



**COUNCIL MEETING OF
THE HUME CITY COUNCIL**

MONDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2025

7.00PM

**COUNCIL CHAMBER - HUME GLOBAL LEARNING CENTRE
BROADMEADOWS**

HUME COMMUNITY VISION 2045:

A thriving community with a strong sense of belonging.

An audio and video recording of this meeting of the Hume City Council will be published to Council's website within two (2) working days.

HUME CITY COUNCIL

Notice of a

COUNCIL MEETING OF THE HUME CITY COUNCIL

to be held on Monday, 8 September 2025

at 7.00PM

at the Council Chamber - Hume Global Learning Centre Broadmeadows

Attendees:	a: Council	Cr Jarrod Bell Cr Naim Kurt Cr Daniel English Cr Steve Gagen Cr John Haddad Cr Kate Hamley Cr Sam Misho Cr Carly Moore Cr Jim Overend Cr Karen Sherry Cr Ally Watson	Mayor Deputy Mayor
	b: Officers	Ms Sheena Frost Ms Rachel Dapiran Ms Kristen Cherry Mr Fadi Srour Ms Ann-Michel Greenwood Ms Danielle Prentice	Chief Executive Officer Director City Planning and Places Director City Services & Living Chief Financial Officer Acting Director Customer & Strategy Chief People Officer Acting Director Infrastructure and Assets

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

Hume City Council would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on Country for which the members and Elders of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people and their forebears have been custodians for many thousands of years. The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, which includes the Gunung-Willam-Balluk clan, are the Traditional Custodians of this land. Hume City Council would also like to pay its respects to their Elders, past and present, and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who may be here today.

2. PRAYER

Hume City's religious diversity strengthens and enriches community life and supports the well-being of the citizens of Hume City. Hume City Council acknowledges the importance of spiritual life and the leadership offered by the Hume Interfaith Network (HIN). In recognition of the religious diversity of residents in Hume City Council has invited the HIN to take responsibility for the opening prayer at Council meetings. This evening's prayer will be led by Rev.Prashant Bhonsle, from the Hume Anglican Parish, on behalf of the HIN.

3. APOLOGIES**4. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Councillors' attention is drawn to the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Governance Rules in relation to the disclosure of conflicts of interests. Councillors are required to disclose any conflict of interest immediately before consideration or discussion of the relevant item. Councillors are then required to leave the Chamber during discussion and not vote on the relevant item.

5. CONGRATULATIONS AND CONDOLENCES**6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25 August 2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25 August 2025, be confirmed.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**8. OFFICER'S REPORTS**

The Mayor will ask the Councillors and gallery at the commencement of this section, which reports they wish to speak to. These reports will then be discussed in the order they appear on the notice paper.

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10. ITEMS TO BE TABLED

Election Report Hume City Council 2024 Local Government Elections - April 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council receives the Election Report Hume City Council 2024 Local Government Elections - April 2025*;
2. That Council notes that this report will be published to Council's website on Tuesday 9 September 2025.

**this report has been distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting.*

11. URGENT BUSINESS**12. DELEGATES REPORTS****13. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

The Meeting may be closed to members of the public to consider confidential items.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council close the meeting to the public pursuant to section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* to consider the following items:

13.1 CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee

Item 13.1 is confidential in accordance with Section 3(1)(f) and (h) of the Local Government Act 2020 because it is personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs, and because it is confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a).

The specified grounds apply because of contractual information.

14. CLOSURE OF MEETING

**SHEENA FROST
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

3/09/2025

REPORT NO:	8.1
REPORT TITLE:	Adoption of 2025/26 Council Annual Action Plan
SOURCE:	Andrea Taylor, Manager Organisational Performance & Strategy
DIVISION:	Customer & Strategy
FILE NO:	HCC25/317
POLICY:	-
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:	SO4.1 A high performing organisation that prioritises continuous improvement, safety and accountability.
ATTACHMENT:	1. 2025-26 Council Annual Action Plan

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No Council officers involved in the preparation of this Report have a general or material interest in relation to the matters for consideration.

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT:

- 1.1 The Council Plan 2025-2029 (**Council Plan**), incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (**MPHWP**) and Disability Action Plan (**DAP**), was adopted on 23 June 2025. The Council Plan sets out Council’s strategic direction (priorities and strategic objectives) and what it seeks to achieve over the next four years to work towards the Hume Community Vision 2045 (**Community Vision**).
- 1.2 The Council Plan will be achieved through all of Council’s work (its services, projects and programs), advocacy and decisions. Council’s day-to-day work (core actions) contribute to the achievement of the strategic objectives. Strategic actions contribute to the achievement of the strategies identified under each of the strategic objectives in the Plan.
- 1.3 Strategic actions are determined on an annual basis and are set out in a separate Council Annual Action Plan (**CAAP**). Due to the timing of the council term, the need to develop a new Council Plan and adopt the annual budget prior to the end of financial year, the 2025/26 CAAP reflects Council’s work program set through the adopted 2025/26 Budget.
- 1.4 It is proposed that the 2025/26 CAAP (refer **Attachment 1**), which identifies 59 strategic actions to be undertaken during the 2025/26 financial year to contribute to the achievement of the Council Plan (year one), including MPHWP and DAP actions, be adopted and commence implementation.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopts the 2025/26 Council Annual Action Plan.

3. LEGISLATIVE POWERS & POLICY CONTEXT:

Local Government Act 2020 (the Act).

4. OVERARCHING GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES:

This Report supports Council is giving effect to the following Overarching Governance Principles:

- a) Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law;

REPORT NO: 8.1 (cont.)

- b) priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;
- c) the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted;
- d) the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making;
- e) innovation and continuous improvement is to be pursued;
- f) collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought;
- g) the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured;
- h) regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making;
- i) the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

5. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

5.1 CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

The Council Plan and 2025/26 CAAP has been developed within the policy context of Council’s *Social Justice Charter* and the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and reinforces Council’s longstanding commitment to advancing social justice in Hume City.

5.2 GENDER EQUALITY ACT 2020

The development of the Council Plan was informed by a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) as it sets Council’s strategic direction and therefore has a direct and significant impact on the public. The Council Plan notes that a social justice, gender and intersectionality lens will continue to be applied to the implementation of the Plan – which includes the delivery of actions identified in the 2025/26 CAAP.

6. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 The 2025/26 CAAP identifies 59 actions to be undertaken during the 2025/26 financial year, year one of the new Council Plan. Due to the timing of the council term and the adoption of the new Plan, the 2025/26 CAAP reflects Council’s work program set through the adopted 2025/26 Budget.

7. OPPORTUNITIES & RISKS:

- 7.1 Adoption and implementation of the Council Plan ensures Council meets its obligations under the Act.
- 7.2 The development and delivery of annual strategic actions via the CAAP (introduced by this Council Plan) along with an annual review of the Plan itself, enables an agile implementation approach which allows Council’s work program to adapt and respond to evolving community needs and any challenges or opportunities that may emerge.
- 7.3 Progress on the delivery of CAAP actions will be tracked and reported to the community through quarterly and annual reporting. The reporting will also track Council’s progress towards the achievement of the strategic objectives in the Council Plan via the strategic indicators.

8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

- 8.1 The Council Plan was informed by an extensive engagement process including a whole of organisation internal engagement, deliberative engagement via a community panel, and wider community consultation. The deliberative engagement component addressed Council’s obligations under the Act and Council’s *Community Engagement Policy (2021)*.

REPORT NO: 8.1 (cont.)

- 8.2 As the 2025/26 CAAP reflects Council’s work program set through the adopted 2025/26 Budget (also informed by community consultation) it is proposed that the 2025/26 CAAP be adopted and commence implementation.
- 8.3 From year two of Council Plan implementation (2026/27), the planning of Council’s annual work program (including the identification of CAAP actions) will be informed by community input and shape the development of the annual budget. The CAAP and budget will then be exhibited and adopted by Council together, providing transparency and oversight of the strategic work Council is doing to achieve the Council Plan and demonstrate how the budget aligns to the delivery of Council’s strategic direction.

9. DISCUSSION:

- 9.1 Every four years, Victorian councils must undertake deliberative engagement with the community to review their Community Vision and develop a new Council Plan that addresses the Vision (Sections 88, 89 and 90 of the Act).
- 9.2 The Council Plan 2025-2029 (**Council Plan**), incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (**MPHWP**) and Disability Action Plan (**DAP**), was adopted on 23 June 2025. The Plan sets out Council’s strategic direction under four priorities support by eleven strategic objectives, identifying what Council seeks to achieve over the next four years to work towards the Hume Community Vision 2045 (**Community Vision**).
- 9.3 The Council Plan will be achieved through all of Council’s work (its services, projects and programs), advocacy and decisions. Council’s day-to-day work (core actions) contribute to the achievement of the strategic objectives. Strategic actions, including major initiatives and significant pieces of work, contribute to the achievement of the strategies identified under each of the strategic objectives in the Plan.
- 9.4 Strategic actions are determined on an annual basis and are set out in a separate Council Annual Action Plan (**CAAP**). Due to the timing of the council term, the need to develop a new Council Plan and adopt the annual budget prior to end of financial year, the 2025/26 CAAP reflects Council’s work program set through the adopted 2025/26 Budget.
- 9.5 The 2025/26 CAAP (refer **Attachment 1**) identifies 59 strategic actions to be undertaken during the 2025/26 financial year to contribute to the achievement of Council’s strategic objectives, including MPHWP and DAP actions. Work on all actions will occur throughout the year, unless an earlier completion timeframe is specified. It is proposed that the 2025/26 CAAP be adopted and commence implementation.

10. CONCLUSION

The 2025/26 CAAP identifies 59 strategic actions to be undertaken during the 2025/26 financial year to contribute to the achievement of the Council Plan (year one). Due to the timing of the council term and the adoption of the new Council Plan, it is proposed that the 2025/26 CAAP be adopted as it reflects Council’s work program set through the adopted 2025/26 Budget.

HUME CITY COUNCIL

Council Annual Action Plan 2025/26



2025/26 Council Annual Action Plan

Council Plan 2025–2029

The Council Plan 2025–2029 (**our Plan**) sets out Council’s strategic direction and what we seek to achieve over the next four years under four priorities:

Priority 1: A liveable city of well-designed and connected places

Priority 2: A climate resilient city with a healthy natural environment

Priority 3: A healthy community that is inclusive and proud

Priority 3: A well governed Council that is strategic and trusted

These priorities are supported by eleven strategic objectives, which together set the strategic context for all other strategies, plans and policies, and inform the prioritisation, allocation and management of our assets and resources. By taking an integrated approach to our strategic planning, it ensures that everything we do aligns to our Community Vision and delivers maximum benefit to our community.

Our Plan will be achieved through our work – the service, projects and programs we deliver – our advocacy and the decisions we make.

Council’s day-to-day work (core actions) contribute to the achievement of our strategic objectives. Strategic actions, including major initiatives and significant pieces of work, contribute to the achievement of the strategies identified under the each of the strategic objectives in our Plan.

Strategic actions are determined on an annual basis, informing the development of our annual budget, and are set out in a separate Council Annual Action Plan (**CAAP**). This approach enables our Plan and Council’s performance to be reviewed each year and our annual work program to adapt and respond to the evolving community needs and any challenges or opportunities that may emerge.

As our Plan will be implemented over four years, it is not expected that a strategic action will be identified for all 34 strategies each year.

2025/26 Council Annual Action Plan

Our 2025/26 CAAP sets out 59 strategic actions that we undertake during the 2025/26 financial year to contribute to the achievement of the strategic objectives in our Plan.

Actions that form our *Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan* (MPHWP) are highlighted with a plus icon (+) and actions that form our *Disability Action Plan* (DAP) are highlighted with a hat icon (^).

Work on all actions will occur throughout the year until 30 June 2026, with each quarter shown as a solid dot (●) in the timeframe column. If an action is due to be completed earlier, the remaining quarters are shown as a hollow dot (○).

Progress of CAAP actions is tracked and reported to the community through quarterly updates and Council’s Annual Report. This reporting also tracks Council’s progress towards the achievement of our strategic objectives via the strategic indicators in our Plan.

The 2025/26 CAAP should be read in conjunction with the Council Plan.

Priority 1: A liveable city of well-designed and connected places					
Strategic objective	Strategy *	CAAP no.	2025/26 action	Timeframe / delivery	Lead Department
SO1.1 Liveable places that are inclusive and accessible + ^	1.1.1	1	Progress the Cloverton Metropolitan Activity Centre master plan in partnership with the Regional Partnership +	● ● ● ●	City Strategy
	1.1.1	2	Finalise a progress report for the Broadmeadows Metropolitan Activity Centre precinct road map in partnership with State Government, Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and the Broadmeadows Suburban Revitalisation Board +	● ● ● ●	Strategic Projects & Places
	1.1.1	3	Deliver and activate the Sunbury Community Arts and Cultural Precinct +	● ● ○ ○	Strategic Projects & Places
	1.1.1	4	Prepare and finalise disability design guidance to inform the Community Infrastructure Design Guidelines and Council's approach to land use planning and design and present to Council for adoption + ^	● ● ● ●	Community Health & Wellbeing
	1.1.1	5	Prepare and finalise the Public Toilet Framework and present to Council for adoption +	● ● ● ○	City Strategy
	1.1.2	6	Complete business case for Craigieburn Arts Centre and present to Council for consideration in March 2026 +	● ● ● ○	City Lifestyle
	1.1.2	7	Prepare and finalise the Dog Off-Leash Framework and present to Council for adoption +	● ● ● ●	City Strategy
	1.1.2	8	Prepare and finalise the Progress Reserve master plan and present to Council for adoption +	● ● ● ○	Strategic Projects & Places
	1.1.3	9	Finalise the Sunbury Transport Plan (as pilot) as part of implementing the Transport Strategy +	● ● ○ ○	City Strategy
	1.1.3	10	Commence the preparation of the other precinct plans to support the implementation of the Transport Strategy +	● ● ● ●	City Strategy
	1.1.4	11	Update the Housing Diversity Strategy and prepare amendment to implement into the Hume Planning Scheme (in 2026/27) +	● ● ● ●	City Strategy
	1.2.2	12	Deliver place management support to small shopping strips and retail and hospitality businesses +	● ● ● ●	Economic Development
SO1.2 A strong and diversified local economy + ^	1.3.1	13	Expand the deployment of mobile CCTV by 65% to enhance detection and deterrence of littering and illegal dumping +	● ○ ○ ○	City Safety
	1.3.1	14	Implement Keep Hume Clean campaign, including the 'Dob in a Dumper' campaign +	● ● ● ●	Waste & Sustainability
	1.3.2	15	Update the Domestic Animal Management Plan and present to Council for adoption by December 2025 +	● ● ○ ○	City Safety

* Refer to Council Plan 2025-2029 page 55 – 57 for wording of strategies under strategic objective 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3.

Priority 2: A climate resilient city with a healthy natural environment					
Strategic objective	Strategy *	CAAP no.	2025/26 action	Timeframe / delivery	Lead Department
SO2.1 Protection and enhancement of our natural environment +	2.1.1	16	Prepare amendment to implement the Rural Strategy into the Hume Planning Scheme, including green wedge management requirements +	● ● ● ●	City Strategy
	2.1.2	17	Work with the Chain of Pond Collaboration, including Traditional Owners, to improve the Moonee Ponds Creek waterway +	● ● ● ●	City Strategy
	2.1.2	18	Work with the Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Parklands Partnership Group, including Traditional Owners to implement the Regional Parklands Plan to protect and enhance the cultural and ecological values of the parklands +	● ● ● ●	City Strategy
	2.1.2	19	Work with the marram baba Merri Creek Regional Parklands Partnership Group, including Traditional Owners to implement the Future Directions Plan to protect and enhance the cultural and ecological values of the parklands +	● ● ● ●	City Strategy
	2.1.3	20	Deliver community education programs aimed at less engaged cohorts to empower Hume residents to reduce negative waste behaviours +	● ● ● ●	Waste & Sustainability / Strategic Communications
SO2.2 Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to climate change +	2.2.1	21	Transition the Newbury Community Centre to full electrification +	● ● ● ●	Climate Action Integration
	2.2.1	22	Undertake an electrification feasibility study for the Broadmeadows Aquatic and Leisure Centre and SPLASH +	● ● ● ●	Climate Action Integration / Active Living
	2.2.1	23	Replace gas hot water at Council facilities with electric heat pump systems +	● ● ● ●	Climate Action Integration
	2.2.1	24	Transition Council's fleet passenger vehicles and light commercial vehicles to Electric Vehicles (EVs) when due for replacement +	● ● ● ●	Assets
	2.2.2	25	Design the Kalkallo Recreation Reserve stormwater harvesting project +	● ● ● ●	Climate Action Integration / Infrastructure Delivery
	2.2.2	26	Construct the Jack Roper Reserve stormwater harvesting project +	● ● ● ●	Climate Action Integration / Infrastructure Delivery
	2.2.3	27	Deliver the Hume Home Energy Upgrades Program with Council rebates for concession card holders +	● ● ● ●	Climate Action Integration

* Refer to Council Plan 2025-2029 page 59 – 60 for wording of strategies under strategic objective 2.1 and 2.2.

Priority 3: A healthy community that is inclusive and proud					
Strategic objective	Strategy *	CAAP no.	2025/26 action	Timeframe / delivery	Lead Department
SO3.1 Advancement of social justice and addressing inequalities + ^	3.1.1	28	Update the Social Justice Charter (including investigation for the relaunch of the Hume Citizens Bill of Rights) and present to Council for adoption +	● ● ● ●	Community Health & Wellbeing
	3.1.1	29	Prepare a discussion paper that explores opportunities for alternative and sustainable food models in Hume +	● ● ○ ○	Community Health & Wellbeing
	3.1.2	30	Deliver a cost-of-living support package to improve access to affordable leisure and recreation opportunities for families and young people +	● ● ● ●	Active Living
SO3.2 A healthy community with access to opportunities + ^	3.2.1	31	Finalise the Active Living Plan, including the Football (Soccer) Plan and present to Council for adoption +	● ● ○ ○	Active Living
	3.2.1	32	Finalise the Sunbury Aquatic and Leisure Master Plan and present to Council for adoption +	● ● ● ○	Active Living
	3.2.1	33	Prepare the Park It Program (Phase 2) school precinct mapping to inform improved active travel initiatives +	● ● ● ●	Community Health & Wellbeing
	3.2.1	34	Deliver pilot program in Broadmeadows aimed at reducing vaping and smoking in public areas +	● ● ● ●	Community Health & Wellbeing
	3.2.1	35	Finalise updating the Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy and present to Council for adoption +	● ● ● ●	Community Health & Wellbeing
	3.2.2	36	Review outcomes of the Free from Violence Program (2021–2025) and prepare a local Family Violence Prevention Action Plan to guide Council’s efforts to end family and gender-based violence +	● ● ● ●	Community Health & Wellbeing
	3.2.4	37	Support the delivery and integration of the Northern Study Hub at Council offices in Broadmeadows +	● ● ● ●	Strategic Projects & Places
SO3.3 An inclusive and socially connected community that celebrates diversity and culture + ^	3.3.1	38	Support the LGBTIQ+ Community Working Group to deliver its final report and recommendations to Council for consideration +	● ● ● ○	Community Health & Wellbeing
	3.3.1	39	Install public art and murals in community spaces through the dedicated capital works program +	● ● ● ●	City Lifestyle
	3.3.2	40	Deliver the Victorian Interfaith Festival in collaboration with Faith Communities Council of Victoria and Hume Interfaith Network (HIN) +	● ● ○ ○	Community Health & Wellbeing
	3.3.3	41	Deliver an annual program of events that acknowledge significant dates for Aboriginal and Torres Islander peoples +	● ● ● ●	Community Health & Wellbeing
	3.3.4	42	Investigate opportunities for skills based training to build the capacity of community event organisers and improve the sustainability of local events +	● ● ● ●	City Lifestyle

* Refer to Council Plan 2025-2029 page 63 – 65 for wording of strategies under strategic objective 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3.

Priority 4: A well governed Council that is strategic and trusted					
Strategic objective	Strategy *	CAAP no.	2025/26 action	Timeframe / delivery	Lead Department
SO4.1 A high performing organisation that prioritises continuous improvement, safety and accountability	4.1.1	43	Implement a Councillor Professional Development Program to guide annual training requirements for Councillors	● ● ● ●	Governance
	4.1.1	44	Design an organisational approach to service planning +	● ● ● ●	Organisational Performance & Strategy
	4.1.3	45	Update the long-term Financial Plan, including Revenue and Rating Plan and present to Council for adoption by 31 October 2025	● ● ○ ○	Finance
	4.1.3	46	Update the long-term Asset Plan and present to Council for adoption by 31 October 2025	● ● ○ ○	Assets
	4.1.3	47	Finalise the Strategic Property Management Framework and present to Council for adoption	● ● ● ●	Strategic Projects & Places
	4.1.4	48	Establish a Councillor Working Group to develop an updated approach to quarterly corporate reporting that integrates reporting on the Council Plan, capital works program and annual budget to maximise accessibility to the community	● ● ● ●	Organisational Performance & Strategy / Project Management Office / Finance
	4.1.5	49	Implement the Leader Induction Program	● ● ● ●	Org Capability
SO4.2 An organisation that demonstrates leadership and strong advocacy + ^	4.1.5	50	Deliver the Customer Experience Performance Training to all customer facing employees	● ● ● ●	Customer Experience
	4.2.1	51	Deliver the 2025 Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) Victorian Conference to lead promotion of female leadership in the local government sector	● ○ ○ ○	Governance
SO4.3 A responsive and engaged organisation that works with our community	4.2.2	52	Prepare an Advocacy Strategy and present to Council for adoption +	● ● ○ ○	Government Relations & Advocacy
	4.3.1	53	Deliver the customer service live website Webchat +	● ● ● ●	Customer Experience
	4.3.1	54	Deliver improved accessibility of online self-service customer service options +	● ● ● ●	Customer Experience
	4.3.1	55	Deliver on-hold customer service phone messages in top languages for Hume City +	● ○ ○ ○	Strategic Communications
	4.3.1	56	Deliver an interactive community capital works spatial tool +	● ● ● ○	Organisational Performance & Strategy / Information Technology
	4.3.2	57	Implement an updated approach to capturing community views through annual surveys and engagement practices +	● ● ● ●	Organisational Performance & Strategy
	4.3.2	58	Expand the Multicultural Communications Advisory Group +	● ○ ○ ○	Strategic Communications
	4.3.2	59	Inform the community of the Hume Places Review and how Council plans and prioritises streetscape upgrades in local activity centres +	● ● ● ○	Strategic Projects & Places

* Refer to Council Plan 2025-2029 page 67 – 69 for wording of strategies under strategic objective 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3.

REPORT NO:	8.2
REPORT TITLE:	Jacksons Hill - Precinct Branding and Naming
SOURCE:	Carina Doolan, Senior Project Manager - Jacksons Hill
DIVISION:	City Planning & Places
FILE NO:	HCC19/469
POLICY:	-
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:	SO3.3 An inclusive and socially connected community that celebrates diversity and culture
ATTACHMENTS:	Nil

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No Council officers involved in the preparation of this Report have a general or material interest in relation to the matters for consideration.

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT:

- 1.1 Located on Jacksons Hill in Sunbury, the Sunbury Community Arts and Cultural Precinct (SCACP), has been identified as a destination for art, community, and cultural connections. The refurbishment of Building 5 (the former women’s refractory) and Building 6 (a work shed) is in progress.
- 1.2 This report outlines the community engagement process undertaken with anchor users, Community Advisory Board members, the former Community Advisory Group, and representatives of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to establish a preferred name and by-line for the facility.
- 1.3 It recommends that Council endorse the community’s preferred name and by-line for Buildings 5 and 6, and approve initiating a formal Place Naming process via GNV for the broader precinct. It also notes that any future community-led incorporated body will determine its own name and branding in due course.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

2.1 That Council:

- 2.1.1 **Endorse the community’s preferred name and by-line for the facility at Buildings 5 and 6. The preferred name and by-line is *Artrise - Gather, Connect and Create on the Hill*.**
- 2.1.2 **Approve initiating a formal Geographic Names Victoria (GNV) naming process to rename the broader precinct, currently known as the “Sunbury Community Arts and Cultural Precinct”.**
- 2.1.3 **Note that this formal Place Naming process is likely to take 12-18 months and involve further engagement with the broader community.**
- 2.1.4 **Note that the proposed community-led incorporated body, once established, will determine its own name and branding at their own pace/time.**

REPORT NO: 8.2 (cont.)

3. BACKGROUND:

- 3.1 At the Council Meeting on 26 September 2022, Council endorsed writing to the Minister of Planning expressing an interest in securing access to 3.269 hectares of land and buildings located at Jacksons Hill Sunbury for community purposes. A 25-year lease was secured in October 2022.
- 3.2 Due diligence investigations and community engagement activities took place throughout 2023 and early 2024 to inform plans for the site. At the Council Meeting on 29 April 2024, Council endorsed the updated precinct vision and principles, the release of the draft concept plans for community consultation and next steps for the project.
- 3.3 At its meeting on 24 June 2024, Council endorsed the final Concept Plan and next steps for the Sunbury Community Arts and Cultural Precinct (SCACP) and provided in principle support for Council to lead the initial operation and management of the new facility, with a planned transition to a community led incorporated association within 12 to 18 months of opening.
- 3.4 On 14 April 2025, Council awarded the building contract for the refurbishment works for Buildings 5 and 6, works are progressing well with an expected completion date of late 2025.
- 3.5 On 28 April 2025, Council approved the appointment of members to the SCACP Community Advisory Board (CAB), endorsed the terms of reference, and noted that the CAB is a temporary body that will cease once the site transitions from Council to a community-managed facility.
- 3.6 The buildings now referred to as Buildings 5 and 6 were historically known as Building 22 and Building 24 - designations assigned by Victoria University during its long-term occupancy of the site. These identifiers were later retained by the State Government when it assumed management. Since securing the long-term lease for these buildings and the surrounding land, Council identified the need to formally number the buildings for administrative purposes, including leasing, rating, and emergency services. In consultation with Council’s Planning and Rates teams, the buildings were renumbered as Building 5 and Building 6 to support future operational requirements.

4. LEGISLATIVE POWERS & POLICY CONTEXT:

- 4.1 The naming of the new facility at Buildings 5 and 6 considers Council’s obligations in relation to community involvement in strategic planning and strategic decision making outlined in Section 9.2 of The Local Government Act 2020 (Vic).
- 4.2 The community engagement on the name and by-line was undertaken in accordance the principles of community engagement listed in Section 56 of The Local Government Act 2020 (Vic).
- 4.3 The community engagement on the name and by-line was undertaken in accordance with Council’s Engagement Policy (ref: POL/289) re-adopted in March 2022.

5. OVERARCHING GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES:

- 5.1 This Report supports Council is giving effect to the following Overarching Governance Principles:

REPORT NO: 8.2 (cont.)

- a) Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law;
- b) priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;
- d) the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making;
- i) the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

6. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

6.1 CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

The human rights relevant to this Report are:

- Right to freedom of thought and belief
- Right to freedom of expression
- Right to take part in public life

The above rights are not being limited by the recommended action in this Report.

6.2 GENDER EQUALITY ACT 2020

This Report does not relate to a development or review of a policy, program or service; therefore a Gender Impact Assessment was not required.

7. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 7.1 There are no costs associated with endorsing the name and by-line for the facility at Buildings 5 and 6.
- 7.2 Branding and signage costs will be incurred in connection with the use of the name and by-line. These costs are accounted for in the existing project budget.

8. OPPORTUNITIES & RISKS:

- 8.1 Naming the facility at Buildings 5 and 6 presents a strategic opportunity to strengthen community connection, establish a clear identity, and support future branding efforts. The preferred name, *Artrise*, and by-line, *Gather, Connect and Create on the Hill*, emerged from a robust and collaborative community engagement process. Participants demonstrated strong alignment around the name’s meaning, which reflects themes of creativity, renewal, and cultural connection. The name is distinctive, easy to remember, and marketable, positioning the facility for a successful launch and long-term recognition.
- 8.2 A number of opportunities have been identified for the naming of the facility at Buildings 5 and 6. These include:
 - 8.2.1 Strengthening the community’s role in the establishment of the facility by endorsing their preferred name and by-line.
 - 8.2.2 Positioning the facility for a future success by giving it a strong and distinctive name – *Artrise*.
 - 8.2.3 Building brand recognition by ensuring the name, and initial promotional materials, are in place ahead of completion in late 2025.

REPORT NO: 8.2 (cont.)

- 8.3 While the naming process presents clear benefits, several risks have been identified, these include:
- 8.3.1 The facility lacks a clear identity. At present, it is referred to by various names and identifiers, including legacy labels such as B22 and B24, which were assigned by Victoria University and later retained by State Government and more recently, Council. This inconsistency creates confusion and hinders efforts to establish a cohesive brand and presence. The adoption of a formal name aims to resolve this by providing a unified and meaningful identity that reflects the facility’s purpose, supports operational requirements, and strengthens community connection.
 - 8.3.2 Not everyone will support or even like the preferred name. Establishing a strong identity and equity in the name will take time.
 - 8.3.3 The risk that the name is already being used by another organisation, or may unintentionally cause offence if not properly screened. To mitigate this, Council officers have reviewed the preferred name to ensure that it is available for use in Hume and that it is linguistically and culturally appropriate. There are no indications that the name *Artrise* carries any culturally insensitive or inappropriate connotations in the Australian context.
- 8.4 This report also recommends approval of the initiation of a place naming process for the broader site. Initiating a Place Naming process through Geographic Names Victoria (GNV) presents an opportunity to unify the precinct under a single, community-informed identity that reflects its creative and cultural purpose. This will also improve how the site is accessed and navigated by the public, emergency services, and deliveries.
- 8.5 A potential risk is that the formal naming process may not fully reflect the evolving identity of the precinct if undertaken too early, leading to misalignment with future community expectations or branding. This will be mitigated by aligning the process with broader precinct planning and continuing to engage the community throughout.

9. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

- 9.1 The Sunbury Community have been strong advocates for the delivery of improved arts and cultural facilities on Jacksons Hill for over a decade and have actively participated in an extensive program of community engagement and consultation. A summary of the main community engagement activities undertaken for the project over the past two years is listed below:
- 9.1.1 August 2020 - *Established a Community Advisory Group (CAG) to help inform the future use of the site.*
 - 9.1.2 October 2023 - *Broad community consultation and engagement activities, to check in on the vision of the precinct and capture community aspirations and ideas for Buildings 5 and 6.*
 - 9.1.3 February 2024 to March 2024 - *Workshops with anchor users and the wider community to inform a concept plan for Buildings 5 and 6.*
 - 9.1.4 May 2024 - *Broad community consultation and pop-up consultation trailers around Sunbury to gather feedback on the draft concept plan for Buildings 5 and 6.*

REPORT NO: 8.2 (cont.)

- 9.1.5 February 2025 - *Community open day to visit the site before construction began and share project information.*
- 9.1.6 April 2025 - *Appointed members of the Community Advisory Board (CAB) along with the terms of reference for the board.*
- 9.1.7 May 2025 - *First Community Advisory Board (CAB) meeting was convened on 27 May 2025.*
- 9.2 The level of participation and collaboration reflects the community’s investment in the project and reinforces the importance of continuing to embed community voice in its future development.
- 9.3 In July 2025, two engagement workshops were held with anchor users, Community Advisory Board members, members of the former Community Advisory Group and a representative from the Wurundjeri Woi wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to develop a preferred name and by-line for Buildings 5 and 6.
- 9.4 The first workshop was held in-person on 2 July 2025 and focused on exploring the overarching name for the facility at Buildings 5 and 6.
- 9.5 The second workshop was held online on 21 July 2025 and focused on exploring the by-line for the facility at Buildings 5 and 6.
- 9.6 The outcomes of the workshops are discussed below.

10. DISCUSSION:

- 10.1 Following robust engagement, the community's preferred name and by-line for the new facility at Buildings 5 and 6 is: *Artrise - Gather, Connect and Create on the Hill.*
- 10.2 At the conclusion of the first workshop, participants landed on a preferred name of *Artrise* - along with insights and options for possible by-lines that could accompany the name. There was significant positivity and energy amongst the participants about the name, the meaning behind it, and the branding that will follow.
- 10.3 The community’s rationale for the facility name *Artrise* included:
 - *Artrise* is a strong and distinctive name
 - *Artrise* is easy to remember and use
 - *Artrise* has good marketability
- 10.4 Participants were drawn to the use of “rise” in the name as a meaningful metaphor for:
 - The rise of creativity and arts
 - The rise of community and connection
 - The site rising from its past uses
 - The rise of the land at the site
 - The rise in connection with Indigenous significance of site
 - The connection with new beginnings (dawn)
- 10.5 The brainstorming activities in workshop two included a respectful and collaborative discussion about what words captured the essence of the new facility. Some of the words that stood out to the participants included:
 - Create
 - Connect
 - Gather
 - Culture
 - Community

REPORT NO: 8.2 (cont.)

- 10.6 At the conclusion of workshop two, the participants landed on the preferred by-line of: *Gather, Connect and Create on the Hill*.
- 10.7 As the broader arts and cultural precinct on Jacksons Hill continues to evolve, a formal Place Naming process through Geographic Names Victoria (GNV) will be required to ensure consistency, clarity, and accessibility across the entire site. The precinct is currently referred to as the Sunbury Community Arts and Cultural Precinct (SCACP), this name originated as a project reference name when the vision was adopted by Council in February 2015.
- 10.8 A GNV process will allow Council to work with the community to establish a name that reflects the precinct’s creative identity, cultural significance, and local connection that supports a unified brand and makes the precinct more recognisable and welcoming for all users.
- 10.9 The place naming, as required under the GNV process, will include consultation and engagement with the broader community and will take approximately 12 to 18 months to complete.
- 10.10 The new facility at Buildings 5 and 6 is intended to transition to a community-led incorporated association within 12 – 18 months of operation. When the association is established, they may choose to create a name for the association and their own brand identity. This process would be done at their own pace/ time, and their name and branding would sit alongside the facility name and branding.

11. CONCLUSION:

- 11.1 The naming of the new facility at Buildings 5 and 6 marks a significant milestone in the transformation of Jacksons Hill into a vibrant centre for arts, culture, and community connection. The preferred name, *Artrise – Gather, Connect and Create on the Hill*, reflects the community’s aspirations, the site’s history, and its creative future. Endorsing this name and by-line will establish a clear and distinctive identity ahead of the facility’s opening in late 2025, strengthening community ownership and supporting future branding and promotional efforts.
- 11.2 The proposed approach to initiate a Geographic Names Victoria process for the broader precinct ensures a coordinated and inclusive naming process that reflects the precinct’s cultural significance and operational needs. Together, these actions will provide a cohesive framework for the precinct’s identity, enhance community pride, and position Jacksons Hill as a recognised and valued destination for generations to come.

REPORT NO:	8.3
REPORT TITLE:	Kindergarten Infrastructure Service Plan (KISP) 2025-2036
SOURCE:	Shannan Mudie, Acting Manager Family Youth & Children
DIVISION:	City Services & Living
FILE NO:	HCC24/399
POLICY:	-
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:	SO4.3 A responsive and engaged organisation that works with our community.
ATTACHMENT:	1. <i>Hume City Council KISP 2025-2036</i>

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No Council officers involved in the preparation of this Report have a general or material interest in relation to the matters for consideration.

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT:

- 1.1. This report presents an overview of the Hume Kindergarten Infrastructure Services Plan (KISP). The KISP is an estimate of projected service demand, developed between the Department of Education (DE) and Council, for Hume municipality, covering the period 2025 until 2036.
- 1.2. The KISP is a planning tool, supporting service providers in their planning activities. This can include planning for future kindergarten program expansion, infrastructure investments or Building Blocks funding applications. The Plan helps to ensure that projects are in alignment with known and agreed demand projections.
- 1.3. The KISP 2025-2036 identifies several suburbs across Hume that may experience unmet demand for kindergarten places by 2036, particularly as Pre-Prep expands to offer 30 hours for four-year-olds. These suburbs are Sunbury, Craigieburn South, Westmeadows, Broadmeadows and Mickleham North.
- 1.4. It is important to note that the identification of unmet demand does not commit Council to infrastructure delivery. Any future response will require assessment with the Department of Education to determine whether projected capacity needs are likely to be addressed through State-led infrastructure projects, evaluating alignment with Council’s strategic priorities, and then determining which agency is best positioned to meet the identified demand.
- 1.5. KISPs are periodically reviewed (i.e. next review in 2028) to identify if the projections remain current, or if a revision is required due to updated demand estimates.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes:

- 2.1. **the Kindergarten Infrastructure Service Plan (Attachment 1), identifying projected service demand for kindergarten places within the City of Hume between 2025 and 2036.**
- 2.2. **that the CEO and the Department of Education (DE) will sign the Kindergarten Infrastructure Service Plan (2025-2036), agreeing to the projected demand estimates, and enabling these estimates to be published for the Hume municipal area, supporting sector service planning.**

REPORT NO: 8.3 (cont.)

3. LEGISLATIVE POWERS & POLICY CONTEXT:

- 3.1. Hume City Council is an Approved Provider of early years services, including kindergarten programs, delivered under a Funding and Service Agreement with the Victorian Department of Education. These services must comply with the Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010, the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011, and the National Quality Framework, which collectively ensure consistent, safe, and high-quality early childhood education across Australia.
- 3.2. In 2022, the Victorian Government launched the ‘Best Start, Best Life’ reforms, including:
 - 3.2.1. Free kindergarten for all 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds.
 - 3.2.2. Transitioning the existing 4-year-old kindergarten program into a new ‘Pre-Prep’ model.
 - 3.2.3. A staged increase in weekly attendance hours across both programs.
- 3.3. To support these reforms, local governments were tasked with preparing Kindergarten Infrastructure Service Plan (KISPs) in partnership with the Department of Education to forecast future demand and identify priority infrastructure needs.

4. OVERARCHING GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES:

This Report supports Council in giving effect to the following Overarching Governance Principles:

- a) Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law;
- b) Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;
- i) the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

5. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

The human rights relevant to this Report are:

- 5.1. Protection of Families and Children (Section 17)

The report supports the right of every child to protection and care as is in their best interests. It emphasizes the role of early childhood education in helping children reach their full potential. It acknowledges the importance of prompt intervention for children at risk – physically, emotionally, or developmentally.
- 5.2. Right to Equality (Section 8)

The report promotes access, inclusion, equity, and fairness in early years services. It highlights efforts to ensure vulnerable groups (e.g., Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, refugee families, children known to Child Protection) receive adequate support and access to services.
- 5.3. Right to Education (Section 17 and broader principles)

Although not explicitly stated in the Charter, the right to education is supported through the provision of free kindergarten and expanded hours under the Best Start, Best Life reforms. The infrastructure planning ensures that all children, regardless of background, have access to quality early learning environments.

These rights have been considered, and no rights are limited through the recommendations of this report, or the Kindergarten Infrastructure Service Plan Version 2.

GENDER EQUALITY ACT 2020

- 5.4. A Gender Impact Assessment has not been undertaken in the development of the KISP 2025-2036 for the following reasons;

REPORT NO: 8.3 (cont.)

This is a report that speaks to the demand for kindergarten places across Hume and recommends where infrastructure may be required. However, the findings of this report do not determine where infrastructure will be developed. Therefore, the immediate impact on the public is not deemed to be direct and significant.

It is noted that a Gender Impact Assessment will be undertaken to support in the decision-making process for future reports relating to the proposed locations and services for specific Early Years infrastructure projects.

6. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1. There are no immediate financial or resource implications associated with this report or arising from the Kindergarten Infrastructure Services Plan 2025-2036.
- 6.2. While the KISP 2025-2036 identifies several areas within the municipality that are projected to experience unmet demand for 3-year-old and 4-year-old (Pre-Prep) kindergarten places by 2036, this does not commit Council to infrastructure delivery. Any future response will require further assessment, including:
 - 6.2.1. Determining whether Council is best positioned to meet the identified demand;
 - 6.2.2. Evaluating alignment with Council’s Community Infrastructure Programs, long-term capital works commitments and strategic priorities;
 - 6.2.3. Coordinating with the Department of Education to determine whether projected capacity needs are likely to be addressed, or could potentially be met, through State-led infrastructure projects.
- 6.3. The Victorian Government’s Building Blocks Funding Program offers a potential funding stream to support Council’s planning and delivery of kindergarten infrastructure, if required. This includes support for feasibility studies, site expansions, and new or integrated early years facilities.

7. OPPORTUNITIES & RISKS:

OPPORTUNITIES

- 7.1. Completion of the KISP is an expectation as part of funding arrangements with the Department of Education. It provides the State Government and Hume with data to support future infrastructure planning in growth areas within the municipality.
- 7.2. The KISP is a tool that provides Council with projections of growth within the municipality to support future infrastructure planning. The KISP is looked at in conjunction with existing strategic planning protocols that exist within Council.

RISKS

- 7.3. Data is subject to change and is an estimate only based on current understanding of population growth and trends.
- 7.4. There continues to be a need to work closely in partnership with Department of Education regarding their pipeline of future works before Council commits to further projects.

8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

- 8.1. The revised KISP has been developed with input from external early years providers as part of the Early Years Partnership and the internal Hume Early Years Management leadership team to gain insights into community and demographic context. Meetings were also held with the Department of Education to understand their predicted kinder enrolment numbers from 2025-2036.

9. DISCUSSION:

BACKGROUND

REPORT NO: 8.3 (cont.)

- 9.1. The Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan (KISP) is a strategic planning tool designed to guide the future delivery of kindergarten services and facilities. It was introduced to plan for and meet the additional hours and places committed through the Victorian Government’s Best Start, Best Life reforms.
- 9.2. The KISP seeks to support both Council and the Department of Education identify where infrastructure is needed, how it aligns with projected demand, and where gaps may emerge over time. It also draws on localised data to ensure that planning reflects the unique needs and growth patterns of each community.
- 9.3. Council’s first KISP, developed in 2021, led to five infrastructure projects aimed at increasing kindergarten capacity. All of these projects are now complete with 4 out of 5 operational in 2025, including a two-room modular facility at Aitken Hill and single-room extensions at Bluebird Way Kindergarten, Craigieburn Child and Family Centre, and Mickleham South Community Centre. The fifth project, an extension at Kalkallo North Community Centre, is awaiting Department of Education license approval, and is scheduled for operation in January 2026.
- 9.4. Since 2021, Council’s Early Years team has made significant progress in responding to the Best Start, Best Life reforms. Three-year-old kindergarten has been rolled out across the municipality, with hours increased from 7.5 to 15 – well ahead of the 2029 target. Planning is also underway for the staged rollout of 30 hours for four-year-olds by 2036. Free kindergarten has been introduced for all children, and enrolments have grown from 2,800 in 2022 to 3,600 in 2025.

SERVICE CONTEXT

- 9.5. Looking ahead, new service requirements will come into effect from 2026, with vulnerable children – including those known to Child Protection, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and refugee and asylum seeker families – entitled to 16–25 hours of kindergarten. By 2028, this entitlement will extend to all families holding a concession card, which represents around half of Hume’s population.
- 9.6. This shift in service delivery is the focus of ongoing planning led by Council’s Early Years team. Work is underway to model the impact of increased hours on service capacity, assess workforce requirements, and ensure that services remain accessible, inclusive, and responsive to the evolving needs of the community.
- 9.7. Council currently operates 34 early years services, and provides approximately 80% of kindergarten places in Hume. Demand is particularly high at Newbury Community Centre Kindergarten, Aitken Hill Community Centre Kindergarten, and Mickleham North Community Centre Kindergarten – all of which are operating at full capacity, with enrolments exceeding 290 children each.
- 9.8. To help meet growing demand, the Department of Education has approved a Building Blocks Program variation to include a new two-room kindergarten at Jackson Creek Community Centre in Sunbury. The Department is also rolling out kindergartens on school sites (KOSS) in growth areas such as Sunbury College, and Oscar Romero Primary School in Craigieburn. These developments will help ease pressure on Council services.
- 9.9. Additionally, private long day care centres continue to expand across the municipality, and the Department is constructing 50 Early Learning Centres across the State, which will further support demand.
- 9.10. One Government site has been identified in Mickleham near the Highlander Estate as a potential location for future kindergarten infrastructure.

KINDERGARTEN INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES PLAN (KISP) VERSION 2

REPORT NO: 8.3 (cont.)

- 9.11. The 2025 KISP has identified several suburbs across Hume that may experience unmet demand for kindergarten places by 2036, particularly as the Pre-Prep program expands to offer 30 hours for four-year-olds. These suburbs are Sunbury, Craigieburn South, Westmeadows, Broadmeadows and Mickleham North.
- 9.12. Recognising this potential unmet demand, preliminary analysis was undertaken to explore whether this projected demand could be accommodated through works to existing Council-owned buildings or on Council-managed land. This exercise identified a number of potential opportunities, including:
- Sunbury: Potential installation of a modular facility or extension at Elizabeth Drive Community Centre, and exploration of a modular extension at Dulap Wilam on an adjoining school site.
 - Craigieburn South: Potential to utilise land at the newly constructed Highlands Community Centre to accommodate a two-room modular kindergarten.
 - Westmeadows and Broadmeadows: Potentially renovating the surrendered Farm Ridge Kindergarten site in Gladstone Park and expanding Westmeadows Preschool by adding an additional room.
 - Mickleham North: Potentially repurposing a licensed community room at the Mickleham North Community Centre to serve as an additional kindergarten room.
- 9.13. Officers are not proposing or recommending at this time that Council undertake any infrastructure planning or development in response to the KISP 2025 – 2036.
- 9.14. Any future response will require assessment with the Department of Education to determine whether projected capacity needs are able to be addressed through State-led infrastructure projects, this would then be evaluated in alignment with Council’s strategic priorities, to then determine which agency is best positioned to meet the identified demand. If Council was identified as the best-positioned agency, projects would be subject to further investigation, detailed planning, and would be presented to Council for consideration and inclusion in future capital works programs.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1. Council acknowledges the vital role kindergartens play in supporting the development, wellbeing, and lifelong learning of children across Hume City.
- 10.2. The 2025 – 2036 KISP provides a valuable framework, ensuring that service providers in the City of Hume have access to the most up-to-date demand data to support their service planning.
- 10.3. This ensures that the sector is well-positioned to continue to meet the needs of Hume’s growing and diverse community, whilst supporting the delivery of the Best Start, Best Life reforms.



Department
of Education

Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan

Hume City

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Department
of Education

1.Introduction

1.1. Reform context

The Victorian Government’s \$14 billion Best Start, Best Life (BSBL) reforms are the most significant change to Victoria’s early childhood sector in a generation.

The BSBL reforms include:

- **Free Kinder:** Free Kinder is now available for Victorian 3- and 4-year-old children at participating services in standalone (sessional) kindergartens and long day care centres – a saving of up to \$2,500 per child, every year.
- **Pre-Prep:** Four-Year-Old Kindergarten will gradually transition to ‘Pre-Prep’ – increasing to a universal 30-hour-a-week program of play-based learning for 4-year-old children in Victoria by 2036.
- **Three-Year-Old Kindergarten:** the continued roll-out of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten, with programs increasing to 15 hours a week across the state by 2029.
- **Early learning and childcare centres:** the establishment of 50 Victorian government-owned and operated early learning and childcare centres. These centres will be built in areas with the greatest need and will make it easier for families to access early childhood education and childcare. The first of the centres will open in 2025.

These initiatives demonstrate a clear commitment to improving early learning outcomes for Victorian children, workforce participation and access for families, and present the most significant change to Victoria’s early childhood sector in a generation.

Pre-Prep will roll-out in Hume City in 2034. Statewide, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from a refugee or asylum seeker background, and children who have had contact with Child Protection services, will be able to access up to 25 hours of Pre-Prep in 2026, increasing to up to 30 hours from 2028. Children who have (or have a parent or guardian who has) a Commonwealth concession card and children who are a multiple birth child (triplets or more) across the state will be able to access up to 25 hours of Pre-Prep in 2028, increasing to up to 30 hours from 2030.

1.2. Purpose of Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plans (KISPs)

New and expanded infrastructure is key to delivering the BSBL reforms and will require a large expansion of kindergarten facilities across the State. KISPs, which are jointly developed with Local Governments, indicate where and when new infrastructure will be required to support both reform implementation and population growth in each of Victoria’s 79 local government areas (LGAs). KISPs help all kindergarten providers meet demand and collectively provide a clear picture of infrastructure need across the State.

KISPs support planning for services and future capital works and include detailed information about:

- Current capacity and demand for funded kindergarten

- Capacity to be delivered for planned infrastructure projects and future demand for kindergarten
- Forecast ‘unmet demand’ for kindergarten – that is, the kindergarten places needed that cannot be met by current or planned capacity
- Information specific to each local government area and its early childhood education and care landscape.

KISPs were initially developed to support the roll-out of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten and have now been updated to incorporate Pre-Prep.

KISPs are intended to support planning. They are not funding documents and do not commit any party to addressing the unmet demand identified.

However, it is expected that future investment requests through Building Blocks and funding decisions about Local Government, not-for-profit projects (including non-government schools) would align with the relevant KISP (including Section 3: Local Context).

1.3. Structure of the KISP

Each KISP consists of the following sections:

- **Section 1:** A short introduction to the Best Start, Best Life reform and the KISP.
- **Section 2:** A map of existing and planned Early Childhood Education and Care services.
- **Section 3:** Local context and knowledge of key information in Hume City relevant to early childhood education.
- **Section 4:** Unmet demand estimates in Hume City over the life of the reform.

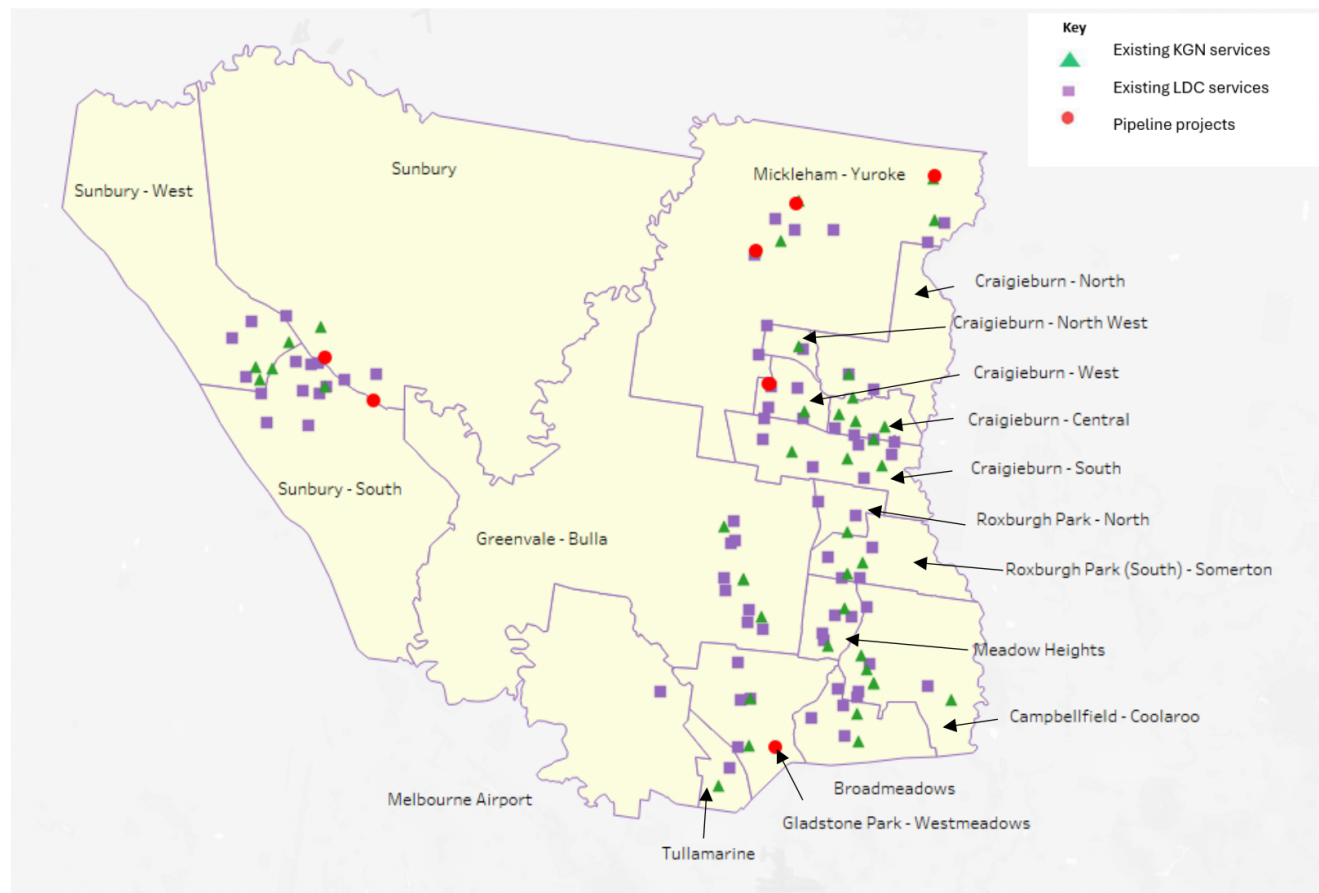
1.4. Disclaimer

All data presented in this document is published for information purposes only. Operational and business decisions should not be based solely on this document. Neither the Department nor Hume City Council warrants, guarantees, makes any representation or assumes any duty of care in relation to the data, including as to its suitability, completeness, accuracy or adequacy.

2. Map of Early Childhood Education services in Hume

The map below shows the distribution of currently operating and new State-supported services that are planned to open in the future in Hume City. Planned services by the private sector are not included.

This map has been prepared using departmental data, from both the National Quality Agenda IT System (NQAITS) and the Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA).



3. Local context

3.1 Purpose

Local, place-based knowledge and context play an important role in supporting the implementation of the BSBL reforms across Victoria. This section of the KISP documents this knowledge and context and should be considered alongside the kindergarten demand estimates in Section 4.

Information provided as local context may support applications through the Building Blocks Capacity Building and Planning Grants streams.

3.2 Key considerations

Aboriginal Self Determination in Early Childhood Education and Care

Hume City Council has a proactive approach to engaging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families with a dedicated engagement team including an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Parent Engagement Worker.

This workforce supports the early engagement of families. Aboriginal children’s participation rates in MCH for 2023/24 was 83.88%. Eight percent of parents completing the parent survey identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Around 400 children aged 0-4 are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, whilst around 4.4% of the preschool population is Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children participate in kindergarten across the municipality with around 27 children in council run kindergartens identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Services across the municipality ensure culturally safe access including for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in a number of ways, including through dedicated training and culturally inclusive practices, engagement with local elders and relationships with indigenous organisations such as VACCHO.

Key demographic trends that influence demand for kindergarten

Growth rates

Hume City’s population has grown significantly, increasing 19.3% from 2016 to 2021, 2.5% from 2021 to 2022 and 3.8% from 2022 to 2023 to a total of over 262,000 people. Over the next ten years from 2025 to 2035 the population is forecast to grow by 63,700 people (to reach almost 342,000) with an average annual growth rate of 2.1%.

Hume City is home to young families, with a median age of 33 years. More than half of households in Hume City (56%) contain families with children, compared to 43% across Greater Melbourne. More than one in three households in Hume (36%) contain children under the age of 15 years. Hume has a larger percentage of children aged 0-4 years (7.7%) in comparison to Greater Melbourne (5.9%).

Hume grew by 3,836 births in 2023. The largest number of births occurred in Mickleham-Yuroke, Greenvale-Bulla, and Craigieburn-South. Hume’s fertility rate stands at 1.87, higher than the state average of 1.49.

Culturally and linguistically diverse communities

Two-fifths (40%) of Hume's residents were born overseas, compared to 36% for Greater Melbourne. The top countries of birth include India, Iraq, Türkiye, Lebanon, and Pakistan. Between 2016 and 2021, there was significant growth in residents from Nepal, Syria, India, and Pakistan.

Almost half (49%) of Hume City's population speak a language other than English at home, notably higher than Greater Melbourne's 34%. In some of the south-eastern suburbs of Hume, more than 60% of people speak a language other than English. The most common non-English languages are Arabic, Turkish, Punjabi, Assyrian, and Chaldean. One in twelve people (8.3%) across Hume City do not speak English well or not at all.

Close to half (46.1%) of children aged 0-4 years in Hume City have both of their parents born overseas in a non-English speaking country. Similarly, 46.6% of children aged 0-4 years live in households where the main language used at home is not English.

Council data confirms over 2000 consultations requiring interpreters and 1,150 CALD children supported in 2023-24. In 2024, close to 200 children in Council run kindergartens are visa holders, with many children experiencing trauma and having diagnosed or undiagnosed additional needs.

In 2021 almost one quarter of Hume's total population (22.2%) were permanent migrants who arrived in Australia between 2000 and 2021. Hume City has the third largest number of migrants in Victoria, largest number of permanent migrants who arrived under the Humanitarian Program and accounts for one-fifth of Victoria's total humanitarian intake. More than one third (34%) of permanent migrants entered Australia under the Humanitarian Program and two-fifths under the Skilled Program (40.6%).

Vulnerability and disadvantage

Hume City ranks as the third most socio-economically disadvantaged local government area in Greater Melbourne, based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics SEIFA (Socio-economic Economic Indexes For Areas) Index of Disadvantage— which includes measures such as unemployment, low income, and low education levels. The most disadvantaged suburbs in Hume—and the top five across Greater Melbourne with populations over 500—are Meadow Heights, Campbellfield, Coolaroo, Dallas, Broadmeadows. This contributes to the high demand for standalone kindergarten rather than long daycare that incurs a cost to parents.

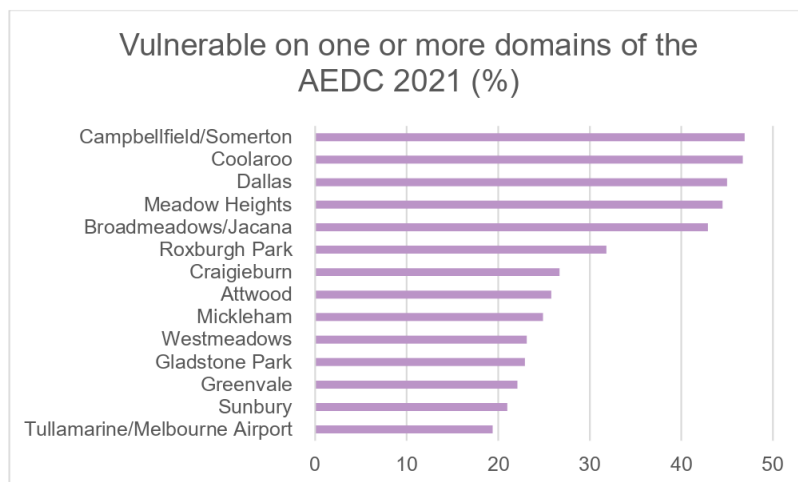
There are high levels of vulnerability. In 2023 over 13% of children in council run standalone kindergarten were in ESK, whilst half of all families were on a concession card. Many families cannot afford to attend long daycare, or limit days of long daycare by also enrolling in standalone kindergarten.

In 2022-23 Hume City recorded 3,641 incidents of family violence, with an incident rate of 1,406 per 100,000 population, slightly higher than the Victorian rate of 1,378. In just over two out of five (42.6%) recorded incidents of family violence in Hume City, a child was present as either a victim or a witness. This is higher than the statewide rate of 36.7%.

1.5% of 0 to 4 year olds have a disability or health condition that requires assistance with core activities. The 2021 AEDC shows that close to a quarter of children either have special needs status (6.7%) or are identified by teachers as requiring further assessment (17.1%). The percentage of children requiring further assessment has increased from 11.3% in 2015.

