AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 23 June 2026
6:00 pm

City Hall
57 Little Malop Street, Geelong 3220

TO BE LIVE STREAMED ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE:
www.geelongaustralia.com.au/meetings

COUNCIL:

Cr S Kontelj (Kardinia Ward) - Mayor
Cr E Kontelj (Hamlyn Heights Ward) - Deputy Mayor
Cr R Nelson (Barrabool Hills Ward)
Cr E Sinclair (Charlemont Ward)
Cr M Cadwell (Cheetham Ward)
Cr E Wilkinson (Connewarre Ward)
Cr A Aitken (Corio Ward)
Cr A Katos (Deakin Ward)
Cr T Sullivan (Leopold Ward)
Cr R Story (Murradoc Ward)
Cr C Burson (You Yangs Ward)

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

Council acknowledges the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the Land, Waterways and Skies. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. We acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are part of our Greater Geelong community today.

1.2. Apologies

1.3. Leaves of Absence

That Leave of Absence be granted to Cr R Story from 24 June 2026 to 29 June 2026, inclusive.

1.4. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

1.5. Confirmation of Minutes

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 May 2026 be confirmed.

1.6. Public Question and Submission Time

1.7. Petitions

1. Amend St Helen's Off Leash Dog Rules

2. REPORTS

2.1. Budget Referrals - 2026-27 to 2029-30 Budget

Source: **Corporate Services**
Executive Director: **Troy Edwards**

Purpose

1. To consider any conflict of interest that Councillors may have in the 2026-27 to 2029-30 Budget.

Background

2. In developing the 2026-27 to 2029-30 Budget an extensive range of activities and initiatives have been considered for funding.

3. Councillors who may have a conflict of interest, either general or material are required to disclose the nature of the conflict of interest in accordance with the Governance Rules and remove themselves from discussion and voting on the matter.

Key Matters

4. The proposed 2026-27 to 2029-30 Budget contains items in which a Councillor has indicated they have a conflict of interest.

5. The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020* (the Regulations) provides for an exemption from conflict-of-interest requirements when preparing or adopting a budget under Part 4 of the Act, when:

    5.1. Council has previously approved the matter in which the Councillor has an interest, including funding, and the Councillor has disclosed the conflict of interest at the time the matter was approved by Council.

6. Any items proposed for inclusion in the Budget in which a Councillor has indicated a conflict of interest are to be dealt with by separate resolution.

7. Once all declarations have been made and the item which is the subject of any declaration is determined by Council, all Councillors are able to vote on Agenda Item 2, being the Proposed 2026-27 to 2029-30 Budget.

Recommendation

That Council funds from the Contributions and Partnerships section of the proposed 2026-2027 Budget:

1. Sponsorship of the Geelong Football Club for 2026-27.

Financial Sustainability

8. Financial implications are addressed in the proposed 2026-27 to 2029-30 Budget.

Community Engagement

9. There is no proposed community engagement with this report.

Social Equity and Sustainability

10. There are no social equity or sustainability implications associated with this report.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

11. This report satisfies the requirements under section 129(g) of the Act and section 7(1)(r) of the Regulations. Conflict of Interest disclosures are made in accordance with the Governance Rules and Conflict of Interest Policy.

Alignment to Community Plan and Vision

12. This report aligns with Our Community Plan 2021-2025 strategic priority: High-performing council and organisation.

Conflict of Interest

13. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment and Risk Appetite Statement

14. Declaration of conflict of interests in accordance with legislative requirements mitigates the risk of failing to adopt the Budget.

15. In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* Council must adopt an annual budget each year.

16. The budget has been developed in accordance with a timetable to ensure sufficient time to achieve the adoption timeframe and to include community consultation, meetings of the executive and preparation of the proposed 2026-27 Budget. The timetable provides a framework to manage risk for Council to meet its statutory obligations to avoid adverse implications if the process is delayed.

Environmental Sustainability

17. There are no environmental sustainability implications associated with this report.

Attachments

Nil

2.2. 2026-27 Budget, 2026-36 Long-Term Financial Plan and Council Plan 2025-29 - Year 2 Update

Source: **Corporate Services**
Executive Director: **Troy Edwards**

Purpose

1. To adopt the 2026-27 to 2029-30 Budget

2. To adopt the 2026-27 to 2035-36 Long Term Financial Plan

3. To adopt the Declaration of 2026-27 Rates

4. Note the Year 2 Annual Update of the Council Plan 2025–29.

Background

5. In accordance with section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020 (the Act)*, Council is required to prepare and adopt a budget for each financial year, together with the subsequent three financial years, by 30 June each year. The Budget must contain the statements, reports and other information prescribed by the Act.

6. Where Council proposes to declare differential rates for any land, the Budget must also include the matters specified under section 161(2) of the *Local Government Act* 1989.

7. In addition, section 91 of the Act requires Council to develop and maintain a Long-Term Financial Plan covering a minimum period of ten financial years. The Long-Term Financial Plan (the Plan) forms a key part of Council's integrated strategic planning framework, linking the Council Plan, Asset Management Plan and other strategic documents, and translating these objectives and strategies into long-term financial outcomes.

8. The 2026-27 to 2035-36 Long-Term Financial Plan is an annual update to the Plan previously adopted by Council in October 2025 and to ensure our assumptions reflect our most recent budget, our strategic plans and current economic conditions to ensure the ongoing long term financial sustainability of the City.

Key Matters

9. The Proposed Budget includes:

    9.1. The budgeted Comprehensive Income Statement, Income Statement Converted to Cash, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Capital Works and Statement of Human Resources;

    9.2. The strategic objectives undertaken during the financial year and service performance outcome indicators in relation to each strategic objective as per the 2025-26 to 2028-29 Council Plan;

9.3. Financial Performance Indicators and Targeted Performance Indicators (Service);

9.4. 2026-27 Capital Program; and

9.5. 2026-27 Fees and Charges Schedule.

10. The 2025-2026 to 2034-2035 Long-Term Financial Plan was adopted by Council at a meeting on 28 October 2025.

11. As part of the development of the 2026-27 Budget, the Long Term Financial Plan has been reviewed and updated to reflect current financial assumptions, strategic priorities and revised forecast projections.

12. Under section 90 of the Local Government Act 2020, Council must adopt a four-year Council Plan following a General Election; the 2025–29 Council Plan was adopted on 22 July 2025.

13. Minor updates have been made to ensure the Year 2 Council Plan Update remains current and reflects progress to date. These include alignment with the adopted budget, inclusion of initiative progress/status reporting aligned with Council's performance reporting, updates to supporting information and the addition of an "What Has Changed in this Update" in the appendix which summarises these changes. The updated Council Plan is provided as an attachment to this report.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Adopt the 2026-27 Budget (Attachment 1)

2. Adopt the Long-Term Financial Plan 2026-27 to 2035-36 (Attachment 2)

3. Declare the amount of rates and charges intended to be raised for the period 1 July 2026 – 30 June 2027 as follows:

3.1. An amount of $350,870,024 be declared as the amount which Council intends to raised by General Rates and the Waste Management Charge, calculated as follows:

3.1.1. General Rates $277,089,291

3.1.2. Waste Management Charge $78,780,733

4. Declare the rates and charges for the period 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 as detailed in:

4.1. 2026-27 Declaration of Rates and Charges (Attachment 3);

4.2. Section 4.1 of the 2026-27 Budget (Attachment 1); and

5. Note general rates must be paid in full by 15 February 2027 or by four instalments made on or before the following dates:

5.1. Instalment 1 – 30 September 2026

5.2. Instalment 2 – 30 November 2026

5.3. Instalment 3 – 28 February 2027

5.4. Instalment 4 – 31 May 2027

6. Subject to Council's Hardship Policy; require any person to pay interest on any amounts of rates and charges which:

6.1. That person is liable to pay; and

6.2. Have not been paid by the dates specified above in accordance with section 172 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

7. Note that existing interest-only borrowing facilities of $30 million with Treasury Corporation Victoria maturing in 2026-27, requires refinancing.

8. Approves the establishment of a new borrowing facility of up to $30 million for the purpose of refinancing the existing loan, on terms and conditions that are considered favourable to Council.

9. Notes that this borrowing does not increase Council's net debt position, as it represents a continuation/refinancing of an existing liability.

10. Confirms that the borrowing is consistent with Council's Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan as attached to this report.

11. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to:

11.1. Finalise negotiations with the preferred financial institution

11.2. Execute all required loan documentation

11.3. Take all necessary administrative actions to give effect to this resolution.

12. Authorise the Chief Financial Officer to levy and recover the General Rates and Annual Service Charges in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* in accordance with all relevant Council policies.

13. Resolves, pursuant to s87(4) of the *Road Safety Act 1986,* to fix a penalty of 0.5 penalty units for parking infringements issued in respect of the following offences:

13.1. RR 205(1) *Road Safety Road Rules 2017*;

13.2. RR 207(2) *Road Safety Road Rules 2017*;

13.3. RR 201 *Road Safety Road Rules 2017*;

13.4. RR 202 *Road Safety Road Rules 2017*;

13.5. RR 209(2) *Road Safety Road Rules 2017*;

13.6. RR 210(1) *Road Safety Road Rules 2017*;

13.7. RR 211(2) *Road Safety Road Rules 2017*;

13.8. RR 211(3) *Road Safety Road Rules 2017*;

13.9. RR 168(1) *Road Safety Road Rules 2017*; and

13.10. Section 90E of the *Road Safety Act 1986*.

14. Note, for the purpose of this Resolution, penalty unit has the same meaning as the *Sentencing Act 1991.*

15. Notes the Year 2 Annual Update of the Council Plan 2025–29 (Attachment 3).

Financial Sustainability

14. The 2026-27 Budget complies with rate cap legislation, limiting rate increases to 2.75% in line with the Ministerial cap. Changes in rates, fees and charges have been structured to meet the financial requirements as proposed for the 2026-27 financial year.

15. Expenditure includes the continuation of council services to the community.

16. The budget includes a comprehensive surplus of $203.7 million and underlying operating deficit of $14.2 million and a cash surplus for the year of $2.4 million.

17. The capital program includes total expenditure of $171.6 million in 2026-27.

18. The budget plans for repayment of a $20 million interest only loan on maturity and the refinancing of an interest-only borrowing facility of $30 million on maturity. Council's total borrowings will reduce to $129 million by 30 June 2027. This borrowing does not increase Council's net debt position, as it represents a continuation/refinancing of an existing liability.

Community Engagement

19. Council undertook a multi-channel community engagement process to inform the development of the 2026–27 Budget, designed to capture both broad community sentiment and more informed deliberation on key financial levers.

20. Engagement occurred between February and March 2026 and included:

    20.1. An online survey hosted on the City's Have Your Say platform (93 responses received)

    20.2. Community submissions (30 submissions received for consideration in the budget process)

    20.3. Eleven Councillor listening posts across the municipality (176 community conversations)

    20.4. A deliberative community panel of 38 randomly selected participants, representing a cross-section of the municipality.

21. The engagement focused on gathering community views on the key financial levers available to Council, including service levels, asset management, capital investment, efficiency measures and revenue options, in the context of increasing financial pressures.

22. The engagement provided Council with a clear understanding of community priorities and trade-offs, confirming a preference for financial sustainability through efficiency, careful asset and service management, and prioritisation of essential infrastructure, while limiting additional cost pressures on the community.

23. Council has considered the outcomes of the community engagement process in developing the proposed 2026–27 Budget, including feedback gathered through surveys, listening posts, community submissions and the independent community panel. This feedback has informed key aspects of the budget, particularly the focus on

financial sustainability, prioritisation of essential infrastructure, and the need to balance service levels with affordability.

24. Council has also carefully considered specific submissions and petitions received through the engagement process, including those relating to rating arrangements such as differential rates for retirement villages. After review and in the context of broader financial, legislative and equity considerations, no changes to these rating arrangements have been proposed as part of the 2026–27 Budget or updating our Revenue and Rating Plan adopted by Council in June 2025.

25. In accordance with the requirements under the Act, once the budget is adopted, a public notice will be placed in the newspaper on Wednesday 24 June 2024.

Social Equity and Sustainability

26. The 2026-27 Budget identifies the sources and allocation of resources to implement the social initiatives which impact the community.

Gender Equality – Gender+ Impact Assessment

27. A Gender+ Impact Assessment was not undertaken for this report.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

28. The budget is prepared to comply with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020, Local Government Act 1989* and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020. The process also recognises the need to align the budget to the direction and allocation of resources identified in the Council Plan.

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

29. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:
Governance and Integrity

Conflict of Interest

30. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment and Risk Appetite Statement

31. In accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 Council must adopt an annual budget each year.

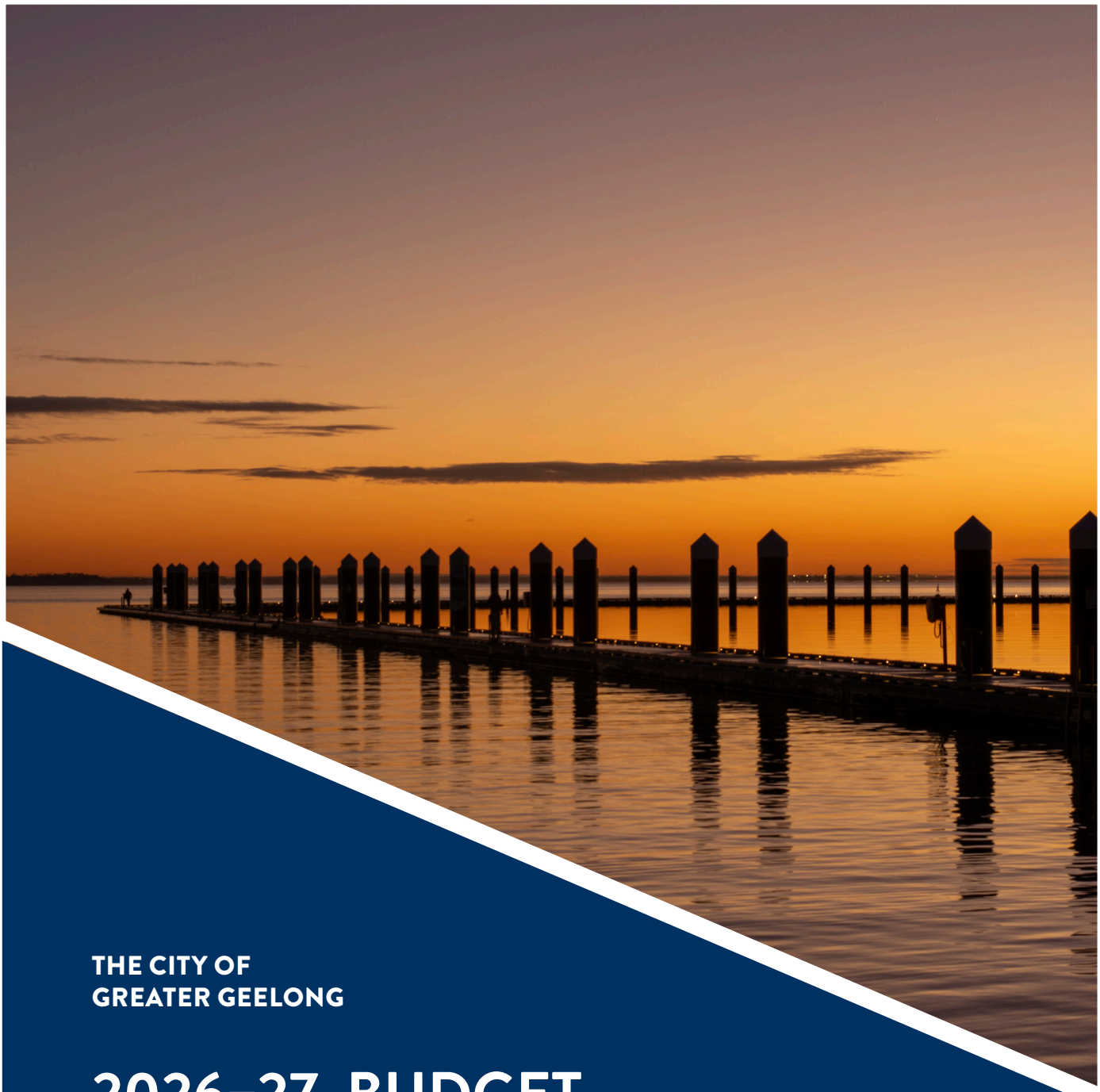
32. The budget has been developed in accordance with a timetable to ensure sufficient time to achieve the adoption timeframe and to include community consultation, meetings of the executive and preparation of the proposed 2026-27 Budget. The timetable provides a framework to manage risk for Council to meet its statutory obligations to avoid adverse implications if the process is delayed.

Environmental Sustainability

33. The budget identifies the sources and allocation of the resources to implement the many environmental initiatives that impact on the community as outlined in the Council Plan 2025-29.

Attachments

1. Council Budget - 2026-2027 [**2.2.1** - 124 pages]
2. Long Term Financial Plan 2026-36 [**2.2.2** - 51 pages]
3. 2026 27 Declaration of Rates and Charges 23 June 2026 [**2.2.3** - 15 pages]
4. Council Plan 2025-29 - Year 2 Update [**2.2.4** - 21 pages]



THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

2026–27 BUDGET

ADOPTED 23 JUNE 2026

CITY OF GREATER
GEELONG

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Disclaimer

The information contained in this document is for general guidance only. It is not professional advice and should not be used, relied upon or treated as a substitute for specific professional advice. Given the changing nature of laws, rules and regulations, and the inherent hazards of electronic communication, there may be delays, omissions or inaccuracies in information contained in this document.

The model budget, including financial statements, has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*. While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this document has been accurate and complies with relevant Victorian legislation, each Council remains responsible to ensure that the budget they prepare is compliant with all statutory requirements.

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Mayor's Introduction

The 2026–27 City of Greater Geelong Budget balances the priorities and needs of our growing community with the need to secure our longer-term sustainability.

Maintaining financial sustainability remains a core priority. Like many organisations, Council continues to face economic pressures driven by both local conditions and global uncertainty. We are not immune to these pressures. This budget continues to respond to long term cash pressures while paying down debt and repairing our balance sheet over the coming years, to ensure we can remain resilient to future challenges.

We are also updating our capital works program based on affordability and delivery capabilities, continuing our focus on the delivery of large projects under construction and our Development Contributions Plan (DCP) obligations.

These include the following projects, which will either see significant construction progress or completion over the next twelve months:

- $4.5 million for the Yirrama Community Hub, including early years and community spaces
- $6.7 million for Landy Field upgrades
- $24.7 million for the North Bellarine Aquatic Centre
- $1.7 million for active recreation at Aldershot Reserve
- $9.7 million for the Drysdale Sporting Precinct,
- $2.5 million for the Devlins Road Active Open Space
- $2.1 million for remediation and landscaping of Wandana Gully

We will also continue to explore and invest in new opportunities to revitalise Central Geelong, building on the success of the Geelong City Market and major activations such as ROAM, we will set an overarching vision that inspires investment and civic pride.

Importantly, we are not stepping back from delivering the essential infrastructure and services our community relies on. We're investing $24.7 million in roads, $10.3 million in buildings, $4.8 million in drainage and $1.8 million in footpaths and cycleways to ensure our core asset renewal program continues.

The current operating climate requires us to think differently. We are continuing our service reviews across the organisation with a focus on improving the customer experience and improving efficiencies. Key areas of focus will be statutory planning, engineering and swim, sport and leisure. We have ambitious savings targets that will be achieved by eliminating non value add activity and unnecessary red tape. Our investment in technology will further drive our efficiencies and all of us to focus on what's important for our customers and community.

We also recognise the pressures facing our community, including business, which is why I'm proud of initiatives such as removing fees for new or renewed al fresco permits. We need to continue to explore opportunities to reduce red tape and support local business and jobs growth.

As our second budget as a Council, it reflects both our commitment to community engagement and our responsibility to remain financially disciplined.

Each budget we deliver is a step toward reducing debt and building the capacity for consistent cash surpluses over time.

We will continue delivering the essential services and infrastructure our community needs, shaped by the voices of our community.

This budget positions us strongly for the future as a responsible and responsive Council that listens and delivers.



CR Stretch Kontelj
Mayor
City of Greater Geelong

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Executive Summary

Each year Council prepares an annual budget and plan which outlines the priorities for the next financial year, and beyond. This is part of the four-year budget cycle. The budget is a rolling four-year plan which outlines the financial and non-financial resources the Council has and requires to achieve its strategic objectives.

The budget is developed in line with Council's ongoing commitment to financial sustainability, flexibility and responsible financial management. This budget continues to balance commitment to the community as well as maintaining a focus on service priorities.

Council remains committed and focused to a continuous cycle of planning and review to ensure it delivers the best possible outcomes for the community. It does so within the Council's strategic framework and the need to be financially sustainable.

Each year Council has the difficult challenge of balancing financial capacity with community needs and expectations. This year, as was the case last year, is particularly challenging given the upward pressure on costs for service and asset provision, ongoing property development and population driving service demand, with revenue not keeping pace.

The budget for 2026-27 sees Council with a projected underlying operating deficit of $14.2 million and a cash surplus for the year of $2.4 million.

Council's budget for 2026–27 is being developed within the State Government's rate cap of 2.75%, which limits how much rates can increase each year. While this cap helps keep rates affordable, it is currently lower than the rise in inflation and costs Council is experiencing, including delivering services, maintaining infrastructure and responding to community needs. This creates ongoing pressure on the budget, requiring Council to find savings and carefully prioritise spending. Over time, this gap between rising costs and limited revenue reduces Council's ability to invest in assets and services and places increasing pressure on its overall financial sustainability.

Key outcomes from this budget include:

1. Strategic and community needs led approach to the budget and for the prioritisation of expenditure and investment.
2. Responding to growth and future planning and balancing these with the immediate community priorities.
3. Reviewing the opportunity for asset realisation and sales over the period to support the focus on financial sustainability.
4. A continued drive for business investment in the City of Greater Geelong.
5. A focus on investment in asset renewal and construction of significant infrastructure for the community.

The 2026-27 Budget has been developed with the following key fiscal objectives:

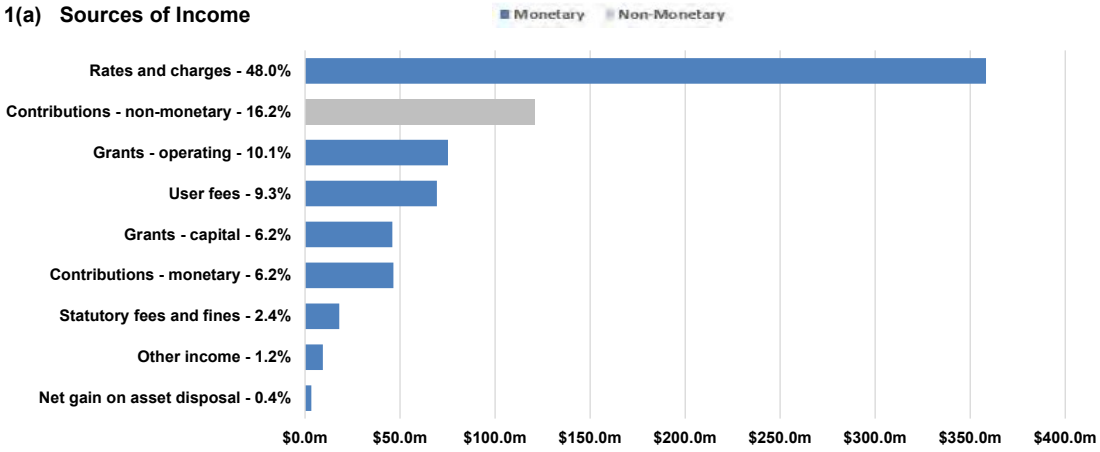
1. Commitment to financial stewardship to ensure the ongoing financial sustainability of the City.
2. Increased investment in infrastructure renewal as well as expenditure on new community infrastructure in key growth areas.
3. Maintain debt at a sustainable level as well as maintaining adequate liquidity.
4. Maintain service delivery consistent with community needs.
5. Continued investment in sustainable initiatives to improve the environment.

Financial Snapshot

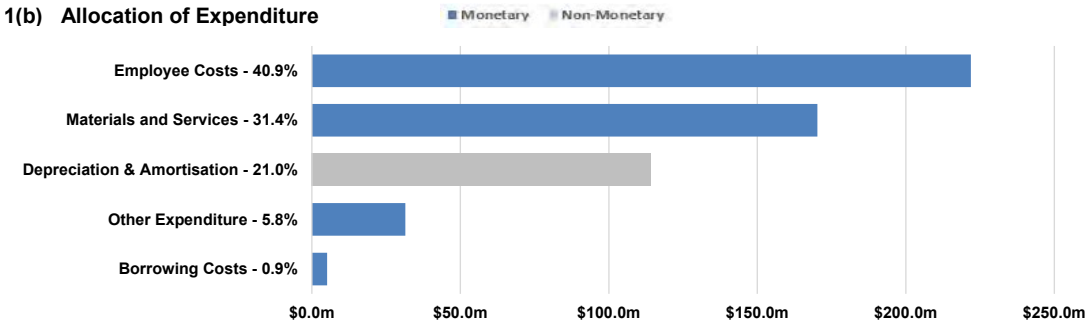
	2025-26 Forecast $000's	2026-27 Budget $000's	Movement
Total Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	180,055	**203,700**	13.1%
Underlying Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(13,834)	**(14,237)**	(2.9%)
Cash Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	2,551	**2,424**	(4.9%)
Cash Balance	154,502	**157,147**	1.7%
Capital Works Expenditure	147,222	**171,550**	(16.5%)

1. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

1(a) Sources of Income

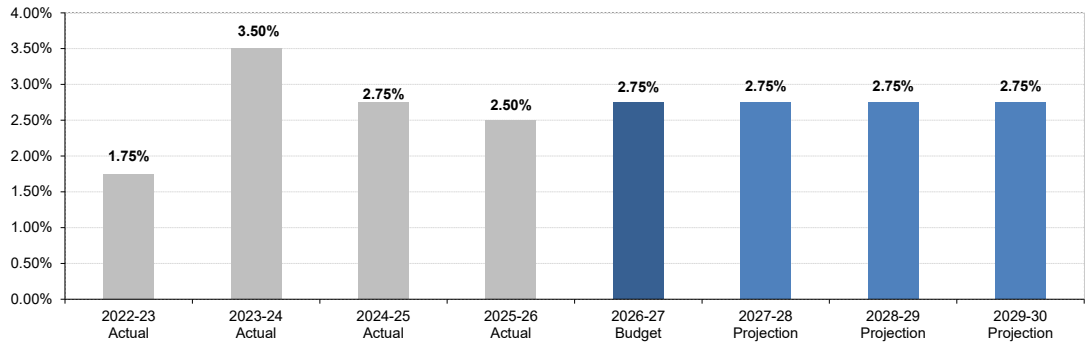


1(b) Allocation of Expenditure



2. RATES REVENUE

2(a) Rate Increases



The 2026–27 rate increase is 2.75%, in line with the Victorian Government rate cap.

The waste collection service charge is not included in the cap, as it is set separately to fully cover the cost of delivering waste services. For 2026-27, the waste charge will increase by 6.8% to cover the cost of waste disposal across the community.

Rates are a key source of Council funding, making up 48% of total income and supporting the delivery of essential services. Future rate increases are currently assumed at 2.75% per year, however, these will continue to be set annually by the Victorian Government.

2(b) Average Rates Payable by Differential (excluding waste charge)

	2025-26	2026-27	Change	
	$	$	$	%
Residential	1,580.08	**1,623.53**	43.45	2.75%
Vacant land	2,093.59	**2,151.17**	57.58	2.75%
Commercial/industrial	4,778.85	**4,910.27**	131.42	2.75%
Mixed use	2,885.35	**2,964.70**	79.35	2.75%
Farm	3,593.01	**3,691.82**	98.81	2.75%
Cultural and Recreational	6,455.90	**6,562.65**	106.75	1.65%

In total, rates will increase on average 2.75% which is the State Government announced rate cap. As detailed in the table above average rate movements will differ by each rating differential, because of property valuation changes and the outcomes of Councils' medium term rating strategy.

Average residential rates will increase by $43.45 or 2.75% for the 2026-27 year. Average commercial/industrial rate payers will increase by $131.42 or 2.75% for the 2026-27 year.

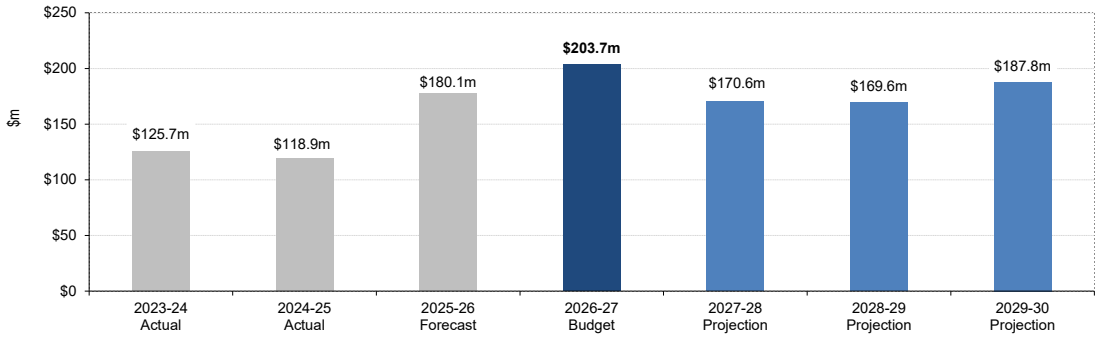
The 2026-27 rate notices will include the 2026 valuations, where the average residential valuation movement was 1.67% and commercial/industrial 1.82%. The rates and charges for individual properties will increase or decrease by different percentage amounts dependent on whether the valuation of the property is higher or lower relative to the average valuation of other properties in the municipality.

The City exercises discretion in the setting of differential rates to increase one differential higher than the rate cap relative to others. From 2022-23, Council commenced reducing the relativity between commercial/industrial and residential over the medium term. For 2026-27 the commercial/industrial relativity to residential is 177.02%.

3. RESULTS

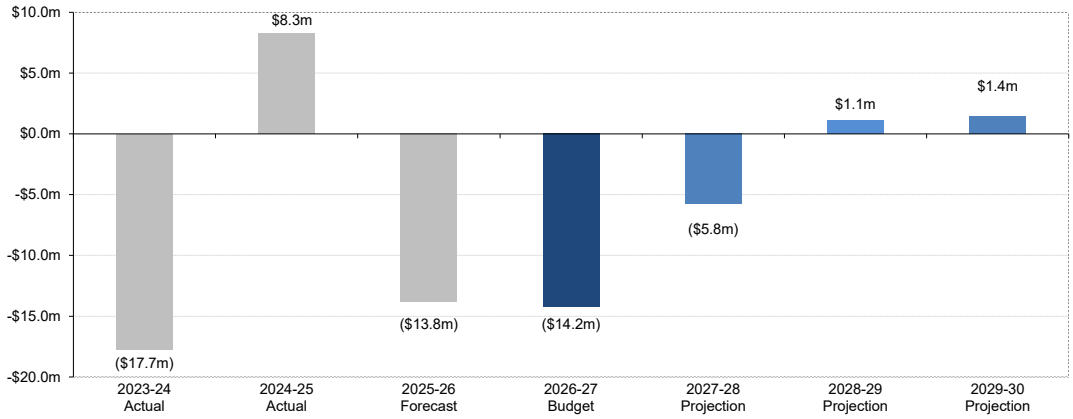
3(a) Total Surplus/Deficit

The 2026–27 Budget shows a total surplus of $203.7 million, representing a $23.6 million increase on the 2025–26 forecast. This increase in surplus is primarily driven by higher operating and capital grant funding, along with the timing of developer contributions from the current development contribution plans.



3(b) Underlying Operating Result

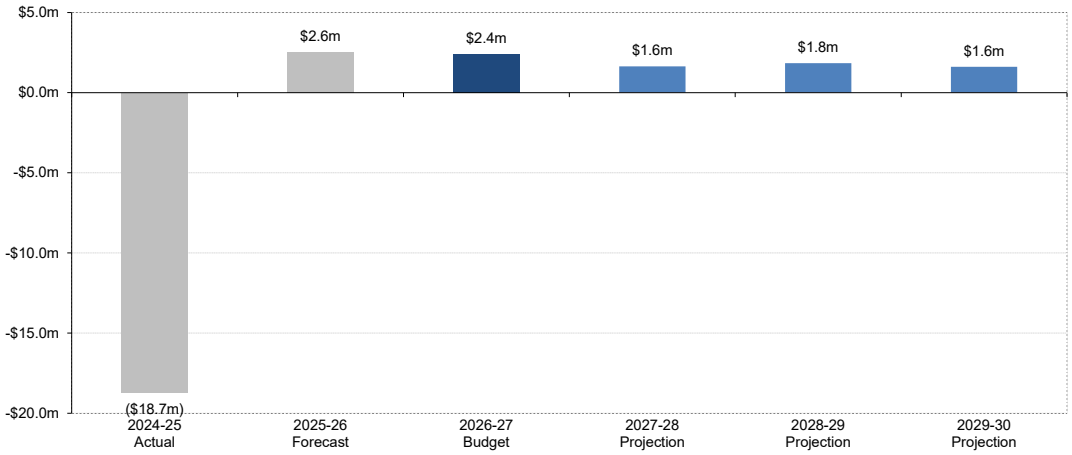
The underlying operating result is a $14.2 million deficit for the 2026–27 financial year, with a progressive improvement expected over the forward estimates to achieve a surplus position. This improvement reflects the planned delivery of structural efficiencies in service delivery and operations over the four-year period, supporting a shift to a sustainable operations.



3(c) Cash Surplus/Deficit for the Year

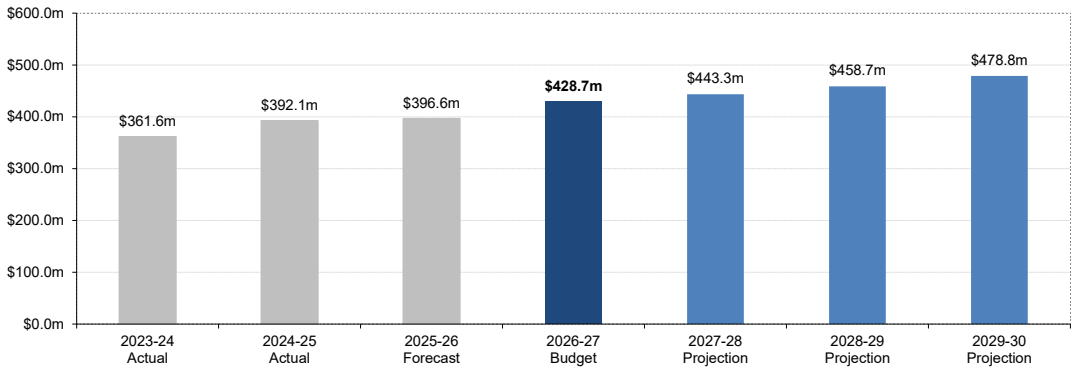
The income statement converted to cash shows how our operating result translates into a cash result for the year, after accounting for capital expenditure, loan and lease repayments, cash reserve transfers and removing non-cash items.

The cash result is a $2.4 million surplus for 2026–27, with steady surpluses projected over the forward estimates. This reflects a continued focus on achieving operating efficiencies and right sizing the capital program to ensure it is both affordable and deliverable.



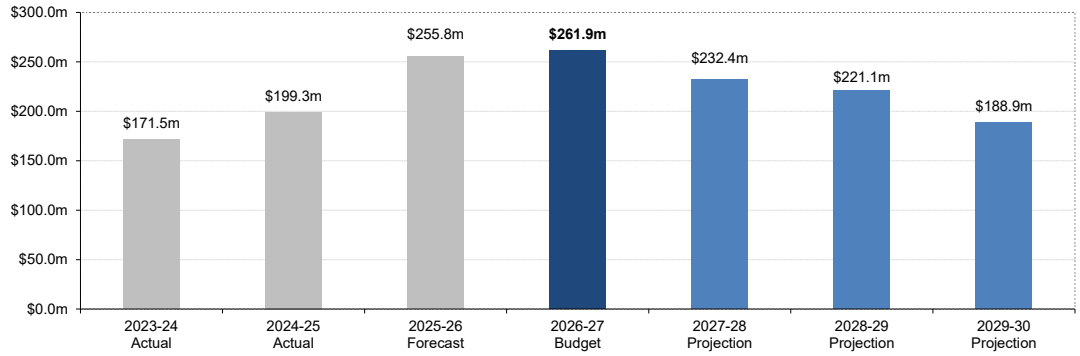
4. SERVICES

The total cost of services delivered to the community in 2026–27 is expected to be $428.7 million, an increase of $32.1 million compared to the 2025–26 forecast.
This increase reflects the continued growth of our community, rising costs for materials and services, and salaries and wages rises in line with Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) and growth in frontline service delivery.



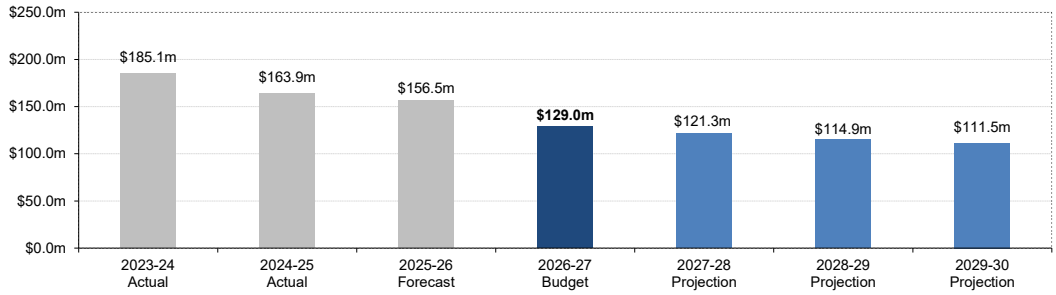
5. CASH & BORROWINGS

5(a) Cash & Investments



Cash and investments are projected to be $261.9 million as at 30 June 2027. Over the following four years, cash balances are expected to decrease by $73 million to a 30 June 2030 balance of $188.9 million.
This reduction reflects the use of cash reserves, including developer contributions, to deliver infrastructure projects for the community, as well as the planned repayment of $45.0 million in borrowings.

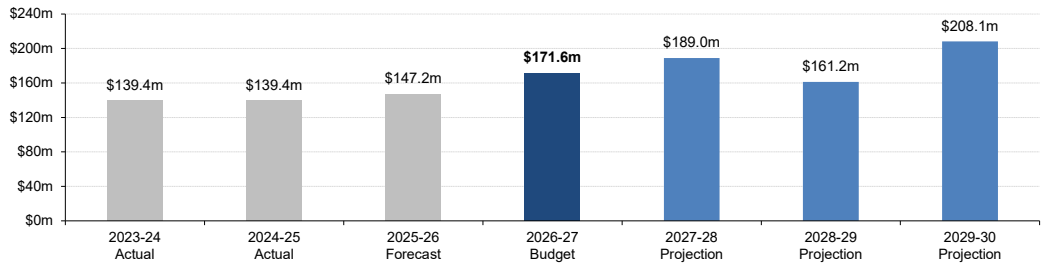
5(b) Loan Balances



Loan balances are expected to steadily decrease over the next four years and there are no planned new borrowings during this period. In 2026-27, one loan will be refinanced and another fully repaid. As a result, the total loan balance is projected to reduce to $129.0 million as at 30 June 2027 and continue declining to $111.5 million by 30 June 2030. This reduction reflects Council's focus on strengthening long-term financial sustainability by lowering debt levels. This will be supported by identifying and selling properties that are no longer needed for Council or community purposes.

6. CAPITAL WORKS

6(a) Capital Works Expenditure



Council will continue to invest in its capital works program to maintain and improve community infrastructure.
This includes renewing and upgrading existing assets, as well as delivering new infrastructure to support our growing community.

The capital works program for 2026–27 is $171.6 million, providing funding for key renewal projects and new investments across infrastructure, property, and plant and equipment.

6(b) Capital Expenditure by Category

$54.8m
Buildings

$37.4m
Roads, bridges, paths, kerb and channel and drains

$10.8m
Land acquisitions

$33.2m
Parks, open space, leisure and community facilities

$14.0m
Plant & equipment

$13.6m
Waste Management

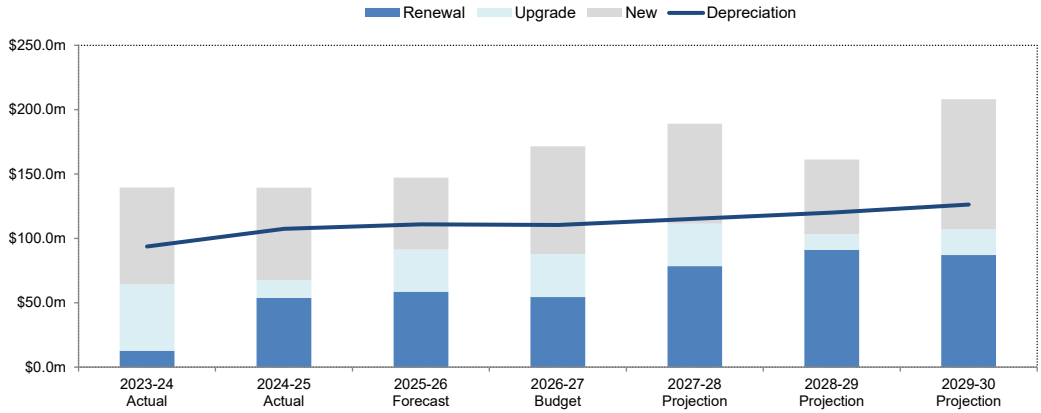
$7.8m
Other Infrastructure

6(c) Capital Spend by Classification

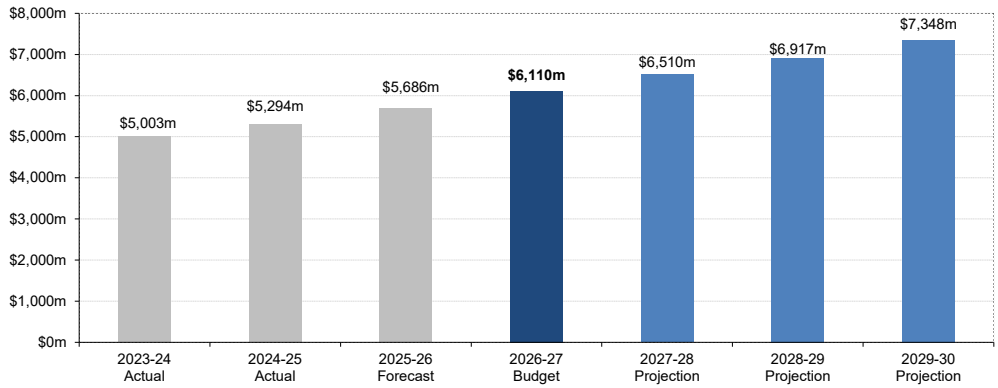
The chart shows how Council's investment in renewing and upgrading assets compares to depreciation.

Spending on renewal and upgrades is an important indicator of how well Council is maintaining community infrastructure, such as roads, buildings and public facilities. The trend shows Council is continuing to prioritise investment in maintaining and improving existing assets across the projected period.

Investment in new infrastructure is also driven by population growth and major programs such as the Armstrong Creek land acquisition program, supporting the needs of our growing community.



7. Net Assets



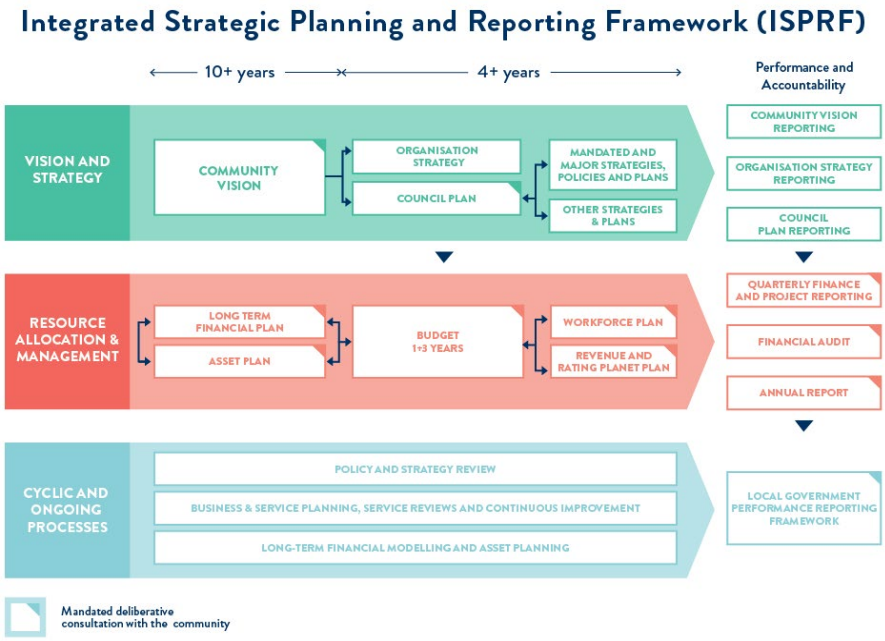
Net assets are expected to continue increasing over the forecast period. As at 30 June 2027, net assets are projected to reach $6.11 billion, an increase of $424 million.
This growth reflects ongoing investment in community infrastructure and assets, supporting the needs of our growing population.

1. Link to the Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework

This section describes how the Budget links to the achievement of the Community Vision and Council Plan within an overall integrated strategic planning and reporting framework. This framework guides the Council in identifying community needs and aspirations over the long term (Community Vision and Financial Plan), medium term (Council Plan, Workforce Plan, and Revenue and Rating Plan) and short term (Budget) and then holding itself accountable (Annual Report).

1.1 Legislative planning and accountability framework

The Budget is a rolling four-year plan that outlines the financial and non-financial resources that Council requires to achieve the strategic objectives described in the Council Plan. The diagram below depicts the integrated strategic planning and reporting framework that applies to local government in Victoria. At each stage of the integrated strategic planning and reporting framework there are opportunities for community and stakeholder input. This is important to ensure transparency and accountability to both residents and ratepayers.



The timing of each component of the integrated strategic planning and reporting framework is critical to the successful achievement of the planned outcomes.

1.1.2 Key planning considerations

Service level planning

Although councils have a legal obligation to provide some services— such as animal management, local roads, food safety and statutory planning—most council services are not legally mandated, including some services closely associated with councils, such as libraries, building permits and sporting facilities. Further, over time, the needs and expectations of communities can change. Councils need to have robust processes for service planning and review to ensure all services continue to provide value for money and are in line with community expectations. In doing so, councils should engage with communities to determine how to prioritise resources and balance service provision against other responsibilities such as asset maintenance and capital works. Community consultation needs to be in line with a council's adopted Community Engagement Policy and Public Transparency Policy.

1.2 Our purpose

Our Vision

By 2047, Greater Geelong will be internationally recognised as a clever and creative city-region that is forward looking, enterprising and adaptive and cares for its people and environment.

The community-led 30-year vision, Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future, was developed in 2016 following a considerable deliberative engagement process which captured the voices of over 16,000 community members.

Our Purpose

Working together for a thriving community.

Our values

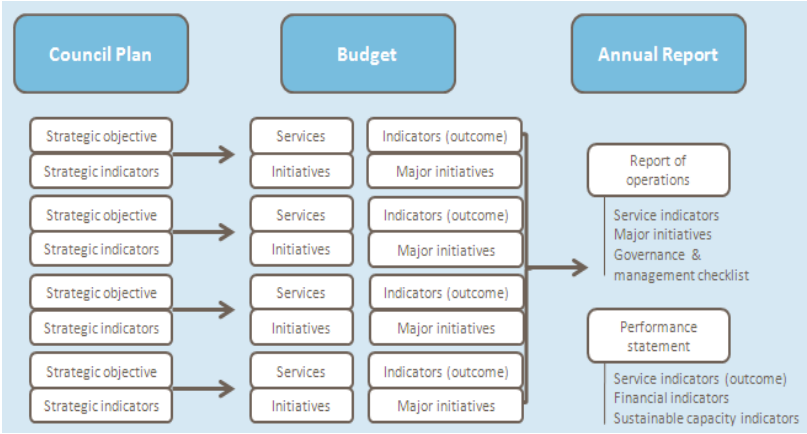
Champion each other
Be brave
Share the why
Find a better way

1.3 Strategic objectives

Strategic Objective	Description
1. Plan, deliver, manage and optimise core and critical infrastructure across the region	We aim to ensure sustainable growth by developing, delivering, managing, and optimising essential infrastructure. This includes making sure our community facilities and public spaces are accessible and fit for purpose, and maintaining well-connected, multi-modal transport networks.
2. Identify, promote, advocate for, and deliver equitable health and wellbeing outcomes for our diverse communities	We are committed to enhancing the health and wellbeing of our community by providing accessible services and facilities. We want everyone to have the resources and capacity to control their health and wellbeing, and to ensure that Greater Geelong is a caring, fair, and inclusive community.
3. Lead efforts to strengthen our diverse economic precincts and workforce to enhance prosperity across our community	We are focused on attracting new businesses, events, and investments to our region. We support local businesses, industry clusters, and precincts to thrive and work on developing workforce capacity and ensuring there is enough land supply to enable sustainable growth and business expansion.
4. Champion our unique heritage and culture	We are dedicated to preserving and celebrating Greater Geelong's unique cultural heritage. We aim to increase engagement in arts, culture, and heritage experiences, and support investment in creative, cultural, and sports hubs. We want to make sure our region's distinctive cultural identity is shared and celebrated.
5. Protect and enhance our unique natural environment and surrounds	We are committed to safeguarding our natural habitats and areas of important biodiversity. We support reducing emissions and increasing our community's resilience to climate change impacts. We also promote waste minimisation and effective resource recovery through circular economy practices.
6. Commit to the highest levels of leadership, integrity, financial stewardship, and meaningful community engagement	We aim to uphold the highest standards of integrity and manage our finances responsibly. We endeavour to engage meaningfully with our community to ensure transparency and accountability in all our activities. Together we work to foster a culture of trust and collaboration between the council and the community.

2. Services and service performance indicators

This section provides a description of the services and initiatives to be funded in the Budget for the 2026-27 year and how these will contribute to achieving the strategic objectives outlined in the Council Plan. It also describes several initiatives and service performance outcome indicators for key areas of Council's operations. Council is required by legislation to identify major initiatives, initiatives and service performance outcome indicators in the Budget and report against them in their Annual Report to support transparency and accountability. The relationship between these accountability requirements in the Council Plan, the Budget and the Annual Report is shown below.



Source: Department of Government Services

2.1 Strategic Directions

The Council Plan 2025–29 is the key strategic document of the Greater Geelong City Council. It outlines what Councillors aim to achieve over their four-year term and sets the direction for Council's work. All councils in Victoria are required to prepare a Council Plan following elections. This plan guides decision-making on policies, programs, services, resource allocation, and performance, ensuring the long-term social, economic, and environmental sustainability of the region. While the Plan covers a four-year period, it is reviewed annually and supported by an annual budget. The strategic direction guiding Council's work is:
We are committed to advancing community outcomes for a thriving Greater Geelong.

This direction is delivered through six strategic objectives:

1. Plan, deliver, manage and optimise core and critical infrastructure across the growing region
2. Identify, promote, advocate for, and deliver equitable health and wellbeing outcomes for our diverse communities
3. Lead efforts to strengthen our diverse economy and workforce to enhance prosperity across our community
4. Champion our unique heritage and culture
5. Protect and enhance our unique natural environment and surrounds
6. Commit to the highest levels of leadership, integrity, financial stewardship, and meaningful community engagement

Section 90 of the Local Government Action 2020 requires a Council to prepare and adopt a Council Plan after a general election. The Council Plan must include:

a) the strategic direction of Council,
b) the strategic objectives for achieving the strategic direction and c) Council's initiatives and priorities for services, infrastructure and amenity. The Council Plan and Strategic Objectives are currently in draft. The Strategic Objectives, as well as the associated Major Initiatives and Other Initiatives, will be updated in the final budget upon the completion of the Council Plan.

2.2 Strategic Objective 1: Plan, deliver, manage and optimise core and critical infrastructure across the region

As Geelong and surrounding areas continue to grow rapidly, balancing infrastructure demand with sustainable development is increasingly important. Council must focus on maintaining and enhancing essential community assets, such as roads, footpaths, open spaces, and buildings, to meet the needs of a growing population. In designated growth areas, planning will prioritise the timely delivery of infrastructure alongside affordable and diverse housing, supporting the development of well-connected, sustainable communities. Continued advocacy to state and federal governments remains critical to secure investment in essential infrastructure, including expanded and improved public transport networks, to protect and enhance the region's liveability.

Key outcomes to be achieved are:
• Responsible and sustainable growth and development.
• Community facilities and public spaces are accessible and fit for purpose.
• Multi-modal transport networks are well-connected and accessible.

Progress will be measured using indicators such as:
• Increase the kilometres of transport infrastructure
• Asset renewal and upgrade expense compared to depreciation above 85%
• Increase the provision of open space
• Increase the proportion of housing construction within existing urban areas

Services

Service area	Description of services provided		2024-25 Actual $'000	2025-26 Forecast $'000	2026-27 Budget $'000
Asset and Infrastructure Maintenance	Manage and maintain a diverse range of community infrastructure including community facilities, buildings, local roads, drains and footpaths for Council and the community.	*Income*	864	654	496
		Expenditure	29,993	29,398	33,467
		Surplus / (deficit)	(29,129)	(28,744)	(32,971)
Civil Infrastructure Management	Provide and manage the City's transport related infrastructure assets, including roads, footpaths and drainage.	*Income*	3,844	4,397	4,483
		Expenditure	11,355	11,692	13,244
		Surplus / (deficit)	(7,511)	(7,295)	(8,761)
Capital Delivery	Plan, manage, and deliver the construction of new and renovation of existing large-scale, complex infrastructure projects.	*Income*	105	93	-
		Expenditure	1,651	978	447
		Surplus / (deficit)	(1,546)	(885)	(447)
Land Use Planning and Building	Provide planning, building, compliance and enforcement services to ensure existing and proposed developments meet legislative and regulatory requirements and support safe, sustainable communities.	*Income*	7,361	6,689	7,059
		Expenditure	12,130	12,282	14,396
		Surplus / (deficit)	(4,769)	(5,594)	(7,336)
Strategic Planning and Design	Provide strategic planning and urban design services to guide sustainable growth, support liveable communities, and inform long-term land use and development outcomes.	*Income*	897	1,599	1,985
		Expenditure	9,148	10,830	12,096
		Surplus / (deficit)	(8,251)	(9,231)	(10,110)
Strategic Asset Management	Ensure the City's assets are fit for purpose, safe and managed to minimise unnecessary expenses related to asset ownership, maintenance, and replacement.	*Income*	-	-	-
		Expenditure	928	963	943
		Surplus / (deficit)	(928)	(963)	(943)
Strategic Objective 1 - Plan, deliver, manage and optimise core and critical infrastructure across the region			**(52,135)**	**(52,712)**	**(60,569)**

Major initiatives

1) Accelerate planning for housing, employment land and major infrastructure development in response to the Plan for Victoria
2) Develop and implement the Public Realm Strategy to guide the landscape character, transport and economic outcomes of key streets
3) Develop and commence implementation of a new Integrated Transport Strategy
4) Upgrade and develop community, sports, and active recreation infrastructure to enhance access and participation in local sports and
5) Improve and expand regional sporting facilities as part of the Regional Sports Infrastructure Program
6) Invest in flood management and mitigation initiatives across Greater Geelong

Service performance outcome indicators

Domain	Indicator - Performance Measure	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Forecast	2026-27 Budget
Environment	**Roads** - 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)	93.3%	94.2%	95.0%
Responsiveness	**Statutory Planning** - Planning applications decided within the relevant required time (percentage of regular and VicSmart planning application decisions made within the relevant required time)	74.0%	78.0%	70.0%

2.3 Strategic Objective 2: Identify, promote, advocate for, and deliver equitable health and wellbeing outcomes for our diverse communities

A healthy community is one in which all people have the opportunity to achieve positive health and wellbeing outcomes. Data continues to highlight significant health and wellbeing challenges affecting the community, including mental health and food security. With some community members experiencing higher levels of social exclusion compared with the Victorian average, a social equity lens will continue to be applied across policies, programs and services to identify and address barriers and improve access to opportunities for all. Addressing these complex and interconnected challenges requires a whole-of-community approach. In partnership with stakeholders and community organisations, efforts will focus on delivering liveable and accessible places, supporting active and healthy lifestyles, providing equitable services and programs, strengthening community connections, and fostering inclusive environments where all people are welcomed and valued, regardless of age, ability, gender, cultural background, geographic location or income status.

Key outcomes to be achieved are:

- A community that is fair, compassionate and inclusive.
- Services and facilities that enhance health and wellbeing are accessible to all.
- A community with the resources and capacity to control their health and wellbeing.

Progress will be measured using indicators such as:

- Maintain participation rates in City-operated community services

Services

Service area	Description of services provided		2024-25 Actual $'000	2025-26 Forecast $'000	2026-27 Budget $'000
Community Development & Wellbeing	Foster opportunities for diverse communities within the municipality to enhance social and health equity, strengthen community connections and participation, and improve access to programs, services, and facilities.	*Income*	1,984	1,768	2,350
		Expenditure	17,967	20,912	21,747
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(15,983)	(19,144)	(19,397)
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion	Promote and foster a culture of diversity, equity and inclusion across our organisation and build community capacity to participate through community partnerships, planning and development initiatives.	*Income*	301	334	390
		Expenditure	2,104	2,580	3,582
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(1,803)	(2,246)	(3,192)
Family & Children	Provide programs, events, and services to families with children aged 0 to 6 years to support their health, wellbeing, safety, education and connectedness.	*Income*	28,930	30,360	30,430
		Expenditure	34,950	35,797	35,985
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(6,020)	(5,437)	(5,555)
Health & Safety	Protect, improve and promote public health and wellbeing within the community through the management, monitoring and enforcement of regulations and compliance.	*Income*	2,708	3,075	2,718
		Expenditure	5,504	4,351	4,392
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(2,796)	(1,276)	(1,674)
Leisure & Recreation	Deliver services, programs and facilities that increase physical activity, wellness and social interaction.	*Income*	25,318	26,098	25,725
		Expenditure	32,466	33,295	35,209
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(7,148)	(7,197)	(9,485)
Local Laws	Manage and enforce parking regulations and rules to maximise access, safety, productivity and liveability.	*Income*	14,951	12,673	14,100
		Expenditure	11,985	11,488	12,700
		Surplus/ (deficit)	2,967	1,185	1,400
Pets and Animals	Advocate for responsible pet ownership and safeguarding both the community and the environment from the issues caused by nuisance pets.	*Income*	2,572	3,400	2,598
		Expenditure	4,049	4,256	5,226
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(1,477)	(855)	(2,627)
Positive Ageing	Provide support services to help older residents and residents with a disability remain active and supported in their home and community.	*Income*	21,051	20,738	18,914
		Expenditure	19,185	18,244	19,021
		Surplus/ (deficit)	1,866	2,494	(107)
Youth Development	Provide a range of programs, activities and events for young people aged 12-25 across the municipality to connect and engage in their local community, promote skill development and support their social, emotional and mental wellbeing.	*Income*	605	445	470
		Expenditure	2,488	2,463	2,755
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(1,883)	(2,017)	(2,285)
Strategic Objective 2: Identify, promote, advocate for, and deliver equitable health and wellbeing outcomes for our diverse communities			**(32,277)**	**(34,493)**	**(42,922)**

Major initiatives

1) Transition the delivery of Aged Care services to a Support at Home model in response to the Commonwealth's Aged Care reforms
2) Develop and implement the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-29
3) Implement the Community Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-29
4) Ensure equitable access to open space, community sport and recreation facilities and assets across Greater Geelong
5) Support participation of women, girls and diverse groups in community sport and recreation

Service performance outcome indicators

Domain	Indicator - Performance Measure	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Forecast	2026-27 Budget
Community	**Maternal and Child Health Services** - Participation in the MCH service (Percentage of children enrolled who participate in the MCH service)	73.4%	-	-
Community	**Maternal and Child Health Services** - Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children (Percentage of Aboriginal children enrolled who participate in the MCH service)	73.8%	-	-
Community	**Maternal and Child Health Services** - Participation in 4-week Key Age and Stage visit (The percentage of infants enrolled in the MCH service who receive the 4-week Key Age and Stage visit.)	93.5%	97.4%	94.0%
Community	**Library Services** - Library membership (Percentage of the population that are registered library members)	31.3%	-	-
Community	**Aquatic Facilities** - Utilisation of aquatic facilities (The number of visits to aquatic facilities per head of population.)	7.7	7.8	7.7
Cost	**Library Services** - Cost of library services (direct cost of library services per head of population)	$46.21	-	-
Responsiveness	**Food Safety** - Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications. (Percentage of critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications that are followed up by Council)	100%	-	-

2.4 Strategic Objective 3: Lead efforts to strengthen our diverse economy and workforce to enhance prosperity across our community

The economy continues to evolve in response to population growth and emerging industries. The region is transitioning beyond its traditional industrial base and diversifying into knowledge-intensive sectors, including advanced manufacturing, clean technologies, research and innovation, and creative industries. Through collaboration with key partners, efforts will focus on leveraging regional competitive advantages, preparing the workforce for economic change, attracting investment, supporting sustainable economic growth, and promoting equitable workforce participation. Key priorities include attracting new businesses, events and investment to the region, supporting local businesses and industry clusters, strengthening workforce capacity, and ensuring adequate land supply to support sustainable growth and business expansion.

Key outcomes to be achieved are:

- New businesses, events and investment are attracted to the region.
- Local businesses and industries are supported to thrive.
- Greater Geelong attracts, retains and develops workforce capacity and capability.
- Sufficient land supply to enable sustainable growth, business expansion and attraction.

Progress will be measured using indicators such as:

- Increase the economic benefit of major events funded by the City
- Maintain the supply of employment land
- Increase the number of businesses supported through the City's Business Concierge service

Services

Service area	Description of services provided		2024-25 Actual $'000	2025-26 Forecast $'000	2026-27 Budget $'000
Business Services	Foster collaborations and relationships with local businesses and industries to drive economic growth and providing businesses assistance to set up, trade and support business growth.	*Income*	-	-	-
		Expenditure	192	201	215
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(192)	(201)	(215)
Economic Development and Performance	Foster an environment that is attractive and conducive to employment growth, investment attraction and business development.	*Income*	20	14	20
		Expenditure	1,360	1,420	1,537
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(1,340)	(1,406)	(1,517)
Tourism	Grow and support the visitor economy through leadership, promotion and development.	*Income*	175	177	201
		Expenditure	2,535	2,368	2,539
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(2,361)	(2,191)	(2,338)
Strategic Objective 3: Lead efforts to strengthen our diverse economic precincts and workforce to enhance prosperity across our community			**(3,893)**	**(3,798)**	**(4,070)**

Major initiatives

1) Activate Central Geelong
2) Champion First Nations products and services
3) Increase visitation to Greater Geelong and The Bellarine
4) Attract, support and deliver major events across the region
5) Support the growth of Greater Geelong businesses
6) Grow Geelong's cruise tourism sector
7) Increase capacity and capability of Greater Geelong's workforce
8) Ensure appropriate supply of industrial land across Greater Geelong

2.5 Strategic Objective 4: Champion our unique heritage and culture

Arts, culture and sporting heritage make a significant contribution to the city's cultural, social, economic and environmental wellbeing by strengthening community identity, supporting social connection, contributing to economic activity, and enhancing quality of life. While the city is home to high-quality cultural and sporting facilities, significant cultural collections, and programs recognised locally, nationally and internationally, continued investment and collaboration are required to meet the diverse needs of the community. In partnership with industry and community stakeholders, efforts will focus on supporting the creative sector, enhancing cultural offerings, and encouraging broad participation in arts and cultural activities. The preservation of cultural heritage, particularly First Nations heritage, will continue to require collaborative approaches, respect, and culturally informed planning to support both ongoing development and the protection of Indigenous cultural values.

Key outcomes to be achieved are:

• Increased engagement in arts, culture and heritage experiences across Greater Geelong.
• Increased investment in our creative, cultural and sporting activity hubs.
• Greater Geelong's diverse culture is shared and celebrated.

Progress will be measured using indicators such as:

• Increase visitation to the City's arts & culture facilities/venues in person and online

Services

Service area	Description of services provided		2024-25 Actual $'000	2025-26 Forecast $'000	2026-27 Budget $'000
Arts, Culture and Heritage	Facilitate support and investment in urban and public art, place activation, creative industries, and heritage and cultural development initiatives.	*Income*	1,827	1,747	2,010
		Expenditure	6,924	7,569	7,478
		Surplus / (deficit)	(5,097)	(5,822)	(5,468)
Events	Attraction, facilitation and support of major events and community events.	*Income*	39	0	5
		Expenditure	3,236	2,888	4,584
		Surplus / (deficit)	(3,197)	(2,888)	(4,579)
Strategic Objective 4: Champion our unique heritage and culture			**(8,293)**	**(8,710)**	**(10,047)**

Major initiatives

1) Strengthen Geelong's artists, arts and cultural organisations and creative enterprises
2) Celebrate Geelong's unique culture of art and design
2) Protect the cultural heritage of Greater Geelong through review of the Geelong Heritage Strategy.

2.6 Strategic Objective 5: Protect and enhance our unique natural environment and surrounds

The environment continues to face increasing pressures associated with population growth, climate change, waste management challenges and water scarcity. As community expectations regarding climate action and environmental sustainability continue to grow, there is an ongoing need to demonstrate leadership through policy development and operational practices. In collaboration with the community and key stakeholders, efforts will focus on progressing towards net zero carbon emissions, improving resource recovery outcomes, protecting and enhancing the natural environment, and strengthening resilience to climate-related impacts, including rising temperatures, sea level rise and extreme weather events.

Key outcomes to be achieved are:
- Natural habitat and areas of important biodiversity are identified, protected, connected and restored.
- Significant reductions in emissions and increased community resilience to climate change impacts.
- Minimise waste and manage effective recovery of resources

Progress will be measured using indicators such as:
- Decrease the volume of greenhouse gas emissions from City-managed operations
- Increase the amount of hectares of natural habitat on City managed land
- Decrease the amount of (kerbside) waste produced each year per household

Services

Service area	Description of services provided		2024-25 Actual $'000	2025-26 Forecast $'000	2026-27 Budget $'000
Parks and Natural Assets	Create, maintain and improve green public spaces including sporting facilities, recreational grounds, gardens, parks, streetscapes and natural habitats across the municipality.	*Income*	632	1,025	312
		Expenditure	34,671	35,699	37,422
		Surplus / (deficit)	(34,040)	(34,674)	(37,111)
Waste Management	Provide waste and circular economy programs, including residential and commercial waste collection, recycling initiatives, community education, and waste site operations	*Income*	77,043	82,794	89,371
		Expenditure	64,188	69,239	74,563
		Surplus / (deficit)	12,855	13,555	14,808
Strategic Objective 5: Protect and enhance our unique natural environment and surrounds			**(21,184)**	**(21,119)**	**(22,303)**

Major initiatives

1) Develop and implement the Geelong Growth Areas Strategic Assessment
2) Implementation of the Environment Strategy Action Plan 2024-26
3) Upgrade existing resource recovery facilities to prepare for new Food Organics and Green Organics (FOGO) and glass kerbside
4) Design, deliver, and renew resource recovery and waste recycling infrastructure for the region

Service performance outcome indicators

Domain	Indicator - Performance Measure	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Forecast	2026-27 Budget
Cost	**Waste Management** - Cost of kerbside waste collection services (direct cost of kerbside waste collection services per serviced property)	$257.99	$289.42	$294.95
Environment	**Energy Consumption** - Gas usage (The total units of metered gas purchased by Council per head of population.)	0.279	0.296	0.296
Environment	**Waste Management** - Kerbside collection waste to landfill per serviced property (amount of waste collected from kerbside waste collection services that is sent to landfill per serviced property)	45.8%	46.3%	47.5%

2.7 Strategic Objective 6: Commit to the highest levels of leadership, integrity, financial stewardship, and meaningful community engagement

Social inequity, rapid population growth, rising cost of living pressures and ageing infrastructure continue to place increasing demand on existing resources. In response, strategic decision-making is required to ensure the ongoing delivery of equitable, sustainable and high-value services, programs and infrastructure. A continued focus on transparency and accountability will support informed and financially responsible decision-making, with active engagement of stakeholders throughout planning and delivery processes. Through strong partnerships and effective advocacy, efforts will focus on delivering value and positive community outcomes while ensuring community needs and priorities are represented and addressed. Collaboration across government, industry, community organisations and other stakeholders will support the achievement of shared objectives and collective outcomes.

Key outcomes to be achieved are:
• Public funds and assets are used equitably and efficiently.
• Decision making is evidence-based, transparent and strategically aligned.
• Community engagement, strong partnerships and effective advocacy delivers value and impact.

Progress will be measured using indicators such as:
• Delivery of capital project program
• Increase the number of grants secured that support strategic initiatives

Services

Service area	Description of services provided		2024-25 Actual $'000	2025-26 Forecast $'000	2026-27 Budget $'000
Customer Services	Respond to customer enquiries and requests by providing relevant information, advice and assistance with council services and processes.	*Income*	0	-	-
		Expenditure	2,447	2,870	3,293
		Surplus / (deficit)	(2,447)	(2,870)	(3,293)
Financial Management	Provide financial management, compliance, reporting, budgeting, and payment services.	*Income*	2,521	2,713	2,315
		Expenditure	12,181	11,481	11,429
		Surplus / (deficit)	(9,660)	(8,768)	(9,114)
Governance & Risk	Support to council in managing risks, ensuring compliance, and maintaining sound governance practices by ensuring adherence to legal frameworks and best practice.	*Income*	426	549	150
		Expenditure	11,079	8,963	9,220
		Surplus / (deficit)	(10,653)	(8,414)	(9,070)
Advocacy, Government and Strategic Relations	Represent community interests and needs to decision-makers, advocating for projects, funding, services and policy changes.	*Income*	-	-	-
		Expenditure	848	1,221	1,209
		Surplus / (deficit)	(848)	(1,221)	(1,209)
Information Technology Management	Provide critical information and communications technology throughout council, to its remote sites and to the community.	*Income*	0	-	-
		Expenditure	19,920	23,766	29,702
		Surplus / (deficit)	(19,920)	(23,766)	(29,702)
Legal & Integrity	Provide advice to the City on a wide range of legal matters, ensuring compliance with laws and regulations.	*Income*	268	22	14
		Expenditure	4,297	3,776	4,257
		Surplus / (deficit)	(4,029)	(3,754)	(4,243)
Marketing & Communications	Engage with the community and organisation, sharing information, and promoting council initiatives through various channels such as social media, websites, publications and community events.	*Income*	37	341	424
		Expenditure	4,457	6,240	6,612
		Surplus / (deficit)	(4,420)	(5,899)	(6,187)
People & Culture	Provide advice, support, and leadership on all people-related matters including recruitment and retention, workforce planning, performance management, and workplace relations while ensuring compliance with legislative requirements and relevant industrial instrument.	*Income*	-	-	-
		Expenditure	10,634	9,934	10,034
		Surplus / (deficit)	(10,634)	(9,934)	(10,034)
Strategy & Performance	Manage strategic and business planning, performance reporting, corporate project governance, and change management enablement.	*Income*	-	-	-
		Expenditure	4,094	3,653	4,298
		Surplus / (deficit)	(4,094)	(3,653)	(4,298)
Strategic Objective 6: Commit to the highest levels of leadership, integrity, financial stewardship, and meaningful community engagement			**(66,704)**	**(68,279)**	**(77,150)**

Major initiatives

1) Enhance customer service experience
2) Strengthen the Council's long term financial sustainability
3) Deliver the Service Review Program
4) Drive good governance and a strong safety culture
5) Increase opportunities for community engagement and contribution in Council decision-making

Service performance outcome indicators

Domain	Indicator - Performance Measure	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Forecast	2026-27 Budget
Governance	**Community Engagement** - Satisfaction with the opportunities offered by Council to be consulted on or engaged in Council decisions (community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of Council)	48	48	54
Governance	**Financial Decisions** - Total unpaid rates and charges (total unpaid rates and charges and unpaid interest on rates and charges for all financial years as a percentage of all rates and charges for the financial year)	5.1%	4.1%	4.1%
Governance	**Transparency** - Council resolutions made at meetings closed to the public (The percentage of Council resolutions made at a meeting of Council, or at a meeting of a delegated committee consisting only of Councillors, closed to the public under section 66(1) of the Act).	11.3%	10.0%	10.0%

Service performance outcome indicators

Domain	Indicator	Performance Measure	Computation
Governance	Community Engagement	Satisfaction with the opportunities offered by Council to be consulted on or engaged in Council decisions (community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of Council)	Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on community consultation and engagement
	Transparency	Council resolutions made at meetings closed to the public (The percentage of Council resolutions made at a meeting of Council, or at a meeting of a delegated committee consisting only of Councillors, closed to the public under section 66(1) of the Act).	[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] x 100
	Financial Decisions	Total unpaid rates and charges (total unpaid rates and charges and unpaid interest on rates and charges for all financial years as a percentage of all rates and charges for the financial year)	[Sum of unpaid rates and charges and unpaid interest on rates and charges for all financial years / Sum of all rates and charges for the financial year] x 100
Community	Aquatic Facilities	Utilisation of aquatic facilities (The number of visits to aquatic facilities per head of population.)	Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Population
	Library Services	Library membership (Percentage of the population that are registered library members)	[Number of registered library members / Population] x 100
	Maternal and Child Health Services	Participation in the MCH service (Percentage of children enrolled who participate in the MCH service)	[Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the financial year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100
		Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children (Percentage of Aboriginal children enrolled who participate in the MCH service)	[Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the financial year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100
		Participation in 4-week Key Age and Stage visit (The percentage of infants enrolled in the MCH service who receive the 4-week Key Age and Stage visit.)	[Number of 4-week key age and stage visits / Number of birth notifications received] x 100
Environment	Energy Consumption	Gas usage (The total units of metered gas purchased by Council per head of population.)	Total units of metered gas in gigajoules (GJ) purchased by Council / Population
	Roads	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)	[Number of kilometres of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100
	Waste Management	Kerbside collection waste to landfill per serviced property (amount of waste collected from kerbside waste collection services that is sent to landfill per serviced property)	Amount of waste in tonnes (t) collected from kerbside waste collection services that is sent to landfill / Number of serviced properties
Responsiveness	Food Safety	Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications. (Percentage of critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications that are followed up by Council)	[Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance outcome notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance outcome notifications about food premises] x100

Domain	Indicator	Performance Measure	Computation
	Statutory Planning	Planning applications decided within the relevant required time (percentage of regular and VicSmart planning application decisions made within the relevant required time)	[Number of planning application decisions made within 60 days for regular permits and 10 days for VicSmart permits / Number of planning application decisions made] x100
Cost	Library Services	Cost of library services (direct cost of library services per head of population)	Direct cost of library services / Population
	Waste Management	Cost of kerbside waste collection services (direct cost of kerbside waste collection services per serviced property)	Direct cost of kerbside waste collection services / Number of serviced properties

2.8 Reconciliation with budgeted operating result

	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Expenditure	Income / Revenue
	$'000	$'000	$'000
Strategic Objective 1: Plan, deliver, manage and optimise core and critical infrastructure across the region	(60,569)	74,592	14,023
Strategic Objective 2: Identify, promote, advocate for, and deliver equitable health and wellbeing outcomes for our diverse communities	(42,922)	140,616	97,694
Strategic Objective 3: Lead efforts to strengthen our diverse economic precincts and workforce to enhance prosperity across our community	(4,070)	4,291	221
Strategic Objective 4: Champion our unique heritage and culture	(10,047)	12,062	2,015
Strategic Objective 5: Protect and enhance our unique natural environment and surrounds	(22,303)	111,986	89,683
Strategic Objective 6: Commit to the highest levels of leadership, integrity, financial stewardship, and meaningful community engagement	(77,150)	80,054	2,903
Total	**(217,061)**	**423,599**	**206,539**
Expenses added in:			
Depreciation	(114,205)		
Interest Expense	(5,151)		
Surplus/(Deficit) before funding sources	**(336,416)**		
Funding sources added in:			
Rates and Charges revenue	282,904		
Financial Assistance Grant	30,426		
Interest on investments	8,850		
Total funding sources	**322,179**		
Underlying Operating surplus/(deficit) for the year	**(14,237)**		

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3. Financial Statements

This section presents information in regard to the Financial Statements and Statement of Human Resources. The budget information for the year 2026-27 has been supplemented with projections to 2029-30.

This section includes the following financial statements prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

- Comprehensive Income Statement
- Income Statement Converted to Cash
- Balance Sheet
- Statement of Changes in Equity
- Statement of Cash Flows
- Statement of Capital Works
- Statement of Human Resources

Comprehensive Income Statement

For the four years ending 30 June 2030

	NOTES	Forecast Actual 2025-26 $'000	Budget 2026-27 $'000	Projections 2027-28 $'000	2028-29 $'000	2029-30 $'000
Income / Revenue						
Rates and charges	4.1.1	341,162	**358,262**	376,774	397,209	418,756
Statutory fees and fines	4.1.2	19,109	**17,971**	18,914	19,907	20,952
User fees	4.1.3	66,493	**69,369**	73,011	76,844	80,879
Grants - operating	4.1.4	62,259	**75,248**	77,317	79,443	81,628
Grants - capital	4.1.4	37,646	**45,944**	18,722	10,417	9,269
Contributions - monetary	4.1.5	28,308	**46,544**	30,881	24,469	40,778
Contributions - non-monetary	4.1.5	118,023	**120,652**	125,478	130,497	133,107
Net gain (or loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	4.1.6	5,917	**3,342**	270	275	281
Other income	4.1.7	12,274	**9,323**	11,491	12,703	10,757
Total income / revenue		691,192	**746,654**	732,858	751,766	796,406
Expenses						
Employee costs	4.1.8	212,307	**221,892**	232,180	243,024	254,457
Materials and services	4.1.9	150,578	**170,230**	173,894	177,814	185,348
Depreciation	4.1.10	111,009	**110,439**	115,195	119,986	126,297
Amortisation - intangible assets	4.1.11	2,113	**2,389**	2,389	2,389	2,389
Depreciation - right of use assets	4.1.12	1,380	**1,377**	1,377	1,137	1,085
Borrowing costs		5,017	**5,151**	4,787	4,514	4,407
Finance costs - leases		191	**108**	383	530	432
Other expenses	4.1.13	28,542	**31,369**	32,074	32,796	34,190
Total expenses		511,137	**542,955**	562,280	582,191	608,605
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		180,055	**203,700**	170,579	169,574	187,801
Other comprehensive income						
Items that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods						
Net asset revaluation gain /(loss)		211,755	220,225	229,034	238,196	242,959
Total other comprehensive income		211,755	**220,225**	229,034	238,196	242,959
Total comprehensive result		391,810	423,925	399,613	407,770	430,760

Income Statement Converted to Cash

For the four years ending 30 June 2030

	NOTES	Forecast Actual 2025-26 $'000	Budget 2026-27 $'000	Projections 2027-28 $'000	2028-29 $'000	2029-30 $'000
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		180,055	**203,700**	170,579	169,574	187,801
Adjustment for Non-Cash Items						
Contributions - non-monetary		(118,023)	(120,652)	(125,478)	(130,497)	(133,107)
Depreciation & amortisation		114,503	114,205	118,961	123,512	129,771
Written-Down Value of Asset Disposals		16,303	7,985	400	395	389
Total Non-Cash Items		**12,782**	**1,538**	**(6,117)**	**(6,591)**	**(2,947)**
Adjustment for Capital Expenditure						
Capital Expenditure		(147,222)	(171,550)	(189,023)	(161,202)	(208,142)
Total Capital Expenditure		**(147,222)**	**(171,550)**	**(189,023)**	**(161,202)**	**(208,142)**
Adjustment for Financing Items						
New Borrowings/Refinancing		-	30,000	-	-	20,000
Loan Repayments		(7,423)	(57,555)	(7,690)	(6,345)	(23,427)
Lease Repayments		(1,274)	(1,430)	(1,250)	(1,294)	(941)
Total Financing Items		**(8,697)**	**(28,985)**	**(8,940)**	**(7,639)**	**(4,368)**
Net Cash Position for the Year		**36,919**	**4,702**	**(33,501)**	**(5,858)**	**(27,656)**
Adjustment for Reserve Movements						
Reserve Drawdown/(Replenishment)		(34,369)	(2,278)	35,144	7,699	29,273
Cash Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		**2,551**	**2,424**	**1,644**	**1,841**	**1,617**
Total Cash Surplus/(Deficit) for the 4-Year Budget : 2026-27 to 2029-30						**7,526**

Balance Sheet

For the four years ending 30 June 2030

	NOTES	Forecast Actual 2025-26 $'000	Budget 2026-27 $'000	Projections 2027-28 $'000	2028-29 $'000	2029-30 $'000
Assets						
Current assets						
Cash and cash equivalents		154,502	**157,147**	139,440	132,639	113,329
Trade and other receivables		14,773	**11,730**	11,181	11,605	10,943
Other financial assets		101,288	**104,765**	92,960	88,426	75,553
Inventories		1,246	**1,404**	1,435	1,467	1,529
Prepayments		5,488	**6,186**	6,319	6,461	6,736
Non-current assets classified as held for sale		369	**369**	369	369	369
Other assets		3,004	**2,967**	3,174	3,360	3,456
Total current assets	4.2.1	280,671	**284,568**	254,879	244,327	211,914
Non-current assets						
Trade and other receivables		16,928	**17,776**	18,695	19,709	20,778
Investments in associates, joint arrangement and subsidiaries		12,256	**12,256**	12,256	12,256	12,256
Property, infrastructure, plant & equipment		5,690,239	**6,084,243**	6,512,182	6,921,697	7,379,219
Right-of-use assets	4.2.4	3,413	**2,036**	11,367	10,370	9,285
Intangible assets		11,907	**9,518**	7,129	4,739	2,350
Total non-current assets	4.2.1	5,734,743	**6,125,829**	6,561,628	6,968,771	7,423,888
Total assets		6,015,413	**6,410,397**	6,816,507	7,213,098	7,635,802
Liabilities						
Current liabilities						
Trade and other payables		44,199	**49,965**	51,785	51,399	55,599
Trust funds and deposits		21,144	**21,566**	21,998	22,438	22,886
Contract and other liabilities		26,619	**18,537**	18,978	15,102	14,813
Provisions		43,793	**45,605**	47,511	49,503	51,548
Interest-bearing liabilities	4.2.3	57,555	**7,690**	6,345	23,427	42,808
Lease liabilities	4.2.4	1,430	**720**	537	941	987
Total current liabilities	4.2.2	194,739	**144,083**	147,155	162,810	188,641
Non-current liabilities						
Provisions		33,034	**33,159**	33,290	31,440	21,348
Interest-bearing liabilities	4.2.3	98,971	**121,281**	114,935	91,508	68,700
Lease liabilities	4.2.4	2,514	**1,794**	11,435	9,877	8,890
Total non-current liabilities	4.2.2	134,519	**156,234**	159,660	132,824	98,938
Total liabilities		329,258	**300,317**	306,815	295,635	287,579
Net assets		5,686,155	**6,110,080**	6,509,693	6,917,463	7,348,223
Equity						
Accumulated surplus		2,589,903	**2,791,325**	2,997,048	3,174,321	3,391,395
Asset Revaluation Reserves		2,950,598	**3,170,823**	3,399,857	3,638,053	3,881,012
Other Cash Reserves		145,654	**147,932**	112,788	105,089	75,816
Total equity		5,686,155	**6,110,080**	6,509,693	6,917,463	7,348,223

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the four years ending 30 June 2030

	NOTES	Total	Accumulated Surplus	Revaluation Reserve	Other Reserves
		$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
2026 Forecast Actual					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		5,294,345	2,444,217	2,738,843	111,285
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		180,055	180,055	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)		211,755	-	211,755	-
Transfers to other reserves		-	110,244	-	(110,244)
Transfers from other reserves		-	(144,613)	-	144,613
Balance at end of the financial year		**5,686,155**	**2,589,903**	**2,950,598**	**145,654**
2027 Budget					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		**5,686,155**	**2,589,903**	**2,950,598**	**145,654**
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		**203,700**	**203,700**	**-**	**-**
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)		**220,225**	**-**	**220,225**	**-**
Transfers to other reserves	4.3.1	**-**	**143,638**	**-**	**(143,638)**
Transfers from other reserves	4.3.1	**-**	**(145,915)**	**-**	**145,915**
Balance at end of the financial year	4.3.2	**6,110,080**	**2,791,325**	**3,170,823**	**147,932**
2028					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		6,110,080	2,791,325	3,170,823	147,932
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		170,579	170,579	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)		229,034	-	229,034	-
Transfers to other reserves		-	161,476	-	(161,476)
Transfers from other reserves		-	(126,332)	-	126,332
Balance at end of the financial year		**6,509,693**	**2,997,048**	**3,399,857**	**112,788**
2029					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		6,509,693	2,997,048	3,399,857	112,788
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		169,574	169,574	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)		238,196	-	238,196	-
Transfers to other reserves		-	134,809	-	(134,809)
Transfers from other reserves		-	(127,110)	-	127,110
Balance at end of the financial year		**6,917,463**	**3,174,321**	**3,638,053**	**105,089**
2030					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		6,917,463	3,174,321	3,638,053	105,089
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		187,801	187,801	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)		242,959	-	242,959	-
Transfers to other reserves		-	181,921	-	(181,921)
Transfers from other reserves		-	(152,648)	-	152,648
Balance at end of the financial year		**7,348,223**	**3,391,395**	**3,881,012**	**75,816**

Statement of Cash Flows

For the four years ending 30 June 2030

	NOTES	Forecast Actual 2025-26 $'000	Budget 2026-27 $'000	Projections 2027-28 $'000	2028-29 $'000	2029-30 $'000
		Inflows (Outflows)	**Inflows (Outflows)**	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)
Cash flows from operating activities						
Rates and charges		345,608	**357,131**	375,549	395,858	417,331
Statutory fees and fines		32,097	**17,971**	18,914	19,907	20,952
User fees		66,541	**69,389**	73,036	76,870	80,906
Grants - operating		63,436	**76,780**	77,561	79,694	81,886
Grants - capital		29,006	**36,310**	18,895	6,264	8,696
Contributions - monetary		28,308	**46,544**	30,881	24,469	40,778
Interest received		9,272	**8,850**	10,085	9,480	7,366
Trust funds and deposits taken		415	**423**	431	440	449
Other receipts		740	**2,377**	553	1,411	2,730
Employee costs		(210,464)	**(219,955)**	(230,143)	(240,883)	(252,205)
Materials and services		(148,788)	**(165,078)**	(171,612)	(177,443)	(192,548)
Other payments		(28,155)	**(31,369)**	(32,074)	(32,796)	(34,190)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	4.4.1	188,016	**199,373**	172,077	163,272	182,149
Cash flows from investing activities						
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		(139,860)	**(170,334)**	(188,149)	(162,593)	(205,795)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		22,220	**11,327**	670	670	670
Payments for investments		-	**(3,477)**	-	-	-
Proceeds from sale of investments		-	**-**	11,805	4,534	12,873
Net cash provided by/ (used in) investing activities	4.4.2	(117,641)	**(162,484)**	(175,674)	(157,389)	(192,252)
Cash flows from financing activities						
Finance costs		(5,017)	**(5,151)**	(4,787)	(4,514)	(4,407)
Proceeds from borrowings		-	**30,000**	-	-	20,000
Repayment of borrowings		(7,423)	**(57,555)**	(7,690)	(6,345)	(23,427)
Interest paid - lease liability		(191)	**(108)**	(383)	(530)	(432)
Repayment of lease liabilities		(1,274)	**(1,430)**	(1,250)	(1,294)	(941)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	4.4.3	(13,905)	**(34,244)**	(14,110)	(12,684)	(9,207)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents		56,470	**2,645**	(17,707)	(6,801)	(19,310)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		98,032	**154,502**	157,147	139,440	132,639
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year		154,502	**157,147**	139,440	132,639	113,329

Statement of Capital Works

For the four years ending 30 June 2030

	NOTES	Forecast Actual 2025-26 $'000	Budget 2026-27 $'000	Projections 2027-28 $'000	2028-29 $'000	2029-30 $'000
Property						
Land		2,741	**10,805**	17,133	9,269	28,688
Total land		2,741	**10,805**	17,133	9,269	28,688
Buildings		53,178	**54,780**	24,511	42,661	60,897
Heritage buildings		9	**-**	4,500	3,500	-
Building improvements		5	**-**	-	-	-
Total buildings		53,192	**54,780**	29,011	46,161	60,897
Total property		55,933	**65,585**	46,144	55,430	89,584
Plant and equipment						
Plant, machinery and equipment		2,845	**11,517**	11,430	8,941	6,554
Fixtures, fittings and furniture		121	**366**	394	451	464
Computers and telecommunications		1,650	**2,108**	1,825	2,284	2,336
Total plant and equipment		4,617	**13,990**	13,649	11,676	9,353
Infrastructure						
Roads		31,069	**25,007**	34,916	38,636	45,480
Bridges		460	**434**	436	519	533
Footpaths and cycleways		10,850	**7,124**	4,848	5,609	6,330
Drainage		5,453	**4,833**	8,057	8,824	13,784
Recreational, leisure and community facilities		16,069	**25,413**	28,116	20,225	21,125
Waste management		1,952	**13,609**	30,950	1,567	1,619
Parks, open space and streetscapes		10,612	**7,782**	12,492	10,915	12,309
Other infrastructure		10,208	**7,773**	9,415	7,800	8,025
Total infrastructure		86,672	**91,976**	129,229	94,096	109,204
Total capital works expenditure	4.5.1	147,222	**171,550**	189,023	161,202	208,142
Represented by:						
New asset expenditure		55,877	**83,615**	77,661	57,913	100,959
Asset renewal expenditure		58,558	**54,517**	78,398	91,112	87,071
Asset upgrade expenditure		32,786	**33,418**	32,963	12,177	20,112
Total capital works expenditure	4.5.1	147,222	**171,550**	189,023	161,202	208,142
Funding sources represented by:						
Grants		37,646	**45,944**	18,722	10,417	9,269
Contributions		3,470	**1,697**	1,033	2,832	2,978
Council cash		106,105	**123,909**	169,267	147,954	195,895
Borrowings		-	**-**	-	-	-
Total capital works expenditure	4.5.1	147,222	**171,550**	189,023	161,202	208,142

Statement of Human Resources

For the four years ending 30 June 2030

	Forecast Actual	Budget	Projections		
	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Staff expenditure					
Employee costs - operating	212,307	**221,892**	232,180	243,024	254,457
Employee costs - capital	9,132	**10,937**	11,639	12,386	13,182
Total staff expenditure	221,439	**232,829**	243,819	255,411	267,639
	FTE	**FTE**	FTE	FTE	FTE
Staff numbers					
Employees	1,881.4	**1,963.6**	2,012.7	2,063.1	2,109.5
Total staff numbers	1,881.4	**1,963.6**	2,012.7	2,063.1	2,109.5

A summary of human resources expenditure categorised according to the organisational structure of Council is included below:

Department	Budget	Comprises			
		Permanent		Casual	Temporary
	2026-27	Full Time	Part time		
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Chief Executive	**1,914**	914	797	-	203
City Infrastructure	**51,797**	49,588	1,061	236	912
City Life	**90,626**	43,251	32,381	12,915	2,080
Corporate Services	**46,383**	36,385	5,327	541	4,130
Growth & Place	**29,140**	24,775	3,378	839	148
Total permanent staff expenditure	**219,859**	154,913	42,943	14,531	7,473
Other employee related expenditure	2,033				
Total employee costs - operating	**221,892**				
Capitalised labour costs	10,937				
Total staff expenditure	**232,829**				

A summary of the number of full time equivalent (FTE) Council staff in relation to the above expenditure is included below:

Department	Budget	Comprises			
		Permanent		Casual	Temporary
	2026-27	Full Time	Part time		
Chief Executive	**9.4**	4.5	3.9	-	1.0
City Infrastructure	**461.1**	445.7	10.9	1.4	3.0
City Life	**854.0**	407.9	305.6	121.9	18.6
Corporate Services	**324.5**	254.6	37.3	3.8	28.9
Growth and Place	**214.0**	181.5	25.1	6.2	1.1
Total staff FTE - Operating	**1,863.0**	1,294.2	382.9	133.4	52.6
Supplementary labour and other	23.1				
Total FTE - Operating	**1,886.1**				
Capitalised labour costs	77.5				
Total FTE	**1,963.6**				

Summary of Planned Human Resources Expenditure

For the four years ending 30 June 2030

	2026-27 $'000	2027-28 $'000	2028-29 $'000	2029-30 $'000
Chief Executive				
Permanent - Full time	**914**	**957**	**1,001**	**1,049**
Women	769	804	842	882
Men	146	152	159	167
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time	**797**	**834**	**873**	**914**
Women	670	701	734	768
Men	127	133	139	145
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Total Chief Executive	**1,711**	**1,790**	**1,874**	**1,962**
City Infrastructure				
Permanent - Full time	**49,588**	**51,887**	**54,310**	**56,865**
Women	9,923	10,383	10,868	11,379
Men	39,665	41,504	43,442	45,486
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time	**1,061**	**1,110**	**1,162**	**1,216**
Women	212	222	232	243
Men	848	888	929	973
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Total City Infrastructure	**50,648**	**52,997**	**55,472**	**58,081**
City Life				
Permanent - Full time	**43,251**	**45,256**	**47,370**	**49,598**
Women	33,247	34,788	36,413	38,126
Men	9,872	10,329	10,812	11,320
Persons of self-described gender	133	139	145	152
Permanent - Part time	**32,381**	**33,882**	**35,465**	**37,133**
Women	24,891	26,045	27,262	28,544
Men	7,391	7,733	8,095	8,475
Persons of self-described gender	99	104	109	114
Total City Life	**75,632**	**79,138**	**82,834**	**86,731**
Corporate Services				
Permanent - Full time	**36,385**	**38,072**	**39,850**	**41,725**
Women	23,709	24,809	25,967	27,189
Men	12,676	13,263	13,883	14,536
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time	**5,327**	**5,574**	**5,834**	**6,109**
Women	3,471	3,632	3,802	3,980
Men	1,856	1,942	2,032	2,128
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Total Corporate Services	**41,712**	**43,646**	**45,684**	**47,833**
Growth and Place				
Permanent - Full time	**24,775**	**25,924**	**27,134**	**28,411**
Women	15,098	15,798	16,536	17,314
Men	9,551	9,994	10,461	10,953
Persons of self-described gender	125	131	137	144
Permanent - Part time	**3,378**	**3,535**	**3,700**	**3,874**
Women	2,059	2,154	2,255	2,361
Men	1,302	1,363	1,426	1,493
Persons of self-described gender	17	18	19	20
Total Growth and Place	**28,153**	**29,458**	**30,834**	**32,284**
Casuals, temporary and other expenditure	**24,036**	**25,151**	**26,325**	**27,564**
Total employee costs - operating	**221,892**	**232,180**	**243,024**	**254,457**
Capitalised labour costs	10,937	11,639	12,386	12,969
Total staff expenditure	**232,829**	**243,819**	**255,410**	**267,426**

	2026-27 FTE	2027-28 FTE	2028-29 FTE	2029-30 FTE
Chief Executive				
Permanent - Full time	**4.5**	**4.6**	**4.7**	**4.8**
Women	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.1
Men	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time	**3.9**	**4.0**	**4.1**	**4.2**
Women	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.5
Men	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Total Chief Executive	**8.4**	**8.6**	**8.8**	**9.0**
City Infrastructure				
Permanent - Full time	**445.7**	**456.9**	**468.3**	**478.8**
Women	89.2	91.4	93.7	95.8
Men	356.5	365.4	374.6	383.0
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time	**10.9**	**11.2**	**11.5**	**11.8**
Women	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.4
Men	8.8	9.0	9.2	9.4
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Total City Infrastructure	**456.7**	**468.1**	**479.8**	**490.6**
City Life				
Permanent - Full time	**408.2**	**418.4**	**428.8**	**438.5**
Women	313.8	321.6	329.7	337.1
Men	93.2	95.5	97.9	100.1
Persons of self-described gender	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Permanent - Part time	**305.6**	**313.2**	**321.1**	**328.3**
Women	234.9	240.8	246.8	252.4
Men	69.8	71.5	73.3	74.9
Persons of self-described gender	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total City Life	**713.8**	**731.6**	**749.9**	**766.8**
Corporate Services				
Permanent - Full time	**254.6**	**260.9**	**267.5**	**273.5**
Women	165.9	170.0	174.3	178.2
Men	88.7	90.9	93.2	95.3
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time	**37.3**	**38.2**	**39.2**	**40.0**
Women	24.3	24.9	25.5	26.1
Men	13.0	13.3	13.6	13.9
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Total Corporate Services	**291.8**	**299.1**	**306.6**	**313.5**
Growth and Place				
Permanent - Full time	**181.5**	**186.0**	**190.7**	**195.0**
Women	110.6	113.4	116.2	118.8
Men	70.0	71.7	73.5	75.2
Persons of self-described gender	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0
Permanent - Part time	**25.1**	**25.8**	**26.4**	**27.0**
Women	15.3	15.7	16.1	16.5
Men	9.7	9.9	10.2	10.4
Persons of self-described gender	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total Growth and Place	**206.6**	**211.8**	**217.1**	**222.0**
Casuals and temporary staff	**208.7**	**214.0**	**219.3**	**224.2**
Total staff FTE - Operating	**1,886.1**	**1,933.3**	**1,981.6**	**2,026.2**
Capitalised labour	77.5	79.5	81.5	83.3
Total staff numbers	**1,963.6**	**2,012.7**	**2,063.1**	**2,109.5**

4. Notes to the Financial Statements

This section presents detailed information on material components of the financial statements. Council needs to assess which components are material, considering the dollar amounts and nature of these components.

4.1 Comprehensive Income Statement

4.1.1 Rates and charges

Rates and charges are required by the Act and the Regulations to be disclosed in Council's budget.

As per the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council is required to have a Revenue and Rating Plan which is a four-year plan for how Council will generate income to deliver the Council Plan, program and services and capital works commitments over a four-year period.

In developing the Budget, rates and charges were identified as an important source of revenue. Planning for future rate increases has therefore been an important component of the financial planning process. The Fair Go Rates System (FGRS) sets out the maximum amount councils may increase rates in a year. For 2026-27 the FGRS cap has been set at 2.75%. Council will apply a rate cap of **2.75%.** The cap applies to both general rates and municipal charges and is calculated on the basis of council's average rates and charges.

The level of required rates and charges has been considered in this context, with reference to Council's other sources of income and the planned expenditure on services and works to be undertaken for the community.

To achieve these objectives while maintaining service levels and a strong capital expenditure program, the average general rate will increase by 2.75%. This is the rate cap.

Waste Management Charge
The recycling and waste collection service charge is calculated based on cost reflective principles to cover the costs of collection, recycling and landfill disposal. These include direct, indirect and overhead costs. The charge for 2026-27 will increase from $509.55 to $544.20 or 6.8%.

Service rates and charges
Households may apply for an additional garbage bin, upsized garbage bin, recycling bin or green waste bin. The charges for 2026-27 are $158.50 to upgrade to a 240L bin, $115.40 for a recycling bin and $107.15 for a green waste bin.

Special rates and charges
Elgin Street and Willis Street are special rates and charges schemes planned to commence during 2026-27. These both involve road construction and sealing works.

Waivers
Council declares the following waivers for 2026-27 under section 171 of the Act for specific qualifying properties:
- Housing support waiver: residential property used for transitional, emergency or crisis housing.
- Rates assistance waiver: for qualifying residential and farm properties where the valuation has increased by greater than 50%.
- New Corio Estate waiver: for New Corio Estate properties where property encumbrances prevent owners from making any demands on Council services now and into the future.
- Financial hardship policy: support is available to individuals and businesses in exceptional hardship circumstances determined at the sole discretion of the Chief Executive Officer.

This will raise total rates and charges for 2026-27 to $358,262,134.

4.1.1(a) The reconciliation of the total rates and charges to the Comprehensive Income Statement is as follows:

	2025-26 Forecast Actual $'000	2026-27 Budget $'000	Change $'000	%
General rates*	265,294	**277,090**	11,796	4.45%
Waste management charge	67,438	**72,394**	4,956	7.35%
Service rates and charges	1,373	**1,387**	14	1.05%
Special rates and charges	1,202	**1,578**	375	31.22%
Supplementary rates and rate adjustments	3,478	**3,700**	222	6.38%
Waivers	(10)	**(27)**	(17)	161.60%
Interest on rates and charges	2,050	**1,800**	(250)	(12.20%)
Cultural and recreational rates	338	**341**	3	0.89%
Total rates and charges	**341,162**	**358,262**	**17,100**	**5.01%**

*These items are subject to the rate cap established under the FGRS

4.1.1(b) The rate in the dollar to be levied as general rates under section 158 of the Act for each type or class of land compared with the previous financial year.

Type or class of land	2025-26 cents/$CIV*	2026-27 cents/$CIV*	Change
General rate for rateable residential properties	0.00210278	**0.00212512**	1.06%
General rate for rateable commercial/industrial properties	0.00372769	**0.00376186**	0.92%
General rate for rateable vacant land	0.00284213	**0.00288397**	1.47%
General rate for rateable farm properties	0.00101198	**0.00101355**	0.16%
General rate for rateable mixed use properties	0.00310451	**0.00310253**	(0.06%)
General rate for rateable cultural & recreational properties	0.00157708	**0.00159384**	1.06%

(Use CIV or NAV depending on the valuation basis used by the Council)*

4.1.1(c) The estimated total amount to be raised by general rates in relation to each type or class of land, and the estimated total amount to be raised by general rates, compared with the previous financial year.

Type or class of land	2025-26 $'000	2026-27 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Residential	205,538	**215,229**	9,692	4.72%
Commercial/industrial	44,878	**46,844**	1,966	4.38%
Vacant land	10,888	**10,767**	(121)	(1.11%)
Farm	3,106	**3,426**	320	10.30%
Mixed use	843	**824**	(19)	(2.25%)
Total amount to be raised by general rates	**265,253**	**277,090**	**11,838**	**4.46%**
Cultural & recreational land*	488	**341**		

4.1.1(d) The number of assessments in relation to each type or class of land, and the total number of assessments, compared with the previous financial year.

Type or class of land	2025-26 Number	2026-27 Number	Change Number	Change %
Residential	129,913	**132,568**	2,655	2.04%
Commercial/industrial	9,362	**9,540**	178	1.90%
Vacant land	5,401	**5,005**	(396)	(7.33%)
Farm	926	**928**	2	0.22%
Mixed use	285	**278**	(7)	(2.46%)
Total number of assessments	145,887	**148,319**	2,432	**1.67%**
Cultural & recreational land*	52	**52**		

4.1.1(e) The basis of valuation to be used is the Capital Improved Value (CIV).

4.1.1(f) The estimated total value of each type or class of land, and the estimated total value of land, compared with the previous financial year.

Type or class of land	2025-26 $'000	2026-27 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Residential	99,614,883	**101,278,120**	1,663,237	1.67%
Commercial/industrial	12,230,154	**12,452,353**	222,199	1.82%
Vacant land	3,686,823	**3,733,258**	46,435	1.26%
Farm	3,294,839	**3,380,198**	85,359	2.59%
Mixed use	258,375	**265,650**	7,275	2.82%
Total value of land	**119,085,074**	**121,109,579**	**2,024,505**	**1.70%**
Cultural & recreational land*	212,866	**214,110**		

4.1.1(g) The rate or unit amount to be levied for each type of service rate or charge under Section 162 of the Act compared with the previous financial year.

Type of Charge	Per Rateable Property 2025-26 $	Per Rateable Property 2026-27 $	Change $	Change %
Waste management charge	509.55	**544.20**	34.65	6.80%
Waste management charge applicable multi-sites	196.40	**209.75**	13.35	6.80%

4.1.1(h) The estimated total amount to be raised by each type of service rate or charge, and the estimated total amount to be raised by service rates and charges, compared with the previous financial year.

Type of Charge	2025-26 $'000	2026-27 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Waste management charge	67,354	**72,080**	4,726	7.02%
Waste management charge applicable multi-sites	148	**313**	166	112.15%
Total	67,502	**72,394**	4,892	**7.25%**

4.1.1(i) The estimated total amount to be raised by all rates and charges compared with the previous financial year.

Type of Charge	2025-26 Budget $'000	2026-27 Budget $'000	Change $'000	Change %
General rates	265,253	**277,090**	11,837	4.46%
Waste management charge	68,943	**72,394**	3,451	5.00%
Service rates and charges	1,016	**1,387**	371	36.53%
Special rates and charges	-	**1,578**	1,578	0.00%
Supplementary rates and rate adjustments	4,644	**3,700**	(944)	(20.33%)
Waivers	(52)	**(27)**	25	(48.08%)
Interest on rates and charges	1,400	**1,800**	400	28.57%
Cultural and recreational rates	448	**341**	(107)	(23.88%)
Total	**341,652**	**358,262**	**16,610**	**4.86%**

4.1.1(j) Fair Go Rates System Compliance

Greater Geelong City Council is required to comply with the State Government's Fair Go Rates System (FGRS). The table below details the budget assumptions consistent with the requirements of the Fair Go Rates System.

	2025-26 $	2026-27 $
Total Rates	$ 258,783,579	$ 269,673,276
Number of rateable properties	145,887	148,319
Base Average Rate	$ 1,773.86	$ 1,818.20
Maximum Rate Increase (set by the State Government)*	**2.50%**	**2.75%**
Capped Average Rate	$ 1,818.21	$ 1,868.20
Maximum General Rates and Municipal Charges Revenue	$ 265,253,202	$ 277,089,291
Budgeted General Rates and Municipal Charges Revenue	$ 265,253,168	$ 277,089,291
Budgeted Supplementary Rates	$ 4,643,945	$ 3,700,000
Budgeted Total Rates and Municipal Charges Revenue	**$ 269,897,113**	**$ 280,789,291**

* The State Government has allowed for a maximum rate increase of 2.75% in 2026-27.

4.1.1(k) Any significant changes that may affect the estimated amounts to be raised by rates and charges.

There are no known significant changes which may affect the estimated amounts to be raised by rates and charges. However, the total amount to be raised by rates and charges may be affected by:

- The making of supplementary valuations (2026-27: estimated $3.7 million and 2025-26: $4.6 million)
- The variation of returned levels of value (e.g. valuation appeals)
- Changes of use of land such that rateable land becomes non-rateable land and vice versa
- Changes of use of land such that residential land becomes business land and vice versa.

4.1.2 Statutory fees and fines

	Forecast 2025-26 $'000	Budget 2026-27 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Permits	5,760	**6,433**	673	11.7%
Infringements and costs	7,435	**5,952**	(1,483)	(19.9%)
Registrations	5,002	**4,619**	(383)	(7.7%)
Other	912	**966**	55	6.0%
Total statutory fees and fines	**19,109**	**17,971**	**(1,139)**	**(6.0%)**

Permits	All revenue from permits is budgeted to increase due to expected increase in growth and price. Price increases for the majority of permits is set and regulated by the State Government.
Infringements and costs	Parking infringement revenue is budgeted to reduce due to increased compliance at metered stays with the removal of the 2P Free Parking initiative which has lead to an increase in infringements. The 2025/26 forecast includes infringements resulting from non-voting community members in the 2024 council election.

4.1.3 User fees

	Forecast 2025-26 $'000	Budget 2026-27 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Leisure centre and recreation	26,008	**25,725**	(283)	(1.09%)
Waste Management Services	13,919	**15,449**	1,530	10.99%
Parking Fees	5,545	**7,843**	2,297	41.43%
Child care/children's programs	5,571	**5,233**	(338)	(6.07%)
Development Services	2,612	**2,747**	135	5.17%
Lease & Rental Income	3,315	**3,279**	(36)	(1.08%)
Aged and health services	1,759	**1,957**	198	11.26%
Building & Planning Services	1,371	**1,081**	(290)	(21.16%)
Retail Sales	1,559	**1,669**	111	7.10%
Other Fees and Charges	4,834	**4,387**	(447)	(9.25%)
Total user fees	**66,493**	**69,369**	**2,877**	**4.33%**

Parking Fees	The discontinuation of the Free 2P parking initiative will increase the revenue for casual parking fees in 2026-27.
Waste Management Services	Higher waste fees reflect a combination of the rise in the EPA levy, fee reviews being undertaken to align with industry benchmarks and increased tonnages associated with ongoing population growth in the Geelong region.
Child care/children's programs	Changes to the types of services delivered within the child care and programming space has reduced revenue expectations from user fees, part of this change a result of the State Government Free Kinder initiative.
Building & Planning Services	Reduction in Statutory Planning fees expected due to lower applications driven from economic decline and slowdown of housing construction, along with an increase in ministerial fee waivers.

4.1.4 Grants

Grants are required by the Act and the Regulations to be disclosed in Council's budget.

	Forecast 2025-26 $'000	Budget 2026-27 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Grants were received in respect of the following:				
Summary of Grants				
Commonwealth funded grants	59,215	76,534	17,318	29%
State funded grants	40,690	44,546	3,856	9%
Total grants received	**99,905**	**121,079**	**21,174**	21%
(a) Operating Grants				
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
Financial Assistance Grants	14,841	30,426	15,584	105%
Positive Ageing	18,421	16,577	(1,844)	(10%)
Family & Children	11,922	12,103	181	2%
Other	111	0	(111)	(100%)
Recurrent - State Government				
Family & Children	12,120	12,720	600	5%
Local Laws	1,187	1,222	36	3%
Positive Aging	558	379	(178)	(32%)
Youth Services	342	379	38	11%
Other	648	644	(4)	(1%)
Total recurrent grants	**60,150**	**74,450**	**14,300**	**24%**
Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
Health & Safety	440	0	(440)	(100%)
Other	0	0	0	-
Non-recurrent - State Government				
Family & Children	745	373	(373)	(50%)
Planning & Building	128	0	(128)	(100%)
Youth Services	29	30	1	2%
Arts, Culture & Heritage	80	40	(40)	(50%)
Waste Management	71	142	71	100%
Other	616	214	(402)	(65%)
Total non-recurrent grants	**2,109**	**798**	**(1,312)**	**(62%)**
Total operating grants	**62,259**	**75,248**	**12,989**	**21%**
(b) Capital Grants				
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
Roads	6,145	4,649	(1,496)	(24%)
Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
Buildings	2,294	12,651	10,357	451%
Roads	0	0	0	-
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	3,863	128	(3,735)	(97%)
Parks, open space and streetscapes	1,177	0	(1,177)	(100%)
Footpaths and cycleways		112		
Non-recurrent - State Government				
Buildings	21,572	20,325	(1,247)	(6%)
Heritage buildings	149	0	(149)	(100%)
Plant, machinery and equipment	0	900	900	-
Computers and telecommunications	91	0	(91)	(100%)
Roads	364	0	(364)	(100%)
Bridges	0	0	0	-
Footpaths and cycleways	192	0	(192)	(100%)
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	657	6,434	5,776	879%
Waste management	0	0	0	-
Parks, open space and streetscapes	726	745	19	3%
Other infrastructure	415	0	(415)	(100%)
Total capital grants	**37,646**	**45,944**	**8,298**	**22%**
Total Grants	**99,905**	**121,192**	**21,287**	**21%**

Operating Grants	
Financial Assistance Grants	2025-26 Forecast is lower due to the early payment of 50% of the 2025-26 grant in 2024-25.The 2026-27 budget assumes that grant funding will be received in the financial year to which it relates.
Positive Ageing	2026-27 Budgeted funding reflects changes in Federal funding models and expected service delivery achievements.
Capital Grants	
Buildings	The 2026-27 Budget includes an increase in building grants primarily due to the progression in stage two of Northern Bellarine Aquatic Centre project and the Landy Field Pavillion Upgrade project.
Roads	The 2026–27 income includes $4.1 million in recurring Federal funding under the Roads to Recovery program. This represents a decrease from the 2025–26 allocation primarily due to the timing of project delivery.
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	The higher 2025-26 forecast for Federal recreational, leisure and community facilities capital grants reflects progress on the Drysdale Sporting Precinct, with key milestones achieved under the Federal funding agreement. In 2026-27, further milestones for this project are expected to be delivered under the State funding agreement, which is the main driver of the increase in State capital grants for recreational, leisure and community facilities.

4.1.5 Contributions

	Forecast 2025-26 $'000	Budget 2026-27 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Monetary	28,308	**46,544**	18,235	64.42%
Non-monetary	118,023	**120,652**	2,629	2.23%
Total contributions	**146,331**	**167,196**	**20,864**	**14.26%**

Monetary	The increase in monetary contributions is primarily driven by the commencement of the Jetty Road Stage 2 Developer Contribution Plan as well as an increase in anticipated revenue from the Lara West and Armstrong Creek Horseshoe Bend Rd DCPs.
Non-Monetary	Non-Monetary asset infrastructure transferred from developers to Council expected to be received in 2026-27 is consistent with the 2025-26 forecast.

4.1.6 Net gain (or loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

	Forecast 2025-26 $'000	Budget 2026-27 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Recurrent				
Proceeds from Sale of Plant & Equipment	562	**727**	165	29.39%
Written Down Values	(1,087)	**(485)**	602	(55.38%)
Net Gain/(Loss) - Recurrent	**(525)**	**242**	**767**	**(146.10%)**
Non-Recurrent				
Proceeds from Sale of Property	21,658	**10,600**	(11,058)	(51.06%)
Asset Sale Costs	-	**-**	-	-
Road Discontinuation	-	**-**	-	-
Written Down Values & Disposals	(15,216)	**(7,500)**	7,716	(50.71%)
Net Gain/(Loss) - Non-Recurrent	**6,442**	**3,100**	**(3,342)**	**(51.88%)**
Net Gain/(Loss)	**5,917**	**3,342**	**(2,575)**	**(43.52%)**

Proceeds from Sale of Property	Proceeds from the sale of Council property identified as surplus to requirements will be transferred to reserve to reduce debt.

4.1.7 Other income

	Forecast 2025-26 $'000	Budget 2026-27 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Interest	9,272	**8,850**	(422)	(4.55%)
Reimbursements and recoveries	174	**252**	78	44.53%
Other	2,828	**221**	(2,607)	(92.19%)
Total other income	**12,274**	**9,323**	**(2,952)**	**(24.05%)**

Interest	Interest income is expected to decrease due planned repayment of borrowings and delivery of the capital program with major projects in construction being completed resulting in decreased funds being available for investment.
Other	The variance is mainly due to a one-off contribution expected in 2025-26 on completion of a streetlighting upgrade project.

4.1.8 Employee costs

	Forecast 2025-26 $'000	Budget 2026-27 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Wages and salaries	178,172	**189,104**	(10,932)	(6.14%)
Superannuation	20,830	**21,598**	(768)	(3.69%)
WorkCover	5,771	**5,597**	175	3.03%
Supplementary Labour	3,681	**2,033**	1,648	44.78%
Other	3,459	**3,145**	314	9.08%
Fringe Benefits Tax	393	**416**	(23)	(5.73%)
Total employee costs	**212,307**	**221,892**	**9,585**	**4.51%**

Wages and salaries and Superannuation	The *Enterprise Agreement 2024* includes an increase to base salaries of 3.0% from 1 July 2026. Furthermore, there have been salary savings in 2025-26 resulting from timing of recruitment of vacant established positions across the organisation. Many of these positions are now filled have been budgeted in 2026-27.
WorkCover	The 2026-27 budget assumes WorkCover premiums increase in line with wages and salaries.
Supplementary Labour	Costs to cover staff vacancies, such as extended parental or long serve leave to maintain core service delivery is expected to be lower in 2026-27.

4.1.9 Materials and services

	Forecast 2025-26 $'000	Budget 2026-27 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Contract Payments	66,677	**72,303**	(5,627)	(8.44%)
Waste Disposal & Recycling	16,920	**18,173**	(1,253)	(7.40%)
Maintenance/Plant/Equipment/Vehicle Costs	12,557	**13,831**	(1,274)	(10.14%)
Consultants	8,287	**14,244**	(5,957)	(71.88%)
Utilities	10,274	**11,425**	(1,152)	(11.21%)
Levies	11,295	**12,801**	(1,506)	(13.33%)
Materials	7,703	**8,057**	(354)	(4.59%)
Information Technology	8,279	**9,806**	(1,527)	(18.44%)
Insurance	4,059	**4,274**	(214)	(5.28%)
Other	4,526	**5,317**	(791)	(17.48%)
Total materials and services	**150,578**	**170,230**	**(19,653)**	**(13.05%)**

Contractors	Contractor costs are budgeted to increase due to expected service volume growth and increased service prices. Kerbside collection as well as repairs & maintenance of buildings, roads, facilities, parks and reserves are the key drivers for the increased costs.
Waste Disposal & Recycling	Increased waste disposal costs reflects contracted price increases, gate fee increases driven by the rise in the EPA levy, and an increase on the volume of kerbside collections related to population growth.
Consultants	Increased consultancy spend mainly relating to the Digital Innovation Program, to implement new technology systems, platforms and software solutions to uplift digital capability to meet the needs of the City. Other notable increases relate to Infrastructure Asset Management, Storm Water Planning and increased NWGGA (North West Geelong Growth Area) developer funded contractual obligations, specifically in the Elcho Road West PSP (Precinct Structure Plan).
Levies	Levies are budgeted to increase due to the rise in the EPA levy as well as increased tonnages being processed at Drysdale Landfill.
Information Technology	Software price increases and additional investment for Digital, Information & Technology to align to the City's IT strategy and to help support the increasing demand and capability of the organisation.

4.1.10 Depreciation

	Forecast 2025-26 $'000	Budget 2026-27 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Property	14,834	**15,655**	(821)	(5.53%)
Plant & equipment	5,538	**4,761**	777	14.03%
Infrastructure	90,638	**90,024**	614	0.68%
Total depreciation	**111,009**	**110,439**	**570**	**0.51%**

The reduction in the 2026-27 depreciation expense reflects the planned reassessment of asset useful lives following revaluations, which is expected to extend remaining lives of a number of assets and reduce annual depreciation.

4.1.11 Amortisation - Intangible assets

	Forecast 2025-26 $'000	Budget 2026-27 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Computer Software	1,340	**1,340**	(0)	-
Landfill	773	**1,049**	276	35.67%
Total amortisation - intangible assets	**2,113**	**2,389**	**276**	**13.05%**

4.1.12 Depreciation - Right of use assets

	Forecast 2025-26 $'000	Budget 2026-27 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Right of use assets	1,380	**1,377**	3	0.23%
Total depreciation - right of use assets	**1,380**	**1,377**	**3**	**0.23%**

4.1.13 Other expenses

	Forecast 2025-26 $'000	Budget 2026-27 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Contributions	19,210	**20,079**	(869)	(4.53%)
Community Grants	1,976	**1,747**	229	11.61%
Sponsorships and Memberships	965	**1,229**	(264)	(27.34%)
Licences, Fees and Permits	1,694	**1,956**	(261)	(15.43%)
Councillors' allowances	586	**635**	(49)	(8.39%)
Other	4,111	**5,724**	(1,613)	(39.23%)
Total other expenses	**28,542**	**31,369**	**(2,827)**	**(9.90%)**

Contributions	Contributions increase due to a 1.4% increase to the Geelong Regional Library Corporation funding and the scheduled return of the Avalon Airshow in 2027.
Community Grants	Community Grants decrease in 2026–27 due to the reclassification of Greater Geelong Neighbourhood Houses as a contribution.
Other	Increase in 2026–27 reflecting higher security contract costs and increased rental expenses following a new agreement for additional land at the Staceys Road Compost Facility.

4.2 Balance Sheet

4.2.1 Assets

Current Assets	Current assets are forecast to increase, primarily driven by higher projected year-end cash and financial asset balances.
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	The increase in property, infrastructure, plant and equipment reflects both the impact of asset revaluation, the addition of new assets delivered through the capital works program and assets contributed to Council by developers.

4.2.2 Liabilities

Interest-bearing liabilities	In 2026–27, one loan is forecast to be refinanced and another fully repaid. As a result, total borrowings are projected to decrease to $129.0 million as at 30 June 2027.
Contract and other liabilities	The decrease in contract and other liabilities in 2026–27 reflects the utilisation of previously received capital grants that are expected to be expended during the year.
Trade and other payables	Trade and other payables are forecast to increase in 2026–27, consistent with higher levels of operating and capital expenditure, resulting in increased supplier balances outstanding at year-end.

4.2.3 Borrowings

The table below shows information on borrowings specifically required by the Regulations.

	Forecast	Budget	Projections		
	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Amount borrowed as at 30 June of the prior year	163,949	**156,526**	128,971	121,281	114,935
Amount proposed to be borrowed	-	**30,000**	-	-	20,000
Amount projected to be redeemed	(7,423)	**(57,555)**	(7,690)	(6,345)	(23,427)
Amount of borrowings as at 30 June	**156,526**	**128,971**	**121,281**	**114,935**	**111,508**
Amount (of opening balance) to be refinanced	-	30,000	-	-	20,000

Loan balances are expected to steadily decrease over the next four years and there are no planned new borrowings during this period. In 2026-27, a $30 million loan will be refinanced and a $20 million loan fully repaid. As a result, the total loan balance is projected to reduce to $129.0 million as at 30 June 2027 and continue declining to $111.5 million by 30 June 2030. This reduction reflects Council's focus on strengthening long-term financial sustainability by lowering debt levels.

4.2.4 Leases by category

As a result of the introduction of *AASB 16 Leases*, right-of-use assets and lease liabilities have been recognised as outlined in the table below.

	Forecast	Budget
	2025-26	2026-27
	$'000	$'000
Right-of-use assets		
Property	3,330	**1,987**
Vehicles	52	**31**
Other, etc.	31	**19**
Total right-of-use assets	**3,413**	**2,036**
Lease liabilities		
Current lease Liabilities		
Land and buildings	1,395	**703**
Plant and equipment	22	**11**
Other, etc.	13	**7**
Total current lease liabilities	**1,430**	**720**
Non-current lease liabilities		
Land and buildings	2,514	**1,794**
Plant and equipment	-	**-**
Other, etc.	-	**-**
Total non-current lease liabilities	**2,514**	**1,794**
Total lease liabilities	**3,944**	**2,514**

Where the interest rate applicable to a lease is not expressed in the lease agreement, Council applies the average incremental borrowing rate in the calculation of lease liabilities. The current incremental borrowing rate is 4.8%.

4.3 Statement of Changes in Equity

4.3.1 Reserves

Council establishes Reserves to account for income which has been received from a specific source that has a future application. A Revaluation Reserve is required under the Australian Accounting Standards to recognise changes in asset value.

	Forecast	Budget	Projections		
	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Developer Contributions Reserves	81,864	**109,534**	98,571	82,105	35,482
Waste Reserve	21,283	**21,798**	7,356	22,984	40,333
Capital Commitments Reserve	21,370	**5,462**	1,291	0	0
Property Sales Reserve	21,138	**11,138**	5,569	-	-
Deferred Income Reserve	-	**-**	-	-	-
Total	**145,654**	**147,932**	**112,788**	**105,089**	**75,816**
Revaluation Reserves	2,950,598	**3,170,823**	3,399,857	3,638,053	3,881,012
Total Reserves	**3,096,252**	**3,318,755**	**3,512,645**	**3,743,142**	**3,956,828**

4.3.2 Equity

The equity position is expected to increase due to the comprehensive net result surplus and revaluation of assets. Cash reserves are reducing over the 4-year period as cash reserves funded from developers will be utilised to deliver the associated infrastructure.

4.4 Statement of Cash Flows

4.4.1 Net cash flows provided by/used in operating activities

Rates and charges	Increase in expected revenue due to growth within the municipality and a projected 2.75% rate increase.
Grants - Capital	Increase in capital grants expected in 2026-27, including $24.5 million in State and Federal funding for stage two of the North Bellarine Aquatic Centre.
Materials and services	Increased costs due to inflationary impacts and requirements to support service growth. 2026-27 includes a significant investment in the digital innovation program to uplift councils digital capability.

4.4.2 Net cash flows provided by/used in investing activities

Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	Increased investment in the capital program in 2026-27 as compared to 2025-26.
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant	Expected sale of assets surplus to requirements in 2026-27, which will assist with the repayment of debt.

4.4.3 Net cash flows provided by/used in financing activities

Proceeds from borrowings	A $30.0 million interest-only loan maturing in 2026–27 will be refinanced to maintain adequate liquidity.
Repayment of borrowings	A $20.0 million loan will mature in 2026–27 and be repaid in full using the Property Sales cash reserve. The $30.0 million loan will be refinanced, as noted above.

4.5 Capital works program

This section presents a listing of the capital works projects to be undertaken for the 2026-27 year, classified by expenditure type and funding source. This covers the capital program developed for the current budget and any carried forward amounts from prior years.

4.5.1 Summary

	Forecast Actual 2025-26 $'000	Budget 2026-27 $'000	Change $'000	%
Infrastructure	86,672	91,976	5,304	**6.12%**
Plant and equipment	4,617	13,990	9,373	**203.01%**
Property	55,933	65,585	9,652	**17.26%**
Total	**147,222**	**171,550**	**24,329**	**16.53%**

	Project Cost	Asset expenditure types				Summary of Funding Sources			
		New	Renewal	Expansion	Upgrade	Grants	Contributions	Council cash	Borrowings
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Infrastructure	**91,976**	36,897	35,060	-	20,019	12,068	1,669	78,238	-
Plant and equipment	**13,990**	2,690	11,249	-	52	900	-	13,090	-
Property	**65,585**	44,028	8,209	-	13,348	32,976	28	32,581	-
Total	**171,550**	83,615	54,517	-	33,418	45,944	1,697	123,909	-

The 2026-27 program of $171.6 million is detailed below and the 4-year program in Appendix 2. The program highlights the significant allocation of funds to new assets relative to renewal and upgrade. Aligning with our financial sustainability goals, all capital works have been reviewed for cost escalations and scope of works changes. The capital program has been reforecast to include the total expected spend for each year.

