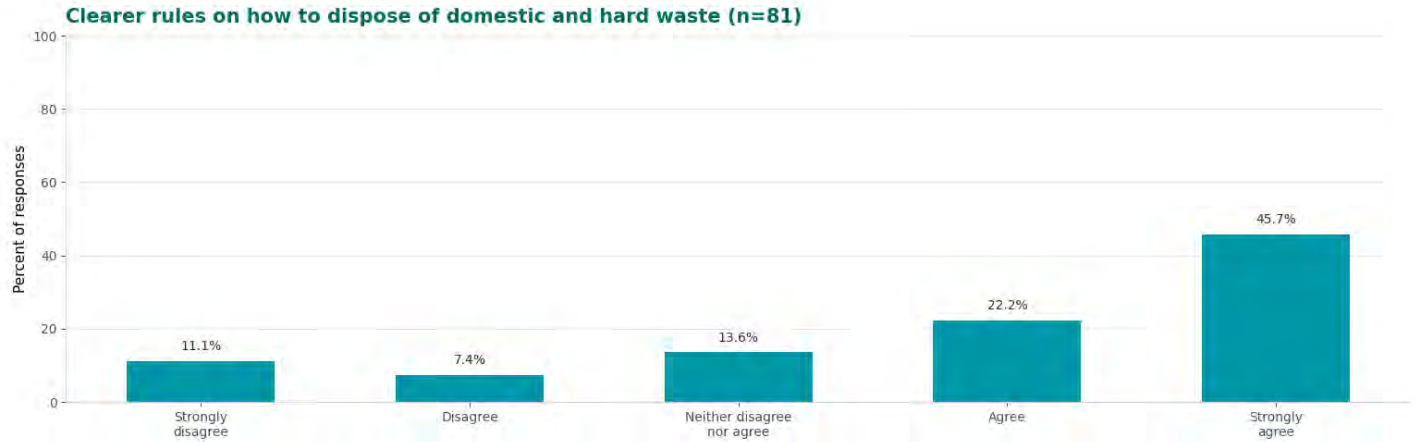
81 respondents answered this question. 46 respondents (56.8%) agreed or strongly agreed, 23 (28.4%) were neutral, and 12 (14.8%) disagreed or strongly disagreed.



Key theme	Count	Comment summary
Commercial bins obstructing footpaths or roads	3	Submissions raised concerns about commercial bins being kept on footpaths or roads, reducing pedestrian access and affecting cleanliness.
Storage location, timing and rear/side access	13	Comments supported clearer rules for where bins may be stored, when they may be placed out, and how rear or side access should be used where available.
Cardboard, packaging and loose waste	3	Loose cardboard, packaging and exposed commercial waste were identified as issues that contribute to poor presentation and litter.

8. Clearer rules on how to dispose of domestic and hard waste

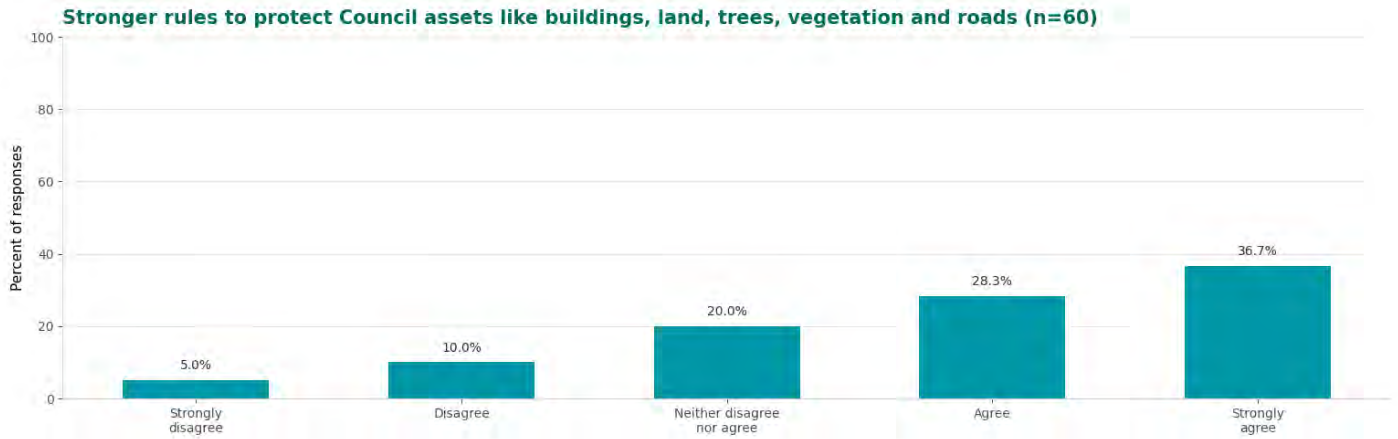
81 respondents answered this question. 55 respondents (67.9%) agreed or strongly agreed, 11 (13.6%) were neutral, and 15 (18.5%) disagreed or strongly disagreed.



Key theme	Count	Comment summary
Dumped rubbish and hard waste on nature strips	20	Respondents frequently raised dumped rubbish, hard waste left on nature strips and litter as everyday amenity concerns.
Need clearer rules and accessible disposal options	19	Several comments said rules should be clearer and paired with practical disposal options, including more responsive hard-waste and waste-facility arrangements.
Recycling, contamination and street-bin misuse	8	Other comments focused on recycling behaviour, contamination, bin capacity and misuse of park or street litter bins.

9. Stronger rules to protect Council assets like buildings, land, trees, vegetation and roads

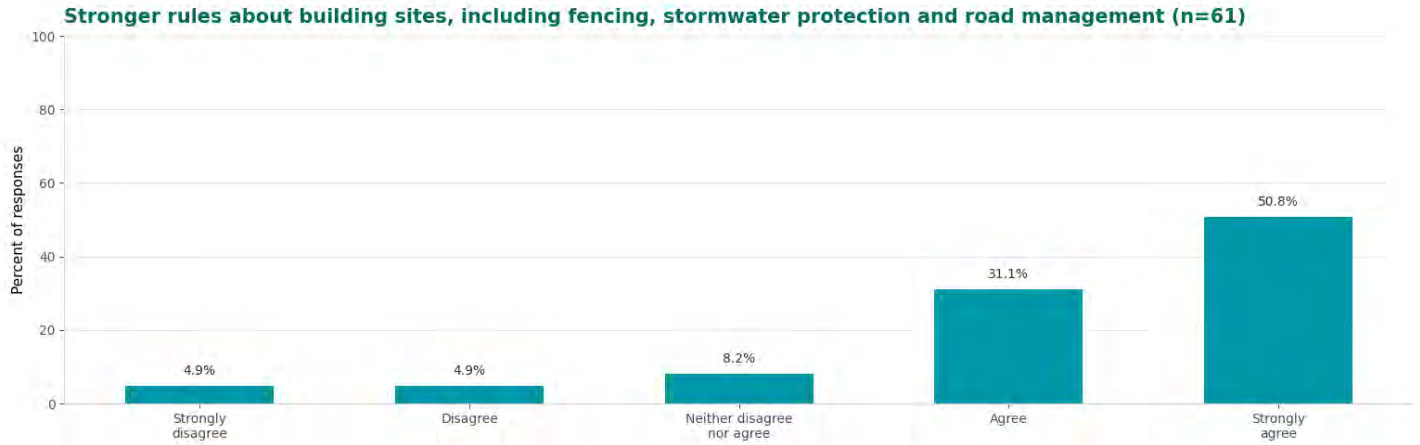
60 respondents answered this question. 39 respondents (65.0%) agreed or strongly agreed, 12 (20.0%) were neutral, and 9 (15.0%) disagreed or strongly disagreed.



Key theme	Count	Comment summary
Protect trees, vegetation, roads, kerbs and footpaths	37	Comments mentioned damaged footpaths, roads, kerbs, nature strips, trees and vegetation, often in connection with building works or poor maintenance.
Obstructions and accessibility on Council land	19	Accessibility concerns were raised where footpaths, bike lanes or shared paths are blocked or narrowed, particularly for people using wheelchairs, prams or mobility aids.
Builder/developer accountability and compliance monitoring	13	Respondents and community groups supported stronger monitoring, compliance tracking and escalating penalties for repeat builder or developer non-compliance.

10. Stronger rules about building sites, including fencing, stormwater protection and road management

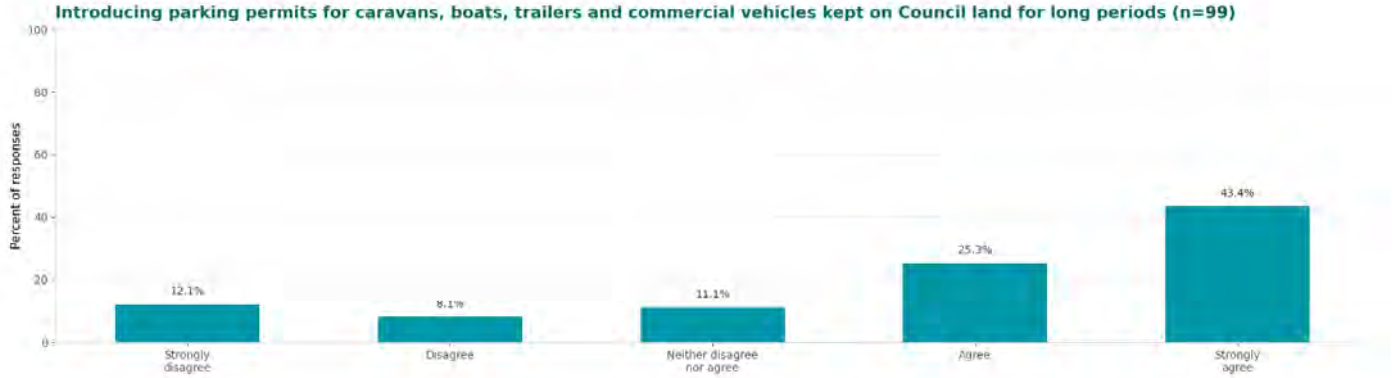
61 respondents answered this question. 50 respondents (82.0%) agreed or strongly agreed, 5 (8.2%) were neutral, and 6 (9.8%) disagreed or strongly disagreed.



Key theme	Count	Comment summary
Footpath closures, fencing, crossovers and traffic management	20	Comments focused on footpath closures, fencing locations, crossovers, bike-lane closures and the need for visible permits and traffic management information.
Construction waste, materials and site amenity	9	Construction waste, materials spreading beyond site boundaries, stormwater impacts and poor site presentation were raised as recurring amenity issues.
Work hours, noise and proportionality for small builders	4	Some comments sought clearer permitted work hours and noise rules, while others cautioned that requirements should be proportionate for small builders and owner-builders.

11. Introducing parking permits for caravans, boats, trailers and commercial vehicles kept on Council land for long periods

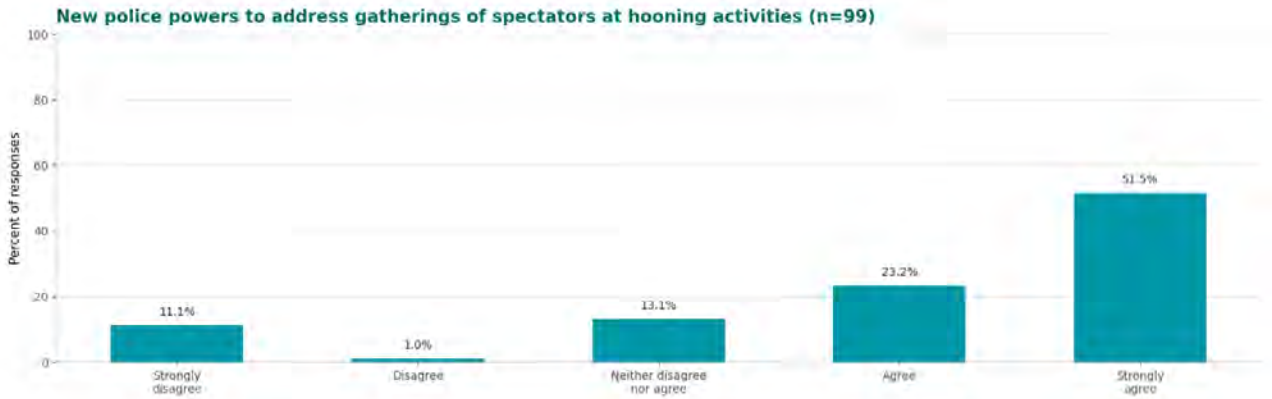
99 respondents answered this question. 68 respondents (68.7%) agreed or strongly agreed, 11 (11.1%) were neutral, and 20 (20.2%) disagreed or strongly disagreed.



Key theme	Count	Comment summary
Long-term parking of caravans, trailers, trucks and oversized vehicles	16	Respondents raised safety and access concerns about caravans, trailers, trucks, boats and oversized vehicles being stored on narrow or residential streets.
Commercial storage of customer, rental or wrecked vehicles on streets	5	Several comments and submissions described commercial businesses using residential or local streets to store rental, customer, damaged or wrecked vehicles.
Fairness, permits and residents with limited off-street storage	3	Some respondents supported permits but warned that a blanket approach could affect residents or tradespeople with limited off-street storage.

12. New police powers to address gatherings of spectators at hooning activities

99 respondents answered this question. 74 respondents (74.7%) agreed or strongly agreed, 13 (13.1%) were neutral, and 12 (12.1%) disagreed or strongly disagreed.



Key theme	Count	Comment summary
Hooning, speeding and noise impacting safety and amenity	12	Comments described hooning and speeding as recurring noise, safety and amenity issues, particularly around Pentridge, Trade Place and other local streets.
Stronger police powers, enforcement and presence	7	Respondents generally supported stronger police powers or more visible enforcement to address spectator gatherings and repeat unsafe behaviour.
Traffic calming or vehicle-focused responses	3	Some comments asked for practical road-safety responses such as lower speed limits, speed humps or stronger vehicle-focused sanctions.

Differences in feedback by gender

123 survey respondents provided a gender response. For analysis, similar responses were consolidated into Women/girls (n=59), Men/boys (n=47), Gender diverse/non-binary (n=4), Prefer not to say (n=13), and Not stated (n=6). Because the gender-diverse/non-binary group is very small, findings below focus on the two largest groups and should be read as indicative only.

Women/girls recorded higher support across most proposed changes than men/boys. Across all rating responses, Women/girls recorded a mean support score of 4.07 out of 5 and 77.1% agree/strongly agree, compared with a mean of 3.68 and 63.9% agree/strongly agree for Men/boys.

Topic selection also differed. Men/boys were more likely than Women/girls to select vehicles and roads, council asset protection/building site amenity, unsightly properties and waste and recycling. Women/girls were slightly more likely to select pets and animals.

Proposed change	Women/girls agree / strongly agree	Men/boys agree / strongly agree
Stronger laws for dangerous and rundown land/buildings	86.4% (n=22)	71.4% (n=28)
Reviewing the number of animals that can be kept on private property	73.2% (n=41)	50.0% (n=32)
Increasing the number of cats allowed in high-density areas from 1 to 2	66.7% (n=42)	25.8% (n=31)
Stronger rules about how to house animals so they do not get out	78.6% (n=42)	68.8% (n=32)
Stronger rules about shopping trolleys	94.4% (n=18)	75.0% (n=16)
Stronger rules around attachments, like signs, on shop awnings	77.8% (n=18)	62.5% (n=16)
Revising rules around bins used by trade and commercial businesses	61.3% (n=31)	59.4% (n=32)
Clearer rules on how to dispose of domestic and hard waste	77.4% (n=31)	62.5% (n=32)
Stronger rules to protect Council assets like buildings, land, trees, vegetation and roads	76.5% (n=17)	75.0% (n=28)
Stronger rules about building sites, including fencing, stormwater protection and road management	94.4% (n=18)	82.1% (n=28)
Introducing parking permits for caravans, boats, trailers and commercial vehicles kept on Council land for long periods	75.6% (n=41)	60.0% (n=40)
New police powers to address gatherings of spectators at hooning activities	82.9% (n=41)	80.0% (n=40)

The largest gender differences were in support for increasing cats allowed in high-density areas, reviewing animal numbers, shopping trolley rules, shop awning attachments and domestic/hard waste rules. Both Women/girls and Men/boys showed high support for building site rules, hooning-related powers and Council asset protection.

Open ended comment themes

Respondents were asked if they would like to provide comments on proposed changes to the Local Law. Comments were coded and categorised in the tables below according to themes evident. Comment counts are indicative; a single response may contain multiple themes.

Private land and activity centre amenity	
Comment Themes	**Count**
Neglected, dilapidated or land-banked properties affecting amenity, safety and neighbourhood pride	18
Graffiti, vacant shopfronts and commercial presentation	14
Clear standards, timeframes and enforcement for property issues	19
Total	51
n=30 (note comments contain multiple themes)	

Pets and animals	
Comment Themes	**Count**
Animal numbers, limits and responsible ownership	28
Concerns about overreach, wellbeing or impacts on existing pets	11
Dog behaviour, off-leash controls, excrement or barking	6
Support for allowing two cats in higher-density homes	14
Wildlife, nuisance and roaming-cat impacts	23
Containment, curfews and enforceability	23
Contain animals on their owner's property	16
Practicality for existing pets, outdoor access and cost	16
Total	137
n=72 (note comments contain multiple themes)	

Business activity, shopping trolleys and public-space use	
Comment Themes	**Count**
Dumped trolleys affecting amenity and access	3
Retailer accountability, trolley identification and recovery	2
Clear definitions and simple approval pathways for signs and attachments	7
Greening, planter boxes and shopfront presentation	4
Safety, heritage, drainage and maintenance concerns	1
Total	17
n=11 (note comments contain multiple themes)	

Commercial waste, domestic waste and recycling	
Comment Themes	**Count**
Commercial bins obstructing footpaths or roads	3
Storage location, timing and rear/side access for trade waste	13
Cardboard, packaging and loose commercial waste	3
Dumped rubbish and hard waste on nature strips	20
Need clearer rules and accessible disposal options	19
Recycling, contamination and street-bin misuse	8
Total	66
n=48 (note comments contain multiple themes)	

Council assets, obstructions and building sites	
Comment Themes	**Count**
Protect trees, vegetation, roads, kerbs and footpaths	37
Obstructions and accessibility on Council land	19
Builder/developer accountability and compliance monitoring	13
Footpath closures, fencing, crossovers and traffic management	20
Construction waste, materials and site amenity	9
Work hours, noise and proportionality for small builders	4
Total	102
n=68 (note comments contain multiple themes)	

Vehicles, roads and safety	
Comment Themes	**Count**
Long-term parking of caravans, trailers, trucks and oversized vehicles	16
Commercial storage of customer, rental or wrecked vehicles on streets	5
Fairness, permits and residents with limited off-street storage	3
Hooning, speeding and noise impacting safety and amenity	12
Stronger police powers, enforcement and presence	7
Traffic calming or vehicle-focused responses	3
Total	46
n=32 (note comments contain multiple themes)	

Issues or challenges experienced with the Local Law

Across both open-text survey questions, 96 respondents provided text that was coded for indicative themes. The most frequent open-text themes were enforcement, vehicles and roads, pets and animals, waste and rubbish, construction and Council assets, and clarity of rules.

Theme	What we heard
Enforcement and compliance	Respondents often said existing Local Laws are not consistently enforced and asked for more visible, proactive compliance activity.
Vehicles, roads and parking	Many comments raised long-term street storage, commercial use of residential streets, unregistered or damaged vehicles, sightline impacts and hooning.
Pets and animals	Comments were divided between stronger containment and wildlife protection, and concern about practicality, cost and impacts on existing pets.
Waste and recycling	Dumped rubbish, hard waste on nature strips, commercial bin storage, recycling behaviour and unclear disposal pathways were recurring issues.
Council assets and building sites	Respondents raised damaged or blocked footpaths, tree and nature strip protection, construction debris, site fencing, stormwater and work hours.
Plain language and accessibility	Some respondents found the Local Law and consultation questions difficult to understand and asked for clearer, more visual and accessible information.

Written Community Submissions

9 written submissions were received and collated from individuals, community groups and a business association. Full submission text is included in the table below, with a succinct thematic summary in the right-hand column.

#	Source	Submission	Themes
1	Email 4 May 2026	Hi, Thank you for replying. I was trying to respond to a post of yours; to give feedback about 'proposed' new pet laws but the link from the post just went to your general page on your website. I still haven't found where to give my comments about the proposed laws. I live in <redacted> Road in Brunswick BTW. I'm surprised that more councils have not come up to speed regarding pet laws. I believe could toughen up laws about cats being allowed to freely roam their neighborhoods. Our wildlife is increasingly coming under threat from feral and domestic cats alike; yet so many domestic cats can be seen inconstrained. Some cat owners restrict their pets from roaming their neighborhood by various means, but many ignorant or arrogant owners don't. I hope that Merri-bek makes some constructive moves in this direction. Original enquiry: OMG. I tried to give feedback about the new pet laws but it was so complicated I gave up.	Cat containment and wildlife protection. Supports stronger controls on free-roaming domestic cats and notes difficulty finding the correct consultation pathway.
2	Email 30 Apr 2026	Hi there, I want to do the survey about local law review but am unsure how to phrase the change I seek and want to know what is possible in terms of potential council powers to solve the issue. I live on a residential street in Coburg North that is around the corner from a street that is full of panel beaters and vehicle repair businesses. The businesses accept many more smashed / broken-down vehicles than they have room for on their property. As a consequence the smashed vehicles are parked very long-term on council streets, despite council installing 2-hour parking zones (which are ignored by the business owners). The businesses also regularly park vehicles up on the nature strips, and across footpaths and driveways; damaging amenity and reducing community safety.	Vehicle storage, repair businesses and enforcement. Seeks stronger powers and more consistent action on damaged vehicles stored long-term on residential streets, nature strips, footpaths and no-standing areas.

#	Source	Submission	Themes
		They also regularly park in no-standing zones meaning sightlines for oncoming traffic including cyclists is negatively impacted. Tow trucks assosiated with these businesses also wait on our street with their engines going for sometimes up to 30 minutes (idling) in a no-stand zone. My neighbours and I have regularly reported these issues and asked for parking inspectors to patrol the area. The local laws officers come very rarely and they do not put tickets on the smashed vehicles near the panel beating businesses. A council staff member told my neighbour that the local law officers feel unsafe putting tickets on the vehicles outside the businesses. We also understand that if a vehicle does not have a licence plate it can't be booked? The system seems to be broken, with council local laws having wiped their hands of the problem in our neighbourhood. How can the laws be strengthened, or police engaged to clear up this street and promote better behaviour by the businesses? If there is a genuine consequence for their regular, illegal parking then I imagine they would stop bringing in such a high volume of vehicles that they do not have room to store on their business premises. Some of the vehicles literally sit in the same spot on the council 2-hour parking street zone for months. These issues are not isolated to my street. Illegally and unsafely parked vehicles associated with panel beating / vehicle repair workshops block footpaths right across the industrial part of Coburg North (between Bakers Rd and Charles Street / Gaffney) making walking and cycling really difficult and often an irritating experience.	
3	Email 22 Apr 2026	Good afternoon, I spoke to <redacted> this afternoon and have compiled my feedback on Phase 1 of the consultation of Local Laws 2026. Pets and Animals 1. Many pet-owners in Merri-bek struggle with responsibly managing their pets in public areas. This has contributed to a general lowering of the standards of behaviour acceptable in shared	Multi-topic operational feedback. Raises responsible pet management, dog excrement and off-leash controls, footpath obstructions from works,

#	Source	Submission	Themes
		parks and spaces. I am a dog owner but I do not support any change to the number of dogs permitted and the manner in which they are permitted per premises. 2. Local law (5.11) does not include a stranger's property for where animal excrement may not be left. This is an oversight and leaves only civil remedies if a dog comes onto my property and leaves droppings (which happens not infrequently). 3. In the Merri-Bek off-leash dog walking document (https://www.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/globalassets/website-merri-bek/areas/exploring-merri-bek/parks-and-gardens/council-order-9-july-2025---dog-off-leash-areas.pdf), it states that: If a dog is not restrained by means of a chain, cord or leash in a designated off-leash area, the owner must bring the dog under effective control by means of a chain, cord or leash at all times when the dog is within: • 15 metres of: • any playground or children's play equipment; • the principal location of an organised sporting or community event or festival; • the principal location of an organised public meeting; or • a permanent barbecue or picnic area when in use. • 1 metre of: • a shared pathway (and at all times while on the shared pathway). This should be reflected in local law (and ideally signs placed to indicate this on footpaths in dog parks as this is currently ignored by approximately 100% of dog owners at my local park). Further, these 1m and 15m boundaries should be indicated more clearly in council parks, to assist compliance. Council Asset Protection In my experience, builders with poor practices are frustrating pedestrians' rights to safely use footpaths in Merri-Bek with frequent and unsafe blockage of footpaths. This can be through careless obstruction or un-permitted cross-over reconstruction and it can be difficult to understand the nature and validity of a blocked footpath as a nearby resident. I propose that it is mandatory for all permitted crossover works to have a distinct ID issued by council, that must be displayed at the point of obstruction and which pedestrians can verify on the Merri-Bek website, including location, start and end date, and approved traffic plan (necessary for a cross-over permit as I understand). Any deviation from this could swiftly be reported to Merri-Bek, while saving everyone's time if the cross-over is indeed permitted. This would apply, in my mind, not just to complete closures but to any narrowing of a path that no longer supports a wheelchair or	heavy vehicle and trailer storage, out-of-hours equipment movement, misuse of park bins and evidence-based enforcement.

