MANNINGHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA

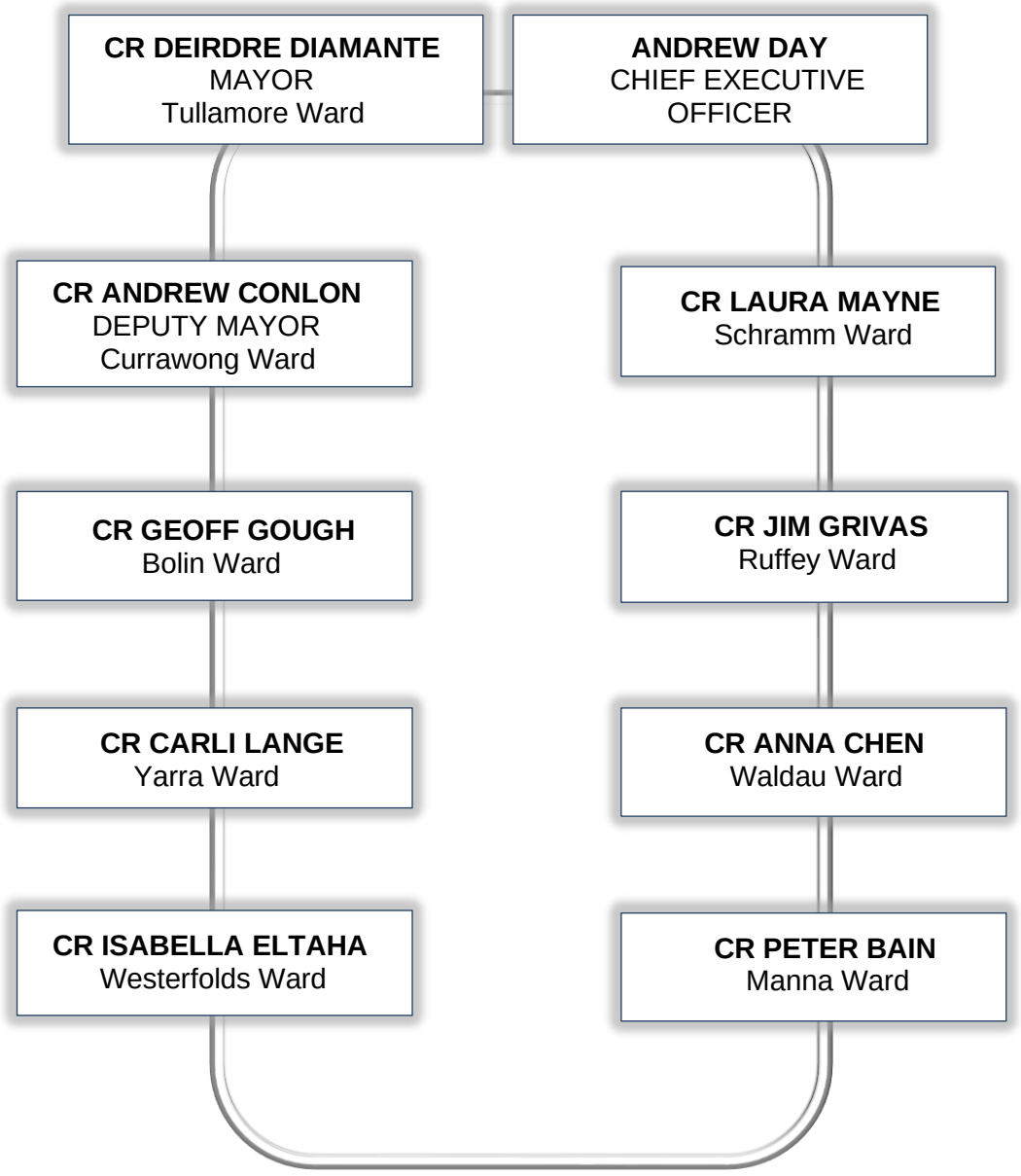
Date:	**Tuesday, 28 October 2025**
Time:	**7:00pm**
Location:	**Council Chamber, Civic Centre** **699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster**

This meeting is convened to transact the business listed below.

Andrew Day
Chief Executive Officer

This meeting will be livestreamed. Members of the public who address Council will be heard on the live audio stream, and audio of them speaking will be recorded. All reasonable efforts will be made to avoid capturing live or recorded video footage of public attendees however there might be incidental capture.

COUNCIL MEETING SEATING PLAN



INDEX

1 WELCOME 2
2 APOLOGIES AND REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE 2
3 PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST 2
4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 2
5 PRESENTATIONS 2
6 PETITIONS 3
7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME 9
8 ADMISSION OF URGENT BUSINESS 9
9 PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATIONS 9
10 CITY PLANNING AND LIVEABILITY 10
10.1 Manningham Recreational Bike Facilities Plan 2025 10
10.2 Draft Integrated Water Management Strategy for Community Consultation 118
11 CONNECTED COMMUNITIES 226
11.1 Creative Communities Framework 226
12 CITY SERVICES 247
12.1 Open Space and Landscape Construction Services Panel Contract Award 247
13 EXPERIENCE AND CAPABILITY 253
13.1 Review of Flying Flags in the Civic Precinct Policy 253
13.2 Our Advocacy Priorities 267
13.3 Annual Report 2024-25 274
13.4 Audit and Risk Committee Chair's Biannual Report 601
13.5 Council Meeting Schedule for 2026 612
13.6 Informal Meetings of Councillors 615
13.7 Documents for Sealing 631
14 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER 633
15 NOTICES OF MOTION 634
15.1 Notice of Motion by Cr Deirdre Diamante (NOM No. 1/2025) 634
15.2 Notice of Motion by Cr Anna Chen (NOM No. 2/2025) 636
16 URGENT BUSINESS 637
17 COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND QUESTION TIME 637
18 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS 637
18.1 Planning Scheme Amendment C125mann - Yarra Valley Country Club 637
18.2 Submission - Revised Clause 57 Mid-rise Residential Standards 637
18.3 CEO Employment Matters 637

1 WELCOME

2 APOLOGIES AND REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3 PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23 September 2025.

5 PRESENTATIONS

6 PETITIONS

In accordance with sub rule 58.9 of the Governance Rules, once a written response has been issued to the lead petitioner it will be tabled at the next Council meeting for noting.

The written responses to the petitions listed below are attached on the following pages.

- Pedestrian Safety Measures and Wildlife Protection on Porter Street,Templestowe
- Gum Nut Gully Preschool Relocation
- Doncaster Rovers Soccer Club

Petition Name	Pedestrian Safety Measures and Wildlife Protection on Porter Street,Templestowe
Council Meeting Date	26 August 2025
Council Meeting Item Number	Item 6.1
Response Date	8 October 2025 via correspondence (attached below)

MANNINGHAM
Return Address:
PO Box 1
DONCASTER
VIC 3108

8 October 2025

[redacted]

Ref: MC1042860

Dear [redacted]

Re: MC1042860 - Pedestrian Safety and Wildlife Protection along Porter Street, Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road and Fitzsimons Lane, Templestowe

Thank you for your heartfelt petition and for raising concerns about wildlife safety and speed limits along arterial roads in our municipality. We value the community's commitment to protecting local fauna and share your concern for the wellbeing of wildlife in our region.

While arterial roads fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), not Council, we understand the importance of advocating for measures that enhance safety for both wildlife and road users. Council is not supportive of installing speed humps on arterial roads, as these roads are designed to facilitate the efficient movement of traffic, and such treatments are not aligned with their primary function.

However, we have taken proactive steps within our scope to address this issue. Council officers have deployed a Variable Message Sign (VMS) board to raise driver awareness about wildlife in the area. This educational approach aims to encourage more cautious driving behaviour, especially during times when wildlife is most active.

Additionally, we continue to work with DTP to explore opportunities for reduced speed zones where appropriate and in alignment with their guidelines. These collaborative efforts are aimed at balancing road safety, traffic efficiency, and environmental stewardship.

Council officers have provided a response to the list of key requests in the petition and these are outlined below:

1. **Reduce the speed limit to 60km/h along Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road, specifically from Newmans Road to Fitzsimons Lane and Fitzsimons Lane from Porter Street to Summerhill Road.**

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In our advocacy conversations with DTP, we can confirm that this section of Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road is being considered for a lower 60km/h limit. Council supports the lowered speed limit and will continue to advocate for this.

We note that the length of Fitzsimons Lane is a busy divided arterial road with limited access, and DTP are less likely to support any speed limit changes in the context of its entire length and function.

2. **Install traffic calming measures, such as wombat crossings, pedestrian crossings, and speed humps along Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road and Fitzsimons Lane to improve pedestrian safety and slow traffic.**

   As noted, traffic calming treatments such as road humps and wombat crossings are not generally implemented on arterial roads because they conflict with the arterial road's role in the network and can create delays particularly for emergency vehicles. As such both Council and DTP do not support the installation of road humps or raised pedestrian crossings on arterial roads.

3. **Install traffic lights at the intersection of Church Road and Porter Street, Templestowe, to enhance pedestrian safety and reduce the risk of accidents.**

   In our advocacy conversations with DTP, it was noted that this intersection has no recorded crash history for the last 5 year period. This is one of the main indicators DTP uses when intersections are prioritised for funding, as such DTP are currently not supportive of the request to installation traffic lights at this location.

4. **Install wildlife signage at regular intervals along Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road, Fitzsimmons Lane and Reynolds Rd.**

   Wildlife warning signs do exist on Fitzsimons Lane along the Westerfolds Park frontages. These signs are located in an area with a higher likelihood of continued wildlife activity due to their proximity to the park.

   As noted, a temporary and mobile approach is the installation of electronic Variable Message Signs (VMS) can be deployed in the periods of notable increase in animal activity.

   In response to community concerns, Council have determined to deploy VMS at strategic locations along Porter Street and have recently obtained approval from DTP (for display of the VMS on Porter Street between 22 September – 27 October 2025.

5. **Implement Virtual Fencing on Porter Street between Newmans Road to Niland Rise.**

   Any future roll out of virtual fencing will be prioritised by our environment team and it will likely target Council managed roads.

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We appreciate your advocacy and encourage ongoing dialogue with both Council and DTP to support long-term solutions for wildlife protection

Council will continue to liaise with DTP and advocate for the community.

We would also encourage you contact the State Government department as the coordinating road authority of these roads reiterating the concerns.

Please contact [redacted] or if you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,

Andrea Szymanski
Manager Infrastructure & Sustainable Operations

D25/69583

Petition Name	Gum Nut Gully Preschool Relocation
Council Meeting Date	23 September 2025
Council Meeting Item Number	Item 6.1
Response Date	14 October 2025 via correspondence (attached below)

MANNINGHAM

Return Address:
PO Box 1
DONCASTER
VIC 3108

14 October 2025

Ref: MC1044893

[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

Re: Petition – Gum Nut Gully Preschool Proposed Relocation

Council acknowledges receipt of the online petition with 967 signatories requesting Council to abandon the proposed relocation of Gum Nut Gully Preschool to Corsican Reserve.

It is advised that Council officers will investigate the matters raised in the petition and will be in contact to follow up.

In the interim, should you have any further queries regarding the above matter, please feel free to contact [redacted]

Yours sincerely,

Emma Michie
Manager Community Participation

CO25/35945

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Petition Name	Doncaster Rovers Soccer Club
Council Meeting Date	23 September 2025
Council Meeting Item Number	Item 6.2
Response Date	14 October 2025 via correspondence (attached below)

MANNINGHAM

Return Address:
PO Box 1
DONCASTER
VIC 3108

14 October 2025

Ref: MC1049112

[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

Re: Petition – Doncaster Rovers Soccer Club

Council acknowledges receipt of the petition with 557 signatories requesting Council to bring back Friday Night Seniors' Games at the Doncaster Rovers Soccer Club.

It is advised that Council officers will investigate the matters raised in the petition and will be in contact to follow up.

In the interim, should you have any further queries regarding the above matter, please feel free to contact [redacted]

Yours sincerely,

Emma Michie
Manager Community Participation

CO25/35942

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7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

8 ADMISSION OF URGENT BUSINESS

9 PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATIONS

There are no planning permit applications for consideration this month.