4.5.2 Current Budget

Capital Works Area	Project Cost	Asset expenditure types				Summary of Funding Sources			
		New	Renewal	Expansion	Upgrade	Grants	Contributions	Council cash	Borrowings
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
PROPERTY									
Land	**10,805**	**10,805**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**10,805**	**-**
Land Acquisition Program	**10,805**	10,805	-	-	-	-	-	10,805	-
Land Improvements	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Buildings	**54,780**	**33,223**	**8,209**	**-**	**13,348**	**32,976**	**28**	**21,776**	**-**
Chilwell Library Community Hub	**238**	-	-	-	238	-	-	238	-
Lara West - Eastern Multipurpose Community Centre	**183**	183	-	-	-	-	-	183	-
Landy Field - Upgrade of Facilities (Inc Pavilion)	**6,690**	-	-	-	6,690	3,332	-	3,358	-
Yirrama Community Hub	**4,528**	4,528	-	-	-	3,025	-	1,503	-
Biyala Community Hub	**975**	975	-	-	-	-	-	975	-
North Bellarine Aquatic Centre Stage 2	**24,673**	24,673	-	-	-	24,463	-	210	-
Ocean Grove Memorial Reserve Upgrade	**383**	-	-	-	383	420	-	(36)	-
Commonwealth Games Legacy Asset Delivery	**204**	204	-	-	-	-	-	204	-
Wallington Reserve - All Abilities Pavilion Redevelopment	**765**	-	-	-	765	162	-	603	-
Hamlyn Park - Female Friendly Changeroom	**1,300**	1,300	-	-	-	-	-	1,300	-
McDonald Reserve Pavilion Upgrade	**1,032**	-	-	-	1,032	1,032	-	-	-
Queens Park Female Friendly Change room	**1,317**	-	-	-	1,317	-	-	1,317	-
Norlane Community Centre	**36**	36	-	-	-	-	-	36	-
Northern Aquatic and Community Hub (Northern Arc)	**441**	441	-	-	-	-	-	441	-
Elderslie Reserve Pavilion Upgrade	**1,000**	-	-	-	1,000	542	-	458	-
Armstrong Horseshoe Bend Precinct - Local Activity Centre - Community Complex	**187**	187	-	-	-	-	-	187	-
NAC - Multi-Purpose Stadium	**200**	200	-	-	-	-	-	200	-
RSIP Facilities - Armstrong Creek Sports Centre and Waurn Ponds Sports Complex	**250**	250	-	-	-	-	-	250	-
Core Capital Program - Buildings	**10,376**	245	8,209	-	1,922	-	28	10,349	-
TOTAL PROPERTY	**65,585**	44,028	8,209	-	13,348	32,976	28	32,581	-
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT									
Plant, Machinery and Equipment	**11,517**	**2,157**	**9,360**	**-**	**-**	**900**	**-**	**10,617**	**-**
Grey Headed Flying Fox (Capital)	**57**	57	-	-	-	-	-	57	-
Grab Truck Purchase	**350**	350	-	-	-	-	-	350	-
North Bellarine Aquatic Centre Stage 2 - Fit Out	**850**	850	-	-	-	-	-	850	-
Gymnastics Centre fitout	**900**	900	-	-	-	900	-	-	-
Core Capital Program - Plant, machinery and equipment	**9,360**	-	9,360	-	-	-	-	9,360	-
Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture	**366**	**188**	**126**	**-**	**52**	**-**	**-**	**366**	**-**
Core Capital Program - Fixtures, fittings and furniture	**366**	188	126	-	52	-	-	366	-
Computers and Telecommunications	**2,108**	**345**	**1,763**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**2,108**	**-**
Smart City Infrastructure Opportunities	**345**	345	-	-	-	-	-	345	-
Core Capital Program - Computers and telecommunications	**1,763**	-	1,763	-	-	-	-	1,763	-
TOTAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	**13,990**	2,690	11,249	-	52	900	-	13,090	-

Capital Works Area	Project Cost	Asset expenditure types				Summary of Funding Sources			
		New	Renewal	Expansion	Upgrade	Grants	Contributions	Council cash	Borrowings
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
INFRASTRUCTURE									
Roads	**25,007**	**-**	**23,428**	**-**	**1,580**	**4,649**	**-**	**20,359**	**-**
Traffic Calming Upgrades	**300**	-	-	-	300	-	-	300	-
Core Capital Program - Roads	**24,707**	-	23,428	-	1,280	4,649	-	20,059	-
Bridges	**434**	**-**	**434**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**434**	**-**
Core Capital Program - Bridges	**434**	-	434	-	-	-	-	434	-
Footpaths and Cycleways	**7,124**	**4,780**	**1,848**	**-**	**496**	**112**	**1,578**	**5,434**	**-**
Special Rates and Charges - Civil Infrastructure	**4,407**	4,407	-	-	-	-	1,578	2,829	-
Ocean Grove bike track	**176**	176	-	-	-	-	-	176	-
Scenic Road - Bicycle Path	**85**	85	-	-	-	-	-	85	-
Shared Trails Masterplan Implementation - Bellarine Trail	**372**	-	-	-	372	-	-	372	-
Mount Duneed Footpath Upgrades	**125**	-	-	-	125	-	-	125	-
Barwon River - Shared Trails & Pedestrian Bridge	**113**	113	-	-	-	112	-	1	-
Core Capital Program - Footpaths and cycleways	**1,848**	-	1,848	-	-	-	-	1,848	-
Drainage	**4,833**	**-**	**2,587**	**-**	**2,246**	**-**	**-**	**4,833**	**-**
Core Capital Program - Drainage	**4,833**	-	2,587	-	2,246	-	-	4,833	-
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	**25,413**	**21,560**	**2,306**	**-**	**1,547**	**6,562**	**-**	**18,851**	**-**
Armstrong Creek West Precinct - Regional Active Open Space - Play Fields	**113**	113	-	-	-	-	-	113	-
Armstrong Creek Horseshoe Bend - Southern Active Open Space - Play Fields	**120**	120	-	-	-	-	-	120	-
Moorpanyl Park	**587**	587	-	-	-	-	-	587	-
Aldershot Reserve – Active Recreation	**1,723**	1,723	-	-	-	684	-	1,039	-
Sport Lighting Program	**1,598**	1,598	-	-	-	-	-	1,598	-
Kardinia Aquatic Centre - Pool Boiler Electrification	**300**	-	-	-	300	128	-	172	-
Lara West - District Active Open Space - Play Fields	**150**	150	-	-	-	-	-	150	-
Armstrong Creek Horseshoe Bend Precinct - Regional Active Open Space - Play Fields	**150**	150	-	-	-	-	-	150	-
Grovedale Recreation Reserve Pitch upgrade	**234**	-	-	-	234	-	-	234	-
Coastside Drive Recreation Reserve Masterplan Implementation	**550**	550	-	-	-	-	-	550	-
Sovereign Drive Recreation Reserve Masterplan Implementation	**2,547**	2,547	-	-	-	-	-	2,547	-
Grinter Reserve BMX Track Upgrade	**350**	-	-	-	350	200	-	150	-
Osborne Park Netball Courts	**830**	830	-	-	-	450	-	380	-
Drysdale Sporting Precinct Master Plan Stage 2	**9,685**	9,685	-	-	-	5,000	-	4,685	-
Lara Golf Club Irrigation Upgrade	**887**	887	-	-	-	-	-	887	-
Geelong Waterfront Basketball Court	**100**	100	-	-	-	100	-	-	-
Devlins Road Active Open Space	**2,500**	2,500	-	-	-	-	-	2,500	-
Myers Reserve Masterplan Implementation	**400**	-	-	-	400	-	-	400	-
Basketball Court Planning	**20**	20	-	-	-	-	-	20	-
Core Capital Program - Recreational, leisure and community facilities	**2,569**	-	2,306	-	263	-	-	2,569	-
Waste Management	**13,609**	**1,227**	**-**	**-**	**12,382**	**-**	**-**	**13,609**	**-**
New Bin Supply - Waste Collection and Recycling Systems	**1,227**	1,227	-	-	-	-	-	1,227	-
Organics Processing Facility Upgrade	**11,500**	-	-	-	11,500	-	-	11,500	-
Geelong Resource Recovery Centre - construction of new facility	**832**	-	-	-	832	-	-	832	-
Public Litter Enclosures Renewal	**50**	-	-	-	50	-	-	50	-
Parks, Open Space and Streetscapes	**7,782**	**2,943**	**3,346**	**-**	**1,493**	**745**	**91**	**6,946**	**-**
Province Estate Highton - Wandana Gully - no 3	**2,112**	2,112	-	-	-	-	-	2,112	-
Sparrovale Wetlands Project Implementation	**530**	530	-	-	-	-	-	530	-
Sparrovale Dog Park	**301**	301	-	-	-	253	-	48	-
Chirnside Park Playground Improvements	**300**	-	-	-	300	91	91	117	-
Waurn Ponds Skate Park and Dirt Jumps Precinct upgrade	**300**	-	-	-	300	88	-	212	-
St Albans Recreation Reserve, Thomson: Play, Fitness and Social Space	**150**	-	-	-	150	66	-	84	-

Capital Works Area	Project Cost	Asset expenditure types				Summary of Funding Sources			
		New	Renewal	Expansion	Upgrade	Grants	Contributions	Council cash	Borrowings
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Streetscape Beautification Works	**193**	-	-	-	193	-	-	193	-
Multicultural Business Precinct Revitalisation Program	**320**	-	320	-	-	247	-	73	-
Lara CBD Beautification & Safety Initiative	**50**	-	-	-	50	-	-	50	-
Core Capital Program - Parks, open space and streetscapes	**3,527**	-	3,026	-	500	-	-	3,527	-
Other Infrastructure	**7,773**	**6,387**	**1,111**	**-**	**275**	**-**	**-**	**7,773**	**-**
Other Infrastructure	**90**	90	-	-	-	-	-	90	-
Roslyn Rd and Thornhill Rd Intersection	**50**	50	-	-	-	-	-	50	-
Armstrong Creek West - Boundary Road and Baanyip Boulevard Traffic Signals and Link Road	**100**	-	100	-	-	-	-	100	-
Heritage Asset Renewal	**275**	-	-	-	275	-	-	275	-
Animal Pound - Sewer Main Upgrade	**200**	-	200	-	-	-	-	200	-
Waterfront Bollard Renewal	**100**	-	100	-	-	-	-	100	-
Christmas Program	**6,958**	6,247	711	-	-	-	-	6,958	-
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	**91,976**	36,897	35,060	-	20,019	12,068	1,669	78,238	-
TOTAL NEW CAPITAL WORKS	**171,550**	**83,615**	**54,517**	**-**	**33,418**	**45,944**	**1,697**	**123,909**	**-**

4.6 Summary of Planned Capital Works Expenditure

2027-28

Capital Works Area	Project Cost	Asset expenditure types				Summary of Funding Sources			
		New	Renewal	Expansion	Upgrade	Grants	Contributions	Council cash	Borrowings
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
PROPERTY									
Land	**17,133**	17,133	-	-	-	-	291	16,842	-
Land Improvements	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Buildings	**24,511**	9,551	11,852	-	3,108	9,770	623	14,118	-
Heritage buildings	**4,500**	-	4,500	-	-	-	-	4,500	-
TOTAL PROPERTY	**46,144**	26,684	16,352	-	3,108	9,770	914	35,461	-
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT									
Plant, Machinery and Equipment	**11,430**	-	11,430	-	-	-	-	11,430	-
Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture	**394**	192	150	-	53	-	-	394	-
Computers and Telecommunications	**1,825**	-	1,825	-	-	-	-	1,825	-
Library books	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	**13,649**	192	13,405	-	53	-	-	13,649	-
INFRASTRUCTURE									
Roads	**34,916**	5,266	28,100	-	1,550	6,167	72	28,677	-
Bridges	**436**	-	436	-	-	-	-	436	-
Footpaths and Cycleways	**4,848**	843	4,004	-	-	-	-	4,848	-
Drainage	**8,057**	1,457	3,799	-	2,801	-	-	8,057	-
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	**28,116**	23,510	1,844	-	2,762	1,873	48	26,196	-
Waste Management	**30,950**	12,264	-	-	18,686	-	-	30,950	-
Parks, Open Space and Streetscapes	**12,492**	1,011	7,478	-	4,003	913	-	11,579	-
Other Infrastructure	**9,415**	6,434	2,980	-	-	-	-	9,415	-
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	**129,229**	50,785	48,641	-	29,802	8,953	119	120,157	-
TOTAL NEW CAPITAL WORKS	**189,023**	**77,661**	**78,398**	**-**	**32,963**	**18,722**	**1,033**	**169,267**	**-**

2028-29

Capital Works Area	Project Cost	Asset expenditure types				Summary of Funding Sources			
		New	Renewal	Expansion	Upgrade	Grants	Contributions	Council cash	Borrowings
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
PROPERTY									
Land	**9,269**	9,269	-	-	-	-	1,294	7,975	-
Land Improvements	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Buildings	**42,661**	19,221	18,621	-	4,819	2,730	771	39,160	-
Heritage buildings	**3,500**	-	3,500	-	-	-	-	3,500	-
TOTAL PROPERTY	**55,430**	28,491	22,121	-	4,819	2,730	2,065	50,635	-
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT									
Plant, Machinery and Equipment	**8,941**	-	8,941	-	-	-	-	8,941	-
Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture	**451**	197	200	-	54	-	-	451	-
Computers and Telecommunications	**2,284**	-	2,284	-	-	-	-	2,284	-
TOTAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	**11,676**	197	11,425	-	54	-	-	11,676	-
INFRASTRUCTURE									
Roads	**38,636**	1,608	35,446	-	1,582	6,918	558	31,160	-
Bridges	**519**	-	519	-	-	-	-	519	-
Footpaths and Cycleways	**5,609**	1,158	4,451	-	-	-	-	5,609	-
Drainage	**8,824**	994	4,945	-	2,885	-	-	8,824	-
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	**20,225**	17,321	2,113	-	791	768	209	19,248	-
Waste Management	**1,567**	1,517	-	-	50	-	-	1,567	-
Parks, Open Space and Streetscapes	**10,915**	-	8,920	-	1,996	-	-	10,915	-
Other Infrastructure	**7,800**	6,628	1,172	-	-	-	-	7,800	-
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	**94,096**	29,225	57,567	-	7,304	7,686	766	85,643	-
TOTAL NEW CAPITAL WORKS	**161,202**	**57,913**	**91,112**	**-**	**12,177**	**10,417**	**2,832**	**147,954**	**-**

2029-30

Capital Works Area	Project Cost	Asset expenditure types				Summary of Funding Sources			
		New	Renewal	Expansion	Upgrade	Grants	Contributions	Council cash	Borrowings
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
PROPERTY									
Land	**28,688**	28,688	-	-	-	-	1,534	27,154	-
Land Improvements	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Buildings	**60,897**	27,920	19,085	-	13,892	848	302	59,746	-
TOTAL PROPERTY	**89,584**	56,608	19,085	-	13,892	848	1,836	86,900	-
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT									
Plant, Machinery and Equipment	**6,554**	-	6,554	-	-	-	-	6,554	-
Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture	**464**	203	205	-	56	-	-	464	-
Computers and Telecommunications	**2,336**	-	2,336	-	-	-	-	2,336	-
TOTAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	**9,353**	203	9,094	-	56	-	-	9,353	-
INFRASTRUCTURE									
Roads	**45,480**	7,644	36,222	-	1,614	6,818	627	38,036	-
Bridges	**533**	-	533	-	-	-	-	533	-
Footpaths and Cycleways	**6,330**	1,764	4,566	-	-	-	-	6,330	-
Drainage	**13,784**	5,752	5,061	-	2,972	-	-	13,784	-
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	**21,125**	18,141	2,169	-	815	1,603	515	19,007	-
Waste Management	**1,619**	1,569	-	-	50	-	-	1,619	-
Parks, Open Space and Streetscapes	**12,309**	2,453	9,143	-	714	-	-	12,309	-
Other Infrastructure	**8,025**	6,826	1,198	-	-	-	-	8,025	-
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	**109,204**	44,148	58,891	-	6,165	8,421	1,142	99,642	-
TOTAL NEW CAPITAL WORKS	**208,142**	**100,959**	**87,071**	**-**	**20,112**	**9,269**	**2,978**	**195,895**	**-**

4.7 Proposals to lease council land

This section presents a summary of Council's proposals to lease council land to external parties in the 2026-27 financial year.

Leases for City owned and managed land:
The City leases land, including buildings, in compliance with section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Section 115 - Lease of land
(1) A Council's power to lease any land to any person is limited to leases for a term of 50 years or less.

(2) Subject to any other Act, and except where section 116 applies, if a Council leases any land to any person subject to any exceptions, reservations, covenants and conditions, it must comply with this section.

(3) A Council must include any proposal to lease land in a financial year in the budget, where the lease is -

a) for one year or more and;
   (i) the rent for any period of the lease is $100 000 or more a year; or
   (ii) the current market rental value of the land is $100 000 or more a year; or
b) for 10 years or more.

(4) If a Council proposes to lease land that is subject to subsection (3) and that was not included as a proposal in the budget, the Council must undertake a community engagement process in accordance with the Council's Community Engagement Policy in respect of the proposal before entering into the lease.

The leases listed are included in the Budget to comply with section 115 (3). Some current lease arrangements reflect subsidised community use, however, a commercial market rental value of the building could potentially exceed $100,000 if leased for its highest and best use, ("the use of an asset that maximises its potential and is physically possible, legally permissible and financially feasible"). This may particularly apply to Kindergartens, Preschools and Neighbourhood Houses. These are operated by a third party with a subsidised community rent due to the permitted use to provide community services and benefits.

To ensure transparency, these proposed leases have been included in the list below.

Permitted Use	Address	Suburb	Proposed Term*	Section	Proposed Annual Rental ($)
Restaurant	15 Eastern Beach Road	Geelong	21 years to 50 years	(3)(b) >10 years	Determined by valuation
Office	51 Little Malop Street	Geelong	5 years	(3)(a)(ii) >$100,000	Determined by valuation
Art Experience	30 Gheringhap Street	Geelong	10 years	(3)(b) >10 years	Determined by valuation
Community Access, Event & Accommodation	51 Swinburne Street	North Geelon	50 years	(3)(b) >10 years	$1
Social housing (RHA)	21 Allambie Street	Leopold	50 years	(3)(b) >10 years	$1
Golf Club	125 Elcho Road	Lara	21 years	(3)(b) >10 years	$1,000
Telecommunications	155-161 Goldsworthy Road	Corio	21 years	(3)(b) >10 years	$6,500
Telecommunications	481-487 Wallington Road	Wallington	21 years	(3)(b) >10 years	$23,000
Telecommunications	95-107 Barrabool Road	Highton	21 years	(3)(b) >10 years	$14,000
Telecommunications	481-487 Wallington Road	Wallington	21 years	(3)(b) >10 years	Determined by valuation
Telecommunications	4B Mill Road	Lara	21 years	(3)(b) >10 years	Determined by valuation
Ground	42-64 The Boulevard	Norlane	50 years	(3)(b) >10 years	$530
Restaurant	74-90 Western Foreshore Road	Geelong	21 years	(3)(b) >10 years	Determined by valuation
Ground	72 Western Foreshore Road	Geelong	21 years	(3)(b) >10 years	Determined by valuation
Ground	25-27 Eastern Beach Road	Geelong	21 years	(3)(b) >10 years	Determined by valuation
Social housing (RHA)	5A Dean Street	Belmont	50 years	(3)(b) >10 years	$1

* indicates maximum term to be considered, subject to negotiation

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5. Targeted performance indicators (Council selected)

The following table highlights Council's current and projected performance across eight targeted performance indicators selected by Council from the range of prescribed performance measures contained in the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020. These indicators provide a useful analysis of Council's intentions and performance and should be interpreted in the context of the organisation's objectives.
Results against these indicators and targets will be reported in Council's Performance Statement included in the Annual Report.

Domain / **Indicator**	**Measure**	**Notes**	**Actual**	**Forecast**	**Target**	**Target Projections**			**Trend**
			2024-25	**2025-26**	**2026-27**	**2027-28**	**2028-29**	**2029-30**	**+/o/-**
Community	**Utilisation of aquatic facilities**								
Aquatic facilities	Number of visits to aquatic facilities/Population	1	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	**o**
Community	**Participation in 4-week key age and stage visit**								
MCH services	Number of 4-week key age and stage visits/Number of birth notifications received	2	93.5%	97.4%	94.0%	94.0%	94.0%	94.0%	**o**
Governance	**Council resolutions made at meetings closed to the public**								
Transparency	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	3	11.3%	10.0%	10.0%	12.0%	12.0%	10.0%	**o**
Environment	**Gas usage**								
Energy consumption	Total units of metered gas purchased by Council/Population	4	0.279	0.296	0.296	0.248	0.231	0.231	**-**
Financial forecasting	**Non-current liabilities compared to own-source revenue**								
Indebtedness (level of long term liabilities is appropriate to the size and nature of a Council's activities)	Non-current liabilities / own source revenue	5	45.91%	30.92%	34.45%	33.32%	26.36%	18.72%	**-**
Financial management	**Cash compared to current liabilities**								
Liquidity (level of long term liabilities is appropriate to the size and nature of a Council's activities)	Cash / current liabilities	6	70%	79%	109%	95%	81%	60%	**-**
Financial management	**Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)**								
Operating position (an adjusted underlying surplus is generated in the ordinary course of business)	Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue	7	0.4%	(2.8%)	(2.7%)	(1.0%)	0.2%	0.3%	**+**
Financial management	**Average rate per property assessment**								
Revenue level (resources are used efficiently in the delivery of services)	General rates and municipal charges / no. of property assessments	8	$ 1,802	$ 2,339	$ 2,415	$ 2,478	$ 2,549	$ 2,622	**+**

Key to Target Trend:
+ increase in Council's overall targets
o maintaining Council's overall targets
- decrease in Council's overall targets

5a. Targeted performance indicators (Mandatory)

The following tables highlight Council's current and projected performance across a selection of targeted service and financial performance indicators. These indicators provide a useful analysis of Council's intentions and performance and should be interpreted in the context of the organisation's objectives.
The targeted performance indicators below are the prescribed performance indicators contained in Schedule 4 of the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*. Results against these measures and targets will be reported in Council's Performance Statement included in the Annual Report.

Targeted service performance indicators - Mandatory

Domain / **Indicator**	**Measure**	**Notes**	**Actual**	**Forecast**	**Target**	**Target Projections**			**Trend**
			2024-25	**2025-26**	**2026-27**	**2027-28**	**2028-29**	**2029-30**	**+/o/-**
Governance									
Community engagement (council decisions made and implemented with community input)	**Satisfaction with the opportunities offered by Council to be consulted on or engaged in Council decisions** Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of Council	9	48	48	54	54	54	54	**o**
Environment									
Roads (sealed local roads are maintained and renewed to ensure a safe network)	**Sealed local roads below the intervention level** Number of kms of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kms of sealed local roads	10	93.3%	94.2%	95.0%	95.0%	95.0%	95.0%	**+**
Responsiveness									
Statutory planning (Councils decide on planning applications and fulfill their legislative duties in a timely manner)	**Planning applications decided within the relevant required time** Number of planning application decisions made within the relevant required time / Number of planning application decisions made	11	74.0%	78.0%	70.0%	70.0%	70.0%	70.0%	**o**
Environment									
Waste management (waste is minimised and sustainability is promoted)	**Kerbside collection waste to landfill per serviced property** Waste in tonnage collected from kerbside waste collection services sent to landfill / Number of serviced properties	12	45.8%	46.3%	47.5%	47.5%	47.5%	47.5%	**+**

Key to Target Trend:
+ increase in Council's overall targets
o maintaining Council's overall targets
- decrease in Council's overall targets

Targeted financial performance indicators - Mandatory

Domain / **Indicator**	**Measure**	Notes	Actual	Forecast	Target	Target Projections			Trend
			2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	+/o/-
Financial management									
Liquidity (sufficient working capital and cash is available to cover expenses)	**Current assets compared to current liabilities** Current assets / current liabilities	13	168.2%	144.1%	197.5%	173.2%	150.1%	112.3%	-
Financial forecasting									
Asset renewal and upgrade (renewal and upgrade of assets is planned and delivered)	**Asset renewal and upgrade compared to depreciation** Asset renewal and upgrade expenses / Asset depreciation	14	63%	82%	80%	97%	86%	85%	+
Financial management									
Rates concentration (revenue is generated from a range of sources)	**Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue** Rate revenue / adjusted underlying revenue	15	62.9%	68.6%	67.8%	67.7%	68.1%	68.6%	o
Financial management									
Expenditure and revenue level (resources are used efficiently in the delivery of services)	**Expenses per property assessment** Total expenses / no. of property assessments	16	$3,568	$3,504	$3,661	$3,699	$3,736	$3,810	+

5b. Financial performance indicators

The following table highlights Council's current and projected performance across a range of key financial performance indicators. These indicators provide a useful analysis of Council's financial position and performance and should be interpreted in the context of the organisation's objectives.
The financial performance indicators below are the prescribed financial performance indicators contained in Part 2 of Schedule 3 of the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*. Results against these indicators will be reported in Council's Performance Statement included in the Annual Report.

Domain / **Indicator**	**Measure**	**Notes**	**Actual**	**Forecast**	**Budget**	**Projections**			**Trend**
			2024-25	**2025-26**	**2026-27**	**2027-28**	**2028-29**	**2029-30**	**+/o/-**
Financial forecasting									
Loans and borrowings (level of interest bearing loans and borrowings is appropriate to the size and nature of Council's activities)	**Loans and borrowings compared to own-source revenue** Interest bearing loans and borrowings / own-source revenue	17	38.93%	36.0%	28.4%	25.3%	22.8%	21.1%	-
	Loans and borrowings repayments compared to own-source revenue Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / own-source revenue	18	6.37%	2.86%	13.83%	2.60%	2.16%	5.27%	o
Population (population is a key driver of a Council's ability to fund the delivery of services to the community)	**Expenses per head of population** Total expenses/ Population	19	$1.71	$2.25	$2.38	$2.29	$2.30	$2.39	+
	Infrastructure per head of population Value of infrastructure / Population	20	$13,894	$14,033	$14,284	$14,553	$14,744	$14,999	+
Revenue and grants (revenue is generated from a range of sources to fund the delivery of services to the community)	**Own-source revenue per head of population** Own source revenue / Population	21	$1.41	$1.42	$1.45	$1.50	$1.54	$1.59	+
	Recurrent grants per head of population Recurrent grants / Population	22	$300.43	$216.08	$252.52	$254.15	$255.78	$257.43	+
Financial management									
Rates effort (rating level is set based on the community's capacity to pay)	**Rates compared to property value** Rate revenue / CIV of rateable properties in the municipal district	23	0.28%	0.29%	0.30%	0.30%	0.31%	0.32%	o
Rates collection (rates and charges are being responsibly collected)	**Rates and charges debt** Unpaid rates and charges / all rates and charges	24	5.07%	4.1%	4.1%	4.1%	4.1%	4.1%	o

Key to Forecast Trend:
+ Forecasts improvement in Council's financial performance/financial position indicator
o Forecasts that Council's financial performance/financial position indicator will be steady
- Forecasts deterioration in Council's financial performance/financial position indicator

5c. Additional indicators

The following table presents additional indicators that are not prescribed indicators in the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*. These indicators are used by the Department of Treasury and Finance to conduct credit assessments of councils under the Treasury Corporation of Victoria (TCV) loans framework. Subject to these financial covenants being satisfied over the prior three years to the budget year, the budget year, and subsequent three projected financial years, a borrowing limit will be determined under the framework.

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual	Forecast	Budget	Projections			Trend
			2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	+/o/-
TCV loans framework indicators									
Interest Cover Ratio	EBITDA : interest expenses	25	21:1	14:1	14:1	19:1	23:1	31:1	+
Interest bearing liabilities to own source revenue	Interest bearing liabilities / own source revenue	26	40.17%	36.89%	29.00%	27.81%	24.96%	22.97%	-

Notes to measures

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1. Utilisation of aquatic facilities

Targets are based on past usage patterns. A temporary closure of the North Bellarine Aquatic Centre (June–October 2026) is expected to impact attendance.

2. Participation in 4-week Key Age and Stage visit

As this is a new measure that is being targeted, the target has been set based on the City's historical performance.

3. Council resolutions made at meetings closed to the public

The target is informed by the City's historical performance and benchmarking with comparable councils, taking into account forecast activity levels and organisational requirements.

4. Gas usage

The target has been set using historical gas consumption data, with forecast reductions from 2027-28 associated with the planned switch from gas to electrification of Kardinia Pool.

5. Non-current liabilities compared to own-source revenue

Debt levels are planned to decrease over time, while own-source revenue is expected to grow through population growth and indexation.

6. Cash compared to current liabilities

Cash reserves are expected to decline over time as they are used to fund Developer Contribution Plan (DCP) capital projects.

7. Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)

Underlying deficits are forecast in the short term (2026–27 and 2027–28), with a return to surplus in later years, supported by operating efficiency improvements.

8. Average rate per property assessment

Rates revenue is expected to increase in line with the State Government rate cap.

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9. Satisfaction with the opportunities offered by Council to be consulted on or engaged in Council decisions

The target for this measure has been set considering past data, the City's current resource levels, and a review of engagements and projects of significant community interest in the past 12 months. It is forecast that this will continue with the City's measure potentially increasing in the year ahead as there will be a particular focus on Neighbourhood Conversations and a Have Your Say membership drive and the adoption of a new Community Engagement Policy which encourages and empowers our community to share their views and experiences.

10. Sealed local roads below the intervention level

The target is informed by the City's historical performance and benchmarking with comparable councils. In addition the City used its strategic modelling software which ingests road condition information and agreed levels of service to project the overall condition of the road network.

11. Planning applications decided within the relevant required time

The target has been set based on the City's historical performance, overlayed with benchmarking for comparable Councils which also process complex statutory planning applications.

12. Kerbside collection waste to landfill per serviced property

Targets have been set in accordance with past data and reasonable forecasts about the future state. The targets reflect a forecasted yearly increase of 3% in waste and garden organics tonnages in accordance with forecast population growth. From 2024-25, the tonnage of mixed recycling processed by the City would decrease due to the introduction of the Victorian Government's Container Deposit Scheme, which will remove containers from the City's mixed recycling processing.

13. Current assets compared to current liabilities

Current assets will decline over the period due to the use of cash reserves to fund DCP capital works. The ratio will remain above 100% in all years indicating sufficient liquidity.

14. Asset renewal and upgrade compared to depreciation

A temporary reduction in capital renewal and upgrades is planned for 2026–27 to focus the capital program on completing several large projects, before increasing again to align with long-term asset management targets.

15. Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue

This measure is expected to remain relatively stable, reflecting a consistent reliance on rates as a funding source.

16. Expenses per property assessment

Expenses per property are expected to increase gradually, mainly due to inflation in materials and service costs.

5b

17. Loans and borrowings compared to own-source revenue

Borrowings are expected to decrease over time as existing loans are repaid and no new borrowings are planned. Own source revenue will increase over the same period due to fees and charges indexation and growth assumptions.

18. Loans and borrowings repayments compared to own-source revenue

A one off increase is expected in 2026-27 due to two loans maturing. One loan will be repaid in full and the other will be refinanced to maintain adequate cash balances.

19. Expenses per head of population

Expenses per person are expected to increase slightly in line with inflation of materials and services.

20. Infrastructure per head of population

This indicator is expected to increase due to capital works expenditure and the impact of asset revaluations increasing the value of infrastructure.

21. Own-source revenue per head of population

Own source revenue per person is expected to grow due to rate increases (in line with the rate cap) and increases in fees and charges.

22. Recurrent grants per head of population

Grant funding is expected to increase modestly over time, broadly in line with inflation.

23. Rates compared to property value

This measure is expected to remain stable over time, reflecting consistent rating levels relative to property values.

24. Rates and charges debt

Collection rates are expected to remain stable over the period.

5c

25. Interest Cover Ratio

Council is expected to comfortably meet interest obligations. The ratio improves over time as revenue grows and interest costs remain stable.

26. Interest bearing liabilities to own source revenue

Debt is expected to decline, while revenue increases, resulting in a stronger indicator over time.

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Appendices

Appendix 1	Budgeted Income Statement
Appendix 2	2026-27 Capital Project program
Appendix 3	Community Support
Appendix 4	2026-27 Fees and Charges listing

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Budgeted Income Statement

For the four years ending 30 June 2030

	Forecast Actual 2025-26 $'000	Budget 2026-27 $'000	Projections 2027-28 $'000	2028-29 $'000	2029-30 $'000
Operating Income					
Rates & Charges	339,953	**356,684**	376,774	397,209	418,756
Government Grants - Operating	62,259	**75,248**	77,317	79,443	81,628
User Fees	66,493	**69,369**	73,011	76,844	80,879
Statutory Fees & Fines	19,109	**17,971**	18,914	19,907	20,952
Interest Received	9,272	**8,850**	10,085	9,480	7,366
Other Income	742	**354**	372	392	412
Net Gain/(Loss) on disposal of assets	(525)	**242**	30	31	31
Total Operating Income	**497,303**	**528,717**	**556,503**	**583,306**	**610,024**
Operating Expenditure					
Employee Costs	212,307	**221,892**	232,180	243,024	254,457
Materials & Services	150,578	**170,230**	173,894	177,814	185,348
Depreciation	114,503	**114,205**	118,961	123,512	129,771
Other Expenses	28,542	**31,369**	32,074	32,796	34,190
Interest Expense	5,017	**5,151**	4,787	4,514	4,407
Finance Costs - Leases	191	**108**	383	530	432
Total Operating Expenditure	**511,137**	**542,955**	**562,280**	**582,191**	**608,605**
Underlying Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	**(13,834)**	**(14,237)**	**(5,776)**	**1,115**	**1,419**
Non-Recurrent Income					
Government Grants - Capital	37,646	**45,944**	18,722	10,417	9,269
Developer Contributions	28,308	**46,544**	30,881	24,469	40,778
Net Gain/(Loss) on disposal of assets	6,442	**3,100**	240	245	250
Recognition of Infrastructure	118,023	**120,652**	125,478	130,497	133,107
Net Asset Revaluation Gain	211,755	**220,225**	229,034	238,196	242,959
Rates and Charges	1,209	**1,578**	-	-	-
Other Capital Income	2,261	**119**	1,033	2,832	2,978
Total Non-Recurrent Income	**405,644**	**438,162**	**405,389**	**406,655**	**429,341**
Total Comprehensive Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	**391,810**	**423,925**	**399,613**	**407,770**	**430,760**

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2026-27 TO 2029-30 CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRAM

Project Name	Description	2026-27 Expenditure $	2027-28 Expenditure $	2028-29 Expenditure $	2029-30 Expenditure $
Buildings					
Chilwell Library Community Hub	Construction of upgrades at Chilwell library including meeting rooms and toilets.	237,748	-	-	-
Lara West - Eastern Multipurpose Community Centre	Lara West - Eastern Child and Community Centre Design & Construction, including early years and community spaces.	182,553	1,642,975	8,214,877	8,214,877
Landy Field - Upgrade of Facilities (Inc Pavilion)	Refurbishment of facilities including upgrades to the pavilion.	6,689,912	-	-	-
Yirrama Community Hub	Armstrong Creek - Horseshoe Bend Precinct Neighbourhood Activity Centre. Design and construction of a new hub including early years and community spaces.	4,528,346	-	-	-
Biyala Community Hub	Armstrong Creek East Precinct Local Activity Centre - Design and construction of a new Hub including early years and community spaces.	974,703	-	-	-
Armstrong Creek West Precinct - Local Activity Centre - Community Complex	Armstrong Creek West Precinct. Design and construction of a new Hub including early years and community spaces.	-	-	-	193,147
North Bellarine Aquatic Centre Stage 2	Stage 2 of the North Bellarine Aquatic Centre development.	24,673,108	5,387,611	-	-
Ocean Grove Memorial Reserve Upgrade	Sports lighting upgrade and facility improvements.	383,298	-	-	-
Commonwealth Games Legacy Asset Delivery	Costs associated with the City's management of Commonwealth Games Legacy asset delivery.	203,717	-	-	-
Wallington Reserve - All Abilities Pavilion Redevelopment	Redevelopment of the sports pavilion at Wallington Reserve to address accessibility issues.	765,104	-	-	-
Hamlyn Park - Female Friendly Changeroom	Female friendly changeroom upgrades at Hamlyn Park.	1,299,843	311,000	-	-

2026-27 TO 2029-30 CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRAM

Project Name	Description	2026-27 Expenditure $	2027-28 Expenditure $	2028-29 Expenditure $	2029-30 Expenditure $
McDonald Reserve Pavilion Upgrade	Refurbishment and extension of the existing pavilion at McDonald Reserve.	1,032,275	119,826	-	-
Queens Park Female Friendly Change room	Female friendly change room upgrades at Queens Park.	1,317,280	-	-	-
Norlane Community Centre	Staged construction works at the Norlane Community Centre.	36,355	-	-	-
Lara Early Years Library and Community Hub	Design and construct the permanent Lara Regional Library to replace the existing temporary library.	-	-	2,581,553	11,616,989
Curlewis Community Hub	Design and construct a facility which includes the development of an early childhood and maternal services area and neighbourhood community hub.	-	-	98,725	888,529
Northern Aquatic and Community Hub (Northern Arc)	Construction of the Northern Aquatic and Community Hub development.	441,464	-	-	-
Elderslie Reserve Pavilion Upgrade	Upgrade and redevelopment of player and umpires change rooms and amenities at Elderslie Recreation Reserve to be female friendly and meet AFL Preferred Community Facility guidelines for a local level football facility.	1,000,000	786,530	-	-
Armstrong Horseshoe Bend Precinct - Local Activity Centre - Community Complex	Armstrong Creek Horseshoe Bend Precinct - Local Activity Centre - Design and construction of a new Hub including early years and community spaces.	187,491	1,687,419	8,437,096	8,437,096
Lara West - Multi-Purpose Stadium	Design and construct of a multi-purpose stadium at Lara West.	-	-	-	155,682
Armstrong Creek Horseshoe Bend Precinct - Regional Active Open Space - Community Pavilion	Design and construct the community pavilion as part of the regional active open space (northern) in the Armstrong Creek Horseshow Bend precinct.	-	177,048	708,191	2,655,717
NAC - Multi-Purpose Stadium	The delivery of a multi-use stadium in the Armstrong Creek precinct.	200,000	-	-	-

2026-27 TO 2029-30 CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRAM

Project Name	Description	2026-27 Expenditure $	2027-28 Expenditure $	2028-29 Expenditure $	2029-30 Expenditure $
Lara West - District Active Open Space - Community Pavilion	Design and construct the Lara West District Active Open Space Community Pavilion.	-	225,332	901,329	3,379,984
Armstrong Creek West Precinct - Regional Active Open Space - Community Pavilion	Design and construct the Armstrong Creek Regional Active Open Space Community Pavilion.	-	-	230,090	920,361
Armstrong Creek Horseshoe Bend Precinct - Southern Active Open Space - Community Pavilion	Design and construct the Armstrong Creek Horseshoe Bend Precinct Local Activity Centre community pavilion.	-	-	125,712	502,846
Armstrong Creek East Precinct - Regional Active Open Space Reserve - Community Pavilion	Design and construct the Armstrong Creek East Precinct Regional active open space reserve community pavilion.	-	-	228,302	913,208
Armstrong Creek Horseshoe Bend Precinct - Western Active Open Space - Play Fields and Athletics	Design and construct the Armstrong Creek Horseshoe Bend Precinct western active open space play fields.	-	-	-	105,036
RSIP Facilities - Armstrong Creek Sports Centre and Waurn Ponds Sports Complex	Capital costs to bring RSIP facilities at Armstrong Creek Sports Centre and Waurn Ponds into operation.	250,000	-	-	-
Lara West West Community Hub	Western Multipurpose Community Centre - Construction	-	-	165,581	1,490,225
Core Capital Program - Buildings	The City of Greater Geelong's annual core capital program to fund ongoing expenditure associated with building assets.	10,376,409	14,173,263	20,969,528	21,422,850
Total Buildings		**54,779,605**	**24,511,004**	**42,660,984**	**60,896,547**
Heritage buildings					
Osborne House Remedial Works	Remediation works to bring the building to an occupiable state.	-	4,500,000	3,500,000	-
Total Heritage buildings		**-**	**4,500,000**	**3,500,000**	**-**

2026-27 TO 2029-30 CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRAM

Project Name	Description	2026-27 Expenditure $	2027-28 Expenditure $	2028-29 Expenditure $	2029-30 Expenditure $
Land					
Land Acquisition Program	Land Acquisition Program to support future projects	10,805,292	17,133,292	9,269,238	28,687,770
Total Land		**10,805,292**	**17,133,292**	**9,269,238**	**28,687,770**
Property Total		**65,584,897**	**46,144,296**	**55,430,222**	**89,584,317**
Plant and Equipment					
Plant, machinery and equipment					
Grey Headed Flying Fox (Capital)	The development, operation and maintenance (as applicable) of certain heat stress avoidance and mitigation actions at Grey-headed Flying-fox camps aimed to support in the protection of those animals during heat stress events	56,893	-	-	-
Grab Truck Purchase	Additional grab truck to address increase in dumped rubbish requests	350,000	-	-	-
North Bellarine Aquatic Centre Stage 2 - Fit Out	Fit out costs relating to stage two of the North Bellarine Aquatic Centre	850,000	-	-	-
Gymnastics Centre fitout	Project to fit out the new Gymnastics Centre at Waurn Ponds	900,000	-	-	-
Core Capital Program - Plant, machinery and equipment	The City of Greater Geelong's annual core capital program to fund ongoing expenditure associated with plant & equipment assets	9,359,673	11,430,428	8,940,728	6,553,590
Total Plant, machinery and equipment		**11,516,566**	**11,430,428**	**8,940,728**	**6,553,590**
Fixtures, fittings and furniture					
Core Capital Program - Fixtures, fittings and furniture	The City of Greater Geelong's annual core capital program to fund ongoing expenditure associated with fixture & fitting assets	365,581	393,911	451,224	463,691

2026-27 TO 2029-30 CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRAM

Project Name	Description	2026-27 Expenditure $	2027-28 Expenditure $	2028-29 Expenditure $	2029-30 Expenditure $
Total Fixtures, fittings and furniture		**365,581**	**393,911**	**451,224**	**463,691**
Computers and telecommunications					
Smart City Infrastructure Opportunities	Smart City Infrastructure Opportunities	345,000	-	-	-
Core Capital Program - Computers and telecommunications	The City of Greater Geelong's annual core capital program to fund ongoing expenditure associated with computer and telecommunication assets	1,762,624	1,824,834	2,284,496	2,336,094
Total Computers and telecommunications		**2,107,624**	**1,824,834**	**2,284,496**	**2,336,094**
Plant and Equipment Total		**13,989,771**	**13,649,173**	**11,676,449**	**9,353,375**
Infrastructure					
Bridges					
Core Capital Program - Bridges	The City of Greater Geelong's annual core capital program to fund ongoing expenditure associated with bridge assets	433,706	436,179	518,974	532,904
Total Bridges		**433,706**	**436,179**	**518,974**	**532,904**
Drainage					
Armstrong Creek Waterway Improvement Works	Armstrong Creek Waterway Improvement Works - Airport Road to North South Connector (West of Airport Road)	-	282,365	282,365	-
Retarding Basin & Water Treatment - Armstrong Creek Town Centre	Construction of retarding basin and water treatment within the Armstrong Creek Town Centre precinct	-	995,912	-	-
Armstrong Creek Drainage and Waterway Improvement Works	Drainage and Waterway Improvement Works - Section 3 - Horseshoe Bend Rd to Surf Coast Hwy	-	-	162,286	730,285

2026-27 TO 2029-30 CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRAM

Project Name	Description	2026-27 Expenditure $	2027-28 Expenditure $	2028-29 Expenditure $	2029-30 Expenditure $
Armstrong Creek Waterway Improvement Works	Armstrong Creek Waterway Improvement Works - Sovereign Drive to Unity Drive	-	178,237	-	-
Armstrong Creek Waterway Improvement Works	Waterway Improvement Works - Surf Coast Hwy to Unity Drive	-	-	-	77,420
Kyema Drive: Cultural Heritage Management Plan	Completion of a cultural heritage management plan in relation to Kyema Drive drainage works	-	100,000	-	-
Intersection - East West Link Road and Barwon Heads Road - Sewer Confluence relocation	Relocation of the sewer confluence in the Armstrong Creek Northeast Industrial Precinct	-	-	549,355	4,944,192
Core Capital Program - Drainage	The City of Greater Geelong's annual core capital program to fund ongoing expenditure associated with drainage assets	4,832,890	6,500,273	7,830,467	8,032,395
Total Drainage		**4,832,890**	**8,056,787**	**8,824,472**	**13,784,293**
Footpaths and cycleways					
Special Rates and Charges - Civil Infrastructure	Ongoing program of construction in accordance with approved schedule funded via Special Rates and Charges Schemes	4,406,552	789,899	798,596	807,554
Ocean Grove bike track	Planning and construction of bike track	175,826	-	-	-
Scenic Road - Bicycle Path	Footpaths on Scenic Road from Highett Road to Province Blvd	84,699	-	-	-
Shared Trails Masterplan Implementation - Bellarine Trail	Progression of the Shared Trails Master Plan between Portarlington and Drysdale, along with other opportunities which might occur within the Shared Trails Master Plan	371,768	-	-	-
Mount Duneed Footpath Upgrades	Planning work for footpath construction in Mount Duneed	124,508	-	-	-

2026-27 TO 2029-30 CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRAM

Project Name	Description	2026-27 Expenditure $	2027-28 Expenditure $	2028-29 Expenditure $	2029-30 Expenditure $
Greenways Improvements - ACEP	Greenways Improvements as per the Armstrong Creek East Precinct Developer Contribution Plan	-	-	26,476	119,142
Greenways Improvements - ACTC	Greenway improvement Works - (Barrewarre Road South and Boundary Road West)	-	-	-	6,351
Barwon River - Shared Trails & Pedestrian Bridge	The detailed design of trails north and south of the Barwon River connecting to existing trails and of a pedestrian bridge across the Barwon River	113,042	-	-	-
Off Road Shared Path Network	Trails and Shared Path Network for Armstrong Creek Growth Area supported by DCP funding	-	53,575	332,801	830,842
Core Capital Program - Footpaths and cycleways	The City of Greater Geelong's annual core capital program to fund ongoing expenditure associated with footpath and cycleway assets	1,847,772	4,004,213	4,451,004	4,565,785
Total Footpaths and cycleways		**7,124,166**	**4,847,687**	**5,608,877**	**6,329,673**
Other Infrastructure					
Roslyn Rd and Thornhill Rd Intersection	Final completion works on the the Roslyn Rd and Thornhill Rd intersection including a bus stop alteration	90,000	-	-	-
Armstrong Creek West - Boundary Road and Baanyip Boulevard Traffic Signals and Link Road	Install traffic signals at the intersection of Boundary Road and Baanyip Boulevard, realign Boundary Road to join with new signals as identified in the Armstrong Creek West Precinct Structure Plan	50,000	-	-	-
Heritage Asset Renewal	Renewal of heritage assets across the City	100,000	-	-	-
Animal Pound - Sewer Main Upgrade	Upgrade the sewer main at the animal pound facility	275,000	-	-	-
Waterfront Bollard Renewal	Project to renew bollards along the Geelong Waterfront	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Christmas Program	Project to renew Councils Christmas program assets	100,000	1,900,000	-	-

2026-27 TO 2029-30 CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRAM

Project Name	Description	2026-27 Expenditure $	2027-28 Expenditure $	2028-29 Expenditure $	2029-30 Expenditure $
Core Capital Program - Other Infrastructure	The City of Greater Geelong's annual core capital program to fund ongoing expenditure associated with other infrastructure assets	6,958,355	7,314,560	7,599,621	7,824,684
Total Other Infrastructure		**7,773,355**	**9,414,560**	**7,799,621**	**8,024,684**
Parks, open space and streetscapes					
Province Estate Highton - Wandana Gully - no 3	These works capture remediation and fully landscaping of higher embankments within Gully #03	2,112,000	-	-	-
Sparrovale Wetlands Project Implementation	Development of the Sparrovale Masterplan and management of the Sparrovale Wetlands 550 hectare site.	530,000	816,537	-	-
Sparrovale Dog Park	The delivery and construction of Sparrovale Dog Park, Charlemont.	300,840	-	-	-
Jetty Road - Foreshore Reserve - Improvements	Protection and rehabilitation of the foreshore reserve.	-	1,300,987	1,365,066	64,079
Armstrong Creek North East Industrial Precinct projects	Proposed Works In Kind (WIK) projects within the Armstrong Creek North East Industrial Precinct (ACNEIP)	-	-	-	2,452,542
Chirnside Park Playground Improvements	Improvements at Chirnside Park part funded through Pick my Park grant	300,000	520,000	-	-
Waurn Ponds Skate Park and Dirt Jumps Precinct upgrade	Upgrades at Waurn Ponds Skare Park & Dirt Jump park part funded through Pick my Park grant	300,000	550,000	-	-
St Albans Recreation Reserve, Thomson: Play, Fitness and Social Space	Improvements at St Albans Recreation Reserve part funded through Pick my Park grant	150,000	420,000	-	-
Hamlyn Park - Play, recreation and landscape improvements	Improvements at Hamlyn Park part funded through Pick my Park grant	-	500,000	-	-
Streetscape Beautification Works	Beautification and additional lighting for Moorabool and Ryrie streets	192,500	-	-	-

2026-27 TO 2029-30 CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRAM

Project Name	Description	2026-27 Expenditure $	2027-28 Expenditure $	2028-29 Expenditure $	2029-30 Expenditure $
Multicultural Business Precinct Revitalisation Program	Multicultural Business Precinct Revitalisation Program	319,910	-	-	-
Lara CBD Beautification & Safety Initiative	Package to address safety and amenity within Lara CBD	50,000	100,000	-	-
Buffer open space -Ibbotson Street	Landscaping and shared path works along Ibbotson Street	-	194,091	-	-
Core Capital Program - Parks, open space and streetscapes	The City of Greater Geelong's annual core capital program to fund ongoing expenditure associated with parks, open space and streetscape assets	3,526,858	8,090,001	9,550,422	9,792,502
Total Parks, open space and streetscapes		**7,782,108**	**12,491,616**	**10,915,488**	**12,309,123**
Recreational, leisure and community facilities					
Armstrong Creek West Precinct - Regional Active Open Space - Play Fields	Design and construction of sporting fields and supporting infrastructure within the Armstrong Creek West Regional Active Open Space Reserve	112,907	165,596	1,129,066	6,774,396
Armstrong Creek Horseshoe Bend - Southern Active Open Space - Play Fields	Design and construct the Armstrong Creek Horseshoe Bend Precinct Southern Active Open Space Play Fields	120,000	150,000	600,000	3,007,543
Moorpanyl Park	Implementation of Master Plan for Moorpanyl Park North Shore	586,650	-	-	-
Aldershot Reserve – Active Recreation	Construction of an asphalt pump track, outdoor fitness area, accessible public toilet and landscaping at Aldershot Reserve	1,722,555	-	-	-
Sport Lighting Program	Program to support the installation of new sport lighting across the municipality	1,598,000	-	-	-
Kardinia Aquatic Centre - Pool Boiler Electrification	The upgrade/electrification of the Kardinia Pool boiler	300,000	1,664,000	-	-
Lara West - District Active Open Space - Play Fields	Design and construct the Lara West District Active Open Space Play Fields	150,000	600,000	3,226,706	3,193,751

2026-27 TO 2029-30 CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRAM

Project Name	Description	2026-27 Expenditure $	2027-28 Expenditure $	2028-29 Expenditure $	2029-30 Expenditure $
Armstrong Creek West Precinct - Local Activity Centre Active Open Space - Play Fields	Design and construct the Armstrong Creek West local activity centre active open space play fields.	-	-	101,464	148,813
Armstrong Creek Horseshoe Bend Precinct - Regional Active Open Space - Play Fields	Design and construct the playing fields as part of the regional active open space (northern) in the Armstrong Creek Horseshoe Bend precinct.	150,000	824,000	4,701,800	3,857,088
Armstrong Creek East Precinct - Regional Active Open Space Reserve - Playing Fields	Design and construct regional active open space reserve playing fields at the Armstrong Creek East precinct.	-	100,000	150,000	1,000,000
Armstrong Creek Horseshoe Bend Precinct - Central Active Open Space - Play Fields	Design and construct the Armstrong Creek Horseshoe Bend Precinct central active open space play fields.	-	-	106,368	159,552
Grovedale Recreation Reserve Pitch upgrade	Reserve Road Reserve Synthetic Pitch Replacement Works	234,319	-	-	-
Coastside Drive Recreation Reserve Masterplan Implementation	Design and construct local activity centre in the Armstrong Creek East Precinct including community pavilion, playing fields & playground equipment	550,000	10,500,000	7,305,272	-
Sovereign Drive Recreation Reserve Masterplan Implementation	Design and construction of sporting fields and supporting infrastructure within the Armstrong Creek West Neighbourhood Active Open Space Reserve.	2,547,400	5,878,576	-	-
Grinter Reserve BMX Track Upgrade	Seal finishing and starting straights at the Grinter reserve BMX track	350,000	-	-	-
Osborne Park Netball Courts	Construction of second netball court at Osborne Park	830,000	-	-	-
Drysdale Sporting Precinct Master Plan Stage 2	Design and construction of the Drysdale Sub-Regional Sporting Precinct Masterplan. Builds upon existing uses and to ultimately deliver on the strategic (and sustainable) vision for the Precinct	9,685,292	-	-	-
Lara Golf Club Irrigation Upgrade	Installation of new irrigation system and decommissioning of existing as per concept plan.	887,435	-	-	-

2026-27 TO 2029-30 CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRAM

Project Name	Description	2026-27 Expenditure $	2027-28 Expenditure $	2028-29 Expenditure $	2029-30 Expenditure $
Geelong Waterfront Basketball Court	Construction of a new outdoor basketball court, including LED lighting and fencing on the Geelong waterfront.	100,000	300,000	-	-
Devlins Road Active Open Space	Detailed design and construction of a pavilion, sports fields, sports lighting and other associated infrastructure at Devlins Road Reserve, Ocean Grove.	2,500,000	4,992,178	-	-
Myers Reserve Masterplan Implementation	Myer Reserve masterplan implementation works.	399,547	330,000	-	-
Basketball Court Planning	Planning for 1/4 court basketball in Barrabool	20,000	-	-	-
Core Capital Program - Recreational, leisure and community facilities	The City of Greater Geelong's annual core capital program to fund ongoing expenditure associated with recreational, leisure and community facility assets	2,569,188	2,611,946	2,904,269	2,983,514
Total Recreational, leisure and community facilities		**25,413,292**	**28,116,297**	**20,224,943**	**21,124,658**
Roads					
Intersection - Reserve Road - Horseshoe Bend Road - Drews Road	The construction of a signalised intersection at Reserve Road/Horseshoe Bend Road/ Drews Road.	-	50,000	327,272	1,408,866
Intersection - Surf Coast Hwy - Boundary Road	Construction of a signalised intersection - Surf Coast Hwy and Boundary Road	-	-	369,719	2,749,460
Lara West - Patullos Rd East - Road Widening and Shared User Path	Design of widened road and shared user path between O'Hallorans Rd and Kees Rd, Lara.	-	4,842,637	-	-
Intersection - New Burvilles Road and Ashbury Boulevard - Signals Only	Design and construct the New Burvilles Road and Ashbury Boulevard intersection - Signals Only	-	204,774	553,561	-
East West Link Road - Interim Construction	The interim construction of the East West Link road in the Armstrong Creek Northeast Industrial Precinct.	-	-	276,858	2,491,721

2026-27 TO 2029-30 CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRAM

Project Name	Description	2026-27 Expenditure $	2027-28 Expenditure $	2028-29 Expenditure $	2029-30 Expenditure $
Horseshoe Bend Road and Lauderdale Court - signals only	Update to: Design and construct the intersection Horseshoe Bend Road and Lauderdale Court - Signals only	-	80,461	80,461	321,845
Intersection - Surf Coast Hwy and Feehans Road	Construction of Intersection at Surf Coast Hwy and Feehans Rd	-	-	-	87,878
Ibbotson Street bell mouth seal Ibbotson Street bell mouth seal (at juncture with Murradoc Road)	Ibbotson Street bell mouth seal Ibbotson Street bell mouth seal (at juncture with Murradoc Road)	-	14,640	-	-
McBeth Street footpath construction	Construction of footpath along McBeth Street	-	73,203	-	-
Signalised intersection - Barwon Heads Rd and Keystone Ave	Construction of a signalised intersection at Barwon Heads Road and Keystone Avenue	-	-	-	292,219
Signalised intersection - East West Link Rd and Barwon Heads Rd	Part contribution towards signalised intersection at East West Link Road and Barwon Heads	-	-	-	291,697
Traffic Calming Upgrades	Traffic Calming (speed humps) Bell Post Hill	300,000	-	-	-
Core Capital Program - Roads	The City of Greater Geelong's annual core capital program to fund ongoing expenditure associated with road assets	24,707,477	29,650,412	37,028,139	37,836,539
Total Roads		**25,007,477**	**34,916,127**	**38,636,009**	**45,480,223**
Waste Management					
New Bin Supply - Waste Collection and Recycling Systems	Supply of mobile bins to new and additional occupancy residential properties and for new commercial customers.	1,226,814	1,364,332	1,517,264	1,568,851
Organics Processing Facility Upgrade	Organics Processing Facility Works - Site upgrades to accommodate FOGO processing.	11,500,000	13,593,102	-	-

2026-27 TO 2029-30 CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRAM

Project Name	Description	2026-27 Expenditure $	2027-28 Expenditure $	2028-29 Expenditure $	2029-30 Expenditure $
Geelong Resource Recovery Centre - construction of new facility	Demolish of the existing facility and construction of new Resource Recovery Facility.	831,873	3,242,465	-	-
Public Litter Enclosures Renewal	Upgrade current enclosures that are in poor condition and a lower than required capacity.	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
FOGO pre-processing - Facility Upgrades	Upgrades to the existing grinding and decontamination process to enable FOGO processing.	-	1,800,000	-	-
FOGO pre-processing upgrades - Equipment Purchase	Upgrades to the existing grinding and decontamination process to enable FOGO processing - equipment purchase	-	2,300,000	-	-
Purchase and rollout of kerbside glass bins	Mandated by the Victorian Government to introduce kerbside glass collection service by 2027	-	8,600,000	-	-
Total Waste Management		**13,608,687**	**30,949,899**	**1,567,264**	**1,618,851**
Infrastructure Total		**91,975,681**	**129,229,151**	**94,095,649**	**109,204,409**
Grand Total		**171,550,348**	**189,022,619**	**161,202,320**	**208,142,101**

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2026-27 COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Name	2025-26 Forecast $	2026-27 Budget $	Description
Community Grants			
Artists and Creatives Professional Development	15,000	15,000	Grants to support local artists and creative to develop their creative skills, business skills and professional practice.
Arts Projects	100,000	100,000	Grants to support artists, creatives and the cultural sector to develop new work to encourage creative expression connected to local people, stories and place.
Children's Week	20,000	20,000	Grants to support activities that bring children and families together to celebrate, play, and learn.
Clean Economy	50,000	50,000	Grants to support organisations to establish proof of concept for clean technologies and circular economy solutions that benefit the Geelong community.
Climate Change Partnerships	180,000	180,000	Partnership grants for the Geelong community to lead the way in adapting to a changing climate.
Community Equipment	60,000	60,000	Grants to assist with the cost of small equipment purchases to support community groups and not-for-profit organisations to deliver services and programs.
Community Events	220,000	220,000	Grants for moderate sized public events that provide economic and community benefits to the Greater Geelong region.
Community Infrastructure	1,500,000	1,500,000	Grants to support the planning and delivery of community-led infrastructure projects that increase community access to places, spaces, and services, where and when they are most needed, and provide facilities that foster and facilitate positive health and wellbeing outcomes.
Community Strengthening	203,000	203,000	Grants to support projects, activities or events that respond to a community need and promote inclusion and positive health and wellbeing within the community.
Community Strengthening First Nations	100,000	100,000	Grants to support self-determined projects and initiatives aimed at increasing health and social equity for Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, First Nations People, organisations and groups living in greater Geelong.
Creative Commissions	80,000	80,000	Grants to support established, professional artists and creatives to deliver large-scale creative projects within the City of Greater of Geelong.
Creative Seed	25,000	25,000	Grants to support artists and creatives to initiate, explore or activate new ideas or new approached to their work.
Environmental Sustainability	70,000	70,000	Grants to support the initiation, development and delivery of projects that enhance our natural environment and drive environmental sustainability actions across the Geelong region.
Geelong Heritage	-	100,000	Grants to support conservation of heritage buildings in Greater Geelong. The City's 2025-35 Geelong Heritage Strategy is scheduled for completion in 2026. This strategy will review broader support options for heritage which may inform future grant programs.
Positive Ageing	24,000	24,000	Grants to support community hosted activities and experiences such as workshops, dances, concerts and sporting activities that celebrate positive ageing in our community.
Community Grants Total	**2,647,000**	**2,747,000**	
Contributions and Partnerships			
Active Geelong	50,000	-	Partnership in 2025-26 to achieve strategic actions from the Community Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
Advanced Fibre Cluster	12,500	10,000	Advanced Fibre Cluster Geelong to support the growth of advanced fibre and composite materials' manufacturing in the Geelong region.
AFL Barwon	5,000	-	Contribution to Grand Final event held at Kardinia Park.
Barwon Heads Football Netball Club	20,000	20,000	Funding to subsidise Barwon Heads Football netball Club (BHFNC) for maintenance of Howard Harmer Reserve.
Barwon Sports Academy	64,975	66,762	Council contribution to operating costs and memberships.

2026-27 COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Name	2025-26 Forecast $	2026-27 Budget $	Description
Bellarine Catchment Network	20,000	20,000	To support the Bellarine Catchment Network in providing environment projects for the Bellarine Peninsula community.
Bis-Sport Sponsorship	6,000	6,165	Partnership with Barwon Sports Academy to support elite athletes to compete.
Courthouse Back to Back	7,567	7,826	Annual facilities support.
Deakin University	10,000	10,000	Deakin University Scholarship Pledge and local secondary schools.
Emergency Management	2,250	2,250	Contribution to Citizens Radio Emergency Services Teams (CREST).
Future Geelong	30,000	-	Future Geelong is an event that casts a spotlight on the region's key issues and opportunities. A blueprint to ensure Geelong remains the most desirable city to work, play and live in.
G21 Contribution	264,502	80,000	Contribution to G21 Geelong Regional Alliance.
Geelong Chamber of Commerce	81,060	83,111	
- Eco Dev Gold Corporate Partnership	*7,460*	*-*	*Geelong Chamber Gold Corporate Partnership Proposal.*
- Corporate Partner Luncheon	*11,000*	*-*	*Annual Corporate Partner Luncheon.*
- Geelong on the Rise Partnership	*-*	*18,460*	*Deliver a project for Greater Geelong businesses aligned with Geelong on the Rise outcomes.*
- Geelong Small Business Festival	*51,200*	*53,251*	*Geelong Small Business Festival.*
- Geelong Business Excellence Awards	*11,400*	*11,400*	*Geelong Business Excellence Awards.*
Geelong Cricket Association	295,847	303,982	Partnership for turf wicket maintenance program.
Geelong Food Share	150,000	100,000	Contribution to assist in providing food aid to individuals and families who might otherwise struggle to access nutritious food.
Geelong Football Club	20,000	20,000	Sponsorship and activation.
Geelong Gallery	1,365,339	1,411,761	Funding Agreement to support core operations.
Geelong Gaol Museum	5,000	5,000	Annual support for the conservation and care of the Geelong Gaol Museum collection.
Geelong-India Collaborative Futures Forum	9,400	30,000	The inaugural Geelong-India Collaborative Futures Forum in March 2026 has been highly successful in connecting business and industry sectors, and demonstrating a commitment to a bilateral relationship. A targeted sector Geelong-India forum in 2027 will continue to build momentum and secure new business opportunities, investment and global recognition for Geelong.
Geelong Manufacturing Council	25,000	20,000	Support for Geelong Manufacturing Council growing skills and capabilities, stimulate innovation, product and market diversification and enhance the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Geelong.
Geelong Maritime Museum	4,890	5,000	Annual support for the conservation and care of the Geelong Maritime Museum collection.
Geelong Market	150,000	128,000	Seed Funding Contribution for Year 1 for Organiser to run Geelong City Market, including traffic management and other services
Geelong Regional Library	15,896,926	16,398,673	
- Geelong Regional Library - Cash Contribution	*14,724,570*	*14,927,226*	*Funding provided to GRLC as a cash contribution.*
- Geelong Regional Library - CoGG Service Contributions	*1,172,356*	*1,471,447*	*Funding provided to GRLC for other operating facility costs i.e. cleaning & utilities, to library services.*
Geelong Warriors	-	50,000	Funding to subsidise North Geelong Warriors FC for maintenance of Elcho Park.
Give Where You Live	60,000	60,000	Foundation Platinum Partnership for Community Engagement and Connected Program.
Greater Geelong Neighbourhood Houses	222,500	252,000	Contribution towards operations and programming for Greater Geelong Neighbourhood Houses including auspice provided by Neighbourhood Houses Barwon.
Geelong United Basketball	217,676	236,948	Operating subsidy for the management of Geelong Arena

2026-27 COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Name	2025-26 Forecast $	2026-27 Budget $	Description
International Relations	-	40,000	Priority markets, business and industries are engaged to identify and pursue opportunities in Australian cities with established trusted relationships with their respective cities and governments. This is supported through activities such as hosting international delegations, showcasing Geelong, virtual trade missions and initiatives to strengthen relationships with consulates, multicultural communities in Geelong and business and trade agencies.
Older Adult Centres	50,000	26,000	Contribution to programming for Older Adults activities.
Outpost	-	55,000	Contribution to assist in providing meals and additional support to people experiencing homelessness.
Parks, Gardens, Landcare support	25,000	25,000	Support for community groups to care for parks and reserves.
Platform Arts	313,587	324,249	Funding Agreement to support core operations, including working across multiple creative platforms to champion a new generation of thinkers, makers and innovators.
Runway HQ Limited	4,000	4,000	Runway HQ Ltd which supports Startups residing in regional Victoria.
Swan Bay Catchment Program	40,000	40,000	Partnership program to protect and enhance native vegetation and waterways within the Swan Bay Catchment on the Bellarine Peninsula.
Western Heights Secondary College	43,164	59,102	Contribution to Western Heights Secondary College to cover the operating costs associated with the Vines Road Community Hub library.
Contributions and Partnerships Total	**19,472,183**	**19,900,829**	
Events			
Australia Day Committee (Geelong) Inc.	35,700	55,000	Free family fun day at Rippleside Park on 26th January.
Australian International Airshow	-	320,000	Sponsorship payment of the Australian International Airshow. Event held every two years.
- Airshow	*-*	*250,000*	*Sponsorship*
- Trade Stand	*-*	*70,000*	*Exhibition Site*
- Contract delivery			*In Kind Operational Support ($55k)*
ANZAC Day	10,000	15,000	ANZAC Day services and traffic control.
Barwon Health Foundation Gala Ball	-	70,000	Annual Ball - The City will be the presenting partner for the event, to be held 3 July 2026. Total contribution for the event is $70k.
Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race	280,000	287,000	Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race - Marketing & Sponsorship.
Hallmark Christmas events – Christmas Opening Night	65,000	83,000	Denis Walter Carols by the Bay, Geelong Carols by Candlelight
Major Events to be confirmed	1,200,000	1,300,000	Funding for the attraction of major events to Geelong.
New Years Eve Celebration	60,000	63,000	New Years Eve Fireworks Display, and cost to support the celebration including traffic control and cleaning costs.
Pako Festa	100,000	120,000	Commitment to support regional signature community event.
Run4Geelong	45,000	45,000	Naming rights partner for a three-year term, from 2025 to 2027
Events Total	**1,795,700**	**2,358,000**	
Total Community Support	**23,914,883**	**25,005,829**	

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CITY OF GREATER GEELONG - FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE
2026-27 Budget

Basis of Charge:
A = Act of Parliament D = Discretionary L = Local Law

Fees & Charges	Basis of Charge	2026-27 Charge $ (incl GST if applicable)	2026-27 Budget $ GST Amount	2025-26 Charge $ (incl GST if applicable)	Change in $ per unit	Change %
City Infrastructure						
Development Planning						
Additional Inspection Fee	D	103.00	-	100.00	3.00	3.00%
Asset Protection Permit	D	265.00	-	250.00	15.00	6.00%
Road Opening - Minor Works - Naturestrip MINOW2	A	103.60	-	100.90	2.70	2.68%
Road Opening - Minor Works - Roadway, Shoulder, Footpath MINOW1	A	160.60	-	156.30	4.30	2.75%
Standard Vehicle Crossing Permits	D	252.00	-	243.90	8.10	3.32%
Geelong Botanic Garden						
Annual Agreement	D	165.00	15.00	159.00	6.00	3.77%
Annual Agreement - ad hoc	D	16.00	1.45	15.50	0.50	3.23%
Annual Agreement - Friends	D	17.00	1.55	16.00	1.00	6.25%
Booked Program - 60 mins	D	5.80	0.53	5.60	0.20	3.57%
Booked Program - 90 mins	D	7.00	0.64	6.70	0.30	4.48%
Booked Program < 20 students	D	13.00	1.18	12.40	0.60	4.84%
Childrens Program	D	12.00	1.09	11.40	0.60	5.26%
Events - 2hr	D	332.00	30.18	321.00	11.00	3.43%
Events - 5hr	D	449.00	40.82	434.00	15.00	3.46%
Weekdays - full day	D	160.00	14.55	154.00	6.00	3.90%
Weekdays - half day	D	81.50	7.41	78.50	3.00	3.82%
Infrastructure Planning						
WWRR Street Occupation - Initial Application	D	52.00	-	50.00	2.00	4.00%
Flood Assessment Fee - 2nd and subsequent consultations per hour (first consultation free)	D	72.00	-	70.00	2.00	2.86%
Flood Assessment Fee - basic enquiry (flood advice)	D	52.00	-	50.00	2.00	4.00%
Flood Assessment Fee - consent / endorsement - pre VicSmart permits	D	239.00	-	231.40	7.60	3.28%
Flood Assessment Fee - standard (flood advice)	D	239.00	-	231.40	7.60	3.28%
Property Information Request – including LPOD	D	245.00	-	231.40	13.60	5.88%
WWRR - Major Works over 50kmh - Roadway, Shoulder, Footpath	A	744.30	-	724.50	19.80	2.73%
WWRR - Major Works over 50kmh - Naturestrip	A	405.80	-	395.00	10.80	2.73%
WWRR - Major Works up to 50kmh - Roadway, Shoulder, Footpath	A	405.80	-	395.00	10.80	2.73%
WWRR- Major Works up to 50kmh - Naturestrip	A	103.60	-	100.90	2.70	2.68%
WWRR Street Occupation - Carpark /day	D	24.00	-	23.00	1.00	4.35%
WWRR Street Occupation - Over Permit Timeframe - road reserve width x length of work TMP impact /m2/day	D	1.00	-	0.70	0.30	42.86%
Parks and Gardens Administration						
Standpipe Permits	D	67.50	-	65.00	2.50	3.85%
Street and Parks Trees						

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG - FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE
2026-27 Budget

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Fees & Charges	Basis of Charge	2026-27 Charge $ (incl GST if applicable)	2026-27 Budget $ GST Amount	2025-26 Charge $ (incl GST if applicable)	Change in $ per unit	Change %
Tree Planting and Establishment	D	521.00	47.36	503.00	18.00	3.58%
Tree Removal - 5m - 10m in height	D	1,630.00	148.18	1,576.00	54.00	3.43%
Tree Removal - 10m + in height	D	2,779.00	252.64	2,687.00	92.00	3.42%
Tree Removal - up to 5m in height	D	870.00	79.09	841.00	29.00	3.45%
Waste Collection Services						
Commercial Bin Service - Garbage	D	753.00	68.45	728.00	25.00	3.43%
Commercial Bin Service - Green Waste	D	203.00	18.45	169.00	34.00	20.12%
Commercial Bin Service - Organics	D	1,076.00	97.82	1,040.00	36.00	3.46%
Commercial Bin Service - Recycling	D	286.00	26.00	238.00	48.00	20.17%
Waste Collection Services - Facility						
Fire Extinguishers	D	7.00	0.64	7.00	-	
Metreage	D	110.00	10.00	107.00	3.00	2.80%
Minimum charge/ Half boot load	D	21.00	1.91	20.00	1.00	5.00%
Pres Waste Mattresses	D	29.00	2.64	28.00	1.00	3.57%
Single Axle Caged Heaped Trailer	D	220.00	20.00	214.00	6.00	2.80%
Single Axle Caged Trailer	D	165.00	15.00	160.00	5.00	3.13%
Single Axle Trailer Waterline	D	83.00	7.55	80.00	3.00	3.75%
Solar Panels	D	15.00	1.36	29.50	- 14.50	-49.15%
Tandem Caged Heaped Trailer	D	440.00	40.00	427.50	12.50	2.92%
Tandem Caged Trailer	D	330.00	30.00	321.00	9.00	2.80%
Ute Heaped	D	110.00	10.00	80.00	30.00	37.50%
Ute Waterline	D	83.00	7.55	80.00	3.00	3.75%
Waste Car Boot	D	41.50	3.77	40.00	1.50	3.75%
Waste Car tyres on rims	D	16.00	1.45	12.00	4.00	33.33%
Waste Car tyres up to 1M diameter each	D	12.00	1.09	11.00	1.00	9.09%
Waste Concrete/Build-Build rubble/concrete	D	248.00	22.55	237.50	10.50	4.42%
Waste Single axle trailers (heaped) min	D	110.00	10.00	80.00	30.00	37.50%
Waste Tandem Trailers (heaped) min	D	220.00	20.00	214.00	6.00	2.80%
Waste Tandem Trailers (waterline)	D	110.00	10.00	107.00	3.00	2.80%
Waste Truck Tyres	D	38.50	3.50	37.00	1.50	4.05%
Waste Disposal Services - Facility						
Fire Extinguishers	D	7.00	0.64	7.00	-	
Metreage	D	110.00	10.00	107.00	3.00	2.80%
Minimum charge/ Half boot load	D	21.00	1.91	20.00	1.00	5.00%
Pres Waste Mattresses	D	29.00	2.64	28.00	1.00	3.57%
Single Axle Caged Heaped Trailer	D	220.00	20.00	214.00	6.00	2.80%

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG - FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE
2026-27 Budget

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Fees & Charges	Basis of Charge	2026-27 Charge $ (incl GST if applicable)	2026-27 Budget $ GST Amount	2025-26 Charge $ (incl GST if applicable)	Change in $ per unit	Change %
Single Axle Caged Trailer	D	165.00	15.00	160.00	5.00	3.13%
Single Axle Trailer Waterline	D	83.00	7.55	80.00	3.00	3.75%
Solar Panels	D	15.00	1.36	29.50	- 14.50	-49.15%
Tandem Caged Heaped Trailer	D	440.00	40.00	427.50	12.50	2.92%
Tandem Caged Trailer	D	330.00	30.00	321.00	9.00	2.80%
Ute Heaped	D	110.00	10.00	80.00	30.00	37.50%
Ute Waterline	D	83.00	7.55	80.00	3.00	3.75%
Waste Car Boot	D	41.50	3.77	40.00	1.50	3.75%
Waste Car tyres on rims	D	16.00	1.45	12.00	4.00	33.33%
Waste Car tyres up to 1M diameter each	D	12.00	1.09	11.00	1.00	9.09%
Waste Concrete/Build-Build rubble/concrete	D	248.00	22.55	237.50	10.50	4.42%
Waste Single axle trailers (heaped) min	D	110.00	10.00	80.00	30.00	37.50%
Waste Tandem Trailers (heaped) min	D	220.00	20.00	214.00	6.00	2.80%
Waste Tandem Trailers (waterline)	D	110.00	10.00	107.00	3.00	2.80%
Waste Truck Tyres	D	38.50	3.50	37.00	1.50	4.05%
Asbestos maximum single axle trailer (domestic quantities only)	D	83.00	7.55	76.00	7.00	9.21%
Fridge and airconditioner de-gassing and disposal	D	20.00	1.82	-	20.00	100.00%
Pres Waste - Reportable Priority Waste K100	D	368.00	33.45	353.50	14.50	4.10%
Pres Waste Animal Carcass (multiple)	D	288.00	26.18	276.00	12.00	4.35%
Pres Waste Clean Fill	D	200.00	18.18	177.00	23.00	12.99%
Pres Waste Greenwaste (clean)	D	269.00	24.45	258.00	11.00	4.26%
Pres Waste Industrial Waste	D	288.00	26.18	276.00	12.00	4.35%
Pres Waste Seaweed	D	254.00	23.09	245.00	9.00	3.67%
Pres Waste Animal Carcass (single)	D	-	-	94.00	- 94.00	-100.00%
Pres Waste Fish waste	D	-	-	353.50	- 353.50	-100.00%
Pres Waste Poultry	D	-	-	353.50	- 353.50	-100.00%
Pres Waste Scallop Shell	D	-	-	353.50	- 353.50	-100.00%
Design and Services						
Saleyards Truck Wash	D	-	-	3.75	- 3.75	-100.00%
City Life						
Abandoned Vehicles						
Abandoned Vehicles - Impound Release Fee - Motor Cycles & Vehicles	D	389.00	-	376.00	13.00	3.46%
Agencies						
Home, Personal and Respite Care Agency - Evening / Saturday	D	103.00	9.36	100.00	3.00	3.00%
Home, Personal and Respite Care Agency - Normal	D	81.00	7.36	78.00	3.00	3.85%
Home, Personal and Respite Care Agency - Public Holiday	D	153.00	13.91	148.00	5.00	3.38%

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG - FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE
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Fees & Charges	Basis of Charge	2026-27 Charge $ (incl GST if applicable)	2026-27 Budget $ GST Amount	2025-26 Charge $ (incl GST if applicable)	Change in $ per unit	Change %
Home, Personal and Respite Care Agency - Sunday	D	129.00	11.73	125.00	4.00	3.20%
Alfresco Dining Fees & Permits						
A Frame Advertising Sign occupying footpath (can only be placed in a 0-60km/h speed zone)	D	230.00	-	222.00	8.00	3.60%
Alfresco Dining Application Fee	D	96.00	-	46.00	50.00	108.70%
Alfresco Dining Transfer Fee	D	-	-	46.00	- 46.00	-100.00%
Alfresco Dining Permit - Chair Fee (Central Activity Area) - per chair	D	-	-	21.00	- 21.00	-100.00%
Alfresco Dining Permit - Chair Fee (Non-Central Activity Area) - per chair	D	-	-	15.00	- 15.00	-100.00%
Alfresco Dining Permit - Fixed Furniture Fee - per m2	D	-	-	46.00	- 46.00	-100.00%
Animal Impound & Release Fees						
Impound Release Fee - cat and dog	D	288.00	-	192.00	96.00	50.00%
Impound Release fees - Livestock (per animal)	D	101.00	-	98.00	3.00	3.06%
Labour & Vehicle Charge - Impounded Livestock - all days other than Sunday (per animal)	D	119.00	-	115.00	4.00	3.48%
Labour & Vehicle Charge - Impounded Livestock - Sundays (per animal)	D	142.00	-	137.00	5.00	3.65%
Returned Animal to Owner (dogs and cats)	D	51.00	-	49.00	2.00	4.08%
Sustenance Charge - larger than sheep (per day, per animal)	D	26.00	-	25.00	1.00	4.00%
Sustenance Charge - sheep or smaller (per day, per animal)	D	24.00	-	23.00	1.00	4.35%
Animal Registration Information Fees						
Public printing of Animal registration record cost per record	D	11.00	-	11.00	-	
Viewing of CoGG animal registration database	D	31.00	-	30.00	1.00	3.33%
Casual Parking						
Off Street - Capped All Day Parking Fee	D	15.90	1.45	15.40	0.50	3.25%
On-street - Capped All Day Parking Fee	D	10.30	0.94	10.00	0.30	3.00%
On-Street Parking - per hour fee	D	3.80	0.35	3.70	0.10	2.70%
Please note Casual Parking fees are subject to market forces and may be changed during the year at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer.	D	-	-	-	-	-
Commonwealth Home Support Program						
Home Care, Personal Care, Respite Care - High	D	78.00	-	75.00	3.00	4.00%
Home Care, Personal Care, Respite Care - Low	D	11.00	-	10.25	0.75	7.32%
Home Care, Personal Care, Respite Care - Medium	D	28.00	-	27.00	1.00	3.70%
Home Maintenance & Modifications - full pension	D	23.00	-	22.00	1.00	4.55%
Home Maintenance & Modifications - High	D	72.00	-	70.00	2.00	2.86%
Home Maintenance & Modifications - part pension	D	27.00	-	26.00	1.00	3.85%
Subject to the Commonwealth Home Support Program Federal Government Fees & Charges	D	-	-	-	-	-

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG - FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE
2026-27 Budget

Basis of Charge:
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Fees & Charges	Basis of Charge	2026-27 Charge $ (incl GST if applicable)	2026-27 Budget $ GST Amount	2025-26 Charge $ (incl GST if applicable)	Change in $ per unit	Change %
Community and Recreation						
Casual Hire - BMX- Commercial Rate	D	158.00	14.36	153.00	5.00	3.27%
Casual Hire - BMX- Community Rate	D	52.00	4.73	50.00	2.00	4.00%
Casual Hire - Bowls- Commercial Rate	D	68.00	6.18	66.00	2.00	3.03%
Casual Hire - Bowls- Community Rate	D	23.00	2.09	22.00	1.00	4.55%
Casual Hire - Community 1 Oval - Commercial Rate	D	1,139.00	103.55	1,102.00	37.00	3.36%
Casual Hire - Community 1 Oval - Community Rate	D	379.00	34.45	367.00	12.00	3.27%
Casual Hire - Community 1 Pitch - Commercial Rate	D	656.00	59.64	634.00	22.00	3.47%
Casual Hire - Community 1 Pitch - Community Rate	D	219.00	19.91	212.00	7.00	3.30%
Casual Hire - Community 2 Oval - Commercial Rate	D	748.00	68.00	723.00	25.00	3.46%
Casual Hire - Community 2 Oval - Community Rate	D	249.00	22.64	241.00	8.00	3.32%
Casual Hire - Community 2 Pitch - Commercial Rate	D	374.00	34.00	362.00	12.00	3.31%
Casual Hire - Community 2 Pitch - Community Rate	D	124.00	11.27	120.00	4.00	3.33%
Casual Hire - Community 3 Oval - Commercial Rate	D	374.00	34.00	362.00	12.00	3.31%
Casual Hire - Community 3 Oval - Community Rate	D	124.00	11.27	120.00	4.00	3.33%
Casual Hire - Community 3 Pitch- Commercial Rate	D	231.00	21.00	223.00	8.00	3.59%
Casual Hire - Community 3 Pitch- Community Rate	D	77.00	7.00	74.00	3.00	4.05%
Casual Hire - Court- Commercial Rate	D	54.00	4.91	52.00	2.00	3.85%
Casual Hire - Court- Community Rate	D	18.00	1.64	17.50	0.50	2.86%
Casual Hire - Criterium Track- Commercial Rate	D	114.00	10.36	110.00	4.00	3.64%
Casual Hire - Criterium Track- Community Rate	D	38.00	3.45	37.00	1.00	2.70%
Casual Hire - Goldsworthy Reserve - 1 hour	D	55.00	5.00	53.00	2.00	3.77%
Casual Hire - Goldsworthy Reserve - 2 hours	D	111.00	10.09	107.00	4.00	3.74%
Casual Hire - Goldsworthy Reserve - 3 hours	D	164.00	14.91	159.00	5.00	3.14%
Casual Hire - Goldsworthy Reserve - Daily	D	217.00	19.73	210.00	7.00	3.33%
Casual Hire - Reserve- Commercial Rate	D	158.00	14.36	153.00	5.00	3.27%
Casual Hire - Reserve- Community Rate	D	52.00	4.73	50.00	2.00	4.00%
Casual Hire - Velodrome- Commercial Rate	D	31.00	2.82	30.00	1.00	3.33%
Casual Hire - Velodrome- Community Rate	D	11.00	1.00	10.50	0.50	4.76%
Pre season training per sporting surface	D	170.00	15.45	-	170.00	100.00%
School Hire - Athletics - Goldsworthy Reserve Per Day	D	215.00	19.55	-	215.00	100.00%
School Hire - Athletics - Goldsworthy Reserve Per Half Day	D	107.50	9.77	-	107.50	100.00%
School Hire - Athletics - Goldsworthy Reserve Per Hour	D	26.90	2.45	-	26.90	100.00%
School Hire - Athletics - John Landy Field Per Day	D	527.00	47.91	-	527.00	100.00%
School Hire - Athletics - John Landy Field Per Half Day	D	263.50	23.95	-	263.50	100.00%
School Hire - Athletics - John Landy Field Per Hour	D	65.90	5.99	-	65.90	100.00%
School Hire - BMX Per Day	D	25.50	2.32	-	25.50	100.00%
School Hire - BMX Per Half Day	D	12.75	1.16	-	12.75	100.00%
School Hire - BMX Per Hour	D	3.20	0.29	-	3.20	100.00%

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG - FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE
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Fees & Charges	Basis of Charge	2026-27 Charge $ (incl GST if applicable)	2026-27 Budget $ GST Amount	2025-26 Charge $ (incl GST if applicable)	Change in $ per unit	Change %
School Hire - Community 1 Oval Per Day	D	188.00	17.09	-	188.00	100.00%
School Hire - Community 1 Oval Per Half Day	D	94.00	8.55	-	94.00	100.00%
School Hire - Community 1 Oval Per Hour	D	23.50	2.14	-	23.50	100.00%
School Hire - Community 1 Pitch Per Day	D	108.50	9.86	-	108.50	100.00%
School Hire - Community 1 Pitch Per Half Day	D	54.20	4.93	-	54.20	100.00%
School Hire - Community 1 Pitch Per Hour	D	13.60	1.24	-	13.60	100.00%
School Hire - Community 2 Oval Per Day	D	123.50	11.23	-	123.50	100.00%
School Hire - Community 2 Oval Per Half Day	D	61.75	5.61	-	61.75	100.00%
School Hire - Community 2 Oval Per Hour	D	15.50	1.41	-	15.50	100.00%
School Hire - Community 2 Pitch Per Day	D	61.50	5.59	-	61.50	100.00%
School Hire - Community 2 Pitch Per Half Day	D	30.75	2.80	-	30.75	100.00%
School Hire - Community 2 Pitch Per Hour	D	7.70	0.70	-	7.70	100.00%
School Hire - Community 3 Oval Per Day	D	61.60	5.60	-	61.60	100.00%
School Hire - Community 3 Oval Per Half Day	D	30.75	2.80	-	30.75	100.00%
School Hire - Community 3 Oval Per Hour	D	7.70	0.70	-	7.70	100.00%
School Hire - Community 3 Pitch Per Day	D	38.00	3.45	-	38.00	100.00%
School Hire - Community 3 Pitch Per Half Day	D	19.00	1.73	-	19.00	100.00%
School Hire - Community 3 Pitch Per Hour	D	4.75	0.43	-	4.75	100.00%
School Hire - Court Per Day	D	12.50	1.14	-	12.50	100.00%
School Hire - Court Per Half Day	D	6.25	0.57	-	6.25	100.00%
School Hire - Court Per Hour	D	1.60	0.15	-	1.60	100.00%
School Hire - Criterium Track Per Day	D	19.00	1.73	-	19.00	100.00%
School Hire - Criterium Track Per Half Day	D	9.50	0.86	-	9.50	100.00%
School Hire - Criterium Track Per Hour	D	2.50	0.23	-	2.50	100.00%
School Hire - Reserve Per Day	D	25.50	2.32	-	25.50	100.00%
School Hire - Reserve Per Half Day	D	12.75	1.16	-	12.75	100.00%
School Hire - Reserve Per Hour	D	3.20	0.29	-	3.20	100.00%
School Hire - Velodrome Per Day	D	15.00	1.36	-	15.00	100.00%
School Hire - Velodrome Per Half Day	D	7.50	0.68	-	7.50	100.00%
School Hire - Velodrome Per Hour	D	2.00	0.18	-	2.00	100.00%
Seasonal Hire - Athletics- Commercial Rate	D	12,369.00	1,124.45	11,962.00	407.00	3.40%
Seasonal Hire - Athletics- Community Rate	D	1,855.00	168.64	1,794.00	61.00	3.40%
Seasonal Hire - BMX- Commercial Rate	D	5,236.00	476.00	5,064.00	172.00	3.40%
Seasonal Hire - BMX- Community Rate	D	785.00	71.36	759.00	26.00	3.43%
Seasonal Hire - Bowls- Commercial Rate	D	2,181.00	198.27	2,109.00	72.00	3.41%
Seasonal Hire - Bowls- Community Rate	D	328.00	29.82	317.00	11.00	3.47%
Seasonal Hire - Community 1 Oval- Commercial Rate	D	37,830.00	3,439.09	36,586.00	1,244.00	3.40%
Seasonal Hire - Community 1 Oval- Community Rate	D	5,675.00	515.91	5,488.00	187.00	3.41%
Seasonal Hire - Community 1 Pitch- Commercial Rate	D	21,825.00	1,984.09	21,107.00	718.00	3.40%

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Seasonal Hire - Community 1 Pitch- Community Rate	D	3,273.00	297.55	3,165.00	108.00	3.41%
Seasonal Hire - Community 2 Oval- Commercial Rate	D	24,735.00	2,248.64	23,922.00	813.00	3.40%
Seasonal Hire - Community 2 Oval- Community Rate	D	3,711.00	337.36	3,589.00	122.00	3.40%
Seasonal Hire - Community 2 Pitch- Commercial Rate	D	12,369.00	1,124.45	11,962.00	407.00	3.40%
Seasonal Hire - Community 2 Pitch- Community Rate	D	1,855.00	168.64	1,794.00	61.00	3.40%
Seasonal Hire - Community 3 Oval- Commercial Rate	D	12,369.00	1,124.45	11,962.00	407.00	3.40%
Seasonal Hire - Community 3 Oval- Community Rate	D	1,855.00	168.64	1,794.00	61.00	3.40%
Seasonal Hire - Community 3 Pitch- Commercial Rate	D	7,638.00	694.36	7,387.00	251.00	3.40%
Seasonal Hire - Community 3 Pitch- Community Rate	D	1,146.00	104.18	1,108.00	38.00	3.43%
Seasonal Hire - Court- Commercial Rate	D	1,774.00	161.27	1,716.00	58.00	3.38%
Seasonal Hire - Court- Community Rate	D	266.00	24.18	257.00	9.00	3.50%
Seasonal Hire - Criterium- Commercial Rate	D	3,735.00	339.55	3,612.00	123.00	3.41%
Seasonal Hire - Criterium- Community Rate	D	559.00	50.82	541.00	18.00	3.33%
Seasonal Hire - Reserve- Commercial Rate	D	5,236.00	476.00	5,064.00	172.00	3.40%
Seasonal Hire - Reserve- Community Rate	D	785.00	71.36	759.00	26.00	3.43%
Seasonal Hire - Velodrome- Commercial Rate	D	1,104.00	100.36	1,068.00	36.00	3.37%
Seasonal Hire - Velodrome- Community Rate	D	165.00	15.00	160.00	5.00	3.13%
Community Halls & Buses						
Cobbin Farm Hourly Rate - Chapel Weekday	D	44.00	4.00	43.00	1.00	2.33%
Cobbin Farm Hourly Rate - Chapel Weekend	D	147.00	13.36	142.00	5.00	3.52%
Cobbin Farm Hourly Rate - Homestead Weekday	D	44.00	4.00	43.00	1.00	2.33%
Cobbin Farm Hourly Rate - Homestead Weekend	D	88.00	8.00	85.00	3.00	3.53%
Cobbin Farm Hourly Rate - Whole Venue Weekday	D	88.00	8.00	85.00	3.00	3.53%
Cobbin Farm Hourly Rate - Whole Venue Weekend	D	158.00	14.36	153.00	5.00	3.27%
Cobradah House Hourly Rate	D	44.00	4.00	43.00	1.00	2.33%
Community Bus 24-Hour Hire	D	85.00	7.73	74.00	11.00	14.86%
Geelong West Town Hall Hourly Rate - Main Hall Weekday	D	115.00	10.45	111.00	4.00	3.60%
Geelong West Town Hall Hourly Rate - Main Hall Weekend	D	166.00	15.09	161.00	5.00	3.11%
Geelong West Town Hall Hourly Rate - Supper Room Weekday	D	65.00	5.91	63.00	2.00	3.17%
Geelong West Town Hall Hourly Rate - Supper Room Weekend	D	86.00	7.82	83.00	3.00	3.61%
Geelong West Town Hall Hourly Rate - Whole Venue Weekday	D	166.00	15.09	161.00	5.00	3.11%
Geelong West Town Hall Hourly Rate - Whole Venue Weekend	D	219.00	19.91	212.00	7.00	3.30%
Lara Hall Hourly Rate - Main Hall - Weekday	D	65.00	5.91	-	65.00	100.00%
Lara Hall Hourly Rate - Main Hall - Weekend	D	86.00	7.82	-	86.00	100.00%
Lara Hall Hourly Rate - Meeting Room	D	33.00	3.00	32.00	1.00	3.13%
Lara Hall Hourly Rate - Whole Venue - Weekday	D	92.00	8.36	-	92.00	100.00%
Lara Hall Hourly Rate - Whole Venue - Weekend	D	112.00	10.18	-	112.00	100.00%
Marcus Hill Memorial Hall Hourly Rate	D	44.00	4.00	43.00	1.00	2.33%

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Mt. Duneed Hall Hourly Rate	D	27.00	2.45	26.00	1.00	3.85%
Newcomb Hall Hourly Rate - Main Hall	D	44.00	4.00	43.00	1.00	2.33%
Newcomb Hall Hourly Rate - Meeting Room	D	33.00	3.00	32.00	1.00	3.13%
Newcomb Hall Hourly Rate - Whole Venue	D	64.00	5.82	62.00	2.00	3.23%
Parks Hall Hourly Rate - Bayview Room	D	27.00	2.45	26.00	1.00	3.85%
Parks Hall Hourly Rate - Kitchen	D	27.00	2.45	26.00	1.00	3.85%
Parks Hall Hourly Rate - Main Hall - weekday	D	65.00	5.91	-	65.00	100.00%
Parks Hall Hourly Rate - Main Hall - weekend	D	86.00	7.82	-	86.00	100.00%
Parks Hall Hourly Rate - Parkview Room	D	33.00	3.00	32.00	1.00	3.13%
Parks Hall Hourly Rate - Whole Venue - weekday	D	102.00	9.27	-	102.00	100.00%
Parks Hall Hourly Rate - Whole Venue - weekend	D	112.00	10.18	-	112.00	100.00%
Virginia Todd Hall Hourly Rate	D	44.00	4.00	43.00	1.00	2.33%
Lara Hall Hourly Rate - Main Hall	D	-	-	43.00 -	43.00	-100.00%
Lara Hall Hourly Rate - Whole Venue	D	-	-	62.00 -	62.00	-100.00%
Parks Hall Hourly Rate - Main Hall	D	-	-	43.00 -	43.00	-100.00%
Parks Hall Hourly Rate - Whole Venue	D	-	-	99.00 -	99.00	-100.00%
Cleaning & Setup Fee - per hour	D	37.00	3.36	36.00	1.00	2.78%
Community Hubs						
Armstrong Creek East Community Hub Community Space 1	D	44.00	4.00	43.00	1.00	2.33%
Armstrong Creek East Community Hub Community Space 2	D	33.00	3.00	32.00	1.00	3.13%
Armstrong Creek East Community Hub Community Space 3	D	33.00	3.00	32.00	1.00	3.13%
Armstrong Creek East Community Hub Meeting Room 2	D	28.00	2.55	27.00	1.00	3.70%
The Point Community Hub Community Space 1 - Commercial per Hour	D	44.00	4.00	-	44.00	100.00%
The Point Community Hub Community Space 1 - Community per Hour	D	22.00	2.00	-	22.00	100.00%
The Point Community Hub Meeting Room 1 - Commercial per Hour	D	28.00	2.55	-	28.00	100.00%
The Point Community Hub Meeting Room 1 - Community per Hour	D	14.00	1.27	-	14.00	100.00%
The Point Community Hub Meeting Room 2 - Commercial per Hour	D	33.00	3.00	-	33.00	100.00%
The Point Community Hub Meeting Room 2 - Community per Hour	D	17.00	1.55	-	17.00	100.00%
The Point Community Hub Office Space - Commercial Casual per Day	D	158.00	14.36	-	158.00	100.00%
The Point Community Hub Office Space - Commercial per Hour	D	26.00	2.36	-	26.00	100.00%
The Point Community Hub Office Space - Commercial Regular per Day	D	105.00	9.55	-	105.00	100.00%
The Point Community Hub Office Space - Community Casual per Day	D	79.00	7.18	-	79.00	100.00%
The Point Community Hub Office Space - Community per Hour	D	13.00	1.18	-	13.00	100.00%
The Point Community Hub Office Space - Community Regular per Day	D	40.00	3.64	-	40.00	100.00%
Community Inclusion						
Acacia Commercial (Casual) Per Day	D	174.00	15.82	174.00	-	
Acacia Commercial (Casual) per hour	D	23.00	2.09	23.00	-	

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Acacia Commercial (Regular) Per Day	D	139.00	12.64	139.00	-	
Acacia Commercial (Regular) per hour	D	19.00	1.73	19.00	-	
Acacia Community (Casual) Per Day	D	139.00	12.64	139.00	-	
Acacia Community (Casual) per hour	D	19.00	1.73	19.00	-	
Acacia Community (Regular) Per Day	D	122.00	11.09	122.00	-	
Acacia Community (Regular) per hour	D	17.00	1.55	17.00	-	
Banksia Commercial (Casual) Per Day	D	243.00	22.09	243.00	-	
Banksia Commercial (Casual) per hour	D	33.00	3.00	33.00	-	
Banksia Commercial (Regular) Per Day	D	204.00	18.55	204.00	-	
Banksia Commercial (Regular) per hour	D	27.00	2.45	27.00	-	
Banksia Commercial Weekend per hour	D	64.00	5.82	64.00	-	
Banksia Community (Casual) Per Day	D	204.00	18.55	204.00	-	
Banksia Community (Casual) per hour	D	27.00	2.45	27.00	-	
Banksia Community (Regular) Per Day	D	162.00	14.73	162.00	-	
Banksia Community (Regular) per hour	D	22.00	2.00	22.00	-	
Banksia Community Weekend (additional hours) per hour	D	55.00	5.00	53.00	2.00	3.77%
Banksia Community Weekend (Less than 6 hrs) per hour	D	41.00	3.73	40.00	1.00	2.50%
Casual Hirer's Public Liability Insurance	D	29.00	2.64	28.00	1.00	3.57%
Correa Commercial (Casual) Per Day	D	220.00	20.00	220.00	-	
Correa Commercial (Casual) per hour	D	29.00	2.64	29.00	-	
Correa Commercial (Regular) Per Day	D	162.00	14.73	162.00	-	
Correa Commercial (Regular) per hour	D	22.00	2.00	22.00	-	
Correa Community (Casual) Per Day	D	162.00	14.73	162.00	-	
Correa Community (Casual) per hour	D	22.00	2.00	22.00	-	
Correa Community (Regular) Per Day	D	139.00	12.64	139.00	-	
Correa Community (Regular) per hour	D	19.00	1.73	19.00	-	
Dianella Hall / Kitchen Commercial (Casual) Per Day	D	267.00	24.27	267.00	-	
Dianella Hall / Kitchen Commercial (Casual) per hour	D	35.00	3.18	35.00	-	
Dianella Hall / Kitchen Commercial (Regular) Per Day	D	206.00	18.73	206.00	-	
Dianella Hall / Kitchen Commercial (Regular) per hour	D	27.00	2.45	27.00	-	
Dianella Hall / Kitchen Commercial Weekend per hour	D	66.00	6.00	64.00	2.00	3.13%
Dianella Hall / Kitchen Community (Casual) Per Day	D	206.00	18.73	206.00	-	
Dianella Hall / Kitchen Community (Casual) per hour	D	27.00	2.45	27.00	-	
Dianella Hall / Kitchen Community (Regular) Per Day	D	163.00	14.82	163.00	-	
Dianella Hall / Kitchen Community (Regular) per hour	D	22.00	2.00	22.00	-	
Dianella Hall / Kitchen Community Weekend (additional hours) per hour	D	55.00	5.00	53.00	2.00	3.77%
Dianella Hall / Kitchen Community Weekend (Less than 6 hrs) per hour	D	41.00	3.73	40.00	1.00	2.50%
Marveloo - Outside Greater Geelong (up to 80km from Geelong CBD) - Commercial per Day	D	103.00	9.36	100.00	3.00	3.00%
Marveloo - Outside Greater Geelong (up to 80km from Geelong CBD) - NFP per Day	D	52.00	4.73	50.00	2.00	4.00%

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Marveloo - Within Greater Geelong and BoQ- Commercial per Day	D	52.00	4.73	50.00	2.00	4.00%
Moonah Commercial (Casual) Per Day	D	220.00	20.00	220.00	-	
Moonah Commercial (Casual) per hour	D	29.00	2.64	29.00	-	
Moonah Commercial (Regular) Per Day	D	162.00	14.73	162.00	-	
Moonah Commercial (Regular) per hour	D	22.00	2.00	22.00	-	
Moonah Community (Casual) Per Day	D	162.00	14.73	162.00	-	
Moonah Community (Casual) per hour	D	22.00	2.00	22.00	-	
Moonah Community (Regular) Per Day	D	139.00	12.64	139.00	-	
Moonah Community (Regular) per hour	D	19.00	1.73	19.00	-	
Ocean Grove - Double Room - Regular Rate - Per Hour	D	38.50	3.50	-	38.50	100.00%
Ocean Grove - Double Room -NFP Rate - Per Hour	D	33.00	3.00	-	33.00	100.00%
Ocean Grove - Kitchen - Regular Rate - Per Hour	D	40.00	3.64	-	40.00	100.00%
Ocean Grove - Kitchen -NFP Rate - Per Hour	D	35.00	3.18	-	35.00	100.00%
Ocean Grove - Single Room - NFP Rate - Per Hour	D	22.00	2.00	-	22.00	100.00%
Ocean Grove - Single Room - Regular Rate - Per Hour	D	27.50	2.50	-	27.50	100.00%
Fire prevention						
Fire Prevention - Administration Clearing Fee	D	279.00	-	270.00	9.00	3.33%
Food Premises Fees						
Food Premises - Admin Changes including reissuing documentation	D	57.00	-	55.00	2.00	3.64%
Food Premises - Class 1 - base rate, includes aged care; rehab centres and hospitals with limited meals	D	706.00	-	683.00	23.00	3.37%
Food Premises - Class 1 - child care facility	D	706.00	-	683.00	23.00	3.37%
Food Premises - Class 1 - day programs with limited meal services (off-site food production)	D	352.00	-	340.00	12.00	3.53%
Food Premises - Class 1 - hospitals, manufacturing kitchens	D	1,058.00	-	1,023.00	35.00	3.42%
Food Premises - Class 2 - Charity/NFP/service clubs/community group & sporting clubs (with bar) - small/seasonal	D	323.00	-	312.00	11.00	3.53%
Food Premises - Class 2 - multiple kitchens	D	1,079.00	-	1,044.00	35.00	3.35%
Food Premises - Class 2 - base rate. Includes cafes/restaurants, bakeries, caterers, green grocers, mobile food vehicles, home occupations (PHF/meals/catering), supermarkets (small/medium), large clubs/RSL (i.e. with restaurant), school canteens (i.e. trade 4-5 days week with PHF produced onsite, or secondary school) - commerical or school-run.	D	668.00	-	646.00	22.00	3.41%
Food Premises - Class 2 - Charity/NFP/service clubs/community group & sporting clubs (without bar) - small/seasonal - or their mobile vehicles/temporary premises; school-run before & after school care or canteen (minimal food preparation)	D	166.00	-	161.00	5.00	3.11%
Food Premises - Class 2 - food factories, manufacturing kitchens	D	763.00	-	738.00	25.00	3.39%

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Food Premises - Class 2 - small scale/occasional operations. Includes home occupations, accommodation/B&B (meals to guests only), low-risk & small-scale manufacturer, before & after school care (not school-run), school canteens (operate up-to 3 days/week, PHF produced onsite) - commerical or school run.	D	323.00	-	312.00	11.00	3.53%
Food Premises - Class 2 - supermarket (large/multiple production areas)	D	1,729.00	-	1,672.00	57.00	3.41%
Food Premises - Class 2/3 - additional registration for off-site trading (temporary premises associated with registered fixed premises)	D	75.00	-	73.00	2.00	2.74%
Food Premises - Class 2/3 - senior citizen groups	D	82.00	-	79.00	3.00	3.80%
Food Premises - Class 2/3 - Vending Machines	D	82.00	-	79.00	3.00	3.80%
Food Premises - Class 3 and 3A - accommodation meals/B&B (with PHW Act registration)	D	166.00	-	161.00	5.00	3.11%
Food Premises - Class 3 - bakery, large convenience store/supermarket, large food/drink manufacturer (including brewery/ distillery/winery)	D	668.00	-	646.00	22.00	3.41%
Food Premises - Class 3 - base rate. Includes accommodation/B&B meals (without PHW registration), mobile & temporary premises, home-based businesses, green-grocers, before & after school care or canteen (not school-run), wholesalers/distributors	D	323.00	-	312.00	11.00	3.53%
Food Premises - Class 3 - Charity/NFP/Church Community Meals/Senion Citizens Groups & Temporary Food	D	82.00	-	79.00	3.00	3.80%
Food Premises - Class 3 - Charity/NFP/service clubs/community group & sporting clubs (with or without bar) or their mobile vehicles/temporary premises; meals-on-wheels services; school-run before & after school care or canteen.	D	166.00	-	161.00	5.00	3.11%
Food Premises - Class 3A - base rate, includes accommodation meals (without PHW registration), home-based businesses.	D	323.00	-	312.00	11.00	3.53%
Food Premises - existing premises consultancy fee (alterations)	D	223.00	-	216.00	7.00	3.24%
Food Premises - Fast Track Fee - Application or Inspection; additional inspection fee	D	293.00	-	283.00	10.00	3.53%
Food Premises - new premises consultancy fee (requested without registration)	D	439.00	-	425.00	14.00	3.29%
Food Premises Rating (CS/Major Non-Compliance) Performance Fee	D	207.00	-	200.00	7.00	3.50%
Food Premises Rating (D-F/Critical Non-Compliance) Performance Fee	D	346.00	-	335.00	11.00	3.28%
Initial registration of a Food Premises will incur a one-off 50% administration fee	D	-	-	-	-	-
Golf Courses						
Green Fees Competition	D	13.00	1.18	12.90	0.10	0.78%
Balyang Adult Green Fee	D	17.00	1.55	16.50	0.50	3.03%
Balyang Adult Membership - 12 months	D	453.00	41.18	438.00	15.00	3.42%
Balyang Adult Membership - 3 months	D	156.00	14.18	151.00	5.00	3.31%
Balyang Child Green Fee	D	15.00	1.36	14.50	0.50	3.45%
Balyang Concession Adult Green Fee	D	15.00	1.36	14.50	0.50	3.45%
Balyang Concession Membership - 12 months	D	369.00	33.55	357.00	12.00	3.36%
Balyang Concession Membership - 3 months	D	126.00	11.45	122.00	4.00	3.28%
Balyang Family Membership - 12 months	D	869.00	79.00	840.00	29.00	3.45%
Balyang Golf Club Hire - 1 Club	D	2.00	0.18	2.10	- 0.10	-4.76%

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG - FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE
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Fees & Charges	Basis of Charge	2026-27 Charge $ (incl GST if applicable)	2026-27 Budget $ GST Amount	2025-26 Charge $ (incl GST if applicable)	Change in $ per unit	Change %
Balyang Group Concession	D	14.00	1.27	13.50	0.50	3.70%
Balyang Junior Membership - 12 months	D	178.00	16.18	172.00	6.00	3.49%
Balyang School Group	D	11.00	1.00	10.30	0.70	6.80%
Elcho Adult Green Fee	D	34.00	3.09	33.00	1.00	3.03%
Elcho Adult Green Fee - Weekend and Public Holiday Rate	D	39.00	3.55	38.00	1.00	2.63%
Elcho Green Concession and Students u/21	D	27.00	2.45	26.00	1.00	3.85%
Elcho Green Concession and Students u/21 - Weekend and Public Holiday Rate	D	32.00	2.91	31.00	1.00	3.23%
Elcho Green Students u /17 years of age	D	23.00	2.09	22.00	1.00	4.55%
Elcho Green Students u /17 years of age - Weekend and Public Holiday Rate	D	28.00	2.55	27.00	1.00	3.70%
Elcho M/Ship Adult 12 months	D	712.00	64.73	689.00	23.00	3.34%
Elcho M/ship Pensioner / Concession 12 months	D	557.00	50.64	539.00	18.00	3.34%
Elcho M/ship Student 12 month	D	360.00	32.73	348.00	12.00	3.45%
Elcho Park - 9 holes	D	26.00	2.36	24.70	1.30	5.26%
Elcho Park - 9 holes - Weekend and Public Holiday Rate	D	31.00	2.82	29.70	1.30	4.38%
Impounding						
Release fee of impounded items - per impoundment	D	164.00	-	159.00	5.00	3.14%
Kindergarten Services						
3 & 4 yr old Kindergarten Annual Fee	D	2,716.00	-	2,627.00	89.00	3.39%
Landy Field						
Landy Field Hire - Full day	D	533.00	48.45	515.00	18.00	3.50%
Landy Field Hire - Half day	D	326.00	29.64	315.00	11.00	3.49%
Landy Field Hire - Hourly	D	85.00	7.73	82.50	2.50	3.03%
Local Laws Infringements						
Local Law offences are liable to the penalty indicated in The City of Greater Geelong Neighbourhood Amenity Local Law 2024 and charged per penalty unit.	L	-	-	-	-	-
Local Laws Permits & Inspections						
Local Law Inspection under Neighbourhood Amenity Local Law	D	122.00	-	118.00	4.00	3.39%
Local Law Permit Application under Neighbourhood Amenity Local Law	D	31.00	-	30.00	1.00	3.33%
Long Day Care						
Fee for late child pick-up (15 minute increment)	D	37.00	-	36.00	1.00	2.78%
Long Day Care per day	D	168.00	-	162.50	5.50	3.38%
Long Day Care per hour	D	24.00	-	23.50	0.50	2.13%
Long Day Care per week	D	783.00	-	757.00	26.00	3.43%

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Occasional Care						
Occasional Care - 1 hour session	D	23.00	-	22.50	0.50	2.22%
Occasional Care - 2 hour session	D	47.00	-	45.00	2.00	4.44%
Occasional Care - 5 hour session	D	101.00	-	98.00	3.00	3.06%
Parking Infringements						
Council resolves to fix the penalty amount at 0.5 penalty unit for all parking infringements cited in Schedule 6 of the Road Safety (General) Regulations 2019 with a current prescribed Infringement penalty amount of 0.2 penalty unit.	A	-	-	-	-	-
The value of a penalty unit for a financial year is fixed by the Treasurer under section 6 of the Monetary Units Act 2004. The CoGG fee will be set to 0.5 Penalty Units for offences as per Council Resolution. The dollar value of all other Parking Infringements has been indexed by the State Government and is subject to annual review.	A	-	-	-	-	-
Parking Permits						
Private Car Park Agreement Permits	D	26.00	2.36	25.00	1.00	4.00%
Replacement Parking Permit	D	22.00	2.00	21.50	0.50	2.33%
Busport - Parking Permit	D	3,211.00	291.91	3,105.00	106.00	3.41%
Haymarket - Parking Permit	D	3,211.00	291.91	3,105.00	106.00	3.41%
Little Ryrie St - Parking Permit	D	3,211.00	291.91	3,105.00	106.00	3.41%
Wesley - Parking Permit	D	3,211.00	291.91	3,105.00	106.00	3.41%
Program for Younger People						
PYP Home Care	D	7.00	-	7.20	- 0.20	-2.78%
PYP Home Care - High	D	57.00	-	55.00	2.00	3.64%
PYP Home Care - Medium	D	18.00	-	17.50	0.50	2.86%
PYP Personal Care	D	7.00	-	7.20	- 0.20	-2.78%
PYP Personal Care - High	D	57.00	-	55.00	2.00	3.64%
PYP Personal Care - Medium	D	12.00	-	11.20	0.80	7.14%
PYP Respite	D	7.00	-	6.70	0.30	4.48%
PYP Respite - High	D	57.00	-	55.00	2.00	3.64%
PYP Respite - Medium	D	7.00	-	7.00	-	
Public Health Premises						
Health Premises - Admin Changes including reissuing documentation	D	56.00	-	54.00	2.00	3.70%
Health Premises - Application for one off event	D	379.00	-	-	379.00	100.00%
Health Premises - Fast Track Fee - Application or Inspection; additional inspection fee	D	293.00	-	283.00	10.00	3.53%
Health Premises - low risk - once off registration	D	379.00	-	367.00	12.00	3.27%

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG - FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE
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Health Premises - medium/high risk - annual registration	D	379.00	-	367.00	12.00	3.27%
Health Premises Existing Registration Consultancy Fee - Alteration	D	223.00	-	216.00	7.00	3.24%
Health Premises Initial Registration Consultancy Fee	D	282.00	-	273.00	9.00	3.30%
Health Premises Rating (D-F) Performance Fee	D	89.00	-	86.00	3.00	3.49%
Health Premises Transfer of Registration	D	227.00	-	220.00	7.00	3.18%
Health Prescribed Accommodation - (06-50 people)	D	352.00	-	340.00	12.00	3.53%
Health Prescribed Accommodation - (51-80 people)	D	442.00	-	427.00	15.00	3.51%
Health Prescribed Accommodation - (80 + people)	D	547.00	-	529.00	18.00	3.40%
Health Prescribed Accommodation - Charity /NFP/Church Community Meals/Senior Citizens Groups	D	177.00	-	171.00	6.00	3.51%
Use & Occupying Public Space						
Application Fee Roadside Trading (non-refundable)	D	101.00	-	98.00	3.00	3.06%
Bulk Rubbish Container - Accredited (monthly)	D	51.00	-	49.00	2.00	4.08%
Busking, Spruiking & Pavement Art Fees (monthly)	D	10.00	-	10.00	-	
Goods for Sale occupying footpath (annually)	D	242.00	-	234.00	8.00	3.42%
Real Estate agent portable signs occupying footpath (annually) - per application	D	142.00	-	137.00	5.00	3.65%
Roadside Trading Permit Fee (annually)	D	245.00	-	237.00	8.00	3.38%
Shipping Container (monthly)	D	51.00	-	49.00	2.00	4.08%
Street Occupation per day (no building permit)	D	38.00	3.45	37.00	1.00	2.70%
Transfer of A Frame Advertising Sign occupying footpath (annually)	D	101.00	-	98.00	3.00	3.06%
Transfer of Goods for Sale occupying footpath (annually)	D	101.00	-	98.00	3.00	3.06%
Support at Home						
*Note - Fees will be adjusted as required under the Support at Home pricing compliance requirements, no earlier than 1st July 2027.	D	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance with Home Maintenance and Repairs - 30 mins - not including materials	D	77.00	-	74.00	3.00	4.05%
Assistance with Home Maintenance and Repairs - hour - not including materials	D	110.00	-	106.00	4.00	3.77%
Domestic cleaning & Shopping assistance - 30 mins	D	69.00	-	67.00	2.00	2.99%
Domestic cleaning & Shopping assistance - hour	D	98.00	-	95.00	3.00	3.16%
Meal Delivery - 30 mins	D	11.00	-	11.00	-	
Meal Delivery - hour	D	16.00	-	15.00	1.00	6.67%
Meal Preparation - 30 mins	D	70.00	-	68.00	2.00	2.94%
Meal Preparation - hour	D	100.00	-	97.00	3.00	3.09%
Personal Care - 30 mins - 7am - 7pm Mon - Fri	D	72.00	-	70.00	2.00	2.86%
Personal Care - 30 mins - 7pm - 12am - Mon - Fri, weekends & public holidays	D	84.00	-	81.00	3.00	3.70%
Personal Care - hour - 7am - 7pm Mon - Fri	D	103.00	-	100.00	3.00	3.00%
Personal Care - hour - 7pm - 12am Mon - Fri, weekends & public holidays	D	119.00	-	115.00	4.00	3.48%
Respite care - 30 mins - 7am - 7pm Mon - Fri	D	71.00	-	69.00	2.00	2.90%
Respite care - 30 mins - 7pm- 12am Mon - Fri, weekends & public holidays	D	81.00	-	78.00	3.00	3.85%

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Respite care - hour - 7am - 7pm Mon - Fri	D	102.00	-	99.00	3.00	3.03%
Respite care - hour - 7pm- 12am Mon - Fri, weekends & public holidays	D	116.00	-	112.00	4.00	3.57%
Travel in car with support worker - High kms	D	273.00	-	264.00	9.00	3.41%
Travel in car with support worker - Low kms	D	69.00	-	67.00	2.00	2.99%
Travel in car with support worker - Medium kms	D	98.00	-	95.00	3.00	3.16%
Onsite Wastewater Management Permits						
Amend a permit (regulation 198)	A	179.30	-	174.50	4.80	2.75%
Construct, install or alter OWMS (regulation 196(1)(b),(2)) (hourly fee after 8.2 hours - up to a maximum of $2,005	A	105.83	-	103.00	2.83	2.75%
Construct, install or alter OWMS (regulation 196(1)(b),(2)) (minimum fee before 8.2 hours)	A	844.30	-	821.70	22.60	2.75%
Copies of Onsite Wastewater Management System Plans requiring archive search	D	122.00	-	118.00	4.00	3.39%
Exemption (regulation 199) - minimum fee	A	253.37	-	246.59	6.78	2.75%
Exemption (regulation 199) (hourly rate after 2.6 hours up to a maximum $909.50)	A	102.60	-	99.85	2.75	2.75%
Minor alteration to OWMS (regulation 196(1)(a),(3))	A	643.22	-	626.00	17.22	2.75%
Onsite Wastewater Management System - Additional inspection fee	D	200.00	-	193.00	7.00	3.63%
Onsite Wastewater Management System - Approval Fast Track fee	D	293.00	-	255.00	38.00	14.90%
Onsite Wastewater Management System - Minor Admin Changes or reissuing copies of electronic documentation	D	56.00	-	54.00	2.00	3.70%
Onsite Wastewater Management System - Permits (Alterations)	D	300.00	-	290.00	10.00	3.45%
Onsite Wastewater Management System - Permits (Installation)	D	610.00	-	590.00	20.00	3.39%
Onsite Wastewater Management System - Re-Issue Expired Permit or Major Administrative Changes	D	122.00	-	118.00	4.00	3.39%
Renew a permit (regulation 200)	A	143.53	-	139.69	3.84	2.75%
Transfer a permit (regulation 197)	A	171.49	-	166.90	4.59	2.75%
Animal Permit Fees						
Ad-Hoc Inspections of Domestic Animal Business, Multiple Animal Permits or Declared Dogs	D	122.00	-	118.00	4.00	3.39%
Domestic Animal Business Registration - annualy, per business application	D	268.00	-	259.00	9.00	3.47%
Multiple Animal Permit - New Application	D	170.00	-	164.00	6.00	3.66%
Multiple Animal Permit - Renewal (no change in permit conditions & no inspeciton required)	D	48.00	-	46.00	2.00	4.35%
Animal Registration Fees						
Cat - approved enclosure	D	35.00	-	34.00	1.00	2.94%
Cat - approved enclosure concession	D	10.00	-	10.00	-	
Dangerous dog - residential	D	312.00	-	302.00	10.00	3.31%
Dangerous Dog (Guard Dog)	D	225.00	-	218.00	7.00	3.21%
Desexed dog and cat	D	70.00	-	68.00	2.00	2.94%
Desexed dog and cat - concession	D	35.00	-	34.00	1.00	2.94%
Menacing dog	D	256.00	-	248.00	8.00	3.23%
Restricted breed	D	312.00	-	302.00	10.00	3.31%
Unsterilised dog	D	221.00	-	214.00	7.00	3.27%

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Unsterilised dog - concession	D	112.00	-	108.00	4.00	3.70%
Aquatic hire, courses and group bookings						
Carnival Hire - per hour	D	345.00	31.36	335.00	10.00	2.99%
Club Diving Pool Hire - per hour	D	76.00	6.91	73.40	2.60	3.54%
Club Lane Hire - per hour	D	13.20	1.20	12.00	1.20	10.00%
Club Whole Pool Hire, Per Hour	D	280.20	25.47	271.00	9.20	3.39%
Commercial Diving Pool Hire - per hour	D	150.60	13.69	145.55	5.05	3.47%
Commercial Lane Hire - per hour	D	44.20	4.02	42.60	1.60	3.76%
Community Diving Pool Hire - per hour	D	113.80	10.35	110.00	3.80	3.45%
Community Lane Hire - per hour	D	33.20	3.02	32.00	1.20	3.75%
CPR	D	55.00	5.00	-	55.00	100.00%
First Aid	D	150.00	13.64	-	150.00	100.00%
First Aid in an Educational Setting	D	150.00	13.64	-	150.00	100.00%
First Aid Update	D	115.00	10.45	-	115.00	100.00%
Group Exercise Group Booking	D	183.50	16.68	243.80 -	60.30	-24.73%
Leisure Pool Hire - Hourly	D	120.60	10.96	116.60	4.00	3.43%
Pool Lifeguard	D	335.00	30.45	-	335.00	100.00%
Pool Lifeguard Update	D	185.00	16.82	-	185.00	100.00%
School Swim Lessons (30min 1:10)	D	8.80	-	8.50	0.30	3.53%
School Swim Lessons (30min 1:6)	D	11.20	-	10.80	0.40	3.70%
School Swim Lessons (30min 1:8)	D	9.50	-	9.20	0.30	3.26%
School Swim Lessons (45min 1:10)	D	11.40	-	11.00	0.40	3.64%
School Swim Lessons (45min 1:6)	D	14.10	-	13.60	0.50	3.68%
School Swim Lessons (45min 1:8)	D	11.90	-	11.50	0.40	3.48%
Security Guard Public Holiday Hourly	D	100.00	9.09	-	100.00	100.00%
Security Guard Hourly	D	75.00	6.82	-	75.00	100.00%
Staff - Group Ex Instructor Hourly	D	85.00	-	-	85.00	100.00%
Staff - Group Ex Instructor Public Holiday Hourly	D	144.00	-	-	144.00	100.00%
Staff - Leisure Service Officer Hourly	D	67.40	-	-	67.40	100.00%
Staff - Leisure Service Officer Public Holiday Hourly	D	111.25	-	-	111.25	100.00%
Staff - Shift Supervisor Hourly	D	73.50	-	-	73.50	100.00%
Staff - Shift Supervisor Public Holiday Hourly	D	121.30	-	-	121.30	100.00%
Waterslide Hire - Hourly	D	200.60	18.24	194.00	6.60	3.40%
Auditorium and room hire						
Cleaning - Additional Hourly	D	56.00	5.09	-	56.00	100.00%
Norlane ARC Auditorium - Booking Extras | Tea & Coffee Station (per person)	D	2.00	0.18	-	2.00	100.00%
Norlane ARC Auditorium - Booking Extras | Waste Removal (1,100L skip)	D	80.00	7.27	-	80.00	100.00%

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Norlane ARC Auditorium B - Commercial Hourly (Off-Peak)	D	58.00	5.27	109.00	- 51.00	-46.79%
Norlane ARC Auditorium B - Commercial Hourly (Peak)	D	73.00	6.64	-	73.00	100.00%
Norlane ARC Auditorium B - Community Hourly (Off-Peak)	D	44.00	4.00	81.00	- 37.00	-45.68%
Norlane ARC Auditorium B - Community Hourly (Peak)	D	55.00	5.00	-	55.00	100.00%
Norlane ARC Auditorium Entire - Commercial Hourly (Off-Peak)	D	291.00	26.45	-	291.00	100.00%
Norlane ARC Auditorium Entire - Commercial Hourly (Peak)	D	364.00	33.09	-	364.00	100.00%
Norlane ARC Auditorium Entire - Community Hourly (Off-Peak)	D	218.00	19.82	-	218.00	100.00%
Norlane ARC Auditorium Entire - Community Hourly (Peak)	D	273.00	24.82	-	273.00	100.00%
Norlane ARC Auditorium Performance A - Commercial Hourly (Off-Peak)	D	277.00	25.18	-	277.00	100.00%
Norlane ARC Auditorium Performance A - Commercial Hourly (Peak)	D	346.00	31.45	-	346.00	100.00%
Norlane ARC Auditorium Performance A - Community Hourly (Off-Peak)	D	207.00	18.82	-	207.00	100.00%
Norlane ARC Auditorium Performance A - Community Hourly (Peak)	D	259.00	23.55	-	259.00	100.00%
Norlane ARC Commercial Kitchen - Booking Extra | Deep Fryer (per unit)	D	120.00	10.91	-	120.00	100.00%
Norlane ARC Commercial Kitchen - Commercial Hourly (Off-Peak)	D	44.00	4.00	-	44.00	100.00%
Norlane ARC Commercial Kitchen - Commercial Hourly (Peak)	D	55.00	5.00	-	55.00	100.00%
Norlane ARC Commercial Kitchen - Community Hourly (Off-Peak)	D	33.00	3.00	-	33.00	100.00%
Norlane ARC Commercial Kitchen - Community Hourly (Peak)	D	41.00	3.73	-	41.00	100.00%
Room Hire - Commercial Hourly	D	44.00	4.00	-	44.00	100.00%
Room Hire - Community Hourly	D	33.00	3.00	-	33.00	100.00%
Casual entry products						
Group Exercise Adult	D	18.60	1.69	18.00	0.60	3.33%
Group Exercise Concession	D	13.95	1.27	13.50	0.45	3.33%
Group Personal Training - Session cost per person	D	13.35	1.21	12.90	0.45	3.49%
Gym Adult	D	20.80	1.89	20.10	0.70	3.48%
Gym Concession	D	15.60	1.42	15.00	0.60	4.00%
Locker Hire	D	3.00	0.27	2.40	0.60	25.00%
Personal Training Member (30 minutes)	D	47.90	4.35	46.30	1.60	3.46%
Personal Training Member (60 minutes)	D	69.20	6.29	66.90	2.30	3.44%
Personal Training Non-Member (60 minutes)	D	80.00	7.27	77.10	2.90	3.76%
Reformer Adult	D	11.20	1.02	10.80	0.40	3.70%
Reformer Concession	D	8.40	0.76	8.10	0.30	3.70%
Reformer Pilates Casual	D	29.00	2.64	-	29.00	100.00%
Shower fee	D	2.00	0.18	2.00	-	
Soccer Junior per person per session	D	10.50	0.95	10.00	0.50	5.00%
Spa/Sauna Adult (After Entry)	D	7.20	0.65	6.90	0.30	4.35%
Spa/Sauna Concession (After Entry)	D	5.40	0.49	5.20	0.20	3.85%
Swim Adult	D	9.40	0.85	9.10	0.30	3.30%
Swim Concession	D	7.05	0.64	6.80	0.25	3.68%

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG - FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE
2026-27 Budget

Basis of Charge:
A = Act of Parliament D = Discretionary L = Local Law

Fees & Charges	Basis of Charge	2026-27 Charge $ (incl GST if applicable)	2026-27 Budget $ GST Amount	2025-26 Charge $ (incl GST if applicable)	Change in $ per unit	Change %
Swim/Spa/Sauna Adult	D	16.60	1.51	16.00	0.60	3.75%
Swim/Spa/Sauna Concession	D	12.45	1.13	12.00	0.45	3.75%
Unlimited Ticket Waterslide (Norlane ARC/LL)	D	17.30	1.57	16.70	0.60	3.59%
Unlimited Ticket Waterslide (SD)	D	14.20	1.29	13.70	0.50	3.65%
Unlimited Ticket Waterslide After Entry (Norlane ARC/LL)	D	10.25	0.93	9.90	0.35	3.54%
Unlimited Ticket Waterslide After Entry (SD)	D	7.15	0.65	6.90	0.25	3.62%
VICSWIM Participant Entry	D	3.50	0.32	-	3.50	100.00%
Personal Training non-member 30 minutes	D	-	-	56.60	- 56.60	-100.00%
Family Services Other						
Baby Playgroups Part Term	D	15.00	1.36	15.00	-	
Baby Playgroups Term	D	25.00	2.27	25.00	-	
Memberships and multi-visit passes						
Direct debit dishonour fee	D	5.00	0.45	10.30	- 5.30	-51.46%
Group Exercise Adult x 10	D	167.40	15.22	162.00	5.40	3.33%
Accessibility Gym x 25	D	295.65	26.88	286.90	8.75	3.05%
Accessibility Swim x 25	D	131.55	11.96	127.20	4.35	3.42%
Active Adult	D	35.00	3.18	31.90	3.10	9.72%
Active Adult +Reformer	D	79.80	7.25	-	79.80	100.00%
Active Adult 12 Months (only available to existing members)	D	910.00	82.73	829.40	80.60	9.72%
Active Adult 3 Months (only available to existing members)	D	268.00	24.36	259.00	9.00	3.47%
Active Adult Gold (only available to existing members)	D	41.25	3.75	38.00	3.25	8.55%
Active Adult Gold 12 Months (only available to existing members)	D	1,072.50	97.50	988.00	84.50	8.55%
Active Adult Gold 3 Months (only available to existing members)	D	267.90	24.35	259.10	8.80	3.40%
Aquatic Access Adult	D	35.00	3.18	33.60	1.40	4.17%
Aquatic Access Concession	D	26.25	2.39	25.20	1.05	4.17%
Aquatic Access Family	D	70.00	6.36	67.20	2.80	4.17%
Concession Off-Peak	D	22.50	2.05	21.60	0.90	4.17%
Corporate Full Access 12 Months (Group of 10+)	D	1,170.00	106.36	1,123.20	46.80	4.17%
Corporate Full Access Adult	D	45.00	4.09	43.20	1.80	4.17%
Corporate Full Access Adult +Reformer	D	89.80	8.16	-	89.80	100.00%
Corporate Full Access Adult 12 Month (only available to existing members)	D	1,170.00	106.36	1,123.20	46.80	4.17%
Corporate Full Access Family	D	90.00	8.18	86.40	3.60	4.17%
Corporate Full Access Family +Reformer	D	179.60	16.33	-	179.60	100.00%
Corporate Full Access Family 12 Month (only available to existing members)	D	2,340.00	212.73	2,246.40	93.60	4.17%
Full Access Adult	D	50.00	4.55	48.00	2.00	4.17%
Full Access Adult (funded) 12 months	D	1,292.00	117.45	1,249.00	43.00	3.44%
Full Access Adult (funded) 3 months	D	440.00	40.00	425.00	15.00	3.53%

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Full Access Adult +Reformer	D	94.80	8.62	-	94.80	100.00%
Full Access Adult 12 Months (only available to existing members)	D	1,300.00	118.18	1,248.00	52.00	4.17%
Full Access Concession	D	37.50	3.41	36.00	1.50	4.17%
Full Access Concession +Reformer	D	71.10	6.46	-	71.10	100.00%
Full Access Concession 12 Month (only available to existing members)	D	975.00	88.64	936.00	39.00	4.17%
Full Access Family	D	100.00	9.09	96.00	4.00	4.17%
Full Access Family +Reformer	D	189.60	17.24	-	189.60	100.00%
Full Access Family 12 Months (only available to existing members)	D	2,600.00	236.36	2,496.00	104.00	4.17%
Group Exercise Concession x 10	D	125.55	11.41	121.50	4.05	3.33%
Gym Adult x 10	D	187.20	17.02	180.90	6.30	3.48%
Gym Concession x 10	D	140.40	12.76	135.00	5.40	4.00%
Joining Fee	D	55.50	5.05	53.50	2.00	3.74%
Junior Program x 10	D	94.50	8.59	90.00	4.50	5.00%
Learn to Swim (funded)	D	23.00	-	22.00	1.00	4.55%
Membership Card Replacement	D	4.80	0.44	4.60	0.20	4.35%
Membership RFID Key Fob/Wrist Band	D	9.00	0.82	9.00	-	
Payroll Corporate Adult	D	45.00	4.09	43.20	1.80	4.17%
Payroll Corporate Family	D	90.00	8.18	86.40	3.60	4.17%
Personal Training Member x 10 (30 minutes)	D	431.10	39.19	416.70	14.40	3.46%
Personal Training Member x 10 (60 minutes)	D	622.80	56.62	602.10	20.70	3.44%
Personal Training Member x 5 (30 minutes)	D	239.50	21.77	231.50	8.00	3.46%
Personal Training Member x 5 (60 minutes)	D	346.00	31.45	334.50	11.50	3.44%
Reformer Adult x 10	D	100.80	9.16	97.20	3.60	3.70%
Reformer Concession x 10	D	75.90	6.90	72.90	3.00	4.12%
Sports Multi Visit x 10	D	42.30	3.85	90.00	- 47.70	-53.00%
Squad Casual Member	D	14.00	1.27	10.00	4.00	40.00%
Squad Casual Non-Member	D	20.00	1.82	19.10	0.90	4.71%
Squad Member x 25	D	308.00	28.00	-	308.00	100.00%
Squad Non Member x 25	D	440.00	40.00	-	440.00	100.00%
Swim Adult x 25	D	206.80	18.80	200.20	6.60	3.30%
Swim Assessment	D	20.70	1.88	20.00	0.70	3.50%
Swim Concession x 25	D	155.10	14.10	149.60	5.50	3.68%
Swim/Spa/Sauna Adult x 10	D	149.40	13.58	144.00	5.40	3.75%
Swim/Spa/Sauna Concession x 10	D	112.05	10.19	108.00	4.05	3.75%
Webstar's Squad	D	43.50	3.95	41.20	2.30	5.58%
Webstar's Squad Concession	D	32.60	2.96	30.90	1.70	5.50%
Webstar's Swim School	D	43.50	-	41.20	2.30	5.58%
Webstar's Swim School Concession	D	32.60	-	30.90	1.70	5.50%
Youth Off-Peak	D	22.50	2.05	-	22.50	100.00%

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG - FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE
2026-27 Budget

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Active Adult - 1 month membership	D	-	-	135.90	- 135.90	-100.00%
Aquatic - 1 month membership	D	-	-	126.30	- 126.30	-100.00%
Aquatic Access Concession Adult/Youth - 1 month membership	D	-	-	54.60	- 54.60	-100.00%
Aquatic family - 1 month membership	D	-	-	199.10	- 199.10	-100.00%
Full access adult - 1 month membership	D	-	-	157.50	- 157.50	-100.00%
Full Access Concession Adult/Youth - 1 month membership	D	-	-	74.40	- 74.40	-100.00%
Full access family - 1 month membership	D	-	-	261.50	- 261.50	-100.00%
Gym/Swim/Sauna Superpass	D	-	-	29.20	- 29.20	-100.00%
Personal Training non-member 10-pack 30 minutes	D	-	-	509.40	- 509.40	-100.00%
Personal Training non-member 10-pack 60 minutes	D	-	-	693.90	- 693.90	-100.00%
Personal Training non-member 5-pack 30 minutes	D	-	-	283.00	- 283.00	-100.00%
Personal Training non-member 5-pack 60 minutes	D	-	-	385.50	- 385.50	-100.00%
Reformer Adult Membership Add-on (available on Full Access only)	D	-	-	43.20	- 43.20	-100.00%
Reformer Concession Membership Add-on (available on Full Access only)	D	-	-	32.40	- 32.40	-100.00%
Reformer x 25 Adult	D	-	-	237.60	- 237.60	-100.00%
Reformer x 25 Concession	D	-	-	178.20	- 178.20	-100.00%
Stadiums, gymnastics and parties						
Badminton/Pickleball Court Hire (Off -Peak)	D	15.60	1.42	15.00	0.60	4.00%
Badminton/Pickleball Court Hire (Peak)	D	19.20	1.75	18.50	0.70	3.78%
BASC after hours hire (staffing) per hour	D	55.00	5.00	50.00	5.00	10.00%
BASC Gymnastics per class	D	18.60	1.69	18.00	0.60	3.33%
BASC Gymnastics Toddler Play (per session)	D	11.40	1.04	11.00	0.40	3.64%
BSC Agreement	D	28.60	2.60	27.50	1.10	4.00%
BVAC Belmont Market Online Booking Indoor Stall	D	25.90	2.35	25.00	0.90	3.60%
BVAC Belmont Market Online Booking Outdoor Stall	D	23.80	2.16	23.00	0.80	3.48%
BVAC Court Four B/Ball Casual Hire	D	36.20	3.29	35.00	1.20	3.43%
BVAC Court One Casual Hire	D	48.40	4.40	46.80	1.60	3.42%
BVAC Court Three Cricket Casual Hire	D	71.30	6.48	69.00	2.30	3.33%
BVAC Court Two Casual Hire	D	48.40	4.40	46.80	1.60	3.42%
BVAC Market indoor green food vendor	D	25.90	2.35	25.00	0.90	3.60%
BVAC Market Power Access	D	16.50	1.50	16.00	0.50	3.13%
BVAC Market red food vendor	D	44.70	4.06	43.20	1.50	3.47%
BVAC Sunday Market Equipment Hire	D	6.40	0.58	6.20	0.20	3.23%
BVAC Sunday Market Stall Casual on the day	D	30.00	2.73	29.00	1.00	3.45%
Casual Basketball	D	4.65	0.42	4.50	0.15	3.33%
Casual Basketball Shooting	D	4.70	0.43	4.50	0.20	4.44%
CLTC N/Ball O/Door Casual rate	D	12.40	1.13	12.00	0.40	3.33%
CLTC Squash (Peak)	D	20.80	1.89	20.00	0.80	4.00%