#	Source	Submission	Themes
		pram. I would also suggest mandatory contact information on building sites, so that immediate/obvious issues (often with contractors) can be flagged with the primary contact for site. Vehicles and Roads Roads are being used more frequently as storage for trucks and industrial machinery. Given increasing traffic and more parking on roads generally, this is unsafe and causes significantly decreasing amenity. Local law should forbid the use of council roads to store trucks over the usual GMV for 1 hour, and include trailers of any kind for any time if not attached to a motor vehicle. This would stop a lot of 'positioning' type movements that seem to occur with people running their trucking businesses in residential areas, which is an unreasonable use of roads. The ability to obtain a permit should not extend to industrial trailers/machinery in residential neighbourhoods. Deliveries to and collections of goods from premises (14.2) Related to parking and works, not only should the collection of goods be restricted to those hours, but the collection of plant/equipment and movement/repositioning of trucks in residential areas should be restricted to those same noise-related hours. For example, picking up an excavator from a building site at 11pm at on a Saturday night. Collection of trade waste (8.13–8.14) This should be expanded to include larger non-commercial premises such as schools. Waste in Parks A huge issue in the council area, which I expect will only explode with proposed changes to bin collection, is the household use of park bins. Every week I see at least one car pull up alongside a park bin and take > 50% of the bin capacity. This invariably results in the unsanitary situation of park bins prematurely overflowing with dog poo. Local Law should prohibit the placement of bagged rubbish or packaging of household/workplace/building items from vehicles in park bins. This would allow the person stopping to throw out their KFC from their car (a reasonable use) while prohibiting bagged up kitchen rubbish, party refuse, and polystyrene items from reducing the amount of available space to park users. Enforcement Council is constrained in enforcement resources and I appreciate that this can mean that getting an Authorised Officer to the scene of a suggestion infraction can be difficult. Given the success that the Victoria EPA has had in its online litter reporting form, can I suggest that the Council	

#	Source	Submission	Themes
		prudently accept evidence for some forms of the more annoying offenses (like those above). If the submitted can provide sufficient identity deals, evidence, and a willingness to attend court at the required date if needed, I propose that this could meet the required threshold of evidence necessary to perform enforcement, buttressing faith in the local law while in no way undermining the requirements for evidence and processes in its execution. I trust these are useful points for your review. Happy to discuss on any points, my contact information is below.	
4	Email 29 Apr 2026	Hi I accessed the Local Law Review Survey on the Merri-bek website and was stunned by how brief and vague this survey was. The first section asked me to rank how strongly I felt that local laws in several categories should be reviewed (I think). The next question simply said. "What issues or challenges do you experience with the Local Law?" Screenshot below / attached. Which Local Law? I have never, in my life, seen a more poorly worded, lazy survey. Which Local Law is this referring to? I don't even know where to begin my answer or how to structure it, it's just a big text field. I assumed there would be questions and prompts and places to provide feedback on each of the subject areas raised in the previous screens. Indeed, this would allow for a more specific and tailored way to submit feedback. By providing only a huge text box with no references to any specific laws, you are asking for low-quality, poorly structured feedback. I feel that it's setting us, the residents and ratepayers, up to fail at this process. There's no way that I can provide good quality, clear and specific feedback using this format. This make zero sense and I think that we deserve better. [screenshot attached] I would really appreciate someone getting in touch with me about this process.	Consultation design and clarity. States the survey as too vague and unstructured, and asks for clearer prompts and topic-specific opportunities to provide meaningful feedback.
5	Written submission 4 May 2026	This submission is made on behalf of the Central Coburg Business Association, representing more than 280 businesses operating across the precinct. Council's Local Law Review will shape the operating environment f or traders f or the next decade.	Business regulation and economic impact. Supports the review intent but seeks

#	Source	Submission	Themes
		As such, it is essential that the final f ramework not only supports saf ety, accessibility, amenity and good order, but is also practical, proportionate and eco nomically sustainable f or the businesses that activate Merri-bek's key activity centres. The Central Coburg business community supports the intent of the review. However, without targeted amendment, there is a material risk that the Local Law will increase regulatory complexity, introduce avoidable costs and create additional compliance burden in an already challenging trading environment. Process and Consultation A f undamental concern is the absence of direct engagement with the representative business body or Central Coburg during this review, despite requests for consultation in early 2026, including a proposed joint discussion with Council and Victoria Police. Given that Local Laws directly regulate business activity in public space, the lack of structured engagement with a precinct representing over 280 traders is a signif icant gap in process. This should be addressed prior to f inalisation. Strategic and Economic Context Council's Local Law Review must be considered within the broader economic role of Central Coburg as a designated activity centre and employment hub. Across Merri-bek, the local economy generates approximately $7.9 billion in Gross Regional Product and supports more than 52,000 jobs. Activity centres such as Coburg play a disproportionate role in sustaining this economic base. The Coburg Activity Centre alone supports thousands of jobs and hundreds of businesses, contributing materially to local employment, business turnover and precinct activation along Sydney Road. These outcomes are directly inf luenced by the regulatory environment. A Local Law that increases friction, cost or uncertainty will have clear economic consequences: •reduced business investment •increased vacancy risk •lower turnover •diminished precinct performance This is particularly critical in the context of the planned Central Coburg redevelopment, including the proposed library and public piazza, with construction anticipated f rom mid -2028. That project will introduce prolonged disruption to visibility, access and customer movement. Against this backdrop, the Local Law must reduce operational f riction—not compound it.	direct business consultation, clearer signage/display rules, simple greening and permit pathways, vacant property standards, transparent business parking arrangements, reduced duplication and permit relief during disruption.

#	Source	Submission	Themes
		Key Issues Requiring Amendment 1. Flags, banners and display items Current provisions lack clarity regarding the treatment of flags, banners and teardrop signage. Council must provide: •clear definitions •a single, consistent approval pathway •practical guidance on when permits are required Ambiguity in this area discourages investment in shopf ront presentation and creates avoidable compliance risk. 2. Planter boxes and greening The business community strongly supports greening initiatives. The Local Law should: •explicitly enable low-risk elements such as planter boxes •ensure permit pathways are simple, low-cost and consistent Policy intent to improve amenity must be matched by practical enablement. 3. Vacant premises and shopfront presentation Vacant and neglected premises undermine the perf ormance of the entire precinct. The Local Law should introduce: •enforceable maintenance standards •requirements to secure vacant properties •provisions enabling temporary activation or improved presentation Inactive f rontages negatively af f ect saf ety perception, customer conf idence and neighbouring businesses. 4. Unsightly commercial property “Unsightly land” provisions must translate into enf orceable standards within commercial areas. Poorly maintained properties are not a passive issue. They actively degrade the trading environment and should be addressed through clear and workable intervention mechanisms. 5. Business parking permits There is insufficient transparency regarding: •the number of permits issued •the number of designated bays •the degree of oversubscription Council should publish precinct-level data to ensure the system is equitable and f unctional.	

#	Source	Submission	Themes
		Without this transparency, parking policy becomes a hidden operational cost f or businesses. 6. Footpath trading permits The cumulative burden of recurring permits f or low-risk items is a consistent concern. Council should: •simplify or bundle permits •reduce renewal frequency •streamline administrative processes Overly complex systems discourage compliance and reduce activation of the public realm. 7. Hidden costs and compliance complexity The current f ramework creates hidden costs through: •overlapping approval pathways •unclear rules •administrative time burden The Local Law should reduce duplication between local law, planning and building controls wherever possible. Complexity is itself a cost. 8. Council-led construction and permit relief Where Council projects disrupt normal trading conditions, there must be a f ormal permit relief mechanism. This should include: •f ee waivers or reductions •automatic permit extensions •simplified approval processes during disruption It is not reasonable f or traders to absorb both reduced revenue and f ull regulatory cost during Council-led works. Impact on the Broader Main Street Ecosystem An overly complex Local Law does not only af f ect individual traders. It: •increases reliance on business associations f or interpretation and dispute resolution •diverts resources away f rom precinct activation and economic development •reduces trader conf idence and investment Regulatory clarity is essential to the perf ormance and resilience of main street economies. Alignment with the Local Government Act 2020 Under the Local Government Act 2020 (Vic), Council is required to act in accordance with key	

#	Source	Submission	Themes
		governance principles, including: •economic, social and environmental sustainability •transparent and evidence-based decision-making •meaningful engagement with the community •proportionality and ef f iciency in regulation In its current form, the Local Law Review raises concerns against these principles. A framework that increases cost and complexity undermines economic sustainability. The absence of direct engagement with representative business bodies limits meaningf ul consultation. Regulation of low-risk activities must be proportionate to their impact. Unclear and overlapping requirements do not meet the standard of accessible and transparent governance. The final Local Law must demonstrate alignment with these statutory obligations in both intent and implementation. Precedent from Other Councils There is clear precedent across Victoria f or more streamlined and business -supportive approaches. •The City of Melbourne has adopted simplified footpath trading frameworks with standardised conditions for low-risk items. •The City of Yarra has implemented flexible outdoor trading approaches and reduced administrative burden. •The City of Port Phillip has introduced permit relief mechanisms during periods of disruption and construction. These examples demonstrate that strong amenity outcomes can be achieved alongside clear, efficient and business-friendly regulatory systems. Merri-bek has an opportunity to align with contemporary best practice. Requested Actions Before finalising the Local Law Review 2026, Council should: •undertake direct consultation with representative business bodies in key activity centres, including Central Coburg •provide clear, plain-language def initions f or signage and display items •enable greening and shopf ront improvements through simple and af f ordable permit	

#	Source	Submission	Themes
		pathways •strengthen obligations relating to vacant and poorly maintained commercial property •publish transparent data on business parking permits and supply •simplify and consolidate recurring permits f or low-risk items •reduce duplication across regulatory frameworks •introduce a formal permit relief mechanism f or Council-led disruption •ensure the final Local Law does not increase the hidden cost of trade This submission is made to ensure that the needs of the Central Coburg business community are clearly represented bef ore a Local Law f ramework is set f or the next ten years. Central Coburg is an active economic precinct supporting thousands of jobs, hundreds of businesses and signif icant local output. The decisions made through this review will directly influence business viability, vacancy rates, investment conf idence and long-term precinct perf ormance. A well-designed Local Law should enable activation, reduce f riction, support economic resilience and uphold Council's obligations under the Local Government Act 2020. The current draf t requires targeted ref inement to achieve that balance. Without these changes, there is a clear risk that the Local Law will unintentionally increase the cost of doing business in Central Coburg at a time when policy should be f ocused on supporting, not constraining, local economic activity.	
6	Email 29 Apr 2026	Local laws . You need to limit the parking of unregistered vehicles . Reduce the speed limit to 10 K .in Trade place. Merribek Council has done little- <addresses redacted> A death thru speed already. Colonial inquest coming . Speed humps needed. Australian knitting mills sacked all. Getting out of Australias worst and most dangerous street Are you proud?	Vehicles, speed and safety. Calls for limits on unregistered vehicle parking, lower speeds and traffic calming around Trade Place, and stronger action on hooning and vehicle storage impacts.

#	Source	Submission	Themes
7	Email 6 May 2026	Hello, Thank you for taking the time to listen. I would like to raise the following matters for consideration: Council Asset Protection * Could asset protection requirements be strengthened to ensure builders adequately protect nature strip trees on all building sites? * Is it possible to increase enforcement in relation to overgrown grass and vegetation on nature strips and building sites, particularly where construction is delayed or sites are left unattended? * Additionally, could clearer requirements be introduced regarding permitted hours of work for both domestic and commercial building sites? I have reviewed other municipalities, and many include specific days and times within their Local Laws outlining when construction work is permitted. Vehicles There is an ongoing issue in our street involving two neighbouring properties operating car hire businesses. Vehicles are regularly parked on the street for storage, which has led to ongoing disputes among residents. * At times, there are approximately 6 to 10 vehicles parked in the same area. * A tow truck is also frequently parked on the street and regularly loads and unloads vehicles at various times throughout the day. This often causes disruption, as residents are required to wait for these activities to be completed. * The situation makes it particularly difficult for my elderly parents to access nearby parking, and other elderly neighbours have also expressed concerns regarding access for emergency vehicles. We previously explored implementing a permit parking system with neighbours; however, this was not successful due to a lack of agreement. Could Council please advise whether there are any existing Local Laws, or potential measures, to address businesses operating in residential areas in this manner, or to better manage long-term street parking associated with commercial activities? Thank you for your consideration.	Building site amenity, asset protection and commercial street parking. Seeks stronger tree/nature strip protection, controls on overgrown building sites and work hours, and measures to manage car-hire businesses storing vehicles in residential streets.
8	Written submission 5 May 2026	Glenroy Community Action Group Glenroy Community Action Group (GCAG) was founded in early 2025. We are a non-political, inclusive group of residents committed to improving livability and safety in Glenroy. We aim to restore a sense of pride in our community and ensure it receives the attention and investment it	Glenroy amenity, public space and enforcement. Supports stronger rules for graffiti, footpath displays,

#	Source	Submission	Themes
		deserves. We drive meaningful change in Glenroy by working with government, businesses and the community to create a thriving, safe and welcoming suburb for residents, businesses, and visitors. We want to see much-needed investment in our retail precincts and public spaces. We advocate for local needs and positive changes that benefit everyone. GCAG Submission on Review of Local Laws 2026 GCAG welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed review of Local Laws. As a community-based group, we support measures that improve amenity, safety, and accessibility across Glenroy's public spaces and retail areas. Unsightly and Dangerous Land GCAG supports the proposed changes relating to unsightly and dangerous land. We recommend that this category explicitly includes the prompt removal of graffiti, particularly in high-visibility areas such as shopping strips, transport corridors, and community spaces. Delays in graffiti removal contribute to perceptions of neglect and can encourage further vandalism. Clear timeframes for removal and defined responsibility (property owner vs Council) would strengthen this section. Business Activity and Use of Public Space GCAG supports the proposed changes relating to businesses, but recommends stronger and more specific controls are needed for the display of goods on footpaths. We recommend that Local Laws require that: • Displays are well-maintained, clean, and orderly • Goods are not faded, damaged, or covered with unsightly materials (e.g. tarps). • Displays do not impede pedestrian movement. • Displays do not interfere with visibility or access to adjacent businesses or parking GCAG members have observed numerous instances in Glenroy where footpath displays consist of dusty, outdated stock presented in a manner that detracts from the overall amenity of the shopping strip. In addition, these expectations should extend to shopfront presentation and entrances. Many businesses in Glenroy have dual access points (e.g. Morgan Court and Pascoe Vale Road), yet some have closed their main road-facing entrances. This reduces activation of the primary retail strip and detracts from the vibrancy and safety of the area.	shopfront activation, commercial bins, builder compliance, e-bike/e-scooter use in parks and proactive enforcement/reporting.

#	Source	Submission	Themes
		GCAG recommends that Council explore mechanisms to: • Encourage or require activation of primary street frontages • Discourage the long-term closure of main street entrances where viable Commercial Waste and Recycling GCAG supports tighter regulation of waste and recycling practices for commercial premises. We have concerns regarding the storage of commercial bins on footpaths, particularly along Pascoe Vale Road. These bins: • Obstruct pedestrian access • Create safety hazards when they are blown onto the roadway • Detract from the amenity of the area In many cases, businesses have access to rear laneways or side areas that could be used for bin storage but are not being utilised. GCAG recommends that Local Laws: • Prohibit the storage of commercial bins on footpaths (even temporary storage) • Require businesses to use rear or side access points where available • Establish clear rules for the timing of bin placement for collection • Address the storage and presentation of cardboard and packaging waste, which is often left loose and exposed Public space should prioritise pedestrians and community use and not serve as storage for commercial waste. Protection of Council and Public Assets GCAG supports stronger protections for Council and public assets. Members have frequently observed domestic builders and contractors failing to comply with basic requirements, including: • Not maintaining tree protection zones • Blocking footpaths without appropriate management • Allowing construction waste and materials to spread beyond site boundaries This behaviour demonstrates a lack of accountability and impacts the broader community. GCAG recommends that Council: • Increase monitoring of building and construction activity • Introduce a compliance tracking system or register to track and monitor builders or developers who fail to meet Local Laws • Apply escalating penalties for businesses that repeatedly breach Local Laws	

#	Source	Submission	Themes
		E-bikes and e-scooters GCAG has concerns about the increasing use of e-mobility devices, particularly those used for food delivery and other commercial purposes, within recreational and environmentally sensitive areas such as Moonee Ponds Creek and local parks. These spaces are intended primarily for recreation, leisure, and community use, and commercial use can: • Reduce safety and enjoyment for pedestrians and cyclists • Contribute to path congestion • Impact the amenity and character of these areas GCAG recommends that Council: • Investigate options to restrict or prohibit commercial use of e-mobility devices in designated recreational and parkland areas • Install clear signage outlining permitted uses • Explore enforcement mechanisms Enforcement and Compliance A key gap in the current consultation is the lack of detail regarding enforcement and compliance. Local Laws are only effective if they are actively monitored and enforced. GCAG members have observed long-standing non-compliance across Glenroy. For example, during the Post Office Place pop-up consultation, a Council officer acknowledged that a retail display likely did not comply with Local Laws, yet similar displays have existed for years without enforcement. GCAG recommends that Council: • Commit to regular, proactive inspections of key activity areas (e.g. shopping strips) • Increase visibility of enforcement activity • Provide clear and accessible mechanisms for community reporting • Publish information on compliance outcomes and enforcement actions Without consistent enforcement, non-compliance becomes normalised and undermines the intent of Local Laws. Supporting Evidence GCAG has documented several of the issues outlined above. Images taken in Post Office Place, Glenroy, are provided as supporting evidence.	

#	Source	Submission	Themes
9	Email 3 May 2026	To Merri-bek City Council, I write in response to the Local Law Review 2026 consultation. While I support Council's intent to maintain safe and liveable streets, I have concerns about the scope and enforceability of several proposed changes. The proposed parking permits for caravans, boats and trailers on Council land raise practical concerns for residents with limited off-street storage — particularly in the northern suburbs where lot sizes and driveway access vary significantly. A blanket permit system risks penalising working families and tradespeople who rely on these vehicles for their livelihoods, without meaningfully addressing the underlying amenity issues. The proposed crackdowns on building site management, while understandable in intent, risk adding compliance burden to small builders and owner-builders already navigating a difficult approvals environment. I'd encourage Council to ensure any new requirements are proportionate and clearly communicated before enforcement commences. On the feeding of wild birds — the amendment already adopted feels heavy-handed for what is largely a neighbourly issue. Directing authorised officers to intervene in private behaviour on private property sets a concerning precedent for Council overreach into residents' daily lives. I urge Council to pursue education and community engagement as a first step before expanding enforcement powers across these areas. Regards,	Proportionality and education-first enforcement. Raises concerns about blanket permits for caravans, boats and trailers, compliance burden on small builders and perceived overreach on wild bird feeding; encourages education before stronger enforcement.

Community Q&As and In-person Engagement

Online Q&A sessions

Two online community Q&A sessions were held on 29 and 30 April 2026. The sessions provided an overview of the Local Law review, the proposed areas of change and the next steps in developing the draft Local Law. Questions raised by attendees were addressed during the sessions and reflected broader interest in the scope, timing and implementation of the review.

In-person engagement

Promoted in-person engagement provided opportunities for community members to ask questions, seek clarification and provide feedback about Local Law issues. Feedback was generally consistent with survey and written submission themes, including interest in enforcement, waste, animals, building site amenity, vehicle storage and public-space accessibility.

Next Steps

Feedback from Round 1 will inform development of the draft Local Law. Council will consider the engagement outcomes alongside legal advice, benchmarking, internal stakeholder feedback and operational requirements.

The draft Local Law is expected to be presented to Council before a second round of community engagement, public exhibition and submissions. Further feedback received during public exhibition will be considered before the final Local Law is considered for adoption and gazettal.

7.5 GOVERNANCE REPORT - OCTOBER 2026

Director Business Transformation, Sue Vujcevic

Governance and Strategy

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes the Records of Meetings, at Attachment 1 to this report.
2. Notes the responses to questions taken on notice during Public Question Time at the 9 September Council meeting, provided as Attachment 2 to this report.
3. Extends for a further 12 months the temporary increase in the Chief Executive Officer's delegated authority to approve cumulative contract variations from 5% to 15% of the approved contract sum, applying to contracts approved by the Chief Executive Officer under delegation and to contracts approved by Council.
4. In the exercise of the powers conferred by section 11 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the other legislation referred to in the attached Instrument of Delegation, delegates to the person holding the position, or acting in or performing the duties, of Chief Executive Officer the powers, duties and functions set out in the Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer, provided as Attachment 3 to this report, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument and determines:
    a) The instrument comes into force immediately when signed by the Chief Executive Officer and Mayor.
    b) On the coming into force of the instrument, the previous delegation to the Chief Executive Officer adopted on 15 April 2026 is revoked.
    c) The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instrument must be exercised, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.
5. Receives a report at its October 2027 Council meeting to review the Instrument of Delegation from Council to the Chief Executive Officer.
6. In the exercise of the powers conferred by section 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and section 313 of the *Local Government Act 2020*:
    a) Appoints and authorises Council staff referred to in the Instrument at Attachment 4 to this report, as set out in the instrument.
    b) Determines the instrument comes into force immediately, the common seal of Council is affixed to the instrument, remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it, and revokes the previous instrument executed on 24 August 2026.
    c) Authorises the affixing of Council's common seal.
7. Notes Cr Iwasaki's report on attendance at an approved activity, at the Victorian Greenhouse Alliance Conference.
8. Notes the summary of minutes from the Audit and Risk Committee held 1 September 2026 at Attachment 5 to this report.
9. Notes the Merri-bek City Council Audit and Risk Committee Performance Report 2025/26 at Attachment 6 to this report.
10. Notes the Merri-bek City Council Audit and Risk Committee Recommendations and Findings Report at Attachment 7 to this report.
11. Notes the Financial Management Report as at 31 August 2026 at Attachment 8 to this report.

REPORT

Executive Summary

The Governance report is prepared as a monthly standing report to Council which provides a reporting platform for a range of statutory compliance, transparency, and governance related matters.

This Governance report includes:

- Records of Meetings, with a recommendation that Council notes the records.
- Responses to Public Question Time taken on notice at the 9 September 2026 Council meeting, with a recommendation that Council notes the responses.
- A recommendation that Council retain, for a further 12 months, the 15% cumulative contract variation threshold applying to contracts approved by the Chief Executive Officer under delegation and to contracts approved by Council.
- A recommendation that Council appoints and authorises the Council officers referred to in the Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (*Planning and Environment Act 1987*).
- A report from Cr Iwasaki on attendance at an approved activity, at the Victorian Greenhouse Alliance Conference.
- The summary of minutes from the Audit and Risk Committee held 1 September 2026.
- The Merri-bek City Council Audit and Risk Committee Performance Report 2025/26.
- The Merri-bek City Council Audit and Risk Committee Recommendations and Findings Report.
- The Financial Management Report as at 31 August 2026.