10 CITY PLANNING AND LIVEABILITY

10.1 Manningham Recreational Bike Facilities Plan 2025

File Number: IN25/778

Responsible Director: Director City Planning and Liveability

Attachments:
1 Consultation Summary Report - Draft Recreational Bike Facilities Plan ⇩
2 Manningham Recreational Bike Facilities Plan 2025 ⇩

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present the final Manningham Recreational Bike Facilities Plan 2025 to Council for endorsement following community consultation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A draft Recreational Bike Facilities Plan was developed to seek community interest in the development of these types of facilities at a range of sites across Manningham. The draft plan was made public for community consultation between 19 May to 22 June 2025 and there has been overwhelming support for the recommendations in the draft plan.

During the community consultation there was high participation with 704 surveys returned, with 85% of survey respondents indicating they support the general directions of the draft plan and 80% of survey respondents supporting the development of these facilities. A full assessment was undertaken of submissions received and this has been documented in the Consultation Summary Report.

The draft plan has now been finalised to reflect the consultation feedback received. The Final Manningham Recreational Bike Facilities Plan 2025 is included as Attachment 1 together with the consultation summary report. Officers are seeking Council support to endorse the final plan so implementation to deliver these facilities for our community can commence.

1. RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

A. Endorse the report, Attachment 1, Manningham Recreational Bike Facilities Plan 2025 and Attachment 2, Consultation Summary Report.

B. Note that officers will commence implementation of the high priority action commencing with Fitzsimons Reserve in Templestowe, this financial year.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 A draft Recreational Bike Facilities Plan was developed to address the current unmet demand for facilities such as dirt jumps, pump tracks and flow trails in Manningham. It fulfills Council's commitment to investigate the opportunity to provide these facilities as part of the Sports Facility Development Plan, Stage 2 and to construct purpose-built facilities for our community as part of the consultation and removal of the Blackburn dirt jumps.

2.2 The draft plan proposed the development of 8 new facilities across Manningham over the next 10 years, to provide our community access to a diverse range of facilities where they can practice and participate in a diverse range of recreational riding to develop their skills, as well as the general enjoyment of riding their bikes.

2.3 The draft plan was presented to Council at its meeting on 29 April 2025 to seek Council support to commence community consultation. At this meeting, it was resolved that Council:

A. Endorse the Draft Recreational Bike Facilities Plan, for community consultation.

B. Note that following consultation, the Plan will be updated considering community feedback, before being subject to a future Council meeting seeking final endorsement.

2.4 Community consultation ran from 19 May to 22 June 2025 and there was high participation with 704 surveys returned, with overwhelming support for the project. 85% of survey respondents indicated they support the general directions of the draft plan and 80% of survey respondents support the development of these facilities. See paragraphs 3.1 – 3.17 of this report and Attachment 2, Consultation Summary Report for further detail.

2.5 The draft plan has now been finalised based on the community feedback and is being presented to Council for endorsement. See Attachment 1, Manningham Recreational Bike Facilities Plan 2025 (the plan).

2.6 The list of sites identified for future facilities include:

Table 1 Overview of proposed recommendations for new recreational cycling infrastructure

Site	**Facility and Focus**	**Scale**
Morris Williams Reserve, Bulleen	A pump track facility Beginner, intermediate and advanced users. The facility can be designed to include trails of varying difficulty.	Local
Fitzsimons Reserve, Templestowe	A set of flow trails A facility to accommodate most levels and allow for user progression.	Regional
Jenkins Park, Templestowe	Learn to ride track and a bike playground. A beginner/junior user focus.	Community
Zerbes Reserve, Doncaster East	Skills trail and bike playground A beginner user focussed facility that could be incorporated into the play space.	Community
Wonga Park Reserve, Wonga	Hybrid flow/jump line/trail A beginner/intermediate user course that	Community

Site	Facility and Focus	Scale
Park	upgrades the existing facility.	
Stintons Reserve, Park Orchards	Pump Track Beginner, intermediate and advanced users can be accommodated through the design of the track. This track may be designed as a technical track suitable for racing as a supporting facility to the BMX track.	Local
St Clems Reserve, Doncaster East	Skills Trail (scale reduced) Focus on beginner and intermediate user groups.	Community
Katrina Gully Reserve, Doncaster	Flow Trails To accommodate most users and allow for user progression.	Community

2.7 Following endorsement, officers will begin the implementation program to deliver the projects set out in the plan. This will include targeted community consultations on a draft concept design that is specific to the site. A second phase of more targeted community consultation will be undertaken which is further outlined in section 6.1.

2.8 The first project planned for delivery is flow trails at Fitzsimons Reserve in Templestowe in the 25/26 financial year. There is $285,000 nominated in the capital works budget to undertake the design and construction of this site.

2.9 The other projects identified will be prioritised for delivery in subsequent financial years and are dependent on a range of factors including coordinating with the timing of other works in a reserve, type of facility which will supplement the overall network, community support as well as other priorities that may emerge.

3. DISCUSSION / ISSUE

Community consultation summary

3.1 The draft plan was made available for community consultation between 19 May to 22 June 2025 via Council's YourSay page. There was also simplified information around the types of facilities and the proposals for each site available to ensure the community could understand what is envisaged at the relevant site.

3.2 The consultation aligned with IAP2 'consult' level, and aimed to gather feedback from key groups, including residents, families, young people, recreational cyclists, and clubs based in Manningham, Warrandyte Mountain Bike Club and Park Orchards BMX Club.

3.3 We employed multiple engagement methods including:

- YourSay page with background information and a dedicated survey to test community support for the draft plan;

- Letters sent to all residents within a 400m radius of each site (larger area for Fitzsimons Reserve due to low housing density)

- Targeted sessions with 4 schools (Doncaster Secondary College, Doncaster Primary School, St Clement of Rome Bulleen, Wonga Park Primary School) and 134 students near the proposed facilities. Note that 8 schools were invited (including Whitefriars College, Birralee Primary School, Donburn Primary School, Templestowe Park Primary School), however we only visited schools that were able to accommodate our visit. All schools in Manningham were sent an article to include in their newsletters to encourage their participation in the online survey;

- Briefings were also undertaken with Council advisory committees including the Youth (19 members), Recreation and Sport (16 members), Liveable Places and Spaces (17 members);

- Social media campaign to promote awareness and encourage participation in the online survey;

- Tailored site-specific signage about the proposed facilities, inviting community members to participate in the survey at each of the eight sites identified in the Plan;

- Digital and print media (organic and paid socials, eNewsletters, website, Manningham Matters); and

- Both the Warrandyte Mountain Bike Club and Park Orchards BMX Club were invited to have meetings with officers to discuss the proposals, however this offer was not taken up.

3.4 Officers did collaborate with the Warrandyte Mountain Bike Club to capture promotional images which they later used on their Facebook page to promote participation in the consultation.

3.5 Feedback received during this period:

- 2,600 visits to the YourSay page with 704 survey submissions.

- Feedback from 134 students through facilitated workshops across 3 primary and 1 secondary school.

- Feedback from the Youth Advisory Committee, Liveable Places and Spaces Advisory Committee and Recreation and Sport Advisory Committee.

- 5 CRM’s, 1 email and 1 community visit about the project.

Consultation results summary

3.6 There was strong community support for the proposals. The YourSay survey results showed that 86% of respondents support building a diverse range of bike riding facilities across Manningham, and 85.1% endorsing the plan's general direction. Notably, 31.1% of participants were aged 25 and under.

3.7 From the targeted sessions with schools and the Youth, and Recreation and Sport Advisory Committees, 83% indicated they thought having bike facilities in our parks are a good idea and 62% indicated having these facilities would encourage them to ride more.

3.8 The priority sites identified in both the YourSay survey and targeted consultations are Stintons Reserve, Wonga Park Reserve and Morris Williams Reserve.

3.9 The key themes that emerged from the YourSay survey are:

- **Support**; there is resounding support for Council to develop these types of facilities. Examples of such feedback include: "Great initiative!", "Please make this happen", "We need more mountain bike tracks", "Excited to see what's in store".
- **Design and construction quality**; respondents emphasised the importance of professionally built tracks and trails that are inclusive and cater to a wide range of users and skills levels.
- **Environmental sensitivity**; the importance of preserving the natural landscapes and wildlife corridors in proposed sites.
- **Safety and accessibility**; ensuring the spaces were safe to use and the safety of park users is preserved. Concerns around conflicts between bike users and other park users was raised including avoiding disruption to the existing quality of the park and its activities, the primary example given was dog walking.
- **Maintenance**; ensuring the facilities are retained at a high standard over time to preserve their usability.
- **Connectivity**; linking the facilities to each other and other trails, schools and activity centres.
- **Ancillary infrastructure**; the importance of facilities like toilets, water taps, seating and shelter.

3.10 Throughout the feedback, community members directly named the reserves, and provided clear suggestions and input tailored to those sites. This approach highlights the localised nature of the consultation, where residents shared ideas and concerns based on their familiarity with and use of each reserve.

3.11 It is also noted that some reserves received low response rates from the community. This will be addressed by officer commitment to further site-specific engagement to better understand local preferences, potential barriers, and unique considerations for these locations for each project.

3.12 The themes raised for the targeted consultations were similar:

- **Design and maintenance** – there were lots of requests for a well-designed facility that would provide an interesting challenge for users. Big jumps were mentioned several times. Ensuring ongoing maintenance to keep them at a high standard that would retain community interest in the facilities.

- **Ancillary infrastructure** – the importance of seating, shelter, toilets, signage and other types of facilities close by. The overarching sentiment was for spaces where people could hang out with their friends even if they didn't want to ride. There were lots of requests for having food and water close by, including multiple requests across the different school groups for a canteen.

- **Aesthetics** – Visually pleasing environments that included greenery and green spaces such as trees and gardens. Including artwork was another suggestion.

- **General support** – there was general support for the proposals and most groups thought it was a good idea. Although, some of the groups did identify that riders were the minority in their groups and questioned the value of providing dedicated facilities and their associated costs, when they would only cater to a small cross section of their community.

3.13 From the YourSay feedback, there was a small level of opposition to bike infrastructure in small parks with a potential conflict of uses raised as the primary concern, particularly around the safety of pedestrians and dog walkers. This was raised at Morris Williams (5 respondents), Fitzsimons Reserve (4 respondents), St Clems Reserve (4 respondents), Zerbes Reserve (4 respondents), and Jenkins Park (3 respondents). However, this was a small proportion of the overall 704 responses. Notably there were more respondents who provided supportive comments around facilities at each of these locations as well.

3.14 During the consultation period, we received 5 CRMs about the plan:

- 3 were directly opposed to recreational bike facilities at St Clems Reserve, raising perceived safety issues and anti-social behaviour that could come with the proposed trail layout and the presence of youth as well as aesthetic impact.
- One was a general query around the proposal at St Clems Reserve.
- One was from the Metro East Bicycle User Group expressing support for the plan and proposing the inclusion of a criterium track as a type of facility.

3.15 We received a detailed email in support of the draft plan from a member of the Recreation and Sport Advisory Group which focused on implementation refinements, enhanced community engagement strategies, and stronger integration with the Council's broader strategic objectives.

3.16 A community member who lives close to Katrina Gully came into the Council offices to request a paper survey and discuss the project. She expressed strong support for the proposal.

3.17 In response to community feedback for the St Clems Reserve site, we now recommend a smaller scale bike skills trail, in a restricted footprint in the northern section of the reserve for any future facility. A future 2-stage consultation will also

be undertaken to determine the level of community support for a facility at St Clems prior to going back to the community with a concept design.

Peer Review

3.18 Officers consulted with several Councils who have installed similar facilities and asked them to share any lessons learnt, installation costs, ongoing maintenance requirements and costs, as well as any recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour. Officers contacted Banyule, Boroondara, Maroondah, Moonee Valley, Monash, Nillumbik, Stonnington, Whitehorse, Whittlesea and Yarra Ranges.

3.19 In general, newly installed dirt jumps require 4-5 maintenance visits each year and cost the Councils around $20,000 per annum. Several maintenance officers told us construction in a more durable material such as asphalt or concrete reduces ongoing maintenance requirements, even though upfront costs for installation can be between 30-50% higher compared to a softer material like dirt or granitic gravel compounds. The cost schedules they shared for the maintenance of dirt tracks are very close to what has been included in the final plan, section 5.3 Table 5.

3.20 They also recommended using a professional company to design and construct the facilities, as it is a specialist skill, and this ensures the tracks are fun, challenging and cater for different skill levels and continue to engage users over time.

3.21 Many Councils raised the use of e-bikes causing damage as an issue on the soft surface tracks.

3.22 Whittlesea Council shared learnings about their pilot project, the Doreen Dirt Jumps at Painted Hills Recreation Reserve. This is a facility that has been built to replace illegal jumps removed from an environmentally sensitive area in a nearby park. There was initially local resistance to the project. However, following the implementation of the facility, they have had community members that were vocally against the project write in to say that they now support it and its outcomes after seeing the positive use by young adults and older children. Whittlesea Council also identified community ownership at the site, with user/community led stewardship encouraging good behaviour by park users.