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG - FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE
2026-27 Budget

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CLTC Squash Casual (Off-Peak)	D	11.40	1.04	11.00	0.40	3.64%
CLTC Street Soccer	D	24.80	2.25	24.00	0.80	3.33%
CLTC Synthetic Casual Hire Half Pitch (Peak)	D	72.40	6.58	70.00	2.40	3.43%
CLTC Synthetic Pitch Casual Hire Full Pitch (Off-Peak)	D	116.80	10.62	113.00	3.80	3.36%
CLTC Synthetic Pitch Casual Hire Full Pitch (Peak)	D	135.60	12.33	131.00	4.60	3.51%
CLTC Synthetic Pitch Casual Hire Half Pitch (Off-Peak)	D	62.00	5.64	60.00	2.00	3.33%
CLTC Synthetic Pitch Hire Affiliate Full Pitch (Off-Peak)	D	83.80	7.62	81.00	2.80	3.46%
CLTC Synthetic Pitch Hire Affiliate Full Pitch (Peak)	D	97.20	8.84	94.00	3.20	3.40%
CLTC Synthetic Pitch Hire Affiliate Half Pitch (Off-peak)	D	44.60	4.05	43.00	1.60	3.72%
CLTC Synthetic Pitch Hire Affiliate Half Pitch (Peak)	D	51.80	4.71	50.00	1.80	3.60%
Full Court Hire - Affiliate Hourly	D	39.00	3.55	35.00	4.00	11.43%
Full Court Hire - Hourly	D	53.80	4.89	52.00	1.80	3.46%
Full Court Hire Casual (Off -Peak)	D	41.40	3.76	40.00	1.40	3.50%
Full Court Hire Casual (Peak)	D	48.40	4.40	46.80	1.60	3.42%
Half Court Hire - Affiliate Hourly	D	19.50	1.77	17.00	2.50	14.71%
Half Court Hire - Hourly	D	26.80	2.44	26.00	0.80	3.08%
Party Deposit	D	100.00	9.09	100.00	-	
Party Inflatable - Hourly	D	135.00	12.27	129.00	6.00	4.65%
Party per person	D	33.10	3.01	32.00	1.10	3.44%
Pickleball Equipment Hire (per person)	D	5.00	0.45	-	5.00	100.00%
Pickleball Social per person (includes equipment)	D	10.00	0.91	-	10.00	100.00%
WPSP - Gymnastics - Recreational Gymnastics (55min)	D	25.50	2.32	-	25.50	100.00%
WPSP - Gymnastics - Recreational Gymnastics (80min)	D	33.50	3.05	-	33.50	100.00%
WPSP - Gymnastics - Toddler Play (50min)	D	18.00	1.64	-	18.00	100.00%
BASC affiliate senior rate per court per hour	D	-	-	52.00 -	52.00	-100.00%
BVAC Badminton Casual User	D	-	-	18.50 -	18.50	-100.00%
BVAC Meet Rm	D	-	-	32.00 -	32.00	-100.00%
CLTC B/Ball After 4pm	D	-	-	46.80 -	46.80	-100.00%
CLTC B/Ball Casual before 4pm	D	-	-	35.00 -	35.00	-100.00%
CLTC Synthetic Pitch Half Pitch Casual Hire After 4pm	D	-	-	70.00 -	70.00	-100.00%
CLTC Synthetic Pitch Hire Non-Affiliate Full Pitch after 4pm	D	-	-	123.00 -	123.00	-100.00%
CLTC Synthetic Pitch Hire Non-Affiliate Full Pitch before 4pm	D	-	-	105.00 -	105.00	-100.00%
CLTC Synthetic Pitch Hire Non-Affiliate Half Pitch After 4pm	D	-	-	65.00 -	65.00	-100.00%
CLTC Synthetic Pitch Hire Non-Affiliate Half Pitch before 4pm	D	-	-	55.00 -	55.00	-100.00%
CLTC Synthetic Pitch Social Competition 1/2 Pitch Team Fee Per Week	D	-	-	85.00 -	85.00	-100.00%
Occasional Care per hour	D	-	-	12.00 -	12.00	-100.00%
Youth Development						
The Nest Youth Hub Collaborative Space - Commercial per Day	D	192.00	17.45	-	192.00	100.00%

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG - FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE
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The Nest Youth Hub Collaborative Space - Commercial per Hour	D	32.00	2.91	-	32.00	100.00%
The Nest Youth Hub Collaborative Space - Community per Day	D	96.00	8.73	-	96.00	100.00%
The Nest Youth Hub Collaborative Space - Community per Hour	D	16.00	1.45	-	16.00	100.00%
The Nest Youth Hub Co-working Space - Commercial per Day	D	161.00	14.64	-	161.00	100.00%
The Nest Youth Hub Co-working Space - Commercial per Hour	D	27.00	2.45	-	27.00	100.00%
The Nest Youth Hub Co-working Space - Community per Day	D	81.00	7.36	-	81.00	100.00%
The Nest Youth Hub Co-working Space - Community per Hour	D	13.00	1.18	-	13.00	100.00%
The Nest Youth Hub Meeting Space (Inc Kitchen) - Commercial per Day	D	261.00	23.73	-	261.00	100.00%
The Nest Youth Hub Meeting Space (Inc Kitchen) - Commercial per Hour	D	43.00	3.91	-	43.00	100.00%
The Nest Youth Hub Meeting Space (Inc Kitchen) - Community per Day	D	130.00	11.82	-	130.00	100.00%
The Nest Youth Hub Meeting Space (Inc Kitchen) - Community per Hour	D	22.00	2.00	-	22.00	100.00%
The Nest Youth Hub Whole Venue - Commercial per Day	D	372.00	33.82	-	372.00	100.00%
The Nest Youth Hub Whole Venue - Commercial per Hour	D	62.00	5.64	-	62.00	100.00%
The Nest Youth Hub Whole Venue - Community per Day	D	186.00	16.91	-	186.00	100.00%
The Nest Youth Hub Whole Venue - Community per Hour	D	31.00	2.82	-	31.00	100.00%
Youth Mental Health First Aid Training	D	155.00	14.09	-	155.00	100.00%
Other Infringements						
The value of a penalty unit for a financial year is fixed by the Treasurer under Section 6 of the Monetary Units Act 2004.	L	-	-	-	-	-
Reserve Parking Bays						
Reserve Car Park Space - Metered	D	53.00	4.82	51.00	2.00	3.92%
Reserve Car Park Space - unmetered	D	29.00	2.64	28.00	1.00	3.57%
Reserved Car Parking Spaces (Long Term) Metered	D	42.00	3.82	41.00	1.00	2.44%
Reserved Car Parking Spaces (Long Term) Non- Metered	D	25.00	2.27	24.00	1.00	4.17%
Corporate Services						
Marketing						
0001 - Signage, Banners and Billboards - 50 Banners - Production (includes install, 2 week booking, removal and	D	9,094.00	826.73	8,795.00	299.00	3.40%
0002 - Signage, Banners and Billboards - 50 Banners - Additional 2 weeks	D	1,819.00	165.36	1,759.00	60.00	3.41%
0003 - Signage, Banners and Billboards - 50 Banners - Install, 2 week booking, remove and store	D	3,032.00	275.64	2,932.00	100.00	3.41%
0004 - Signage, Banners and Billboards - Mobile Billboard - Production (includes install, 2 week booking, removal	D	2,425.00	220.45	2,345.00	80.00	3.41%
0005 - Signage, Banners and Billboards - Mobile Billboard - Additional 2 weeks	D	607.00	55.18	587.00	20.00	3.41%
0006 - Signage, Banners and Billboards - Mobile Billboard - Install, 2 week booking, remove and store	D	1,213.00	110.27	1,173.00	40.00	3.41%
0007 - Signage, Banners and Billboards - Hovells Creek - Production (includes install, 2 week booking, removal ar	D	4,850.00	440.91	4,691.00	159.00	3.39%
0008 - Signage, Banners and Billboards - Hovells Creek - Additional 2 weeks	D	2,425.00	220.45	2,345.00	80.00	3.41%
0009 - Signage, Banners and Billboards - Hovells Creek - Install, 2 week booking, remove and store	D	3,032.00	275.64	2,932.00	100.00	3.41%
Community Information Board	D	161.00	14.64	156.00	5.00	3.21%

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Revenue, Property and Valuations						
0011 - P&R Land Information Certificates	A	31.40	-	30.60	0.80	2.61%
0013 - P&R Sales / Misc / Fencing	D	11.30	1.03	11.00	0.30	2.73%
1002 - Rates Rate Reprint between 1 and 7 years	D	17.25	1.57	16.70	0.55	3.29%
1003 - P&V Rate search over 7 years	D	99.60	9.05	96.50	3.10	3.21%
998 - P&R Renumbering Charge to Subdividers	D	116.55	10.60	113.00	3.55	3.14%
Collection Listing Fee	D	25.00	2.27	25.00	-	
Field Call	D	133.65	12.15	125.00	8.65	6.92%
2651 - Complaint Costs (FY27 - Magistrates Scale of Costs to be applied for recovery of overdue fees)	D	-	-	-	-	100.00%
2652 - Judgement (FY27 - Magistrates Scale of Costs to be applied for recovery of overdue fees)	D	-	-	-	-	100.00%
2653 - Warrant (FY27 - Magistrates Scale of Costs to be applied for recovery of overdue fees)	D	-	-	-	-	100.00%
2654 - Summons for Oral Examination (FY27 - Magistrates Scale of Costs to be applied for recovery of overdue fe	D	-	-	-	-	100.00%
2655 - Attachment of Earnings (FY27 - Magistrates Scale of Costs to be applied for recovery of overdue fees)	D	-	-	-	-	100.00%
2656 - Substituted Service Fee (FY27 - Magistrates Scale of Costs to be applied for recovery of overdue fees)	D	-	-	-	-	100.00%
Debt recovery fee – ASIC search	D	65.00	5.91	-	65.00	100.00%
Debt recovery fee – Bankruptcy search	D	35.00	3.18	-	35.00	100.00%
Debt recovery fee – Mortgagee letter	D	150.00	13.64	-	150.00	100.00%
Debt recovery fee – Pre-section 181 letter	D	150.00	13.64	-	150.00	100.00%
Debt recovery fee – Registered demand letter	D	14.75	1.34	-	14.75	100.00%
Debt recovery fee – Skip traces	D	75.00	6.82	-	75.00	100.00%
Debt recovery fee – Terms of settlement agreement	D	250.00	22.73	-	250.00	100.00%
Debt recovery fee – Title search	D	27.29	2.48	-	27.29	100.00%
Probate Search	D	-	-	45.00 -	45.00	-100.00%
Legal Services Admin						
2600 - FOI fees	A	34.50	-	33.60	0.90	2.68%
Growth and Place						
Carousel - Private Hire						
Carousel - Private Hire - Functions, events, Photography, Film Shoots - Per Hour	D	550.00	50.00	550.00	-	
Childrens Birthday Parties - Package 1 per Child (self-catered)	D	20.00	1.82	20.00	-	
Private Hire of Carousel - Private Function Booking - Half Day - up to 4 hours	D	2,000.00	181.82	1,600.00	400.00	25.00%
Private Hire of Carousel - Private Functions Booking - Full Day - up to 8 hours	D	3,500.00	318.18	2,750.00	750.00	27.27%
Private Hire of Carousel - Decking Hire per Function (Commercial)	D	1,000.00	90.91	-	1,000.00	100.00%
Private Hire of Carousel - Decking Hire per Function (Community)	D	500.00	45.45	500.00	-	
Childrens Birthday Parties - Package 2 per Child (catered)	D	35.00	3.18	35.00	-	
Carousel - Ride Tickets						

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG - FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE
2026-27 Budget

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Fees & Charges	Basis of Charge	2026-27 Charge $ (incl GST if applicable)	2026-27 Budget $ GST Amount	2025-26 Charge $ (incl GST if applicable)	Change in $ per unit	Change %
Adult Carousel Ride Ticket	D	6.00	0.55	6.00	-	
Carousel Ride Group Booking 10-49 people	D	5.00	0.45	5.00	-	
Carousel Ride Group Booking 50+ people	D	4.50	0.41	4.50	-	
Carousel Ride Multi-Ride Ticket (10)	D	50.00	4.55	50.00	-	
Child Carousel Ride Ticket	D	6.00	0.55	6.00	-	
Concession Carousel Ride Ticket	D	5.00	0.45	5.00	-	
Landscaping Fee						
a. Landscape Plan Checking and Inspection Fee - Up to $50,000	D	810.00	73.64	810.00	-	
b. Landscape Plan Checking and Inspection Fee - $50,000 - $100,000	D	2,435.00	221.36	2,435.00	-	
c. Landscape Plan Checking and Inspection Fee - $100,000 - $150,000	D	4,060.00	369.09	4,060.00	-	
d. Landscape Plan Checking and Inspection Fee - $150,000 - $200,000	D	5,685.00	516.82	5,685.00	-	
e. Landscape Plan Checking and Inspection Fee - $200,000 - $250,000	D	7,310.00	664.55	7,310.00	-	
f. Landscape Plan Checking and Inspection Fee - $250,000 - $500,000	D	12,185.00	1,107.73	12,185.00	-	
g. Landscape Plan Checking and Inspection Fee - $500,000 - $750,000	D	20,310.00	1,846.36	20,310.00	-	
h. Landscape Plan Checking and Inspection Fee - $750,000 - $1,000,000	D	28,435.00	2,585.00	28,435.00	-	
i. Landscape Plan Checking and Inspection Fee - $1,000,000 - $1,500,000	D	40,625.00	3,693.18	40,625.00	-	
j. Landscape Plan Checking and Inspection Fee - $1,500,000 - $2,000,000	D	56,875.00	5,170.45	56,875.00	-	
k. Landscape Plan Checking and Inspection Fee - $2,000,000 - $2,500,000	D	73,125.00	6,647.73	73,125.00	-	
l. Landscape Plan Checking and Inspection Fee - $2,500,000 - $3,000,000	D	89,375.00	8,125.00	89,375.00	-	
National Wool Museum - Facilities Hire						
Labour - Concessional Hourly Rate	D	100.00	9.09	100.00	-	
Labour - Regular Hourly Rate	D	150.00	13.64	150.00	-	
NWM Auction and Multifunction Room - Discount and Concession - Full Day - up to 8 hours	D	850.00	77.27	850.00	-	
NWM Auction and Multifunction Room - Discount and Concession - Half Day - up to 4 hours	D	550.00	50.00	550.00	-	
NWM Auction and Multifunction Room - Events and Functions - half day - up to 4 hours	D	750.00	68.18	750.00	-	
NWM Auction and Multifunction Room - Standard - Full Day up to 8 hours	D	1,000.00	90.91	1,000.00	-	
NWM Auction Room - Discount & Concession - Half Day - up to 4 hours	D	350.00	31.82	350.00	-	
NWM Auction Room - Discount and Concession - Full Day up to 8 hours	D	440.00	40.00	440.00	-	
NWM Auction Room - Events and Functions - Half day - up to 4 hours	D	375.00	34.09	375.00	-	
NWM Auction Room - Standard - Full Day up to 8 hours	D	550.00	50.00	550.00	-	
NWM Strachan Room - Standard Half Day up to 4 hours	D	750.00	68.18	750.00	-	
NWM Strachan Room - Discount and Concession - Full Day - up to 8 hours	D	800.00	72.73	800.00	-	
NWM Strachan Room - Discount and Concession - Half Day - up to 4 hours	D	550.00	50.00	550.00	-	
NWM Strachan Room - Standard Full Day up to 8 hours	D	950.00	86.36	950.00	-	
Security & Out of Hours Costs - Micom Security Call Out - minimum 4 hours	D	600.00	54.55	600.00	-	
Security & Out of Hours Costs - Museum Staff 5.00pm-9.00am hourly rate	D	200.00	18.18	200.00	-	

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG - FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE
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National Wool Museum - General Admission						
NWM Gen Adm Adult	D	13.00	-	13.00	-	
NWM Gen Adm Child	D	8.00	-	8.00	-	
NWM Gen Adm Concession	D	10.00	-	10.00	-	
NWM Gen Adm Family	D	40.00	-	40.00	-	
NWM Gen Adm Group	D	11.00	-	11.00	-	
NWM Gen Adm School - Museum Educator-led tour - price per student	D	9.00	-	9.00	-	
NWM Gen Adm School - Museum Educator-led workshop - price per student	D	12.00	-	12.00	-	
NWM Gen Adm School - Museum Educator-led workshop & self-guided visit - price per student	D	12.00	-	12.00	-	
NWM Gen Adm School - Museum Educator-led workshop and tour - price per student	D	15.00	-	15.00	-	
NWM Gen Adm School - Self-guided visit - price per student	D	6.00	-	6.00	-	
National Wool Museum - Memberships						
NWM M/Ship Adult	D	55.00	-	55.00	-	
NWM M/Ship Child Age 2-16	D	22.00	-	22.00	-	
NWM M/Ship Family (2 adults and up to 4 children - Children under 16 years and registered at the same address)	D	85.00	-	85.00	-	
NWM M/Ship Senior/Student/Concession	D	45.00	-	45.00	-	
Statutory Planning - Advertising Material						
Each Additional Letter	D	10.00	0.91	8.00	2.00	25.00%
Each Additional Sign	D	120.00	10.91	100.00	20.00	20.00%
Letter (up to 10) & Sign	D	400.00	36.36	350.00	50.00	14.29%
Newspaper	D	700.00	63.64	650.00	50.00	7.69%
Statutory Planning - Certification of Compliance						
Certificate of Compliance	A	380.00	-	369.80	10.20	2.76%
Statutory Planning - Demolitions Certificates						
Demolition Certificate	A	99.40	-	96.70	2.70	2.79%
Statutory Planning - Developer Fines & Costs						
Developer Fines and Costs - Breach of Planning & Environment Act - per unit	A	207.60	-	202.00	5.60	2.77%
Statutory Planning - Extension of Time						
Extension of Time - first request	D	500.00	-	430.00	70.00	16.28%
Extension of Time - second request	D	700.00	-	625.00	75.00	12.00%
Extension of Time - third request	D	1,000.00	-	900.00	100.00	11.11%
Statutory Planning - Information & Copies of Documents						

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Planning Request for Info - List of Permits	D	40.00	3.64	30.00	10.00	33.33%
Written Request for Information - commercial/industrial/other	D	330.00	-	300.00	30.00	10.00%
Written Request for Information - residential	D	220.00	-	200.00	20.00	10.00%
Statutory Planning - Planning Permits - Amended Permit Fees						
a. Amend VicSmart Application - less than $10,000 (Class 7)	A	233.10	-	226.90	6.20	2.73%
b. Amend VicSmart Application - $10,000 or more (Class 8)	A	500.90	-	487.50	13.40	2.75%
c. Amend VicSmart Subdivision (Class 9)	A	233.10	-	226.90	6.20	2.73%
d. Amended VicSmart Other (Class 10)	A	233.10	-	226.90	6.20	2.73%
e. Amend a Permit - change statement or conditions (Class 2)	A	1,537.20	-	1,496.10	41.10	2.75%
f. Amendments to Subdivision Permits (Classes 14-18)	A	1,537.20	-	1,496.10	41.10	2.75%
g. Amended Residential Permit up to $10,000 (Class 3)	A	233.10	-	226.90	6.20	2.73%
h. Amended Residential Permit $10,001 - $100,000 (Class 4)	A	734.00	-	714.40	19.60	2.74%
i. Amended Residential Permit $100,001 - $500,000 (Class 5)	A	1,502.70	-	1,462.50	40.20	2.75%
j. Amended Residential Permit $500,001 - $2,000,000 (Class 6)	A	1,623.60	-	1,580.10	43.50	2.75%
k. Amended Residential Permit $2,000,001 - $9,999,999 (Class 13)	A	3,981.30	-	3,874.70	106.60	2.75%
l. Amended Development Permit up to $100,000 (Class 11)	A	1,338.60	-	1,302.80	35.80	2.75%
m. Amended Development Permit $100,001 - $1,000,000 (Class 12)	A	1,804.90	-	1,756.60	48.30	2.75%
n. Amended Development Permit $1,000,001 - $9,999,999 (Class 13)	A	3,981.30	-	3,874.70	106.60	2.75%
o. Amend a permit to change the use (Class 1)	A	1,537.20	-	1,496.10	41.10	2.75%
p. Amend a permit - other (Class 19)	A	1,537.20	-	1,496.10	41.10	2.75%
Statutory Planning - Planning Permits - Initial Permit Fees						
a. Residential Development - Single Dwelling up to $10,000 (Class 2)	A	233.10	-	226.90	6.20	2.73%
b. Residential Development - Single Dwelling - $10,001 - $100,000 (Class 3)	A	734.00	-	714.40	19.60	2.74%
c. Residential Development - Single Dwelling - $100,001 - $500,000 (Class 4)	A	1,502.70	-	1,462.50	40.20	2.75%
d. Residential Development - Single Dwelling - $500,001 - $1,000,000 (Class 5)	A	1,623.60	-	1,580.10	43.50	2.75%
e. Residential Development - Single Dwelling - $1,000,001 - $2,000,000 (Class 6)	A	1,744.50	-	1,697.80	46.70	2.75%
f. Residential Development - Single Dwelling - $2,000,001 - $5,000,000 (Class 13)	A	3,981.30	-	3,874.70	106.60	2.75%
g. Development Buildings & Works up to $100,000 (Class 11)	A	1,338.60	-	1,302.80	35.80	2.75%
h. Development Buildings & Works $100,001 - $1,000,000 (Class 12)	A	1,804.90	-	1,756.60	48.30	2.75%
i. Development Buildings & Works $1,000,001 - $5,000,000 (Class 13)	A	3,981.30	-	3,874.70	106.60	2.75%
j. Development Buildings & Works $5,000,001 - $15,000,000 (Class 14)	A	10,147.50	-	9,875.90	271.60	2.75%
k. Development Buildings & Works $15,000,001 - $50,000,000 (Class 15)	A	29,924.80	-	29,123.90	800.90	2.75%
l. Development Buildings & Works $50,000,001 - $9,999,999,999 (Class 16)	A	67,258.20	-	65,458.10	1,800.10	2.75%
m. VicSmart Development Applications up to $10,000 (Class 7)	A	233.10	-	226.90	6.20	2.73%
n. VicSmart Development Applications $10,001 or more (Class 8)	A	500.90	-	487.50	13.40	2.75%
o. VicSmart Subdivision (Class 9)	A	233.10	-	226.90	6.20	2.73%
p. VicSmart Application other (Class 10)	A	233.10	-	226.90	6.20	2.73%

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG - FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE
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q. Amend or End a s173 Agreement (Reg 16)	A	768.60	-	748.00	20.60	2.75%
r. Change of Use (Class 1)	A	1,537.20	-	1,496.10	41.10	2.75%
s. Create, Vary or Remove Easement, Restriction/Right of Way (Class 21)	A	1,537.20	-	1,496.10	41.10	2.75%
t. Subdivide land - per 100 lots (Class 20)	A	1,537.20	-	1,496.10	41.10	2.75%
u. Subdivision - other (Class 22)	A	1,537.20	-	1,496.10	41.10	2.75%
v. Development Plans (Reg 18)	A	380.00	-	369.80	10.20	2.76%
w. Miscellaneous Fees (waiver of car parking requirements etc) (Reg 22)	A	1,537.20	-	1,496.10	41.10	2.75%
x. Planning - Decision of Responsible Authority (Reg 18)	A	380.00	-	369.80	10.20	2.76%
y. Re-alignment or Consolidation (Class 19)	A	1,537.20	-	1,496.10	41.10	2.75%
z. Subdivide an existing building (Class 17)	A	1,537.20	-	1,496.10	41.10	2.75%
z1. Subdivision of Existing Building or Two lots Only (Class 18)	A	1,537.20	-	1,496.10	41.10	2.75%
Statutory Planning - Pre-Application Advice						
Pre-Application Advice - Type 1	D	220.00	20.00	175.00	45.00	25.71%
Pre-Application Advice - Type 2	D	300.00	27.27	250.00	50.00	20.00%
Pre-Application Advice - Type 3	D	350.00	31.82	300.00	50.00	16.67%
Pre-Application Advice - Type 4	D	800.00	72.73	700.00	100.00	14.29%
Pre-Application Advice - Type 5 (Pre-gazettal)	D	1,000.00	90.91	-	1,000.00	100.00%
Statutory Planning - Subdivision Certificates						
Alter plan prior to Certification (Sub Reg 7)	A	129.60	-	126.10	3.50	2.78%
Certification Fee - Plan of Subdivision (Sub Reg 6)	A	203.90	-	198.40	5.50	2.77%
Certification Fee - Procedural Plan (Sub Reg 6)	A	203.90	-	198.40	5.50	2.77%
Recertification (Sub Reg 8)	A	162.30	-	158.00	4.30	2.72%
Strategic Implementation						
a. Planning Scheme Amendment - Adoption Fee	A	561.30	-	546.30	15.00	2.75%
b. Planning Scheme Amendment - Application Fee	A	3,558.20	-	3,463.00	95.20	2.75%
c. Planning Scheme Amendment - Application Fee - to Minister Reg7:20(4)	A	4,663.50	-	4,538.70	124.80	2.75%
d. Planning Scheme Amendment - Consideration of Submission Fee (minimum fee up to 10 submissions)	A	17,635.00	-	17,163.00	472.00	2.75%
e. Planning Scheme Amendment - Consideration of Submission Fee - 11 to 20 submissions	A	35,235.00	-	34,292.00	943.00	2.75%
f. Planning Scheme Amendment - Consideration of Submission Fee - 21 or more submissions	A	47,101.60	-	45,841.00	1,260.60	2.75%
Statutory Planning - Secondary Consents						
Secondary Consents - up to $100,000 (excluding single dwellings) (the fee is based on the cost of the original app	D	750.00	-	-	750.00	100.00%
Secondary Consents - $100,001 - $1,000,000 (the fee is based on the cost of the original application)	D	900.00	-	-	900.00	100.00%
Secondary Consents - over $1,000,001 (the fee is based on the cost of the original application)	D	1,250.00	-	-	1,250.00	100.00%
Secondary Consents - Single Dwelling (Including Alterations to Single Dwellings)	D	400.00	-	350.00	50.00	14.29%
Secondary Consents - VicSmart	D	200.00	-	150.00	50.00	33.33%

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Secondary Consents - General	D	-	-	650.00	- 650.00	-100.00%
Bellarine Arts Centre Facility Hire - Miscellaneous						
Basic Archival Filming of Performance	D	165.00	15.00	160.00	5.00	3.13%
Cleaning Fee	D	87.00	7.91	84.50	2.50	2.96%
Front of House Supervisor per hour (3hr minimum call)	D	54.00	4.91	52.00	2.00	3.85%
Lost Key Fee	D	112.00	10.18	108.00	4.00	3.70%
Public Liability extension	D	52.00	4.73	50.00	2.00	4.00%
Technical Officer per hour (3hr minimum call)	D	54.00	4.91	52.00	2.00	3.85%
Bellarine Arts Centre Hire Fees - Commercial						
Box Office Fee - Commercial (per ticket)	D	4.00	0.36	4.00	-	
Dance Studio - per hour	D	47.00	4.27	45.00	2.00	4.44%
Foyer - per hour	D	47.00	4.27	45.00	2.00	4.44%
Full Venue (bump in/rehearsal) per hour	D	186.00	16.91	180.00	6.00	3.33%
Full Venue (Production) per hour	D	227.00	20.64	220.00	7.00	3.18%
Multi Purpose Room - per hour	D	47.00	4.27	45.00	2.00	4.44%
Music Lab - per hour	D	47.00	4.27	45.00	2.00	4.44%
Theatre (bump in/rehearsal) per hour	D	140.00	12.73	135.00	5.00	3.70%
Theatre (production) per hour	D	155.00	14.09	150.00	5.00	3.33%
Ticketing Set up Fee	D	62.00	5.64	60.00	2.00	3.33%
Bellarine Arts Centre Hire Fees - Community						
Box Office Fee - (per ticket) community rate	D	3.00	0.27	3.00	-	
Dance Studio - hourly community rate	D	28.00	2.55	27.00	1.00	3.70%
Foyer - hourly community rate	D	28.00	2.55	27.00	1.00	3.70%
Full Venue (bump in/rehearsal) hourly community rate	D	129.00	11.73	125.00	4.00	3.20%
Full Venue (Production) hourly community rate	D	134.00	12.18	130.00	4.00	3.08%
Full Venue (space only) hourly community rate	D	78.00	7.09	75.00	3.00	4.00%
Multi Purpose Room - hourly community rate	D	28.00	2.55	27.00	1.00	3.70%
Music Lab - hourly community rate	D	28.00	2.55	27.00	1.00	3.70%
Practice Room - hourly community rate	D	26.00	2.36	25.00	1.00	4.00%
Theatre (bump in/rehearsal) hourly community rate	D	98.00	8.91	95.00	3.00	3.16%
Theatre (production) hourly community rate	D	103.00	9.36	100.00	3.00	3.00%
Theatre (space only) hourly community rate	D	43.00	3.91	42.00	1.00	2.38%
Building Services - Building Permits						
Building Permit - Application Fee (class 10)	D	500.00	45.45	-	500.00	100.00%
Building Permit - Application Fee (classes 1 - 9)	D	1,000.00	90.91	-	1,000.00	100.00%

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Building Permit - Major Performance Solution Determination	D	959.00	87.18	927.00	32.00	3.45%
Building Permit - Minor Performance Solution Determination	D	320.00	29.09	309.00	11.00	3.56%
Building Permit - Owner Builder Charge (nominal fee plus 30% for FY26 and FY27)	D	-	-	-	-	-
Building Permit - Partial Compliance - Exemption / Consent	D	533.00	48.45	515.00	18.00	3.50%
Building Permit - Section 10 Determination	D	164.00	14.91	159.00	5.00	3.14%
Building Permit - Site Inspection - Lapsed	D	362.00	32.91	350.00	12.00	3.43%
Building Permit - Site Inspection - Major	D	266.00	24.18	257.00	9.00	3.50%
Building Permit - Site Inspection - Minor	D	159.00	14.45	154.00	5.00	3.25%
Building Permit - External Municipality Charge (includes travel within 100km of municipality)	D	-	-	412.00	- 412.00	-100.00%
Building Permit - Partial Compliance - Domestic	D	-	-	257.00	- 257.00	-100.00%
Building Permit - Performance Solution - Major - Commercial	D	-	-	1,545.00	- 1,545.00	-100.00%
Building Permit - Performance Solution - Minor - Commercial	D	-	-	515.00	- 515.00	-100.00%
Building Services - Building Permits - Assessment Charges						
Building Permits - Assistant Building Surveyor (per hr)	D	85.00	7.73	82.00	3.00	3.66%
Building Permits - Building Inspector (per hr)	D	107.00	9.73	103.00	4.00	3.88%
Building Permits - Municpal Building Surveyor (per hr)	D	266.00	24.18	257.00	9.00	3.50%
Building Permits - Registered Building Surveyor (per hr)	D	159.00	14.45	154.00	5.00	3.25%
Building Permits - Technical Officer (per hr)	D	74.00	6.73	72.00	2.00	2.78%
Building Services - Building Permits - Variations, Dispensations						
Building Permit - Amendment - Major	D	345.00	31.36	334.00	11.00	3.29%
Building Permit - Amendment - Minor	D	159.00	14.45	154.00	5.00	3.25%
Building Permit - Extension of Time - up to 12 months	D	326.00	29.64	315.00	11.00	3.49%
Building Permit - Extension of Time - up to 6 months	D	164.00	14.91	159.00	5.00	3.14%
Building Services - Caravan Park Registrations						
Caravan Park Registration or Renewal Fee (per unit)	A	17.27	-	16.81	0.46	2.74%
Caravan Park Transfer of Ownership	A	86.35	-	84.05	2.30	2.74%
Schedule of works - Amendment	D	80.00	7.27	77.00	3.00	3.90%
Schedule of works - Certification Submission	D	41.00	3.73	40.00	1.00	2.50%
Schedule of works - Site Re-inspection	D	165.00	15.00	157.50	7.50	4.76%
Building Services - Copies of Documents						
Copies of Documentation - Lodgement Fee	D	42.00	3.82	40.00	2.00	5.00%
Copies of Documentation - Single Commercial / Multi Dwelling Permit Package	D	240.00	21.82	175.00	65.00	37.14%
Copies of Documentation - Single Commercial /Multi Dwelling Occupancy Permit	D	114.00	10.36	110.00	4.00	3.64%
Copies of Documentation - Single Domestic Occupancy Permit	D	60.00	5.45	-	60.00	100.00%
Copies of Documentation - Single Domestic Permit Package	D	83.00	7.55	80.00	3.00	3.75%

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Copies of Plans - Commercial Lodgement Application Fee	D	-	-	100.00	- 100.00	-100.00%
Copies of Plans - Fast Track Administration Fee	D	-	-	54.00	- 54.00	-100.00%
Copies of Plans - Owner Consent Authority (per owner)	D	-	-	75.00	- 75.00	-100.00%
Building Services - Council Consents						
Council Consent - Above / Below Public Facilities	A	337.80	-	329.60	8.20	2.49%
Council Consent - Adminstrative Fee (Re-stamping)	D	78.00	7.09	75.00	3.00	4.00%
Council Consent - Affected Property Notification (Charge per Property)	D	78.00	7.09	75.00	3.00	4.00%
Council Consent - Amendment	D	205.00	18.64	201.00	4.00	1.99%
Council Consent - Build Over Easements	A	360.00	-	345.00	15.00	4.35%
Council Consent - Land Liable to Flooding	A	338.70	-	329.60	9.10	2.76%
Council Consent - Protection of the Public	A	343.70	-	334.50	9.20	2.75%
Council Consent - Siting	A	474.10	-	461.40	12.70	2.75%
Council Consent - Street Alignment Projections	A	337.80	-	329.60	8.20	2.49%
Council Consent - Council Comments (Built without Council Consent)	D	-	-	475.00	- 475.00	-100.00%
Council Consent - Extension of Time	D	-	-	103.00	- 103.00	-100.00%
Building Services - Enforcement Administrative Fee						
Enforcement - Administration Processing	D	168.00	15.27	165.00	3.00	1.82%
Enforcement - Compliance for Illegal Buildings (Council Comments)	D	750.00	68.18	475.00	275.00	57.89%
Enforcement - Inspection Fee	D	532.00	48.36	-	532.00	100.00%
Enforcement - Invoice Processing	D	103.00	9.36	100.00	3.00	3.00%
Enforcement - Title Search	D	30.00	2.73	-	30.00	100.00%
Enforcement - Reattendance Fee	D	-	-	157.50	- 157.50	-100.00%
Building Services - Lodgement Fees						
Private Building Surveyor - Section 30 Lodgement	A	142.10	-	138.30	3.80	2.75%
Building Services - Occupancy Permits - Places of Public Entertainment						
Extension of Time	D	159.00	14.45	154.00	5.00	3.25%
Occupancy Permit - Late Application Fee	D	450.00	40.91	-	450.00	100.00%
Occupancy Permit - Re-Inspection Fee (After Hours)	D	375.00	34.09	-	375.00	100.00%
Occupancy Permit - Re-Inspection Fee (Business Hours)	D	260.00	23.64	257.00	3.00	1.17%
Occupancy Permit - Re-Inspection Fee (Public Holidays)	D	520.00	47.27	-	520.00	100.00%
Place of Public Entertainment - up to 999m2	D	850.00	77.27	1,004.00	- 154.00	-15.34%
Place of Public Entertainment - 1,000m2 to 4,999m2	D	1,950.00	177.27	1,678.00	272.00	16.21%
Place of Public Entertainment - 5,000m2 to 9,999m2	D	3,050.00	277.27	3,296.00	- 246.00	-7.46%
Place of Public Entertainment - 10,000m2 plus	D	4,150.00	377.27	-	4,150.00	100.00%
Place of Public Entertainment - Application Fee	D	250.00	22.73	-	250.00	100.00%

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG - FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE
2026-27 Budget

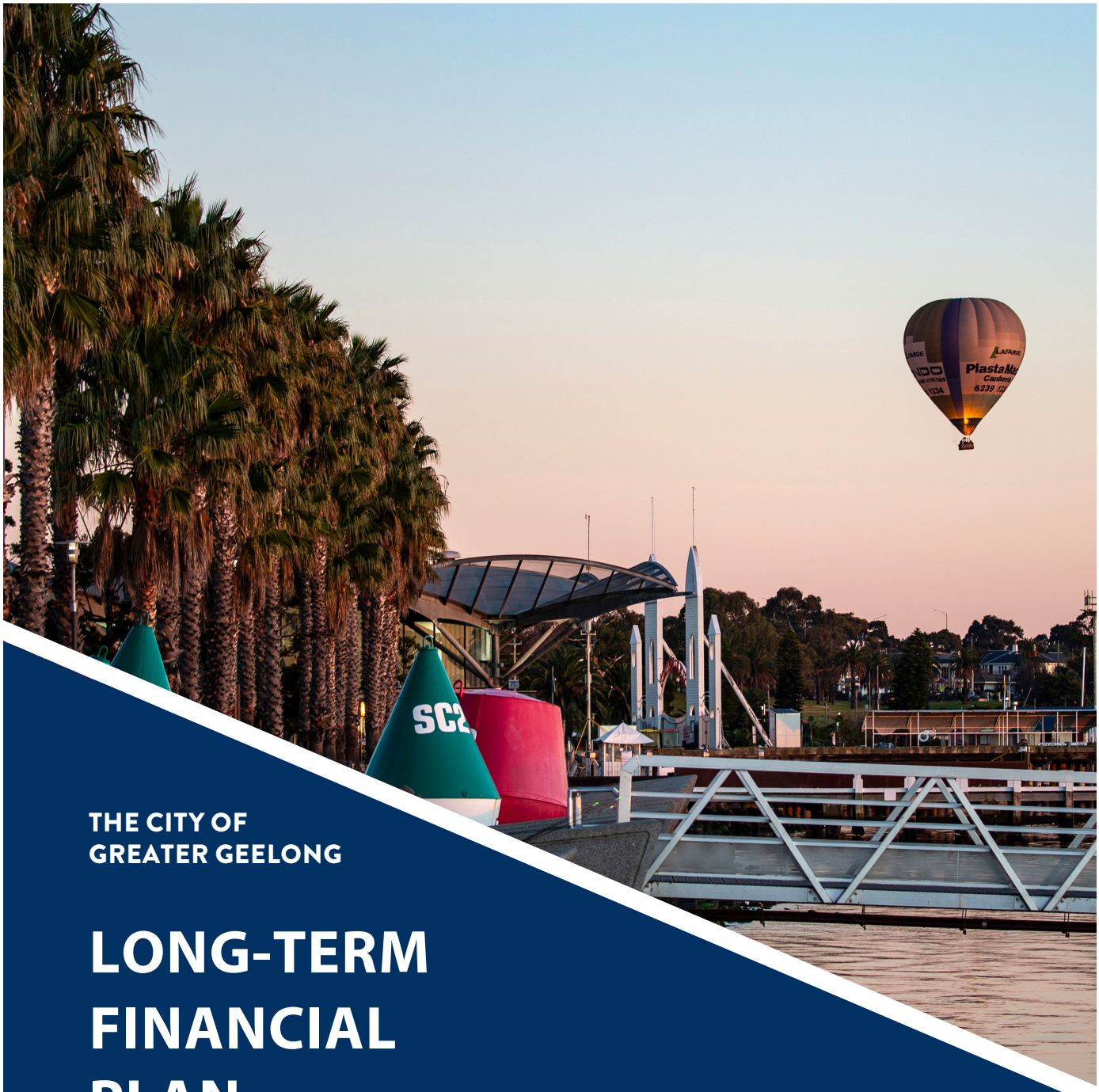
Basis of Charge:
A = Act of Parliament D = Discretionary L = Local Law

Fees & Charges	Basis of Charge	2026-27 Charge $ (incl GST if applicable)	2026-27 Budget $ GST Amount	2025-26 Charge $ (incl GST if applicable)	Change in $ per unit	Change %
Place of Public Entertainment - Exisiting Building Audit (per hour)	D	360.00	32.73	-	360.00	100.00%
Place of Public Entertainment - Fast Track Fee	D	-	-	154.00	-154.00	-100.00%
Temporary Occupancy Permit - Application Fee	D	1,600.00	145.45	1,545.00	55.00	3.56%
Temporary Structure Siting Application Fee	D	200.00	18.18	-	200.00	100.00%
Temporary Structure Siting Approval (per structure)	D	256.00	23.27	441.00	-185.00	-41.95%
Division 2 - Occupancy Permit - Community Event (More than 5,000 people)	D	-	-	854.00	-854.00	-100.00%
Building Services - Property Information Requests						
Building Information Request - Building Permit Details (51.1)	A	55.10	-	53.60	1.50	2.80%
Building Information Request - Fast Track Fee	D	56.30	5.12	54.50	1.80	3.30%
Building Information Request - Land in Special Areas (51.2)	A	55.10	-	53.60	1.50	2.80%
Building Information Request - Mandatory Inspection and Approval Dates (51.3)	A	55.10	-	53.60	1.50	2.80%
Protection Works - Owner Consent Authority (per owner)	D	78.00	7.09	75.00	3.00	4.00%
Protection Works Notice - Request Owners Details Application	D	52.00	4.73	50.00	2.00	4.00%
Building Services - Road Occupation Permits						
Street Occupation Permit - Amendment	D	-	-	118.00	-118.00	-100.00%
Street Occupation Permit - Car Parking - Metered	D	53.00	4.82	51.50	1.50	2.91%
Street Occupation Permit - Car Parking - Unmetered	D	29.00	2.64	27.80	1.20	4.32%
Street Occupation Permit - Carparking Restricted	D	78.00	7.09	75.00	3.00	4.00%
Street Occupation Permit - Fast Track Fee	D	-	-	154.00	-154.00	-100.00%
Street Occupation Permit - Late Lodgement Fee	D	250.00	22.73	-	250.00	100.00%
Street Occupation Permit - Lodgement Fee	D	250.00	22.73	309.00	-59.00	-19.09%
Street Occupation Permit - m2 Gantry Occupation Fee per day	D	0.83	0.08	0.80	0.03	3.75%
Street Occupation Permit - m2 Street Occupation Fee per day Commercial Zone	D	1.00	0.09	1.20	-0.20	-16.67%
Street Occupation Permit - m2 Street Occupation Fee per day Residential Zone	D	0.80	0.07	-	0.80	100.00%
Street Occupation Permit - Pre Application Meeting High Complexity	D	500.00	45.45	500.00	-	
Street Occupation Permit - Pre Application Meeting Med Complexity	D	200.00	18.18	200.00	-	
Street Occupation Permit - Pre Application Meeting Site Visit	D	158.00	14.36	157.50	0.50	0.32%
Street Occupation Permit - Secondary Department Approval	D	175.00	15.91	175.00	-	
Street Occupation Permit - Variation	D	163.00	14.82	161.00	2.00	1.24%
Street Occupation Permit - Minor Works Lodgement Fee	D	-	-	164.00	-164.00	-100.00%
Building Services - Swimming Pool & Spa Registrations						
Swimming Pool & Spa - Certificate of Compliance Lodgement	A	23.80	-	23.20	0.60	2.59%
Swimming Pool & Spa - Certificate of Non Compliance Lodgement	A	449.10	-	437.10	12.00	2.75%
Swimming Pool & Spa - Compliance Inspection - Initial Inspection	D	365.00	33.18	360.00	5.00	1.39%
Swimming Pool & Spa - Extension of Time for Certificate of Compliance Lodgement	D	78.00	7.09	75.00	3.00	4.00%
Swimming Pool & Spa - Information Search Fee	A	55.10	-	53.60	1.50	2.80%

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG - FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE
2026-27 Budget

Basis of Charge:
A = Act of Parliament D = Discretionary L = Local Law

Fees & Charges	Basis of Charge	2026-27 Charge $ (incl GST if applicable)	2026-27 Budget $ GST Amount	2025-26 Charge $ (incl GST if applicable)	Change in $ per unit	Change %
Swimming Pool & Spa - Registration Fee	A	37.10	-	36.10	1.00	2.77%
Swimming Pool & Spa - Compliance Inspection - Subsequent/Decommission Inspection	D	167.00	15.18	167.00	-	
Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging						
User Fees - 22kW Public Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers (per kWh)	D	0.29	0.03	0.28	0.01	5.09%
Event Permit Fees						
Large scale or commercial Event	D	259.00	23.55	250.00	9.00	3.60%
Filming Permit Fees						
Late fee (requests - less than 5 business days before filming)	D	310.00	28.18	300.00	10.00	3.33%
Major Filming Productions - per day	D	620.00	56.36	600.00	20.00	3.33%
Standard Filming - per day	D	310.00	28.18	300.00	10.00	3.33%
Skilled Migration Program						
Skilled Migration Program - Certification	D	626.00	56.91	605.00	21.00	3.47%



THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2026-2036

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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The City of Greater Geelong acknowledges Wadawurrung people as the Traditional Owners of this land. It also acknowledges all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People who are part of the Greater Geelong community today.



Artwork: *On Country* by Ammie Howell.

Executive Summary

The City of Greater Geelong (the City) is going through a period of significant growth, and this Long-term Financial Plan outlines its current and projected financial capacity to continue delivering critical services, infrastructure and facilities, whilst identifying important new capital investment to support this growth.

The Long-Term Financial Plan (the plan), covering a period of 10 years, is an integral part of the City's suite of strategic management plans. Its role is to link our strategic and business plans and translates the outcomes and strategies of these plans into financial terms.

In October 2025, Council adopted the Long Term Financial Plan 2025-26 to 2034-35 in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* to adopt the financial plan by 31 October in the year following a general election that takes effect from 1 July in that same year.

Council refreshes the Long Term Financial Plan annually to ensure our assumptions reflect our most recent budget, our strategic plans and current economic conditions to ensure the ongoing long term financial sustainability of the City.

This Long-Term Financial Plan covers the period 2026-27 to 2035-36, with the first four years being underpinned by the 2026-27 to 2029-30 Budget.

The plan is guided by our existing policies and plans and most importantly the views of the community. The plan is underpinned by the objectives and outcomes of the *Our Council Plan 2025-29,* and the 30-Year Community Vision, *Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative* Future. Further generations of the plan will be considered as other significant plans are developed and adopted by Council.

The City uses five key financial indicators to assess the City's financial health and long-term financial sustainability. These measures are consistent with the financial performance indicators reported under the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF) to measure financial performance and position. The five key financial indicators are:

1. Underlying Operating Ratio
2. Working Capital Ratio
3. Asset Renewal & Upgrade Ratio
4. Indebtedness Ratio
5. Cash Surpluses

Our aim in developing the plan is to achieve the following objectives:

- Ensure that we can meet the objectives of the Council Plan and the 30-Year Community Vision while remaining financially sustainable
- Continually improving our efficiency in the provision of existing and future services by proactively seeking out savings without affecting service levels
- Preserving cash by ensuring the budgets and financial commitments of the City result in cash surpluses
- Maintain operating surpluses over the period of the plan
- Hold sufficient cash to ensure the City can meet its financial obligations and liabilities, while also reserving capacity to respond to unexpected events
- Continuously improving our asset management plans to enable us to appropriately maintain over $6 billion of assets by renewing vital infrastructure and facilities
- Maintain debt and interest costs within our established benchmarks and ensuring our capacity to service and repay this debt into the future
- Pursue state and federal funding opportunities where aligned to key strategic outcomes

Background

PURPOSE

The purpose of the plan is to:

- Present a financial analysis of the strategic objectives and goals set out in key strategic documents
- Outline the key financial direction, strategies and outcomes of the Council
- Provide the City with information to assess resourcing requirements to achieve its strategic objectives and to assist the City to ensure long-term financial sustainability
- Address the operating and capital needs placed on the City over the next 10 years
- Enhance the transparency and accountability to both residents and rate payers

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires Councils to develop, adopt and maintain a financial plan covering a span of at least 10 financial years.

The plan must include:

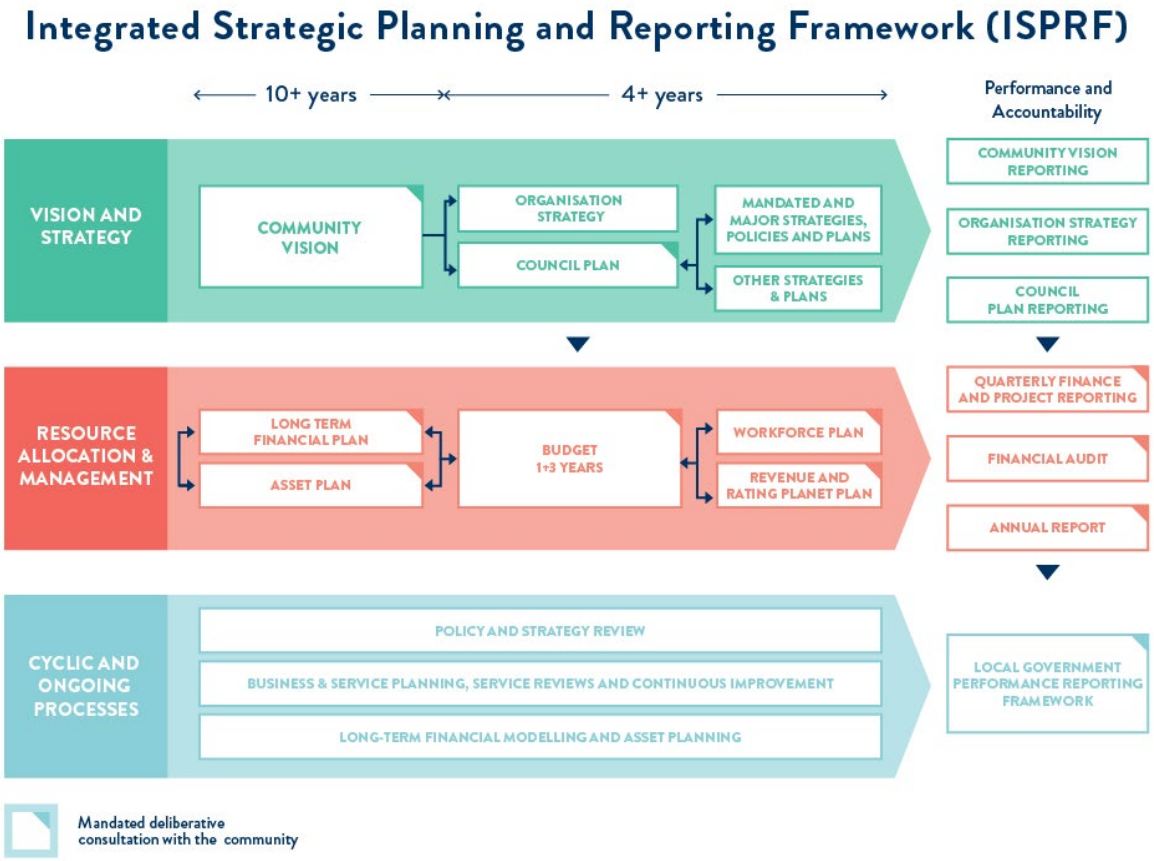
- Statements describing the financial resources required to give effect to the Council Plan other strategic plans of the Council
- Information about the decisions and assumptions that underpin the forecasts in the statements
- Statements describing any other resource requirements that the Council considers appropriate to include
- Any other matters prescribed by the regulations

It must also be developed in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices and adopted by 31 October in the year following a general election.

INTEGRATED PLANNING

This section describes how the plan links to the achievement of the 30-Year Community Vision, the Council Plan and other strategies within an overall integrated planning and reporting framework. This framework guides Council in identifying community needs and aspirations over the long-term (Community Vision and Financial Plan), medium term (Our Community Plan, Workforce Plan, and Revenue and Rating Plan) and short term (Budget) and then holding itself accountable (Annual Report). The timing of each component of the framework is critical to the successful achievement of the planned outcomes.

The diagram below depicts the integrated planning and reporting framework that 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 is important to ensure transparency and accountability to both residents and ratepayers.



SERVICE LEVEL PLANNING

The City delivers a wide range of services, infrastructure and facilities to the community. Although councils have a legal obligation to provide some services such as animal management, local roads, food safety and statutory planning, most council services are not legally mandated, including some services closely associated with councils such as libraries, building permits and sporting facilities.

Over time, the needs and expectations of communities' change. Therefore, councils should have robust processes for service planning and review to ensure all services continue to provide value for money and are in line with community expectations.

The plan assumes current services and agreed services levels are maintained throughout the life of the plan. Future plans will be reviewed and amended for any proposed changes in services, service levels or service delivery models.

INFLUENCES OF THE LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

Long-term Financial Plan Influences	
Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future A 30-year document which outlines the communities' vision *"By 2047, Greater Geelong will be internationally recognised as a clever and creative city-region that is forward looking, enterprising and adaptive, and cares for its people and environment."*	Features nine community aspirations: • A prosperous economy that supports jobs and education opportunities • A leader in developing and adopting technology • Creativity drives culture • A fast, reliable and connected transport network • A destination that attracts local and international visitors • People feel safe wherever they are • An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community • Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment • Development and implementation of sustainable solutions
Our Council Plan A 4-year plan, which outlines how the City will work towards making Greater Geelong a clever and creative city. It guides the resources to deliver infrastructure, services and programs to ensure the social, economic and environmental sustainability of the region.	There are six strategic directions for us to focus on over the next four years. They are: • Plan, deliver, manage and optimise core and critical infrastructure across our growing region • Identify, promote, advocate for, and deliver equitable health and wellbeing outcomes for our diverse communities • Lead efforts to strengthen our diverse economic precincts and workforce to enhance prosperity across our community • Champion our unique heritage and culture • Protect and enhance our unique natural environment and surrounds • Commit to the highest levels of leadership, integrity, financial stewardship, and meaningful community engagement
Engagement with stakeholders and community	
Our local policies and strategies	• Asset Management Plan • Workforce Management Plan

How We Engaged

Community engagement is a vital step in the planning process, it has helped shape several strategic plans and key projects for the City. This feedback has influenced the development of the Long-term Financial Plan adopted in October 2025 and has been considered in the annual update to the Plan alongside our 2026-27 budget engagement activities.

We have engaged the community in several ways:

- **Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future:** The community-led 30-year vision, developed in 2016 following a considerable deliberative engagement process which captured the voices of over 16,000 community members. The community told us what they valued about the region, how it rated against recognised elements of a successful community, and shared ideas about how to address challenges now and into the future.

  The 30-year vision is the leading strategy that drives long-term investment and decision making as the City continues to the path towards a clever and creative future.

- ***Our Council Plan 2025-29*** **and Long-term Financial Plan:** To develop the Council Plan community deliberative workshops held during 2024 along with Stakeholder focus groups and open submissions to selected partner organisations, community groups and advisory committees.
  - The Draft Council Plan 2025–29 was endorsed for public consultation and released with the 4-year budget for community feedback in May 2025
  - The final Council Plan and refreshed vision adopted by Council in July 2025

  Our Council Plan and the actions supporting this plan, have underpinned the development of the first four years of the Long-term Financial Plan.

- **Revenue and Rating Plan**:

  The 2025-26 to 2028-29 Revenue and Rating Plan was adopted by Council in June 2025.

  The City completed its consultation process for the four-year Revenue and Rating Plan. This process which included online engagement and face to face meetings with the community groups ran from 5 February to 23 February 2025.

  The community was asked seven questions to assess their preference for continuing the current rating strategy or propose alternative strategies.

  Seventy-two responses were received from the community during the engagement.

  A comprehensive review of all responses has been undertaken, resulting in the identification of key themes included:

  - Cost saving policies
  - Back to basics
  - Car parking
  - Strategies to increase investment in the City
  - Advocacy to increase State/federal funding
  - Increased consultation with the community

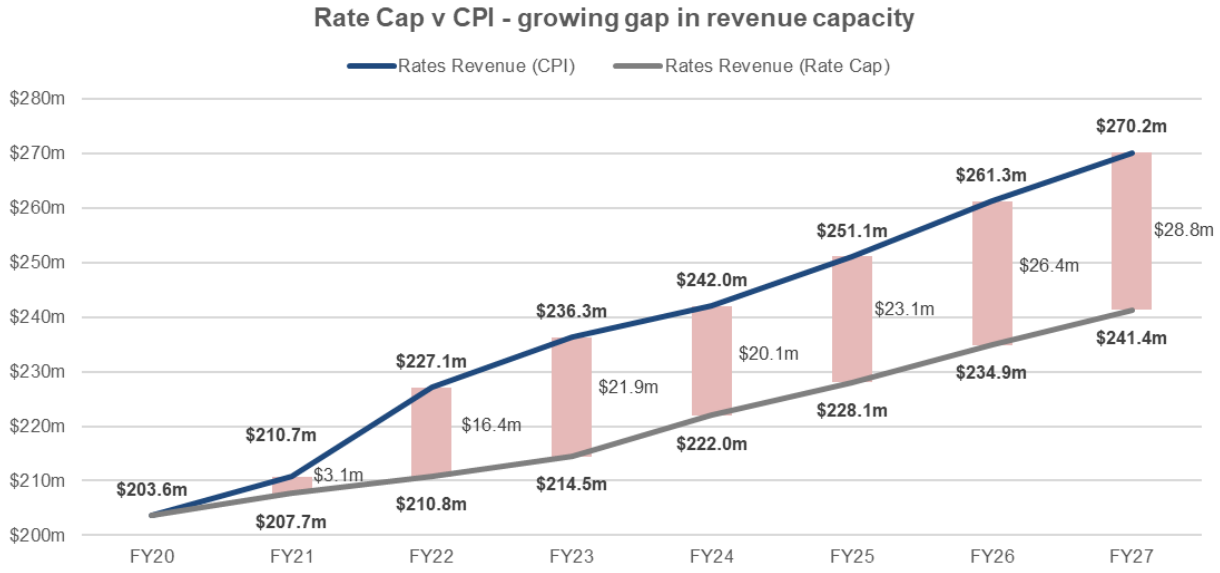
Context – Local Government Sector

SECTOR OVERVIEW & FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

The Local Government Sector is experiencing financial difficulty primarily caused by:

1. A relatively low-rate cap - since COVID, we have experienced a period of high inflation. This has caused a significant increase in the cost of delivering our services, operating our business and delivering our projects. The rate cap has been relatively low compared to inflation (CPI). The result is that our costs have increased at a much faster pace than our revenue.

   The graph below depicts the impact of the relatively low-rate cap on the City. If the rate cap were set at the same level as CPI from 2019-20 to 2026-27, the City would have $28.8 million of further rates revenue available in 2026-27. With the rate cap being set a lower level than inflation, the City has had to absorb the impact of rising costs without a corresponding revenue increase.



2. Cost shifting – this is the practice whereby other levels of government delegate responsibilities, add regulations, set fees, or reduces financial support for Victorian councils. The original 50/50 funding split for a number of services has been slowly eroding, with Local Government having to absorb the impact.

   Council has absorbed the financial impact of cost shifting at the same time that our underlying costs have been increasing at a much higher rate than our revenue.

The consequences of these challenges for council's are:

- Difficulty in sustaining operating surpluses
- Deteriorating liquidity and cash
- Increased levels of debt
- Decreased levels of investment into asset renewals

These challenges, as well as others, were outlined in a report tabled to the Victorian Parliament on 28 November 2024. The parliamentary inquiry into Local Government funding and services analysed cost shifting, the ability of local governments to meet core service delivered, revenue structures and alternative funding models. A full copy of the report is available at: Inquiry into Local Government funding and services - Parliament of Victoria

Defining Financial Sustainability

STRATEGIC FINANCIAL OUTCOMES

Financial sustainability is Council's ability to manage its financial resources in a responsible and efficient manner over the long term. This ensures Council will have the financial resources required to deliver on the Community Vision and Council Plan.

MEASUREMENT OF FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILTIY

To assess the financial health of the City, several measures are used for planning, monitoring and reporting. These measures are based on the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework which provides a consistent and transparent reporting framework for the sector.

These measures are designed to assess the financial health of the organisation over five key pillars of financial health:

1. Operating Position: the financial ability of the City to operate the business and provide our services on an on-going basis.
2. Asset Management: ensuring the community enjoyment of assets can continue.
3. Liquidity: the financial ability of the City to its meet financial liabilities.
4. Debt: the financial ability of the City to meet its debt obligations.
5. Cash Allocation: measuring the overall cash allocation with the Income Statement Converted to Cash

Under each pillar of financial health, a number of measures are used. Each measure is categorised as:

1. Primary – these measures are the strongest metrics of overall financial health that will be committed to as a primary measure of financial sustainability in budgets and long-term financial plans.
2. Secondary – these are supporting measures that are indicative of financial health that will be used to assist with the measurement of financial sustainability.

Measure	Category of Measure	Financial Health Indication	Calculation
Operating Position			
Underlying Operating Margin	Primary	The financial ability and contingency available to operate the business and provide services on an on-going basis (LGPRF OP1)	Underlying Operating Result *Divided by* Underlying Operating Revenue
Operating Costs per Assessable Property	Secondary	The relative amount of operational expenses as compared to assessable properties (LGPRF E2)	Underlying Operating Expenditure *Divided by* Total Assessable Properties
Rates Concentration	Secondary	The level of reliance on rates and the ability to generate other revenue to fund business operations and services. (LGPRF S1)	Total Rates Revenue *Divided by* Underlying Operating Revenue
Asset Management			
Asset Renewal & Upgrade Ratio	Primary	The financial capacity to fund asset renewal as required (LGPRF O5)	Asset Renewal and Upgrades *Divided by* Asset Depreciation
Asset Renewal Ratio	Secondary	The financial capacity to fund asset renewal as required (modified version of LGPRF O5)	Asset renewals *Divided by* Asset Depreciation
Liquidity			
Working Capital Ratio	Primary	The financial ability to be able to meet and pay obligations (LGPRF L1)	Current Assets *Divided by* Current Liabilities
Unrestricted Working Capital Ratio	Primary	The financial ability to be able to meet and pay short-term obligations (LGRPF L2)	Unrestricted Cash *Divided by* Current Liabilities
Debt			
Indebtedness v Rates Ratio	Primary	The relative amount of debt outstanding as compared to revenue generate by rates (LGPRF O2)	Total Interest-Bearing Liability *Divided by* Total Rates Revenue
Loan Repayment Effort	Secondary	The relative amount of cash being consumed to meet debt obligations. (LGPRF O3)	Total Interest + Principal Repayments *Divided by* Total Rates Revenue
Indebtedness Ratio	Secondary	The relative amount of debt outstanding as compared to the amount of assets held (LGPRF O4)	Non-current Liabilities Divided by Own Source Revenue
Cash Allocation			
Cash Surpluses	Primary	Ensures that the cash position is not deteriorating by comparing the total cash received against the total cash allocated.	Income Statement Converted to Cash – Cash Result

Key Risks

The plan relies upon several key assumptions, based on the latest available data and professional judgement. Over time, these assumptions will change based on the evolving internal and external environment. The plan will be actively monitored with regular revision to ensure the latest assumptions are incorporated within and to ensure it remains robust in the face of these challenges.

The inherent challenges and risks faced in developing the long-term financial plan are summarised below.

Growth

- New infrastructure required to support a growing community
- Funding shortfalls of Developer Contribution Plans
- Maintaining an expanding asset base of new infrastructure
- Maintaining the ageing existing asset base
- Providing services to a growing community

Economic Changes

- Interest rate fluctuation
- Inflation and movements in the Consumer Price Index (CPI)
- Economic growth – residential and new business development

Political Changes

- Cost shifting from the State and Federal Governments
- Setting of the rate cap and changes to rating capping regulations
- Changes to levies and their conditions (i.e. Environment Protection Authority levy)

Climate Changes

- Impacts of climate change including impacts which affect asset condition and functionality in the long term.
- Natural disasters

Internal Risks

- Service reviews and changes in agreed service levels
- Infrastructure asset management and asset renewal
- Changes in fees and charges and other revenue sources
- Delivery of key projects and efficiency programs
- Workforce management

Community

- Community needs and expectations
- Demographic changes
- Our Community Plan updates
- Other key strategies

The Long-Term Financial Plan

KEY STRATEGIC FINANCIAL OUTCOMES

The City's long-term financial plan outlines how services and infrastructure will be delivered to the community over a 10-year period.

The 2026-27 to 2029-30 Budget provides the first four years as the foundation of the plan. With the remaining six financial years being based on key principles, assumptions and inputs from other strategic plans and community priorities.

This plan includes the key assumptions for the major revenue end expense categories that have been based on available data sources and professional judgement.

Key strategic financial outcomes of the plan include:

- **Underlying operating surpluses and cash surpluses**: Over the next 10-year period, the achievement of cash surpluses and underlying operating surpluses is a key principle of the plan. This will require the realisation of ongoing financial benefits using the key strategic financial levers.
- **Effective liquidity management:** Ensuring adequate liquidity is held at all times over the plan to ensure the City is always in a position to meet its financial obligations including payments to employees and suppliers.
- **Effective management and reduction of debt:** A key principle of the plan is to effectively manage debt, targeting a reduction of the City's indebtedness.
- **A focus on renewing the City's assets:** Focused investment in existing assets to maintain asset condition and performance for the community.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Our Council acknowledges it must plan for the current and future needs of the community in a socially, culturally, environmentally and financially sustainable manner. The City has a responsibility to guarantee it has enough resources now and into the future to deliver the services and programs expected by the community. There is also a need to maintain community assets to a certain level so that the cost does not become a burden for future ratepayers and for the City to remain financially viable.

At the same time, it is critical that the City continues to provide vital infrastructure and services to the community.

This presents a difficult challenge balancing financial influences with community needs and expectations. Given the current financial environment, this is particularly challenging given the upward pressure on costs for service and asset provision, ongoing property development and population driving service demand, with revenue not keeping pace.

The financial discipline principles assist with decision making and striking the balance between financial sustainability and the community needs. The financial discipline principles are a set of key principles that will be used to guide financial decisions making in budgets, as well as responding to emerging risks and opportunities.

FINANCIAL DISCIPLINE PRINCIPLES

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT	Financial decisions should create progress towards Council Strategies and be consistent with key Council priorities. Financial decisions need to be aligned with key policies and strategic plans of the City, including the outcomes as set out in this Long-Term Financial Plan.
EQUITABLE INVESTMENT & REVENUE MECHANISMS	Overall revenue growth needs to be consistent with growth in costs. Funding sources and distribution should align with benefit and enjoyment, while also considering capacity to pay. Funding mechanisms are transparent, practical to implement and do not create burdensome administrative upkeep. Investment in the community services and infrastructure is equitably and fairly distributed.
SUSTAINABLE OPERATING POSITION	Expenditure on service delivery needs to be managed within the constraints of available revenue. The net cashflow generated from operational activities should be allocated to repaying debt and renewing the existing asset base.
PRESERVATION OF EXISTING ASSET BASE	Investment into renewing existing asset base consistent with Asset Management Policy needs to take priority in the capital program. Assets will be managed efficiently relevant to community need, focusing on optimum utilisation and life-long cost management. Strategic decisions to be made on disposal of surplus assets to free up capacity to upkeep of priority assets.
RESPONSIBLE WORKING CAPITAL MANAGEMENT	Working capital will be maintained at sufficient levels to ensure liquidity, considering restricted cash obligations. Restricted cash will be appropriately identified and reserved. Borrowings will be managed to ensure indebtedness and repayments are manageable. Borrowings should only occur for projects where there are inter-generational benefit and strong alignment to strategic outcomes.
EFFICIENT & EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY	Focus on delivering maximum value to the community with available funding. Appropriate investments to be made to create long-term financial capacity. Focus on productivity and efficient service delivery through on-going efficiency dividend and scheduled Service Reviews.

STRATEGIC FINANCIAL LEVERS

The City has the ability to increase its financial capacity by using strategic financial levers. Effective use these levers will allow for the City to respond to community needs through further investment into services or infrastructure while not impacting financial sustainability.

LEVER 1 – OPTIMISE CURRENT AND EXPLORE NEW REVENUE OPPORTUNITIES

One of the key indicators of assessing Council's financial sustainability is the ability to generate sufficient cash flows and the level of unrestricted cash held.

Council must maintain an adequate level of cash in order to meet the requirements of Council operations and to ensure timely payment of all liabilities.

Given the existing limitations of the Rate Cap, Council is restricted in its ability to enhance the revenue generated from Rates. As such, consideration must be given to how other revenue streams can be enhanced in conjunction with exploring opportunities for Council to generate new revenue streams.

Opportunities exists to increase revenue through fees, charges and other contributions.

Some of the options may include:

- Benchmarking of existing user fees
- Generating revenue from the City's existing asset base (for example, generating lease revenue on properties)
- Implementation of new revenue streams

LEVER 2 – INITIATE STRATEGIC EFFICIENCIES

Initiating strategic efficiencies allows Council to improve service delivery and reduce unnecessary cost in order to achieve long-term sustainability.

Some of the options may include increasing operational efficiencies through technology, process, procurement, project planning and delivery improvements.

LEVER 3 – REVIEW & RATIONALISE PROPERTY & ASSETS

The City currently manages more than $6 billion of assets and infrastructure.

The existing asset base requires regular review by Council to ensure that public value is being maximised.

We intend to adopt several innovative approaches to measure the utilisation of our assets. This includes providing people counters for building and public spaces, graphic counters at some of our critical infrastructure assets, to enable us to measure the value these assets provide to the community. Where an asset is underutilised, then we will work with service managers to rationalise assets to gain better value for the community.

LEVER 4 – STRATEGIC SERVICE REVIEWS

Local governments deliver an array of services to the community with limited budgets. Councils often find themselves in the difficult position of being required to deliver essential and community valued services when other market providers, including other levels of Government, have chosen to either reduce their offerings or exit from these services.

Given the implications of cost shifting and the ever-evolving demands and expectations of our residents, Council alongside the Community must continue to review and make informed decisions about the role that Local Government continues to play in delivering these services to the Community.

In considering the role that Council continues to play in the delivery of its services, some of the following options may include:

- Advocating for additional funding from Federal and State Government to assist with offsetting the increasing cost to Council for services that are being delivered on behalf of other tiers of government.
- Identifying new efficiencies in the delivery of current services
- Undertaking a review of Council services for which there is an opportunity to cost effectively outsource part or all of this service to other market providers.
- Undertaking a review of services that Council should consider exiting

LEVER 5 – STRATEGIC & SUSTAINABLE DESIGN OF CAPITAL PROGRAM

There is a need to maintain community assets to a certain level so that the cost does not become a burden for future ratepayers and for the City to remain financially viable.

If asset renewal needs are not met this results in higher maintenance costs, lower asset service standards and the potential for asset failure.

Priority should be given to investing in the renewal and upgrade of City of Greater Geelong’s existing assets over the delivery of new assets.

The use of borrowings for new and existing assets must ensure intergenerational equity by aligning asset consumption with the future generations benefiting from those assets. Debt should only be considered as a funding source for infrastructure where that infrastructure provides a highly material, broad and intergenerational benefit to the community.

Some of the options for designing a strategic and sustainable capital program may include:

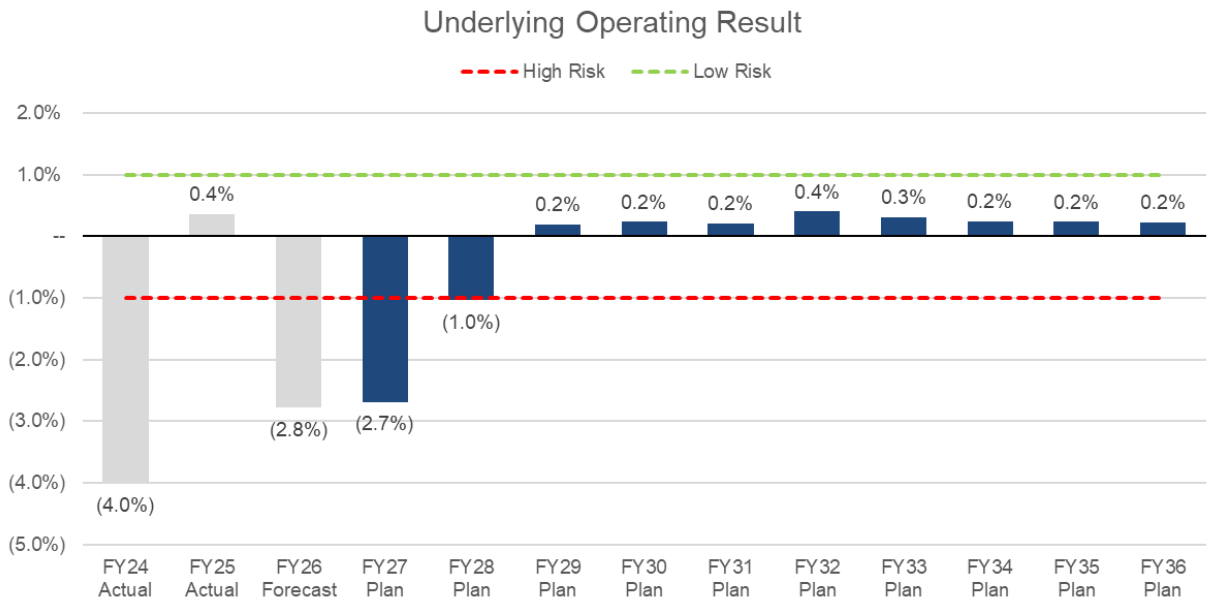
- Reviewing and reprioritising the capital program
- Longer-term capital works planning
- Advocating for grant funding for priority infrastructure

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENTS

To ensure the City is financially sustainable and is in the financial position to deliver on the Community Vision and Council Plan, a commitment is made to achieve the following financial sustainability measures:

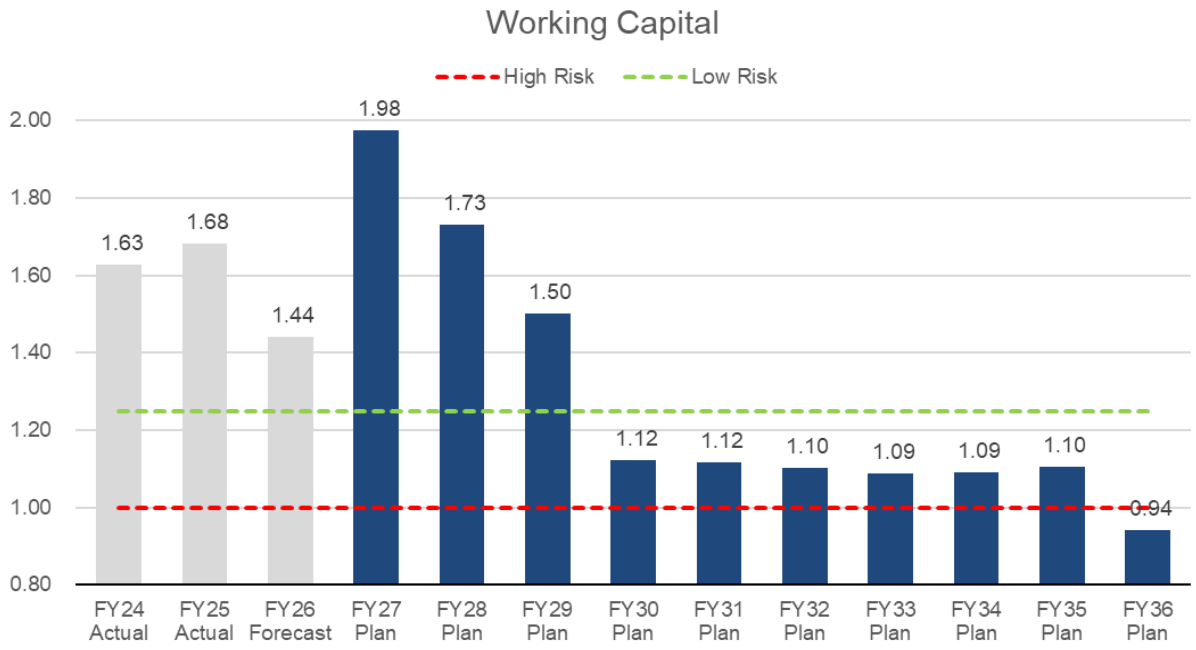
a. Underlying Operating Ratio

Purpose	Demonstrates the City's ability to fund services and operations over the long-term.		
Formula	Underlying Operating Result / Underlying Operating Revenue.		
Low Risk	> 1.0%	Underlying operating surplus maintained for all periods in the long-term plan.	
Medium Risk	(1.0%) to 1.0%	Average underlying operating result over the plan around a breakeven position, being from (1.0%) to 1.0%, with some periods of operating deficit.	
High Risk	> (1.0%)	Sustained periods of underlying operating deficits greater than (1.0%).	
Risk Appetite	**4 year Target**	**10 year Target**	**Strategic Justification**
Low Risk Range	1.0%	1.0%	An operating surplus demonstrates the ability to fund services, business operations and asset renewal. The 1.0% margin provides contingency for risks and capacity for opportunities.



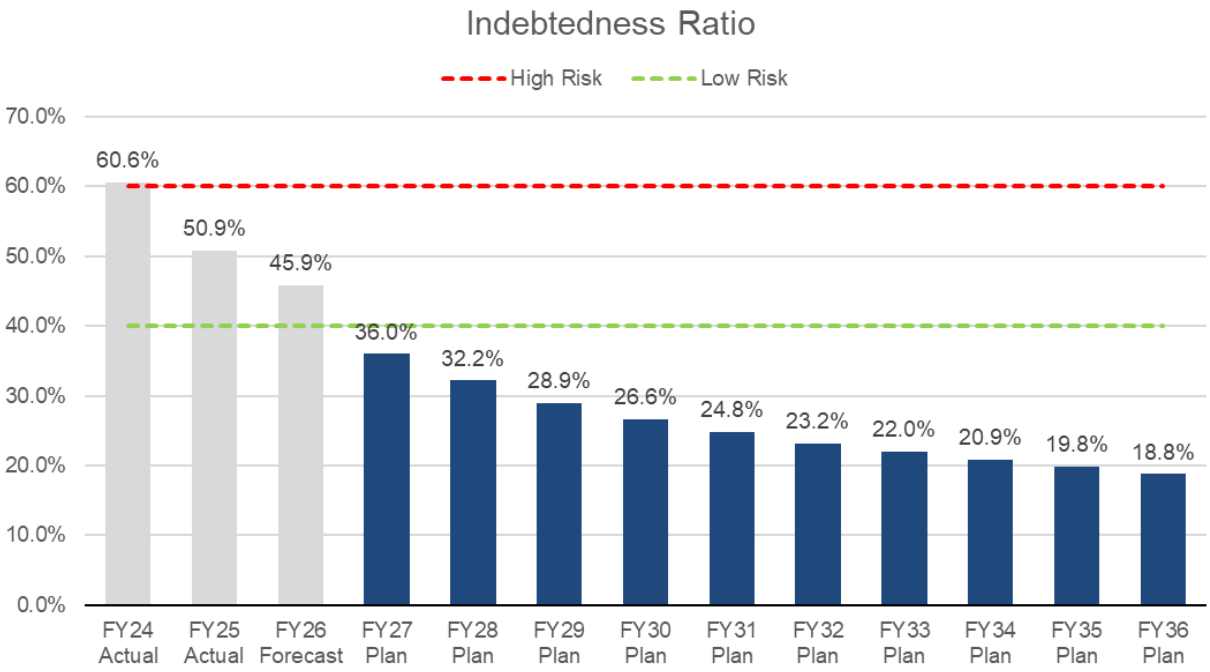
b. Working Capital Ratio

Purpose	Measures the City's ability to meet financial obligations and liabilities.		
Formula	Current Assets / Current Liabilities.		
Low Risk	> 1.25	Average liquidity is maintained above 1.25 over the life of the plan.	
Medium Risk	<1.0 to 1.25	Average liquidity is maintained between 1.00 and 1.25 over the life of the plan.	
High Risk	<1.00	Average liquidity is maintained less than 1.00 over the life of the plan.	
Risk Appetite	**4 year Target**	**10 year Target**	**Strategic Justification**
Medium Risk Range	1.10	> 1.10	A ratio of >1.0 ensures that Council will be able to meet its current financial obligations and liabilities. A target of >1.1 provides contingency for risks and capacity for opportunities.



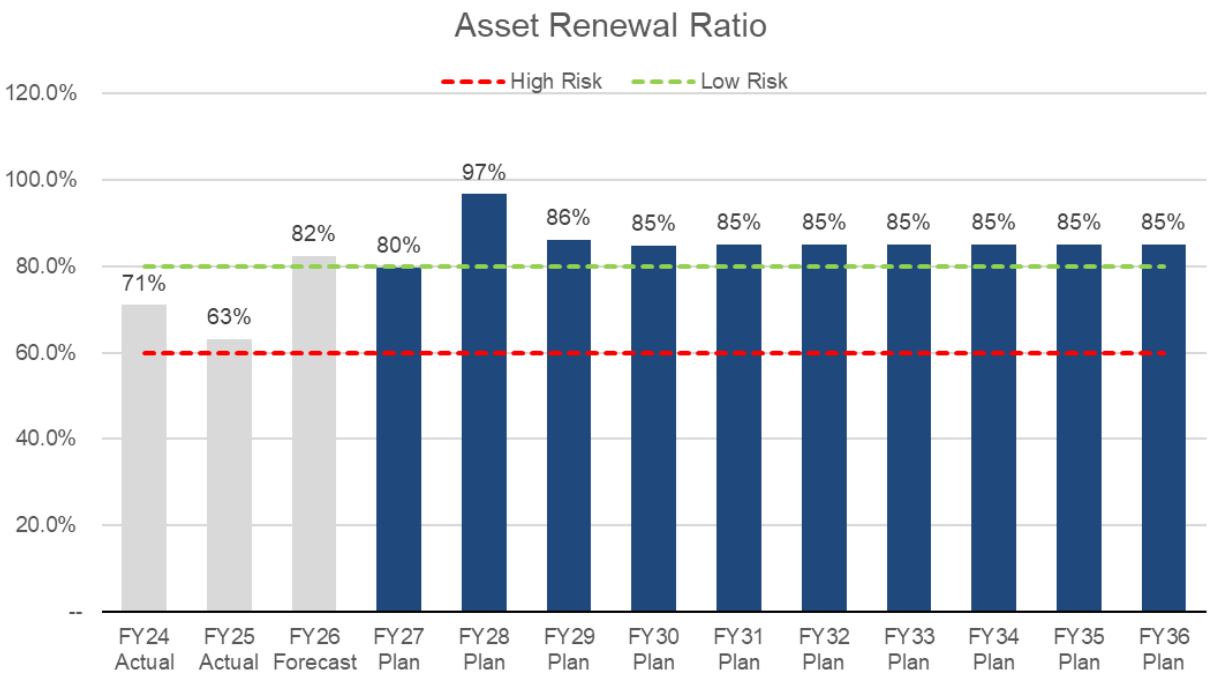
c. Indebtedness Ratio

Purpose	Determines the City's ability to service debt from its primary revenue source (rates)		
Formula	Loans and Borrowings / Rates Revenue		
Low Risk	< 40%	Average ratio is below 40% over the life of the plan.	
Medium Risk	> 40% and < 60%	Average ratio is between 40% and 60% over the life of the plan.	
High Risk	> 60%	Average ratio is greater than 60% over the life of the plan. Limited capacity for the City to increase borrowings, debt may become a burden.	
Risk Appetite	**4 year Target**	**10 year Target**	**Strategic Justification**
Low Risk	< 40%	< 40%	Indebtedness below 40% represents a low risk of being unable to meet debt commitments. This also provides Council with future borrowing capacity to allow for strategic use of debt for responding to future community needs.



d. Asset Renewal & Upgrade Ratio

Purpose	Calculates the annual expenditure on renewing the City's assets against depreciation to measure whether Council is reinvesting appropriately in existing infrastructure assets.		
Formula	Capital Expenditure on Renewal and Upgrade of Assets / Depreciation Expense.		
Low Risk	> 80%	Average renewal rates are greater than 80% of depreciation over the life of the plan.	
Medium Risk	> 60% and <80%	Average renewal rates are between 60% and 80% of depreciation over the life of the plan.	
High Risk	< 50%	Average renewal rates lower than 60% of depreciation over the life of the plan.	
Risk Appetite	**4yr Target**	**10yr Target**	**Strategic Justification**
Low Risk	85%	85%	A high renewal rate ensures that Council is able to fund to renewal, restoration and replacement of existing assets. This ensures asset are in good functioning condition for community use and enjoyment.



KEY ASSUMPTIONS

Financial and social indicators are inherent to predicting future values; these include Consumer Price Index, interest rates, employment levels, and population growth. The plan assesses financial trends over the ten-year period on a range of assumptions and provides the City with information to assess resourcing requirements to achieve its strategic objectives and to assist the City to ensure long-term financial sustainability.

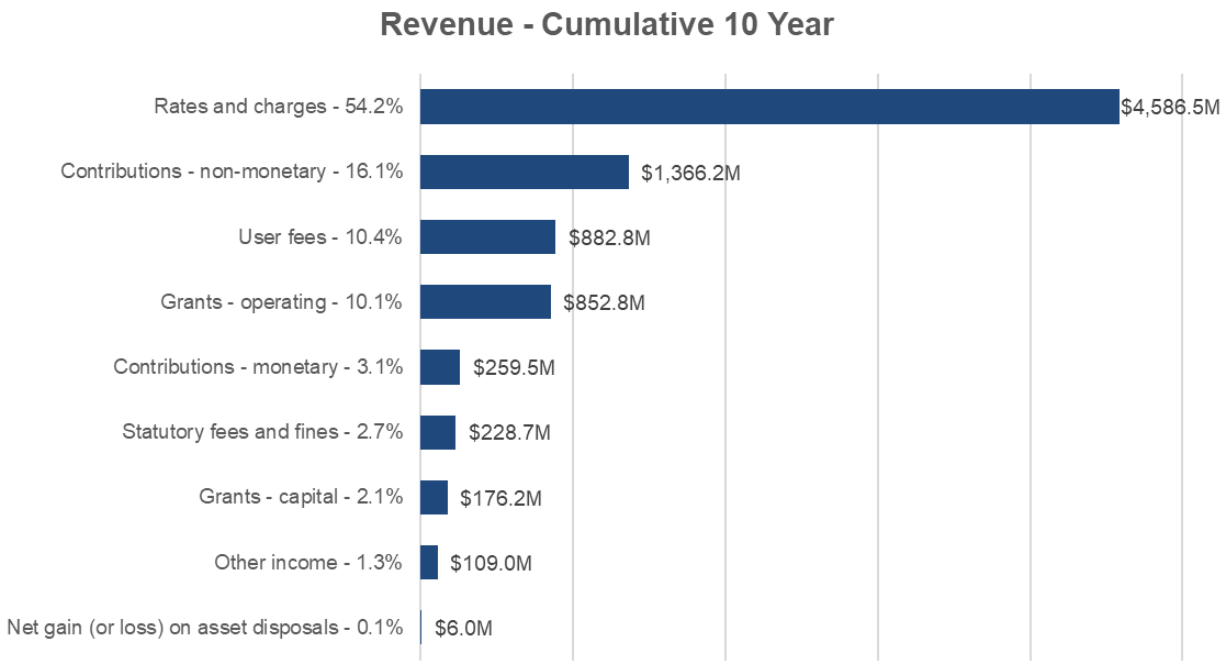
It is important that the plan considers the most recent economic data and forecasts available. A review will be conducted each year to ensure that the underlying assumptions and parameters are reasonable given changes in the economic, internal and external environments.

The key assumptions in the long-term financial plan are listed below.

	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36
Core Assumptions										
CPI / Inflation	3.40%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%
Property & Service Volume Growth	2.00%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%
Key Revenue Assumptions										
General Rates / Rate Cap	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%
Waste Charge	6.80%	5.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%
Statutory Fees & Fines	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%
Users Charges	3.40%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%
Grants - Operating	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%
Grants - Capital	Per confirmed funding		10% of Capital Program							
Contribution - Monetary	Per projections on Developer Contributions									
Contribution - Non-Monetary	2.00%	4.00%	4.00%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
Key Expenditure Assumptions										
Salaries & Wages EBA + increments	3.80%	3.80%	3.30%	3.30%	3.30%	3.30%	3.30%	3.30%	3.30%	3.30%
Salaries & Wages Efficiency Factor		(1.50%)	(1.50%)	(1.00%)	(0.50%)	-	-	-	-	-
Materials & Services / Other Expenses Growth	2.00%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%
Materials and Services/Other Expenses Efficiency Factor		(3.00%)	(3.00%)	(2.00%)	(0.50%)	-	-	-	-	-

REVENUE

The City relies on revenue to fund the delivery of its services and infrastructure. The following table highlights the key revenues sources for the City over the life of the plan.



a. Rates & Charges

Rates and charges on average comprise 54.2% of total revenue over the life of the plan, being the most critical income source. Rates and charges income are budgeted at $358.3 million in 2026-27 and is expected to rise by $216.8 million to reach $575.1 million by 2035-36.

The Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-26 outlines the short and medium-term rating strategy that forms the basis of the plan. The intention of the strategy is to:

- Maintain where possible, the commercial/industrial rate in the dollar relative to the residential rate at 1.8 times, noting the annual rate cap and valuation changes of other differentials may impact relativity in the future, and
- Increase the farm rate in the dollar to 75% of the residential rate over the long-term.

All rating categories including vacant land, mixed use and other land use types will continue to be reviewed on an annual basis and will consider property valuations and community input.

Assumptions

The 2026-27 Budget includes a rate increase of 2.75% in 2026-27, being in line with the state government rate cap. The rate cap is assumed to be 2.75% thereafter. Rates increases are assumed to be at the level of the rate cap.

The City is in a period of significant growth and will see approximately 35,706 new rateable properties over the life of the plan. Growth has been assumed using available population forecast data and is expected to be 2.0% for 2026-27 and 2.5% for the remainder of the plan.

Waste Charge

The waste collection service charge is a cost recovery model whereby all costs for delivering the service, including funding the required infrastructure, are recovered through the charge. This includes direct, indirect and overhead costs. A reserve is used to manage the funding of the waste collection service.

Significant investments are expected to be made over the ten years of the plan in order to deliver state government's waste plans. Investments include:

- Rollout of the food organics and garden organics service delivery, requiring facility upgrade works to allow for organics processing
- Contingency for the purchase of kerbside glass bins for kerbside collection of glass bins by 2027 in line with the State Government's reforms to kerbside collection
- Planning and construction of a regional resource hub
- Investment in the development of a new resource recovery centre due to growth in the region
- State government Environment Protection Authority levy increases

Assumptions

The waste charge has been increased by 6.80% in 2026-27 and is expected to increase by 5.00% in 2027-28 and then 4.00% for the remainder of the plan. This increase is required to absorb the increase in the EPA levy and to deliver the kerbside reform mandated by the state government.

Beyond 2027-28, it is planned the waste charge be set at a level consistent with the expected increases in the cost of operating waste services.

Growth in tenements (kerbside bins) is expected to generally increase consistent with the growth in assessable properties.

b. Contributions

Contributions represent funds received by Council, usually in the form of developer contributions, which are linked the to the delivery of infrastructure. Contributions can be made to the City in the form of either cash payments (monetary) or asset handovers (non-monetary).

The plan includes the following contributions based on current projections:

- Monetary contributions from developers under planning and development agreements
- Monetary contributions under developer contribution plans and infrastructure contribution plans
- Facility upgrade contributions from user groups
- Assets handed over to the City from developers at the completion of a subdivision, such as roads, drainage, and streetlights.
- Monetary contributions are based on the contract payments as outlined in developer contribution plans.

c. User Fees

The City provides a wide range of services to our community. In undertaking this role, the City, through its planning and engagement processes, will assesses community needs and outline which services the City will fund. Contributions can be made by the users of the services to help fund service delivery; all fees and charges are reviewed annually and are guided by the City's fees and charges policy.

Assumptions

User Fees are generally assumed to increase in line with the CPI annually. Growth in the volume of User Fees is also expected at a rate generally consistent with assessable property growth.

d. Government Grants

Grant revenue represents income usually received from other levels of government. The City actively advocates external grant funds for programs and prioritised works.

A large proportion of operating grants income is made up of the Financial Assistance Grant provided by the Commonwealth Government under the Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995 (Commonwealth) and distributed annually to 79 local governing bodies within Victoria.

Capital grants have a material impact on the City's financial capacity to deliver infrastructure. The City will continue to advocate for grants to complete large projects over the life of the Plan.

Assumptions

Operating grants are assumed to increase a rate slightly beyond inflation. It is common practice that the formulas used for grant funding allocation consider increase in volumes and growth. Due to our expected growth, it is assumed that operating grants to be received will increase in line with inflation.

The value of capital grants will vary over the life of the plan depending on the value and nature of the capital projects being undertake and commitments made by the State and Federal Government. Based on recent trends, capital grants are expected to represent around 10% of the funding for the City's capital program.

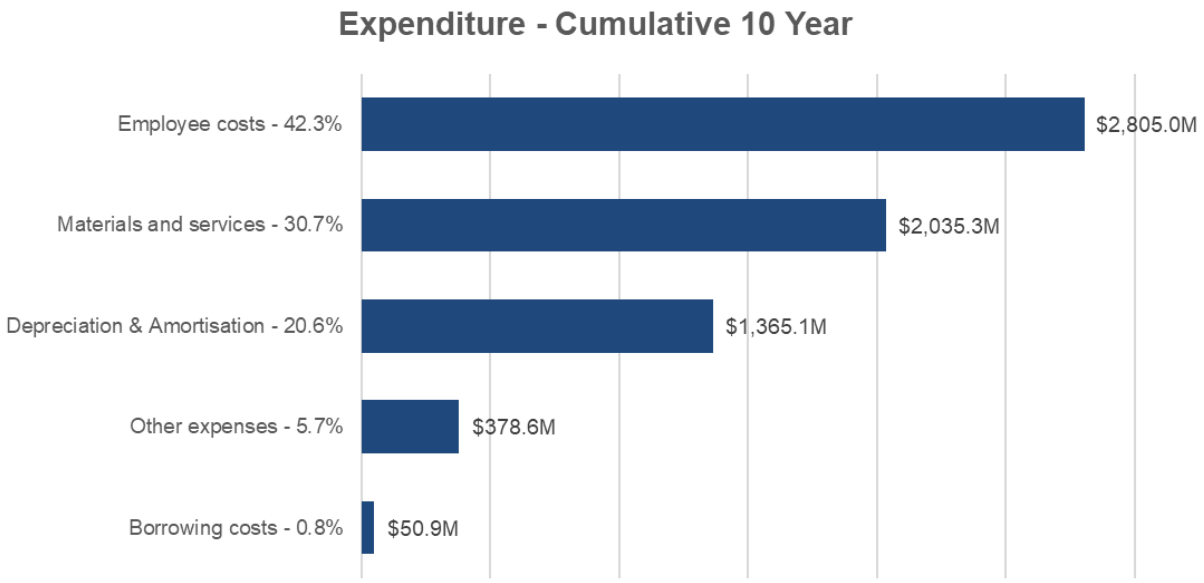
e. Statutory Fees & Charges

Statutory fees and fines are those which the City collects under the direction of legislation or other government directives. The rates used for statutory fees and fines are generally advised by the state government department responsible for the corresponding services or legislation, and generally councils will have limited discretion in applying these fees.

Assumptions

Statutory Fees are assumed to increase in line with the CPI annually generally, however, will be updated in line with any government announcements. Prior year data and trends suggests the these are announced at a rate slightly lower than CPI.

EXPENDITURE



a. Employee Costs

Employees are an integral part of the success of the City through the delivery of programs and services to our community. Total employee costs on average account for 42.3% of all expenditure. Employee costs are forecast at $221.9 million for the 2026-27 financial year and will rise to $353.3 million over the 10 years of the plan, to meet the growing needs of the municipality.

Assumptions

Consistent with the current EBA, increases to salaries are expected to be 3.00% until 2028-29. Beyond this, EA increases are assumed to be 2.5% consistent with the assumed CPI. An additional 0.8% increase is assumed for annual banding increments.

The growth in population and rateable properties will result in an increase in demand for services. Growth in staff numbers is therefore expected to increase at a level generally consistent with assessable property growth.

To support the achievement of an ongoing underlying operating surplus, an efficiency factor has been applied to projected employee costs. This is expected to be realised through a combination of structural efficiencies and service review outcomes.

b. Materials & Services

The 2026-27 budget for materials and services is $170.2 million, growing to $250.5 million by 2035-36. The most significant expense category within materials and services are contracts, which account for almost half of total materials and services.

Where the private sector is better positioned to deliver services on its behalf, contractors are engaged. The City's most significant contracted services are for waste management, home care support, and asset maintenance.

Assumptions

Materials and services are assumed to increase consistent with inflation over the life of the plan.

The growth in population and rateable properties will result in an increase in demand for services. Growth in materials and services are therefore expected to increase at a level generally consistent with assessable property growth.

To support the achievement of an ongoing underlying operating surplus, an efficiency factor has been applied to projected materials and services costs. This is expected to be realised through a combination of structural efficiencies and service review outcomes.

c. Depreciation & Amortisation

The City has infrastructure assets including roads, footpaths, buildings, drains and open space that average $5 billion over the life of the Plan.

Assumptions

Depreciation is calculated based on the expected useful life of each asset (excluding land). Depreciation fluctuates based on the changes in the City's asset base. With a growing asset base, depreciation is expected to increase on average by around 4.2% per annum over the life of the plan.

CAPITAL PROGRAM OF WORKS

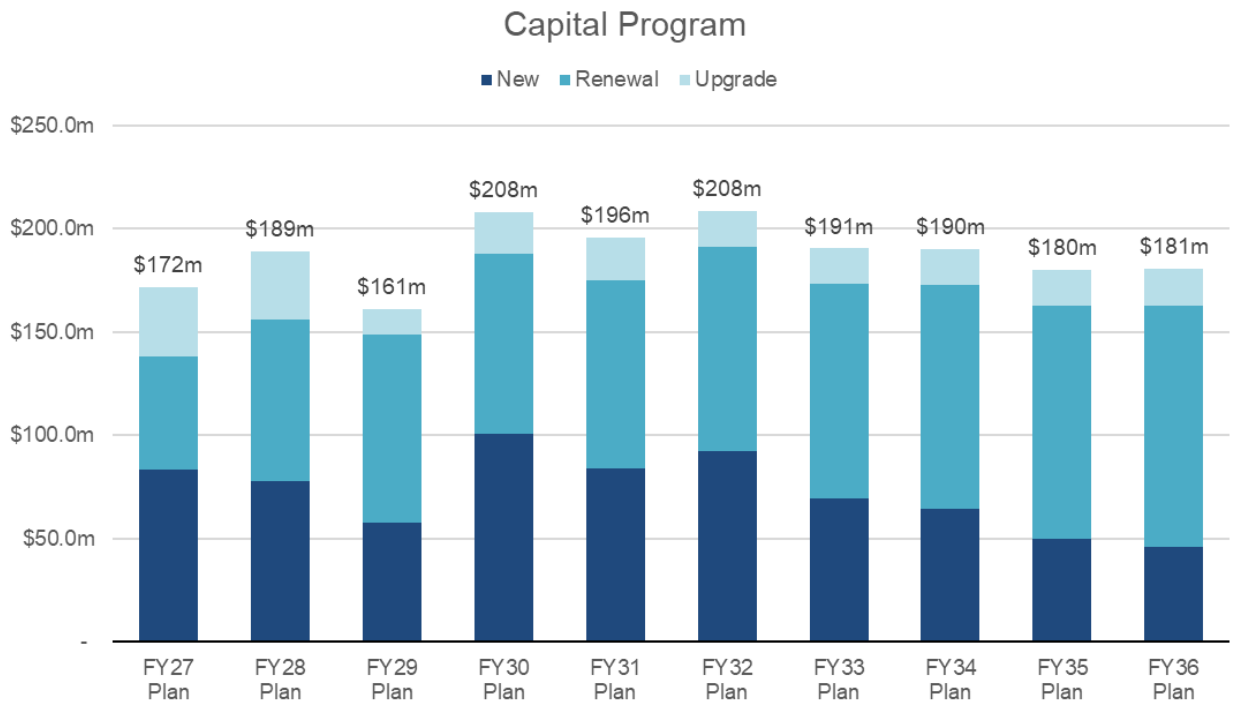
The capital works program aims to meet the infrastructure service requirements of the City and its forecasted population growth. High demand for new infrastructure needs to be balanced with the community's expectation on maintenance and renewal of existing assets.

The Asset Management Plan will guide the investment in renewal, replacement and upgrade and our assets. The Asset Management Plan also guides how we identify, plan and decommission building assets that are no longer safe or functional, where a viable alternative is available.

The capital works program for 2026-27 to 2029-30 is as per the 2026-27 Budget. Beyond this, the capital program has been projected based on the key principles that underpin the strategic financial outcomes included in the plan, including:

- Achieving an asset renewal and upgrade ratio of 85%
- Achieving cash surpluses over the life of the plan
- No further utilisation of debt
- Holding sufficient working capital

The planned strengthening of the working capital position and the reduction of debt provides the City with the financial capacity to respond to growth and future community needs in the capital program. This allows the City to utilise cash reserves, debt, or a combination of both to strategically fund intergenerational infrastructure of a high community value.



Appendix 1 – Financial Statements

Financial Plan Statements

This section presents information in regard to the financial plan statements for the ten years from 2026-27 to 2035-36.

Comprehensive Income Statement

Income Statement Converted to Cash

Balance Sheet

Statement of Cash Flows

Statement of Capital Works

Statement of Human Resources

Statement of Changes in Equity

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME STATEMENT

	Forecast Actual	Budget	Projections								
	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Income / Revenue											
Rates and charges	341,162	358,262	376,774	397,209	418,756	441,475	465,435	490,702	517,344	545,437	575,059
Statutory fees and fines	19,109	17,971	18,914	19,907	20,952	22,052	23,210	24,429	25,711	27,061	28,482
User fees	66,493	69,369	73,011	76,844	80,879	85,125	89,594	94,298	99,248	104,459	109,943
Grants - operating	62,259	75,248	77,317	79,443	81,628	83,873	86,179	88,549	90,984	93,486	96,057
Grants - capital	37,646	45,944	18,722	10,417	9,269	17,794	18,575	15,219	14,566	13,041	12,656
Contributions - monetary	28,308	46,544	30,881	24,469	40,778	26,278	27,988	25,764	23,534	10,742	2,500
Contributions - non-monetary	118,023	120,652	125,478	130,497	133,107	135,769	138,485	141,254	144,079	146,961	149,900
Net gain (or loss) on disposal of assets	5,917	3,342	270	275	281	287	292	298	304	310	316
Other income	12,274	9,323	11,491	12,703	10,757	8,574	9,032	10,587	11,385	12,210	12,937
Total income / revenue	**691,192**	**746,654**	**732,858**	**751,766**	**796,406**	**821,227**	**858,789**	**891,099**	**927,156**	**953,707**	**987,851**
Expenses											
Employee costs	212,307	221,892	232,180	243,024	254,457	267,689	282,955	299,098	316,169	334,221	353,312
Materials and services	150,578	170,230	173,894	177,814	185,348	194,120	204,271	214,954	226,196	238,027	250,478
Depreciation	111,009	110,439	115,195	119,986	126,297	131,388	136,765	142,191	147,699	153,083	158,640
Amortisation - intangible assets	2,113	2,389	2,389	2,389	2,389	2,350	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation - right of use assets	1,380	1,377	1,377	1,137	1,085	1,085	1,085	1,085	1,085	1,085	1,085
Borrowing costs	5,017	5,151	4,787	4,514	4,407	5,203	5,420	5,351	5,351	5,351	5,351
Finance costs - leases	191	108	383	530	432	386	337	286	233	177	118
Other expenses	28,542	31,369	32,074	32,796	34,190	35,814	37,694	39,673	41,756	43,948	46,256
Total expenses	**511,137**	**542,955**	**562,280**	**582,191**	**608,605**	**638,036**	**668,527**	**702,638**	**738,488**	**775,893**	**815,240**
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	**180,055**	**203,700**	**170,579**	**169,574**	**187,801**	**183,191**	**190,262**	**188,462**	**188,668**	**177,815**	**172,611**
Other comprehensive income											
Net asset revaluation gain /(loss)	211,755	220,225	229,034	238,196	242,959	247,819	252,775	257,831	262,987	268,247	273,612
Total other comprehensive income	**211,755**	**220,225**	**229,034**	**238,196**	**242,959**	**247,819**	**252,775**	**257,831**	**262,987**	**268,247**	**273,612**
Total comprehensive result	**391,810**	**423,925**	**399,613**	**407,770**	**430,760**	**431,010**	**443,037**	**446,293**	**451,655**	**446,062**	**446,223**

INCOME STATEMENT CONVERTED TO CASH

	Forecast Actual	Budget	Projections								
	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	**180,055**	**203,700**	**170,579**	**169,574**	**187,801**	**183,191**	**190,262**	**188,462**	**188,668**	**177,815**	**172,611**
Adjustment for Non-Cash Items											
Contributions - non-monetary	(118,023)	(120,652)	(125,478)	(130,497)	(133,107)	(135,769)	(138,485)	(141,254)	(144,079)	(146,961)	(149,900)
Depreciation & amortisation	114,503	114,205	118,961	123,512	129,771	134,823	137,850	143,276	148,784	154,168	159,725
Written-Down Value of Asset Disposals	16,303	7,985	400	395	389	383	378	372	366	360	354
Adjustment for Non-Cash Items											
Capital Expenditure	(147,222)	(171,550)	(189,023)	(161,202)	(208,142)	(195,648)	(208,482)	(190,508)	(190,219)	(180,277)	(180,799)
Adjustment for Financing Items											
New Borrowings	-	30,000	-	-	20,000	41,000	17,000	-	-	-	-
Loan Repayments	(7,423)	(57,555)	(7,690)	(6,345)	(23,427)	(42,808)	(18,700)	-	-	-	-
Lease Repayments	(1,274)	(1,430)	(1,250)	(1,294)	(941)	(987)	(1,035)	(1,086)	(1,139)	(1,195)	(1,254)
Adjustment for Reserve Movements											
Reserve Drawdown/(Replenishment)	(34,369)	(2,278)	35,144	7,699	29,273	17,542	23,322	7,653	5,874	307	3,634
Cash Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	**2,551**	**2,424**	**1,644**	**1,841**	**1,617**	**1,728**	**2,110**	**6,915**	**8,254**	**4,216**	**4,370**

BALANCE SHEET

	Forecast Actual	Budget	Projections								
	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Assets											
Current assets											
Cash and cash equivalents	154,502	157,147	139,440	132,639	113,329	103,510	93,796	93,773	97,481	101,670	104,788
Trade and other receivables	14,773	11,730	11,181	11,605	10,943	8,483	8,283	9,009	9,079	9,155	9,145
Other financial assets	101,288	104,765	92,960	88,426	75,553	69,007	62,531	62,515	64,987	67,780	69,859
Inventories	1,246	1,404	1,435	1,467	1,529	1,602	1,686	1,775	1,868	1,966	2,069
Prepayments	5,488	6,186	6,319	6,461	6,736	7,056	7,427	7,816	8,227	8,659	9,113
Non-current assets classified as held for sale	369	369	369	369	369	369	369	369	369	369	369
Other assets	3,004	2,967	3,174	3,360	3,456	3,553	3,740	3,969	4,185	4,412	4,646
Total current assets	**280,671**	**284,568**	**254,879**	**244,327**	**211,914**	**193,580**	**177,831**	**179,226**	**186,196**	**194,010**	**199,990**
Non-current assets											
Trade and other receivables	16,928	17,776	18,695	19,709	20,778	21,905	23,094	24,348	25,669	27,063	28,533
Investments in associates, joint arrangement and subsidiaries	12,256	12,256	12,256	12,256	12,256	12,256	12,256	12,256	12,256	12,256	12,256
Property, infrastructure, plant & equipment	5,690,239	6,084,243	6,512,182	6,921,697	7,379,219	7,826,683	8,289,282	8,736,312	9,185,532	9,627,573	10,072,890
Right-of-use assets	3,413	2,036	11,367	10,370	9,285	8,200	7,116	6,031	4,946	3,862	2,777
Intangible assets	11,907	9,518	7,129	4,739	2,350	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total non-current assets	**5,734,743**	**6,125,829**	**6,561,628**	**6,968,771**	**7,423,888**	**7,869,045**	**8,331,747**	**8,778,946**	**9,228,404**	**9,670,754**	**10,116,456**
Total assets	**6,015,413**	**6,410,397**	**6,816,507**	**7,213,098**	**7,635,802**	**8,062,624**	**8,509,578**	**8,958,172**	**9,414,600**	**9,864,765**	**10,316,446**

	Forecast Actual	Budget	Projections								
	2025-26 $'000	2026-27 $'000	2027-28 $'000	2028-29 $'000	2029-30 $'000	2030-31 $'000	2031-32 $'000	2032-33 $'000	2033-34 $'000	2034-35 $'000	2035-36 $'000
Liabilities											
Current liabilities											
Trade and other payables	44,199	49,965	51,785	51,399	55,599	57,123	60,252	61,976	64,719	67,124	70,205
Trust funds and deposits	21,144	21,566	21,998	22,438	22,886	23,344	23,811	24,287	24,773	25,269	25,774
Contract and other liabilities	26,619	18,537	18,978	15,102	14,813	19,369	20,062	18,695	18,690	18,258	18,406
Provisions	43,793	45,605	47,511	49,503	51,548	53,701	56,029	58,477	61,051	63,758	66,603
Interest-bearing liabilities	57,555	7,690	6,345	23,427	42,808	18,700	-	-	-	-	30,000
Lease liabilities	1,430	720	537	941	987	1,035	1,086	1,139	1,195	1,254	1,312
Total current liabilities	**194,739**	**144,083**	**147,155**	**162,810**	**188,641**	**173,272**	**161,241**	**164,576**	**170,429**	**175,663**	**212,300**
Non-current liabilities											
Provisions	33,034	33,159	33,290	31,440	21,348	11,264	11,299	11,405	11,519	11,643	11,776
Interest-bearing liabilities	98,971	121,281	114,935	91,508	68,700	91,000	108,000	108,000	108,000	108,000	78,000
Lease liabilities	2,514	1,794	11,435	9,877	8,890	7,855	6,768	5,629	4,433	3,179	1,867
Total non-current liabilities	**134,519**	**156,234**	**159,660**	**132,824**	**98,938**	**110,119**	**126,067**	**125,034**	**123,953**	**122,822**	**91,643**
Total liabilities	**329,258**	**300,317**	**306,815**	**295,635**	**287,579**	**283,391**	**287,308**	**289,609**	**294,382**	**298,485**	**303,944**
Net assets	**5,686,155**	**6,110,080**	**6,509,693**	**6,917,463**	**7,348,223**	**7,779,234**	**8,222,270**	**8,668,563**	**9,120,218**	**9,566,280**	**10,012,502**
Equity											
Accumulated surplus	2,589,903	2,791,325	2,997,048	3,174,321	3,391,395	3,592,129	3,805,713	4,001,828	4,196,369	4,374,491	4,550,735
Asset Revaluation Reserves	2,950,598	3,170,823	3,399,857	3,638,053	3,881,012	4,128,831	4,381,606	4,639,437	4,902,424	5,170,671	5,444,283
Other Cash Reserves	145,654	147,932	112,788	105,089	75,816	58,273	34,951	27,298	21,424	21,117	17,483
Total equity	**5,686,155**	**6,110,080**	**6,509,693**	**6,917,463**	**7,348,223**	**7,779,234**	**8,222,270**	**8,668,563**	**9,120,218**	**9,566,280**	**10,012,502**

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

	Total	Accumulated Surplus	Revaluation Reserve	Other Reserves
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
2026 Forecast Actual				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	5,294,345	2,444,217	2,738,843	111,285
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	180,055	180,055	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	211,755	-	211,755	-
Transfers to other reserves	-	110,244	-	(110,244)
Transfers from other reserves	-	(144,613)	-	144,613
Balance at end of the financial year	**5,686,155**	**2,589,903**	**2,950,598**	**145,654**
2027 Budget				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	5,686,155	2,589,903	2,950,598	145,654
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	203,700	203,700	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	220,225	-	220,225	-
Transfers to other reserves	-	143,638	-	(143,638)
Transfers from other reserves	-	(145,915)	-	145,915
Balance at end of the financial year	**6,110,080**	**2,791,325**	**3,170,823**	**147,932**
2028				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	6,110,080	2,791,325	3,170,823	147,932
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	170,579	170,579	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	229,034	-	229,034	-
Transfers to other reserves	-	161,476	-	(161,476)
Transfers from other reserves	-	(126,332)	-	126,332
Balance at end of the financial year	**6,509,693**	**2,997,048**	**3,399,857**	**112,788**
2029				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	6,509,693	2,997,048	3,399,857	112,788
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	169,574	169,574	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	238,196	-	238,196	-
Transfers to other reserves	-	134,809	-	(134,809)
Transfers from other reserves	-	(127,110)	-	127,110
Balance at end of the financial year	**6,917,463**	**3,174,321**	**3,638,053**	**105,089**
2030				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	6,917,463	3,174,321	3,638,053	105,089
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	187,801	187,801	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	242,959	-	242,959	-
Transfers to other reserves	-	181,921	-	(181,921)
Transfers from other reserves	-	(152,648)	-	152,648
Balance at end of the financial year	**7,348,223**	**3,391,395**	**3,881,012**	**75,816**

	Total	Accumulated Surplus	Revaluation Reserve	Other Reserves
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
2031				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	7,348,223	3,391,395	3,881,012	75,816
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	183,191	183,191	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	247,819	-	247,819	-
Transfers to other reserves	-	151,323	-	(151,323)
Transfers from other reserves	-	(133,781)	-	133,781
Balance at end of the financial year	**7,779,234**	**3,592,129**	**4,128,831**	**58,274**
2032				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	7,779,234	3,592,129	4,128,831	58,274
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	190,262	190,262	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	252,775	-	252,775	-
Transfers to other reserves	-	165,258	-	(165,258)
Transfers from other reserves	-	(141,936)	-	141,936
Balance at end of the financial year	**8,222,270**	**3,805,713**	**4,381,606**	**34,952**
2033				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	8,222,270	3,805,713	4,381,606	34,952
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	188,462	188,462	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	257,831	-	257,831	-
Transfers to other reserves	-	164,201	-	(164,201)
Transfers from other reserves	-	(156,548)	-	156,548
Balance at end of the financial year	**8,668,563**	**4,001,828**	**4,639,437**	**27,298**
2034				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	8,668,563	4,001,828	4,639,437	27,298
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	188,668	188,668	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	262,987	-	262,987	-
Transfers to other reserves	-	147,435	-	(147,435)
Transfers from other reserves	-	(141,561)	-	141,561
Balance at end of the financial year	**9,120,218**	**4,196,369**	**4,902,424**	**21,424**
2035				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	9,120,218	4,196,369	4,902,424	21,424
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	177,815	177,815	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	268,247	-	268,247	-
Transfers to other reserves	-	146,752	-	(146,752)
Transfers from other reserves	-	(146,445)	-	146,445
Balance at end of the financial year	**9,566,280**	**4,374,491**	**5,170,671**	**21,118**
2036				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	9,566,280	4,374,491	5,170,671	21,118
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	172,611	172,611	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	273,612	-	273,612	-
Transfers to other reserves	-	149,973	-	(149,973)
Transfers from other reserves	-	(146,339)	-	146,339
Balance at end of the financial year	**10,012,502**	**4,550,735**	**5,444,283**	**17,484**

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	Forecast Actual	Budget	Projections								
	2025-26 $'000	2026-27 $'000	2027-28 $'000	2028-29 $'000	2029-30 $'000	2030-31 $'000	2031-32 $'000	2032-33 $'000	2033-34 $'000	2034-35 $'000	2035-36 $'000
	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)
Cash flows from operating activities											
Rates and charges	345,608	357,131	375,549	395,858	417,331	439,973	463,850	489,031	515,582	543,578	573,100
Statutory fees and fines	32,097	17,971	18,914	19,907	20,952	22,052	23,210	24,429	25,711	27,061	28,482
User fees	66,541	69,389	73,036	76,870	80,906	85,154	89,624	94,329	99,282	104,494	109,980
Grants - operating	63,436	76,780	77,561	79,694	81,886	84,138	86,451	88,829	91,272	93,782	96,361
Grants - capital	29,006	36,310	18,895	6,264	8,696	22,056	18,965	13,541	14,240	12,279	12,464
Contributions - monetary	28,308	46,544	30,881	24,469	40,778	26,278	27,988	25,764	23,534	10,742	2,500
Interest received	9,272	8,850	10,085	9,480	7,366	6,369	6,302	6,274	6,423	6,692	6,953
Trust funds and deposits taken	415	423	431	440	449	458	467	476	486	495	505
Other receipts	740	2,377	553	1,411	2,730	3,317	1,468	2,058	3,352	3,867	4,387
Employee costs	(210,464)	(219,955)	(230,143)	(240,883)	(252,205)	(265,322)	(280,466)	(296,481)	(313,417)	(331,328)	(350,271)
Materials and services	(148,788)	(165,078)	(171,612)	(177,443)	(192,548)	(201,036)	(200,692)	(211,155)	(222,240)	(233,905)	(246,182)
Other payments	(28,155)	(31,369)	(32,074)	(32,796)	(34,190)	(35,814)	(37,694)	(39,673)	(41,756)	(43,948)	(46,256)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	**188,016**	**199,373**	**172,077**	**163,272**	**182,149**	**187,622**	**199,472**	**197,421**	**202,467**	**193,808**	**192,024**
Cash flows from investing activities											
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(139,860)	(170,334)	(188,149)	(162,593)	(205,795)	(196,272)	(207,840)	(191,407)	(190,233)	(180,774)	(180,773)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	22,220	11,327	670	670	670	670	670	670	670	670	670
Payments for investments	-	(3,477)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2,472)	(2,793)	(2,079)
Proceeds from sale of investments	-	-	11,805	4,534	12,873	6,546	6,476	15	-	-	-
Net cash provided by/ (used in) investing activities	**(117,641)**	**(162,484)**	**(175,674)**	**(157,389)**	**(192,252)**	**(189,056)**	**(200,694)**	**(190,721)**	**(192,035)**	**(182,896)**	**(182,182)**
Cash flows from financing activities											
Finance costs	(5,017)	(5,151)	(4,787)	(4,514)	(4,407)	(5,203)	(5,420)	(5,351)	(5,351)	(5,351)	(5,351)
Proceeds from borrowings		30,000	-	-	20,000	41,000	17,000	-	-	-	-
Repayment of borrowings	(7,423)	(57,555)	(7,690)	(6,345)	(23,427)	(42,808)	(18,700)	-	-	-	-
Interest paid - lease liability	(191)	(108)	(383)	(530)	(432)	(386)	(337)	(286)	(233)	(177)	(118)
Repayment of lease liabilities	(1,274)	(1,430)	(1,250)	(1,294)	(941)	(987)	(1,035)	(1,086)	(1,139)	(1,195)	(1,254)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	**(13,905)**	**(34,244)**	**(14,110)**	**(12,684)**	**(9,207)**	**(8,384)**	**(8,493)**	**(6,723)**	**(6,723)**	**(6,723)**	**(6,723)**
Net increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents	56,470	2,645	(17,707)	(6,801)	(19,310)	(9,819)	(9,714)	(23)	3,709	4,189	3,119
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	98,032	154,502	157,147	139,440	132,639	113,329	103,510	93,796	93,773	97,481	101,670
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	**154,502**	**157,147**	**139,440**	**132,639**	**113,329**	**103,510**	**93,796**	**93,773**	**97,481**	**101,670**	**104,788**

STATEMENT OF CAPITAL WORKS

	Forecast Actual	Budget	Projections								
	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Property											
Land	2,741	**10,805**	17,133	9,269	28,688	8,319	23,978	7,224	2,574	7,018	2,668
Total land	2,741	**10,805**	17,133	9,269	28,688	8,319	23,978	7,224	2,574	7,018	2,668
Buildings	53,178	**54,780**	24,511	42,661	60,897	59,716	52,153	50,860	35,540	29,262	30,328
Heritage buildings	9	**-**	4,500	3,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Building improvements	5	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total buildings	53,192	**54,780**	29,011	46,161	60,897	59,716	52,153	50,860	35,540	29,262	30,328
Total property	55,933	**65,585**	46,144	55,430	89,584	68,035	76,131	58,084	38,114	36,280	32,996
Plant and equipment											
Plant, machinery and equipment	2,845	**11,517**	11,430	8,941	6,554	6,881	8,104	8,434	8,769	9,095	9,431
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	121	**366**	394	451	464	482	533	553	572	592	612
Computers and telecommunications	1,650	**2,108**	1,825	2,284	2,336	2,444	2,817	2,927	3,038	3,148	3,261
Total plant and equipment	4,617	**13,990**	13,649	11,676	9,353	9,807	11,454	11,913	12,379	12,834	13,304
Infrastructure											
Roads	31,069	**25,007**	34,916	38,636	45,480	52,150	48,376	47,957	49,805	51,611	53,474
Bridges	460	**434**	436	519	533	556	629	653	677	700	725
Footpaths and cycleways	10,850	**7,124**	4,848	5,609	6,330	7,177	8,015	7,471	6,928	7,175	7,431
Drainage	5,453	**4,833**	8,057	8,824	13,784	9,149	9,802	10,192	10,589	10,977	11,377
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	16,069	**25,413**	28,116	20,225	21,125	24,277	20,870	17,049	22,728	27,789	27,683
Waste management	1,952	**13,609**	30,950	1,567	1,619	3,491	9,832	10,927	9,991	10,097	10,209
Parks, open space and streetscapes	10,612	**7,782**	12,492	10,915	12,309	12,734	14,958	17,584	30,063	13,595	14,098
Other infrastructure	10,208	**7,773**	9,415	7,800	8,025	8,272	8,415	8,676	8,944	9,219	9,501
Total infrastructure	86,672	**91,976**	129,229	94,096	109,204	117,805	120,896	120,510	139,725	131,163	134,499
Total capital works expenditure	147,222	**171,550**	189,023	161,202	208,142	195,648	208,482	190,508	190,219	180,277	180,799

	Forecast Actual	Budget	Projections								
	2025-26 $'000	2026-27 $'000	2027-28 $'000	2028-29 $'000	2029-30 $'000	2030-31 $'000	2031-32 $'000	2032-33 $'000	2033-34 $'000	2034-35 $'000	2035-36 $'000
Represented by:											
New asset expenditure	55,877	**83,615**	77,661	57,913	100,959	83,968	92,231	69,645	64,674	50,156	45,954
Asset renewal expenditure	58,558	**54,517**	78,398	91,112	87,071	91,395	99,339	103,701	108,124	112,435	116,884
Asset expansion expenditure	-	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asset upgrade expenditure	32,786	**33,418**	32,963	12,177	20,112	20,284	16,911	17,162	17,420	17,686	17,960
Total capital works expenditure	147,222	**171,550**	189,023	161,202	208,142	195,648	208,482	190,508	190,219	180,277	180,799
Funding sources represented by:											
Grants	37,646	**45,944**	18,722	10,417	9,269	17,794	18,575	15,219	14,566	13,041	12,656
Contributions	3,470	**1,697**	1,033	2,832	2,978	1,771	2,274	3,832	4,456	4,986	5,424
Council cash	106,105	**123,909**	169,267	147,954	195,895	176,083	187,633	171,457	171,197	162,249	162,719
Borrowings	-	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total capital works expenditure	147,222	**171,550**	189,023	161,202	208,142	195,648	208,482	190,508	190,219	180,277	180,799

STATEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Planned Expenditure	2025-26 $'000	2026-27 $'000	2027-28 $'000	2028-29 $'000	2029-30 $'000	2030-31 $'000	2031-32 $'000	2032-33 $'000	2033-34 $'000	2034-35 $'000	2035-36 $'000
Chief Executive											
Permanent - Full time	**949**	**914**	**957**	**1,001**	**1,049**	**1,103**	**1,166**	**1,233**	**1,303**	**1,377**	**1,456**
Women	798	769	804	842	882	927	980	1,036	1,095	1,158	1,224
Men	151	146	152	159	167	176	186	196	207	219	232
Persons of self-described gender		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Permanent - Part time	**827**	**797**	**834**	**873**	**914**	**961**	**1,016**	**1,074**	**1,135**	**1,200**	**1,269**
Women	695	670	701	734	768	808	854	903	955	1,009	1,067
Men	132	127	133	139	145	153	162	171	181	191	202
Persons of self-described gender		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Chief Executive	**1,776**	**1,711**	**1,790**	**1,874**	**1,962**	**2,064**	**2,182**	**2,306**	**2,438**	**2,577**	**2,725**
City Infrastructure											
Permanent - Full time	**48,441**	**49,588**	**51,887**	**54,310**	**56,865**	**59,822**	**63,234**	**66,841**	**70,656**	**74,691**	**78,957**
Women	9,694	9,923	10,383	10,868	11,379	11,971	12,654	13,376	14,139	14,946	15,800
Men	38,747	39,665	41,504	43,442	45,486	47,851	50,580	53,466	56,517	59,744	63,157
Persons of self-described gender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Permanent - Part time	**1,036**	**1,061**	**1,110**	**1,162**	**1,216**	**1,279**	**1,352**	**1,430**	**1,511**	**1,597**	**1,689**
Women	207	212	222	232	243	256	271	286	302	320	338
Men	829	848	888	929	973	1,023	1,082	1,143	1,209	1,278	1,351
Persons of self-described gender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total City Infrastructure	**49,477**	**50,648**	**52,997**	**55,472**	**58,081**	**61,102**	**64,586**	**68,271**	**72,167**	**76,288**	**80,646**
City Life											
Permanent - Full time	**41,658**	**43,251**	**45,256**	**47,370**	**49,598**	**52,177**	**55,153**	**58,299**	**61,627**	**65,145**	**68,867**
Women	32,022	33,247	34,788	36,413	38,126	40,108	42,396	44,814	47,372	50,077	52,937
Men	9,508	9,872	10,329	10,812	11,320	11,909	12,588	13,306	14,066	14,869	15,718
Persons of self-described gender	128	133	139	145	152	160	169	179	189	200	211
Permanent - Part time	**31,189**	**32,381**	**33,882**	**35,465**	**37,133**	**39,064**	**41,292**	**43,648**	**46,139**	**48,773**	**51,559**
Women	23,975	24,891	26,045	27,262	28,544	30,029	31,741	33,552	35,467	37,492	39,633
Men	7,119	7,391	7,733	8,095	8,475	8,916	9,424	9,962	10,531	11,132	11,768
Persons of self-described gender	96	99	104	109	114	120	127	134	141	150	158
Total City Life	**72,847**	**75,632**	**79,138**	**82,834**	**86,731**	**91,242**	**96,445**	**101,947**	**107,766**	**113,919**	**120,426**

Planned Expenditure	2025-26 $'000	2026-27 $'000	2027-28 $'000	2028-29 $'000	2029-30 $'000	2030-31 $'000	2031-32 $'000	2032-33	2033-34 $'000	2034-35 $'000	2035-36 $'000
Corporate Services											
Permanent - Full time	**35,651**	**36,385**	**38,072**	**39,850**	**41,725**	**43,895**	**46,398**	**49,045**	**51,844**	**54,804**	**57,935**
Women	23,231	23,709	24,809	25,967	27,189	28,603	30,234	31,959	33,783	35,712	37,752
Men	12,420	12,676	13,263	13,883	14,536	15,292	16,164	17,086	18,061	19,092	20,183
Persons of self-described gender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Permanent - Part time	**5,219**	**5,327**	**5,574**	**5,834**	**6,109**	**6,426**	**6,793**	**7,180**	**7,590**	**8,023**	**8,482**
Women	3,401	3,471	3,632	3,802	3,980	4,187	4,426	4,679	4,946	5,228	5,527
Men	1,818	1,856	1,942	2,032	2,128	2,239	2,366	2,501	2,644	2,795	2,955
Persons of self-described gender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Corporate Services	**40,870**	**41,712**	**43,646**	**45,684**	**47,833**	**50,321**	**53,190**	**56,225**	**59,434**	**62,828**	**66,416**
Growth & Place											
Permanent - Full time	**22,944**	**24,775**	**25,924**	**27,134**	**28,411**	**29,888**	**31,593**	**33,395**	**35,301**	**37,317**	**39,448**
Women	13,983	15,098	15,798	16,536	17,314	18,214	19,253	20,351	21,513	22,741	24,040
Men	8,846	9,551	9,994	10,461	10,953	11,523	12,180	12,875	13,610	14,387	15,208
Persons of self-described gender	116	125	131	137	144	151	160	169	179	189	200
Permanent - Part time	**3,128**	**3,378**	**3,535**	**3,700**	**3,874**	**4,075**	**4,308**	**4,553**	**4,813**	**5,088**	**5,379**
Women	1,906	2,059	2,154	2,255	2,361	2,483	2,625	2,775	2,933	3,101	3,278
Men	1,206	1,302	1,363	1,426	1,493	1,571	1,661	1,755	1,856	1,962	2,074
Persons of self-described gender	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	26	27
Total Growth & Place	**26,073**	**28,153**	**29,458**	**30,834**	**32,284**	**33,963**	**35,900**	**37,948**	**40,114**	**42,405**	**44,827**
Casuals, temporary and other expenditure	21,265	24,036	25,151	26,325	27,564	28,997	30,651	32,399	34,249	36,204	38,272
Total Salaries & Wages (Operating)	**212,307**	**221,892**	**232,180**	**243,024**	**254,457**	**267,689**	**282,954**	**299,097**	**316,168**	**334,221**	**353,312**
Capitalised labour costs	9,132	10,937	11,639	12,386	12,969	13,644	14,422	15,244	16,115	17,035	17,035
Total staff expenditure	**221,439**	**232,829**	**243,819**	**255,410**	**267,426**	**281,332**	**297,376**	**314,341**	**332,283**	**351,255**	**370,346**

Planned FTE	2025-26 FTE	2026-27 FTE	2027-28 FTE	2028-29 FTE	2029-30 FTE	2030-31 FTE	2031-32 FTE	2032-33 FTE	2033-34 FTE	2034-35 FTE	2035-36 FTE
Chief Executive											
Permanent - Full time	**2.0**	**4.5**	**4.6**	**4.7**	**4.8**	**4.9**	**5.0**	**5.1**	**5.2**	**5.3**	**5.4**
Women	2.0	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.5
Men	-	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time	**-**	**3.9**	**4.0**	**4.1**	**4.2**	**4.3**	**4.4**	**4.5**	**4.5**	**4.6**	**4.7**
Women	-	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.9	4.0
Men	-	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Chief Executive	**2.0**	**8.4**	**8.6**	**8.8**	**9.0**	**9.2**	**9.4**	**9.6**	**9.8**	**9.9**	**10.1**
City Infrastructure											
Permanent - Full time	**321.3**	**445.7**	**456.9**	**468.3**	**478.8**	**488.4**	**497.7**	**507.1**	**516.5**	**526.1**	**535.8**
Women	58.4	89.2	91.4	93.7	95.8	97.7	99.6	101.5	103.4	105.3	107.2
Men	262.9	356.5	365.4	374.6	383.0	390.7	398.1	405.7	413.2	420.8	428.6
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time	**130.7**	**10.9**	**11.2**	**11.5**	**11.8**	**12.0**	**12.2**	**12.5**	**12.7**	**12.9**	**13.2**
Women	23.8	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.6
Men	107.0	8.8	9.0	9.2	9.4	9.6	9.8	10.0	10.1	10.3	10.5
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total City Infrastructure	**452.0**	**456.7**	**468.1**	**479.8**	**490.6**	**500.4**	**509.9**	**519.6**	**529.2**	**539.0**	**549.0**
City Life											
Permanent - Full time	**288.2**	**408.2**	**418.4**	**428.8**	**438.5**	**447.3**	**455.8**	**464.4**	**473.0**	**481.8**	**490.7**
Women	226.4	313.8	321.6	329.7	337.1	343.8	350.3	357.0	363.6	370.3	377.2
Men	61.2	93.2	95.5	97.9	100.1	102.1	104.0	106.0	108.0	110.0	112.0
Persons of self-described gender	0.6	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5
Permanent - Part time	**320.1**	**305.6**	**313.2**	**321.1**	**328.3**	**334.9**	**341.2**	**347.7**	**354.1**	**360.7**	**367.4**
Women	251.5	234.9	240.8	246.8	252.4	257.4	262.3	267.3	272.2	277.3	282.4
Men	68.0	69.8	71.5	73.3	74.9	76.4	77.9	79.4	80.8	82.3	83.8
Persons of self-described gender	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Total City Life	**608.3**	**713.8**	**731.6**	**749.9**	**766.8**	**782.1**	**797.0**	**812.1**	**827.2**	**842.5**	**858.0**

Planned FTE	2025-26 FTE	2026-27 FTE	2027-28 FTE	2028-29 FTE	2029-30 FTE	2030-31 FTE	2031-32 FTE	2032-33 FTE	2033-34 FTE	2034-35 FTE	2035-36 FTE
Corporate Services											
Permanent - Full time	**223.6**	**254.6**	**260.9**	**267.5**	**273.5**	**278.9**	**284.2**	**289.6**	**295.0**	**300.5**	**306.0**
Women	149.7	165.9	170.0	174.3	178.2	181.8	185.2	188.7	192.2	195.8	199.4
Men	73.9	88.7	90.9	93.2	95.3	97.2	99.0	100.9	102.8	104.7	106.6
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time	**40.0**	**37.3**	**38.2**	**39.2**	**40.0**	**40.8**	**41.6**	**42.4**	**43.2**	**44.0**	**44.8**
Women	26.8	24.3	24.9	25.5	26.1	26.6	27.1	27.6	28.1	28.7	29.2
Men	13.2	13.0	13.3	13.6	13.9	14.2	14.5	14.8	15.0	15.3	15.6
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Corporate Services	**263.6**	**291.8**	**299.1**	**306.6**	**313.5**	**319.8**	**325.9**	**332.1**	**338.2**	**344.5**	**350.8**
Growth & Place											
Permanent - Full time	**153.4**	**181.5**	**186.0**	**190.7**	**195.0**	**198.9**	**202.7**	**206.5**	**210.3**	**214.2**	**218.2**
Women	100.9	110.6	113.4	116.2	118.8	121.2	123.5	125.8	128.2	130.5	133.0
Men	51.8	70.0	71.7	73.5	75.2	76.7	78.1	79.6	81.1	82.6	84.1
Persons of self-described gender	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1
Permanent - Part time	**24.8**	**25.1**	**25.8**	**26.4**	**27.0**	**27.5**	**28.1**	**28.6**	**29.1**	**29.7**	**30.2**
Women	16.3	15.3	15.7	16.1	16.5	16.8	17.1	17.4	17.8	18.1	18.4
Men	8.4	9.7	9.9	10.2	10.4	10.6	10.8	11.0	11.2	11.4	11.7
Persons of self-described gender	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Total Growth & Place	**178.2**	**206.6**	**211.8**	**217.1**	**222.0**	**226.4**	**230.7**	**235.1**	**239.5**	**243.9**	**248.4**
Casuals and fixed staff	293.5	208.7	214.0	219.3	224.2	228.7	233.1	237.5	241.9	246.4	250.9
Capitalised labour	71.2	77.5	79.5	81.5	83.3	85.0	86.6	88.2	89.9	91.5	93.2
Total staff numbers	**1,868.9**	**1,963.6**	**2,012.7**	**2,063.1**	**2,109.5**	**2,151.7**	**2,192.5**	**2,234.2**	**2,275.5**	**2,317.6**	**2,360.5**

Appendix 2: Financial Performance Indicators

The following table highlights the City's projected performance across a range of key financial performance indicators. These indicators provide an analysis of our ten year financial projections and should be interpreted in the context of the organisation's objectives and financial management principles.