Results from the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC 2021) show that across all domains children living in Hume City are more likely to be developmentally vulnerable than their peers across Greater Melbourne and Victoria. The proportion of children developmentally vulnerable on one or more of the five domains in Hume City in 2021 was 28.7%, compared to 19.3% for Metropolitan Melbourne.

Levels of vulnerability vary across Hume City with the south-eastern suburbs having the highest rates of children vulnerable on one or more domain.



Highly vulnerable families often face significant barriers to attending kindergarten and can more easily attend kindergarten services near home and close to local schools.

Preschool field officer referrals reflect growing vulnerability, doubling from 2021 to 2024, with 509 referrals.

This high level of additional needs must be considered when planning kindergarten delivery, as many children are likely to require intensive support and smaller group sizes may be required. Infrastructure implications may include additional space for small groups, KIS assistants and additional staff including allied health staff and consultation rooms for staff and families.

Projects or trends that may influence supply of early childhood education and care

Close to 80% of the kindergarten enrolments in the municipality are provided by Council and not for profit providers in standalone kindergartens.

Since the advent of Free Kinder more families have sought to enrol in sessional kindergartens rather than long daycare.

Hume City Council is a significant provider of early years services within the municipality, facilitating the delivery of Community Hubs, supported playgroups, delivering programs to build strong and confident parents, and operating kindergartens and long daycare centres.

A double unit modular has recently been completed at Aitken Hill Community Centre in Craigieburn South, increasing capacity from 3 to 5 rooms. Extensions are underway or recently completed at Bluebird Way Child and Community Centre, Craigieburn Child and Family Centre, Mickleham South Community Centre and Kalkallo North Community Centre. These services have been included in the unmet demand estimates at section 4.

Dobell Avenue Preschool in Sunbury has been reactivated in 2025 due to increase in demand in Sunbury.

Other investment

Kindergartens on school sites have been announced for Broadmeadows Valley Primary School, Gladstone Views Primary School, and Greenvale Primary School, an early learning centre from Mickleham South Primary School and Holy Cross and Oscar Romero Catholic Primary Schools.

An additional kindergarten has been announced for Sustainable Drive Craigieburn, and another ECEC is proposed in the activity centre in Sustainable Drive which may ease pressure on Craigieburn North in the short term.

Key challenges

Hume is experiencing high levels of growth, in the Craigieburn North, Craigieburn North West and Mickleham corridors, as well as moderate growth in Sunbury.

A key challenge is the lack of availability of land across much of the municipality, posing a constraint. Older kindergartens are smaller in size, and less able to easily accommodate 33 children with 3 single unit kindergartens only being licensed for between 20-23 places.

Key local geographic considerations or information relevant to Three-Year-Old Kindergarten and Pre-Prep

Hume City is offering 15 hours of 3 year old kindergarten across its services in 2025.

The annual Hume Parent Survey is sent to all families attending sessional kindergarten and long day care. The 2024 survey results for standalone kindergartens (505 respondents) are included below.

Knowledge of 30 hours of kindergarten is mixed across the city, ranging from close to two thirds of families in Sunbury to just over a third in Craigieburn. Most families, around 80%, viewed the extension in hours positively, although families in Sunbury were least supportive at just over 60%.

Most families indicate they choose an early childhood service based on the quality of teachers and educators (92.8%) followed closely by proximity to home (83.1%).

Most families (77.3%) drive to kindergarten, and two thirds are willing to travel up to 10 minutes to attend a kindergarten.

Families have a strong preference for their local kindergarten and are not wanting to cross major roads to access kindergarten. Most kindergartens are at capacity and have extremely limited land on which to extend to expand delivery.

Parents are often seeking hours and locations that support school drop off and pick up, with kindergartens walking distance from school sites in high demand. Sites further from schools, such as Hilton St, have lower enrolments.

Whilst there are differences in hours preferred by suburb, around half of all parents prefer 6 hours, the same prefer 7.5 hours, followed by under 40% preferring 5 hours (preferences are not exclusive so parents can choose multiple selections).

Vulnerable families are more likely to prefer shorter days.

In many services, families drop off and pick up to suit school hours, regardless of scheduled hours of attendance, so expanding to longer days may not result in additional attendance.

Most families list weekdays as suitable for kindergarten, with a lower preference for Fridays.

Some families, up to one in six in Craigieburn and Mickleham Kalkallo, select Saturdays as a suitable day of the week for kindergarten. No services currently offer Saturday kindergarten as the wage costs are prohibitive under the EBA.

Families usually preferred single age groupings, although combined groupings are prevalent across the municipality.

Most families are seeking their child to attend 3 and 4 year old kindergarten in the same premises.

Likelihood of high level of priority access in 2028

Hume City Council as a whole has a higher level of disadvantage than other local government areas. In pockets of more profound disadvantage such as Broadmeadows, Coolaroo, Meadow Heights and Roxburgh Park many, if not most, families will be eligible for the 2026 or 2028 priority cohort rollouts.

Other information about the expansion of early childhood services

Additional insights, including variances from the above trends, are highlighted below

Attwood-Westmeadows- Gladstone Park-Tullamarine

- Parents preferred seven or eight hour days.

Broadmeadows-Jacana-Coolaroo-Dallas-Campbellfield

- Parents preferred a kindergarten at or near a primary school.
- Parents preferred shorter hours.

Craigieburn

- Parents had mixed preferences, with more preferring a kindergarten at or near a primary school.
- Newbury Kindergarten has a large cohort of visa holders who are supported to access additional days of learning through supported playgroups. It provides trauma-informed early learning for a highly vulnerable cohort. This is a centre of choice for many local families.
- Craigieburn is a high growth area that will require additional provision, particularly in the North West and South to meet family needs in the short and long term.
- Families who live on the Craigieburn side of Mt Ridley Road will not want to access services on the Mickleham side, due to there only being 2 access points into Mickleham, via Hume freeway or Mickleham Rd and these roads at all times of the day are banked back with traffic. These families only want to access services close to their home or close to a primary school, to minimize travel.
- Aitken Blvd, is very heavy throughout the day, being only 1 lane, and this road services BBW, Aitken Hill and Pembroke and is an access point for many other schools and kindergartens.

Greenvale

- Greenvale is experiencing moderate growth and will require significant investment in ECEC.
- Greenvale West families or families outside of this area, struggle to access our Greenvale West service due to Mickleham Rd roadworks and very little entry points into this estate. Part of this has now been complete, however government and Council funding has just been approved for the second part to commence.

Mickleham-Kalkallo

- Traffic in the local area acts as a barrier for families to travel outside of area for kindergarten. Within the Kalkallo area any family who lives outside of the Kalkallo estate will not want to access these kinders, as there is only 1 access point, Dwyer St into the estate and the traffic is very heavy all the way back over the bridge on Donnybrook Rd.
- Mickleham/Yuroke is expected to continue to experience strong population growth and require substantial new investment in ECEC from 2029 onwards, with Council land fully expended.

Roxburgh Park-Meadow Heights

- Parents in Roxburgh Park-Meadow Heights expressed preference for a kindergarten in one building with other early childhood services.
- Parents usually preferred shorter days.

Sunbury-Bulla

- Parent preferences were split between short and long days, including eight hour sessions. Pockets of high employment and higher socio-economic advantage may account for the longer hours.
- Sunbury is continuing to experience population growth and have a shortage of kindergarten places from 2029, and 2033 onwards for Sunbury West.
- A new development has been announced for Jacksons Creek. The reopening of Dobell Kindergarten will provide some short-term relief. Council can investigate other sites it holds for potential development.

Challenges with SA2 Unmet Demand Estimates

A key challenge of examining places by SA2 overall is that many families cannot afford long daycare. If a free enrolment at a kindergarten is not available their children will not receive their kindergarten entitlement. This may not appear in the unmet demand estimates, which combines a surplus of long daycare places and a shortage in standalone kindergarten places. This may be acutely felt as Pre-Prep is rolled out across the priority cohorts.

4. Unmet demand estimates between 2025 - 2036 for Hume City

4.1 Purpose

As the BSBL reforms are rolled out and Victoria’s population grows, demand for kindergarten and Pre-Prep places will increase significantly. While additional capacity will be needed to meet this demand, this will vary across the State and over time, due to differences in the capacity of existing services, growth trends and sector composition.

To identify where, when and how many additional kindergarten places are expected to be required over the roll-out in Hume City, Hume City Council and the department have developed:

1. a summary of the current provision of kindergarten within Hume City (**Section 4.3**).
2. an estimate of kindergarten places that cannot be met through existing services for the 2025 - 2036 period, taking into account the additional demand that can be accommodated by optimising utilisation of existing services and infrastructure (**Section 4.4**).

Local governments and providers can use these published estimates to inform reform implementation activities such as service planning, kindergarten program expansion, infrastructure investments and Building Blocks funding applications in alignment with future demand over the roll-out.

4.2 Methodology

The estimated kindergarten places used in the following sections have been agreed between Hume City Council and the department, and were informed by:

- demand projections developed by the department which draw on a range of inputs, including population forecasts and current enrolments
- the estimated capacity of existing and planned services in the LGA (Section 2)
- where applicable, modelling undertaken by Hume City and service level information; and
- local knowledge and context provided by the local government (Section 3) that explains particular issues and trends in their area.

Kindergarten places explainer

The KISP measures a service’s capacity to deliver funded kindergarten in terms of the number of **15-hour places** (referred to as “kindergarten places”) available for Three-Year-Old kindergarten and Pre-Prep (noting that, by 2036, two kindergarten places will be required for one Pre-Prep enrolment). The number of kindergarten places is different from a service’s licensed or approved places, which count the number of children permitted to attend the service at any one time under the license. Many services can enrol more children in their funded kindergarten program(s) than they have licensed places for because they can run more than one kindergarten program per week. Kindergarten places are therefore a more accurate measure of service kindergarten capacity than licensed places.

Kindergarten places have been presented as 15-hour places so that new Three-Year-Old Kindergarten places and the additional 15-hour places required for Pre-Prep can be easily compared to existing 15-hour Four-Year-Old Kindergarten places. This is because, when Three-Year-Old Kindergarten is fully rolled out in 2029, three-year-old children will have access to 15-hours of kindergarten. When Pre-Prep is fully rolled out in 2036, four-year-old children will have access to up to 30-hours of kindergarten, an increase of the current offering of 15-hours per week.

It is important to note that enrolments are not equivalent to 15-hour places. One 15-hour place can support a total of 15 hours of delivery per week split between one or more children, including but not limited to the following examples:

One 15-hour place (15 hours of delivery)		
Example 1	1 child	1 x 3YO attending 15 hours per week
Example 2	1 child	1 x 4YO attending 15 hours per week
Example 3	2 children	2 x 3YOs attending 7.5 hours per week
Example 4	3 children	3 x 3YOs attending 5 hours per week

Two 15-hour places can support a total of 30 hours of delivery per week split between one or more children, including but not limited to the following examples:

Two 15-hour places (30 hours of delivery)		
Example 1	1 child	1 x 4YO attending 30 hours per week
Example 2	2 children	2 x 3YOs attending 15 hours per week
Example 3	2 children	1 x 3YO, and 1 x 4YO both attending 15 hours per week
Example 4	3 children	2 x 3YOs attending 7.5 hours per week, and 1 x 4YO attending 15 hours per week

Geographic boundaries used in the KISP

These estimates have been developed at an LGA and community level to show the overall forecast and variation within an area. The KISP defines community at the Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2), which is a medium-sized area which represents a community that interacts socially and economically, with an approximate population range of 3,000 to 25,000 people, and an average population of about 10,000 people. The KISP uses 2021 SA2 boundaries. More information is available at the [Australian Bureau of Statistics website](#).

Supply contributed by pipeline projects

Hume City and the department have added any new places that will be made available through planned expansions of existing services or new services into estimates of existing supply, where this

information is available. This may include projects being delivered by not-for-profit providers (including non-government schools) with support from the Victorian Government, planned Kindergartens on School Sites, and government-owned and operated early learning and childcare centres.

The KISP does not estimate how and when the broader sector will expand to meet the additional demand for kindergarten places that are estimated over the roll-out period.

4.3 Summary of current kindergarten provision

The figures below provide a summary of current kindergarten provision within the LGA and provide relevant context for the estimates of demand for funded kindergarten places included in Section 4.5. The data included in this section are largely drawn from:

- the department’s Kindergarten Information Management System (KIMS), as at 2023.
- the National Quality Agenda IT System (NQAITS), as at February 2025.

Number of services by service type (NQAITS)	
Stand-alone kindergartens	41
Long day care centres (including services not currently delivering funded kindergarten)	73

Percentage of services by management type, LGA level (NQAITS)	
Type	Percentage
State/Local Government	29%
Private not for profit	23%
Private for profit	48%
Other	0%

Current kindergarten offering in Hume City	
Three-Year-Old Kindergarten participation rate (KIMS):	85%
Four-Year-Old Kindergarten participation rate (KIMS):	94%
Number of services that offer a funded kindergarten program (KIMS):	104

4.4 Agreed estimates of demand for kindergarten places

The below estimates (**Table 1** onwards) have been developed by Hume City Council and the department to illustrate the estimated:

- Demand – the total number of kindergarten places expected to be required over the roll-out period to support the current provision of Four-Year-Old Kindergarten, the BSBL reforms, and population growth

2. Supply – the total number of kindergarten places that can be accommodated by existing services and infrastructure, and planned, State-supported services which are yet to open.
3. Unmet demand – kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by optimising existing services and infrastructure (i.e. the shortfall between demand and supply).

Interpreting the estimates

Infrastructure need in the LGA and its local communities is indicated by the bottom rows of the tables in this section (**Table 1** onwards): *Unmet demand*. If the number of kindergarten places in this row is above zero, it means that the area is estimated to need additional infrastructure capacity. Any type of provider – local government, not-for-profit (including non-government schools) or for-profit – can build this additional infrastructure.

Sub-SA2 factors may need to be considered to give a holistic picture of unmet demand. For example, in rural communities, one SA2 may contain several small towns, some with excess supply and some with unmet demand. At the SA2-level, demand may appear to be met because all supply and demand is considered in aggregate; however, it is not feasible to for families to drive long distances to access kindergarten capacity in another town. Sub-SA2 factors are covered in **Section 3: Local context**.

Table 1: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2025 - 2036 in Hume City

Hume estimates	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Demand for kindergarten places	7148	7803	8298	9601	9806	10376	10456	10512	10593	11399	12240	13616
Unmet demand	99	162	18	396	512	745	801	875	958	1469	2153	3303

Community estimates

Table 2-A Estimated kindergarten places required between 2025 - 2036 in Broadmeadows

Broadmeadows estimates	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Demand for kindergarten	371	410	437	479	486	506	506	506	509	544	583	640
Kindergarten supply	501	518	518	522	522	526	526	526	526	526	526	526
Unmet demand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	56	114

Table 2-[B]: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2025 - 2036 in Campbellfield - Coolaroo

Campbellfield - Coolaroo estimates	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Demand for kindergarten	334	366	402	453	458	479	478	474	473	502	533	586
Kindergarten supply	719	734	734	738	738	742	742	742	742	742	742	742
Unmet demand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2-C: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2025 - 2036 in Craigieburn - Central

Craigieburn - Central estimates	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Demand for kindergarten	290	295	299	324	323	332	343	340	338	352	368	418
Kindergarten supply	426	436	436	438	438	440	440	440	440	440	440	440
Unmet demand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2-D: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2025 - 2036 in Craigieburn - North

Craigieburn - North estimates	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Demand for kindergarten	333	337	343	384	382	394	398	392	389	412	437	521
Kindergarten supply	453	462	462	464	464	466	466	466	466	466	466	466
Unmet demand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55

Table 2-E: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2025 - 2036 in Craigieburn - North West

Craigieburn - North West estimates	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Demand for kindergarten	478	520	529	585	576	588	563	550	539	560	581	588
Kindergarten supply	382	392	511	514	514	516	516	516	516	516	516	516
Unmet demand	96	128	18	72	62	72	47	34	23	44	64	72

Table 2-F: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2025 - 2036 in Craigieburn - South

Craigieburn - South estimates	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Demand for kindergarten	668	707	747	863	874	918	919	919	923	997	1072	1194
Kindergarten supply	867	894	894	901	901	908	908	908	908	908	908	908
Unmet demand	0	0	0	0	0	10	11	11	15	89	164	286

Table 2-G: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2025 - 2036 in Craigieburn - West

Craigieburn - West estimates	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Demand for kindergarten	319	357	367	425	416	428	403	389	377	400	422	446
Kindergarten supply	342	621	621	627	627	633	633	633	633	633	633	633
Unmet demand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2-H: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2025 - 2036 in Gladstone Park - Westmeadows

Gladstone Park - Westmeadows estimates	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Demand for kindergarten	350	379	390	445	445	464	462	456	453	484	515	571
Kindergarten supply	347	472	472	476	476	479	479	479	479	479	479	479
Unmet demand	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	36	92

Table 2-I Estimated kindergarten places required between 2025 - 2036 in Greenvale - Bulla

Greenvale - Bulla estimates	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Demand for kindergarten	718	789	851	977	1009	1081	1100	1111	1123	1209	1296	1436
Kindergarten supply	1049	1084	1084	1093	1093	1102	1102	1102	1102	1102	1102	1102
Unmet demand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	22	107	194	334

Table 2-J: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2025 - 2036 in Meadow Heights

Meadow Heights estimates	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Demand for kindergarten	239	259	295	339	347	367	366	363	359	383	407	451
Kindergarten supply	446	457	457	459	459	462	462	462	462	462	462	462
Unmet demand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2-K: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2025 - 2036 in Melbourne Airport

Melbourne Airport estimates	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Demand for kindergarten	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Kindergarten supply	70	75	75	76	76	77	77	77	77	77	77	77
Unmet demand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2-L: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2025 - 2036 in Mickleham - Yuroke

Mickleham - Yuroke estimates	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Demand for kindergarten	1462	1608	1734	2096	2185	2354	2408	2463	2514	2724	2931	3280
Kindergarten supply	1478	1814	1814	1824	1824	1833	1833	1833	1833	1833	1833	1833
Unmet demand	0	0	0	272	362	521	575	630	681	890	1098	1446

Table 2-M: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2025 - 2036 in Roxburgh Park (South) - Somerton

Roxburgh Park (South) - Somerton estimates	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Demand for kindergarten	235	250	258	286	289	300	301	299	298	314	330	355
Kindergarten supply	473	490	490	494	494	498	498	498	498	498	498	498
Unmet demand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2-N: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2025 - 2036 in Roxburgh Park - North

Roxburgh Park - North estimates	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Demand for kindergarten	284	303	317	371	375	395	390	385	383	412	442	493
Kindergarten supply	385	395	395	398	398	401	401	401	401	401	401	401
Unmet demand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	41	93

Table 2-O: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2025 - 2036 in Sunbury

Sunbury estimates	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Demand for kindergarten	253	312	353	436	472	524	551	575	602	679	764	881
Kindergarten supply	264	278	397	400	400	404	404	404	404	404	404	404
Unmet demand	0	34	0	36	72	120	147	171	198	275	360	477

Table 2-P: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2025 - 2036 in Sunbury - South

Sunbury - South estimates	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Demand for kindergarten	368	424	463	559	587	641	669	696	723	804	898	1032
Kindergarten supply	653	689	689	816	816	825	825	825	825	825	825	825
Unmet demand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	73	206

Table 2-Q: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2025 - 2036 in Sunbury - West

Sunbury - West estimates	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Demand for kindergarten	339	370	388	435	437	453	449	445	442	466	492	535
Kindergarten supply	451	462	462	465	465	467	467	467	467	467	467	467
Unmet demand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	68

Table 2-R: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2025 - 2036 in Tullamarine

Tullamarine estimates	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Demand for kindergarten	103	117	122	142	142	149	147	146	146	156	168	187
Kindergarten supply	120	124	124	125	125	126	126	126	126	126	126	126
Unmet demand	0	0	0	17	17	22	21	20	19	30	41	61

5. Authorisation

The Hume Merri-bek Area Executive Director, Mr Jonathan Lowe, of the Department of Education and the CEO of Hume City, Sheena Frost endorse this Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan (KISP) for Hume City Council by signing on

..... / /

This KISP is not intended to create legal relations or constitute a legally binding contractual agreement between the parties. The parties may review this KISP in 2028 to publish a new version that will replace the previous version.

Signed for and on behalf and with the authority of Hume City Council.

.....
Signature

Name:

Title:

Signed for and on behalf and with the authority of the Department of Education

.....
Signature

Name:

Title:

REPORT NO:	8.4
REPORT TITLE:	Fourth Quarter Report 2024/25: Council Plan Strategic Objectives and Actions
SOURCE:	Darren McGuane, Senior Lead Integrated Planning & Reporting Andrea Taylor, Manager Organisational Performance & Strategy
DIVISION:	Customer & Strategy
FILE NO:	HCC24/1278
POLICY:	-
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:	SO4.1 A high performing organisation that prioritises continuous improvement, safety and accountability.
ATTACHMENT:	1. <i>Fourth Quarter Report 2024-25</i>

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No Council officers involved in the preparation of this Report have a general or material interest in relation to the matters for consideration.

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT:

- 1.1 The *Fourth Quarter Report 2024/25: Council Plan Strategic Objectives and Actions* (refer **Attachment 1**) provides an update on the progress made towards the achievement of Council’s Strategic Objectives and Actions, for the period of 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. It is also the final progress report on the delivery on the Council Plan 2021-2025.
- 1.2 As of 30 June 2025, 39 out of 40 Council Plan actions have been completed (97.5%), with the final action on track to be completed in 2025/26.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the *Fourth Quarter Report 2024/25: Council Plan Strategic Objectives and Actions*.

3. LEGISLATIVE POWERS & POLICY CONTEXT:

Local Government Act 2020 (the Act).

4. OVERARCHING GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES:

This Report supports Council in giving effect to the following Overarching Governance Principles:

- b) priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;
- c) the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted;
- i) the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

REPORT NO: 8.4 (cont.)

5. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

5.1 CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

The above rights are not being limited by the recommended action in this Report.

5.2 GENDER EQUALITY ACT 2020

This Report does not relate to a development or review of a policy, program or service; therefore a Gender Impact Assessment was not required.

6. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications resulting from the reporting of the Council Plan Strategic Objectives and Actions.

7. OPPORTUNITIES & RISKS:

There are no opportunities or risks resulting from progress reporting of Council Plan Strategic Objectives and Actions.

8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

The Council Plan 2021-2025 was developed through extensive community consultation.

9. DISCUSSION:

9.1 On 24 June 2024, Council adopted the Council Plan 2021-2025 (24/25 Update).

9.2 The Council Plan sets out Council's 11 Strategic Objectives (under three Themes) which identifies what it aims to achieve over the 4-year term in response to the Hume Community Vision. The Plan also outlines Strategies and Actions to achieve these objectives (the outcomes). Achievement of the objectives is measured by Strategic Indicators.

9.3 The *Fourth Quarter Report 2024/25: Council Plan Strategic Objectives and Actions* (refer **Attachment 1**) provides an update on the progress made towards the delivery of Council's Strategic Objectives, for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. It is also the final progress report on the delivery on the Council Plan 2021-2025.

9.4 The updated Council Plan identified 40 Strategies/Actions to be delivered over the 2024/25 financial year to contribute towards the achievement of the Strategic Objectives. As of 30 June 2025, 39 actions (97.5%) had been completed, with the final action well underway and on track to be completed in 2025/26.

9.5 For the 23 Strategic Indicators, which track the achievement of the Strategic Objectives by showing progress towards or away from the intended outcome; 15 were identified as being 'on track' or 'meeting' their expected target, and 8 are identified as 'monitor', due to the 30 June 2025 result being behind the expected target.

9.6 Following the presentation of this report at the Council meeting, the Fourth Quarter Report 2024/25 will be made available to the public on Council's website.

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 The Fourth Quarter Report 2024/25 seeks to provide transparency in the reporting of the delivery of Council's commitments to the community, as set out in the Council Plan.

10.2 As of 30 June 2025, 97.5% of Council Plan actions have been completed.

HUME CITY COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025

2024/25 UPDATE

INCORPORATING THE:

- DISABILITY ACTION PLAN
- COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION PLAN
- PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABILITY



Fourth Quarter Report 2024/25

Final Report on Strategic Objectives and Actions

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INTRODUCTION

Context

The *Council Plan 2021-2025* (**Council Plan**) sets out 11 Strategic Objectives (under three Themes) which articulate the outcomes that Council wants to achieve over its 4-year term in response to the Hume Community Vision. Achievement of the objectives is measured by Strategic Indicators.

The Council Plan also outlines 40 Major Strategies and Actions it will undertake to achieve the Strategic Objectives over the 2024/25 year.

The Council Plan incorporates the Disability Action Plan, the Community Safety Action Plan and the Pathways to Sustainability. The following symbols are used to specify the corresponding plans:

-  Disability Action Plan
-  Community Safety Action Plan
-  Pathways to Sustainability

Council’s role

Council plays several roles in delivering the Major Strategies and Actions outlined in the Council Plan, including:

- **Statutory Authority** – Council has a legislated responsibility under Victorian law to deliver the service and ensure compliance.
- **Service Provider** – Council provides the service.
- **Facilitator** – Council works with other stakeholders and service providers.
- **Advocate** – Council advocates on behalf of the community to State and Federal government.

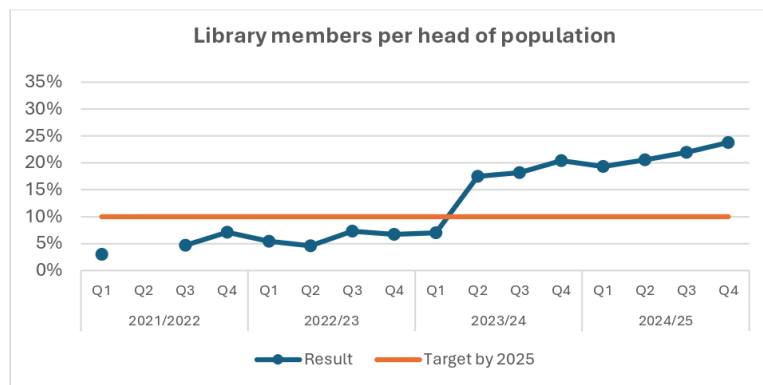
Advocacy Highlights

Key advocacy highlights for the fourth quarter of 2024/25 have focused on Federal funding commitments, resulting in:

- \$192 million for the upgrade of Donnybrook Road
- \$250 million for the duplication of Mickleham Road between Dellamore Boulevard and Craigieburn Road
- \$1.9 million for upgraded facilities at the Hume Hockey and Lacrosse Centre
- \$225,000 to replace the synthetic soccer pitch at John Ilhan Memorial Reserve
- \$4 million for the development of a new soccer and cricket pavilion at Dwyer Street Recreation Reserve.

Strategic Objective 1.1: Create learning opportunities for everyone to reach their potential, through all stages of life.

Indicators:



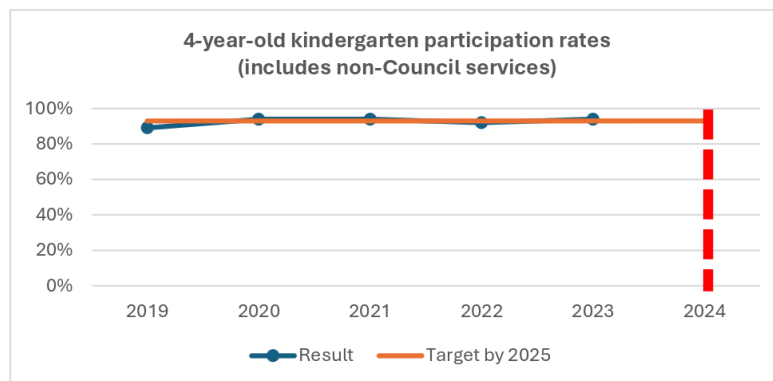
Meeting

Library Membership

Changes to LGPRF in Q2 2023/24 lead to inclusion of a broader use of library membership usage.

Q2 2021/22 data was not able to be reported due to a system upgrade

(Source: Local Government Performance Reporting Framework)



Meeting

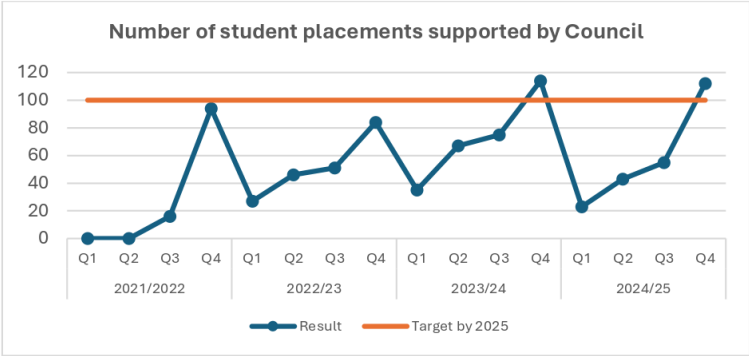
Kindergarten Participation

Q4 data pending – to be released by Department of Education in Aug/Sept.

(Source: Department of Education)

Strategic Objective 1.2: Provide opportunities, and support business growth and visitor economy to create accessible local jobs for our diverse community.

Indicators:



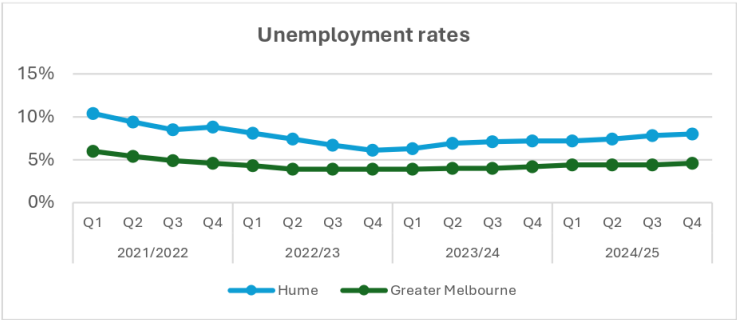
Meeting

Student Placements

No placements occurred in Q1 & Q2 2021/2022 due to COVID restrictions.