3.23 In terms of the Councils that officers have consulted with, there has been no increased incidents of anti-social behaviour at newly installed sites.

3.24 On a positive note, Yarra Ranges Council shared that at a small pump track in Belgrave South, the design considered crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles with the aim of addressing the existing anti-social behaviour (vandalism, graffiti) and these activities have reduced significantly since the development of the new park. Maintenance crews used to attend the site weekly, but now only need to go every 4-6 weeks.

3.25 In response to community feedback, the proposed facility at St Clems Reserve has been scaled back in response to community concerns raised during the consultation process to a small scale facility in the northern section of the site.

3.26 Based on the positive feedback received for the overall Plan, it is recommended that all the proposed project sites be retained given the overall level of community support for the draft plan.

Implementation

3.27 Officers will conduct further feasibility studies, have designs developed by specialist companies and run community consultation for each site before any of the projects are delivered on-ground. Budget bids for each site will be made through the annual capital works budget process.

3.28 The proposed order of delivery for facilities is shown in table 2 below. This is to ensure an even distribution of facilities and opportunities for our communities across Manningham. This priority list also reflects the priorities as identified by the community with sites 2, 3 and 4 being the priority sites for the community as identified at paragraph 3.8.

3.29 Due to concerns raised in relation to the original proposed facility for St Clems Reserve and the low response rate for Katrina Gully, both of these sites will have a 2-stage consultation to first determine the level of community support for a facility prior to going back out to the community with a concept design.

Table 2 - prioritised order of delivery

Site	Facility type	Scale	FY
Fitzsimons Reserve, Templestowe	Flow trails	Regional	25/26
Stintons Reserve, Park Orchards	Pump track	Local	26/27
Morris Williams Reserve, Bulleen	Pump track	Local	27/28
Wonga Park Reserve, Wonga Park	Hybrid flow/jump line	Community	28/29
Zerbes Reserve, Doncaster East	Skills trail and bike playground	Community	30/31
Jenkins Park, Templestowe	Bike playground	Community	31/32
St Clems Reserve, Doncaster East	Small scale skills trail (reduced footprint)	Community	32/33
Katrina Gully, Doncaster	Flow trails	Community	33/34

4. COUNCIL PLAN / STRATEGY

4.1 This project is aligned to these Council strategies and the Council Plan.

- *Active for Life Recreation Strategy*, 2010-25 (Reviewed 2019) Outcome 1.5 - Ensure facility provision for a diverse range of active recreation opportunities, 3) Engage with Parks Victoria to determine the need to develop a MTB facility at Candlebark Park.; and

- *Sports Facility Development Plan* Stage 2 endorsed on 28 March 2023, Action 21 Consider the development of pump tracks at suitable locations

across the municipality, with further consideration to creating a balance in the number of pump tracks and dirt jumps provided.

4.2 Council Plan 2025-29 alignment:

Theme: Safe and Healthy Community

- Our community is active and healthy with improved wellbeing.

  2. Facilitate opportunities for the people of all life stages and abilities to participate in active living, recreation and sport.

Theme: Liveable Places and Spaces

- Our City is designed for safety, liveability and sustainable growth.

  2. Enable greater ease of movement in and around Manningham. (Panel)

  3. Plan, design and deliver our valued parks and open spaces to meet changing community needs. (Panel)

- Our infrastructure is fit for purpose and well maintained, and its utilisation is maximised.

  1. Provide quality, fit for purposed community facilities that maximise use and public value.

  2. Enhance the diversity, use and development of sport and recreation facilities throughout Manningham.

Theme: Well Governed and Innovative Council

- Our Council is innovative, well governed and values our community.

  1. Improve customer experience by delivering on Our Customer Promise (Panel).

  2. Be an open and transparent Council that is trusted to make evidenced base decisions.

5. IMPACTS AND IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Finance / Resource Implications

- The Recreational Bike Facilities Plan will assist in the scoping and prioritisation to inform capital works budget allocations in the 10-year program. There is commitment in the 10-year Capital Works Program budget to design and deliver recreational bike infrastructure.

- Costings of the projects will need to be further developed as the projects are designed and detailed for implementation.

- Ongoing maintenance costs will need to be budgeted for. The draft plan includes a nominated maintenance rate schedule and timeframes for this to occur; with 1-3% of development costs projected as an annual maintenance fee and renovation costs of between 5-10% potentially required every 5 years.

These facilities have a life span of approximately 20 years, dependant on the materiality, site conditions and patterns of use of each facility.

- Discussions have occurred and will continue with relevant internal teams including, Parks and Natural Environment and Infrastructure and Sustainable Operations to ensure a best value approach for Manningham. Councils with similar facilities have also been approached to understand how these facilities are developed and managed, and what kind of capital investment, maintenance requirements and associated costs are allocated within Council budgets. This includes, Banyule, Boroondara, Maroondah, Moonee Valley, Monash, Nillumbik, Stonnington, Whitehorse, Whittlesea and Yarra Ranges.

5.2 Gender Impact Assessment

A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) has been prepared for the development of this work.

In undertaking research into the different needs of woman/girls, men/boys and gender diverse people that may be impacted by this plan, the following needs have been identified:

- Better support infrastructure is needed such as seating, toilets, shade etc.
- Improved break out areas to allow rest and observation of other activities is required.
- Improved safe spaces and information to make people feel welcome in the space.
- Incentives to encourage participation and partnerships with organisations to bring people of diverse abilities and backgrounds into the space.
- Accommodating women’s preference for local/community sized facilities rather than regional scale facilities.

More specifically, the following actions have been identified to guide the development of each reserve:

- Inclusive design principles across all facilities
- Site by site assessment of supporting infrastructure
- Consideration of targeted programs such as female only sessions and disability inclusive programs
- Balanced planning that considers both active recreation and existing passive users (e.g. dog walking, quiet recreation)

6. IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 Communication and Engagement (refer to the Community Engagement

Is engagement required?	Yes Consultation was undertaken on the draft plan and its general direction. Further community consultation will be undertaken as the projects are progressed through planning and design.
Stakeholder Groups	1. Park users 2. Local residents 3. Facility users
Where does it sit on the IAP2 spectrum?	Consult. Each site will have a separate Communications and Engagement Plan to inform the community consultation and engagement. As a minimum, each consultation will have a new YourSay Manningham landing page and link back to the Bike Facility Plan. St Clems Reserve and Katrina Gully will have a 2-stage consultation with a targeted engagement undertaken prior to consulting on a draft concept.
Approach	Communication material (letter drops, website info, signs, social medial posts etc) Survey/Poll Information to relevant Advisory Groups and local schools and clubs.

6.2 Timelines

Council	28 October 2025	Present the final 'Manningham Recreational Bike Facilities Plan 2025' for endorsement.
Fitzsimons Reserve Development	November 2025 – June 2026	Implementation of first site. Development of a landscape plan for Fitzsimons Reserve including a dedicated flow trail facility for recreational cycling. Consultation on the landscape plan including the proposed flow trail facility. Finalise plan based on community feedback. Construction of the flow trail facility and opening event.

7. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest in this matter.

Draft Recreational Bike Facilities Plan

Community consultation and engagement summary

Interpreter service 9840 9355
Ελληνικά | 普通话 | 廣東話 | Italiano | فارسی | پښتو

MANNINGHAM

Contents

1 Introduction 1

1.1 Overview 1

2 Consultation & Engagement 4

3 Analysis of Survey Responses 7

4 School Survey Results 13

5 Advisory Committees Consultation Survey Results 17

6 Reserve Snapshot 21

6.1 Zerbes Reserve – Community Feedback Snapshot 22

6.2 Wonga Park Reserve – Community Feedback Snapshot 24

6.3 St Clems Reserve – Community Feedback Snapshot 26

6.4 Stintons Reserve – Community Feedback Snapshot 28

6.5 Morris Williams Reserve – Community Feedback Snapshot 30

6.6 Jenkins Park – Community Feedback Snapshot 32

6.7 Fitzsimons Reserve – Community Feedback Snapshot 34

6.8 Katrina Gully – Community Feedback Snapshot 36

MANNINGHAM

1 Introduction

This report summarises feedback from community consultation and engagement on the draft Recreational Bike Facilities Plan for Manningham. The responses reflect a broad spectrum of community interests, with a strong emphasis on inclusivity, safety, and quality infrastructure.

1.1 Overview

Many respondents expressed strong support for expanding recreational bike facilities. Many praised the initiative and offered detailed suggestions to enhance accessibility, safety, and enjoyment for riders of all ages and skill levels. Numerous comments included practical recommendations for facility design, location, and maintenance. There was a clear desire for professionally built tracks and inclusive planning.

Some respondents voiced concerns about environmental impact, safety in shared spaces, and the placement of facilities near residential areas or existing passive recreation zones.

Types of Bike Facilities Requested

Most Requested Features

- Pump Tracks: Widely supported, especially for children and beginners. Asphalt surfaces and professional construction were frequently recommended.
- Dirt Jumps / Jump Parks: Popular among youth and advanced riders. Respondents requested progressive jump lines and well-maintained features.
- Mountain Bike Trails / Flow Trails: Desired for all skill levels, with calls to formalise existing informal trails (e.g. Candlebark Park, and alongside the Main Yarra Trail).
- Skills Parks: Suggested for beginners and children to learn safely, often alongside pump tracks.

Additional Facility Types

- Bike Playgrounds / Traffic Schools: Recommended for young children to learn road safety in a fun environment.
- Velodromes: Occasionally mentioned for road cycling training.
- Downhill Tracks / Technical Trails: Requested by advanced riders for skill development and competition.
- Bike Repair Stations / Water Taps / Toilets: Infrastructure to support riders during longer rides.
- Separated Bike Paths: Emphasis on safe commuting routes and connections between parks and schools.

Key Themes from Feedback

Supportive Themes

- Strong interest in facilities that cater to all ages and skill levels.
- The proposed facilities were seen as a way to engage youth, promote outdoor activity, and foster social connections.
- Emphasis on using experienced trail builders to ensure safety and usability.
- Desire for linked trails and paths across Manningham and into surrounding areas.

Concerns Raised

- Requests for separation between bike facilities and pedestrian paths, especially in shared spaces.
- Concerns about preserving natural landscapes and avoiding disruption to wildlife and dog-walking areas.
- Opposition to placing facilities near homes or in small parks.
- Calls for ongoing upkeep and clear signage to ensure safe and respectful use.

Conclusion

The consultation revealed a strong community appetite for diverse and well-designed recreational bike facilities. While support was widespread, the feedback also highlighted the importance of thoughtful planning, safety considerations, and environmental stewardship and that this be resolved as part of the concept designs prepared for each site prior to further targeted community consultation. These insights should guide the future development to ensure facilities are inclusive, sustainable, and aligned with community values.

How we consulted

What we asked and who we heard from

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2 Consultation & Engagement

Engagement methods:

- Community survey (via YourSay Manningham)
- Letters sent to all residents within 400m radius of each site (larger area for Fitzsimons Reserve)
- Tailored site-specific signage
- Digital and print media (organic and paid socials, eNewsletters, website, Manningham Matters)
- Presentation and feedback at Youth Advisory Committee meeting
- Presentation and feedback at Recreation and Sport Advisory Committee meeting
- Presentation and feedback at Liveable Places and Spaces Advisory Committee meeting
- School-based workshops with tailored student surveys

Participating schools:

School	Engagement
Doncaster Secondary College	Year 9 class Year 10 class 31 survey responses
Doncaster Primary School	Class 6G 23 survey responses
St Clement of Rome Bulleen	SRC group 16 survey responses
Wonga Park Primary School	74 Grade 6 students participating
	64 survey responses

What we asked (via YourSay Manningham)

- Do you ride a bike?
- How often do you ride?
- What type of riding do you normally do? Select all that apply.
- What is your primary purpose for riding a bike?
- Do you support Council's proposal to start building a diverse range of bike facilities across Manningham?
- Do you support the general directions in the draft Recreational Bike Facilities Plan?
- Are there specific types of recreational cycling facilities you would like to see and where do you think they should be?
- Do you have any additional comments or suggestions about recreational bike facilities in Manningham?
- What is your gender?
- What age group do you belong to?
- What suburb do you live in?