Performance Indicator	Measure	Note	FY25 Actual	FY26 Forecast	FY27 Plan	FY28 Plan	FY29 Plan	FY30 Plan	FY31 Plan	FY32 Plan	FY33 Plan	FY34 Plan	FY35 Plan	FY36 Plan	Trend
Operating Position															
Adjusted Underlying Result	Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue	1	0.36%	-2.78%	-2.69%	-1.04%	0.19%	0.30%	0.30%	0.40%	0.40%	0.30%	0.30%	0.30%	+
Liquidity															
Working Capital Ratio	Current Asset / Current Liabilities	2	168.2%	144.1%	197.5%	173.2%	150.1%	112.3%	111.7%	110.3%	108.9%	109.3%	110.4%	94.2%	-
Unrestricted Working Capital	Unrestricted cash / current liabilities	3	73.9%	56.6%	79.1%	81.3%	71.2%	59.9%	65.9%	75.3%	78.4%	82.8%	84.4%	74.0%	-
Obligations															
Indebtedness Ratio	Interest bearing loans and borrowings / rate revenue	4	45.9%	30.9%	34.5%	33.3%	26.4%	18.7%	19.8%	21.5%	20.3%	19.1%	18.0%	12.7%	-
Debt Coverage Ratio	Interest and principal repayments / rate revenue		8.3%	3.6%	17.5%	3.3%	2.7%	6.6%	10.9%	5.2%	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%	0.9%	-
Non-Current Liability Coverage Ratio	Non-current liabilities / own source revenue		45.9%	30.9%	34.5%	33.3%	26.4%	18.7%	19.8%	21.5%	20.3%	19.1%	18.0%	12.7%	-
Asset Renewal & Upgrade Ratio	Asset Renewal and Upgrade / Depreciation	5	82.3%	79.6%	96.7%	86.1%	84.9%	85.0%	85.0%	85.0%	85.0%	85.0%	85.0%	0.0%	o
Asset Renewal Ratio	Asset Renewal / Depreciation		50.0%	52.8%	49.4%	68.1%	75.9%	68.9%	69.6%	72.6%	72.9%	73.2%	73.4%	73.7%	+
Stability															
Rates Concentration	Rate revenue / adjusted underlying revenue	6	62.9%	68.6%	67.8%	67.7%	68.1%	68.6%	69.0%	69.3%	69.6%	69.9%	70.1%	70.4%	+
Rates Effort	Rate revenue / CIV of rateable properties in the municipal district		0.28%	0.29%	0.30%	0.30%	0.31%	0.32%	0.32%	0.33%	0.34%	0.35%	0.36%	0.36%	+
Efficiency															
Expenditure Level	Total expenses / no. of property assessments		$ 3,568	$ 3,504	$ 3,661	$ 3,699	$ 3,736	$ 3,810	$ 3,897	$ 3,984	$ 4,085	$ 4,189	$ 4,294	$ 4,401	+
Revenue Level	General rates and municipal charges / no. of property assessments		$ 1,802	$ 2,339	$ 2,415	$ 2,478	$ 2,549	$ 2,622	$ 2,697	$ 2,774	$ 2,853	$ 2,934	$ 3,018	$ 3,105	+

Key to Forecast Trend:

+ Forecasts improvement in the organisation's financial performance/financial position indicator

o Forecasts that the organisations financial performance/financial position indicator will be steady

- Forecasts deterioration in the organisation's financial performance/financial position indicator

Notes to Indicators

1. Underlying Operating Margin

Adjusted underlying results represents the operating result of the organisation, removing the impact of non-recurrent grants used to fund the capital expenditure, non-monetary asset contributions and contributions to fund capital expenditure from developers. The result is remaining stable over the life of the plan.

2. Working Capital Ratio

Over the life of the plan, current assets are maintained at levels to meet short term liabilities. Working capital remain stable over the ten years of the plan.

3. Unrestricted Working Capital

Represents all cash and cash equivalents other than cash held for specific purposes.

4. Indebtedness Ratio

Debt levels are increasing over the duration of the plan ratio to rates increasing. Debt levels are maintained within approved benchmarks.

5. Asset Renewal & Upgrade Ratio

Investment in renewing and upgrading existing assets occurs over the plan.

6. Rates Concentration

Rate concentration as a proportion of the adjusted underlying result is increasing over the life of the plan as rates increase, whilst contributions and grants remain relatively stable.

Adjusted Underlying Result

	Forecast	Budget	Projections								
	2025-26 $'000	2026-27 $'000	2027-28 $'000	2028-29 $'000	2029-30 $'000	2030-31 $'000	2031-32 $'000	2032-33 $'000	2033-34 $'000	2034-35 $'000	2035-36 $'000
Operating Income											
Rates & Charges	339,953	356,684	376,774	397,209	418,756	441,475	465,435	490,702	517,344	545,437	575,059
Government Grants - Operating	62,259	75,248	77,317	79,443	81,628	83,873	86,179	88,549	90,984	93,486	96,057
User Fees	66,493	69,369	73,011	76,844	80,879	85,125	89,594	94,298	99,248	104,459	109,943
Statutory Fees & Fines	19,109	17,971	18,914	19,907	20,952	22,052	23,210	24,429	25,711	27,061	28,482
Interest Received	9,272	8,850	10,085	9,480	7,366	6,369	6,302	6,274	6,423	6,692	6,953
Other Income	742	354	372	392	412	434	457	481	506	532	560
Gain/Loss on Sale of Property	(525)	242	30	31	31	32	32	33	34	34	35
Total Operating Income	**497,303**	**528,717**	**556,503**	**583,306**	**610,024**	**639,360**	**671,209**	**704,765**	**740,251**	**777,701**	**817,090**
Operating Expenditure											
Employee Costs	212,307	221,892	232,180	243,024	254,457	267,689	282,955	299,098	316,169	334,221	353,312
Materials & Services	150,578	170,230	173,894	177,814	185,348	194,120	204,271	214,954	226,196	238,027	250,478
Depreciation	111,009	110,439	115,195	119,986	126,297	131,388	136,765	142,191	147,699	153,083	158,640
Ammortisation - intangible assets	2,113	2,389	2,389	2,389	2,389	2,350	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation - right of use assets	1,380	1,377	1,377	1,137	1,085	1,085	1,085	1,085	1,085	1,085	1,085
Other Expenses	28,542	31,369	32,074	32,796	34,190	35,814	37,694	39,673	41,756	43,948	46,256
Interest Expense	5,017	5,151	4,787	4,514	4,407	5,203	5,420	5,351	5,351	5,351	5,351
Finance Costs - Leases	191	108	383	530	432	386	337	286	233	177	118
Total Operating Expenditure	**511,137**	**542,955**	**562,280**	**582,191**	**608,605**	**638,036**	**668,527**	**702,638**	**738,488**	**775,893**	**815,240**
Underlying Operating Surplus/(deficit)	**(13,834)**	**(14,237)**	**(5,776)**	**1,115**	**1,419**	**1,325**	**2,682**	**2,128**	**1,762**	**1,808**	**1,849**
Non-Recurrent Income											
Government Grant - Capital	37,646	45,944	18,722	10,417	9,269	17,794	18,575	15,219	14,566	13,041	12,656
Developer Contributions	28,308	46,544	30,881	24,469	40,778	26,278	27,988	25,764	23,534	10,742	2,500
Gain on Sale of Property	6,442	3,100	240	245	250	255	260	265	270	276	281
Recognition of Infrastructure	118,023	120,652	125,478	130,497	133,107	135,769	138,485	141,254	144,079	146,961	149,900
Net Asset Revaluation Gain	211,755	220,225	229,034	238,196	242,959	247,819	252,775	257,831	262,987	268,247	273,612
Rates and Charges	1,209	1,578	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Capital Income	2,261	119	1,033	2,832	2,978	1,771	2,274	3,832	4,456	4,986	5,424
Total Non-Recurrent Income	**405,644**	**438,162**	**405,389**	**406,655**	**429,341**	**429,686**	**440,355**	**444,165**	**449,892**	**444,253**	**444,373**
Total comprehensive result	**391,810**	**423,925**	**399,613**	**407,770**	**430,760**	**431,010**	**443,037**	**446,293**	**451,655**	**446,062**	**446,223**

Appendix 3: Strategies & Plans

BORROWING STRATEGY

The total value of the debt as at 30 June 2026 is forecast to be $156.5 million.

Debt is expected to decrease to $108.0 million by the end of the plan. Borrowings are used to support the cash requirements of major capital projects. Borrowings are utilised in accordance with the City's borrowing policy and are maintained within prescribed indebtedness targets of being below 60 per cent.

	Forecast	Budget	Projections								
	2025-26 $'000	2026-27 $'000	2027-28 $'000	2028-29 $'000	2029-30 $'000	2030-31 $'000	2031-32 $'000	2032-33 $'000	2033-34 $'000	2034-35 $'000	2035-36 $'000
Opening Balance	163,949	**156,526**	128,971	121,281	114,935	111,508	109,700	108,000	108,000	108,000	108,000
Amount proposed to be borrowed/refinanced	-	30,000	-	-	20,000	41,000	17,000	-	-	-	-
Amount projected to be redeemed	(7,423)	(57,555)	(7,690)	(6,345)	(23,427)	(42,808)	(18,700)	-	-	-	-
Amount of borrowings as at 30 June	156,526	**128,971**	121,281	114,935	111,508	109,700	108,000	108,000	108,000	108,000	108,000
Interest Payments	5,017	5,151	4,787	4,514	4,407	5,203	5,420	5,351	5,351	5,351	5,351

RESERVES STRATEGY

Development Contributions Reserve

The City is authorised under part 3B of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to levy contributions for the provision of works, services and facilities specified in a development contribution plan. Developer contribution plans are the mechanism to collect funds for future development related infrastructure projects.

Funds are collected for two types of levies:

- **Development Infrastructure Fund (DIL):** for example: roads, traffic lights, drainage, active open spaces, community centres
- **Community Infrastructure Fund (CIL**): for example: libraries, civic and cultural spaces, community infrastructure levies

Transfers from the reserve are for identified capital works programs that deliver specific DIL and CIL projects.

Waste Reserve

The City funds the waste collection service through the waste collection charge. The calculation of the waste charge is based on the resources and infrastructure required to deliver the service. Where the City is funding infrastructure for the waste collection service through the waste charge, the relevant component of revenue relating to infrastructure delivery is transferred to the waste reserve. This acts as a funding mechanism for the required infrastructure and drawdowns from the reserve occur as the infrastructure is delivered.

Capital Commitment Reserve

The Capital Commitment Reserve is used to quarantine cash funding for our future commitments for completion of capital works approved in prior years. The Capital Commitment Reserve will be utilised for unspent capital project budgets to reflect the commitment of the cash required to complete the project in the future.

Property Sales Reserve

Proceeds from the sale of council owned properties that are identified as surplus to requirements are transferred to reserve to pay down loan borrowings. Funds are held in the reserve until loans mature, or it is an appropriate time to refinance, with reserve drawdowns occurring to reduce debt in line with Council's broader financial strategy.

Deferred Income Reserve

Government grants that are received and recognised prior to being expended are transferred to this reserve. This ensures that funding is applied in the financial year to which it relates, with drawdowns occurring as the associated expenditure is incurred. For example, early receipt of the Federal Government Financial Assistance Grant is transferred to the reserve and then recognised in the financial year to which the funding relates.

	Forecast	Budget	Projections								
	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36
	$	$	$	$	$	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Developer Contributions Reserves											
Opening Balance	63,708	81,864	109,534	98,571	82,105	35,482	20,606	5,606	6,606	7,606	13,348
Transfer to reserve	28,308	46,544	30,881	24,469	40,778	26,278	27,988	35,764	13,534	10,742	2,500
Transfer from reserve	(10,153)	(18,874)	(41,844)	(40,936)	(87,400)	(41,155)	(42,988)	(34,764)	(12,534)	(5,000)	(1,000)
Closing Balance	**81,864**	**109,534**	**98,571**	**82,105**	**35,482**	**20,606**	**5,606**	**6,606**	**7,606**	**13,348**	**14,848**

	Forecast	Budget	Projections								
	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36
	$	$	$	$	$	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Waste Reserve											
Opening Balance	10,854	21,283	21,798	7,356	22,984	40,333	37,668	29,346	20,692	13,818	7,770
Transfer to reserve	82,794	89,371	95,450	102,641	111,870	107,503	113,948	120,784	128,027	135,703	143,839
Transfer from reserve	(72,364)	(88,857)	(109,892)	(87,013)	(94,520)	(110,168)	(122,270)	(129,437)	(134,901)	(141,752)	(148,973)
Closing Balance	**21,283**	**21,798**	**7,356**	**22,984**	**40,333**	**37,668**	**29,346**	**20,692**	**13,818**	**7,770**	**2,636**

	Forecast	Budget	Projections								
	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36
	$	$	$	$	$	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Capital Commitments Reserve											
Opening Balance	21,881	21,370	5,462	1,291	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer to reserve	12,374	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer from reserve	(12,885)	(15,907)	(4,171)	(1,291)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Closing Balance	**21,370**	**5,462**	**1,291**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

	Forecast	Budget	Projections								
	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36
	$	$	$	$	$	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Property Sales Reserve											
Opening Balance	-	21,138	11,138	5,569	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer to reserve	21,138	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer from reserve	-	(20,000)	(5,569)	(5,569)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Closing Balance	**21,138**	**11,138**	**5,569**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

	Forecast	Budget	Projections								
	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36
	$	$	$	$	$	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Deferred Income Reserve											
Opening Balance	14,842	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer to reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer from reserve	(14,842)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Closing Balance	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

	Forecast	Budget	Projections								
	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36
	$	$	$	$	$	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Total Reserves											
Opening Balance	111,285	145,654	147,932	112,788	105,088	75,815	58,273	34,951	27,298	21,424	21,117
Transfer to reserve	144,613	145,915	126,332	127,110	152,648	133,781	141,936	156,548	141,561	146,445	146,339
Transfer from reserve	(110,244)	(143,638)	(161,476)	(134,809)	(181,921)	(151,323)	(165,258)	(164,201)	(147,435)	(146,752)	(149,973)
Closing Balance	**145,654**	**147,932**	**112,788**	**105,088**	**75,815**	**58,273**	**34,951**	**27,298**	**21,424**	**21,117**	**17,483**

Contact Us

This document contains important information about the City of Greater Geelong. Please contact us if you have any questions or would like to request a paper copy of the report. Customer Service 03 5272 5272.

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CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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2026-27 DECLARATION OF RATES AND CHARGES

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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Background

In accordance with section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020* Council is required to prepare a budget for each financial year. A component of the proposed budget is the setting of rates and charges. The proposed Declaration of Rates and Charges for 2026-27 is provided in this attachment.

Declaration of Rates and Charges

1. **Amount intended to be raised by General Rates and Waste Management Charge for the period 1 July 2026 - 30 June 2027.** An amount of **$350,870,024** be declared as the amount which Council intends to raise by General Rates and the Waste Management Charge, which amount is calculated as follows:

General Rates	$277,089,291
Waste Management Charge	$73,780,733

2. **General Rates**

2.1 A general rate be declared for the period 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027.

2.2 It be further declared that the general rate be raised by the application of differential rates.

2.3 A differential rate be respectively declared for rateable land having the respective characteristics specified below, which characteristics will form the criteria for each differential rate so declared.

2.3.1 **Farm Land** – means any land which:

i. is not less than 2 hectares in area; and

ii. is used predominantly for the business of grazing (including agistment), dairying, pig-farming, poultry farming, fish farming, tree farming, beekeeping, viticulture, horticulture, fruit growing or the growing of crops of any kind or for any combination of those activities; or

iii. has a registered deed of covenant with the Trust for Nature (Victoria) through the Victorian Conservation Trust Act 1972 over the land. Through this deed of covenant, the owner of the land has secured permanent protection for significant natural heritage in the municipality.

To avoid doubt, 'business' for the purposes of identifying Farm Land has the same meaning as that given to it by section 2(1) of the *Valuation of Land Act 1960* for the same purpose, being a business that:

i. has a significant and substantial commercial purpose or character;

ii. seeks to make a profit on a continuous or repetitive basis form its activities on the land; and

iii. is making a profit from its activities on the land, or that has a reasonable prospect of making a profit from its activities on the land if it continues to operate in the way that it is operating.

2.3.2 **Residential Land** - means any land:

i. that is used exclusively for residential purposes.

2.3.3 **Vacant Land** - means any land:

i. that does not have the characteristics of Farm Land; and

ii. on which no building is erected, save for any uninhabitable shed or shelter, the size of which does not exceed 5% of the total area of the land.

2.3.4 **Commercial/Industrial Land** – means any land:

i. that does not have the characteristics of:

- Farm Land;

ii. that is used predominantly for the sale of goods or services or other commercial purposes; or

iii. that is used predominantly for industrial purposes, which includes manufacturing, repairing, servicing, processing and reprocessing or warehousing; or

iv. that is used primarily for the production or conveyance of petroleum and/or petroleum by-products.

2.3.5 **Mixed Use Land** – means any land:

i. that has the characteristics of Residential Land combined with the characteristics of Commercial/Industrial Land; and

ii. is used partly for residential purposes and partly for commercial and/or industrial purposes.

2.4 A rate pursuant to the Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963 be declared for rateable land having the respective characteristics specified below:

2.4.1 **Cultural and Recreational Land -** Any land which:

i. has the characteristics of Recreational land as defined by the Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963; and

ii. is described as such in Schedule A.

2.5 Each differential rate and Cultural and Recreation Lands Rate will be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of each rateable land (categorised by the characteristics described in paragraph 2.3 and 2.4 by the relevant percentages indicated in the following:

CATEGORY %

2.5.1 Farm Land .00101355 (or .101355 percent of Capital Improved Value).

2.5.2 Residential Land .00212512 (or .212512 percent of Capital Improved Value).

2.5.3 Vacant Land .00288397 (or .288397 percent of Capital Improved Value).

2.5.4 Commercial/Industrial Land .00376186 (or .376186 percent of Capital Improved Value).

2.5.5 Mixed Use Land .00310253 (or .310253 percent of Capital Improved Value).

2.5.6 Cultural and Recreational .00159384 (or .159384 percent of Capital Improved Value).

2.6 It be recorded that Council considers that each differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of Council functions; and that:

2.6.1 the respective objectives of each differential rate be those specified in Schedule B;

2.6.2 the respective types or classes of land which are subject to each differential rate be those defined in Schedule B**;**

2.6.3 the respective uses and levels of each differential rate in relation to those respective types or classes of land be those described in Schedule B; and

2.6.4 the relevant:

i. uses of;

ii. geographical locations of;

iii. planning scheme zonings of; and

iv. types of buildings on the respective types or classes of land be those identified in Schedule B.

2.7 It be confirmed that no amount is fixed as the minimum amount payable by way of general rate in respect of each rateable land within the municipal district.

3. Waivers

3.1 Rates Assistance Waiver

Council declares a waiver of general rates (the waste charge is excluded from the waiver) under section 171 of the Act for the class of persons comprised of ratepayers in respect of assessments which are categorised as Residential Land where the valuation of the assessment has increased, between the 2025 valuation and the 2026 valuation, by 50% or more and that increase is purely attributable to market factors, not attributable, in whole or in part, to improvements made to the assessment by the owner (or occupier). The amount of the waiver is set at:

3.1.1 between 25% and 49.99% of the general rates payable for the 2026-27 financial year, increasing pro rata according to the valuation increase, for valuation increases between 50% and 59.99%; and

3.1.2 50% of the general rates for the 2026-27 financial year for valuation increases of 60% or more.

The waiver is designed to mitigate the rates shock of a valuation increase.

3.2 For 2026-27 Council declares a Housing Support waiver of 100% of general rates (the waste charge is excluded from the waiver) under section 171 of the Act for the class of persons comprised of ratepayers in respect of assessments which contain the following types of housing:

3.2.1 transitional, emergency or crisis housing;

3.2.2 housing for Legatees or War Widows, provided by the Geelong Legacy Club or provided by RSL; and

3.2.3 supported housing for disabled people.

This waiver recognises that these properties provide for specific needs within the community. Application can be made to Council to have land classified as being eligible for the waiver.

3.3 New Corio Estate (Inappropriate Subdivision)

For 2026-27 financial year, Council declares a waiver of 100% of general rates under section 171 of the Act for the class of persons comprised of ratepayers in respect of assessments which are in private ownership within the inappropriate subdivision known as New Corio Estate.

This rates assistance waiver recognises the financial burden associated with ownership of this land. Land within the New Corio Estate is zoned as farming land and the area has been determined to be an inappropriate subdivision due to the difficulty of providing utilities and drainage and due to its distance from other residential areas.

The Minister for Environment & Climate Change has approved a native vegetation plan for this land in support of natural temperate grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plains. The waiver recognises the ongoing encumbrances on the land that prevent owners from making any demands on Council services now and into the future.

3.4 Financial Hardship Policy

Council acknowledges and inequity for ratepayers is created where rates are waived which would otherwise be charged against the property assets and recognised the deferral of rates and charges as a more equitable outcome for the entire community.

However, Council will consider waiving or reducing rates for certain ratepayers where exceptional circumstances are experienced, and where severe impact can be demonstrated.

Consideration of a waiver can only occur if all financial information has been disclosed to Council with supporting documentation as may be requested. Penalties apply for providing false and misleading information for an application for waiver.

Exceptional circumstances will be determined at the sole discretion of the Chief Executive Officer. Waivers can only be approved by the Chief Executive Officer and are limited to a total value of one instalment of the rate amount, excluding the waste charge.

4. Municipal Charge

4.1 No municipal charge be declared for the period commencing 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027.

5. Waste Management Charge

5.1 A Waste Management Charge be declared for the period commencing 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 for all residential and eligible households.

5.2 The Waste Management Charge to be declared for the collection and disposal of refuse.

5.3 The Waste Management Charge to be $544.20 for each rateable land and non-rateable land (or part) in respect of which the Waste Management Charge may be levied. For identified multi-unit assessments the charge will be $209.75.

5.4 The criteria specified below, be the criteria, which form the basis of the Waste Management Charge, so declared:

Geographic existence within those areas of the municipality in which Council provides a domestic refuse collection and disposal service for properties rated under the residential or farm differential. The charge will be raised irrespective of whether the service is used or not.

Where during the planning process of high rise and multiple units, it is identified that the standard three bin service is unable to be utilised, the identified multi-unit rate will apply. This charge will be raised in place of the standard waste management charge.

6. Service Charge – Additional Bin Service

6.1 A Service Charge – Additional Bin Service, be declared for the period commencing 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027.

6.2 The Service Charge – Additional Bin Service, be declared for the collection and disposal of refuse.

6.3 The criteria specified below, be the criteria, which form the basis of the Service Charge – Additional Bin Service, so declared:

The additional bin service charge will be available via application, compliant with the following criteria:

6.3.1 The property owner or their authorised agent signs the additional bin application form, provides appropriate supporting evidence, and agrees to the applicable service charge;

6.3.2 In all cases of application for additional bins, Council reserves the right to inspect the applicant's existing bins to confirm that they are overloaded. If this cannot be confirmed, the additional bins will not be provided.

6.4 Applications that meet the criteria will be billed via the Rate, Valuation & Charges notice.

If an application is received and approved in the first six months of the financial year, that is, from July to December, the full annual cost of the additional bin will be charged. If an application is received and approved in the second half of the financial year, that is January to June, half the annual cost will be charged.

The following costs will apply for the additional bin service for 2026-27:

6.4.1	Garbage bin from 140L to 240L	$158.50
6.4.2	Recycling bin 240L	$115.40
6.4.3	Green waste bin 240L	$107.15

7. Incentives

No incentives be declared as the incentives to be given by Council for the payment of General Rates and the Waste Management Charge (described earlier in this document) before the dates fixed for their payment under section 167 of the Act.

8. Consequential

8.1 Notwithstanding anything said in any earlier Resolution of Council, the Geelong Advertiser be chosen, as the newspaper in which the public notice will appear.

8.2 The Responsible Officer of Council be authorised to levy and recover the General Rates and the Waste Management Charge described earlier in accordance with the Act.

9. Interest

Interest on unpaid rates and charges will be charged in accordance with section 172 of the Act. Interest will be charged at the penalty interest rate of 10% for 2026-27. In proven cases of hardship where Council approves rates to be deferred, interest will be charged at 6.85% for 2026-27.

SCHEDULE A

1. Cultural and Recreational Land

Any land reserved under the Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963 including the following:

Ratepayer	Property Address
Bareena Bowling Club Incorporated	89 Noble Street, NEWTOWN VIC 3220
Barwon Rowing Club Inc.	2 Barwon Terrace, SOUTH GEELONG VIC 3220
Geelong College Rowing Club	4 Barwon Terrace, SOUTH GEELONG VIC 3220
Geelong Church of England Grammar School	6 Barwon Terrace, SOUTH GEELONG VIC 3220
Geelong Rowing Association	8 Barwon Terrace, SOUTH GEELONG VIC 3220
Corio Bay Rowing Club	10 Barwon Terrace, SOUTH GEELONG VIC 3220
Geelong Race Course Trustees	99 Breakwater Road, BREAKWATER VIC 3219
Royal Geelong Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc	79 Breakwater Road, BREAKWATER VIC 3219
Royal Geelong Yacht Club	25 Eastern Beach Road, GEELONG VIC 3220
Geelong Eastern Park Bowling Club Inc	51-55 Garden Street, EAST GEELONG VIC 3219
Geelong Football Club Limited	360 Moorabool Street, SOUTH GEELONG VIC
East Geelong Golf Club	401 Eastern Park Circuit, EAST GEELONG VIC
East Geelong Recreation Reserve Committee	137-139 McKillop Street, GEELONG VIC 3220
Western Beach Boat Club Inc	74-90 Western Foreshore Road, GEELONG VIC
Highton Bowling Club Inc	204 Roslyn Road, HIGHTON VIC 3216
Barwon Heads Golf Club Incorporated	1A Golf Links Road, BARWON HEADS VIC 3227
Belmont Bowling Club Incorporated	16-36 Reynolds Road, BELMONT VIC 3216
Geelong Lawn Tennis Club Incorporated	12-20 Sommers Street, BELMONT VIC 3216
Geelong Bowls Club Incorporated	4-10 Sommers Street, BELMONT VIC 3216
Geelong Pistol Club Inc	70-80 Williams Road, MOUNT DUNEED VIC 3217
Western District Car Club and Geelong Motor Sports Complex Inc	55 Beach Road, AVALON VIC 3212
Beckley Park Committee of Management Inc	40 Broderick Road, CORIO VIC 3214
Croatian Community Centre of Geelong (Inc)	172 Cox Road, CORIO VIC 3214
Australian Croatian Sporting Centre and North Geelong Warriors Soccer Club Inc	15 Gibbons Road, LARA VIC 3212
Geelong Trailable Yacht Club Inc	105 Mackey Street, NORTH GEELONG VIC 3215
Clifton Springs Golf Club Inc	62-88 Clear Water Drive, CLIFTON SPRINGS VIC
Clifton Springs Bowling Club	39 Springs Street, CLIFTON SPRINGS VIC 3222
Drysdale Bowling & Croquet Club Inc	19-29 Collins Street, DRYSDALE VIC 3222
Lonsdale Golf Club	PARENT - 28 Gill Road, POINT LONSDALE VIC
Portarlington Sailing Club	219 Point Richards Road, PORTARLINGTON VIC
Portarlington Bowls Club Incorporated	2A Harding Street, PORTARLINGTON VIC 3223
Indented Head Boat Club Inc	326A The Esplanade, INDENTED HEAD VIC 3223
Indented Head Yacht Club	326B The Esplanade, INDENTED HEAD VIC 3223
St Leonards Yacht Club & Motor Squadron	1001 Lower Bluff Road, ST LEONARDS VIC 3223
Portarlington Golf Club	92-160 Hood Road, PORTARLINGTON VIC 3223
Leopold Sportsman's Club Inc	131-139 Kensington Road, LEOPOLD VIC 3224
Ocean Grove Bowling Club Incorporated	16-24 The Terrace, OCEAN GROVE VIC 3226
St Leonards Bowling Club	1274 Murradoc Road, ST LEONARDS VIC 3223
Ocean Grove Golf Club Incorporated	9 Guthridge Street, OCEAN GROVE VIC 3226
Geelong Watersports Club Inc	493-499 Wilsons Road, ST ALBANS PARK VIC
Lagoon Boat Club Inc	200 Foreshore Road, CORIO VIC 3214
Belrec Incorporated	68 Calvert Street, HAMLYN HEIGHTS VIC 3215
North Shore Football & Netball Club Inc	39 Rose Avenue, NORLANE VIC 3214
Lara Sporting Club Incorporated	4 Mill Road, LARA VIC 3212
Corio Bay Sailing Club	180 Foreshore Road, CORIO VIC 3214

Ratepayer	Property Address
Norlane Bowling Club Incorporated	26-36 St Georges Road, CORIO VIC 3214
Lara Bowling Club Inc	10 Alkara Avenue, LARA VIC 3212
Herne Hill Bowls Club Inc	200 McCurdy Road, FYANSFORD VIC 3218
Seabrae Boat Owners Club Inc	302 Clifton Avenue, LEOPOLD VIC 3224
Barwon Heads Bowling Club Inc	18 Geelong Road East, BARWON HEADS VIC
Lonsdale Golf Club	69 Fellows Road, POINT LONSDALE VIC 3225
City of Geelong Bowls Club Inc	7-9 Ballarat Road, NORTH GEELONG VIC 3215

SCHEDULE B

1. Farm Land

1.1 Rating Objectives:

1.1.1 To ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable and efficient financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council generally, including the:

i construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;

ii development and provision of health and community services; and

iii provision of general support services.

1.1.2 To encourage and support the business of primary production and, where appropriate, expand the business of primary production.

1.1.3 These objectives will be met by setting the Farm Land differential at 47.69% of the Residential Land differential.

Types and Classes
Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described previously at point 2.3.1 in this attachment.

Use and Level of Differential Rate
The differential rate will be used to fund some of those items of expenditure described in the Budget adopted by Council. The level of the differential rate less the applicable rebate is the level, which Council considers it necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Geographic Location
Wherever located within the municipal district.

Use of Land
Any use permitted under the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme.

Planning Scheme Zoning
The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme.

Types of Buildings
All buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to 30 June 2027.

2. Residential Land

2.1 Rating Objectives:

2.1.1 To ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable and efficient financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council generally, including the:

i construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;

ii development and provision of health and community services; and

iii provision of general support services.

Types and Classes
Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described previously at point 2.3.2 in this attachment.

Use and Level of Differential Rate
The differential rate will be used to fund some of those items of expenditure described in the Budget adopted by Council. The level of the differential rate is the level which Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Geographic Location
Wherever located within the municipal district.

Use of Land
Any use permitted under the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme.

Planning Scheme Zoning
The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme.

Types of Buildings
All buildings which are now constructed on the land, or which are constructed prior to 30 June 2027.

3. Vacant Land

3.1 Rating Objectives:

3.1.1 To ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable and efficient financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council generally, including the:

i construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;

ii development and provision of health and community services; and

iii provision of general support services.

3.1.2 To encourage the prompt development of vacant land to attract new residents and businesses to the City of Greater Geelong.

These objectives will be met by setting the Vacant Land differential at 135.71% of the Residential Land differential.

Types and Classes
Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described at point 2.3.3 in this attachment.

Use and Level of Differential Rate
The differential rate will be used to fund some of those items of expenditure described in the Budget adopted by Council.

Geographic Location
Wherever located within the municipal district.

Use of Land
Any use permitted under the Geelong Regional Planning Scheme.

Planning Scheme Zoning
The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the Geelong Regional Planning Scheme.

Types of Buildings
No building must be located on the land or constructed prior to 30 June 2027 save for any uninhabitable shed or shelter that does not exceed more than 5% of the total area of the land.

4. Commercial/Industrial Land

4.1 Rating Objective:

4.1.1 To ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable and efficient financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council generally, including the:

i construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;

ii development and provision of health and community services; and

iii provision of general support services; and

iv enhancement of the economic viability of the commercial sector through targeted programs and projects; and

v that the equitable contribution made by commercial land recognises the income generating capability and tax deductibility of council rates, which is not available to the majority of the residential sector.

Types and Classes
Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described previously at point 2.3.4 in this attachment.

Use and Level of Differential Rate
The differential rate will be used to fund some of those items of expenditure described in the Budget adopted by Council.

Geographic Location
Wherever located within the municipal district.

Use of Land
Any use permitted under the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme.

Planning Scheme Zoning
The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme.

Types of Buildings
All buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to 30 June 2027.

5. Mixed Use Land

5.1 Rating Objective:

5.1.1 To ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable and efficient financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council generally, including the:

i construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;

ii development and provision of health and community services; and

iii provision of general support services; and

iv enhancement of the economic viability of the industrial sector through targeted programs and projects; and

v That the equitable contribution made by mixed use land recognises the income generating capability and tax deductibility of council rates, which is not available to the majority of the residential sector

Types and Classes
Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described previously at point 2.3.5 in this attachment.

Use and Level of Differential Rate
The differential rate will be used to fund some of those items of expenditure described in the Budget adopted by Council.

Geographic Location
Wherever located within the municipal district.

Use of Land
Any use permitted under the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme.

Planning Scheme Zoning
The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme.

Types of Buildings
All buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to 30 June 2027.

6. Cultural and Recreational Land

6.1 Has the characteristics of Recreational land as defined by the Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963.

Types and Classes
Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described previously at point 2.4.1 in this attachment.

Use and Level of Differential Rate
The differential rate will be used to fund some of those items of expenditure described in the Budget adopted by Council.

Geographic Location
As described in Schedule A.

Use of Land
Any use permitted under the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme.

Planning Scheme Zoning
The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme.

Types of Buildings
All buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to 30 June 2027.

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG
WADAWURRUNG COUNTRY
PO Box 104, Geelong VIC 3220
P: 5272 5272
E: contactus@geelongcity.vic.gov.au
www.geelongaustralia.com.au

CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE
Wurriki Nyal
137-149 Mercer Street, Geelong
8.00am – 5.00pm

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CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

THE CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

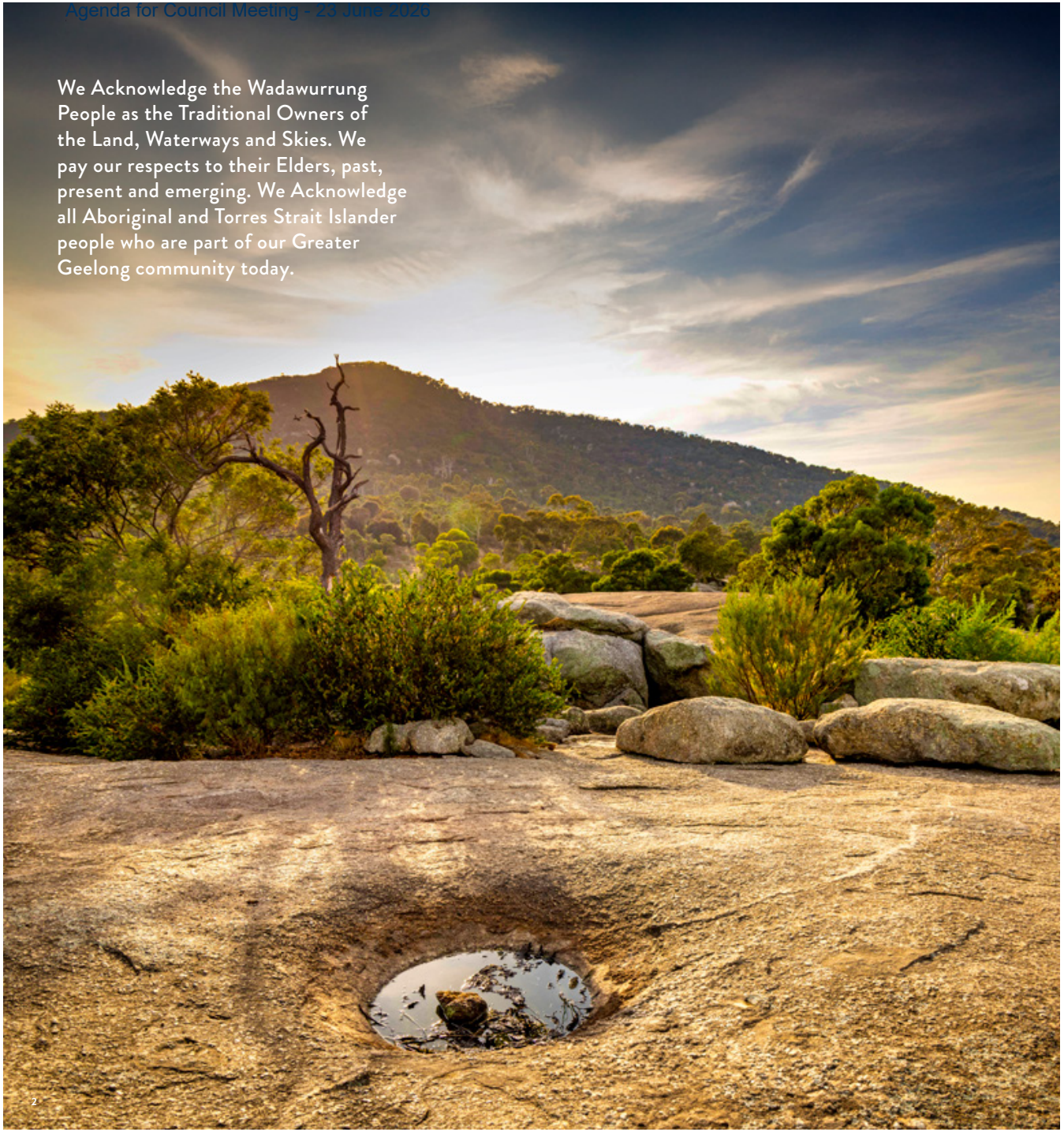
COUNCIL PLAN

2025–29

YEAR 2



CITY OF GREATER GEELONG



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MAYOR AND CEO MESSAGE

Greater Geelong is one of Australia's fastest growing regions, and managing this expansion will be crucial to our success over the coming decades.

We have all the key ingredients for a bright future: our coastal lifestyle and metropolitan feel – without the big city congestion – bustling ports and airports on our doorstep, world class sporting facilities, a burgeoning advanced manufacturing sector and a thriving arts and cultural scene.

But our region faces many challenges too.

As a Council, we need to find the right balance between new growth areas and developing our CBD and other established suburbs.

To secure our region's future prosperity, we must transform our CBD into a vibrant hub, enhancing its culture and fostering a sense of community and belonging.

We need to provide high quality infrastructure for our growing population, amid cost-of-living pressures, inflation and rising building costs.

Delivery of core services like roads, footpaths, curbs and drains must still be maintained to build a strong community foundation.

We need to do all this while reducing our organisation's debt and ensuring long-term financial sustainability, creating capacity to adapt to future economic challenges and opportunities.

This requires close collaboration between the City of Greater Geelong and our community to find new and innovative ways to provide essential services more efficiently and effectively.

Our *Council Plan 2025-29* sets our strategic direction over the next four years to achieve these aims by delivering on our key objectives:

- Plan, deliver, manage and optimise core and critical infrastructure across our growing region.
- Promote, advocate and deliver healthy, caring and equitable outcomes for our communities.
- Lead efforts to revitalise and grow our diverse economic precincts.
- Champion our unique heritage and cultural identity.
- Protect and enhance our unique and beautiful natural environment.
- Commit to the highest levels of integrity, financial stewardship and meaningful community engagement.



The plan provides Council with a framework to guide and enhance decision-making, to ensure we maximise the effectiveness of every dollar to achieve the best outcomes for our community.

It also outlines the leadership role the City of Greater Geelong must play to bring together stakeholders to drive progress and innovation, ensuring Greater Geelong prospers.

The *Council Plan 2025-29* sets a clear path forward for the next four years and beyond for advancing community outcomes to create a thriving and vibrant Greater Geelong.

Cr Dr Stretch Kontelj OAM
Mayor
City of Greater Geelong

Ali Wastie
CEO
City of Greater Geelong

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-29 YEAR 1 REVIEW

Greater Geelong continues to deliver major projects and initiatives that improve how people live, connect and participate across the region. The Council Plan 2025–29 provides the framework to guide this work, and this Year 1 Review reflects on our progress to date.

The first year of the Council Plan 2025-29 has seen strong and consistent progress across the organisation, with 97 per cent of our 31 major initiatives on track.

Construction is underway on Stage 2 of the North Bellarine Aquatic Centre, alongside continued investment in community infrastructure projects across Greater Geelong.

Efforts to revitalise central Geelong are also gaining momentum, with initiatives such as the Geelong City Market helping bring more activity, local business and vibrancy into the CBD.

Last year's inaugural ROAM Festival attracted thousands of visitors and showcased the creativity and energy of our region.

Planning is also progressing to support future growth, with key precinct planning underway in areas including Elcho Road West and Heales Road West.

Across the region, we are continuing to focus on delivering projects and services that respond to the needs of our growing community, while protecting the character and liveability that makes Greater Geelong unique.

Year 2 of the Council Plan 2025-29 highlights the strong progress being made towards our objectives through the work underway that will help to ensure Greater Geelong remains a thriving and vibrant place for everyone.



Geelong City Market, October 2025

"I'm proud we've made real progress people can see, with construction of Landy Field Pavilion Development well underway, continued activation in central Geelong such as the Geelong City Market, and business support that bring energy into our city through the delivery of events like the Geelong Small Business Festival. We're also doing the hard work to plan for growth, with key precinct planning progressing in places like Elcho Road West and Heales Road West."

Cr Dr Stretch Kontelj OAM, Mayor
City of Greater Geelong

"I'm incredibly proud of the work our people are doing across the organisation, showing up every day to deliver great outcomes for our community.

As we move into Year 2, I'm excited about the momentum we're building: a workforce that's engaged and high performing. We will continue our focus on refining our services so they're more simple, more responsive and deliver real value for our customers.

With 97 per cent of our Council Plan initiatives on track, we're delivering for our community. We are delivering one of the largest capital works programs and provide 31 core services to our community; reflective of being Australia's fast growing regional city. I couldn't be more proud to lead our 2,800 strong workforce who are predominantly from City of Greater Geelong and all for Geelong."

Ali Wastie, CEO
City of Greater Geelong

OUR COUNCIL

Like all local governments, the City of Greater Geelong is made up of two interdependent parts – the Council and the organisation. Collectively, we work together to serve our community.

The Council sets the strategic direction for the municipality and make decisions on behalf of the community they've been elected to represent. The organisation oversees the day-to-day delivery of all services and functions, guided by the Council, state and federal legislation and various funding agreements.

The role of a Council is to provide good governance in its municipal district for the benefit and wellbeing of the community it serves. This means:

- considering the diverse needs of the local community in decision-making, including future generations
- establishing strategic objectives and monitoring achievements
- managing resources in a responsible and accountable manner
- advocating local community needs to other communities and governments
- giving everyone the opportunity to participate in the democratic process and decision-making that shapes the community.

As well as performing these roles, our Council provides valuable support to key partner organisations and advocates for projects, programs and initiatives that benefit the region.

In August 2023, a review was undertaken by an independent electoral structure review panel that recommended to the Minister for Local Government that the City of Greater Geelong move from four multiple member wards to eleven single councillor wards. This recommendation was accepted by the Minister and the October 2024 election was held under this structure.

Our Council is made up of eleven elected representatives, called councillors. Each of the eleven councillors represents a different area of Greater Geelong, called a ward. Our current Council was elected for a four-year term on 25 October 2024.



CR DR STRETCH KONTELJ OAM
Mayor
Kardinia Ward



CR EDDY KONTELJ
Deputy Mayor
Hamlyn Heights Ward



CR RON NELSON
Barrabool Hills Ward



CR EMMA SINCLAIR
Charlemont Ward



CR MELISSA CADWELL
Cheetham Ward



CR ELISE WILKINSON
Connewarre Ward



CR ANTHONY AITKEN
Corio Ward



CR ANDREW KATOS
Deakin Ward



CR TRENT SULLIVAN
Leopold Ward



CR ROWAN D. STORY AM, RFD
Murradoc Ward



CR CHRIS BURSON
You Yangs Ward

OUR REGION

With a population of over 280,000 people, the City of Greater Geelong is Victoria's largest regional municipality.

Located 75 kilometres south-west of Melbourne, the municipality covers an area of 1,252 km2, comprising suburban, coastal and country areas. Greater Geelong is bounded by the Moorabool Shire in the north, Wyndham City Council and the Borough of Queenscliff in the east, and Surf Coast Shire and Golden Plains Shire in the west.

The City of Greater Geelong operates on the traditional lands of the Wadawurrung people.

295,052
ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION (2025)

3,562
(1.3%) ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE, INCREASED FROM 2,407 (1%)

39
MEDIAN AGE

82%
WORKFORCE LIVE IN GREATER GEELONG

441,984
FORECAST POPULATION (2026-46) (+44.06%)

17.7%
POPULATION BORN OVERSEAS

2.41
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE

133 KM
OF COASTLINE

11.7%
SPEAK A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH AT HOME (2021)

23,558
TOTAL BUSINESSES (2025) (+697 FROM 2024)

$20.51B
GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT (2023/24)

1,466.64 HECTARES
PROTECTED NATURAL HABITAT



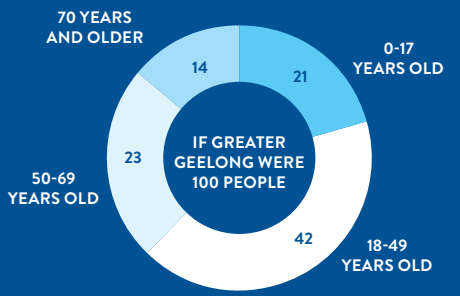


Figure 1 – Greater Geelong Statistics[1]

[1] Source: .id Informed Decisions

OUR ORGANISATION



We are an inclusive and flexible organisation and one of the largest employers in the region. We are responsible for:

- Delivering services and programs that benefit the whole community, such as waste management and roads.
- Delivering services and programs for specific communities, such as maternal child health and youth services.
- Providing support and professional expertise to assist the council in developing policies and making decisions.
- Building and maintaining infrastructure, such as local roads and community hubs.
- Protecting our natural environment, while supporting sustainable development and honouring traditional owner cultural values.
- Supporting economic development that will benefit the whole community.
- Enforcing legislation that has a local community impact, such as food safety and planning legislation.
- Engaging with the local community and significant stakeholders to make sure council decisions are in line with community expectations.
- Helping our community to plan for, and recover from, natural disasters and other emergencies.



JACQUIE RANDLES
Executive Director (Acting), Growth and Place



TROY EDWARDS
Executive Director, Corporate Services



ANTHONY BASFORD
Executive Director, City Life



JAMES STIRTON
Executive Director, City Infrastructure



HOW WE ADVANCE COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

DELIVER

Council directly funds and delivers services or infrastructure. Council provides 31 services that help achieve our strategic objectives. Examples include our leisure and recreation facilities, applying our local laws, and our management of civil infrastructure.

PARTNER

Council has a strong collaborative approach and facilitates outcomes for its community and future generations through creating, building, and maintaining partnerships, promoting opportunities, and building the capacity and capability of community members and organisations. Examples include providing support for local businesses and community groups or the delivery of major events.

ADVOCATE

Council advocates to State and Federal Governments on behalf of the Greater Geelong community for funding and delivery of equitable services or accessible infrastructure. Examples include seeking support for a bold Market Square redevelopment and major road links, such as the "Bellarine Link", to enhance east–west travel, as outlined in the 2026 City of Greater Geelong Priority Projects document.



OUR SERVICES

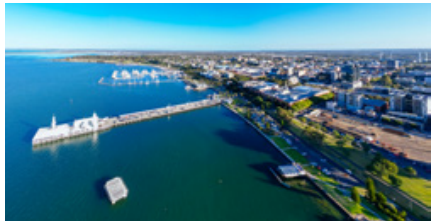


We currently deliver 31 services to support the achievement of the *Council Plan 2025-29* strategic objectives:

- Arts, Culture and Heritage
- Asset and Infrastructure Maintenance
- Business Services
- Civil Infrastructure Management
- Community Wellbeing and Development
- Strategy and Performance
- Customer Service
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Economic Development and Performance
- Events
- Family and Children
- Financial Management
- Governance and Risk
- Advocacy, Government and Strategic Relations
- Health and Safety
- Information Technology Management
- Legal and Integrity
- Leisure and Recreation
- Local Laws
- Capital Delivery
- Marketing and Communications
- Parks and Natural Assets
- People and Culture
- Pets and Animals
- Land Use Planning and Building
- Positive Ageing
- Strategic Asset Management
- Strategic Planning and Design
- Tourism
- Waste Management
- Youth Development

OUR CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The following themes were reviewed as part of the Year 2 Update and remain current, reflecting the ongoing challenges and opportunities facing Greater Geelong.



FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Local governments around the country are facing significant financial sustainability challenges – Greater Geelong included. A few years of extraordinarily high inflation coupled with relatively stagnant income from Victorian government rate caps has created ongoing financial pressure on the city's operations. We continuously look for ways to create financial efficiencies as part of our annual business cycle.



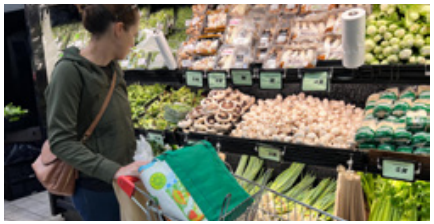
CBD REVITALISATION

Investment in central Geelong will unlock significant economic growth, enhance urban liveability, and attract private sector investment. This will transform the city into a vibrant, thriving hub for residents and visitors alike. Issues such as decreasing occupancy of Market Square and the attraction of businesses to central Geelong, while outside of Council's direct control, are a priority of our advocacy efforts.



LACK OF AVAILABLE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Like all parts of Australia, Greater Geelong is suffering from a lack of housing as well as a lack of affordable housing. Insufficient stock of housing as well as a lack of variety of housing stock can stifle future growth. Additionally, a lack of affordable housing can make it difficult for some workers to move or stay in Greater Geelong, impeding future workforce growth.



COST OF LIVING

Cost of living challenges in Victoria are significant, with rising housing costs leading to mortgage and rental stress, particularly in vulnerable communities. Inflation has increased household expenses, while wages have risen to meet essential costs. Higher energy and transport costs have further strained budgets. These challenges highlight the need for advocacy on affordable housing, resilient food systems, financial support programs, and policies to manage inflation.



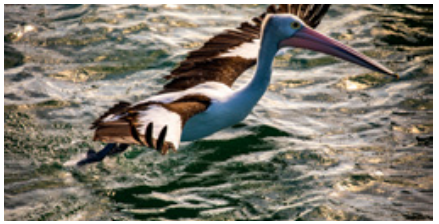
POCKETS OF HIGH SOCIO-ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE

Greater Geelong has some of the most disadvantaged postcodes in Australia. Socio-economic disadvantage can impact educational and employment outcomes, living standards, health outcomes, social isolation and civic participation. Future economic development must be inclusive, addressing the needs of marginalised communities to ensure growth doesn't reinforce existing disadvantage.



TRAFFIC, CONGESTION AND A LACK OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Strong growth, traffic and congestion are emerging as issues for our community. Additionally, a lack of public transport has been cited as a growing concern. As the region continues to grow in population, ensuring that residents can access life's essentials will be increasingly important and public transport can provide a solution that can also reduce traffic, congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Climate change and sustainability are on-going challenges for everyone. As Greater Geelong continues to grow, efforts need to be made across the municipality to embrace circular economy principles, the transition to renewable energy and sustainable practices.



CORE AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Rapid population growth continues to strain our current infrastructure. Maintaining ageing infrastructure and increased community demand for enhanced services in existing areas adds complexity. Securing adequate funding and investment for large-scale infrastructure projects remains a significant challenge, requiring coordination between local, state, and federal governments.



HOW TO READ THIS DOCUMENT

This document contains three main components: the 30-year Clever and Creative Community Vision, four-year Council Plan, and a list of key initiatives. They are presented here as a single integrated document because they are linked and have a cascading relationship.

30-YEAR COMMUNITY VISION

Vision statement and **vision aspirations** - Describe the community's 30-year vision for the future of Greater Geelong and guides the Council in planning for the municipality.

Vision Indicators - High-level measures that show if the municipality is achieving the community aspirations. Council has a low level of influence on these indicators.

FOUR-YEAR COUNCIL PLAN

Strategic direction - Guides the work Council does over the next four years.

Objectives - Describe the key areas of focus of the Council Plan.

Outcomes - Detail what is expected to be delivered as a part of achieving an objective.

Indicators - Define how we measure our success.

ONE-YEAR KEY INITIATIVES

Major initiatives - Detail work that is critical to deliver on the Council's objectives and outcomes.

Activities - Detail the work undertaken to achieve a major initiative.

Role - Describes how we are involved in the action, either directly **(deliver),** working with others **(partner)** or appealing to others for help **(advocate).**

COMMUNITY VISION

In 2017, 16,000 members of our community helped to develop a Community Vision that outlined their aspirations for a thriving Greater Geelong:

"By 2047, Greater Geelong will be internationally recognised as a clever and creative city-region that is forward looking, enterprising and adaptive, and cares for its people and environment."



Figure 2 – Community Vision Aspirations

VISION INDICATORS

The municipal level indicators below, aligned with Geelong's Clever and Creative Community Vision, provide insights into the progress against community aspirations.

Progress of these indicators depends on various external factors, including actions from other levels of government, non-government organisations, the private sector, institutions, community groups, and residents.

GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT

Wealth generated by businesses, organisations and individuals working in the municipality

SELF-RATED HEALTH OF RESIDENTS

Percentage of residents reporting their health and wellbeing as very good or excellent

METHOD OF TRAVEL TO WORK

Percentage of journeys to work made by public transport, walking or cycling

VISITORS TO THE CITY-REGION

Total number of visitors to the city-region per annum

URBAN TREE CANOPY

Percentage of urban tree canopy cover

WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION

Percentage of Geelong's population in the labour force

COMMUNITY CARBON EMISSIONS

Tonnes of CO^2–emissions for the municipality

LEVELS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE

Number of Greater Geelong suburbs in the bottom 20 per cent of the Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage



COUNCIL PLAN 2025–29

"We are committed to advancing community outcomes for a thriving Greater Geelong"

CORE AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Plan, deliver, manage and optimise core and critical infrastructure across the region, ensuring:

- Responsible and sustainable growth and development.
- Community facilities and public spaces are accessible and fit for purpose.
- Multi-modal transport networks are well-connected and accessible.

HEALTHY AND CARING COMMUNITY

Identify, promote, advocate for, and deliver equitable health and wellbeing outcomes for our diverse communities, ensuring:

- A community that is fair, compassionate and inclusive.
- Services and facilities that enhance health and wellbeing are accessible to all.
- A community with the resources and capacity to control their health and wellbeing.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Lead efforts to strengthen our diverse economy and workforce to enhance prosperity across our community, ensuring:

- New businesses, events and investments are attracted to the region.
- Local businesses and industries are supported to thrive.
- Greater Geelong attracts, retains and develops workforce capacity and capability.
- Sufficient land supply to enable sustainable growth, business expansion and attraction.

HERITAGE AND CULTURE

Champion our unique heritage and culture, ensuring:

- Increased engagement in arts, culture and heritage experiences across Greater Geelong.
- Increased investment in our creative, cultural and sporting activity hubs.
- Greater Geelong's diverse culture is shared and celebrated.

ENVIRONMENT AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Protect and enhance our unique natural environment and surrounds, ensuring:

- Natural habitat and areas of important biodiversity are identified, protected, connected and restored.
- Significant reductions in emissions and increased community resilience to climate change impacts.
- Minimise waste and manage effective recovery of resources.

GOVERNANCE AND INTEGRITY

Commit to the highest levels of leadership, integrity, financial stewardship, and meaningful community engagement, ensuring:

- **Public** funds and assets are used equitably and efficiently.
- Decision making is evidence-based, transparent and strategically aligned.
- Community engagement, strong partnerships and effective advocacy delivers value and impact.



CORE AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Plan, deliver, manage and optimise core and critical infrastructure across the region.



OUTCOMES

- Responsible and sustainable growth and development.
- Community facilities and public spaces are accessible and fit for purpose.
- Multi-modal transport networks are well-connected and accessible.

INDICATORS

- Increase the kilometres of transport infrastructure.
- Asset renewal and upgrade expense compared to depreciation above 85%.
- Increase the provision of open space.
- Increase the proportion of housing construction within existing urban areas.

SERVICES SUPPORTING OUR CITY'S INFRASTRUCTURE OBJECTIVE

- Asset and Infrastructure Maintenance
- Civil Infrastructure Management
- Land Use Planning and Building
- Capital Delivery
- Strategic Asset Management
- Strategic Planning and Design

HOW THIS ADDRESSES THE COMMUNITY'S ASPIRATIONS

- Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment
- Development and implementation of sustainable solutions
- A fast, reliable and connected transport network
- People feel safe wherever they are

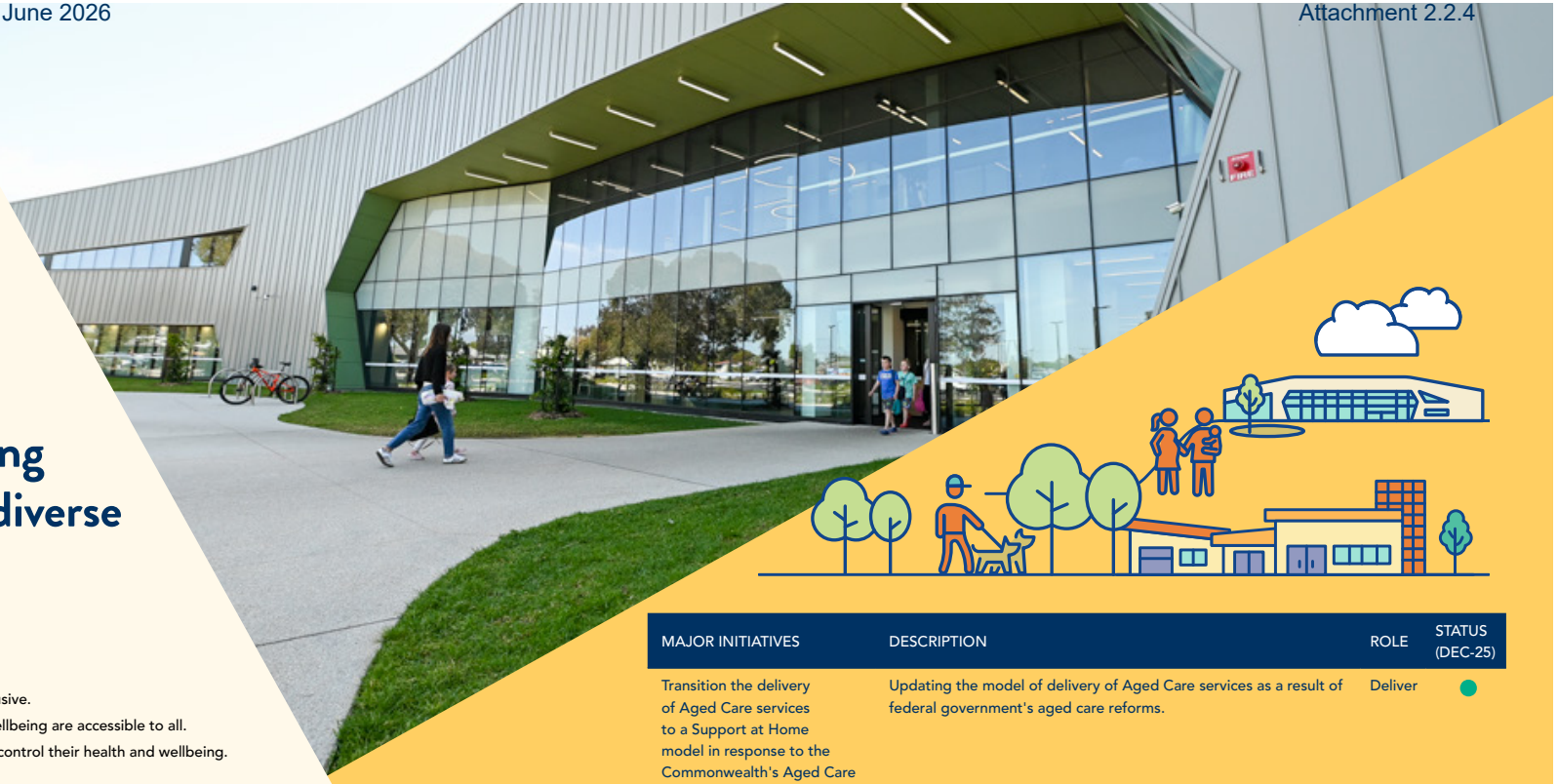
MAJOR INITIATIVES	DESCRIPTION	ROLE	STATUS (DEC-25)
Accelerate planning for housing, employment land and major infrastructure development in response to the Plan for Victoria	Continue delivery of key strategic plans to guide the future land use and infrastructure development within both existing urban (infill) and new growth (greenfield) areas across Greater Geelong.	Deliver Partner Advocate	●
Develop and implement the Public Realm Strategy to guide the landscape character, transport and economic outcomes of key streets	Develop and implement urban design frameworks to guide Geelong's growth, development, and character, including built form outcomes, streetscape design, movement, and access.	Deliver	●
Develop and commence implementation of a new Integrated Transport Strategy	Develop and commence implementation of the new Integrated Transport Strategy to guide Council's transport planning, decision making and advocacy priorities.	Deliver Advocate	●
Upgrade and develop community, sports, and active recreation infrastructure to enhance access and participation in local sports and activities	Continue to advocate for, invest in, and deliver community, sport, and recreation infrastructure across Greater Geelong.	Deliver Advocate	●
Improve and expand regional sporting facilities as part of the Regional Sports Infrastructure Program	Oversee the delivery of regional sporting facilities including Armstrong Creek Sports Centre, Waurn Ponds Sports Precinct and Stead Park to help increase sports participation and attract more elite sport to Geelong.	Deliver	●
Invest in flood management and mitigation initiatives across Greater Geelong	Mitigate the risk and impact of flooding on communities by investing in and managing stormwater infrastructure.	Deliver Advocate	●

● On Track ▲ Delayed ★ Completed → Withdrawn ◆ At Risk

Further detail and the latest status of major initiatives is updated bi-annually and is available via the Council Plan Update Dashboard at **geelong.link/CouncilPlanUpdateDashboard**

HEALTHY AND CARING COMMUNITY

Identify, promote, advocate for, and deliver equitable health and wellbeing outcomes for our diverse communities.



OUTCOMES

- A community that is fair, compassionate and inclusive.
- Services and facilities that enhance health and wellbeing are accessible to all.
- A community with the resources and capacity to control their health and wellbeing.

INDICATORS

- Maintain participation rates in City-operated community services.
- Increase utilisation of the City's swim, sport and leisure facilities.
- Increase the number of Gender+ Impact Assessments completed.

SERVICES SUPPORTING OUR CITY'S HEALTHY AND CARING COMMUNITY OBJECTIVE

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion · Local Laws · Family and Children · Health and Safety · Positive Ageing · Pets and Animals · Leisure and Recreation · Youth Development · Community Wellbeing and Development

HOW THIS ADDRESSES THE COMMUNITY'S ASPIRATIONS

- A prosperous economy that supports jobs and education opportunities
- An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community
- People feel safe wherever they are

MAJOR INITIATIVES	DESCRIPTION	ROLE	STATUS (DEC-25)
Transition the delivery of Aged Care services to a Support at Home model in response to the Commonwealth's Aged Care reforms	Updating the model of delivery of Aged Care services as a result of federal government's aged care reforms.	Deliver	●
Develop and implement the *Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-29*	Implement the *Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-29* which outlines our approach to animal management and within the municipality.	Deliver	●
Implement the *Community Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-29*	Implement the Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan which provides direction for how we will work to help improve the health and wellbeing of the Greater Geelong community over the next four years.	Deliver Partner	●
Ensure equitable access to open space, community sport and recreation facilities and assets across Greater Geelong	Review current and future open space provision and hierarchy across the municipality to ensure equitable open space outcomes for existing and future populations.	Deliver	●
Support participation of women, girls and diverse groups in community sport and recreation	Ensure that women, girls and diverse groups can fully participate in and enjoy the benefits of community sport, with fair opportunity and equitable access to their local facilities.	Deliver	●

● On Track ▲ Delayed ★ Completed → Withdrawn ◆ At Risk

Further detail and the latest status of major initiatives is updated bi-annually and is available via the Council Plan Update Dashboard at **geelong.link/CouncilPlanUpdateDashboard**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Lead efforts to strengthen our diverse economy and workforce to enhance prosperity across our community.



OUTCOMES

- New businesses, events and investment are attracted to the region.
- Local businesses and industries are supported to thrive.
- Greater Geelong attracts, retains and develops workforce capacity and capability.
- Sufficient land supply to enable sustainable growth, business expansion and attraction.

INDICATORS

- Increase the economic benefit of major events funded by the City.
- Maintain the supply of employment land.
- Increase the number of businesses supported through the City's Business Concierge service.

SERVICES SUPPORTING OUR CITY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE

Business Services

Economic Development and Performance

Tourism

HOW THIS ADDRESSES THE COMMUNITY'S ASPIRATIONS

Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment

A leader in developing and adopting technology

A destination that attracts local and international visitors

A prosperous economy that supports jobs and education opportunities

MAJOR INITIATIVES	DESCRIPTION	ROLE	STATUS (DEC-25)
Activate Central Geelong	Partner with key stakeholders to create a vibrant and attractive city centre through place activation and public realm improvements.	Deliver Partner	●
Champion First Nations products and services	Partner with First Nations businesses and organisations to support the growth of First Nations businesses and broaden the regional economy.	Partner	●
Increase visitation to Greater Geelong and The Bellarine	Increase visitation to Geelong and The Bellarine through a focus on marketing and targeted campaigns, leveraging existing and new partnerships, and sector support to help attract both domestic and international tourists.	Deliver Partner Advocate	●
Attract, support and deliver major events across the region	Host major events that align with community values, attract visitors, drive economic activity, and enhance Geelong's reputation as a world-class destination.	Deliver Partner	●
Support the growth of Greater Geelong businesses	Support the growth of Geelong-based businesses through a mix of target event delivery and sponsorship, strategic partnerships and a multifaceted advocacy approach.	Deliver Partner Advocate	●
Grow Geelong's cruise tourism sector	Stimulate growth in the regional cruise sector through facilitating targeted infrastructure investment, coordinated destination development, and strategic partnerships that improve the visitor experience and enhance economic outcomes for the region.	Deliver Partner Advocate	●
Increase capacity and capability of Greater Geelong's workforce	Promote Geelong's lifestyle and liveability to attract and retain talent, ensure workforce development and facilitate business growth.	Partner Advocate	●
Ensure appropriate supply of industrial land across Greater Geelong	Review the availability and suitability of industrial zoned land to meet current use and development patterns and future needs, and adjust the supply and zoning distribution accordingly.	Deliver Advocate	●

● On Track ▲ Delayed ★ Completed → Withdrawn ◆ At Risk

Further detail and the latest status of major initiatives is updated bi-annually and is available via the Council Plan Update Dashboard at **geelong.link/CouncilPlanUpdateDashboard**

HERITAGE AND CULTURE

Champion our unique heritage and culture.



OUTCOMES

- Increased engagement in arts, culture and heritage experiences across Greater Geelong.
- Increased investment in our creative, cultural and sporting activity hubs.
- Greater Geelong's diverse culture is shared and celebrated.

INDICATORS

- Increase visitation to our arts and culture facilities/venues in person and online.
- Maintain the number of artists, groups and organisations supported by the City (*Community Grants Program*).
- Increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural projects and participation.



SERVICES SUPPORTING OUR CITY'S HERITAGE AND CULTURE OBJECTIVE

Arts, Culture and Heritage

Events

HOW THIS ADDRESSES THE COMMUNITY'S ASPIRATIONS

Creativity drives culture

A destination that attracts local and international visitors

MAJOR INITIATIVES	DESCRIPTION	ROLE	STATUS (DEC-25)
Strengthen Geelong's artists, arts and cultural organisations and creative enterprises	Grow the arts by supporting individuals, organisations and creative enterprises through funding, professional development and networking opportunities, and provision of creative spaces.	Partner	●
Celebrate Geelong's unique culture of art and design	Showcasing the region's culture of art and design through the funding and enabling of cultural programs and events.	Deliver Partner	●
Protect the cultural heritage of Greater Geelong through review of the *Geelong Heritage Strategy*	Update heritage overlay information and development guidelines to provide increased certainty for owners and developers.	Deliver	●

● On Track ▲ Delayed ★ Completed → Withdrawn ◆ At Risk

Further detail and the latest status of major initiatives is updated bi-annually and is available via the Council Plan Update Dashboard at **geelong.link/CouncilPlanUpdateDashboard**

ENVIRONMENT AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Protect and enhance our unique natural environment and surrounds.



OUTCOMES

- Natural habitat and areas of important biodiversity are identified, protected, connected and restored.
- Significant reductions in emissions and increased community resilience to climate change impacts.
- Minimise waste and manage effective recovery of resources.

INDICATORS

- Decrease the volume of greenhouse gas emissions from City-managed operations.
- Increase the amount of hectares of natural habitat on City-managed land.
- Decrease the amount of (kerbside) waste produced each year per household.



SERVICES SUPPORTING OUR CITY'S ENVIRONMENT AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY OBJECTIVE

Parks and Natural Assets

Waste Management

HOW THIS ADDRESSES THE COMMUNITY'S ASPIRATIONS

- Creativity drives culture
- A destination that attracts local and international visitors
- Development and implementation of sustainable solutions

MAJOR INITIATIVES	DESCRIPTION	ROLE	STATUS (DEC-25)
Develop and implement the Geelong Growth Areas Strategic Assessment	Design a strategic approach to how biodiversity in the Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas can be protected.	Deliver	●
Implementation of the *Environment Strategy Action Plan 2024-26*	Implement the Environment strategy to achieve the our environmental sustainability goals.	Deliver Partner Advocate	●
Upgrade existing resource recovery facilities to prepare for new Food Organics and Green Organics (FOGO) and glass kerbside collection services	Upgrade our existing facilities to meet state government legislative requirements to introduce food organics and glass collection services by 2030 and 2027 respectively.	Deliver	▲
Design, deliver, and renew resource recovery and waste recycling infrastructure for the region	Design and deliver new Resource Recovery and Waste Recycling infrastructure to better manage waste and decrease the amount of material going to landfill by exploring innovative resource recovery methods.	Deliver	●

● On Track ▲ Delayed ★ Completed → Withdrawn ◆ At Risk

Further detail and the latest status of major initiatives is updated bi-annually and is available via the Council Plan Update Dashboard at **geelong.link/CouncilPlanUpdateDashboard**

GOVERNANCE AND INTEGRITY

Commit to the highest levels of leadership, integrity, financial stewardship, and meaningful community engagement.



OUTCOMES

- Public funds and assets are used equitably and efficiently.
- Decision making is evidence-based, transparent and strategically aligned.
- Community engagement, strong partnerships and effective advocacy delivers value and impact.

INDICATORS

- Delivery of capital project program.
- Increase the number of grants secured that support strategic initiatives.
- Increase community engagement and participation opportunities.

SERVICES SUPPORTING OUR CITY'S GOVERNANCE AND INTEGRITY OBJECTIVE

Customer Service · Financial Management · Information Technology Management · Governance and Risk · Legal and Integrity · Marketing and Communications · People and Culture · Strategy and Performance · Advocacy, Government and Strategic Relations

HOW THIS ADDRESSES THE COMMUNITY'S ASPIRATIONS

- Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment
- A leader in developing and adopting technology
- A destination that attracts local and international visitors
- A prosperous economy that supports jobs and education opportunities
- Creativity drives culture
- Development and implementation of sustainable solutions
- A fast, reliable and connected transport network
- People feel safe wherever they are

MAJOR INITIATIVES	DESCRIPTION	ROLE	STATUS (DEC-25)
Enhance customer service experience	Enhance the experience of all customers and community members to whom we provide customer service through process improvements and the use of technology to deliver more personalised, convenient, and engaging customer interactions.	Deliver	●
Strengthen the Council's long term financial sustainability	Improve financial sustainability in the areas of operating performance, liquidity, asset management and debt servicing capacity through responsible financial management and stewardship.	Deliver	●
Deliver the Service Review Program	Conduct a review of all Council services to ensure that services meet community needs and expectations whilst providing good value as required by the *Local Government Act 2020* service performance principles.	Deliver	●
Drive good governance and a strong safety culture	Continue the organisation's efforts on strengthening our governance practices and fostering a positive workplace culture.	Deliver	●
Increase opportunities for community engagement and contribution in Council decision-making	Identify and implement improvements to enhance our engagement practices and processes to support informed decision-making.	Deliver Partner	●

● On Track ▲ Delayed ★ Completed → Withdrawn ◆ At Risk

Further detail and the latest status of major initiatives is updated bi-annually and is available via the Council Plan Update Dashboard at **geelong.link/CouncilPlanUpdateDashboard**

APPENDIX 1

WHAT HAS CHANGED IN THIS UPDATE

PURPOSE OF THIS UPDATE

The Council Plan is updated annually to ensure it remains current, reflects Council priorities, and aligns with the City's budget and planning processes.

This Year 2 update builds on the first year of implementation and incorporates updates to reflect changes in priorities, service delivery and the operating environment. It also improves how information is presented to make the document clearer and easier to use.

SUMMARY OF KEY CHANGES

MAJOR INITIATIVES	DESCRIPTION	ROLE
Progress reporting on major initiatives	Status updates have been introduced for each major initiative to improve visibility of delivery progress.	All initiatives include a "Status" column (e.g. On Track, Delayed), supported by visual indicators and a legend. Further detail including latest status is available via the Council Plan Update Dashboard at **geelong.link/CouncilPlanUpdateDashboard**
Services and organisational context	The service catalogue and organisational information have been updated to reflect current operations.	Updated to from 30 to 31 services; addition of Strategic Planning and Design; renaming of services including *Capital Delivery; Advocacy, Government & Strategic Relations; and Land Use Planning and Building.*
Strategy and Planning Catalogue	The catalogue has been updated to reflect current endorsed strategies and plans.	Addition of key documents such as *Geelong Waterfront Master Plan 2025, Community Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025–29, Rainbow Action Plan 2025–2029*, and recreation reserve master plans; removal of superseded strategies such as the 2-year Action plan for the *Positive Ageing Strategy 2021-47, Community Strengthening Strategy.*
Regional and contextual information	Key data and supporting information have been updated to reflect latest available insights.	Updated population, growth forecasts, business data and demographics; inclusion of data sources.
Mayor and CEO reflections	A new reflection has been included highlighting key achievements over the past year and priorities ahead.	Mayor and CEO message outlining what has been achieved and what Council is focused on delivering next.
Structure and usability improvements	The document layout and presentation have been refined to improve clarity and accessibility.	Improved formatting and consistency across sections, including appendix reordering and the introduction of this "What's Changed" appendix to clearly highlight updates.
General content updates	Minor updates have been made across the document to improve accuracy and consistency.	Corrections to wording, formatting, page numbering and organisational details (e.g., new Deputy Mayor).

WHAT HAS NOT CHANGED

- The long-term strategic direction set in the *Council Plan 2025–29*
- The six strategic objectives and their overarching outcomes
- Alignment to the *Community Vision: Greater Geelong – A Clever and Creative Future*

LOOKING AHEAD

The Council Plan will continue to be updated annually to ensure it remains relevant, transparent and aligned to Council decisions, budget priorities and community expectations.

APPENDIX 2

SERVICE CATALOGUE



APPENDIX 3

STRATEGY AND PLAN CATALOGUE

CORE AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- *Armstrong Creek East Precinct District Sport Reserve Master Plan*
- *Armstrong Creek Town Centre Precinct Structure Plan*
- *Armstrong Creek Town Centre Precinct Sustainable Management Plan*
- *Avalon Corridor Strategy & Framework Plan*
- *Barwon Heads Structure Plan*
- *Barwon Heads Urban Design Framework*
- *Barwon Heads Village Park Master Plan 2021*
- *Belmont Common North Master Plan*
- *Central Geelong Framework Plan*
- *Central Geelong Public Realm Framework*
- *Central Geelong Structure Plan 2007*
- *Central Geelong Waterfront Masterplan 2011*
- *Corio Norlane Structure Plan 2012*
- *Corio North Community Services Infrastructure Plan*
- *Drysdale Clifton Springs Structure Plan 2010*
- *Drysdale Sporting Precinct Master Plan*
- *Drysdale Town Centre Urban Design Framework*
- *Geelong Port Structure Plan 2007*
- *Geelong Road Safety Strategy 2022-27 (Vision Zero)*
- *Geelong Station Precinct Urban Design Framework*
- *Geelong Waterfront Safe Harbour Precinct, Public Access and Infrastructure Development Project Masterplan*
- *Geelong Waterfront Master Plan 2025*
- *Greater Geelong Open Space Strategy*
- *Highton Village Urban Design Framework*
- *Indented Head Structure Plan*
- *Integrated Comprehensive Transport Plan*
- *Jetty Road Neighbourhood Activity Centre Master Plan*
- *Jetty Road Urban Growth Plan*
- *Johnstone Park Master Plan*
- *Lara Recreation Reserve Master Plan*
- *Lara Structure Plan 2011*
- *Lara Urban Design Framework*
- *Leopold Memorial Recreation Reserve Master Plan*
- *Leopold Structure Plan 2011*
- *Market Square Masterplan*
- *Mercer, Bayley and Gheringhap Street Streetscape Masterplan*
- *Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas Framework Plan*
- *Ocean Grove Structure Plan*
- *Ocean Grove Town Centre Urban Design Framework*
- *Pakington Street (Geelong West) & Gordan Avenue Urban Design Framework*
- *Pakington Street and Gordan Avenue Urban Design Framework*
- *Pakington Street and Gordon Avenue Urban Design Framework- Pakington North Precinct*
- *Pakington Street North Urban Design Framework*
- *Point Lonsdale Structure Plan*
- *Portarlington Recreation Reserve Master Plan 2021*
- *Portarlington Structure Plan*
- *Portarlington Urban Design Framework*
- *Priority Stormwater Projects Masterplan*
- *Public Library Buildings Development Strategy*
- *Rural Land Use Strategy*
- *Saleyards precinct infrastructure plan*
- *Saleyards Precinct Plan*
- *Saleyards Precinct Plan - June 2021*
- *Settlement Strategy 2020*
- *Social Infrastructure Plan 2020-2023 (Our Community Places, Spaces and Services)*
- *South Geelong Urban Design Framework*
- *Sovereign Drive Master Plan*
- *Sparrovale-Nubitj yoorree Wetlands Master Plan*
- *St Leonards Lake and Charles McCarthy Reserve Master Plan*
- *St Leonards Structure Plan 2015*
- *St Leonards Urban Design Framework*
- *Stormwater Services Strategy 2020-2030*
- *Sustainable Destination Master Plan*
- *West Fyans Structure Plan*
- *Windsor Park Master Plan*

HEALTHY AND CARING COMMUNITIES

- *Aldershot Reserve Master Plan 2021*
- *Armstrong Creek Sports Development Plan*
- *Arts and Cultural Precinct Masterplan*
- *Ba-gurrk Gender Equity Framework - Foundational Implementation Plan 2019-2022*
- *Beacon Point Reserve Master Plan*
- *Coastside Drive Recreation Reserve Master Plan 2025*
- *Community Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-29*
- *Corio Community Park - Shell Reserve Masterplan*
- *Disability Access & Inclusion Plan 2024-28*
- *Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029*
- *Fair Play Strategy*
- *G21 and AFL Barwon - 'Towards 2030 Strategy'*
- *Geelong Indoor Recreation Facilities Strategy Vol 1*
- *Geelong Indoor Recreation Facilities Strategy Vol 2*
- *Geelong On The Rise: A Clever and Creative International City - Greater Geelong Economic Development Plan 2024–2034*
- *Geelong Play Strategy Vol 1*
- *Geelong Play Strategy Vol 2*
- *Golf Facilities Strategy*
- *Graffiti Management Strategy 2017-2022*
- *Greater Geelong Cycle Strategy*
- *Hamlyn Park Recreation Reserve Master Plan*
- *Herne Hill Reserve Master Plan*
- *Hume Reserve Master Plan*
- *Kardinia Park Master Plan 1996*
- *King Lloyd Reserve Master Plan*
- *Leopold Sub-Regional Activity Centre - Urban Design Framework*
- *LGBTIQA+ Action Plan*
- *Multicultural Action Plan 2018-2022*
- *Myers Reserve Landscape Master Plan*
- *Ocean Grove Sporting Infrastructure Plan*
- *Positive Ageing Strategy 2021-47 - Respected, connected and thriving*
- *Queens Park Master Plan*
- *Rainbow Action Plan 2025-2029*
- *Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan*
- *Shared Trails Masterplan*
- *Social Equity Action Plan 2022-2024*
- *Social Housing Plan 2020 - 2041*
- *Sovereign Drive Recreation Reserve Master Plan 2025*
- *Stead Park Master Plan*
- *The City's Inclusion & Diversity Roadmap 2021*
- *Thomson Recreation Reserve Master Plan*
- *West Oval Master Plan*

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- *City of Greater Geelong Retail Strategy 2020-2036*
- *Geelong City Deal Implementation Plan*
- *Geelong Major Events Strategy 2024-29*
- *Geelong On The Rise: A Clever and Creative International City - Greater Geelong Economic Development Plan 2024–2034*
- *Laneways Action Plan*
- *Live Music Strategy*
- *Live Music Strategy Action Plan*
- *Revitalising Central Geelong Action Plan 2016*
- *Smart City Implementation and Action Plan*

ENVIRONMENT AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- *Aldershot Reserve Master Plan 2021*
- *Biodiversity Strategy 2022*
- *Blue Waters Lake Master Plan*
- *Central Geelong Waterfront Masterplan 2011*
- *Climate Change Response Plan*
- *Coastal Climate Adaptation Strategy*
- *Environment Strategy 2020-2030*
- *Environment Strategy Action Plan 2020-2022*
- *Hooded Plover Conservation Action Plan*
- *Indented Head Woodland Nature Reserve Master Plan*
- *Integrated Water Management Strategy*
- *Myers Reserve Landscape Master Plan*
- *Plastic Wise Program Action Plan*
- *Rabbit Control Plan 2021-2026*
- *Southeast Bellarine Coastal Strategy*
- *Sparrovale-Nubitj yoorree Wetlands Master Plan*
- *St Leonards Lake and Charles McCarthy Reserve Master Plan*
- *Stormwater Services Strategy 2020-2030*
- *Urban Forest Strategy 2015 – 2025*
- *Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2020-2030*

ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

- *Arts and Cultural Strategy 2020-31*
- *Arts and Cultural 4 Year Action Plan 2021-25*
- *Connecting People, Place and Environment - A Public Art Strategy for the City of Greater Geelong*
- *Municipal Heritage Strategy*
- *National Wool Museum 30 Year Vision*

GOVERNANCE, INTEGRITY AND TRANSPARENCY

- *Ba-gurrk: A Gender Equity Framework*
- *Greater Geelong Vision: A Clever and Creative Future 2nd Edition*
- *Long-term Financial Plan*
- *Organisation Strategy 2024-29*
- *Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2025*

APPENDIX 4

POLICY CONTEXT

The Council Plan guides local decision making and resource allocation for community services, infrastructure, and economic development. Understanding the roles of government ensures local councils:

- Advocate effectively for funding and policy support from higher levels of government.
- Align local priorities with state and federal initiatives for economic growth, sustainability, and public services.
- Empower residents with clear expectations about government responsibilities, what is within the level of government's sphere of control, and service delivery.

A well-informed Council Plan strengthens community engagement, strategic planning, and long-term development by aligning priorities to other levels of government.

LEVEL	ROLE	KEY FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES	REVENUE SOURCES
Federal	Established by the Australian Constitution, responsible for national and international affairs. It enacts laws through parliament and oversees economic policy, trade, defence, and welfare.	• **National Security:** Defence, Border Protection, Foreign Policy, Trade Agreements • **Communications and Infrastructure:** Telecommunications (NBN, Media), National Highways, Airports • **Economy and Finance:** Banking Regulations, Taxation, Centrelink (Welfare and Pensions) • **Health and Social Services:** Medicare, NDIS, Aged Care • **Environment and Energy:** Climate Policy, Water Management, National Parks • **Justice and Lawmaking:** Immigration, Consumer Protection, Copyright.	**Primary:** Income Tax, GST **Secondary:** Customs Duties, Excise Taxes (Alcohol, Fuel), Import Tariffs, Government Bonds
State	Operates under State Constitutions with legislative power over health, education, transport, emergency services, and natural resources.	• **Law and Order:** State Police, Courts, Prisons, Emergency Services • **Transport and Infrastructure:** Public Transport, Highways, Vehicle Registration • **Health and Education:** Public Hospitals, Community and Women's Health Agencies, Schools, Universities, TAFE • **Environment and Resources:** Water Supply, Forestry, Mining Regulation • **Business and Consumer Affairs:** Licensing, Fair Trading, Workplace Safety. Supports regional economic development.	**Primary:** Payroll Tax, Stamp Duty, GST Distribution **Secondary:** Land Tax, Gambling Taxes, Vehicle Fees, Fines
Local	Created under State Government legislation, responsible for local services, infrastructure, and urban planning.	• **Community Services:** Libraries, Childcare, Aged Care • **Community Inclusion:** Leads and supports programs that empower communities and foster social cohesion • **Waste and Environment:** Garbage Collection, Recycling, Local Parks • **Urban Planning:** Building Permits, Local Roads, Traffic Management • **Public Spaces and Recreation:** Parks, Sports Facilities, Public Pools • **Animal Services:** Pet Registration, Food Safety Inspections • **Economic Development:** Supports small business, tourism, and community economic development. • **Art and Culture:** Invests in supporting art, heritage and culture within each community.	**Primary:** Property Rates **Secondary:** Developer Contributions, Fees and Charges, State and Federal Grants

APPENDIX 5

PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK

We have developed an integrated, long-term and transparent approach to planning, performance monitoring and reporting that is aligned with our Clever and Creative Vision.

The framework has been informed by best practice[2] and helps us set goals, make decisions, prioritise our workload, allocate resources, monitor how we're going and adapt to changing circumstances that might challenge our progress. As Figure 3 shows, the top layer of this framework is most relevant to our council plan process.

Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework (ISPRF)

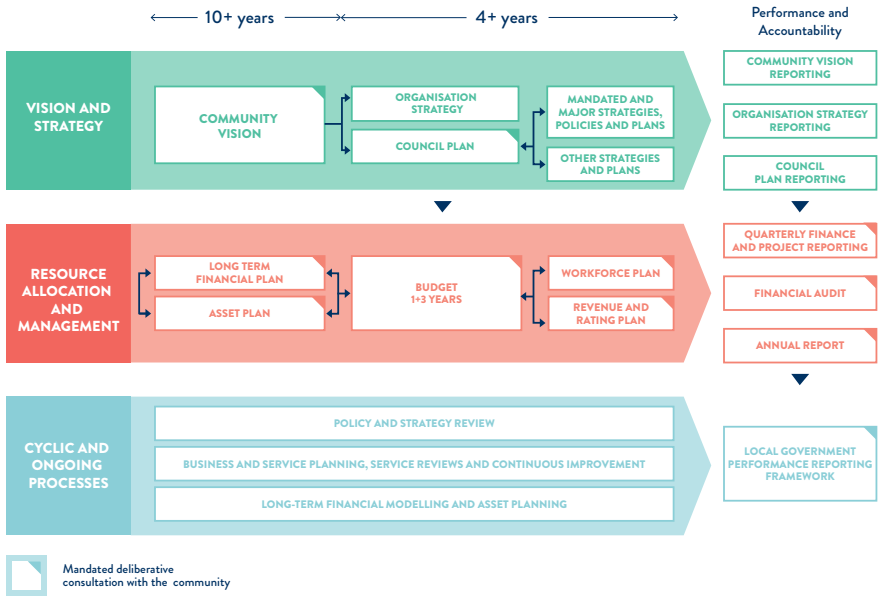


Figure 3: Our Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework (ISPRF)

[2] Informed by: Victorian Government. (2024). Model Budget 2024-25: Better Practice Guide. Retrieved from https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0021/205725/Model_Budget_2024-25_Better_Practice_Guide_.pdf.

APPENDIX 6

HOW THIS PLAN WAS DEVELOPED

This page outlines how the four-year Council Plan 2025–29 was developed. It does not reflect the annual update process; see Appendix 1 for further information. The development involved a series of key activities to ensure the document was underpinned by a robust evidence base, shaped by deliberative community engagement, and aligned with key legislative requirements.

PHASE ONE: UNDERSTANDING CONTEXT

Review of the Community Vision and its Aspirations:

Our community's 30-year Clever and Creative Vision "By 2047, Greater Geelong will be internationally recognised as a clever and creative city-region that is forward looking, enterprising and adaptive, and cares for its people and environment."

- A prosperous economy that supports jobs and education opportunities.
- A leader in developing and adopting technology.
- Creativity drives culture.
- A fast, reliable and connected transport network.
- A destination that attracts local and international visitors.
- People feel safe wherever they are.
- An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community.
- Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment.
- Development and implementation of sustainable solutions.

Review of key legislation and policy, including:

- *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008.*
- *Local Government Act 2020.*
- *Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023–2027.*
- *Gender Equality Act 2020.*
- Audit of existing City of Greater Geelong strategies and plans.
- See Appendix 3 for a complete list of the City of Greater Geelong's strategies and plans.
- Audit of past community engagements from our Have Your Say platform.
- Analysis of 15 planning area profiles.

PHASE TWO: DELIBERATIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (AUGUST 2024) AND COMMUNITY SURVEY (JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2024)

We hosted a range of deliberative engagement activities to ensure that the Council Plan was informed by a real mix of voices in a supported and empowered environment.

- 48 people participated in in-person workshops.
- The deliberative panel aimed to recreate the demographic profile of Greater Geelong.
- Four workshops were held for the panel to deliberate on what their priorities for the next four years should be.
- The community survey was supported by pop-ups across the four electoral wards (prior to the change to 11 wards).
- The survey asked respondents to order their priorities for the next Council Plan period.
- An additional 'Fund it' exercise asked the community how they would prioritise spending the City's budget using a fictional $100 limit. This exercise challenged the community to make 'trade off' decisions around how they would allocate funds across our services.

PHASE THREE: INTEGRATING COMMUNITY INSIGHTS AND DEVELOPING COUNCIL PRIORITIES (FEBRUARY TO MARCH 2025)

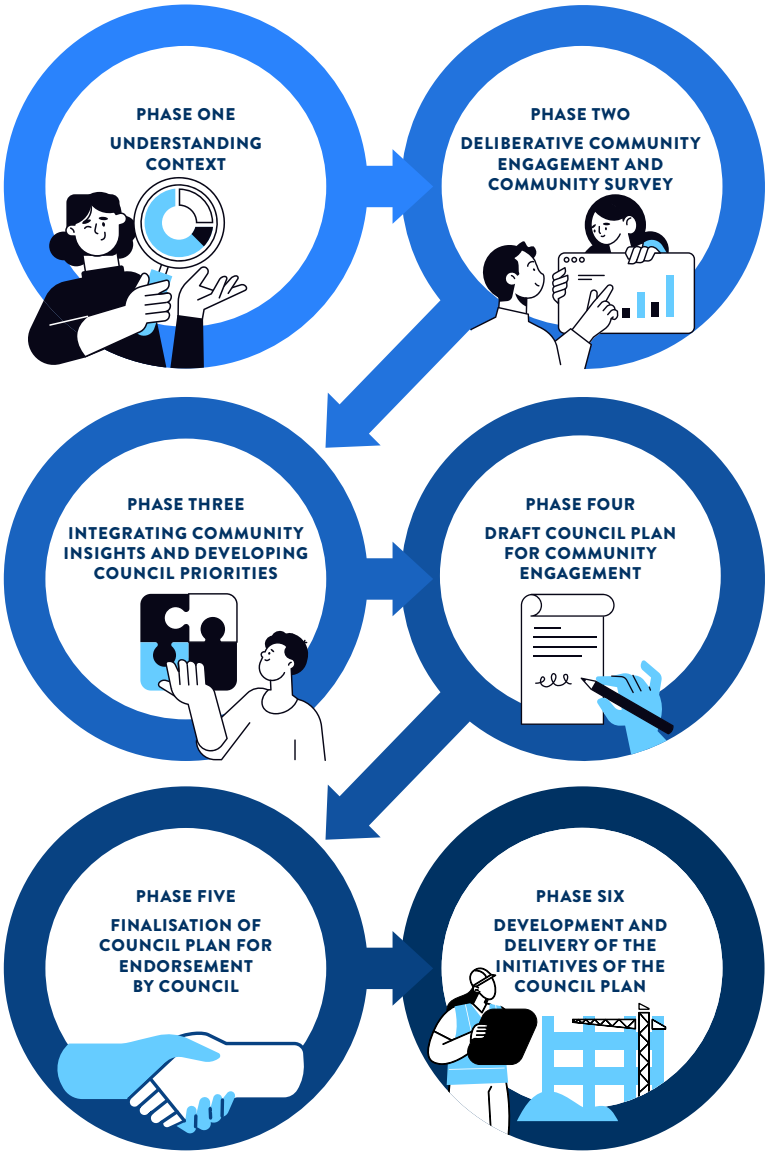
The deliberative engagement process and community survey identified a series of community priorities for the future of the City. These inputs, as well as our existing strategic commitments, and information gathered by Councillors through speaking with community members, informed the strategic direction, objectives, and outcomes of the draft Council Plan.

PHASE FOUR: DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (JUNE 2025)

The draft *Council Plan 2025-29* was released for further community engagement allowing an opportunity for community feedback in May 2025 for a period of four weeks. This provided the community with the opportunity to reflect on how their insights informed the objectives and priorities of the draft Council Plan.

PHASE FIVE: FINALISATION OF COUNCIL PLAN FOR ENDORSEMENT BY COUNCIL (JULY 2025)

PHASE SIX: DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY OF THE INITIATIVES OF THE COUNCIL PLAN





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CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

2.3. Amendment C433ggee - Pakington Street & Gordon Avenue UDFs - Consideration of Panel Report and Adoption

Source: **Growth & Place**

Interim Executive Director: **Jacqueline Randles**

Purpose

1. To consider the Amendment C433ggee Planning Panel Report and adopt the Amendment.

Background

2. Amendment C433 seeks to implement the Pakington Street and Gordon Avenue Urban Design Framework, 2024 adopted on 14 December 2021 and the Pakington North Urban Design Framework (UDF), 2024 adopted on 28 May 2024.

3. The UDFs are driven and supported by the City's Settlement Strategy 2020 and supports Council's goal of providing for significant future housing needs through urban infill. The Amendment supports the State Government's Plan for Victoria which identifies Geelong's housing target to 2051 as 128,600 additional homes, of which 77,500 must be delivered in established areas.

4. The location of Pakington Street and Gordon Avenue in the context of Central Geelong Activity Centre, Geelong-Melbourne rail line, and existing community infrastructure has led the Gordon Avenue and Pakington North precincts to be identified as Key Development Areas – refer Attachment 1 (Map of Geelong West UDF Precincts).

5. The City's Retail Strategy 2020–36 identifies Pakington Street (Geelong West) retail spine as a specialised centre.

6. To inform the UDFs, Council undertook extensive and multi-stage community engagement, including a deliberate community panel process.

7. The exhibited amendment rezones land from Commercial 2 Zone (C2Z) to Commercial 1 Zone (C1Z) and to the Residential Growth Zone (RGZ) subject to two new Schedules to the Design and Development Overlay (DDO) and the Environmental Audit Overlay (EAO) to facilitate a broader range of retail and office uses and to support greater housing growth.

8. Schedule 56 to the Design and Development Overlay (DDO56) and Schedule 57 to the Design and Development Overlay (DDO57) (DDO's) provide direction and certainty to the local community on future development and building heights.

9. Other local policy changes to the Planning Scheme support the amendment.

10. The public exhibition of the amendment occurred from 31 July to 1 September 2025. A total of 51 submissions were received. Of those submissions received, 13 were accepting, 34 objected to the amendment and 4 provided comments only.

11. Key issues raised in the submissions included zone and overlay application; Design and Development Overlay provisions for the Gordon Avenue Precinct (DDO56) and the Pakington North Precinct (DDO57); site specific issues (including the rail siding yard and the Pakington Strand site); drafting/operability matters; traffic and car parking, open space, local policy and drainage.

12. On 25 November 2025, after considering submissions, Council resolved to refer all the submissions to an Independent Panel appointed by the Minister for Planning.

13. A Panel Hearing was held from the 17 to 20 February 2026 at Council offices; 5 submitters appeared at the hearing, including local residential and commercial site landowners, plus Council.

Key Matters

14. The Panel Report received by Council was dated 13 April 2026. Under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 the Planning Authority (i.e. Council) must consider the Panel's report before deciding whether or not to adopt the Amendment.

15. The Panel acknowledged that Council undertook a comprehensive community consultation process to inform the UDFs proposed in the amendment.

16. The Panel found the amendment to be strategically justified and recommends the amendment be adopted, subject to the changes recommended in the Panel Report, - refer Attachment 2 (Panel report - executive summary). The full Panel Report is available online at the Amendment C433 webpage.

17. Council proposed several changes to the amendment post exhibition and at the hearing in response to submissions and expert evidence. The changes proposed include drafting and operability changes, changes to the DDOs, and changes to local planning policies.

18. The Panel supported most of Council's proposals and included recommendations for further changes in response to submission and evidence. It is proposed to accept the Panel's recommendations, with further minor drafting editions for clarity – refer to Attachment 3 for a summary of the key issues, recommendations and responses.

19. It is recommended that the amendment be adopted in the form shown in Attachment 4 and submitted to the Minister for Planning requesting approval.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Adopts Amendment C433ggee – Pakington Street and Gordon Avenue Urban Design Frameworks – in the form shown in Attachment 4 (Amendment Documents) of this report; and**

2. **Submits the adopted Amendment and prescribed information to the Minister for Planning requesting approval.**

Financial Sustainability

20. There are no adverse financial implications associated with the Amendment.

Community Engagement

21. Amendment C433ggee was exhibited in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

22. All submitters had an opportunity to be heard before an independent Panel. The Panel considered all submissions referred to it, not just the submissions presented at the hearing.

23. The City has advised submitters of the release of the independent Panel Report. Submitters will be notified of the final decision of Council and the Minister for Planning.

Social Equity and Sustainability

24. The amendment will provide social benefits by facilitating urban infill development near public transport and community services increasing housing supply for Greater Geelong.

25. Local policy encourages social and affordable social housing contributions in activity centres and is consistent with the City's Social Housing Plan 2020-2042 and accords with State Government policy.

26. The amendment will facilitate improvements to the public realm, including Pakington Street and Gordon Avenue, creating a vibrant and sustainable precinct for locals and visitors to the area.

Gender Equality – Gender+ Impact Assessment

27. The Panel Report does not identify any provision within the amendment documentation that explicitly differentiate or adversely affect individuals based on gender or intersecting characteristics.

28. The amendment is considered to have a mild positive gender impact, as it does not introduce differential impact across genders and supports broader objectives relating to accessibility, safety, housing diversity and public realm quality.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

29. Council's 2020 Settlement Strategy outlines the need to provide infill housing opportunities to support population growth. The Settlement Strategy recommended the preparation of the UDF which included an Increased Housing Diversity Area review and nomination of possible Key Development Areas.

30. The amendment is consistent with State and local planning policy on activity centres, urban design, housing supply and affordability and transport networks.

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

31. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:

Core and Critical Infrastructure - Plan, deliver, manage and optimise core and critical infrastructure across the region.

Increasing the proportion of housing with existing urban areas.

Economic Development - Lead efforts to strengthen our diverse economy and workforce to enhance prosperity across our community.

Sufficient land supply to enable sustainable growth, business expansion and attraction.

32. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, “Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future” community aspiration:

    Sustainable development that supports population growth

Conflict of Interest

33. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment and Risk Appetite Statement

34. The Amendment facilitates increased housing densities in well serviced areas, and appropriate locations.

35. Council has no appetite for risks that result in material non-compliance of legislation or regulatory requirements. The Pakington Street and Gordon Avenue UDF complies with all relevant state and council policies including but not limited to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, and Settlement Strategy.

Environmental Sustainability

36. The amendment is expected to have a positive impact on the environment by ensuring that new development is responsive to the local context and providing built form controls that will guide new and infill development.

37. The amendment appropriately manages negative environmental effects through the application of an Environmental Audit Overlay on potentially contaminated land.

Attachments

1. Map of Geelong West UDF Precincts [**2.3.1** - 1 page]
2. Panel Report Executive Summary [**2.3.2** - 7 pages]
3. Key Issues Addressed by the Planning Panel and Response [**2.3.3** - 7 pages]
4. Amendment C 433 ggee - Documents [**2.3.4** - 131 pages]

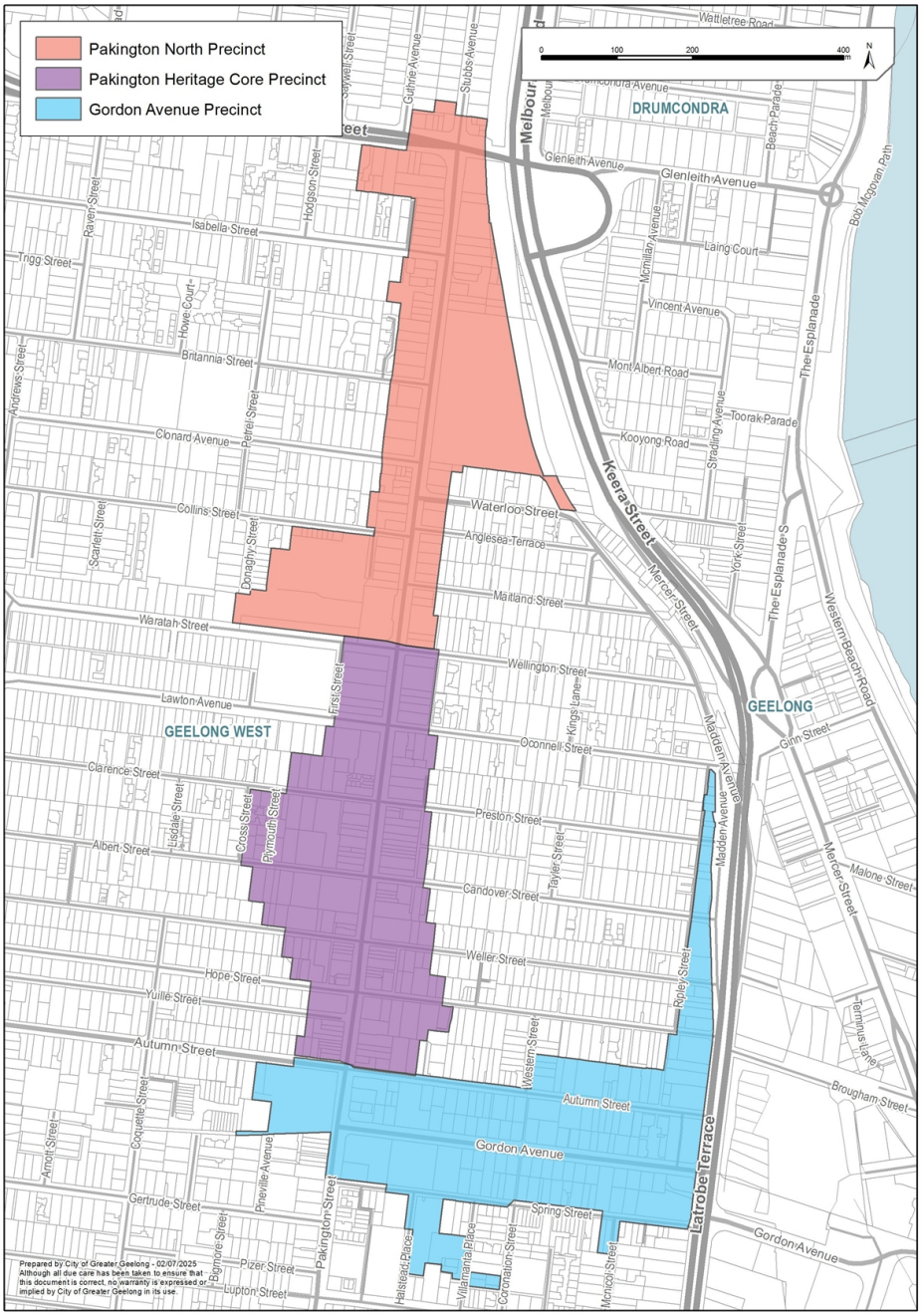
GEELONG WEST URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK (UDF) PRECINCTS

Pakington Street and Gordon Avenue UDF

- **Pakington Heritage Core Precinct**
- **Gordon Avenue Precinct**

Pakington North UDF

- **Pakington North Precinct**



Executive summary

In 2018, Greater Geelong City Council (Council) commenced work for the Pakington Street and Gordon Avenue Urban Design Framework, which identifies three precincts – Gordon Avenue, Heritage Core and Pakington Street North. Between 2018 and 2024, Council undertook comprehensive community consultation to inform the subsequent Urban Design Framework. Council's strategic work and community engagement resulted in three documents:

- Pakington Street and Gordon Avenue Built Form Framework (City of Greater Geelong, 2021) (PGSA BFF)
- Pakington Street and Gordon Avenue Urban Design Framework (Greater Geelong City Council, 2024) (PSGA UDF)
- Pakington North Urban Design Framework (Greater Geelong City Council, 2024) (PN UDF).

Greater Geelong Planning Scheme Amendment C433ggee (the Amendment) seeks to implement the PSGA UDF and PN UDF by making changes to local planning policy, rezoning land for commercial and residential purposes and applying the Design and Development Overlay (DDO) and Environmental Audit Overlay (EAO) to specific properties.

The Amendment was exhibited from 31 July to 1 September 2025 and received 51 submissions. Key issues raised in submissions related to the zone and overlay application, common built form provisions in the DDO schedules, specific DDO56 and DDO57 provisions, site specific issues, traffic and car parking, local policy, drainage and open space. Experts called by Council at the Hearing raised further issues regarding the provisions and how they are drafted.

Strategic issues

For the reasons set out in this report, the Panel considers the Amendment:

- is supported by, and implements, the relevant sections of the Planning Policy Framework
- is consistent with the relevant Ministerial Directions and Practice Notes
- is well founded and strategically justified
- should proceed subject to addressing the more specific issues raised in submissions as discussed in the following chapters.

Zone and overlay application

It is appropriate and justified to apply:

- Residential Growth Zone Schedule 1 to land proposed by the Amendment
- the Commercial 1 Zone as proposed by the Amendment
- the Environmental Audit Overlay, as exhibited.

The Commercial 1 Zone should not be applied to the Homes Victoria sites through the Amendment because they are located outside the study area and rezoning them would be beyond its scope.

Common built form provisions

Built form capacity and building heights

The built form testing that informed the exhibited built form provisions has some shortfalls, however, when combined with other Council considerations, are sufficient to progress the Amendment. The longer-term time horizon of the Urban Design Frameworks provides an opportunity for Council to consider more comprehensive built form testing in the future.

The proposed maximum building heights appropriately consider amenity, preferred neighbourhood character and heritage.

Interface and side separation

Side setback requirements in the Design and Development Overlay schedules should clarify that balconies should not encroach into the specified setbacks.

Design and Development Overlay Schedule 56 should include a transition zone of about 2 metres between public parkland and private development to provide a better interface at the lower levels.

Design and Development Overlay Schedule 57 should reduce the discretionary tower side separation distance from the property boundary from 9 metres to 6 metres for built form above 8 storeys.

Landscaping

The exhibited Building design requirements regarding landscaping in the Design and Development Overlay schedules are appropriate but would benefit from further guidance on how to achieve the intended outcomes.

Solar access and overshadowing

The overshadowing requirements should be expressed as mandatory provisions rather than the exhibited discretionary provisions for identified footpaths and proposed public open space.

There is no supporting work or justification to measure the overshadowing requirements from an offset distance within the property boundary.

There is no need to:

- clarify where canopies or weather protection are required and the applicability of active frontage requirements in the Design and Development Overlay schedules
- revise the solar access application requirement because it requires shadow diagrams to comply with the overlay's solar access requirements including those in Clause 2.0.

Site coverage

The discretionary maximum site coverage requirements in the exhibited Design and Development Overlay schedules are not strategically justified or appropriate and should be removed.

DDO56 (Gordon Avenue Precinct) provisions

Pakington Street building setback

It is not appropriate to apply a 'none specified' building setback to Pakington Street because this would not achieve the intended outcome of a 0-metre setback. Design and Development Overlay Schedule 56 should specify a mandatory setback of 0 metres consistent with most other buildings along Pakington Street.

Floor area ratios

The exhibited floor area ratios proposed for Design and Development Overlay Schedule 56 should be deleted because they are:

- inappropriate and not strategically justified
- unnecessary as they can be achieved through the other built form provisions specified in the schedule.

Laneways

There is sufficient strategic justification to indicate future laneways on Design and Development Overlay Schedule 56 Map 1 and Figures 3, 4 and 5, but there is insufficient strategic work to identify them more definitively. Design and Development Overlay Schedule 56 appropriately identifies the laneways as 'indicative' because it clarifies that their alignment may vary. Through a separate process, Council should consider an appropriate mechanism of how to acquire land to achieve the indicative laneways and to avoid any procedural delay in the future.

DDO57 (Pakington North Precinct) provisions

Mandatory provisions

It is appropriate and justified to apply the ground-level setbacks and wind safety requirements in Design and Development Overlay Schedule 57 as mandatory provisions.

Street corner typology

The Pakington primary Street Interface treatment (Type 1A, 1B and 1C) in Design and Development Overlay Schedule 57 should extend around corners, up to 5 metres before it transitions to the side-street typology. Design and Development Overlay Schedule 57 should discourage an abrupt side street interface transition between two typologies.

39-45 Gordon Avenue

The site at 39-45 Gordon Avenue is not large enough or in location to be considered a strategic site. It does not demonstrate any special reason to justify different built form provisions to those proposed in Gordon Avenue Precinct.

95-103 Pakington Street (Pakington Strand site)

Master planned approach

There is benefit in preparing a master plan for 95-103 Pakington Street (Pakington Strand site). A master plan should be implemented through the Development Plan Overlay. Design and Development Overlay Schedule 57 should be applied to the site

through the Amendment to guide development until the Development Plan Overlay is applied through a separate process.

References to the Pakington Strand site and the Indicative Concept Plan should be deleted from Clause 11.03-6L-06, as they are not supported through strategy and have limited value.

Open space and plaza

A single public open space area of at least 10 per cent of the site area, should be provided south of the Former Donaghy's Rope Walk building. The heading 'Open space interface' in Design and Development Overlay Schedule 57 should be revised to 'Open Space' to more accurately reflect the content of that section.

Overshadowing

It is appropriate to maintain solar access to key footpaths and public open space between 10:00am and 2:00pm at the Spring equinox. Overshadowing requirements should apply to the new area of public open space, however, these requirements are unlikely to be achievable on smaller parks and plazas and should not apply in those instances. The overshadowing requirement for open spaces in Table 3 of Design and Development Overlay Schedule 57 should be deleted because it repeats the requirement in 'Open Space'.

Pedestrian connections and new roads

Pedestrian connections and new roads should form part of any new development on the Pakington Strand site. Design and Development Overlay Schedule 57 should include a requirement to:

- provide east-west and north-south pedestrian and/or vehicle connections through the site (without identifying any specific alignment)
- identify the pedestrian connection to Donaghy Street.

Site coverage

A site coverage of 60 per cent is inappropriate and not strategically justified for 95-103 Pakington Street (Pakington Strand site). The Mixed Use Zone site coverage requirement of 70 per cent already applies to the Pakington Strand site, therefore there is no need for an additional site coverage requirement in Design and Development Overlay Schedule 57. Design and Development Overlay Schedule 57 should not include a site coverage requirement for 95-103 Pakington Street (Pakington Strand site).

28-64 Pakington Street (Rail sidings yard)

The rail sidings yards are essential rail infrastructure to be protected, and this should be reflected in local policy. Design and Development Overlay Schedule 57 should remove all references to urban renewal on 28-64 Pakington Street (Rail siding yards).

Other issues

Traffic

The the Traffic Network Impact Assessment (One Mile Grid, 23 September 2021) is not current or comprehensive enough to understand whether future development may

unreasonably increase traffic congestion in Geelong West. However, the Amendment can progress without further work at this stage because:

- change will be incremental which will enable a future traffic review
- further assessments will be required at the planning permit stage.

Car parking

The provision of car parking spaces can be managed through Planning Scheme Clause 52.06 and by implementing the Pakington Street (Geelong West) Public Parking Plan.

It is appropriate to identify the existing Autumn Street car park as future public open space.

Local policy and drainage

The exhibited Clauses 11.03-6L-06 and Clause 16.01-2L are generally appropriate but would benefit from changes recommended by Mr Glossop and accepted by Council.

The Amendment has appropriately considered, and responded to, drainage matters in the Gordon Avenue Precinct.

Open space

It is unclear whether the Pakington Street and Gordon Avenue Precincts have enough open space to accommodate the population expected from future development. Greater Geelong's future open space strategy will inform future open space requirements for these precincts.

The Amendment does not have to wait until the open space strategy is completed because the strategy can inform the next Urban Design Framework review.

Drafting matters

The Amendment would benefit from drafting changes that make the planning provisions more consistent, clearer and more operable.

Recommendations

Based on the reasons set out in this Report, the Panel recommends that Council:

1. **Adopt Greater Geelong Planning Scheme Amendment C433ggee as exhibited with the following changes.**
2. **Amend Clause 11.03-6L-06 to:**
   a) **delete references to the Pakington Strand site and the associated Indicative Concept Plan**
   b) **include a policy objective for the Pakington North Precinct that seeks to protect the rail sidings yard at 28-64 Pakington Street as an essential site for operating rail services in Geelong**
   c) **revise the second strategy for 'Pakington North Precinct' to:**
   Encourage retention of existing heritage design elements in buildings and street infrastructure, whilst creating Pakington North's own distinct character.
   d) **revise the third strategy for 'Gordon Avenue Precinct' to:**

Provide setbacks to Gordon Avenue to facilitate street planting and tree canopy cover.

3. **Amend Clause 16.01-2L to replace the third policy application with:**
   Land in the Pakington North Key Development Area and Gordon Avenue Key Development Area as identified in the maps at Clause 16.01-1L-02 Increased housing diversity areas.

4. **Amend Design and Development Overlay Schedule 56, as shown in Appendix B, to:**
   a) **include a transition zone of 2 metres between public parkland and private development**
   b) **clarify that balconies should not encroach into setbacks**
   c) **provide more guidance on landscaping measures and outcomes in 'Building design and landscaping'**
   d) **revise the relevant solar access to be mandatory for the identified footpaths and public open space**
   d) **delete the maximum site coverage requirements and Map 2**
   e) **replace 'None specified' for Pakington Street in Table 3 (Street interface) to '0 metres'**
   f) **delete the floor area ratio controls**
   g) **make drafting changes that clarify its provisions, makes them more consistent and improves their operation.**

5. **Amend Design and Development Overlay Schedule 57, as shown in Appendix C, to:**
   a) **reduce the discretionary tower side separation distance from the property boundary from 9 metres to 6 metres for built form above 8 storeys**
   b) **clarify that balconies should not encroach into setbacks**
   c) **provide more guidance on landscaping measures and outcomes in 'Building design and landscaping'**
   d) **revise the relevant solar access to be mandatory for the identified footpaths and public open space**
   e) **delete the maximum site coverage requirements and Map 3**
   f) **note in Table 2 that Street Interface Type 1A , 1B and 1C only applies to side streets up to 5 metres**
   g) **revise the requirement for transitions on a side street to discourage an abrupt interface between the two typologies**
   h) **replace the heading 'Open space interface' with 'Open space'**
   i) **specify that a single area of open space be required, south of the Former Donaghy's Rope Walk building, that:**
      - **is at least 10 per cent of the site area**
      - **is publicly accessible, open to the sky and receives good solar access**
      - **50 per cent of the open space is not overshadowed by development between 10:00am – 2:00pm on 22 September**
   j) **exclude public gathering places like small plazas at the entrance of buildings on the site from the 10 per cent open space calculation**

k) revise Figure 8 to reflect the scale of the Former Donaghy's Rope Walk building and discretionary building heights further north

l) include a provision in 'Access, parking and services' that seeks to:

- **encourage an east-west and north-south pedestrian and/or vehicle connections through the Pakington Strand site**
- **maintain the existing pedestrian connection to Donaghy Street from the Pakington Strand site**

m) delete Figure 4: Type 6D residential interface

n) remove Type 6D Rear Interface from the image and legend from Map 2

o) realign the precinct boundary to remove 28-64 Pakington Street (Rail sidings site) from Maps 1, 2 and 3

p) make drafting changes that clarify its provisions, makes them more consistent and improves their operation.

Key Issues Addressed by the Planning Panel

Issue	Discussion/Conclusion	Recommendation	Council's Response
1. Strategic Justification			
The Panel's first task is to determine whether the amendment is strategically justified. Council submitted the intent of the 2 x Pakington Street UDFs is to: • meet the need for infill development in Geelong as identified in G21 Regional Growth Plan and the Settlement Strategy; • progress the Pakington Street specialised retail activity centre as per the Retail Strategy 2020-2036; • Support the objectives and strategies identified in various other council policy documents e.g. Clever and Creative Future and the Council Plan.	The panel identified that the 2 x UDFs provides an appropriate strategic justification for the Amendment, as exhibited, by addressing the key policy objectives in the relevant provisions of the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme including Clause 2 and Clause 11. The Panel noted that the amendment is necessary and strategically justified as it achieves relevant State and local planning policies associated with sustainability, climate change, housing, and consistent with Ministerial Directions, and Practice Notes.	The Panel concluded that the Amendment is appropriate and justified. The UDFs are appropriate to be included as Background Documents in the Planning Scheme.	Council notes the Panel's recommendation about the strategic merit of the amendment.
2. Zoning and overlay application			
Amendment C433ggee includes: • Rezoning Commercial 2 Zone (C2Z) land to Commercial 1 Zone (C1Z) in the Pakington North Precinct and C1Z, Residential Growth Zone (RGZ), or Mixed Use Zone (MUZ) in the Gordon Avenue Precinct; • Applying a new Design and Development Overlay (DDO) to the Pakington North Precinct and to the Gordon Avenue Precinct to guide future built form and urban design;	The rezoning from C2Z to C1Z will allow accommodation uses and hence allow dwellings in Pakington North area, as well as expand the specialised retail centre. RGZ1 and MUZ will focus future residential development along Gordon Avenue and provide some limited commercial opportunities in these areas. DDOs are proposed to influence future built form outcomes.	The Panel considered it is appropriate and justified to apply the C1Z, RGZ, MUZ, DDOs and EAO to the areas proposed. The Commercial 1 Zone should not be applied to the Homes Victoria sites through the Amendment because they are located outside the study area and rezoning them would be beyond its scope.	Council accepts the Panel's recommendation about the use and spatial extent of the rezoning and overlays.

• Applying the Environmental Audit Overlay to nominated properties; • Correcting anomalous zoning at 46-50 Villamanta Street, Geelong West, and 1/2 Waratah Street, Geelong West.	The EAO will identify properties that need to consider potentially contaminated land when redeveloped.		
3. Policy Changes - Clause 11.03-6L-06			
Amendment C433ggee inserts new planning policy at Clause 11.03-6L-06 (Pakington Street and Gordon Avenue) to give effect to the objectives and strategies for Geelong West and the 'Key Development Areas'.	The Panel considered that the proposed new local policy is consistent with the objective of facilitating sustainable development outcome and providing greater housing diversity. In response to submissions, Council agreed to reword strategies in Clause 11.03-6L-06 to reflect the rail sidings yard as an ongoing essential rail infrastructure site. Further minor changes to strengthen or clarify heritage and landscape enhancement aims were put forward by Council in response to expert evidence.	The Panel recommended the references to the rail siding yard and minor edits re. heritage and landscaping are revised as agreed by Council. The Panel also recommended that references to Pakington Strand site are removed from the local policy, as the DDO will include sufficient controls for the site, and future masterplanning for the site can occur following this Amendment.	Council accepts the Panel recommendations and incorporates the changes into the proposed Amendment to be adopted.
4. Policy Changes - Clause 15.01-1L-02, 16.01-1L-01, 16.01-1L-02			
Amendment C433ggee proposes other local policy changes to reflect the strategic proposals: Delete Clause 15.01-1L-02 Pakington Street North urban design. Amend Clause 16.01-1L-01 Integrated housing and housing diversity to identify the	These local policy changes are to reflect the respective policy updates consequential to the amendment. The previous local policy for Pakington North (from 2005) is being updated by the UDF. The 2 x UDF areas are being identified as Key Development Areas.	The Panel supported all these proposed changes which implement the latest strategic policy directions.	Council accepts the Panel recommendations and incorporates the changes into the proposed Amendment to be adopted.

Pakington North and Gordon Avenue Precincts as Key Development Areas. Amend Clause 16.01-1L-02 to remove the Pakington North Key Development Area and Gordon Avenue Key Development Area from the Geelong West, Manifold Heights & Newtown IHDA map.	As a result of the identification of Key Development Areas, the existing plan of IHDA areas is being updated.		
5. Policy Changes - Clause 16.01-2L			
Amendment inserts new planning policy at Clause 16.01-2L Social and Affordable Housing to build on Council's commitment to increase affordable housing supply and to support the State Government's Housing Statement.	The Panel considered that the proposed new policy for the Geelong West area is consistent with the objective of facilitating affordable housing in the Act.	The Panel concluded that the proposed new policy is appropriate and be included in the Scheme, with minor reformatting to simplify its presentation.	Council accepts the Panel recommendation and has incorporated the Panel's preferred format of the new clause 16.01-2L in the amendment to be adopted.
6. Design and Development Overlay (DDO) - Common built form provisions			
Preferred maximum building heights are proposed across the precincts to guide development scale and character expectations.	The extent of built form testing was queried at the Panel by some submitters. Overall, the Panel considered the testing was sufficient to progress the Amendment. The proposed maximum building heights appropriately consider amenity, preferred neighbourhood character and heritage.	The Panel agreed that the proposed preferred maximum building heights are appropriate.	Council notes the Panel's support for the proposed approach.
Front setbacks Whether the proposed front setbacks are appropriate, especially mandatory ground floor setbacks.	Submission sought variations to front setback controls. Council clarified that mandatory ground level front setbacks are sought for key streets (Gordon Avenue, Pakington Street and Church Street).	The Panel agreed with mandatory ground floor setbacks for key streets and recommended minor drafting changes for clarity.	The Council accepts the Panel recommendation and has incorporated minor revisions in the amendment to be adopted.

	Remaining street setbacks are to be discretionary.		For further clarity regarding front building setback requirements, to ensure the built form street interfaces of the UDFs are realised, a further design policy will be added: 'Street wall/podiums should align with ground floor building setbacks'. This discretionary provision is to minimise significant cantilevering of building at the front above ground floor setbacks, which may be detract from the aim of the ground floor setbacks to enhance the streetscape and street planting opportunities.
Interface and side separation Whether the proposed interface and side separation requirements are appropriate and justified; whether measurement of setbacks from balconies or building edge and; whether it is appropriate and justified to include a landscape transitional zone for the future park interface	Interface and side setback requirements were generally considered acceptable across the precincts. A submission sought reduction of the exhibited 9m upper-level separation above 8 storeys, resulting in an 18m separation between buildings. Post submissions, Council recommended revisions to reduce this separation requirement. Urban design evidence recommended an improved interface of buildings to future open space.	Council notes the Panel's general support for its detailed approach. The Council proposed to reduce the separation to a minimum of 6m which aligns with the Pakington North UDF. The Panel agreed that the separation requirement needs to be reviewed and further indicated that balconies should not encroach into setbacks. The Panel recommended a 2m landscape transition from new open space to buildings.	The Council accepts the Panel recommendation and has incorporated minor revisions in the amendment to be adopted.

Landscaping Whether the requirements associated with building design regarding landscaping are appropriate.	The Panel considered whether the proposed landscaping measures are appropriate.	The Panel recommended minor changes in response to urban design and planning expert evidence to improve drafting.	The Council accepts the Panel recommendation and has incorporated minor revisions in the amendment to be adopted.
Solar Access and overshadowing Whether the solar access should be made mandatory rather than discretionary, measurement of the offset distance within the property boundary, and the hours relating to the solar access application.	The UDFs included reference to differing solar access controls for open space and public footpaths. The exhibited DDOs included discretionary solar access controls. In response to submissions, Council submitted that solar access controls should be more consistent across the DDOs.	The Panel recommended that DDO57 solar access requirement be made mandatory for identified footpaths and public open space and cover between 10am-2pm at spring equinox.	The Council accepts the Panel recommendation and has incorporated minor revisions in the amendment to be adopted.
Site Coverage Whether the discretionary maximum built form site coverage requirement proposed were appropriate.	The DDOs proposed site coverage controls across both precincts ranging from 60%-80%. Submitters for larger sites sought increases in site coverage or removal of the control altogether. At Panel, in response to expert evidence, Council proposed a range of 70-80% site coverage, to better align with zoning expectations (e.g. MUZ and RGZ at 70%).	The Panel concluded that the discretionary site coverage requirements are not strategically justified or appropriate, noting that built form scale is covered by other planning controls (e.g. building setbacks).	Council accepts the Panel recommendation and has incorporated the revision into the amendment to be adopted.
7. DDO56 (Gordon Avenue precinct) provisions			
Floor area ratios Whether floor area ratios (otherwise known as plot area ratios) are appropriate and justified.	Submission considered the exhibited floor area ratio provision is overlay prescriptive because of its interaction with height, setback and coverage, preferring a performance-based approach that incorporates flexibility. Evidence presented at the Panel indicated that the provision	The Panel concluded the floor area ratio provision is not strategically justified and not appropriate. The Panel noted that the intent of the provision could be achieved through the other built form provision in the schedule rendering it unnecessary.	Council accepts the Panel recommendation and deletes the provision from the amendment.

	does not provide enough purpose as drafted and appears to add complexity than needed.		
Laneways Whether proposed new laneways are strategically justified.	Submissions queried the level of strategic work to support the creation of new laneways. The DDO56 identifies them as indicative.	The Panel considered it was appropriate for the DDO plans to show new laneways, ensuring they are marked as indicative, noting that through a separate process, Council should consider an appropriate mechanism of how to acquire land to achieve the indicative laneways.	Council accepts the Panel recommendation and has incorporated it into DDO56 to be adopted.
39-45 Gordon Avenue Whether the site should be considered a strategic site.	Submissions sought changes to the exhibited DDO to identify the site as a strategic development site and have different built form controls from the precinct.	The Panel agreed with Council that the site not large enough or in need of special built form controls.	Council notes the Panel's support.
8. DDO57 (Pakington North precinct) provisions			
28-64 Pakington Street (Rail sidings yard) Whether to be included or removed from provisions.	In response to submissions, Council had recommended revisions to local policy to reflect the site's ongoing existing use but included it in the DDO57 to guide any potential future development should the site become available in the longer term.	The Panel recommended DDO57 should remove all references to urban renewal on the site and exclude the site from associated maps.	Council accepts the Panel's recommendation. The site is still covered by the UDF to inform any future planning at the appropriate time should the need arise.
95-103 Pakington Street (Pakington Strand site) Whether the strategic site's proposed controls are appropriate or should be revised.	The proposed DDO and local policy includes various built form controls and seeks future open space on the strategic site, with any future redevelopment to be masterplanned. The landowner submitter sought changes to reduce the relevant controls which could be sought via a future masterplanning exercise.	The Panel agreed there is benefit in preparing a master plan for the strategic site, via a future Development Plan Overlay. Pedestrian/vehicle connection through the site are appropriate to be identified, as a new open space (10% site area) in front of the heritage building. The Panel recommended revisions to clarify aspects of built form interface controls.	Council accepts the Panel's recommendations and adopts revisions to the DDO.