Data are cumulative each financial year, therefore figures will be lowest in Q1 and highest in Q4.

(Source: Hume City Council, CHRIS21)



On track

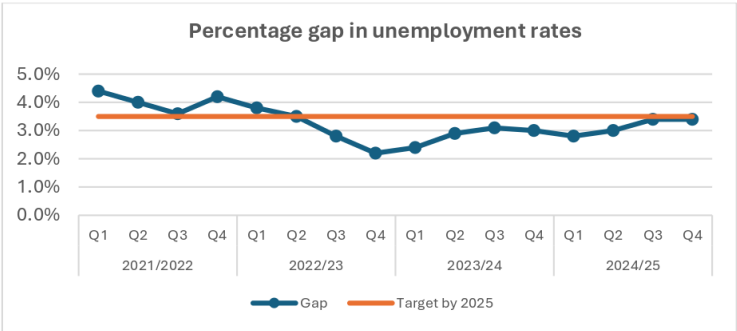
Unemployment rates

The first graph shows the tracking of Hume's unemployment rates compared to Greater Melbourne.

The second graph shows this gap is tracking against the strategic indicator.

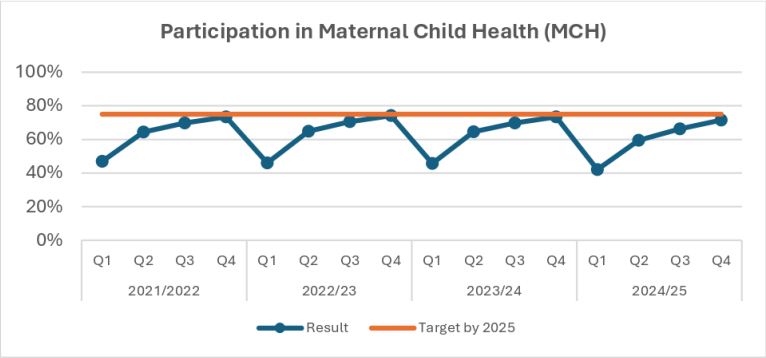
There is a lag in available data and will always appear for the quarter prior to the reporting period.

(Source: Department of Employment Small Area Labour Markets)



Strategic Objective 1.3 Promote a healthy, inclusive, and respectful community that fosters community pride and safety.

Indicators:

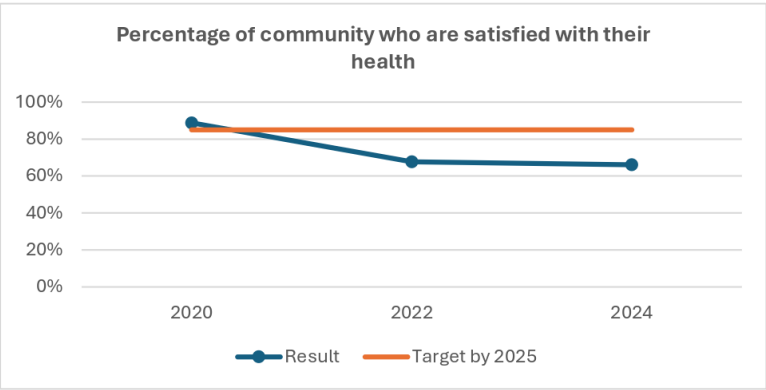


Meeting

Participation (MCH)

Data are cumulative each financial year, therefore figures will be lowest in Q1 and highest in Q4.

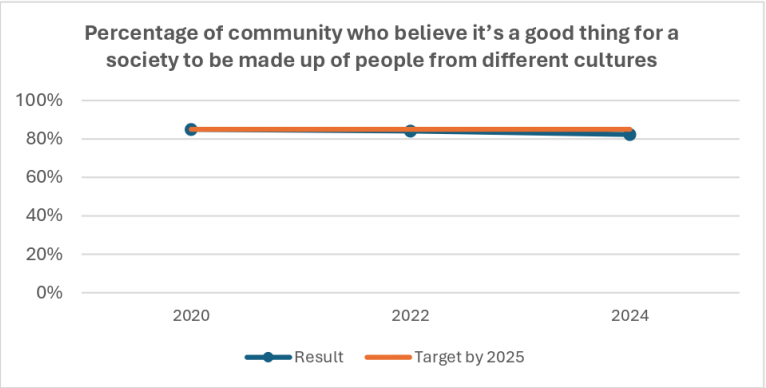
(Source: Local Government Performance Reporting Framework)



Monitor

Community satisfaction with health

(Source: Hume City Council, Community Indicators)



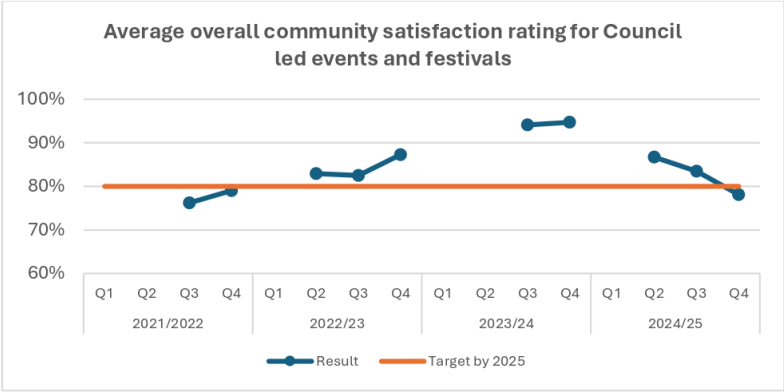
Meeting

Community satisfaction with a society of different cultures

(Source: Hume City Council, Community Indicators)

Strategic Objective 1.4: Strengthen community connections through local events, festivals and the arts.

Indicators:



On track


Satisfaction with Council led events

Data is collected cumulatively for each financial year, therefore data is only provided after the first event.






(Source: Hume City Council, Event Evaluations)




Theme 1: Major Strategies and Actions







Monitor

	Major Strategy or Action	Progress	Full year commentary
1.3.13 	Develop and commence implementation of an Active Living Service and Infrastructure Plan that responds to the changing needs of the community to increase access and participation in sport, recreation and leisure activities, including the Sunbury Aquatic Master Plan.	50%	Throughout 2024/25, work significantly progressed on this project, including the appointment of project consultants and engaging with over 7,000 community members. The Active Living Plans are on track to be completed in 2025/26.

Complete

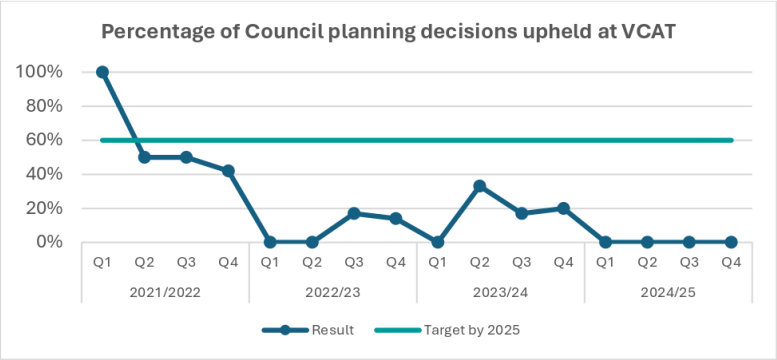
	Major Strategy or Action	Progress	Full year commentary
1.1.1  	Strengthen volunteering to enhance vocational and social learning opportunities and community connections.	100%	Over 650 new individuals and 11 new community organisations registered to connect through the Hume Volunteer Gateway. Throughout 2024/25, events were held to support the community and recognise the impact of volunteers, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax help sessions • National Volunteers Week Civic Reception at Town Hall - including lighting the cube red and orange at Town Hall • Introduction to volunteering session in Craigieburn • Community High Tea Meet Up forum for volunteers and community organisations.
1.1.2 	Continue to review Council’s early years services and explore future infrastructure requirements to support continued service growth and changing government policy direction.	100%	At the start of 2025, 15 hours of free 3-year-old kindergarten was made available to all families at Council’s Kindergarten services. To support the roll out the kindergarten reform, several facilities across Hume were extended to cope with increased demand and include works at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bluebird Way Kindergarten • Aitken Hill Community Centre • Craigieburn Child and Family Centre • Mickleham South Community Centre • Kalkallo North Community Centre.
1.1.3 	Provide the community early access to library services through multiple initiatives, including library outreach.	100%	Throughout 2024/25, the delivery of Council’s Library service resulted in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9,223 loans from library kiosks at Mickleham North CC, Kalkallo CC, and Greenvale West CC • 613 outreach programs • 10,230 outreach participants • 752 items borrowed from outreach van stops
1.2.1 	Provide a range of Council-led initiatives and work experience.	100%	Throughout 2024/25, 112 placements, including internships and practical placements, were provided to high school, TAFE and university students.

1.2.2 	In partnership with the Victorian Government and business, progress the revitalisation of Broadmeadows and Hume Central to facilitate a vibrant town centre, places for people to work, learn, live and enjoy and advocacy for renewal of the Broadmeadows Train Station.	100%	<p>The need for investment in Hume Central has continued to be raised with all levels of Government.</p> <p>Funding was received to develop the Broadmeadows Precinct Roadmap through the Federal Government Urban Precincts and Partnership Grant program. The project team has been appointed and has commenced the work which is due to be completed in 2025/26.</p> <p>A proposal to progress a hotel and mixed-use development was presented to Council in May 2025.</p>
1.2.3	Strengthen tertiary education opportunities in Hume City through the Multiversity Program and advocate for a university and TAFE opportunities to be established in Hume’s growth areas.	100%	<p>The need for tertiary education facilities in Hume continued to be raised through Federal election advocacy activities.</p> <p>In partnership with Kangan’s Tech School, the Illuminate NextGen Challenge was delivered in August 2024.</p> <p>In partnership with La Trobe University, the Northern Study Hub (Broadmeadows) was completed and opened in June 2025.</p> <p>18 of 32 Hume Multiversity Scholarships were awarded, with 14 still available through Victoria University.</p> <p>Victoria University DICE Program continued to be delivered at the Hume Global Learning Centre Sunbury, with 13 students currently in the program.</p>
1.2.4	In partnership with stakeholders, advocate for, and strengthen Hume City’s economy by building business capability, promoting the visitor economy and attracting innovative business, support and facilitate business growth and local employment outcomes.	100%	<p>Throughout 2024/25, events were delivered to over 1000 participants, catering to local businesses, residents and job seekers, the visitor economy and business to business engagement.</p> <p>Awarding a total of \$250,000 in grants to 33 local small businesses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership at StartNorth grew to 123 members.
1.3.1 	In partnership with Victoria Police, continue to identify and deliver initiatives to improve driver/road safety, including reducing hoon driving and illegal dirt bikes.	100%	<p>Throughout 2024/25, Council continued to work with Victoria Police to support the delivery of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions with Roxburgh Village Centre Management on hoon driving • Meetings on serious and fatal road incidents with Fawcner Highway Patrol and Department of Transport and Planning • Road Safety course, in partnership with Melba Villa Country Living.
1.3.2 	Facilitate initiatives and partnerships to raise awareness around the impact of family violence, and support prevention of violence against women campaigns.	100%	<p>Throughout 2024/25, work to raise awareness and prevent family violence continued through Council’s Family Violence Working Group, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The delivery of contact officers training to assist with any disclosures of family violence • The delivery of general training to all Council departments on how to recognise signs of family violence signs and how to act in various scenarios • Working with Emergency Services organisations to be equipped to provide family violence support via disaster relief. <p>Ongoing support to health partners, faith networks and community organisations, including Women’s Health in the North and Berry Street to promote awareness of family violence in Hume.</p>

1.3.4 	Advance Social Justice outcomes through delivering targeted initiatives to address barriers to access and participation.	100%	Throughout 2024/25, Council delivered a large program of events to support the community and advance social justice outcomes, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarding \$450,000 to community organisations/groups via the Annual Community Grants Program Awarding 58 year six students with \$1000 grants to support the transition to secondary school via the Education Scholarships program Celebrating Refugee Week via a community designed event at Town Hall, attracting over 400 participants Celebrating NAIDOC week at Town Hall with 140 guests (including 99 First Nations peoples).
1.3.7 	Finalise and commence implementation of a new Domestic Animal Management Plan to support responsible animal management and safety.	100%	Throughout 2024/25, work to implement the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025 continued and development of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025-2029 commenced.
1.3.9 	Continue to undertake initiatives and advocacy to reduce gambling related harm and gambling reform, including reviewing Council's Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy.	100%	Council's Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy was reviewed, which included engagement with local sporting clubs and community groups.
1.3.10 	Implement actions from the Hume Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025.	100%	Throughout 2024/25, Council delivered the following projects to support health and wellbeing outcomes in Hume, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 community Let's Grow Hume workshops aimed at building climate resilience and sustainable living skills. The Park It educational travel program at Roxburgh Park primary school, aimed at encouraging healthy travel habits. Vaping prevention programs in partnership with local health providers. Identifying future Social Connection activities aimed at at-risk groups to reduce loneliness and improve inclusion.
1.3.11 	In partnership with local agencies, provide assistance and support to people sleeping rough within Hume City, including adopting a rough sleeping response protocol.	100%	The Rough Sleeping Response Protocol has been completed and enacted. Throughout 2024/25, Council has continued to work with neighboring councils, regional provider, Northern Health and VincentCare to explore local service improvements.
1.3.12 	Continue undertaking accessibility works at Council facilities, and other public-realm improvements to support people with disabilities.	100%	Throughout 2024/25, audits of Council's facilities and public spaces continued to be undertaken to guide accessibility upgrades. Accessibility updates at the Lynda Blundell Community Centre were completed.
1.4.1	Undertake initiatives to strengthen local arts, including the adoption and implementation of the Creative Places Arts Infrastructure Plan.	100%	Throughout 2024/25, Council delivered a large program of arts and cultural activities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instillation of a heritage display case at Hume Global Learning Centre Sunbury dance Infrastructure at Highlander Community Centre 9 exhibitions across multiple galleries completion of 3 murals.
1.4.3	Commence design and delivery of improvements to develop a Sunbury Community Arts and Cultural Precinct at Jacksons Hill.	100%	Throughout 2024/25, work on project continued, resulting in the completion of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan and architectural documentation, and the issuing of a heritage permit. The construction was tender awarded with works underway.

Strategic Objective 2.1: Facilitate appropriate urban development and enhance natural environment, heritage, landscapes and rural places.

Indicators:

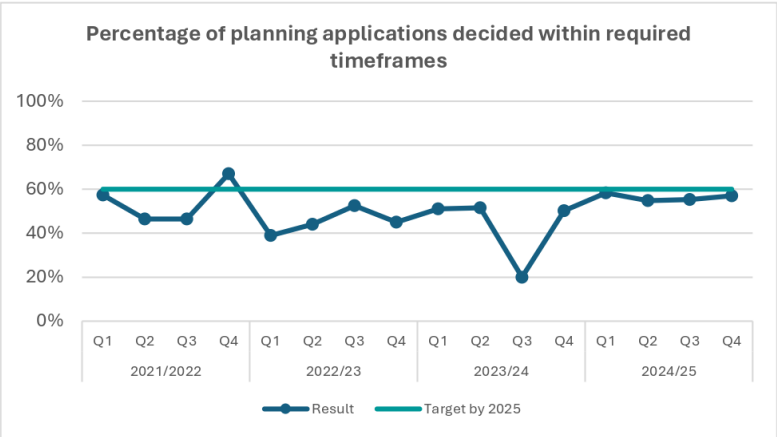


Monitor

Planning decisions upheld at VCAT

Two decisions proceeded to a full VCAT hearing in 2024/25 from 766 applications, representing 0.3% of decisions made by Council overall. Both decisions were overturned, resulting in 0% being upheld.

(Source: Local Government Performance Reporting Framework)



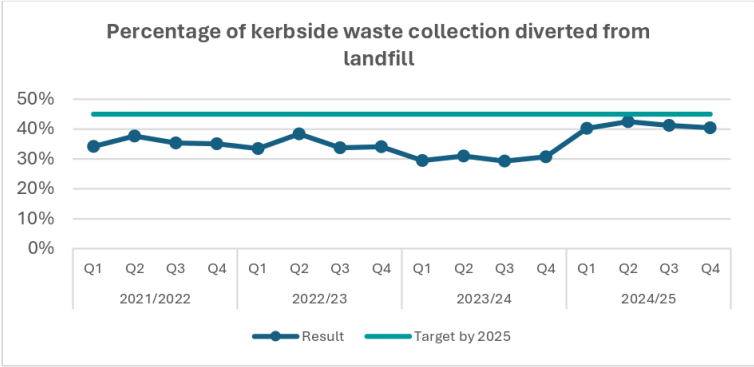
Meeting

Planning applications decided in statutory timeframes

(Source: Local Government Performance Reporting Framework)

Strategic Objective 2.2: Demonstrate environmentally sustainable leadership and adapt to climate change.

Indicators:



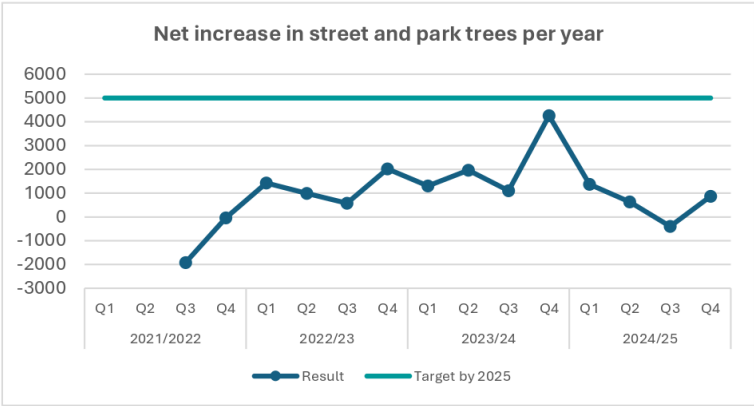
Meeting

Kerbside waste diverted from landfill

(Source: Local Government Performance Reporting Framework)

Strategic Objective 2.3: Design and maintain our City with accessible spaces and a strong sense of place.

Indicators:



Monitor

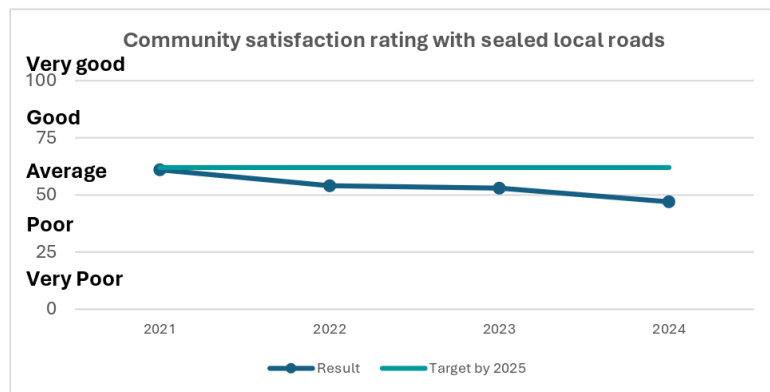
Increase in street and park trees

Data reflects seasonal context, therefore figures will generally be the lowest in Q2-Q3 as planting does not occur over warmer period and is highest in Q4.

(Source: Hume City Council)

Strategic Objective 2.4 Connect our City through efficient and effective walking, cycling and public transport and road networks.

Indicators:









Monitor












Community satisfaction with sealed local roads

(Source: Hume City Council, Community Survey, Community Indicators Survey)

Theme 2: Major Strategies and Actions

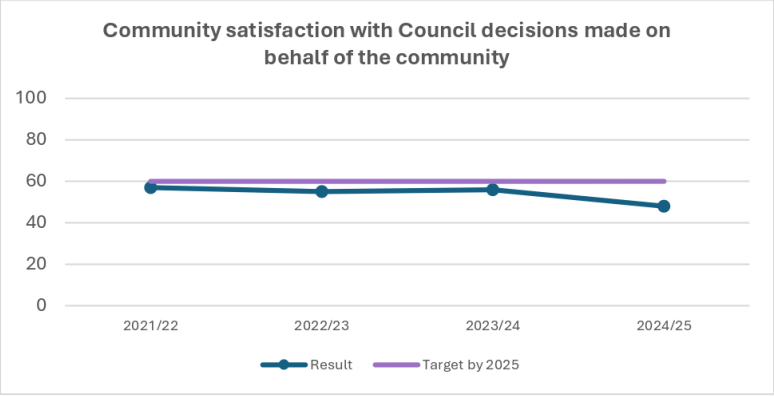
Complete

	Major Strategy or Action	Progress	Full year commentary
2.1.1 	Review and implement improvements to further enhance the delivery of services within the Planning and Development Department.	100%	Technology upgrades to Council's building systems was undertaken with the final software solution delivered in June 2025.
2.1.2 	Undertake planning to improve housing diversity (including housing design guidelines), and advocate for improvements to social housing.	100%	Amendment C263 to implement the Housing Diversity Strategy into the Hume Planning Scheme was abandoned by Council on 10 June 2025 due to significant changes in State's housing policy. Greater investment in social housing was raised with Federal Election candidates.
2.1.3 	Progress Stage Three of the youth crisis accommodation with the support of an external partner and identify potential site locations for a facility which can accommodate crisis accommodation, with wrap-around services and 24/7 onsite support.	100%	Potential sites were identified for a youth crisis accommodation project. The project has been paused pending further review of potential sites.
2.1.4	In partnership with Mitchell and Whittlesea councils, and State Government, continue to advance planning for the City consistent with the vision and directions of Council's integrated growth area plans, including the planning for new town centres in Cloverton (Kalkallo) and Merrifield (Mickleham).	100%	Throughout 2024/25, Council has continued to work with numerous stakeholders, developers, neighboring councils and traditional owners to progress plans for our growth areas.
2.1.5 	Support rural landowners to manage land sustainably and protect environmental assets by implementing the new Rural Engagement Program, including the Conserving our Rural Environment Grant, Primary Producer Rate Rebate, Rural Land Management Grant, and capacity building activities.	100%	257 Rural Land Management Grants have been distributed across the municipality in 2024/25. 41 of 42 endorsed 2024/25 Conserving our Rural Environment (CoRE) project grants were completed. The final project is due to be completed in the new financial year.
2.1.6 	Update the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) Framework.	100%	The Conservation Management Plan Framework has been updated and Conservation Management Plans prepared.
2.2.1 	Implement programs to support environmentally sustainable leadership including Enviro Champions, Gardens for Wildlife, and Environmental Scholarship programs.	100%	Four Enviro Champions Masterclasses have been delivered, with a total of 28 community participants. 29 Gardens for Wildlife visits occurred through 2024/25.

	Major Strategy or Action	Progress	Full year commentary
2.2.3 	Enhance Council's response to climate change including the implementation of the Climate Action Plan 2023-2028 and support Hume's community and businesses adapt to climate change.	100%	Throughout 2024/25, electrification upgrades at Council facilities and the upgrade of streetlights continued. Hume's Home Energy Upgrades program won the Leading Energy Management Government Program Award at the 2025 Energy Efficiency Council (EEC) Awards.
2.2.4 	Undertake investigations and progress initiatives to improve stormwater harvesting, including at Cloverton and, subject to funding, Jack Roper Reserve Broadmeadows and/or John Ilhan Memorial Reserve Broadmeadows, and/or O'Brien Street retarding basin Sunbury.	100%	Throughout 2024/25, work to improve stormwater harvesting (SWH) outcomes has continued, including the construction of Jack Roper Reserve SWH project (nearing completion) and detailed design work for the Cloverton SWH project.
2.2.5 	Support the transition of the Hume economy to a Circular Economy.	100%	Circular principles have been included in Council's Asset Disposal Policy and Capital Works Program for projects up to \$5m. Consultants were engaged to deliver a monthly webinar series to local businesses aimed at promoting circular economy principles and actions.
2.3.2 	Finalise a new Open Space Strategy and continue to implement improvements to active and passive open spaces and play spaces.	100%	The Open Space Strategy was adopted by Council on 24 February 2025. Development of an Implementation Plan has commenced.
2.3.4   	Develop open space masterplans for Merlynston Creek and Aitken Creek.	100%	Work to implement the adopted Aitken Creek Master Plan has commenced. Work on the Merlynston Creek Master Plan has continued and is due to be completed in 2025/26.
2.3.5  	Continue the implementation of the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy, including the introduction of Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) bins to all residents and support increased diversion of food and garden organic waste from landfill.	100%	FOGO Bins were rolled out to all households, and collections commenced 1 July 2024. 2025 Kerbside Bin Audit was completed, sampling 750 bins across Hume.
2.4.2  	Develop and commence implementation of a Transport Strategy to improve transport networks, and continue to undertake initiatives to enhance walking and cycling.	100%	The Hume Transport Strategy was adopted by Council on 8 July 2025. Development of an Implementation Plan has commenced.

Strategic Objective 3.1: Empower and engage our community through advocacy and community engagement.

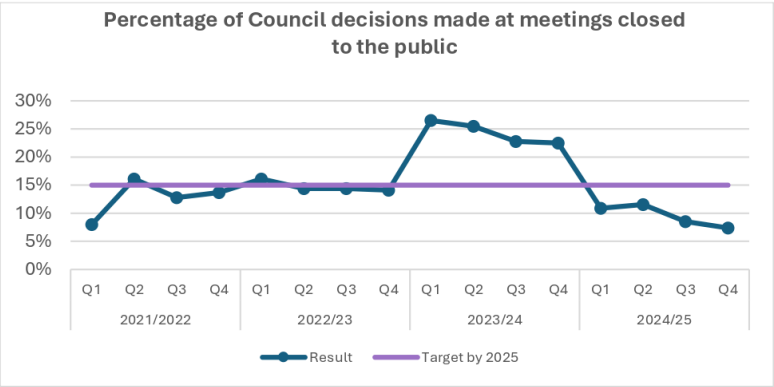
Indicators:



Monitor

Satisfaction with Council decisions made on behalf of the community

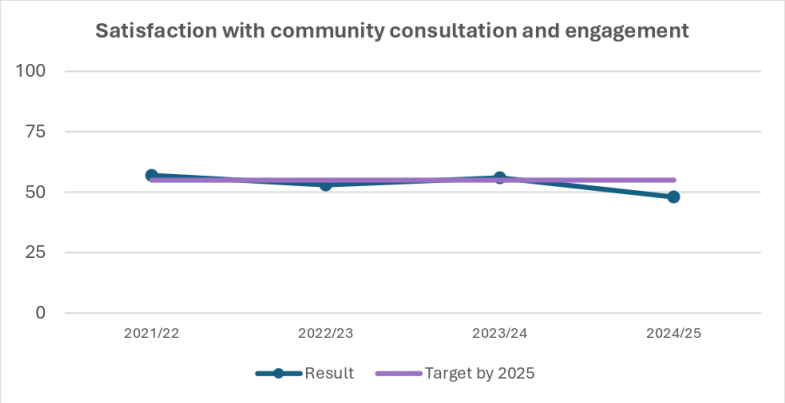
(Source: Local Government Performance Reporting Framework)



On track

Decisions made at closed meetings

(Source: Local Government Performance Reporting Framework)



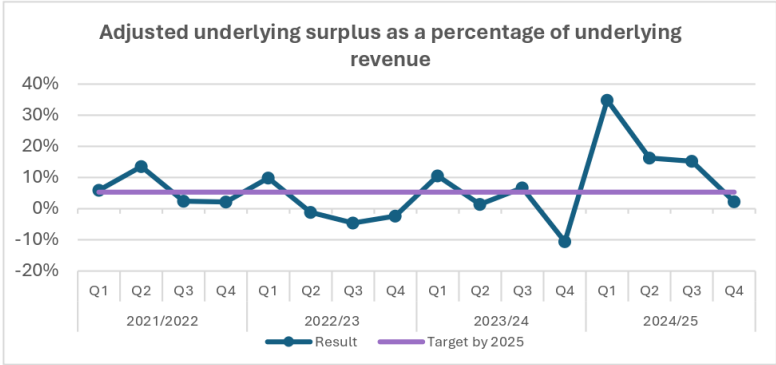
Monitor

Satisfaction with consultation and engagement

(Source: Local Government Performance Reporting Framework)

Strategic Objective 3.2: Deliver responsible and transparent governance, services and assets that respond to community needs.

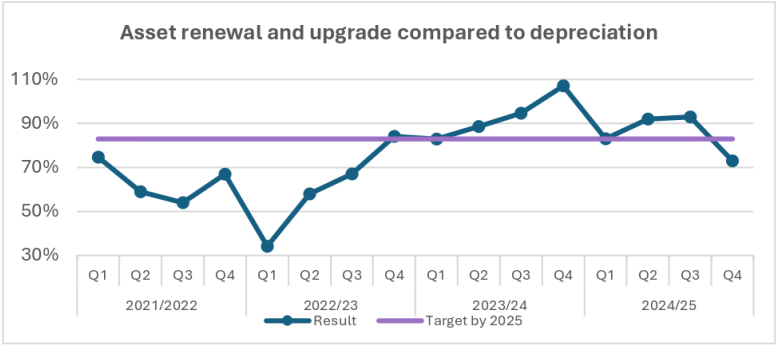
Indicators:



On track

Adjusted underlying surplus as a percentage of underlying revenue

(Source: Local Government Performance Reporting Framework)



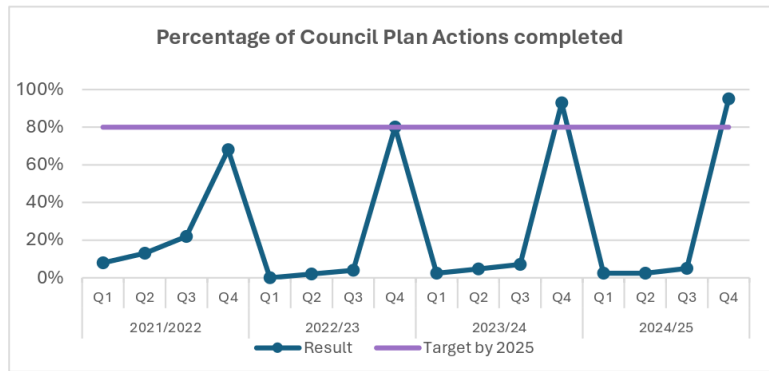
On track

Asset renewal and upgrade compared to depreciation

(Source: Local Government Performance Reporting Framework)

Strategic Objective 3.2: Deliver responsible and transparent governance, services and assets that respond to community needs.