Total engagement:

- 134 Students engaged through facilitated workshops across 3 primary and 1 secondary school
- 19 Youth Advisory Committee members consulted
- 16 Recreation and Sport Advisory Committee
- 17 Liveable Places and Spaces Advisory Committee
- 2.6k total visits to YourSay Manningham

Engagement response:

- 704 survey submissions received via YourSay Manningham
- 1 emailed paper survey
- 5 CRMs
- 40 Community posts via external Facebook pages including comments on Warrandyte MTB Club, and two posts on Plenty George MTB Group Facebook pages. These comments demonstrated general community support for Recreational Bike Facilities across Manningham.

Survey Analysis

Overall analysis and themes

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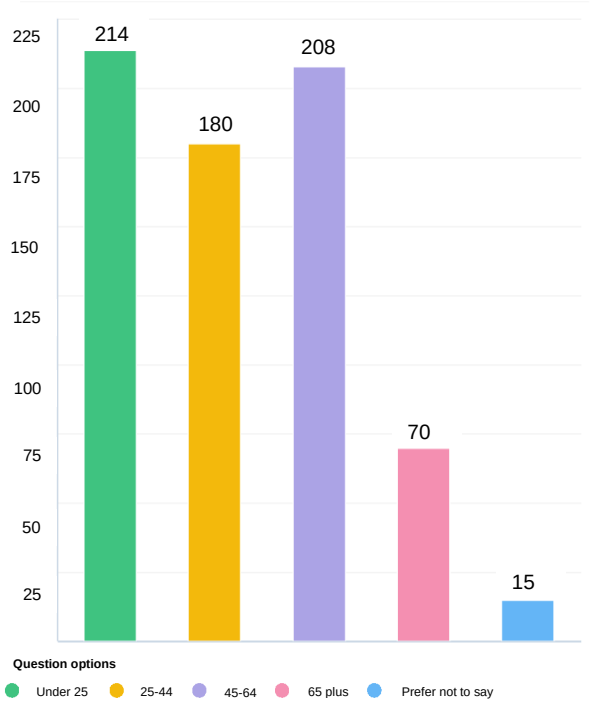
3 Analysis of Survey Responses

Demographic Profile of Respondents:

- Age Group of Respondents



The largest proportion of respondents were under 25 years old (214 responses- 30%), followed closely by the 45–64 age group (208 responses- 29.5%).
The 25–44 age group accounted for 180 responses- 25.5%, while 70 respondents 10% were aged 65 and over.
A small number, 15 respondents, selected 'Prefer not to say'.

This distribution shows strong participation across all main age categories, with the highest engagement from younger people (under 25) and those aged 45–64

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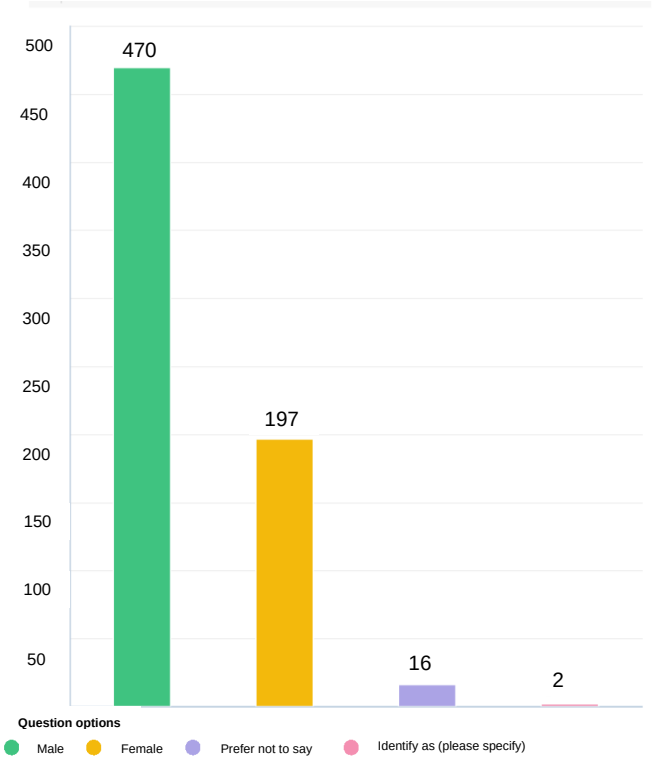
- Gender of Respondents

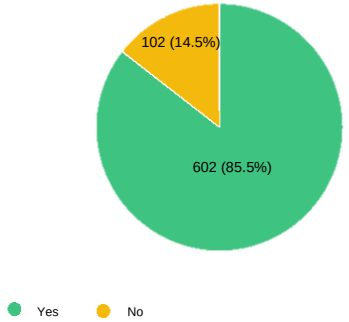


The majority identified as male (470 respondents- 66%), while 197 respondents- 28% identified as female. A smaller proportion, 16 respondents, selected 'Prefer not to say', and 2 respondents identified as 'other'.

This indicates that the respondent group was predominantly male, with female participation also notable, and a very small proportion choosing not to disclose or identifying as 'other'.

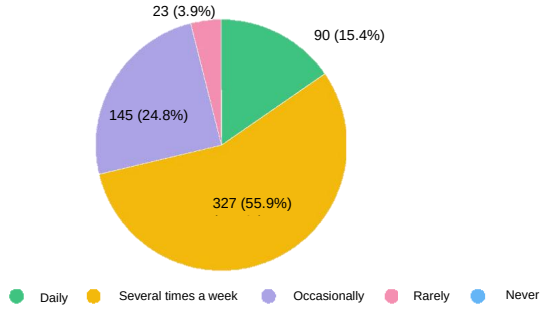
Cycling Behaviour (riding habits) of respondents

- Participation – Do you ride a bike?



Out of a total of 704 participants surveyed, 602 reported that they ride a bike, while 102 indicated that they do not. This shows that most participants, approximately 85.5%, engage in cycling, whereas around 14.5% do not ride a bike.

- Frequency of Riding



The frequency of cycling among participants shows that the majority ride several times a week, with 327 individuals (55.9%) reporting this level of activity. Daily cyclists account for 90 participants (15.4%), while 145 participants (24.8%) ride occasionally. Only a small proportion, 23 participants (3.9%), cycle rarely.

Overall, the results indicate that regular cycling is common, with most participants engaging in the activity multiple times per week.

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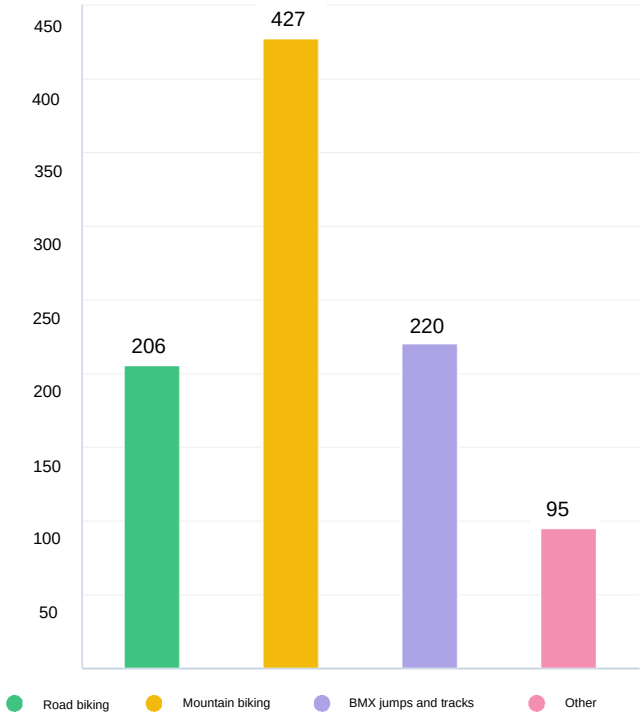
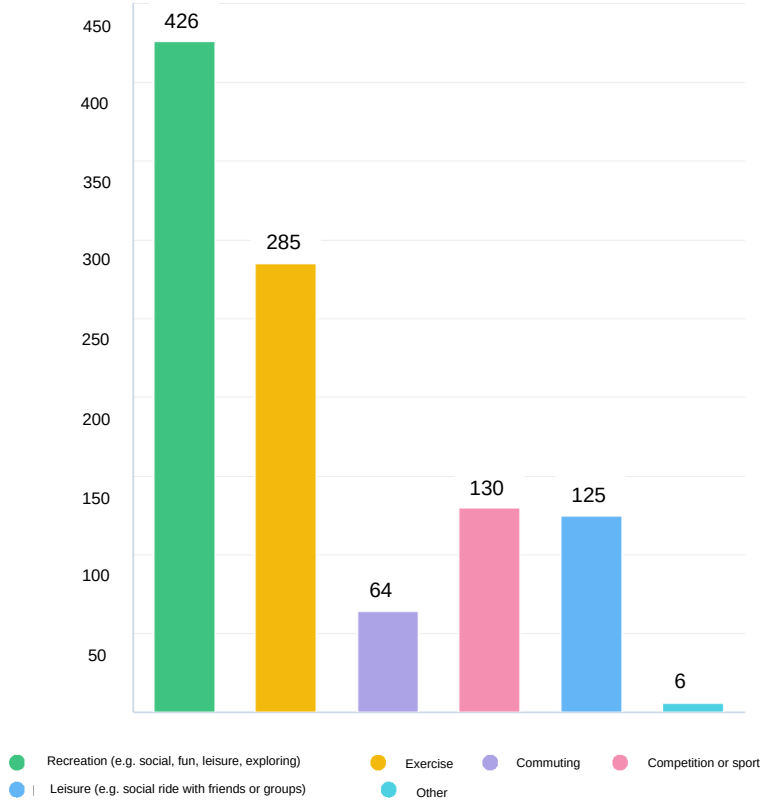
- Type of Riding



Mountain biking was the most popular activity, with 427 participants (60.7%) engaging in it. Road biking was chosen by 206 participants (29.3%), while 220 participants (31.3%) rode BMX on jumps and tracks. A smaller group of 95 participants (13.5%) reported participating in other types of cycling.

Overall, the data highlights a strong preference for mountain biking, followed by BMX and road biking.

- Purpose of Riding

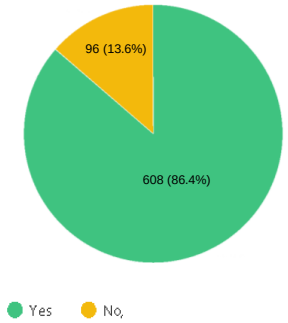


The primary purpose of riding among participants was mostly recreational, with 426 participants (60.5%) riding for social, leisure, or exploring activities. Exercise was the main purpose for 285 participants (40.5%), while commuting was reported by 64 participants (9.1%). Competitive cycling was chosen by 130 participants (18.5%), and leisure rides with friends or groups were noted by 125 participants (17.8%).

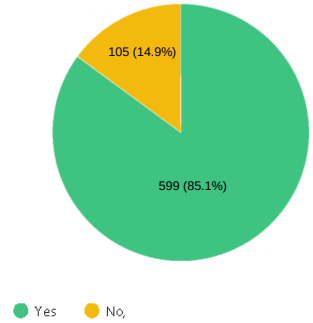
Overall, recreational and exercise purposes are the most common motivations for cycling among participants.

Support of Bike Facilities

- Community support overview for building diverse bike riding facilities



- Community support overview of the draft Recreational Bike Facilities Plan

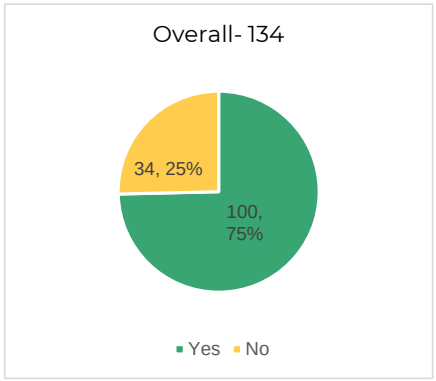


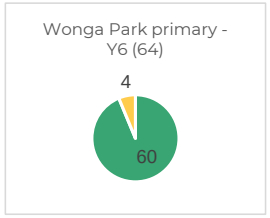
Majority of participants, 86.4%, support the proposal to build a diverse range of bike facilities across the municipality. Similarly, 85.1% of respondents expressed support for the general direction of the draft Recreational Bike Facilities Plan. These findings demonstrate broad public backing for expanding and enhancing bike facilities across Manningham.