9. Other Matters			
Traffic and car parking Whether the proposed planning controls sufficiently considered traffic and car parking impacts.	Council submitted that traffic studies undertaken were sufficient to the support the amendment, and the traffic and car parking impacts could be managed over time through planning permit application for development. Some submitters queried the sufficiency of this approach. The amendment also includes identifies the existing Autumn Street car park as future public open space, which was queried by some submitters.	The Panel agreed with Council that the development will proceed incrementally over a long period of time and that enough was known about the impacts (that could be managed through planning permits) for the amendment to progress as proposed. The Panel considered it appropriate to identify an existing car park as future open space, noting also Council's advice that it may not be required for some time in the future when the residential population has sufficiently increased.	Council notes the Panel's support.
Drainage Whether the proposed planning controls sufficiently considered drainage impacts.	Council submitted the area is well serviced and existing planning controls already identify a Special Building Overlay which is not proposed to be altered.	The Panel concluded the Amendment has appropriately considered, and responded to, drainage matters in the Gordon Avenue Precinct.	Council notes the Panel's support.
Drafting Matters Minor edits to policy wording for the DDOs (Application Requirements and Decision Guideline sections), for clarity, consistency and to implement the purpose and objectives of the DDOs.	Through the various changes to DDO56 and DDO57 in response to submitters, evidence and Panel recommendations, further clarity and consistency between the DDOs can be provided in the respective Application Requirements and Decision Guideline sections.	The Panel provided numerous drafting improvements.	Council accepts those recommended by the Panel and provides further minor edits for clarity and consistency in relation to DDO56 and DDO57 Application Requirements and Decision Guideline sections.

Planning and Environment Act 1987

Greater Geelong Planning Scheme

Amendment C433ggee

Instruction sheet

The planning authority for this amendment is the City of Greater Geelong.

The Greater Geelong Planning Scheme is amended as follows:

Planning Scheme Maps

The Planning Scheme Maps are amended by a total of 7 attached map sheets.

Zoning Maps

1. Amend Planning Scheme Map Nos. 37 and 49 in the manner shown on the 2 attached maps marked “Greater Geelong Planning Scheme, Amendment C433ggee”.

Overlay Maps

2. Amend Planning Scheme Map Nos. 37DDO, 38DDO, 49DDO and 50DDO in the manner shown on the 3 attached maps marked “Greater Geelong Planning Scheme, Amendment C433ggee”.

3. Amend Planning Scheme Map Nos. 37EAO and 49EAO in the manner shown on the 2 attached maps marked “Greater Geelong Planning Scheme, Amendment C433ggee”.

Planning Scheme Ordinance

The Planning Scheme Ordinance is amended as follows:

4. In **Planning Policy Framework** – insert new Clause 11.03-6L-06 in the form of the attached document.

5. In **Planning Policy Framework** – delete Clause 15.01-1L-02.

6. In **Planning Policy Framework** – replace Clause 16.01-1L-01 with a new Clause 16.01-1L-01 in the form of the attached document.

7. In **Planning Policy Framework** – replace Clause 16.01-1L-02 with a new Clause 16.01-1L-02 in the form of the attached document.

8. In **Planning Policy Framework** – replace Clause 16.01-2L with a new Clause 16.01-2L in the form of the attached document.

9. In **Overlays** – Clause 43.02, replace Schedule 17 with a new Schedule 17 in the form of the attached document.

10. In **Overlays** – Clause 43.02, insert a new Schedule 56 in the form of the attached document.

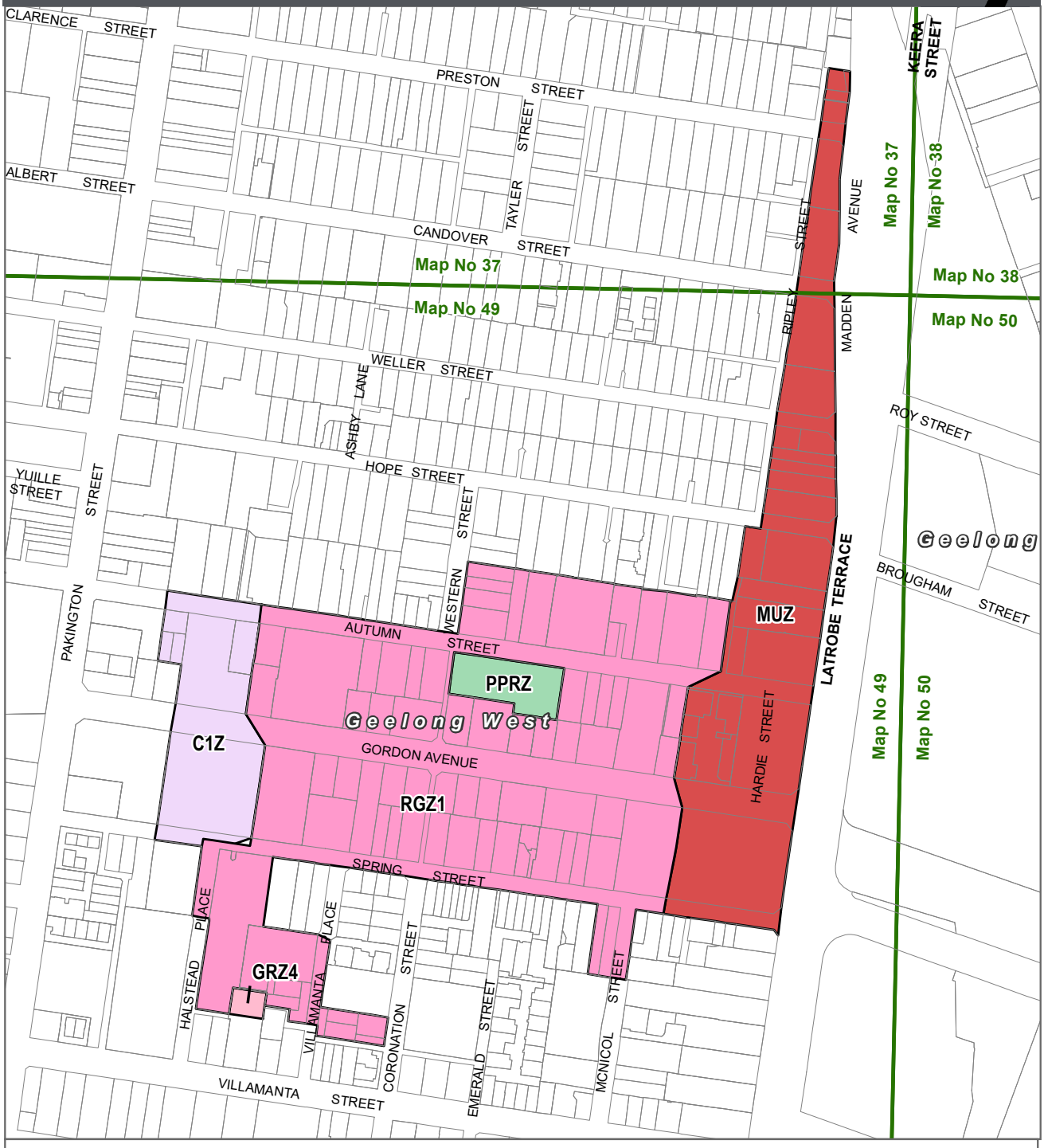
11. In **Overlays** – Clause 43.02, insert a new Schedule 57 in the form of the attached document.

12. In **Operational Provisions** – Clause 72.08, replace the Schedule with a new Schedule in the form of the attached document.

13. In **Operational Provisions** – Clause 74.02, replace the Schedule with a new Schedule in the form of the attached document.

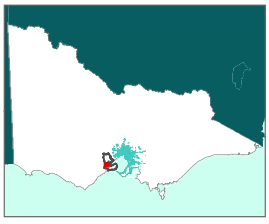
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GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME - LOCAL PROVISION
AMENDMENT C433ggee



LEGEND

- C1Z - Commercial 1 Zone
- GRZ - General Residential Zone
- MUZ - Mixed Use Zone
- PPRZ - Public Park and Recreation Zone
- RGZ - Residential Growth Zone
- Local Government Area



Part of Planning Scheme Maps 37 & 49

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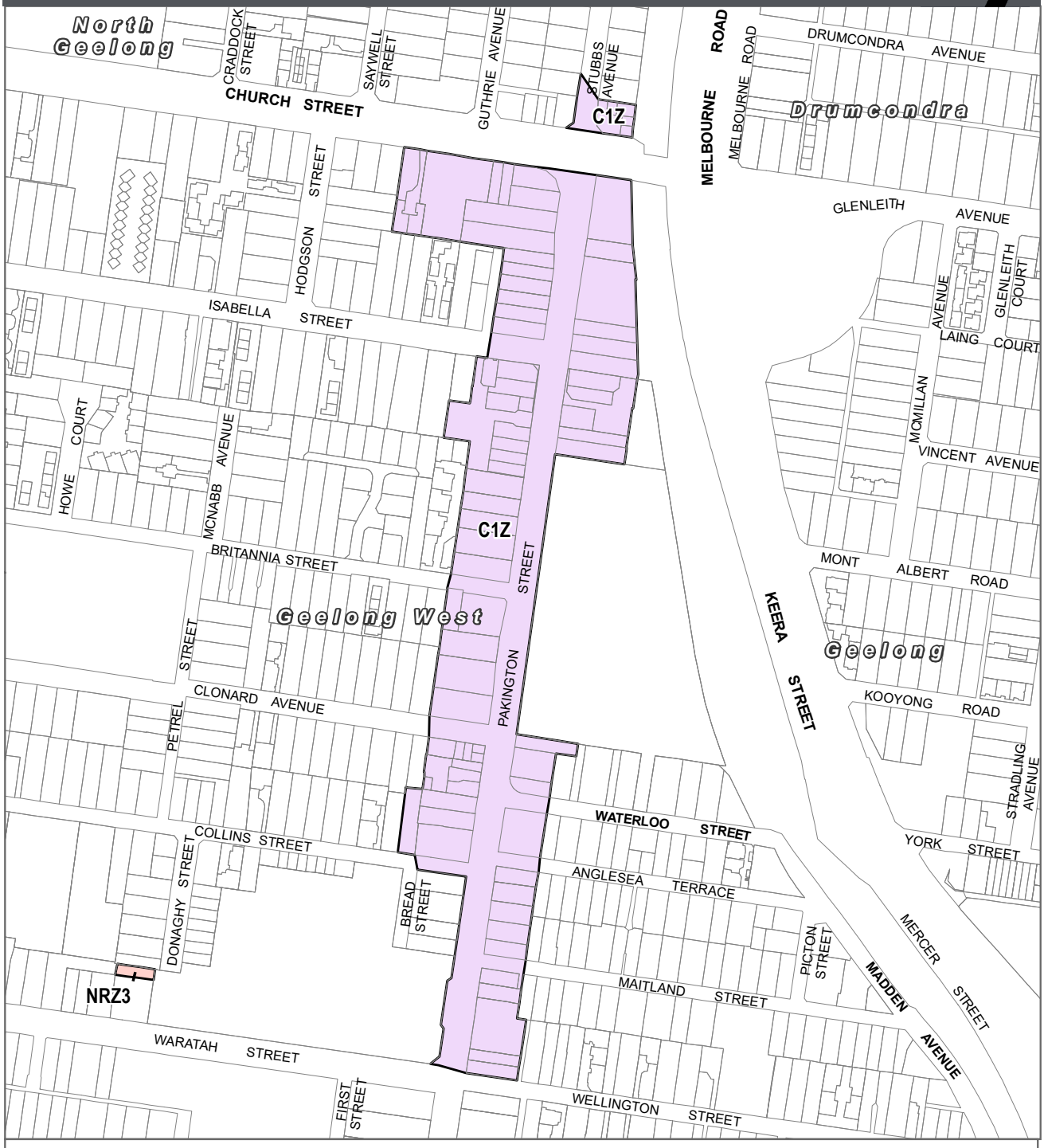
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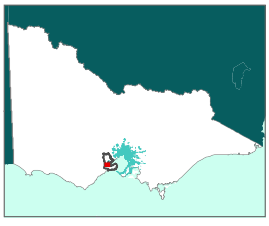
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GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME - LOCAL PROVISION
AMENDMENT C433ggee



LEGEND

- C1Z - Commercial 1 Zone
- NRZ - Neighbourhood Residential Zone
- Local Government Area



Part of Planning Scheme Map 37

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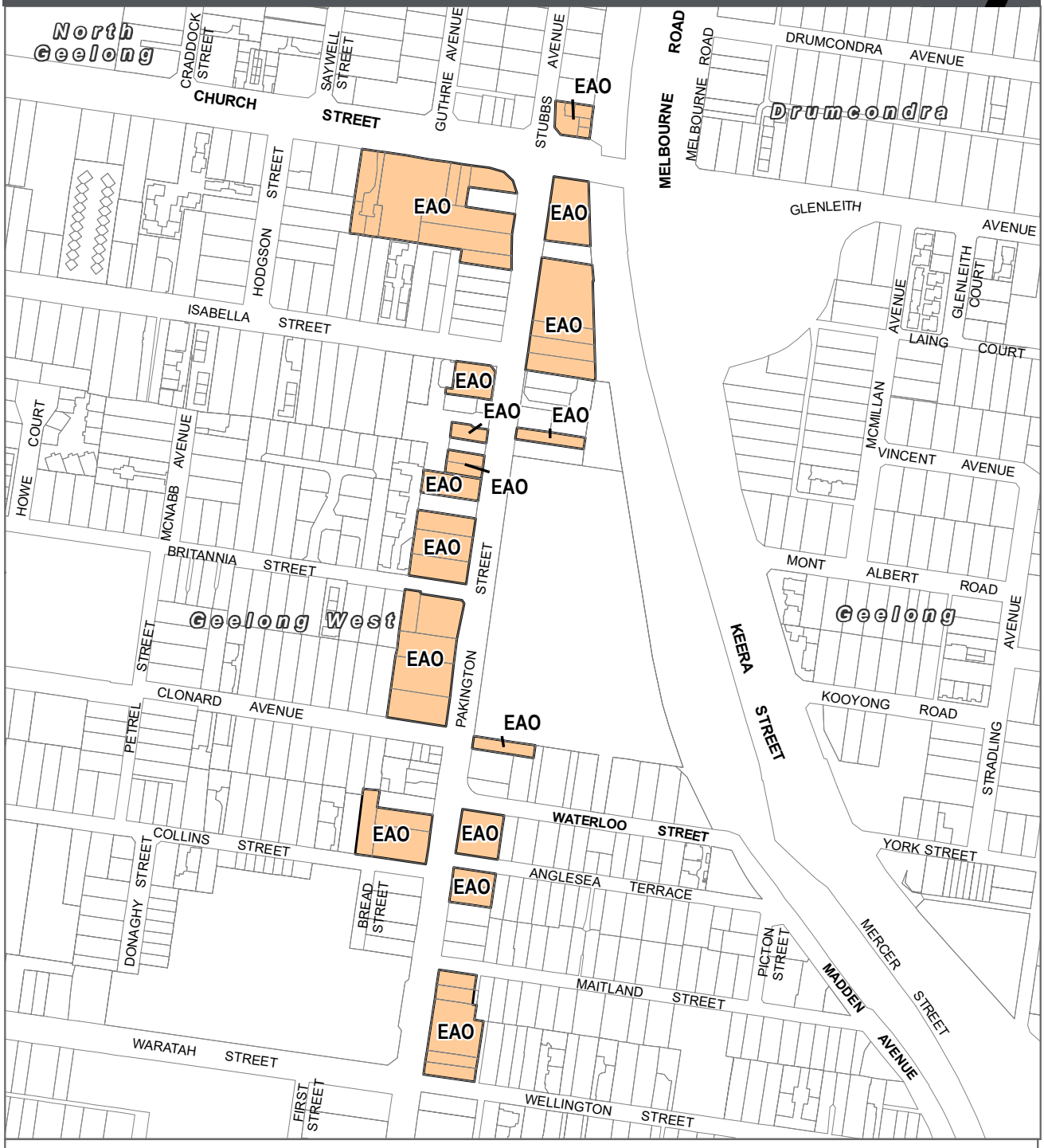
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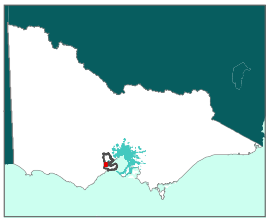
GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME - LOCAL PROVISION
AMENDMENT C433ggee



LEGEND

EAO - Environmental Audit Overlay

Local Government Area



Part of Planning Scheme Map 37EAO

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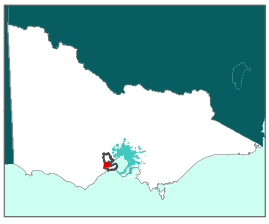
GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME - LOCAL PROVISION
AMENDMENT C433ggee



LEGEND

EAO - Environmental Audit Overlay

Local Government Area



Part of Planning Scheme Maps 37EAO & 49EAO

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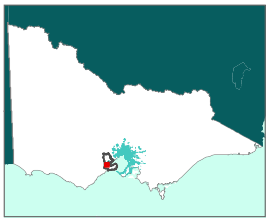
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AMENDMENT C433ggee



LEGEND

D-DDO - Area to be deleted from a Design and Development Overlay

Local Government Area



Part of Planning Scheme Maps 37DDO, 38DDO, 49DDO & 50DDO

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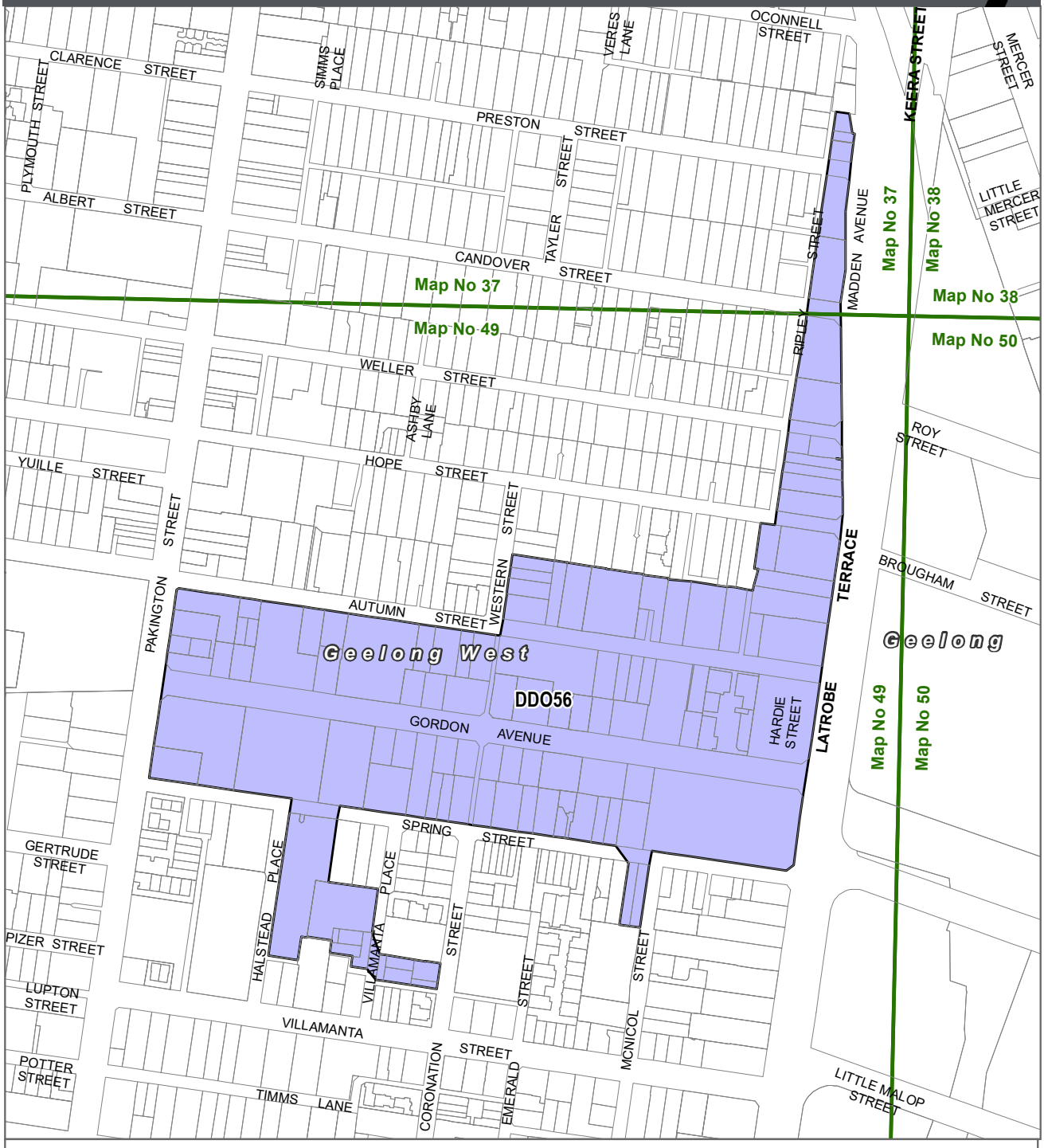
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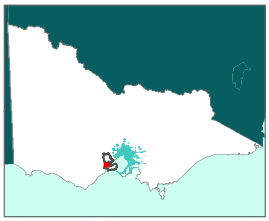
GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME - LOCAL PROVISION
AMENDMENT C433ggee



LEGEND

DDO56 - Design and Development - Schedule 56

Local Government Area



Part of Planning Scheme Maps 37DDO & 49DDO

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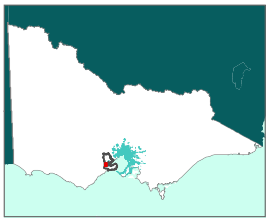
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AMENDMENT C433ggee



LEGEND

DDO57 - Design and Development - Schedule 57

Local Government Area



Part of Planning Scheme Map 37DDO

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GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

11.03 PLANNING FOR PLACES

31/07/2018
VC148

11.03-1S Activity centres and precincts

16/04/2026
VC300

Objective

To encourage the concentration of major retail, residential, commercial, administrative, entertainment and cultural developments into activity centres with good public transport services.

Strategies

Build up the central activity areas of Major regional cities, Metropolitan activity centres, Priority Precincts, Suburban Rail Loop Precincts and Activity Centres - Housing Choice and Stations as a focus for high-quality development, activity and living that:

- Are a focus for business, shopping, working, leisure and community facilities.
- Provide different types of housing, including forms of higher density housing.
- Are connected by transport.
- Maximise choices in services, employment and social interaction.

Undertake strategic planning for the use and development of land in and around Major regional cities, Metropolitan activity centres, Priority Precincts, Suburban Rail Loop Precincts and Activity Centres - Housing Choice and Stations and their residential catchments.

Encourage a diversity of housing types at higher densities in and around Major regional cities, Metropolitan activity centres, Priority Precincts, Suburban Rail Loop Precincts and Activity Centres - Housing Choice and Stations and their residential catchments.

Reduce the number of private motorised trips by concentrating activities that generate high numbers of (non-freight) trips in highly accessible activity centres.

Improve access by walking, cycling and public transport to services and facilities.

Support the continued growth and diversification of activity centres to give communities access to a wide range of goods and services, provide local employment and support local economies.

Improve the social, economic and environmental performance and amenity of activity centres.

Policy documents

Consider as relevant:

- *Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017)
- *Apartment Design Guidelines for Victoria* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2021)
- *Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines: New Communities in Victoria* (Victorian Planning Authority, 2021)
- *Mid-Rise Design Guide* (Department of Transport and Planning, 2026)

11.03-1L Activity centres in Greater Geelong

07/07/2022
C417ggee

Objectives

To support the role and function of centres in the Geelong Retail Centre Hierarchy.

To support continued diversification of retail centres over time.

General strategies

Encourage a mix of retail, office, cafes, higher density housing, education and community facilities to locate within centres, but particularly in Regional (Central Geelong), Sub-regional and Town Centres.

Support accommodation uses above ground level floor space in retail and activity centres subject to provision of parking and access requirements to meet the needs of users.

Direct entertainment and cultural activities to Central Geelong and support local events in other centres.

Encourage the redevelopment of car parking areas for commercial and residential uses where adequate car parking to meet the needs of existing and future uses can be achieved.

Support increased intensity and vertical growth of centres to encourage expansion and to reduce the need to develop new centres.

Retail hierarchy strategies

Direct new retail development to existing centres, consistent with the role and function described in the Geelong Retail Centre Hierarchy at Clause 02.03-1.

Support the development of discount department stores in Central Geelong and sub-regional centres over lower order centres.

Encourage development that supports a diversity of retail forms across the hierarchy.

Ensure planned centres in growth area are consistent with the role, function, size and type of centre as set out in the Geelong Retail Centre Hierarchy at Clause 02.03-1.

Residential Growth Zone land strategies

Ensure that retail use and development on land within the Residential Growth Zone:

- Has a functional relationship with an existing activity centre.
- Is designed and sited to operate without amenity impacts to neighbouring residents.

Commercial and industrial land strategies

Encourage retail use and development in industrial areas only if associated with an industrial use occurring on the land or where it will meet the needs of people employed in the area.

Encourage use and development that will provide for strategic employment land.

Ensure that use or development for a new or expanded supermarket-based centre within the Commercial 2 Zone or Industrial 3 Zone:

- Does not have a significant economic impact on a nearby centre(s) identified within the Geelong Retail Centre Hierarchy at Clause 02.03-1.
- Provides a net community benefit.

Restricted retail uses strategies

Direct restricted retail use and development to nominated restricted retail precincts as identified in the Geelong Retail Centre Hierarchy at Clause 02.03-1.

Support the development of smaller scale, higher density restricted retail uses such as homewares within activity centres.

Policy document

Consider as relevant:

- *City of Greater Geelong Retail Strategy 2020-2036* (City of Greater Geelong and SGS Economics and Planning, August 2020)

11.03-2S Growth areas

02/09/2025
VC283

Objective

To locate urban growth close to transport corridors and services and provide efficient and effective infrastructure to create sustainability benefits while protecting primary production, major sources of raw materials and valued environmental areas.

Strategies

Concentrate urban expansion into growth areas that are served by high-capacity public transport.

Implement the strategic directions in the growth corridor plans.

Deliver residential densities in the growth areas of Melbourne and Major regional cities of an average of at least:

- 30 dwellings per net developable hectare in locations within walkable distance of existing and proposed activity centres, train stations, major transport routes and public open spaces.
- 20 dwellings per net developable hectare in other growth area locations.

Provide housing diversity and choice through a mix of housing types, particularly in areas suitable for higher residential densities.

Deliver accessible, integrated and adaptable community infrastructure, including a high-quality network of public open space with opportunities for passive and active recreation.

Plan for the timely and adequate provision of public transport and local and regional infrastructure and services, in line with a preferred sequence of land release.

Provide for significant amounts of local employment opportunities and in some areas, provide large scale industrial or other more regional employment generators.

Create a network of mixed-use activity centres that are high quality, well designed and create a sense of place.

Provide a diversity of housing type and distribution.

Retain unique characteristics of established areas impacted by growth.

Protect and manage natural resources and areas of heritage, cultural and environmental significance.

Create well planned, easy to maintain high amenity, environmentally resilient and safe public realms that contribute to a sense of place, support cooling and greening, reduce opportunities for crime, improve perceptions of safety and increase levels of community participation.

Develop and implement plans for growth areas that will:

- Include objectives for each growth area.
- Identify the long term pattern of urban growth.
- Identify the location of broad urban development types, for example activity centre, residential, employment, freight centres and mixed use employment.
- Identify the boundaries of individual communities, landscape values and, as appropriate, the need for discrete urban breaks and how land uses in these breaks will be managed.
- Identify transport networks and options for investigation, such as future railway lines and stations, freight activity centres, freeways and arterial roads.
- Identify the location of open space to be retained for recreation, and/or biodiversity protection and/or flood risk reduction purposes guided and directed by regional biodiversity conservation strategies.

- Show significant waterways as opportunities for creating linear trails, along with areas required to be retained for biodiversity protection and/or flood risk reduction purposes.
- Identify appropriate uses for constrained areas, including quarry buffers.

Develop precinct structure plans consistent with the *Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines: New Communities in Victoria* (Victorian Planning Authority, 2021) to:

- Establish a sense of place and community.
- Create greater housing choice, diversity and affordable places to live.
- Create highly accessible and vibrant activity centres.
- Provide for local employment and business activity.
- Provide better transport choices.
- Respond to climate change and increase environmental sustainability.
- Deliver accessible, integrated and adaptable community infrastructure.
- Deliver 30 per cent tree canopy cover within the public realm and in open spaces (excluding areas dedicated to biodiversity or native vegetation conservation).

Policy documents

Consider as relevant:

- *North Growth Corridor Plan* (Victorian Planning Authority, 2012)
- *West Growth Corridor Plan* (Victorian Planning Authority, 2012)
- *Sunbury Growth Corridor Plan* (Victorian Planning Authority, 2012)
- *South East Growth Corridor Plan* (Victorian Planning Authority, 2012)
- *Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines: New Communities in Victoria* (Victorian Planning Authority, 2021)
- *Ministerial Direction No. 12 – Urban Growth Areas*

11.03-3S Peri-urban areas

02/09/2025
VC283

Objective

To manage growth in peri-urban areas to protect and enhance their identified valued attributes.

Strategies

Identify and protect areas that are strategically important for the environment, biodiversity, landscape, open space, water, agriculture, energy, recreation, tourism, environment, cultural heritage, infrastructure, extractive and other natural resources.

Enhance the character, identity, attractiveness and amenity of peri-urban towns.

Prevent dispersed settlement and provide for non-urban breaks between urban areas.

Ensure development is linked to the timely and viable provision of physical and social infrastructure.

Improve connections to regional and metropolitan transport services.

11.03-4S Coastal settlement

02/09/2025
VC283

Objective

To plan for sustainable coastal development.

Strategies

Plan and manage coastal population growth and increased visitation so that impacts do not cause unsustainable use of coastal resources.

Support a network of diverse coastal settlements that provide for a broad range of housing types, economic opportunities and services.

Minimise linear urban sprawl along the coastal edge and ribbon development in rural landscapes.

Protect areas between settlements for non-urban use.

Limit development in identified coastal hazard areas, on ridgelines, primary coastal dune systems, shorelines of estuaries, wetlands and low-lying coastal areas, or where coastal processes may be detrimentally impacted.

Encourage the restructure of old and inappropriate subdivisions to reduce development impacts on the environment.

Ensure a sustainable water supply, stormwater management and sewerage treatment for all development.

Minimise the quantity and enhance the quality of stormwater discharge from new development into the ocean, bays and estuaries.

Prevent the development of new residential canal estates.

Policy documents

Consider as relevant:

- *Marine and Coastal Policy* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2020)
- *Marine and Coastal Strategy* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2022)
- *Siting and Design Guidelines for Structures on the Victorian Coast*(Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2020)

11.03-5S Distinctive areas and landscapes

13/02/2026
VC245

Objective

To recognise the importance of distinctive areas and landscapes to the people of Victoria and protect and enhance the valued attributes of identified or declared distinctive areas and landscapes.

Strategies

Recognise the unique features and special characteristics of these areas and landscapes.

Implement the strategic directions of approved Localised Planning Statements and Statements of Planning Policy.

Integrate policy development, implementation and decision-making for declared areas under Statements of Planning policy.

Recognise the important role these areas play in the state as tourist destinations.

Protect the identified key values and activities of these areas.

Enhance conservation of the environment, including the unique habitats, ecosystems and biodiversity of these areas.

Support use and development where it enhances the valued characteristics of these areas.

Avoid use and development that could undermine the long-term natural or non-urban use of land in these areas.

Protect areas that are important for food production.

Policy documents

Consider as relevant:

- *Bellarine Peninsula Statement of Planning Policy* (Victorian Government, 2023)
- *Macedon Ranges Statement of Planning Policy* (Victorian Government, 2019)
- *Mornington Peninsula Localised Planning Statement* (Victorian Government, 2014)
- *Surf Coast Statement of Planning Policy* (Victorian Government, 2022)
- *Yarra Ranges Localised Planning Statement* (Victorian Government, 2017)

11.03-5R The Great Ocean Road region

20/03/2023
VC229

Objective

To manage the sustainable development of the Great Ocean Road region.

Strategies

Protect public land and parks and identified significant landscapes in the Great Ocean Road region.

Ensure development responds to the identified landscape character of the area.

Manage the growth of towns by:

- Respecting the character of coastal towns and promoting best practice design for new development.
- Directing urban growth to strategically identified areas.

Manage the impact of development on catchments and coastal areas.

Manage the impact of development on the environmental and cultural values of the area.

Improve the management of access and transport by:

- Managing the Great Ocean Road for tourism and regional access.

- Enhancing the safety and travelling experience of the Great Ocean Road.
- Improving the safety and operational performance of the inland routes from the Princes Highway to the Great Ocean Road.
- Providing travel choices to and in the region.

Encourage sustainable tourism and resource use by:

- Developing a network of tourism opportunities throughout the region.
- Supporting tourism activities that provide environmental, economic and social benefits.
- Supporting the land use and transport needs of key regional industries including tourism.
- Using natural resources with care.

Policy documents

Consider as relevant:

- *Marine and Coastal Policy* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2020)
- *Marine and Coastal Strategy* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2022)
- *The Great Ocean Road Region Landscape Assessment Study* (Department of Sustainability and Environment, 2003)
- *The Great Ocean Road Region* - A Land Use and Transport Strategy (Department of Sustainability and Environment, 2004)

11.03-6S Regional and local places

31/07/2018
VC148

Objective

To facilitate integrated place-based planning.

Strategies

Integrate relevant planning considerations to provide specific direction for the planning of sites, places, neighbourhoods and towns.

Consider the distinctive characteristics and needs of regional and local places in planning for future land use and development.

11.03-6L-01 Bellarine Peninsula

13/02/2026
VC245

Policy application

This policy applies to land shown on the following maps forming part of this clause:

- St Leonards Structure Plan Map
- Portarlington Structure Plan Map
- Indented Head Structure Plan Map
- Ocean Grove Structure Plan Map
- Leopold Structure Plan Map
- Barwon Heads Structure Plan Map
- Drysdale, Clifton Springs and Curlewis Structure Plan Map
- Jetty Road Urban Growth Plan Map
- Point Lonsdale Structure Plan Map

Objectives

To ensure development responds to the identity and preferred character of the individual township in which it is located.

To provide attractive and sustainable industrial, commercial, retail, agricultural and tourism development in designated locations, to service the wider Bellarine community.

General strategies

Contain urban development within the protected settlement boundaries identified in the structure plan maps.

Support the district towns of Ocean Grove, Drysdale, Clifton Springs and Curlewis, and Leopold to fulfil their role as service hubs for the Bellarine Peninsula.

Ensure all other townships provide retail, commercial and community uses and facilities that serve the daily needs of the community.

Retain the land outside protected settlement boundaries as green breaks to preserve agricultural, environmental, tourism, landscape and scenic values.

St Leonards strategies

Support a mix of retail, commercial, community and entertainment uses within the increased housing diversity area.

Encourage development that respects the coastal landscape setting of St Leonards by:

- Providing reasonable sharing of views of the coast, pier and foreshore.
- Promoting contemporary design that reflects the existing scale, setbacks, spacing, forms and materials of the buildings in the locality.
- Ensuring that development allows for the protection of significant vegetation or planting around buildings and minimises impacts on roadside vegetation.
- Promoting a sensitive residential interface with significant environmental landscapes.

Support the on-going management, enhancement and sensitive development of the foreshore, Salt Lagoon Wildlife Reserve and Edwards Point State Faunal Reserve, and the areas of significant landscape, environmental and recreation value.

Protect the scenic qualities of Murradoc Hill and Swan Bay.

Support the development of a focal building, comprising retail and tourist related activities, at the south west corner of Murradoc and Bluff Roads.

Facilitate development of a community facility including an Early Years Learning Centre, preferably at 1345 Murradoc Road.

Integrate the town centre increased housing diversity area and pier-foreshore area.

Portarlington strategies

Support the on-going management, enhancement and sensitive development of areas of landscape, environment and recreational value, including a place making project at Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve.

Encourage development that respects the coastal landscape setting of Portarlington by:

- Providing reasonable sharing of views of the coast and foreshore, where a view has been identified in an overlay.
- Promoting contemporary design that reflects the existing scale, setbacks, spacing, forms and materials of the buildings in the locality.
- Ensuring that development allows for the protection of significant vegetation or planting around buildings and minimises impacts on roadside vegetation.

Support the establishment of a Portarlington Community Hub.

Support the redevelopment of the Country Fire Authority fire station.

Support the integration of the Portarlington town centre and pier-foreshore area.

Support the development of the development opportunity sites including:

- Development of a focal building at 22-34 Newcombe Street, Portarlington.
- Redevelopment of the rear of 40-42 Newcombe Street in a manner that is sympathetic to and maintains the heritage context of the site.
- Redevelopment of land between Newcombe Street, Fenwick Street, Harding Street and Brown Street to improve pedestrian connectivity by creating a two-way rear lane system and additional shop front activation.

Support development in the Portarlington town centre incorporating accommodation uses above ground level retail floor space, where such development meets all parking and access requirements.

Support the use and development of 33-41 Mercer Street, Portarlington for aged care living.

Indented Head strategies

Encourage development that respects the coastal landscape setting of Indented Head, by:

- Providing reasonable sharing of views of the coast and foreshore, where a view has been identified in an overlay.
- Promoting contemporary design that reflects the existing scale, setbacks, spacing, forms and materials of the buildings in the locality.
- Ensuring that development allows for the protection of significant vegetation or planting around buildings and minimises impacts on roadside vegetation.
- Improve stormwater quality into Port Phillip Bay.

Ocean Grove strategies

Encourage development that respects the coastal landscape setting of Ocean Grove, by:

- Providing reasonable sharing of views of the coast and foreshore.

- Promoting contemporary design that reflects the existing scale, setbacks, spacing, forms and materials of the buildings in the locality.
- Ensuring that development allows for the protection of significant trees or planting around buildings and minimises impacts on roadside vegetation.

Support residential and community development in the neighbourhood activity centre and north-east growth area.

Encourage accommodation diversity, including aged care, within and adjacent to the town centre, neighbourhood activity centre and increased housing diversity areas.

Ensure development avoids detrimental impacts on environmental assets including the coast, Buckley Park Foreshore Reserve, Goandra Estate, Ocean Grove Nature Reserve, Begola Wetlands, Barwon River/Lake Conneware and the Lake Victoria Wetlands and the landscape, environmental and recreational features areas.

Support the town centre as the primary retail centre by providing for a range of retail, business and accommodation uses.

Preserve The Terrace as the potential long-term arterial route through the town centre.

Support the development of the restricted retail and industrial precincts in the Grubb Road commercial and industrial precincts.

Support the development of a strategic footpath network for the town that provides permeable and safe routes to key destinations and services.

Encourage developments to assist in the establishment of a safe bicycle-pedestrian path network around the town connecting the foreshore, river, nature reserve, and Grubb, Banks and Bonnyvale Roads.

Encourage development to contribute to the improvement of open spaces and key pedestrian links.

Encourage a range of appropriately scaled and located tourism accommodation and activities, including opportunities for revitalisation of existing uses.

Support further development of existing caravan parks and accommodation uses in residential areas, particularly those close to the beach and river, to provide a broader range of accommodation type and mix.

Encourage a range of appropriately scaled tourism related activities on the rural periphery of the town that are complementary to the environmental and rural setting.

Support the duplication of Grubb Road in a manner that preserves significant roadside vegetation, provides an attractive town entry, safe crossing points, pedestrian/cycle paths and undergrounding of powerlines.

Support the provision of community and social infrastructure commensurate with population growth.

Leopold strategies

Support Leopold as a Sub-Regional Retail Activity Centre for the Bellarine Peninsula, that also provides local community, recreational and employment facilities to Leopold's residents.

Support residential development in the Ash Road growth area.

Support increased housing densities in the sub-regional centre, mixed use zone, neighbourhood activity centres, and increased housing diversity areas.

Encourage the northerly expansion of the sub-regional centre, ensuring any development integrates with the existing centre and surrounding community facilities, and enhances its appearance and functionality.

Support the local convenience role of the neighbourhood activity centres.

Support the development of the community hub to provide a wide range of community, health, education and civic services/facilities.

Encourage the mixed use zone to accommodate restaurants, convenience shops, offices and residential development.

Provide public open space in residential areas to cater for the passive and active recreation needs of the community.

Facilitate an improved transport network that includes better traffic movements, pedestrian and cyclist linkages and public transport options.

Protect environmentally sensitive areas including the areas of ecological value Reedy Lake and Lake Connewarre from detrimental development impacts.

Barwon Heads strategies

Protect the unique character of Barwon Heads as a coastal village located within a sensitive environment and significant landscape setting.

Ensure development has minimal impact on the indigenous vegetation and landscape character in the environmental significance area.

Reinforce the Hitchcock Avenue shopping centre as the focus of retail activity in Barwon Heads.

Restrict new retail development and discourage industry and warehouse uses in the village centre.

Support the development of Stage 3 of the 13th Beach Resort as a focus for golf that excludes residential development and provides net environmental benefits.

Facilitate the upgrading of the Barwon Heads Village Park and foreshore reserves in accordance with established master plans.

Protect existing street trees and informal landscaping in streets.

Support accommodation diversity, including tourist accommodation, in the increased housing diversity area.

Drysdale, Clifton Springs and Curlewis strategies

Support residential development in the Jetty Road growth area.

Reinforce the Drysdale town centre as the primary retail centre.

Encourage development in the town centre to expand eastwards along Murradoc Road.

Encourage service business and industrial development in the commercial and industrial activity centre.

Design development opposite or close to the Drysdale Bypass to minimise back fencing as viewed from the Bypass.

Co-locate and integrate future education, community and recreation facilities to enhance their accessibility and to maximise joint use wherever possible.

Develop the Council owned Palmerston Street site and the Drysdale Regional Community and Cultural Hub for community and recreation purposes.

Locate development of short-term tourist accommodation at the eastern side of the golf course close to the Jetty Road.

Facilitate additional bicycle and pedestrian opportunities throughout the townships including new footpaths and bicycle lanes.

Support consolidated parking areas in the town centre.

Point Lonsdale strategies

Support low-scale accommodation in tourism opportunity areas.

Support development that strengthens the township's coastal village character and landscape setting by requiring an architectural and urban design response that includes:

- Low scale forms.
- Articulation (materials, openings or features such as decks, balconies, wide eaves or canopies).
- Contemporary design.
- Use of materials such as timber, corrugated iron, weatherboard or light coloured render.
- Limited site coverage and provision of front and side setbacks that reflect existing neighbourhood patterns and provide opportunities for maintenance and planting of native coastal and indigenous vegetation.

Ensure urban street works contribute to the implementation of the identified primary and secondary pedestrian/cycle routes and are designed to complement the informal coastal streetscape character.

Policy documents

Consider as relevant:

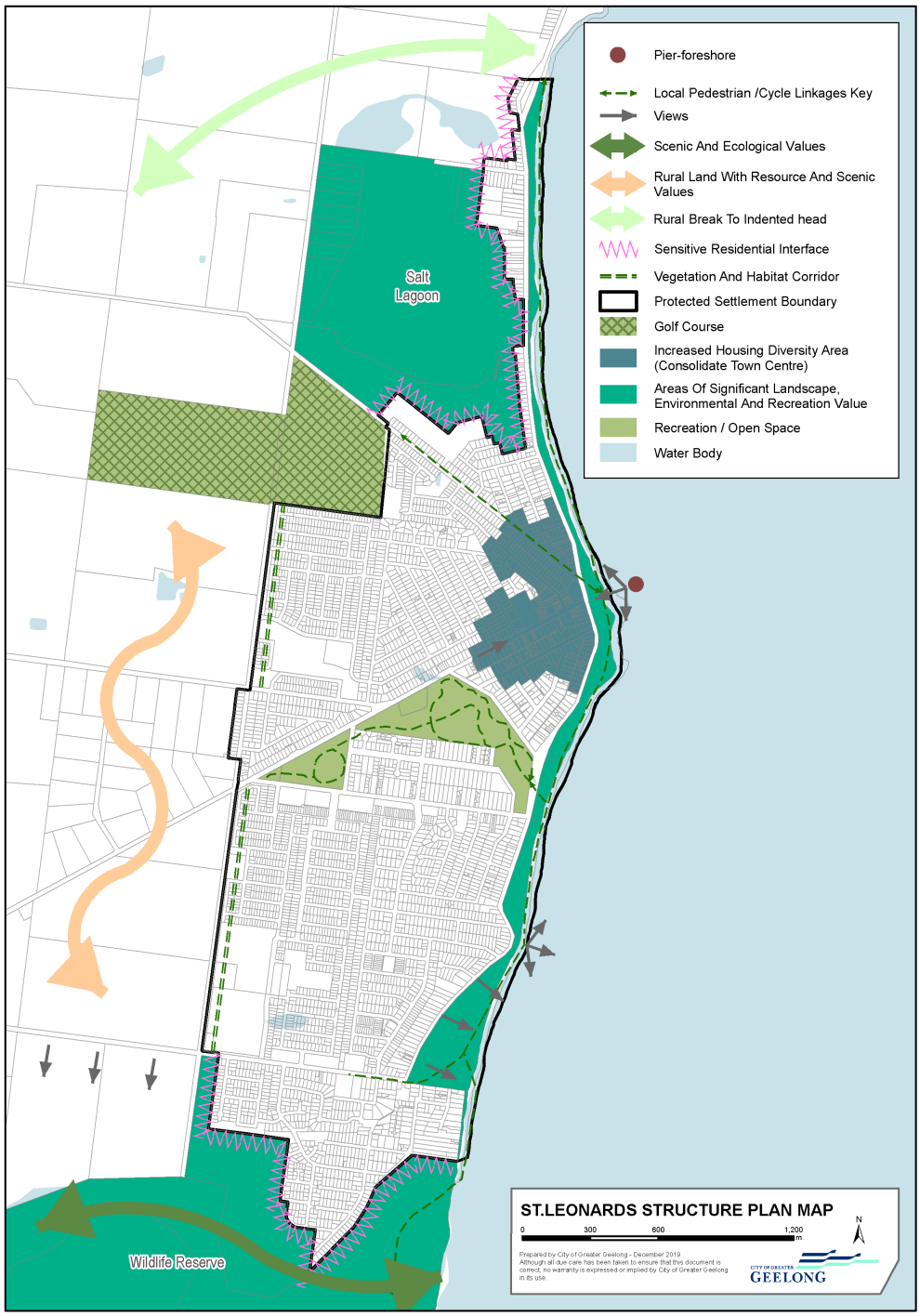
- *Bellarine Peninsula Statement of Planning Policy* (Victorian Government, 2023)
- *Bellarine Peninsula Strategic Plan* (City of Greater Geelong, 2006)
- *Ocean Grove Structure Plan* (City of Greater Geelong, 2015 amended 2016)
- *Ocean Grove Urban Design Framework* (City of Greater Geelong, 2014)
- *Portarlington Structure Plan* (City of Greater Geelong, 2016 amended 2017)
- *Portarlington Urban Design Framework* (City of Greater Geelong, 2011)
- *Indented Head Structure Plan* (City of Greater Geelong, 2016)
- *St Leonards Structure Plan* (City of Greater Geelong, 2015)
- *Leopold Structure Plan* (City of Greater Geelong, 2011 amended 2013)
- *Leopold Urban Design Framework* (City of Greater Geelong, 2011)
- *Barwon Heads Structure Plan* (City of Greater Geelong, 2017)
- *Drysdale Clifton Springs Structure Plan* (City of Greater Geelong, 2010)
- *Jetty Road Urban Growth Plan* (City of Greater Geelong, 2007 amended 2008)
- *Coastal Spaces Landscape Assessment Study- Municipal reference document* (Planisphere, 2006)
- *Point Lonsdale Structure Plan* (Planisphere, 2009 amended 2011).
- *Drysdale Urban Design Framework* (City of Greater Geelong, 2012)
- *Drysdale Bypass Access Management Strategy* (VicRoads, 2017)
- *City of Greater Geelong Settlement Strategy* (City of Greater Geelong, August 2020)

Expiry

This policy will expire on 7 July 2027.

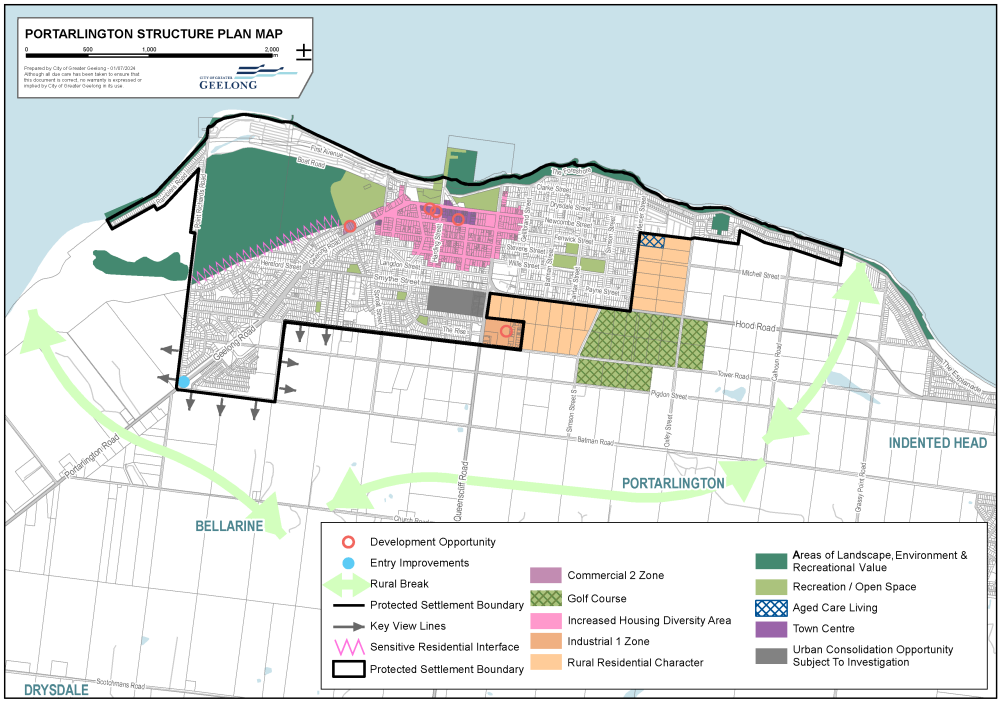
GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

St Leonards Structure Plan Map



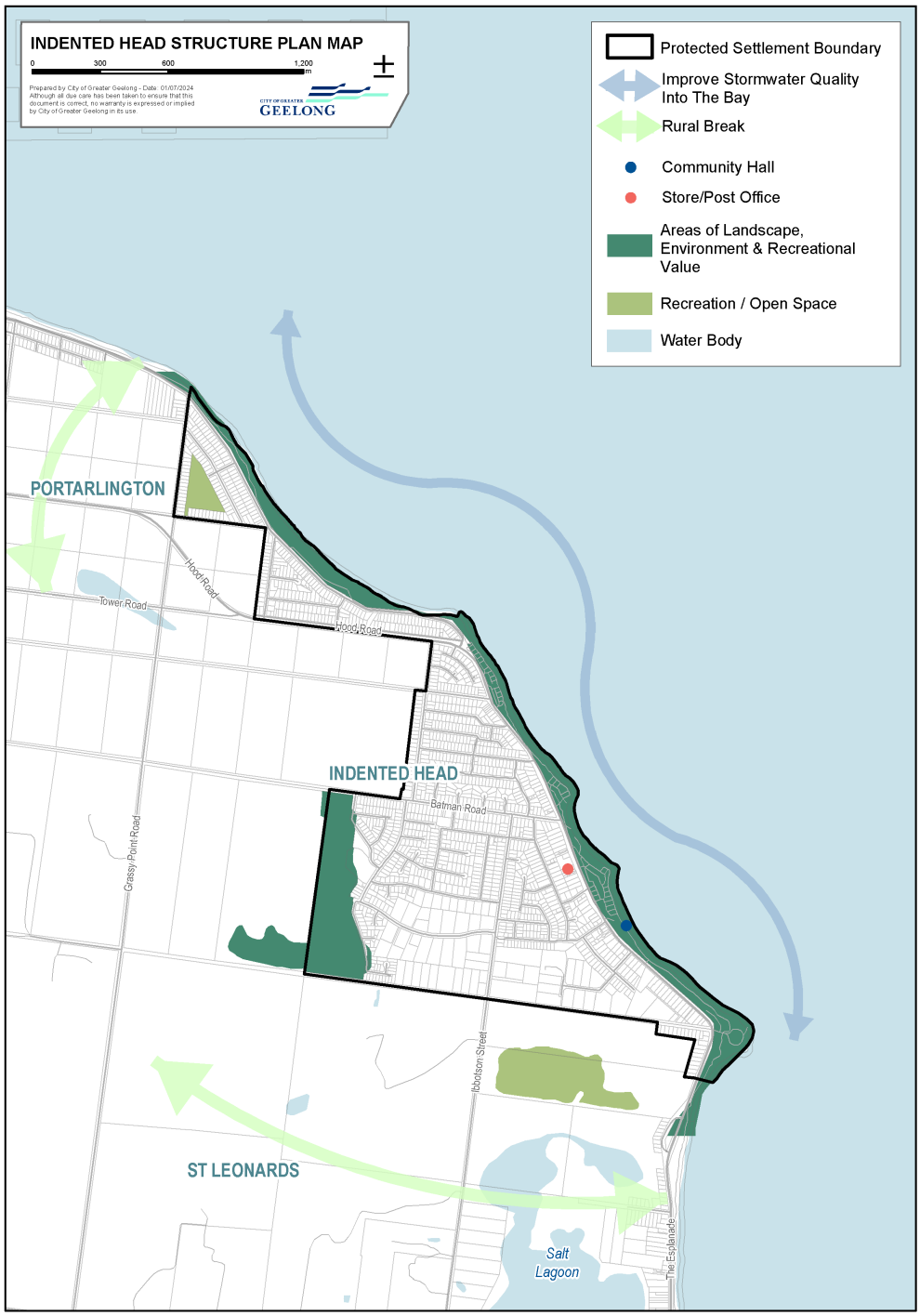
GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Portarlington Structure Plan Map



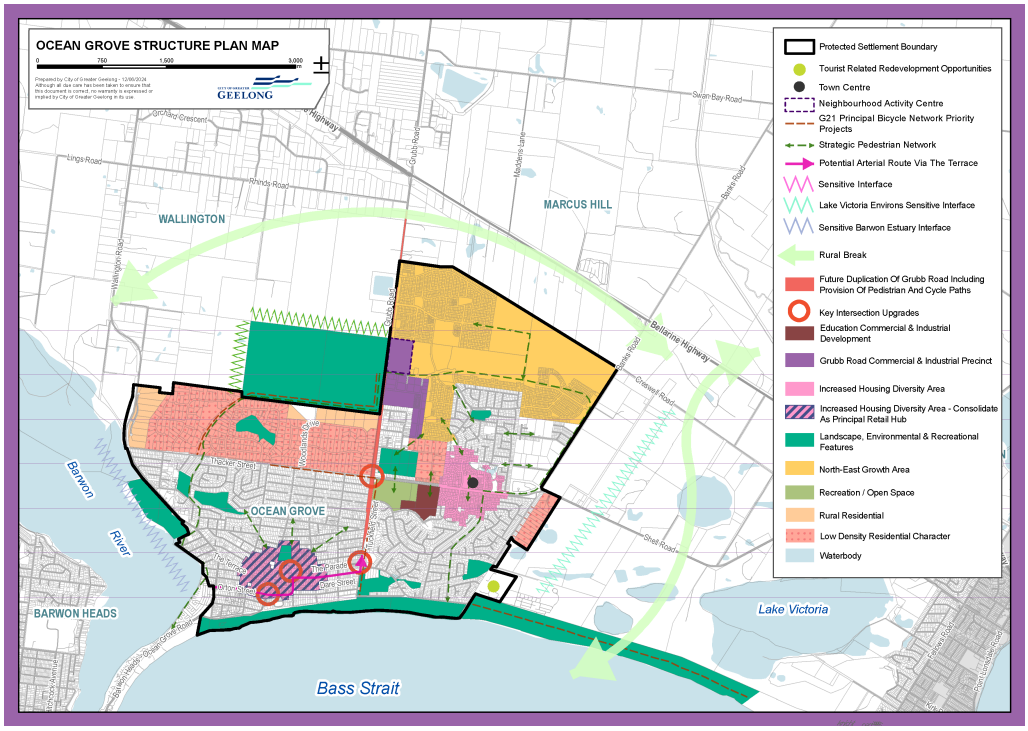
GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Indented Head Structure Plan Map



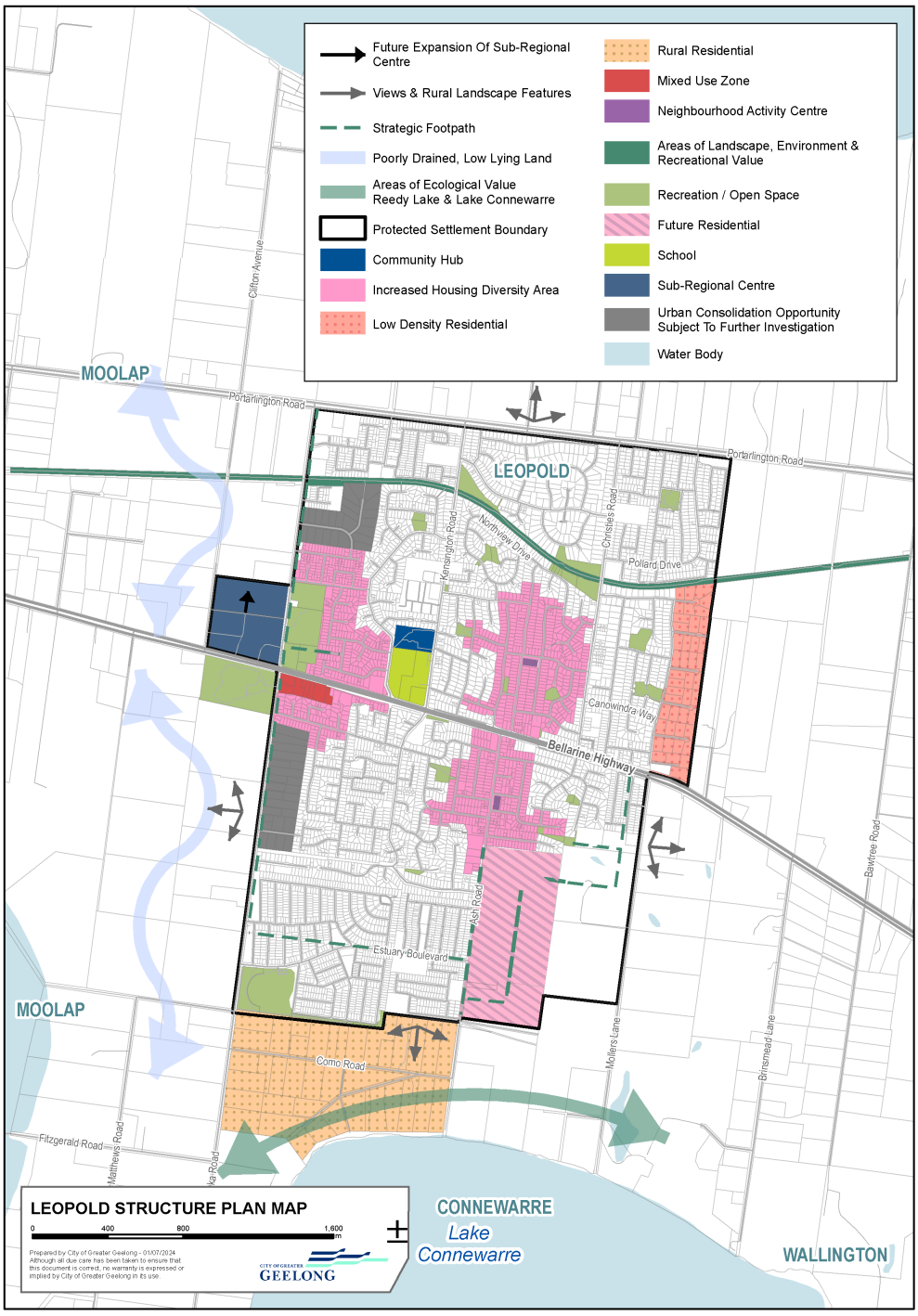
GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Ocean Grove Structure Plan Map



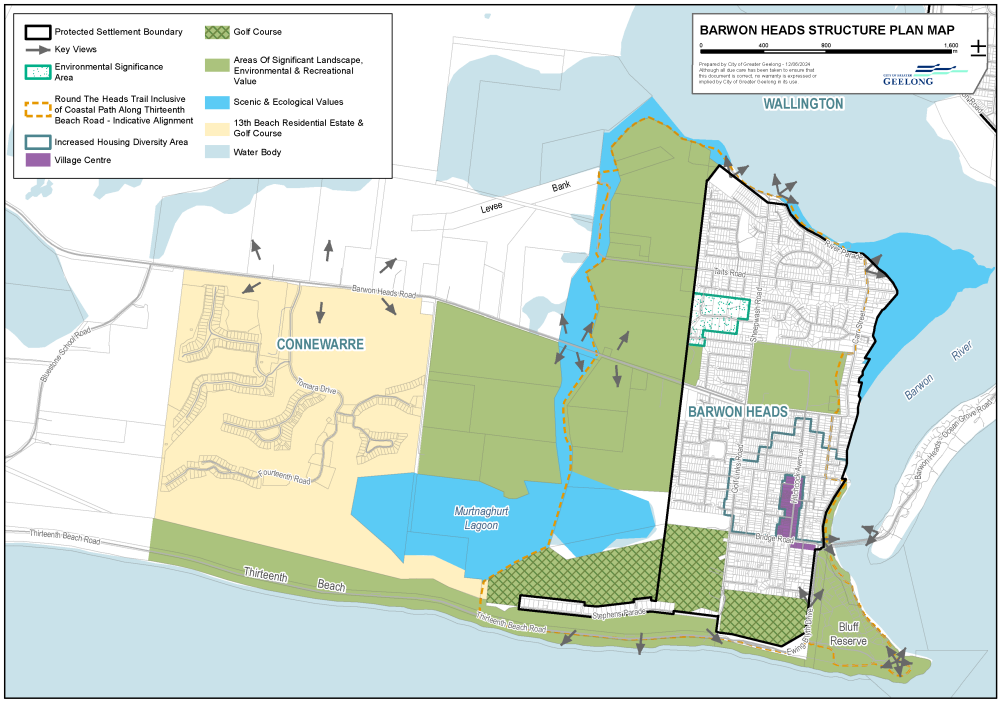
GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Leopold Structure Plan Map



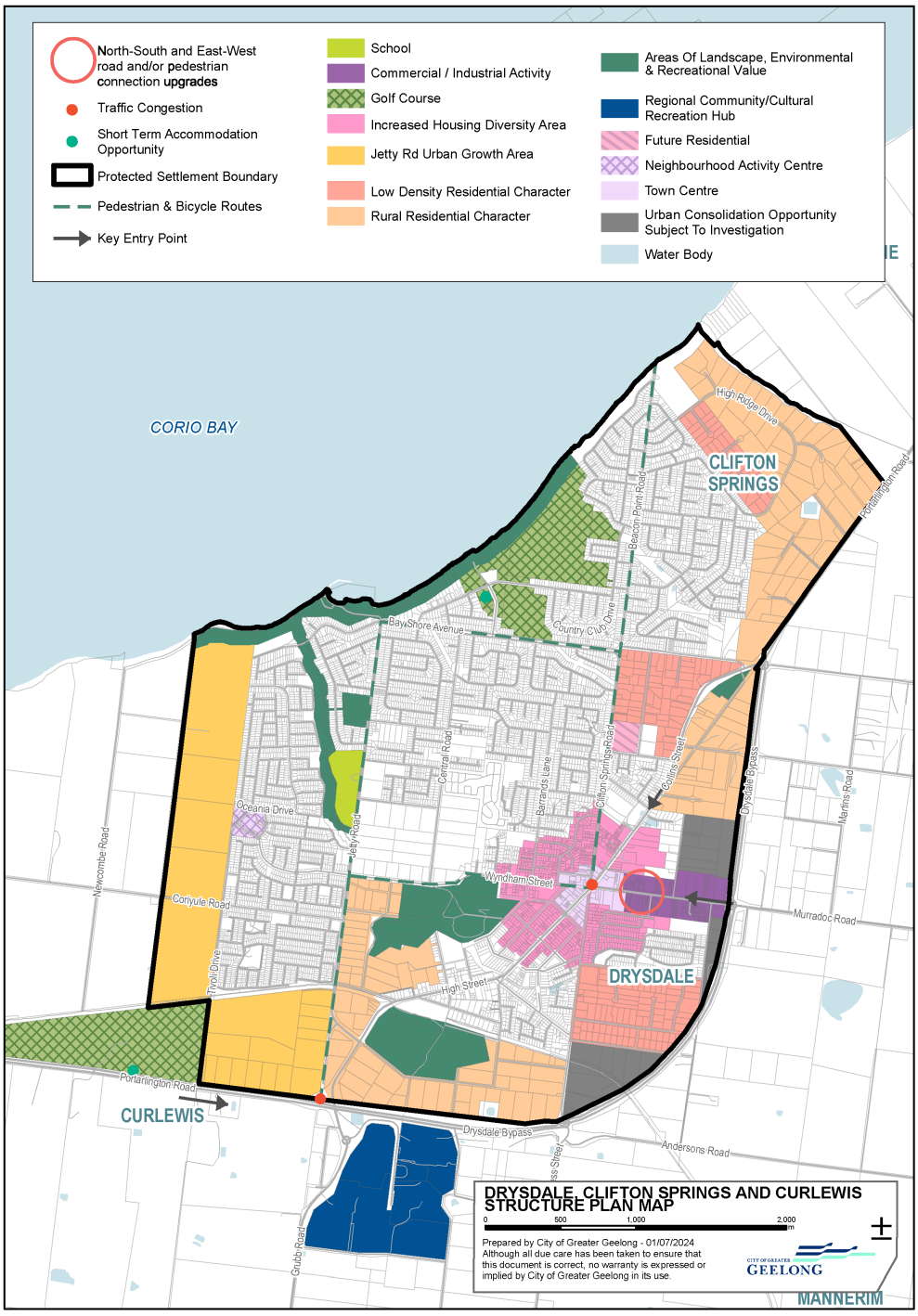
GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Barwon Heads Structure Plan Map



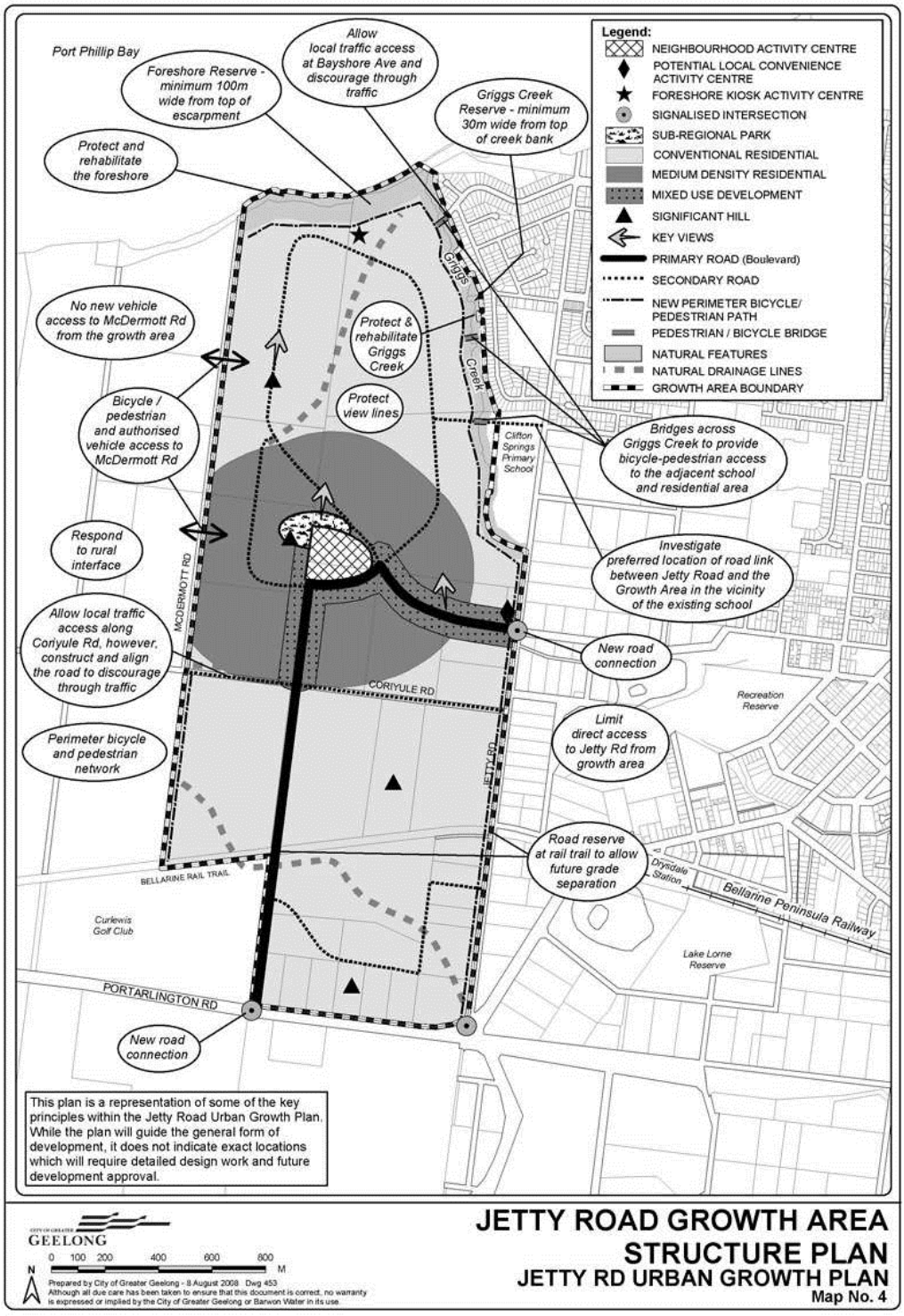
GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Drysdale, Clifton Springs and Curlewis Structure Plan Map



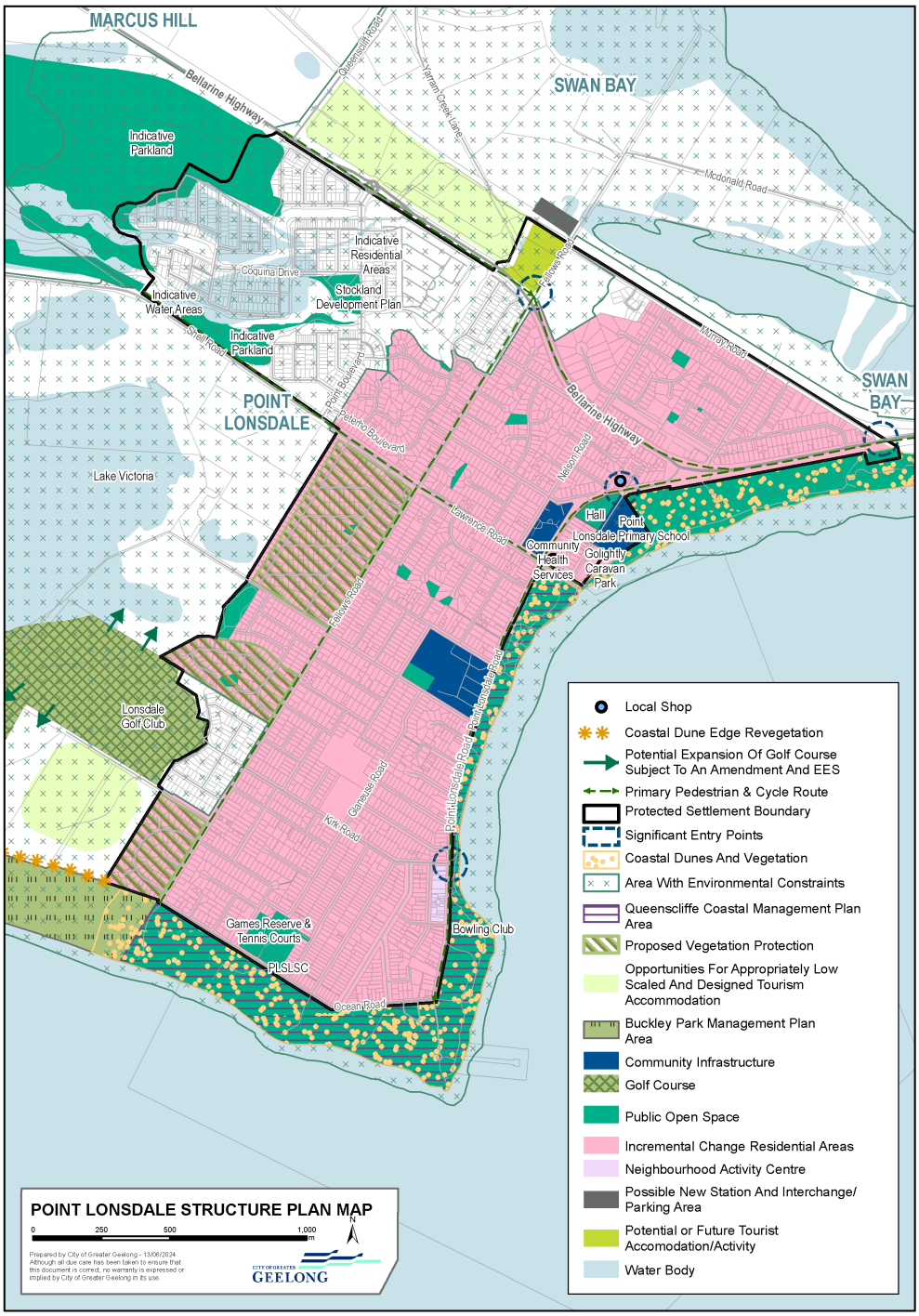
GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Jetty Road Urban Growth Plan Map



GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Point Lonsdale Structure Plan Map



11.03-6L-02 Corio Norlane

13/06/2025
C478ggee

Policy application

This policy applies to land identified in the Corio Norlane Framework Plan Map.

Objective

To facilitate the urban renewal of the Corio Norlane area.

Strategies

Encourage increased housing diversity areas around the Corio Sub-Regional Activity Centre, Bell Post Shopping Centre, North Shore Station and local shopping centres.

Encourage the redevelopment of school sites subject to closure for residential development (where not required for a community use in need of a larger site).

Support the ongoing improvement and expansion of the Corio Sub-Regional Activity Centre, and the development of retail, offices, cafes/restaurants and health services around the centre.

Improve the role, function and presentation of retail activity centres through measures such as supporting a diverse mix of uses and the use of public art to enhance their presentation and create a sense of place.

Encourage the development of the Waterworld Precinct as a multi-purpose community precinct that includes dedicated arts and culture spaces within a “landmark” building.

Facilitate the redevelopment and rezoning of land no longer required for commercial use in local shopping centres for housing and other compatible uses.

Limit intensification of residential development within the North Shore residential area close to heavy industrial land uses.

Support the development of health and support services, including potential expansion of facilities within the Corio ‘heart’ area.

Improve the amenity and safety of local reserves and parks and consider for trade poorly configured parks that do not contribute to the permeability of neighbourhoods.

Encourage the upgrade of ageing drainage infrastructure to better manage impacts resulting from stormwater flooding.

Facilitate the provision of a safe and attractive active transport network to access destinations in Corio and Norlane.

Policy document

Consider as relevant:

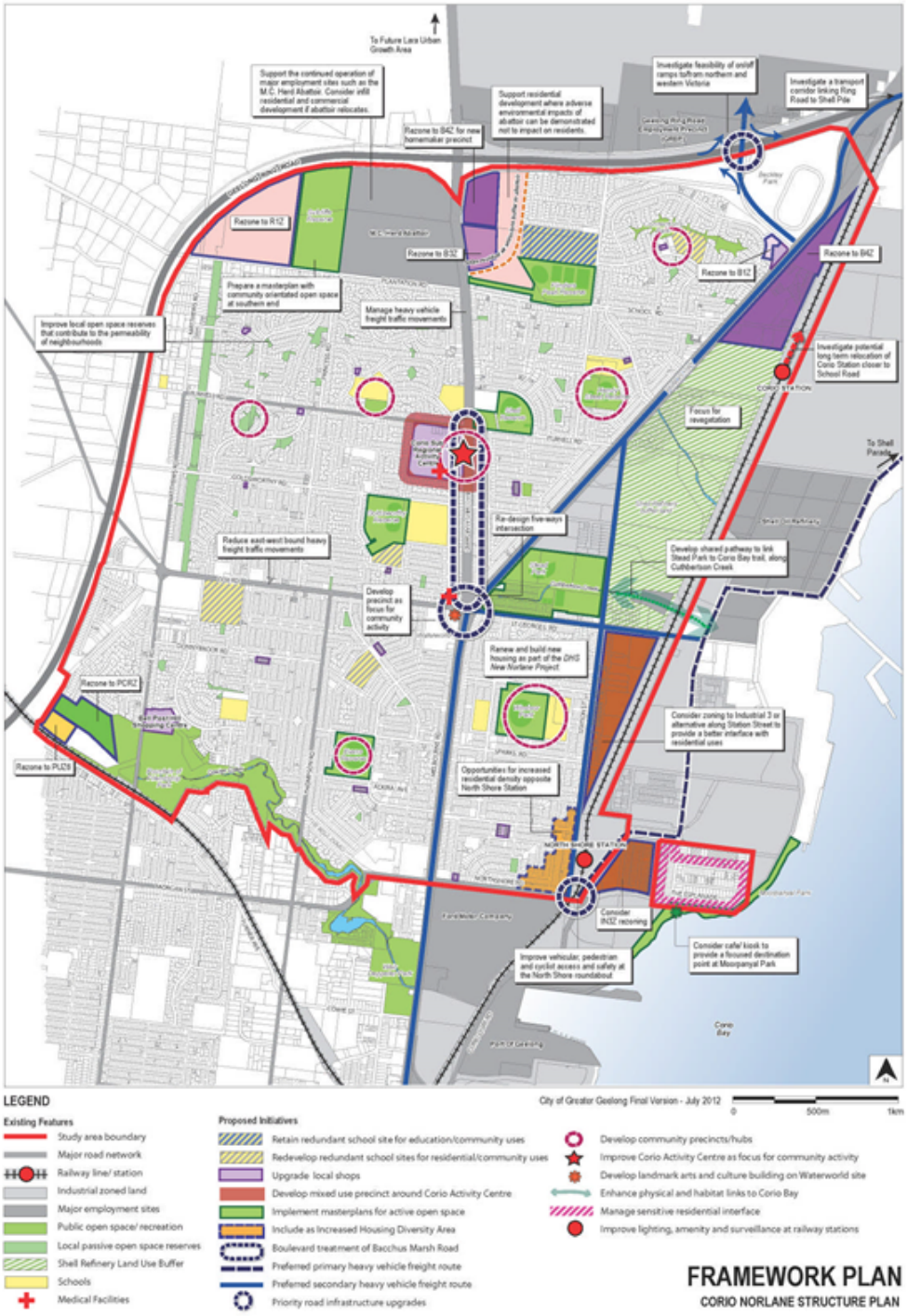
- *Corio Norlane Structure Plan* (City of Greater Geelong and Department of Planning and Community Development, 2012)

Expiry

This policy will expire on 7 July 2027.

GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Corio Norlane Framework Plan Map



11.03-6L-03 Moolap-Point Henry

07/07/2022
C417ggee

Policy application

This policy applies to land within the Moolap Coastal Strategic Framework Plan Map.

Objectives

To facilitate the transformation of Moolap-Point Henry into a safe, sustainable, integrated, connected, accessible and attractive place to live, work and visit.

To encourage development that integrates with and provides an interface to adjoining precincts and surrounding areas, including the settlement break between eastern Geelong and the Bellarine Peninsula.

To encourage land use and development that maintains or enhances environmental values and responds to environmental risks.

Strategies

Support residential and tourism use and development in the Point Henry Precinct, including medium-high density residential development, tourist accommodation and facilities, and complementary commercial and community facilities, water access and boating infrastructure.

Designate the Wetlands and Former Saltworks Precinct for conservation purposes and public open space, with complementary infrastructure and tourism, research and culture/heritage facilities.

Support residential use and development at a range of densities in the Moolap East Precinct, with complementary community, retail and commercial facilities, open space and transport links following the relocation of Dow Chemical and site remediation.

Support industrial activities and commercial businesses in the Southern Precinct to provide local services and employment.

Site and design buildings, infrastructure and coastal facilities to minimise impacts on the environmental, landscape, cultural heritage and biodiversity values of the wetlands, coastal environs and Moolapio grasslands.

Site and design land use and development to respond to potential risks from environmental hazards and climate change, including flooding, acid sulfate soils, sea level rise, coastal erosion and retreat, ground contamination and groundwater salinity.

Provide landscaping and interface treatments to Portarlington Road and Clifton Avenue that are sympathetic to the rural landscapes and green break between Moolap and Leopold.

Provide a movement network that provides for convenient and safe access and is integrated with the existing network and surrounding areas.

Plan for drainage and stormwater management to take a whole of catchment approach that maintains water quality and includes water sensitive urban design.

Encourage environmentally sustainable and water sensitive design that responds to the land's context, natural features and constraints.

Include landscaping and interface treatments that avoid adverse impacts between industry and existing and future residential uses and conservation areas.

Encourage urban and building design that responds to the coastal setting and establishes a unique character.

Facilitate the necessary clean-up, rehabilitation and remediation of former industrial uses and landfill sites.

Support interim land use and development, consistent with the zoning of the land, where the ultimate land use and development outcomes for the land are not prejudiced.

Support the continuation of Dow Chemical in the Moolap East Precinct until this industry chooses to relocate and the precinct transitions to residential.

Policy guidelines

Consider as relevant:

- Whether interim land use and development proposals would prejudice the ultimate transition to future land use, having regard to:
  - The expected timing of the transition to future land use.
  - The potential adverse impacts on the environment including contamination.
  - Potential land use conflicts, adverse amenity impacts or other off-site impacts.
  - The need for provision and ongoing maintenance of new infrastructure.
  - The extent, lifecycle and implications of significant investment in infrastructure, services or buildings.
  - Whether any conditions are required to limit the extent, nature and expiry of proposals that may prejudice the future land use directions.
- Whether the use or development is consistent with the provisions of the *Mines (Aluminium Agreement) Act 1961*, where applicable.

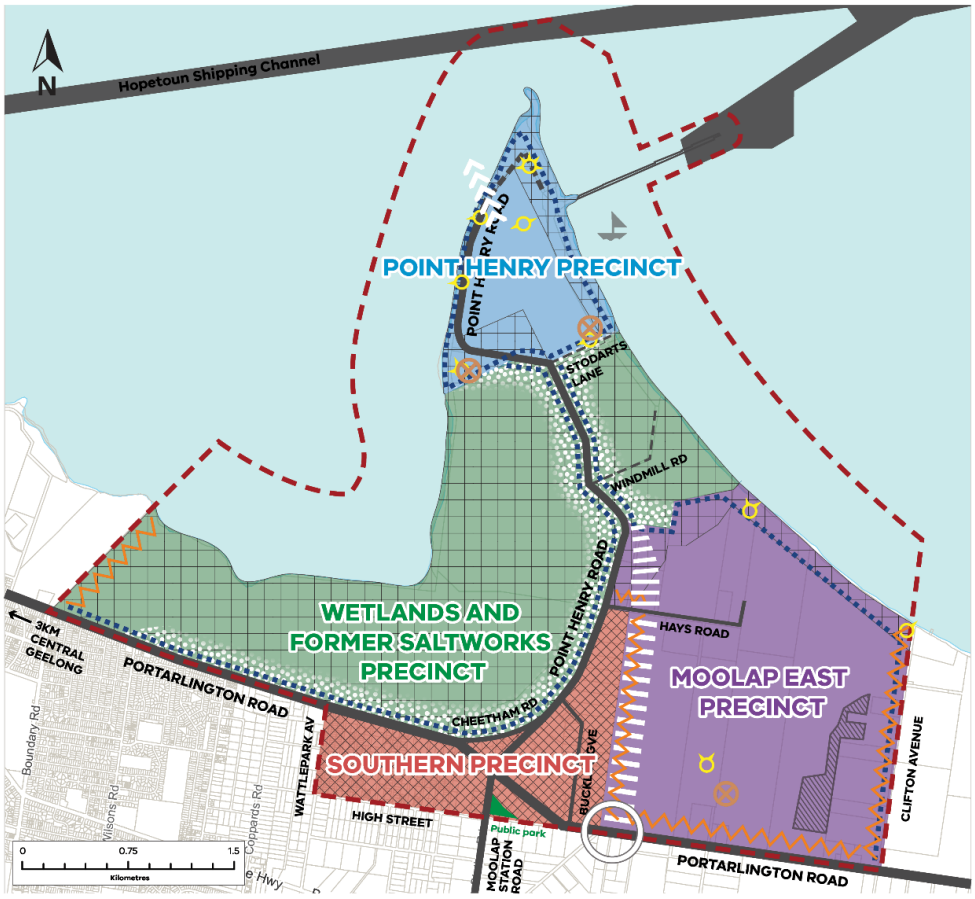
Policy document

Consider as relevant:

- *Moolap Coastal Strategic Framework Plan* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2019)

GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Moolap Coastal Strategic Framework Plan Map



11.03-6L-04 West Fyans - Fyans Street

07/07/2023
C458ggee

Policy application

This policy applies to the land identified in the West Fyans – Fyans Street Precinct Structure Plan Area Map.

General strategy

Ensure that development enhances the visual relationship with public open space areas, including the Barwon River.

Open space precinct 1 strategies

Support community and recreation use and development.

Support tourist-related use and development in identified locations as shown on the West Fyans – Fyans Street Precinct Structure Plan Area Map.

Design and site development to enhance the open space qualities of the area including the Barwon River Corridor.

Business park precinct 2 strategy

Encourage uses that contribute to the development of the business park including manufacturing, office and active recreation uses.

Residential interface precinct 3A strategies

Direct commercial uses to West Fyans Street including office and retail development that could include housing at upper levels.

In the Residential and Mixed Use Zones support the development of housing, including medium density housing, in a manner which responds to the existing housing stock's modest scale, built form and setbacks.

Within Industrial 1 zoned areas support a range of activities complementary to the long-term mixed-use vision for the area including office, service industry and leisure and recreation activities.

Discourage industrial uses that do not meet Clause 53.10 buffer requirements.

Mixed use precinct 3B strategies

Within the Commercial Node support a mix of accommodation and commercial activity including retail, food and drink premises, office, community and recreation uses.

In the West Fyans Street area, west of Pakington Street encourage a mix of office and retail uses and opportunities for upper level housing.

In the West Fyans Street area, east of Pakington Street encourage restricted retail and other commercial uses.

Encourage medium to high density residential development in the remainder of the precinct with opportunities for small-scale non-residential uses such as arts and crafts, leisure and recreation, home-based offices and medical offices.

Design development to provide for or improve pedestrian and bicycle linkages to the Rutland Street extension connecting to Pakington Street.

Mixed use precinct 4 strategies

Within the Commercial Node support a mix of accommodation and commercial activity including retail, food and drink premises, office, community and recreation uses.

Limit non-residential uses outside the Industrial 1 Zone and the Commercial Node to areas with convenient access to and from the river environment.

Encourage medium to high density residential development in the remainder of the precinct.

Within Industrial 1 zoned areas support a range of activities complementary to the long-term mixed-use vision for the area including office, service industry, leisure and recreation activities.

Discourage industrial uses that do not meet Clause 53.10 buffer requirements.

Promote the adaptive reuse of heritage buildings including the former heritage woollen mills.

Design development to provide for or improve pedestrian and bicycle linkages to the river environment and the Rutland Street extension connecting to Pakington Street.

Business precinct 5 strategy

Maintain this precinct as the focus for restricted retail premises.

Industrial precinct 6 strategies

Discourage the use of land for offensive industries and restricted retail activity.

Encourage the use of land for warehousing, service and non-offensive industries and office uses.

Mixed use - high density residential precinct 7 strategies

Direct restricted retail uses to Moorabool Street and larger commercial uses to Moorabool and Fyans Streets at ground level and encourage housing at upper levels.

Encourage medium to high density residential uses south of Little Fyans Street with higher density housing adjacent to Barwon Terrace.

Support a range of office, warehousing, non-offensive industrial and service industry uses north of Little Fyans Street.

Support commercial uses including food and drink premises, offices, arts and crafts and leisure and recreation activities at ground and first floor levels adjacent to Barwon Terrace and Yarra Street.

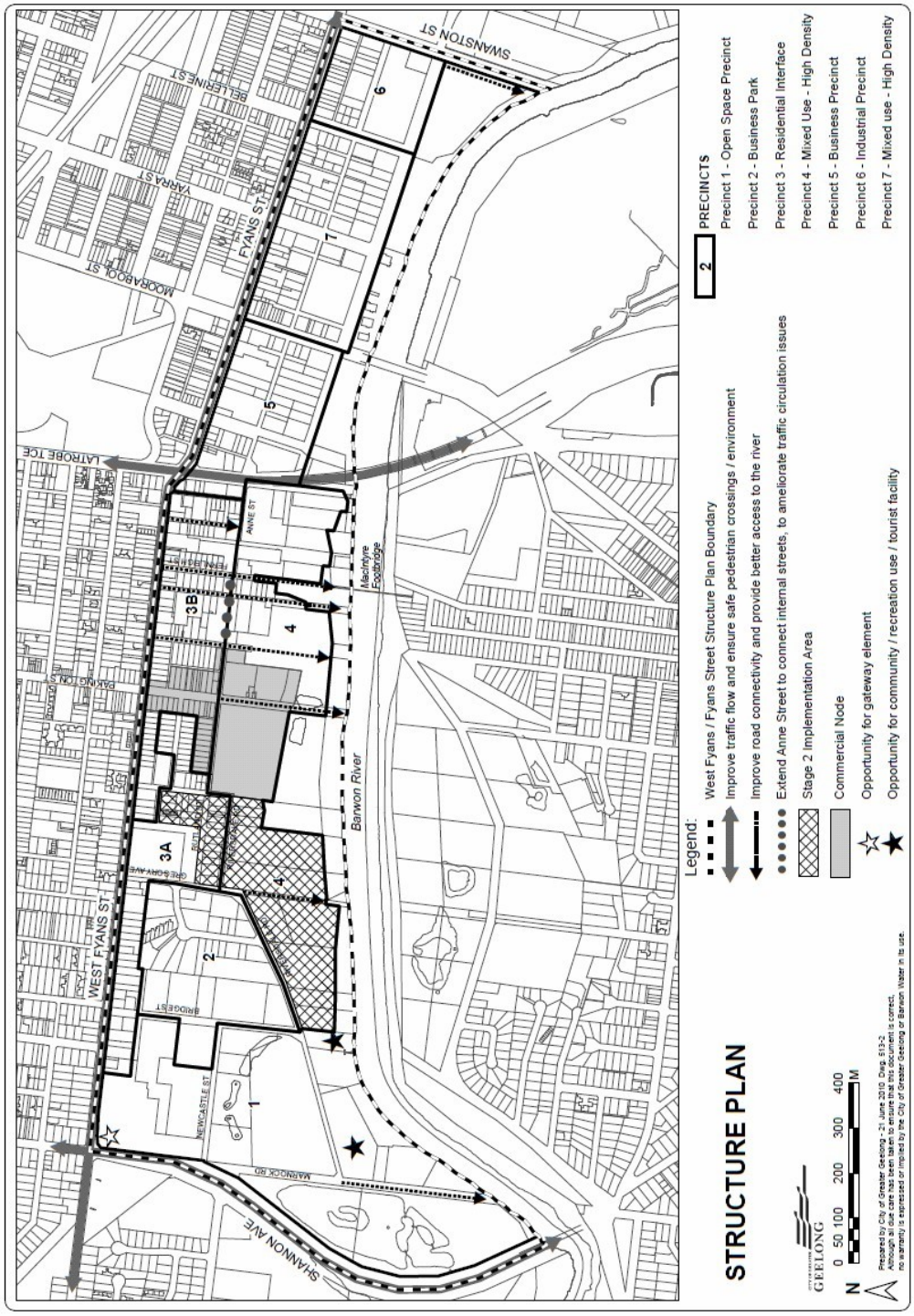
Policy document

Consider as relevant:

- *West Fyans –Fyans Street Precinct Structure Plan* (City of Greater Geelong, 2009)

GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

West Fyans – Fyans Street Precinct Structure Plan Area Map



11.03-6L-05 South Geelong

15/08/2025
C432ggee

Policy application

This policy applies to all land identified in the South Geelong Urban Design Framework Area and Key Development Areas Map.

Objectives

To encourage diverse, high-quality, sustainable urban environments whilst respecting identified neighbourhood character and heritage values.

To create green streets and public spaces with safe and accessible environments for pedestrians and cyclists and water sensitive urban design.

To encourage medium and higher density development with a diverse mix of housing (including affordable housing) and ground level retail, commercial and community uses that service the needs of the local community and visitors in the Key Development Areas.

To minimise the visual impact of car parking.

General strategies

Improve circulation and way finding features for cyclists and pedestrians.

Ensure all development, streets and car parking incorporate significant canopy tree planting, landscaping and water-sensitive urban design to increase tree numbers in public and private realms.

Support the reuse/repurpose of heritage buildings, particularly corner buildings within the General Residential Zone for commercial uses.

Moorabool Street Key Development Area strategies

Public domain

Ensure entrances and paths to public spaces are designed to cater for all people including those with mobility difficulties.

Street network and access

Design streets for slow circulation speeds.

Support a reduction in car parking or the provision of shared car parking spaces for development where possible.

Support the development of safe pedestrian and cyclist crossings on Moorabool Street, particularly at the Lonsdale Street and Foster Street intersections.

Support the widening of Lamb Place to allow for rear loading vehicle access to development sites.

Land use

Support residential uses and limit the number of buildings used solely for commercial purposes, except for properties adjacent to the railway line.

Support active uses adjoining street corners, public plazas and around heritage buildings.

Built form and layout

Support consolidation of lots to maximise development potential, ensuring equitable development opportunities on adjacent lots.

Ensure a transition of building height and an appropriate interface to residential properties to the east of Moorabool Street.

Station Hub Key Development Area strategies

Land use

Support the redevelopment and transition of the South Geelong Station Hub into a transit orientated community hub.

Encourage shared car parking through the provision of a multi-deck car park or an alternative car parking arrangement.

Support a mix of commercial and community land uses including retail, small offices, childcare, supermarket, food and drink premises on the ground floor near the station, which service the local area while continuing to meet the needs of station users.

Support high density residential development.

Support the development of a public plaza adjacent to the station.

Support centre median car parking along Lonsdale and Bellerine Streets adjacent to the Station Hub.

Public realm and amenity

Support a wider footpath and verge opposite 40-44 Lonsdale Street to increase public realm, street planting and to help reduce visual bulk from development.

Minimise the impact from overshadowing on residential properties from the multi-deck car park.

Movement networks

Support improved pedestrian and bicycle connections through and to the Station Hub.

Support the development of a pedestrian bridge over the railway line, connecting Bellerine Street ensuring access at either side of the Station Hub.

Encourage the development of a main street through the southern side of the station.

Policy guideline

Consider as relevant:

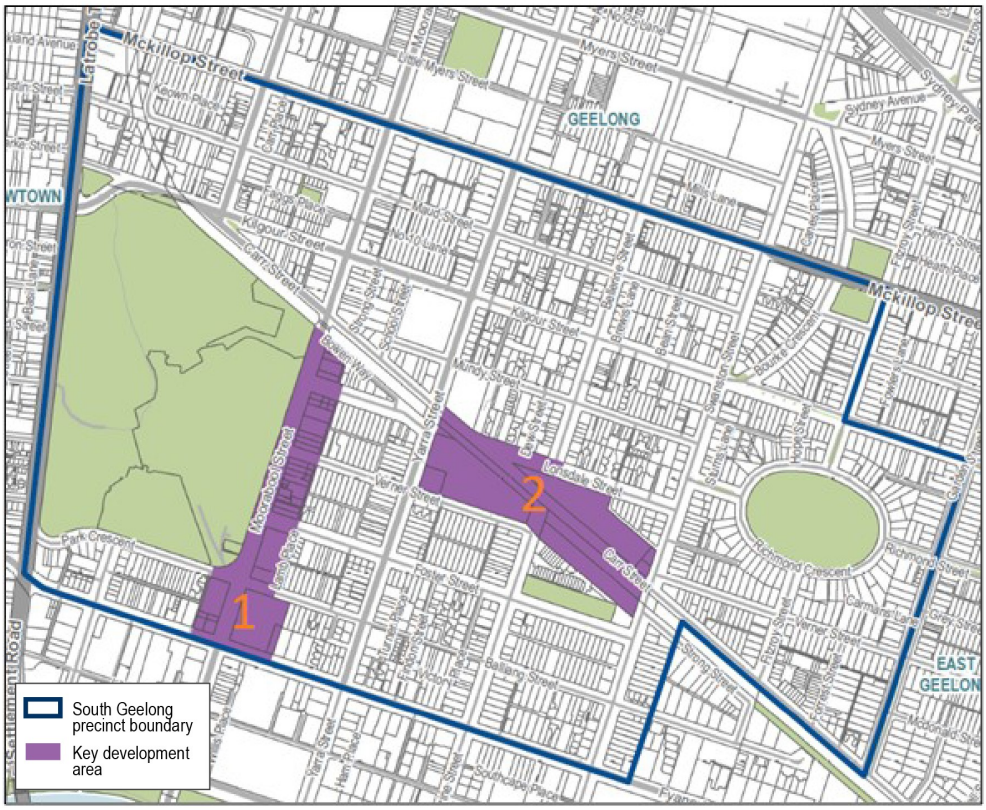
- Supporting building heights of 3 to 5 storeys on the south side of the South Geelong Station.

Policy document

Consider as relevant:

- *South Geelong Urban Design Framework* (City of Greater Geelong, 2025)

South Geelong Urban Design Framework Area and Key Development Areas Map



Key Development Areas

1. Moorabool Street
2. Station Hub

11.03-6L-06 Pakington Street Geelong West

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Proposed C433ggee

Policy application

This policy applies to land within the Pakington Street Urban Design Framework Plan Map.

All precincts

Objectives

To enable the development of a vibrant, compact and thriving urban village.

To provide greater housing diversity and a range of housing typologies while respecting the amenity and heritage values of surrounding residential areas.

To facilitate sustainable development outcomes, including urban greening, green street corridors, increased canopy cover, and water sensitive urban design.

To facilitate a network of streets and public spaces which offer safe and accessible environments for pedestrians and cyclists.

To enhance the sense of identity and place throughout the three precincts and improve their connections to each other and key attractors such as Central Geelong.

Encourage precincts and sub-precincts with distinct identities that contribute to the whole.

Strategies

Encourage a diversity of housing types, including the provision of social and affordable housing.

Facilitate active and public transport links to Central Geelong.

Design buildings that are sensitive to the surrounding context.

Create engaging streets and laneways that improve pedestrian permeability and encourage opportunities for active and public transport.

Integrate landscape as a key driver of building design through the provision of functional open spaces (e.g. central courtyards) and landscaped setbacks to the front and rear of buildings.

Encourage the installation of public art, including event and breakout spaces and on blank facades, to contribute to the identity, activation and interest of streets and open spaces.

Provide wayfinding and signage to connect pedestrians and cyclists to key destinations including Central Geelong, railway station and the waterfront.

Pakington North Precinct

Objectives

To support a vibrant mix of retail, entertainment, services, and residential functions which establishes the Pakington North Precinct as a destination and strengthens its connection to the remainder of Pakington Street, Geelong West.

To provide a transition to the low scale character of the surrounding residential area and to the Heritage Core Precinct.

To facilitate new public open spaces and pedestrian connections.

To protect the rail sidings yard at 28–64 Pakington Street as an essential site for the operation of rail services in Geelong.

Strategies

Facilitate new open space within large sites.

Encourage retention of existing heritage design elements in buildings and street infrastructure, whilst creating Pakington North's own distinct character.

Heritage Core Precinct

Objective

To provide attractive and comfortable urban public spaces and support the precincts function as a community hub and meeting place.

Strategies

Retain and enhance the built form elements that contribute to the recognised urban design character of the Heritage Core Precinct.

Encourage high-quality public realm outcomes through upgraded kerb and channel, footpath paving, landscaping, bicycle parking and street furniture that do not negatively impact existing on-street parking supply.

Provide a pocket park in the area between the Town Hall and Library and upgrade the existing pocket park on Yuille Street.

Gordon Avenue Precinct

Objectives

To create a vibrant, mid-rise precinct which transitions from the low scale character of the surrounding residential area to the future high-density scale of Central Geelong.

To develop a safe and attractive connecting corridor between Central Geelong and Geelong's established western suburbs.

Strategies

Encourage fine-grain retail frontages in the west end of the precinct.

Facilitate the transition of the central area into a diverse residential precinct with complementary retail and commercial uses to increase the resident population and activity.

Provide landscaped setbacks to Gordon Avenue to facilitate street planting and tree canopy cover.

Encourage landscaped setbacks with canopy trees along Latrobe Terrace to protect internal amenity at the ground floor and contribute to the improvement of the public realm along major traffic routes.

Discourage direct vehicle access to Latrobe Terrace.

Encourage opportunities for pedestrian permeability and public open space.

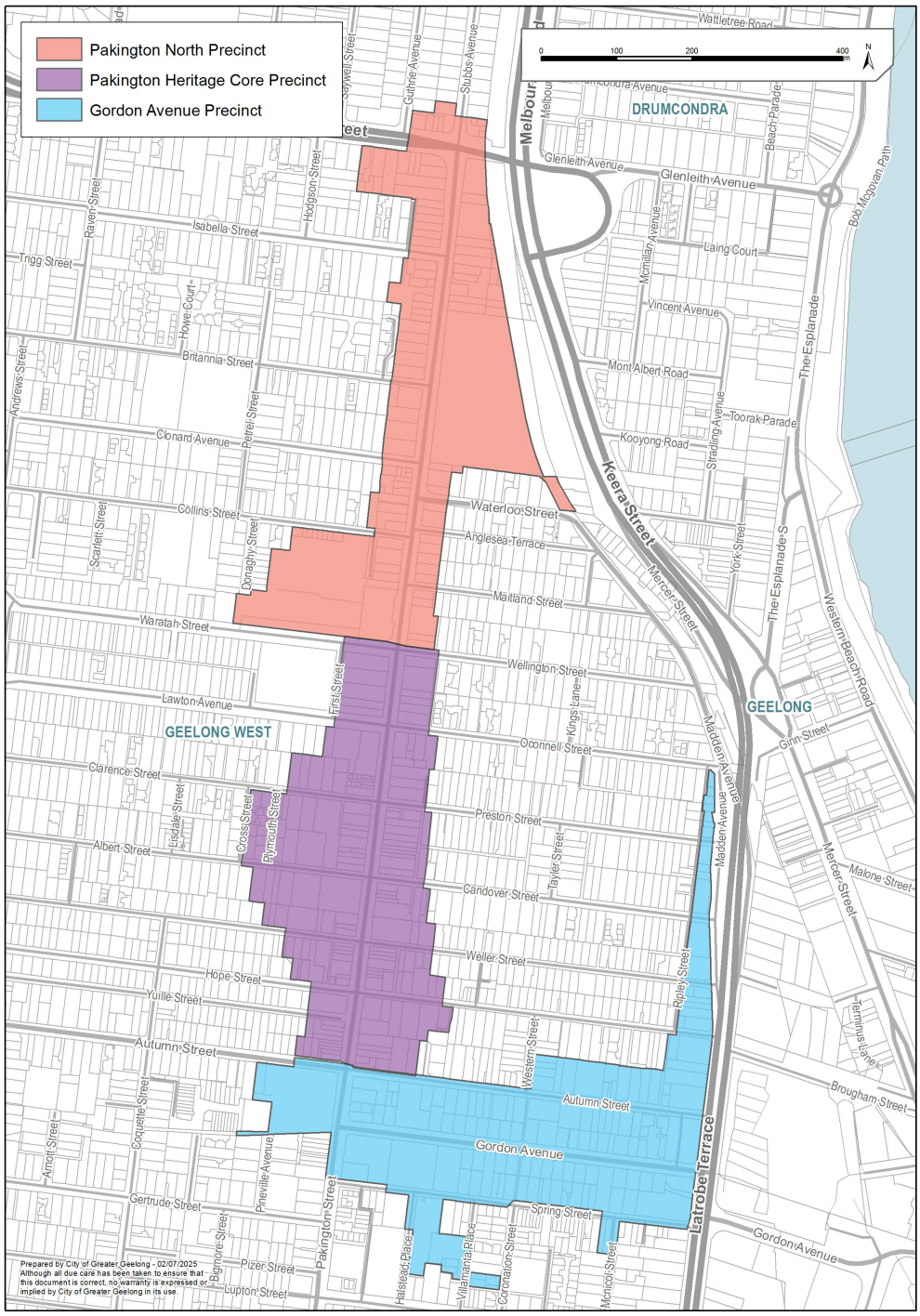
Policy documents

Consider as relevant:

- *Pakington Street and Gordon Avenue Urban Design Framework* (City of Greater Geelong, May 2024)
- *Pakington North Urban Design Framework* (City of Greater Geelong, May 2024)

GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Pakington Street Urban Design Framework Plan Map



GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

15.01 BUILT ENVIRONMENT

31/07/2018
VC148

15.01-1S Urban design

02/09/2025
VC283

Objective

To create urban environments that are safe, healthy, functional and enjoyable and that contribute to a sense of place and cultural identity.

Strategies

Require development to respond to its context in terms of character, cultural identity and heritage, natural features, surrounding landscape and climate.

Ensure development contributes to community and cultural life by improving the quality of living and working environments, facilitating accessibility and providing for inclusiveness.

Ensure the interface between the private and public realm protects and enhances personal safety.

Ensure development supports public realm amenity and safe access to walking and cycling environments and public transport.

Ensure that the design and location of publicly accessible private spaces, including car parking areas, forecourts and walkways, is of a high standard, creates a safe environment for users and enables easy and efficient use.

Ensure that development provides landscaping that supports the amenity, attractiveness and safety of the public realm.

Ensure that development, including signs, minimises detrimental impacts on amenity, on the natural and built environment and on the safety and efficiency of roads.

Promote good urban design along and abutting transport corridors.

Policy documents

Consider as relevant:

- *Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017)

15.01-1L-01 Development in activity centres

07/07/2022
C417ggee

Policy application

This policy applies to all buildings and works applications in activity centres.

Objective

To ensure the design and layout of new or expanding centres minimise amenity impacts on surrounding uses and contribute positively to the streetscape and surrounding area.

Strategies

Ensure blank walls and loading bays are not adjacent to sensitive land uses and key vehicle and pedestrian accessways to a centre.

Ensure illuminated signage does not impact on sensitive land uses.

Ensure new development provides visually interesting and active street frontages where buildings abut the street or a public space.

Encourage car parking areas to be located to the side or rear of a centre.

Ensure car parking areas do not visually dominate the front setback area of a centre by providing landscaping including canopy trees.

Ensure there are safe and convenient pedestrian connections from car parking areas and the surrounding footpath network to the entrance(s) of a centre.

15.01-1L-03 Signs in urban environments

18/04/2024
C383ggee

Policy application

This policy applies to all urban land in the municipality.

Objectives

To encourage signs to meet the objectives of the *City of Greater Geelong Sign Guidelines* (February 2024).

Strategies

Encourage signs to meet the strategies of the *City of Greater Geelong Sign Guidelines* (February 2024).

Policy guidelines

Consider as relevant:

- Policy guidelines of the *City of Greater Geelong Sign Guidelines* (February 2024).

Policy documents

Consider as relevant:

- *City of Greater Geelong Sign Guidelines* (February 2024).

15.01-2S Building design

16/04/2026
VC300

Objective

To achieve building design and siting outcomes that contribute positively to the local context, enhance the public realm and support environmentally sustainable development.

Strategies

Ensure a comprehensive site analysis forms the starting point of the design process and provides the basis for the consideration of height, scale, massing and energy performance of new development.

Ensure development responds and contributes to the strategic and cultural context of its location.

Minimise the detrimental impact of development on neighbouring properties, the public realm and the natural environment.

Improve the energy performance of buildings through siting and design measures that encourage:

- Passive design responses that minimise the need for heating, cooling and lighting.
- On-site renewable energy generation and storage technology.
- Use of low embodied energy materials.

Restrict the provision of reticulated natural gas in new dwelling development.

Ensure the layout and design of development supports resource recovery, including separation, storage and collection of waste, mixed recycling, glass, organics and e-waste.

Encourage use of recycled and reusable materials in building construction and undertake adaptive reuse of buildings, where practical.

Encourage water efficiency and the use of rainwater, stormwater and recycled water.

Minimise stormwater discharge through site layout and landscaping measures that support on-site infiltration and stormwater reuse.

Ensure the form, scale, and appearance of development enhances the function and amenity of the public realm.

Ensure buildings and their interface with the public realm support personal safety, perceptions of safety and property security.

Ensure development is designed to protect and enhance valued landmarks, views and vistas.

Ensure development considers and responds to transport movement networks and provides safe access and egress for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles.

Encourage development to retain existing vegetation.

Ensure development provides landscaping that responds to its site context, enhances the built form, creates safe and attractive spaces and supports cooling and greening of urban areas.

Policy documents

Consider as relevant:

- *Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017)
- *Apartment Design Guidelines for Victoria* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2021)
- *Waste Management and Recycling in Multi-unit Developments* (Sustainability Victoria, 2019)
- *Mid-Rise Design Guide* (Department of Transport and Planning, 2026)

15.01-2L Environmentally sustainable development

07/07/2022
C417ggee

Policy application

This policy applies to residential and non-residential development, excluding subdivision, in accordance with the thresholds detailed in this policy other than where an ESD plan or framework has been previously approved.

Objective

To achieve best practice in environmentally sustainable development from the design stage through to construction and operation.

General strategies

Facilitate development that minimises environmental impacts.

Encourage environmentally sustainable development that:

- Is consistent with the type and scale of the development.
- Responds to site opportunities and constraints.
- Adopts best practice through a combination of methods, processes and locally available technology that demonstrably minimise environmental impacts.

Energy performance strategies

Reduce both energy use and energy peak demand through design measures such as:

- Building orientation.
- Shading to glazed surfaces.
- Optimising glazing to exposed surfaces.
- Inclusion of or space allocation for renewable technologies.

Integrated water management strategies

Reduce total operating potable water use through appropriate design measures such as water efficient fixtures, appliances, equipment, irrigation and landscaping.

Encourage the use of alternative water sources, including greywater, rainwater and stormwater.

Incorporate water sensitive urban design to improve the quality of stormwater runoff and reduce impacts on water systems and water bodies.

Indoor environment quality

Achieve a healthy indoor environment quality, including thermal comfort and access to fresh air and daylight, prioritising passive design over mechanical heating, ventilation, cooling and lighting.

Reduce indoor air pollutants by encouraging use of materials containing chemicals that have low levels of toxicity.

Minimise noise levels and noise transfer within and between buildings and associated external areas.

Transport strategies

Design development to promote the use of walking, cycling and public transport, in that order; and to minimise car dependency.

Promote the use of low emissions vehicle technologies and supporting infrastructure.

Waste management strategies

Promote waste avoidance, reuse and recycling during the design, construction and operation stages of development.

Encourage use of durable and reuseable building materials.

Ensure sufficient space is allocated for future change in waste management needs, including (where possible) composting and green waste facilities.

Urban ecology strategies

Protect and enhance biodiversity by incorporating natural habitats and planting indigenous vegetation.

Reduce urban heat island effects through building design, landscape design, water sensitive urban design and the retention and provision of canopy trees.

Encourage the provision of space for productive gardens, particularly in larger residential developments.

Policy guidelines

Residential

Consider as relevant:

A Sustainable Design Assessment (including an assessment using BESS, STORM or other methods) for:

- 3 - 9 dwellings.
- A building for accommodation other than dwellings with a gross floor area between 100 square metres and 1500 square metres.

A Sustainability Management Plan (including an assessment using BESS, STORM, Green star, MUSIC or other methods) and a Green Travel Plan for:

- 10 or more dwellings.
- A building for accommodation other than dwellings with a gross floor area of 1500 square metres or more.

Non-residential

Consider as relevant:

A Sustainable Design Assessment (including an assessment using BESS, STORM, MUSIC or other methods) for:

- A non-residential building with a gross floor area between 300 square metres and 1500 square metres.
- An extension to an existing non-residential building creating between 300 square metres and 1500 square metres of additional gross floor area.

A Sustainability Management Plan (including an assessment using BESS, STORM, Green star, MUSIC or other methods) and a Green Travel Plan for:

- A non-residential building with a gross floor area of 1500 square metres or more.
- An extension to an existing non-residential building creating 1500 square metres or more of additional gross floor area.

Mixed use

Consider as relevant:

Applicable assessments or plans for the residential and non-residential components of the development.

Policy documents

Consider as relevant the following tools to support a Sustainable Design Assessment or Sustainability Management Plan:

- *Sustainable Design Assessment in the Planning Process* (IMAP, 2015)
- *Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard 'BESS'* (Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment 'CASBE')
- *Green Star* (Green Building Council of Australia)
- *Model for Urban Stormwater Improvement Conceptualisation 'MUSIC'* (Melbourne Water)
- *Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme 'NatHERS'* (Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency)
- *Stormwater Treatment Objective - Relative Measure 'STORM'* (Melbourne Water)
- *Urban Stormwater Best Practice Environmental Management Guidelines* (Victorian Stormwater Committee, 1999)
- *Waste Management and Recycling in Multi-Unit Developments - Better Practice Guide* (Sustainability Victoria, 2018)

Commencement

This policy does not apply to applications received by the responsible authority before 17 October 2019.

Expiry

This policy will expire if it is superseded by a comparable provision in the Victoria Planning Provisions.

15.01-3S Subdivision design

01/01/2024
VC250

Objective

To ensure the design of subdivisions achieves attractive, safe, accessible, diverse and sustainable neighbourhoods.

Strategies

In the development of new residential areas and in the redevelopment of existing areas, subdivision should be designed to create liveable and sustainable communities by:

- Creating compact neighbourhoods that have walkable distances between activities.
- Developing activity centres in appropriate locations with a mix of uses and services and access to public transport.
- Creating neighbourhood centres that include services to meet day to day needs.
- Creating urban places with a strong sense of place that are functional, safe and attractive.
- Providing a range of lot sizes to suit a variety of dwelling and household types to meet the needs and aspirations of different groups of people.
- Creating landscaped streets and a network of open spaces to meet a variety of needs with links to regional parks where possible.
- Protecting and enhancing habitat for native flora and fauna, and providing opportunities for people to experience nature in urban areas.
- Facilitating an urban structure where neighbourhoods are clustered to support larger activity centres served by high quality public transport.
- Reduce car dependency by allowing for:
  - Convenient and safe public transport.
  - Safe and attractive spaces and networks for walking and cycling.
  - Subdivision layouts that allow easy movement within and between neighbourhoods.
  - A convenient and safe road network.
- Minimising exposure of sensitive uses to air and noise pollution from the transport system.
- Being accessible to people with disabilities.
- Creating an urban structure that:
  - Responds to climate related hazards.
  - Incorporates integrated water management, including sustainable irrigation of open space.
  - Minimises peak demand on the electricity network.
  - Supports energy efficiency and solar energy generation through urban layout and lot orientation.
  - Supports waste minimisation and increased resource recovery.
- Providing utilities and services that support the uptake of renewable energy technologies, such as microgrids and energy storage systems, including batteries.
- Providing all-electric lots.

Policy documents

Consider as relevant:

- *Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017)

15.01-3L Subdivision design in low density and rural residential areas

07/07/2022
C417ggee

Policy application

This policy applies to the subdivision of land in the Low Density Residential and Rural Living Zones.

Strategy

Design subdivisions to create lots with a clearly identifiable street frontage.

Policy guidelines

Consider as relevant:

- Vehicle accessways to have a minimum width of 4 metres where the length of the driveway exceeds 30 metres.
- Lots to have a minimum street front of 4 metres.

15.01-4S Healthy neighbourhoods

02/09/2025
VC283

Objective

To achieve neighbourhoods that foster healthy and active living and community wellbeing.

Strategies

Design neighbourhoods that foster community interaction and make it easy for people of all ages and abilities to live healthy lifestyles and engage in regular physical activity by providing:

- Connected, safe, pleasant and attractive walking and cycling networks that enable and promote walking and cycling as a part of daily life.
- Streets with direct, safe and convenient access to destinations.
- Conveniently located public spaces for active recreation and leisure.
- Accessibly located public transport stops.
- Amenities and protection to support physical activity in all weather conditions.

Create 20 minute neighbourhoods, that give people the ability to meet most of their everyday needs within a 20 minute walk, cycle or local public transport trip from their home.

Policy documents

Consider as relevant:

- *Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017)

15.01-5S Neighbourhood character

09/10/2020
VC169

Objective

To recognise, support and protect neighbourhood character, cultural identity, and sense of place.

Strategies

Support development that respects the existing neighbourhood character or contributes to a preferred neighbourhood character.

Ensure the preferred neighbourhood character is consistent with medium and higher density housing outcomes in areas identified for increased housing.

Ensure development responds to its context and reinforces a sense of place and the valued features and characteristics of the local environment and place by respecting the:

- Pattern of local urban structure and subdivision.
- Underlying natural landscape character and significant vegetation.
- Neighbourhood character values and built form that reflect community identity.

15.01-5L Neighbourhood character

07/07/2022
C417ggee

Objectives

To manage the impact of urban change on existing neighbourhoods.

To protect areas with a significant garden character.

Strategies

Support medium density housing that respects the existing neighbourhood character in the General Residential Zone areas.

Design development on the periphery of the Residential Growth Zones to be responsive to and respectful of the neighbourhood character in any adjoining residential zones.

Retain existing vegetation wherever possible, particularly vegetation that contributes to the municipality's tree canopy.

Avoid gated communities.

15.01-6S Design for rural areas

31/07/2018
VC148

Objective

To ensure development respects valued areas of rural character.

Strategies

Ensure that the siting, scale and appearance of development protects and enhances rural character.

Protect the visual amenity of valued rural landscapes and character areas along township approaches and sensitive tourist routes by ensuring new development is sympathetically located.

Site and design development to minimise visual impacts on surrounding natural scenery and landscape features including ridgelines, hill tops, waterways, lakes and wetlands.

15.01-6L Signs in rural areas

18/04/2024
C383ggee

Policy application

This policy applies to all rural land in the municipality.

Objectives

To encourage signs to meet the objectives of the *City of Greater Geelong Sign Guidelines* (February 2024).

Strategies

To encourage signs to meet the strategies of the *City of Greater Geelong Sign Guidelines* (February 2024).

Policy guidelines

Consider as relevant:

- Policy guidelines of the *City of Greater Geelong Sign Guidelines* (February 2024).

Policy documents

Consider as relevant:

- *City of Greater Geelong Sign Guidelines* (February 2024).

GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

16.01 RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

31/07/2018
VC148

16.01-1S Housing supply

16/04/2026
VC300

Objective

To facilitate well-located, integrated and diverse housing that meets community needs.

Strategies

Plan to accommodate housing targets specified in this clause by ensuring zones and overlays deliver sufficient realisable development capacity.

Ensure that an appropriate quantity, quality and type of housing is provided, including aged care facilities and other housing suitable for older people, supported accommodation for people with disability, rooming houses, student accommodation and social housing.

Increase the proportion of housing in urban areas with good access to opportunities and services (including under-utilised urban land) and reduce the share of new dwellings in greenfield, fringe and dispersed development areas.

Encourage higher density housing development on sites that are well located in relation to jobs, services and public transport.

Identify opportunities for increased residential densities to help consolidate urban areas.

Facilitate diverse housing that offers choice and meets changing household needs by widening housing diversity through a mix of housing types.

Encourage the development of well-designed housing that:

- Provides a high level of internal and external amenity.
- Incorporates universal design and adaptable internal dwelling design.

Support opportunities for a range of income groups to choose housing in well-serviced locations.

Plan for growth areas to provide for a mix of housing types through a variety of lot sizes, including higher housing densities in and around activity centres.

Policy documents

Consider as relevant:

- *Homes for Victorians - Affordability, Access and Choice* (Victorian Government, 2017)
- *Apartment Design Guidelines for Victoria* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2021)
- *Mid-Rise Design Guide* (Department of Transport and Planning, 2026)

Table 1 - Metropolitan Melbourne Housing Targets

	Housing Target	Greenfield Area Target	Established Area Target
Growth Municipalities			
Mitchell	66,000	56,000	10,000
Cardinia	30,000	21,000	9,000
Casey	87,000	58,500	28,500
Hume	79,000	53,500	25,500
Melton	109,000	104,000	5,000
Whittlesea	72,000	43,000	29,000

Wyndham	99,000	74,000	25,000
Inner Melbourne			
Melbourne	119,500	-	119,500
Port Phillip	55,000	-	55,000
Stonnington	50,000	-	50,000
Yarra	44,000	-	44,000
Middle Melbourne			
Banyule	45,500	-	45,500
Bayside	30,000	-	30,000
Boroondara	65,500	-	65,500
Darebin	69,000	-	69,000
Glen Eira	63,500	-	63,500
Hobsons Bay	22,500	-	22,500
Kingston	51,500	-	51,500
Manningham	28,500	-	28,500
Maribyrnong	48,000	-	48,000
Merri-bek	69,000	-	69,000
Monash	69,500	-	69,500
Moonee Valley	47,500	-	47,500
Whitehorse	76,500	-	76,500
Outer Melbourne			
Brimbank	59,500	-	59,500
Frankston	33,000	-	33,000
Greater Dandenong	52,500	-	52,500
Knox	43,000	-	43,000
Maroondah	39,500	-	39,500
Mornington Peninsula	24,000	-	24,000
Nillumbik	6,500	-	6,500
Yarra Ranges	25,000	-	25,000

Table 2 - Regional Victoria Housing Targets

	Housing Target	Greenfield Area Target	Established Area Target

Barwon			
Colac Otway	3,700	-	-
Greater Geelong	128,600	51,100	77,500
Queenscliffe	400	-	-
Surf Coast	8,000	-	-
Central Highlands			-
Ararat	1,000	-	-
Ballarat	46,900	18,900	28,000
Golden Plains	12,500	-	-
Hepburn	3,150	-	-
Moorabool	20,000	-	-
Pyrenees	1,300	-	-
Gippsland			-
Bass Coast	19,250	-	-
Baw Baw	25,700	-	-
East Gippsland	11,000	-	-
Latrobe	13,000	-	-
South Gippsland	8,000	-	-
Wellington	8,000	-	-
Goulburn			
Greater Shepparton	15,250	-	-
Mitchell	66,000	56,000	10,000
Moira	4,500	-	-
Murrindindi	3,350	-	-
Strathbogie	2,400	-	-
Great South Coast			
Corangamite	1,400	-	-
Glenelg	1,400	-	-
Moyne	2,900	-	-
Southern Grampians	1,250	-	-
Warrnambool	7,200	-	-
Loddon Campaspe			

Campaspe	4,500	-	-
Central Goldfields	1,700	-	-
Greater Bendigo	37,000	11,000	26,000
Loddon	550	-	-
Macedon Ranges	13,200	-	-
Mount Alexander	4,500	-	-
Mallee			
Buloke	150	-	-
Gannawarra	850	-	-
Mildura	8,500	-	-
Swan Hill	2,100	-	-
Ovens Murray			
Alpine	1,250	-	-
Benalla	1,700	-	-
Indigo	3,100	-	-
Mansfield	3,900	-	-
Towong	550	-	-
Wangaratta	6,000	-	-
Wodonga	15,200	-	-
Wimmera Southern Mallee			
Hindmarsh	250	-	-
Horsham	3,300	-	-
Northern Grampians	750	-	-
West Wimmera	200	-	-
Yarriambiack	300	-	-

16.01-1R Infill housing - Geelong G21

09/10/2020
VC169

Strategy

Facilitate infill development in Central Geelong and West Fyans and around activity areas within urban Geelong and district towns.

16.01-1L-01 Integrated housing and housing diversity

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Proposed C433ggee

Strategies

Accommodate medium and high density housing in Key Development Areas as identified by the Key Development Area maps in this clause.

Locate retirement accommodation in urban areas, preferably close to existing or proposed activity centres and public transport facilities.

Support social housing in areas with good access to services and facilities.

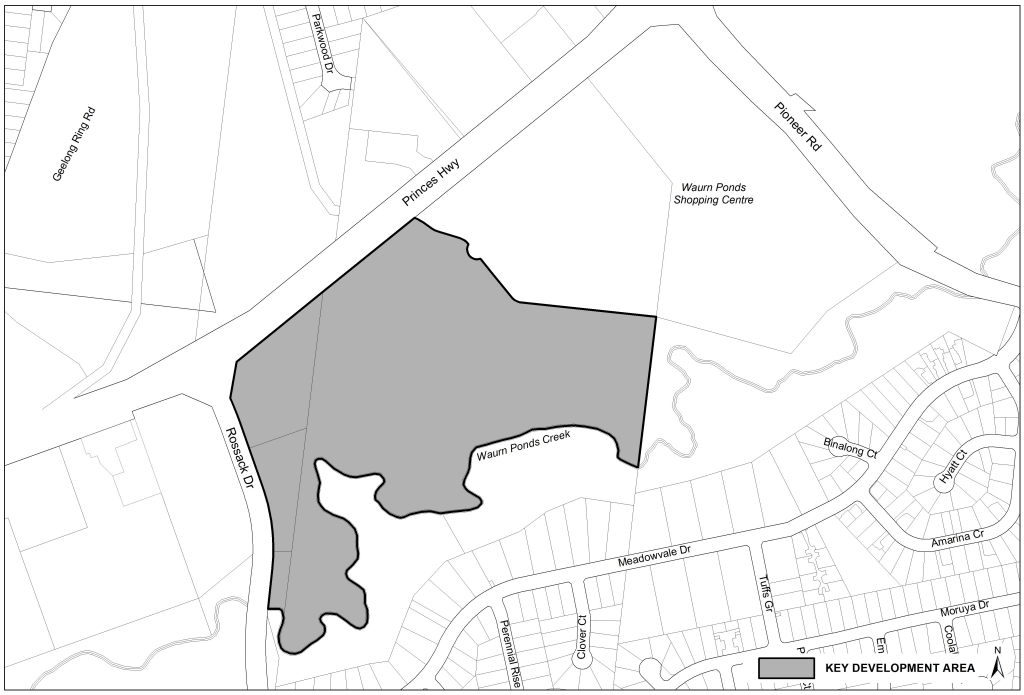
Increase housing diversity in growth areas through the delivery of a broad range of lot sizes, capable of accommodating a variety of different housing types, including mixed use and high and medium density housing in strategically identified locations.

Central Geelong Key Development Area Map



GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Waurn Ponds Key Development Area Map



West Fyans Key Development Area Map



GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Geelong Saleyards Key Development Area Map



South Geelong Key Development Area Map



GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Pakington Street North Key Development Area Map



Gordon Avenue Key Development Area Map

GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME



16.01-1L-02 Increased housing diversity areas

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Proposed C433ggee

Policy application

This policy applies to residential land located in Barwon Heads, Bell Park - Separation Street, Bell Post Shopping Centre, Bellarine Village and Newcomb Central, Belmont - High Street, Corio Village Shopping Centre, Drysdale, East Geelong - Ormond Road, Geelong West Manifold Heights and Newtown, Hamlyn Heights - Vines Road, Highton Shopping Centre, Lara and Lara Station, Leopold, Marshall Station, North Geelong Station, Ocean Grove, Ocean Grove Market Place, Portarlington, South Geelong, St Leonards and Waurn Ponds as identified in the Increased Housing Diversity Areas maps in this clause.

Objectives

To evolve the character of Increased Housing Diversity Areas (IHDA) through more intensive development.

To support development that makes a positive architectural and urban design contribution to the IHDA.

To maintain streetscape character in heritage areas.

To promote pedestrian safety within the IHDA.

General strategies

Maximise opportunities for housing in IHDA by accommodating:

- High density housing in the activity centres consistent with their primary commercial and retail role.
- Medium density housing in residential areas with more intensive development being located closest to the core of activity centres.

Encourage a diversity of housing types to cater to a variety of lifestyle needs.

Encourage development to provide a high level of on-site amenity for future residents.

Built form strategies

Encourage development that incorporates a combination of horizontal and vertical articulation, materials, textures and colours to create visual interest.

Encourage a sympathetic design response when addressing any unique characteristics such as heritage places, significant vegetation, topography and public spaces.

Discourage storage areas located within the minimum area of secluded open space.

Support development that does not reduce opportunities for neighbouring sites to reasonably develop.

Building height strategies

Design development to recess upper levels to reduce dominance of the building from adjoining properties and the streetscape.

Design development on interface properties, between an IHDA and other residential areas, so that the height and bulk is responsive to the adjoining character and provides a transition in the built form between areas.

Building height policy guidelines

Consider as relevant:

- Encouraging development of up to three stories. Three storey development should be located on larger sites abutting the activity centre or where the amenity of adjoining properties will not be unreasonably impacted.
- Encouraging the recessing of third storeys to reduce dominance of the building from adjoining properties and the streetscape.

Subdivision and consolidation strategies

Encourage the consolidation of lots to increase development potential.

Discourage the fragmentation of sites and underdevelopment of sites.

Car parking strategies

Locate car parking structures behind the line of the front façade and design them to form a visually unobtrusive part of the building to minimise their visual prominence.

Minimise the number of vehicle crossings and where possible, provide access from lower order roads and rear laneways.

Car parking policy guideline

Consider as relevant:

- Where more than one car space is provided, encouraging the use of a single-width garage or carport and a tandem parking space on existing or proposed lots with a frontage of less than 10.5 metres.

Heritage strategies

Design development adjacent to heritage places to respect and be sympathetic to the significance of the place.

On sites adjacent to a heritage place, set back building elements above one storey in height behind the roof ridgeline of the heritage buildings.