Previous Council Decisions

Governance Report – April 2026 – Cyclical Report – 8 April 2026

That Council:

…

11. Receives a report at its October 2026 Council meeting to review the Instrument of Delegation from Council to the Chief Executive Officer.

Governance Report – August 2026 – Cyclical Report –12 August 2026

That Council:

…

4. In the exercise of the powers conferred by section 147(4) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and section 313 of the Local Government Act 2020:

a) Appoints and authorises Council staff referred to in the Instrument at Attachment 4 to this report, as set out in the instrument.

b) Determines the instrument comes into force immediately, the common seal of Council is affixed to the instrument, remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it, and revokes the previous instrument executed on 26 February 2026.

c) Authorises the affixing of Council's common seal.

1. Policy Context

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and the Governance Rules describe the requirements for keeping and reporting records of meetings held under the auspices of Council.

Section 11 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the other legislation referred to in Attachment 3 sets out the Power of Delegation and that a Council may by Instrument of Delegation delegate any power, duty, function under this Act or any other Act other than a power, duty or function specified.

Authorisation of planning officers under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* is done in accordance with said Act.

2. Background

The Governance Report is prepared as a monthly report to Council to provide a reporting platform for a range of statutory compliance, transparency, and governance related matters.

In accordance with best practice principles and good governance practice, and to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Act, this report incorporates matters including records of meetings held under the auspice of Council, items relating to the delegation of Council powers and duties, and policy and strategy reporting.

3. Issues

Records of Meetings held under the auspice of Council

Records of matters discussed at meetings organised or hosted by Merri-bek that involve Councillors and Council officers are kept in accordance with the Governance Rules.

Meeting Records must include meeting attendees, including organisations represented by external presenters; the title of matters discussed; and any conflicts of interests disclosed and whether the declarant of a conflict of interests recused themselves from the meeting.

Some examples include Councillor Briefings, meetings with residents/developers/ clients/organisations/Government departments/statutory authorities and consultations.

Records of Meetings received since the previous Council Meeting are presented at **Attachment 1** as follows:

- Audit and Risk Committee - 1 September 2026
- Councillor Briefing – 7 September 2026
- Councillor Briefing – 14 September 2026
- Planning Briefing – 21 September 2026
- Councillor Briefing – 28 September 2026
- Councillor Briefing – 5 October 2026.

Responses to Questions taken On Notice at Council meetings

At Council Meetings, questions are taken On Notice during Public Question Time, where persons submitting questions are not in attendance or where the maximum allowable time for public questions has elapsed.

Questions taken On Notice are provided with a written response following the meeting for which they are submitted and reported to Council at the next practicable meeting. The questions are recorded in the meeting minutes.

The responses to questions taken On Notice at **Attachment 2** to this report relate to questions from 9 September a Council meetings regarding:

- O'Hea Street, Coburg
- Disabled access study funding for Sydney Road.

Proposed amendment to the Instrument of Delegation from Council to the Chief Executive Officer

At its April 2026 meeting, Council temporarily increased the Chief Executive Officer's delegated authority to approve cumulative contract variations from 5% to 15% of the approved contract sum for six months.

For contracts approved by the Chief Executive Officer under financial delegation, the Chief Executive Officer may approve cumulative variations that increase the approved contract sum by up to 15%. The same 15% variation limit applies to contracts approved by Council, calculated against the contract sum resolved by Council.

The temporary increase was introduced as a contingency measure in response to market volatility, cost escalation and supply chain pressures. Officers recommend retaining the 15% threshold for a further 12 months to support timely contract administration and project delivery, subject to the conditions and controls in the Instrument of Delegation.

The S5 Instrument of Delegation from Council to the Chief Executive Officer is provided at **Attachment 3.**

Appointment and Authorisation to enforce the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*

The appointment of Authorised Officers facilitates the administration and enforcement of any Act, regulations or local laws which relate to the functions and powers of the Council. Authorisations are made to specific Council officers in accordance with their roles and responsibilities.

In accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, Authorised Officers can only be appointed by the Council as the Act prohibits delegation of the power to appoint Authorised Officers.

Council staff can only take action to enforce provisions of legislation where they have been properly and lawfully authorised. The authorisation proposed appoints the staff member as an Authorised Officer which will enable that Officer to take action and commence proceedings against people who have breached permit conditions or otherwise not complied with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* or regulations.

The Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation at **Attachment 4** is a routine, administrative update to ensure all Planning staff have a correct and up-to-date authorisation. Updates are reviewed internally each quarter to ensure staff are authorised. The most recent update was presented to Council at its August 2026 meeting. Since the last update, one additional officer has been added to the authorisation.

On the updated Instrument coming into force, the previous Instrument executed on 24 August 2026 will be revoked.

Cr Iwasaki's attendance at the Victorian Greenhouse Alliance Conference at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre on 28 August 2026

Cr Iwasaki attended the Victorian Greenhouse Alliance Conference (VGAC) in his capacity as a Councillor and the deputy chair of the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (comprised of council representatives from Merri-bek, Melbourne, Hume, Banyule, Darebin, Yarra, Whittlesea, Nillumbik, Manningham). The VGAC conference shares research, expertise, and experience from the approximately 70 councils and their associated regional alliances focusing on mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.

VGAC focuses on both mitigation and adaptation strategies, including:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency, renewable energy, and carbon offset projects. Enhancing community resilience to extreme weather and climate impacts, such as heatwaves, floods, and bushfires.

- Advocacy and capacity building for councils and communities to implement climate policies effectively.
- Knowledge sharing and collaboration across councils to replicate successful projects and scale regional impact.

Audit and Risk Committee minutes

A summary of the minutes from the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held 1 September 2026 is provided at **Attachment 5**.

Merri-bek City Council Audit and Risk Committee Performance Report 2025/26

The Audit and Risk Committee is required to report its performance annually to Council.

At the Audit and Risk Committee meeting on 1 September 2026, the Merri-bek City Council Audit and Risk Committee Performance Report 2025/26 was approved by the Committee for presentation to Council for endorsement.

The Merri-bek City Council Audit and Risk Committee Performance Report 2025/26 is shown at **Attachment 6**.

Audit and Risk Committee Recommendations and Findings Report

The Audit and Risk Committee is required to report its Recommendations and Findings report to Council twice a year.

The Audit and Risk Committee recommendations and findings report is shown at **Attachment 7**.

Financial Management Report as at 31 August 2026

This report presents the Financial Management Report for the financial year to date period ending 31 August 2026.

For the two months ended 31 August 2026 an operating surplus of $182.2 million was achieved, which is $3.8 million (2%) more than the year-to-date (YTD) budget of $178.4 million. Operating surplus funds do not convert to immediately available cash to Council. The accounting surplus includes items such as non-cash contributions, capital grants and is used to fund items such as loan repayments, the rates funded capital works program and transfers (savings) via reserves.

Council has spent $5.1 million on capital expenditure, which is tracking $3.2 million (39%) below the YTD budget of $8.3 million. After allowing for end of 2025-26 financial year carry forwards, a total program of $92.0 million is forecast, with $86.9 million remaining.

The financial statements are included as **Attachment 8**.

Climate emergency and environmental sustainability implications

Cr Iwasaki's attendance at the Victorian Greenhouse Alliance Conference supports Council's climate emergency and environmental sustainability objectives by promoting knowledge sharing and collaboration on emissions reduction, climate adaptation and community resilience.

Legal and risk considerations

The delegations and authorisations have been prepared in accordance with the applicable legislation. The conditions and limitations contained in the instruments provide controls over the exercise of the delegated powers.

Human Rights Consideration

The implications of this report have been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities, and this report does not contravene or limit any of the 20 fundamental human rights as set out in the Charter.

4. Community consultation and engagement

Affected persons rights and interests

This report and its recommended decision does not affect any person's rights.

5. Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Council officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interests in the matters listed.

6. Financial and Resources Implications

There are no financial implications associated with the preparation of this report.

7. Implementation

Governance activity, including Records of Meetings and Public Question Time items will continue to be reported to Council monthly.

Subject to Council's decision, the next steps include:

- If approved by Council, the Instrument of Delegation from Council to the Chief Executive Officer will be refreshed for signing by the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer and made available on Council's website. If not approved, the Instrument will be returned to the former percentage of 5%.
- Executing the Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation to enforce the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and updating the Register of Authorisations for publishing on Council's website.
- The Audit and Risk Committee Performance Report 2025/26 will be published on Council's website.

Attachment/s

1⇩	Records of Meetings - October 2026	D26/435406
2⇩	Responses to Questions Taken On Notice - Governance Report Attachment - October 2026	D26/449639
3⇩	S5 Instrument of Delegation from Council to CEO - October 2026	D26/179789
4⇩	S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation - PE Act - Planning Officers - October 2026	D26/420935
5⇩	Summary of Audit and Risk Committee Minutes - 1 September 2026	D26/413415
6⇩	Audit and Risk Committee Performance Report 2025-26	D26/409512
7⇩	Audit and Risk Committee Recommendations and Findings Biannual Report	D26/409494
8⇩	Financial Management Report - August 2026	D26/429728

Record of Meeting

Meeting: Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
Date: 1 September 2026
Meeting time: 6.10pm

This Record is kept in accordance with the Governance Rules adopted by Council.

Rule 9.1 provides that a record of the matters discussed at all **Hearing of Submission Meetings**, **Advisory Committee Meetings** and **Councillor Briefings** organised or hosted by Council will be kept.

The record will include the attendees at the meeting, including the organisations represented by external presenters, the title of matters discussed and any conflicts of interest disclosed and whether the person with the conflict of interest left the meeting.

Attendees	
Councillors	Cr Helen Politis
Apologies	Cr Liz Irvin Cr Katerine Theodosis
Council Staff (name and position)	Kate McCaughey, Chief Executive Officer Sue Vujcevic, Director Business Transformation Greg Rodwell, Director City Infrastructure Eamonn Fennessy, Director Community Pene Winslade, Director Place and Environment Jemma Wightman, Chief Financial Officer Robert Raiskums, Manager Information Technology Yvonne Callanan, Manager Governance and Strategy Bernie McMullen Program Director Transformation Sophie Barison, Unit Manager Governance and Risk Riley Morton, Unit Manager Financial Strategy
External participants	John Watson, Chairperson - Audit and Risk Committee Lisa Tripodi (independent member) - Audit and Risk Committee Jeff Rigby (independent member) - Audit and Risk Committee Marilyn Kearney (independent member) - Audit and Risk Committee Aster Advisory representatives RSD Audit representative

Items discussed		**Conflict disclosed by, general or material and the nature**	**Left meeting**
1	Declaration of interests and/or conflicts of interests	NIL	
2	CEO update	NIL	

This form is kept in accordance with the Information Privacy Principles and Merri-bek City Council's Privacy Policy and practices as stated on Merri-bek's website.

Items discussed		Conflict disclosed by, general or material and the nature	Left meeting
3	Confirmation of items asterixed for discussion	NIL	
4	Elevate Transformation Program Report	NIL	
5	Central Coburg Project	NIL	
6	External Audit Report	NIL	
7	Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement 2025-2026	NIL	
8	Finance Management Report	NIL	
9	Memorandum of Audit Planning and Audits Completed	NIL	
10	Committee Management and Work Plan Report	NIL	
11	Recent Reports and Publications	NIL	
12	Risk Management Report	NIL	

Name and title of Council officer completing record: Sophie Barison – Unit Manager Governance and Risk

This form is kept in accordance with the Information Privacy Principles and Merri-bek City Council's Privacy Policy and practices as stated on Merri-bek's website.

Record of Meeting

Meeting: Councillor Briefing
Date: 7 September 2026
Meeting time: 6.00pm – 8.00pm

This Record is kept in accordance with the Governance Rules adopted by Council.

Rule 9.1 provides that a record of the matters discussed at all **Hearing of Submission Meetings**, **Advisory Committee Meetings** and **Councillor Briefings** organised or hosted by Council will be kept.

The record will include the attendees at the meeting, including the organisations represented by external presenters, the title of matters discussed and any conflicts of interest disclosed and whether the person with the conflict of interest left the meeting.

Attendees		
Councillors	Cr Nat Abboud, Mayor	Cr Helen Davidson, Deputy Mayor
	Cr Sue Bolton	Cr Liz Irvin
	Cr Jay Iwasaki	Cr Adam Pulford
	Cr Helen Politis	Cr Katerine Theodosis
	Cr Ella Svensson	
Apologies	Cr Oscar Yildiz JP	Cr Chris Miles
Council Staff (name and position)	*Kate McCaughey, Chief Executive Officer* *Sue Vujcevic, Director Business Transformation* *Greg Rodwell, Director City Infrastructure* *Eamonn Fennessy, Director Community* *Pene Winslade, Director Place and Environment*	
External participants	Nil	

Items discussed		**Conflict disclosed by, general or material and the nature**	**Left meeting**
1	Council meeting agenda	-	-
2	Organisational updates	-	-

Name and title of Council officer completing record: *Sue Vujcevic, Director Business Transformation*

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Record of Meeting

Meeting: Councillor Briefing
Date: 14 September 2026
Meeting time: 6.00pm – 8.00pm

This Record is kept in accordance with the Governance Rules adopted by Council.

Rule 9.1 provides that a record of the matters discussed at all **Hearing of Submission Meetings**, **Advisory Committee Meetings** and **Councillor Briefings** organised or hosted by Council will be kept.

The record will include the attendees at the meeting, including the organisations represented by external presenters, the title of matters discussed and any conflicts of interest disclosed and whether the person with the conflict of interest left the meeting.

Attendees		
Councillors	Cr Nat Abboud, Mayor	Cr Helen Davidson, Deputy Mayor
	Cr Katerine Theodosis	Cr Liz Irvin
	Cr Jay Iwasaki	Cr Chris Miles
	Cr Helen Politis	Cr Adam Pulford
	Cr Ella Svensson	
Apologies	Cr Oscar Yildiz JP	Cr Sue Bolton
Council Staff (name and position)	*Kate McCaughey, Chief Executive Officer* *Sue Vujcevic, Director Business Transformation* *Greg Rodwell, Director City Infrastructure* *Eamonn Fennessy, Director Community* Bec Fitzgerald, Central Coburg Design & Delivery Lead Lachlan McGowan, Central Coburg Project Manager Jemma Wightman, Chief Financial Officer Yvonne Callanan, Manager Governance and Strategy	
External participants	Julie Reid, Local Government Experts	

Items discussed		**Conflict disclosed by, general or material and the nature**	**Left meeting**
1	Central Coburg roadmap	-	-
2	2026/27 Budget Development process - CONFIDENTIAL	-	-
3	Governance Briefing Series (VLGA Workshop Check-in, Professional Development Survey, Preparing for Mayoral Election	-	-

Name and title of Council officer completing record: *Sue Vujcevic, Director Business Transformation*

This form is kept in accordance with the Information Privacy Principles and Merri-bek City Council's Privacy Policy and practices as stated on Merri-bek's website.

Record of Meeting

Meeting: Planning Briefing
Date: 21 September 2026
Meeting time: 6.00pm

This Record is kept in accordance with the Governance Rules adopted by Council.

Rule 9.1 provides that a record of the matters discussed at all **Hearing of Submission Meetings**, **Advisory Committee Meetings** and **Councillor Briefings** organised or hosted by Council will be kept.

The record will include the attendees at the meeting, including the organisations represented by external presenters, the title of matters discussed and any conflicts of interest disclosed and whether the person with the conflict of interest left the meeting.

Attendees		
Councillors	Cr Nat Abboud, Mayor	Cr Ella Svensson
	Cr Jay Iwasaki	Cr Liz Irvin
	Cr Helen Politis	Cr Chris Miles
Apologies	Cr Sue Bolton	Cr Helen Davidson, Deputy Mayor
	Cr Adam Pulford	Cr Katerine Theodosis
Council Staff	Kate McCaughey, CEO Pene Winslade, Director Place and Environment Phil Priest, Group Manager City Development Vita Galante, Acting Unit Manager Urban Planning Ryan Hay, Planning Coordinator Esha Rahman, Planning Coordinator	
External participants	None	

Items discussed		**Conflict disclosed by, general or material and the nature**	**Left meeting**
1	MPS/2012/138/D – 74 Lygon Street, Brunswick East	-	-
2	MPS/2026/72 – 2 Dale Avenue, Pascoe Vale	-	-
3	MIN/2026/3 – 45 Pentridge Boulevard, Coburg	-	-
4	MIN/2026/5 – 11-17 and 19 Harding Street, Coburg	-	-

Name and title of Council officer completing record: Phil Priest, Group Manager City Development

This form is kept in accordance with the Information Privacy Principles and Merri-bek City Council's Privacy Policy and practices as stated on Merri-bek's website.

Record of Meeting

Meeting: Councillor Briefing
Date: 28 September 2026
Meeting time: 6.00pm – 8.00pm

This Record is kept in accordance with the Governance Rules adopted by Council.

Rule 9.1 provides that a record of the matters discussed at all **Hearing of Submission Meetings, Advisory Committee Meetings** and **Councillor Briefings** organised or hosted by Council will be kept.

The record will include the attendees at the meeting, including the organisations represented by external presenters, the title of matters discussed and any conflicts of interest disclosed and whether the person with the conflict of interest left the meeting.

Attendees		
Councillors	Cr Nat Abboud, Mayor	Cr Helen Davidson, Deputy Mayor
	Cr Jay Iwasaki	Cr Chris Miles
	Cr Helen Politis	Cr Adam Pulford
	Cr Ella Svensson	Cr Liz Irvin
Apologies	Cr Oscar Yildiz JP	Cr Sue Bolton
	Cr Katerine Theodosis	
Council Staff	Kate McCaughey, Chief Executive Officer Sue Vujcevic, Director Business Transformation Greg Rodwell, Director City Infrastructure Eamonn Fennessy, Director Community Kim Critchley, Unit Manager Aquatic and Leisure Services Alayna Chapman, Unit Manager Strategic Planning Caden McCarthy, Manager City Design and Economy Danielle Pepyat, Manager Amenity and Compliance	
External participants	External attendees – Belgravia Staff: Chief Executive Officer, General Manager, Business Operations Manager, Area Manager	

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Items discussed		Conflict disclosed by, general or material and the nature	Left meeting
1	Belgravia Leisure - Aquatics and Leisure Strategic plan and preparations for the summer season	-	-
2	Planning Scheme Review 2026 – Final Draft for adoption	-	-
3	Contract extension for wat djeering Animal Facility Services	-	-
4	Draft Local Law	-	-
5	CEO/Organisational Update	-	-

Name and title of Council officer completing record: *Sue Vujcevic, Director Business Transformation*

This form is kept in accordance with the Information Privacy Principles and Merri-bek City Council's Privacy Policy and practices as stated on Merri-bek's website.

Record of Meeting

Meeting: Councillor Briefing
Date: 5 October 2026
Meeting time: 6.00pm – 8.00pm

This Record is kept in accordance with the Governance Rules adopted by Council.

Rule 9.1 provides that a record of the matters discussed at all **Hearing of Submission Meetings**, **Advisory Committee Meetings** and **Councillor Briefings** organised or hosted by Council will be kept.

The record will include the attendees at the meeting, including the organisations represented by external presenters, the title of matters discussed and any conflicts of interest disclosed and whether the person with the conflict of interest left the meeting.

Attendees		
Councillors	Cr Nat Abboud, Mayor	Cr Helen Davidson, Deputy Mayor
	Cr Oscar Yildiz JP	Cr Liz Irvin
	Cr Jay Iwasaki	Cr Chris Miles
	Cr Helen Politis	Cr Ella Svensson
Apologies	Cr Katerine Theodosis	Cr Sue Bolton
	Cr Adam Pulford	
Council Staff (name and position)	*Kate McCaughey, Chief Executive Officer* *Sue Vujcevic, Director Business Transformation* *Greg Rodwell, Director City Infrastructure* *Eamonn Fennessy, Director Community* Yvonne Callanan, Manager Governance and Strategy Pene Winslade, Director Planning and Environment	
External participants	Nil	

Items discussed		**Conflict disclosed by, general or material and the nature**	**Left meeting**
1	S5 Instrument of Delegation to CEO	-	-
2	Mandatory Councillor Training: Gender Equity Training for Councillors	-	-
3	CEO/Organisational Update	-	-

Name and title of Council officer completing record: *Sue Vujcevic, Director Business Transformation*

This form is kept in accordance with the Information Privacy Principles and Merri-bek City Council's Privacy Policy and practices as stated on Merri-bek's website.

Merri-bek Civic Centre
Woi-wurrung Country
90 Bell Street, Coburg 3058
T: (03) 9240 1111

Postal Address
Woi-wurrung Country
Locked Bag 10, Brunswick 3056

merri-bek.vic.gov.au

Merri-bek City Council

XRef: D26/415682
Doc. No. D26/413093
Enq: Pene Winslade
Tel: 9240 1111

[redacted]

Dear Romeo

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME RESPONSE FROM THE SEPTEMBER 2026 COUNCIL MEETING

I write to you in response to your questions asked at the 9 September Council meeting, as follows:

Question 1:

Disabled access study funding for Sydney Road

The $200,000 allocated in the current Council budget over two years for (study) relating to disabled access for wheelchair and three-wheel e/scooters on to public transport such as trams running along Sydney Road. Is Council aware that trams can be retrofitted with ramps?

Question 2:

O'hea's Road, Coburg - road pits

Is Council aware the newly built road pits on O'hea's Road, Coburg are filled with water?

Thank you for your interest in community engagement and public participation. The answer to your question is set out below:

Answer to Question 1:

Council allocated $200,000 over two financial years to develop the Sydney Road Transformation Project. This project will identify opportunities, constraints and priorities for enabling streetscape changes and upgrades to transform Sydney Road. It will identify what policy, planning or design changes would enable streetscape improvements like greening, outdoor dining, loading/parking areas, bike infrastructure, footpath improvements, lighting and other amenity improvements. This will include identifying the type and priority locations of accessible tram stops that would be most appropriate for Sydney Road and would support better streetscape vibrancy and activation.

Council is aware that some low floor trams in Melbourne include accessibility ramps that can be put in place by the tram driver. We note that these ramps are not available on most trams and are primarily used in emergency situations.

Speak with us in your language For more information visit **merri-bek.vic.gov.au/your-language**

Per maggiori informazioni nella tua lingua, chiama il numero **9280 1911**

اپنی زبان میں مزید جاننے کے لیے، **9280 1917** پر کال کریں۔

如需了解更多您语言版本的信息，请致电 **9280 0750**

अपनी भाषा में अधिक जानने के लिए, **9280 1918** पर कॉल करें

Για να μάθετε περισσότερα στη γλώσσα σας, καλέστε το **9280 1912**

तपाईको भाषामा थप जान्नको लागि, **9280 1910** मा कल गर्नुहोस्

Para saber más en tu idioma llama al **9280 1916**

To speak with us in a language not listed here, please call **9280 1919**

لمعرفة المزيد بلغتك، اتصل بالرقم **9280 1913**

Kendi dilinizde daha fazla bilgi edinmek için **9280 1914**'ü arayın

Để tìm hiểu thêm bằng ngôn ngữ của bạn, hãy gọi **9280 1915**

Answer to Question 2:

Council is investigating two pits in garden beds on O'Hea Street that are holding water. We are looking at a few options to rectify the pits so as they do not hold water.

I trust this answers your questions, however, if you require any further information, please don't hesitate to contact myself on 9240 1111.