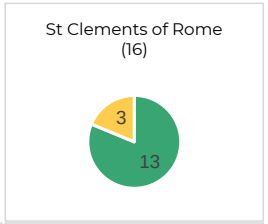
4 School Survey Results

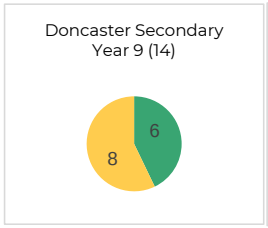
Cycling Behaviour (Riding Habits)

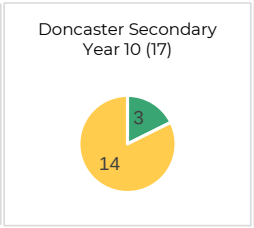
- Participation – Do you ride a bike?

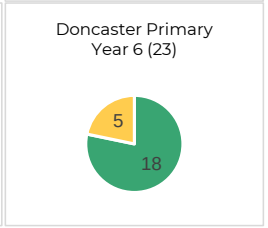








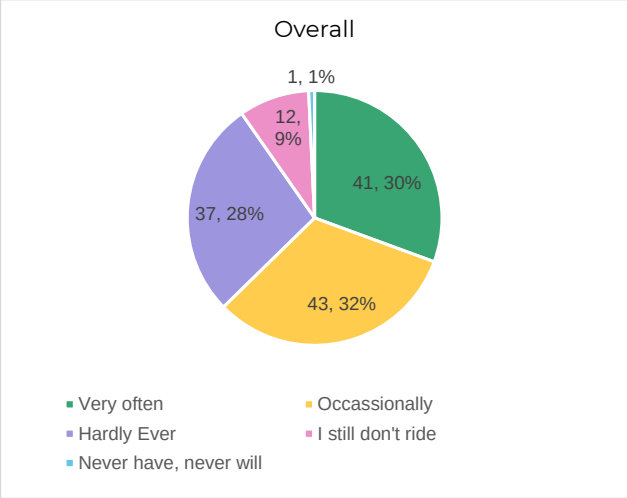




Conclusion:

Primary school students show significantly higher cycling participation rates (78–94%) compared to secondary school students.
Year 10 students at Doncaster Secondary have the lowest engagement, with fewer than 1 in 5 riding a bike.
The overall average of 75% participation is largely driven by the results from primary schools.

- Frequency of riding

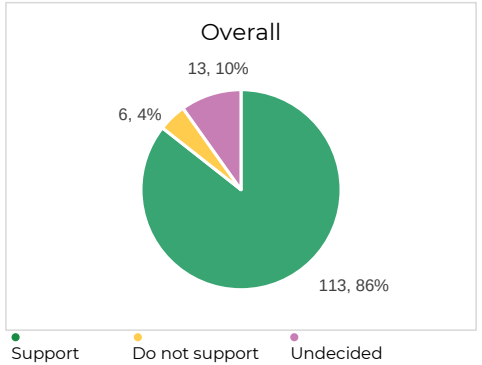


Conclusion:

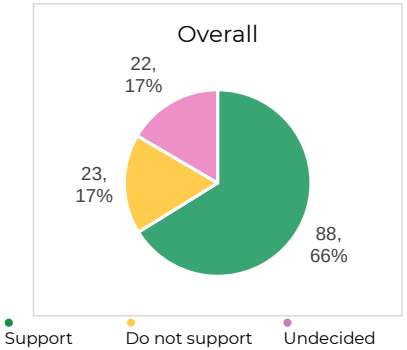
A combined 62% of students (Very often + Occasionally) report that they ride a bike, indicating that cycling is still a common activity.
However, over one-third of students (37% Hardly ever + 9% don't ride + 1% never will) have little or no engagement with cycling.

Support of Bike Facilities

- Do you think bike facilities in parks are a good idea



- Would having these facilities help you ride?



There is very strong support (86%) for introducing bike facilities in parks across Manningham.
66% of students indicate that such facilities would have a direct positive impact on their riding habits, suggesting high potential benefits for participation.
There is a small group of students who feel facilities would not influence their riding (17%).
The survey results highlight strong enthusiasm for bike facilities among students, with most both supporting their introduction and expecting that they would encourage greater cycling participation.

As part of school consultations, students were asked what would encourage them to use bike facilities and to share their thoughts. The feedback provides valuable insight into what young people value in recreation spaces. Responses ranged from essential amenities and technical design features to social, creative, and playful ideas.
Key themes from responses:

- **Essential Amenities**: Toilets, drinking taps, shelter, seating, lighting, safety features such as safe layout, signage as well as bike facilities such as repair station and borrowable bikes/sheds
- **Food & Refreshments:** Café, food truck
- **Bike Facility Design & Features:** This was the strongest area of feedback, showing students' enthusiasm for challenging and diverse riding opportunities. There were also request for high quality surfaces, inclusivity and beginner-friendly options, as well as flexibility so scooters and skateboards could also use the tracks.
- **Play & Recreation Features Beyond Bikes:** Young people see bike facilities as part of a wider recreational experience. Requests for integrating playgrounds, basketball courts, and skate parks with bike facilities.
- **Social & Community Aspects:** Students emphasised that being with friends encourages use and builds confidence. Community art and colourful bike racks and art walls were also mentioned. There were also requests for having trees and native plants near bike facilities to create a welcoming space.
- **Critical & Alternative Views:** While the majority were supportive, a minority expressed concerns such as "*Not that necessary for most people*" and "*Not many people will use them*."

Students were also asked to nominate or prioritise a park where they would like to see a bike facility, with the following locations identified.

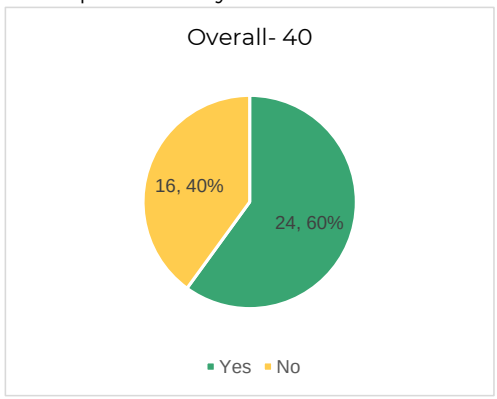
- Wonga Park is by far the most requested (51 mentions), well above all other options.
- Morris Williams Reserve, Ruffey Lake Park and Stintons Reserve are the next strongest preferences (12–15 mentions each).
- Katrina Gully, Jenkins Park, St Clems, and Fitzsimons Reserve also have moderate support (4–5 mentions each).

Other locations such as Doncaster, Schramms, Sheehans, and Ted Ajani reserves were also mentioned.

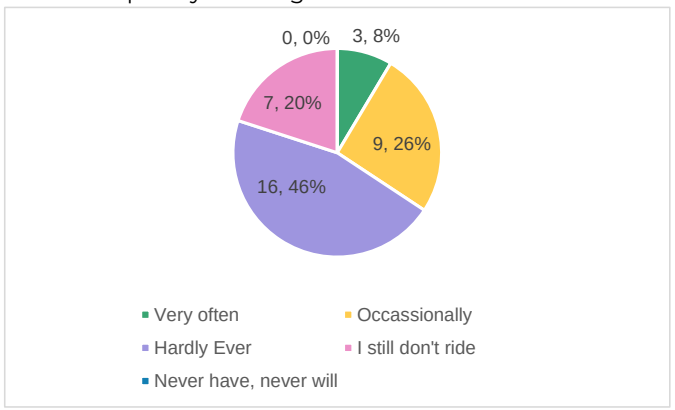
5 Advisory Committees Consultation Survey Results

Cycling Behaviour (Riding Habits)

- Participation – Do you ride a bike?

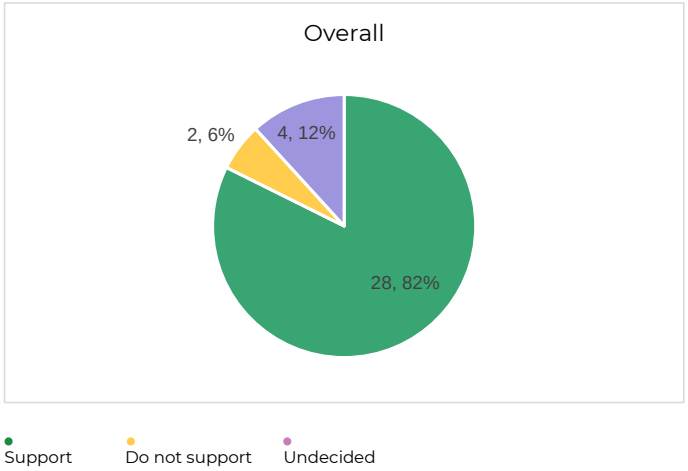


- Frequency of riding

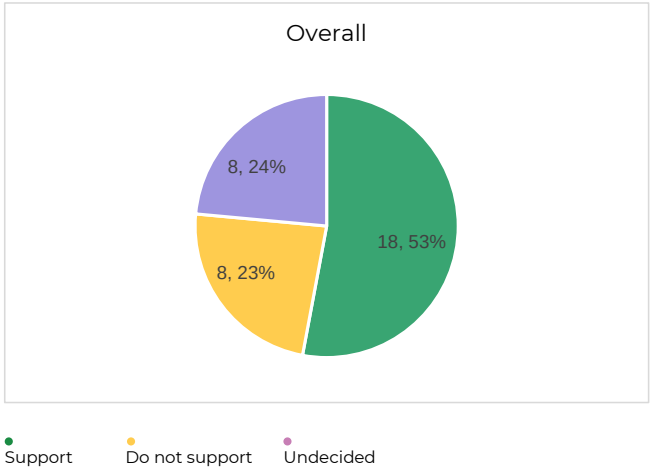


Support of Bike Facilities

- Do you think bike facilities in parks are a good idea



- Would having these facilities help you ride?



Conclusion:
While many advisory committee members are not regular riders, there is very strong support (82%) for bike facilities in parks. A majority indicated that new facilities would directly encourage them (or their families) to ride more often.

As part of Recreation and Sport Advisory Committee and Youth Advisory Committee consultation, members were asked what would encourage them to use bike facilities and to share their thoughts.

What we heard:

- Excitement about design and challenge: Strong requests for big jumps, technical features (drops, gaps, rollers, berms, flow trails), and opportunities for advanced riders.
- Beginner, multi-use, and family-friendly needs: Smaller jumps, flatter areas for younger children, bike playgrounds, pump tracks, and practice tracks were suggested. Calls for picnic spaces, playgrounds, and family recreation opportunities alongside bike facilities.
- Essential amenities: Drinking taps, seating, toilets, night lighting, and food and refreshments were consistently raised.
- Broader recreational and social integration: Skate parks, basketball courts, art, vegetation, dog-friendly areas, and cafés were highlighted as complementary attractions.
- Accessibility, connectivity, inclusivity and ability levels: Calls for safe access for children and families without needing to drive, bike paths leading to facilities, proximity to public transport, safe parking, and community “try-out” days or riding lessons (including for seniors and women). Importance of designing for different ability levels and providing signage to explain facilities.
- Balanced investment: Some participants emphasised the need for investment in everyday cycling infrastructure (bike lanes, commuting routes) in parallel with recreational facilities.

Members were also asked to nominate or prioritise a park where they would like to see a bike facility, with the following locations identified.

- Zerbes Reserve is the most requested (11 mentions).
- Wonga Park, and Fitzsimons Reserve are the second preferences (6-9 mentions).
- Morris Williams Reserve, Jenkins Park, and Stinton Reserve have the lowest support (1-2 mentions).

The Recreation and Sport Advisory Committee and the Youth Advisory Committee support the development of recreational bike facilities in Manningham. Their feedback emphasises the importance of designing facilities that are inclusive, safe, family-friendly, and challenging for riders of all abilities. They also highlighted the need for amenities, connectivity, and integration with other recreation opportunities to ensure facilities are welcoming to the whole community, not just active riders.

Reserve feedback

Targeted feedback for each proposal

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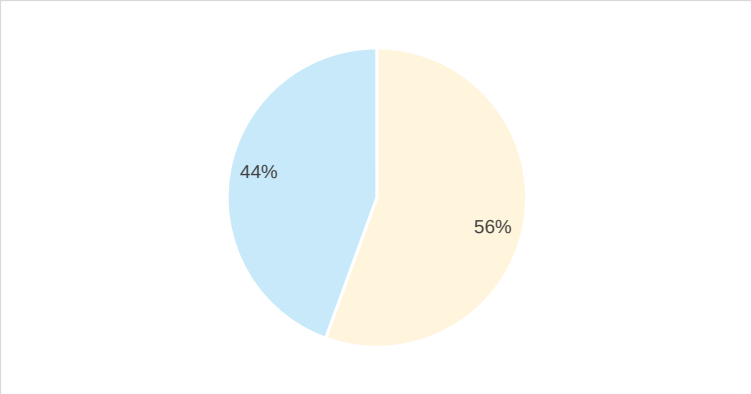
6 Reserve Snapshot

The following chapter will delve into each targeted reserve individually, offering a focused overview of the community consultation specific to each location. Throughout the feedback, community members directly named the reserves, and provided clear suggestions and input tailored to those sites. This approach highlights the localised nature of the consultation, where residents shared ideas and concerns based on their familiarity with and use of each reserve.