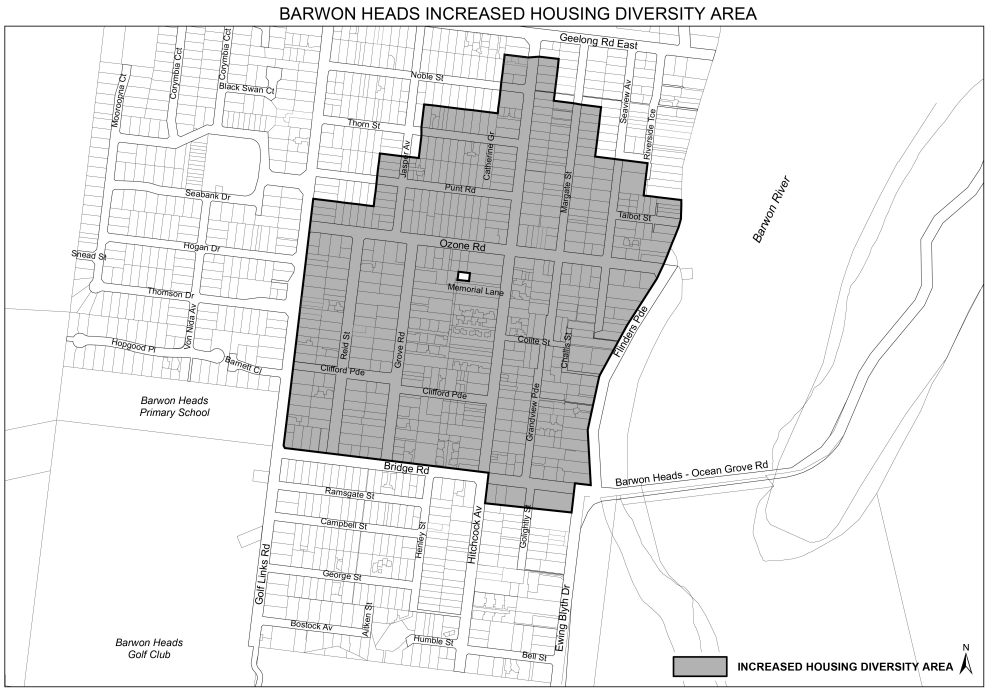
Policy document

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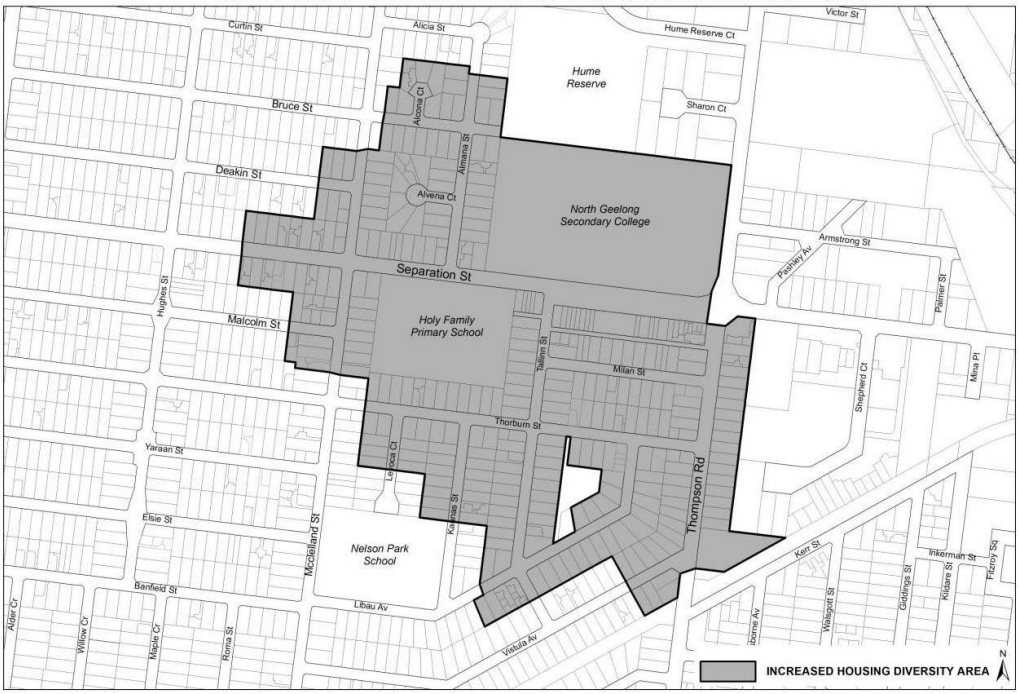
- *City of Greater Geelong Housing Diversity Strategy* (alphaPlan, David Lock Associates and the City of Greater Geelong, 2007)

GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Barwon Heads Increased Housing Diversity Areas Map

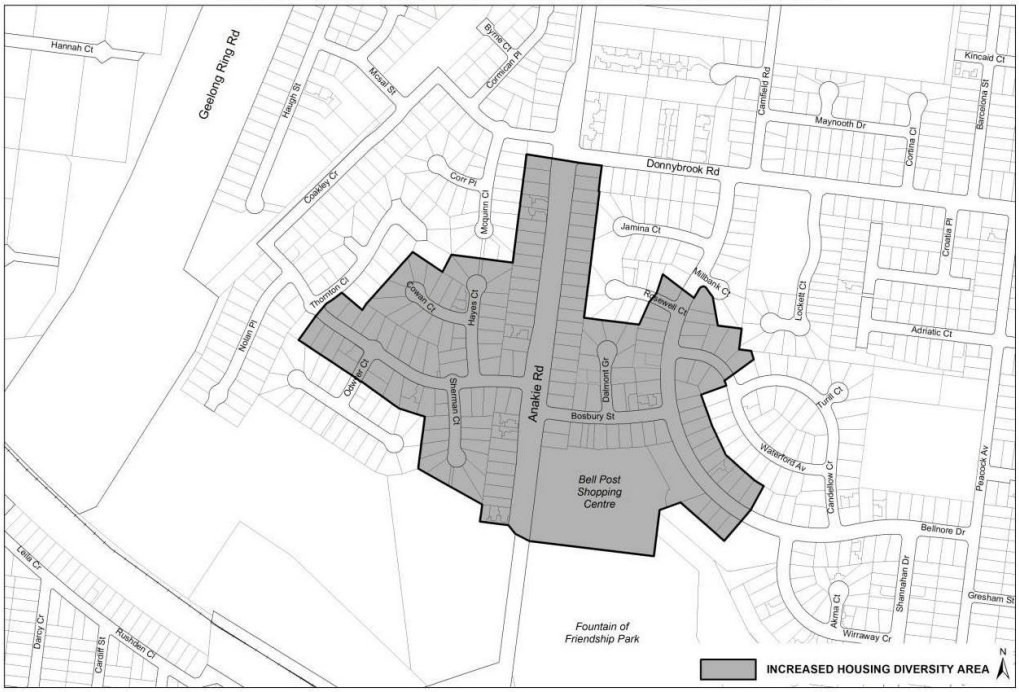


Bell Park - Separation Street Increased Housing Diversity Areas Map

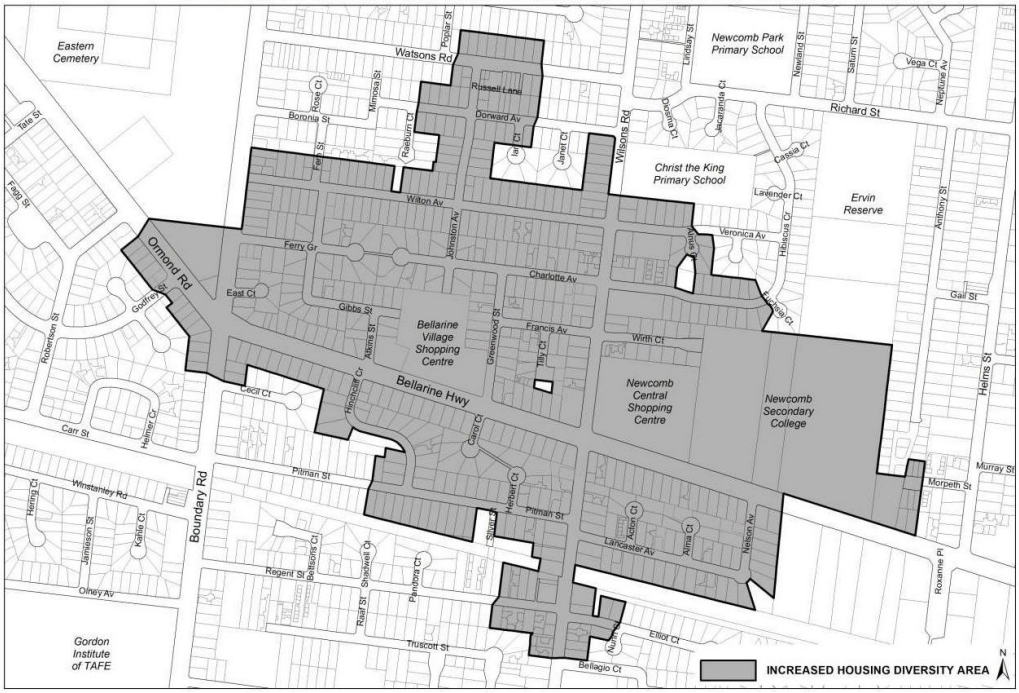


GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Bell Post Shopping Centre Increased Housing Diversity Areas Map



Bellarine Village and Newcomb Central Increased Housing Diversity Areas Map

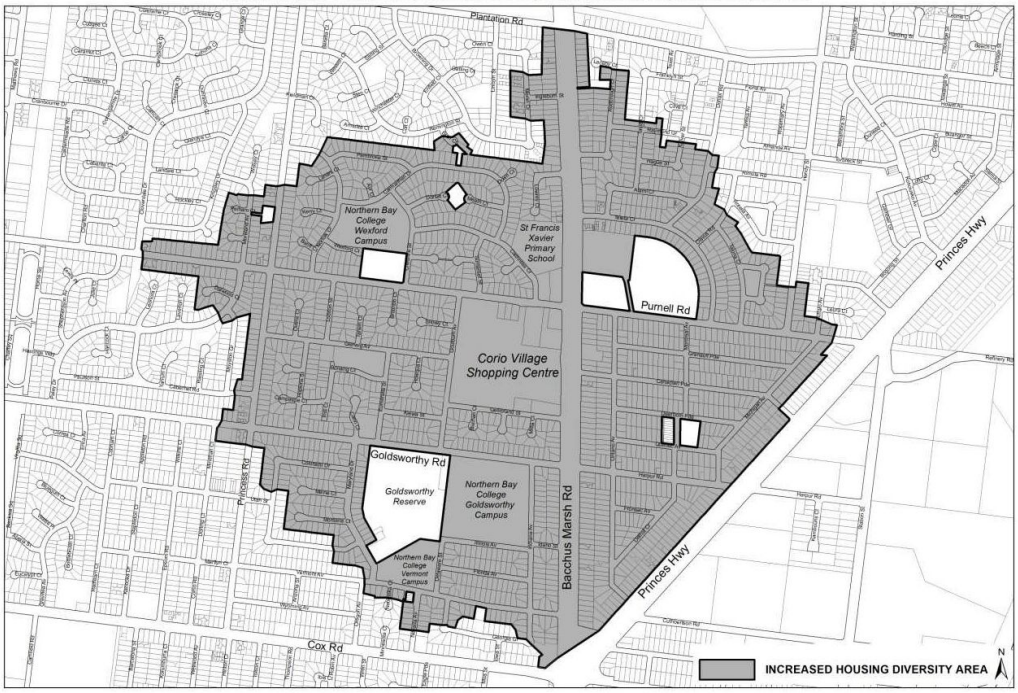


GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Belmont - High Street Increased Housing Diversity Areas Map

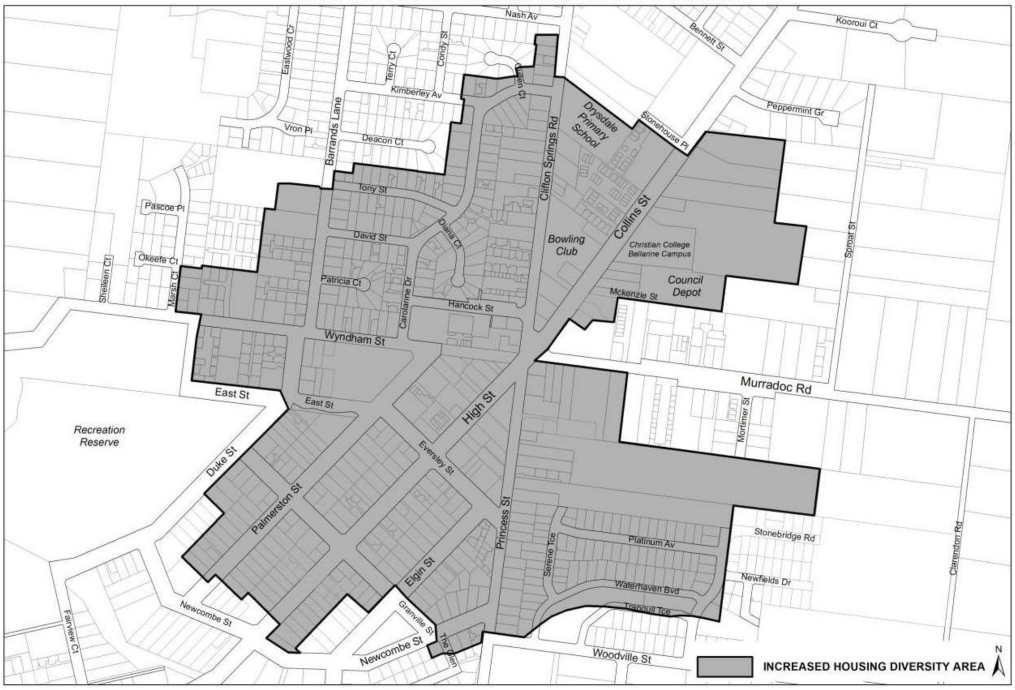


Corio Village Shopping Centre Increased Housing Diversity Areas Map

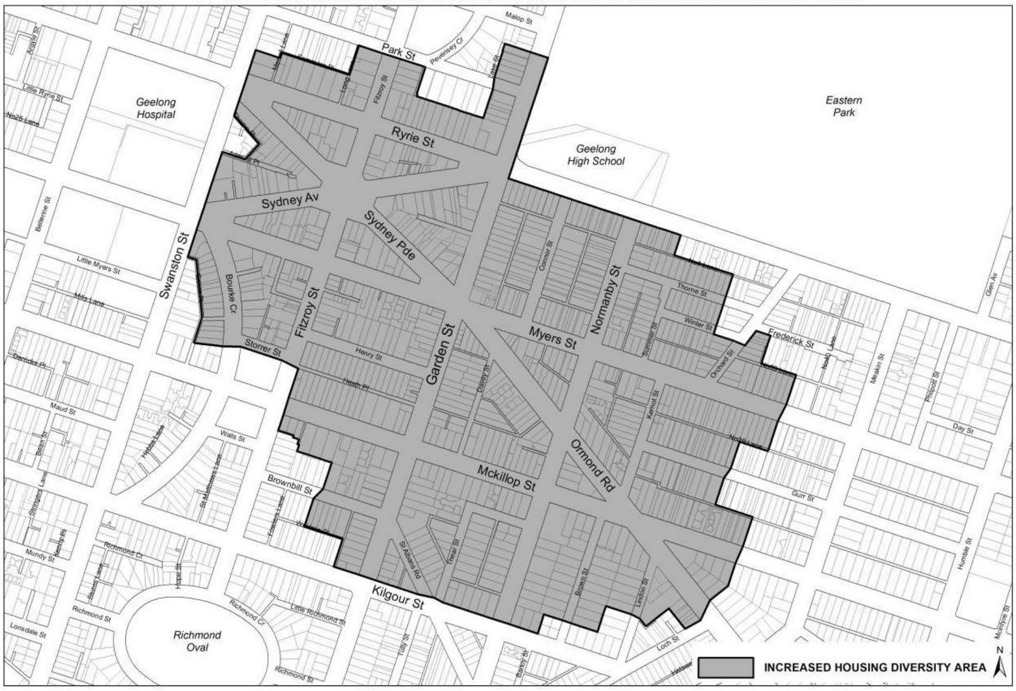


GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Drysdale Increased Housing Diversity Areas Map



East Geelong - Ormond Road Increased Housing Diversity Areas Map



GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Geelong West, Manifold Heights & Newtown Increased Housing Diversity Areas Map

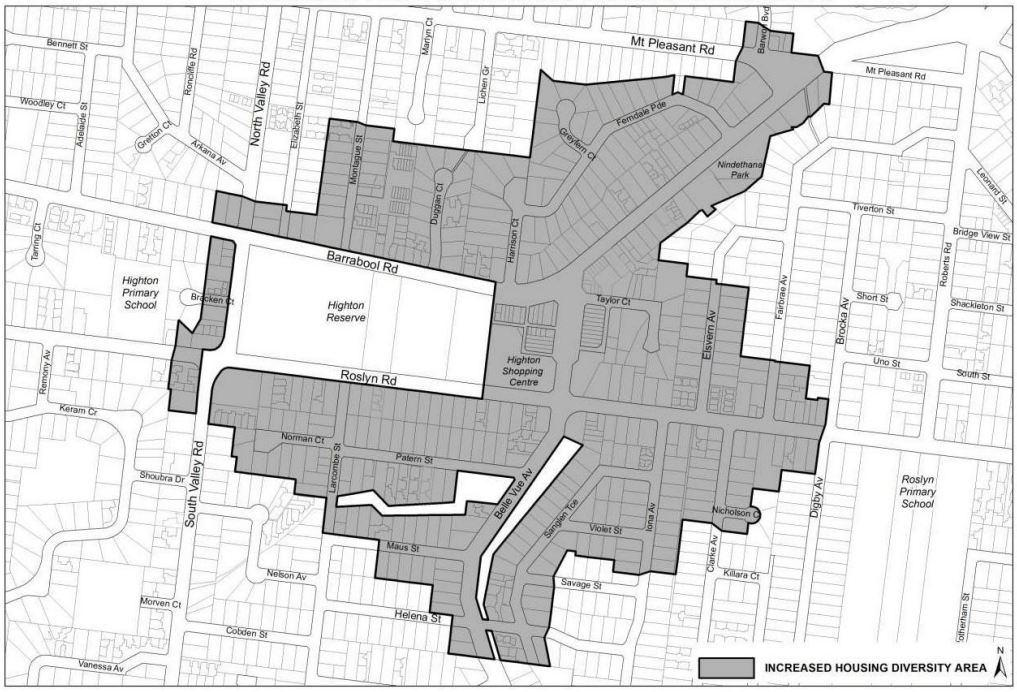


Hamlyn Heights - Vines Road Increased Housing Diversity Areas Map

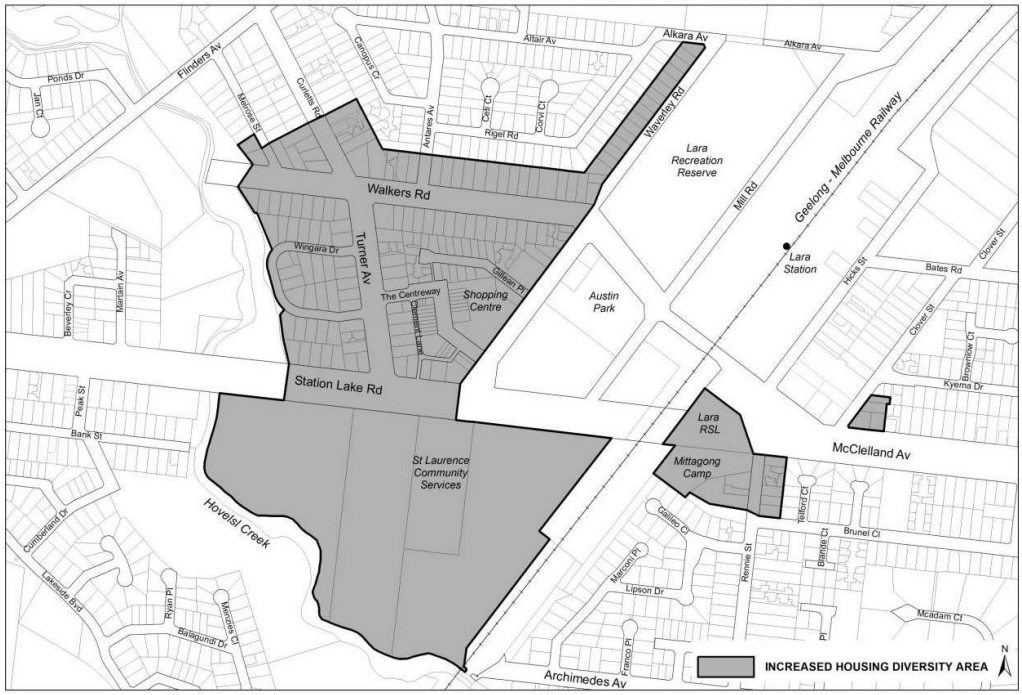


GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Highton Shopping Centre Increased Housing Diversity Areas Map



Lara and Lara Station Increased Housing Diversity Areas Map



GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Leopold Increased Housing Diversity Areas Map

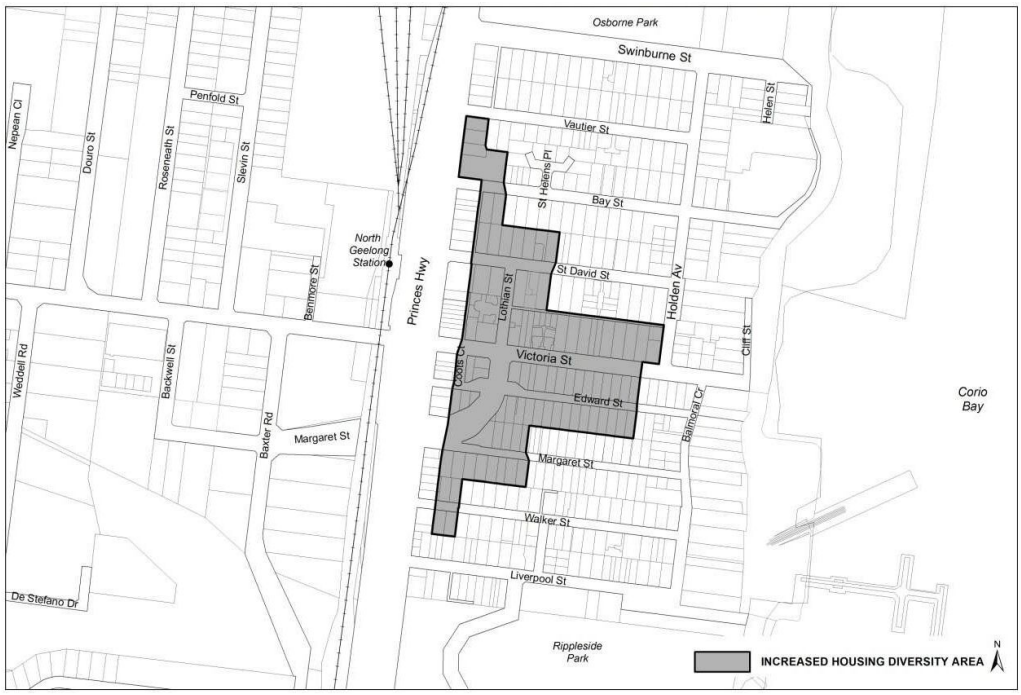


Marshall Station Increased Housing Diversity Areas Map



GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

North Geelong Station Increased Housing Diversity Areas Map

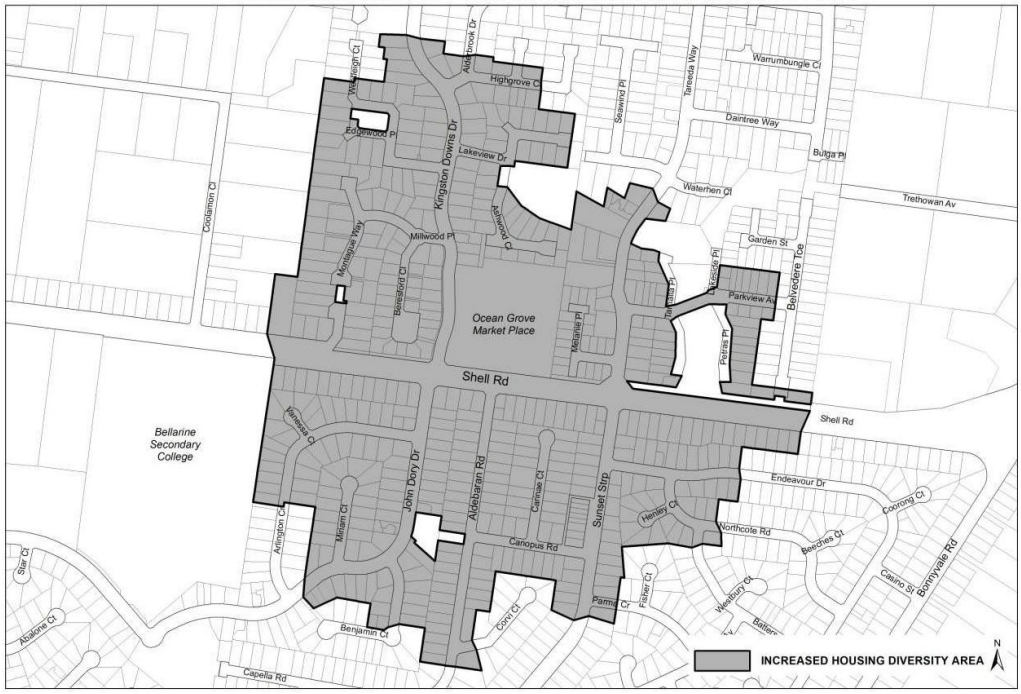


Ocean Grove Increased Housing Diversity Areas Map

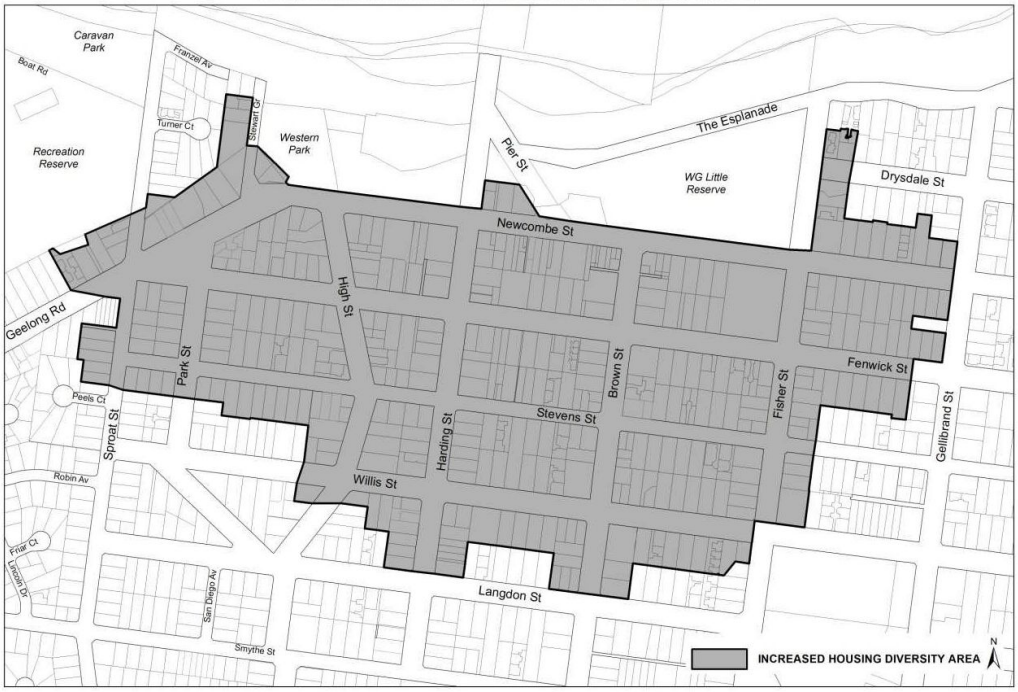


GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Ocean Grove Market Place Increased Housing Diversity Areas Map

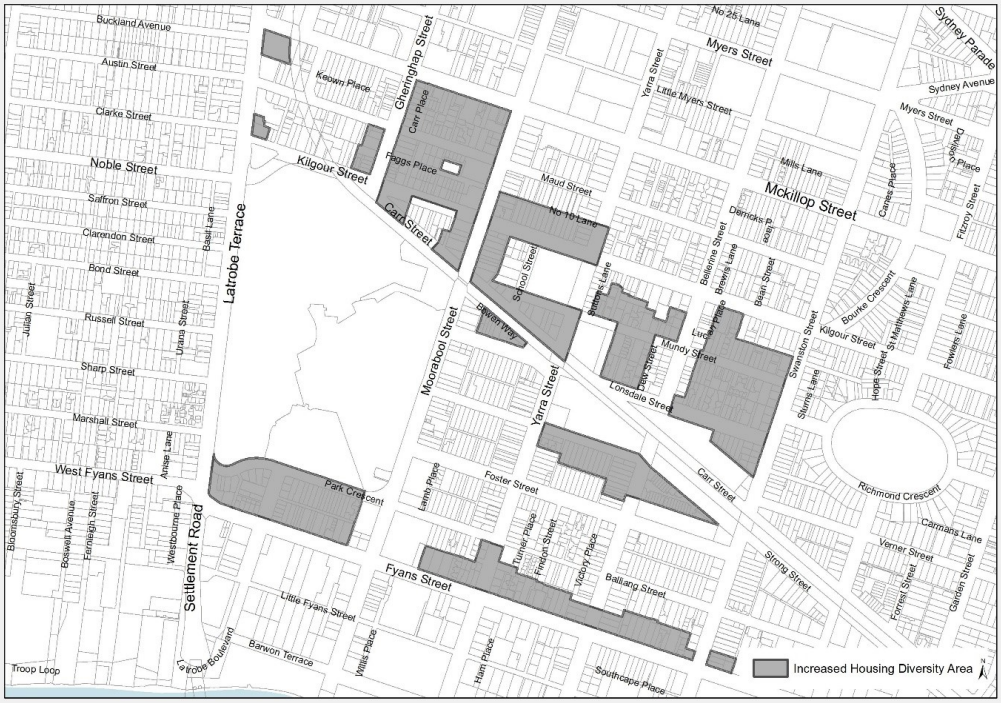


Portarlington Increased Housing Diversity Areas Map



GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

South Geelong Increased Housing Diversity Areas Map

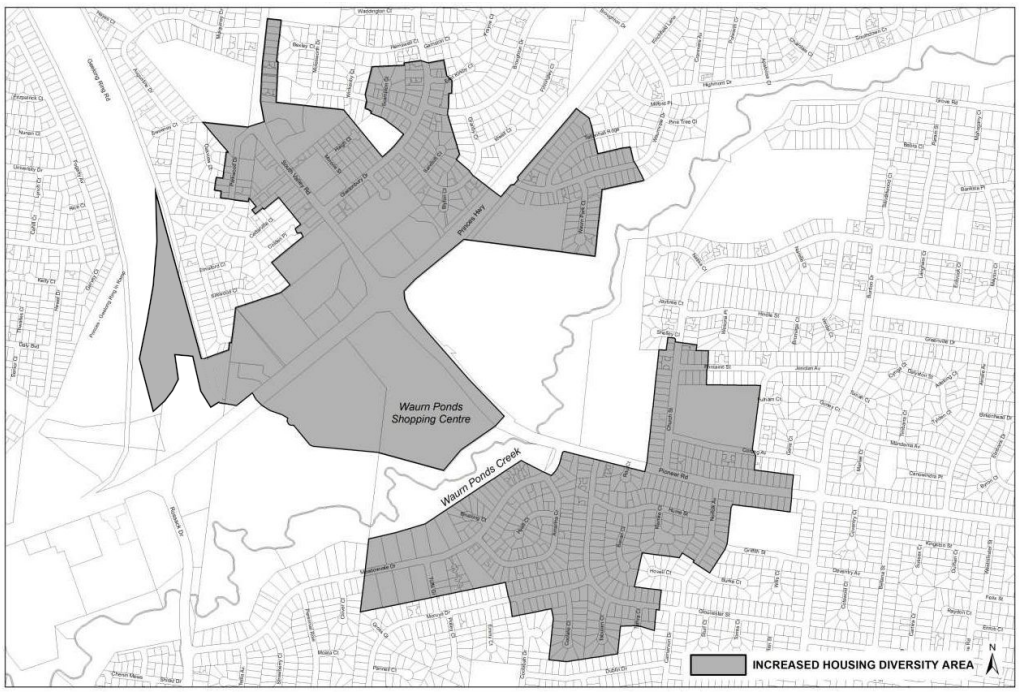


St Leonards Increased Housing Diversity Areas Map



GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Waurn Ponds Increased Housing Diversity Areas Map



16.01-1L-03 Increased housing diversity in coastal areas

07/07/2022
C417ggee

Policy application

This policy applies to residential land located in Barwon Heads, Ocean Grove, Ocean Grove Market Place, Portarlington and St Leonards Increased Housing Diversity Areas as identified in the maps at Clause 16.01-1L-02 Increased housing diversity areas.

Strategies

Encourage innovative architecture that respects the coastal setting by incorporating:

- A variety of lightweight materials.
- Building elements and details that contribute to a lightness of structure (including balconies, verandahs, extensive glazing, light transparent balustrading).
- Simple detailing.
- Higher building elements to capture views.

Retain the openness of the streetscape by avoiding the use of front fences or by providing low permeable front fences.

Encourage landscaping to be incorporated into the overall development including planting of a canopy tree and/or large shrubs within front setbacks.

Policy document

Consider as relevant:

- *City of Greater Geelong Housing Diversity Strategy* (alphaPlan, David Lock Associates and the City of Greater Geelong, 2007)

16.01-2S Housing affordability

02/09/2025
VC283

Objective

To deliver affordable housing in areas with good access to opportunities and services.

Strategies

Improve housing affordability by:

- Ensuring housing supply continues to be sufficient to meet demand.
- Increasing choice in housing type, tenure and cost to meet the needs of households as they move through life cycle changes and to support diverse communities.
- Promoting good housing and urban design to minimise negative environmental impacts and keep costs down for residents and the wider community.
- Encouraging a significant proportion of new development to be affordable for households on very low to moderate incomes.

Increase the supply of well-located affordable housing by:

- Facilitating a mix of private, affordable and social housing in suburbs, growth areas, activity centres and urban renewal precincts.
- Ensuring the redevelopment and renewal of public housing stock better meets community needs.

Facilitate the delivery of social housing by identifying surplus government land suitable for housing.

Policy documents

Consider as relevant:

- *Homes for Victorians - Affordability, Access and Choice* (Victorian Government, 2017)

16.01-2L-01 Social and affordable housing

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Proposed C433ggee

Policy application

This policy applies to:

- Mixed Use Zone Land in the South Geelong Key Development Areas as identified in the map at Clause 16.01-1L-01 Integrated housing and housing diversity.
- A residential development within the Commercial 1 Zone land in the Highton Shopping Centre Increased Housing Diversity Area as identified in the map at Clause 16.01-1L-02 Increased housing diversity areas.
- Land in the Pakington North Key Development Area and Gordon Avenue Key Development Area as identified in the maps at Clause 16.01-1L-02 Integrated housing and housing diversity.

Strategy

Encourage social and affordable housing contributions through agreements with landowners under Section 173 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* for mixed-use and residential developments.

Policy guidelines

Consider as relevant:

- Providing at least 5 percent of dwellings as an affordable housing contribution that meets the following requirements:
  - be delivered within the land to which the planning permit application applies.
  - be functionally and physically indistinguishable from other dwellings within the development.
  - be distributed across the development.
  - provide a mix of housing types, including social housing to respond to local housing needs.
  - include access to all common facilities within the building at no extra fee for occupants of affordable housing dwellings; and
  - allocate one or more bicycle parking space per dwelling for the life of the affordable housing.
- Encouraging the affordable housing contribution to be provided:
  - as a transfer of dwellings to a Registered Housing Association under the *Housing Act 1983* for zero consideration (Primary Obligation), or
  - a monetary contribution to a Registered Housing Association under the *Housing Act 1983* or as directed by the Responsible Authority, which is of equal value to the Primary Obligation, or
  - a combination of the above options, or
  - in any other way as agreed between the permit applicant and the Responsible Authority.

Policy document

Consider as relevant:

- *South Geelong Urban Design Framework (City of Greater Geelong, 2025)*
- *Pakington Street North Urban Design Framework (City of Greater Geelong, May 2024)*
- *Pakington Street and Gordon Avenue Urban Design Framework (City of Greater Geelong, May 2024)*

16.01-3S Rural residential development

09/10/2020
VC169

Objective

To identify land suitable for rural residential development.

Strategies

Manage development in rural areas to protect agriculture and avoid inappropriate rural residential development.

Encourage the consolidation of new housing in existing settlements where investment in physical and community infrastructure and services has already been made.

Demonstrate need and identify locations for rural residential development through a housing and settlement strategy.

Ensure planning for rural residential development avoids or significantly reduces adverse economic, social and environmental impacts by:

- Maintaining the long-term sustainable use and management of existing natural resource attributes in activities including agricultural production, water, mineral and energy resources.
- Protecting existing landscape values and environmental qualities such as water quality, native vegetation, biodiversity and habitat.
- Minimising or avoiding property servicing costs carried by local and state governments.
- Maintaining an adequate buffer distance between rural residential development and animal production.

Ensure land is not zoned for rural residential development if it will encroach on high quality productive agricultural land or adversely impact on waterways or other natural resources.

Discourage development of small lots in rural zones for residential use or other incompatible uses.

Encourage consolidation of existing isolated small lots in rural zones.

Ensure land is only zoned for rural residential development where it:

- Is located close to existing towns and urban centres, but not in areas that will be required for fully serviced urban development.
- Can be supplied with electricity, water and good quality road access.

16.01-3L Rural residential development

07/07/2022
C417ggee

Strategies

Limit rural living development to existing zoned land in the existing nodes at Lara, Drysdale/Clifton Springs, Wallington, Lovely Banks and Batesford.

Maintain the existing character of areas in the Rural Living and Low Density Residential Zones.

16.01-4S Community care accommodation

04/11/2022
VC226

Objective

To facilitate the establishment of community care accommodation and support their location being kept confidential.

Strategies

Planning schemes should not require a planning permit for or prohibit the use of land in a residential area for community care accommodation provided no more than 20 clients are accommodated and the use is funded by, or carried out by or on behalf of, a government department or public authority, including a public authority established for a public purpose under a Commonwealth Act.

Facilitate the confidential establishment of community care accommodation through appropriate permit, notice and review exemptions.

16.01-5S Residential aged care facilities

09/10/2020
VC169

Objective

To facilitate the development of well-designed and appropriately located residential aged care facilities.

Strategies

Recognise that residential aged care facilities contribute to housing diversity and choice, and are an appropriate use in a residential area.

Recognise that residential aged care facilities are different to dwellings in their purpose and function, and will have a different built form (including height, scale and mass).

Ensure local housing strategies, precinct structure plans and activity centre structure plans provide for residential aged care facilities.

Ensure that residential aged care facilities are located in residential areas, activity centres and urban renewal precincts, close to services and public transport.

Encourage planning for housing that:

- Delivers an adequate supply of land or redevelopment opportunities for residential aged care facilities.
- Enables older people to live in appropriate housing in their local community.

Provide for a mix of housing for older people with appropriate access to care and support services.

Ensure that proposals to establish residential aged care facilities early in the life of a growth area are in locations that will have early access to services and public transport.

Ensure that residential aged care facilities are designed to respond to the site and its context.

Promote a high standard of urban design and architecture in residential aged care facilities.

Policy guidelines

Consider as relevant:

- The Commonwealth Government's Responsible ratios for the provision of aged care places under the *Aged Care Act 1997*.

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Proposed C433ggee

SCHEDULE 17 TO CLAUSE 43.02 DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OVERLAY

Shown on the planning scheme map as **DDO17**.

WESTERN BEACH AREA

1.0 Design objectives

01/03/2023
C431ggee

To encourage excellence in architecture that enhances the streetscape and complements the existing heritage and waterfront character.

To ensure built form shares key views, respects heritage areas, protects residential amenity and protects the amenity of public spaces.

To encourage the retention and creation of viable development sites by supporting consolidation and avoiding fragmentation.

To ensure that the location and design of car parks, loading bays and services areas promotes active street frontages, does not dominate the public domain and supports safe use and access.

To encourage the use of innovative, best practice urban design and building techniques that incorporate environmentally sustainable design principles.

2.0 Buildings and works

--/--/----
Proposed C433ggee

The following buildings and works requirements apply to an application to construct a building or construct or carry out works.

Building height

New development should comply with the preferred building height requirement specified in column 3 of Table 1 and shown in Map 1 to this Schedule.

A permit may be granted to construct a building or carry out works which are not in accordance with the requirements of this Schedule where the proposal meets the design objectives of Clause 1.0 and Table 1.

Higher buildings should be located and designed to minimise impacts on adjacent heritage buildings and places and low-scale residential areas.

Building heights should avoid the overshadowing of major pedestrian routes, parks and other public spaces.

Building heights should enable the sharing of key views, respect heritage areas, protect residential amenity and the amenity of public spaces, and achieve an overall graduation of built form.

Building heights should respect the existing waterfront character and avoid dominating the waterfront through excessive bulk and unarticulated built form heights.

The preferred building height limits as specified in Table 1 do not apply to architectural features (such as domes, towers, masts) and building services (including enclosed stairwells) that do not exceed the preferred maximum height by more than 4 metres. The combined floor area of these features must not exceed 10 per cent of the gross floor area of the top building level.

Setbacks

New development should comply with the setback requirements specified in column 4 of Table 1 to this Schedule.

Setbacks greater than specified in column 4 of Table 1 should be provided to:

- Share views, from public spaces / major pedestrian routes or from upper floors, to Corio Bay and other key views.
- Avoid excessive building bulk.

- Reflect the setback of adjoining buildings.
- Form part of the provision of a pedestrian or service laneway.
- Reflect the heritage values associated with adjoining properties within a Heritage Overlay.
- Ensure adequate light to major pedestrian routes and public spaces.
- Ensure adequate light to adjacent buildings, particularly to windows of habitable rooms and balconies of adjacent dwellings.

Table 1

Area	Design objectives	Preferred building height requirement (above natural ground level)	Preferred setback requirement (from property boundary)
Western Beach Area	Protect the established character of the area. Ensure new buildings and landscaping respect the established neighbourhood character.	9 metres. Where new buildings differ in height from adjoining buildings by more than one storey, step the new building down to the height of the adjoining building to create a transition in height.	Front and side setbacks consistent with adjoining buildings and the overall streetscape, except where the heritage significance of an adjoining building in a Heritage Overlay necessitates a variation.

Car parks

Car parks for new development should be designed to:

- Avoid car parking spaces, structures and access ways dominating street frontages.
- Ensure car parks, including multi-level parking structures, are designed to achieve a safe and 'open' feel with good sight-lines and adequate lighting throughout.
- Locate car parks near the major road network, to minimise intrusion into areas of high pedestrian usage and distances travelled along other streets.
- Place car parking underground or in discreetly located multi-deck structures.
- Avoid at grade car parks, especially along street frontages, walkways and within the front setback.
- Conceal parking structures behind or within other buildings and uses.
- Locate and design car park entries to minimise adverse impacts on pedestrians.
- Minimise car access points and garages to the street where it is feasible to consolidate access points and/or provide access to parking spaces and service and loading areas, from rear lanes or basements.

Public space

Verandahs and canopies should be provided over footpaths, unless they would conflict with significant heritage buildings.

Other

The ground floor level of buildings should be articulated and modeled using fenestration including recessed windows with reveals, recessed balconies, and architraves, cornices, pilasters and their contemporary equivalents. Articulation of facades above the ground floor should create interesting and attractive streetscapes and reduce the apparent bulk of tall buildings.

Development should avoid blank walls, specifically when readily viewed from Western Beach Road, Mercer Street and Latrobe Terrace (Princes Highway).

Plant and equipment and rubbish and storage areas should be screened from the public domain and existing and potential adjacent development.

Exemption from notice and review

An application to construct a building or construct or carry out works that does not adjoin land that is in a residential zone and which generally meets the requirements of this Schedule is exempt from the notice requirements of Section 52(1) (a), (b) and (d), the decision requirements of section 64(1), (2) and (3) and the review rights of section 82(1) of the Act.

3.0 Subdivision

01/03/2023
C431ggee

Exemption from notice and review

An application to subdivide land is exempt from the notice requirements of Section 52(1)(a), (b) and (d), the decision requirements of section 64(1), (2) and (3) and the review rights of section 82(1) of the Act.

4.0 Signs

01/03/2023
C431ggee

The design and siting of sign(s) should satisfy the following design principles:

- Signs should be integrated into the design of the building façade, preferably within the first 3 storeys of the building.
- Signs should be of a size and height that is complementary to the built form of the building and surrounding landscape.
- Signs should be limited in number and incorporate limited detail other than is necessary to identify the building name and key tenants.
- Signs should be consolidated in mixed use and commercial developments to avoid the visual clutter of signage and displays.

5.0 Application requirements

01/03/2023
C431ggee

The following application requirements apply to an application for a permit under Clause 43.02, in addition to those specified elsewhere in the scheme and must accompany an application, as appropriate, to the satisfaction of the responsible authority:

- An application to exceed the preferred building heights must be accompanied by a description of how the design objectives of Clause 1.0 and Table 1 are met and how design excellence is achieved.
- An urban context report which outlines:
  - A spatial analysis of the location.
  - Details of the inter-relationship of the subject site to its surrounding buildings.
  - The predominant landscape and building form.
  - Development form and rhythm.
  - Amenity and functional relationships and opportunities between the subject site and adjacent areas.
- For applications for any building or other structure with a finished height greater than the preferred building height listed within Table 1, diagrams showing the proposed building in 3 dimensional forms within the context of the surrounding development, with particular reference to demonstrating how the proposal complies with the design objectives of Clause 1.0 and Table 1.
- A wind assessment for development greater than 16 metres.

- A report that demonstrates the use of innovative, best practice, urban design and building techniques that incorporate ecologically sustainable design principles.
- A report that demonstrates how the new development will address environmental sustainability including response to local climate and microclimate conditions, and layouts that support good solar orientation in new buildings.
- A report that identifies any heritage restoration works.
- A report that demonstrates architectural design quality.
- A report that demonstrates improvement of safety and the perception of safety by applying principles of crime prevention through environmental design.

6.0 Decision guidelines

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Proposed C433ggee

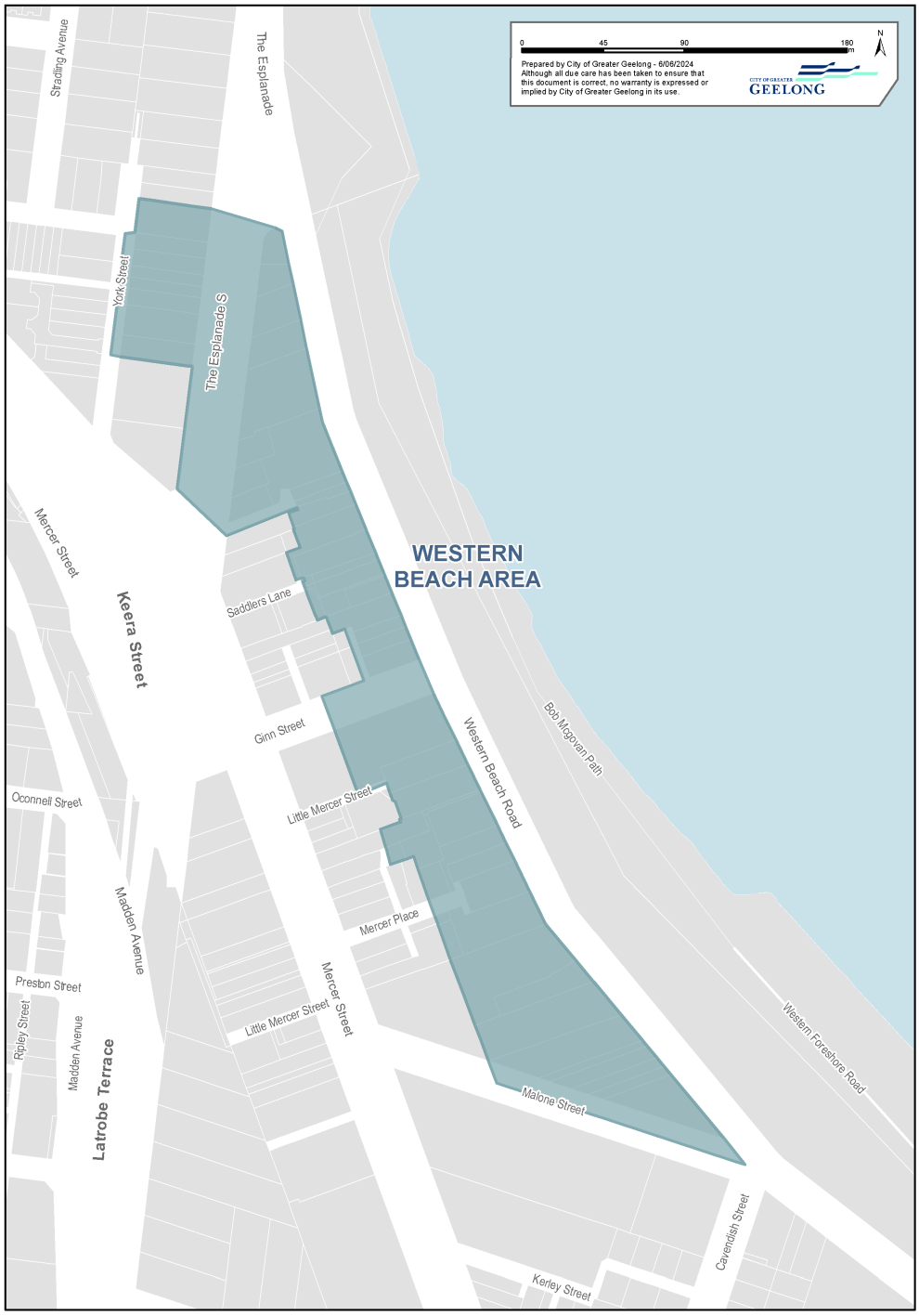
The following decision guidelines apply to an application for a permit under Clause 43.02, in addition to those specified in Clause 43.02 and elsewhere in the scheme which must be considered, as appropriate, by the responsible authority:

- Where a development exceeds the preferred building heights of this Schedule, whether the development achieves:
  - Design excellence.
  - The retention of key views by concentrating development in slender design elements.
  - An increase in public open space and / or pedestrian linkages.
- Whether the proposal achieves the design objectives identified in column 1 of Table 1 to this Schedule.
- Whether the development avoids:
  - Extensive blank walls along streets.
  - Buildings oriented towards internal spaces rather than streets.
  - Alcoves and recesses that may provide hiding places or that may collect dirt and litter (buildings with irregular plans at ground level are generally appropriate only where set back away from the footpath).
- Provision of bin enclosures and other storage as required at the rear to ensure a tidy presentation onto laneways and public parking areas.
- The design of buildings above the preferred building height to ensure protection of ground levels from wind turbulence, by means of stepping or articulating the building or use of other measures.
- Whether the design of buildings allow for the sharing of key views, including by avoiding excessive building bulk.
- Provision of verandahs or canopies over footpaths along major routes, especially those leading to and from the Station, unless they would conflict with the heritage significance of a building or site.
- Provision of active frontages onto footpaths and provision of passive surveillance with buildings that overlook streets and public spaces. Priority is to be given to key pedestrian areas if active frontages are not feasible on all sides of a given property.
- Whether the development addresses the safety and security of residents, visitors, workers and property by ensuring:
  - Entrances to buildings are not obscured or isolated from the street and internal access ways.
  - Provision of good lighting and visibility of communal areas and internal access ways.

  - Private spaces within developments are clearly defined and protected from inappropriate use as public thoroughfares.
  - Integrates with and contributes to urban art by providing where appropriate opportunities for artwork within public spaces.
- Whether the consolidation of land facilitates the creation of viable development sites.
- Whether the subdivision is associated with a development proposal that supports the objectives in this scheme for the Geelong Western Wedge and does not result in fragmentation of sites.

GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Map 1 to Schedule 17 to Clause 43.02 Western Beach Area



GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

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Proposed C433ggee

SCHEDULE 56 TO CLAUSE 43.02 DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OVERLAY

Shown on the planning scheme map as **DDO56**.

GORDON AVENUE PRECINCT

1.0 Design objectives

--/--/----
Proposed C433ggee

To implement the *Pakington Street and Gordon Avenue Urban Design Framework* (City of Greater Geelong, May 2024).

To create a vibrant and sustainable mid-rise precinct with a variety of building typologies which supports a diverse and inclusive community.

To ensure high quality architectural design that integrates landscaping, maintains solar access and ensures comfortable wind conditions within the public realm.

To provide a mix of small and medium scale tenancies with activated street frontage to Gordon Avenue, and generous landscaping at residential interfaces to contribute to urban cooling and greening, biodiversity and create a visual buffer.

To ensure development appropriately transitions to sensitive interfaces such as heritage places and established low scale residential sites and open spaces.

2.0 Buildings and works

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Proposed C433ggee

The following buildings and works requirements apply to an application to construct a building or construct or carry out works.

A permit may be granted to vary a preferred requirement expressed with the term ‘should’.

A permit cannot be granted to vary a requirement expressed with the term ‘must’.

A permit cannot be amended (unless the amendment does not increase the extent of non-compliance) for buildings and works that do not meet a requirement expressed with the term ‘must’.

Building and floor heights

Development should not exceed the preferred maximum building heights specified in Map 1 to this schedule.

Provided that the below criteria are met, the preferred maximum building height does not include architectural features, masts and building services. Roof top mechanical equipment such as plant rooms, lift overruns, solar collectors and other such equipment should be sited so achieve all of the following:

- Not more than 50% of the roof area is occupied by equipment (other than solar panel or greening);
- The equipment is set back on all sides, no less than 3 metres from the edge of the building, or otherwise located to minimise additional overshadowing and reduce visual impact;
- The equipment does not exceed the height limit by more than 3.6 metres; and
- The equipment and screening is integrated into the design of the building;

to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Buildings should provide the floor-to-floor heights set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Floor-to-floor heights

Floor	Use	Minimum floor-to-floor dimension
Ground	All	4.0 metres
Level 1 and above	Residential	3.2 metres
	Non-residential (including car parking)	3.5 metres

Street Interfaces

Development must meet the mandatory ground level setbacks specified in Table 2, unless the property is in a Heritage Overlay.

Development should not exceed the preferred maximum street wall/podium heights specified in Table 2 to this schedule.

Development should meet the other street interface requirements specified in Table 2.

On corner sites, the requirements in Table 2 for the primary street interface apply to the side street frontages for a distance of 5 metres before transitioning to the side street interface requirements.

Street wall/podiums should align with ground floor building setbacks.

Where development interfaces with a different built form typology, a transition zone must be provided in which building height, setbacks and massing are progressively varied to achieve a gradual change in scale.

Table 2: Street interface

Street interface	Ground level setback	Preferred street wall/podium height	Preferred setback above street wall/podium
Latrobe Terrace*	6 metres (preferred)	None specified	3 metres
Madden Avenue*	0 metres (preferred)	None specified	None specified
Gordon Avenue*	3 metres (mandatory)	15 metres	3 metres
Pakington Street*	0 metres (mandatory)	8 metres	5 metres
Ripley Street*	2 metres (preferred)	8 metres	5 metres
Residential Streets (Autumn Street, Spring Street, Western Street, Halstead Place, Coronation Street, Villamanta Place)	3 metres (preferred)	8 metres	3 metres

* Primary street frontage

Other interfaces

Development should provide the minimum setbacks specified in Figures 1-2.

Figure 1. Direct residential

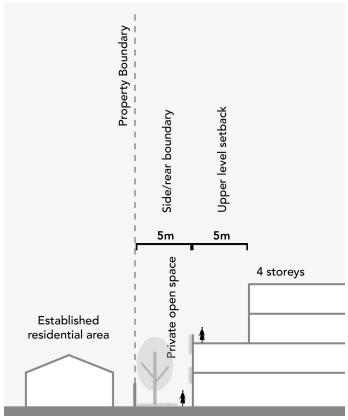
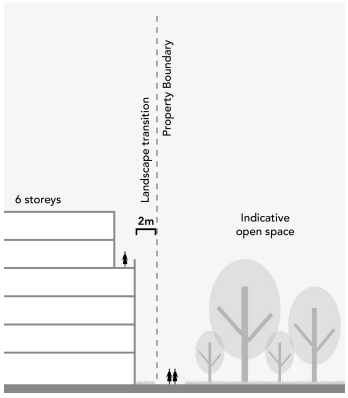


Figure 2. Indicative Open Space Interface



Laneways

Encourage the provision of new laneways and streets generally in the locations shown on Map 1.

Development should provide the minimum setbacks specified in Figures 3-5.

Figure 3. Laneway interface (existing laneways and 3 metre pedestrian links)

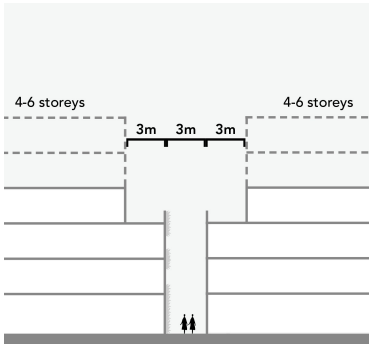


Figure 4. Laneway interface (6 metre laneways)

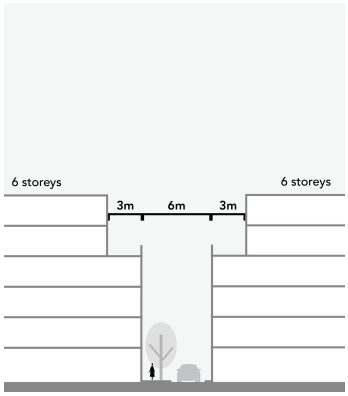
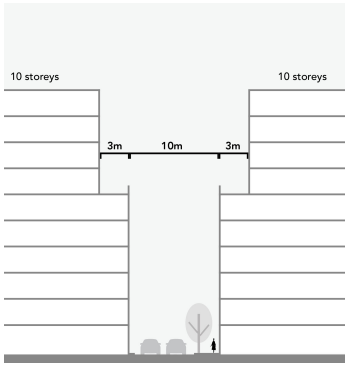


Figure 5. Laneway interface (10m laneways)



Building separation

Balconies should not encroach into side setbacks.

Where a site abuts another site subject to this schedule, the minimum side setbacks at Figures 6 and 7 apply.

Figure 6. Preferred side separation for buildings built to boundary

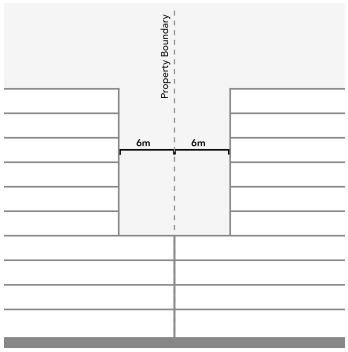
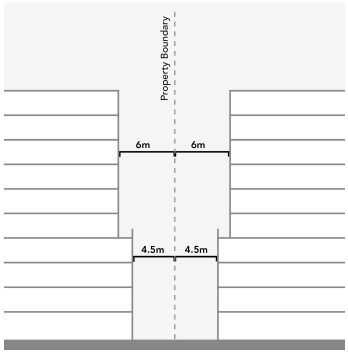


Figure 7. Preferred side separation for buildings not built to boundary



Building design and landscaping

Encourage developments at corner sites to address both street interfaces.

Encourage the use of natural, tactile, and visually interesting materials, depth and articulation on the facade.

Create visual interest in upper levels and ensure passive surveillance of the public realm.

Ensure passive surveillance and activation of developments that directly abut or are adjacent to public open spaces.

Incorporate an interim façade strategy when blank walls are visually prominent while adjoining properties are being realised.

Encourage integrated screening measures that manage on and off site amenity outcomes.

Incorporate façade design and lighting that enhances safety and security after hours including along main streets, side streets and laneways.

Minimise the potential for off-site impacts, including from noise, fumes, odour or vibrations, through the use of setbacks, acoustic barriers, high performance glazing, internal layout, or other relevant measures.

Integrate soft landscaping with building design by incorporating green walls, green roofs, roof top gardens, landscaped balconies and functional courtyards to enhance biodiversity and visual amenity and mitigate urban heat island effects.

Encourage the provision of functional open spaces (e.g. central courtyards) and landscaped areas with deep soil planting to support canopy trees around buildings.

Active frontages

Encourage visual and physical permeability between the building and the street by incorporating measures such as doors facing the street, operable windows and direct residential access for ground level residences.

Ensure ground floor activity through façade and internal layout to facilitate visual and physical access between the building and adjoining public realm.

Avoid concealed alcoves, recessed nooks and hidden entrances that affect safety.

Clearly distinguish residential and commercial entrances.

Ensure laneways and pedestrian links are publicly accessible, safe (comply with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design guidelines), receive adequate access to sunlight and are open to the sky.

Provide gates and other structures associated with security, vehicle access or servicing points that are integrated into the building design and provide visual permeability.

Encourage landscaping in front setbacks to improve ground-floor amenity and facilitate the transition between the public and private realms.

Allow a maximum 75% glazing on any façade and provide 50% visually permeable balcony balustrades.

Solar access, wind and weather

Incorporate weather protection such as awnings, openings and architectural detail that are well detailed and attractive when viewed from the street.

Ensure weather protection measures do not impinge existing or future street trees.

Limit overshadowing impacts on the existing private open space of adjacent residential properties.

Development must not overshadow the southern footpath on Autumn Street, Gordon Avenue and Spring Street between 10am and 2pm on 22 September.

Development must not result in more than 50% of public open space being overshadowed between 10am and 2pm on 22 September.

Address wind gust management in building design, without the need for additional protective screens, incidental add-ons and landscaping in public spaces.

Buildings and works with an overall height equal to, or greater than 16 metres;

- Must not cause unsafe wind conditions as specified in Table 3 on public land, publicly accessible areas on private land, private open space and communal open space; and
- Should achieve comfortable wind conditions .as specified in Table 3 on public land, publicly accessible areas on private land, private open space and communal open space.

Table 3: Wind effects requirements

Wind condition	Requirement
Comfortable wind conditions	Hourly mean wind speed or gust equivalent mean speed (3 second gust wind speed divided by 1.85), from all wind directions combined with probability of exceedance less than 20% of the time, equal to or less than: ▪ 3 metres per second for sitting areas, ▪ 4 metres per second for standing areas, ▪ 5 metres per second for walking areas
Unsafe wind conditions	Annual maximum 3 second gust wind speed exceeding 20 metres per second with a probability of exceedance of 0.1% considering at least 16 wind directions.

Access, parking and services

Consolidate vehicular access points for parking and loading to minimise the number of crossovers and discourage car parking in front setbacks.

Avoid direct vehicle access to Latrobe Terrace (where possible) and utilise rear laneways for access and servicing, where required.

Encourage car parking within basements where possible and the provision of shared car parking facilities. Where car parking is provided above ground, ensure it is sleeved with active uses along street frontages and located to minimise impacts on footpaths.

Design off-street car parking facilities to have flexible electric vehicle charging spaces. Electric charging stations should be equipped with at least 50kw charging facilities.

Services, loading and waste areas should be located away from main streets and public spaces and where possible within basements or upper levels. Access doors to any waste, parking or loading area should be designed as an integrated element of the building.

Integrate plant equipment and services into the built form design. Avoid locating services on Gordon Avenue and Latrobe Terrace and grouping them together to create long inactive edges. Service cabinets should not visually dominate street frontages and should use high quality materials.

Design and locate gates which do not impede on public land.

Exemption from notice and review

An application or construct a building or construct or carry out works which accords with the height, setback and interface requirements of this clause is exempt from the notice requirements of section 52(1)(a), (b) and (d), the decision requirements of section 64(1), (2) and (3) and the review rights of section 82(1) of the Act. This exemption does not apply to land within 30 metres of land (not a road) which is in a residential zone.

3.0 Subdivision

--/--/----
Proposed C433ggee

The subdivision of land should not prevent the development of land in accordance with the objectives of this Schedule.

Exemption from notice and review

An application to subdivide land is exempt from the notice requirements of section 52(1)(a), (b) and (d), the decision requirements of section 64(1), (2) and (3) and the review rights of section 82(1) of the Act.

4.0 Signs

--/--/----
Proposed C433ggee

None specified.

5.0 Application requirements

--/--/----
Proposed C433ggee

The following application requirements apply to an application for a permit under Clause 43.02, in addition to those specified elsewhere in the scheme, and must accompany an application, as appropriate, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority:

- An Urban Context Report and Design Response demonstrating how the proposal responds to the design objectives and buildings and works requirement of this schedule and implements recommendations from other technical reports.
- Streetscape elevations showing the existing streetscape, and how the development sits within the streetscape and a three-dimensional perspective which shows the development in the context of adjacent development in the street.
- A Wind Report prepared by a suitably qualified person for buildings exceeding a height of 16 metres which addresses appropriate mitigation measures to achieve safe and comfortable wind conditions on and nearby the site, without relying on street trees or excessive screening elements.
- A Stormwater Management Plan demonstrating potential for reuse of stormwater for onsite purposes such as landscaping and other non-portable purposes, provision for limiting maximum flows discharged from the site under storm events and incorporation of WSUD principles where possible.
- An Environmental Management Plan prepared by a suitably qualified person that demonstrates how the development provides for environmentally sustainable design measures.

- A Traffic Impact Assessment Report prepared by suitably qualified traffic engineer that assesses and minimises the impacts of traffic and parking within the precinct and promotes sustainable transport modes.
- Plans, elevations, and section drawings for any car parking at or above ground level to show finished floor levels and a statement by a suitably qualified engineer that demonstrates the capacity for adaptation to alternative uses.
- A Landscape Plan detailing proposed hard and soft landscape elements, plant schedule, plant container details and maintenance and irrigation systems.
- Shadow diagrams to show existing and proposed shadows at hourly intervals to demonstrate compliance with the solar access requirements contained in this schedule.
- Any application for development of land for a dwelling should provide an Affordable Housing Delivery Strategy to the satisfaction of the responsible authority which sets out the location and type (housing type/density/size) of the affordable housing to be delivered, the method of implementation, and proposed staging which ensures affordable housing is provided in a timely manner as development occurs.
- Any application for subdivision or development of land for Accommodation, Education centre (other than Tertiary institution and Employment training centre) or Hospital, must be accompanied by an acoustic assessment report prepared by a qualified acoustic engineer or other suitably skilled person to the satisfaction of the responsible authority which:
  - Applies the following noise objectives:
    - Not greater than 35 dB LAeq,8h when measured within a sleeping area between 10pm and 6am.
    - Not greater than 40 dB LAeq,16h when measured within a living area between 6am and 10pm.
    - For areas other than sleeping and living areas, not greater than the median value of the range of recommended designed sound levels of Australian Standard AS/NZ 2107:2016 (Acoustics– Recommended design sound level and reverberation times for building interiors).
    - Train airborne noise received at new residential or other noise sensitive uses is attenuated to achieve a noise level of 55 dBA, Lmax in bedrooms at night and a noise level of 60 dBA, Lmax in living areas. These noise levels are to be measured at the expected occupancy position(s) in the space relevant to the noise of interest with doors and windows closed. The preferred positions are at least 1 metre from the walls or other major reflecting surface, 1.2 metres to 1.5 metres above the floor and about 1.5 metres from windows. -The measurements should be undertaken using a ‘fast’ meter time weighting and must be achieved for 95% of train pass-bys (i.e. 5%, 1 in 20 trains may exceed).
  - Noise levels should be assessed:
    - Considering the cumulative noise from all sources impacting on the proposal including road traffic, railway, industry and commercial noise, as well as planned other potential noise sources;
    - Industrial noise received at new residential or other noise sensitive uses achieves internal noise levels assessed in accordance with the Noise Protocol (EPA Publication 1826.4) with the implementation of an indoor adjustment of 20 dB, while allowing for operable windows. These noise levels are to be measured internally at the expected occupancy position(s) in the space relevant to the noise of interest with doors and windows closed. The preferred positions are at least 1 metre from the walls or other major reflecting surface, 1.2 metres to 1.5 metres above the floor and about 1.5 metres from windows;

- Operation of the rail sidings yard with respect to EPA Pub. 1826.4 Noise Protocol, where any new proposed sensitive uses constitutes the Agent of Change, and as such measures must be undertaken at sensitive uses to maintain EPA Pub. 1826.4 conformance of rail sidings yard; and
- In unfurnished rooms with a finished floor and the windows closed and be based on average external noise levels measured as part of a noise level assessment.

- Addresses noise compatible design for buildings, with siting, orientation, and internal layout, to be considered prior to setting building envelope performance requirements.
- Addresses potential noise character (such as tonality, impulsiveness or intermittency) wherever relevant, including through the application of adjustments to the internal noise levels that are determined using the procedures to adjust industry noise levels of the Noise Protocol.

6.0 Decision guidelines

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Proposed C433ggee

The following decision guidelines apply to an application for a permit under Clause 43.02, in addition to those specified in Clause 43.02 and elsewhere in the scheme which must be considered, as appropriate, by the Responsible Authority:

- Whether the development contributes to an active and permeable streetscape, provides acceptable solar access to specified locations, incorporates weather protection elements, and makes a positive contribution to the public realm.
- Whether the development adequately manages visual and internal amenity and appropriately transitions to adjoining public open spaces, sensitive residential areas, heritage places or sites.
- Whether the proposed design treatment and material selection for the development is sympathetic to adjoining heritage places or sites and transitions appropriately from the Heritage Core.
- Whether the application includes an Affordable Housing Delivery Strategy to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
- Whether the development incorporates acoustic treatments to limit the impacts from noise from all current and potential noise generating sources such as railway operations, traffic and commercial activities.
- Whether the development avoids blank walls, alcoves and recesses that provide hiding places or collect dirt and litter.
- Whether the development achieves design excellence by providing high quality innovative architecture, landscape and urban design and provides community benefit.
- Whether the development achieves comfortable wind conditions.
- Whether the development is consistent with the *Pakington Street and Gordon Avenue Urban Design Framework* (City of Greater Geelong, May 2024).

Variations to preferred requirements

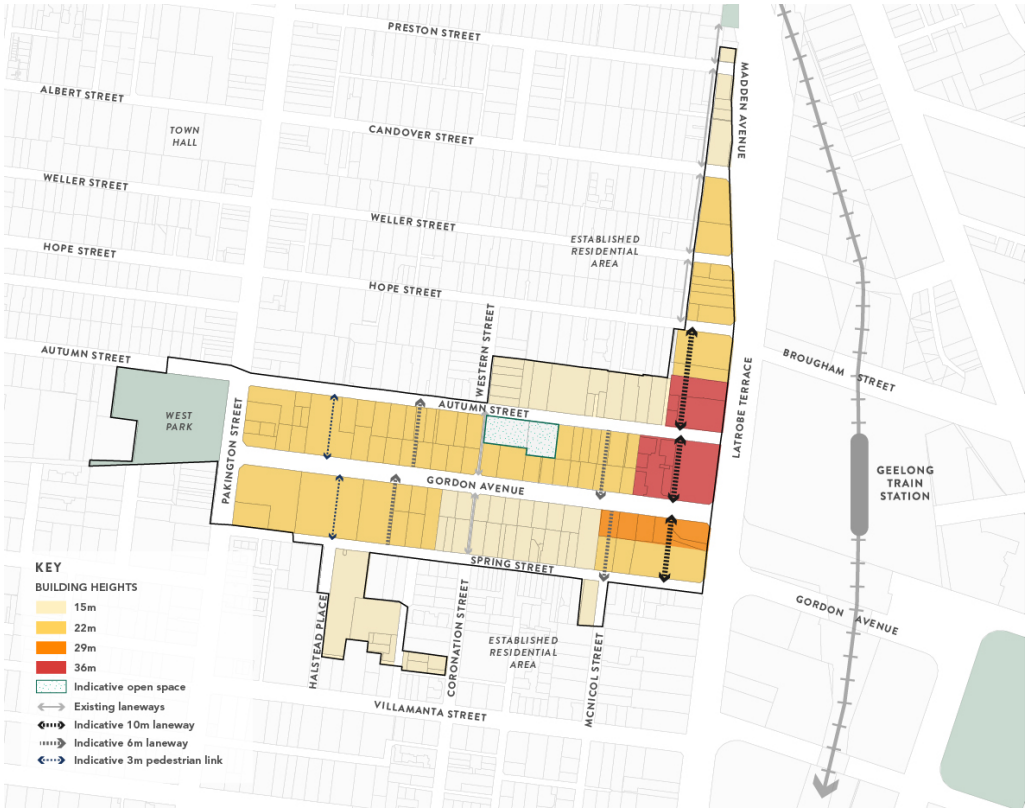
Where an application proposes to exceed, or vary a preferred requirement contained within this schedule consider:

- Whether the design objectives have been met.
- Whether the development exceeds the minimum 5 star Greenstar rating for Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD).
- Whether the development results in, or substantially facilitates, the delivery of appropriately secured community benefits including:
  - Incorporation of social or affordable housing.

  - Upgrades or delivery of new local infrastructure including public spaces to meet the needs of the community and provide spaces for residents to linger and enjoy.
  - Provision of pedestrian links.
  - Provision of public open space in excess of any minimum requirement in Clause 53.01.
- Whether development results in adverse offsite impacts such as visual bulk, overlooking and overshadowing to adjoining residential properties and the public realm.
- Whether the proposal presents, or substantially facilitates an improved architectural and urban design outcome.

GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Map 1 to Schedule 56 to Clause 43.02



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Proposed C433ggee

SCHEDULE 57 TO CLAUSE 43.02 DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OVERLAY

Shown on the planning scheme map as **DDO57**.

PAKINGTON NORTH PRECINCT

1.0 Design objectives

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Proposed C433ggee

To support opportunities for urban renewal, commercial development, and increased housing density by implementing the *Pakington North Urban Design Framework* (City of Greater Geelong, May 2024).

To create a vibrant mixed-use precinct with retail, offices and community spaces at lower levels and residential spaces above.

To promote high quality medium and higher-density built form which transitions to sensitive interfaces including heritage places and adjoining established low scale residential areas and protects the amenity of existing and future residents.

To establish a vibrant public realm which reinforces the sense of place, supports multi modal movement, and improves local accessibility and amenity.

To protect the amenity of key public spaces including footpaths, future plazas and new public open spaces from overshadowing impacts.

2.0 Buildings and works

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Proposed C433ggee

The following buildings and works requirements apply to an application to construct a building or construct or carry out works.

A permit may be granted to vary a preferred requirement expressed with the term ‘should’.

A permit cannot be granted to vary a requirement expressed with the term ‘must’.

A permit cannot be amended (unless the amendment does not increase the extent of non-compliance) for buildings and works that do not meet a requirement expressed with the term ‘must’.

Building and floor heights

Development should not exceed the preferred maximum building heights specified in Map 1 to this schedule.

Provided that the below criteria are met, the preferred maximum building height does not include architectural features, masts and building services. Roof top mechanical equipment such as plant rooms, lift overruns, solar collectors and other such equipment should be sited so achieve all of the following:

- Not more than 50% of the roof area is occupied by equipment (other than solar panel or greening);
- The equipment is set back on all sides, no less than 3 metres from the edge of the building, or otherwise located to minimise additional overshadowing and reduce visual impact;
- The equipment does not exceed the height limit by more than 3.6 metres; and
- The equipment and screening is integrated into the design of the building;

to the satisfaction of the Responsibly Authority.

Buildings should provide the floor-to-floor heights set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Floor-to-floor heights

Floor	Use	Minimum floor-to-floor dimension
Ground	All	4.0 metres
Level 1 and above	Residential	3.2 metres
	Non-residential (including car parking)	3.5 metres

Street interface

Development must meet the mandatory ground level setbacks specified in Table 2 and Map 1, unless the property is in a Heritage Overlay.

Development should not exceed the preferred maximum street wall/podium heights specified in Table 2.

Development should meet other street interface requirements specified in Table 2 and Map 1.

Street wall/podiums should align with ground floor building setbacks.

Development within a Heritage Overlay should retain the existing ground level setback to heritage frontages.

On corner sites along Pakington Street, the requirements in Table 2 for Type 1A, Type 1B and Type 1C apply to the side street frontages for a distance of 5 metres before transitioning to the side street typology.

Where development interfaces with a different built form typology, a transition zone must be provided in which building height, setbacks and massing are progressively varied to achieve a gradual change in scale.

Table 2: Street interface

Location (see Map 1 to this schedule)	Ground level setback	Preferred maximum street wall/podium height	Preferred setback above street wall/podium
Type 1A	0 metres (mandatory)	8 metres	5 metres
Type 1B	0 metres (mandatory)	11 metres	5 metres
Type 1C	0 metres (mandatory)	15 metres	5 metres
Type 1D	3 metres (mandatory)	None specified	None specified
Type 2A	3 metres (preferred)	15 metres	5 metres
Type 2B	2 metres (preferred)	8 metres	2 metres
Type 2C	2 metres (preferred)	11 metres	2 metres
Type 2D	2 metres (preferred)	15 metres	2 metres
Type 3	0 metres (preferred)	15 metres	3 metres

Residential interfaces

Development adjoining sites in the General Residential Zone and Neighbourhood Residential Zone should be in accordance with Figures 1-3 and Map 2 to this schedule.

Figure 1. Type 6A residential interface

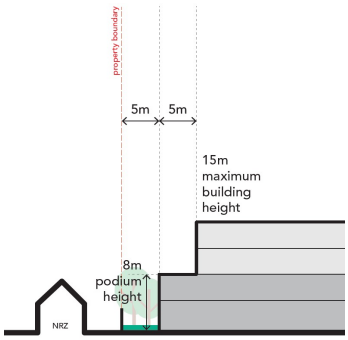


Figure 2. Type 6B residential interface

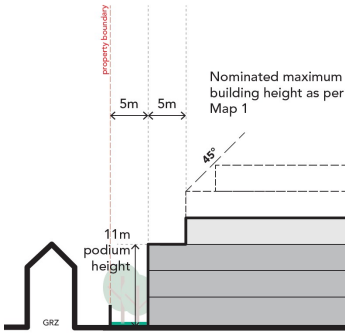
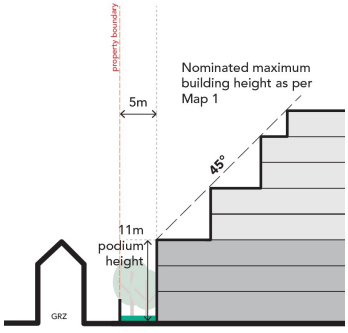


Figure 3. Type 6C residential interface



Laneway interface

Development abutting laneways should be in accordance with Figures 4-6 and Map 2 to this schedule.

Figure 4. Type 4A laneway interface

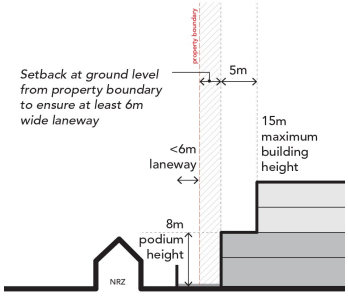


Figure 5. Type 4B laneway interface

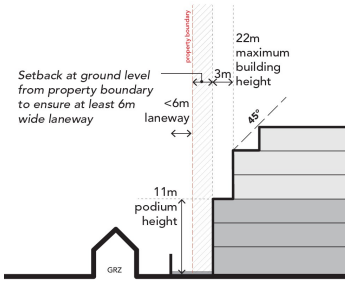
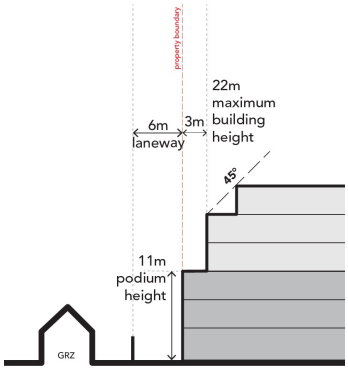


Figure 6. Type 4C rear interface



Open space

New public open space should be provided to the south of the Former Donaghy's Rope Walk building, generally in the location indicated on Map 1 to this schedule.

The new public open space should be:

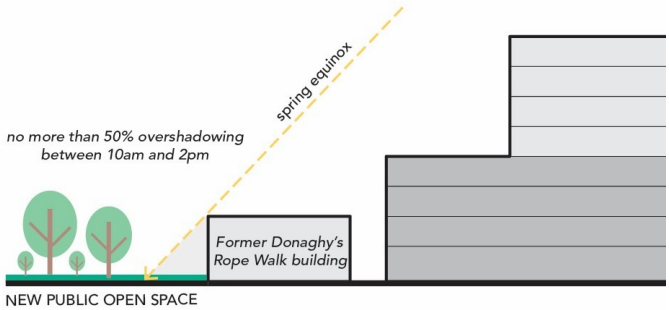
- at least 10 percent of the overall site area of the Pakington Strand Strategic Site; and
- publicly accessible, open to the sky and receive good solar access.

Development must not result in more than 50% of the new public open space being overshadowed between 10am and 2pm on 22 September.

Development abutting the north side of the new public open space should be in accordance with Figure 7 and Map 1 to this schedule.

Encourage public gathering places like small plazas at the entrance of buildings in addition to the new public open space.

Figure 7. Public open space interface



Building separation

Balconies should not encroach into side setbacks.

Where a site abuts another site subject to this schedule, the minimum side setbacks at Figures 8 and 9 apply.

Figure 8. Preferred side separation for buildings built to boundary

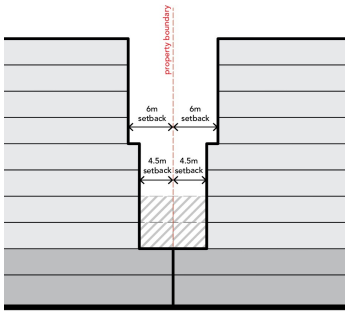
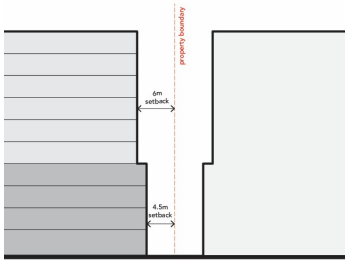


Figure 9. Preferred side separation for buildings not built to boundary



Building design and landscaping

Encourage developments at corner sites that address both street interfaces.

Encourage the use of natural, tactile, and visually interesting materials and façade articulation.

Create visual interest in upper levels and ensure passive surveillance of the public realm.

Incorporate an interim façade strategy when blank walls are visually prominent while adjoining properties are being realised.

Discourage development that mimics or replicates adjacent heritage styles.

Encourage integrated screening that manages on and off site amenity outcomes.

Incorporate façade design and lighting that enhances safety and security after hours including along main streets, side streets and laneways.

Minimise the potential for off-site impacts, including from noise, fumes, odour or vibrations through the use of setbacks, acoustic barriers, high performance glazing, internal layout, or other relevant measures.

Ensure passive surveillance for developments that directly abut or are adjacent to public open spaces with the provision of clear sight lines, views and activation to these spaces.

Integrate soft landscaping with building design by incorporating green walls, green roofs, roof top gardens, landscaped balconies and functional courtyards to enhance biodiversity and visual amenity and mitigate the urban heat island effect.

Encourage the provision of functional open spaces (e.g. central courtyards) and landscaped areas with deep soil planting to support canopy trees around buildings.

Active frontages

Encourage the use of features which complement the existing character of Pakington Street, including the Heritage Core to the south, such as plinths, depth of façade articulation, and tactile materials.

Encourage visual and physical permeability between the building and the street by incorporating measures such as doors facing the street, operable windows and direct residential access for ground level residences.

Design buildings to address the street, with legible and direct entries to support street activation whilst clearly distinguishing residential and commercial entrances.

Allow a maximum 75% glazing on any façade and provide 50% visually permeable balcony balustrades.

Solar access, wind and weather

Incorporate weather protection such as awnings, openings and architectural detail that are well detailed and attractive when viewed from the street.

Ensure weather protection measures do not impinge existing or future street trees.

Address wind gust management in building design, without the need for additional protective screens, incidental add-ons and landscaping in public spaces.

Limit overshadowing impacts on the existing secluded private open space of adjacent residential properties outside the precinct.

Development must ensure solar access as specified in Table 3.

Table 3: Solar access to footpaths

Location	Solar access requirement
Pakington Street	Maintain solar access to the opposite footpath on Pakington Street, measured 4 metres from the property boundary, between 10am and 2pm on 22 September.
Waratah Street	Maintain solar access to the southern footpath on Waratah Street, between 10am and 2pm on 22 September.
All other streets	Maintain solar access to southern footpaths where possible

Buildings and works with an overall height equal to, or greater than 16 metres:

- Must not cause unsafe wind conditions as specified in Table 4 on public land, publicly accessible areas on private land, private open space and communal open space; and
- Should achieve comfortable wind conditions as specified in Table 4 on public land, publicly accessible areas on private land, private open space and communal open space.

Table 4: Wind effects requirements

Wind condition	Requirement
Comfortable wind conditions	Hourly mean wind speed or gust equivalent mean speed (3 second gust wind speed divided by 1.85), from all wind directions combined with probability of exceedance less than 20% of the time, equal to or less than: ▪ 3 metres per second for sitting areas, ▪ 4 metres per second for standing areas, ▪ 5 metres per second for walking areas
Unsafe wind conditions	Annual maximum 3 second gust wind speed exceeding 20 metres per second with a probability of exceedance of 0.1% considering at least 16 wind directions.

Access, parking and services

Ensure above ground car parking is sleeved with active uses along street frontages.

Minimise or consolidate vehicular access points and carefully design ramps into basements to support increased amenity and safety for pedestrians and bicycles.

Where possible, avoid vehicular access from Church Street and Pakington Street.

Encourage east-west and north-south vehicle and pedestrian permeability through the Pakington Strand Strategic Site.

Maintain the existing pedestrian connection to Donaghy Street from the Pakington Strand site.

Ensure car parking frontages to the public realm are visually interesting through materiality and detailing and allow for adequate ventilation.

Avoid solid roller shutter doors or security grills in Church Street and Pakington Street.

Design off-street car parking facilities to have flexible electric vehicle charging spaces. Electric charging stations should be equipped with at least 50kw charging facilities.

Encourage shared car parking facilities according to peak car parking demand times.

Services, loading and waste areas should not be located on main street and public spaces. Where possible, they should be located within basements or on upper levels.

Integrate plant, equipment and services into the built form design. Where possible, avoid locating services on Pakington Street or grouping them together to create long inactive facades.

Exemption from notice and review

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3.0 Subdivision

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Proposed C433ggee

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Exemption from notice and review

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4.0 Signs

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Proposed C433ggee

None specified.

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- Streetscape elevations showing the existing streetscape, and how the development sits within the streetscape and a three-dimensional perspective which shows the development in the context of adjacent development in the street.
- A Wind Report prepared by a suitably qualified person for buildings exceeding a height of 16 metres which addresses appropriate mitigation measures to achieve safe and comfortable wind conditions on and nearby the site, without relying on street trees or excessive screening elements.
- A Stormwater Management Plan demonstrating potential for reuse of stormwater for onsite purposes such as landscaping and other non-portable purposes, provision for limiting maximum flows discharged from the site under storm events and incorporation of WSUD principles where possible.
- An Environmental Management Plan prepared by a suitably qualified person that demonstrates how the development provides for environmentally sustainable design measures.
- A Traffic Impact Assessment Report prepared by a suitably qualified traffic engineer that assesses and minimises the impacts of traffic and parking within the precinct and promotes sustainable transport modes.
- Plans, elevations, and section drawings for any car parking at or above ground level to show finished floor levels and a statement by a suitably qualified engineer that demonstrates the capacity for adaption to alternative uses.
- A Landscape Plan detailing proposed hard and soft landscape elements, plant schedule, plant container details and maintenance and irrigation systems.
- Shadow diagrams to show existing and proposed shadows at hourly intervals to demonstrate compliance with the solar access requirements contained in this schedule.
- Any application for development of land for a dwelling should provide an Affordable Housing Delivery Strategy to the satisfaction of the responsible authority which sets out the location and type (housing type/density/size) of the affordable housing to be delivered, the method of implementation, and proposed staging which ensures affordable housing is provided in a timely manner as development occurs.
- Any application for subdivision or development of land for Accommodation, Education centre (other than Tertiary institution and Employment training centre) or Hospital, must be accompanied by an acoustic assessment report prepared by a qualified acoustic engineer or other suitably skilled person to the satisfaction of the responsible authority which:
  - Applies the following noise objectives:

- Not greater than 35 dB LAeq,8h when measured within a sleeping area between 10pm and 6am.
- Not greater than 40 dB LAeq,16h when measured within a living area between 6am and 10pm.
- For areas other than sleeping and living areas, not greater than the median value of the range of recommended designed sound levels of Australian Standard AS/NZ 2107:2016 (Acoustics– Recommended design sound level and reverberation times for building interiors).
- Train airborne noise received at new residential or other noise sensitive uses is attenuated to achieve a noise level of 55 dBA, Lmax in bedrooms at night and a noise level of 60 dBA, Lmax in living areas. These noise levels are to be measured at the expected occupancy position(s) in the space relevant to the noise of interest with doors and windows closed. The preferred positions are at least 1 metre from the walls or other major reflecting surface, 1.2 metres to 1.5 metres above the floor and about 1.5 metres from windows.
- The measurements should be undertaken using a 'fast' meter time weighting and must be achieved for 95% of train pass- bys (i.e. 5%, 1 in 20 trains may exceed).

- Noise levels should be assessed:
  - Considering the cumulative noise from all sources impacting on the proposal including road traffic, railway, industry and commercial noise, as well as other potential noise sources;
  - Industrial noise received at new residential or other noise sensitive uses achieves internal noise levels assessed in accordance with the Noise Protocol (EPA Publication 1826.4) with the implementation of an indoor adjustment of 20 dB, while allowing for operable windows. These noise levels are to be measured internally at the expected occupancy position(s) in the space relevant to the noise of interest with doors and windows closed. The preferred positions are at least 1 metre from the walls or other major reflecting surface, 1.2 metres to 1.5 metres above the floor and about 1.5 metres from windows;
  - Operation of the rail sidings yard with respect to EPA Pub. 1826.4 Noise Protocol, where any new proposed sensitive uses constitutes the Agent of Change, and as such measures must be undertaken at sensitive uses to maintain EPA Pub. 1826.4 conformance of rail sidings yard; and
  - In unfurnished rooms with a finished floor and the windows closed and be based on average external noise levels measured as part of a noise level assessment.
- Addresses noise compatible design for buildings, with siting, orientation, and internal layout, to be considered prior to setting building envelope performance requirements.
- Addresses potential noise character (such as tonality, impulsiveness or intermittency) wherever relevant, including through the application of adjustments to the internal noise levels that are determined using the procedures to adjust industry noise levels of the Noise Protocol.

6.0 Decision guidelines

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Proposed C433ggee

The following decision guidelines apply to an application for a permit under Clause 43.02, in addition to those specified in Clause 43.02 and elsewhere in the scheme which must be considered, as appropriate, by the Responsible Authority:

- Whether the development employs an appropriate massing strategy that reduces visual bulk.

- Whether the development contributes to an active and permeable streetscape, provides acceptable solar access to specified locations, incorporates weather protection elements, and makes a positive contribution to the public realm.
- Whether the development adequately manages visual and internal amenity and appropriately transitions to adjoining public open spaces, sensitive residential areas, heritage places or sites.
- Whether the proposed design treatment and material selection for the development is sympathetic to adjoining heritage place or site and transitions appropriately from the Heritage Core.
- Whether the application includes an Affordable Housing Delivery Strategy to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
- Whether the development incorporates acoustic treatments to limit the impacts from noise from all current and potential noise generating sources such as railway operations, traffic and commercial activities.
- Whether the development avoids blank walls, alcoves and recesses that provide hiding places or collect dirt and litter.
- Whether the development achieves design excellence by providing high quality innovative architecture, landscape and urban design and provides community benefit.
- Whether the development responds to the Rail Sidings Yard site in a manner appropriate for its current transport use.
- Whether the development achieves comfortable wind conditions.
- Whether the development is consistent with the *Pakington North Urban Design Framework* (City of Greater Geelong, May 2024).

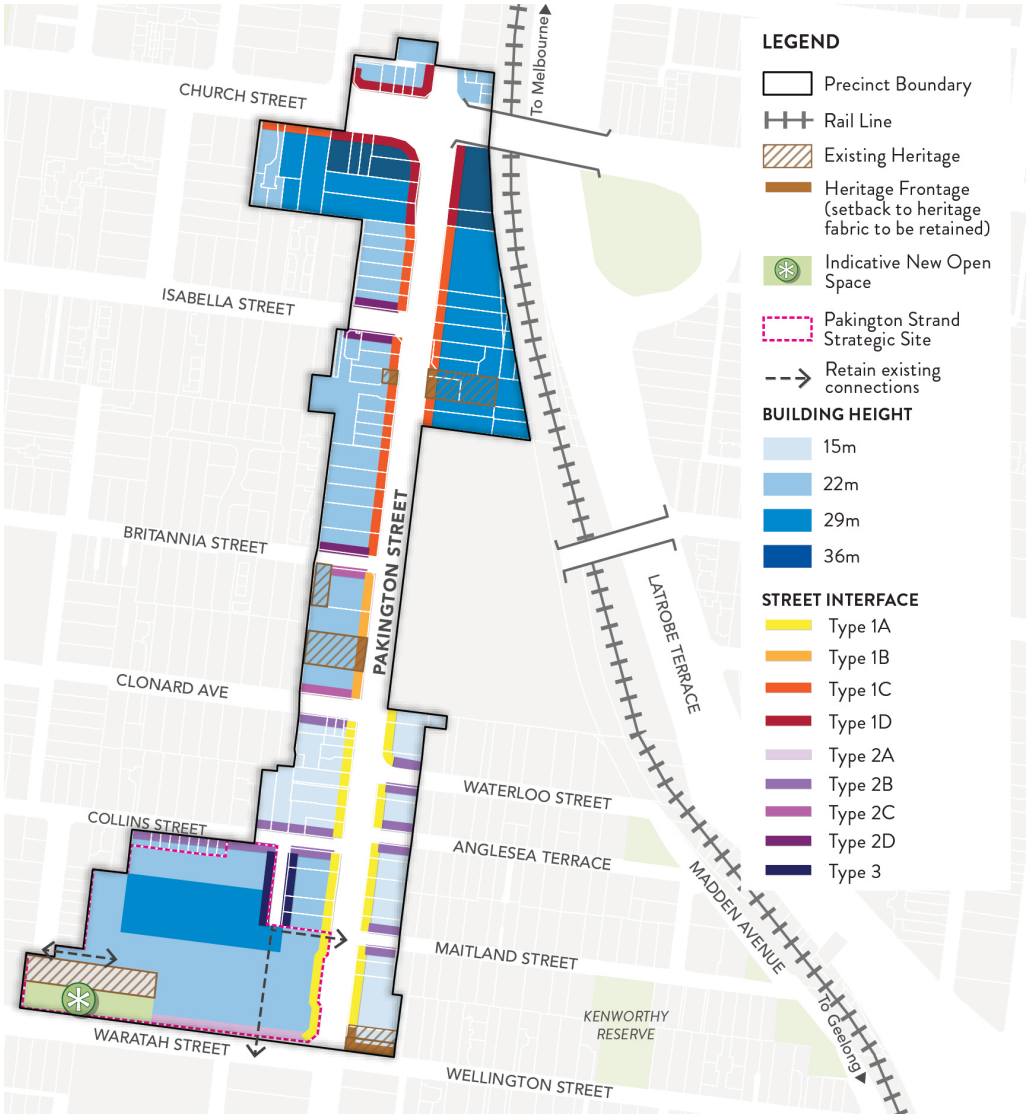
Variations to preferred requirements

Where an application proposes to exceed, or vary a preferred requirement contained within this schedule consider:

- Whether the design objectives have been met.
- Whether the development exceeds the minimum 5 star Greenstar rating for Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD).
- Whether the development results in, or substantially facilitates, the delivery of appropriately secured community benefits including:
  - Incorporation of social or affordable housing.
  - Upgrades or delivery of new local infrastructure including public spaces to meet the needs of the community and provide spaces for residents to linger and enjoy.
  - Provision of pedestrian links.
  - Provision of public open space in excess of any minimum requirement in Clause 53.01.
- Whether development results in adverse offsite impacts such as visual bulk, overlooking and overshadowing to adjoining residential properties and the public realm.
- Whether the proposal presents, or substantially facilitates an improved architectural and urban design outcome.

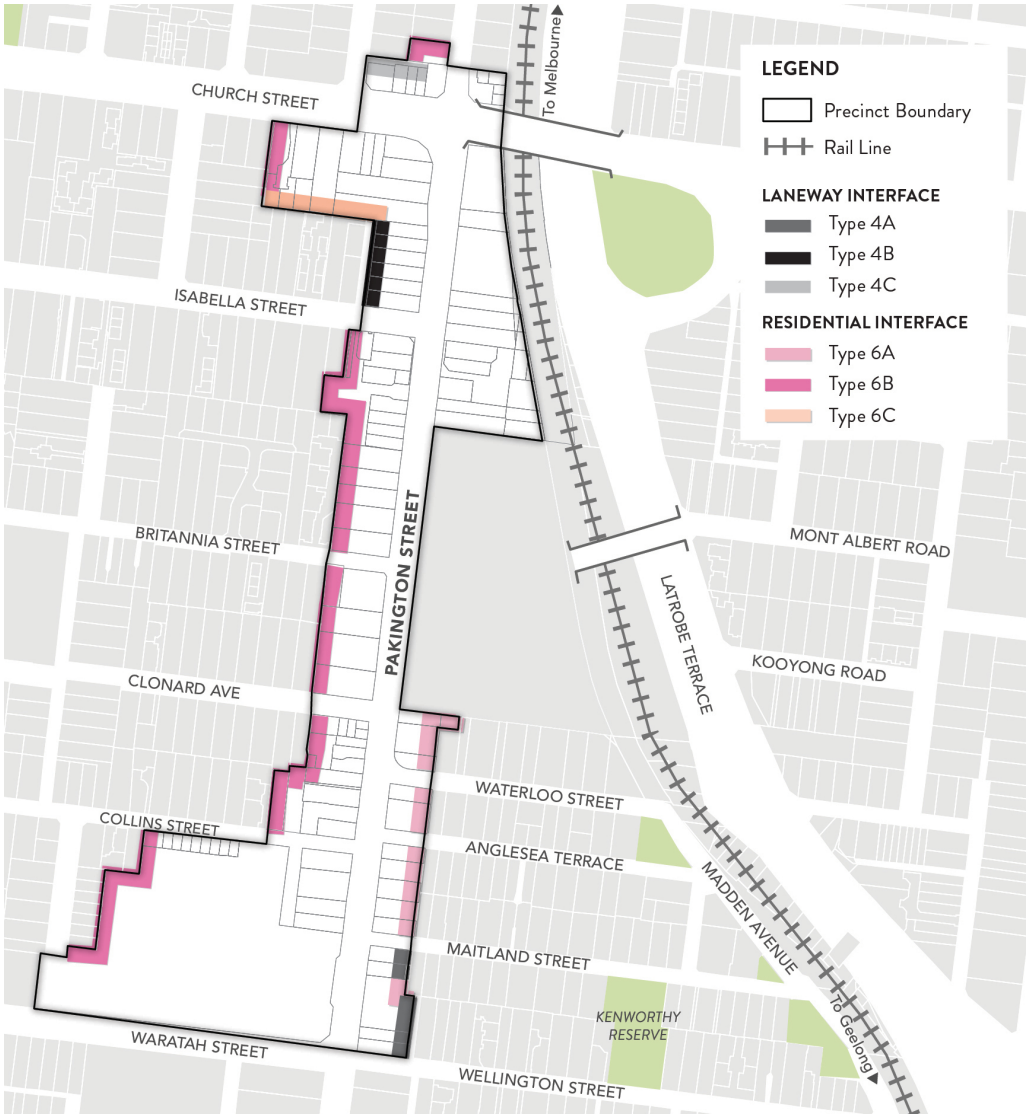
GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Map 1 to Schedule 57 to Clause 43.02



GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Map 2 to Schedule 57 to Clause 43.02



GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

31/07/2018
VC148

SCHEDULE TO CLAUSE 72.08 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

1.0 Background documents

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Proposed C433ggee

Name of background document	Amendment number - clause reference
Armstrong Creek Urban Growth Plan Background Report (City of Greater Geelong, 2006)	Clauses 02 and 17
Armstrong Creek Urban Growth Plan (Collie Pty Ltd, 2010, Amended 2012)	Clause 02
Ashby Heritage Review Stage 2 (Dr David Rowe Authentic Heritage Services Pty Ltd and Wendy Jacobs, 2009)	Clauses 02 and 15
Barwon Heads Structure Plan (City of Greater Geelong, 2017)	Clauses 02 and 11
Batman Park & Boat Sheds, The Esplanade, Indented Head, Heritage Review (Dr David Rowe Authentic Heritage Services and Wendy Jacobs, 2013)	Clauses 02 and 15
Bellarine Heritage Study Volumes 1-3 (Huddle, Howe, Lewis and Francis, 1996)	Clauses 02 and 15
Bellarine Peninsula Strategic Plan (City of Greater Geelong, 2006)	Clauses 02 and 11
Belmont Heritage Areas Report Volume 1 (Dr David Rowe, Authentic Heritage Services Pty Ltd, 2007)	Clauses 02 and 15
Belmont Heritage Areas: Inventory of Places Volume 2 (Dr David Rowe Authentic Heritage Services Pty Ltd, 2007)	Clauses 02 and 15
Belmont Heritage Report: Individual Citations Volume 3 (Dr David Rowe Authentic Heritage Services Pty Ltd, 2007)	Clauses 02 and 15
Buckley Falls Management Plan (Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, 1990)	Clause 02
Building in Wildfire Management Overlay Areas (CFA, 2002)	Clause 02 and 11
Central Geelong Framework Plan - A plan for the heart of Djilang (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2023)	Clauses 37.08-s1, 43.02-s47, 43.04-s38 to 45
Central West Victoria Estuaries Coastal Action Plan (Western Coastal Board, 2005)	Clauses 02, 12 and 13
Central West Victoria Regional Coastal Action Plan (Western Coastal Board, 2003)	Clauses 02, 12 and 13
Ceres Heritage Citations Project (Dr David Rowe Authentic Heritage Services Pty Ltd and Wendy Jacobs, 2017 updated 2018)	Clauses 02 and 15
City Fringe Heritage Area Review Part 1 and Part 2 (RBA Architects + Conservation Consultants Pty Ltd, 2017 updated 2018)	Clauses 02 and 15
City of Geelong West Urban Conservation Study Volumes 1-2 (Huddle, Aitken and Honman, 1986)	Clauses 02 and 15
City of Greater Geelong Advertising Sign Guidelines Review – Issues and Options Paper (City of Greater Geelong, May 2022)	Clause 15
City of Greater Geelong Economic Development Strategy (City of Greater Geelong, 2005)	Clauses 02 and 17
City of Greater Geelong Environment Management Strategy 2006 - 2011 (City of Greater Geelong, 2006)	Clauses 02, 12 and 13
City of Greater Geelong Housing Diversity Strategy (alphaPlan, David Lock Associates and City of Greater Geelong, 2007)	Clauses 02, 11, 15 and 16

GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Name of background document	Amendment number - clause reference
City of Greater Geelong Housing Strategy Background and Issues Report (Swinburne University, 2005)	Clauses 02, 11, 15 and 16
City of Greater Geelong Retail Strategy 2020-2036 (City of Greater Geelong and SGS Economics and Planning, August 2020)	Clauses 02, 11, 15 and 17
City of Greater Geelong Rural Land Use Strategy (Parsons Brinckerhoff, 2007)	Clauses 02, 14, 17 and 19
City of Greater Geelong Settlement Strategy (City of Greater Geelong, August 2020)	Clauses 02, 11, 15, 16, 17, 19
City of Greater Geelong Stormwater Management Plan (WBM Oceanics Australia, 2002)	Clauses 02, 12, 13 and 19
City of Greater Geelong Urban Furniture Style Manual (Taylor and Cullity Pty Ltd, 1996)	Clauses 02, 11, 15 and 16
City of Newtown Urban Conservation Study Volumes 1-4 (Context Pty Ltd, 1991)	Clauses 02 and 15
City of Newtown Urban Conservation Study, Volumes 5(a) and 5(b) (Richard Peterson, 1997)	Clauses 02 and 15
Coastal Spaces Landscape Assessment Study (Planisphere, 2006)	Clauses 02 and 11
Code of Practice for The Greyhound Industry Dealing with Greyhound Premises and The Keeping and Welfare of Greyhounds (Geryhound Racing Victoria, March 2008)	Clauses 14
Corangamite Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019 (Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, 2013)	Clauses 02, 12, 13 and 19
Corio Bay Coastal Action Plan (Central Coastal Board and the City of Greater Geelong, 2005)	Clauses 02, 12, 13 and 19
Corio Norlane Structure Plan Background Report (City of Greater Geelong and the Department of Planning and Community Development, 2011)	Clause 02 and 11
Corio Norlane Structure Plan (City of Greater Geelong and Department of Planning and Community Development, 2012)	Clause 02 and 11
Drysdale Bypass Access Management Strategy (VicRoads, 2017)	Clause 11
Drysdale-Clifton Springs Structure Plan (City of Greater Geelong, 2010)	Clauses 02 and 11
Drysdale Urban Design Framework (City of Greater Geelong, 2012)	Clauses 02 and 11
Former Dennys Lascelles Woolstore 20 Brougham Street Heritage Assessment (Dr David Rowe Authentic Heritage Services Pty Ltd and Wendy Jacobs, 2017)	Clauses 02 and 15
Geelong Biodiversity Strategy (City of Greater Geelong, 2003)	Clauses 02, 12, 13 and 19
Geelong City Urban Conservation Study 'C' Citations, Volume 4(a) (Helen Lardner, 1995)	Clauses 02 and 15
Geelong City Urban Conservation Study, Volumes 2-5 (Graeme Butler for the City of Geelong, 1991)	Clauses 02 and 15
Geelong Economic Development Strategy 2005-2010 (City of Greater Geelong, 2005)	Clause 02, 14, 17 and 18
Geelong Flood Mitigation Strategy (Gutteridge Haskins & Davey Pty Ltd, 1997)	Clauses 02, 12, 13 and 19
Geelong Region Historic Buildings and Objects Study Volumes 1-3 (Allan Willingham, 1986)	Clauses 02 and 15

GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Name of background document	Amendment number - clause reference
Geelong Regional Floodland Study (Geelong Regional Commission, 1979)	Clauses 02, 12, 13 and 19
Geelong Ring Road Employment Precinct Urban Design Guidelines (City of Greater Geelong, 2010)	Clauses 17 and 43.02-s18
Geelong Sale Yards Conservation Management Plan (Dr David Rowe and Wendy Jacobs, 2007)	Clauses 02 and 15
Geelong Saleyards Precinct Surface Water Management Strategy (BMT, 2021)	Clauses 02 and 11
Geelong Seafood Industry Strategy (City of Greater Geelong, 2003)	Clauses 02 and 17
Geelong Transit City Station Precinct Urban Design Framework (Hassell, Parsons Brinckerhoff and Charter Keck Cramer, 2008)	Clause 02
Geelong Transport Strategy (Victorian State Government and City of Greater Geelong, 2002)	Clauses 02, 11, 18 and 19
Geelong Verandah Study (Authentic Heritage Services Pty Ltd and Wendy Jacobs, 2006)	Clauses 02, 11, 15 and 16
Geelong Waterfront Safe Harbour Precinct - Public Access & Infrastructure Development Project Master Plan (Terroir Pty Ltd, May 2019)	Clause 02
Geelong Western Wedge Framework (Planisphere and Jones & Whitehead Pty Ltd, April 2005, updated September 2005)	Clauses 02 and 37.08 Schedule 1
Geelong Wetland Strategy (City of Greater Geelong, 2006)	Clauses 02, 12, 13 and 19
Greater Geelong Gaming Policy Framework (City of Greater Geelong, 2007)	Clauses 02 and 17
Greater Geelong Outer Areas Heritage Study Volume 1 (excluding Belmont precincts) and Volumes 2-4 (Authentic Heritage Services Pty Ltd, 2000)	Clauses 02 and 15
Goandra Estate Fence Design Guidelines (Hansen Partnership, July 2023)	Clauses 37.01-s8, 43.02-s49 and 52.02s
Heales Road Industrial Estate Framework Plan (MacroPlan Australia and the City of Greater Geelong, 2007)	Clauses 02 and 17
Heritage citation sheet for the Osborne Park bluestone pillar and cast/wrought iron gates (City of Greater Geelong, 2016)	Clauses 02 and 15
Heritage citation sheet for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Avenue of Honour (City of Greater Geelong, December 2016)	Clauses 02 and 15
Heritage Report 9 Bridge Road, Barwon Heads (Post-Panel Version) (Context Pty Ltd, May 2017)	Clauses 02 and 15
Hovells Creek, Lara: Flooding – December 10, 1988 (Technical Services Department Shire of Corio, 1990)	Clauses 02, 12, 13 and 19
Indented Head Structure Plan (City of Greater Geelong, 2016)	Clauses 02 and 11
Infrastructure Design Manual (Local Government Infrastructure Design Association, 2021)	Clauses 02 and 19
Jetty Road Urban Growth Plan (City of Greater Geelong, 2007 amended September 2008)	Clauses 02 and 11
Lara Heritage Review Phase 2, Volumes 1, 2 and 3 (Dr David Rowe and Wendy Jacobs, 2013 revised 2016)	Clauses 02 and 15
Lara Structure Plan (City of Greater Geelong, 2011)	Clauses 02 and 11
Lara Structure Plan Retail Development Issues (Tim Nott, 2009)	Clauses 02 and 11

GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

Name of background document	Amendment number - clause reference
Lara Town Centre Urban Design Framework (David Lock Associates, 2006)	Clauses 02 and 11
Leopold Structure Plan (City of Greater Geelong, 2011 amended 2013)	Clauses 02 and 11
Leopold Urban Design Framework (City of Greater Geelong, 2011)	Clauses 02 and 11
Managing Development in Rural Areas, Planning Policy Review (City of Greater Geelong, 2015)	Clauses 02, 14 and 17
Moolap Coastal Strategic Framework Plan (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2019)	Clauses 02 and 11
Newtown Heritage Study Volumes 1-3 (City of Greater Geelong, 2008)	Clauses 02 and 15
Newtown West Heritage Review, Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 (Dr David Rowe Authentic Heritage Services Pty Ltd & Wendy Jacobs, 2016)	Clauses 02 and 15
Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas Framework Plan (City of Greater Geelong, August 2020)	Clauses 02, 11, 15, 16 and 19
Ocean Grove Structure Plan (City of Greater Geelong, 2015 amended 2016)	Clauses 02 and 11
Ocean Grove Urban Design Framework (City of Greater Geelong, 2014)	Clauses 02 and 11
Pakington Street and Gordon Avenue Urban Design Framework (City of Greater Geelong, May 2024)	Clauses 11, 16, 43.02 (Schedule 56)
Pakington North Urban Design Framework (City of Greater Geelong, May 2024)	Clauses 11, 16, 43.02 (Schedule 57)
Point Lonsdale Structure Plan (Planisphere, 2009 amended 2011)	Clauses 02 and 11
Portarlington Structure Plan (City of Greater Geelong, 2016 amended 2017)	Clauses 02 and 11
Saleyards Precinct Plan (City of Greater Geelong, 2021)	Clauses 02 and 11
South Geelong Urban Design Framework (City of Greater Geelong, April 2025)	C432ggee Clauses 11, 16, 43.02s50 and 43.02s54
South Geelong UDF Heritage Review (City of Greater Geelong, February 2025)	C432ggee Clauses 02 and 15
South West Employment Land Review (HillPDA, 2023)	C468ggee Clauses 02 and 74
St Leonards Structure Plan (City of Greater Geelong, 2015)	Clauses 02 and 11
Statement of Significance for the former stables to Armytage House and classrooms 19-21 Hermitage Road, Newtown (Dr David Rowe and Kevin Krastins, 2003)	Clauses 02 and 15
Study of Open Space Networks (City of Greater Geelong, 2001)	Clauses 02, 11, 18 and 19
Wandana Structure Plan (City of Greater Geelong, 1998)	Clause 02

GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

07/07/2022
C417ggee

SCHEDULE TO CLAUSE 74.02 FURTHER STRATEGIC WORK

1.0
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Proposed C433ggee

Further strategic work

Growth Areas

Prepare Precinct Structure Plans for the Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas.

Environmental

Investigate applying:

- The Environmental Significance Overlay or Vegetation Protection Overlay to Biodiversity Sites, Primary Biodiversity Conservation Zones or contributory wetlands.
- Planning provisions to areas containing Bellarine Yellow Gum and Coastal Moonah Woodland.

Assess areas with environmental or landscape values including options to preserve and manage these areas.

Apply the Floodway Overlay and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay to floodprone areas once post development conditions are established based upon preparation of drainage schemes.

In Lara:

- Update flood mapping data.
- Develop a drainage infrastructure plan.
- Introduce relevant flood overlay controls.
- Include drainage infrastructure in Development Contributions Plans.

Built form

Review:

- Statements of significance and design guidelines for heritage places.
- Residential Growth Zone areas in and around Central Geelong and implement urban design guidelines.

Transport

Consider applying an Airport Environs Overlay to Avalon Airport.

Investigate an east-west link road between Portarlington Road and Geelong Ring Road.

Investigate options for direct linkages between the port, Geelong Ring Road and the Geelong Ring Road Employment Precinct.

Investigate localised opportunities for increased housing densities including the contribution of train station environs.

Infrastructure

Prepare Development Staging and Development Contributions Plans for the Northern and Western Geelong, Armstrong Creek and Jetty Road Urban Growth Areas.

Townships

Undertake:

- A settlement boundary review.

- A Leopold Flood Study to introduce controls over areas identified for the Floodway Overlay or Land Subject to Inundation Overlay.
- A study of Murtnaghurt Lagoon, Barwon Heads to establish whether the boundaries of the Environmental Significance Overlay require review.

Review:

- The application of residential zones as a result of VC110 to ensure the zones reflect local policy intent.
- Housing opportunities within townships to determine if housing intensification can be provided.
- The extent of the Heritage Overlay in the Drysdale Commercial Heritage Area.
- The Structure Plan for Ocean Grove, including an assessment of long term infill growth options that considers:
  - Its role as a district town.
  - Other planned growth on the Peninsula.
  - Development trends, lot supply and housing capacity within the settlement boundary.
  - The desirability of providing a diversity of living options.
  - Physical and environmental constraints, including protecting biodiversity values of the Nature Reserve and maintaining a rural break between settlements.
  - Protecting landscape values and implications for the character of approaches to the township along the Bellarine Highway, Grubb and Wallington Roads.
  - Implications for significant agricultural uses and their employment generating potential.

Implement the *Leopold Sub Regional Activity Centre Urban Design Framework* (City of Greater Geelong & BECA, 2011).

Investigate sites for a new primary school in Ocean Grove north-east growth area.

West Fyans-Fyans Street

Develop a Master Plan for Precinct 1 to enhance landscaping and visual amenity.

Review the West Fyans-Fyans Street Structure Plan, Stage 2 Implementation Area.

South-West Geelong Investigation Area

Identify 170 hectares (net developable area) of land for employment use within the South-West Geelong Investigation Area identified in Clause 02.04-1.

Investigate the potential of the remainder of the investigation area land for residential or tourism uses, subject to the identification of sufficient employment land.

Prepare precinct structure plans or other strategic planning frameworks which address the considerations outlined in the *South West Employment Land Review* (HillPDA, 2023).

Pakington Street, Geelong West

Review the heritage overlays within the 'Heritage Core Precinct' commercial area of Pakington Street, Geelong West as identified in the *Pakington Street and Gordon Avenue Urban Design Framework* (City of Greater Geelong, May 2024).



THE CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

PAKINGTON ST & GORDON AVE

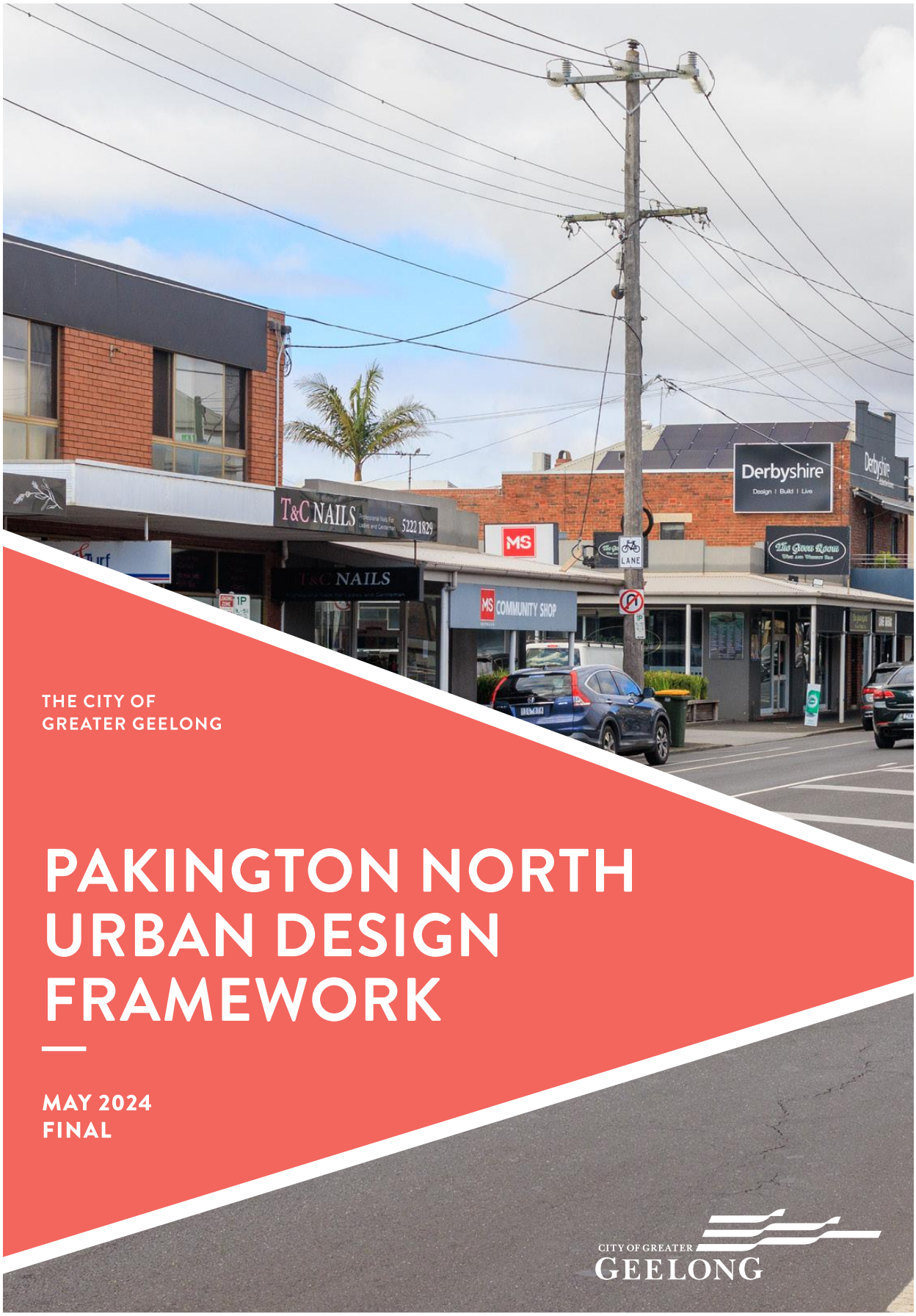
URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK

ADOPTED DECEMBER 2021
UPDATED MAY 2024

As of 14 December 2021, a Final Urban Design Framework has been adopted for two precincts outlined in this document: Gordon Avenue and Heritage Core Precinct.

Further engagement was undertaken for the northern end of Pakington Street. The consultation process was completed in April 2024 and a separate Urban Design Framework has been since adopted by Council.

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG



THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

PAKINGTON NORTH URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK

MAY 2024
FINAL

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

2.4. Newcombe Street, Drysdale (Waterway Court to No. 60 Newcombe Street), - Declaration of Charge - Special Rate and Charge Scheme - SRC 377

Source: **City Infrastructure**
Executive Director: **James Stirton**

Purpose

1. This report seeks a resolution by Council to declare a Special Charge Scheme (SRC) to co-fund the sealing of Newcombe Street Drysdale between Waterway Court and number 60 Newcombe Street.

Background

2. The proposed road construction and sealing works have been developed in response to complaints and a petition received from residents requesting to seal the road. Sealing this section of road will improve amenity, road safety and limits the impacts from dust and mud to the adjacent properties.

3. Council resolved its intention to declare a Special Charge Scheme at its meeting of 24 February 2026. A public notice and letters to all benefitting property owners was sent containing all relevant scheme information.

Key Matters

4. The total scheme cost is estimated at $203,429.00. Property owners will be required to contribute $152,571.75 (75%) and a contribution from the City of $50,857.25 (25%) in recognition of the community benefit. The estimated cost apportionment is shown in **Attachment 3 – Schedule C.**

5. For this scheme, the total benefit is based on the expected use of the road to access each property identified as receiving a special benefit. There are 11 properties abutting the proposed road upgrade, owned by 8 property owners. 4 of the 11 properties are owned by a social housing agency.

6. One formal submission was received in relation to the proposed charge. The submitters objection was acknowledged and responded to. They did not wish to speak to Council of their submission at a Submission Review Panel hearing, however, respectfully asked for their objection to be considered. Please see **Attachment 6 – Submission.** Please note that for confidentiality reasons, all identification has been removed.

7. Should Council declare the scheme, there is an opportunity for submissions to be sent to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) for further consideration and determination.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Resolves to declare the Special Charge Scheme as follows:**

    1.1. **The special charge is declared for a period of five years commencing on the date on which its levied.**

    1.2. **The special charge be declared for the purpose of defraying expenses incurred by the City in relation to road construction and sealing at Newcombe Street, Drysdale between Waterway Court and 60 Newcombe Street.**

        1.2.1. **Council considers the works will be a special benefit to those persons required to pay the special charge (and who are described in succeeding parts of this Resolution); and**

        1.2.2. **The scheme arises out of Council's function of planning for and providing infrastructure for property owners.**

    1.3. **The total cost of the scheme be recorded as $203,429.00, refer Attachment 1 – Schedule A.**

    1.4. **It be recorded that, for the purposes of Section 163 (2A) of the Act, (refer to Attachment 2, Schedule B) the special charge proceeds will not exceed the amount calculated in accordance with the prescribed formula (R x C = S), where:**

        1.4.1. **`Benefit Ratio' (R) is calculated at 1 represents the special benefits to all persons liable to pay the special charge.**

        1.4.2. **`Total Cost' (C) of performing the function described in part 1.2 of this resolution based on estimated cost be recorded as $203,429.00; and**

        1.4.3. **`Maximum levy' (S) be recorded as $152,571.75.**

    1.5. **The following be specified as the area for which the special charge is so declared:**

        1.5.1. **The area within municipal district of Council highlighted in the plan in Attachment 4.**

    1.6. **The following be specified as the land in relation to which the special charge so declared:**

        1.6.1. **Land within the area shown on the plan at Attachment 4.**

    1.7. **The following be specified as the criteria which form the basis of the special charge so declared:**

        1.7.1. **Ownership of any land described in Section 1.6 of this**

Resolution.

1.8. The following be specified as the way the special charge so declared will be assessed and levied:

1.8.1. The property receives an access benefit.

1.8.2. The maximum levy includes an access benefit; and

1.8.3. The special charge will be levied by sending a notice to the person who is liable to pay, pursuant to section 163(4) of the Act.

1.9. Having regard to the preceding parts of this Resolution but subject to Section 166 (1) of the Act, it will be recorded that:

1.9.1. The owner of the land described in column 1 and column 2 is liable for the estimated amount set out in column 3 of Attachment 3 – Schedule C.

1.9.2. The owner may, subject to any further resolution of Council pay the special charge in the following manner:

1.9.2.1. The charge will become due and payable within one month of the issue of the notice requesting payment pursuant to Section 167 (3) of the Act.

1.9.2.2. Interest will not be charged for six months after the issue of the notice provided the person liable makes timely payment in accordance with any repayment arrangements that may be agreed on by the City; and

1.9.2.3. In accordance with Section 172 of the Act, the interest rate payable on the special charge which has not been paid by the specific date is set at the City's overdraft rate, reviewed every three months (provided that it shall not exceed the rate fixed by the Governor in Council by Order for the purposes of Section 172 (2A) in which case the rate of interest shall be the maximum rate fixed by the Governor in Council by Order for the purposes of this section).

1.10. Authorise Council's Chief Executive Officer or delegated authority to levy the special charge in accordance with Section 163(4) of the Act.

2. Commits an allocation equal to the total project cost (estimated $203,429.00) to fund construction under this scheme, ensuring delivery of this scheme within the declared timeframe.

Financial Sustainability

8. The total scheme cost is estimated at $203,429.00.

9. A budget allocation equal to the total project cost (estimated $203,429.00) to fund construction under this scheme will be necessary to ensure delivery of this scheme within the declared timeframe.

10. Newcombe Street is a category 2 road. Under our Special Rates and Charges Policy and procedures, this road would traditionally receive a special benefit of 75% and a community benefit of 25%.

11. Property owners will fund $152,571.75 (75%) if this project is declared. The City will be required to fund the remaining project costs of $50,857.25 if this scheme is declared.

12. Special charges are a key source of revenue for Council's civil infrastructure construction programs which enable the timely delivery of community requested infrastructure that provides a higher level of service than currently available and deliverable with existing capital budgets.

13. It is recognised that significant hardship can be experienced by members of our community. The City will consider an application for financial hardship relief confidentially and objectively based on the information provided by the person in the application and will advise of its decision in writing after receiving the application and all supporting information.

Community Engagement

14. A petition was received in April 2025 with 5 of the 8 property owners showing support for the section of road (Waterway Court to 60 Newcombe Street) to be upgraded under a Special Charge Scheme.

15. In developing this Special Charge Scheme, City officers considered a range of apportionment methods. This included consideration of the different types and levels of benefit that may be received to properties, such as access, usage and amenity benefits.

16. Acknowledging that reasonable views may differ on what constitutes a fair and equitable apportionment method, when City officers engaged with the identified benefitting property owners from 6 November to 4 December 2025, we provided information on the Special Rate and Charge Scheme process and presented 5 cost apportionment options for feedback.

17. There are 11 properties which abut the proposed road upgrade, owned by 8 property owners (4 of the 11 properties are owned by a social housing agency). Responses were received from 4 of the 8 property owners (4 of 11 properties). Of the 4 that responded, 3 are in support of upgrading this road under an SRC scheme (75% respondents) and 1 is not.

18. The majority, 2 out of 3 properties, preferred the equal share apportionment method outlined in Option E.

19. An equal share approach is based on the assessment that all properties receive an equal special benefit from the improved access provided by the road upgrade to access their properties. As this apportionment method is considered reasonable and equitable, officers have adopted this approach in accordance with the community's preferred position.

20. Subsequent to Council's intention to declare a Special Charge Scheme resolution at its meeting on 24 February 2026:

    20.1. A Public Notice was placed in The Times newspaper on Friday 6 March 2026. A copy of the Public Notice was sent to all benefitting property owners on Tuesday 10 March 2026.

21. One submission was received during the 28-day submission period following the advertisement of the Public Notice which closed Friday 10 April 2026. **Attachment 6 – Submission.**

22. Further correspondence will be sent to all benefitting property owners following Council's decision on the declaration.

23. Should Council resolve to declare the charges, all property owners have a right to appeal to VCAT. This information is included in the Levy Notice which is sent to all property owners. Should VCAT confirm the scheme, Council is cleared to proceed to construction.

24. The Special Charge Scheme process is described in **Attachment 5 – Special Charge Scheme Process.**

Social Equity and Sustainability

25. The provision of properly sealed and drained roadways is aligned to the Council Plan and provides improved amenity, connectivity and safety for motorists and pedestrians.

26. Council is not required to levy a Special Rate and Charge on any or every property that will receive a special benefit. A property with a special benefit may be excluded from the scheme for any of the following reasons:

    26.1. Council is unable to levy a special charge on the property.

    26.2. The owner of the property has already contributed to the costs of the works through a development levy.

    26.3. Council considers that there are advantages for the municipality in excluding the property from the scheme.

    26.4. Council considers that the special benefits for the property are marginal and would not warrant including the property in the scheme; or

    26.5. Any other reason that Council considers appropriate.

Gender Equality – Gender+ Impact Assessment

27. A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) was not undertaken for this report as it does not meet the requirements of the Gender Equality Act 2020. The report does not involve new or reviewed policies, programs or services, and it does not have a direct or significant impact on the public.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

28. The scheme has been prepared in accordance with the Special Rate and Charge provisions of the Local Government Act 1989, consultation requirements of the Local Government Act 2020 and Council's Special Rates and Charges Policy and procedures.

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

29. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:
Core and Critical Infrastructure

30. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, "Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future" community aspiration:
A fast, reliable and connected transport network.
An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community.
People feel safe wherever they are.

Conflict of Interest

31. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment and Risk Appetite Statement

32. Council has a cautious appetite for risks that compromise statutory and governance obligations throughout the full lifecycle of a Special Rate and Charge Scheme, from the Intention to Declare stage through to Declaration and Finalisation, ensuring strict adherence to notice, benefit ratio and transparency requirements under the Local Government Act 1989 and the broader governance principles of the Local Government Act 2020.

33. As a result, it is recommended that Council progresses this scheme given it delivers a clear special benefit to the affected properties while managing funding constraints, reflecting the purpose and operation of Special Rates and Charges as described in the City's Special Rates and Charges framework. Across all three reporting stages, Council accepts a manageable level of stakeholder variation and property owner feedback, provided overall support remains sufficient and hardship considerations are addressed responsibly in accordance with Ministerial hardship guidelines.

Environmental Sustainability

34. The road infrastructure proposal provides sealed access, improved drainage and amenity as dust and mud are mitigated.

35. It is anticipated that no significant vegetation removal will be required to complete this project.

36. The City will encourage the use of recycled materials for the project construction.

Attachments

1. Attachment 1 Schedule A Cost Estimate Newcombe Street Drysdale SRC377 Declaration of Char [**2.4.1** - 1 page]
2. Attachment 2 Schedule B Benefit Cost Ratio Newcombe Street Drysdale SRC377 Declaratio (2) [**2.4.2** - 1 page]

3. Attachment 3 Schedule C Proposed special charge Newcombe Street Drysdale SRC377 Declarati [**2.4.3** - 1 page]
4. Attachment 4 Plan Newcombe Street Drysdale SRC377 Declaration of Charge D26 179828 [**2.4.4** - 1 page]
5. Attachment 5 Special Charge Scheme Process Newcombe Street Drysdale SRC377 Declaratio (4) [**2.4.5** - 1 page]
6. Attachment 6 Submission Newcombe Street Drysdale SRC377 Declaration of charge D26 179775 [**2.4.6** - 3 pages]

Attachment 1

PROPOSED SPECIAL RATE AND CHARGE SCHEME (SRC) - SCHEDULE 'A'

NEWCOMBE STREET, DRYSDALE – SRC 377 – COST ESTIMATE

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

P.O.Box 104 Geelong Vic 3220 Ph.(03) 5272-4345 Fax.(03) 5272-4374

PRELIMINARY
CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATE
$203,429
Please refer to relevant notes provided at end of this document.

This is a Confidential Document
For Authorised Use Only

PROJECT NO:- 2023074

PROJECT DESCRIPTION :-
Proposed Road Construction
Newcombe St, Drysdale
Elgin St to 160m East

ESTIMATE REVISION NO. **PB**

DATE : **Sep-25**

PROJECT MANAGER : **A. McGorman**

PROVIDER REFERENCE : .....

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT	RATE $	AMOUNT $	
1.00	**GENERAL**					
1.01	Initial site establishment and set up, decamping and site cleanup and other fixed costs up to time of completion of works.	1	Item	$10,000.00	$10,000.00	10% use 20% on jobs under 50k
1.02	Traffic management costs.	1	Item	$22,500.00	$22,500.00	Min 1 man.$500 2 man $1000 /day
1.03	Setting out of works.	1	Item	$1,000.00	$1,000.00	
1.04	Service / Cable locations	1	Item	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	Min $700
2.00	**EARTHWORKS & DEMOLITION**					
2.01	Excavation and disposal of all materials to limits of work as indicated on plan, including trimming for new road pavement, excavation of soft spots and removal of concrete.	545	m^3	$80.00	$43,600.00	use $120 on small jobs under $50k
3.00	**PAVEMENT WORKS**					
3.01	300mm compacted depth Class 2 20mm crushed rock, supplied, spread and compacted.	320	m3	$100.00	$32,000.00	
3.02	150mm compacted depth NDCR 40mm crushed rock, supplied, spread and compacted. (Verge & Driveways)	15.3	m^3	$80.00	$1,224.00	
3.03	Varied compacted depth Granitic Sand Shoulder, supplied, spread and compacted.	15	m^3	$66.00	$990.00	
3.04	Size 10 Type N & H Asphalt	11	Tonne	$466	$5,130.40	
	SPRAY SEAL (PRIME AND GRIT & PRIMERSEAL)					
3.05	Supply and spray 7mm Primerseal (0 - 1500m2)	910	m2	$18.00	$16,380.00	
4.00	**DRAINAGE**					
4.01	900mm x 600mm S.E.Pit, less than 1.5m deep with Class B FRP type cover, supplied and placed including excavation, placement of approved fine crushed rock bedding and back-filling with approved material.	1	No.	$2,500.00	$2,500.00	
5.00	**CONCRETE WORKS:**					
	KERB CONSTRUCTION Price to supply all materials and complete all works associated with the excavation and preparation of bedding, supply and placement of concrete Kerb & Channel, including reinstatement of work zone.					
5.01	Concrete edge strip 300mm wide, including fine crushed rock bedding.	146	m	$200.00	$29,200.00	
SUB-TOTAL : A					**$169,524**	
10.00	**PROVISIONAL ITEMS**					
10.01	Alteration to private Water supply.		No		$0.00	
10.02	Alteration to private Gas supply.		No		$0.00	
SUB-TOTAL : B					**$0**	

SUB-TOTAL : C (=A+B)	**$169,524**
20% CONTINGENCY : D	**$33,905**
CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATE : E (=C+D)	**$203,429**

Assumptions & Design Notes :

1
2 Kerb returns and pavement in Elgin Exclueded from this estimate
3

Attachment 2

PROPOSED SPECIAL RATE AND CHARGE SCHEME (SRC) - SCHEDULE 'B'

NEWCOMBE STREET, DRYSDALE SRC 377 – BENEFIT COST RATIO

A Purpose

To seal the unsealed section of Newcombe Street, Drysdale (between no.60 Newcombe St and Waterway Court) with concrete edge strip.