Indicators:

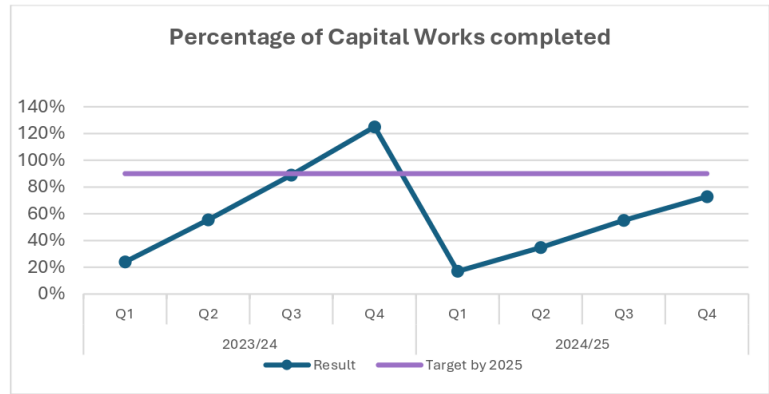


On track

Council Plan Actions completed

Data are cumulative each financial year, therefore figures will be lowest in Q1 and highest in Q4.

(Source: Hume City Council, Council Plan Quarterly Reports)



On track

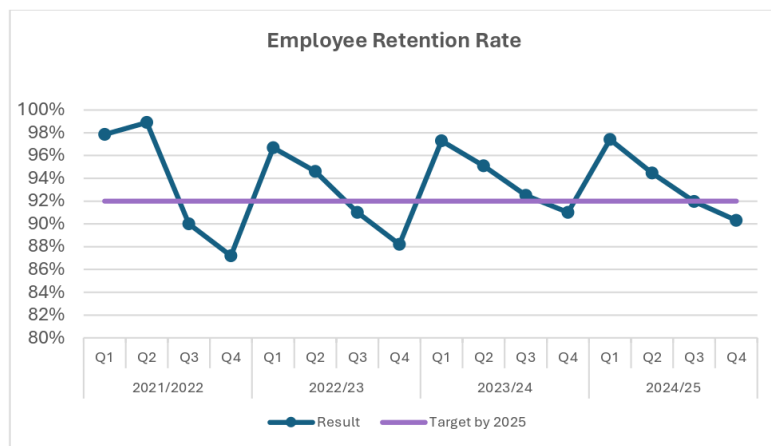
Capital Works completed

Data are calculated each financial year, therefore figures will be lowest in Q1 and highest in Q4.

(Source: Hume City Council, Project Management Office)

Strategic Objective 3.3: Advance organisational high-performance through innovation and partnerships.

Indicators:

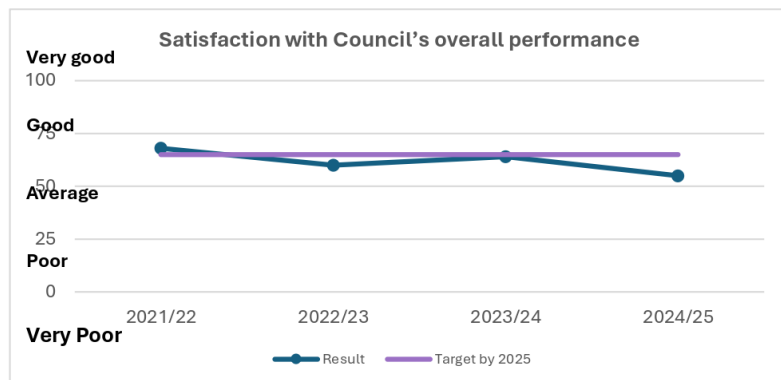


On track

Employee Retention Rate

Data are cumulative each financial year, therefore figures will be lowest in Q1 and highest in Q4.

(Source: Local Government Performance Reporting Framework)










On track

Satisfaction with Council's overall performance

(Source: Hume City Council, Community Survey, Community Indicators Survey)

Theme 3: Major Strategies and Actions

Complete

	Major Strategy or Action	Progress	Full year commentary
3.1.3 	Undertake initiatives to enhance Council's consultation and engagement practices, including strengthening engagement and communication with our multicultural communities.	100%	Council's Engagement Guidelines were updated to enhance engagement practices. Work has continued to improve the accessibility of communications, including the delivery of in-language comms for road and footpath upgrades and Council's 'on-hold' phone messages for multicultural community members were reviewed.
3.1.5	Work with the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) for the preparation of the 2024 Council Elections, including supporting VEC in their electoral boundary review for Hume City.	100%	Council worked with the VEC to prepare for the successful 2024 Council Elections, including supporting the delivery of the voter roll, candidate information sessions, establishment of the Election Office in Sunbury and coordination of electoral communications including voting awareness and declaration of result events.
3.1.6 	Undertake deliberative engagement with Hume's community on the Community Vision, new Council Plan 2025-2029, Financial Plan and Asset Plan.	100%	A deliberative engagement process was undertaken via a community panel from October 2024 to April 2025 to review and update the Community Vision and inform the development of the new Council Plan, Financial Plan and Asset Plan. The refreshed Hume Community Vision 2045 was adopted by Council on 10 February 2025, and the new Council Plan 2025-2029 on 24 June 2025.
3.2.2	Commence implementation of the organisation's transformation reform program to enhance service efficiencies and improve transparency and performance accountability.	100%	Phase 1 of Council's Digital Transformation Program was delivered for a 30 June cutover and 1 July 2025 go-live date. Implementation of the program was supported by staff training, pre-delivery support and educational drop-in sessions.
3.2.3  	Plan for, deliver, and undertake initiatives to improve utilisation of community infrastructure and facilities; including finalising and implementing the Community Infrastructure Plan, Community Facilities Strategic Review and Youth Facilities.	100%	The Highlander Community Centre was opened and is now fully operational. A concept plan to address safety concerns at the Broadmeadows Community Hub was completed.
3.3.1 	Undertake a range of initiatives and programs to enhance and uplift the skills, capabilities and workplace safety of Council's workforce.	100%	Throughout 2024/25, training sessions were delivered to build capability in diversity and inclusion, inclusive language, and gender equality. Staff participated in events for International Women's Day, Midsumma, IDAHOBIT and the bi-annual People Matter Survey for Gender Equality measuring employee experience as it relates to diversity and inclusion in the workplace.
3.3.2 	Undertake service reviews, business process improvements and initiatives to improve the Customer Experience provided across Council services, programs and activities.	100%	Throughout 2024/25, community data was used to inform enhanced service delivery. CX Performance training was delivered to 260 staff, enhancing customer experience outcomes.
3.3.3 	Facilitate regional outcomes for the benefit of Hume City's community through innovative partnerships, shared procurement and actively contributing to strategic networks and alliances.	100%	Council continued to work with the Regional Partnership on the planning of the Cloverton Metropolitan Activity Centre, including the provision of regional infrastructure. Council contributed to regional health and wellbeing outcomes through active participation in the Northern Health Regional Health Partnership and North East Public Health Unit (NEPHU) partnership.

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REPORT NO:	8.5
REPORT TITLE:	Naming Proposal: Discovery Park (Community Consultation Results)
SOURCE:	Holly De Kretser, Manager Governance Peter Faull, Coordinator Governance
DIVISION:	Finance & Governance
FILE NO:	HCC24/386
POLICY:	Place Names Policy
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:	SO3.3 An inclusive and socially connected community that celebrates diversity and culture
ATTACHMENTS:	1. <i>Naming Application</i> 2. <i>Aerial Image of Park</i> 3. <i>Photographs in Support of Application</i>

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No Council officers involved in the preparation of this Report have a general or material interest in relation to the matters for consideration.

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT:

- 1.1 Council has received an application from MAB Corporation (Attachment 1) to name a park located at 66 Highfield Drive Mickleham (referred to as the corner of Rosehill Boulevard and Balmain Road in the application) Discovery Park. An image of the park, which is located on Council owned land, is provided as Attachment 2 of this report.
- 1.2 In March 2025, Council’s Place Names Committee approved the commencement of community consultation for this naming proposal. This is now complete, and this report provides Council with a summary of the results of the community consultation period.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council:

- 2.1 **Notes the results of community consultation on a proposal to officially name a park located at 66 Highfield Drive Mickleham, Discovery Park.**
- 2.2 **Endorses the proposed name of Discovery Park for the aforementioned reserve and submits this name to the Registrar of Geographic Names for their consideration and approval.**
- 2.3 **Notes that the community will be advised of Council’s decision on whether to endorse this naming proposal, which will consist of sending correspondence to the same affected property owners and residents who originally received a consultation pack on this proposal, and by placing a notice on Council’s website.**
- 2.4 **Notes that if this proposal is approved by the Registrar of Geographic Names, that signage with the new name will be installed at the reserve.**

3. LEGISLATIVE POWERS & POLICY CONTEXT:

- 3.1 *Geographic Place Names Act 1998 (the Act);*
- 3.2 *Naming Rules for Places in Victoria – Statutory Requirements for Naming Roads, Features and Localities 2022 (the Naming Rules);*

REPORT NO: 8.5 (cont.)

3.3 Place Names Policy.

4. OVERARCHING GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES:

4.1 This report supports Council in giving effect to the following Overarching Governance Principles:

- 4.1.1 Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law;
- 4.1.2 priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;
- 4.1.3 the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

5. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

5.1 CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

5.1.1 The rights protected in the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities (the Charter) were considered and it was determined that no rights are limited in the recommendations made to Council in this report. Section 18 of the Charter, which is the right to take part in public affairs, is supported by the recommendations made to Council in this report.

5.2 GENDER EQUALITY ACT 2020

5.2.1 This Report does not relate to a development or review of a policy, program or service, therefore a gender impact assessment was not required.

6. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Expenditure associated with this naming proposal includes administration costs, postage costs for community engagement and consultation activities, and costs for signage and an unveiling event (if held) if Council endorses the proposal, and it is approved by the Registrar of Geographic Names (the Registrar). All expenditure listed can be accommodated within Council’s operational budget.

7. OPPORTUNITIES & RISKS:

Naming proposals present Council with the opportunity to officially name features within the municipality. The main risk associated with considering a naming proposal is not following the procedures set out in the Naming Rules when considering a naming proposal.

8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

8.1 When consulting with the community, Council officers coordinating this naming proposal followed the applicable procedures as outlined in the Naming Rules.

8.2 The consultation period for this naming proposal commenced on 5 May 2025 and concluded on 11 June 2025. The activities undertaken during this consultation period were as follows:

8.2.1 Consultation packs were sent to 297 directly affected property owners and residents in the vicinity of the reserve (referred to as the immediate community in the Naming Rules). The consultation packs contained a covering letter with background information, a community survey and a reply-paid envelope.

8.2.2 The naming proposal was promoted on the Participate page of Council’s website, inviting residents from the extended community, as defined by the Naming Rules, to also provide their feedback on the naming proposal.

8.3 Of the 297 consultation packs that were distributed, no survey responses were returned, however individuals who received a consultation pack may have responded via the Participate Page on Council’s website instead.

REPORT NO: 8.5 (cont.)

- 8.4 In total 18 submissions were received during the community consultation period, with 17 submissions supporting the naming proposal and one objecting to it. Some, but not all, of the submissions received in support of the naming proposal also included comments. The applicable comments are copied below:
- 8.4.1 I find the name "Discovery Park" very appropriate and would like to keep it;
- 8.4.2 I like this project and nice to hear;
- 8.4.3 Nice name;
- 8.4.4 Seems fitting and within reason;
- 8.4.5 Sounds like a great name;
- 8.4.6 It is a good proposal and a good name. Thank you!
- 8.5 The one objection received included the following comment:
- 8.5.1 Instead of Discovery, can we change the name of the Park to ‘Everest Park’ in the name of Mount Everest highest peak in the world . This can be a milestone to bring all the community on the top of the mountain.
- 8.6 This objection is not assessed as establishing that the naming proposal does not reasonably conform to the Naming Rules, which is one of the criteria that an appeal to the Registrar can be made on, therefore no amendments are recommended to the name Discovery Park based on this objection.

9. DISCUSSION:

- 9.1 In October 2024 Council received an application from MAB Corporation (Attachment 2) to name a park located on the corner of Rosehill Boulevard and Balmain Road Mickleham, Discovery Park. A copy of this application is provided as Attachment 2 of this report. Subsequent investigation has identified the official address of this park as being 66 Highfield Drive Mickleham (Reserve 1 on Plan of Subdivision 840624).
- 9.2 In its submission the applicant advised that Discovery Park was the name given by the developer during the design and delivery phase and is well known and recognisable by the community. The applicant also provided the following comment in their cover email:
- ‘Have also attached evidence of the use of the proposed name, to demonstrate recognition and understanding by the local community. I have attached some communication which shows the use of the term Discovery Park when communicating with the community about the identified space but also the immediate community identifying the space by that name’.*
- 9.3 Following a request for additional information in support of the application, in January 2025 the applicant advised that they been in contact with the Landscape Architects who originally planned and designed the park, and that their feedback noted that the name was derived from the jungle/safari theme of the space. The vision was to bring a connection to nature by incorporating:
- (a) a nature hill climb walk;
 - (b) waterplay along a dry creek bed;
 - (c) wild safari animal sculptures;
 - (d) and adventure play elements.
- 9.4 The applicant also submitted the photographs provided as Attachment 3 of this report in further support of their application.
- 9.5 A compliance analysis of this naming proposal was undertaken by Council officers against key naming principles in the Naming Rules, as detailed in Table 1 below:

REPORT NO: 8.5 (cont.)

1. TABLE 1: Assessment of proposal against Naming Principles – proposed name of Discovery Park located at 66 Highfield Drive Mickleham.	
Principle (A) Ensuring public safety.	Compliant The formal naming of this unofficially named reserve will enhance public safety by providing a more easily identifiable location for emergency services and visitors to the reserve.
Principle (B) Recognising the public interest. 1.	Compliant This naming proposal is considered to have a long-term benefit by ensuring that this park has an identifiable name. The proposed name is not considered to have only short-term benefits.
Principle (C) Linking the name to the place.	Compliant The application for this naming proposal states that Discovery Park was the name given by the developer during the design and delivery phase and it is well known and recognisable by the community. The Landscape Architects who originally planned and designed the park provided feedback that the name was derived from the jungle/safari theme of the space, and the vision was to bring a connection to nature by incorporating a nature hill climb walk, a waterplay along a dry creek bed, a wild safari animal sculptures and adventure play elements.
Principle (D) Ensuring names are not duplicated.	Compliant There is a street called Discovery Close in Craigieburn. This is not considered to be a duplication with the proposed name of Discovery Park because it is a different feature type. Advice obtained from Geographic Names Victoria confirms this.
Principle (E) Recognition and use of Traditional Owner languages.	Not Applicable
Principle (F) Names must not discriminate or be offensive.	Compliant The proposed name does not discriminate and it is not offensive.
Principle (G) Gender equality.	Not Applicable
Principle (H) Dual names.	Not Applicable
Principle (I) Using commemorative names.	Not Applicable
Principle (J) Using commercial and business names	Not Applicable
Principle (K) Language	Compliant The proposed name complies with the requirements set out in this principle.

REPORT NO: 8.5 (cont.)

1. TABLE 1: Assessment of proposal against Naming Principles – proposed name of Discovery Park located at 66 Highfield Drive Mickleham.	
Principle (L) Directional names to be avoided	Not Applicable
Principle (M) Assigning extent to a road, feature, or locality	Not Applicable

- 9.6 This naming proposal was referred to Council’s Place Names Committee (the Committee) for consideration. The role of this Committee is to decide if naming proposals submitted to Council should proceed to the community consultation stage. At a meeting held on 5 March 2025, the Committee approved the commencement of community consultation. The final decision on whether to endorse a naming proposal following community consultation is then made by Council.
- 9.7 Based on the results of the community consultation process, and the assessment conducted against the Naming Principles contained within the Naming Rules, it is recommended that Council endorses the proposed name of Discovery Park, and submits this name to the Registrar for their consideration and approval.
- 9.8 The Naming Rules require that both the immediate and extended communities are advised of Council’s decision on whether to endorse this naming proposal. This will be done by sending correspondence to the same affected property owners and residents who originally received a consultation pack on this proposal, and by placing a notice on Council’s website.
- 9.9 Under the Naming Rules, any person who lodges an objection to a naming proposal has the right to lodge an appeal directly to the Registrar if a naming authority endorses the proposed name that they objected to. The Naming Rules state that the Registrar may only consider appeals from members of the community who have already objected directly to the naming authority’s proposal if the objector can demonstrate that either:
- (a) the naming authority did not consider the objections during its deliberations.
 - (b) the proposal does not reasonably conform to the naming rules.
- 9.10 If Council endorses the proposed name of Discovery Park to submit to the Registrar, any person who objected to this naming proposal during the community consultation will be advised on their appeal rights, if Council has their contact details.
- 9.11 If Council does not endorse the proposed name of Discovery Park, consideration of the application submitted to Council would be finalized. Council could at point take no further action, on the basis that Council had not initiated the renaming application, or Council could undertake another round of community consultation on an alternative name for the park, as per the requirements of the Naming Rules.
- 9.12 This report acknowledges that the proposed name of Discovery Park does not address inequality in naming but it is still recommended for consideration on the basis that it is a valid application, and because other place names projects are intended to proactively address naming inequality.

REPORT NO: 8.5 (cont.)

10. CONCLUSION

Community consultation on a proposal to name a reserve which is located at located at 66 Highfield Drive Mickleham, Discovery Park. It is recommended that Council endorses this naming proposal and submits it to the Registrar for their consideration and approval.

Naming Proposal – Submission to Hume City Council

Your name and contact details:			
[REDACTED] - MAB Community Manager / [REDACTED] / [REDACTED]			
Is your naming proposal related to a:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Road		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Feature		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Locality		
Is your naming proposal for a:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New name for an unnamed road, feature or locality		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Renaming of a road, feature or locality		
Complete the following details:			
Proposed name		Discovery Park	
Location of the road or feature (please include a map with your proposal)		Cnr Rosehill Boulevard & Balmain Road, Mickleham	
Background information on why Council should consider naming or changing the name or boundary, e.g. why the proposed name is considered appropriate (include any history or local relevance)		The park does not yet have a formal name. Discovery Park was the name given by the developer during the design and delivery phase and is well known and recognisable by the community.	
If the proposal is a commemorative name, please include information on the person such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full name, date of birth, date of death, parent’s names • Occupation and/or education • Civil and community achievements or contributions • Honours and awards received • Other relevant material of historical interest 		N/A	
Reason for the proposal (why the current name is not considered appropriate or any other relevant information)		The park is recognised and understood by the local community as Discovery Park	
General Questions			
	Yes	No	Not applicable
Have you checked that your proposed name conforms to the principles in Section 2?			
Principle (A) Ensuring public safety	X	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Principle (B) Recognising the public interest	X	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Principle (C) Linking the name to the place	X	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Principle (D) Ensuring names are not duplicated	X	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Principle (E) Names must not be discriminatory	X	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Principle (F) Recognition and use of Aboriginal languages in naming	X	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Principle (G) Dual names	X	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Principle (H) Using commemorative names	X	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Principle (I) Using commercial and business names	X	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Principle (J) Language	X	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Principle (K) Directional names to be avoided	X	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Principle (L) Assigning extent to a road, feature or locality	X	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is there any existing signage at the road or feature?	Yes	No	X
Is an Aboriginal name being proposed?	Yes	No	X
If yes, what type of proposal is being considered:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Addition of an Aboriginal name as Registered or Dual?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Addition of an Aboriginal name as Traditional or Historical?		

Merrifield
Published by Vani Chiavone
October 29, 2021

Construction Has Commenced for Discovery Park! 🎉

Merrifield residents will soon be able to enjoy Discovery Park – a special place all about adventure and learning! 🌿

Working alongside award-winning MDG Landscape Architects, our vision for Discovery Park focused on bringing a connection to nature – promoting happy and healthy lifestyles – which is so incredibly important. 🌱

Take a walk through the planted forest, climb on the adventure equipment or play by the water of the dry creek river bed... there is something to keep children of all ages entertained. Kids will love the wild safari animal sculptures, while the soccer facilities will keep everyone active as well! 🐾

Every home in Merrifield is within 5 minute walk of an amazing local park. Discovery Park is perfectly positioned on the corner of Rosehill Boulevard and Balmain Road, just a short 10 minute stroll to [Merrifield City](#) to grab a coffee and a treat after your playdate! ☕🍰

Discovery Park is anticipated to be open in mid-2022. 🍀

Discovery Park.

- 1 NATURAL HILL CLIMB WALK
- 2 WATERPLAY
- 3 WILD SAFARI SCULPTURES
- 4 ADVENTURE EQUIPMENT
- 5 GIANT MONKEY BARS
- 6 PICNIC SHELTER
- 7 SOCCER GOALS

DEVELOPED BY / MAB GPC

36 14 comments 2 shares


Merrifield
Published by Vani Chiavone
April 14, 2022

Here we go Merrifield! Discovery Park – a special place all about adventure and learning – is open to the public from tomorrow! 🎉🌿

Take a walk through the planted forest, climb on the adventure equipment or play by the water of the dry creek river bed... there is something to keep children of all ages entertained! Kids will also love the wild safari animal sculptures, while the soccer facilities will keep everyone active as well! 🐾

The fourth state-of-the-art park in Merrifield, Discovery Park will help build on the incredibly strong sense of community and picturesque landscape that have quickly become hallmarks of the Merrifield community. 🍀

📍 Discovery Park is perfectly positioned on the corner of Rosehill Boulevard and Balmain Road, just a short 10 minute stroll to [Merrifield City](#) to grab a coffee and a cheeky treat or lunch after your playdate! Find out more here <https://merrifieldmelbourne.com.au/merrifield.../parklands/>

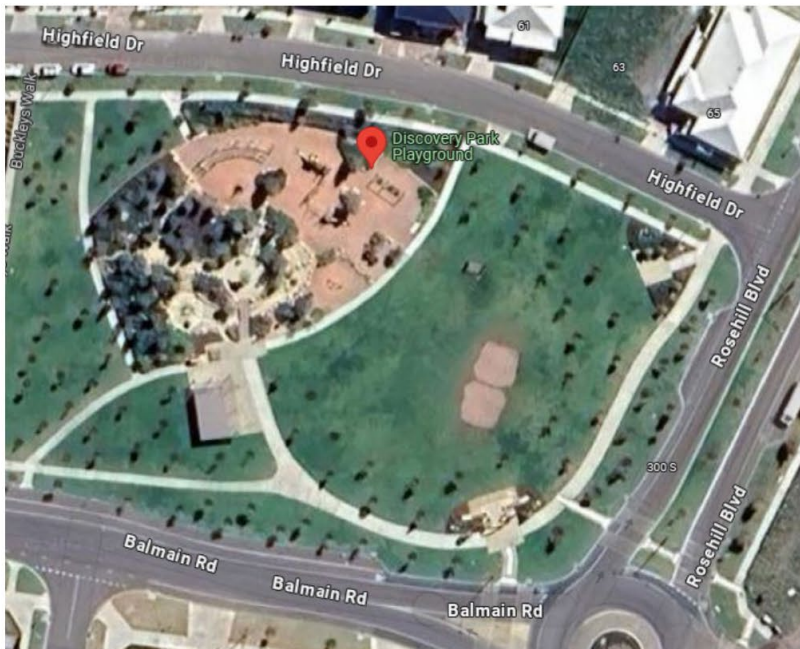


121 97 comments 9 shares

Like Comment Share

ATTACHMENT 2

AEIRAL IMAGE OF 66 HIGHFIELD DRIVE MICKLEHAM

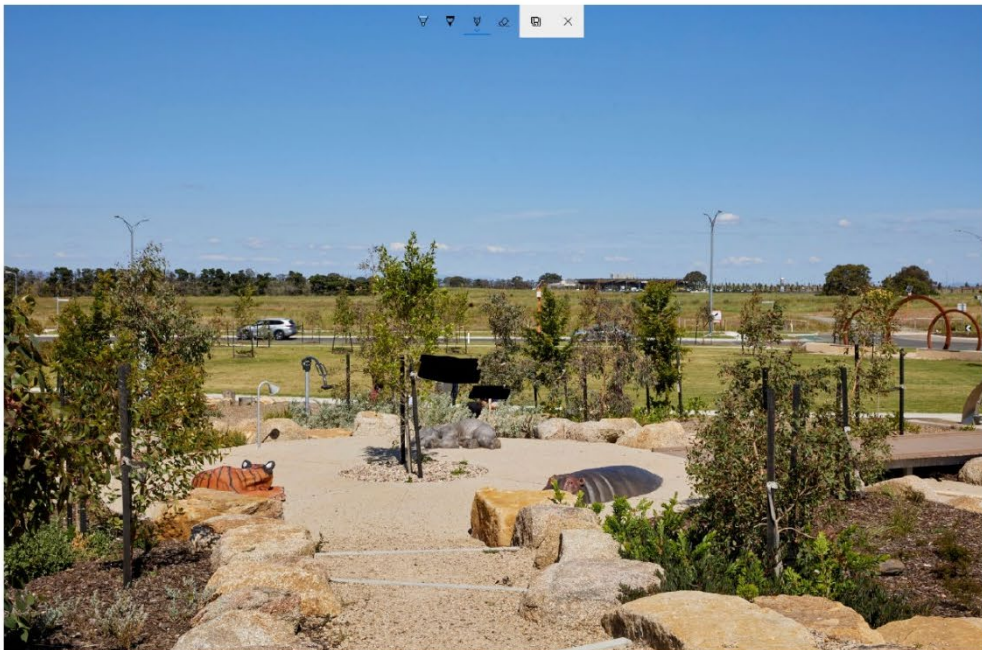


ATTACHMENT 3

NAMING PROPOSAL – DISCOVERY PARK PHOTOGRAPHS IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION



ATTACHMENT 3



ATTACHMENT 3



REPORT NO:	8.6
REPORT TITLE:	Naming Proposal: Mary Wicks Park (Community Consultation Results)
SOURCE:	Holly De Kretser, Manager Governance Peter Faull, Coordinator Governance
DIVISION:	Finance & Governance
FILE NO:	HCC24/386
POLICY:	Place Names Policy
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:	SO3.3 An inclusive and socially connected community that celebrates diversity and culture
ATTACHMENTS:	1. 60-100 Harker Street Sunbury (Aerial Image) 2. Statement in Support of Application 3. Comments in Support of the Naming Proposal 4. Comments Objecting to the Naming Proposal

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No Council officers involved in the preparation of this Report have a general or material interest in relation to the matters for consideration.

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT:

- 1.1 Council has received a proposal from the Wicks family to rename Sunbury Park in honour of their late mother, Mary Wicks OAM. This park is located at 60-100 Harker Street Sunbury, and is bound by Harker, Shields and Jackson Street. Attachment 1 of this report is an aerial image of this location, and Attachment 2 is a statement provided in support of the proposal.
- 1.2 This land parcel is owned by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, and they have no objection to Council considering this naming proposal.
- 1.3 VICNAMES is a State Government register which records all official place names in Victoria. It currently holds more than 200,000 road and 45,000 place names. The name Sunbury Park is not recorded in VICNAMES, however there is signage with this name at the park, so whilst the application submitted to Council requests to rename Sunbury Park, this is considered to be on the basis of the park being known by that name within the local community.
- 1.4 In March 2025, Council’s Place Names Committee approved the commencement of community consultation for this naming proposal. This is now complete, and this report provides Council with a summary of the results of the community consultation period.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- 2.1 **Notes the results of community consultation on a proposal to officially name a park located at 60-100 Harker Street Sunbury, Mary Wicks Park.**
- 2.2 **Endorses the proposed name of Mary Wicks Park for the aforementioned reserve and submits this name to the Registrar of Geographic Names for their consideration and approval.**
- 2.3 **Notes that the community will be advised of Council’s decision on whether to endorse this naming proposal, which will consist of sending correspondence to**

REPORT NO: 8.6 (cont.)

the same affected property owners and residents who originally received a consultation pack on this proposal, and by placing a notice on Council’s website.

- 2.4** Notes that if this proposal is approved by the Registrar of Geographic Names, that signage with the new name will be installed at the reserve.

3. LEGISLATIVE POWERS & POLICY CONTEXT:

- 3.1 *Geographic Place Names Act 1998* (the Act);
- 3.2 *Naming Rules for Places in Victoria – Statutory Requirements for Naming Roads, Features and Localities 2022* (the Naming Rules);
- 3.3 Place Names Policy.

4. OVERARCHING GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES:

- 4.1 This Report supports Council is giving effect to the following Overarching Governance Principles:
 - 4.1.1 Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law;
 - 4.1.2 priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;
 - 4.1.3 the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

5. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

- 5.1 CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006
 - 5.1.1 The rights protected in the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities (the Charter) were considered and it was determined that no rights are limited in the recommendations made to Council in this report. Section 18 of the Charter, which is the right to take part in public affairs, is supported by the recommendations made to Council in this report.
- 5.2 GENDER EQUALITY ACT 2020
 - 5.2.1 This report does not relate to a development or review of a policy, program or service, therefore a gender impact assessment was not required.

6. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Expenditure associated with this naming proposal includes administration costs, postage costs for community engagement and consultation activities, and costs for signage and an unveiling event (if held) if Council endorses the proposal, and it is approved by the Registrar of Geographic Names (the Registrar). All expenditure listed can be accommodated within Council’s operational budget.

7. OPPORTUNITIES & RISKS:

Naming proposals present Council with the opportunity to officially name features within the municipality. The main risk associated with considering a naming proposal is not following the procedures set out in the Naming Rules when considering a naming proposal.

8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

- 8.1 When consulting with the community, Council officers coordinating this naming proposal followed the applicable procedures as outlined in the Naming Rules.
- 8.2 The consultation period for this naming proposal commenced on 22 April 2025 and concluded on 25 May 2025. The activities undertaken during this consultation period were as follows:
 - 8.2.1 Consultation packs were sent to 394 directly affected property owners and residents in the vicinity of the reserve (referred to as the immediate community

REPORT NO: 8.6 (cont.)

in the Naming Rules). The consultation packs contained a covering letter with background information, a community survey and a reply-paid envelope.

8.2.2 The naming proposal was promoted on the Participate page of Council’s website, inviting residents from the extended community, as defined by the Naming Rules, to also provide their feedback on the naming proposal.

8.3 Of the 394 consultation packs that were distributed, 54 survey responses were returned. Individuals who received a consultation pack may have responded via the Participate Page on Council’s website instead.

8.4 In total 103 submissions were received during the community consultation period, with 89 submissions supporting the naming proposal and 14 objecting to it. Some, but not all, of the submissions received in support of the naming proposal also included comments.

8.5 The table below lists the number of submissions received, both in total and as a percentage, that either objected to or supported the Mary Wicks Park naming proposal.

Oppose or Support Naming Proposal	Number	Percentage
Support	89	86.4%
Oppose	14	13.6%
TOTALS	103	100%

8.6 Attachment 3 of this report lists the 54 comments that were received during community consultation in support of the Mary Wicks Park naming proposal. The common themes in these comments include recognizing and acknowledging the community and volunteer service of Mrs Wicks; that the proposal is a great idea and a well-deserved honour; and that the proposed name has a connection to the feature and is appropriate for the park. Many respondents commented on their personal knowledge of, or connection to, Mrs Wicks. The comments are also viewed as an indication of the local community’s willingness to support a change of name for the park.

8.7 A sample of the comments in support of the naming proposal are copied below:

8.7.1 It’s important to honour the contributions of Sunbury locals;

8.7.2 Mary contributed extensively to the community of Sunbury and is very deserving of having this park named after her;

8.7.3 I applaud, support and fully endorse this proposal. During my time at Rupertswood as a volunteer and president, Mary was a dedicated and tireless member of the group. An inspiration;

8.7.4 Perfect name for the park!

8.7.5 My neighbour knew this wonderful altruistic lady who worked tirelessly for the community. It is important to pay homage to her comprehensive and stellar work in volunteering in a myriad of ways.

8.8 Attachment 4 of this report lists the 12 comments that were received during community consultation objecting to the Mary Wicks Park naming proposal. Each objection includes an officer comment in response, and the Naming Principle that the objection has been assessed as being most applicable to. The common themes in these comments include that the current name is long-standing and should not be changed; that there may be other people who deserve recognition and/or that not everyone can be recognised; and that the park should name should use Traditional Owner language.

8.9 A sample of the comments objecting to the naming proposal are copied below:

REPORT NO: 8.6 (cont.)

- 8.9.1 I think that the naming of a park should be put to the community so that everyone has the right to suggest a name and a reason for it. Mary is a worthy candidate but there may be others as well. I'm not sure that a family up and suggesting their mother for doing things for her children is the right way to go about it. Choice/democracy. Mary has already received an OAM;
- 8.9.2 Name is fine as is. So many deserving people in this community - they can't all get parks;
- 8.9.3 There is very little acknowledgment of the local indigenous cultural or leaders amongst naming conventions in Sunbury. I would oppose this change and instead recognise our First Nations culture and history.
- 8.9.4 This area already has a name "Sunbury Park" and new signs to that effect were erected 12 months ago. There are many other locals who contribute to the community and don't have parks named after them. Ask the Wicks family for a park bench.

9. DISCUSSION:

- 9.1 In April 2024 Council received an application from the Wicks family to rename Sunbury Park to Mary Wicks OAM Park, after their mother. This park is located at 60-100 Harker Street Sunbury, and is bound by Harker, Shields and Jackson Street (Crown Allotment 3/Section 48/Township Sunbury TP).
- 9.2 Whilst the applicant advised that this was an application to rename the park, the name Sunbury Park is not an official name recorded in VICNAMES, which is a State Government register that records all official place names in Victoria. For the purposes of this application, Sunbury Park is considered to be an unofficial name that is known within the local community. The extent of this name awareness, and the local community's willingness to support a change of name, were matters that could be ascertained via community consultation.
- 9.3 Council officers undertook an initial assessment of the application and identified that the land in question is owned by the Victorian Government's Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). As Council does not own this land, permission was sought and obtained from DEECA for Council to proceed with considering the naming proposal, if it wished to do so.
- 9.4 The assessment also identified that a two-year posthumous period which applies to the use of commemorative names had not yet elapsed, and that a feature name could not include post-nominals such as OAM. Following this initial assessment, further consideration of this naming proposal was deferred until after local government elections which were being held on 26 October 2024.
- 9.5 Following the commencement of a new Council term, a report was prepared for Council's Place Names Committee for consideration. The role of this Committee is to decide if naming proposals submitted to Council should proceed to the community consultation stage.
- 9.6 The report to the Place Names Committee included a statement in support of the application from the Wicks family. This statement is provided as Attachment 2 of this report, and it lists the groups and organisations that Mrs Wicks was a volunteer, member, office bearer and fundraiser for.
- 9.7 A summary of the statement is provided below:
 - 9.7.1 Mum was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) (General Division) approved by the Governor-General in his capacity as Chancellor of the Order of Australia, with effect from 26 January 2019 for her services to the Sunbury Community.

REPORT NO: 8.6 (cont.)

- 9.7.2 Mum’s voluntary work started in the Sunbury community in the late 1950’s and continued until her death. Mum received a number of acknowledgements and certificates of appreciation for being a very active, passionate, committed, and key member of the extensive number of organisations in the Sunbury community.
- 9.7.3 On Australia Day 2011 the Kiwanis Club of Sunbury awarded mum Citizen of the Year for outstanding Community Service over a period of more than 50 years in the Sunbury community
- 9.7.4 On 8 March 2011, mum received The Chocolate Lily award from the Sunbury International Women’s Day Steering Committee in the category of senior woman, who continues to voluntarily contribute to the community of Sunbury and former Shire of Bulla
- 9.7.5 In October 2015 mum was awarded an Australian Red Cross Outstanding Service award. As a tribute for; exceptional, continuous and unselfish devotion to duty
- 9.7.6 On 28 June 2019 the Sunbury Historical and Heritage society presented mum with the Kathleen Aitken Outstanding Citizen Award for outstanding service to the Sunbury community
- 9.7.7 The pinnacle of mum’s tireless community work and recognitions, was on 26 January 2019 when mum received an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for her services to the Sunbury community. On 5th of April 2019 she attended the Investiture for the presentation of Australian Honours and Awards at Government house. This was a very proud day for all of us. This was a highlight of mum’s life.
- 9.8 A compliance analysis of this naming proposal was undertaken by Council officers against key naming principles in the Naming Rules, as detailed in Table 1 below:

2. TABLE 1: Assessment of proposal against Naming Principles – Proposed name of Mary Wicks Park for a reserve located at 60-100 Harker Street Sunbury.	
Principle (A) Ensuring public safety.	Compliant The formal naming of this unofficially named reserve will enhance public safety by providing a more easily identifiable location for emergency services and visitors to the reserve. There reserve may be known unofficially by the local community as Sunbury Park (a name which is not recorded in VICNAMES) but the extent of this awareness, and the local community’s willingness to support a change of name, was ascertained during the community consultation process. Whilst there is a level of recognition of the unofficial name, this is viewed as being outweighed by the strong level of community support for the proposed new name.
Principle (B) Recognising the public interest. 1.	Compliant Hume City Council’s Place Names Policy states that Council acknowledges inequity in the naming of places, and it is committed to work towards equity in place naming in relation to gender, traditional owner names and languages and names and languages which reflect Hume City’s modern multicultural society As per Council’s policy, this naming proposal is viewed as being in the public interest because of the long-term benefit it would provide by addressing gender equality in naming, and by recognising a community member with a strong link to the suburb in which the feature is located in. This is viewed as outweighing

REPORT NO: 8.6 (cont.)

2. TABLE 1: Assessment of proposal against Naming Principles – Proposed name of Mary Wicks Park for a reserve located at 60-100 Harker Street Sunbury.	
	any short-term inconvenience that may result from a change of name.
Principle (C) Linking the name to the place.	Compliant The application establishes a strong link to place. Mary Wicks OAM lived in Harker Street for over 50 years. The application states that ‘many a family dog was walked in the park and mum particularly enjoyed the social aspect of this in her later years’ and ‘Whilst towards the end of her life mum was limited by her mobility, one of her greatest joys was opening the blinds every morning and looking out over the park’. The application also establishes a strong link between Mary Wicks OAM and the Sunbury community in which she was a volunteer, member, office bearer and fundraiser for many organisations and groups.
Principle (D) Ensuring names are not duplicated.	Compliant A search in VICNAMES revealed no duplication of the name ‘Mary Wicks Park’ within a 15 km radius of the location.
Principle (E) Recognition and use of Traditional Owner languages.	Not Applicable
Principle (F) Names must not discriminate or be offensive.	Compliant The proposed name does not discriminate and it is not offensive.
Principle (G) Gender equality.	Compliant This naming proposal supports the principle of gender equality in place naming.
Principle (H) Dual names.	Not Applicable
Principle (I) Using commemorative names.	Compliant This naming proposal is for a commemorative name and all applicable elements of this principle are met in the application. The application originally requested that the feature be name the Mary Wicks OAM Park, but as the inclusion of the post-nominals OAM would not be compliant with this principle, they are not included in the proposed feature name
Principle (J) Using commercial and business names	Not Applicable
Principle (K) Language	Compliant The proposed name complies with the requirements set out in this principle.
Principle (L)	Not Applicable

REPORT NO: 8.6 (cont.)

2. TABLE 1: Assessment of proposal against Naming Principles – Proposed name of Mary Wicks Park for a reserve located at 60-100 Harker Street Sunbury.	
Directional names to be avoided	
Principle (M) Assigning extent to a road, feature, or locality	Not Applicable

- 9.9 This naming proposal was considered by the Place Names Committee at a meeting held on 5 March 2025, when the Committee approved the commencement of community consultation on the proposal. The final decision on whether to endorse a naming proposal following community consultation is made by Council.
- 9.10 Based on the results of the community consultation process in which a strong level of support was expressed for the proposed name, and the assessment conducted against the Naming Principles, it is recommended that Council endorses the proposed name of Mary Wicks Park, and submits this name to the Registrar of Geographic Names for their consideration and approval. As advised earlier in this report, the objections received are not considered to have established that the Mary Wicks Park naming proposal is non-compliant with the Naming Principles.
- 9.11 This recommendation is made in the context of respectfully acknowledging Sunbury’s history and heritage, whilst also noting that community attitudes may change over time, and that there is now a greater focus on gender equality in naming which is reflected in the strong level of community support expressed for this naming proposal.
- 9.12 The Naming Rules require that both the immediate and extended communities are advised of Council’s decision on whether to endorse this naming proposal. This will be done by sending correspondence to the same affected property owners and residents who originally received a consultation pack on this proposal, and by placing a notice on Council’s website.
- 9.13 Under the Naming Rules, any person who lodges an objection to a naming proposal has the right to lodge an appeal directly to the Registrar of Geographic Names if a naming authority endorses the proposed name that they objected to. The Naming Rules state that the Registrar of Geographic Names may only consider appeals from members of the community who have already objected directly to the naming authority’s proposal if the objector can demonstrate that either:
- (a) the naming authority did not consider the objections during its deliberations.
 - (b) the proposal does not reasonably conform to the naming rules.
- 9.14 If Council endorses the proposed name of Mary Wicks Park and approves that this name is submitted to the Registrar of Geographic Names, any persons who objected to this naming proposal will be advised on their appeal rights if Council has their contact details.
- 9.15 If Council does not endorse the Mary Wicks Park naming proposal, consideration of the application submitted to Council would be finalized. Council could at point take no further action, on the basis that Council had not initiated the renaming application, or Council could undertake another round of community consultation on an alternative name for the park, as per the requirements of the Naming Rules.

REPORT NO: 8.6 (cont.)

10. CONCLUSION:

Community consultation on the proposed name of Mary Wicks Park is now complete. It is recommended that Council endorses this naming proposal and submits it to the Registrar of Geographic Names for their consideration and approval.

ATTACHMENT 1

60-100 HARKER STREET SUNBURY

(Crown Allotment 3/Section 48/Township Sunbury TP)



ATTACHMENT 2

Mary Frances WICKS OAM

As a family, we are requesting a name change to the park that is currently named Sunbury Park in Harker Street Sunbury, due to mum’s significant contribution to the Sunbury community. The majority of her life spent living in Harker Street and the Honour and lasting tribute that this would bestow on the WICKS family.

Mum was **born Mary Frances DUGGAN on 21 January 1935**, in a birthing house at the lower end of **Harker St Sunbury**.

Her family worked a mixed farm off Lancefield Rd and then later Riddell Rd before mum and her family moved into **37 Harker St Sunbury in the mid 1950’s**.

Mum and dad built their home at **71 Harker St, SUNBURY** in 1967 and mum remained there until her **death on 14 October 2022**. She and dad raised three children in the family home and spent many a day playing in the park opposite. The top end of the park was originally a fenced paddock where the family kept their horses for a number of years. Many a family dog was walked in the park and mum particularly enjoyed the social aspect of this in her later years.

Whilst towards the end of her life mum was limited by her mobility, one of her greatest joys was opening the blinds every morning and looking out over the park.

In mum’s early years she attend OLMC primary school in grade prep and 1. She was sent to boarding school in Kyneton at the age of 7 as her parents thought it was safer with war coming to the south pacific and her parents believing in good education. Following school mum completed her mother craft nursing qualification.

Mum also worked at Tidwell’s grocery store and for a short period worked at the Sunbury mental hospital (as it was known then). Mum then commenced telephonist and administration work at the Royal Insurance Company in Melbourne commuting each day on the steam train. Like most woman of the time, mum ceased work when she married to start her family.

In around 1975 mum went to work for the **Shire of Bulla** when she stayed until **retirement in 1993**.

Mum was awarded the **Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) (General Division)** approved by the **Governor-General in his capacity as Chancellor of the Order of Australia, with effect from 26 January 2019 for her services to the Sunbury Community**.

Mum’s voluntary work started in the **Sunbury community in the late 1950’s and continued until her death**. Mum received a number of acknowledgements and certificates of appreciation for being a very active, passionate, committed, and key member of the extensive number of organisations in the Sunbury community.

The list is exhaustive and I can provide further detail if the following is not sufficient. I highlight the following;

- On Australia Day 2011 the Kiwanis Club of Sunbury awarded mum **Citizen of the Year for outstanding Community Service over a period of more than 50 years in the Sunbury community**
- On 8 March 2011 , mum received The Chocolate Lily award from the **Sunbury International Women’s Day Steering Committee in the category of senior woman, who continues to voluntarily contribute to the community of Sunbury and former Shire of Bulla**

- In October 2015 mum was awarded an **Australian Red Cross Outstanding Service award**. As a tribute for; *exceptional, continuous and unselfish devotion to duty*
- On 28 June 2019 the Sunbury Historical and Heritage society presented mum with the **Kathleen Aitken Outstanding Citizen Award for outstanding service to the Sunbury community**
- The pinnacle of mums tireless community work and recognitions, was on 26 January 2019 when mum received an **Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for her services to the Sunbury community**. On 5th of April 2019 she attended the Investiture for the presentation of Australian Honours and Awards at Government house. This was a very proud day for all of us. This was a highlight of mum’s life.

Mum’s time involved in organisations spanned from when as kids we were involved in groups, to lifelong associations.

- Mum was not only a volunteer and member but often an office bearer, with significant periods as; President, Secretary and Captain. She served many an afternoon tea and was a regular supplier of lamingtons and coconut ice at numerous school and community cake stalls, and later her sponge and sandwiches at meetings.
- Mum actively contributed to fund raising activities including for the building of ; **the Sunbury swimming pool, the Sunbury guide hall, the public hospital in Sunbury during the 1980’s, and both Sunbury primary and secondary schools that we attended.**

The organisations and groups include the following;

- Young Christian Workers group where she was involved in the running of Sunbury dances in the late 1950’s
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish where she was part of;
 - The Legion of Mary
 - Mother’s club
 - Cathecist - which was preparing children for First Communion
 - Parish Education board
 - Historical committee
 - Josephites group- who’s primary focus is their founder Saint Mary of the Cross- Mary McKillop
 - Reader of the liturgy
 - Flowers and cleaning roster
 - Evergreens
- Our Lady of Mt Carmel Tennis club
- St Andrew’s Kindergarten
- Sunbury Show society
- Country Womens’ association (CWA)
- Ladies auxillery of the RSL
- Sunbury Brownie and Guides
 - First aid badge assessor for brownies and attended numerous brownie camps
- Sunbury cubs
- First aid trainer
- Volunteer at St Vinnies opportunity shop
- Pines golf club and later Goonawarra golf club
- Sunbury pony club

- Friends of nurses association at the Royal Melbourne Hospital
- Sunbury information Centre
- Australian Red Cross ; including collector of funds for the Australian Red Cross calling at Sunbury station and Melbourne Airport and serving refreshments after mobile blood bank service in Sunbury
- Sunbury Community Health Centre
- Legacy
- Sunbury Garden Club
- Rupertswood Historical Society and tour guide leader at Rupertswood Mansion
- Sunbury U3A

Mum had some wonderful qualities and attributes that enabled her to have such an effective voluntary career and to have such a fulfilled and active life. She was well represented at her funeral by a number of these organisations and groups, and the support provided to our family by her friends and ours, is testament to that.

This park has significant meaning to our family and is part of our story and history as long established Sunbury residents. I have no doubt that community support and gratitude would be felt if mum is bestowed the honour of the naming of this park after her. Mum is well deserving of this honour, in this specific location, given her tireless service to the Sunbury community and her family.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this proposal.

[REDACTED]

Comments Received in Support of the Mary Wicks Park Naming Proposal

Comments Received in Support of the Naming Proposal	
1.	A lovely way to remember Mary. Thank you for retaining the reserve.
2.	A very impressive Volunteer service record and a worth recipient of this honour.
3.	A very worthy choice.
4.	A wonderful honour for Mary Wicks.
5.	‘Reward for Efforts’ more pillars of society should be commemorated & remembered for dedication to community & maybe attention could be focused on Great War veterans as well.
6.	Amazing suggestion given Mary lived opposite that area for most of her married life and the many many contributions she made to Sunbury as a dedicated volunteer.
7.	Good idea to name it Mary Wicks Park. She has done many good deeds to help many.
8.	Great community worker.
9.	Great idea
10.	Great name for that park
11.	I agree to the proposal as stated.
12.	I applaud, support and fully endorse this proposal. During my time at Rupertswood as a volunteer and president, Mary was a dedicated and tireless member of the group. An inspiration.
13.	I assume Council will continue to keep the reserve above in 1st class condition as it is now as name Sunbury Park
14.	I believe she has done a huge amount to contribute to the community to have a park named after her.
15.	I feel that Mary was obviously a wonderful member of our community who gave her time for the betterment of others. Exactly the type of person we should name our parks after.
16.	I have no objections to the proposal. Mary was a wonderful citizen of Sunbury and surrounds.
17.	I knew Mary Wicks through the Sunbury Council as well as a local resident for over 40 years. Mary supported me several times in her role in the Council. Mary performed her role quietly with great understanding and empathy and actively went beyond her role for the good of others.
18.	I knew Mrs Wicks through my Grandmother. Mrs Wicks was always involved in everything Sunbury. She was a caring, giving and kind lady who made a great contribution to Sunbury. Recognising Mrs Wicks by naming a park after her would be very fitting.
19.	I personally knew Mary and was aware of all of the community work she was involved in. I think it is a wonderful idea to name the park Mary Wicks Park
20.	I think it is appropriate
21.	I think that this a really lovely suggestion and a deserving honour for someone who contributed so much to their community.

Comments Received in Support of the Naming Proposal	
22.	I think that this is a lovely acknowledgement of a member of the community who gave back as best she could. She is better than a front line member (doctor, nurse, policy, ambulance, defence) as they are paid for their service and it seems from her service record that she volunteered her time well done Mary Wicks - and well deserved recognition.
23.	I worked with Mary many years ago at the Shire of Bulla and remember her fondly as always being friendly and helpful. She's done a lot for Sunbury and having a park named after her is very fitting.
24.	In addition to the clubs, groups and organisations listed above in the application, Mary Wicks was a long-term valued volunteer and supporter of Sunbury Cobaw Community Health Centre.
25.	As one of the Governors of this Centre, I wholeheartedly support the proposal to name the park located at 60-100 Harker Street "Mary Wicks Park".
26.	It is a good idea to give the park a unique identity. However I hope the Council has thought through the relationship of the proposed area to the fenced off area at the top of the park and to the opposite dog park.
27.	It would be a wonderful honour for Mary and her family to have the park named after her. She made so many valuable contributions to the Sunbury Community. She was a kind and very friendly person. Mary loved the park area.
28.	It's a good idea to make an install a signage in memory of Mary and services she did for the community to be a role model for others in this area.
29.	It's important to honour the contributions of Sunbury locals.
30.	Long time resident of Sunbury who made a significant contribution to the Sunbury community
31.	Looks like Mary has contributed to many areas of Sunbury community life and development. Thank you Mary Wicks.
32.	Love it! Great to recognise her contribution. Mary was our neighbour and loved her dog. We walked that park too.
33.	Mary contributed extensively to the community of Sunbury and is very deserving of having this park named after her.
34.	Mary sounds like a great lady of the community.
35.	Mary supported the Sunbury community her whole life by volunteering in many local organisations. The naming of this park in her honour would be an appropriate tribute.
36.	Mary was a longtime resident of Sunbury and supported many charities and volunteered for many, many years.
37.	Mary was a very community minded person over a very long time, as evidenced by the number of community organisations she was involved with over her long life living in Sunbury.
38.	I strongly support the Proposal to name the park "Mary Wicks Park" - her contribution to Sunbury & the old Shire of Bulla communities was immense, and the naming in her honour is thoroughly deserved.
39.	Mary loved that park & was regularly seen walking in the park sometimes with someone, most often with her dog and sometimes by herself.

Comments Received in Support of the Naming Proposal	
40.	Mary was an absolute champion for the town of Sunbury. Her contribution through various organisations will be hard to match.
41.	Mary was my neighbour growing up and I always admired her community spirit. She was a lovely lady.
42.	Mary Wicks contributed to many Sunbury community organisations during her lifetime, and should be recognised accordingly.
43.	My neighbour knew this wonderful altruistic lady who worked tirelessly for the community. It is important to pay homage to her comprehensive and stellar work in volunteering in a myriad of ways.
44.	On coming to live in Sunbury in 2021 I met Mary Wicks at Goonawarra Golf Club. She was a great supporter of the club, including a seniors tournament, and we both attended Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish. Over the years I have become aware of their work and love of Sunbury in so many ways.
45.	Our Family resided in Barkly St for almost a century and have so many fond memories.
46.	I absolutely adored Ms Wicks and grew up with her very active in our lives and our precious community. I couldn't think of a better way to acknowledge her for all eternity.
47.	Perfect name for the park!
48.	She deserves to be remembered for all her good works.
49.	She was a great lady who did a lot for the town she loved
50.	Thankyou for asking for feedback
51.	We didn't know anything about her contribution to Sunbury Community. Her service should be acknowledged. Amazing woman.
52.	We have the new name called Mary Wicks Park is located at 60-100 Harker Street, Sunbury to see play outside for kids and babies, table seating, BBQ area, picnic area, bushwalking and lots of trees, as we are honour of their late mother in the proposed park were unveiled as well.
53.	Well deserved
54.	What a wonderful idea to support such a community minded lady who lived in Harker Street.

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Attachment 4 - Comments Objecting to the Naming Proposal

COUNCIL MEETING

Objections Received to the Mary Wicks Park Naming Proposal

Objection Received	Naming Principle	Officer Comment
<p>1. I think that the naming of a park should be put to the community so that everyone has the right to suggest a name and a reason for it. Mary is a worthy candidate but there may be others as well. I'm not sure that a family up and suggesting their mother for doing things for her children is the right way to go about it. Choice/democracy. Mary has already received an OAM</p>	<p>Principle I, Using Commemorative Names</p>	<p>This objection is not considered to have established that this naming proposal is non-compliant with the Naming Principles contained within the Naming Rules. Under the Act, a person has the right to submit a naming proposal to Council, acting in its capacity as a Naming Authority, which should then be considered on its merits. Members of the community have the opportunity to provide feedback on a naming proposal and/or to suggest an alternative name during the community consultation process. If a Naming Authority assesses that an alternative name which has been suggested is more appropriate for the feature, it can either conduct further community consultation on the alternative name, or consider it after the original proposal has been dealt with (if the original name is not endorsed by the Naming Authority).</p>
<p>2. I'm sure Mary was a lovely community minded person, but if we are going to rename this park I would prefer to pay homage to Sunbury's heritage. The park used to be the site of the electric powerhouse, so I'd prefer a name like "Powerhouse Park", or maybe a reference to Priorswood Mansion nearby eg "Priorswood Park". In any case if it is going to be renamed, I'd like the community to have the chance to submit options.</p>	<p>Principle I, Using Commemorative Names Principle C, Linking the Name to Place</p>	<p>This objection is not considered to have established that this naming proposal is non-compliant with the Naming Principles contained within the Naming Rules, for the same reasons outlined in response to objection number 1. In addition, it is not recommended that any action is taken on the alternative names suggested in this objection unless the original naming proposal is not endorsed by Council, and in those circumstances, if Council then wishes to continue investigating alternative names for this feature. This report respectfully acknowledges Sunbury's heritage. Other projects in Sunbury, for example the installation on historical street name signage, recognize this heritage. The Mary Wicks Park naming proposal seeks to recognize a community member who was known to many current residents, and/or who many residents have indicated in their consultation comments that they support recognizing because of her contribution to organisations and groups as a volunteer, member, office bearer and fundraiser. This view is reflected in the three sample comments copied below, which were received during the communication consultation period: <i>I feel that Mary was obviously a wonderful member of our community who gave her time for the betterment of others. Exactly the type of person we should name our parks after. We didn't know anything about her contribution to Sunbury Community. Her service should be acknowledged. Amazing woman.</i></p>

REPORTS – OFFICERS’ REPORTS

8 SEPTEMBER 2025

Attachment 4 - Comments Objecting to the Naming Proposal

COUNCIL MEETING

Objection Received	Naming Principle	Officer Comment
		<i>I personally knew Mary and was aware of all of the community work she was involved in. I think it is a wonderful idea to name the park Mary Wicks Park.</i>
3. It has been named Sunbury Park for a very long time and it should keep its significance with the continuation of that name	Principle B Recognising the Public Interest	This objection is not considered to have established that this naming proposal is non-compliant with the Naming Principles contained within the Naming Rules, for the same reasons outlined in the responses to objections 1 and 2.
4. Name is fine as is. So many deserving people in this community - they can't all get parks.	Principle B Recognising the Public Interest Principle C, Linking the Name to Place	This objection is not considered to have established that this naming proposal is non-compliant with the Naming Principles contained within the Naming Rules, for the same reasons outlined in the responses to objections 1 and 2.
5. PRINCIPLE (A) It makes more sense to rename the park, if necessary, to something like JACKSON HARKER PARK.	Principle B Recognising the Public Interest	This objection is not considered to have established that this naming proposal is non-compliant with the Naming Principles contained within the Naming Rules, for the same reasons outlined in the responses to objections 1 and 2.
6. <i>Objection 1</i> The naming of “Sunbury Park” dates to 1897 when the government in power ordinarily gazetted this park, so changing the name to an individual completely losses the history of the area and voids principal rule A. How does a individual's name provide more safety and is more identifiable than a park named after the area it is in, and has been for such a long-standing time? Regarding Principal rule B - all for recognition of individuals and equity in the community as long as it doesn't distract from the historical roots of the	Principle B Recognising the Public Interest Principle C, Linking the Name to Place Principle I, Using Commemorative Names	<i>Objection 1</i> These two separate objections are not considered to have established that this naming proposal is non-compliant with the Naming Principles contained within the Naming Rules, for the same reasons outlined in the responses to objections 1 and 2. <i>Objection 2</i> Objection 2 refers to an application that was submitted to Council in 2012 proposing that this feature be renamed to Vicarage Hill Reserve. Council did not itself consider this proposal, and in December 2012 it resolved to refer the proposal to the State Government for their consideration. It is unclear if this action was taken at that time, and a search of VICNAMES did not find any record of this name being used for a park at any location. This previous application is therefore not considered to have any bearing on the current application. This report also respectfully notes that community attitudes may change over time, and there is now a greater focus on gender equality in naming. This is reflected in the strong level of community support expressed for the Mary Wicks Park naming proposal.