It is also noted that some reserves received relatively low response rates from the community. This highlights the need for further site-specific engagement to better understand local preferences, potential barriers, and unique considerations for these locations.

6.1 Zerbes Reserve – Community Feedback Snapshot

Sentiment Breakdown



Supportive: 5 respondents (56%)

Opposed: 4 respondents (44%)

Multiple requests have been raised for variety of jumps and bike playground. While bike playgrounds were suggested, a couple of respondents questioned the suitability of Zerbes Reserve due to a low number of children in the immediate area and potential community impact.

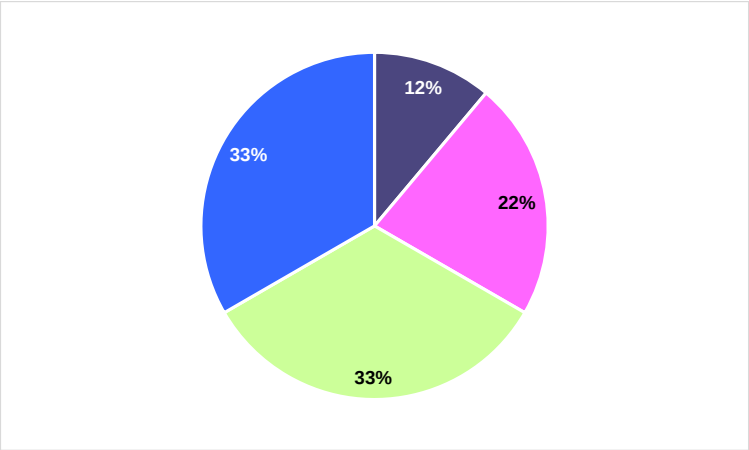
Supportive Themes:

- Desire for youth-oriented features like dirt jumps and bike playgrounds.
- Interest in family-friendly infrastructure.
- Suggestions to include Zerbes in a broader cycling loop across Manningham.

Concerns Raised:

- Potential for increased visitor traffic and disruption to local residents.
- Several respondents emphasised that fixing footpaths should take precedence over new bike facilities.
- Some noted that few children live near Zerbes Reserve.
- Concerns about redundancy due to nearby proposals at Jenkins Park and St Clems Reserve.

Requested Facility Types at Zerbes Reserve

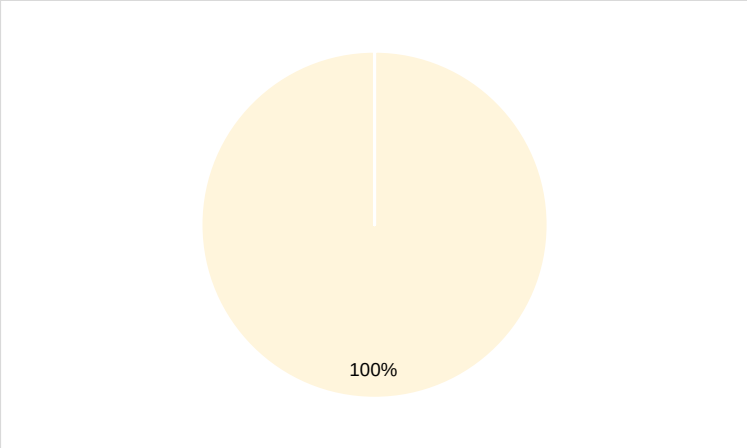


Conclusion

The consultation revealed a mix of support and opposition. While many respondents welcomed the idea of dirt jumps, pump tracks, and bike playgrounds at Zerbes Reserve, others raised concerns about location suitability, community impact, and redundancy with nearby sites. Connectivity and inclusive design were recurring themes among supporters, while preservation and safety were central to objections. This feedback reflects a clear need for balanced planning that considers both recreational opportunities and broader community priorities.

6.2 Wonga Park Reserve – Community Feedback Snapshot

Sentiment Breakdown



Supportive: 13 respondents (100%)

Multiple comments supported dirt jumps and pump tracks, with concerns about current trail maintenance and road safety for cyclists.

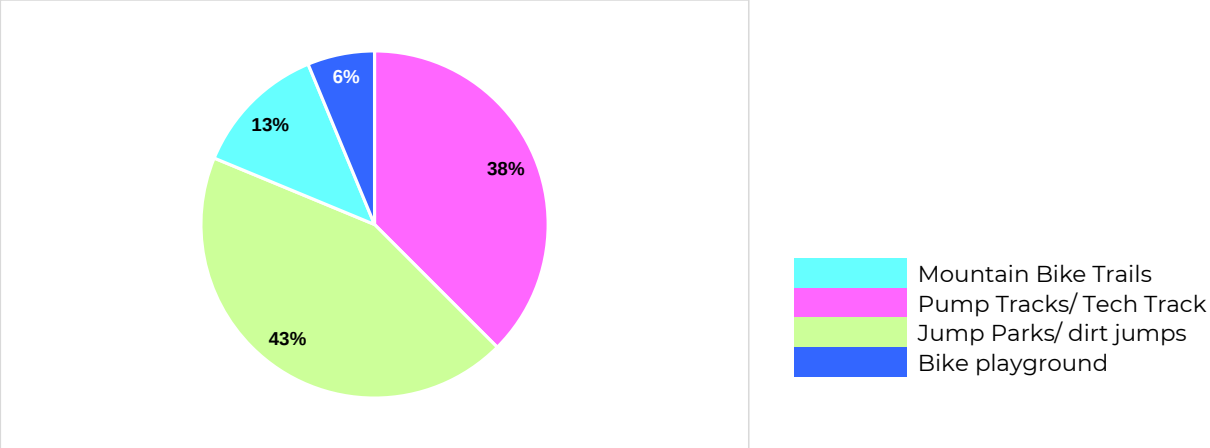
Supportive Themes:

- suggesting future planning should include separated bike paths.
- Many respondents requested improvements to the existing dirt jumps, including making them smoother, larger, and suitable for various skill levels.
- There was consistent interest in adding pump tracks to enhance riding experiences.
- Suggestions included bike playgrounds with traffic lights, pedestrian crossings, and roundabouts to help children learn road safety.
- Wonga Park was described as having a large population of young families, making it a suitable location for inclusive and accessible bike facilities.

Concerns Raised:

- Brushy Park Road was highlighted as unsafe for cycling due to its narrow and winding layout, with calls for safer riding infrastructure.
- A few respondents noted the need for better signage to improve usability and safety.
- One respondent mentioned that improved trail connectivity could help reduce parking pressure at popular sites.
- A broader concern was raised about the lack of dedicated cycling lanes for commuters,

Requested Facility Types at Wonga Park Reserve

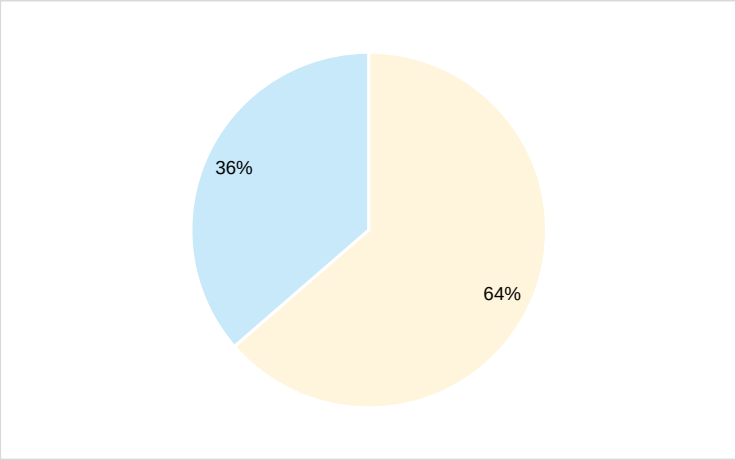


Conclusion:

The community consultation for Wonga Park Reserve revealed strong and consistent support for enhancing local bike facilities. The most prominent theme was the desire to upgrade existing dirt jumps and introduce pump tracks that cater to a range of skill levels, particularly for youth and families. Additionally, respondents emphasised the need for safer cycling infrastructure and better trail connectivity, highlighting Wonga Park's potential as a hub for recreational cycling. These insights reflect a clear community interest in making Wonga Park Reserve a more inclusive, accessible, and active cycling destination.

6.3 St Clems Reserve – Community Feedback Snapshot

Sentiment Breakdown



Supportive: 7 respondents (66%)

Opposed: 4 respondents (36%)

Feedback included improved trail connectivity and emphasised the need to preserve existing passive uses, such as dog walking, while ensuring safety in shared areas.

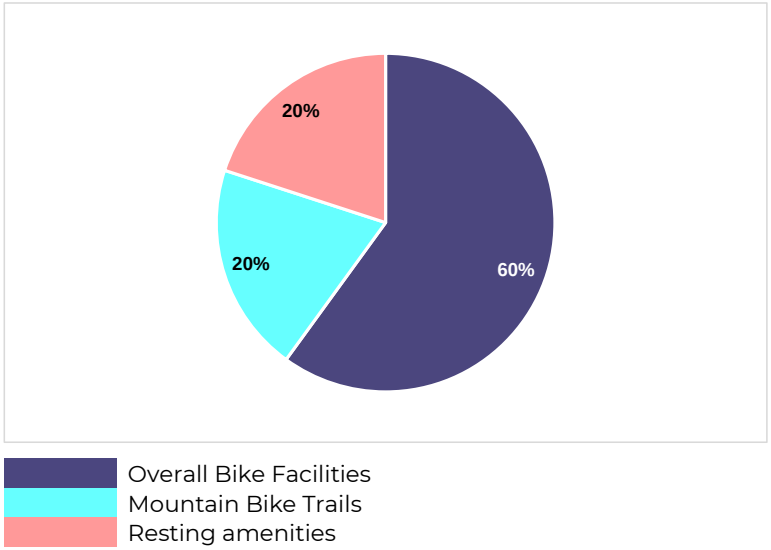
Supportive Themes:

- Respondents welcomed the idea of flow trails, bike playgrounds, and resting amenities such as shelters and seating.
- Several comments emphasised the need for safe, well-designed facilities to discourage unsafe DIY jumps and promote positive youth engagement.
- Supporters highlighted the opportunity to activate underutilised park space and improve recreational options for families and young people.
- One respondent proposed trail connectivity linking St Clems with other reserves to create a broader cycling network.

Concerns Raised:

- Some respondents felt St Clems Reserve was not suitable for bike facilities due to its size or existing use patterns**.**
- Dog walkers expressed concern about losing off-leash areas and the potential for conflict between cyclists and pedestrians, especially with fast-moving bikes and scooters.
- Safety concerns were raised about the potential for conflicting use in shared spaces, particularly where cyclists and pedestrians, such as older residents and children, interact.

Requested Facility Types at St Clems Reserve



Conclusion:

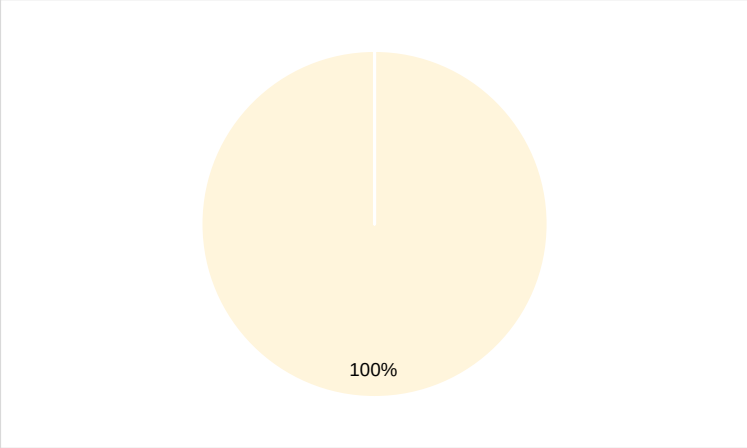
Based on the community feedback collected for St Clems Reserve supportive comments highlighted interest in bike facility development, flow trails, and resting amenities such as shelters and seating, with several respondents emphasising the need for safe, well-designed spaces to discourage unsafe DIY jumps and promote youth engagement. There was also enthusiasm for activating underutilised park space and improving connectivity with other reserves.