Yours sincerely

Pene Winslade
DIRECTOR PLACE AND ENVIRONMENT

07 / 10 / 2026

S5 Instrument of Delegation to Chief Executive Officer

Merri-bek City Council

Instrument of Delegation

to

The Chief Executive Officer

Instrument of Delegation

In exercise of the power conferred by s 11(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (**the Act**) and all other powers enabling it, the Merri-bek City Council (**Council**) delegates to the member of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the position of Chief Executive Officer, the powers, duties and functions set out in the Schedule to this Instrument of Delegation,

AND declares that

1. this Instrument of Delegation is authorised by a Resolution of Council passed on 14 October 2026;

2. the delegation

   2.1 comes into force immediately when signed by the Chief Executive Officer and Mayor;

   2.2 is subject to any conditions and limitations set out in the Schedule;

   2.3 must be exercised in accordance with any guidelines or policies which Council from time to time adopts; and

   2.4 remains in force until Council resolves to vary or revoke it.

Signed by Kate McCaughey, Chief Executive Officer of Merri-bek City Council:)
)
)

In the presence of:

.....
Witness

Date:

Signed by Cr Nat Abboud, Mayor of Merri-bek City Council:)
)
)

In the presence of:

.....
Witness

Date:

SCHEDULE

The power to

1. determine any issue;

2. take any action; or

3. do any act or thing

arising out of or connected with any duty imposed, or function or power conferred on Council by or under any Act.

Conditions and Limitations

The delegate must not determine the issue, take the action or do the act or thing

1. if the issue, action, act or thing is an issue, action, act or thing which involves

   1.1 entering into a contract exceeding the value of $800,000 (excluding GST) except if it is a contract for the supply of insurance;

   1.2 varying a contract, either in one instance or in aggregate, that was awarded:

      a) where the variation exceeds a total contract sum of 15% above $800,000 (excluding GST) delegation limit; or

      b) where the value of the variation exceeds 15% of the total contract sum approved by Council;

   1.3 appointing an Acting Chief Executive Officer for a period exceeding 28 days;

   1.4 electing a Mayor or Deputy Mayor;

   1.5 granting a reasonable request for leave under s 35 of the Act;

   1.6 making any decision in relation to the employment, dismissal or removal of the Chief Executive Officer;

   1.7 approving or amending the Council Plan;

   1.8 adopting or amending any policy that Council is required to adopt under the Act;

   1.9 adopting or amending the Governance Rules;

   1.10 appointing the chair or the members to a delegated committee;

   1.11 appointing councillor or community delegates or representatives to external organisations;

1.12 making, amending or revoking a local law;

1.13 approving the Budget or Revised Budget;

1.14 the return of the general valuation and any supplementary valuations;

1.15 approving the borrowing of money;

1.16 adoption of the Auditor's report and Annual Financial Statements, Standard Statements and Performance Statement under Part 4 of the Act;

1.17 subject to section 181H(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, declaring general rates, municipal charges, service rates and charges and specified rates and charges;

2. if the issue, action, act or thing is an issue, action, act or thing which is required by law to be done by Council resolution;

3. if the issue, action, act or thing is an issue, action or thing which Council has previously designated as an issue, action, act or thing which must be the subject of a Resolution of Council;

4. if the determining of the issue, taking of the action or doing of the act or thing would or would be likely to involve a decision which is inconsistent with a:

   4.1 policy; or

   4.2 strategy

   adopted by Council;

5. if the determining of the issue, the taking of the action or the doing of the act or thing cannot be the subject of a lawful delegation, whether on account of s 11(2)(a)-(n) (inclusive) of the Act or otherwise; or

6. the determining of the issue, the taking of the action or the doing of the act or thing is already the subject of an exclusive delegation to another member of Council staff.

Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation

(*Planning and Environment Act 1987* only)

Planning Officers – October 2026

Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation

In this instrument 'officer' means

- Aileen Chin
- Alex Osborne
- Anna Fraser
- Anthea Whitehead
- Antoinette Boxall
- Ariadne Hasiotis
- Caleb Cootes
- Dee Erdogan
- Denise Turner
- Devlin Morton
- Diahnn McIntosh
- Edward (Ned) Dumaresq
- Ekta Shah
- Emily Williams
- Esha Rahman
- Evan Strouss
- Gina Settle
- Graeme Linsell
- Houston Watt
- Jessica Henwood-White
- Jessica Weymouth
- Karmen Wheeler
- Kosta Vassilacopoulos
- Lachlan McGowan
- Lawson Peters
- Leanne Stockley
- Lucas Wearne
- Maddy Butler
- Mark Hughes
- Michelle Rowe
- Niall O'Brien
- Phi Tran
- Phil Priest
- Rachel Clarke
- Renee Wilson
- Robert Wallis
- Ryan Hay
- Stefanie Daniliuk
- Vicki Lu
- Vita Galante
- Wyatt Griffiths

S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (Planning and Environment Act 1987)

By this instrument of appointment and authorisation Merri-bek City Council –

1. under section 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* authorises the officers to carry out the duties or functions and to exercise the powers of an authorised officer under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*; and
2. under section 313 of the *Local Government Act 2020* authorises the officer generally to institute proceedings for offences against the Acts and regulations described in this instrument.

It is declared that this instrument –

- comes into force immediately upon its execution;
- remains in force until varied or revoked.

This instrument is authorised by a resolution of the Merri-bek City Council on 14 October 2026.

The COMMON SEAL of)
MERRI-BEK CITY COUNCIL)
was affixed on ____ October 2026)
with the authority of the Council:)

.....

Chief Executive Officer, Kate McCaughey

.....

Mayor, Councillor Nat Abboud

Committee:	Audit and Risk Committee (Established in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020)*
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 1 September 2026
Representatives:	Councillor members - Cr Liz Irvin (apology), Cr Helen Politis, and Cr Katerine Theodosis (apology) Independent members - John Watson (Chair), Marilyn Kearney, Lisa Tripodi and Jeff Rigby

The Audit and Risk Committee is chaired by Independent Chair, John Watson. The following business was conducted:

1. No conflicts of interest were declared.
2. The CEO advised the Committee that no issues relating to any impending legal action or known legislation breaches or instances of fraud were noted.
3. The internal and external auditors reported that there had been no obstructions to the work of internal or external audit.
4. It was confirmed that the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 2 June 2026 had been confirmed out of session**.**

ELEVATE TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM REPORT

That the Audit and Risk Committee:

1. RECEIVED and NOTED the status of the Elevate Transformation Program.

Finding:

The Elevate Transformation Program is currently in the solution design stage of Phase 1.

CENTRAL COBURG PROJECT

That the Audit and Risk Committee:

1. DISCUSSED and NOTED the status of the Central Coburg Program

Finding:

The Central Coburg Program is at a transition point from Investigate and Define at a program level to scoping projects.

EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

That the Audit and Risk Committee:

1. NOTED the July 2026 VAGO Status Report 1.

2. NOTED the responses to the business improvement opportunities in the interim management letter.

Findings:

1. Management has reviewed the July 2026 VAGO Status Report.

2. Management has provided responses to the five business improvement opportunities identified in the interim management letter.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENT 2025-2026

That the Audit and Risk Committee:

In performing its duties and responsibilities of oversight of the external audit function as set down in its Charter and required under statute, the Audit and Risk Committee ("the Committee"):

1. Informed Council that the Committee has received and considered:

   a) The Annual Financial Report (comprising audited Financial Statements) and the audited Performance Statement for the financial year ending 30 June 2026 ('Audited Statements');

   b) The External Auditor's Closing Report and Final Management Representation Letter relating to the audit process for the Audited Statements; and

   c) The Governance and Management Checklist completed by management that accompanies the final form of the Audited Statements in Council's 2025-26 Annual Report;

2. Assures Council that the Committee has raised and discussed with the External Auditor and management all matters it has identified as part of such consideration and is satisfied with clarifications and advice it has received from the External Auditor and management.

3. Is satisfied with its enquiries that there are no incomplete or unresolved matters of a material nature pertaining to the audit that prevents the Committee from providing the following recommendations to Council.

4. Based on the Committee's considerations and enquiries, recommends that Council pass a resolution:

   a) Giving its approval in principle to the Audited Statements;

   b) Authorising the Chief Executive Officer to submit the approved-in-principle Audited Statements to the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) for reporting on the audit;

   c) If any subsequent changes recommended or agreed by VAGO are to be made to the approved-in-principle Audited Statements, authorising Council's Principal Accounting Officer:

      i) To make any changes that are of a non-material nature; and

      ii) To make any changes that are of a material nature after first consulting with the Committee's Chairperson;

   d) Requiring that Council's Principal Accounting Officer prepare a summary of any changes made to the approved-in-principle Audited Statements to enable them to be presented in their final form and provide this summary to both Council and the Committee for their noting; and

   e) Authorise the certification (signing) of the final form of the Audited Statements by the Mayor, another Councillor and the Chief Executive Officer.

5. The Committee expresses its thanks to the External Auditor and the Council staff involved in working with the External Auditor, and acknowledges the efforts involved to bring the external audit process for the financial year ending 30 June 2026 to a satisfactory conclusion and for the high standard of presentation.

Finding:

Council is monitoring and managing its financial position and key controls.

FINANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

That the Audit and Risk Committee:

1. **DISCUSSED** the progress against the 3-year Financial Management Improvement Plan (which has been extended until June 2027).
2. **NOTED** the monitoring and update on Council's controls for unusual transactions above acceptable risk.
3. **NOTED** the management disclosures in financial reports of the effect of significant compliance issues.
4. **NOTED** Council's handling of accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters or other matters likely to affect the Council or its compliance with relevant legislation and regulations.
5. **NOTED** the VAGO/RSD audit fees associated with the financial audit.

Finding:

Council is monitoring and managing its financial position and key controls.

MEMORANDUM OF AUDIT PLANNING AND AUDITS COMPLETED

That the Audit and Risk Committee:

1. **DISCUSSED, ACCEPTED and APPROVED** the following Memorandums of Audit Planning for forthcoming audits:
    - Business Continuity Planning and IT Disaster Recovery
    - Security over Keys.
2. **DISCUSSED, RECEIVED and ENDORSED** the findings, recommendations, and management comments for the Community Grants (outgoing), including the Home Energy Subsidy Program internal audit.
3. **NOTED** the progress made to date on the 2026 -27 Strategic Internal Audit Plan.

Findings:

1. The Community Grants (outgoing), including the Home Energy Subsidy Program audit identified nine findings and management comments have been provided against nine recommendations.

2. Progress has been made in delivering the Internal Audit Plan for 2026/27.

COMMITTEE MANAGEMENT AND WORK PLAN REPORT

That the Audit and Risk Committee:

1. **NOTED** the schedule to review the Business Transformation policies overdue for review.
2. **APPROVED** the 2025/26 annual Audit and Risk Committee Performance (self assessment) Report for the CEO to table at the next Council meeting.
3. **NOTED** the report on Councillor Expenses.
4. **NOTED** the Report on Interstate and Overseas Travel.
5. **NOTED** the CEO credit card transactions.
6. **NOTED** the report on Council's commercial interest.
7. **ADOPTED** the Audit and Risk committee meeting dates for 2027.
8. **APPROVED** the biannual Audit and Risk report for the CEO to table at the next Council meeting.

Findings:

1. Management has a plan in place to review overdue policies managed by the Business Transformation Directorate.

2. The assessment of the Audit and Risk Committee's performance in 2025/26 was positive.

3. Councillor expenses have been recorded in accordance with policy.

4. The Interstate and Overseas Travel register is current and contains a record of travel by Councillors and Officers.

5. There were no CEO corporate credit card transactions to review.

6. Council holds a commercial interest with one organisation.

7. The Audit and Risk Committee meeting dates for 2027 have been selected.

8. The Audit and Risk Report is endorsed and recommended for reporting to Council.

RECENT REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

That the Audit and Risk Committee:

1. **NOTED** the recent reports and publications included in the Curious Eyes publication, together with management comments.

Finding

Management has reviewed recent reports and publications on management controls, integrity, and continuous improvement.

RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT

That the Audit and Risk Committee:

1. **NOTED** the recent activities detailed in the Information Technology update.
2. **NOTED** Council's management of complaints.
3. **DISCUSSED** the breakdown of a key control.
4. **NOTED** the fraud risk report.
5. **NOTED** the report on the adequacy of processes to manage Council's insurable risks.
6. **NOTED** the quarterly update on Council's strategic risks.
7. **NOTED** the significant open public liability claims.
8. **DISCUSSED** the update regarding Council's response to the emerging risk of fuel shortages.
9. **DISCUSSED** Council's response to the risk of serious injury posed by dual-use sportsgrounds.

Findings:

1. The Committee is provided with an update outlining recent Information Technology activities.

2. Council continues to manage complaints efficiently.

3. A breakdown of a key control has occurred since the June committee meeting.

4. The Fraud Risk Report indicates that Council's fraud prevention and detection activities are effective.

5. The committee is provided with a report on the adequacy of processes to manage Council's insurable risks.

6. The risk rating of Council's strategic risks remains unchanged.

7. There are 8 open public liability claims that may exceed Council's excess.

8. Council's response to the emerging risk of fuel shortages remains effective and is supported by active monitoring and contingency planning.

9. Council has reviewed its response to the risk of serious injury posed by dual-use sportsgrounds.

Forthcoming Meetings: 24/11/2026

Merri-bek City Council
Audit and Risk Committee
Performance Report 2025 – 2026

Merri-bek City Council

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1. Introduction

The Merri-bek City Council Audit and Risk Committee (the Committee) has continued to undertake its role in providing independent advice to Council and management throughout the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 as detailed in this report.

Pursuant to Section 53(2) of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act), the Committee does not have any delegated powers, including executive powers, management functions, or delegated financial responsibility. The Committee's role is to advise Council on how to best fulfil its responsibilities and facilitate decision making by providing a forum for improving communication between the Committee members and senior management, finance, risk and compliance managers, internal and external auditors.

The Committee assists Council with discharging its responsibilities under the Act including:

- Monitoring the compliance of Council policies and procedures with:
  - the overarching governance principles
  - the Act and the regulations and any Ministerial directions; and
  - other relevant laws and regulations
- Monitoring internal controls
- Monitoring Council financial and performance reporting
- Monitoring and providing advice on risk management and fraud prevention systems and controls
- Overseeing the internal audit function
- Overseeing external audit functions, and
- Monitoring related party transactions.

To fulfil its role, some of the key activities undertaken by the Committee during this period were to:

- Review the draft Financial Statements and recommend their approval in principle to Council
- Review the Annual Performance Statement and recommend its approval in principle n to Council
- Monitor compliance obligations and challenge the existence and effectiveness of accounting and financial systems and other systems of internal control and business risk management
- Review the audit plans, results, and effectiveness of the organisation through the Internal Audit Program.

Overall, through its work, the Committee's aim is to add to the credibility of Council by promoting ethical standards. Under the guidance of the Committee Chair, Mr John Watson, strategic and operational risk issues were considered and mitigated.

In fulfilling its responsibilities, the Committee has provided input and advice in relation to the Internal Audits completed by contracted Internal Auditors, Crowe Australasia (Crowe) for Council during the reporting period.

During the year, Crowe made an annual declaration of independence to the Committee, declaring that they had maintained and would continue to maintain their independence.

2. Audit and Risk Committee membership

The Committee comprises seven people appointed by Council, with three members being Councillors and four members being independent of Council.

During the reporting period, Councillor membership changed following new appointments. The membership listed below reflects all Councillors who served on the Committee during the year, while the Committee's composition at any one time remained consistent with the Charter.

2.1 Council representatives

Councillor Helen Davidson (December 2024 to December 2025)

Councillor Ella Svensson (December 2024 to December 2025)

Councillor Helen Politis (appointed December 2024 – current)

Councillor Liz Irvin (appointed December 2025 – current)

Councillor Katerine Theodosis (appointed February 2026 – current)

2.2 Independent members

Mr John Watson (Chairperson)

Ms Lisa Tripodi

Mr Jeff Rigby

Ms Marilyn Kearney

3. Meetings and attendance

A total of four meetings were held during the reporting period. Committee members maintained good attendance throughout the year as shown in Table 1.

The four meetings were held on:

- 2 September 2025
- 18 November 2025
- 3 March 2026
- 2 June 2026

Table 1 – Membership, meeting dates and attendance

Member	Role	02/09/25	18/11/25	3/03/26	2/06/26
John Watson	Independent Chairperson	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lisa Tripodi	Independent Member	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jeff Rigby	Independent Member	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marilyn Kearney	Independent Member	✓	✓	✓	×
Cr Helen Davidson	Council Member	✓	✓	O	O
Cr Helen Politis	Council Member	✓	✓	✓	O
Cr Ella Svensson	Council Member	✓	✓	O	O
Cr Liz Irvin	Council Member	O	O	✓	✓
Cr Katerine Theodosis	Council Member	O	O	×	×

Key

✓ = In attendance × = Apology O = not required / not a committee member on meeting date.

Senior management representatives from Council also attended each Committee meeting including the Chief Executive Officer (or Acting), Director Business Transformation, Director Place and Environment, Director Community, Director City Infrastructure, Chief Financial Officer and Manager Governance and Strategy. In addition, other Managers attended when branch-related items were on the agenda. A summary of attendance by regular attendees is shown in table 2.

Table 2 – Regular Attendees, meeting dates and attendance

Regular Attendee	Role	2/09/25	18/11/25	3/03/26	2/06/26
Cathy Henderson	Chief Executive Officer (until 24/10/25)	✓	O	O	O
Sue Vujcevic	Director Business Transformation	✓	✓	A	A
Eamonn Fennessy	Director Community	✓	A	✓	✓
Pene Winslade	Director Place and Environment	✓	✓	✓	✓
Anita Curnow	Director City Infrastructure	✓	✓	✓	O
Greg Rodwell	Acting Director City Infrastructure	O	✓	✓	✓
Jemma Wightman	Chief Financial Officer	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yvonne Callanan	Manager Governance and Strategy	×	✓	✓	✓
Anthony Smith	Acting Manager Governance and Strategy	✓	O	O	O
Robert Raiskums	Manager Information Technology	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brian Harris	Manager People and Safety	O	✓	O	O
Stefan Grun	Manager Customer Communications and Engagement	O	O	✓	O
Victoria Hart	Manager Sustainability and Climate	✓	O	O	O
Bernie McMullen	Program Director Transformation	✓	✓	✓	✓

Peter Sagar	Program Director Central Coburg	O	O	O	✓
Sophie Barison	Unit Manager Governance and Risk	✓	✓	✓	✓
Josh Porker	Principal, RSD Audit (auditor for VAGO)	✓	O	✓	O
Tyson Holt	Engagement Leader, RSD Audit	O	O	O	✓
Cranos Mayo	Audit Manager RSD Audit	✓	O	×	O
Andrew Zavitsanos	Partner, Crowe	✓	✓	✓	✓
Asif Saeed	Manager, Crowe	✓	O	O	O

Key

✓ = In attendance × = Apology A = attended as Acting CEO

O = not required / no longer a committee member on meeting date/had not yet commenced working with Council.

Representatives for the Victorian Auditor General's Office (External Auditors), RSD Audit, attended most meetings. Representatives from Crowe, the internal audit contractor for the period, attended all four meetings.

4. Conflicts of Interest

No real, perceived, or potential conflicts of interest were declared by independent members in 2025-26.

5. Internal Audit

5.1 Internal audit contract

A key responsibility of the Committee is to monitor Council's internal audit program. The internal audit function of Council is supported by the engagement of independent internal audit professionals to provide analysis and recommendations aimed at improving Council's governance, risk, and management controls. Representatives from Crowe attended each Committee meeting and presented the audit results for each audit undertaken, responded to questions, and provided and welcomed advice from the Committee.

5.2 Internal Audit Plan 2025–26

The Annual Strategic Internal Audit Plan for 2025–26 was presented to the Committee and adopted in March 2025. The eight audits scheduled for 2025-26 were:

- Cyber
- Climate Change
- Library Services
- Occupational Health and Safety - Depot employees
- Customer Service and Complaints Handling
- Strategic Planning Governance
- Asset Management (Infrastructure)
- Project Management - Elevate Transformation Program.

The timetable for the eight internal audits is below.

Table 3 – 2025–26 Internal Audit Timetable

No	Internal audit project	Hours	Jul. 25	Aug. 25	Sept. 25	Oct. 25	Nov. 25	Dec. 25	Jan. 26	Feb. 26	Mar. 26	Apr. 26	May 26	Jun. 26
	Annual Internal Audit Program													
1	Cyber	120	■	■	▲									
2	Climate Change	120	■	■	▲									
3	OHS – Employees	120		■	■		▲							
4	Library Services	120		■	■		▲							
5	Customer Service and Complains Handling	120					■	■			▲			
6	Strategic Planning Governance	120					■	■			▲			
7	Asset Management (Infrastructure)	120								■	■			▲
8	Project Management – Digital transformation	120									■	■		▲
	Total Hours	**1,000**												

Key

■ Audit field work and report writing

▲ Denotes Audit Committee Meeting to which the Internal Audit Report will be presented.

Final internal audit reports were discussed, received and approved by the Committee at each meeting. The status of internal and external audit recommendations was also reported to the Committee at each meeting, with explanations provided for any off-track audit actions and for any requested extensions.

5.3 Internal Audit Reports Reviewed

At the conclusion of each audit, Crowe issues an audit report. The report contains an unbiased assessment of the effectiveness of Council's processes, and includes an overall audit rating, audit findings, and a list of recommendations to strengthen controls.

A total of eight internal audit reports were presented to the Audit and Risk Committee during 2025-26 as per the internal audit timetable shown at table 3 above.

Table 4 – 2025–26 Internal Audits Summary of Findings

Audit Title Date Presented to Committee	Summary of Findings
Cyber Security 2 September 2025	The auditor identified opportunities to strengthen the current controls. The findings relate to the following areas: - Patch Applications - Patch Operating Systems - Multi-factor Authentication - Restrict Administrative Privileges - Application Control - Restrict Microsoft Office Macros - User Application Hardening - Regular backups - Lack of Formal Guidelines for Ransomware Payment Decision Making and Reporting.
Climate Change 2 September 2025	The auditor identified opportunities to strengthen the current controls. The findings relate to the following areas: - Risk Management - Operating Framework - Financial Risks - Asset Management - Capital Works Planning.
Library Services 18 November 2025	The auditor identified opportunities to strengthen the current controls. The findings relate to the following areas: - Operating framework - Inventory Management - Overdue, Missing and Lost Stock Items - Management reporting - Access controls - Management of internet use.
Occupational Health and Safety - Depot employees 18 November 2025	The auditor identified opportunities to strengthen the current controls. The findings relate to the following areas: - Document Control - OHS System Monitoring - Hadfield Operations Centre Yard - Gillon Oval Storage Shed - Improvement Opportunities.
Customer Service and Complaints Handling 3 March 2026	The auditor identified opportunities to strengthen the current controls. The findings relate to the following areas: - Customer Experience Strategy - Customer Service and Complaints Management Framework - Pathway CRM System Limitations - Training and Knowledge Management - Customer Requests and Complaints Monitoring - Management of Difficult Customers and Serial Complainers.

Audit Title Date Presented to Committee	Summary of Findings
Strategic Planning Governance 3 March 2026	The auditor identified opportunities to strengthen the current controls. The findings relate to the following areas: - Governance Framework - Policies and Procedures - Council Reports on Planning Matters - Procurement Governance.
Asset Management (Infrastructure) 2 June 2026	The auditor identified opportunities to strengthen the current controls. The findings relate to the following areas: - Oversight Committee - Strategy and Policy Framework alignment - NAMAF – Self Assessment - Asset Management Plans - Asset Handover Process.
Project Management - Elevate Transformation Program 2 June 2026	The auditor identified opportunities to strengthen the current controls. The findings relate to the following areas: - Governance Framework - Change Management - Risk Assessment - Communication and Engagement plans - Budget monitoring throughout the project - Contract variation approval process - Benefits Realisation

5.4 Implementation of Audit Recommendations

The Committee continued to encourage management to implement internal audit recommendations in a timely manner to ensure that better practices and controls in Council's services and functions are achieved.

To monitor progress of audit actions, an Audit Actions Progress report is provided to the Committee at each meeting. The report outlines the number of open, closed, and off-track actions. In most cases Council was able to implement audit actions in a timely manner. Any exceptions were highlighted and explained to the committee through the Audit Actions progress report.