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Attachment 4 - Comments Objecting to the Naming Proposal

COUNCIL MEETING

Objection Received	Naming Principle	Officer Comment
<p>area and this proposal completely does. There are many other options available to provide recognition to Mary in the community. However, what I find most disconcerting from your survey is your statement “Council will assume that non-returned surveys will have no objections of the naming proposal”. This is borderline illegal and in many historical legal cases, based on the way it has been written, is completely unfair and misleading, and will skew acceptance in favour of this proposal. I for one know first hand that you have canvassed a wider selection of individual residents that does not directly reside against the perimeter of this proposal, and have less to no interest in this proposal, and are highly unlikely to submit an objection on that basis or respond. I think the council needs to seriously rethink this statement and this proposal. There are so many other options that would be more suited for recognising Mary and her continuity efforts.</p> <p>6. <i>Objection 2 (the same objector submitted the following objection separately)</i></p> <p>I write in relation to Hume City Council’s proposal to change the</p>		<p>This objection also includes the following comment: <i>I also seek your support such that on the next occasion Hume City Council is reviewing its Place Name Policy and any other related instruments, that active consideration be given to how best to entrench the name of “Sunbury Park” (both parcels of land) in perpetuity.</i></p> <p>This suggestion is not supported on the basis that a person has the right to submit a naming proposal which should then be considered on its merits.</p>

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Attachment 4 - Comments Objecting to the Naming Proposal

COUNCIL MEETING

Objection Received	Naming Principle	Officer Comment
<p>name of “Sunbury Park” (see attached photograph) to “Mary Wicks Park” if the change process is successful.</p> <p>I am strongly against such a name change and seek your support to reject the proposal.</p> <p>I make no judgement about the late Mary Wicks and her achievements. If the family are seeking recognition of her community service then why not fund a bench seat inside the park with a suitable plaque nearby? I support the retention of the name of “Sunbury Park” because:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The land (area about 2 acres) was reserved from sale in 1897 as a Site for a Public Park and General Recreation in Sunbury (Sunbury Park), vested with Council (then Shire of Bulla, now Hume City Council) in 1931 as a Committee of Management, with operating Regulations from 1931 (refer to attached copies of three Gazettal Notices and a letter of 20th November 1972 from the Shire). 2. “Sunbury Park” has a rich 128 history dating from the early settlement of Sunbury township after indigenous land custodianship for centuries. Hume City Council maintains the park as custodians under a Committee of Management role. 		

REPORTS – OFFICERS’ REPORTS
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Attachment 4 - Comments Objecting to the Naming Proposal

COUNCIL MEETING

Objection Received	Naming Principle	Officer Comment
<p>“Sunbury Park” is already “named” and is “acclaimed” by users because the Council and the State have funded improvements in recent years. This included five new “Sunbury Park” signs in early 2024 which direct people to the barbecue, toilet block and picnic facilities.</p> <p>In 2013 there was a proposal to name an adjacent part of “Sunbury Park” as “Vicarage Hill Reserve”. That proposition was widely rejected.</p> <p>I believe the information above demonstrates that the site in review has been named “Sunbury Park” for decades and therefore should not be changed.</p> <p>I also seek your support such that on the next occasion Hume City Council is reviewing its Place Name Policy and any other related instruments, that active consideration be given to how best to entrench the name of “Sunbury Park” (both parcels of land) in perpetuity.</p> <p><i>Supporting documents were supplied with this submission.</i></p>		
<p>7. There is very little acknowledgment of the local indigenous cultural or leaders amongst naming conventions in Sunbury.</p>	<p>Principle E - Recognition and use of Traditional</p>	<p>This objection is not considered to have established that this naming proposal is non-compliant with the Naming Principles contained within the Naming Rules. Council’s Place Names Policy includes the following statement:</p>

REPORTS – OFFICERS’ REPORTS**8 SEPTEMBER 2025**

Attachment 4 - Comments Objecting to the Naming Proposal

COUNCIL MEETING

Objection Received	Naming Principle	Officer Comment
I would oppose this change and instead recognise our First Nations culture and history.	Owner languages	<i>‘Council acknowledges inequity in the naming of places and it is committed to work towards equity in place naming in relation to gender, traditional owner names and languages and names and languages which reflect Hume City’s modern multicultural society.’</i> This report respectfully acknowledges the need for equity in place naming using traditional owner language. A recent example of action taken by Hume City Council is the naming of Noogal Park in Sunbury (Noogal means ‘belong’ in the in the Woi-wurrung language). The Mary Wicks Park naming proposal also addresses an inequity in place naming, being gender inequity, and the proposal supports Principle G of the Naming Rules, Gender Equality.
8. This area already has a name "Sunbury Park" and new signs to that effect were erected 12 months ago. There are many other locals who contribute to the community and don't have parks named after them. Ask the Wicks family for a park bench.	Principle B Recognising the Public Interest Principle C, Linking the Name to Place Principle I, Using Commemorative Names	This objection is not considered to have established that this naming proposal is non-compliant with the Naming Principles contained within the Naming Rules, for the same reasons outlined in the responses to objections 1 and 2. It is noted that there is signage with the name Sunbury Park at this location. The extent of this name awareness, and the local community’s willingness to support a change of name, were matters that could be ascertained via community consultation.
9. To name land or park space after a white person is an act of colonisation. There are better ways to honour Mary Wicks such as a citizenship award in her name. By all means rename Sunbury Park - but ask the Wurrundjeri Elders to choose a name that honours and respects Aboriginal culture and custodianship. Please stop colonising activities and gestures.	Principle E - Recognition and use of Traditional	This objection is not considered to have established that this naming proposal is non-compliant with the Naming Principles contained within the Naming Rules, for the same reason outlined in the responses to objections 7.

REPORTS – OFFICERS’ REPORTS**8 SEPTEMBER 2025**

Attachment 4 - Comments Objecting to the Naming Proposal

COUNCIL MEETING

Objection Received	Naming Principle	Officer Comment
10. "Sunbury Park" dates from 1897/1931 - good person but stick with history and current name	Principle B Recognising the Public Interest Principle C, Linking the Name to Place	This objection is not considered to have established that this naming proposal is non-compliant with the Naming Principles contained within the Naming Rules, for the same reasons outlined in the responses to objections 1 and 2.
11. I believe Sunbury Park is a better name	Principle B Recognising the Public Interest	This objection is not considered to have established that this naming proposal is non-compliant with the Naming Principles contained within the Naming Rules, for the same reasons outlined in the responses to objections 1 and 2.
12. I oppose this proposal because of the park itself	Principle B Recognising the Public Interest	This objection is not considered to have established that this naming proposal is non-compliant with the Naming Principles contained within the Naming Rules, for the same reasons outlined in the responses to objections 1 and 2.

REPORT NO:	8.7
REPORT TITLE:	Proposed Council Meeting Schedule November 2025 to December 2026
SOURCE:	Holly De Kretser, Manager Governance Peter Faull, Coordinator Governance
DIVISION:	Finance & Governance
FILE NO:	HCC04/13
POLICY:	-
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:	SO4.1 A high performing organisation that prioritises continuous improvement, safety and accountability.
ATTACHMENTS:	Nil

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No Council officers involved in the preparation of this Report have a general or material interest in relation to the matters for consideration.

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT:

- 1.1 As per section 9 of Chapter 2 of Council’s Governance Rules, this report proposes a Council meeting schedule for the period 24 November 2025 to 21 December 2026.
- 1.2 At the Statutory meeting held on 19 November 2024, Council adopted a meeting schedule for the period 1 December 2024 to 12 November 2025. This report recommends that Council adopts a meeting schedule for 2026 as well as adopting meeting dates for the remainder of 2025 following the annual Statutory meeting which is being held on 12 November 2025.
- 1.3 It is recommended that Council adopts the meeting schedule proposed in this report so that there can be certainty in forward planning around Council meeting dates.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

2.1 THAT Council:

- 2.1.1 adopts the Council meeting schedule for the period 24 November 2025 to 21 December 2026, as per the dates listed in Table 1 below;
- 2.1.2 designates that all Council meetings listed in Table 1 below are held wholly in person and will commence at 7:00pm, with the exception of the Statutory Meeting on 4 November 2026 which will commence at 6:30pm.

TABLE 1 MEETING SCHEDULE 24 NOVEMBER 2025 TO 21 DECEMBER 2026	
DATE	VENUE
Monday, 24 November 2025	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows (meeting Wholly in Person)
Monday, 8 December 2025	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows (meeting Wholly in Person)
Monday, 15 December 2025	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows (meeting Wholly in Person)

REPORT NO: 8.7 (cont.)

TABLE 1 MEETING SCHEDULE 24 NOVEMBER 2025 TO 21 DECEMBER 2026	
DATE	VENUE
Monday, 9 February 2026	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows (meeting Wholly in Person)
Monday, 23 February 2026	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows (meeting Wholly in Person)
Tuesday, 10 March 2026	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows (meeting Wholly in Person)
Monday, 23 March 2026	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows (meeting Wholly in Person)
Monday, 13 April 2026	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows (meeting Wholly in Person)
Monday, 27 April 2026	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows (meeting Wholly in Person)
Monday, 11 May 2026	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows (meeting Wholly in Person)
Monday, 25 May 2026	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows (meeting Wholly in Person)
Tuesday, 9 June 2026	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows (meeting Wholly in Person)
Monday, 22 June 2026	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows (meeting Wholly in Person)
Monday, 13 July 2026	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows (meeting Wholly in Person)
Monday, 27 July 2026	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows (meeting Wholly in Person)
Monday, 10 August 2026	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows (meeting Wholly in Person)
Monday, 24 August 2026	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows (meeting Wholly in Person)
Monday, 14 September 2026	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows (meeting Wholly in Person)
Monday, 28 September 2026	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows (meeting Wholly in Person)
Monday, 12 October 2026	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows (meeting Wholly in Person)
Monday, 26 October 2026	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows

REPORT NO: 8.7 (cont.)

TABLE 1 MEETING SCHEDULE 24 NOVEMBER 2025 TO 21 DECEMBER 2026	
DATE	VENUE
	(meeting Wholly in Person)
Wednesday, 4 November 2026	Statutory Meeting Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows (meeting Wholly in Person)
Monday, 16 November 2026	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows (meeting Wholly in Person)
Monday, 30 November 2026	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows (meeting Wholly in Person)
Monday, 14 December 2026	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows (meeting Wholly in Person)
Monday, 21 December 2026	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows (meeting Wholly in Person)

3. **LEGISLATIVE POWERS & POLICY CONTEXT:**

Council has the power to adopt a meeting schedule under its Governance Rules, which are made under the *Local Government Act 2020*.

4. **OVERARCHING GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES:**

4.1 This Report supports Council is giving effect to the following Overarching Governance Principles:

4.1.1. Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law;

4.1.2. the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

5. **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

1.1 CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

The rights protected in the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities (the Charter) were considered and it was determined *that* no rights are limited in the recommendations made to Council in this report. Section 18 of the Charter, which is the right to take part in public affairs, is supported by the recommendations made to Council in this report.

1.2 GENDER EQUALITY ACT 2020

This Report does not relate to a development or review of a policy, program or service; therefore a Gender Impact Assessment is not required.

6. **FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

Costs associated with the holding of Council meetings are included in Council’s annual budget.

7. **OPPORTUNITIES & RISKS:**

If Council adopts the meeting schedule recommended in this report, there can be certainty in forward planning around Council meeting dates for both Councillors and Council officers. This

REPORT NO: 8.7 (cont.)

certainty will assist with scheduling reports, and for setting budget items related to meeting expenses.

8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Community engagement is not required prior to Council considering the Council meeting schedule that is proposed in this report.

9. DISCUSSION:

- 9.1 The 2026 Council meeting dates that are proposed in this report continues Council’s current format of scheduling a Council meeting on the second and fourth Monday of each month, except for January. If the second or fourth Monday of a month falls on a public holiday, the Council meeting for that week is instead proposed to be scheduled on a Tuesday.
- 9.2 Council Briefings are held on the first and third Monday of each month, however these do not require a Council resolution to be scheduled. Council Briefings are scheduled to be held the week before a Council meeting.
- 9.3 Councils annual Statutory meeting is proposed to be held on Wednesday 4 November 2026, which is one week earlier than the 2025 Statutory meeting which is being held on Wednesday 12 November. Holding the 2026 meeting one week earlier will allow for two Council meetings to be scheduled in November 2026.
- 9.4 Two consecutive Council meeting dates are proposed for December 2026, which Council’s current practice of scheduling two consecutive meetings in December. The second of these meetings would be held on Monday 21 December, which is the same week that Christmas Eve and the Christmas Day public holiday falls (Friday 25 December 2026).
- 9.5 If Council adopts the meeting schedule that is proposed in this report, future 12 month meeting schedules will then be presented to Council for consideration and adoption on an annual basis.

10. CONCLUSION

This report presents Council with a proposed Council meeting schedule for the period 24 November 2025 to 21 December 2026 for consideration and adoption.

REPORT NO:	8.8
REPORT TITLE:	Response to NOM25/30 - Cr Naim Kurt - WWI Honour Board
SOURCE:	Hazel Finnie, Coordinator Arts, Culture & Events Feyza Yazar, Coordinator Arts & Culture
DIVISION:	City Services & Living
FILE NO:	HCC-CM25/183
POLICY:	Civic Collection Policy (POL/267); Art in Public Places Policy (POL/148)
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:	SO3.3 An inclusive and socially connected community that celebrates diversity and culture
ATTACHMENTS:	Nil

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No Council officers involved in the preparation of this Report have a general or material interest in relation to the matters for consideration.

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT:

This report responds to NOM 25/30, raised by Cr Kurt on 12 May 2025, requesting that Council:

- 1.1 *Receives a briefing and future report on the current location and condition of the following historic honour boards:*
 - 1.1.1 *Shire of Broadmeadows World War I Honour Board*
 - 1.1.2 *City of Broadmeadows Mayoral Honour Board*
 - 1.1.3 *Broadmeadows Roads District Honour Board*
- 1.2 *Requests a comprehensive audit and assessment of the City of Hume’s entire civic collection, including but not limited to:*
 - 1.2.1 *Honour boards, mayoral portraits, civic gifts, artworks, plaques, historic meeting agenda and minutes and memorabilia*
 - 1.2.2 *Items held in storage, on public display, or previously exhibited in civic buildings including the Global Learning Centre and former council chambers*
 - 1.2.3 *Public art and culturally significant markers located throughout the municipality*
- 1.3 *Requests the report to Council include:*
 - 1.3.1 *Options for the restoration and permanent or rotating public display of significant items, with particular attention to the Broadmeadows-related WWI Honour Board in accessible civic spaces*
 - 1.3.2 *Recommendations for improving access to and interpretation of the collection for the community*
 - 1.3.3 *Opportunities to enhance and grow the collection through donations, partnerships, future acquisitions or a future Civic Art budget*
 - 1.3.4 *Options for documenting and sharing Hume’s civic story through publications, digital storytelling, or local history books*
- 1.4 *Notes the importance of preserving, curating, and publicly celebrating Hume’s civic and historical legacy—with a particular focus on honouring the contributions and history of Broadmeadows as a former Roads District, Shire, and City.*

This report provides responses to these questions, and outlines actions in support of the preservation, expansion, engagement and promotion of Hume’s history through its Civic Collection, civic historic minutes and agendas and public artworks.

REPORT NO: 8.8 (cont.)

2. RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

2.1 Notes the response to NOM 25/30 providing information on the Broadmeadows World War I Honour Board, City of Broadmeadows Honour Board and Broadmeadows Roads District Honour Board, seeking to provide increased opportunity for future generations to access and celebrate the unique history and heritage of Hume.

2.2 Endorses the:

2.2.1 Display of the Broadmeadows World War 1 Honour Board on the ground floor of the Town Hall, Broadmeadows, noting that the final location will be scoped to ensure accessibility, visual amenity and appropriate wall suitability.

2.2.2 Display of the City of Broadmeadows Mayoral Honour Board on the ground floor of the Town Hall, Broadmeadows, noting that the final location will be scoped to ensure accessibility, visual amenity and appropriate wall suitability.

2.3 Notes:

2.3.1 A heritage newspaper article references the existence of a Broadmeadows Roads District Honour Board however the location remains unknown.

2.3.2 Officers will report back to Council should any new tangible evidence of the Broadmeadows Roads District Honour Board be uncovered in a future Civic Collection Audit.

2.3.3 Audit, assessment and valuation of the Civic Collection is planned to take place during 2025/26 with the outcomes reported back to Council.

2.3.4 Additional financial resources would be required to enhance and grow the Art Collection. This will be referred to the 2026/2027 budget process for Council’s consideration.

2.3.5 Additional financial resources would be required to further document and share Hume’s civic story through digital storytelling or the creation of local history publications. This will be referred to the 2026/2027 budget process for Council’s consideration.

3. LEGISLATIVE POWERS & POLICY CONTEXT:

3.1 The Notice of Motion requested officers to provide information on Hume’s Civic Collection, and consider options for documenting, preserving, curating and sharing Hume’s civic history, from a policy perspective, this is guided from Hume’s Civic Collection Policy (POL/276).

3.2 Legislatively, the provision of arts and culture and community services across Hume City is aligned to the service performance principles (part 5, Division 1, Section 106) of the Local Government Act (2020) specifically that:

3.2.1 The *Local Government Act (2020)* identifies that “priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations”.

4. OVERARCHING GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES:

4.1 This Report supports Council in considering and responding to the following Overarching Governance Principles:

REPORT NO: 8.8 (cont.)

- Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;
- Innovation and continuous improvement is to be pursued;
- Ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured;
- Transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

5. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

5.1 The human rights relevant to this Report are:

- Right to take part in public life;
- Cultural rights.

5.2 The above rights are not being limited by the recommended actions in this Report.

GENDER EQUALITY ACT 2020

5.3 This report does not immediately require the development or review of a policy, program or service.

5.4 Should the Council decide to allocate budget resources to further document and share Hume’s civic story through publications, digital storytelling or local history books, a Gender Impact Assessment will be conducted.

6. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

6.1 This report has been prepared by Officers within existing resource allocations.

6.1.1 It is noted that the cost to display of the City of Broadmeadows Mayoral Honour Board in a Council facility can be absorbed within existing budgets.

6.1.2 The 2025/26 budget includes an allocation of \$39,575 to undertake a Significance Assessment and Valuation of the Civic Collection.

6.2 In reference to NOM 25/30, requests regarding opportunities to enhance or grow the Civic Art Collection (1.3.3), and to further digitise and document the Civic Collection to create additional publications and/or local history books (1.3.4) would require additional resources to implement. The indicative costs of \$5,000 and \$50,000 respectively are identified in the Discussion section of this report. It is proposed that these opportunities, and their indicative costs are referred to the 2026/27 budget process for Council’s consideration.

7. OPPORTUNITIES & RISKS:

This report addresses Council’s strategic risk of Reputation and - Assets and Infrastructure

7.1 Hume is home to active communities of interest and organisations who volunteer countless personal hours to preserving local heritage collections. Displaying important Civic Collection items such as the Honour Boards through diverse mediums strengthens relationships with these groups and reduces reputational risk.

7.2 Digitisation of collections reduces the risk of heritage collection items becoming damaged or lost.

8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

8.1 The *Shire of Broadmeadows World War I Honour Board* has been discussed with the Broadmeadows Historical Society.

8.1.1 The Broadmeadows Historical Society expressed a strong interest in acquiring the Board on long-term loan for display in a prominent location at the Broadmeadows Museum.

REPORT NO: 8.8 (cont.)

8.1.2 They have dedicated military exhibition space that features uniforms, photographs and other items.

8.2 A volunteer drive to encourage further participation in the preservation and digitisation of the Civic Collection will be launched in 2025/26.

9. DISCUSSION:

9.1 Broadmeadows has a rich local government history. The Broadmeadows Roads Board, established in 1857, encompassed three parishes: Will Will Rook, Yuroke, and Mickleham. It later became a Shire in 1871 and was enlarged in 1915 by incorporating the Shire of Merriang.

9.2 In 1994 the City of Broadmeadows was amalgamated with the Shire of Bulla, part of the City of Whittlesea, and part of the City of Keilor to form the City of Hume.

9.3 The Honour Boards acknowledge individuals that have served the Hume community and helped shape the area’s civic history.

NOTICE OF MOTION REQUEST	
<i>1.1 Receives a briefing and future report on the current location and condition of the following historic honour boards:</i>	
<p><i>1.1.1 Shire of Broadmeadows World War I Honour Board</i></p> <p><i>1.3.1 Options for the restoration and permanent or rotating public display of significant items, with particular attention to the Broadmeadows-related WW1 Honour Board in accessible civic spaces</i></p>	<p>The Shire of Broadmeadows World War I Honour Board celebrates individuals that served and may have been decorated in World War 1.</p> <p>It is currently located in Council’s heritage storage facility in Sunbury and is in good condition. The Board has a weight of 60kg and requires wall/display infrastructure capable of safely carrying this load.</p> <p>Through the preparation of this Notice of Motion the Broadmeadows Historical Society expressed interest in the Honour Board for display at the museum.</p> <p>The Broadmeadows Museum offers a purpose-built facility and has the ability to store and display items under climate-controlled conditions. It is centrally located at 21 Pearce Dale Parade, and is open each Wednesday from 12 – 2pm, on the second Sunday of each month (other than January) from 1 – 4pm and by appointment. It is noted that the World War I Honour Board could fit well within the existing displays which include information on military history and military items.</p> <p>The Town Hall Broadmeadows is a key civic space for the Broadmeadows and Hume community, providing a space for milestone celebrations. There is the opportunity to locate the Honour Board within the foyer of the Town Hall, increasing its accessibility and prominence in the community, especially during milestone civic celebrations.</p> <p>Option 1 - Shire of Broadmeadows World War I Honour Board be offered as a medium-term loan (5 years) to the Broadmeadows Museum who have actively expressed interest in displaying the Board multiple times in the past. Officers recommend a signed MOU be put in place that articulates agreed terms of the loan, including at a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadmeadows Museum must ensure the asset is preserved and maintained in good condition

REPORT NO: 8.8 (cont.)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council, and community, may request access at any time with a 2-week notice period provided in writing • Loan is intended to be long-term with Council retaining legal ownership and Broadmeadows Historical Society providing custodianship of the item. The Agreement is reviewed every ten (10) years. • Council is acknowledged as owner of the Board on any signage and publications, including in print and digital formats. • Dispute resolution clause (to be determined). • Benefit – Very strong history theme alignment, existing volunteer group is actively requesting the Board. • Risk – Museum has limited opening hours. <p>Option 2 - Within publicly accessible ground floor foyer of the Hume Global Learning Centre-Broadmeadows, in proximity to the Chamber.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefit – Publicly accessible in line with Library opening hours. Previously located in the building. • Risk – Disappointment of the Broadmeadows Historical Society and lack of support for the enhancement of their collection. <p>Option 3 – (Officer recommended) Within the Town Hall foyer, Broadmeadows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefit – Key civic space in Hume City. Publicly accessible in line with Town Hall opening hours. May be located adjacent to the Broadmeadows Mayoral Honour Board. • Risk – disappointment of the Broadmeadows Historical Society and lack of support for the enhancement of their collection. <p>Option 4 - Within the Council Chamber.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefit – Previously located in the space prior to refurbishment. • Risk – Only accessible by community when Chamber is open. Board will disrupt the architectural wall based ‘river storytelling’, and topographical theming of the Chamber, both of which are central components of the redeveloped space, designed to reflect the whole city equally.
<p><i>1.1.2 City of Broadmeadows Mayoral Honour Board</i></p> <p><i>1.3 Requests the report to Council include:</i></p>	<p>Council’s Honour Board celebrates the legacy of past Mayors of the City of Broadmeadows.</p> <p>The City of Broadmeadows Mayoral Honour Board is currently located in Council’s Civic collection storage facility in Sunbury.</p>

REPORT NO: 8.8 (cont.)

<p>1.3.2 <i>Recommendations for improving access to and interpretation of the collection for the community</i></p>	<p>The Board is a blackwood photo display case, which features photos of Mayors of the City of Broadmeadows during the period 1955/56 – 1994/95.</p> <p>The Board requires conservation treatment which will be undertaken during the 2025/2026 financial year, as part of the Collection maintenance program.</p> <p>Recommended Options</p> <p>Options for display of Mayoral Honour Board within the following publicly accessible Council premises:</p> <p>Option 1 – In proximity to the Council Chamber on the ground floor of the Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Benefit: Publicly accessible by Hume communities, and in proximity to the Council Meeting Chamber. As the seat of Hume’s decision making, which is located in Broadmeadows, this is an ideal location for celebrating and honoring former Mayors of the City of Broadmeadows.• Risks: Not accessible on Victorian Collections website. Mayors from 1995/1996 period onwards are not included in the display. <p>Option 2 (Officer recommended) - Town Hall Broadmeadows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Benefit: Publicly accessible by Hume communities when the Town Hall facility is open. Previous location of the Board.• Risks: Distanced from Hume’s Chamber. Not accessible on Victorian Collections website. Future space limitations as the Honour Board grows. <p>Option 3 - Council Offices in the public area, location not yet determined</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Benefit: Publicly accessible by Hume communities when the facility is open.• Risks: Potential distance from Hume’s Chamber. Not accessible on Victorian Collections website. Future space limitations as the Honour Board grows. <p>Option 4 - The Significance Assessment of the Civic Collection 2017 recommended that if a suitable display space was unavailable, the photos should be demounted and archived.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Benefit: Widely accessible on Victorian Collections website.• Risks: Distanced from Hume’s Chamber, the home of Council decision making. Communities of interest may be inflamed by lack of physical exhibition of collection pieces.
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REPORT NO: 8.8 (cont.)

<p><i>1.1.3 Broadmeadows Roads District Honour Board</i></p>	<p>A heritage newspaper article references the existence of a Broadmeadows Roads District Honour Board however the location remains unknown.</p> <p>Officers have been unable to locate any images, records or of the Board. It is not part of Council’s collection.</p> <p>Should any further tangible evidence be found in the upcoming Civic Collection audit, amended advice will be provided to Council.</p>
<p><i>1.2 Requests a comprehensive audit and assessment of the City of Hume’s entire civic collection, including but not limited to:</i></p> <p><i>1.2.1 Honour boards, mayoral portraits, civic gifts, artworks, plaques, historic meeting agenda and minutes and memorabilia</i></p> <p><i>1.2.2 Items held in storage, on public display, or previously exhibited in civic buildings including the Global Learning Centre and former council chambers</i></p> <p><i>1.2.3 Public art and culturally significant markers located throughout the municipality</i></p>	<p>Civic Collection</p> <p>Hume’s Civic Collection comprises all artworks and historical objects owned by Council as part of the Civic Collection. The collection includes tangible and intangible items such as artworks, photographs, sculptures, prints, mixed media, audio and multimedia items, civic memorabilia, civic gifts, and public art.</p> <p>Through existing budget allocation, a Significance Assessment and Valuation of the Civic Collection by a qualified heritage consultant is planned for 2025/26 financial year.</p> <p>Public Art</p> <p>Through existing budget allocation an audit will be undertaken of public artworks across the municipality in 2025/26 financial year.</p> <p>Significant Markers</p> <p>Significant heritage markers and memorials are not currently captured. Officers will create a register that will align to Council’s Asset Register, noting that not all markers are under Council’s ownership.</p> <p>Other Civic Memorabilia</p> <p>Historic meeting Agenda and Minutes covering the years 1857-2021 are retained and stored in accordance with Public Records Office Victoria standards in the Broadmeadows Council Offices.</p> <p>Minutes are retained for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hume City Council – 1994-2021 • City of Broadmeadows – 1884-1994 • Shire of Bulla – 1871-1994 • Shire of Merriang – 1878-1915 • Donnybrook & Wallan Wallan Road District – 1863-1871 • Broadmeadows District Road Board – 1858-1883 • Bulla District Road Board – 1863-1871 <p>Access to the minute books is made by the public on request and must be viewed on site under the supervision of a Council records officer.</p>

REPORT NO: 8.8 (cont.)

<p><i>1.3 Requests the report to Council include:</i></p> <p><i>1.3.3 Opportunities to enhance and grow the collection through donations, partnerships, future acquisitions or a future Civic Art budget</i></p> <p><i>1.3.4 Options for documenting and sharing Hume’s civic story through publications, digital storytelling, or local history books</i></p>	<p>Enhance and Grow Collections</p> <p>Council applies contemporary heritage practices that prioritise partnerships, participatory interpretation and ongoing community engagement.</p> <p>This methodology is consistent with sectoral approaches adopted by institutions such as Museums Victoria, where artist collaborations are used to interpret heritage in ways relevant to contemporary audiences and communities.</p> <p>Officers will continue to prioritise these practices to grow productive partnerships that result in donations, acquisitions and growth of the Civic Collection.</p> <p>Hume has a modest annual Art Acquisition budget of \$5,000. This supports the slow growth of the collection. Pending Council’s interest in expanding this budget, there is the opportunity to refer an additional amount (i.e. \$5,000) to the 2026/27 budget process for Council’s consideration.</p> <p>Documenting and Sharing Civic Story</p> <p>Integrated storytelling – using digital media, oral histories, and artist commissions – help to ensure these items resonate with current and future generations. This is especially important in Hume, where many residents may not have direct historical links to the original municipalities represented.</p> <p>Upcoming project in 2025/26:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget has been allocated from the Capital Program to commissioning a professional artist to develop new work in response to the Civic Collection. The commission is intended to facilitate engagement through interpretive practice rather than static exhibition alone. <p>Other 2025/26 initiatives to allow access and engagement in heritage and history:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A series of public talks and activations focused on the Civic Collection will take place. • A volunteer drive to encourage further participation in the preservation and digitisation of the Civic Collection will be launched. • The program to digitise the collection will continue which will allow greater online access through the Victorian Collections website. • A multiplatform resource which includes a brochure, website and interactive map of Hume’s Historic Sites of Significance is being developed. • The creation of an online appointment system to provide easier access to view Collection items. <p>Following the opening of the Sunbury Community Arts and Cultural Precinct at Jacksons Hill in late 2025, the existing gallery space at the Hume Global Learning Centre - Sunbury will be transitioned to focus exclusively on heritage and</p>
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REPORT NO: 8.8 (cont.)