Concerns focused on the suitability of the site, potential conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians, especially in shared-use areas, and the impact on existing uses such as off-leash dog walking.

Overall, the feedback reflects a community that values both improved recreational infrastructure and the preservation of current park functions, suggesting that future planning should carefully balance these priorities.

6.4 Stintons Reserve – Community Feedback Snapshot

Sentiment Breakdown



Supportive: 23 respondents (100%)

Overall sentiment was highly positive, with strong community interest in enhancing recreational cycling opportunities. There was strong support for pump tracks and dirt jumps, with emphasis on safe access via bike paths from Park Orchards and Warrandyte.

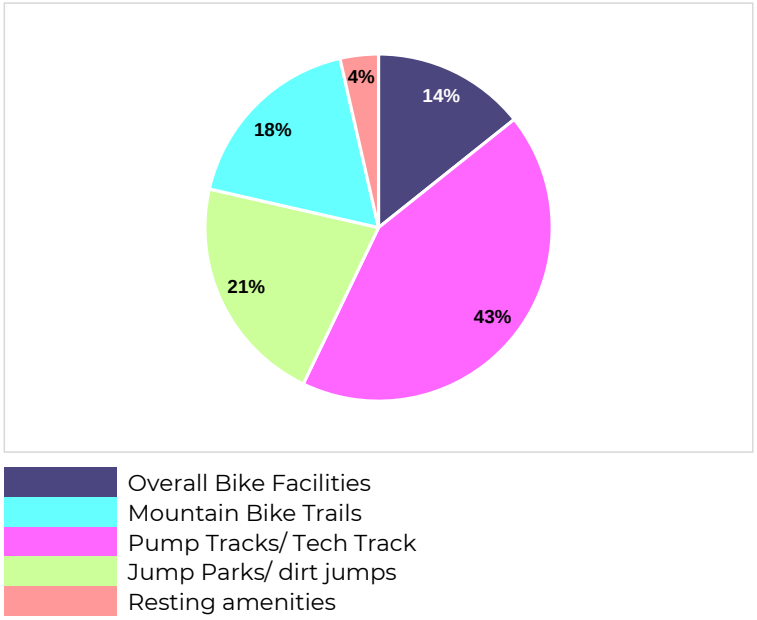
Supportive Themes:

- Widespread enthusiasm for a pump track at Stintons Reserve, especially near the BMX track.
- Strong interest in jump parks and mountain bike trails for skill progression and recreational use.
- Requests for beginner-friendly areas and children's MTB parks to encourage safe learning.
- Facilities seen as valuable for building community, promoting outdoor activity, and supporting youth development.
- Positive suggestions to coordinate with local BMX and Football clubs for shared planning and use.
- Support for linking reserves via bike trails to create a challenge loop across Manningham.

Concerns Raised:

- Stintons Road was frequently described as unsafe for cyclists and pedestrians due to high-speed traffic and lack of shoulders. Strong calls for bike paths and sidewalks.
- Requests for essential amenities such as toilets, water stations, shelters, and bike wash facilities to support riders.
- Concerns about increased bike traffic affecting natural areas, with suggestions for signage and trail segregation.
- Need for improved parking and access at Stintons Reserve, especially for club events and family use.

Requested Facility Types at Stintons Reserve

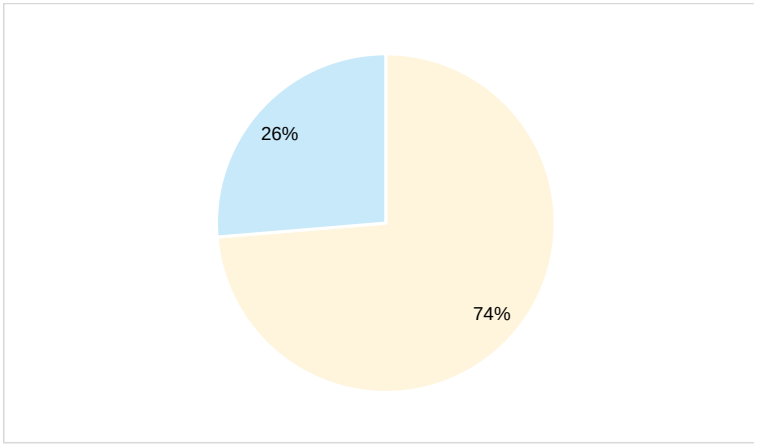


Conclusion:

The consultation input for Stintons Reserve revealed strong community support for developing a professionally designed pump track and dirt jumps, particularly adjacent to the existing BMX facility. Respondents emphasised the importance of creating inclusive spaces that support rider progression and community engagement. However, concerns were raised regarding the safety and accessibility of the reserve, especially along Stintons Road, which was described as hazardous for cyclists and pedestrians. The feedback highlights both the enthusiasm for enhanced bike infrastructure and the need for complementary improvements to ensure safe and equitable access.

6.5 Morris Williams Reserve – Community Feedback Snapshot

Sentiment Breakdown



Supportive: 14 respondents (74%)

Opposed: 5 respondents (26%)

Community feedback showed strong support for overall bike facilities particularly for younger children. However, concerns were raised about pedestrian safety, particularly for dog walkers and elderly users, and preserving the park's peaceful character

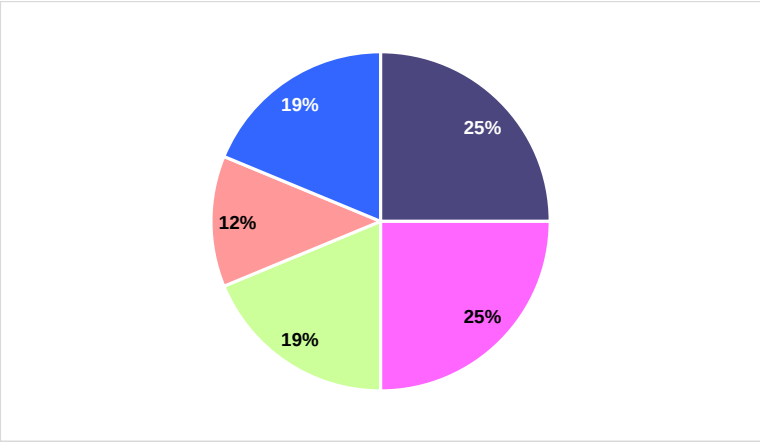
Supportive Themes:

- Pump Tracks and Dirt Jumps designed for all ages particularly designed to cater to younger children and beginner riders. The proximity to Yarraleen Preschool and St Clements Primary School was seen as an opportunity to create accessible, skill-building spaces for families.
- Requests were made for supporting infrastructure such as toilets, improved drainage, and safer trail connections. The idea of linking Morris Williams Reserve to broader trail networks like the Main Yarra Trail and North East Link was also proposed.

Concerns Raised:

- Concerns around the potential conflict between fast-moving bikes and existing park users, particularly elderly residents, young children, and dog walkers. Several respondents emphasised the importance of maintaining the off-leash dog walking area and ensuring any new facilities are safely separated.
- Some community members expressed a desire to preserve the peaceful, passive nature of Morris Williams Reserve. They feared that introducing bike facilities could disrupt the quiet atmosphere and increase noise and traffic.

Requested Facility Types at Morris Williams Reserve

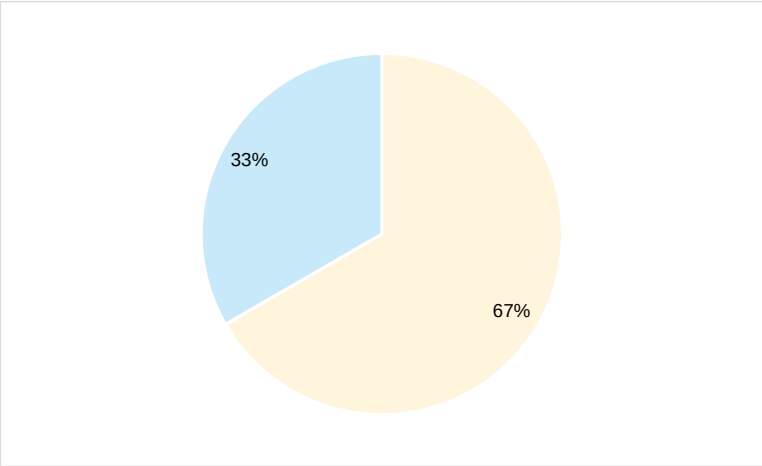


Conclusion

The consultation input for Morris Williams Reserve revealed a strong interest in developing inclusive and family-friendly bike facilities, particularly pump tracks and dirt jumps. However, concerns about pedestrian safety, park character, and suitability highlight the need for careful planning and design. Balancing active recreation with existing passive uses will be essential to ensure the reserve continues to serve the diverse needs of the local community.

6.6 Jenkins Park – Community Feedback Snapshot

Sentiment Breakdown



Supportive: 6 respondents (67%)

Opposed: 3 respondents (33%)

Community feedback for Jenkins Park was mixed, with support for youth-oriented and younger children bike facilities like pump tracks and dirt jumps, but concerns about the park's small size, limited parking, and preserving its quiet, family-friendly character.

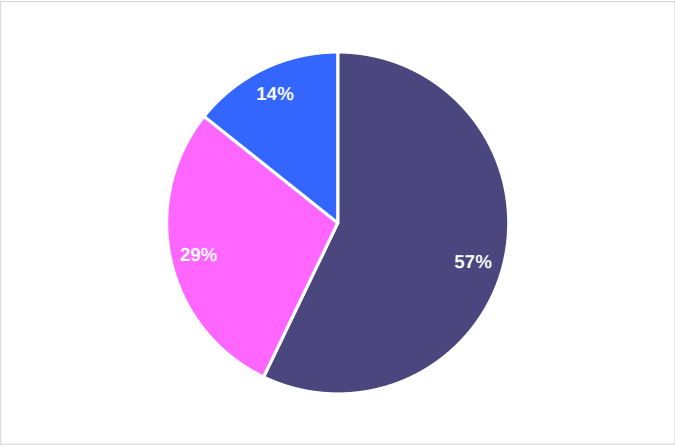
Supportive Themes:

- Respondents supported the inclusion of pump tracks and dirt jumps, for young and older children. Suggestions included designing tracks for multiple skill levels.
- One submission highlighted the importance of preserving existing trees and integrating shade and greenery into the track design to enhance usability and environmental value.

Concerns Raised:

- Some respondents felt Jenkins Park was too small to accommodate bike facilities, citing limited space, minimal parking, and its current use as a quiet recreational area.

Requested Facility Types at Jenkins Park

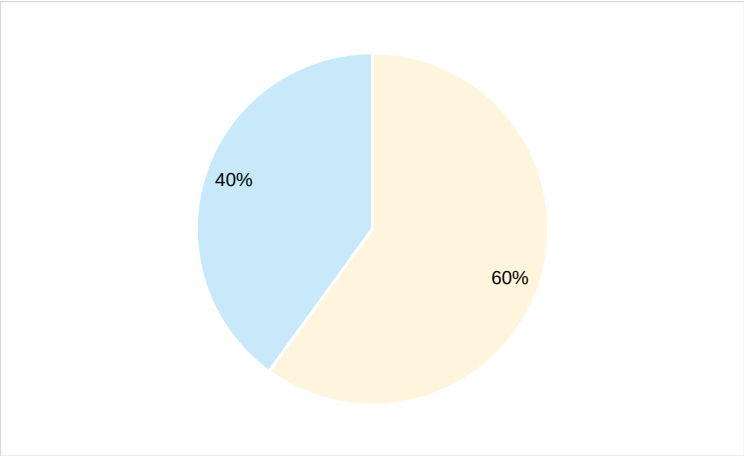


Conclusion

The consultation input for Jenkins Park revealed a mix of support and concern. While respondents welcomed the idea of youth-oriented bike facilities and also consideration for younger children, particularly pump tracks and dirt jumps, others questioned the park's suitability due to its size and current use. Suggestions for inclusive design and environmental sensitivity were noted, alongside calls to preserve the park's quiet character. Any future development should carefully balance active recreation with existing community use and spatial limitations.

6.7 Fitzsimons Reserve – Community Feedback Snapshot

Sentiment Breakdown



Supportive6 respondents (60%)

Opposed: 4 respondents (40%)

While most of the respondents supported the development of bike facilities at Fitzsimons Reserve (highlighting benefits like accessibility, skill-building, and recreational value), others oppose any development to preserve the area's natural beauty and ecological integrity.