6. External Audit

In August 2021 the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) appointed RSD Audit as Council's external auditor.

Josh Porker was the Principal at RSD Audit for the Audit and Risk Committee meetings held in September 2025, November 2025 and March 2026. For the June 2026 meeting, the role was undertaken by Tyson Holt.

RSD Audit's primary focus is on key financial reporting risks. This requires a thorough understanding of Council's financial reporting processes and a combination of internal control testing and substantive audit procedures to assess the residual risk of material error.

The VAGO Closing Report 30 June 2025 and Final Management Letter 2024/25 was presented to the Committee at its meeting of 2 September 2025.

7. Oversight of annual financial reports

The Audit and Risk Committee considered the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2025 at the meeting held 2 September 2025. This work was undertaken by the Committee in a timely manner so that final clearance of all financial statements was received within the deadline imposed under the Local Government Act.

8. Duties and responsibilities

8.1 Assessment of Performance

The Audit and Risk Committee operates in accordance with its Charter and is guided by an annual Work Plan.

The Committee is required to undertake an annual assessment of its performance against the Charter and incorporate this into the Annual Committee Performance Report in accordance with the Charter and section 54(4a) of the Local Government Act 2020.

The Work Plan closely aligns to the Charter, to ensure visibility that Charter requirements have been fulfilled as shown at *Appendix 1*.

The Committee dealt with most matters as scheduled in the Work Plan for the reporting period with the exception of the following:

- Committee members will complete Personal Interest Returns:

  Personal interest forms were completed and presented to the Audit and Risk Committee in June 2026 instead of March 2026.

- Seek assurance that the Disaster Recovery Plan is in place, current and active:

  Because the test did not occur until September 2025, the plan was delayed and presented at the November 2025 meeting

- An item from the 2025–26 Work Plan, as approved at the June 2025 meeting, was omitted from the published plan due to an administrative oversight. The omitted item was: "*Prepare an Audit and Risk Report (describing activities and including findings and recommendations) and provide to the CEO for reporting to Council.*"

  This requirement was fulfilled within the Recommendations and Findings Biannual Report presented to the Committee at the 2 September 2025 and 3 March 2026 meetings as attachments to the Committee Management and Work Plan report, consistent with the Audit and Risk Committee Charter.

8.2 Review of Audit and Risk Committee Charter

The Audit and Risk Committee Charter was reviewed in September 2025.

8.3 Audit and Risk Committee Performance Evaluation

In July 2026, the Audit and Risk Committee Performance Evaluation survey was sent to committee members and regular attendees. Conducted every two years, the survey evaluated the Committee's work during the 2025–26 financial year. This was the sixth survey undertaken since 2018 to monitor performance, identify opportunities for improvement and seek feedback from Committee members and regular attendees.

The Audit and Risk Committee Performance Evaluation was completed by seven participants: four independent Committee members and three officers. The evaluation was designed to obtain

feedback through participants rating 21 statements across the following three topics:

- Committee functions and responsibilities
- Committee skills and understanding
- Committee meeting administration.

Examples of the 21 statements are:

- The Committee has received information, presentations, or explanations it considers necessary to fulfil its responsibilities
- The Committee Work Plan is prepared in a timely manner and is structured to address all key areas in the Charter.
- The Committee's overall financial literacy is adequate given its responsibilities as per the Charter.

All 21 statements were rated 'strongly agree' or 'agree' by participants, confirming that the committee continues to perform well against its core responsibilities.

Participants were also asked to answer open questions to elicit feedback as outlined in Table 5 below.

Table 5 – Survey Questions and Key Themes

Questions	Key Theme
What does the Audit and Risk Committee do well?	Committee is collaborative and provides constructive advice to management and Council through meaningful and enquiring discussion.
How can Management better support the Audit and Risk Committee in fulfilling its responsibilities?	The committee indicated they are well supported.

Survey participants were also asked to suggest where the Audit and Risk Committee can improve. Table 6 outlines the suggestions and Council's response:

Table 6 – Suggestions for Improvement and Council Response

Suggestions for improvement	Council response
A 'strategic risk in focus' be presented at each meeting including information on the effectiveness of controls at each meeting	Strategic Risk in focus will commence at the November Committee meeting.

Overall, the survey results indicate that the Audit and Risk Committee continues to operate effectively and in accordance with its Charter, with participants expressing strong confidence in the Committee's governance, oversight and meeting processes. Feedback received reflected a well-supported and collaborative committee, with only one suggestion for improvement which will be implemented.

9. Overall assessment of Merri-bek City Council's risk, control and compliance framework

The Committee's overall assessment is that Council continues to maintain a strong internal control environment, with effective management of strategic and operational risks, as well as financial and compliance obligations. Throughout the reporting period, the organisation has worked constructively with the Committee and demonstrated a strong commitment to transparency, responsiveness to audit findings, and consistent follow-through on identified improvement opportunities.

It is the Committee's independent view that Merri-bek City Council's governance culture supports the ongoing development of a robust risk, control, and compliance framework. This framework continues to mature and adapt in response to changes across Council's operations.

Appendix 1

Merri-Bek City Council Audit and Risk Committee Work Plan 2025-2026

Audit and Risk Committee Responsibility	Frequency	2 September 2025	18 November 2025	3 March 2026	2 June 2026	Date/s Tabled
Business Actions Report (Charter, section 4)						
Monitor actions arising from Audit and Risk Committee meetings and the Recent Reports and Publications report	Quarterly					2/09/2025 18/11/2025 3/03/2026 2/06/2026
Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement (Charter, Section 2 and VAGO Report: 'Results of the 2022/23 VAGO audits: Local Government')						
After balance date and at the time of reviewing the draft financial report: • Determine whether there have been any changes to circumstances that would indicate that key assumptions behind the finance team initial advice and key judgements no longer hold true. • assess the reasonableness of the valuation and fair value assessment outcomes. • Closing Report and Final Management Letter • Governance and Management checklist	Annually					2/09/2025
Recommend in principle to the Council whether the financial report including the performance statement should be approved based on the Committee's assessment of them.	Annually					2/09/2025
Finance Management Report (Charter, section 4)						
Monitor implementation of a three-year Financial Management Improvement Plan	Quarterly					2/09/2025 18/11/2025 3/03/2026 2/06/2026
Monitor Council's internal control system for unusual transactions above acceptable risk	Quarterly					2/09/2025 18/11/2025 3/03/2026 2/06/2026

Appendix 1

Merri-Bek City Council Audit and Risk Committee Work Plan 2025-2026

Audit and Risk Committee Responsibility	Frequency	2 September 2025	18 November 2025	3 March 2026	2 June 2026	Date/s Tabled
An overview of Council's handling of accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters or other matters likely to affect the Council or its compliance with relevant legislation and regulations	Quarterly					2/09/2025 18/11/2025 3/03/2026 2/06/2026
Review management disclosures in financial reports on the effect of significant compliance issues	Quarterly					2/09/2025 18/11/2025 3/03/2026 2/06/2026
Review any changes in accounting policies and procedures and the methods of applying them ensuring they are in accordance with the stated financial reporting framework disclosures with management	Annually					18/11/2025
Review the mid-year and end of year VAGO report: • assess significant estimates and judgements in financial reports by asking management and VAGO about the processes used in making material estimates and judgements and the basis for these. • Review the appropriateness of accounting policies and disclosures to present a true and fair view. • Review the process for the consolidation of financial information of Council related entities into the financial reports of the Council. • Assess whether a comprehensive process has been established for the purposes of legislative disclosure reporting requirements. • Seek the external auditor's independent opinion on management's technical compliance with accounting	Biannually					2/09/2025 3/03/2026

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Merri-Bek City Council Audit and Risk Committee Work Plan 2025-2026

Audit and Risk Committee Responsibility	Frequency	2 September 2025	18 November 2025	3 March 2026	2 June 2026	Date/s Tabled
standards; proper application of the accounting principles; clarity in financial disclosure practices as used or proposed in the financial report						
Monitor Management Financial and performance reporting	Quarterly					2/09/2025 18/11/2025 3/03/2026 2/06/2026
Review the processes for the identification, nature, extent, and reasonableness of related-party transactions	Annually					2/09/2025
Prior to balance date, review the finance team's accounting paper	Annually					2/06/2026
Committee receive an annual report that management have completed a review of the internal audit contract	Annually					2/06/2026
Audit Actions Report (Charter, section 4)						
Review outstanding audit actions	Quarterly					2/09/2025 18/11/2025 3/03/2026 2/06/2026
Elevate Transformation Program Report (Audit and Risk Committee request)						
Provide a report that includes the status of the project and a dashboard	Quarterly					2/09/2025 18/11/2025 3/03/2026 2/06/2026
Memorandum of Audit Planning and Audits Completed Report (Charter, section 4)						
Monitor Council's processes regarding compliance with legislation and regulations through internal audit and external audit reporting	Quarterly					2/09/2025 18/11/2025 3/03/2026

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Merri-Bek City Council Audit and Risk Committee Work Plan 2025-2026

Audit and Risk Committee Responsibility	Frequency	2 September 2025	18 November 2025	3 March 2026	2 June 2026	Date/s Tabled
						2/06/2026
Review strategic annual internal audit plan to ensure it addresses key risks through the Annual Internal Audit Plan report	Annually					3/03/2026
Review and approve Memorandum of Audit Planning	Quarterly					2/09/2025 18/11/2025 3/03/2026 2/06/2026
Critically review internal audit reports completed since previous meeting	Quarterly					2/09/2025 18/11/2025 3/03/2026 2/06/2026
Review internal audit progress against Strategic Annual Internal Audit Plan	Quarterly					2/09/2025 18/11/2025 3/03/2026 2/06/26
Follow up on past audit recommendations.	Biennially	A Follow Up review was completed in 2024/25 and is next scheduled in 2026/27				
Recent Reports and Publications (Charter, section 4)						
Obtain assurance that adverse trends are identified and review management's action to manage these	Quarterly					2/09/2025 18/11/2025 3/03/2026 2/06/2026
Review other VAGO reports for impacts on Council through the Recent Reports and Publications Report	Quarterly					2/09/2025 18/11/2025 3/03/2026 2/06/2026
Climate Risk and Resilience Report (Charter, section 4)						

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Merri-Bek City Council Audit and Risk Committee Work Plan 2025-2026

Audit and Risk Committee Responsibility	Frequency	2 September 2025	18 November 2025	3 March 2026	2 June 2026	Date/s Tabled
Monitor work by Council to mitigate and plan for climate change risk	Biannually					2/09/2025 3/03/2026
Committee Management and Workplan Report (Charter, section 4 and 7)						
Assess Council's policy framework and procedures to ensure: • the embedding of the governance principles • the strengthening of the framework • policies are reviewed as per schedule.	Quarterly					
Business Transformation						2/09/2025
City Infrastructure						18/11/2025
Community						3/03/2026
Place and Environment						2/06/2026
Monitor Council processes for compliance of Council policies and procedures	Quarterly					2/09/2025 18/11/2025 3/03/2026 2/06/2026
Receive Audit and Risk Committee Performance Report • Review of the performance of the Committee against its Charter	Annually					2/09/2025
• Assessment of Committee and Committee Member Performance through a survey	Biennial	Next due September 2026				
Review Register of Delegations	Annually					2/06 2026
Review report on Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality	Biannually					18/11/2025 2/06 2026
Review report on Councillor Expenses	Biannually					2/09/2025 3/03/2026

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Merri-Bek City Council Audit and Risk Committee Work Plan 2025-2026

Audit and Risk Committee Responsibility	Frequency	2 September 2025	18 November 2025	3 March 2026	2 June 2026	Date/s Tabled
Review report on Interstate and Overseas Travel	Biannually					2/09/2025 3/03/2026
Review CEO credit card transactions	Quarterly					2/09/2025 18/11/2025 3/03/2026 2/06/2026
Monitor Council's commercial interests including compliance with relevant laws and regulations	Annually					2/09/2025
Committee members to complete Personal Interest Returns	Biennially					2/06 2026
Review the process for the management and governance of the use of data, information, and knowledge through a report from the Chief Information Officer. This includes the controls covering the public release of information.	Annually					18/11/2025
Set Committee Meeting schedule	Annually					18/11/2025
Review Committee Annual Work Plan	Annually					2/06/2026
Review of the Audit and Risk Committee Charter Committee members will confirm understanding of their obligations following the biennial review of the Committee Charter	Biennially					2/09/2025
Procurement Framework Report (Charter, section 4)						
Review the Procurement Framework with a focus on probity and transparency of policies, processes, and procedures.	Annually					3/03/2026
Council Plan 2021 – 2025 Implementation (Charter, section 4)						
Receive assurance that Council has appropriate systems and procedures in place for collecting and analysing information and data to measure performance against the Council Plan through a report on annual Council Plan implementation.	Annually					18/11/2025

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Merri-Bek City Council Audit and Risk Committee Work Plan 2025-2026

Audit and Risk Committee Responsibility	Frequency	2 September 2025	18 November 2025	3 March 2026	2 June 2026	Date/s Tabled
Management and Governance of the Use of Data Information and Knowledge (Charter, section 4)						
Review the processes for managing and governing the use of data, information, and knowledge through a report from the Chief Information Officer. This review should include the controls in place for the public release of information.	Annually					18/11/2025
External Audit Report (Charter, section 4)						
Presentation of VAGO's Audit Strategy Memorandum	Annually					3/03/2026
VAGO Status Report	Quarterly					2/09/2025 18/11/2025 3/03/2026 2/06 2026
Review outcomes of external audits, including findings and recommendations	Quarterly					2/09/2025 18/11/2025 3/03/2026 2/06 2026
Review VAGO Interim Management Letter	Annually					2/06 2026
Risk Management Report (Charter, section 4, committee request *)						
Review management reports on any breakdowns in key controls	Quarterly					2/09/2025 18/11/2025 3/03/2026 2/06/2026
Review Council's procedures to receive, retain and treat complaints through a report on the Complaints Framework and the Public Interest Disclosure Framework	Annually					2/06/2026
An overview of Council's handling of complaints and public interest disclosures	Quarterly					2/09/2025 18/11/2025

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Merri-Bek City Council Audit and Risk Committee Work Plan 2025-2026

Audit and Risk Committee Responsibility	Frequency	2 September 2025	18 November 2025	3 March 2026	2 June 2026	Date/s Tabled
						3/03/2026 2/06/2026
Report on significant public liability claims*	Quarterly					2/09/2025 18/11/2025 3/03/2026 2/06 2026
Receive an annual risk report, which provides: • the risk profile for Council • an overview of the Enterprise Risk Management Framework and implementation strategy • an overview of the processes for identification and control of risks in accordance with risk appetite • an overview of management of each fraud and corruption risk • An overview of key risks, the status and the effectiveness of the risk management systems, to ensure that identified risks are monitored and new risks are identified, mitigated and reported	Annually					18/11/2025
Review report on Occupational Health and Safety	Annually					18/11/2025
Assess adequacy of Council process to manage insurable risks	Annually					2/09/2025
Seek assurance that the Business Continuity Plan is in place, current and active	Annually					2/06/2026
Seek assurance that the Disaster Recovery Plan is in place, current and active	Annually					2/09/2025
Review IT update *	Quarterly					2/09/2025 18/11/2025 3/03/2026

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Merri-Bek City Council Audit and Risk Committee Work Plan 2025-2026

Audit and Risk Committee Responsibility	Frequency	2 September 2025	18 November 2025	3 March 2026	2 June 2026	Date/s Tabled
						2/06/2026
Receive an annual Fraud Risk report, which provides: • an overview of fraud risks identified and the action to establish and implement treatment plans. • the Fraud and Corruption Register • Actions arising from Fraud Reviews • Fraud prevention and detection activities undertaken. • A description of completed Fraud Awareness Training	Annually					2/09/2025
Audit and Risk Committee Administration (Charter, section 4, 7 & 13)						
EO reporting to the Committee of all suspected and actual frauds, thefts, and material breaches of legislation	Quarterly					2/09/2025 18/11/2025 3/03/2026 2/06/2026
At the commencement of each meeting, the Chair is to seek assurance that there have been no obstructions to the work by the external auditor	Quarterly					2/09/2025 18/11/2025 3/03/2026 2/06/2026
Provide the opportunity for audit committee members to meet with the internal and external auditors without management being present before each meeting	Quarterly					2/09/2025 18/11/2025 3/03/2026 2/06/2026

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Merri-Bek City Council Audit and Risk Committee Work Plan 2025-2026

Audit and Risk Committee Responsibility	Frequency	2 September 2025	18 November 2025	3 March 2026	2 June 2026	Date/s Tabled
Provide a Summary of Audit and Risk Committee Minutes to Council through the Governance Report – Cyclical Report	Quarterly					2/09/2025 18/11/2025 3/03/2026 2/06/2026
Committee Member Induction		As required				

Audit and Risk Committee
Biannual Report

In accordance with Part 2, Division 8, clause 54(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Audit and Risk Committee presents its biannual audit and risk report, which describes the activities of the Audit and Risk Committee (Committee).

This biannual report covers the period from 1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026 and includes the Committee meetings held on 3 March 2026 and 2 June 2026. The Committee's activities during the reporting period are summarised below.

Focus Area	Outcome
Compliance and Legislative Requirements	
Policy	The Committee received updates on the review of Council policy status across the following directorates: • Community – 3 March 2026 • Place and Environment – 2 June 2026 The Committee noted the reports.
Councillor Expenses	The Committee received a report on 3 March 2026 which listed Councillor expenses between July 2025 and December 2025. The report included a table of the following information: • Accommodation • Conferences, Seminars and Professional Development • IT, Mobile and Data • Refreshments • Subscriptions • Travel and Mileage. The Committee noted the report.
Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality	The Committee received a report on 2 June 2026 which outlined the gifts offered to and received by staff and Councillors between October 2025 and March 2026. The Committee noted the report. The report included a table of the following information: • Date of offer/receipt • Recipient of gift/offer • Department • Approximate value of offer/gift • Description of the offer/gift • Who was the offer/gift received from? • Reason • At what setting was the gift/offer received? • What, if any, is the relationship with the service provider? • Who approved? • Declined or retained by recipient?

<table>
<tr><td>Interstate and Overseas Travel</td><td>The Committee received a report on 3 March 2026 which listed the interstate and overseas travel completed by Councillors and staff. The report included a table of the following information:
Name and position
Purpose of Travel
Dates of Travel
Cost (accommodation, transport, meals, other).
The Committee noted the report.</td></tr>
<tr><td>CEO Credit Card Transactions</td><td>The Committee received reports on 3 March 2026 and 2 June 2026 which listed the CEO's credit card transactions. The reports included a table of the following information:
Posting Date
Transaction Date
Description
Amount
The Committee noted the reports.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Disaster Recovery Testing and Implementation</td><td>The Committee received a report on 3 March 2026 which confirmed the Disaster Recovery Test was completed on 25 November 2025. The Committee noted the report.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Audit and Business Actions</td><td>The Committee received reports on 3 March 2026 and 2 June 2026. The reports detailed the business and audit actions to be completed and implemented by Council staff.
The Committee discussed and noted progress towards the completion of outstanding actions.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Audit Actions Progress Overview</td><td><table><tr><td colspan="4">Audit Actions Progress Overview from 1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026</td></tr><tr><td>Audit Actions open at 1 January 2026</td><td>Actions added from 1 January to 30 June 2026</td><td>Actions closed from 1 January to 30 June 2026</td><td>Audit Actions open at 30 June 2026</td></tr><tr><td>30</td><td>24</td><td>20</td><td>34</td></tr></table>During the reporting period, 24 new audit actions were added and 20 actions were closed, resulting in 34 audit actions remaining open at 30 June 2026.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Council Financial Reporting</td></tr>
<tr><td>Finance Management</td><td>The Committee received reports on 3 March 2026 and 2 June 2026. The Committee discussed, noted and approved the reports.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Internal Audit</td></tr>
<tr><td>Audit Reports</td><td>Strategic Planning Governance, Customer Service and Complaints Handling
The Committee discussed, accepted and endorsed the findings, recommendations, and management comments of the two audit reports on 3 March 2026.
Asset Management (Infrastructure), Project Management - Elevate Transformation Program
The Committee discussed, accepted and endorsed the findings, recommendations, and management comments of the two audit reports on 2 June 2026.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Memorandum of Audit Planning</td><td>Community Grants (Outgoing), including Solar thermal grants to low-income households, Community Engagement, Various Financial Controls: Payroll and Credit Cards.
The Committee discussed, accepted and approved the three Memorandum of Audit Planning on 2 June 2026.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Recent Reports and Publications</td><td>The Committee received the Curious Eyes publications on 3 March 2026 and 2 June 2026 and noted management comments.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Audit and Risk Committee Attendance</td></tr>
</table>

Committee Member	3 March 2026	2 June 2026
John Watson (Chair)	√	√
Jeff Rigby	√	√
Lisa Tripodi	√	√
Marilyn Kearney	√	X
Cr Helen Politis	√	X
Cr Liz Irvin	√	√
Cr Katerine Theodosis	X	X

Key

√ In attendance X Apology

Committee Member Terms

Committee Member	Appointment / Extension	Term End
John Watson (Chair)	May 2026	May 2029
Jeff Rigby	July 2024	June 2027
Lisa Tripodi	February 2026	February 2029
Marilyn Kearney	July 2025	June 2028
Cr Helen Politis	December 2024	December 2026
Cr Liz Irvin	December 2025	December 2026
Cr Katerine Theodosis	January 2026	December 2026

Merri-bek City Council

Council Financial Management Report

2 Months Ended August 2026

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Standard Statements

Comprehensive Income Statement

Comprehensive Income Statement	YTD Actuals $'000	YTD Budget $'000	YTD Variance $'000	Annual Budget $'000	Annual Forecast $'000	Annual Variance $'000
Revenue						
Rates and charges	212,784	212,654	130	**213,777**	213,777	-
Statutory fees and fines	3,244	3,622	(378)	**20,013**	20,013	-
User Fees	885	1,145	(259)	**10,424**	10,424	-
Contributions - Monetary	2,332	1,540	792	**8,479**	9,823	1,345
Contributions - Non-monetary	-	-	-	**-**	-	-
Grants - Operating	1,900	3,975	(2,075)	**21,568**	21,568	-
Grants - Capital	464	-	464	**18,665**	18,209	(456)
Other Revenue	1,700	1,153	546	**7,285**	7,285	-
Asset Sales	17	-	17	**236**	236	-
Total Revenue	**223,327**	**224,090**	**(763)**	**300,447**	**301,336**	**888**
Expenses						
Employee Benefits	19,349	20,571	1,222	**124,678**	124,677	-
Contracts, Materials & Services	13,411	16,478	3,068	**86,456**	86,456	-
Depreciation	7,901	7,901	-	**45,230**	45,230	-
Amortisation	56	56	(0)	**336**	336	-
Bad and doubtful debts	409	512	103	**3,071**	3,071	-
Net loss on disposal of assets	(25)	-	25	**-**	-	-
Finance Costs	36	49	13	**297**	297	-
Other Expenses	25	114	89	**811**	811	-
Total Expenses	**41,162**	**45,682**	**4,520**	**260,879**	**260,879**	**-**
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	**182,166**	**178,408**	**3,757**	**39,569**	**40,457**	**888**