B Coherence

The works will provide a continuous sealed road connection from The Glen intersection through to Elgin Street. A properly sealed road will improve driving conditions when accessing properties and enhance amenity by reducing dust and mud.

C Total Cost C

Total Estimated cost of works	$203,429.00
TOTAL COST	**$203,429.00**

D Identify Special Beneficiaries

There are 11 properties in total included in this scheme. Seven properties directly abut Newcombe Street, while the remaining four are units located at 27–35, which do not have formalised driveways.
Despite this, the units demonstrate vehicular access to their properties from Newcombe Street, and all 11 properties utilise Newcombe Street equally as their means of vehicular access.
As the road upgrade formalises and improves this shared access, all properties receive an equal access benefit that is reasonably apportioned across the scheme.
In addition, all properties will benefit from improved amenity, including aesthetic enhancements and a reduction in mud and dust entering properties as a result of vehicle movements and weather conditions.

E Properties to include

11 properties are considered to receive a special benefit. Therefore, Total Special Benefits (in) is apportioned to 11 properties.

F Estimate of Total Special Benefits out of the scheme -TSB (out)

There are 0 (zero) land parcels which are fully non-rateable that are considered to receive special benefit but are out of the scheme.

Properties Excluded **TSB (out) =** **0**

G Estimate of Total Special Benefits in the scheme - TSB (in)

For this scheme, the total benefit is based on the expected use of the road to access each property identified as receiving a special benefit. The construction of a sealed road with a concrete edge strip along Newcombe Street (between No. 60 and Waterway Court) is assessed as providing a special benefit to each property abutting the section of road to be upgraded.
In developing this Special Charge Scheme, officers considered a range of apportionment methods. This included consideration of the different types and levels of benefit that may be received by properties, such as access, usage and amenity benefits.
Acknowledging that reasonable views may differ on what constitutes a fair and equitable apportionment method, officers presented several appropriate apportionment options to affected property owners for feedback.
The apportionment method supported by the majority of respondents to the community survey was an equal-share approach. This approach is based on the assessment that all properties receive an equal special benefit from the improved access provided by the road upgrade to access their properties. As this apportionment method is considered reasonable and equitable, officers have adopted the equal-share approach for this scheme in accordance with the community's preferred position.
Under Council's Special Rates and Charges procedure, Category 2 through roads are funded on the basis of a 75% contribution from benefiting property owners and a 25% contribution from Council.

Properties Included **TSB (in) =** **11.00**

H Estimate of Total Community Benefit -TCB

It is considered that people in the Drysdale community will not receive a large benefit from the upgrade of this section of Newcombe Street as the road is not used to access other areas, apart from the properties adjacent to it and other local roads.

TCB = **4**

I Calculate "Benefit Ratio" - R

$$\text{Benefits Ratio} = \frac{\text{TSB (in)}}{\text{TSB (in)} + \text{TSB (out)} + \text{TCB}} = \frac{11}{11 + 0 + 3.66666666666667} = \mathbf{0.75}$$

J Maximum Total Levy (S)

Maximum Total Levy S = R X C	**$152,571.75**
Council Contribution to Special Charge Scheme	$50,857.25

Attachment 3

PROPOSED SPECIAL RATE AND CHARGE SCHEME (SRC) - SCHEDULE 'C'

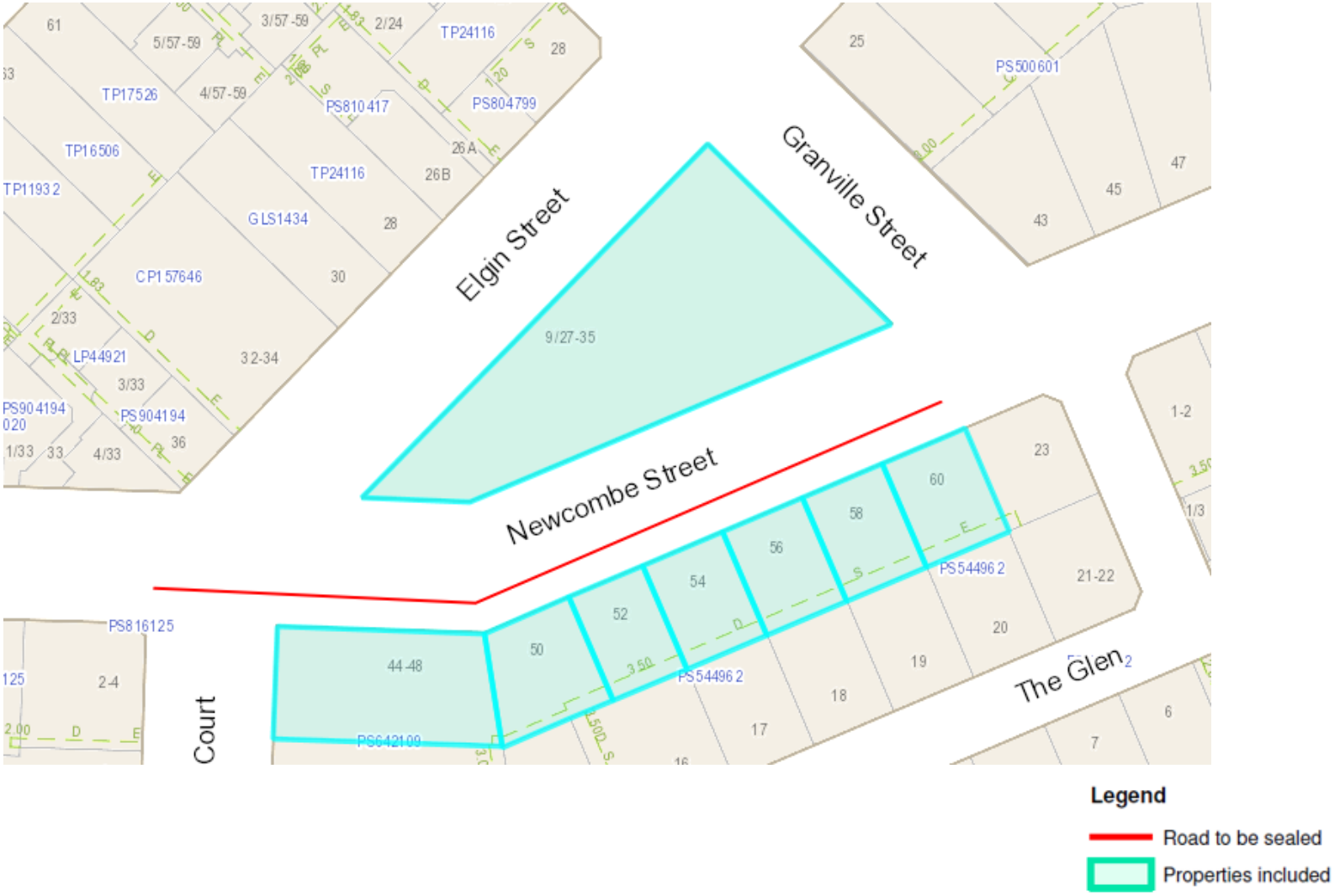
NEWCOMBE STREET, DRYSDALE SRC 377 – PROPOSED SPECIAL CHARGE

Prop Key	Address	Estimated cost
250295	6/27-35 Elgin Street, DRYSDALE VIC 3222	$13,870.16
250296	7/27-35 Elgin Street, DRYSDALE VIC 3222	$13,870.16
250297	8/27-35 Elgin Street, DRYSDALE VIC 3222	$13,870.16
250299	10/27-35 Elgin Street, DRYSDALE VIC 3222	$13,870.16
332363	56 Newcombe Street, DRYSDALE VIC 3222	$13,870.16
332362	54 Newcombe Street, DRYSDALE VIC 3222	$13,870.16
332365	60 Newcombe Street, DRYSDALE VIC 3222	$13,870.16
332361	52 Newcombe Street, DRYSDALE VIC 3222	$13,870.16
332360	50 Newcombe Street, DRYSDALE VIC 3222	$13,870.16
332364	58 Newcombe Street, DRYSDALE VIC 3222	$13,870.16
252731	44-48 Newcombe Street, DRYSDALE VIC 3222	$13,870.16
	TOTAL	**$152,571.75**

Attachment 4

SPECIAL RATE AND CHARGE SCHEME (SRC)

NEWCOMBE STREET, DRYSDALE SRC 377 – PLAN



Attachment 5

PROPOSED SPECIAL RATE AND CHARGE SCHEME (SRC)

NEWCOMBE STREET, DRYSDALE SRC 377 – PROCESS CHART

Stage	***Status***	***Description***	***Date***
Approval to prepare Scheme	✓	Decision to prepare a scheme following consideration of surveys of property owners and feedback from the community. Scheme preparation involved survey, design and calculating apportionment of cost.	December 2025
Intention to Declare Scheme	✓	A report was provided to Council providing information on the scheme including advice of planned advertising of the scheme and declaration of charge. Council resolution was to proceed with formal process.	24 February 2026
Advertisement	✓	The Scheme was advertised in the local newspaper and all benefitting property owners were notified by mail. This advertisement indicated Council's intention and notification to 'declare' a Scheme.	6 March 2026.
Submissions	✓	From the time of advertising property owners had 28 days (as set down by the *Local Government Act 1989*) to lodge submissions, either in support or opposition to the Scheme. One submission was received. They did not request to attend a Submission Review Panel Meeting.	6 March 2026 to 10 April 2026
Submissions Review Panel Hearing	✓	All submitters had the opportunity to be heard by a Submissions Review Panel. A copy of the submission received is provided as part of the Declaration report.	N/A
Declaration Report		Following the submission review period, Council will consider a report on the scheme and will decide to proceed to "declare" the charges in accordance with its advertised intent or abandon the scheme. If declared, a levy notice will be issued, and a formal charge placed on the property. This is the final step in the process for Council to make a decision on the scheme.	
Appeal		Property owners will have the opportunity to lodge an application with the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) within one month of issue of the levy notice. Invoices will be sent within 12 months of the scheme being declared.	
Construction		The City will construct the works.	
Final Cost Report		At the completion of the works the Scheme is "finalised" considering actual costs incurred. Payments are adjusted accordingly.	

Attachment 6

PROPOSED SPECIAL RATE AND CHARGE SCHEME (SRC)

NEWCOMBE STREET, DRYSDALE SRC 377 – Submission

Note: The submitter's personal details have been removed, and some wording has been slightly amended to protect the property owner's identify.

Note: The font in blue is the response made from a City Officer.

We write in response to the proposed Special Charge Scheme for road construction on Newcombe Street, Drysdale, between Waterway Court and No. 60 Newcombe Street, as invited under Sections 163A and 223 of the Local Government Act.

We are the owners and residents of [redacted] Newcombe Street and appreciate the opportunity to make a submission for Council's consideration.

We understand that Special Charge Schemes are intended to allocate costs according to the degree of "special benefit" conferred on each property. While we acknowledge the general value of road sealing in improving infrastructure and amenity, we respectfully submit that, in our case, the level of benefit is limited and does not appear proportionate to the likely financial contribution.

In particular:

• The section of road directly adjoining our property that would be sealed is estimated at approximately [redacted] metres in length, which is significantly less than the frontage of other properties included in the scheme. This suggests a comparatively lower degree of direct benefit.

• The broader benefits of the project—such as improved traffic flow, reduced dust over longer distances, and overall streetscape enhancement—are shared across the full length of the road. However, given our position in the street, these benefits are largely indirect and limited in practical impact.

• We do not anticipate any substantial change to access, safety, or functional use of our property as a result of the recent works beyond a general visual improvement.

From a property value perspective, we also question whether the proposed works would result in any meaningful or measurable uplift in the value of our property. Given the short length of road frontage affected and our position in the street, it is unlikely that the works would materially enhance market perception, usability, or saleability of the property. In this respect, the "special benefit" appears minimal and difficult to distinguish from the general benefit experienced by the wider neighbourhood.

In addition, we respectfully ask Council to take into account hardship considerations. [redacted]
Thus any significant additional charge represents a meaningful financial burden. In circumstances where the measurable benefit to our property is modest, the imposition of a

full or standard contribution would, in our view, create a disproportionate impact relative to the benefit received.

We therefore request that Council give consideration to:

1. A reassessment of the apportionment methodology to ensure it reflects the limited extent of direct and special benefit to our property;
2. A reduction or adjustment of the charge applicable to [redacted] Newcombe Street; and/or
3. Consideration of hardship provisions or alternative arrangements that more equitably align cost with both benefit and capacity to pay.

In our view, all factors considered, the benefit to our property equals to no more than a $4000 contribution to the overall cost. We wish to emphasise that we are not opposed to the improvement of the road as a whole. Rather, we are seeking a fair and proportionate outcome that reflects both the degree of benefit received and our personal circumstances.

Thank you for your consideration.

Officers' response to the submission

Thank you for your submission regarding the proposed road construction in Newcombe Street, Drysdale, between Waterway Court and No. 60 Newcombe street. I appreciate the time you have taken to outline your concerns about the level of benefit to your property, the proposed apportionment methodology, and your personal circumstances. I note in your submission that you have not requested to speak with Council at a Submission Review Panel meeting.

The City recognises that Special Rate and Charge Schemes are intended to recover costs in a manner that reflects the degree of special benefit received by affected properties. Officers have carefully considered your submission alongside the broader assessment undertaken for this scheme.

Basis of Apportionment

In preparing a Special Charge Scheme officers consider various ways in which the scheme could be apportioned including the different type and amount of benefit that could be received by a property, such as from access, usage or amenity.

Acknowledging that reasonable minds can differ on what is a fair apportionment method, officers present to the community for feedback the various options which are considered appropriate to use in the scheme.

The method supported by most property owners responding to the survey was an equal share basis prepared based on all properties receiving equal benefit from improved access. Similar support for equal share was seen in other neighbouring schemes for Newcombe Street, Drysdale (Princess Street to The Glen) SRC 373 and Elgin Street SRC 376. As this apportionment method is considered reasonable, officers have accepted the majority community view in adopting it for this scheme.

[redacted]

[redacted]

All other apportionment methodologies consider that your property receives the full benefit of the delivery of a sealed road, particularly with respect to improved access from the direction of Elgin Street.

Special Benefit of the Works

I appreciate your view that some benefits of the road upgrade, such as improved streetscape and reduced dust are shared more broadly. The City's contribution towards a scheme acknowledges such broader community benefit. However, properties included in the scheme, including your own, will receive a direct and ongoing special benefit from having sealed road access and use. This benefit is considered distinct from the general benefit experienced by the wider community.

Property Value Considerations

The City recognises a growing trend of property owners not being satisfied with the service level that a gravel road offers. Such trends can result in a change in the desirability of a property and by extension the market value.

It is acknowledged that the extent of market value uplift can vary between individual properties and is therefore not always easily quantified. Officers do not seek to quantify the change in value of a property that may occur because of a scheme, rather that a special benefit presents because sealed road access is generally regarded as a positive and enduring attribute that improves property usability, amenity, and long-term appeal, even where immediate value impacts may be difficult to measure.

Hardship Provisions

I understand the circumstances you have outlined in your submission may lead to financial hardship if the scheme progresses as proposed. The SRC process includes protection for property owners with circumstances like those you have outlined.

The provision of hardship support is managed separately to the apportionment of charges in a scheme. An SRC scheme levies a charge on a property based on the benefits received, similar to general rates, this process does not consider an individual's circumstances.

As required by the Local Government Act 1989 the City has formal hardship provisions available to assist property owners who may experience difficulty in meeting the charge. Should the scheme be declared, a standard range of payment options will be presented to property owners and opportunity to discuss individual circumstances and options will be made available. Information relating to hardship applications will also be provided in the Levy Notice. All hardship applications are assessed confidentially by our Finance Department.

To summarise

To summarise, officers consider that the proposed equal-share apportionment provides a fair and consistent reflection of the special benefit received by all properties included in the scheme, including [redacted] Newcombe Street. For this reason, I do not propose to recommend officers make any amendment to the apportionment methodology or the charge applicable to your property. I do, however, strongly encourage you to consider the hardship provisions should you require assistance.

Thank you again for your submission and for your engagement in the consultation process.

2.5. T2600018 – Supply and Delivery of Pool Chemicals

Source: **Corporate Services**
Executive Director: **Troy Edwards**

Purpose

1. To revoke the award of tender T2600018 – Supply and Delivery of Pool Chemicals, awarded by Council at its 27 January 2026 meeting, and to award the tender to the alternative tenderer, as detailed in Clause 3 of the Revised Recommendation Report at **Attachment 1**.

Background

2. The City of Greater Geelong (City) requires the ongoing supply and delivery of chemicals to support water treatment and chemical balancing across pools at its seven leisure centres.

CONFIDENTIALITY

3. Confidential information is contained in **Attachments 1 and 2** as circulated in the confidential section of the report attachments. The information in the Attachment is confidential information for the purposes of 66(2)A) and the definition of "*confidential information*" in section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* because it is council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released (section 3(1)(a)).

Key Matters

4. The City was unable to reach agreement on acceptable contract terms with the preferred tenderer, as the tenderer's final position would have resulted in an unacceptable allocation of risk to the City.

5. The Procurement and Contracts team administered an open tender process on behalf of the Swim, Sport and Leisure department.

6. Details of the Procurement process, including the evaluation methodology and the original preferred tenderer, are outlined in the Confidential Procurement Evaluation Report at **Attachment 2.**

7. As a result, an alternate recommendation is made.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Revokes the award of Contract T2600018 – Supply and Delivery of Pool Chemicals, which was awarded at the 27 January 2026 Council meeting;**

2. **Awards the contract for T2600018 - Supply and Delivery of Pool Chemicals to the alternate tenderer as detailed in Clause 3 of the Revised Recommendation Report (Attachment 1) and otherwise in accordance with the negotiated terms and conditions of the contract;**

3. **Approves the contract term of one year, with the option to extend the contract for up to two additional terms of one year;**

4. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute Contract T2600018 and any other documents required by or to give effective to the terms of the Contract on behalf of Council;**

5. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to release the name of the preferred tenderer following the execution of the Contract by the relevant parties;**

6. **Resolves that the information contained in Attachments 1 and 2 of the report from management is to remain confidential pursuant to section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* because it contains Council business information being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations. This section is applicable because of the ongoing contract negotiations with the preferred tenderer.**

Financial Sustainability

8. The estimated cost of delivering these services over the full contract term, including extension options, will be managed within current and future approved budgets.

Community Engagement

9. There was no community engagement on this tender as it is part of the City's regular operations to fulfil its legislative and management obligations to residents, ratepayers, and visitors to the area.

Collaboration Opportunities

10. No tender collaboration opportunities were identified at this time however opportunities may present themselves in the future to be considered for new contracts.

Social Equity and Sustainability

11. The contract supports equitable access to safe and well-maintained aquatic facilities across the Geelong Region by ensuring the reliable supply of essential pool treatment chemicals.

Gender Equality – Gender+ Impact Assessment

12. A Gender Impact Assessment was not required for this report.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

13. This tender was advertised and managed in accordance with the requirements of sections 108 and 109 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and in accordance with the City's Procurement Policy.

Alignment to Community Plan and Vision

14. This report aligns with Our Community Plan 2021-2025 strategic priority:
    Healthy and Caring Community

15. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, "Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future" community aspiration:
    An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community.

Conflict of Interest

16. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment and Risk Appetite Statement

17. The City has a balanced appetite for improving social cohesion, strengthening equity, and fostering a positive environment through inclusive, engaging and effective initiatives, and an adverse appetite for risks that may compromise health, safety and wellbeing.

18. This recommendation supports positive health and wellbeing outcomes for the community by enabling the safe operation of aquatic facilities through the supply and delivery of pool chemicals, and aligns with the City's risk appetite as the evaluation process confirmed the recommended tenderer's capability to safely and reliably deliver

the goods, including appropriate occupational health and safety systems, chemical safety controls and operational capacity.

Environmental Sustainability

19. Any environmental implications associated with this contract will arise from the execution of the services. It is considered these are the responsibility of the contractor and will be managed through the contract documentation.

Attachments

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Attachment 1 - T2600018 - Revised Recommendation Report - Council [**2.5.1** - 20 pages]
2. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Attachment 2 - T2600018 - Supply Delivery of Pool Chemicals Council Report [**2.5.2** - 8 pages]

2.6. Draft Complaint Handling Policy

Source: **Corporate Services**
Executive Director: **Troy Edwards**

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Draft Complaint Handling Policy (Draft Policy) **(Attachment 1)** to Council for endorsement to proceed to community engagement for a period of four weeks.

Background

2. The *Local Government Act 2020* (Act), Section 107, requires all Victorian Councils to develop and maintain a complaints policy that includes a prescribed definition of a complaint.

3. In addition to requiring a complaints policy, the Act requires councils to establish clear processes for managing complaints, including provisions for internal review that is independent of the original decision-maker, service provider or action taken. The *Act* also provides councils with discretion to decline complaints that are otherwise subject to an alternative statutory review process.

4. To support the local government sector to effectively receive, respond to and learn from complaints, the Victorian Ombudsman published *Councils and Complaints – Good Practice Guide* in July 2021. The guide included a model complaints policy designed to assist councils in developing policies tailored to their own operational and community context.

5. The guide was subsequently updated in April 2025. The Draft Policy presented to Council has been reviewed and updated in consideration of the revised guidance and contemporary best practice.

6. Council has maintained both a complaints policy and supporting complaint handling processes for a number of years. A comprehensive review of the existing framework was recently undertaken to ensure continued alignment with the requirements of the *Act*, the Victorian Ombudsman's good practice guidance, and the model complaints policy. The Draft Policy is attached for Council's consideration and endorsement for community engagement **(Attachment 1)**.

Key Matters

7. Council's current complaint process provides for an internal review process through the Integrity and Review Team. The Integrity and Review team are an independent unit located within the Legal, Compliance and Integrity department. Their role is to review escalated customer complaints to determine if policy and procedures were followed, in the process providing recommendations for follow up if required. The team is also the dedicated liaison point with the Victoria Ombudsman and supports investigations by the Ombudsman's office.

8. In developing the *Councils and Complaints – Good Practice Guide* and accompanying model complaints policy, the Victorian Ombudsman undertook extensive consultation with a broad range of organisations representing Victorian communities and local

government interests. This included engagement with the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission, Ratepayers Victoria, Municipal Association of Victoria, Disability Justice Australia and other representative bodies to ensure the guidance reflects principles of accessibility, fairness, transparency and administrative good practice.

9. Given the significant sector-wide consultation already undertaken through the Ombudsman's review process, together with the prescriptive legislative requirements contained within the *Act*, the City considers the Draft Policy largely reflects established statutory and best-practice obligations rather than matters of discretionary policy position.

10. Accordingly, the City does not recommend broad community consultation on the substantive content of the Draft Policy. However, it is proposed the Draft Policy be made publicly available for a four-week community engagement period to support transparency and provide the community with an opportunity to provide feedback prior to final adoption.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Endorses the Draft Complaint Handling Policy (Attachment 1) for the purposes of public exhibition and community engagement for a period of four weeks.**

2. **Notes the Draft Complaint Handling Policy (Attachment 1) has been reviewed to ensure alignment with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the guidance issued by the Victorian Ombudsman.**

3. **Notes that following the completion of the community engagement period, a further report be presented to Council summarising any feedback received and seeking adoption of the final Complaint Handling Policy.**

Financial Sustainability

11. The Draft Policy is not expected to have any material financial impact on Council. Any administrative or operational changes required to support implementation of the policy, including updated complaint categorisation and reporting practices, will be managed within existing operational budgets and resources.

Community Engagement

12. The Draft Policy is proposed to be released for public exhibition and community engagement for a period of four weeks.

13. While the Draft Policy is largely based on the model policy developed by the Victorian Ombudsman following extensive sector and community consultation, the engagement period will provide the community with an opportunity to review the Draft Policy and provide feedback prior to final consideration and adoption by Council.

Social Equity and Sustainability

14. The Draft Policy enables customers who may be unable to document their complaint in writing to contact Council to have their complaint lodged by an officer, either on the phone or in-person.

15. Further, Council offers people with a hearing or speech impairment to use the National Relay Service to connect with an officer. Council also offers translation services to people from a non-English speaking background.

Gender Equality – Gender+ Impact Assessment

16. A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) was undertaken for this report. The assessment identified that, while the policy applies broadly to all community members, there are potential gendered and intersectional impacts relating to access, safety, accessibility, and participation in the complaints process. The findings and recommendations of the GIA have been considered in the development of the policy.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

17. Section 107 of the *Act* requires all councils to develop, adopt and maintain a complaints policy and associated complaint handling procedures that incorporate the prescribed definition of a complaint and support accessible internal review processes.

18. Section 107 commenced on 31 July 2021, requiring councils to have compliant policies and procedures in place by 31 December 2021. Council fulfilled its obligation at the time.

19. The Draft Complaint Handling Policy has been reviewed to ensure ongoing alignment with the legislative requirements of the *Act* and contemporary guidance issued by the Victorian Ombudsman.

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

20. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:
Governance and Integrity

Conflict of Interest

21. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment and Risk Appetite Statement

22. The Draft Policy supports mitigation of governance, compliance and customer service risks by strengthening Council's complaint handling framework and ensuring alignment with the requirements of the *Act* and recent guidance issued by the Victorian Ombudsman.

23. The officer recommendation aligns with Council's cautious appetite for Regulatory, Legal and Governance risks, as it supports transparency, accountability and legislative compliance through clear and consistent complaint handling processes.

24. It also aligns with Council's balanced appetite for Community and Operations & Service Delivery risks by improving accessibility, consistency, oversight and continuous improvement in customer complaint management.

25. Failure to review and update the policy may increase the risk of non-alignment with current legislative requirements and complaint handling standards.

Environmental Sustainability

26. The Draft Policy is administrative in nature and is not expected to have any direct environmental sustainability impacts.

Attachments

1. Draft Complaint Handling Policy - March 2026 [**2.6.1** - 12 pages]
2. Community Engagement Memo [**2.6.2** - 3 pages]

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

COMPLAINT HANDLING POLICY

VERSION:	*2*
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APPROVER	**Council**
APPROVAL DATE:	**TBC**
REVIEW DATE:	**December 2028**
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**Customer Service Manager**

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

Revision	Date	Details	Authorised by:
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Introduction

PURPOSE

This Policy ensures that complaints made about the City of Greater Geelong's (**City**) services, decisions, or actions are handled fairly, transparently, and promptly, in compliance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and consistent with the standards outlined in the Victorian Ombudsman's Councils and Complaints – A Good Practice Guide (2nd edition, 2025).

SCOPE

This Policy applies to:

- the quality of an action taken, decision made, or service provided by a member of Council staff or a contractor engaged by the Council; or
- the delay by a member of Council staff or a contractor engaged by the Council in taking an action, making a decision, or providing a service; or
- a policy or decision made by Council or a member of Council staff or a contractor.

This Policy does not apply to:

- an initial request for service;
- complaints about allegations of fraud or corrupt conduct;
- complaints that are claims against the City for personal injury or property damage or other loss or damage and allegations of negligence. A claim can only occur when a third-party has suffered a loss or an injury, allegedly as a result of Council's negligence or wrongdoing. Information regarding requests for consideration of a claim for compensation can be accessed via the Council's website https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/claim/task/item/8d7012e93656941.aspx. If the customer remains dissatisfied with the process or decision from their claim, customers will be referred through the general Complaint Handling Process;
- complaints about individual councillors which are dealt with in accordance with the Councillor Code of Conduct available at www.geelongaustralia.com.au and also Part 6, Division 5 of the *Local Government Act 2020*; or,
- complaints about matters where there is a process of review, appeal or objection prescribed by legislation.

Where a complaint does not fall within the scope of our responsibility, we will endeavour to direct the customer to the appropriate authority or service provider for resolution.

Definitions

The following definitions apply to this Policy:

Term	Definition
City	The City of Greater Geelong organisation, led by the CEO.
Contractors	An independent contractor under a contract for service appointed by the City.
Council	The City of Greater Geelong Council comprised of elected councillors and led by the Mayor.
Council staff	Includes employees and volunteers
Complaint	includes the communication, whether orally or in writing, to the Council by a person of their dissatisfaction with: a) the quality of an action taken, decision made or service provided by a member of Council staff or a contractor engaged by the Council; or, b) the delay by a member of Council staff or a contractor engaged by the Council in taking an action, making a decision, or providing a service; or, c) a policy or decision made by a Council or a member of Council staff or a contractor.
Complainant	A person who has expressed dissatisfaction to Council, either verbally or in writing, regarding a Council action, decision, service, delay, or policy, in accordance with section 107(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
ELT	The Executive Leadership Team of the City, as constituted from time to time.
Personal Information	Has the same meaning given to that term in the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*.
Request for Service	Contact from a community member seeking Council's assistance, action, or provision of a service.

Policy

1. HOW TO MAKE A COMPLAINT

Any member of the public can make a complaint. Complaints can be made via:

Online	Submit a complaint via the online complaint form at www.geelongaustralia.com.au
In person	Visit a customer service centre: Wurriki Nyal Civic Building– 137-149 Mercer Street, Geelong. Corio – Corio Village Shopping Centre, corner of Bacchus Marsh Road and Purnell Road. Boronggook Drysdale Library (inside the Library) – 2-8 Wyndham St, Drysdale. Complaints may also be reported to any of our customer-facing centres, such as Swim Sport and Leisure centres, and City Early Learning and Care centres.
Phone	03 5272 5272
Mail	Address letters to: Customer Service, City of Greater Geelong, PO Box 104, Geelong VIC 3220
Using an interpreter	Contact the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450 or via https://www.tisnational.gov.au
Deaf or hearing impaired assistance	Contact the National Relay Service and ask them to call 03 5272 5272 Speak and Listen users can call 1300 555 727 TTY users can call 133677 SMS relay users can message 0423 677 767 Note: The area code must be included for each call

2. ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO MAKE A COMPLAINT

2.1 The City of Greater Geelong is committed to ensuring its complaints process is accessible to everyone. Complainants can advise if they have specific communication needs or barriers and Council staff can assist by:

2.1.1 using an assistance service, such as an interpreter or TTY (for free).

2.1.2 talking with complainants if they have trouble reading or writing.

2.1.3 communicating with another person acting on a complainant's behalf if you cannot make the complaint yourself.

3. HELPFUL INFORMATION TO INCLUDE IN A COMPLAINT

3.1 To ensure Council can assist complainants, we ask that they please provide as much information as possible, including:

3.1.1 Name and contact details. Complainants can complain anonymously, noting that the City may be limited in its ability to investigate and respond.

3.1.2 Provide relevant details, such as dates, times, location and reference numbers and any documents that support the complaint.

3.1.3 Detail the outcome being sought from making the Complaint, noting that the City will do what is within its authority to ensure the best outcome.

3.1.4 Any accessibility or other communication needs, including if the complainant wishes to be represented by another person.

4. PRIVACY

4.1 Council keeps personal information secure and will use that information to respond to complaints. Council may also analyse the information provided for the purpose of improving services that relate to each complaint.

4.2 Where Council publishes complaint data, personal information is removed.

4.3 When a complainant makes a complaint, they will be asked to provide:

4.3.1 Their name and contact details.

4.3.2 Whether they have any communication or assistance needs that can be reasonably accommodated.

4.3.3 What they are complaining about including any materials that support the complaint.

4.3.4 What outcome they are seeking.

Complaints Handling Process

5. COMPLAINTS WILLBE HANDLED USING A FOUR-LEVEL APPROACH:

5.1 Level 1 – Frontline Responsible Officer resolution

We will attempt to resolve each complaint when an initial contact is made and provide complainants with a response. If we decide Council can't act on your Complaint, we will explain why and inform you about other options available to you.

5.2 Level 2 – Investigation, if required.

We aim to resolve your Complaint within 28 business days but if we need more time, we'll tell you if the investigation will take longer. We will update you about progress, where possible, until the investigation is completed. We will inform you of the outcome of your Complaint and explain our reasons.

5.3 Level 3 – Internal review

If you are dissatisfied with our decision and how we responded to your Complaint, you can request an internal review. The internal review will be conducted by Council's Integrity and Review Team who has not had any prior involvement with your Complaint. The review will be independent of:

5.3.1 the person who took the action;
5.3.2 the person who made the decision; and
5.3.3 the person who provided the service.

We will inform you via a written response of the outcome of the internal review and explain our reasons within 28 business days from receipt of your written request. If that is not possible, we will notify you in writing and provide reasons for the delay.

5.4 Level 4 – Requesting an External Review

There are external bodies that manage different types of Complaints about the City. You can request an external review from the following organisations:

Type of Complaint	Organisation to contact for external review
Actions or decisions of a Council, Council staff or contractors	Victorian Ombudsman www.ombudsman.vic.gov.au
Breach of the Local Government Act	Local Government Inspectorate www.lgi.vic.gov.au
Breach of privacy or complaints about Freedom of Information applications	Office of the Victorian Information Commission www.ovic.vic.gov.au
Corruption or public interest disclosures ('whistleblower') complaints	Independent Broad -based Anti -Corruption Commission www.ibac.vic.gov.au
Discrimination	Victorian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission www.humanrights.vic.gov.au
Council Elections	Victorian Electoral Commission www.vec.vic.gov.au

Unreasonable Conduct by a Complainant

The City expects Council staff and contractors to be respectful and responsive in all communications with members of the public. We expect the same of you when you communicate with our us.

While most complainants have legitimate concerns, a small portion of complainants behave in ways that may result in us changing the way we communicate with them.

Unreasonable behaviour can be grouped into the following categories:

- **Unreasonable persistence**: Continually raising the same issue or submitting repeated complaints after Council has already provided a response.
- **Unreasonable demands**: Demands (express or implied) which have an unreasonable impact our on organisation, staff, contractors, services, time and/or resources.
- **Unreasonable lack of cooperation:** Refusal or inability to engage constructively with Council staff and contractors, processes, or policies within the complaints system.
- **Unreasonable arguments:** Rejecting all reasonable explanations regardless of evidence, persistently focusing on minor issues to derail resolution and using circular or illogical reasoning.
- **Unreasonable behaviour**: Behaviour that a reasonable person, having regard to the circumstances, would see as unnecessary, inappropriate, or creating a risk to health and safety.

We may change the way we communicate with you, limit or restrict access to Council staff and buildings for a specific period if your behaviour or conduct is deemed unreasonable, raises health, safety, resource or equity issues for Council staff and contractors involved in the complaints process.

Implementation of this Policy

MONITORING AND REPORTING

Complaints from people who use or who are affected by our services provide us with valuable feedback about how we are performing.

We will regularly analyse our complaint data to identify trends and potential issues that deserve further attention. We will use this information as an input to how we can improve our services.

We are open and transparent about the complaints we have received, and what we have done to resolve them. This information will be reported internally regularly and contained in Council's Annual Report which is publicly available on our website.

ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE

The Customer Service Manager, as the Responsible Officer, is responsible for providing guidance on the application of this Policy.

RECORDS

The City must retain records associated with this Policy and its implementation in accordance with its Records Information Management Policy

REVIEW

The City should review and, if necessary, amend this Policy within four years of the approval date.

References

This policy has linkages to a range of legislation, Victorian Ombudsman and Council documents including:

- Local Government Act 2020
- Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012
- Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014
- Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2011
- Freedom of Information Act 1982
- Equal Opportunity Act 2010
- Gender Equity Act 2020
- Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006
- Public Interest Disclosure Procedure
- Fraud Control and Reporting Policy
- Councillor Code of Conduct
- Privacy and Health Records Council Policy
- Public Transparency Policy

Victorian Ombudsman Publications:

Councils and complaints – a good practice guide 2nd edition April 2025

Dealing with Challenging Behaviour - a good practice guide May 2018

Other Documents

Records Information Management Policy

Community Memo: Draft Complaint Handling Policy

We want to hear from you

At the City of Greater Geelong, we know that sometimes things don't go as expected. When that happens, we want to hear about it.

We're sharing our updated Complaint Handling Policy for public consultation, feedback helps us improve how we work with you and for you. This forms part of our commitment to consistently providing high-quality service to our customers and the community.

Why Complaints Matter

Making a complaint isn't just about raising an issue — it's about helping us do better and getting you a resolution.

Your feedback helps us to:

- Fix problems when they happen
- Learn what's working and what isn't
- Improve our services for everyone in the community
- Deliver fair, consistent and accountable decisions

We see complaints as an opportunity to listen and learn, improve our services and to strengthen trust with our community by reducing repeat service failures.

Our commitment to you

This policy has been designed to make it easier and clearer for you to raise concerns. It's goal is to ensure you are treated with care and respect.

When you make a complaint, you can expect us to:

- Listen with care and empathy
- Make it easy to raise your concern in a way that works for you
- Be transparent and accountable in how we respond
- Keep you informed about progress and outcomes
- Work towards a fair and practical solution

We are committed to improving how we (something about enabling complaints), respond to complaints and making sure your experience is straightforward and respectful.

What's new or important in this policy

We currently have a Complaint Handling Policy. This update includes a stronger commitment to the principle of fairness, transparency and continuous improvement.

Simple ways to make a complaint

You can contact us in a way that suits you, when it suits you — online, in person, by phone or by mail. We also offer interpreting and accessibility support so everyone in our community can participate.

Step-by-step process

Complaints are managed through a **four-level process**, designed to resolve issues as early as possible:

1. **Frontline resolution** – fixing issues quickly where we can
2. **Investigation** – looking into more complex concerns
3. **Independent internal review** – by a team not involved in the original issue or decision
4. **External review options** –independent bodies such as the Victorian Ombudsman are available to you if needed/you still feel that we have not addressed your concern.

This means you have clear pathways to escalate your concern if you're not satisfied.

Timely responses

We aim to resolve complaints within 28 business days. We will keep you updated if more time is needed.

Independent oversight

If needed, you can take your complaint to external, independent organisations — giving you confidence that there are fair and transparent avenues beyond Council.

Accessibility and support

We want customers to understand how they can make a complaint.

You can:

- Ask for an interpreter or communication support
- Have someone act on your behalf
- Get help from staff if you find forms or written communication challenging.

We're committed to making this easy and accessible for all customers.

Privacy and transparency

We take your privacy seriously. Your personal information is protected and only used to manage and improve our services.

At the same time, we are committed to being open and transparent. We regularly report on complaint trends and what we've done to resolve them, so our community can see how we are improving.

Help us improve

We're asking for your feedback on this draft policy.

We want to know:

- Is it clear and easy to understand?
- Does it feel fair and accessible?
- Is there anything we can improve?

Your input will help shape how we manage complaints in the future and ensure the process works for our whole community.

Have your say

You can review the draft policy and share your feedback through [insert consultation link or method].

Together, we can build a complaints system that reflects our shared expectations — one that is fair, transparent and focused on better outcomes for our customers and community members.

2.7. 2026-27 Community Grants Guidelines

Source: **Corporate Services**
Executive Director: **Troy Edwards**

Purpose

1. To seek Council's approval of the 2026-27 Community Grants guidelines and advise Council of the key dates for the 2026-27 grants.

Background

2. Council offers a range of competitive grants to support projects, events, activities and capital works to benefit the community.

3. All grants operate under the Community Investment and Support Council policy and the City's standard guidelines which include application and assessment processes, eligibility criteria and requirements for successful applicants.

Key Matters

4. Any changes to a grant's objectives, eligibility and assessment criteria are informed by feedback from the community, Councillors, Council officers and budget amendments. A summary of the proposed changes for the 2026-27 Community Grants guidelines is attached to this report (**Attachment 1**).

5. The 2026-27 Community Grants budget of $2,647,000 is included in the City's 2026-27 annual budget to be endorsed by Council at its meeting on 23 June 2026.

6. There are 16 grants offered in 2026-27. Most grants are scheduled to open on Saturday 27 June 2026, after the budget is adopted, except for Positive Ageing Grants, which opened in April 2026 and Children's Week Grants, which opened in May 2026.

7. Funding recommendations will be presented to Council for endorsement in November 2026, December 2026 and January 2027. A complete list of the City's grants and key dates is attached to this report (**Attachment 2**).

8. The guidelines for the 10 Council-endorsed grants, which detail each grant's objectives, priority areas, eligibility and criteria, are attached to this report (Attachments **3 to 12**).

9. A future report will address the Geelong Heritage Grants and any associated guidelines.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Approves the changes to the 2026-27 Community Grants guidelines listed in Attachment 1 to this report and authorise the Chief Executive Officer to make administrative changes to the 2026-27 Community Grants guidelines;**

2. **Notes the 2026-27 Community Grants List and Key Dates in Attachment 2 to this report;**

3. **Approves the 2026-27 Community Grants guidelines in Attachments 3 to 12 to this report;**

4. **Notes the Community Grants will open on Saturday 27 June 2026; and**

5. **Notes that funding recommendations will be presented to Council for endorsement in November 2026, December 2026 and January 2027.**

Financial Sustainability

10. There are no financial implications for the City associated with changing and approving the 2026-27 Community Grants guidelines.

11. The 2026-27 Community Grants budget is included in the City's 2026-27 annual budget to be considered by Council at its meeting on 23 June 2026.

12. If Council does not adopt the annual budget at that meeting, the opening of the grant round will be delayed until such time as Council adopts a budget.

Community Engagement

13. Changes to the grant guidelines have considered feedback from Councillors, applicants, community panel assessors and Council officers.

14. City officers collect feedback during the year from the community by phone, email and through surveys.

15. The SmartyGrants online grants application system provides applicants with the opportunity to provide feedback about the level of difficulty of the application process, how the City can improve and general feedback.

Social Equity and Sustainability

16. The grant guidelines prioritise community impact, access and participation.

Gender Equality – Gender+ Impact Assessment

17. The Community Grants Framework includes four key documents: the Community Investment Support Fund Council Policy, Community Assessment Panel Terms of Reference, grant guidelines, and an operations manual. Together, these documents guide how the Community Grants program is managed. The Community Investment Support Fund Council Policy is currently being reviewed. As part of that review, one Gender Impact Assessment Plus (GIA+) will be completed across the full framework, rather than separately for each of the documents listed above. This will help ensure gender and broader inclusion impacts are considered across the whole grants process. For this reason, a separate GIA+ has not been completed for the 2026-27 Community Grants Guidelines.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

18. The Community Grants guidelines respond to Council's Community Investment and Support Fund Policy.

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

19. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:
    Core and Critical Infrastructure
    Economic Development
    Environment and Circular Economy
    Healthy and Caring Community
    Heritage and Culture

20. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, “Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future” community aspiration:
    A prosperous economy that supports jobs and education opportunities.
    An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community.
    Creative and diverse culture.
    Development and implementation of sustainable solutions.

Conflict of Interest

21. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment and Risk Appetite Statement

22. There are no high or extreme risks associated with implementing the recommendations contained in this report.

23. Council has a balanced appetite for community risk and a cautious appetite for financial risk. The provision of grant funding to the community supports fair access to services or opportunities across diverse community groups, and resources are allocated in a way that meaningfully addresses community need. Grant guidelines uphold strong integrity for the allocation of grant funding and reporting processes; and minimise the risk of funds misuse or unmanaged exposure to fraud or corruption risks.

Environmental Sustainability

24. The Community Grants include funding opportunities for environmental initiatives.

25. Some grants include environmental impacts as an assessment criterion.

Attachments

1. 2026-27 Guidelines Changes [**2.7.1** - 3 pages]
2. 2026-27 Summary and Key Dates [**2.7.2** - 6 pages]
3. 2026-27 Arts Projects Guidelines [**2.7.3** - 16 pages]
4. 2026-27 Clean Economy Guidelines [**2.7.4** - 15 pages]
5. 2026-27 Climate Change Partnership Guidelines [**2.7.5** - 16 pages]
6. 2026-27 Community Equipment Guidelines [**2.7.6** - 15 pages]
7. 2026-27 Community Events Guidelines [**2.7.7** - 15 pages]
8. 2026-27 Community Infrastructure Guidelines [**2.7.8** - 19 pages]
9. 2026-27 Community Strengthening Guidelines [**2.7.9** - 18 pages]
10. 2026-27 Creative Commissions Guidelines [**2.7.10** - 16 pages]
11. 2026-27 Environmental Sustainability Guidelines [**2.7.11** - 16 pages]
12. 2026-27 First Nations Guidelines [**2.7.12** - 15 pages]

2026–27 COMMUNITY GRANTS: SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES

A. PROPOSED CHANGES TO OBJECTIVES

REF	GRANT	OBJECTIVE CHANGE	RATIONALE
1	**Community Events**	The objectives of Community Events Grants are to: • Support new community events. • Support local traders and businesses to generate economic impact and stimulate growth in the Greater Geelong region. • Celebrate Greater Geelong's diverse cultural identity and support inclusive community events. • ~~Encourage visiting friends and relatives to Geelong.~~ **Removed** • Activate the municipality's community hubs, halls, sporting and cultural venues, activity centres, and public open spaces.	'Visiting friends and relatives' is removed as an objective as this is better suited to major events, which are more likely to attract visitors from outside Greater Geelong. Community Events Grants are primarily intended to support events that attract local audiences.

B. PROPOSED CHANGES TO ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

REF	GRANT	CRITERIA CHANGE	RATIONALE
2	**Clean Economy**	Applicants must be based in Greater Geelong. Previous grant rounds allowed applicants from outside the municipality. Projects must be delivered in Greater Geelong. Previous guidelines did not specify this requirement.	The grant is oversubscribed. Priority is given to Geelong-based applicants and local economic development.
3	**Climate change**	Individuals operating as sole traders are now eligible.	This removes a barrier that previously prevented suitable applicants from applying.
4	**Community Equipment**	Applicants must be based in Greater Geelong. Additional criteria to assess risk, safety, and environmental impact. Eligible for funding: • Items for fundraising (e.g. BBQs)	Updated in response to issues identified in the inaugural grant round.

<table>
<tr><th>REF</th><th>GRANT</th><th>CRITERIA CHANGE</th><th>RATIONALE</th></tr>
<tr><td>5</td><td>Community Events</td><td>Will not fund:
Activities delivered as part of another entity’s event.</td><td>Council prioritises funding for standalone events to ensure clear accountability, appropriate oversight, and to avoid conflict with another event’s objectives, planning, and delivery.</td></tr>
<tr><td>6</td><td>Community Infrastructure</td><td>Increase the maximum grant amount from $250,000 to $300,000.</td><td>The maximum grant amount was reduced from $400,000 in FY25 to $250,000 in FY26. Applicant feedback received was this amount was too low and discouraged some organisations from applying.</td></tr>
<tr><td>7</td><td>Community Infrastructure</td><td>Eligible for funding:
• Fixed heating and cooling systems
• Built-in audio visual and sound equipment
Will not fund:
• Landscaping (stand-alone or beautification works)</td><td>The types of projects eligible for Community Infrastructure Grant funding have been updated in response to community feedback and requests for funding.</td></tr>
<tr><td>8</td><td>Community Infrastructure</td><td>Confirm nominated priority funding themes:
• Access for all abilities (10%)
Demonstrate that the project will empower people with disability to be active contributors and participants in the community.
• Fair access for women and girls (10%)
Demonstrate that the project will improve access to, and use of, community infrastructure for women and girls.</td><td>Applications that address these themes will be given higher priority for funding.</td></tr>
<tr><td>9</td><td>Community Strengthening</td><td><table><tr><th>Assessment criteria</th><th>2026-27 weighting</th><th>Previous year weighting</th></tr><tr><td>Community benefit</td><td>50%</td><td>65%</td></tr><tr><td>Well-planned</td><td>50%</td><td>35%</td></tr></table></td><td>This change in weighting places equal importance on both the benefit of the project and how well planned it is.</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><th>REF</th><th>GRANT</th><th>CRITERIA CHANGE</th><th>RATIONALE</th></tr>
<tr><td>10</td><td>Community Strengthening</td><td>Will not fund:
Website development and marketing projects (e.g. printing promotional materials).</td><td>These activities are considered core organisations functions and generally the responsibility of the applicant. Grant funding is prioritised for project that deliver direct and tangible community outcomes.</td></tr>
<tr><td>11</td><td>Creative Commission</td><td><table>
<tr><th>Assessment criteria</th><th>2026-27 weighting</th><th>Previous weighting</th></tr>
<tr><td>Artistic quality and ambition</td><td>30%</td><td>20%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Strategic Impact</td><td>20%</td><td>30%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Experience and artistic merit</td><td>20% no change</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Well-planned</td><td>30% no change</td><td></td></tr>
</table></td><td>This change places greater emphasis on artistic quality and ambition (previously named scope and scale) of the proposed work.</td></tr>
<tr><td>12</td><td>First Nations</td><td>Rename the grant currently titled Community Strengthening First Nations to First Nations Grants</td><td>This change will avoid confusion with the Community Strengthening Grants.</td></tr>
<tr><td>13</td><td>All grants</td><td>Eligible for funding:
Staff wages (where they relate to additional work required to deliver the project. Applicants must explain the role and why this work cannot be delivered within existing resources)</td><td>Previously staff salaries were not eligible for funding because they were considered overhead or core costs. This change responds to community feedback and recognises that some projects require additional staff time to be delivered effectively, and this cannot be met within existing resources.</td></tr>
</table>

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

2026-27 COMMUNITY GRANTS SUMMARY AND KEY DATES

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

2026-27 Community Grants

The following table outlines the grants available in 2026-27, including who is eligible to apply and the funding available.

This summary is provided for general information only. Applicants must refer to the full guidelines on the Geelong Australia website for detailed and up-to-date information. Grants are listed in alphabetical order.

*Council endorsed grants

^Executive endorsed grants

Grant Name	Purpose and Objective	Who Can Apply	Grant Budget	Maximum funding per applicant
Artists & Creatives Professional Development^	Grants to support local artists and creative to develop their creative and business skills as well as their professional practice.	Individual/Sole trader	$15,000 (FY26 $15,000)	$2,000
Arts Projects*	Grants to support artists, creatives and the cultural sector to develop new work to encourage creative expression connected to local people, stories and place.	Business Individual/Sole trader Not for profit community organisation	$100,000 (FY26 $100,000)	$10,000
Children's Week^	Grants to support activities that bring children (aged 0 -12 years) and families together to celebrate, play, and learn.	Not for profit community organisation	$20,000 (FY26 $20,000)	$1,000
Clean Economy*	Grants to support organisations to establish proof of concept for circular technologies and clean economy solutions that benefit the Geelong community	Business Higher education institution Individual/Sole trader Not for profit community organisation	$50,000 (FY26 $50,000)	$25,000

Grant Name	Purpose and Objective	Who Can Apply	Grant Budget	Maximum funding per applicant
Climate Change Partnerships*	Partnership grants for the Geelong community to lead the way in adapting to a changing climate.	Business Individual/Sole Trader Not for profit community organisation School in partnership with another school or a not-for-profit group	$180,000 (FY26 $180,000)	$50,000
Community Equipment*	Grants to assist with the cost of small equipment purchases that help community groups deliver services and programs.	Not for profit community organisation	$60,000	$2,000
Community Events*	Grants for moderate sized public events that provide economic and community benefits to the Greater Geelong region.	Business Individual/Sole trader Not for profit community organisation Schools and learning institutions	$150,000 (FY26 $160,000)	$10,000
Community Events Christmas^	Grants for moderate sized public events to celebrate the 2026 Christmas festive season.	Business Individual/Sole trader Not for profit community organisation Schools and learning institutions	$50,000 (FY26 $40,000)	$10,000
Community Events Quick Response^	Grants to support moderately sized public events with an immediate need that prevents organisers from applying to the main Community Events Grants funding round.	Business Individual/Sole trader Not for profit community organisation Schools and learning institutions	$20,000 (FY26 $20,000)	$10,000

Grant Name	Purpose and Objective	Who Can Apply	Grant Budget	Maximum funding per applicant
Community Infrastructure*	Grants for the planning and delivery of community led infrastructure projects that increase community access to places, spaces and services, where and when they are most needed, and provide facilities that foster and facilitate positive health and wellbeing outcomes. • Council owned and managed land • Crown land • Private land owned by an eligible applicant	Not for profit community organisation Schools and learning institution	$1,500,000 (FY26 $1,500,000)	$50,000 Planning $300,000 Capital Works
Community Strengthening*	Grants to support projects, activities or events that respond to a community need and promote inclusion and positive health and wellbeing within the community.		$203,000 (FY26 $203,000)	$10,000
Creative Commissions*	Grants to support established, professional artists and creatives to deliver large-scale creative projects with the City of Greater Geelong.	Business Individual/Sole trader Not for profit community organisation	$80,000 (FY26 $80,000)	$20,000
Creative Seed^	Grants to support artists and creatives to initiate, explore or activate new ideas or new approaches to their work.	Business Individual/Sole trader Not for profit community organisation	$25,000 (FY26 $25,000)	$2,500
Environmental Sustainability*	Grants to support minor capital works and the initiation, development and delivery of projects that enhance our natural environment and drive environmental sustainability actions across the Geelong region.	Not for profit community organisation Schools and learning institutions	$70,000 (FY26 $70,000)	$10,000

Grant Name	Purpose and Objective	Who Can Apply	Grant Budget	Maximum funding per applicant
First Nations*	Grants to support self-determined projects and initiatives aimed at increasing health and social equity for Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, First Nations People, organisations and groups living in Greater Geelong.	Business Not for profit community organisation Schools and learning institutions	$100,000 (FY26 $100,000)	$25,000
Positive Ageing^	Grants to support community hosted activities and experiences such as workshops, dances, concerts and sporting activities that celebrate positive ageing in our community.	Not for profit community organisation Schools and learning institutions	$24,000 $5,682 from Department Family Fairness and Housing (FY26 $24,000 DFFH $5,682)	$1,000

*Council endorsed grants

^Executive endorsed grants

2026-27 Key Dates

Applications will be accepted until 5.00 pm on the application closing date. Late submissions will not be accepted.

*Council endorsed grants

^Executive endorsed grants

Grant	Applications Open ⇩	Applications Close	Notifications to applicants
Children's Week^	9 May 2026	22 June 2026	10 August 2026
Positive Ageing^	11 April 2026	25 May 2026	13 July 2026
Arts Projects* Clean Economy* Climate Change Partnerships* Community Events* Community Strengthening* Creative Commissions* Environmental Sustainability* First Nations*	27 June 2026	10 August 2026	December 2026
Community Equipment*	27 June 2026	27 July 2026	25 November 2026
Community Events Christmas^	27 June 2026	27 July 2026	Within 6-8 weeks of application closing date
Creative Seed	27 June 2026	3 August 2026	Within 6-8 weeks of application closing date
Community Infrastructure*	27 June 2026	31 August 2026	January 2027
Artists & Creatives Professional Development^	January 2027	February 2027	Within 6-8 weeks of application closing date
Community Events Quick Response^	January 2027	31 May 2027 or when funds are spent, whichever is earlier.	Within 6-8 weeks of application closing date

*Council endorsed grants

^Executive endorsed grants

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

ARTS PROJECTS GRANTS

2026-27 GUIDELINES

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We Acknowledge the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the Land, Waterways and Skies.

We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. We Acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are part of our Greater Geelong community today.

Welcome

ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

This booklet contains information about the City of Greater Geelong's Arts Project Grants. Please read it carefully before you apply.

Important words are explained at the back of this booklet (page 16).

THE CITY OF GREATER GEELONG COMMUNITY GRANTS

A grant is money given to a person, organisation or group for a specific purpose.

Our Community Grants help turn your idea into reality. Whether you're looking to purchase new equipment, offer group activities, run a community event, create an inspired arts project or upgrade facilities, funding is available.

APPLICATION SUPPORT

Contact the City

You must contact the City's Community Grants Unit before applying to discuss your eligibility, proposed activity and other grant matters.

E: communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

P: 5272 5560

If you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment

National Relay Service (NRS)

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, and you wish to contact us, you can do so through the National Relay Service (NRS) and ask for 03 5272 5272. Our call centre team will then connect you with the grants team.

Our business hours are Monday to Friday, 8.30am–5.00pm.

- TTY users – call 13 36 77
- Speak & Listen (voice relay) users – call 1300 555 727
- SMS relay users – message 0423 677 767

Note: Area code must be included for each call.

Further information and NRS call numbers can be found on the Access Hub website: www.accesshub.gov.au/about-the-nrs/nrs-call-numbers-and-links

If you need an interpreter



If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450 and ask them to call the City of Greater Geelong on 03 5272 5272. Our business hours are Monday to Friday, 8.30am–5.00pm.

About this grant

OBJECTIVES

Arts Projects Grants support artists, creatives and the cultural sector to develop new work to encourage creative expression connected to local people, stories and place.

These grants are designed to grow arts and culture in greater Geelong, engage the whole community and deliver on the goals described in the City's Arts and Cultural Strategy 2021–2031:

- to build awareness and knowledge of First Nations People's culture, and engage First Nations artists in leading project development or consultation
- to encourage cross artform and industry collaboration and partnerships for a vibrant arts and cultural ecosystem, which supports local and municipal-wide creative endeavour
- to increase opportunities for community participation and diverse engagement through inclusive and accessible arts and cultural programs
- to celebrate our local stories across the municipality through high-quality contemporary practice
- to support arts and cultural activities in diverse and non-traditional indoor and outdoor locations across the municipality
- to enhance Geelong's brand as a creative city.

Activities may include visual arts and craft, music, performing arts, literature and writing, design, screen and media, digital media and creative technology, cultural heritage and collections, community arts and cultural development.

KEY DATES

Applications open:	27 June 2026
Applications close:	10 August 2026 by 5.00 pm (we do not accept late applications)
Notification to applicants:	9 December 2026
Project start date:	You cannot commence your project until after the notification date (above) and you have a signed funding agreement with us.
Project end date:	You must complete your activity within 12 months of the notification date.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

This grant is available to applicants whose primary practice is within the arts, creative and cultural sector.

Being eligible means, you can receive a grant, but it does not guarantee funding. To apply for this grant, you must be one of the following:

- incorporated not-for-profit organisation
- unincorporated not-for-profit group with an auspice
- registered charitable organisation
- business
- individual operating as a sole trader (with an active ABN).

WHO CANNOT APPLY

You are not eligible to apply if you are any of the following:

- school or learning institution
- individual (without an ABN)

- previous applicant with an outstanding acquittal for grant funding from the City
- applicant who has not complied with the terms of a previous funding agreement
- entity currently involved in legal proceedings with the City, bankruptcy or similar situations
- entity with outstanding debt to the City.

HOW MUCH FUNDING CAN YOU APPLY FOR?

You may request up to $10,000

The total amount of funding available for Arts Project Grants is $100,000.

You can apply to multiple City of Greater Geelong Community Grants programs, but each application must be for a different project, event, or activity.

However, of the three *Creative City Grants* (Creative Seed, Arts Projects, or Creative Commissions), you may submit only one application per financial year. This means you must choose the grant that best matches your creative proposal, as you cannot apply for more than one of these three in the same year.

HOW WE ALLOCATE FUNDING

Our grants are competitive, so even if you meet the criteria, you may not get funding.

You cannot rely on the City's Community Grants for ongoing funding.

In some cases, we may offer partial funding for a smaller or modified project.

We typically fund projects only once. However, we may consider funding a project again if there is a strong reason that aligns with the objectives of this grant.

What you can apply for

To help you work out whether your project is the sort of thing we are looking to fund, we have developed the following list of example projects and costs we might cover.

Yes - we will fund	No - we will not fund
Types of projects	**Types of projects**
New projects within Greater Geelong	Projects outside Greater Geelong
If your activity has been delivered before, you may apply for funding to expand, enhance, or take a new approach.	Capital Works (e.g. building property, structural improvements, alterations and extensions)
Here are some examples of projects we may fund. Other project ideas may also be eligible. If you're unsure, please contact us for advice.	Classroom based projects
Arts and creative projects that invite diverse community participation	Core business
Cross artform/industry artistic projects that include collaboration and partnerships	Creative art therapy, therapeutic workshops or health and wellbeing projects (these may be suited to Strengthening Communities Grants).
Experimental, contemporary and innovative work delivered in unique spaces	Existing work
Projects that use new and emerging technologies (such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR)	Fundraising events for charities or your own group
Telling and sharing of stories embedded in local places to strengthen the community's connection to place, their own history, stories and culture	Political or gambling activities
Temporary immersive installations and/or experiences that engage the community and create opportunities for public participation	Projects better suited to the City's other grants
Expenses	Projects started before funding is approved
These are examples of costs we may fund, but other costs may also be eligible. If you're unsure, please contact us for advice.	Public art such as murals and sculptures
Artists/creatives fees – artists and creatives should be appropriately paid	Presenting a touring artwork/project
Auspice fees	**Expenses**
Contractors engaged to deliver a project	Cash vouchers
Documentation, digital archiving, and evaluation	Catering
Equipment purchases or hire	General day-to-day operating costs of running your organisation or business (e.g. insurance, utilities, rent, administration)
Inclusion and access costs	Own venue hire
Marketing and promotion	Payments to volunteers
Materials	Prizes, gifts and awards (e.g. gift vouchers, medals, money, trophies)
Production costs	Taxes, levies, fines or penalties

Yes - we will fund	No - we will not fund
Professional photography Project specific insurance only Project-specific software licences for the duration of the project Staff wages (where they relate to additional work required to deliver the project. Applicants must explain the role and why this work cannot be delivered within existing resources) Venue hire, (including City of Greater Geelong venues)	

What you need for your application

You will need to provide certain documents and information with your application. This helps us confirm you can legally receive funding and practically deliver your proposed project.

CHECKLIST

Before you start your application, use this checklist as a guide – some items may not apply to your application:

- full and correct applicant name
- address and contact details of applicant
- name and contact details of the person authorised to apply for this grant
- certificate of incorporation
- auspice agreement letter (if your organisation is not incorporated)
- Australian Business Number (ABN) details registered to the grant applicant name
- a completed Statement by Supplier form (if you don't have an ABN)
- bank account details (account name, BSB and account number) which must match the applicant's name and ABN details
- redacted bank statement
- letters of support from project partners and/or stakeholders
- artist CVs for key people involved in your project
- examples of work for the key people involved in the project such as images, videos, web links or other relevant materials.
- copies of required permits or approvals
- evidence of venue availability
- a budget showing all income, expenses and how the grant funds will be used.
- evidence for expenses to be funded by the grant. Evidence we will accept includes:
  - supplier or contractor quotes with the supplier's business name, ABN/ACN and contact details, including NAVA Payment Standards for Artists: https://code.visualarts.net.au.
  - screenshots from online stores with the item description, price and supplier's business name.
- a letter explaining any staff wage costs. The letter must outline the role, the additional work required to deliver the project, and why this work cannot be delivered using existing resources.

How we assess applications

We carefully check all applications to make sure they meet the guideline rules and are a good use of the City's grant funding.

ASSESSMENT

The complete list of checks we do on each grant application include:

Eligibility checks – we check if the applicant and project are eligible (see pages 4 through 7).

Officer panel assessment – if eligible, our officers review the application using the grant assessment criteria and funding priorities on pages 9 and 10.

Community panel review – a group of independent community members review the officer assessments and recommend funding to Council.

Council endorsement –Council reviews and endorses funding recommendations.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

We use assessment criteria to score each application. In the application form, you will be asked questions about these criteria. Your answers help us compare applications fairly and decide which projects we can fund.

Each criterion has a weighting (a percentage). A higher percentage means that criterion has more impact on your total score.

The table below shows the assessment criteria and what we look for.

We will score your application based on the information you provide and how you answer the questions.

ARTS PROJECTS GRANTS ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Criteria 1: Community, Cultural and Sector Impact 35%

Describe how your project will achieve any of the following impacts.
You do not need to address every impact—focus only on those most relevant to your project.

- Awareness and knowledge of First Nations People's culture, and engagement of First Nations artists in leading project development or consultation (if applicable).
- Community participation and audience engagement, including accessibility and inclusion for people of all abilities and diverse backgrounds
- Opportunities for diverse artists, groups, and communities to be involved
- Creation of connections, networks, and partnerships, including cross-artform or cross-industry collaboration
- Contribution to local identity through connection to people, place, and stories
- Public outcomes or presentation, including use of diverse or non-traditional spaces across the municipality
- Support for local artists and creatives, including employment or professional opportunities
- Contribution to Geelong's identity as a creative city

Criteria 2: Artistic Quality and Project Rationale 35%

- Describe your artistic approach including the originality, quality, and creativity of your project
- What is the identified need, gap or opportunity the project responds to?

Criteria 3: Well-planned 30%

- Outline your project plan, including your approach to communications and engagement, as well as how you will evaluate the project.
- Do you have letters or emails of support from project partners and stakeholders?
- Who are the key people involved in your project and what are their roles?
- Upload Artist CVs for the key people involved in the project.
- Upload examples of work for the key people involved in the project such as images, videos, web links or other relevant materials.
- Do you need any permits or approvals for your project?
- Do you have a venue booking or evidence of venue availability?
- What is the total cost of your activity?
- How much grant money do you need?
- Do you have income from other sources (e.g. your own cash contribution, sponsorship)? Is it confirmed?
- What expenses will you have? (e.g. venue hire, materials)
- Have you provided evidence for expenses to be funded by the grant? Evidence we will accept includes:
  – supplier or contractor quotes with the supplier's business name, ABN/ACN and contact details, including NAVA Payment Standards for Artists: https://code.visualarts.net.au.
  – screenshots from online stores with the item description, price and supplier's business name.

  If you do not provide this evidence, you may receive a lower score for this criteria, or the cost may be removed from the grant request.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

If the total funding requested by all applicants exceeds the available funding, we may prioritise:

- applicants who did not receive money from this grant in the previous year.
- applications from organisations that do not receive money from electronic gaming machines or gambling.
- applications that closely align with the City of Greater Geelong's Arts and Cultural Strategy 2021–2031.

How to apply

CONTACT THE GRANTS UNIT

Please contact the City's Grants Unit before applying to discuss your eligibility, proposed activity and other grant matters.

E: communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

P: 5272 5560

APPLY ONLINE

All applications must be submitted online via SmartyGrants. You must log in or create an account before you begin. You can access the application form in two ways:

- Visit the Community Grants section of the City's website and navigate to the specific grant page. Click the **Apply Now** button and log in or create an account to access the form.
- Visit SmartyGrants directly, log in or create an account, and select the grant you wish to apply for.

Paper or email applications will not be accepted.

WITHDRAWING OR CHANGING YOUR APPLICATION

If you have not submitted your application, you can log in to SmartyGrants at any time to make edits.

If you have submitted your application and need to make changes, contact us before the closing date. We can reopen your application to allow edits.

Changes cannot be made after the closing date.

If you need to withdraw your application after submission, please notify the Community Grants Unit in writing.

ABOUT APPLICANT TYPES

To determine eligibility for a grant, please read all applicant types carefully. If you are unsure what sort of applicant you are, please check your details online.

- incorporated associations – go to www.consumer.vic.gov.au
- companies – go to https://connectonline.asic.gov.au
- individuals or sole traders with an ABN – go to https://abr.business.gov.au
- charities – go to www.acnc.gov.au/charity/charities

IF YOUR ORGANISATION IS NOT INCORPORATED

If your organisation or group is not incorporated, you can still apply for a grant by working with an auspice organisation.

An auspice is an organisation that meets our eligibility criteria and agrees to support and manage your grant. They take legal and financial responsibility for the funding.

If your application is successful, your auspice organisation will:

- sign the grant funding agreement
- receive the grant money and pass it on to you
- make sure all grant activities are completed
- submit the final evaluation and financial report on your behalf.

How to apply with an Auspice

If you want to apply with an auspice organisation, you must:

- get their approval before you submit your application
- upload a signed letter confirming your auspice arrangement.

What happens next

Once we have decided who is going to receive a grant, we will let you know of the outcome of your application, even if it was unsuccessful.

NOTIFICATION OF OUTCOME

The City of Greater Geelong will notify all applicants of their outcome by email by the date listed on page 4 of this booklet.

Successful Applications

If your application is successful, this does not guarantee funding. You must complete additional steps before receiving a grant payment.

- You will receive an email with a link to a funding agreement outlining the terms and conditions of the grant (see **Funding Agreements** section below).
- You must sign and return the agreement, upload a tax invoice and your public liability insurance certificate of currency before any payment is made.

You cannot commence your project until after the notification date and you have a signed funding agreement with us.

Unsuccessful Applications

If your application is unsuccessful, we will notify you by email.

You are strongly encouraged to contact us for feedback which may help if you plan to apply again in future rounds.

PAYMENTS

If your application is successful, the City will transfer the approved funding amount to your nominated bank account after the funding agreement is signed.

We will only pay grant money to the applicant (or auspice).

A tax invoice is required before we pay any grant funds. Our team will contact successful grant applicants to arrange this.

If you do not provide either an ABN or a ‘Statement by a Supplier’ form, we may have to withhold tax from the grant payment at the top marginal rate of 45%.

FUNDING AGREEMENTS

Successful grant applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement. The agreement will include:

- the terms and conditions of funding
- the details of the activity
- what you are expected to deliver
- your reporting requirements

General information

The following information applies to all City of Greater Geelong grants.

FIRST NATIONS

For any proposals with a First Nations theme you are strongly encouraged to contact the Community Grants Unit to ensure you have engaged with First Nations Communities and understand any requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act (2006)*.

PERMITS AND APPROVALS

Some projects or events may need a permit or approval. These processes are separate to the grant application process and require additional time and budget in your project plan.

While you do not need to secure permits or approvals before applying, securing them will be a condition of the grant if your application is successful. As such, we may choose not to pay you any money until the relevant permits and approvals are secured.

You must demonstrate that you are aware of the necessary permits and approvals in your application. We will consider this information when assessing your application under the 'well-planned' criteria on page 10.

INSURANCE

You must arrange public liability insurance (PLI) to cover the activity detailed in your application and provide the PLI certificate of currency if your application is successful.

Applicants using an auspice would include a PLI certificate from the auspice organisation.

A policy statement or receipt of payment is not an acceptable substitute for the certificate of currency.

Some Arts organisations can assist with public liability insurance under a membership. Contact us to find out more.

REPORTING

If you receive a grant, you must submit an evaluation of your activity and a financial report within one month of your project finishing.

The evaluation report tells us about your project and the financial report includes all income and expenses for the grant. It demonstrates you have spent the money how you said you would.

We may request meetings with you to check your progress or ask for an audit of your financial records to prove you have spent the grant as you said you would. As such, you must keep accurate financial records and make them available to us if requested.

GRANT VARIATIONS - MAKING CHANGES TO YOUR FUNDED ACTIVITY

Projects are funded for delivery as described in your funding agreement.

If you need to change something about your grant, you must seek our approval in writing. This includes:

- changes to your proposed completion date
- changes to the nature of your activity
- changes to how you want to spend the money.

We reserve the right to withdraw funding if:

- we do not support your request for changes
- your request is not made within a reasonable time
- you make changes without our knowledge.

If a project stops or the grant funds are no longer required, you must repay the funding to the City of Greater Geelong.

WITHDRAWING FUNDING

We reserve the right to withdraw funding if we do not receive a tax invoice within the financial year in which the grant was awarded, or by the due date/s included in the agreement.

We can also withdraw funding if you are in breach of your funding agreement.

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR SUPPORT AND MEDIA

You must acknowledge the City of Greater Geelong on your promotional materials if you receive a grant. We will provide a guide with detailed instructions on how to do this.

When you sign your funding agreement, you will be asked to provide a short-written statement as the grant recipient, telling us how you feel about being a successful applicant, and how this project will benefit the community.

We may use your statement for promotion on social media or in other media outlets.

Definitions

Following are definitions of some of the words we use in this document. If you find other words that you are not familiar with, please contact us for help.

Word	Explanation
ABN	Australian Business Number is a unique number that identifies a business in Australia.
Application	A form you fill out to ask for grant money.
Assess	How we review and consider your application.
Auspice	An organisation that applies for a grant on your behalf if your group is not legally registered.
Budget	A plan that shows how much money you have and how you will spend it.
Community panel	A group of community members who review applications and recommend which projects should get funding.
Eligibility	The rules that decide if you or your project can receive grant funding.
Evaluation and financial report	A report you must complete after your project ends, explaining what you did and how you spent the grant money.
Expenditure	The things you spend money on for your project.
Funding agreement	A document that explains why we are giving you the grant money and the rules you must follow when using it.
Grant	Money given to a person or organisation for a specific purpose.
Group	Two or more people working together.
Income	Money that you have or expect to receive for your project. This can include grant money from the City, fundraising, sponsorship, ticket sales or other grant funding.
Incorporated	A group or organisation that has legally registered to become a formal entity.
Insurance	A contract you have with an insurance company that helps protect from financial loss if something goes wrong.
Log in	Your email and password used to access SmartyGrants.
Not-for-profit	An organisation that does not does not distribute profits to owners or shareholders.
Officer panel	A group of City officers who review applications and recommend which projects should get funding.
Online	Available on the internet.
Organisation	A legally constituted organisation that is registered or created by law. For example, incorporated associations, companies limited by guarantee or registered charities are all defined as organisations.
Quote	A written estimate of how much something will cost.
SmartyGrants	An online system we use to manage grant applications.
Submitted	When you finish your application in SmartyGrants and press the submit button.
The City	The City of Greater Geelong.
Unincorporated Group	A group that is not legally registered as an organisation.
Weighted average scoring	A method of scoring applications where some parts of the decision are more important than others.

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

CLEAN ECONOMY GRANTS

2026-27 GUIDELINES

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We Acknowledge the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the Land, Waterways and Skies.

We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. We Acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are part of our Greater Geelong community today.

Welcome

ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

This booklet contains information about the City of Greater Geelong's Clean Economy Grants. Please read it carefully before you apply.

Important words are explained at the back of this booklet (page 15).

THE CITY OF GREATER GEELONG COMMUNITY GRANTS

A grant is money given to a person, organisation or group for a specific purpose.

Our Community Grants help turn your idea into reality. Whether you're looking to purchase new equipment, offer group activities, run a community event, create an inspired arts project or upgrade facilities, funding is available.

You can apply to multiple City of Greater Geelong Community Grants programs, but each application must be for a different project, event, or activity.

APPLICATION SUPPORT

Contact the City

You must contact the City's Community Grants Unit before applying to discuss your eligibility, proposed activity and other grant matters.

E: communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

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If you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment

National Relay Service (NRS)

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, and you wish to contact us, you can do so through the National Relay Service (NRS) and ask for 03 5272 5272. Our call centre team will then connect you with the grants team.

Our business hours are Monday to Friday, 8.30am–5.00pm.

- TTY users – call 13 36 77
- Speak & Listen (voice relay) users – call 1300 555 727
- SMS relay users – message 0423 677 767

Note: Area code must be included for each call.

Further information and NRS call numbers can be found on the Access Hub website: www.accesshub.gov.au/about-the-nrs/nrs-call-numbers-and-links

If you need an interpreter



If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450 and ask them to call the City of Greater Geelong on 03 5272 5272. Our business hours are Monday to Friday, 8.30am–5.00pm.

About this grant

OBJECTIVES

The Clean Economy Grants support organisations to establish 'proof of concept' for circular technologies and clean economy solutions that benefit the Geelong community.

The grants are designed to assist the community to establish clean economy business solutions to:

- recycle, reduce and/or remove waste streams in business and manufacturing operations. e.g. food and manufacturing waste, e-waste, packaging
- reduce energy use and energy costs
- improve soil ecology production and land management in the agriculture sector. e.g. soil remediation.
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support net zero outcomes
- reduce water consumption, improve water efficiency and/or reuse water
- develop sustainable building materials with low embodied energy, and/or made from renewable waste/recycled resources.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this grant, the following definitions apply:

- **Clean economy:** encompasses initiatives practices and products which address climate change mitigation and adaptation encourage renewables and compliment the transition to a circular economy.
- **Clean technologies**: economically viable products, services and processes that harness renewable materials and energy sources, dramatically reduce the use of natural resources, and decrease or eliminate emissions and wastes.
- **A circular economy**: an economy that continually seeks to reduce the environmental impacts of production and consumption, while enabling economic growth through more productive use of natural resources.

KEY DATES

Applications open:	27 June 2026
Applications close:	10 August 2026 by 5.00 pm (we do not accept late applications)
Notification to applicants:	9 December 2026
Project start date:	You cannot commence your project until after the notification date (above) and you have a signed funding agreement with us.
Project end date:	You must complete your activity within 12 months of signing a funding agreement.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

Being eligible means, you can receive a grant, but it does not guarantee funding.

To apply for this grant, the entity must be:

- based in Greater Geelong
- intend to work with suppliers located in Greater Geelong to deliver the project

and one of the following:

- incorporated not-for-profit organisation
- registered charitable organisation

- higher education institution
- business
- individual operating as a sole trader (with an active ABN).

WHO CANNOT APPLY

You are not eligible to apply if you are any of the following:

- unincorporated group with an auspice
- school
- individual (without an ABN)
- previous applicant with an outstanding acquittal for grant funding from the City
- applicant who has not complied with the terms of a previous funding agreement
- entity currently involved in legal proceedings with the City, bankruptcy or similar situations
- entity with outstanding debt to the City.

HOW MUCH FUNDING CAN YOU APPLY FOR?

You may request up to $25,000.

The total amount of funding available for Clean Economy Grants is $50,000.

You can only submit one application per funding round to this grant.

HOW WE ALLOCATE FUNDING

Our grants are competitive, so even if you meet the criteria, you may not get funding.

You cannot rely on the City's Community Grants for ongoing funding.

In some cases, we may offer partial funding for a smaller or modified project.

We typically fund projects only once. However, we may consider funding a project again if there is a strong reason that aligns with the objectives of this grant.

What you can apply for

To help you work out whether your project is the sort of thing we are looking to fund, we have developed the following list of example projects and costs we might cover.

Yes - we will fund	No - we will not fund
AI-driven system to reduce energy consumption, waste and emissions	**Types of projects**
Commercialisation and development of products from waste streams.	Projects outside Greater Geelong
Material testing of a clean economy business solutions	Capital Works (e.g. building property, structural improvements, alterations and extensions)
Product and services feasibility studies	Core business
Prototype research and validation of a clean economy solutions	Fundraising events for charities or your own group
Repurposing of discarded batteries	Political or gambling activities
Previously funded Clean Economy projects can be found here.	Projects better suited to the City's other grants
Expenses	Projects started before funding is approved
These are examples of costs we may fund, but other costs may also be eligible. If you're unsure, please contact us for advice.	**Expenses**
Intellectual property	Cash vouchers
Feasibility studies for market research and testing	General day-to-day operating costs of running your organisation or business (e.g. insurance, utilities, rent, administration)
Product development, prototyping and material testing	Own venue hire
Re-tooling	Prizes, gifts and awards (e.g. gift vouchers, medals, money, trophies)
Specialists, contractors or consultants engaged to deliver a project	Payments to volunteers
Staff wages (where they relate to additional work required to deliver the project. Applicants must explain the role and why this work cannot be delivered within existing resources)	Taxes, levies, fines or penalties

What you need for your application

You will need to provide certain documents and information with your application. This helps us confirm you can legally receive funding and practically deliver your proposed project.

CHECKLIST

Before you start your application, use this checklist as a guide – some items may not apply to your application:

- full and correct applicant name
- address and contact details of applicant
- name and contact details of the person authorised to apply for this grant
- certificate of incorporation
- auspice agreement letter (if your organisation is not incorporated)
- Australian Business Number (ABN) details registered to the grant applicant name
- a completed Statement by Supplier form (if you don't have an ABN)
- bank account details (account name, BSB and account number) which must match the applicant's name and ABN details
- redacted bank statement
- letters of support from project partners and/or stakeholders
- copies of required permits or approvals
- confirmation of venue booking
- a budget showing all income, expenses and how the grant funds will be used.
- evidence for expenses to be funded by the grant
- a letter explaining any staff wage costs. The letter must outline the role, the additional work required to deliver the project, and why this work cannot be delivered using existing resources.
- examples of similar projects the applicant has delivered over the last three years

How we assess applications

We carefully check all applications to make sure they meet the guideline rules and are a good use of the City's grant funding.

ASSESSMENT

The complete list of checks we do on each grant application include:

Eligibility checks – we check if the applicant and project are eligible (see pages 4 through 6).

Officer panel assessment – if eligible, our officers review the application using the grant assessment criteria and funding priorities on pages 8 and 9.

Community panel review – a group of independent community members review the officer assessments and recommend funding to Council.

Council endorsement –Council reviews and endorses funding recommendations.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

We use assessment criteria to score each application. In the application form, you will be asked questions about these criteria. Your answers help us compare applications fairly and decide which projects we can fund.

Each criterion has a weighting (a percentage). A higher percentage means that criterion has more impact on your total score.

The table below shows the assessment criteria and what we look for.

We will score your application based on the information you provide and how you answer the questions.

CLEAN ECONOMY GRANTS ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Criteria 1: Community Benefit 70%

- What is the specific Geelong-centric problem that the clean economy innovation can solve? Focus only on those most relevant to your project.
- recycle, reduce and/or remove waste streams in business and manufacturing operations. e.g. food and manufacturing waste, e-waste, packaging
- reduce energy use and energy costs
- improve soil ecology production and land management in the agriculture sector. e.g. soil remediation.
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support net zero outcomes
- reduce water consumption, improve water efficiency and/or reuse water
- develop sustainable building materials with low embodied energy, and/or made from renewable waste/recycled resources.
- What is the innovation your project is demonstrating?
- Can the clean economy innovation be produced in Greater Geelong in the medium to long term?
- Will this project foster collaboration among multiple partners and/or Greater Geelong based suppliers? If so, explain how.
- How do you plan to commercialise your clean economy innovation?
- What is the economic contribution of your project including:
  - expected number of jobs created
  - expected number of jobs maintained

– expected number of skills developed

– expected $ increase in sales

Provide calculations for the duration of the project plus conservative projections for the following three years.

Criteria 2: Well-planned 30%

- What is your previous experience and history of similar projects over the last 3 years?
- Describe the demonstrated skills and knowledge of your current team and partners for this project.
- Describe your activities and timeline.
- What quality, environmental and risk management systems do you have in place?
- What is the total cost of your activity?
- How much grant money do you need?
- Do you have income from other sources (e.g. your own cash contribution, sponsorship)? Is it confirmed?
- What expenses will you have? (e.g. consultants, materials, prototype testing)
- Have you provided evidence for expenses to be funded by the grant? Evidence we will accept includes:
  – supplier or contractor quotes with the supplier's business name, ABN/ACN and contact details
  – screenshots from online stores with the item description, price and supplier's business name.

If you do not provide this evidence, you may receive a lower score for this criteria, or the cost may be removed from the grant request.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

If the total funding requested by all applicants exceeds the available funding, we may prioritise:

- applicants who did not receive money from this grant in the previous year.
- applications from organisations that do not receive money from electronic gaming machines or gambling.

How to apply

CONTACT THE GRANTS UNIT

Please contact the City's Grants Unit before applying to discuss your eligibility, proposed activity and other grant matters.

E: communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

P: 5272 5560

APPLY ONLINE

All applications must be submitted online via SmartyGrants. You must log in or create an account before you begin. You can access the application form in two ways:

- Visit the Community Grants section of the City's website and navigate to the specific grant page. Click the **Apply Now** button and log in or create an account to access the form.
- Visit SmartyGrants directly, log in or create an account, and select the grant you wish to apply for.

Paper or email applications will not be accepted.

WITHDRAWING OR CHANGING YOUR APPLICATION

If you have not submitted your application, you can log in to SmartyGrants at any time to make edits.

If you have submitted your application and need to make changes, contact us before the closing date. We can reopen your application to allow edits.

Changes cannot be made after the closing date.

If you need to withdraw your application after submission, please notify the Community Grants Unit in writing.

ABOUT APPLICANT TYPES

To determine eligibility for a grant, please read all applicant types carefully. If you are unsure what sort of applicant you are, please check your details online.

- incorporated associations – go to www.consumer.vic.gov.au
- companies – go to https://connectonline.asic.gov.au
- individuals or sole traders with an ABN – go to https://abr.business.gov.au
- charities – go to www.acnc.gov.au/charity/charities

IF YOUR ORGANISATION IS NOT INCORPORATED

If your organisation or group is not incorporated, you can still apply for a grant by working with an auspice organisation.

An auspice is an organisation that meets our eligibility criteria and agrees to support and manage your grant. They take legal and financial responsibility for the funding.

If your application is successful, your auspice organisation will:

- sign the grant funding agreement
- receive the grant money and pass it on to you
- make sure all grant activities are completed
- submit the final evaluation and financial report on your behalf.

How to apply with an Auspice

If you want to apply with an auspice organisation, you must:

- get their approval before you submit your application
- upload a signed letter confirming your auspice arrangement.

What happens next

Once we have decided who is going to receive a grant, we will let you know of the outcome of your application, even if it was unsuccessful.

NOTIFICATION OF OUTCOME

The City of Greater Geelong will notify all applicants of their outcome by email by the date listed on page 4 of this booklet.

Successful Applications

If your application is successful, this does not guarantee funding. You must complete additional steps before receiving a grant payment.

- You will receive an email with a link to a funding agreement outlining the terms and conditions of the grant (see **Funding Agreements** section below).
- You must sign and return the agreement, upload a tax invoice and your public liability insurance certificate of currency before any payment is made.

You cannot commence your project until after the notification date (above) and you have a signed funding agreement with us.

Unsuccessful Applications

If your application is unsuccessful, we will notify you by email.

You are strongly encouraged to contact us for feedback which may help if you plan to apply again in future rounds.

PAYMENTS

If your application is successful, the City will transfer the approved funding amount to your nominated bank account after the funding agreement is signed.

We will only pay grant money to the applicant (or auspice).

A tax invoice is required before we pay any grant funds. Our team will contact successful grant applicants to arrange this.

If you do not provide either an ABN or a ‘Statement by a Supplier’ form, we may have to withhold tax from the grant payment at the top marginal rate of 45%.

FUNDING AGREEMENTS

Successful grant applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement. The agreement will include:

- the terms and conditions of funding
- the details of the activity
- what you are expected to deliver
- your reporting requirements
- the schedule of payments.

General information

The following information applies to all City of Greater Geelong grants.

FIRST NATIONS

For any proposals with a First Nations theme you are strongly encouraged to contact the Community Grants Unit to ensure you have engaged with First Nations Communities and understand any requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act (2006)*.

PERMITS AND APPROVALS

Some projects or events may need a permit or approval. These processes are separate to the grant application process and require additional time and budget in your project plan.

While you do not need to secure permits or approvals before applying, securing them will be a condition of the grant if your application is successful. As such, we may choose not to pay you any money until the relevant permits and approvals are secured.

You must demonstrate that you are aware of the necessary permits and approvals in your application. We will consider this information when assessing your application under the 'well-planned' criteria on page 9.

INSURANCE

You must arrange public liability insurance (PLI) to cover the activity detailed in your application and provide the PLI certificate of currency if your application is successful.

Applicants using an auspice would include a PLI certificate from the auspice organisation.

A policy statement or receipt of payment is not an acceptable substitute for the certificate of currency.

REPORTING

If you receive a grant, you must submit an evaluation of your activity and a financial report within one month of your project finishing.

The evaluation report tells us about your project and the financial report includes all income and expenses for the grant. It demonstrates you have spent the money how you said you would.

We may request meetings with you to check your progress or ask for an audit of your financial records to prove you have spent the grant as you said you would. As such, you must keep accurate financial records and make them available to us if requested.

GRANT VARIATIONS - MAKING CHANGES TO YOUR FUNDED ACTIVITY

Projects are funded for delivery as described in your funding agreement.

If you need to change something about your grant, you must seek our approval in writing. This includes:

- changes to your proposed completion date
- changes to the nature of your activity
- changes to how you want to spend the money.

We reserve the right to withdraw funding if:

- we do not support your request for changes
- your request is not made within a reasonable time
- you make changes without our knowledge.

If a project stops or the grant funds are no longer required, you must repay the funding to the City of Greater Geelong.

WITHDRAWING FUNDING

We reserve the right to withdraw funding if we do not receive a tax invoice within the financial year in which the grant was awarded, or by the due date/s included in the agreement.

We can also withdraw funding if you are in breach of your funding agreement.

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR SUPPORT AND MEDIA

You must acknowledge the City of Greater Geelong on your promotional materials if you receive a grant. We will provide a guide with detailed instructions on how to do this.

When you sign your funding agreement, you will be asked to provide a short-written statement as the grant recipient, telling us how you feel about being a successful applicant, and how this project will benefit the community.

We may use your statement for promotion on social media or in other media outlets.

Definitions

Following are definitions of some of the words we use in this document. If you find other words that you are not familiar with, please contact us for help.

Word	Explanation
ABN	Australian Business Number is a unique number that identifies a business in Australia.
Application	A form you fill out to ask for grant money.
Assess	How we review and consider your application.
Auspice	An organisation that applies for a grant on your behalf if your group is not legally registered.
Budget	A plan that shows how much money you have and how you will spend it.
Community panel	A group of community members who review applications and recommend which projects should get funding.
Eligibility	The rules that decide if you or your project can receive grant funding.
Evaluation and financial report	A report you must complete after your project ends, explaining what you did and how you spent the grant money.
Expenditure	The things you spend money on for your project.
Funding agreement	A document that explains why we are giving you the grant money and the rules you must follow when using it.
Grant	Money given to a person or organisation for a specific purpose.
Group	Two or more people who meet regularly and run projects or activities that other people participate in (e.g., youth group, seniors' group, cultural group)
Income	Money that you have or expect to receive for your project. This can include grant money from the City, fundraising, sponsorship, ticket sales or other grant funding.
Incorporated	A group or organisation that has legally registered to become a formal entity.
Insurance	A contract you have with an insurance company that helps protect from financial loss if something goes wrong.
Log in	Your email and password used to access SmartyGrants.
Not-for-profit	An organisation that does not does not distribute profits to owners or shareholders.
Officer panel	A group of City officers who review applications and recommend which projects should get funding.
Online	Available on the internet.
Organisation	A legally constituted organisation that is registered or created by law. For example, incorporated associations, companies limited by guarantee or registered charities are all defined as organisations.
Quote	A written estimate of how much something will cost.
SmartyGrants	An online system we use to manage grant applications.
Submitted	When you finish your application in SmartyGrants and press the submit button.
The City	The City of Greater Geelong.
Unincorporated Group	A group that is not legally registered as an organisation.
Weighted average scoring	A method of scoring applications where some parts of the decision are more important than others.

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

CLIMATE CHANGE PARTNERSHIPS GRANTS

2026-27 GUIDELINES

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We Acknowledge the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the Land, Waterways and Skies.

We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. We Acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are part of our Greater Geelong community today.

Welcome

ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

This booklet contains information about the City of Greater Geelong's Climate Change Partnerships Grants. Please read it carefully before you apply.

Important words are explained at the back of this booklet (page 16).

THE CITY OF GREATER GEELONG COMMUNITY GRANTS

A grant is money given to a person, organisation or group for a specific purpose.

Our Community Grants help turn your idea into reality. Whether you're looking to purchase new equipment, offer group activities, run a community event, create an inspired arts project or upgrade facilities, funding is available.

You can apply to multiple City of Greater Geelong Community Grants programs, but each application must be for a different project, event, or activity

APPLICATION SUPPORT

Contact the City

You must contact the City's Community Grants Unit before applying to discuss your eligibility, proposed activity and other grant matters.

E: communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

P: 5272 5560

If you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment

National Relay Service (NRS)

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, and you wish to contact us, you can do so through the National Relay Service (NRS) and ask for 03 5272 5272. Our call centre team will then connect you with the grants team.

Our business hours are Monday to Friday, 8.30am–5.00pm.

- TTY users – call 13 36 77
- Speak & Listen (voice relay) users – call 1300 555 727
- SMS relay users – message 0423 677 767

Note: Area code must be included for each call.

Further information and NRS call numbers can be found on the Access Hub website: www.accesshub.gov.au/about-the-nrs/nrs-call-numbers-and-links

If you need an interpreter



If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450 and ask them to call the City of Greater Geelong on 03 5272 5272. Our business hours are Monday to Friday, 8.30am–5.00pm.

About this grant

OBJECTIVES

The Climate Change Partnership Grants support the Geelong community to lead the way in adapting to a changing climate.

This grant is a key action from our *Climate Change Response Plan 2021–30*, designed to address a critical and urgent challenge. Our shared vision is to become a zero emissions city that is thriving and ready to adapt to a changing environment.

The grants are delivered through a co-design approach with the City, partnering with community groups and businesses to implement meaningful, local action. We welcome bold new ideas and proven project models alike—whether you're piloting something innovative or scaling up an existing initiative.

The objectives of the grant are to:

- Increase greening Greater Geelong, including tree planting and habitat restoration.
- Build community awareness about how a changing climate affects us.
- Boost energy efficiency and local renewable energy generation.
- Support the transition to a net zero emissions municipality by 2035.
- Encourage a shift to sustainable transport and cleaner fuels.
- Help store more carbon naturally through soils and vegetation.
- Strengthen local networks and collaboration for long-term impact.

Our focus this year is greening Greater Geelong through planting trees, creating biodiverse landscapes, and expanding green spaces. These efforts contribute to stronger, healthier neighbourhoods while building resilience to the impacts of a changing climate.

KEY DATES

Applications open:	27 June 2026
Applications close:	10 August 2026 by 5.00 pm (we do not accept late applications)
Notification to applicants:	9 December 2026
Project start date:	You cannot commence your project until after the notification date (above) and you have a signed funding agreement with us.
Project end date:	You must complete your activity within 12 to 18 months of signing a funding agreement.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

Being eligible means, you can receive a grant, but it does not guarantee funding. To apply for this grant, you must be one of the following:

- incorporated not-for-profit organisation
- unincorporated group with an auspice
- registered charitable organisation
- school or learning institution – only if in partnership with at least one other school or not-for-profit organisation
- individual operating as a sole trader (with an active ABN)
- business

WHO CANNOT APPLY

You are not eligible to apply if you are any of the following:

- individual (without an ABN)
- previous applicant with an outstanding acquittal for grant funding from the City
- applicant who has not complied with the terms of a previous funding agreement
- entity currently involved in legal proceedings with the City, bankruptcy or similar situations
- entity with outstanding debt to the City.

HOW MUCH FUNDING CAN YOU APPLY FOR?

You may request up to $50,000.

The total amount of funding available for Climate Change Partnerships Grants is $180,000.

HOW WE ALLOCATE FUNDING

Our grants are competitive, so even if you meet the criteria, you may not get funding.

You cannot rely on the City's Community Grants for ongoing funding.

In some cases, we may offer partial funding for a smaller or modified project.

We typically fund projects only once. However, we may consider funding a project again if there is a strong reason that aligns with the objectives of this grant.

What you can apply for

To help you work out whether your project is the sort of thing we are looking to fund, we have developed the following list of example projects and costs we might cover.

Yes - we will fund	No - we will not fund
Types of projects	**Types of projects**
Projects within Greater Geelong	Projects outside Greater Geelong
Here are some examples of projects we may fund. Other project ideas may also be eligible. If you're unsure, please contact us for advice.	Capital Works (e.g. building property, structural improvements, alterations and extensions)
Climate safer places and energy efficiency upgrades to support community members most vulnerable to climate change impacts	Core business
Community awareness, education and training, mentoring, masterclasses, communication resources, workshops	Fundraising events for charities or your own group
Emissions reduction activities	Political or gambling activities
Plant and trees planting programs, both in urban and rural areas	Projects better suited to the City's other grants
Programs supporting transition to electric homes and businesses, and increased access to renewables or power purchase agreements and community-owned renewable energy projects	Projects started before funding is approved
Renewable energy bulk-buy programs	**Expenses**
Expenses	Cash vouchers
These are examples of costs we may fund, but other costs may also be eligible. If you're unsure, please contact us for advice.	General day-to-day operating costs of running your organisation or business (e.g. insurance, utilities, rent, administration)
Contractors engaged to deliver a project	Own venue hire
Documentation	Prizes, gifts and awards (e.g. gift vouchers, medals, money, trophies)
Materials and supplies	Payments to volunteers
Project specific insurance only	Taxes, levies, fines or penalties
Staff wages (where they relate to additional work required to deliver the project. Applicants must explain the role and why this work cannot be delivered within existing resources)	
Venue hire, (including City of Greater Geelong venues)	

What you need for your application

You will need to provide certain documents and information with your application. This helps us confirm you can legally receive funding and practically deliver your proposed project.

CHECKLIST

Before you start your application, use this checklist as a guide – some items may not apply to your application:

- full and correct applicant name
- address and contact details of applicant
- name and contact details of the person authorised to apply for this grant
- certificate of incorporation
- auspice agreement letter (if your organisation is not incorporated)
- Australian Business Number (ABN) details registered to the grant applicant name
- a completed Statement by Supplier form (if you don't have an ABN)
- bank account details (account name, BSB and account number) which must match the applicant's name and ABN details
- redacted bank statement
- letters of support from project partners and/or stakeholders
- copies of required permits or approvals
- evidence of venue booking enquiry
- a budget showing all income, expenses and how the grant funds will be used.
- evidence for expenses to be funded by the grant. Evidence we will accept includes:
  - supplier or contractor quotes with the supplier's business name, ABN/ACN and contact details,
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How we assess applications

We carefully check all applications to make sure they meet the guideline rules and are a good use of the City's grant funding.

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The complete list of checks we do on each grant application include:

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We use assessment criteria to score each application. In the application form, you will be asked questions about these criteria. Your answers help us compare applications fairly and decide which projects we can fund.

Each criterion has a weighting (a percentage). A higher percentage means that criterion has more impact on your total score.

The table below shows the assessment criteria and what we look for.

We will score your application based on the information you provide and how you answer the questions.

CLIMATE CHANGE PARTNERSHIPS GRANTS ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Criteria 1: Climate change benefits 40%

- What is the community or environmental need for your activity or proposed works?
- How will the project contribute towards a zero-emissions City and/or respond to a changing climate?
- Explain the changes you expect from your project? (These are your outcomes).
- Which of the City's outcomes do your outcomes align with?

  Refer to Appendix 1 in these guidelines for a list of the City's outcomes. You need to align your outcomes with a minimum of one and maximum of five of the City's outcomes - focus only on those most relevant to your project.
- Which of the City's measures can you report on? Include your targets and data collection methods.

  Refer to the Appendix 1 for a list of the City's measures. Choose only those measures that relate to the City's outcomes you chose.

Criteria 2: Community engagement 20%

- How does your project focus on community awareness, education and capacity building?

Criteria 3: Well-planned 40%

- Describe your activities and timeline.
- What skills, knowledge and experience does the project team have to successfully deliver the project?
- Do you have letters or emails of support from project partners and stakeholders?
- Do you need any permits or approvals for your project?
- Have you made a booking enquiry with your venue?
- What is the total cost of your activity?
- How much grant money do you need?
- Do you have income from other sources (e.g. your own cash contribution, sponsorship)? Is it confirmed?
- What expenses will you have? (e.g. venue hire, materials)
- Have you provided evidence for expenses to be funded by the grant? Evidence we will accept includes:
  – supplier or contractor quotes with the supplier's business name, ABN/ACN and contact details,
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To determine eligibility for a grant, please read all applicant types carefully. If you are unsure what sort of applicant you are, please check your details online.

- incorporated associations – go to www.consumer.vic.gov.au
- companies – go to https://connectonline.asic.gov.au
- individuals or sole traders with an ABN – go to https://abr.business.gov.au
- charities – go to www.acnc.gov.au/charity/charities

IF YOUR ORGANISATION IS NOT INCORPORATED

If your organisation or group is not incorporated, you can still apply for a grant by working with an auspice organisation.

An auspice is an organisation that meets our eligibility criteria and agrees to support and manage your grant. They take legal and financial responsibility for the funding.

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If you want to apply with an auspice organisation, you must:

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Once we have decided who is going to receive a grant, we will let you know of the outcome of your application, even if it was unsuccessful.

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You are strongly encouraged to contact us for feedback which may help if you plan to apply again in future rounds.

PAYMENTS

If your application is successful, the City will transfer the approved funding amount to your nominated bank account after the funding agreement is signed.

We will only pay grant money to the applicant (or auspice).

A tax invoice is required before we pay any grant funds. Our team will contact successful grant applicants to arrange this.

If you do not provide either an ABN or a ‘Statement by a Supplier’ form, we may have to withhold tax from the grant payment at the top marginal rate of 45%.

FUNDING AGREEMENTS

Successful grant applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement. The agreement will include:

- the terms and conditions of funding
- the details of the activity
- what you are expected to deliver
- your reporting requirements
- the schedule of payments.

General information

The following information applies to all City of Greater Geelong grants.

FIRST NATIONS

For any proposals with a First Nations theme you are strongly encouraged to contact the Community Grants Unit to ensure you have engaged with First Nations Communities and understand any requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act (2006)*.

PERMITS AND APPROVALS

Some projects or events may need a permit or approval. These processes are separate to the grant application process and require additional time and budget in your project plan.

While you do not need to secure permits or approvals before applying, securing them will be a condition of the grant if your application is successful. As such, we may choose not to pay you any money until the relevant permits and approvals are secured.

You must demonstrate that you are aware of the necessary permits and approvals in your application. We will consider this information when assessing your application under the 'well-planned' criteria on page 9.

INSURANCE

You must arrange public liability insurance (PLI) to cover the activity detailed in your application and provide the PLI certificate of currency if your application is successful.

Applicants using an auspice would include a PLI certificate from the auspice organisation.

A policy statement or receipt of payment is not an acceptable substitute for the certificate of currency.

REPORTING

If you receive a grant, you must submit an evaluation of your activity and a financial report within one month of your project finishing.

The evaluation report tells us about your project and the financial report includes all income and expenses for the grant. It demonstrates you have spent the money how you said you would.

We may request meetings with you to check your progress or ask for an audit of your financial records to prove you have spent the grant as you said you would. As such, you must keep accurate financial records and make them available to us if requested.

GRANT VARIATIONS - MAKING CHANGES TO YOUR FUNDED ACTIVITY

Projects are funded for delivery as described in your funding agreement.

If you need to change something about your grant, you must seek our approval in writing. This includes:

- changes to your proposed completion date
- changes to the nature of your activity
- changes to how you want to spend the money.

We reserve the right to withdraw funding if:

- we do not support your request for changes
- your request is not made within a reasonable time
- you make changes without our knowledge.

If a project stops or the grant funds are no longer required, you must repay the funding to the City of Greater Geelong.

WITHDRAWING FUNDING

We reserve the right to withdraw funding if we do not receive a tax invoice within the financial year in which the grant was awarded, or by the due date/s included in the agreement.

We can also withdraw funding if you are in breach of your funding agreement.

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR SUPPORT AND MEDIA

You must acknowledge the City of Greater Geelong on your promotional materials if you receive a grant. We will provide a guide with detailed instructions on how to do this.

When you sign your funding agreement, you will be asked to provide a short-written statement as the grant recipient, telling us how you feel about being a successful applicant, and how this project will benefit the community.

We may use your statement for promotion on social media or in other media outlets.

Appendix 1 – Outcomes Framework

2026-27 Climate Change Partnerships Grants Outcomes Framework	
OUTCOMES (Changes you expect to result from your project) – maximum of THREE	**MEASURES (Show how far you have progressed towards your outcome) - choose ONE for each outcome you have selected**
Increase urban greening, including tree planting and habitat restoration	
Increased plants and trees within the City of Greater Geelong	Number of plants planted
OBJECTIVE: Build community awareness about how a changing climate affects us	
Increased community knowledge of climate change impacts	Number of people reporting increased knowledge of climate change impacts
Increased community engagement	Number of participants
Increased community partnerships	Number of new community partnerships
Increased decisions taking climate change into consideration	Number of organisations with a statement built into group charter
OBJECTIVE: Boost energy efficiency and local renewable energy generation	
Improved energy efficiency in existing buildings, facilities and infrastructure	Number of installations
Improved energy efficiency in new buildings, facilities and infrastructure	Number of installations
Increased renewable energy use	Number of installations
OBJECTIVE: Encourage a shift to sustainable transport and cleaner fuels	
Increased sustainable transport infrastructure and services	Number of installations or services
Increased awareness of zero emission vehicles	Number of people reporting increased awareness of zero emission vehicles
Increased vehicles with zero emission power sources	Number of vehicles
OBJECTIVE: Help store more carbon naturally through soils and vegetation	
Reduction in waste production	kgs of waste reduced
Increased carbon storage	Number of plants planted
OBJECTIVE: Strengthen local networks and collaboration for long-term impact	
Increased collaboration between groups/organisations	Number of meetings or consultations

Appendix 2 - Definitions

Following are definitions of some of the words we use in this document. If you find other words that you are not familiar with, please contact us for help.

Word	Explanation
ABN	Australian Business Number is a unique number that identifies a business in Australia.
Application	A form you fill out to ask for grant money.
Assess	How we review and consider your application.
Auspice	An organisation that applies for a grant on your behalf if your group is not legally registered.
Budget	A plan that shows how much money you have and how you will spend it.
Community panel	A group of community members who review applications and recommend which projects should get funding.
Eligibility	The rules that decide if you or your project can receive grant funding.
Evaluation and financial report	A report you must complete after your project ends, explaining what you did and how you spent the grant money.
Expenditure	The things you spend money on for your project.
Funding agreement	A document that explains why we are giving you the grant money and the rules you must follow when using it.
Grant	Money given to a person or organisation for a specific purpose.
Group	Two or more people who meet regularly and run projects or activities that other people participate in (e.g., youth group, seniors' group, cultural group)
Income	Money that you have or expect to receive for your project. This can include grant money from the City, fundraising, sponsorship, ticket sales or other grant funding.
Incorporated	A group or organisation that has legally registered to become a formal entity.
Insurance	A contract you have with an insurance company that helps protect from financial loss if something goes wrong.
Log in	Your email and password used to access SmartyGrants.
Not-for-profit	An organisation that does not does not distribute profits to owners or shareholders.
Officer panel	A group of City officers who review applications and recommend which projects should get funding.
Online	Available on the internet.
Organisation	A legally constituted organisation that is registered or created by law. For example, incorporated associations, companies limited by guarantee or registered charities are all defined as organisations.
Quote	A written estimate of how much something will cost.
SmartyGrants	An online system we use to manage grant applications.
Submitted	When you finish your application in SmartyGrants and press the submit button.
The City	The City of Greater Geelong.
Unincorporated Group	A group that is not legally registered as an organisation.
Weighted average scoring	A method of scoring applications where some parts of the decision are more important than others.

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT GRANTS

2026-27 GUIDELINES

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We Acknowledge the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the Land, Waterways and Skies.

We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. We Acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are part of our Greater Geelong community today.

Welcome

ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

This booklet contains information about the City of Greater Geelong's Community Equipment Grants.

Please read it carefully before you apply.

Important words are explained at the back of this booklet (page 15).

THE CITY OF GREATER GEELONG COMMUNITY GRANTS

A grant is money given to a person, organisation or group for a specific purpose.

Our Community Grants help turn your idea into reality. Whether you're looking to purchase new equipment, offer group activities, run a community event, create an inspired arts project or upgrade facilities, funding is available.

You can apply to multiple City of Greater Geelong Community Grants programs, but each application must be for a different project, event, or activity.

APPLICATION SUPPORT

Contact the City

You must contact the City's Community Grants Unit before applying to discuss your eligibility, proposed activity and other grant matters.

E: communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

P: 5272 5560

If you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment

National Relay Service (NRS)

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, and you wish to contact us, you can do so through the National Relay Service (NRS) and ask for 03 5272 5272. Our call centre team will then connect you with the grants team.

Our business hours are Monday to Friday, 8.30am–5.00pm.

- TTY users – call 13 36 77
- Speak & Listen (voice relay) users – call 1300 555 727
- SMS relay users – message 0423 677 767

Note: Area code must be included for each call.

Further information and NRS call numbers can be found on the Access Hub website: www.accesshub.gov.au/about-the-nrs/nrs-call-numbers-and-links

If you need an interpreter



If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450 and ask them to call the City of Greater Geelong on 03 5272 5272. Our business hours are Monday to Friday, 8.30am–5.00pm.

About this grant

OBJECTIVES

Community Equipment Grants support the purchase of equipment that helps community groups and not-for-profit organisations deliver activities, services and programs that:

- promote inclusion
- improve health and wellbeing
- strengthen community participation and connection
- enhance our natural environment

This grant is intended to help grassroots and community-led organisations access essential equipment that they may otherwise struggle to afford, where the purchase will create a clear and meaningful community impact.

For the purpose of this grant, equipment refers to long-lasting items intended for repeated use over several years.

KEY DATES

Applications open:	27 June 2026
Applications close:	27 July 2026 by 5.00 pm (we do not accept late applications)
Notification to applicants:	25 November 2026
Purchase start date:	You cannot make your purchase until after the notification date (above) and you have a signed funding agreement with us.
Purchase end date:	You must complete your purchase within 12 months of the notification date.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

Being eligible means, you can receive a grant, but it does not guarantee funding. To apply for this grant, your organisation must be:

- located in Greater Geelong

and one of the following:

- incorporated not-for-profit organisation
- unincorporated group with an auspice
- registered charitable organisation

WHO CANNOT APPLY

You are not eligible to apply if you are any of the following:

- business
- individual operating as a sole trader (with an active ABN).
- individual (without an ABN)
- school or learning institution
- previous applicant with an outstanding acquittal for grant funding from the City
- applicant who has not complied with the terms of a previous funding agreement

- entity currently involved in legal proceedings with the City, bankruptcy or similar situations
- entity with outstanding debt to the City.

HOW MUCH FUNDING CAN YOU APPLY FOR?

You may request up to $2,000.

The total amount of funding available for Community Equipment Grants is $60,000.

You can only submit one application per funding round to this grant.

HOW WE ALLOCATE FUNDING

Our grants are competitive, so even if you meet the criteria, you may not get funding.

You cannot rely on the City's Community Grants for ongoing funding.

In some cases, we may offer partial funding.

What you can apply for

To help you work out whether your equipment is the sort of thing we are looking to fund, we have developed the following list of items we might cover.

Yes - we will fund	No - we will not fund
Equipment must remain the property of the applicant organisation and be located within Greater Geelong. *Here are some examples of equipment we may fund. Other ideas may also be eligible. If you're unsure, please contact us for advice.* Electric gardening tools such as mowers and whipper snippers Gardening tools, such as shovels, wheelbarrows, gardening gloves and rakes General equipment, such as tables, chairs and barbeques Kitchen items, such as kettles, crockery, microwaves, fridges, freezers and air fryers Office equipment, such as laptops and office furniture Small scale agricultural items such as olive presses and bee hives Sporting equipment Tree guards	Items located outside Greater Geelong A single item costing more than $5,000 Capital Works (e.g. building property, structural improvements, alterations and extensions) Cash vouchers Consumables Items for political or gambling activities Items needing building permits or building owner permission for installation Items needing installation work, such as fitting to a wall, plumbing, electrical or carpentry Materials or supplies On-field player uniforms Purchases before funding is approved Prizes, gifts and awards (e.g. gift vouchers, medals, money, trophies)

What you need for your application

You will need to provide certain documents and information with your application. This helps us confirm you can legally receive funding and your expenses represent fair value for the City's funding.

CHECKLIST

Before you start your application, use this checklist as a guide – some items may not apply to your application:

- full and correct applicant name
- address and contact details of applicant
- name and contact details of the person authorised to apply for this grant
- certificate of incorporation
- auspice agreement letter (if your organisation is not incorporated)
- Australian Business Number (ABN) details registered to the grant applicant name
- a completed Statement by Supplier form (if you don't have an ABN)
- bank account details (account name, BSB and account number) which must match the applicant's name and ABN details
- redacted bank statement
- evidence for expenses to be funded by the grant. Evidence we will accept includes:
  - supplier or contractor quotes with the supplier's business name, ABN/ACN and contact details.
  - screenshots from online stores with the item description, price and supplier's business name.

How we assess applications

We carefully check all applications to make sure they meet the guideline rules and are a good use of the City's grant funding.

ASSESSMENT

The complete list of checks we do on each grant application include:

Eligibility checks – we check if the applicant and equipment are eligible (see pages 4 through 6).

Officer panel assessment – if eligible, our officers review the application using the grant assessment criteria and funding priorities on page 8 and 9.

Community panel review – a group of independent community members review the officer assessments and recommend funding to Council.

Council endorsement –Council reviews and endorses funding recommendations.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

We use assessment criteria to score each application. In the application form, you will be asked questions about these criteria. Your answers help us compare applications fairly and decide which ones we can fund.

Each criterion has a weighting (a percentage). A higher percentage means that criterion has more impact on your total score.

The table below shows the assessment criteria and what we look for.

We will score your application based on the information you provide and how you answer the questions.

COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT GRANTS ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Criteria 1: Community Benefit 60%

- How will the equipment benefit your organisation and the community?
- Which of the City's priority groups will benefit from the equipment?
  - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
  - Multicultural communities
  - Refugee and asylum seeker communities
  - Rural and peri-urban communities
  - LGBTQIA+ communities
  - Young people
  - Older people
  - Socio-economic disadvantage
  - People with disability
  - Women

Criteria 3: Well-planned 40%

- What safety factors did you consider when choosing this equipment?
- How will you minimise the environmental impacts of your equipment purchase?
  For example:
  - selecting equipment that is energy efficient, is repairable with spare parts or has recycled content
  - recycling replaced equipment and packaging.
- Where will the equipment be located and who will have access to it?
- How much grant money do you need?

- Have you provided evidence for the cost of the equipment?

  Evidence we will accept includes:

  – supplier or contractor quotes with the supplier's business name, ABN/ACN and contact details.

  – screenshots from online stores with the item description, price and supplier's business name.

  If you do not provide this evidence, you may receive a lower score for this criteria, or the cost may be removed from the grant request.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

If the total funding requested by all applicants exceeds the available funding, we may prioritise:

- applicants who did not receive money from this grant in the previous year.
- applications from organisations that do not receive money from electronic gaming machines or gambling.

How to apply

CONTACT THE GRANTS UNIT

Please contact the City's Grants Unit before applying to discuss your eligibility, proposed activity and other grant matters.

E: communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

P: 5272 5560

APPLY ONLINE

All applications must be submitted online via SmartyGrants. You must log in or create an account before you begin. You can access the application form in two ways:

- Visit the Community Grants section of the City's website and navigate to the specific grant page. Click the **Apply Now** button and log in or create an account to access the form.
- Visit SmartyGrants directly, log in or create an account, and select the grant you wish to apply for.

Paper or email applications will not be accepted.

WITHDRAWING OR CHANGING YOUR APPLICATION

If you have not submitted your application, you can log in to SmartyGrants at any time to make edits.

If you have submitted your application and need to make changes, contact us before the closing date. We can reopen your application to allow edits.

Changes cannot be made after the closing date.

If you need to withdraw your application after submission, please notify the Community Grants Unit in writing.

ABOUT APPLICANT TYPES

To determine eligibility for a grant, please read all applicant types carefully. If you are unsure what sort of applicant you are, please check your details online.

- incorporated associations – go to www.consumer.vic.gov.au
- companies – go to https://connectonline.asic.gov.au
- individuals or sole traders with an ABN – go to https://abr.business.gov.au
- charities – go to www.acnc.gov.au/charity/charities

IF YOUR ORGANISATION IS NOT INCORPORATED

If your organisation or group is not incorporated, you can still apply for a grant by working with an auspice organisation.

An auspice is an organisation that meets our eligibility criteria and agrees to support and manage your grant. They take legal and financial responsibility for the funding.

If your application is successful, your auspice organisation will:

- sign the grant funding agreement
- receive the grant money and pass it on to you
- make sure all grant activities are completed
- submit the final evaluation and financial report on your behalf.

How to apply with an Auspice

If you want to apply with an auspice organisation, you must:

- get their approval before you submit your application
- upload a signed letter confirming your auspice arrangement.

What happens next

Once we have decided who is going to receive a grant, we will let you know of the outcome of your application, even if it was unsuccessful.

NOTIFICATION OF OUTCOME

The City of Greater Geelong will notify all applicants of their outcome by email by the date listed on page 4 of this booklet.

Successful Applications

If your application is successful, this does not guarantee funding. You must complete additional steps before receiving a grant payment.

- You will receive an email with a link to a funding agreement outlining the terms and conditions of the grant (see **Funding Agreements** section below).
- You must sign and return the agreement, upload a tax invoice and your public liability insurance certificate of currency before any payment is made.

You cannot make your equipment purchase until after the notification date and you have a signed funding agreement with us.

Unsuccessful Applications

If your application is unsuccessful, we will notify you by email.

You are strongly encouraged to contact us for feedback which may help if you plan to apply again in future rounds.

PAYMENTS

If your application is successful, the City will transfer the approved funding amount to your nominated bank account after the funding agreement is signed.

We will only pay grant money to the applicant (or auspice).

A tax invoice is required before we pay any grant funds. Our team will contact successful grant applicants to arrange this.

If you do not provide either an ABN or a ‘Statement by a Supplier’ form, we may have to withhold tax from the grant payment at the top marginal rate of 45%.

FUNDING AGREEMENTS

Successful grant applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement. The agreement will include:

- the terms and conditions of funding
- the details of the activity
- what you are expected to deliver
- your reporting requirements

General information

The following information applies to all City of Greater Geelong grants.

FIRST NATIONS

For any proposals with a First Nations theme you are strongly encouraged to contact the Community Grants Unit to ensure you have engaged with First Nations Communities and understand any requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act (2006)*.

PERMITS AND APPROVALS

Some projects or events may need a permit or approval. These processes are separate to the grant application process and require additional time and budget in your project plan.

While you do not need to secure permits or approvals before applying, securing them will be a condition of the grant if your application is successful. As such, we may choose not to pay you any money until the relevant permits and approvals are secured.

You must demonstrate that you are aware of the necessary permits and approvals in your application. We will consider this information when assessing your application under the 'well-planned' criteria on pages 8 to 9.

INSURANCE

You must arrange public liability insurance (PLI) to cover the activity detailed in your application and provide the PLI certificate of currency if your application is successful.

Applicants using an auspice would include a PLI certificate from the auspice organisation.

A policy statement or receipt of payment is not an acceptable substitute for the certificate of currency.

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If you receive a grant, you must submit an evaluation of your activity and a financial report within one month of your project finishing.

The evaluation report tells us about your project and the financial report includes all income and expenses for the grant. It demonstrates you have spent the money how you said you would.

We may request meetings with you to check your progress or ask for an audit of your financial records to prove you have spent the grant as you said you would. As such, you must keep accurate financial records and make them available to us if requested.

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Projects are funded for delivery as described in your funding agreement.

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- changes to your proposed completion date
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- changes to how you want to spend the money.

We reserve the right to withdraw funding if:

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Definitions

Following are definitions of some of the words we use in this document. If you find other words that you are not familiar with, please contact us for help.

Word	Explanation
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Application	A form you fill out to ask for grant money.
Assess	How we review and consider your application.
Auspice	An organisation that applies for a grant on your behalf if your group is not legally registered.
Budget	A plan that shows how much money you have and how you will spend it.
Community panel	A group of community members who review applications and recommend which projects should get funding.
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Not-for-profit	An organisation that does not does not distribute profits to owners or shareholders.
Officer panel	A group of City officers who review applications and recommend which projects should get funding.
Online	Available on the internet.
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THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

COMMUNITY EVENTS GRANTS

2026-27 GUIDELINES

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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Welcome

ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

This booklet contains information about the City of Greater Geelong's Community Events Grants

Please read it carefully before you apply.

Important words are explained at the back of this booklet (page 15).

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About this grant

OBJECTIVES

Community Events Grants support moderately sized public events that provide economic and community benefits to the Greater Geelong region.

The objectives of these grants are to:

- Support new community events.
- Support local traders and businesses to generate economic impact and stimulate growth in the Greater Geelong region.
- Celebrate Greater Geelong's diverse cultural identity and support inclusive community events.
- Activate the municipality's community hubs, halls, sporting and cultural venues, activity centres, and public open spaces.

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY EVENT?

A community event is an organised gathering for a common purpose that is:

- conducted on a one-off or periodic basis
- open to members of the public
- publicly advertised and
- may be subject to specific licence, approvals or permits.

Community events involve gatherings within a defined space, are often high-density, and include a broad range of activities, such as the service of food and beverages, and providing for entertainment. Moderately sized community events are expected to attract 300 or more attendees.

KEY DATES

Applications open:	27 June 2026
Applications close:	10 August 2026 by 5.00 pm (we do not accept late applications)
Notification to applicants:	9 December 2026
Event start date:	Event cannot start until after 1 January 2027, and you have a signed funding agreement with us
Event end date:	You must complete your event by 31 December 2027.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

Being eligible means, you can receive a grant, but it does not guarantee funding. To apply for this grant, you must be one of the following:

- incorporated not-for-profit organisation
- unincorporated group with an auspice
- registered charitable organisation
- business
- individual operating as a sole trader (with an active ABN).
- school or learning institution (only for non-curriculum-based activities that support participation by the wider community)

WHO CANNOT APPLY

You are not eligible to apply if you are any of the following:

- individual (without an ABN)
- previous applicant with an outstanding acquittal for grant funding from the City
- applicant who has not complied with the terms of a previous funding agreement
- entity involved in legal proceedings related to winding up its operations, experiencing insolvency or bankruptcy (includes any legal bankruptcy related actions against an entity's directors or officers)
- entity with outstanding debt to the City of Greater Geelong or in legal proceedings with the City.

HOW MUCH FUNDING CAN YOU APPLY FOR?

You may request up to $10,000.

The total amount of funding available for Community Events Grants is $150,000.

HOW WE ALLOCATE FUNDING

Our grants are competitive, so even if you meet the criteria, you may not get funding.

You cannot rely on the City's Community Grants for ongoing funding.

In some cases, we may offer partial funding for a smaller or modified event.

We typically fund events only once. However, we may consider funding an event again if there is a strong reason that aligns with the objectives of this grant **or** introduces a new element or approach.

What you can apply for

To help you work out whether your event is the sort of thing we are looking to fund, we have developed the following list of example events and costs we might cover.

Yes - we will fund	No - we will not fund
Types of events	**Types of events**
Events within Greater Geelong	Events outside Greater Geelong
Community events staged from 1 January 2027	Events held prior to 1 January 2027
Advertised to the public to attend	Conferences, expos and business events
Here are some examples of events we may fund. Other event ideas may also be eligible. If you're unsure, please contact us for advice.	Core business
Community festivals	Events better suited to the City's other grants
Food and wine festivals	Events started before funding is approved
Music events	Events that are ongoing, regular activities of a venue – for example monthly markets or seasonal sporting events.
State or national sporting events	Events, that due to their nature, are unlikely to be supported by relevant stakeholders.
For multicultural events expecting less than 300+ attendees, please consider the Community Strengthening Grants	Fundraising events for charities or your own group
Expenses	Invite-only or members-only events – this includes VIP events/areas or events which exclude other event attendees.
These are examples of costs we may fund, but other costs may also be eligible. If you're unsure, please contact us for advice.	Activities delivered a part of another organisation's event
Contractors engaged to deliver an event	Political or gambling activities
Equipment hire	**Expenses**
Event specific insurance	Cash vouchers
Security	General day-to-day operating costs of running your organisation or business (e.g. insurance, utilities, rent, administration)
Staging hire	Own venue hire
Staff wages (where they relate to additional work required to deliver the project. Applicants must explain the role and why this work cannot be delivered within existing resources)	Prizes, gifts and awards (e.g. gift vouchers, medals, money, trophies)
Toilets hire	Payments to volunteers
Venue hire, (including City of Greater Geelong venues)	Taxes, levies, fines or penalties

What you need for your application

You will need to provide certain documents and information with your application. This helps us confirm you can legally receive funding and practically deliver your proposed project.

CHECKLIST

Before you start your application, use this checklist as a guide – some items may not apply to your application:

- full and correct applicant name
- address and contact details of applicant
- name and contact details of the person authorised to apply for this grant
- certificate of incorporation
- auspice agreement letter (if your organisation is not incorporated)
- Australian Business Number (ABN) details registered to the grant applicant name
- a completed Statement by Supplier form (if you don't have an ABN)
- bank account details (account name, BSB and account number) which must match the applicant's name and ABN details
- redacted bank statement
- letters of support from project partners and/or stakeholders
- copies of required permits or approvals
- evidence of venue booking
- a budget showing all income, expenses and how the grant funds will be used.
- evidence for expenses to be funded by the grant. Evidence we will accept includes:
  - supplier or contractor quotes with the supplier's business name, ABN/ACN and contact details.
  - screenshots from online stores with the item description, price and supplier's business name.
- a letter explaining any staff wage costs. The letter must outline the role, the additional work required to deliver the project, and why this work cannot be delivered using existing resources.
- detailed event plan – an example can be found here.
- a detailed risk assessment - an example can be found here.

How we assess applications

We carefully check all applications to make sure they meet the guideline rules and are a good use of the City's grant funding.

ASSESSMENT

The complete list of checks we do on each grant application include:

Eligibility checks – we check if the applicant and project are eligible (see pages 4 through 6).

Officer panel assessment – if eligible, our officers review the application using the grant assessment criteria and funding priorities on pages 8 and 9.

Community panel review – a group of independent community members review the officer assessments and recommend funding to Council.

Council endorsement –Council reviews and endorses funding recommendations.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

We use assessment criteria to score each application. In the application form, you will be asked questions about these criteria. Your answers help us compare applications fairly and decide which projects we can fund.

Each criterion has a weighting (a percentage). A higher percentage means that criterion has more impact on your total score.

The table below shows the assessment criteria and what we look for.

We will score your application based on the information you provide and how you answer the questions.

COMMUNITY EVENTS GRANTS ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Criteria 1: Community benefit 25%

- How will you make your event inclusive and accessible? E.g. for people of all abilities and genders, and social economic and cultural backgrounds.
- Outline your marketing plan that shows how the event will be advertised to attract a wide range of people from the community.
- Does your event include any activities that are free or low cost?

Criteria 2: Strategic impact 25%

- Evidence that the event will contribute to a diverse and balanced calendar of events for the region – for example, due to the time of year, type of event or the location.
- Is this a new event? If not how is this event different to previous years?
- Explain how your event will support local traders and businesses

Criteria 3: Well-planned 50%

- Why do you need grant funding from the City?
- What is the reason for holding your event, including details on the target audience, participants and spectators.

- Provide an event plan that includes:
  - a detailed site plan showing all infrastructure, as well as the set-up and pack-down schedule; and
  - a detailed risk assessment demonstrating the safety of the public, participants, staff, and volunteers
- Do you require any permits or approvals?
- Have you booked a venue for your event?
- What skills, knowledge and experience does your team have to successfully deliver the event?
- What is the total cost of your event?
- How much grant money do you need?
- Do you have income from other sources (e.g. your own cash contribution, sponsorship)? Is it confirmed?
- What expenses will you have? (e.g. venue hire, materials)
- Have you provided evidence for expenses to be funded by the grant? Evidence we will accept includes:
  - supplier or contractor quotes with the supplier's business name, ABN/ACN and contact details,
  - screenshots from online stores with the item description, price and supplier's business name.

If you do not provide this evidence, you may receive a lower score for this criteria, or the cost may be removed from the grant request

FUNDING PRIORITIES

If the total funding requested by all applicants exceeds the available funding, we may prioritise:

- applicants who did not receive money from this grant in the previous year
- applications from organisations that do not receive money from electronic gaming machines or gambling
- events that are unique or new to the region
- events held during off-peak months (April to September).

How to apply

CONTACT THE GRANTS UNIT

Please contact the City's Grants Unit before applying to discuss your eligibility, proposed activity and other grant matters.

E: communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

P: 5272 5560

APPLY ONLINE

All applications must be submitted online via SmartyGrants. You must log in or create an account before you begin. You can access the application form in two ways:

- Visit the Community Grants section of the City's website and navigate to the specific grant page. Click the **Apply Now** button and log in or create an account to access the form.
- Visit SmartyGrants directly, log in or create an account, and select the grant you wish to apply for.

Paper or email applications will not be accepted.

WITHDRAWING OR CHANGING YOUR APPLICATION

If you have not submitted your application, you can log in to SmartyGrants at any time to make edits.

If you have submitted your application and need to make changes, contact us before the closing date. We can reopen your application to allow edits.

Changes cannot be made after the closing date.

If you need to withdraw your application after submission, please notify the Community Grants Unit in writing.

ABOUT APPLICANT TYPES

To determine eligibility for a grant, please read all applicant types carefully. If you are unsure what sort of applicant you are, please check your details online.

- incorporated associations – go to www.consumer.vic.gov.au
- companies – go to https://connectonline.asic.gov.au
- individuals or sole traders with an ABN – go to https://abr.business.gov.au
- charities – go to www.acnc.gov.au/charity/charities

IF YOUR ORGANISATION IS NOT INCORPORATED

If your organisation or group is not incorporated, you can still apply for a grant by working with an auspice organisation.

An auspice is an organisation that meets our eligibility criteria and agrees to support and manage your grant. They take legal and financial responsibility for the funding.

If your application is successful, your auspice organisation will:

- sign the grant funding agreement
- receive the grant money and pass it on to you
- make sure all grant activities are completed
- submit the final evaluation and financial report on your behalf.

How to apply with an Auspice

If you want to apply with an auspice organisation, you must:

- get their approval before you submit your application
- upload a signed letter confirming your auspice arrangement.

What happens next

Once we have decided who is going to receive a grant, we will let you know of the outcome of your application, even if it was unsuccessful.

NOTIFICATION OF OUTCOME

The City of Greater Geelong will notify all applicants of their outcome by email by the date listed on page 4 of this booklet.

Successful Applications

If your application is successful, this does not guarantee funding. You must complete additional steps before receiving a grant payment.

- You will receive an email with a link to a funding agreement outlining the terms and conditions of the grant (see **Funding Agreements** section below).
- You must sign and return the agreement, upload a tax invoice and your public liability insurance certificate of currency before any payment is made.

You cannot commence your event until after the notification date and you have a signed funding agreement with us.

Unsuccessful Applications

If your application is unsuccessful, we will notify you by email.

You are strongly encouraged to contact us for feedback which may help if you plan to apply again in future rounds.

PAYMENTS

If your application is successful, the City will transfer the approved funding amount to your nominated bank account after the funding agreement is signed.

We will only pay grant money to the applicant (or auspice).

A tax invoice is required before we pay any grant funds. Our team will contact successful grant applicants to arrange this.

If you do not provide either an ABN or a ‘Statement by a Supplier’ form, we may have to withhold tax from the grant payment at the top marginal rate of 45%.

FUNDING AGREEMENTS

Successful grant applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement. The agreement will include:

- the terms and conditions of funding
- the details of the activity
- what you are expected to deliver
- your reporting requirements

General information

The following information applies to all City of Greater Geelong grants.

FIRST NATIONS

For any proposals with a First Nations theme you are strongly encouraged to contact the Community Grants Unit to ensure you have engaged with First Nations Communities and understand any requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act (2006)*.

PERMITS AND APPROVALS

Some projects or events may need a permit or approval. These processes are separate to the grant application process and require additional time and budget in your project plan.

While you do not need to secure permits or approvals before applying, securing them will be a condition of the grant if your application is successful. As such, we may choose not to pay you any money until the relevant permits and approvals are secured.

You must demonstrate that you are aware of the necessary permits and approvals in your application. We will consider this information when assessing your application under the 'well-planned' criteria on page 8 through 9.

INSURANCE

You must arrange public liability insurance (PLI) to cover the activity detailed in your application and provide the PLI certificate of currency if your application is successful.

Applicants using an auspice would include a PLI certificate from the auspice organisation.