	<p>history exhibitions, to enhance the visibility, preservation, and educational value of the broader Civic Collection to the Hume community.</p> <p>Officers will continue to facilitate the loan of Collection items to community organisations and history and heritage groups, such as the current loan to the Broadmeadows Historical Society of Andrew Capman and Wolfgang Sievers photographs taken at the Ford Motor Company.</p> <p>Pending Council’s interest in undertaking bespoke projects that further document Hume’s civic story, such as creating a publication or a local history book, there is the opportunity to refer an additional amount (i.e. \$50,000) to the 2026/27 budget process for Council’s consideration.</p>
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10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 This report identified initiatives and opportunities to further preserve, maintain and enhance Hume’s Civic Collection, seeking to provide increased opportunity for future generations to research, access and celebrate the unique history and heritage of Hume.

REPORT NO:	8.9
REPORT TITLE:	Response to Local Government Rate Cap Mechanism Statutory Review – 2025
SOURCE:	Joel Kimber, Head of Government Relations & Advocacy Robert Costa, Manager Finance
DIVISION:	Customer & Strategy
FILE NO:	HCC15/402
POLICY:	-
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:	SO4.2 An organisation that demonstrates leadership and strong advocacy.
ATTACHMENTS:	1. <i>Local Government Rate Cap Mechanism Statutory Review - 2025 Terms of Reference</i> 2. <i>Hume City Council Submission</i>
RELATED PREVIOUS ITEMS	9.3 - Submission to State Government on Cost Shifting and Financial Sustainability - Council Meeting - 24 Jun 2024 7.00pm

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No Council officers involved in the preparation of this Report have a general or material interest in relation to the matters for consideration.

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT:

- 1.1 The Victorian Government is undertaking the Local Government Rate Cap Mechanism Statutory Review – 2025 and are seeking feedback from community.
- 1.2 This provides Council with an opportunity to put forward our suggestions on how rate capping has impacted our Council and the wider Local Government sector.
- 1.3 The attached submission outlines several recommendations that reinforce our messaging from the 2024 *Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services*.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

- 2.1 That Council endorses the attached submission to be sent to the *Victorian Government’s Local Government Rate Cap Mechanism Statutory Review – 2025*.

3. LEGISLATIVE POWERS & POLICY CONTEXT:

- 3.1 Local Government Act, 1989; and
- 3.2 Local Government Act, 2020.

4. OVERARCHING GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES:

This Report supports Council is giving effect to the following Overarching Governance Principles:

- a) Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law;

REPORT NO: 8.9 (cont.)

- b) priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;
- c) the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted;
- f) collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought;
- g) the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured;
- i) the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

5. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

5.1 CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

The human rights relevant to this Report are:

- Right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief (section 14)
- Right to freedom of expression (section 15)
- Right to peaceful assembly and freedom of association (section 16)
- Right to take part in public life (section 18)

The above rights are not being limited by the recommended action in this Report.

5.2 GENDER EQUALITY ACT 2020

This Report does not relate to a development or review of a policy, program or service; therefore a Gender Impact Assessment was not required.

6. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

6.1 There were no costs involved in preparing the submission as it was completed using existing staff resources.

6.2 Rate-Capping:

6.2.1 Underfunding: The rate cap may result in insufficient revenue to cover the rising costs of maintaining and renewing community assets and delivering essential services.

6.2.2 Service Reductions: Limited financial resources could force Council to cut back on services, negatively impacting the community.

7. OPPORTUNITIES & RISKS:

This review provides an opportunity for Council to reinforce its already stated public position on the need for the Victorian Government to recognise that CPI (Consumer Price Index) should not be the measure in which the rate cap should be defined but that there should be a Local Government Cost index which takes into account the actual costs of Councils delivering services, projects and programs.

REPORT NO: 8.9 (cont.)

8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

No community engagement was undertaken or is proposed with respect to this submission.

9. DISCUSSION:

9.1 Rate Capping

- 9.1.1 Council's revenue primarily comes from rates and charges, supplemented by grants, user fees, and statutory fees. Since 2016, rate capping, which limits Councils from raising rates beyond a cap typically tied to the CPI, has been in effect. However, the costs for local government, particularly in staffing, service delivery, and infrastructure renewal, have been rising significantly more than the CPI, posing financial challenges.
- 9.1.2 The introduction of rate capping under the Victorian Government's Fair Go Rates System (FGRS) has brought a renewed focus to Council's long-term financial sustainability. The FGRS continues to restrict Council's ability to raise revenue above the rate cap unless application is made to the Essential Services Commission for a variation. The FGRS cap is set at 2.75% for 2024/25.
- 9.1.3 The current rate cap system is not providing sufficient rate revenue to match the actual increase in the cost base of existing services and infrastructure, as outlined by the ESC in providing advice to the Minister. The inadequacy of the rate cap is evident in the experience of NSW, where the rate peg has led many councils to apply for large special variations to address its impact, resulting in significant rate shocks across NSW communities.

9.2 Local Government Rate Cap Mechanism Statutory Review – 2025

- 9.2.1 In 2016, the Victorian Government introduced rate capping to restrict the amount that councils can raise their rates each year. The Minister for Local Government is responsible for setting the annual rate cap amount.
- 9.2.2 The legislative mechanism for the rate cap is set out in Part 8A of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act). Section 185G of the Act states that the Minister for Local Government and the Minister administering the *Essential Services Commission Act 2001* (the Minister for Finance) must ensure a review of Part 8A of the Act is completed by 31 December 2021 and every four years thereafter.
- 9.2.3 The Hon Nick Staikos MP, Minister for Local Government and the Hon Danny Pearson MP, Minister for Finance have approved the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the 2025 rate cap mechanism statutory review. A copy of the ToR is included at Attachment 1.
- 9.2.4 The Department of Government Services (DGS) conducted a process to identify a suitably qualified and experienced supplier to conduct the review in an objective and independent manner. Following this, ACIL Allen have been appointed to conduct the 2025 statutory review of the rate cap mechanism.
- 9.2.5 The ToR require the review to include consultation with relevant stakeholders and the public and the production of a final report by December 2025.
- 9.2.6 The review will include consultation with councils, State Government entities and agencies and other parties including, but not limited to:

REPORT NO: 8.9 (cont.)

- (a) Municipal Association of Victoria, LGPro, Australian Services Union, FinPro, Victorian Local Governance Association, other local government peak bodies and ratepayer groups
 - (b) Essential Services Commission
 - (c) State Government Departments including Treasury and Finance, Premier and Cabinet, and Government Services
 - (d) Individual ratepayers.
- 9.2.7 It is expected that the review will draw upon relevant reports and documents including, but not limited to:
 - (a) Publications, reviews, studies and reports undertaken by the ESC, including the 2015-16 work to develop the rate cap mechanism along with reports from integrity bodies such as VAGO, Local Government Inspectorate and Ombudsman Victoria.
 - (b) The Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee Inquiry into Rate Capping Policy (multiple reports)
 - (c) Other relevant Parliamentary inquiries and reports
 - (d) Publicly available datasets and data derived from public sources such as council financial reports and budgets.
- 9.2.8 The review will produce a final report that must be completed no later than 17 December 2025. The report must contain the conclusions and findings of the review as well as any recommendations considered appropriate and within these Terms of Reference. The review’s final report will be published on the Department of Government Services website.
- 9.2.9 Terms of Reference
 - (a) The 2025 review will examine:
 - (i) Whether the rate cap has achieved its original policy aims to:
 - (i) contain escalating costs for all ratepayers, and
 - (ii) strengthen rating discipline and transparency (by councils).
 - (ii) The effect of the rate cap on councils’ financial planning and management practices.
 - (iii) Determining and substantiating any barriers to councils seeking a higher rate cap via application to the ESC.
- 9.2.10 The review is to make findings on the above and any recommendations as considered appropriate.
- 9.2.11 The review will not consider:
 - (a) The Government’s overarching policy of limiting local government rate increases.
 - (b) The merits of a rate cap applying to rates of individual properties or property categories and types (noting councils have rating powers available to them now to effect this)
 - (c) The quality or merit of previous individual applications by councils to the ESC for a higher cap (both successful and unsuccessful) or a review of any decisions by the ESC with regard to individual applications by councils.
 - (d) previous decisions by the Minister for Local Government in setting the rate cap amount

REPORT NO: 8.9 (cont.)

- (e) matters that were within the scope of the 2019-20 Local Government Rating System Review including:
 - (i) local government rates and charges levied under the Local Government Act 1989 and a number of other pieces of State legislation;
 - (ii) the rating system’s interaction with the State’s taxation, valuation and related systems;
 - (iii) current rating exemptions and concessions.

9.3 Council’s submission

9.3.1 Council’s submission (Attachment 2) outlines the following:

- (a) That Local government plays a vital role in delivering essential services and infrastructure that support community wellbeing, growth, and liveability.
- (b) The introduction of rate capping has helped Councils contain its own costs but has not been cognisant of the costs for delivering the wide variety of services, programs and projects local communities need.
- (c) For growth councils such as Hume, the challenges are magnified. Population and household growth requires new and expanded services, major infrastructure investment, and ongoing maintenance of new community assets—all within a capped revenue environment.
- (d) The Victorian Government’s additional housing targets for every local government area means that while Council believes it can meet this need to help ease the housing crisis, this comes with significant additional cost to operating and capital budgets that is not met through infrastructure levies and impacted by the rate cap. Recognition of the costs of additional growth should be reflected in an additional levy that could be applied in a sliding scale to recognise different levels of growth
- (e) State and Federal Government cost shifting continues to add financial burden to councils.
- (f) A reduction in Government grants means that Councils now have greater responsibility to deliver projects on their own.
- (g) Many Developer Contribution Projects (DCP)/Infrastructure Contribution Projects (ICP) require Councils to fund works ahead of receiving contributions from developers. In some cases, projects are not fully funded by contributions, creating a shortfall that must be met from general rates revenue—revenue which is already capped. This creates cashflow challenges and diverts funds away from other priorities.
- (h) This places long-term financial sustainability at risk and forces councils into difficult decisions about which projects and services can be funded, and which must be delayed and.
- (i) The CPI measure for guiding the capping of rates is not reflective of the actual costs of delivering services for Local Government

9.3.2 In line with Hume City Council’s submission to the Victorian Parliament’s *Inquiry into Local Government funding and services*, the following recommendations are put forward:

REPORT NO: 8.9 (cont.)

- (a) That the CPI measure be replaced with a Local Government Cost Index. This index should be developed to reflect the actual cost base of councils, including:
 - (i) Wage growth in line with enterprise agreements.
 - (ii) Construction and materials cost inflation.
 - (iii) Asset maintenance and renewal costs.
 - (iv) Compliance and regulatory obligations.
 - (v) Recognise cost-shifting impacts from other levels of government in the rate cap setting.
 - (b) Introduce an additional rate cap allowance that reflects population and household growth, recognising that growth places significant pressure on operating and capital budgets
 - (c) Reform the higher cap application process to reduce administrative burden, align with budget cycles, and address political and community pressures.
- 9.3.3 These changes would maintain fairness to ratepayers while ensuring councils remain financially sustainable and able to deliver essential services and infrastructure.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 The opportunity to respond to the Victorian Government’s Local Government Rate Cap Mechanism Statutory Review – 2025 provides another platform to highlight the need for the Victorian Government to review the measure on who the rate cap is set.
- 10.2 It reinforces our position put forward in our submission to the *Victorian Parliament’s Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services* that a shift to a Local Government Cost Index, coupled with growth-based adjustments, recognition of cost-shifting pressures, and a more practical higher cap process, would create a more equitable and effective system for all Victorian councils.

Local Government Rate Cap Mechanism Statutory Review – 2025

Terms of Reference

Introduction

In 2016, the Victorian Government introduced rate capping to restrict the amount that councils can raise their rates each year.

The legislative mechanism for the rate cap is set out in Part 8A of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the ‘Act’). It allows the Minister for Local Government to set a limit on the amount by which councils can increase general rate revenue each year.

Section 185G of the Act states that the Minister for Local Government and the Minister administering the *Essential Services Act 2001* (the Assistant Treasurer) must ensure a review of Part 8A of the Act is completed by 31 December 2021 and every four years thereafter. The 2021 review was completed in December 2021, focussing on the administration of the rate cap and associated processes.

The Terms of Reference for the Local Government Rate Capping Mechanism - 2025 Review are as follows.

Scope of the Review

The Review is required to consider the following (as per s 185G of the Act):

- whether the mechanism for setting a cap on rates set out in Part 8A of the Act is still appropriate, and
- whether Part 8A of the Act is effective or needs to be amended.

The 2025 review will examine:

- Whether the rate cap has achieved its original policy aims to:
 - contain escalating costs for all ratepayers, and
 - strengthen rating discipline and transparency (by councils).
- The effect of the rate cap on councils’ financial planning and management practices.
- Determining and substantiating any barriers to councils seeking a higher rate cap via application to the ESC.

The review is to make findings on the above and any recommendations as considered appropriate.

Out of Scope

The review will not consider:

- The Government’s overarching policy of limiting local government rate increases.
- The merits of a rate cap applying to rates of individual properties or property categories and types (noting councils have rating powers available to them now to effect this).

1 Local Government Rate Cap Mechanism Statutory Review 2025 – Terms of Reference

- The quality or merit of previous individual applications by councils to the ESC for a higher cap (both successful and unsuccessful) or a review of any decisions by the ESC with regard to individual applications by councils.
- previous decisions by the Minister for Local Government in setting the rate cap amount
- matters that were within the scope of the 2019-20 Local Government Rating System Review including:
 - local government rates and charges levied under the *Local Government Act 1989* and a number of other pieces of State legislation;
 - the rating system’s interaction with the State’s taxation, valuation and related systems;
 - current rating exemptions and concessions.

Consultation

The review will include consultation with councils, State Government entities and agencies and other parties including, but not limited to:

- Municipal Association of Victoria, LGPro, Australian Services Union, FinPro, Victorian Local Governance Association, other local government peak bodies and ratepayer groups
- Essential Services Commission
- State Government Departments including Treasury and Finance, Premier and Cabinet, and Government Services
- Individual ratepayers.

It is expected that the review will draw upon relevant reports and documents including, but not limited to:

- Publications, reviews, studies and reports undertaken by the ESC, including the 2015-16 work to develop the rate cap mechanism along with reports from integrity bodies such as VAGO, Local Government Inspectorate and Ombudsman Victoria.
- The Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee Inquiry into Rate Capping Policy (multiple reports)
- Other relevant Parliamentary inquiries and reports
- Publicly available datasets and data derived from public sources such as council financial reports and budgets.

Reporting

The review will produce a final report that must be completed no later than 17 December 2025. The report must contain the conclusions and findings of the review as well as any recommendations considered appropriate and within these Terms of Reference. The review’s final report will be published on the Department of Government Services website.

Hume City Council response to Local Government Rate Cap Mechanism Statutory Review – 2025

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1. Executive Summary

Local government strongly supports the intent of the Fair Go Rates System in protecting ratepayers from excessive increases. However, the current mechanism—linking the rate cap to CPI—does not reflect councils’ real cost base, particularly for high-growth municipalities. The result is a system that erodes financial sustainability, constrains long-term planning, and limits councils’ ability to meet growing community needs.

Additional Government policy, such as the Victorian Government’s Housing targets, places additional pressure on Local Government to fulfill these obligations in the face of a rate-capped environment. While Council believes it can meet this need, this places additional costs to operating and capital budgets that is not met through infrastructure levies. Recognition of the costs of additional growth should be reflected in an additional levy that could be applied in a sliding scale to recognise different levels of growth.

We recommend reforming the framework by introducing a Local Government Cost Index that better reflects council cost drivers, incorporating a growth allowance to recognise population and household pressures, recognising the impact of cost shifting from other levels of government, and streamlining the higher cap process to reduce administrative burden. These changes will preserve fairness to ratepayers while ensuring councils remain financially sustainable and able to deliver essential services and infrastructure.

2. Introduction

Local government plays a vital role in delivering essential services and infrastructure that support community wellbeing, growth, and liveability. Councils are responsible for maintaining community facilities, local roads, parks, and open spaces, while also delivering services such as waste collection, maternal and child health, and libraries.

The introduction of rate capping has helped Councils contain its own costs but has not been cognisant of the costs for delivering the wide variety of services, programs and projects local communities need. For growth councils such as Hume, the challenges are magnified. Population and household growth requires new and expanded services, major infrastructure investment, and ongoing maintenance of new community assets—all within a capped revenue environment. This places long-term financial sustainability at risk and forces councils into difficult decisions about which projects and services can be funded, and which must be delayed.

The CPI measure for guiding the capping of rates is not reflective of the actual costs of delivering services for Local Government. Its definition alone – “*an important economic indicator that measures the change in the price of a 'basket' of goods and services, which account for expenditure by households in capital cities*”¹ is evidence that it cannot be used comparatively to account for the delivery of capital works, payment of staff, maintenance of assets and delivery of regulatory and compliance obligations.

Council's submission seeks the Victorian Government to undertake a review of this measure, to include an additional allowance to address growth and to reform the process to make it easier for Council's to apply for a higher cap.

¹ <https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/frequently-asked-questions-faqs-about-consumer-price-index>

3. Recommendations

In line with Hume City Council’s submission to the Victorian Parliament’s *Inquiry into Local Government funding and services*, the following recommendations are put forward:

1. That the CPI measure be replaced with a Local Government Cost Index. This index should be developed to reflect the actual cost base of councils, including:
 - a. Wage growth in line with enterprise agreements.
 - b. Construction and materials cost inflation.
 - c. Asset maintenance and renewal costs.
 - d. Compliance and regulatory obligations.
 - e. Recognise cost-shifting impacts from other levels of government in the rate cap setting.
2. Introduce an additional rate cap allowance that is directly linked to the Victorian Government’s housing supply targets that reflects both the significant pressure this growth places on operating and capital budgets and the importance of providing timely provision of infrastructure and services to new communities, commensurate with those available to Melbourne’s more established areas.
3. Reform the higher cap application process to reduce administrative burden, align with budget cycles, and address political and community pressures.

These changes would maintain fairness to ratepayers while ensuring councils remain financially sustainable and able to deliver essential services and infrastructure.

4. Whether the rate cap has achieved its original policy aims to: contain escalating costs for all ratepayers, and strengthen rating discipline and transparency (by councils).

Council acknowledges and supports the intent of rate capping in protecting ratepayers from excessive increases in rates and charges. However, in its current form, the rate cap mechanism poses significant challenges to the financial sustainability of councils—particularly those experiencing strong population and household growth—while constraining our ability to meet the increasing demand for services and infrastructure.

Hume City Council's rates and charges income makes up approximately 64% of our underlying revenue. Council's adopted Revenue and Rating Plan 2021 – 2025 highlights the issues caused by the introduction of the Fair Go Rates System (rate capping) on long term financial sustainability and continues to restrict Council's ability to raise revenue to maintain service delivery levels and invest in community assets and infrastructure.

The current system, under which the cap is tied to CPI – but may be less than CPI - is not providing sufficient rate revenue. The cap does not match the actual increase in the cost base of existing services and infrastructure.

This is the experience of New South Wales, where the rate peg has led many councils to apply for large special variations to address its impact, resulting in significant rate shocks across NSW communities.

For growth councils, rate capping in its current form fails to recognise the additional financial demands created by rapidly increasing populations and households. While growth generates additional rates revenue, it also requires:

- The delivery of new and expanded services.
- The construction and maintenance of new community facilities, open spaces, and infrastructure.
- The ability to meet other external factors such as Government policy (Victorian Housing Targets etc)

Given all this, the current approach is inappropriate for the local government sector. CPI is a measure of household inflation and does not reflect the actual cost drivers of councils, which differ significantly from those of an average household.

5. The effect of the rate cap on councils’ financial planning and management practices.

The Essential Services Commission (ESC) has acknowledged the rate cap does not accurately represent local government costs which automatically puts Councils at a disadvantage. We believe the rate cap should be reviewed to be sensitive to the Local Government cost context.

Maintaining service delivery levels and investing in community assets remain key priorities for Council. Given the heavy dependence on rate revenue and the constraints of rate capping, which limits the ability to generate revenue beyond the cap, the Council faces the challenge of reducing reliance on property rates.

This necessitates identifying alternative revenue streams and funding opportunities. However, these opportunities are limited by legislated statutory fees and charges. Additionally, non-statutory fees and charges must be set at levels that ensure accessibility for all community members, regardless of their wealth or disposable income.

While Council’s overall cash holdings may appear high, the vast majority of these funds are tied to statutory reserves, provisions (such as employee entitlements and landfill rehabilitation), and funds held in trust. Our level of **unrestricted cash**—the only portion available for day-to-day decision-making—is limited. This distinction is critical, as the Essential Services Commission should assess councils’ financial capacity based on unrestricted rather than total cash.

The adjusted underlying result—one of the key sustainability indicators used by the ESC—continues to trend downwards under the rate capping regime. The inability of the cap to keep pace with the cost base has progressively eroded this measure, reducing the sector’s long-term capacity to fund services and infrastructure.

This would mean a review that has regard to employee and operating costs, as well as capital works costs, developer/infrastructure contributions and the impacts of State/Federal Government cost shifting which are particularly relevant to growth councils such as Hume.

Escalating costs to deliver projects

Council is experiencing cost escalations in our capital works projects which is placing additional pressure on Council’s financial sustainability.

In 2020 we opened our first pavilion Kalkallo, located in the north of our city. This facility provides male and female change facilities, shared community space, kitchen, storage and spaces for trainers and umpires and was delivered for \$1.7m.

In 2024 we opened a new pavilion in Mickleham with the same architect and builder engaged to do the works which also included male and female change facilities, shared community space, kitchen, storage and spaces for trainers and umpires. The project was delivered for \$3.3m – almost double the figure from only 4 years earlier. As a result of cost escalations like this, we have re-phased our entire capital works program, which means projects will be delivered later than expected.

Reduction in Government grants

The rising cost of delivering projects is further exacerbated with a reduction in the availability of competitive Victorian Government grants to provide opportunities for Council’s to partner with the Government to deliver community infrastructure projects.

The recent abolition of the Growing Suburbs Fund, which provided opportunities for growth Councils to compete for \$50 million in funding for community centres, open space, hubs and playspaces, has meant that we must deliver these types of projects without State support.

This on the back of a decrease in the amount of funding through Sport and Recreation Victoria. In 2019/20 Councils could compete for funding of up to \$3 million alone for aquatic centres.

Through the 2025/26 funding round the maximum funding available is \$500,000 for the redevelopment/upgrade to outdoor aquatic facilities that improve accessibility and participation such as leisure water, change rooms and energy or water efficiency upgrades, for example, heating of water spaces. This in a time where Infrastructure Victoria recommended *“In the next five years, increase funding to support local governments to plan and deliver libraries and aquatic recreation centres in Melbourne’s seven growth area municipalities” as “new aquatic centres can cost from \$50 million to \$70 million.”*²

As we progress to 2025, Mitchell Shire Council are currently planning a new Recreation Precinct which includes aquatic facilities. They have estimated the aquatic facilities will cost \$99 million³. This is further evidence that Councils cannot deliver this type of infrastructure alone.

Developer/Infrastructure Contributions

Many DCP/ICP projects require councils to fund works ahead of receiving contributions from developers. In some cases, projects are not fully funded by contributions, creating a shortfall that must be met from general rates revenue—revenue which is already capped. This creates cashflow challenges and diverts funds away from other priorities.

Councils have an obligation to complete all projects included in DCPs and ICPs, irrespective of escalating costs or changing needs, exposing them to significant financial risks. For instance, when the Sunbury South and Lancefield ICP was initially gazetted there was a theoretical funding gap of \$32.5 million due to the cap on the levy rate for community and recreation infrastructure. Council modelling for the lifetime of the ICP now indicates that this funding gap exceeds \$80 million (for both transport and community and recreation infrastructure). In less than 5 years the funding gap has almost tripled.

² Social infrastructure in Melbourne’s growth areas, Infrastructure Victoria, September 2021

³ <https://www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/council/advocacy/advocacy-priorities/greenhill-recreation-precinct-2>

Victorian Government's Housing Targets

In March 2025 the Victorian Government announced additional housing targets for every local government area, specifying their share of the extra 2.24 million homes that will be needed to accommodate Victoria's expected population growth. As a growth area Council Hume's housing target is to accommodate an additional net new dwellings by 2051 of 79,000 homes with a greenfield target of 53,500 homes and a non-greenfield target of 25,500.

While Council believes it can meet this need to help ease the housing crisis this comes with significant additional cost to operating and capital budgets that is not met through infrastructure levies and impacted by the rate cap. Recognition of the costs of additional growth should be reflected in an additional levy that could be applied in a sliding scale to recognise different levels of growth.

Cost Shifting

State and Federal Government cost shifting continues to add financial burden to councils. Under a rate-capped environment, these imposts can only be absorbed through reducing service levels, delaying capital works, or increasing borrowings—none of which are desirable outcomes for our community.

Traditionally, cost shifting has impacted areas like libraries and the school crossing supervision program. However, it is now encroaching into critical areas such as maternal and child health and building enforcement. Areas that were traditionally funded or at least partly funded by the state government have seen reduced funding in real terms over the years, or funding has ceased altogether. This expansion underscores cost shifting as a major concern, posing a serious threat to future financial sustainability and forcing councils to absorb the full cost of maintaining and delivering essential services.

The following outlines some of the current cost shifting impacts faced by Council:

- Libraries
- School Crossing Supervision
- Maternal and Child Health
- Early Years Infrastructure
- Citizenship Ceremonies
- Building Reform
- Planning
- Electrical Line Clearance

6. Determining and substantiating any barriers to councils seeking a higher rate cap via application to the ESC.

While the framework allows councils to apply for a higher cap, the process is resource-intensive, time-consuming, and creates uncertainty for both councils and communities. Specific barriers include:

- Short application timelines that conflict with the annual budget process, making it difficult to integrate higher cap decisions into long-term planning.
- High administrative and evidentiary requirements, including detailed financial modelling, service impact statements, and extensive community engagement, which require significant staff resources.
- Lack of certainty of outcome, meaning councils risk investing substantial time and cost into an application with no guarantee of success, while still being legally obliged to prepare a compliant budget.
- Potential for community confusion, as the higher cap process requires public consultation before knowing whether the application will be approved, leading to mixed messages about future rates.
- Political challenges for councillors, who may understand the financial sustainability implications of a capped environment but also face significant pressure to support their communities during a cost-of-living crisis. In such an environment, applying for a variation to the rate cap can be perceived as politically unpalatable, regardless of the long-term financial necessity.

For growth councils, these barriers are particularly problematic. The very factors that may justify a higher cap—such as new service demands, major infrastructure needs, or funding gaps in DCP/ICP projects—are also the factors that leave councils with fewer staff resources and tighter timelines to prepare such applications.

We recommend that the process be streamlined and aligned with the realities of council budget cycles, with greater transparency about assessment criteria and the potential for provisional approvals to reduce uncertainty.

7. Conclusion

We recommend that the rate cap framework be reformed to ensure it remains fair to ratepayers while also enabling councils to remain financially sustainable and responsive to community needs.

It is important to note that councils, including Hume, have already demonstrated restraint and efficiency. For example, staffing increases have been held below population growth, vacant positions have often been left unfilled to support wider organisational savings, and procurement processes have been strengthened to deliver value for money. Despite these measures, the financial pressures created by the current rate cap framework remain unsustainable.

A shift to a Local Government Cost Index, coupled with growth-based adjustments, recognition of cost-shifting pressures, and a more practical higher cap process, would create a more equitable and effective system for all Victorian councils.

REPORT NO:	9.1
REPORT TITLE:	NOM25/49 - Cr Naim Kurt - Road, Traffic and Safety Improvements
SOURCE:	David Fricke, Manager Assets
DIVISION:	Infrastructure & Assets
FILE NO:	HCC25/688

I hereby request that pursuant to Council's Governance Rules and Code of Conduct for Councillors that the following motion be included in the Agenda of the next Council Meeting.

1. Background Information:

Last month, another fatality occurred on Mickleham Road in Westmeadows, the fourth fatality in this general area over the past seven years. Congestion continues to increase along the southernmost section of Mickleham Road, particularly at the Broadmeadows Road intersection, including Bamford Avenue, and further along at the Broadmeadows Road and Johnstone Street/Deviation Road intersection as housing density increases further North in Hume. It is not uncommon for many residents to be delayed by half an hour or longer at this intersection and many feel unsafe in this area when travelling on foot or by vehicle, due to lack of traffic signalisation, slip lanes and pedestrian crossings.

These roads and intersections have been the subject of various General Business items and Notices of Motion from Councillors over the preceding two Council terms. Preliminary plans have previously been drawn up by Council's Assets team, however, as these roads are not municipal roads, Hume City Council has no direct responsibility or ability to fund improvements or treatments.

The Federal Government has recently announced increased funding for road and safety projects through programs including:

- Roads to Recovery Program
- Black Spot Program
- Active Transport Fund
- Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program
- Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program

With these expanded programs, there are renewed opportunities to secure Federal funding support for road and safety projects such as those required along Mickleham Road and surrounding intersections.

This motion seeks officers to recommit and present previous planning work, identify relevant funding programs, and explore advocacy pathways for these projects to be raised with the Department of Transport and Planning and/or the Minister for Roads and Road Safety for funding consideration.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

2.1 Receive a report and briefing identifying:

- 2.1.1 Options and plans for road, traffic, and safety improvements along the southern section of Mickleham Road, including the intersections with**

REPORT NO: 9.1 (cont.)

Broadmeadows Road, Bamford Avenue, and Johnstone Street/Deviation Road.

- 2.1.2 Previous preliminary plans prepared by Council's Assets team for these locations.**
- 2.1.3 Available State and Federal Government funding programs that could be applied to these projects, including but not limited to Federal funding programs mentioned within the background to this motion**
- 2.1.4 Potential advocacy approaches to progress these projects with the Department of Transport and Planning and/or the Minister for Roads and Road Safety.**

3. OFFICER COMMENTS

A report will be prepared for February 2026 to outline proposals that have previously been investigated on the southern part of Mickleham Road and Broadmeadows Deviation Road/Johnstone Street. The report will also address potential advocacy approaches as Mickleham Road is managed by the Victorian Government.

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