Underlying Result	YTD Actuals $'000	YTD Budget $'000	YTD Variance $'000	Annual Budget $'000	Annual Forecast $'000	Annual Variance $'000
Surplus for the Year	**182,166**	**178,408**	**3,757**	**39,569**	**40,457**	**888**
Other Comprehensive Income						
Net asset revaluation	-	-	-	**-**	-	-
Total Comprehensive Result	**182,166**	**178,408**	**3,757**	**39,569**	**40,457**	**888**
Non Operating Income and Expenditure						
Net loss on disposal of assets	(42)	-	(42)	**(236)**	(236)	-
Contributions Capital (cash & non-monetary)	-	-	-	**(1,394)**	(1,307)	87
Grants - Capital	(464)	-	(464)	**(18,665)**	(18,209)	456
PRRLF Reserve	(2,332)	(1,540)	(792)	**(7,084)**	(8,516)	(1,432)
DCP Reserve	-	-	-	**-**	-	-
Net asset revaluation	-	-	-	**-**	-	-
Total Capital Income	**(2,839)**	**(1,540)**	**(1,298)**	**(27,380)**	**(28,269)**	**(888)**
Underlying Result	**179,327**	**176,868**	**2,459**	**12,188**	**12,188**	**-**
Less						
Loan Principal Repayments	357	357	-	**2,169**	2,169	-
Additional Rates Funded CAPEX	(1,903)	(1,903)	-	**(9,242)**	(11,420)	2,178
Transfers to Reserves - Operating	17,504	20,000	2,496	**20,892**	20,204	688
Transfers from Reserves - Operating	-	-	-	**(1,897)**	(1,897)	-
Carry Forwards processed into FY27	-	-	-	**-**	-	-
Total Transfers & Other	**15,958**	**18,454**	**2,496**	**11,922**	**9,056**	**2,866**
Unrestricted Surplus/(Deficit)	**163,368**	**158,413**	**4,955**	**266**	**3,132**	**2,866**

Statement of Financial Position

Statement of Financial Position	YTD Actuals $'000	30/06/26 Actuals $'000	Movement Inc/(Dec) $'000	Annual Budget $'000	Annual Forecast $'000	Annual Variance $'000
Current assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	34,681	44,572	(9,892)	89	3,622	3,533
Trade and other receivables	272,402	48,282	224,120	45,793	45,793	-
Other financial assets	40,000	52,000	(12,000)	73,107	67,607	(5,500)
Inventories	526	526	-	659	659	-
Prepayments	2,861	3,897	(1,036)	2,429	2,429	-
Non-current assets classified as held for sale	25,153	25,153	-	-	-	-
Other assets	3,355	3,635	(280)	2,208	2,208	-
Total current assets	**378,978**	**178,065**	**200,913**	**124,284**	**122,317**	**(1,967)**
Non-current assets						
Unlisted Shares	2	2	-	2	2	-
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	2,829,267	2,824,167	5,100	2,983,191	2,986,047	2,856
Right-of-use assets	444	461		128	128	-
Investments	38,675	38,675	-	36,024	36,024	-
Total non-current assets	**2,868,387**	**2,863,304**	**5,100**	**3,019,345**	**3,022,201**	**2,856**
Total assets	**3,247,365**	**3,041,369**	**206,012**	**3,143,629**	**3,144,518**	**888**
Current liabilities						
Payables						
Payables	53,643	25,302	28,342	18,753	18,753	-
Revenue Received in Advance	4,223	4,168	55	6,898	6,898	-
Provisions	22,899	23,059	(160)	27,110	27,110	-
Interest Bearing Loans and Borrowings	2,169	2,169	-	2,172	2,172	-
Trust Funds & Deposits	1,346	6,104	(4,759)	6,384	6,384	-
Lease liabilities	84	102	(18)	-	-	-
Total current liabilities	**84,365**	**60,904**	**23,461**	**61,318**	**61,318**	**-**
Non-current liabilities						
Provisions	2,851	2,851	-	2,603	2,603	-
Interest-bearing liabilities	11,140	10,772	368	11,437	11,437	-
Lease liabilities	366	364	2	-	-	-
Trust Funds & Deposits	726	726	-	-	-	-
Total non-current liabilities	**15,082**	**14,713**	**370**	**14,040**	**14,040**	**-**
Total liabilities	**99,447**	**75,617**	**23,830**	**75,358**	**75,358**	**-**
Net assets	**3,147,918**	**2,965,752**	**182,166**	**3,068,272**	**3,069,160**	**888**
Equity						
Asset revaluation reserves	2,048,917	2,048,917	-	-	-	-
Other reserves	59,861	68,943	(9,082)	2,151,921	2,152,578	657
Accumulated surplus	1,039,140	847,892	191,248	916,351	916,583	232
Total equity	**3,147,918**	**2,965,752**	**182,166**	**3,068,272**	**3,069,160**	**888**

Statement of Cashflows

Statement of Cash Flows	YTD Actuals $'000 Inflows (Outflows)	Annual Budget $'000 Inflows (Outflows)	Annual Forecast $'000 Inflows (Outflows)	Annual Variance $'000 Inflows (Outflows)
Cash flows from operating activities				
Rates and charges	(14,804)	210,570	210,570	-
Statutory fees and fines	3,226	19,012	19,012	-
User fees	1,136	10,215	10,215	-
Grants - operating	1,900	21,568	21,568	-
Grants - capital	519	18,665	18,209	(456)
Contributions - monetary	2,332	8,479	9,823	1,345
Interest received	667		-	-
Trust funds and deposits taken	35,594	49,941	49,941	-
Other receipts	1,638	7,285	7,285	-
Net GST refund/(payment)	1,087	-	-	-
Payments to Employees	(21,639)	(122,022)	(122,022)	-
Payments to Suppliers	(11,917)	(86,412)	(86,412)	-
Trust funds and deposits repaid	(8,286)	(49,333)	(49,333)	-
Other payments	(25)	(811)	(811)	-
Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities	**(8,573)**	**87,158**	**88,046**	**888**
Cash flows from investing activities				
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(13,024)	(93,886)	(91,030)	2,856
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	116	92	92	-
Payments/(Proceeds) for investments	12,000	4,993	4,993	-
Net cash used in investing activities	**(908)**	**(88,801)**	**(85,945)**	**2,856**
Cash flows from financing activities				
Finance costs	(34)	(816)	(816)	-
Proceeds from Borrowings	-	4,000	4,000	-
Repayment of borrowings	(358)	(14,212)	(14,212)	-
Interest paid - lease liability	(2)	-	-	-
Repayment of lease liabilities	(16)	(20)	(20)	-
Net cash used in financing activities	**(411)**	**(11,048)**	**(11,048)**	**-**
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	**(9,892)**	**(12,691)**	**(8,947)**	**3,744**
Cash at beginning of period	44,572	40,889	44,572	3,684
Cash at end of period	**34,681**	**28,198**	**35,625**	**7,428**

Cash Position				
Non-restricted Cash at 1 July 2026	44,572	40,889	44,572	3,684
Other Financial Assets at 1 July 2026	52,000	78,100	52,000	(26,100)
Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of financial year	**96,572**	**118,989**	**96,572**	**(22,416)**
Non-restricted Cash at end of financial period	34,681	89	3,622	3,533
Other Financial Assets at end of financial period	40,000	73,107	67,607	(5,500)
Cash & cash equivalents at end of financial period	**74,681**	**73,196**	**71,229**	**(1,967)**

Statement of Capital Works

Statement of Capital Works	YTD Actuals $'000	YTD Budget $'000	YTD Variance $'000	Annual Budget $'000	Annual Forecast $'000	Annual Variance $'000
Property						
Land	301	-	(301)	**4,000**	4,000	-
Buildings	1,222	594	(628)	**11,354**	11,250	104
Building Improvements	296	825	529	**5,123**	6,881	(1,758)
Total property	**1,819**	**1,419**	**(400)**	**20,477**	**22,132**	**(1,655)**
Plant and equipment						
Plant, machinery and equipment	170	170	0	**8,279**	8,771	(491)
Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture	8	1	(8)	**98**	98	-
Computers and telecommunications	5	-	(5)	**883**	883	-
Artworks	-	-	-	**89**	89	-
Library books	323	150	(173)	**1,082**	1,082	-
Total plant and equipment	**507**	**321**	**(186)**	**10,432**	**10,923**	**(491)**
Infrastructure						
Roads	1,574	3,380	1,806	**11,211**	10,733	478
Bridges	11	196	185	**3,353**	3,528	(175)
Footpaths and cycleways	58	323	266	**5,840**	6,177	(337)
Drainage	214	1,426	1,212	**3,986**	4,217	(232)
Recreational, leisure & community facilities	464	379	(85)	**20,743**	20,517	226
Waste management	4	-	(4)	**2,259**	2,308	(50)
Parks, open space and streetscapes	447	892	445	**10,566**	11,185	(619)
Other infrastructure	2	-	(2)	**250**	250	-
Total infrastructure	**2,775**	**6,597**	**3,822**	**58,207**	**58,916**	**(709)**
Total capital works expenditure	**5,100**	**8,336**	**3,237**	**89,116**	**91,970**	**(2,855)**
Represented by:						
New asset expenditure	607	344	(263)	**6,309**	6,894	(585)
Asset renewal expenditure	2,992	4,975	1,983	**49,837**	51,046	(1,209)
Asset upgrade expenditure	1,501	3,017	1,516	**32,969**	34,030	(1,061)
Total capital works expenditure	**5,100**	**8,336**	**3,237**	**89,116**	**91,970**	**(2,856)**

Investments

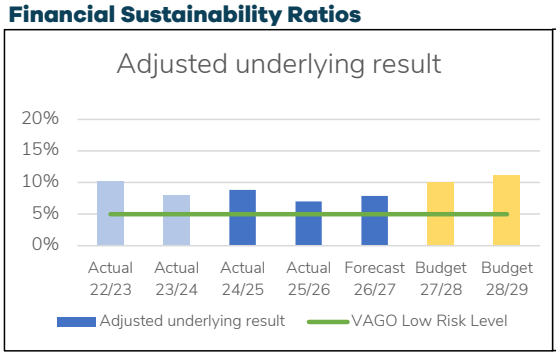
Of the $74.7 million cash assets, $40.6 million is convertible to cash in less than 60 days and $36.0 million (90%) of term deposit investments are held in green investments. The portfolio is in compliance with Council policy which requires at least $20.0 million to be convertible to cash and green investments to make up greater than 70% of all investments.

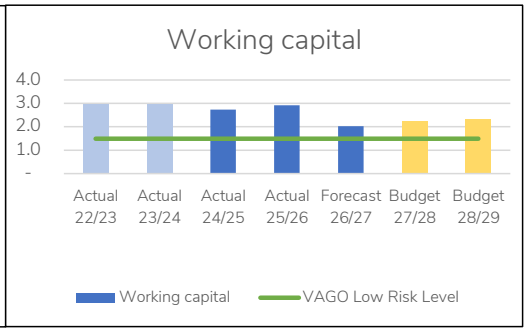
Bank	Maturity Date	Green %	Interest Rate %	S & P short term rating	Amount $'000	Ratio %
Minor Cash*	N/A		N/A	N/A	135	
Westpac	N/A		4.20%	A-1+	24,069	
Westpac	N/A		4.30%	A-1+	10,477	
ME Bank - 2	18/11/2026	100%	4.90%	A-2	5,000	12.5%
Bendigo Bank - 2	20/11/2026	100%	4.90%	A-2	5,000	12.5%
Suncorp - 3	21/09/2026	100%	4.77%	A-1	10,000	25.0%
IMB - 3	25/11/2026	100%	4.95%	A-2	10,000	25.0%
Westpac - 6	9/10/2026		5.13%	A-1+	4,000	25.0%
Westpac - 6	23/12/2026	100%	5.17%	A-1+	6,000	
Total		90%			**74,681**	**100.0%**
Green					**36,000**	**90.0%**

** Minor cash includes NAB holding account and Petty Cash*

Financial Sustainability

Financial Sustainability Ratios



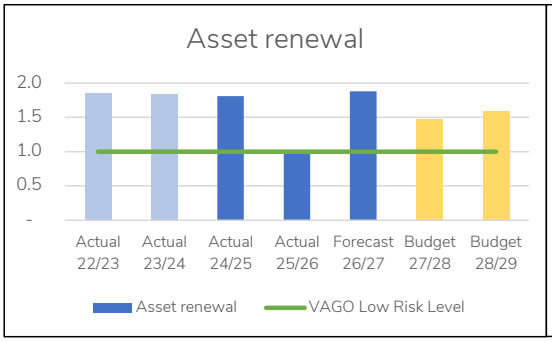


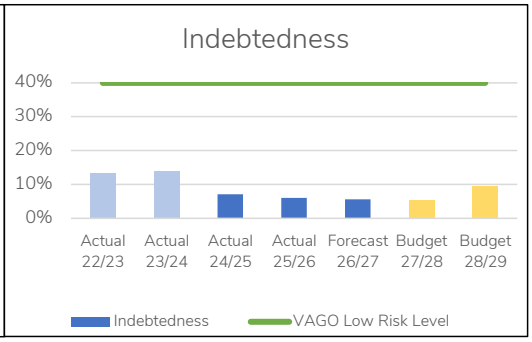
Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / adjusted underlying revenue

This ratio measures an entity's ability to generate its own cash. A positive result indicates a surplus, and the larger the percentage, the stronger the result. The result highlights Councils challenges in generating enough cash to fund future capital works without borrowing.

Current assets / current liabilities

Compares current assets to current liabilities, which provides a measure of the ability to pay existing liabilities in the next 12 months. This year's result expected to be in the low-risk range.





Renewal & upgrade spend/ depreciation

Ratios higher than 1.0 indicate that spending on existing assets is faster than the depreciation rate. This year's result is expected to stay in the low-risk range.

Non-current liabilities / own-source revenue

Measures Council's ability to pay the principal and interest on its borrowings as due from the funds it generates. This year's result is expected to stay in the low-risk range.

Treasury Corporation of Victoria (TCV)

TCV loan requirements		Target	Forecast
Interest Cover	EBITDA/Interest Expense	> 2	289
Interest Bearing Loans	Interest Bearing Liabilities/Own Source Revenue	< 60%	5%

TCV financing is conditional upon the Council maintaining a sustainable financial position when measured by the interest cover and interest bearing loans ratios. Forecast results indicate that the Council is meeting the minimum requirements. TCV loan requirements are well within target given limited borrowing compared to own source revenue and liability obligations.

7.6 MAV-2026-5 PROVISION OF SPECIALISED HEAVY VEHICLE FLEET PARTS, REPAIRS AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES

Director City Infrastructure, Greg Rodwell

City Services

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Authorises opting into a Collaborative Procurement Agreement with Municipal Association Victoria (MAV) Contract No NPN 1.23 - Trucks, Buses, Specialised Trucks, Truck Bodies and Trailers with the Schedule of Rates Tender:
    a) For an initial contract term that has already commenced ending 31 January 2027, with an option of a future two (2), three (3) year extension options at the discretion of Council.
    b) Access the following suppliers appointed under the contract:
        1. Adtrans Truck Centre (Iveco)
        2. Bucher Municipal
        3. Whitehorse Truck Spares T/A Fuso Port Melbourne (Daimler)
        4. CMI Hino
        5. Superior Pak
        6. CMV Truck and Bus (Volvo)
    c) For a maximum expenditure of $5,038,000 (excluding GST) for the term of the contract, including extension options.
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute all documents and do all things necessary to give effect to the agreement, exercise any extension options subject to satisfactory contractor performance, and approve variations in accordance with the contract and Council's Procurement Policy.

REPORT

Executive Summary

Council approval is sought to opt into an established panel agreement providing access to six specialised suppliers for the provision of heavy vehicle fleet parts, repairs and associated services. These suppliers provide critical products and technical expertise that are essential to maintaining the safety, reliability and operational performance of Council's heavy vehicle fleet.

Access to this panel will provide a compliant and efficient procurement pathway for specialised fleet maintenance requirements, ensuring critical repairs and replacement parts can be sourced in a timely manner. This will assist in minimising vehicle downtime, reducing operational disruption and supporting the continued delivery of essential Council services.

The proposed agreement will also provide an interim procurement solution while Procurement and Fleet progress planning a comprehensive Fleet Services and Consumables contract, which is expected to encompass tyres, automotive spare parts and other specialised fleet services.

The expenditure associated with this panel will be funded through existing fleet maintenance budgets. While maintenance costs are expected to increase as Council continues to operate an ageing heavy vehicle fleet, this expenditure is necessary to manage the heightened risks associated with ageing assets. Ongoing investment in replacement parts, repairs and specialised technical services is essential to ensure vehicles remain safe, compliant and operationally reliable, while reducing the risk of breakdowns, unplanned downtime, service disruptions and associated safety impacts. Adoption of the recommendation will enable Council to effectively manage these risks while maintaining fleet availability and supporting continuity of service delivery.

The tender complies with Section 109(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Previous Council Decisions

Nil.

1. Policy Context

This report supports Council's commitment to sound financial management, effective asset management and the delivery of safe and reliable services to the community. The proposed opt in to the NPN 1.23 panel will provide a compliant procurement pathway for specialised fleet parts and services that are essential to maintaining the safety, reliability and availability of Council's heavy vehicle fleet.

This report is in keeping with Council's commitment to accountability and sound financial management. It also addresses the requirement under section 109(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* which requires Council to adhere to its Procurement Policy when entering into contracts for the purchasing of goods or services, or the carrying out of works. Council adopted the Procurement Policy on 11 June 2025 which sets the threshold for conducting a public tender for goods, services and works where once-off or ongoing cumulative spend over the life of the contract is expected to exceed $350,000 (incl GST).

2. Background

The purpose of this report is to recommend opting into Contract No NPN 1.23 for the provision of specialised heavy vehicle fleet parts, repairs and associated services. Council relies on its diverse heavy vehicle fleet to deliver a range of essential services to the community. Maintaining these vehicles requires access to a broad range of replacement parts to minimise downtime and ensure our assets remain safe, reliable and fit for purpose. While heavy vehicle parts have historically been sourced through a combination of supplier relationships and procurement activities, Council does not currently have a dedicated contract for the supply of heavy vehicle parts. Establishing a panel of suppliers will provide Council with access to a broad range of parts across multiple manufacturers and suppliers improving purchasing efficiency, supporting continuity of supply and enabling the timely maintenance of Council's heavy vehicle fleet.

As this is a common requirement for councils, MAV considered it as a suitable area where the market could be approached on behalf of a large number of councils. The expected outcome was a better price for councils and reduced effort in responding to multiple tenders for providers.

As outlined in **Confidential Attachment 1** NPN1.23 Evaluation Recommendation Process (Member Report), MAV has outlined the procurement process and evaluation.

3. Issues

Community impact

The ongoing maintenance and availability of Council's heavy vehicle fleet support the delivery of essential services to the community. Timely access to quality replacement parts assists in minimising vehicle downtime and maintaining service levels.

Collaboration

Note that section 109(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires that any report to the Council that recommends entering into a procurement agreement must include information in relation to any opportunities for collaboration with other councils or public bodies, Procurement Australia, or MAV that may be available.

This is a Collaborative Procurement Agreement with Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV).

Legal and risk considerations

The ongoing availability of heavy vehicle parts is critical to maintaining a safe, reliable and operational fleet. Parts shortages or procurement delays can lead to extended vehicle downtime, increased operational risk and impacts to the delivery of essential Council services. The recommended supplier panel will improve supply resilience through access to multiple suppliers and a broader range of products, supporting fleet availability, reducing downtime and mitigating service delivery risks.

MAV has confirmed that suppliers appointed to the panel were assessed through its tender process against the applicable legislative and contractual requirements.

Human Rights Consideration

The implications of this report have been assessed in accordance with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006. The recommendation relates to the establishment of a supplier panel for the provision of heavy vehicle parts and is not considered to negatively impact or limit any human rights protected under the Charter.

4. Community consultation and engagement

No community consultation was required because the proposal concerns a procurement agreement for operational fleet maintenance. MAV undertook the relevant public tender process.

5. Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Council officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest in this matter.

6. Financial and Resources Implications

The recommended supplier panel will provide a streamlined approach to sourcing specialised heavy vehicle fleet parts, repairs and associated services, reducing the administrative costs associated with individual procurement activities and supporting value-for-money outcomes through access to multiple suppliers.

The panel does not require Council to commit to a minimum level of expenditure and does not create any additional budget obligations. Council currently spends approximately $485,000 (excluding GST) per annum on specialised heavy vehicle fleet parts, repairs and associated services, with expenditure funded through the Fleet Services Unit operating budget. A maximum spend for this contract of $5,038,000 has been calculated by applying an 8.4 percent price increase to the annual budget over the seven-year period with 15 percent provisional allowance for market supply increases and higher likely need for fleet parts, repairs and associated services through the replacement period of Council’s ageing fleet.

7. Implementation

Following Council approval, Council officers will opt-in to the new panel agreement using the MAV Vendor Panel portal.

Attachment/s

1	NPN1.23 Evaluation Recommendation Process	D26/274831

Pursuant to section 3(1)(g)(ii) of the Local Government Act 2020 this attachment has been designated as confidential because it relates to private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

7.7 CONTRACT AWARD: RFT-2026-22- FAWKNER NETBALL COURTS UPGRADE (NEW ROOF AND RESURFACING WORKS)

Director City Infrastructure, Greg Rodwell

Capital Works Planning and Delivery

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Awards the contract RFT-2026-22 for Fawkner Netball Courts Upgrade (New roof and resurfacing works) (the **Contract**), to **Alchemy Construct Pty Ltd** (the Contractor) for a fixed lump sum amount of $4,120,029.00 (excluding GST) plus a provisional sum of $300,000.00 (excluding GST), totaling $4,420,029.00 (excluding GST), and otherwise subject to and in accordance with paragraph 2 of this Resolution.
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:
    a) Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and the Contractor provided that the terms specified in paragraph 1 of this Resolution shall not be altered without a further Resolution of Council;
    b) Ensure that, other than terms referred to in paragraph 1 of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer;
    c) Advise all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract (conditional on acceptance of the contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this resolution);
3. Acknowledges and thanks the Australian Government for its support and contribution to this project for the amount of $4.561 million

REPORT

Executive Summary

This report seeks Council approval to award Contract RFT-2026-22 – Fawkner Netball Courts Upgrade (New Roof and Resurfacing Works) to the preferred contractor Alchemy Construct Pty Ltd.

The project will upgrade the existing eight netball courts at Charles Mutton Reserve, Fawkner, including the construction of roof structures over the netball courts, resurfacing of all eight courts, civil and drainage works, sports lighting, electrical works and associated sporting infrastructure.

Two conforming tenders were received and assessed in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy against weighted evaluation criteria including cost, capability, capacity, methodology, program and sustainability considerations.

Following the tender evaluation process, Alchemy Construct Pty Ltd has been identified as the preferred contractor, who has a strong track record of delivering local government, community, sport and recreation infrastructure projects, together with experience in the construction of large-span steel roof structures.

The tender complies with section 109(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020.*

Previous Council Decisions

Nil.

1. Policy Context

This report is in keeping with Council's commitment to accountability and sound financial management. It also addresses the requirement under section 109(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* which requires Council to adhere to its Procurement Policy when entering into contracts for the purchasing of goods or services, or the carrying out of works. Council adopted the Procurement Policy on 11 June 2025 which sets the threshold for conducting a public tender for goods, services and works where once-off or ongoing cumulative spend over the life of the contract is expected to exceed $350,000 (incl GST).

2. Background

The Fawkner Netball Courts Upgrade will deliver new roof structures and upgraded court surfaces at the existing eight-court netball facility at Charles Mutton Reserve, Fawkner.

The tender scope includes:

- Construction of roof structures over the eight netball courts and resurfacing of all eight existing netball courts.
- Civil, drainage and associated infrastructure works.
- Sports lighting and electrical works.
- Demolition and enabling works required to facilitate the upgrade.

The detailed designs were finalised and approved by key internal and external stakeholders.

The project will improve the functionality and usability of the existing netball facility by providing weather protection, renewed playing surfaces and upgraded supporting infrastructure, improving access to quality sporting facilities for netball clubs and the broader community.

The tender was released on 22 July 2026, with submissions closing on 12 August 2026. Two conforming tenders were received.

Tenderers Name	**ABN**
Alchemy Construct Pty Ltd	47 604 483 105
IZZA Group Pty Ltd	96 635 258 972

The conforming tender submissions were evaluated in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy, at the time of tendering.

The following is a breakdown of the Evaluation Criteria applicable to this procurement project.

Criteria	**Weighting**
Cost	40%
Capability of the tenderer to complete the works	25%
Capacity of the tenderer to complete the required works	15%
Methodology and task appreciation	10%
Social Sustainability	3 %
Economic Sustainability	3 %
Environmental Sustainability	4 %
Total	**100%**

The membership of the tender evaluation panel was as follows.