A policy statement or receipt of payment is not an acceptable substitute for the certificate of currency.

REPORTING

If you receive a grant, you must submit an evaluation of your activity and a financial report within one month of your project finishing.

The evaluation report tells us about your project and the financial report includes all income and expenses for the grant. It demonstrates you have spent the money how you said you would.

We may request meetings with you to check your progress or ask for an audit of your financial records to prove you have spent the grant as you said you would. As such, you must keep accurate financial records and make them available to us if requested.

GRANT VARIATIONS - MAKING CHANGES TO YOUR FUNDED ACTIVITY

Projects are funded for delivery as described in your funding agreement.

If you need to change something about your grant, you must seek our approval in writing. This includes:

- changes to your proposed completion date
- changes to the nature of your activity
- changes to how you want to spend the money.

We reserve the right to withdraw funding if:

- we do not support your request for changes
- your request is not made within a reasonable time
- you make changes without our knowledge.

If a project stops or the grant funds are no longer required, you must repay the funding to the City of Greater Geelong.

WITHDRAWING FUNDING

We reserve the right to withdraw funding if we do not receive a tax invoice within the financial year in which the grant was awarded, or by the due date/s included in the agreement.

We can also withdraw funding if you are in breach of your funding agreement.

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR SUPPORT AND MEDIA

You must acknowledge the City of Greater Geelong on your promotional materials if you receive a grant. We will provide a guide with detailed instructions on how to do this.

When you sign your funding agreement, you will be asked to provide a short-written statement as the grant recipient, telling us how you feel about being a successful applicant, and how this project will benefit the community.

We may use your statement for promotion on social media or in other media outlets.

Definitions

Following are definitions of some of the words we use in this document. If you find other words that you are not familiar with, please contact us for help.

Word	Explanation
ABN	Australian Business Number is a unique number that identifies a business in Australia.
Application	A form you fill out to ask for grant money.
Assess	How we review and consider your application.
Auspice	An organisation that applies for a grant on your behalf if your group is not legally registered.
Budget	A plan that shows how much money you have and how you will spend it.
Community panel	A group of community members who review applications and recommend which projects should get funding.
Eligibility	The rules that decide if you or your project can receive grant funding.
Evaluation and financial report	A report you must complete after your project ends, explaining what you did and how you spent the grant money.
Expenditure	The things you spend money on for your project.
Funding agreement	A document that explains why we are giving you the grant money and the rules you must follow when using it.
Grant	Money given to a person or organisation for a specific purpose.
Group	Two or more people who meet regularly and run projects or activities that other people participate in (e.g., youth group, seniors' group, cultural group)
Income	Money that you have or expect to receive for your project. This can include grant money from the City, fundraising, sponsorship, ticket sales or other grant funding.
Incorporated	A group or organisation that has legally registered to become a formal entity.
Insurance	A contract you have with an insurance company that helps protect from financial loss if something goes wrong.
Log in	Your email and password used to access SmartyGrants.
Not-for-profit	An organisation that does not does not distribute profits to owners or shareholders.
Officer panel	A group of City officers who review applications and recommend which projects should get funding.
Online	Available on the internet.
Organisation	A legally constituted organisation that is registered or created by law. For example, incorporated associations, companies limited by guarantee or registered charities are all defined as organisations.
Quote	A written estimate of how much something will cost.
SmartyGrants	An online system we use to manage grant applications.
Submitted	When you finish your application in SmartyGrants and press the submit button.
The City	The City of Greater Geelong.
Unincorporated Group	A group that is not legally registered as an organisation.
Weighted average scoring	A method of scoring applications where some parts of the decision are more important than others.

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS GUIDELINES

2026-27 GUIDELINES

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We Acknowledge the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the Land, Waterways and Skies.

We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. We Acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are part of our Greater Geelong community today.

Welcome

ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

This booklet contains information about the City of Greater Geelong's Community Infrastructure Grants. Please read it carefully before you apply.

Important words are explained at the back of this booklet (page 19).

THE CITY OF GREATER GEELONG COMMUNITY GRANTS

A grant is money given to a person, organisation or group for a specific purpose.

Our Community Grants help turn your idea into reality. Whether you're looking to purchase new equipment, offer group activities, run a community event, create an inspired arts project or upgrade facilities, funding is available.

You can apply to multiple City of Greater Geelong Community Grants programs, but each application must be for a different project, event, or activity.

APPLICATION SUPPORT

Contact the City

You must contact the City's Community Grants Unit before applying to discuss your eligibility, proposed activity and other grant matters.

E: communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

P: 5272 5560

If you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment

National Relay Service (NRS)

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, and you wish to contact us, you can do so through the National Relay Service (NRS) and ask for 03 5272 5272. Our call centre team will then connect you with the grants team.

Our business hours are Monday to Friday, 8.30am–5.00pm.

- TTY users – call 13 36 77
- Speak & Listen (voice relay) users – call 1300 555 727
- SMS relay users – message 0423 677 767

Note: Area code must be included for each call.

Further information and NRS call numbers can be found on the Access Hub website: www.accesshub.gov.au/about-the-nrs/nrs-call-numbers-and-links

If you need an interpreter



If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450 and ask them to call the City of Greater Geelong on 03 5272 5272. Our business hours are Monday to Friday, 8.30am–5.00pm.

About this grant

OBJECTIVES

Community Infrastructure Grants support the planning and delivery of community-led infrastructure projects that increase community access to places, spaces, and services, where and when they are most needed, and provide facilities that foster and facilitate positive health and wellbeing outcomes.

Community infrastructure provides places and spaces for communities to connect and thrive. It includes open spaces, recreation and sports facilities, arts and cultural facilities, community centres, early years facilities and meeting places.

As a local government, we want to help eligible community organisations to renew, upgrade or build new and better facilities, and increase programs or improve the way community spaces function. By doing this, we hope to achieve the following major initiatives from Council Plan 2025-29:

- Ensure equity of access to community, sport and recreation facilities and assets across Greater Geelong
- Support participation of women, girls and diverse groups in community sport and recreation.
- Invest in, and deliver community, sport and recreation infrastructure across Greater Geelong.

KEY DATES

Grant applications

Applications open:	27 June 2026
Applications close:	31 August 2026 by 5.00 pm (we do not accept late applications)
Notification to applicants:	January 2027
Project start date:	You cannot commence your project until after the notification date (above) and you have a signed funding agreement with us.
Project end date:	You anticipate completing your activity within 12 months of signing a funding agreement with us.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

Being eligible means, you can receive a grant, but it does not guarantee funding. To apply for this grant, you must be one of the following:

- incorporated not-for-profit organisation
- unincorporated group with an auspice
- registered charitable organisation
- school or learning institution (only for non-curriculum-based activities that support participation by the wider community)

and

your project is for:

- Community Infrastructure on City owned or managed land
- Community Infrastructure on Crown land
- Community Infrastructure on land your organisation owns

WHO CANNOT APPLY

You are not eligible to apply if you are any of the following:

- business
- individuals operating as sole traders (with an active ABN).
- individual (without an ABN)
- previous applicant with an outstanding acquittal for grant funding from the City
- applicant who has not complied with the terms of a previous funding agreement
- tenant clubs/organisations that have not resolved a breach of the Victorian Code for Community Sport
- entity involved in legal proceedings related to winding up its operations, experiencing insolvency or bankruptcy (includes any legal bankruptcy related actions against an entity's directors or officers)
- entity with outstanding debt to the City of Greater Geelong or in legal proceedings with the City.

HOW MUCH FUNDING CAN YOU APPLY FOR?

This grant has two categories, but you can only apply for one category per funding round. You may request

- up to $50,000 for a Planning Grant, or
- up to $300,000 for a Capital Works Grant.

The total amount of funding available for all Community Infrastructure Grants is $1,500,000.

You may only apply for one project per application.

You must make a co-contribution

The City will only fund up to two-thirds of your total project cost to the maximum grant funding offered. You must contribute $1 for every $2 we provide in grant funding, and provide any remaining funding required.

Co-contributions ensure project viability, demonstrates community commitment to the project and maximises the impact of the City's available funds.

Co-contribution examples

Total project cost	City funding (Two-thirds total project cost)	Your contribution (1:2) ($1 dollar for every $2 funding from the City)	Your additional contribution
$45,000	$30,000	$15,000	Nil
$240,000	$160,000	$80,000	Nil
$450,000	$300,000 (maximum grant)	$150,000	Nil
$475,000	$300,000 (maximum grant)	$150,000	$25,000

Co-contribution exemption

If you cannot meet the co-contribution requirement, you may apply for a full or partial exemption.

Note: If you are applying for an exemption, you must do this first and include the outcome of the assessment with your Planning or Capital Works funding application.

Separate guidelines are available for Co-contribution Exemption applications. We strongly encourage you to apply for an exemption as early as possible.

Applications open: 27 June 2026

Applications close: 3 August 2026

HOW WE ALLOCATE FUNDING

Our grants are competitive, so even if you meet the criteria, you may not get funding.

You cannot rely on the City's Community Grants for ongoing funding.

In some cases, we may offer partial funding for a smaller or modified project.

We typically fund projects only once. However, we may consider funding a project again if there is a strong reason that aligns with the objectives of this grant.

What you can apply for

To help you work out whether your project is the sort of thing we are looking to fund, we have developed the following list of example projects we might cover. Other project ideas may also be eligible. If you're unsure, please contact us for advice

Yes - we will fund	No - we will not fund
Types of Projects Projects within Greater Geelong **PLANNING** Funding for strategic planning or design development for future developments such as: • strategic infrastructure planning – facility development plans • infrastructure design – concept design through to detailed design ready to tender works **Note**: The City reserves the right to project manage any successful planning grant applications for City assets. **CAPITAL WORKS** Funding for renewals, upgrades and new builds. Design and construction funding will only be considered for minor Capital Works projects when the scope is limited and the design is for proprietary products or similar items – for example, playing surface replacements, electronic score boards, fencing, behind goal safety nets, sheds, coaches' boxes or shelters. All major Capital Works projects (e.g. building renewals, upgrades or new builds) must be 'shovel ready', that is fully planned and designed (all drawings, specifications, schedules including sub-consultants completed) and ready to begin construction immediately if your application is successful. **Renewals** Projects to bring an asset back up to its original standard such as: • Accessibility upgrades to comply with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) requirements – for example, ramps and toilets. • Change room renewal • Cricket training facilities, including nets • Kitchen refurbishments including fixed equipment – for example, oven, cooktop, rangehood or	**Types of Projects** Projects outside Greater Geelong Bar facilities Business cases, feasibility assessments, master plans for City managed land, any planning not for infrastructure. Capital works applications for projects with total costs more than $2.5 million. Detailed design for projects with a total project cost more than $500,000 or where the total project cost is unknown. Equipment and domestic appliances (unfixed) – for example, BBQs, fridges, freezers, microwaves, toaster ovens, air fryers and freestanding dishwashers. Facilities designated for electronic gaming machine operations. Furniture and fittings – for example, couches, tables, chairs, curtains. Insurance claims costs – for example, repair works caused by natural disasters such as fire or because of vandalism. Landscaping (stand-alone or beautification works) Maintenance – expenditure that keeps the asset in its current condition – for example, painting, replacement of carpets, repair works to broken items, cleaning, replacing broken equipment. Projects funded by the City's Capital Works Program budget. Projects started before funding is approved. Projects that do not meet relevant Australian standards. Projects where contributions from funding partners, or other grant/funding programs, are not confirmed in writing within the timeframe the City stipulates. Public art installations

Yes - we will fund	No - we will not fund
commercial dishwasher (only as part of a capital works project). • Pavilion renewal **Upgrades** Projects to make the asset better than original standard such as: • Audio visual and sound equipment (built-in only) • Change room upgrades • Digital scoreboards • Environmental initiatives • Heating and cooling (must be fixed) • Pavilion upgrades • Replacing turf pitches • Solar panels • Sports lighting (Private land and facilities only) **New builds** Projects that involve building brand-new assets such as: • Behind goal safety netting • Community gardens (not for plants, tools or other consumables) • Cricket nets • Multipurpose community facilities	Purchase of land Sports lighting on Council managed facilities. **Types of Expenses** Cost of Council services – for example rates, waste disposal, parking fees, fines) Overheads – for example insurance, utilities, administration costs) Political or gambling activities Prizes, gifts, awards or sponsorship costs, such as trophies, medals, money and vouchers Project Management fees or allowances Staff salaries Volunteers

What you need for your application

You will need to provide certain documents and information with your application. This helps us confirm you can legally receive funding and practically deliver your proposed project.

CHECKLIST

Before you start your application, use this checklist as a guide – some items may not apply to your application:

- full and correct applicant name
- address and contact details of applicant
- name and contact details of the person authorised to apply for this grant
- certificate of incorporation
- Australian Business Number (ABN) details registered to the grant applicant name
- bank account details (account name, BSB and account number) which must match the applicant's name and ABN details
- evidence that all other funding sources are secured
- notification of outcome of co-contribution exemption application
- evidence of land ownership (for example, a certificate of title) for applications on Private land
- a C*onsent to Apply for Grant Funding* letter from the City of Greater Geelong for all applications on City owned or managed land
- letters of support for the proposed work from all other tenants or users of the facility
- a budget showing all income, expenses and how the grant funds will be used

Evidence to support budget

- current quotes to support budgeted expenses:
  - Project cost up to $10,000 = one written quote
  - Project cost $10,001 to $50,000 = two written quotes
  - Project cost $50,001 and above = three written quotes **or** an independent quantity surveyor's cost report

    To qualify as current, quote/s cannot be older than six months at the time you submit your application.

    Any works on Council owned or managed assets must be by a commercial builder unless exempt by the building code.

    Successful applications for projects the City will deliver and costing above $300,000 must go through a competitive tender process before proceeding.

Lighting projects

- Applications for lighting projects on Private land must include:
  - a lighting design that specifies lux level and alignment with relevant sporting standard
  - an inspection report of switchboard and existing power supply by a qualified electrician specifying any additional works required or confirmation the existing infrastructure is suitable for the proposed works.

- allowance for a full detailed design in your budget, including survey, service locating and geotechnical investigations.
- an independent quantity surveyor's cost report.

Appropriate design documents

If you are applying for:	You must submit:
• Concept planning	Description of what is needed e.g. number of toilets, change rooms, new kitchen and explanation of how this links to legislation, policy, strategy or sporting facility guidelines, **and** for applications on Private land: preliminary concept designs or sketches. (these are not required for Council facilities).
• Detailed design	Concept design
• Major capital works	Final detailed design drawings, specification and schedules including subconsultants.
• Minor capital works	Sketch or drawing, pictures of site location.
• All applications	Site plan: A map of the site that provides an aerial image of the proposed layout including the infrastructure location within the context of existing site conditions e.g. trees, services, fences, buildings and existing assets

Project budgets and in-kind contributions

Your project budget can include in-kind contributions for goods and services. Examples might include volunteer labour for qualified trades – such as electricians and plumbers – or donated building materials.

The value of in-kind contributions is based on your best estimate and must be supported by evidence, such as a quote with a waiver of fees or the cash value of donated goods from a third-party supplier.

The volunteer cost of project management or committee time is not accepted as an in-kind contribution.

The City reserves the right to disallow any in-kind contributions it deems invalid or unfeasible. If we do so, we may require that the value of those in-kind items be converted to cash expenses in the project budget, which could lead to a request for additional co-contributions from the applicant.

Project budgets and Goods and Services Tax (GST)

It is the responsibility of your organisation to determine whether GST applies and, if so, comply with GST reporting and payment rules.

If you are registered for GST and submit a valid tax invoice, we will pay the grant funding amount plus GST. If you are not registered for GST, or not required to be registered for GST, we will pay the grant funding amount only without additional GST.

All application budgets must be GST-exempt figures.

How we assess applications

We carefully check all applications to make sure they meet the guideline rules and are a good use of the City's grant funding.

ASSESSMENT

The complete list of checks we do on each grant application include:

Eligibility checks – we check if the applicant and project are eligible (see pages 4, 5,7 and 8).

Officer panel assessment – if eligible, our officers review the application using the grant assessment criteria and funding priorities on pages 11 and 12.

Community panel review – a group of independent community members review the officer assessments and recommend funding to Council.

Council endorsement –Council reviews and endorses funding recommendations.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

We use assessment criteria to score each application. In the application form, you will be asked questions about these criteria. Your answers help us compare applications fairly and decide which projects we can fund.

Each criterion has a weighting (a percentage). A higher percentage means that criterion has more impact on your total score.

The table below shows the assessment criteria and what we look for.

We will score your application based on the information you provide and how you answer the questions.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Criteria 1: Community Benefit 55%

- Why does this project need to be done? Explain how it responds to a need or gap in available infrastructure for the community?
- How many community members will benefit from this project?
- How will your organisation benefit from this project?
- How will the community outside your organisation benefit from this project?
- How does your project align with the grant program's objectives or council priorities?

Criteria 2: Well-planned project - 45%

- Explain what is included in the project (the scope of works).
- Is your project ready to start (shovel ready)? Please outline the status of project planning, design, approvals, or other preparatory work.
- Include relevant design documents and drawings
- Include any permits and approvals (e.g. heritage, vegetation, planning)
- What skills, knowledge and experience does the organising team have to successfully deliver the project?
- Do you have stakeholder support from co-tenants and relevant peak bodies?

- How has the project planning minimised environment harm?
- Provide a detailed, balance budget that shows the total cost of the project including a minimum contingency of 10% and list all other sources of funds that will contribute to the total project income.
- Provide evidence of project costs, such as contractor quotes or quantity surveyor reports, confirming the scope and estimated costs of the proposed works.

NOMINATED PRIORITY FUNDING THEMES

Council may choose to nominate priority funding themes on an annual basis that will attract an additional score as part of the application assessment.

Our nominated priority funding themes for 2026-27 are:

No.	Theme	Weighting	How we assess this
1	Access for all abilities	10%	• How will your project empower people with a disability to be active contributors and participants in our community?
2	Fair access	10%	• How will the project improve access to, and use of, community infrastructure for women and girls?

FUNDING PRIORITIES

If the total funding requested by all applicants exceeds the available funding, we may prioritise:

- applicants who did not receive money from this grant in the previous year
- applications from organisations that do not receive money from electronic gaming machines or gambling
- applications for projects which address a gap in the provision of community infrastructure.

How to apply

CONTACT THE GRANTS UNIT

Please contact the City's Grants Unit before applying to discuss your eligibility, proposed activity and other grant matters.

E: communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

P: 5272 5560

APPLY ONLINE

All applications must be submitted online via SmartyGrants. You must log in or create an account before you begin. You can access the application form in two ways:

- Visit the Community Grants section of the Geelong Australia website and navigate to the specific grant page. Click the **Apply Now** button and log in or create an account to access the form.
- Visit SmartyGrants directly, log in or create an account, and select the grant you wish to apply for.

Paper or email applications will not be accepted.

WITHDRAWING OR CHANGING YOUR APPLICATION

If you have not yet submitted your application, you can log in to SmartyGrants at any time to make edits.

If you have already submitted your application and need to make changes, contact us before the closing date. We can reopen your application to allow edits.

Changes cannot be made after the closing date.

If you need to withdraw your application after submission, please notify the Community Grants Unit in writing.

ABOUT APPLICANT TYPES

To determine eligibility for a grant, please read all applicant types carefully. If you are unsure what sort of applicant you are, please check your details online.

- incorporated associations – go to www.consumer.vic.gov.au
- companies – go to https://connectonline.asic.gov.au
- individuals or sole traders with an ABN – go to https://abr.business.gov.au
- charities – go to www.acnc.gov.au/charity/charities

IF YOUR ORGANISATION IS NOT INCORPORATED

If your organisation or group is not incorporated, you can still apply for a grant by working with an auspice organisation.

An auspice is an organisation that meets our eligibility criteria and agrees to support and manage your grant. They take legal and financial responsibility for the funding.

Your auspice organisation will:

- sign the grant funding agreement
- receive the grant money and pass it on to you
- make sure all grant activities are completed
- submit the final evaluation and financial report on your behalf.

How to apply with an Auspice

If you want to apply with an auspice organisation, you must:

- get their approval before you submit your application.
- ask them to sign the application form and the funding agreement.
- submit a copy of a signed agreement with your auspice.

By using an auspice, your group can still access funding even if you are not legally incorporated.

What happens next

Once we have decided who is going to receive a grant, we will let you know of the outcome of your application, even if it was unsuccessful.

NOTIFICATION OF OUTCOME

The City of Greater Geelong will notify all applicants of their outcome by email by the date listed on page 4 of this booklet.

Successful Applications

If your application is successful, this does not guarantee funding. You must complete additional steps before receiving a grant payment.

- You will receive an email with a link to a funding agreement outlining the terms and conditions of the grant (see **Funding Agreements** section below).
- You must sign and return the agreement, upload a tax invoice and your public liability insurance certificate of currency before any payment is made.
- Do not start your project until you have received a signed funding agreement.

Unsuccessful Applications

If your application is unsuccessful, we will notify you by email.

You are strongly encouraged to contact us for feedback which may help if you plan to apply again in future rounds.

PAYMENTS

If your application is successful, the City will transfer the approved funding amount to your nominated bank account after the funding agreement is signed.

We will only pay grant money to the applicant (or auspice).

A tax invoice is required before we pay any grant funds. Our team will contact successful grant applicants to arrange this.

If you do not provide either an ABN or a ‘Statement by a Supplier’ form, we may have to withhold tax from the grant payment at the top marginal rate of 45%.

Note: There may be a considerable time between close of applications and finalising a funding agreement. This should be factored into project timelines, expiry dates on quotes and project cashflow.

FUNDING AGREEMENTS

Successful grant applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement. The agreement will include:

- the terms and conditions of funding
- the details of the activity
- what you are expected to deliver
- your reporting requirements.
- the schedule of payments.

General information

The following information applies to all City of Greater Geelong grants.

FIRST NATIONS

For any proposals with a First Nations theme you are strongly encouraged to contact the Community Grants Unit to ensure you have engaged with First Nations Communities and understand any requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act (2006)*.

PERMITS AND APPROVALS

Some projects or events may need a permit or approval. These processes are separate to the grant application process and require additional time and budget in your project plan.

While you do not need to secure permits or approvals before applying, securing them will be a condition of the grant if your application is successful. As such, we may choose not to pay you any money until the relevant permits and approvals are secured.

You must demonstrate that you are aware of the necessary permits and approvals in your application. We will consider this information when assessing your application under the 'well-planned project' criteria on page 11.

INSURANCE

You must arrange public liability insurance (PLI) to cover the activity detailed in your application and provide the PLI certificate of currency if your application is successful.

Applicants using an auspice would include a PLI certificate from the auspice organisation.

A policy statement or receipt of payment is not an acceptable substitute for the certificate of currency.

REPORTING

If you receive a grant, you must submit an evaluation of your activity and a financial report within fourteen days of your project finishing.

The evaluation report tells us about your project and the financial report includes all income and expenses for the grant. It demonstrates you have spent the money how you said you would.

We may request meetings with you to check your progress or ask for an audit of your financial records to prove you have spent the grant as you said you would. As such, you must keep accurate financial records and make them available to us if requested.

GRANT VARIATIONS - MAKING CHANGES TO YOUR FUNDED ACTIVITY

Projects are funded for delivery as described in your funding agreement.

If you need to change something about your grant, you must seek our approval in writing. This includes:

- changes to your proposed completion date
- changes to the nature of your activity
- changes to how you want to spend the money.

We reserve the right to withdraw funding if:

- we do not support your request for changes
- your request is not made within a reasonable time
- you make changes without our knowledge.

If a project stops or the grant funds are no longer required, you must repay the funding to the City of Greater Geelong.

WITHDRAWING FUNDING

We reserve the right to withdraw funding if we do not receive a tax invoice within the financial year in which the grant was awarded, or by the due date/s included in the agreement.

We can also withdraw funding if you are in breach of your funding agreement.

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR SUPPORT

You must acknowledge the City of Greater Geelong on your promotional materials if you receive a grant. We will provide a guide with detailed instructions on how to do this.

Definitions

Following are definitions of some of the words we use in this document. If you find other words that you are not familiar with, please contact us for help.

Technical terms and definitions specific to the Community Infrastructure Grants.

Word	Explanation
Business Case Not eligible for funding.	A business case includes information about the preferred solution, expected benefits, costs, risks, and value for money of a project. It is often used to secure funding or formal approval from decision-makers. It provides the justification for investing in a particular option—usually the one identified as most feasible.
Detailed Design Eligible for funding	Final package of design documents including specifications and schedules and other supporting documents. These are suitable for a tender or can be used by builders/contractor to provide quotes for works. Detailed designs are usually prepared by a professional consultant or team of experts.
Facility development plan Eligible for funding	City led facility development plans identify infrastructure requirements in line with contemporary sports facility standards. These priorities are determined through asset auditing, key stakeholder consultation and identified community need, and provide a strategic approach to developments within a recreation reserve. A facility development plan is developed in partnership with the local users of a reserve to support the future advocacy for infrastructure development and is not formally endorsed by Council.
Feasibility assessments Not eligible for funding.	This is a structured assessment during the early stages of a project to determine whether the proposed infrastructure – such as community halls or sporting facilities – is viable, sustainable and worth pursuing. Preparing the feasibility study is the applicant's responsibility. It can be submitted with a grant application for planning and/or capital works to demonstrate need for the project.
Concept design	A site-specific plan of the proposed works. The design is either prepared by the applicant or by a professional consultant depending on the complexity or value of the project Preparing concept designs is typically applicant's responsibility and must be included with their grant submission, unless the application is for concept design only. Refer to the checklist on page 9 'What you need for your application' for further information.
Master plan Not eligible for funding.	Master plans guide the future development of sport and recreation spaces and facilities. They are active strategic documents that consider the aspirations, needs, and wants of local residents, user groups and stakeholders to produce a plan that enables greater function, participation and activation of a reserve. Incorporated in the development phase of a Master Planning project is community engagement and the final stage of a Master plan is Council endorsement.
Private	Refers to applications for infrastructure the City does not own. Includes assets on Crown land and assets owned by eligible applicants.

Common terms used across all the City's Community Grants.

Word	Explanation
ABN	Australian Business Number is a unique number that identifies a business in Australia
Application	A form you fill out to ask for grant money
Assess	How we review and consider your application
Auspice	An organisation that applies for a grant on your behalf if your group is not legally registered

Word	Explanation
Budget	A plan that shows how much money you have and how you will spend it
Categories	Different types of funding available within one grant
Community panel	A group of community members who review applications and recommend which projects should get funding
Eligibility	The rules that decide if you or your project can receive grant funding
Evaluation and financial report	A report you must complete after your project ends, explaining what you did and how you spent the grant money
Expenditure	The things you spend money on for your project
Funding agreement	A document that explains why we are giving you the grant money and the rules you must follow when using it
Grant	Money given to a person or organisation for a specific purpose
Group	Two or more people who meet regularly and run projects or activities that other people participate in (e.g., youth group, seniors' group, cultural group)
GST	Goods and Services Tax. This is tax that applies to goods and services in Australia
Income	Money that you have or expect to receive for your project. This can include grant money from the City, fundraising, sponsorship, ticket sales or other grant funding
Incorporated	A group or organisation that has legally registered to become a formal entity
Insurance	A contract you have with an insurance company that helps protect from financial loss if something goes wrong
Log in	Your email and password used to access SmartyGrants
Not-for-profit	An organisation that does not does not distribute profits to owners or shareholders
Officer panel	A group of City officers who review applications and recommend which projects should get funding
Online	Available on the internet
Organisation	A legally constituted organisation that is registered or created by law. For example, incorporated associations, companies limited by guarantee or registered charities are all defined as organisations
Quote	A written estimate of how much something will cost
SmartyGrants	An online system we use to manage grant applications
Submitted	When you finish your application in SmartyGrants and press the submit button
The City	The City of Greater Geelong
Unincorporated Group	A group that is not legally registered as an organisation
Weighted average scoring	A method of scoring applications where some parts of the decision are more important than others

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING GRANTS

2026-27 GUIDELINES

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We Acknowledge the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the Land, Waterways and Skies.

We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. We Acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are part of our Greater Geelong community today.

Welcome

ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

This booklet contains information about the City of Greater Geelong's Community Strengthening Grants.

Please read it carefully before you apply.

Important words are explained at the back of this booklet (page 18).

THE CITY OF GREATER GEELONG COMMUNITY GRANTS

A grant is money given to a person, organisation or group for a specific purpose.

Our Community Grants help turn your idea into reality. Whether you're looking to purchase new equipment, offer group activities, run a community event, create an inspired arts project or upgrade facilities, funding is available.

You can apply to multiple City of Greater Geelong Community Grants programs, but each application must be for a different project, event, or activity.

APPLICATION SUPPORT

Contact the City

You must contact the City's Community Grants Unit before applying to discuss your eligibility, proposed activity and other grant matters.

E: communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

P: 5272 5560

If you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment

National Relay Service (NRS)

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, and you wish to contact us, you can do so through the National Relay Service (NRS) and ask for 03 5272 5272. Our call centre team will then connect you with the grants team.

Our business hours are Monday to Friday, 8.30am–5.00pm.

- TTY users – call 13 36 77
- Speak & Listen (voice relay) users – call 1300 555 727
- SMS relay users – message 0423 677 767

Note: Area code must be included for each call.

Further information and NRS call numbers can be found on the Access Hub website: www.accesshub.gov.au/about-the-nrs/nrs-call-numbers-and-links

If you need an interpreter



If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450 and ask them to call the City of Greater Geelong on 03 5272 5272. Our business hours are Monday to Friday, 8.30am–5.00pm.

About this grant

OBJECTIVES

Community Strengthening Grants support projects, activities or events that respond to a community need and promote inclusion and positive health and wellbeing within the community.

These grants support community groups and not-for-profit organisations to:

- create opportunities for people to get together
- help people to be more active
- promote gender equity and equality
- strengthen community action on food systems and food security
- increase awareness about the harm of alcohol and tobacco use, vaping and gambling

KEY DATES

Applications open:	27 June 2026
Applications close:	10 August 2026 by 5.00 pm (we do not accept late applications)
Notification to applicants:	9 December 2026
Project start date:	You cannot commence your project until after the notification date (above) and you have a signed funding agreement with us.
Project end date:	You must complete your activity within 12 months of the notification date.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

Being eligible means, you can receive a grant, but it does not guarantee funding. To apply for this grant, you must be one of the following:

- incorporated not-for-profit organisation
- unincorporated group with an auspice
- registered charitable organisation

WHO CANNOT APPLY

You are not eligible to apply if you are any of the following:

- school or learning institution
- business
- individual operating as a sole trader (with an active ABN).
- individual (without an ABN)
- previous applicant with an outstanding acquittal for grant funding from the City
- applicant who has not complied with the terms of a previous funding agreement
- entity currently involved in legal proceedings with the City, bankruptcy or similar situations
- entity with outstanding debt to the City.

HOW MUCH FUNDING CAN YOU APPLY FOR?

You may request up to $10,000.

The total amount of funding available for Community Strengthening Grants is $203,000.

You can only submit one application per funding round to this grant.

HOW WE ALLOCATE FUNDING

Our grants are competitive, so even if you meet the criteria, you may not get funding.

You cannot rely on the City's Community Grants for ongoing funding.

In some cases, we may offer partial funding for a smaller or modified project.

We typically fund projects only once. However, we may consider funding a project again if there is a strong reason that aligns with the objectives of this grant.

What you can apply for

To help you work out whether your project is the sort of thing we are looking to fund, we have developed the following list of example projects and costs we might cover.

Yes - we will fund	No - we will not fund
Types of projects	**Types of projects**
Projects within Greater Geelong	Projects outside Greater Geelong
Here are some examples of projects we may fund. Other project ideas may also be eligible. If you're unsure, please contact us for advice.	Core business
Create opportunities for people to get together	Fundraising events for charities or your own group
Community celebration, event or activity	Marketing only projects
Art therapy program	Political or gambling activities
Volunteer program	Projects better suited to the City's other grants
Playgroup program	Projects started before funding is approved
New community group start up	Website development
Strategic plan development	**Expenses**
Help people to be more active	Cash vouchers
Come and try event	Equipment only purchases
All abilities competition	General day-to-day operating costs of running your organisation or business (e.g. insurance, utilities, rent, administration)
Promote gender equity and equality	Own venue hire
Awareness raising activities or events	Prizes, gifts and awards (e.g. gift vouchers, medals, money, trophies)
Guest speakers	Payments to volunteers
Days of significance activities	Taxes, levies, fines or penalties
Strengthen community action on food systems and food security	
Community forums	
Food swaps	
Cooking classes	
Increase awareness about the harm of alcohol and tobacco use, vaping and gambling	
Education campaigns	
Guest speakers	
Specialist programs	
Expenses	
These are examples of costs we may fund, but other costs may also be eligible. If you're unsure, please contact us for advice.	
Advertising/marketing	

Yes - we will fund	No - we will not fund
Catering	
Contractors engaged to deliver a project	
Equipment hire	
Project materials and supplies	
Professional printing	
Project specific insurance only	
Staff wages (where they relate to additional work required to deliver the project. Applicants must explain the role and why this work cannot be delivered within existing resources)	
Venue hire, (including City of Greater Geelong venues)	

What you need for your application

You will need to provide certain documents and information with your application. This helps us confirm you can legally receive funding and practically deliver your proposed project.

CHECKLIST

Before you start your application, use this checklist as a guide – some items may not apply to your application:

- full and correct applicant name
- address and contact details of applicant
- name and contact details of the person authorised to apply for this grant
- certificate of incorporation
- auspice agreement letter (if your organisation is not incorporated)
- Australian Business Number (ABN) details registered to the grant applicant name
- a completed Statement by Supplier form (if you don't have an ABN)
- bank account details (account name, BSB and account number) which must match the applicant's name and ABN details
- redacted bank statement
- letters of support from project partners and/or stakeholders
- copies of required permits or approvals
- evidence of venue booking enquiry
- a budget showing all income, expenses and how the grant funds will be used.
- evidence for expenses to be funded by the grant. Evidence we will accept includes:
  - supplier or contractor quotes with the supplier's business name, ABN/ACN and contact details.
  - screenshots from online stores with the item description, price and supplier's business name.
- a letter explaining any staff wage costs. The letter must outline the role, the additional work required to deliver the project, and why this work cannot be delivered using existing resources.

How we assess applications

We carefully check all applications to make sure they meet the guideline rules and are a good use of the City's grant funding.

ASSESSMENT

The complete list of checks we do on each grant application include:

Eligibility checks – we check if the applicant and project are eligible (see pages 4 and 6 through 7).

Officer panel assessment – if eligible, our officers review the application using the grant assessment criteria and funding priorities on page 9 and 10.

Community panel review – a group of independent community members review the officer assessments and recommend funding to Council.

Council endorsement –Council reviews and endorses funding recommendations.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

We use assessment criteria to score each application. In the application form, you will be asked questions about these criteria. Your answers help us compare applications fairly and decide which projects we can fund.

Each criterion has a weighting (a percentage). A higher percentage means that criterion has more impact on your total score.

The table below shows the assessment criteria and what we look for.

We will score your application based on the information you provide and how you answer the questions.

COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING GRANTS ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Criteria 1: Community Benefit 50%

- Does your project aim to support, or promote the inclusion of, one or more of the City's priority groups?
  - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
  - Multicultural communities
  - Refugee and asylum seeker communities
  - Rural and peri-urban communities
  - LGBTQIA+ communities
  - Young people
  - Older people
  - Socio-economic disadvantage
  - People with disability
  - Women
- Clearly explain the community need your project is responding to. Provide relevant evidence or data to support this. Useful local data can be found here.
- Explain the changes you expect from your project? (These are your outcomes).
- Which of the City's outcomes do your outcomes align with?

  Refer to Appendix 1 in these guidelines for a list of the City's outcomes. You need to align your outcomes with a **minimum of one** and **maximum of three** of the City's outcomes - focus only on those most relevant to your project.
- Which of the City's measures can you report on? Include your targets and data collection methods.

  Refer to the Appendix 1 for a list of the City's measures. Choose only those measures that relate to the City's outcomes you chose.

Criteria 2: Well-planned 50%

- Describe your activities and timeline.
- What skills, knowledge and experience does the organising team have to successfully deliver the project?
- Do you need any permits or approvals for your project?
- Have you made a booking enquiry with your venue?
- What is the total cost of your activity?
- How much grant money do you need?
- Do you have income from other sources (e.g. your own cash contribution, sponsorship)? Is it confirmed?
- What expenses will you have? (e.g. venue hire, materials)
- Have you provided evidence for expenses to be funded by the grant?

  Evidence we will accept includes:

  – supplier or contractor quotes with the supplier's business name, ABN/ACN and contact details

  – screenshots from online stores with the item description, price and supplier's business name.

If you do not provide this evidence, you may receive a lower score for this criteria, or the cost may be removed from the grant request.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

If the total funding requested by all applicants exceeds the available funding, we may prioritise:

- applicants who did not receive money from this grant in the previous year.
- applications from organisations that do not receive money from electronic gaming machines or gambling.

How to apply

CONTACT THE GRANTS UNIT

Please contact the City's Grants Unit before applying to discuss your eligibility, proposed activity and other grant matters.

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P: 5272 5560

APPLY ONLINE

All applications must be submitted online via SmartyGrants. You must log in or create an account before you begin. You can access the application form in two ways:

- Visit the Community Grants section of the City's website and navigate to the specific grant page. Click the **Apply Now** button and log in or create an account to access the form.
- Visit SmartyGrants directly, log in or create an account, and select the grant you wish to apply for.

Paper or email applications will not be accepted.

WITHDRAWING OR CHANGING YOUR APPLICATION

If you have not submitted your application, you can log in to SmartyGrants at any time to make edits.

If you have submitted your application and need to make changes, contact us before the closing date. We can reopen your application to allow edits.

Changes cannot be made after the closing date.

If you need to withdraw your application after submission, please notify the Community Grants Unit in writing.

ABOUT APPLICANT TYPES

To determine eligibility for a grant, please read all applicant types carefully. If you are unsure what sort of applicant you are, please check your details online.

- incorporated associations – go to www.consumer.vic.gov.au
- companies – go to https://connectonline.asic.gov.au
- individuals or sole traders with an ABN – go to https://abr.business.gov.au
- charities – go to www.acnc.gov.au/charity/charities

IF YOUR ORGANISATION IS NOT INCORPORATED

If your organisation or group is not incorporated, you can still apply for a grant by working with an auspice organisation.

An auspice is an organisation that meets our eligibility criteria and agrees to support and manage your grant. They take legal and financial responsibility for the funding.

If your application is successful, your auspice organisation will:

- sign the grant funding agreement
- receive the grant money and pass it on to you
- make sure all grant activities are completed
- submit the final evaluation and financial report on your behalf.

How to apply with an Auspice

If you want to apply with an auspice organisation, you must:

- get their approval before you submit your application
- upload a signed letter confirming your auspice arrangement.

What happens next

Once we have decided who is going to receive a grant, we will let you know of the outcome of your application, even if it was unsuccessful.

NOTIFICATION OF OUTCOME

The City of Greater Geelong will notify all applicants of their outcome by email by the date listed on page 4 of this booklet.

Successful Applications

If your application is successful, this does not guarantee funding. You must complete additional steps before receiving a grant payment.

- You will receive an email with a link to a funding agreement outlining the terms and conditions of the grant (see **Funding Agreements** section below).
- You must sign and return the agreement, upload a tax invoice and your public liability insurance certificate of currency before any payment is made.

You cannot commence your project until after the notification date and you have a signed funding agreement with us.

Unsuccessful Applications

If your application is unsuccessful, we will notify you by email.

You are strongly encouraged to contact us for feedback which may help if you plan to apply again in future rounds.

PAYMENTS

If your application is successful, the City will transfer the approved funding amount to your nominated bank account after the funding agreement is signed.

We will only pay grant money to the applicant (or auspice).

A tax invoice is required before we pay any grant funds. Our team will contact successful grant applicants to arrange this.

If you do not provide either an ABN or a ‘Statement by a Supplier’ form, we may have to withhold tax from the grant payment at the top marginal rate of 45%.

FUNDING AGREEMENTS

Successful grant applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement. The agreement will include:

- the terms and conditions of funding
- the details of the activity
- what you are expected to deliver
- your reporting requirements

General information

The following information applies to all City of Greater Geelong grants.

FIRST NATIONS

For any proposals with a First Nations theme you are strongly encouraged to contact the Community Grants Unit to ensure you have engaged with First Nations Communities and understand any requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act (2006)*.

PERMITS AND APPROVALS

Some projects or events may need a permit or approval. These processes are separate to the grant application process and require additional time and budget in your project plan.

While you do not need to secure permits or approvals before applying, securing them will be a condition of the grant if your application is successful. As such, we may choose not to pay you any money until the relevant permits and approvals are secured.

You must demonstrate that you are aware of the necessary permits and approvals in your application. We will consider this information when assessing your application under the 'well-planned' criteria on page 10.

INSURANCE

You must arrange public liability insurance (PLI) to cover the activity detailed in your application and provide the PLI certificate of currency if your application is successful.

Applicants using an auspice would include a PLI certificate from the auspice organisation.

A policy statement or receipt of payment is not an acceptable substitute for the certificate of currency.

REPORTING

If you receive a grant, you must submit an evaluation of your activity and a financial report within one month of your project finishing.

The evaluation report tells us about your project and the financial report includes all income and expenses for the grant. It demonstrates you have spent the money how you said you would.

We may request meetings with you to check your progress or ask for an audit of your financial records to prove you have spent the grant as you said you would. As such, you must keep accurate financial records and make them available to us if requested.

GRANT VARIATIONS - MAKING CHANGES TO YOUR FUNDED ACTIVITY

Projects are funded for delivery as described in your funding agreement.

If you need to change something about your grant, you must seek our approval in writing. This includes:

- changes to your proposed completion date
- changes to the nature of your activity
- changes to how you want to spend the money.

We reserve the right to withdraw funding if:

- we do not support your request for changes
- your request is not made within a reasonable time
- you make changes without our knowledge.

If a project stops or the grant funds are no longer required, you must repay the funding to the City of Greater Geelong.

WITHDRAWING FUNDING

We reserve the right to withdraw funding if we do not receive a tax invoice within the financial year in which the grant was awarded, or by the due date/s included in the agreement.

We can also withdraw funding if you are in breach of your funding agreement.

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR SUPPORT AND MEDIA

You must acknowledge the City of Greater Geelong on your promotional materials if you receive a grant. We will provide a guide with detailed instructions on how to do this.

When you sign your funding agreement, you will be asked to provide a short-written statement as the grant recipient, telling us how you feel about being a successful applicant, and how this project will benefit the community.

We may use your statement for promotion on social media or in other media outlets.

Appendix 1 -Outcomes Framework

2026-27 COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING GRANTS FRAMEWORK	
OUTCOMES (Changes you expect to result from your project) – maximum of THREE	**MEASURES (Show how far you have progressed towards your outcome) - choose ONE for each outcome you have selected**
OBJECTIVE - Create opportunities for people to get together	
Stronger social connection	Number of participants
	Number of participants reporting stronger social connection
	Strategic documentation created
Stronger sense of belonging	Number of participants
	Number of participants reporting stronger sense of belonging
	Strategic documentation created
Reduced loneliness	Number of participants
	Number of participants reporting reduced loneliness
	Strategic documentation created
Improved mental wellbeing	Number of participants
	Number of participants reporting improved mental wellbeing
	Strategic documentation created
Increased collaboration	Number of participants
	Number of participants reporting increased collaboration
	Strategic documentation created
OBJECTIVE - Help people to be more active	
Increased levels of physical activity	Number of participants
	Number of activities
	Strategic documentation created
OBJECTIVE - Promote gender equity and equality	
Increased awareness of people of all genders	Number of participants
	Number of participants reporting increased awareness of people of all genders
	Strategic documentation created
Increased inclusion of people of all genders	Number of participants
	Number of participants reporting feeling more included
	Strategic documentation created
Improved safety for people of all genders	Number of participants
	Number of participants reporting feeling safer
	Strategic documentation created

OUTCOMES (Changes you expect to result from your project) – maximum of THREE	MEASURES (Show how far you have progressed towards your outcome) - choose ONE for each outcome you have selected
OBJECTIVE - Strengthen community action on food systems and food security	
Increased access to healthy food	Number of participants with increased access to healthy food
	Strategic documentation created
Greater community involvement in local food projects	Number of participants
	Strategic documentation created
A more resilient food system	Number of food system programs
	Number of educational programs about food systems
	Strategic documentation created
	Number of participants
Reduced food waste	Kilograms of food waste diverted from landfill
	Strategic documentation created
OBJECTIVE - Increase awareness about the harm of alcohol and tobacco use, vaping and gambling	
Greater understanding of the risks regarding alcohol, tobacco, vaping and gambling	Number of participants
	Number of participants reporting a greater understanding of the risks regarding alcohol, tobacco, vaping and gambling
	Strategic documentation created
Healthier decision-making regarding alcohol, tobacco, vaping and gambling	Number of participants
	Number of participants reporting making healthier decisions regarding alcohol, tobacco, vaping and gambling
	Strategic documentation created

Appendix 2 - Definitions

Following are definitions of some of the words we use in this document. If you find other words that you are not familiar with, please contact us for help.

Word	Explanation
ABN	Australian Business Number is a unique number that identifies a business in Australia.
Application	A form you fill out to ask for grant money.
Assess	How we review and consider your application.
Auspice	An organisation that applies for a grant on your behalf if your group is not legally registered.
Budget	A plan that shows how much money you have and how you will spend it.
Community panel	A group of community members who review applications and recommend which projects should get funding.
Eligibility	The rules that decide if you or your project can receive grant funding.
Evaluation and financial report	A report you must complete after your project ends, explaining what you did and how you spent the grant money.
Expenditure	The things you spend money on for your project.
Funding agreement	A document that explains why we are giving you the grant money and the rules you must follow when using it.
Grant	Money given to a person or organisation for a specific purpose.
Group	Two or more people who meet regularly and run projects or activities that other people participate in (e.g., youth group, seniors' group, cultural group)
Income	Money that you have or expect to receive for your project. This can include grant money from the City, fundraising, sponsorship, ticket sales or other grant funding.
Incorporated	A group or organisation that has legally registered to become a formal entity.
Insurance	A contract you have with an insurance company that helps protect from financial loss if something goes wrong.
Log in	Your email and password used to access SmartyGrants.
Not-for-profit	An organisation that does not does not distribute profits to owners or shareholders.
Officer panel	A group of City officers who review applications and recommend which projects should get funding.
Online	Available on the internet.
Organisation	A legally constituted organisation that is registered or created by law. For example, incorporated associations, companies limited by guarantee or registered charities are all defined as organisations.
Quote	A written estimate of how much something will cost.
SmartyGrants	An online system we use to manage grant applications.
Submitted	When you finish your application in SmartyGrants and press the submit button.
The City	The City of Greater Geelong.
Unincorporated Group	A group that is not legally registered as an organisation.
Weighted average scoring	A method of scoring applications where some parts of the decision are more important than others.

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

CREATIVE COMMISSIONS GRANTS

2026-27 GUIDELINES

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We Acknowledge the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the Land, Waterways and Skies.

We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. We Acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are part of our Greater Geelong community today.

Welcome

ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

This booklet contains information about the City of Greater Geelong's Creative Commissions Grants.

Please read it carefully before you apply.

Important words are explained at the back of this booklet (page 16).

THE CITY OF GREATER GEELONG COMMUNITY GRANTS

A grant is money given to a person, organisation or group for a specific purpose.

Our Community Grants help turn your idea into reality. Whether you're looking to purchase new equipment, offer group activities, run a community event, create an inspired arts project or upgrade facilities, funding is available.

APPLICATION SUPPORT

Contact the City

You must contact the City's Community Grants Unit before applying to discuss your eligibility, proposed activity and other grant matters.

E: communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

P: 5272 5560

If you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment

National Relay Service (NRS)

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, and you wish to contact us, you can do so through the National Relay Service (NRS) and ask for 03 5272 5272. Our call centre team will then connect you with the grants team.

Our business hours are Monday to Friday, 8.30am–5.00pm.

- TTY users – call 13 36 77
- Speak & Listen (voice relay) users – call 1300 555 727
- SMS relay users – message 0423 677 767

Note: Area code must be included for each call.

Further information and NRS call numbers can be found on the Access Hub website: www.accesshub.gov.au/about-the-nrs/nrs-call-numbers-and-links

If you need an interpreter



If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450 and ask them to call the City of Greater Geelong on 03 5272 5272. Our business hours are Monday to Friday, 8.30am–5.00pm.

About this grant

OBJECTIVES

The Creative Commissions Grants support established, professional artists and creatives to deliver large-scale creative projects within the City of Greater of Geelong. They empower artists and creatives to deliver high quality, inspiring works that push the boundaries of traditional artistic expression.

These grants are for projects that are ambitious in scale, whether through audience reach, physical scale or building public recognition and awareness.

The objectives of the Creative Commissions Grants are to:

- increase community/public engagement interest and connection to high-quality locally developed work, experiences and stories
- build the reputation and reach of local artists and creatives
- maximise the capacity of mid-career to established artists to work collaboratively and innovate together in the creative domain
- facilitate and encourage the development and connection of partnerships within the municipality, contributing to a positive and strong economic and creative ecosystem.

Activities may include visual arts and craft, music, performing arts, literature and writing, design, screen and media, digital media and creative technology, cultural heritage and collections, community arts and cultural development.

KEY DATES

Applications open:	27 June 2026
Applications close:	10 August 2026 by 5.00 pm (we do not accept late applications)
Notification to applicants:	9 December 2026
Project start date:	You cannot commence your project until after the notification date (above) and you have a signed funding agreement with us.
Project end date:	You must complete your activity within 12 months of the notification date.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

This grant is available to applicants whose primary practice is within the arts, creative and cultural sector.

Being eligible means, you can receive a grant, but it does not guarantee funding. To apply for this grant, you must be one of the following:

- incorporated not-for-profit organisation
- unincorporated group with an auspice
- registered charitable organisation
- business
- individual operating as a sole trader (with an active ABN).

WHO CANNOT APPLY

You are not eligible to apply if you are any of the following:

- school or learning institution
- individual (without an ABN)
- previous applicant with an outstanding acquittal for grant funding from the City

- applicant who has not complied with the terms of a previous funding agreement
- entity currently involved in legal proceedings with the City, bankruptcy or similar situations
- entity with outstanding debt to the City.

HOW MUCH FUNDING CAN YOU APPLY FOR?

You may request up to $20,000.

The total amount of funding available for Creative Commissions Grants is $80,000.

You can apply to multiple City of Greater Geelong Community Grants programs, but each application must be for a different project, event, or activity.

However, of the three *Creative City Grants* (Creative Seed, Arts Projects, or Creative Commissions), you may submit only one application per financial year. This means you must choose the grant that best matches your creative proposal, as you cannot apply for more than one of these three in the same year.

HOW WE ALLOCATE FUNDING

Our grants are competitive, so even if you meet the criteria, you may not get funding.

You cannot rely on the City's Community Grants for ongoing funding.

In some cases, we may offer partial funding for a smaller or modified project.

We typically fund projects only once. However, we may consider funding a project again if there is a strong reason that aligns with the objectives of this grant.

What you can apply for

To help you work out whether your project is the sort of thing we are looking to fund, we have developed the following list of example projects and costs we might cover.

Yes - we will fund	No - we will not fund
Types of projects	**Types of projects**
Projects within Greater Geelong	Projects outside Greater Geelong
If your activity has been delivered before, you may apply for funding to increase it in scope and scale.	Capital Works (e.g. building property, structural improvements, alterations and extensions)
Here are some examples of projects we may fund. Other project ideas may also be eligible. If you're unsure, please contact us for advice.	Core business
Arts and creative projects that invite diverse community participation	Existing work
Cross artform/industry artistic projects that include collaboration and partnerships	Fundraising events for charities or your own group
Experimental, contemporary, and innovative work delivered in unique spaces	Political or gambling activities
Telling and sharing of stories embedded in local places to strengthen the community's connection to place, their own history, stories and culture	Projects better suited to the City's other grants
Temporary immersive installations and/or experiences that engage the community and create opportunities for public participation	Projects started before funding is approved
The use of new and emerging technologies (such as Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality)	Public art such as murals and sculptures
	Presenting a touring artwork/project
Expenses	**Expenses**
These are examples of costs we may fund, but other costs may also be eligible. If you're unsure, please contact us for advice.	Cash vouchers
Artists/creatives fees – artists and creatives should be appropriately paid	Catering
Auspice fees	General day-to-day operating costs of running your organisation or business (e.g. insurance, utilities, rent, administration)
Contractors engaged to deliver a project	Own venue hire
Documentation, digital archiving and evaluation	Payments to volunteers
Equipment purchases or hire	Prizes, gifts and awards (e.g. gift vouchers, medals, money, trophies)
Inclusion and access costs	Taxes, levies, fines or penalties
Marketing and promotion	
Materials	
Production costs	
Professional photography	

Yes - we will fund	No - we will not fund
Project specific insurance only Project-specific software licences for the duration of the project Staff wages (where they relate to additional work required to deliver the project. Applicants must explain the role and why this work cannot be delivered within existing resources) Venue hire, (including City of Greater Geelong venues)	

What you need for your application

You will need to provide certain documents and information with your application. This helps us confirm you can legally receive funding and practically deliver your proposed project.

CHECKLIST

Before you start your application, use this checklist as a guide – some items may not apply to your application:

- full and correct applicant name
- address and contact details of applicant
- name and contact details of the person authorised to apply for this grant
- certificate of incorporation
- auspice agreement letter (if your organisation is not incorporated)
- Australian Business Number (ABN) details registered to the grant applicant name
- a completed Statement by Supplier form (if you don't have an ABN)
- bank account details (account name, BSB and account number) which must match the applicant's name and ABN details
- redacted bank statemen
- letters of support from project partners and/or stakeholders
- a portfolio or examples of the applicant's previous work, which may include images, videos, web links or other relevant materials, demonstrating the technical proficiency and high-quality outcomes in the field of the applicant's project
- artist CVs from artists/key people involved in your project
- written confirmation of participation from artists/key people you involved in your project
- copies of required permits or approvals
- evidence of venue availability
- a budget showing all income, expenses and how the grant funds will be used.
- a letter explaining any staff wage costs. The letter must outline the role, the additional work required to deliver the project, and why this work cannot be delivered using existing resources.
- evidence for expenses to be funded by the grant. Evidence we will accept includes:
  - supplier or contractor quotes with the supplier's business name, ABN/ACN and contact details, including NAVA Payment Standards for Artists: https://code.visualarts.net.au.
  - screenshots from online stores with the item description, price and supplier's business name.

How we assess applications

We carefully check all applications to make sure they meet the guideline rules and are a good use of the City's grant funding.

ASSESSMENT

The complete list of checks we do on each grant application include:

Eligibility checks – we check if the applicant and project are eligible (see pages 4 through 7).

Officer panel assessment – if eligible, our officers review the application using the grant assessment criteria and funding priorities on page 9 and 10.

Community panel review – a group of independent community members review the officer assessments and recommend funding to Council.

Council endorsement –Council reviews and endorses funding recommendations.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

We use assessment criteria to score each application. In the application form, you will be asked questions about these criteria. Your answers help us compare applications fairly and decide which projects we can fund.

Each criterion has a weighting (a percentage). A higher percentage means that criterion has more impact on your total score.

The table below shows the assessment criteria and what we look for.

We will score your application based on the information you provide and how you answer the questions.

CREATIVE COMMISIONS GRANTS ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Criteria 1: Artistic quality and ambition 30%

- How does the proposed work demonstrate originality, creativity, and quality?
- What is the ambition of the project, including its scope and scale (e.g. audience reach, physical scale, public profile, collaborations)?
- To what extent does the project push boundaries or explore new ideas and forms?

Criteria 2: Strategic impact 20%

- How does your project contribute to the City's priorities listed below?
  You do not need to address every impact—focus only on those most relevant to your project.
  - **Audience development and sector profile**
    How the project will help artists and creatives reach and grow audiences, and/or increase the visibility and reputation of the arts in the Greater Geelong region.
  - **Diversity, inclusion, and access**
    How the project supports equitable access to creative and cultural opportunities, including engagement with diverse communities and inclusive participation practices.
  - **Local identity, stories, and place**
    How the project reflects, interprets, or strengthens Greater Geelong's identity, culture, heritage, and connection to place.

– **Collaboration and partnerships**
How the project fosters collaboration across artists, disciplines, industries, or public and private partners, contributing to a stronger creative ecosystem.

– **Innovation and contemporary practice**
How the project encourages new ways of thinking, interdisciplinary approaches, or the use of emerging ideas, methods, or technologies.

– **Contribution to a vibrant and connected city**
How the project brings arts, culture, and heritage into the lives of residents and visitors, including through public engagement and shared experiences.

– **Economic and sector benefit**
How the project delivers economic value to artists, creatives, organisations, local businesses, or the broader community.

Criteria 3: Experience and artistic merit 20%

- Who are the key people involved in your project and what are their roles?
- Upload written confirmation of participation from artists/key people involved in your project.
- Upload Artist CVs for key people involved in your project.
- Upload portfolios of work for the key people involved in your project which may include images, videos, web links or other relevant materials, demonstrating significant experience and high-quality outcomes in the artist's field.

Criteria 4: Well-planned 30%

- Outline your project plan, including your approach to communications and engagement, as well as how you will evaluate your project.
- Do you have letters or emails of support from project partners and stakeholders?
- Do you need any permits or approvals for your project?
- Do you have a venue booking or evidence of venue availability?
- What is the total cost of your activity?
- How much grant money do you need?
- Do you have income from other sources (e.g. your own cash contribution, sponsorship). Is it confirmed?
- What expenses will you have? (e.g. venue hire, materials)
- Have you provided evidence for expenses to be funded by the grant? Evidence we will accept includes:
  – supplier or contractor quotes with the supplier's business name, ABN/ACN and contact details, including NAVA Payment Standards for Artists: https://code.visualarts.net.au.
  – screenshots from online stores with the item description, price and supplier's business name.

  If you do not provide this evidence, you may receive a lower score for this criteria, or the cost may be removed from the grant request.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

If the total funding requested by all applicants exceeds the available funding, we may prioritise:

- applicants who did not receive money from this grant in the previous year.
- applications from organisations that do not receive money from electronic gaming machines or gambling.
- applications that closely align with the City of Greater Geelong's Arts and Cultural Strategy 2021–2031.

How to apply

CONTACT THE GRANTS UNIT

Please contact the City's Grants Unit before applying to discuss your eligibility, proposed activity and other grant matters.

E: communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

P: 5272 5560

APPLY ONLINE

All applications must be submitted online via SmartyGrants. You must log in or create an account before you begin. You can access the application form in two ways:

- Visit the Community Grants section of the City's website and navigate to the specific grant page. Click the **Apply Now** button and log in or create an account to access the form.
- Visit SmartyGrants directly, log in or create an account, and select the grant you wish to apply for.

Paper or email applications will not be accepted.

WITHDRAWING OR CHANGING YOUR APPLICATION

If you have not submitted your application, you can log in to SmartyGrants at any time to make edits.

If you have submitted your application and need to make changes, contact us before the closing date. We can reopen your application to allow edits.

Changes cannot be made after the closing date.

If you need to withdraw your application after submission, please notify the Community Grants Unit in writing.

ABOUT APPLICANT TYPES

To determine eligibility for a grant, please read all applicant types carefully. If you are unsure what sort of applicant you are, please check your details online.

- incorporated associations – go to www.consumer.vic.gov.au
- companies – go to https://connectonline.asic.gov.au
- individuals or sole traders with an ABN – go to https://abr.business.gov.au
- charities – go to www.acnc.gov.au/charity/charities

IF YOUR ORGANISATION IS NOT INCORPORATED

If your organisation or group is not incorporated, you can still apply for a grant by working with an auspice organisation.

An auspice is an organisation that meets our eligibility criteria and agrees to support and manage your grant. They take legal and financial responsibility for the funding.

If your application is successful, your auspice organisation will:

- sign the grant funding agreement
- receive the grant money and pass it on to you
- make sure all grant activities are completed
- submit the final evaluation and financial report on your behalf.

How to apply with an Auspice

If you want to apply with an auspice organisation, you must:

- get their approval before you submit your application
- upload a signed letter confirming your auspice arrangement.

What happens next

Once we have decided who is going to receive a grant, we will let you know of the outcome of your application, even if it was unsuccessful.

NOTIFICATION OF OUTCOME

The City of Greater Geelong will notify all applicants of their outcome by email by the date listed on page 4 of this booklet.

Successful Applications

If your application is successful, this does not guarantee funding. You must complete additional steps before receiving a grant payment.

- You will receive an email with a link to a funding agreement outlining the terms and conditions of the grant (see **Funding Agreements** section below).
- You must sign and return the agreement, upload a tax invoice and your public liability insurance certificate of currency before any payment is made.

You cannot commence your project until after the notification date and you have a signed funding agreement with us.

Unsuccessful Applications

If your application is unsuccessful, we will notify you by email.

You are strongly encouraged to contact us for feedback which may help if you plan to apply again in future rounds.

PAYMENTS

If your application is successful, the City will transfer the approved funding amount to your nominated bank account after the funding agreement is signed.

We will only pay grant money to the applicant (or auspice).

A tax invoice is required before we pay any grant funds. Our team will contact successful grant applicants to arrange this.

If you do not provide either an ABN or a ‘Statement by a Supplier’ form, we may have to withhold tax from the grant payment at the top marginal rate of 45%.

FUNDING AGREEMENTS

Successful grant applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement. The agreement will include:

- the terms and conditions of funding
- the details of the activity
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- your reporting requirements

General information

The following information applies to all City of Greater Geelong grants.

FIRST NATIONS

For any proposals with a First Nations theme you are strongly encouraged to contact the Community Grants Unit to ensure you have engaged with First Nations Communities and understand any requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act (2006)*.

PERMITS AND APPROVALS

Some projects or events may need a permit or approval. These processes are separate to the grant application process and require additional time and budget in your project plan.

While you do not need to secure permits or approvals before applying, securing them will be a condition of the grant if your application is successful. As such, we may choose not to pay you any money until the relevant permits and approvals are secured.

You must demonstrate that you are aware of the necessary permits and approvals in your application. We will consider this information when assessing your application under the 'well-planned' criteria on page 10.

INSURANCE

You must arrange public liability insurance (PLI) to cover the activity detailed in your application and provide the PLI certificate of currency if your application is successful.

Applicants using an auspice would include a PLI certificate from the auspice organisation.

A policy statement or receipt of payment is not an acceptable substitute for the certificate of currency.

Some Arts organisations can assist with public liability insurance under a membership. Contact us to find out more.

REPORTING

If you receive a grant, you must submit an evaluation of your activity and a financial report within one month of your project finishing.

The evaluation report tells us about your project and the financial report includes all income and expenses for the grant. It demonstrates you have spent the money how you said you would.

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- changes to your proposed completion date
- changes to the nature of your activity
- changes to how you want to spend the money.

We reserve the right to withdraw funding if:

- we do not support your request for changes
- your request is not made within a reasonable time
- you make changes without our knowledge.

If a project stops or the grant funds are no longer required, you must repay the funding to the City of Greater Geelong.

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We reserve the right to withdraw funding if we do not receive a tax invoice within the financial year in which the grant was awarded, or by the due date/s included in the agreement.

We can also withdraw funding if you are in breach of your funding agreement.

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR SUPPORT AND MEDIA

You must acknowledge the City of Greater Geelong on your promotional materials if you receive a grant. We will provide a guide with detailed instructions on how to do this.

When you sign your funding agreement, you will be asked to provide a short-written statement as the grant recipient, telling us how you feel about being a successful applicant, and how this project will benefit the community.

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Budget	A plan that shows how much money you have and how you will spend it.
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Eligibility	The rules that decide if you or your project can receive grant funding.
Evaluation and financial report	A report you must complete after your project ends, explaining what you did and how you spent the grant money.
Expenditure	The things you spend money on for your project.
Funding agreement	A document that explains why we are giving you the grant money and the rules you must follow when using it.
Grant	Money given to a person or organisation for a specific purpose.
Group	Two or more people working together.
Income	Money that you have or expect to receive for your project. This can include grant money from the City, fundraising, sponsorship, ticket sales or other grant funding.
Incorporated	A group or organisation that has legally registered to become a formal entity.
Insurance	A contract you have with an insurance company that helps protect from financial loss if something goes wrong.
Log in	Your email and password used to access SmartyGrants.
Not-for-profit	An organisation that does not does not distribute profits to owners or shareholders.
Officer panel	A group of City officers who review applications and recommend which projects should get funding.
Online	Available on the internet.
Organisation	A legally constituted organisation that is registered or created by law. For example, incorporated associations, companies limited by guarantee or registered charities are all defined as organisations.
Quote	A written estimate of how much something will cost.
SmartyGrants	An online system we use to manage grant applications.
Submitted	When you finish your application in SmartyGrants and press the submit button.
The City	The City of Greater Geelong.
Unincorporated Group	A group that is not legally registered as an organisation.
Weighted average scoring	A method of scoring applications where some parts of the decision are more important than others.

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY GRANTS

2026-27 GUIDELINES

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We Acknowledge the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the Land, Waterways and Skies.

We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. We Acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are part of our Greater Geelong community today.

Welcome

ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

This booklet contains information about the City of Greater Geelong's Environmental Sustainability Grants. Please read it carefully before you apply.

Important words are explained at the back of this booklet (page16).

THE CITY OF GREATER GEELONG COMMUNITY GRANTS

A grant is money given to a person, organisation or group for a specific purpose.

Our Community Grants help turn your idea into reality. Whether you're looking to purchase new equipment, offer group activities, run a community event, create an inspired arts project or upgrade facilities, funding is available.

You can apply to multiple City of Greater Geelong Community Grants programs, but each application must be for a different project, event, or activity.

APPLICATION SUPPORT

Contact the City

You must contact the City's Community Grants Unit before applying to discuss your eligibility, proposed activity and other grant matters.

E: communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

P: 5272 5560

If you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment

National Relay Service (NRS)

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, and you wish to contact us, you can do so through the National Relay Service (NRS) and ask for 03 5272 5272. Our call centre team will then connect you with the grants team.

Our business hours are Monday to Friday, 8.30am–5.00pm.

- TTY users – call 13 36 77
- Speak & Listen (voice relay) users – call 1300 555 727
- SMS relay users – message 0423 677 767

Note: Area code must be included for each call.

Further information and NRS call numbers can be found on the Access Hub website: www.accesshub.gov.au/about-the-nrs/nrs-call-numbers-and-links

If you need an interpreter



If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450 and ask them to call the City of Greater Geelong on 03 5272 5272. Our business hours are Monday to Friday, 8.30am–5.00pm.

About this grant

OBJECTIVES

The Environmental Sustainability Grants support minor capital works and the initiation, development and delivery of projects that enhance our natural environment and drive environmental sustainability actions across the Geelong region.

This grant responds to the key goals of the City's Environment Strategy 2020–30.

The objectives of the grant are to:

- Become a zero-emission, climate-ready city
- Create greener community spaces
- Protect, enhance and restore our region's biodiversity
- Achieve better integrated water management through planning and design

Our aim is to create greener community and urban spaces, connect people with nature and protect, enhance and restore our region's biodiversity to reduce urban heat and overland flooding.

KEY DATES

Applications open:	27 June 2026
Applications close:	10 August 2026 by 5.00 pm (we do not accept late applications)
Notification to applicants:	9 December 2026
Project start date:	You cannot commence your project until after the notification date (above) and you have a signed funding agreement with us.
Project end date:	You must complete your activity within 12 months of the notification date.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

Being eligible means, you can receive a grant, but it does not guarantee funding. To apply for this grant, you must be one of the following:

- incorporated not-for-profit organisation
- unincorporated group with an auspice
- registered charitable organisation
- school or learning institution (only for non-curriculum-based activities that support participation by the wider community)

WHO CANNOT APPLY

You are not eligible to apply if you are any of the following:

- business
- individual operating as a sole trader (with an active ABN).
- individual (without an ABN)
- previous applicant with an outstanding acquittal for grant funding from the City
- applicant who has not complied with the terms of a previous funding agreement
- entity currently involved in legal proceedings with the City, bankruptcy or similar situations
- entity with outstanding debt to the City.

HOW MUCH FUNDING CAN YOU APPLY FOR?

This grant has two categories, but you can only apply for one category per funding round. You may request

- up to $10,000 for a minor capital works grant, or
- up to $10,000 for a project grant.

The total amount of funding available for all Environmental Sustainability Grants is $70,000.

HOW WE ALLOCATE FUNDING

Our grants are competitive, so even if you meet the criteria, you may not get funding.

You cannot rely on the City's Community Grants for ongoing funding.

In some cases, we may offer partial funding for a smaller or modified project.

We typically fund projects only once. However, we may consider funding a project again if there is a strong reason that aligns with the objectives of this grant.

What you can apply for

To help you work out whether your project is the sort of thing we are looking to fund, we have developed the following list of example projects and costs we might cover.

Yes - we will fund	No - we will not fund
Types of projects Projects within Greater Geelong *Here are some examples of projects we may fund. Other project ideas may also be eligible. If you're unsure, please contact us for advice.* **Minor Capital Works** High-efficiency water irrigation Solar installations Water tanks **Projects** Development of a strategic or business plan, or land management plans for a community group Development of educational or capacity building materials and resources Initiatives that build capacity and promote best practice in managing the natural environment or promoting environmental sustainability – for example, workshops, networking events, training, skill development Pest plant and/or animal control measures Re-vegetation program with indigenous (locally native) plants Works designed to support healthy waterways **Expenses** *These are examples of costs we may fund, but other costs may also be eligible. If you're unsure, please contact us for advice.* Contractors engaged to deliver a project Materials and equipment Project specific insurance only Staff wages (where they relate to additional work required to deliver the project. Applicants must explain the role and why this work cannot be delivered within existing resources) Venue hire, (including City of Greater Geelong venues)	**Types of projects** Projects outside Greater Geelong Core business Fundraising events for charities or your own group Political or gambling activities Projects better suited to the City's other grants Projects on designated private land will be excluded for consideration unless there is a broader environmental and community benefit, e.g., creating a biodiversity corridor across private lands Projects started before funding is approved **Expenses** Cash vouchers General day-to-day operating costs of running your organisation or business (e.g. insurance, utilities, rent, administration) Own venue hire Payments to volunteers Prizes, gifts and awards (e.g. gift vouchers, medals, money, trophies) Taxes, levies, fines or penalties Equipment only purchases

What you need for your application

You will need to provide certain documents and information with your application. This helps us confirm you can legally receive funding and practically deliver your proposed project.

CHECKLIST

Before you start your application, use this checklist as a guide – some items may not apply to your application:

- full and correct applicant name
- address and contact details of applicant
- name and contact details of the person authorised to apply for this grant
- certificate of incorporation
- auspice agreement letter (if your organisation is not incorporated)
- Australian Business Number (ABN) details registered to the grant applicant name
- a completed Statement by Supplier form (if you don't have an ABN)
- bank account details (account name, BSB and account number) which must match the applicant's name and ABN details
- redacted bank statement
- letters of support from project partners and/or stakeholders
- evidence of land ownership for capital works application on privately owned land/building (Certificate of Title)
- copies of required permits or approvals
- evidence of venue booking enquiry
- a budget showing all income, expenses and how the grant funds will be used.
- evidence for expenses to be funded by the grant. Evidence we will accept includes:
  - supplier or contractor quotes with the supplier's business name, ABN/ACN and contact details.
  - screenshots from online stores with the item description, price and supplier's business name.
- a letter explaining any staff wage costs. The letter must outline the role, the additional work required to deliver the project, and why this work cannot be delivered using existing resources.

How we assess applications

We carefully check all applications to make sure they meet the guideline rules and are a good use of the City's grant funding.

ASSESSMENT

The complete list of checks we do on each grant application include:

Eligibility checks – we check if the applicant and project are eligible (see pages 4 and 6).

Officer panel assessment – if eligible, our officers review the application using the grant assessment criteria and funding priorities on pages 8 and 9.

Community panel review – a group of independent community members review the officer assessments and recommend funding to Council.

Council endorsement –Council reviews and endorses funding recommendations.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

We use assessment criteria to score each application. In the application form, you will be asked questions about these criteria. Your answers help us compare applications fairly and decide which projects we can fund.

Each criterion has a weighting (a percentage). A higher percentage means that criterion has more impact on your total score.

The table below shows the assessment criteria and what we look for.

We will score your application based on the information you provide and how you answer the questions.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY GRANTS ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Criteria 1: Environmental Outcomes 60%

- Explain the need for your project or capital works.
- Explain the changes you expect from your project? (These are your outcomes).
- Which of the City's outcomes do your outcomes align with?

  Refer to Appendix 1 in these guidelines for a list of the City's outcomes. You need to align your outcomes with a minimum of one and maximum of three of the City's outcomes - focus only on those most relevant to your project.
- Which of the City's measures can you report on? Include your targets and data collection methods.

  Refer to the Appendix 1 for a list of the City's measures. Choose only those measures that relate to the City's outcomes you chose.

Criteria 2: Community Benefit 25%

- Describe how your project will achieve any of the following community impacts.
  You do not need to address every impact—focus only on those most relevant to your project.
  - encourage sustainable practice by leading and supporting education or capacity building for businesses and the community
  - achieve greater environmental sustainability outcomes for our community by working with others
  - harness community knowledge to drive sustainable change
  - improve access to programs for people with all abilities

– have a direct or indirect impact on local economic growth, businesses and/or organisational capacities.

Criteria 3: Well-planned 25%

- Describe your activities and timeline.
- Who are the key people involved in your project and what are their roles, skills and knowledge?
- List any collaborating partners and their roles.
- Do you need any permits or approvals for your project?
- Have you made a booking enquiry with your venue? Have you made a booking enquiry with your venue?
- What is the total cost of your activity?
- How much grant money do you need?
- Do you have income from other sources (e.g. your own cash contribution, sponsorship)? Is it confirmed?
- What expenses will you have? (e.g. venue hire, materials)
- Have you provided evidence for expenses to be funded by the grant? Evidence we will accept includes:
  – supplier or contractor quotes with the supplier's business name, ABN/ACN and contact details
  – screenshots from online stores with the item description, price and supplier's business name.

If you do not provide this evidence, you may receive a lower score for this criteria, or the cost may be removed from the grant request.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

If the total funding requested by all applicants exceeds the available funding, we may prioritise:

- applicants who did not receive money from this grant in the previous year.
- applications from organisations that do not receive money from electronic gaming machines or gambling.

How to apply

CONTACT THE GRANTS UNIT

Please contact the City's Grants Unit before applying to discuss your eligibility, proposed activity and other grant matters.

E: communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

P: 5272 5560

APPLY ONLINE

All applications must be submitted online via SmartyGrants. You must log in or create an account before you begin. You can access the application form in two ways:

- Visit the Community Grants section of the City's website and navigate to the specific grant page. Click the **Apply Now** button and log in or create an account to access the form.
- Visit SmartyGrants directly, log in or create an account, and select the grant you wish to apply for.

Paper or email applications will not be accepted.

WITHDRAWING OR CHANGING YOUR APPLICATION

If you have not submitted your application, you can log in to SmartyGrants at any time to make edits.

If you have submitted your application and need to make changes, contact us before the closing date. We can reopen your application to allow edits.

Changes cannot be made after the closing date.

If you need to withdraw your application after submission, please notify the Community Grants Unit in writing.

ABOUT APPLICANT TYPES

To determine eligibility for a grant, please read all applicant types carefully. If you are unsure what sort of applicant you are, please check your details online.

- incorporated associations – go to www.consumer.vic.gov.au
- companies – go to https://connectonline.asic.gov.au
- individuals or sole traders with an ABN – go to https://abr.business.gov.au
- charities – go to www.acnc.gov.au/charity/charities

IF YOUR ORGANISATION IS NOT INCORPORATED

If your organisation or group is not incorporated, you can still apply for a grant by working with an auspice organisation.

An auspice is an organisation that meets our eligibility criteria and agrees to support and manage your grant. They take legal and financial responsibility for the funding.

If your application is successful, your auspice organisation will:

- sign the grant funding agreement
- receive the grant money and pass it on to you
- make sure all grant activities are completed
- submit the final evaluation and financial report on your behalf.

How to apply with an Auspice

If you want to apply with an auspice organisation, you must:

- get their approval before you submit your application
- upload a signed letter confirming your auspice arrangement.

What happens next

Once we have decided who is going to receive a grant, we will let you know of the outcome of your application, even if it was unsuccessful.

NOTIFICATION OF OUTCOME

The City of Greater Geelong will notify all applicants of their outcome by email by the date listed on page 4 of this booklet.

Successful Applications

If your application is successful, this does not guarantee funding. You must complete additional steps before receiving a grant payment.

- You will receive an email with a link to a funding agreement outlining the terms and conditions of the grant (see **Funding Agreements** section below).
- You must sign and return the agreement, upload a tax invoice and your public liability insurance certificate of currency before any payment is made.

You cannot commence your project until after the notification date and you have a signed funding agreement with us.

Unsuccessful Applications

If your application is unsuccessful, we will notify you by email.

You are strongly encouraged to contact us for feedback which may help if you plan to apply again in future rounds.

PAYMENTS

If your application is successful, the City will transfer the approved funding amount to your nominated bank account after the funding agreement is signed.

We will only pay grant money to the applicant (or auspice).

A tax invoice is required before we pay any grant funds. Our team will contact successful grant applicants to arrange this.

If you do not provide either an ABN or a ‘Statement by a Supplier’ form, we may have to withhold tax from the grant payment at the top marginal rate of 45%.

FUNDING AGREEMENTS

Successful grant applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement. The agreement will include:

- the terms and conditions of funding
- the details of the activity
- what you are expected to deliver
- your reporting requirements

General information

The following information applies to all City of Greater Geelong grants.

FIRST NATIONS

For any proposals with a First Nations theme you are strongly encouraged to contact the Community Grants Unit to ensure you have engaged with First Nations Communities and understand any requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act (2006)*.

PERMITS AND APPROVALS

Some projects or events may need a permit or approval. These processes are separate to the grant application process and require additional time and budget in your project plan.

While you do not need to secure permits or approvals before applying, securing them will be a condition of the grant if your application is successful. As such, we may choose not to pay you any money until the relevant permits and approvals are secured.

You must demonstrate that you are aware of the necessary permits and approvals in your application. We will consider this information when assessing your application under the 'well-planned' criteria on page 9.

INSURANCE

You must arrange public liability insurance (PLI) to cover the activity detailed in your application and provide the PLI certificate of currency if your application is successful.

Applicants using an auspice would include a PLI certificate from the auspice organisation.

A policy statement or receipt of payment is not an acceptable substitute for the certificate of currency.

REPORTING

If you receive a grant, you must submit an evaluation of your activity and a financial report within one month of your project finishing.

The evaluation report tells us about your project and the financial report includes all income and expenses for the grant. It demonstrates you have spent the money how you said you would.

We may request meetings with you to check your progress or ask for an audit of your financial records to prove you have spent the grant as you said you would. As such, you must keep accurate financial records and make them available to us if requested.

GRANT VARIATIONS - MAKING CHANGES TO YOUR FUNDED ACTIVITY

Projects are funded for delivery as described in your funding agreement.

If you need to change something about your grant, you must seek our approval in writing. This includes:

- changes to your proposed completion date
- changes to the nature of your activity
- changes to how you want to spend the money.

We reserve the right to withdraw funding if:

- we do not support your request for changes
- your request is not made within a reasonable time
- you make changes without our knowledge.

If a project stops or the grant funds are no longer required, you must repay the funding to the City of Greater Geelong.

WITHDRAWING FUNDING

We reserve the right to withdraw funding if we do not receive a tax invoice within the financial year in which the grant was awarded, or by the due date/s included in the agreement.

We can also withdraw funding if you are in breach of your funding agreement.

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR SUPPORT AND MEDIA

You must acknowledge the City of Greater Geelong on your promotional materials if you receive a grant. We will provide a guide with detailed instructions on how to do this.

When you sign your funding agreement, you will be asked to provide a short-written statement as the grant recipient, telling us how you feel about being a successful applicant, and how this project will benefit the community.

We may use your statement for promotion on social media or in other media outlets.

Appendix 1 - Outcomes Framework

2026-27 Environmental Sustainability Outcomes Framework	
OUTCOMES (Changes you expect to result from your project) – maximum of three	**MEASURES (Show how far you have progressed towards your outcome) - choose one for each outcome you have selected**
OBJECTIVE - Become a zero-emission, climate-ready city	
Increased energy efficiency	Number of program participants Number of installations
Increased uptake of renewable energy and/or cleaner fuels	Number of installations Number of program participants
Reduced non-energy production emissions	Approx kgs of reduced emissions
Increased carbon storage	Number of plants planted
Increased understanding of climate change impacts	Number of program participants
Increased collaborative climate change responses.	Number of stakeholders and participants
Increased community involvement in citizen science programs to collect climate-change-related data	Number of participants
Increased community action	Number of participants
Reduced waste	kgs of waste material (per person, per household)
More resources recovered	kgs of resources recovered
OBJECTIVE - Create greener community spaces	
Increased use of community spaces	Number of people using the space
Reduced urban heat risk	Number of plants planted
Increased people's connection to nature	Number of participants
OBJECTIVE - Protect, enhance and restore our region's biodiversity	
Increased collaboration with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners to connect culture and biodiversity	Number of meetings/conversations
Indigenous biodiversity enhanced and protected	Number of plants planted
Biodiversity in modified urban landscapes restored	Number of plants planted
Increased community knowledge	Number of participants
Increased community engagement	Number of participants
OBJECTIVE - Achieve better integrated water management through planning and design	
Increased sustainable water use	Kilolitres of water saved
Improved health of waterways	Estimated amount of area improved (metres squared)

Appendix 2 - Definitions

Following are definitions of some of the words we use in this document. If you find other words that you are not familiar with, please contact us for help.

Word	Explanation
ABN	Australian Business Number is a unique number that identifies a business in Australia.
Application	A form you fill out to ask for grant money.
Assess	How we review and consider your application.
Auspice	An organisation that applies for a grant on your behalf if your group is not legally registered.
Budget	A plan that shows how much money you have and how you will spend it.
Categories	Different types of funding available within one grant.
Community panel	A group of community members who review applications and recommend which projects should get funding.
Eligibility	The rules that decide if you or your project can receive grant funding.
Evaluation and financial report	A report you must complete after your project ends, explaining what you did and how you spent the grant money.
Expenditure	The things you spend money on for your project.
Funding agreement	A document that explains why we are giving you the grant money and the rules you must follow when using it.
Grant	Money given to a person or organisation for a specific purpose.
Group	Two or more people who meet regularly and run projects or activities that other people participate in (e.g., youth group, seniors' group, cultural group)
Income	Money that you have or expect to receive for your project. This can include grant money from the City, fundraising, sponsorship, ticket sales or other grant funding.
Incorporated	A group or organisation that has legally registered to become a formal entity.
Insurance	A contract you have with an insurance company that helps protect from financial loss if something goes wrong.
Log in	Your email and password used to access SmartyGrants.
Not-for-profit	An organisation that does not does not distribute profits to owners or shareholders.
Officer panel	A group of City officers who review applications and recommend which projects should get funding.
Online	Available on the internet.
Organisation	A legally constituted organisation that is registered or created by law. For example, incorporated associations, companies limited by guarantee or registered charities are all defined as organisations.
Quote	A written estimate of how much something will cost.
SmartyGrants	An online system we use to manage grant applications.
Submitted	When you finish your application in SmartyGrants and press the submit button.
The City	The City of Greater Geelong.
Unincorporated Group	A group that is not legally registered as an organisation.
Weighted average scoring	A method of scoring applications where some parts of the decision are more important than others.

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

FIRST NATIONS GRANTS

2026-27 GUIDELINES

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We Acknowledge the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the Land, Waterways and Skies.

We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. We Acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are part of our Greater Geelong community today.

About this grant

OBJECTIVES

The First Nations Grants support self-determined projects and initiatives aimed at increasing health and social equity for Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, First Nations People, organisations and groups living in Greater Geelong.

The grant supports applications that:

- deliver on the National Agreement on Closing the Gap socio-economic targets
- deliver on the five pillars of the City's Community Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-29
- increase understanding, respect and celebration of First Nations perspectives and culture
- increase knowledge and understanding of the impacts of colonisation on First Nations People and Traditional Owners through Truth Telling
- strengthen and enable First Nations decision making and increase opportunities for community participation and diverse engagement.

KEY DATES

Applications open:	27 June 2026
Applications close:	10 August 2026 by 5.00 pm (we do not accept late applications)
Notification to applicants:	9 December 2026
Project start date:	You cannot commence your project until after the notification date (above) and you have a signed funding agreement with us.
Project end date:	You must complete your activity within 12 months of the notification date.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

Applicants must be based in the greater Geelong municipality.

Wadawurrung Traditional Owners living outside Geelong are also eligible to apply when the project is delivered in Geelong. The City recognises Wadawurrung Country extends beyond Geelong's municipal boundaries

YES ✓	NO ✘
✓ incorporated not-for-profit organisation	✘ unable to demonstrate 50% First Nations ownership or partnership.
✓ group with an auspice	✘ individual (without an ABN)
✓ registered charitable organisation	✘ school or learning institution (primary, secondary, tertiary).
✓ business	✘ previous applicant with an outstanding acquittal for grant funding from the City
✓ individual operating as sole traders (with an active ABN)	✘ applicant who has not complied with the terms of a previous funding agreement
✓ Early Years (playgroup, kindergarten, childcare centre).	✘ entity currently involved in legal proceedings with the City, bankruptcy or similar situations
	✘ entity with outstanding debt to the City.

HOW MUCH FUNDING CAN YOU APPLY FOR?

The total amount of funding available for Community Strengthening First Nations Grants is $100,000.

You may request up to $25,000.

You can only apply for one category per funding round.

We understand that a First Nations individual, group or organisation may be involved in more than one application as a partner. This involvement will not make any of the applications ineligible.

HOW WE ALLOCATE FUNDING

Our grants are competitive, so even if you meet the criteria, you may not get funding.

You cannot rely on the City's Community Grants for ongoing funding.

In some cases, we may offer partial funding for a smaller or modified project.

We typically fund projects only once. However, we may consider funding a project again if there is a strong reason that aligns with the objectives of this grant.

You can apply to multiple City of Greater Geelong Community Grants programs, but each application must be for a different project, event, or activity.

What you can apply for

To help you work out whether your project is the sort of thing we are looking to fund, we have developed the following list of example projects and costs we might cover.

Yes - we will fund	No - we will not fund
Types of projects ✓ Projects within the City of Greater Geelong ✓ Arts projects and activities with demonstrated Health and Wellbeing outcomes ✓ Community development projects ✓ Community engagement activities ✓ Community events ✓ Cultural awareness and capability building ✓ Establish culturally safe spaces (e.g. signage, artwork acknowledgements, planting, enhancements or installations) ✓ Health promotion activities ✓ NAIDOC celebrations and events ✓ Promoting Wadawurrung Culture (may require WTOAC approval) ✓ Reconciliation events and activities ✓ Training and development ✓ Truth Telling events and activities **Expenses** ✓ Catering ✓ Cultural consultations and services ✓ Documentation e.g. photography, surveys, interviews vox pops ✓ Equipment hire ✓ Performers, artists, musicians and contractors ✓ Promotion, printing and materials ✓ Staff wages (where they relate to additional work required to deliver the project. Applicants must explain the role and why this work cannot be delivered within existing resources) ✓ Stipends and honorariums for Elder knowledge and participation ✓ Venue hire, (including City of Greater Geelong venues)	**Types of projects** ✘ Projects outside Geelong ✘ Black Cladded applications (cannot demonstrate transparent business practices or true Indigenous business ownership) ✘ Capital Works (e.g. building property, structural improvements, alterations and extensions) ✘ Core business ✘ Cultural Heritage Management Plans ✘ Fundraising events for charities or your own group ✘ Permanent Public Art ✘ Political or gambling activities ✘ Projects started before funding is approved **Expenses** ✘ Cash vouchers ✘ Gift vouchers ✘ General day-to-day operating costs of running your organisation or business (e.g. insurance, utilities, rent, administration) ✘ Own venue hire ✘ Prizes, gifts and awards (e.g. medals, money, trophies, vouchers) ✘ Payments to volunteers ✘ Taxes, levies, fines or penalties

What you need for your application

Before you start your application:

1. Read this checklist of what you may need.

- full and correct applicant name
- address and contact details of applicant
- name and contact details of the person authorised to apply for this grant
- certificate of incorporation
- auspice agreement letter (if your organisation is not incorporated)
- Australian Business Number (ABN) details registered to the grant applicant name
- a completed Statement by Supplier form (if you don't have an ABN)
- bank account details (account name, BSB and account number) which must match the applicant's name and ABN details
- redacted bank statement
- evidence of First Nations ownership or partnership in the project (for all applications)
- letters of support from project partners and/or stakeholders
- copies of required permits or approvals
- evidence of venue availability
- evidence for expenses to be funded by the grant. Evidence we will accept includes:
    - supplier or contractor quotes with the supplier's business name, ABN/ACN and contact details,
    - screenshots from online stores with the item description, price and supplier's business name.

2. Contact the City

Contact the City's Community Grants Unit to discuss your eligibility, proposed activity and other grant matters.

E: communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

P: 5272 5560

3. Ask for support

If you would like support to access our grants, the following is available

- A printed copy of the guidelines, or a large print version.
- Phone call to discuss the guidelines.
- Hearing or speech impaired - phone call through the National Relay Service on 133 677 (TTY), or 1300 555 727 on a regular phone and ask for 5272 5560.
- You need a language interpreter - contact TIS National on 131 450 and ask to be connected to us on 5272 5560.
- Option to provide a verbal presentation to the assessment panel (to support your written application).

How we assess applications

We carefully check all applications to make sure they meet the guideline rules and are a good use of the City's grant funding.

We will score your application based on the information you provide and how you answer the questions for each criteria.

FIRST NATIONS GRANTS ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Criteria 1: First Nations Outcomes 40%

- How will your project help improve outcomes linked to Closing the Gap and the City's Health and Wellbeing priorities for First Nations people?
- How will your project strengthen First Nations leadership, voice or self-determination? Explain how your project supports First Nations people to lead, guide decision-making, share cultural knowledge, or influence project outcomes.

Criteria 2: Community Engagement – 20%

- list all the people you'll work with, including First Nations community members, Elders, organisations, and other relevant partners.
- explain how input or feedback from the First Nations community will influence decision-making and project outcomes.

Criteria 3: Well-planned Project – 40%

- What do you want to achieve, and how will you do it? Describe what your project includes and list the activities you will deliver.
- Upload letters of support from all project partners.
- Do you need any permits or approvals for your project? (e.g. event permit)
- Do you have a venue booking or evidence of venue availability?
- Describe any First Nations cultural protocols, permissions, or considerations you will follow.
- Explain the expertise, capacity and support you have to deliver your activity.
- How much grant money do you need?
- What expenses will you pay for with the grant funds?
- Have you provided evidence for expenses to be funded by the grant? Evidence we will accept includes:
  - supplier or contractor quotes with the supplier's business name, ABN/ACN and contact details,
  - screenshots from online stores with the item description, price and supplier's business name.
- If you do not provide this evidence, you may receive a lower score for this criteria, or the cost may be removed from the grant request.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

If the total funding requested by all applicants exceeds the available funding, we may prioritise:

- applications from First Nations owned or controlled organisations
- applications relating to items with immediate or urgent need as identified in the socio-economic targets of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap
- applications from organisations that do not receive money from electronic gaming machines or gambling.

Background

CONTEXT

This grant is informed by the City's Reconciliation Action Plan 2020-2021, Community Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025–2029, Council Plan 2025-2029 and Social Equity Framework 2022-2025.

This grant is also informed by the National Agreement on Closing the Gap which tracks progress against 19 national socio-economic targets across areas like life expectancy, health, education, and housing, and is used to assess progress and inform reporting on the agreement's implementation.

The objective of the National Agreement is to overcome the entrenched inequality faced by too many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, so that their life outcomes are equal to all Australians.

FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES IN GEELONG

The City is committed to supporting partnerships and collaborations with First Nations Communities across Geelong and recognises the rich diversity of these communities.

The City of Greater Geelong has the largest population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in any local government area in Victoria, with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of 1% (ABS 2016). This is larger than Greater Melbourne with 0.5% or Victoria with 0.8% of the population. Across Australia Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples make up 2.8% of the total population[1].

There are two primary organisations who provide First Nations programs and services in Geelong.

The Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC) is the representative body for the Wadawurrung people, legally recognized under the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 as the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for Wadawurrung Country. Its primary role is to manage, protect, and preserve Wadawurrung cultural heritage, including artifacts, sites, stories, and land.

Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative provides culturally appropriate programs, support and services for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living on Wathaurong, Gulidjan and Gadubanud country, within the wider Geelong, Bellarine and Colac regions.

[1] 2021 Greater Geelong, Census Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics

How to apply

CONTACT THE GRANTS UNIT

Please contact the City's Grants Unit before applying to discuss your eligibility, proposed activity and other grant matters.

E: communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

P: 5272 5560

APPLY ONLINE

All applications must be submitted online via SmartyGrants. You must log in or create an account before you begin. You can access the application form in two ways:

Visit the Community Grants section of the City's website and navigate to the specific grant page. Click the **Apply Now** button and log in or create an account to access the form.

Visit SmartyGrants directly, log in or create an account, and select the grant you wish to apply for.

Paper or email applications will not be accepted.

MAKE A PRESENTATION

In addition to the online application, you may request the opportunity to present to the assessment panel. This is optional, not a requirement of the application process. Applicants that do not make a presentation will not be disadvantaged.

WITHDRAWING OR CHANGING YOUR APPLICATION

If you have not yet submitted your application, you can log in to SmartyGrants at any time to make edits.

If you have already submitted your application and need to make changes, contact us before the closing date. We can reopen your application to allow edits.

Changes cannot be made after the closing date.

If you need to withdraw your application after submission, please notify the Community Grants Unit in writing.

ABOUT APPLICANT TYPES

To determine eligibility for a grant, please read all applicant types carefully. If you are unsure what sort of applicant you are, please check your details online.

- incorporated associations – go to www.consumer.vic.gov.au
- companies – go to https://connectonline.asic.gov.au
- individuals or sole traders with an ABN – go to https://abr.business.gov.au
- charities – go to www.acnc.gov.au/charity/charities

IF YOUR GROUP IS NOT INCORPORATED

If your organisation or group is not incorporated, you can still apply for a grant by working with an auspice organisation.

An auspice is an organisation that meets our eligibility criteria and agrees to support and manage your grant. They take legal and financial responsibility for the funding.

If your application is successful, your auspice organisation will:

- sign the grant funding agreement
- receive the grant money and pass it on to you

- make sure all grant activities are completed
- submit the final evaluation and financial report on your behalf.

How to apply with an Auspice

If you want to apply with an auspice organisation, you must:

- get their approval before you submit your application
- upload a signed letter confirming your auspice arrangement.

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What happens next

Once we have decided who is going to receive a grant, we will let you know of the outcome of your application, even if it was unsuccessful.

NOTIFICATION OF OUTCOME

The City of Greater Geelong will notify all applicants of their outcome by email by the date listed on page 4 of this booklet.

Successful Applications

If your application is successful, this does not guarantee funding. You must complete additional steps before receiving a grant payment.

You will receive an email with a link to a funding agreement outlining the terms and conditions of the grant (see **Funding Agreements** section below).

You must sign and return the agreement, upload a tax invoice and your public liability insurance certificate of currency before any payment is made.

You cannot commence your project until after the notification date and you have a signed funding agreement with us.

Unsuccessful Applications

If your application is unsuccessful, we will notify you by email.

You are strongly encouraged to contact us for feedback which may help if you plan to apply again in future rounds.

PAYMENTS

If your application is successful, the City will transfer the approved funding amount to your nominated bank account after the funding agreement is signed.

We will only pay grant money to the applicant (or auspice).

A tax invoice is required before we pay any grant funds. Our team will contact successful grant applicants to arrange this.

If you do not provide either an ABN or a ‘Statement by a Supplier’ form, we may have to withhold tax from the grant payment at the top marginal rate of 45%.

FUNDING AGREEMENTS

Successful grant applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement. The agreement will include:

- the terms and conditions of funding
- the details of the activity
- what you are expected to deliver
- your reporting requirements

General information

The following information applies to all City of Greater Geelong grants.

PERMITS AND APPROVALS

Some projects or events may need a permit or approval. These processes are separate to the grant application process and require additional time and budget in your project plan.

While you do not need to secure permits or approvals before applying, securing them will be a condition of the grant if your application is successful. As such, we may choose not to pay you any money until the relevant permits and approvals are secured.

You must demonstrate that you are aware of the necessary permits and approvals in your application. We will consider this information when assessing your application under the 'well-planned' criteria on page 10.

INSURANCE

You must arrange public liability insurance (PLI) to cover the activity detailed in your application and provide the PLI certificate of currency if your application is successful.

Applicants using an auspice would include a PLI certificate from the auspice organisation.

A policy statement or receipt of payment is not an acceptable substitute for the certificate of currency.

REPORTING

If you receive a grant, you must submit an evaluation of your activity and a financial report within one month of your project finishing.

The evaluation report tells us about your project and the financial report includes all income and expenses for the grant. It demonstrates you have spent the money how you said you would.

We may request meetings with you to check your progress or ask for an audit of your financial records to prove you have spent the grant as you said you would. As such, you must keep accurate financial records and make them available to us if requested.

GRANT VARIATIONS - MAKING CHANGES TO YOUR FUNDED ACTIVITY

Projects are funded for delivery as described in your funding agreement.

If you need to change something about your grant, you must seek our approval in writing. This includes:

- changes to your proposed completion date
- changes to the nature of your activity
- changes to how you want to spend the money.

We reserve the right to withdraw funding if:

- we do not support your request for changes
- your request is not made within a reasonable time
- you make changes without our knowledge.

If a project stops or the grant funds are no longer required, you must repay the funding to the City of Greater Geelong.

WITHDRAWING FUNDING

We reserve the right to withdraw funding if we do not receive a tax invoice within the financial year in which the grant was awarded, or by the due date/s included in the agreement.

We can also withdraw funding if you are in breach of your funding agreement.

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR SUPPORT AND MEDIA

You must acknowledge the City of Greater Geelong on your promotional materials if you receive a grant. We will provide a guide with detailed instructions on how to do this.

When you sign your funding agreement, you can choose to share a short statement about what receiving this grant means to you and how your project will benefit the community.

We may use your statement for promotion on social media or in other media outlets.

Definitions

Following are definitions of some of the words we use in this document. If you find other words that you are not familiar with, please contact us for help.

COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING FIRST NATIONS GRANTS

Word	Explanation
Black Cladding	Supply Nation (Australia's leading database of verified Indigenous businesses) considers 'black cladding' as the practice of a non-First Nations business entity or individual taking unfair advantage of a First Nations business entity or individual for the purpose of gaining access to otherwise inaccessible First Nations procurement policies or contracts. Supply Nation's definition of a First Nations business is at least 50% owned by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islands person(s).
Cultural Awareness	Cultural awareness means being aware of, and developing sensitivity to, cultural difference and cultural diversity. It involves knowledge, attitudes and values that demonstrate an openness and respect for other people and other cultures, languages, religions, dress and communication styles.
Cultural Capability	First Nations cultural capability is the ongoing, lifelong development of the skills, knowledge, behaviours, attitudes, and systems needed to respectfully and appropriately engage with, plan, support, improve, and deliver services that reflect the unique cultures, histories, and perspectives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
Cultural Safety	First Nations cultural safety is the creation of environments where the identity, culture, and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are respected and upheld, ensuring they are not challenged, assaulted, or denied.
Elder	An Aboriginal Elder is a respected community leader who is a recognised custodian of Indigenous knowledge and law. They are trusted guides who provide wisdom, advice, and support, passing down culture, traditions, and history to younger generations.
First Nations	First Nations recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the sovereign people of this land. It goes further than First Australians as it recognises various language groups as separate and unique sovereign nations.
First Nations Communities	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
First Nations Cultural Heritage	First Nations Cultural Heritage encompasses the living knowledge, spiritual beliefs, cultural practices, and physical elements that are significant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
First Nations Cultural Intellectual Property	Cultural and Intellectual Property (CIP) refers to First Nations peoples' rights to their cultural heritage, which includes traditional knowledge, cultural expressions, sacred sites, and traditional medicines, as defined by customary laws rather than Western legal systems.
First Nations protocols	First Nations protocols are established customs, ethical principles, and ways of behaving developed by First Nations communities to guide interactions with their cultures, knowledge, and lands, encompassing everything from respectful communication and the protection of cultural and intellectual property.
National Agreement for Closing the Gap	The National Agreement on Closing the Gap is a partnership between Australian governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak organisations to improve life outcomes for First Nations People, shifting from a top-down approach to shared decision-making and accountability. The Australian Local Government Association is a partner to the Agreement.
Reconciliation	Reconciliation is a process aimed at strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-First Nations peoples, for the benefit of all Australians. Reconciliation is an ongoing journey.
Registered Aboriginal Party	A Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) in Victoria is a legally recognised Aboriginal corporation representing the Traditional Owners of a specific area of Country, responsible for protecting and managing Aboriginal Cultural Heritage under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006. Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation are the Registered Aboriginal Party in Geelong.

Word	Explanation
Traditional Owners	In Victoria, *Traditional Owners* are Aboriginal people with deep cultural and spiritual ties to a specific area of land and water (Country). Wadawurrung are the Traditional Owners of the lands on which the City of Greater Geelong operates.
Truth Telling	In Victoria, *truth-telling* is a process of openly sharing historical truths about colonisation, its ongoing impacts, and the injustices suffered by First Nations peoples, as well as acknowledging their strength and contributions.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Word	Explanation
ABN	Australian Business Number is a unique number that identifies a business in Australia.
Application	A form you fill out to ask for grant money.
Assess	How we review and consider your application.
Auspice	An organisation that applies for a grant on your behalf if your group is not legally registered.
Budget	A plan that shows how much money you have and how you will spend it.
Categories	Different types of funding available within one grant.
Community panel	A group of community members who review applications and recommend which projects should get funding.
Eligibility	The rules that decide if you or your project can receive grant funding.
Evaluation and financial report	A report you must complete after your project ends, explaining what you did and how you spent the grant money.
Expenditure	The things you spend money on for your project.
Funding agreement	A document that explains why we are giving you the grant money and the rules you must follow when using it.
Grant	Money given to a person or organisation for a specific purpose.
Group	Two or more people who meet regularly and run projects or activities that other people participate in (e.g., youth group, seniors group, cultural group)
GST	Goods and Services Tax. This is tax that applies to goods and services in Australia.
Income	Money that you have or expect to receive for your project. This can include grant money from the City, fundraising, sponsorship, ticket sales or other grant funding.
Incorporated	A group or organisation that has legally registered to become a formal entity.
Insurance	A contract you have with an insurance company that helps protect from financial loss if something goes wrong.
Log in	Your email and password used to access SmartyGrants.
Not-for-profit	An organisation that does not does not distribute profits to owners or shareholders.
Officer panel	A group of City officers who review applications and recommend which projects should get funding.
Online	Available on the internet.
Organisation	A legally constituted organisation that is registered or created by law. For example, incorporated associations, companies limited by guarantee or registered charities are all defined as organisations.
Quote	A written estimate of how much something will cost.
SmartyGrants	An online system we use to manage grant applications.
Submitted	When you finish your application in SmartyGrants and press the submit button.
The City	The City of Greater Geelong.
Unincorporated Group	A group that is not legally registered as an organisation.
Weighted average scoring	A method of scoring applications where some parts of the decision are more important than others.

2.8. Proposal to declare part of Mindil Street, Armstrong Creek to be a public highway

Source: **City Life**
Executive Director: **Anthony Basford**

Purpose

1. To seek approval to initiate the statutory procedures under sections 207A and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* to declare a constructed section of road forming part of Mindil Street, Armstrong Creek (approximately 2,628m2) a public highway under section 204(1) of the Act, as shown by the blue hatching in **Attachment 1 – Land area.**

Background

2. Development Victoria is delivering the State Government funded project of constructing the RSIP Tarratarra Stadium on the City's land at 7 Stadium Street, Armstrong Creek (Project).

3. The Project includes the construction of part of Mindil Street to provide access to the Stadium.

4. The construction and vesting of Mindil Street are conditions of a planning permit for an adjoining development. Due to a misalignment in the sequencing of the developer's works and the completion of the Stadium Project, the section of Mindil Street fronting the Stadium will not be completed in time for the Stadium Project's delivery.

5. Public road access is critical to the issue of a Certificate of Occupancy for the Stadium Project. The Certificate of Occupancy is currently programmed to be issued on 21 July 2026, and the broader Practical Completion milestone reached on 1 September 2026.

6. Once Certificate of Occupancy is issued the Stadium asset will be handed over to the City. This will enable the Stadium to be opened for public use.

7. The remaining section of Mindil Street will be constructed and vested in the City by the adjoining developer upon development of that land, in accordance with the approved Planning Permit.

Key Matters

8. The section of Mindil Street which has been constructed as part of the Project has been constructed as an urban standard road.

9. Council has the authority to declare the section of Mindil Street constructed as part of the Project as a public highway under section 204(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989*. Under clause 1(5) of Schedule 5 of the *Road Management Act 2004,* public highways within the municipality vest in Council.

10. Prior to resolving to declare Mindil Street a public highway, a submission hearing process in accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* is required.

11. The submissions hearing process will provide the opportunity for the public to make written submissions and if they wish, to present their submission to a Submissions Review Panel.

12. The Council will receive a further report with the outcomes of the submissions hearing process, which it will consider when determining whether to declare the constructed part of Mindil Street as a public highway.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Endorses the undertaking of a community engagement process, including the issue of a public notice and the invitation of submissions in accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989,* regarding Council's intention to declare the constructed part of Mindil Street, Armstong Creek (approximately 2,628m2) a public highway.**

2. **Appoints a Submissions Review Panel to hear from any person who wishes to appear, either in person or by representation, in support of their submission; and**

3. **Notes that a further report will be presented to Council to consider the outcome of the submissions hearing process.**

Financial Sustainability

13. Development Victoria has constructed the relevant section of Mindil Street as part of the Stadium Project. To enable it to be opened for public use, a public highway declaration is required, as the adjoining developer's delivery of the full road does not align with the Stadium Project's completion.

14. The declaration of the Road as a public highway will enable the Stadium Project to achieve a Certificate of Occupancy, avoiding delays to facility activation. Without this declaration, there is a risk of not meeting the contractual completion date, potential lost revenue, continued staffing and supplier costs, and claims associated with the delayed commencement of operations.

Community Engagement

15. Community engagement will be undertaken on the Have Your Say page and a notice published in the local newspapers.

16. In accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, any person may make a written submission on the proposal to declare part of Mindil Street a public highway. A submitter may also request to appear in person, or be represented, in support of their submission at a hearing.

17. Council will be provided with the outcome of community engagement and minutes of a Submissions Review Panel Hearing.

Social Equity and Sustainability

18. The partial vesting of the constructed section of Mindil Street as a public highway will support equitable access to the Tarratarra Stadium precinct by enabling safe, formalised public access for all users. This includes pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles, ensuring the infrastructure is available for community use as intended without reliance on informal or uncertain access arrangements. Formal vesting also supports clarity of responsibility for maintenance and safety, contributing to a consistent and inclusive public realm.

19. The declaration of the constructed portion of Mindil Street as a public highway represents an efficient use of existing infrastructure by enabling its timely operation and integration into the broader transport network. It reduces the risk of underutilised assets and avoids extended vacancy of a completed public facility. Bringing the road under Council control supports ongoing maintenance, lifecycle management and coordinated planning outcomes consistent with long-term infrastructure sustainability objectives for the Armstrong Creek growth area.

Gender Equality – Gender+ Impact Assessment

20. An assessment was not completed on the proposed public highway declaration as it does not relate to the criteria of when an assessment is required, being an existing or developing service, program or policy.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

21. Section 204(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* gives the Council the power to declare a road to be a public highway.

22. Section 207(a) of the *Local Government Act 1989* provides the right for any person to make a submission in accordance with section 223 on the proposed exercise of the power under section 204.

23. The Council is required to authorise the issue of public notice in accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989.*

24. Declaration of the constructed road as a public highway vests the road in Council under section 1(5) of Schedule 5 of the *Road Management Act 2004* and provides Council with a pathway to manage, maintain and regulate the road in accordance with its powers, duties and functions under relevant legislation.

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

25. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:
Core and Critical Infrastructure

26. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, “Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future” community aspiration:
A fast, reliable and connected transport network.
An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community.

Conflict of Interest

27. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment and Risk Appetite Statement

28. This report is presented to Council as a key instrument to minimise the risk of the RSIP Tarratarra Stadium project delay, as any further delay to the vesting process would directly impact the issue of:

    28.1. The Certificate of Occupancy (21 July 2026);

    28.2. Practical Completion notice for 1 September 2026;

    28.3. Asset handover to the City; and

    28.4. The planned facility activation date of 12 October 2026.

29. The proposal to declare part of Mindil Street a public highway aligns with Council’s Risk Appetite by applying a compliant and transparent statutory process, while maintaining low financial, operational and community risk, and strong governance controls.

Environmental Sustainability

30. The proposed declaration of the relevant section on Mindil Street as a public highway is not expected to result in any significant adverse environmental impacts. Enabling the road to be opened for public use will support the efficient and safe movement of vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists associated with the Stadium Project, which may contribute to improved traffic management and reduced congestion in the surrounding area.

31. Any future works associated with the completion of the remaining section of Mindil Street by the adjoining developer will be required to comply with applicable planning permit conditions and relevant environmental standards.

Attachments

1. Attachment 1 - Mindil Street Armstrong Creek [**2.8.1** - 1 page]

Attachment 1



Fig.1 Tarratarra Stadium, 7 Stadium Street, Armstrong Creek VIC 3217

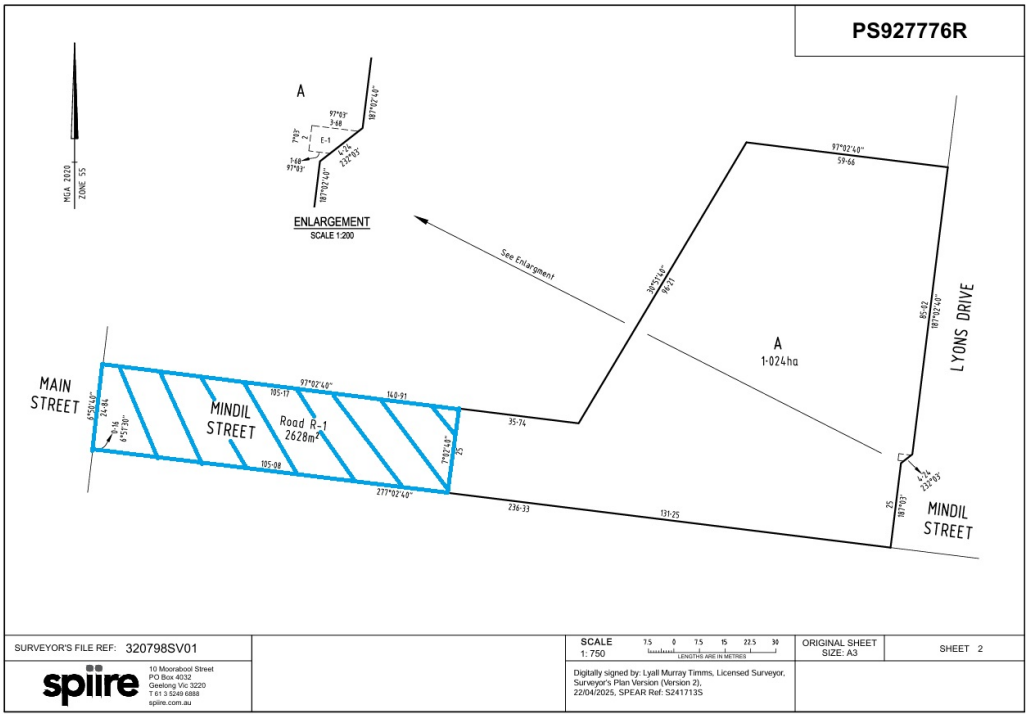


Fig.2 Mindil Street

“Black cross hatching”, the developer of land at 432- 470 Barwarre Road, Armstrong Creek VIC 3217 to construct

“Blue road”, constructed portion Development Victoria is currently delivering the Tarratarra Stadium project on that land as part of the Regional Sports Infrastructure Program.

2.9. Electronic Gaming Machine Application – Fyansford Hotel

Source: **City Life**
Executive Director: **Anthony Basford**

Purpose

1. This report seeks Council's:

   1.1. Support not to undertake a Social and Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) in response to an application by PJ Cook Investments Pty Ltd for an additional 28 electronic gaming machines (EGMs) at the Fyansford Hotel; and

   1.2. Approval of the recommendation that Council does not oppose the application to the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission (VGCCC) in order to support Bell Park Sport and Recreation Club to divest from EGMs.

Background

2. On 9 April 2026, PJ Cook Investments Pty Ltd notified the City of Greater Geelong of their application to the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission to amend their Venue Operator's Licence to permit an additional 28 electronic gaming machines at the Fyansford Hotel.

3. Fyansford Hotel currently have 40 EGMs. With this application, they are proposing to increase to 68 EGMs at the venue.

4. The application states that the additional requested EGMs will be transferred from the Bell Park Sport and Recreation Club (BPSRC). The City has been supporting the club to divest from EGMs since the delivery of the Hamlyn Park Master Plan in 2021. The current EGM license owned by the BPSRC has rendered the club exempt from seeking funding to deliver key elements of the master plan. The transfer of their current EGM license to the Fyansford Hotel will enable future funding opportunities commensurate with other community sporting clubs within the region.

5. Under the Victorian Government's regional EGM caps system, a maximum of 1,421 gaming machines are permitted to operate within the combined areas of Greater Geelong and the Borough of Queenscliff. There are currently 1,373 EGMs in Geelong and Queenscliff across 26 venues.

6. In 2024/25, $141,644,824 was the total amount lost by gaming patrons on EGMs in the City of Greater Geelong region. This EGM loss was the 5th highest among Victorian Local Government Areas.

7. Under Victorian Government policy, EGMs operate in a capped entitlement system. Current entitlements issued from August 2022 run for 20 years (to August 2042) and can be transferred between approved venue operators, subject to regulatory approval. The venue receiving the EGM transfer is liable for the costs associated with entitlement (lease) costs. These entitlement costs commonly amount to some tens of thousands of dollars per machine over the life of the entitlement. If a venue forfeits their gaming entitlements, whether through compulsory reduction by the State or failure to use/pay for them, they are generally required to pay the outstanding amounts for the remainder

of the term. Venues are unable to voluntarily return entitlements without paying the significant amounts associated with the lease fees for the remainder of the entitlement terms.

Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy

8. The Council's Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy outlines the City's approach in responding to all forms of gambling, with a focus on the wellbeing of the community.

9. Statement 2.4 of the Policy states that Council will:

    9.1. Assess applications for new and additional EGMs against a Social and Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) guided by the City of Greater Geelong's Gaming Policy Framework and taking into consideration community attitudes, feedback and/or concerns. An associated report and recommendations for response to the VGCCC will be referred to Council at a Council meeting.

10. The following policy statements guide action and decision making regarding supporting sporting clubs to reduce their reliance or divest from EGMs:

    10.1. Support local community-based organisations that generate some of their income from gambling activities, to reduce their reliance on gambling income streams.

    10.2. Actively support any community or sporting club, group, or organisation to divest themselves of EGMs or end financial dependence on gambling sponsorship or revenue. This would be achieved through an agreed transition business plan.

Bell Park Sport & Recreation Club

11. The City has been working with the BPSRC to reduce their reliance on EGMs and to reduce gambling related harm in the community.

12. BPSRC has made a clear and sustained commitment to divest from EGMs since 2021. The club is wanting to divest for the following reasons:

    12.1. Having EGMs as part of their business is no longer aligned with the values of the sporting club.

    12.2. The association with EGMs has been a barrier when recruiting new members and the current membership has expressed their desire to revert to a Community Sporting Club model.

    12.3. The club has experienced barriers when applying for grant funding through Council or other government departments.

13. The removal of EGMs means that the club reverts to a Fair Play licence, allowing the City to apply a reduced rental compared to the current commercial rate.

14. BPSRC indicated that they were looking at options to transfer or sell their EGM entitlements to another venue rather than develop a transition business plan to divest from EGMs.

15. Due to financial implications and long-term EGM entitlements (leases), there are limited viable options available to community organisations seeking to divest from EGMs. This is the only viable option for BPSRC to divest from EGMs.

Key Matters

16. Applications for new or additional EGMs including the transfer of machines must be made to the VGCCC and requires a Council decision.

17. Upon formal notification from the VGCCC the City of Greater Geelong will have 37 days to advise whether it intends to make a submission in response to the application. If Council elects to make a submission, it must be lodged within 60 days of the formal VGCCC notification.

18. The City received formal notification of the application from the VGCCC on 3 June 2026. As per the statutory timeframes in the Gambling Regulation Act 2003, the City has until Friday 10 July 2026 (37 days from the receipt of the formal notification) to advise the VGCCC if it intends to make a submission to the application. Any delay to Council consideration beyond June 2026 would compromise the ability to respond with the prescribed timeframes and may result in missing the VGCCC response requirements. Council is required to determine whether a SEIA is undertaken in this instance.

19. Under the *Gambling Regulation Act 2003*, the VGCCC cannot approve an application unless it is satisfied that the net economic and social impact of the proposal will not be detrimental to the wellbeing of the community. This is known as the 'no-net detriment' test.

20. In applying this test, the VGCCC considers whether the proposal delivers an overall community benefit, having regard to its statutory objectives, including the minimisation of gambling-related harm.

21. This application represents a significant and positive outcome in line with both the VGCCC's no-net detriment test and the City's Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy. It supports the City's long-standing strategic objective of assisting community sporting clubs to divest from EGMs and reduce exposure to gambling harm in community settings and family-oriented settings.

22. The application involves the transfer of EGMs from BSPRC, a community sporting club environment, to an established gaming venue that already operates EGMs.

23. The proposed transfer will result in the removal of EGMs from a Council owned facility, ensuring that a Council asset is no longer associated with gambling activity or gambling related revenue.

24. The EGMs are being transferred within the municipality, resulting in no net increase in the total number of EGMs operating within Greater Geelong and therefore no increase in overall availability at a municipal level.

25. The proposal does not introduce gaming machines into a new location or community, and it is not expected to increase overall risk, as it:

    25.1. Decreases gambling exposure in a community sporting club setting;

    25.2. Reallocates machines within an established gaming venue; and

25.3. Does not increase the total number of EGMs across the municipality.

26. In this context, undertaking a SEIA is unlikely to alter the City's or the VGCCC's position on the application, given that the proposal supports harm minimisation outcomes, has strong alignment with the no-net detriment test and aligns with Council's longstanding strategic approach to supporting community organisations to divest from gambling revenue.

27. Therefore, the Officers' recommendation is that Council does not oppose the application, recognising the opportunity to support BPSRC's intent to divest from EGMs and strengthen a family-friendly club environment and remove barriers for future funding opportunities.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Does not undertake a Social and Economic Impact Assessment in response to the application to increase electronic gaming machines at the Fyansford Hotel.**
2. **Notes that the proposal involves the transfer of Electronic Gaming Machines from a community sporting club environment to an existing gaming venue, results in an no-net increase in Electronic Gaming Machines within the municipality, and does not increase overall social risk to the community;**
3. **Does not oppose the application by PJ Cook Investments Pty Ltd to increase the number of Electronic Gaming Machines at the Fyansford Hotel; and**
4. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate to advise the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission of its decision.**

Financial Sustainability

28. There are no direct financial impacts for Council arising from the recommendations.

29. Should Council elect to undertake a SEIA and/or prepare a submission to the VGCCC it is recommended that a consultant be engaged to conduct an accurate Social Economic Impact Assessment at an estimated cost of between $10,000 - $30,000.

30. To oppose the application at the VGCCC, it would cost approximately $30,000 for legal representation at the hearing.

Community Engagement

31. Community engagement with BSPRC has indicated that members do not support the ongoing presence of EGMs at the club and wish to return to a stronger community sporting club model. This feedback is consistent with the direction of the Hamlyn Park Master Plan, which seeks to strengthen the BSPRC community role and support delivery of future improvements to the Reserve Plan.

Social Equity and Sustainability

32. The proposed divestment of EGMs from BSPRC supports social equity by reducing gambling exposure in a community sporting club setting and aligning with Council's harm minimisation objectives. This is particularly relevant given Hamlyn Heights has a comparatively higher level of disadvantage than Fyansford, with a lower SEIFA index (1019 compared with 1033). The transfer also supports the long-term sustainability of the BSPRC by improving access to grant funding and enabling a stronger focus on community participation, sport and recreation outcomes.

Gender Equality – Gender+ Impact Assessment

33. A Gender+ Impact Assessment is not required because this report relates to a statutory licensing decision and does not propose a new policy, service, program or infrastructure change that would directly and significantly affect people of different genders in different ways.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

34. Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy

35. Gaming Clause 52.28 of the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme

36. Community Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2029 (priority 6 – Harm Minimisation)

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

37. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:
    Healthy and Caring Community

38. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, "Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future" community aspiration:

An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community.

Conflict of Interest

39. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment and Risk Appetite Statement

40. The key risks associated with this report relate to community and reputational impacts arising from decisions about electronic gaming machines, and compliance with statutory VGCCC response timeframes.

41. Council's risk appetite for actions that may increase gambling harm is low; however, in this case the application involves a transfer of existing EGMs from a community sporting club setting to an established gaming venue within the municipality, resulting in no net increase in EGMs and supporting harm minimisation outcomes.

42. Procedural and legal risk is managed through monitoring VGCCC notification timelines and ensuring a Council decision is made within required periods.

Environmental Sustainability

43. This report relates to a statutory licensing decision and does not involve works, construction, procurement or operational changes that would have a direct impact on the natural environment.

Attachments

Nil

2.10. Planning Authorisation Council to Staff

Source: **Corporate Services**
Executive Director: **Troy Edwards**

Purpose

1. To appoint City officers as authorised officers under the *Planning and Environment Act* 1987 (P&EA).

Background

2. City officers are appointed as authorised officers to exercise statutory powers under various Acts and regulations. Appointments as authorised officers are to individual staff members.

3. The P&EA regulates enforcement and is reliant on authorised officers acting on behalf of the responsible authority (Council).

Key Matters

4. Where there is a specific power within an Act, Council should appoint authorised officers pursuant to that Act. This is the case for the P&EA.

5. **Attachment 1** sets out the Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation under the P&EA and lists the staff member to whom this authorisation applies.

Recommendation

In the exercise of the powers conferred by s 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, Council resolves that

1. **City staff referred to in the Instrument (Attachment 1) be appointed and authorised as set out in the Instrument;**

2. **The Instrument comes into force immediately upon the resolution of Council; and**

3. **The Instrument be signed by the Chief Executive Officer on behalf of Council.**

Financial Sustainability

6. There are no financial sustainability implications arising from the subject of this report.

Community Engagement

7. Relevant City managers have been consulted regarding this recommended appointment and authorisation.

Social Equity and Sustainability

8. There are no social equity sustainability implications arising from the subject of this report.

Gender Equality – Gender+ Impact Assessment

9. A Gender+ Impact Assessment was not required for this decision.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

10. The recommended appointment and authorisation of staff members complies with the relevant provisions of the P&EA and the *Local Government Act* 2020.

Alignment to Community Plan and Vision

11. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:
Governance and Integrity

Conflict of Interest

12. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment and Risk Appetite Statement

13. Council has no appetite for risks that result in material non-compliance of legislation or regulatory requirements. The recommendation ensures that Council remains compliant by appropriately authorising Council staff under the P&EA.

Environmental Sustainability

14. There are no environmental sustainability implications arising from the subject of this report.

Attachments

1. D26 236745 Planning Authorisations Council to Staff June 2026 (1) [**2.10.1** - 2 pages]

Greater Geelong City Council

Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation

(*Planning and Environment Act 1987* only)

Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (*Planning and Environment Act* 1987)

In this instrument "**officer**" means –

Jack Griffiths
Ashleigh McLean

By this instrument of appointment and authorisation Greater Geelong 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*to; and

2. under section 313 of the *Local Government Act* 2020 authorises the officers 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 the resolution of Council.

This instrument is authorised by a resolution of the Greater Geelong City Council on 23 June 2026.

Signed for GREATER GEELONG CITY COUNCIL by
ALI WASTIE, Chief Executive Officer

_____
Chief Executive Officer

Date:

3. RECORD OF INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

Source: **Corporate Services**
Executive Director: **Troy Edwards**

Summary

1. The Governance Rules of the City of Greater Geelong require the tabling of records of informal meetings of Councillors at the next convenient Council meeting and that their record be included in the minutes of that Council meeting.

2. A summary of the informal meetings of Councillors is attached.

Recommendation

That Council receive the summary of the informal meetings of Councillors for the period to 23 June 2026.

INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS
(Council Meeting 23 June 2026)

Informal Meeting Details	Councillor Attendance/Apology	Officer Attendance	Agenda Items	Conflict of Interest Disclosures
Additional Briefing **5 May 2026**	Cr R Story	A Basford (EXEC DIR) P Newton (MGR)	**Topics:** • Aged Care Advisory Committee Discussion	• Nil
Additional Briefing **7 May 2026**	Cr S Kontelj *Apologies:* *Cr A Aitken* *Cr E Kontelj*	A Basford (EXEC DIR) A Higgs (MGR) M Condy (T LEADER) T Zimmer (OFFICER) R Clark (COORD) P Cotter (COORD) *External Representation:* • *Barwon Sports Academy* • *Leisure Networks*	**Topics:** • All Abilities Sport across the Geelong region	• Nil

Informal Meeting Details	Councillor Attendance/Apology	Officer Attendance	Agenda Items	Conflict of Interest Disclosures
Additional Briefing **19 May 2026**	Cr E Sinclair Cr R Story Cr T Sullivan Cr E Wilkinson	A Wastie (CEO) A Basford (EXEC DIR)	**Topics:** • GRLC Board matters.	• Nil
Veteran Affairs Portfolio Meeting **19 May 2026**	Cr C Burson Cr R Story	A Basford (EXEC DIR) F Ballard (MGR) B Sanders (MGR) S Provilij (SNR OFF) S Cramer (COORD) E Chapman (OFFICER)	**Topics:** • Memorials • Ex-Service Organisation Survey • Australians Serving with Serbs in WW1 • Portfolio Expansion	• Nil
Additional Briefing **2 June 2026**	Cr S Kontelj Cr A Katos	A Basford (EXEC DIR) A Locke (MGR) E Chapman (OFFICER)	**Topics:** • Gymnastics facility at the new Waurn Ponds Sporting Complex	• Nil

Informal Meeting Details	Councillor Attendance/Apology	Officer Attendance	Agenda Items	Conflict of Interest Disclosures
Additional Briefing **2 June 2026**	Cr R Story Cr C Burson	A Locke (MGR) D Hickin (LEAD) E Chapman (OFFICER)	**Topics:** • Balyang Par 3 Request for Proposal	• Nil
Additional Briefing **2 June 2026**	Cr S Kontelj Cr R Nelson	A Basford (EXEC DIR) A Locke (MGR) D Hickin (LEAD) E Chapman (OFFICER)	**Topics:** • Balyang Par 3 Request for Proposal	• Nil
Strategic Session **2 June 2026**	Cr S Kontelj Cr E Kontelj Cr C Burson Cr A Katos Cr E Sinclair Cr M Cadwell Cr R Nelson Cr R Story Cr T Sullivan Cr E Wilkinson Cr A Aitken	T Edwards (EXEC DIR) A Basford (EXEC DIR) J Randle (A/EXEC DIR) A Bedggood (MGR) P Newton (MGR) B Sanders (MGR) S Priestly (MGR) R Hill (COORD) A Martin (CHIEF) J Douglas (MGR) D Pangrazio (OFFICER)	**Presentations:** • Aged Care Update • Public Tree Policy Workshop • Christmas Program	• Nil

Informal Meeting Details	Councillor Attendance/Apology	Officer Attendance	Agenda Items	Conflict of Interest Disclosures
Additional Briefing **9 June 2026**	Cr R Story Cr T Sullivan Cr E Wilkinson	A Basford (EXEC DIR) A Higgs (MGR)	**Topics:** • Bellarine Planning - indoor court facilities	• Nil
Councillor Briefing **9 June 2026**	Cr S Kontelj Cr E Kontelj Cr C Burson Cr A Katos Cr A Aitken Cr E Sinclair Cr M Cadwell Cr R Nelson Cr R Story Cr T Sullivan Cr E Wilkinson	A Wastie (CEO) T Edwards (EXEC DIR) A Basford (EXEC DIR) J Stirton (EXEC DIR) J Randles (A/EXEC DIR) J Blunt (CFO) J Winterton (MGR) A Stebbing (MGR) K Shearer (MGR) P Smith (COORD) J Van Slageren (MGR) T Webb (COORD) A Higgs (MGR) V Allan (CHIEF) S Beck (MGR) A Martin (CHIEF) J Douglas (MGR) Externals: • *Representatives from Geelong Regional Library Corporation*	**Presentations:** • GRLC Library Operating Discussion (Confidential) • Budget – Final Session • Elcho Road East Precinct Structure **Reports:** • 2026-27 Budget and Council Plan 2025-29 Year 2 Update • Amendment C433ggee - Pakington Street & Gordon Avenue UDFs - Consideration of Panel Report and Adoption • Newcombe Street, Drysdale (Waterway Court to No. 60 Newcombe Street), - Declaration of Charge - Special Rate and Charge Scheme - SRC 377 • T2600018 – Supply and Delivery of Pool Chemicals • Draft Complaints Handling Policy • 2026-27 Community Grants Guidelines • Proposal to declare part of Mindil Street, Armstrong Creek to be a public highway • Electronic Gaming Machine Application – Fyansford Hotel	• Cr A Katos declared a conflict of interest in relation to *Amendment C433ggee - Pakington Street & Gordon Avenue UDFs - Consideration of Panel Report and Adoption* and left the meeting during the discussion of this item. • Cr T Sullivan declared a conflict of interest in relation to *Electronic Gaming Machine Application – Fyansford Hotel* and left the meeting during the discussion of this item.

Informal Meeting Details	Councillor Attendance/Apology	Officer Attendance	Agenda Items	Conflict of Interest Disclosures
			• GME External Committee Member Appointment 2026-2030 (Confidential • CEO Employment Matter (Confidential) • 2025-26 Community Strengthening First Nations Grants Funding Recommendations (Confidential)	
Additional Briefing **16 June 2026**	Cr E Sinclair Cr E Wilkinson *Apology:* *Cr M Cadwell*	A Basford (EXEC DIR) F Ballard (MGR) M Jewell (COORD) J McCusker (T LEAD)	**Topics:** • Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy	• Nil

4. CONFIDENTIAL

Council will close the meeting to the public in accordance with the provision of section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* to consider the following list of items.

4.1. GME External Committee Member Appointment 2026-2030 (Confidential)

CONFIDENTIAL

Recommendation

That Council consider this report at the conclusion of the meeting as it is designated confidential by the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to sections 3(1) and 66 of the Local Government Act 2020, the information contained in this report is confidential because this report relates to the appointment of an individual to a role.

4.2. CEO Employment Matter (Confidential)

CONFIDENTIAL

Recommendation

That Council consider this report at the conclusion of the meeting as it is designated confidential by the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to sections 3(1) and 66 of the Local Government Act 2020, the information contained in this report is confidential because it relates to the Chief Executive Officers personal Affairs.

4.3. 2025-26 Community Strengthening First Nations Grants Funding Recommendations (Confidential)

CONFIDENTIAL

Recommendation

That Council consider this report at the conclusion of the meeting as it is designated confidential by the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to sections 3(1) and 66 of the Local Government Act 2020, the information contained in this report is confidential because the agenda item contains a level of detail which if released would diminish the organisation's capacity to compete in a commercial environment.