Title and/or company	Project Manager/ Generalist or Nominated Speciality	Full Voting / Advisory Member
Project Manager	Project Manager (Chair)	Full
Acting Unit Manager Recreation Services	Generalist	Full
Senior Project Manager	Generalist	Full
Head of Building Projects	Generalist	Advisory
Sustainable Building Officer	Generalist	Advisory
Senior Procurement Partner	Procurement	Advisory
Assistant Procurement Partner	Procurement	Advisory

Further details of tender evaluation are shown in the Tender Recommendation Report (**Confidential Attachment 1**).

3. Issues

Collaboration

Note that section 109(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires that any report to the Council that recommends entering into a procurement agreement must include information in relation to any opportunities for collaboration with other councils or public bodies which may be available.

Under this contract there are no opportunities to collaborate with other Councils or public bodies because it is a local stand-alone major construction project.

Interviews

No interviews were held as part of the tender evaluation process.

Social / Environmental / Local Implications

The recommended tenderer demonstrated a range of social, environmental and local economic initiatives, including project-specific commitments for the Fawkner Netball Courts Upgrade supported by established organisational sustainability and social procurement practices.

Key commitments and initiatives include:

- **Local economic participation:** Alchemy will seek to prioritise Merri-bek and Northern Councils Alliance (NCA) based subcontractors, suppliers and service providers where commercially practical. Its submission identified existing suppliers in the northern region including Alex Fraser Group in Epping and Boral Concrete in Campbellfield.
- **Local employment and skills development:** opportunities will be considered for apprentices, trainees, cadets and people seeking entry into the construction industry, with a focus on underrepresented groups where suitable opportunities arise.
- **Social procurement:** Alchemy will seek opportunities to engage social enterprises, First Nations-owned businesses, disability enterprises and other recognised social benefit suppliers for goods and services associated with the project. In FY25, Alchemy reported $1.48 million in social value outcomes across its broader operations, including $718,664 spent directly with social benefit suppliers.

- **Community engagement:** Alchemy proposes to explore opportunities with local schools and community initiatives, including its ‘Yes You Can’ school education program, which encourages primary-aged students to consider future careers in construction.
- **First Nations participation:** Alchemy’s Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan provides a framework to increase participation of First Nations businesses and people across its projects, workforce and supply chain.
- **Construction waste diversion:** Alchemy has committed to targeting 90% diversion of construction and demolition waste from landfill through waste segregation, recycling and resource recovery, with monthly waste reporting to Council.
- **Recycled-content materials:** subject to specification, performance and commercial requirements, opportunities identified include structural steel containing typically 25–60% recycled content, reinforcing steel typically 50–90%, recycled crushed concrete and drainage aggregates containing up to 100% recycled content, and asphalt incorporating typically 10–30% reclaimed asphalt pavement. Final recycled-content levels are subject to supplier confirmation.
- **Environmental management:** Alchemy maintains an independently audited ISO 14001-certified Environmental Management System and proposes measures including responsible material sourcing, reduced unnecessary transport and plant idling, protection of vegetation and drainage infrastructure, and management of dust, noise, fuel and waste during construction.

Overall, the submission provides practical social, environmental and local economic initiatives for the Fawkner Netball Courts Upgrade, with a particular focus on local procurement, workforce development, social benefit suppliers, waste diversion and circular economy practices. Many of the recycled-content initiatives are proposed opportunities rather than fixed quantities and will be confirmed through detailed procurement following contract award.

Human Rights Consideration

The implications of this report have been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities.

4. Consultation / Recommendation from Management

Internal and external stakeholder engagement has been undertaken throughout the development of the Fawkner Netball Courts Upgrade to inform the design, scope and proposed delivery approach.

Engagement activities included:

- Consultation with relevant Council departments, the project design team and specialist consultants during development of the design and tender documentation.
- Ongoing consultation with Fawkner Netball Club regarding the proposed upgrade, construction impacts and access arrangements.
- A letterbox drop to surrounding residents between 2 and 5 July 2026 to advise the local community of the proposed project and provide an opportunity to understand the upcoming works.
- A dedicated Conversations Merri-bek project webpage maintained to provide project information, updates and key milestones.
- Ongoing stakeholder communication to continue as construction staging, court closures and delivery arrangements are finalised.

Stakeholder feedback has been considered in the development of the project scope, design and proposed construction approach and community will be kept informed.

5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Council Officers, external consultants and all other parties involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest in this matter.

6. Financial and Resources Implications

Description	**Allocated budget amount (exc. GST)**	**Project costs (exc. GST)**	**Net (Allocated budget minus expected project costs)**
Total approved carry forward (from 2025-26)	$4,514,329		
Recommended fixed lump sum amount RFT-2026-22-Fawkner Netball Courts Upgrade (New roof and resurfacing works)		$4,120,029	
Recommended Provisional Sum amount RFT-2026-22-Fawkner Netball Courts Upgrade (New roof and resurfacing works)		$300,000	
Other anticipated costs outside this contract (design fees, permit fees, consultant fees etc.) *		$94,300	
Total	**$4,514,329***	**$4,514,329**	**$0**

**This amount does not include expenditure on this project in previous financial years*.

In some cases there will be contract variations required due to latent conditions outside of Council's and Contractor's control. In these instances, the delegated Council representative will have the authority to approve variations up to the percentage 15% (as at the time of writing this report) of the contract.

7. Implementation and Timeline

It is proposed that the CEO be authorised to do all things necessary to execute the contract/s and any other required documentation.

The contract will commence as soon as possible following Council endorsement.

Works on site are planned to commence in November 2026, with Practical Completion targeted for May 2027, subject to weather conditions and any unforeseen site or construction impacts.

Attachment/s

1	RFT-2026-22- Fawkner Netball Courts Upgrade (New roof and resurfacing works) - Tender Recommendation Report *Pursuant to section 3(1)(g)(ii) of the Local Government Act 2020 this attachment has been designated as confidential because it relates to private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.*	D26/420958

7.8 CONTRACT AWARD: RFT-P-2024-3 - PROVISION OF GENERAL AND SPECIALIST TREE SERVICES

Director City Infrastructure, Greg Rodwell

Open Space and Environment

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Awards the contract **RFT-P-2024-3** for the Re-Tender for the **Provision of General and Specialist Tree Services** (the **Contract**), to **Dianabelle Pty Ltd T/A RootControllers and Hydrox Australia** (the **Contractor)** under category D of the panel contract (Tree Root Services) for the submitted schedule of rates (excluding GST).
2. Notes there is no change to the maximum contract value previously authorised.
3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:
    a) Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and the Contractor provided that the terms specified in paragraph 1 of this Resolution shall not be altered without a further Resolution of Council;
    b) Ensure that, other than terms referred to in paragraph 1 of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer; and
    c) Advise all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract (conditional on acceptance of the Contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this resolution);
    d) Exercise the option(s) to extend contracts in accordance with the provisions within the Contract; and
    e) Accept new panel contractor(s) during the contract term subject to the same public tender/evaluation process as adopted for the original panel contractors, to ensure a range of suitable suppliers to meet Council’s needs is maintained, providing the total contract amount remains unchanged.

REPORT

Executive Summary

This report seeks Council approval to award Contract RFT-P-2024-3 Re-Tender for the General and Specialist Tree Services to the preferred contractor Dianabelle Pty Ltd T/A RootControllers and Hydrox Australia.

This panel contract was re-tendered to expand the number of contractors in Category D – Tree Root Services. Two conforming tenders were received and assessed in accordance with Council’s Procurement Policy against weighted evaluation criteria including cost, capability, capacity, methodology, program and sustainability considerations.

Following the tender evaluation process, Dianabelle Pty Ltd T/A RootControllers and Hydrox Australia has been identified as the preferred contractor, who have a strong track record of providing similar services.

The tender complies with section 109(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Previous Council Decisions

RFT-P-2024-3 – Provision of General and Specialist Tree Services – 9 April 2025

That Council:

1. *Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:*

    a) *Accept the Schedule of Rates submitted by Tenderers and make a formal offer to each of the individual panel contractors listed in Table 1 below according to the various service categories, for the Contract RFT-P-2024-3 for General and Specialist Tree Services (Contract) on the following terms and otherwise subject to and in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of this Resolution:*

        i. *For a period of three (3) years, with an option for a further one (1), two (2) year extension.*

        ii. *For an allowable maximum contract spend of $16.5 million (excluding GST) for the term of the contract including extension options.*

Table 1

Preferred Tenderer Name	*ACN*	*ABN*
Category A – Amenity Tree Services		
ETS Infrastructure Management Pty Ltd	*070 013 884*	*38 070 013 884*
Lucas Tree Services	*611 315 452*	*50 611 315 452*
Proleaf	*641 740 436*	*78 641 740 436*
Stevens Specialist Trees	*099 910 853*	*82 099 910 853*
Tree Amigos	*158 713 823*	*47 158 713 823*
TreeServe	*169 334 712*	*87 169 334 712*
Category B – Electric Line Clearance		
ETS Infrastructure Management Pty Ltd	*070 013 884*	*38 070 013 884*
Lucas Tree Services	*611 315 452*	*50 611 315 452*
Proleaf	*641 740 436*	*78 641 740 436*
Stevens Specialist Trees	*099 910 853*	*82 099 910 853*
TreeServe	*169 334 712*	*87 169 334 712*
Category C – Consultancy Services		
ENSPEC Pty Ltd	*062 909 255*	*92 062 909 255*
ETS Infrastructure Management Pty Ltd	*070 013 884*	*38 070 013 884*
Homewood Consulting	*113 595 430*	*39 531 880 706*
Lucas Tree Services	*611 315 452*	*50 611 315 452*
Xylem Tree Care Pty Ltd	*640 958 532*	*13 640 958 532*
Category D – Tree Root Services		
Lucas Tree Services	*611 315 452*	*50 611 315 452*
Category E – Tree Planting and Establishment		
Lucas Tree Services	*611 315 452*	*50 611 315 452*
Mt Beenak Earth Pty Ltd.	*680 016 004*	*54 680 016 004*
Sevron	*165 444 011*	*165 444 011*

1. Policy Context

This report is in keeping with Council's commitment to accountability and sound financial management. It also addresses the requirement under section 109(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* which requires Council to adhere to its Procurement Policy when entering into contracts for the purchasing of goods or services, or the carrying out of works. Council adopted the Procurement Policy on 11 June 2025 which sets the threshold for conducting a public tender for goods, services and works where once-off or ongoing cumulative spend over the life of the contract is expected to exceed $350,000 (incl GST).

2. Background

Council previously conducted a Request for Tender (RFT) process to establish a panel of contractors across various service categories. At the commencement of the contracts, it was identified that Category D (Tree Root Management) did not have a sufficient number of suppliers to adequately provide the required services. No other service categories were retendered.

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to award a contract for the provision of General and Specialist Tree Services following the completion of a re-tender process. The contracts were originally awarded for an initial term of three years, with one optional extension of two years. To align with Council's existing contract arrangements, the contractor is joining the existing panel for the remainder of the current initial term, with access to the same extension option. The contract will commence upon Council endorsement and expire on 30 April 2028.

The tender was released on 18 April 2026, with submissions closing on 8 May 2026. Two conforming tenders were received. All of the tender submissions were deemed conforming.

Tenderers Name	**ABN**
Dianabelle Pty Ltd	32 065 581 133
Green Aura Projects Pty Ltd	68 867 812 957

The conforming tender submissions were evaluated in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy, at the time of tendering.

The following is a breakdown of the Evaluation Criteria applicable to this procurement project.

Item Evaluation Criteria	**Weighting %**
Pricing Response	
Price	40%
Qualitative Criteria Response	
Past Experience and Current Contracts	10%
Skilled Personnel and Qualifications	10%
Capacity of the tenderer to provide the services	12%
Operation of The Services and Service Delivery Methodology	10%
Management and Administration of The Contract	8%
Social Sustainability	4%
Economic Sustainability	4%
Environmental Sustainability	2%
Total Qualitative Criteria Response	60%
Total scores	100%

The membership of the tender evaluation panel was as follows.

Title and/or company	Project Manager/ Generalist or Nominated Speciality	Full Voting / Advisory Member
Unit Manager Urban Forest	Generalist	Advisory
Senior Procurement Partner	Procurement	Advisory
Inspecting Arborist	Generalist	Full voting
Team leader Forrest Maintenance	Generalist	Full voting
Inspecting Arborist	Generalist	Full voting

Further details of tender evaluation are shown in the Tender Recommendation Report (**Confidential Attachment 1**).

3. Issues

The Officer Recommendation is to allow the Chief Executive Officer to approve new suppliers, as required, to ensure we maintain a number of suppliers over the life of the contract to meet council's needs and address circumstances which may arise, such as contractors that cease their operations during the term of the contract. This would be subject to the same public tender/evaluation process as adopted by the original evaluation panel, to ensure we maintain a suitable range of suppliers to meet Council's needs. The ability to bring on new suppliers also enables Council to potentially increase the number of contractors who align with our Procurement Policy environmental, social and economic objectives. Any additional suppliers added to the panel would not change the overall maximum spend amount.

Collaboration

Section 109(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires that any report to the Council that recommends entering into a procurement agreement must include information in relation to any opportunities for collaboration with other councils or public bodies which may be available.

Under this contract there are no opportunities to collaborate with other Councils or public bodies because of lack of alignment with contract requirements.

Interviews

Interviews were not considered necessary, as the contractor has worked with Council for a number of years and has consistently delivered satisfactory services.

Human Rights Consideration

The implications of this report have been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities.

4. Consultation / Recommendation

That Officers recommend the award of the contract for the provision of RFT-P-2024-3 for General and Specialist Tree Services commencing as soon as contract execution in accordance with the schedule of rates submitted and otherwise in accordance with the negotiated terms and conditions of contract.

5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Conflict of interest was declared by an advisory non-voting member of the evaluation panel. This was assessed, in alignment with the Procurement Evaluation and Probity Plan and triaged accordingly.

6. Financial and Resources Implications

The maximum spend under this contract, including extension options remains unchanged at $16.5 million (excluding GST).

7. Implementation and Timeline

It is proposed that the CEO be authorised to do all things necessary to execute the contract and any other required documentation.

The contract will commence as soon as possible following Council endorsement.

Attachment/s

1 RFT-P-2024-3 - Re-Tender Tender Recommendation Report D26/434466

Pursuant to section 3(1)(g)(ii) of the Local Government Act 2020 this attachment has been designated as confidential because it relates to private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

7.9 CONTRACT AWARD: RFT-2026-25 - DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT WORKS - WEST STREET, HADFIELD (EVERARD, LYONS, BOURCHIER TO HILTON STREET)

Director City Infrastructure, Greg Rodwell

Capital Works Planning and Delivery

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Awards the contract **RFT-2026-25** for the **Drainage Improvement Works - West Street, Hadfield (Everard, Lyons, Bourchier to Hilton Street)** (the **Contract**), to **ADP Constructions Pty Ltd** (the **Contractor)** for a fixed lump sum amount of $1,346,257.36 (excluding GST) plus a provisional sum of $360,890.00 (excluding GST), totaling $1,707,147.36 (excluding GST).
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:
    a) Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and the Contractor provided that the terms specified in paragraph 1 of this Resolution shall not be altered without a further Resolution of Council;
    b) Ensure that, other than terms referred to in paragraph 1 of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer; and
    c) Advise all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract (conditional on acceptance of the Contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this resolution);
3. Refers the contract shortfall of $307,147.36 to the quarterly forecast process.

REPORT

Executive Summary

This report seeks Council approval to award Contract RFT-2026-25 Drainage Improvement Works - West Street, Hadfield (Everard, Lyons, Bourchier to Hilton Street) to the preferred contractor, ADP Constructions Pty Ltd.

The Drainage Improvement Works West Street, Hadfield (Everard, Lyons, Bourchier to Hilton Street) has been included in the 2026–2027 Capital Works Program under the Roads and Carparks Program. The works involve construction of underground drainage pipes and associated pits, reinstatement of drainage trench, road resurfacing, replacement of some concrete kerb and channel, concrete vehicle crossings, concrete footpath. Another major objective of this project is to address flooding concerns along the scope of the work.

Two conforming tenders were received and assessed in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy against weighted evaluation criteria including cost, capability, capacity, methodology, program and sustainability considerations. Market interest in this project was limited due to its high complexity and associated construction risks. The works involve constructing more than 60 drainage pits, with some excavations exceeding 2.6 m in depth. Basalt rock is typically encountered from approximately 400 mm below ground level in this area, requiring extensive rock excavation. These challenging ground conditions and the associated cost and program risks discouraged a number of contractors from tendering for the project.

Following the tender evaluation process, including interview with the shortlisted tenderer ADP Constructions Pty Ltd has been identified as the preferred contractor, who have a strong track record in the major drainage as well as road reconstruction projects. ADP Constructions Pty Ltd has successfully delivered projects of similar scale and complexity for various other councils, with strong performance outcomes including two recent projects for Council (South Street, Hadfield Major Drainage Upgrade and O' Hea Street, Pascoe Vale Road Reconstruction).

Onsite construction is scheduled to commence in mid-February 2027 and is anticipated to be completed within a 19-week period, with practical completion targeted for mid to late June 2027, subject to ground conditions and weather. To minimise disruption to residents and local traffic, the works will be staged across two to three distinct sections and delivered concurrently by multiple crews, enabling an efficient construction program and accelerated project delivery.

The contract shortfall of $307,147.36 is being recommended to the quarterly forecasting process. Officers have identified two other projects from the Civil Assets program that will have savings declared in the upcoming forecast process that will offset the budget shortfall from this project.

The tender complies with section 109(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020.*

Previous Council Decisions

None.

1. Policy Context

This report is in keeping with Council's commitment to accountability and sound financial management. It also addresses the requirement under section 109(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* which requires Council to adhere to its Procurement Policy when entering into contracts for the purchasing of goods or services, or the carrying out of works. Council adopted the Procurement Policy on 11 June 2025 which sets the threshold for conducting a public tender for goods, services and works where once-off or ongoing cumulative spend over the life of the contract is expected to exceed $350,000 (incl GST).

2. Background

The purpose of the report is to award a tender to a suitably qualified contractor to undertake the Drainage Improvement Works - West Street, Hadfield (Everard, Lyons, Bourchier to Hilton Street) as per the detailed drawings and specifications.

The tender was released on 15 August 2026 with submissions closing on 8 September 2026. Two conforming tenders were received and deemed conforming.

	Tenderers Name	**ABN**
1	ADP Constructions Pty Ltd	46 118 588 097
2	Merlo Concreting Pty Ltd	18 150 942 920

The conforming tender submissions were evaluated in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy, at the time of tendering.

The following is a breakdown of the Evaluation Criteria applicable to this procurement project.

Criteria	**Weighting**
Price	45%
Work Program	3%
Work Methodology	4%
Capability	5%

Criteria	Weighting
Experience and Past Performance	4%
Capacity	4%
Complete Project Management Plan	10%
Customer Service	7%
Social Sustainability	5%
Economic Sustainability	4%
Environmental Sustainability	4%
Environmentally Sustainable Construction Options	5%
Total	100%

The membership of the tender evaluation panel was as follows.

Title	Project Manager/ Generalist or Nominated Speciality	Full Voting / Advisory Member
Team Leader Roads Projects	Project Manager (Chair)	Full Voting
Senior Construction Engineering	Generalist	Full Voting
Construction Management Officer	Generalist	Full Voting
Principal Design Engineer	Nominated Speciality	Advisory
Senior Procurement Partner	Procurement	Advisory
Assistant Procurement Partner	Procurement	Advisory

Further details of tender evaluation are shown in the Tender Recommendation Report (**Confidential Attachment 1**).

3. Issues

Collaboration

Note that section 109(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires that any report to the Council that recommends entering into a procurement agreement must include information in relation to any opportunities for collaboration with other councils or public bodies which may be available.

Under this contract there are no opportunities to collaborate with other Councils or public bodies because it is a local stand-alone major drainage project for which there is a healthy local market of contractors.

Interview

Interview was conducted on 17 September 2026 with ADP Constructions Pty Ltd to further assess its suitability for the project. The tenderer responded to questions relating to its proposed construction methodology, understanding of the project requirements, and approach to managing key risks and challenges.

Social Implications

ADP Constructions have implemented a Social Procurement Policy, along with Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Modern Slavery Policies. These policies reflect the company’s commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive workforce by employing individuals from varied social, political, and cultural backgrounds.

Local Implications

ADP Constructions is in Pascoe Vale within the municipality. Demonstrating a strong commitment to supporting the local economy, ADP Constructions regularly engage local suppliers in its operations and has identified three local businesses to be involved in this project.

Environmental Implications

ADP Constructions have established processes to recycle and reuse waste materials wherever possible and actively incorporates recycled products into their projects. For this project, the company will ensure that all excavated spoil, concrete, and asphalt are transported to appropriate recycling facilities. Additionally, they have mentioned that tip truck will be used to carry material both ways, making the process more efficient and reducing environmental impact.

Human Rights Consideration

The implications of this report have been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities.

4. Consultation

As part of the design phase, community consultation was carried out in March 2025 via a letter drop to property owners and residents, along West Street, (Everard Street to Hilton Street) Everard Street, Bourchier Street and Lyons Street in Hadfield. Several residents expressed their support for the proposed works, and their feedback has been carefully considered in the final road design.

Prior to the commencement of construction, further notifications will be issued to the community through another letter drop by both the Contractor and Council to ensure clear communication and awareness.

5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Two conflicts of interest were declared by voting members of the evaluation panel. This was assessed, in alignment with the Procurement Evaluation and Probity Plan and triaged accordingly.

6. Financial and Resources Implications

A total budget of $1,400,000.00 has been allocated in Council Capital Works Program for the financial year of 2026/2027 for Drainage Improvement Works - West Street, Hadfield (Everard, Lyons, Bourchier to Hilton Street).

Description	Allocated budget amount (exc GST)	Project costs	Net (Allocated budget minus expected project costs)
Adopted budget	$1,400,000.00	-	-
RFT-2026-25 Drainage Improvement Works- West Street, Hadfield (Everard, Lyons, Bourchier to Hilton Street) (Contract) - Fixed Lump Sum	-	$1,346,257.36	-
RFT-2026-25 Drainage Improvement Works- West Street, Hadfield (Everard, Lyons, Bourchier to Hilton Street) (Contract) - Provisional Sum	-	$360,890.00	-

Recommended RFT-2026-25 Total Contract Amount	**-**	**$1,707,147.36**	**-**
Total Budget, Project Cost and Shortfall	**$1,400,000.00**	**$1,707,147.36**	**$307,147.00**

The contract shortfall of $307,147 is being recommended to the quarterly forecasting process. Officers have identified two other projects from the Civil Assets program that will have savings declared in the upcoming forecast process that will offset the budget shortfall from this project.

In some cases, there will be contract variations required due to latent conditions outside of Council's and Contractor's control. In these instances, the delegated Council representative will have the authority to approve variations up to the delegated percentage of the contract.

7. Implementation and Timeline

It is proposed that the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to do all things necessary to execute the contract and any other required documentation.

The contract will commence as soon as possible following Council endorsement with construction planned to commence in mid-February 2027 and practical completion targeted for mid to late June 2027, subject to ground conditions and weather.

Attachment/s

1 RFT-2026-25 -Tender Recommendation Report D26/427843

Pursuant to section 3(1)(g)(ii) of the Local Government Act 2020 this attachment has been designated as confidential because it relates to private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

7.10 CONTRACT EXTENSION: RFT-2023-477 FOR WAT DJEERING ANIMAL FACILITY SERVICES

Director City Infrastructure, Greg Rodwell

Amenity and Compliance

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approves the extension of the Animal Welfare Services Agreement (RFT-2023-477) with the City of Whittlesea for the continued provision of animal welfare services at the wat djerring Animal Facility, for the period 16 October 2027 to 15 October 2032.
2. Approves an increased maximum spend under this contract (inclusive of the initial term and extension option) of $9,210,000 (excluding GST).
3. Notes that the contract operating model comprises Service Operating Costs and animal-specific costs, as detailed in section six of this report, and that Council officers will work with the Cities of Whittlesea and Darebin to confirm a clear, transparent and auditable methodology for allocating fixed and variable costs during the extension period.
4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to give effect to the extension, including negotiating greater certainty in Service Operating Costs in the extension agreement, issuing any required notice, executing associated documents and making any administrative amendments required to continue the service.

REPORT

Executive Summary

This report seeks Council approval to exercise the available five-year extension option for continued animal welfare services at the wat djerring Animal Facility and increase the maximum expenditure authorised under the contract.

Merri-bek is required to provide animal management and pound/shelter services to support its statutory functions, including the management of lost, impounded, seized, surrendered and unclaimed animals. The current agreement operates as a regional shared-service model between Whittlesea, Merri-bek and Darebin, with Whittlesea operating the facility as service provider.

The initial contract term commenced on 16 October 2022 and expires on 15 October 2027, with one optional five-year extension available. Council’s 2022 resolution requires further approval before exercising the extension, and the 2025 resolution requires Councillors to receive notice of any proposed extension at least 12 months before expiry.

The maximum spend authorised under the original contract was $3.5 million (inclusive of GST). The Chief Executive Officer subsequently approved a $525,000 contract variation under delegation, increasing the authorised value of the initial term to $4.025 million including GST. This report is recommending a new maximum spend under the contract, including the extension term of $10,131,000 (inclusive of GST) or $9,210,000 (excluding GST).

The recommended option remains to exercise the five-year extension under Merri-bek's separate Animal Welfare Services Agreement with the City of Whittlesea and continue the current regional shared-service arrangement to protect service continuity from October 2027. It reflects Council's existing capital investment, the established purpose-built facility, known service capacity and animal-welfare capability, and the absence of a replacement service that could be implemented without material transition risk.

Previous Council Decisions

Adequate Notice of Contract Expiry for Major Council Services – 12 March 2025

That Councillors receive notice via Councillor briefings about any proposals to extend contracts for waste collection, leisure centres and the wat djerring Animal Facility at least 12 months before the initial term of the contract expires.

wat djerring Animal Facility – Review of First Year of Operation – 6 December 2023

That Council:

1. *Notes the overview of the wat djerring Animal Facility for the first year of operation (16 October 2022 to 15 October 2023).*
2. *Notes that the pound operating costs for the year were higher than anticipated and Merri-bek's proportion of the net overspend is $70,593, and that these funds will be addressed as part of the Quarter 2 financial review.*

Contract Award for Operation of Epping Animal Welfare Facility – 14 September 2022

That Council:

1. *Authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to do all things necessary to enter into an Animal Welfare Services Agreement with City of Whittlesea for the provision of animal welfare services, effective 16 October 2022 for 5 years with a possible 5-year extension, subject to the following additional requirement to ensure continuity in adoption services:*
   a) Include in Clause 5.2(g) provision that Whittlesea will organise adoptions and rehoming direct to members of the public with rescue groups being used as a safety net with an inhouse adoption process to be set up subject to the Chief Executive Officer seeking as soon as possible, preferably within 3 months but no longer than 6 months of the contract commencing.
2. *Endorses expenditure up to $3.5 million over the initial 5 years of the contract.*
3. *Notes that Council's further approval will be sought before exercising the 5-year extension.*
4. *Authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to do all things necessary to execute a Deed of Variation to the Epping Animal Welfare Facility Agreement entered into in December 2015, which recognises the interests of Moreland City Council as an original partner in establishing the Epping Animal Welfare Facility.*
5. *Makes the resolutions on this matter public after associated decisions are made by the other Partner Councils in this matter (City of Whittlesea and Darebin City Council).*
6. *Seeks an independent review to be undertaken of the model after the first 6 months, engaging with rescue groups about how the model is going and benchmarking best practice on animal adoptions across the sector and reported to Council in June 2023, recommending whether or not a contract variation should be sought.*
7. *Writes to the City of Whittlesea, as operator of the Epping Animal Welfare Facility, requesting advice about its stakeholder engagement approach relevant to the operations of the Epping Animal Welfare Facility.*

Epping Animal Welfare Facility Contract Review – 8 September 2021

That Council resolved to:

1. *Terminate the contract with RSPCA Victoria.*
2. *Provide in-principle endorsement of adopting an in-house model whereby Council would enter into a contract with the City of Whittlesea for animal welfare services at the Epping Animal Welfare Facility, with the contract to be brought back to Council for approval.*

3. *Provide in-principle endorsement of pursuing a Joint Venture Agreement or equivalent to replace the existing Shared Services Agreement and recognise Moreland City Council's interests as an original partner in establishing the facility, with the final agreement to be approved by Council.*

Contract Award for Operational Tender of Regional Animal Facility in Epping – 8 March 2017

That Council resolved to:

1. *Accept the Lump Sum Tender from RSPCA Victoria of $473,236.20 per annum for animal welfare services to the City of Moreland.*
2. *Award a preferred supplier contract for ten years, with a further ten-year extension option, noting the contract could be terminated without cause at each five-year interval.*
3. *Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to execute the contracts with counterparts at the City of Whittlesea and Darebin.*

Animal Management Services – 9 September 2015

That Council resolved to:

1. *Continue to pursue opportunities to partner with the City of Whittlesea and the City of Darebin for a regional facility.*
2. *Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to execute a contract for the Regional Facility with the City of Whittlesea.*
3. *Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to pay Moreland's capital contribution towards the Regional Facility up to $2.74 million, subject to agreeable terms and conditions.*

1. Policy Context

Council performs a range of statutory functions relating to domestic animal management, public safety, animal welfare, impoundment, reclaim and rehoming. The continued availability of pound and animal welfare services is necessary to support Council's obligations and objectives under relevant legislation, codes of practice and Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan.

Relevant legislative and policy considerations include:

- Domestic Animals Act 1994, including Council functions relating to the control and management of dogs and cats, registration, impounding and responsible pet ownership.
- Impounding of Livestock Act 1994, where livestock or other animals require impoundment or management.
- Code of Practice for the Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds, which establishes minimum standards for the accommodation, management and care of dogs and cats in shelters and Council pounds.
- Merri-bek's Domestic Animal Management Plan, which provides the strategic framework for domestic animal management, including responsible pet ownership, registration, animal welfare, reclaim and rehoming outcomes.
- Merri-bek's procurement framework and collaborative procurement obligations, including the benefits of shared service arrangements where they provide value, continuity and economies of scale.

The recommendation aligns with the need to deliver a responsive, accessible and compliant animal welfare service and supports Council's broader public safety, community wellbeing and responsible pet ownership objectives.

2. Background

The wat djerring Animal Facility, formerly the Epping Animal Welfare Facility, is a regional facility established through a partnership between the City of Whittlesea, Merri-bek City Council and Darebin City Council. The facility provides pound and shelter services for impounded, surrendered and unclaimed domestic animals.

On 14 September 2022, Council approved entering into an Animal Welfare Services Agreement with the City of Whittlesea for the provision of animal welfare services from 16 October 2022 for an initial five-year term, with an option for a single five-year extension. Council endorsed expenditure up to $3.5 million (including GST) over the initial five-year term and noted that further Council approval would be sought before exercising the extension option.

The City of Whittlesea provides the service as the facility operator and service provider. The contract includes services such as pound and shelter services, veterinary services, animal care, registration and microchipping, release of reclaimed animals, adoption and rehoming arrangements, fee collection, facility management and reporting to Partner Councils.

In June 2025, following a review of actual operating costs of the facility, a variation to the contract was implemented, this apportioned actual facility costs more transparently and equitably between the three Councils. Following the change, the Chief Executive Officer has approved a $525,000 (including GST) contract value variation under delegation increasing the authorised contract value for the initial term to $4.025 million (including GST).

In accordance with the 12 March 2025 Council resolution, Councillors were briefed in September on the proposal to extend the wat djerring Animal Facility contract. This report seeks Council approval to exercise the available five-year extension option for continued animal welfare services at the wat djerring Animal Facility and increase the maximum expenditure authorised under the contract.

3. Issues

Need for continuity of a statutory service

Council has an ongoing requirement to provide animal management and pound/shelter services. Without a continuing contract in place, Council would be exposed to significant service continuity, statutory compliance, animal welfare and reputational risks from 16 October 2027.

The service supports the safe and lawful management of lost, wandering, seized, surrendered, unclaimed and court-held animals. It also supports the return of animals to owners, adoption and rehoming outcomes, veterinary care, appropriate animal housing, and safe management of animals that cannot be immediately returned to the community.

Service delivery pathways and contractual feasibility

Officers have considered different options relating to the animal welfare services provision including:

1. Extending the current contract for the 5-year period (until October 2032);
2. Running a new Public Tender process for the provision of this service to test the market;
3. Bringing the service in-house.

Option	Financial / operational position	Key risks / considerations
Extend wat Djerring - Merri-bek/Whittlesea service agreement	Approx. $5.03m core contribution over five years; $5.3m extension provision ex GST. Existing facility and no new Merri-bek capital build required.	Available contractual pathway with known service and capacity. Exposure remains primarily to annual apportionment and separately charged animals.
Alternative external provider at another facility	Could avoid a Merri-bek capital build, but no equivalent and feasible replacement service is currently identified for Merri-bek's full scope.	Provider capacity, transport distance, court-hold capability, veterinary/welfare standards, mobilisation, termination/transition requirements and price comparability require testing. Market indicators suggest this would be at a far greater cost than the current service model.
Standalone Merri-bek facility - future only	Limited available land, cost prohibitive land purchase and facility develop capital costs and no developed nor funded facility proposal.	Not feasible for October 2027. Would require a viable site, approvals, substantial capital, seven-day staffing, veterinary capability, technology, fleet and ongoing asset maintenance and renewal costs.

Officers are recommending proceeding with the first option, extending the current contract. The current model provides the only established, low-transition-risk pathway presently available for October 2027. Council has limited practical alternatives to the current arrangement. Establishing a standalone Merri-bek pound or shelter would require substantial capital investment, specialist staffing, regulatory approvals, operating systems, veterinary arrangements and significant lead time all of which are not budgeted for. Testing the market for a new provider may also present capacity, cost, transition and animal welfare risks, particularly given the specialist nature of pound and shelter services and the need for continuity for impounded and court-held animals.

The existing shared-service model provides immediate continuity through an established regional facility in which Merri-bek has an existing partnership interest. It also allows costs, governance, operational oversight and service improvements to be shared between Partner Councils.

Benchmarking and value considerations

Council has undertaken indicative benchmarking of alternative pound and shelter service models. While some comparator councils report lower headline costs, the models are not directly comparable because service scope and cost inclusions differ, including the treatment of public hand-ins and surrenders, seized and court-held animals, veterinary care, adoption and rehoming services, transport and collections, facility ownership and overheads. Alternative facilities would also increase travel time, fleet costs and officer time away from Merri-bek, and no alternative provider has been identified that has demonstrated equivalent service scope and capacity at a lower whole-of-service cost.

A standalone Merri-bek facility is also not presently feasible due to the absence of suitable land and the significant capital, staffing and operational requirements. Wat djerring operates as a purpose-built regional shared service, with employee expenditure representing approximately 69% of the 2026/27 facility operating budget.

On current information, continuation of the existing regional arrangement provides the established service pathway for October 2027 while Council continues to monitor costs, benchmark value for money and explore longer-term service options.

Confidential **Attachment 2** includes a list of benchmarking across the sector, including animal volumes and approximate costs. It also includes further information on the wat djerring Animal Facility cost escalations.

Location and operational effects for Animal Management

The wat djerring Animal Facility is located in Epping. For Merri-bek Animal Management officers this requires transport of impounded and seized animals just outside the municipality, with associated officer travel time, fleet use and reduced field availability while an animal is transported and handed over. The operational impact varies depending on where an animal is collected within Merri-bek and is greater for matters originating in the central and southern parts of the municipality.

The location also provides operational benefits: it is an established regional facility with known intake arrangements, seven-day animal-care capability and a consistent destination for officers. Any alternative external provider located further from Merri-bek would increase transport costs, have potential emissions increases to the service and likely require additional resourcing to maintain current service standards. A Merri-bek-based facility would reduce some transport time however this would need to be weighed against the land, capital, staffing and amenity constraints of establishing a pound within a dense inner-urban municipality.

Welfare considerations

Positive animal welfare outcomes are a key consideration in exercising the extension option. Since the transition to the wat djerring Animal Facility 52 rescue partners have been established and an adoption program to support rehoming, manage capacity and reduce length of stay introduced. The average length of stay reduced from 32.5 days in year one to 20.42 days in year two. State benchmarking indicates that the wat djerring Animal Facility manages a comparatively high cat intake, with 2,731 cats recorded in 2023. Of these, 680 were rehomed, 1,038 were transferred and 214 were reclaimed, representing a broader positive outcome pathway of approximately 71% when rehoming, transfers and reclaims are considered together. While the wat djerring Animal Facility's direct cat adoption/rehoming rate is lower than some Victorian facilities, its transfer outcomes demonstrate the value of rescue partnerships in supporting animal welfare. Continued extension of the contract will be supported by ongoing monitoring of adoption rates, rehoming rates, euthanasia rates, reclaim rates, average length of stay and animal health and wellness outcomes.

Community impact

Exercising the extension option will provide continuity of essential animal welfare services for the Merri-bek community. The service supports the safe management of animals, reunites lost animals with owners, provides care for impounded and surrendered animals, supports adoption and rehoming outcomes, and promotes responsible pet ownership.

Not exercising the extension without a fully developed alternative would create a significant risk of service disruption, reduced capacity to manage impounded animals, poorer animal welfare outcomes, potentially increased costs and increased community concern.

Economic sustainability implications

The extension supports economic sustainability by continuing a shared service arrangement that allows costs to be distributed between Partner Councils. It also reduces the financial and operational risks associated with establishing a new standalone service or rapidly procuring an alternative provider in a limited market. Continued benchmarking and contract monitoring will be undertaken to ensure the service remains financially sustainable and delivers value for money.

Legal and risk considerations

The legal and risk considerations support the recommendation to exercise the extension option. Council requires continued access to pound and animal welfare services to support statutory animal management functions and public safety outcomes.

Both Merri-bek City Council and Darebin City Council are partner councils in the broader wat djerring facility arrangement each with their own separate service agreement with the City of Whittlesea. Merri-bek's agreement provides contractual rights in relation to the services purchased and their performance, reporting, financial review, monitoring, reconciliation and extension, it does not give Merri-bek ownership or control of the facility assets.

Key risks if the extension is not exercised include:

- non-compliance or service failure if Council does not have a pound/shelter service available from 16 October 2027;
- animal welfare risks if impounded, seized or surrendered animals cannot be appropriately housed, cared for, reclaimed or rehomed;
- public safety risks associated with the management of dangerous, menacing, wandering, seized or court-held animals;
- financial risk if Council is required to rapidly procure a replacement service or establish a standalone facility;
- transition risk, including transfer of animals, data sharing, staff capability, systems, facility capacity and contract mobilisation; and
- reputational risk arising from service disruption, animal welfare concerns or inability to respond to community expectations.

These risks are mitigated by exercising the available extension option and continuing the existing service with ongoing contract management, reporting, financial review and partnership governance.

Human Rights Consideration

The implications of this report have been assessed in accordance with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities. The recommendation to exercise the contract extension does not of itself limit any human rights. The decision supports continuation of a statutory service and does not alter individual enforcement powers, review rights or statutory processes.

The service may indirectly intersect with property interests where animals are impounded, seized or held under relevant legislation. Those matters will continue to be managed under existing statutory frameworks, procedural fairness requirements, enforcement policies and any applicable court processes.

4. Community consultation and engagement

The wat djerring Animal Management facility was established through inter-council agreement, Council resolutions and procurement processes. Through these processes engagement with rescue groups and other stakeholders concerning the facility's operating and adoption model was undertaken. This report concerns continuation of an existing statutory service delivery arrangement. The service itself supports outcomes identified through Council's domestic animal management planning and ongoing community expectations regarding responsible pet ownership, animal welfare and public safety.

Affected persons rights and interests

The persons most directly affected by the service are animal owners, residents, complainants, persons whose animals are impounded or seized, rescue and rehoming partners, and the broader community. Exercising the extension maintains the existing service pathway and does not introduce new restrictions on affected persons.

5. Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Council officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest in this matter.

6. Financial and Resources Implications

The below table summarises the financial impact of this contract, including the extension option.

Description	Decision	Excluding GST	Including GST
Initial contract term – (16 October 2022 – 15 October 2027)	Council – 14 September 2022	$3,181,818	$3,500,000
Contract variation – 15%	CEO	$477,273	$525,000
Max authorised contract value to-date		**$3,659,091**	**$4,025,000**
Additional authority required – balance of initial term and five-year extension	Officer recommendation of this report	$5,550,909	$6,105,990
Total maximum authorised spend		**$9,210,000**	**$10,131,000**

The recommended maximum authorised contract value of $9.210 million excluding GST comprises the forecast cost of completing the initial contract term and the proposed five-year extension expenditure provision.

The additional authority sought through this report is $5.551 million excluding GST. This comprises approximately $250,000 excluding GST required to complete the initial term to 15 October 2027 and approximately $5.3 million excluding GST for the five-year extension to 15 October 2032.

The contract contains two principal cost components:

1. **Service operating costs** – the Facility operating cost base, including employee costs, facility costs, overheads, depreciation, animal holding costs (veterinary and food) and other operating expenditure; and

2. **Animal-specific on costs** – separately charged costs for:

    a) impounded seized dog for court prosecution;

    b) euthanasia and disposal of seized dog following court prosecution;

    c) impounded large livestock (horse, cow);

    d) impounded medium livestock (sheep, goat, pig);

    e) impounded small livestock;

    f) desexing of dog at Client Council's request; and

    g) desexing of cat at Client Council's request.

All of which are inherently variable.

The extension is not a fixed-price contract. Actual annual contributions will be determined through Merri-bek's annual apportionment of Service Operating costs and separately charged Animal-specific on costs.

Service Operating Costs: Under the current model, the City of Whittlesea establishes the annual operating budget for the wat djerring Animal Facility, and each Partner Council contributes according to its applicable annual apportionment. Merri-bek's apportionment is recalculated annually according to the proportion of Merri-bek animals entering the facility to the total number of animals entering the facility from all three partner Councils.

Animal-Specific On-costs: These costs are inherently variable; officers undertook an analysis of the historic quantity and associated expenditure of Animal-Specific On-costs to forecast and include an allowance for the extension period.

The proposed $5.3 million extension provision has been modelled using the historic Service Operating Costs with forward operating-cost assumptions including employee-cost escalation and non-salary CPI assumptions, with a 25.5% estimated Merri-bek apportionment and an allowance for the variable Animal-Specific On-costs.

Since the price adjustment to reflect the actual operational costs of the facility the contract cost to Council has been relatively stable. The number of animals taken to the pound from Merri-bek and the subsequent proportion of Merri-bek animals to the total number of animals from all Councils (the apportionment) creates exposure to cost movements. The $9.210 million authorised maximum spend provides Merri-bek's total expenditure authority.

The service will continue to be funded through the Amenity and Compliance operating budget, with actual expenditure monitored through annual budget development, quarterly forecasting and contract-management processes.

7. Implementation

Subject to Council's decision, officers will:

- confirm the contractual notice requirements and issue any notice required to exercise the five-year extension option;
- before exercising the extension option, confirm with the City of Whittlesea the financial governance arrangements applying during the extension period, including annual budget-setting, employee and non-salary escalation, Partner Council consultation on material cost or service-model changes, annual reconciliation and variable animal charges, and obtain Legal/Procurement advice on whether any additional agreement or deed of variation is required;
- monitor the forecast against Council's authorised maximum expenditure and escalate any material cost increase or forecast exceedance through the appropriate Council approval process;

- arrange for the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to execute any extension documentation or administrative instruments required under the Agreement;
- update procurement and contract management records, including RFT-2023-477 and the relevant contract register;
- confirm future budget requirements with Finance and ensure the extension is reflected in Council's annual budget and long-term financial planning processes;
- continue monthly operational reporting, monthly contract meetings and quarterly financial reviews with the City of Whittlesea and Partner Councils;
- continue to review KPIs, benchmarking, cost drivers and animal welfare outcomes during the extension period; and
- provide communications to relevant internal teams and external stakeholders if required.

The extension period would commence on 16 October 2027 and conclude on 15 October 2032.

Attachment/s

1	Cost Model and Service Review - wat djerring Animal Facility	D26/420961
	Pursuant to section 3(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 this attachment has been designated as confidential because it relates to Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.	
2	Benchmarking Across the Sector	D26/450126
	Pursuant to section 3(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 this attachment has been designated as confidential because it relates to Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.	

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

8.1 RESTORATION OF FULL POSTAL SERVICES TO GLENROY

Cr Helen Davidson

Motion

That Council:

1. Writes to Australia Post, Anika Wells MP, Jo Briskey MP, Peter Kahlil MP and Kathleen Matthews-Ward MP seeking that Australia Post seek to offer a licence for a local Glenroy business to operate a postal service that allows for bill payment and other agency services on which residents have relied.
2. Seeks that Australia Post work to establish a fully equipped postal outlet capable of providing in-person postal and bill payment services, while also ensuring that the needs of older residents, residents with disability or mobility limitations and residents who rely on face-to-face services and local businesses are properly considered.

1. Background

Cr Davidson's background:

The closure of the Australia Post outlet in Post Office Place, Glenroy, has had a significant impact on residents and businesses who previously relied upon the outlet for postal, bill payment and other services.

Council has previously recognised the importance of accessible postal services to the Glenroy community. On 13 September 2023, Council resolved to advocate to Australia Post and the Federal Minister for Communications regarding the closure of the Glenroy Post Office and to seek the reinstatement of postal services. Council's resolution specifically raised concerns regarding the impact of the closure on residents with mobility challenges and the accessibility of alternative post offices.

The closest postal service which allows residents to pay bills is Hadfield, Oak Park or Broadmeadows. This means that a significant number of residents have been effectively cut off from an accessible service.

The current proposal to provide a Community Postal Agent service through the Pascoe Vale Road newsagency provides an opportunity to restore a local postal presence. However, the proposed service does not address the full range of services that residents have identified as necessary.

Australia Post's own published information states that Community Postal Agents can provide basic postage and mail services but do not offer agency services such as bill payment and banking.

This distinction is particularly important for Glenroy residents who rely on being able to pay bills in person. Australia Post confirms that Post Billpay enables eligible bills to be paid in person at participating Post Offices, including by cash, EFTPOS, debit and credit card and, where applicable, cheque.

While online, telephone and app-based payment options are available, these options do not provide an equivalent service for all members of the community. Some residents rely on face-to-face services and may not have access to, or confidence using, online banking, smartphones or other digital payment methods.

There are local businesses that would be willing to offer this service. For example, the Pascoe Vale Road newsagency has indicated its willingness to operate an Australia Post service. A local business offering Australia Post services would be a practical opportunity for Australia Post to establish a properly equipped postal outlet in Glenroy without requiring residents to travel outside the local shopping precinct.

2. Policy context

Officer's comments:

This request is aligned with Council's Human Rights Policy, which gives priority to people who are recognised as being at greatest risk from access barriers to social and economic life.

The closure of the Glenroy Post Office has created access barriers for community members who rely on in person community services such as banking, bill paying and parcel pick up. This is likely to impact residents who are older, have lower levels of English as a first language, and those who are less confident with (or do not have) digital access.

The Glenroy community has a higher proportion of residents likely to be impacted:

- 4.9 per cent of the Glenroy population is over 80 years of age, compared with the Greater Melbourne average of 4 per cent
- 48.9 per cent of people in Glenroy use a language other than English at home, compared with the Greater Melbourne average of 34.1 per cent
- 6.7 per cent speak English not well or not at all, compared with the Greater Melbourne average of 5.4 per cent

Glenroy also has one of the highest levels of relative socio-economic disadvantage in Merri-bek, according to the 2021 Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage.

3. Financial Implications

Officer's comments:

The cost of planned activities and actions are available within existing budget allocations.

4. Resources implications

Officer's comments:

This motion can be actioned within existing resource allocations.