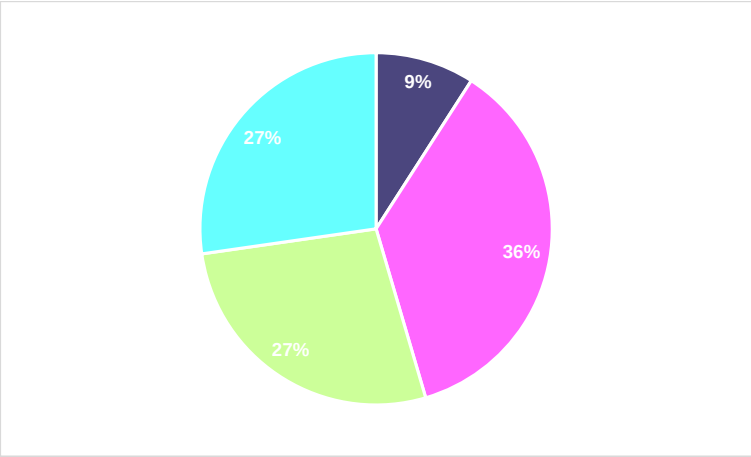
Supportive Themes:

- Respondents showed strong interest in pump tracks, flow trails, and dirt jumps, due to its terrain and accessibility via existing bike paths and roads.
- The reserve was preferred for its central location and connection to major trails. Suggestions included extending the flow trail to utilise the full slope.
- The local mountain bike club expressed excitement about the proposal, highlighting the reserve's potential for skill development and formal training in a safe, accessible environment.

Concern Raised:

- Several respondents opposed development at Fitzsimons Reserve, citing its natural beauty, role in wildlife corridors, and value as a quiet, passive recreation space. Concerns included habitat disruption and loss of off-leash dog walking areas. **N.B.** Fitzsimons Reserve is an on-leash area.
- Comments noted the lack of existing infrastructure such as toilets and public transport access, suggesting that high-impact facilities would be better suited to more developed locations.
- Opponents emphasised the importance of maintaining the reserve's tranquil atmosphere and avoiding overdevelopment that could permanently alter its unique landscape.

Requested Facility Types at Fitzsimons Reserve



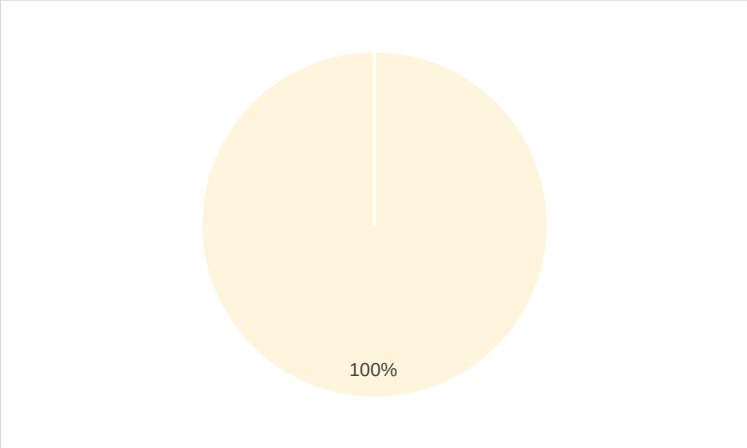
Conclusion

While many respondents supported the development of bike facilities due to the reserve's terrain and connectivity, others opposed it, citing environmental concerns and the desire to preserve its natural character.

Any future planning should carefully weigh the recreational benefits against ecological preservation and community values to ensure a balanced and sustainable outcome.

6.8 Katrina Gully – Community Feedback Snapshot

Sentiment Breakdown



Supportive: 3 respondents (100%)

Despite a small response rate, the sentiment expressed in the submissions received was positive and showed interest in enhancing recreational cycling opportunities.

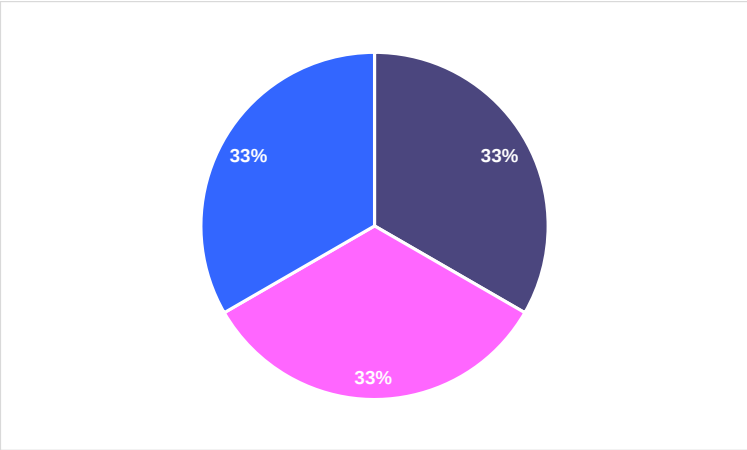
Supportive Themes:

- Respondents highlighted the potential for Katrina Gully to support bike facilities catering to all age groups, including pump tracks and bike playgrounds

Concern Raised:

- While supportive, one respondent stressed that without safe and well-connected trails, the full potential of the facilities may not be realised

Requested Facility Types at Katrina Gully



Conclusion

Although the number of responses for Katrina Gully was limited, all respondents were supportive of developing bike facilities. The feedback reflects a shared vision for inclusive, connected, and safe cycling infrastructure that enhances both recreation and transport options across Manningham

Manningham Council

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MANNINGHAM

Manningham Recreational Bike Facilities Plan 2025

Site assessments and recommendations

Interpreter service 9840 9355

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MANNINGHAM

Contents

1 1. Executive Summary 1
1.1 Recreational cycling in Manningham 3
2 Introduction 5
2.1 Background 5
2.2 Objectives of the study 5
2.3 Benefits of recreational cycling 6
7
2.4 Community Consultation 8
RECREATIONAL CYCLING FACILITIES 10
3 Types of facilities 11
3.1.1 Mountain Bike Trails 11
3.1.2 Pump Tracks 13
3.1.3 Jump Parks 16
3.1.4 Skills Track 18
3.2 Facility Classification 19
3.3 Support infrastructure 20
3.4 Provision of facilities in Manningham 21
3.4.1 Creating variety 21
3.4.2 Site selection 21

3.4.3 Multi-criteria assessment 21
ASSESSMENTS 23
4 Assessment sites 24
4.1 Morris Williams Reserve, Bulleen 25
4.2 Fitzsimons Reserve, Templestowe 28
4.3 Jenkins Park, Templestowe 31
4.4 Zerbes Reserve, Doncaster East 34
4.5 Wonga Park Reserve, Wonga Park 37
4.6 Stintons Reserve, Park Orchards 40
4.7 St Clems Reserve, Doncaster East 43
4.8 Katrina Gully, Doncaster 46
IMPLEMENTATION AND DELIVERY 49
5 Recommendations 50
5.1 Next steps and implementation 51
5.2 Capital costs 52
5.3 Ongoing costs 52
5.4 Supporting amenities 53

Acknowledgement of country

Manningham Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional Owners of the land and waterways now known as Manningham.

Council pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging, and values the ongoing contribution to enrich and appreciate the cultural heritage of Manningham.

Council acknowledges and respects Australia's First Peoples as Traditional Owners of lands and waterways across Country and encourages reconciliation between all.

Statement of recognition of diverse cultures (statement of diversity):

Manningham Council also values the contribution made to Manningham over the years by people of diverse backgrounds and cultures.

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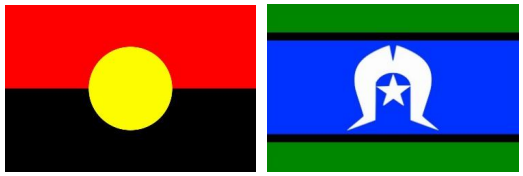


Manningham Council acknowledges the background research and analysis undertaken by independent technical experts, Common Ground Trails in the preparation of this report.

Disclaimer: Common Ground Trails Pty Ltd and its employees are not qualified to provide legal, medical or financial advice. Accordingly, detailed information in this report will require additional professional consultation.

IMAGE CREDIT: COMMON GROUND TRAILS

1. Executive Summary

To address a growing demand for recreational cycling opportunities, Manningham Council is proposing the development of recreational bike facilities tailored to our community's needs. This project focuses on the establishment of formal facilities across Manningham over the next 10-15 years, to provide all members of our diverse community an opportunity to enjoy the social, physical, and mental health benefits of cycling.

1.1 Recreational cycling in Manningham

Recreational cycling facilities such as dirt jumps, pump tracks, flow trails and mountain bike trails are becoming increasingly popular, however there are limited facilities in Manningham to meet this demand.

Manningham Council currently has:

- Novice dirt jump facility located at Wonga Park Reserve, Wonga Park
- BMX facility at Stintons Reserve, Park Orchards
- Small cluster of unsanctioned mountain bike trails at Candlebark Park, Templestowe on Parks Victoria Land

Over the past decade, Council has received consistent requests from our community to improve facilities at existing sites and/or for a greater diversity of facilities across the municipality. This includes during consultations for various Council strategies and park upgrades or from active members of the community contacting Council to provide their feedback.

During the Covid pandemic, there was a proliferation of illegal dirt jumps built by the community and during consultation around the removal of the Blackburn Jumps, Council provided a commitment to investigate the potential for the development of formal recreational cycling facilities across Manningham in the future.

Manningham Council has identified eight potential sites to provide facilities such as pump tracks, BMX dirt jumps, mountain bike trails and bike skills tracks for our community.

This report provides recommendations to develop a future network of recreational cycling facilities across the municipality.

2 Introduction

2.1 Background

Manningham Council has had continued demand for various styles of recreational bike riding infrastructure, specifically dirt jumps, pump tracks, flow trails and mountain bike trails. During the development of Council's *Sports Facilities Development Plan Stage 2*, we received a high level of community feedback for such facilities and Council made a commitment to investigate opportunities to provide purpose-built facilities across the municipality.

Eight sites were assessed to determine the feasibility of accommodating recreational bike facilities. Independent technical experts, Common Ground Trails undertook the study on Council's behalf. The sites have been analysed based on the physical characteristics, supporting infrastructure as well as the projected growth and demographics in the surrounding area. They have then been scored and prioritised for development.

2.2 Objectives of the study

- To understand the current and anticipated participation trends in the use of recreational bike facilities across Manningham.
- Application of site analysis and Common Ground Trails multi-criteria analysis to assess each of the eight identified sites to determine suitability.
- Determine the type and scale of the proposed facility suited to each site.
- Prioritise development of each of the sites.
- Develop cost estimates for the design, construction, and ongoing maintenance of the facility at each proposed site.

2.3 Benefits of recreational cycling

Recreational bike facilities such as dirt jumps, pump tracks, flow trails and mountain bike trails are important because they provide accessible, fun, and skill-building cycling experiences for people of all ages and abilities, improving bike handling, balance, and overall technical proficiency while promoting physical activity and community engagement, especially through the design of pump tracks which allow riders to learn key skills without needing high speeds or complex terrain.

The development of recreational bike facilities and engaging in these activities can deliver environmental, economic, health and social benefits to individuals and communities.

Skill development:

All these facilities, particularly pump tracks, excel at teaching essential bike handling skills like cornering, weight distribution, and body positioning, which can translate to better riding on any type of terrain.

Inclusivity:

Pump tracks are designed to be accessible to riders of all skill levels, from beginners to advanced, making them a great place to learn and practice new techniques.

Fun factor:

The flow and rhythm of riding these tracks can be highly enjoyable and addictive, encouraging regular participation.

Community building:

Shared spaces like pump tracks and trails can foster a sense of community among cyclists of different backgrounds, creating opportunities to learn from each other and socialise.

Physical benefits:

Cycling on BMX tracks, pump tracks, and mountain bike trails provides a great workout, improving cardiovascular health, muscle strength, and coordination.

Mental health benefits:

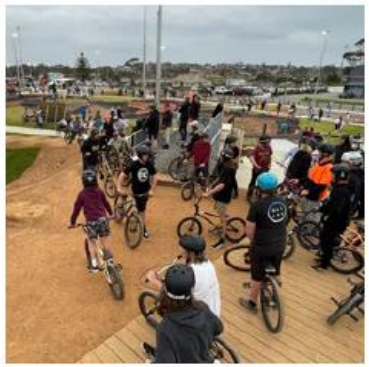
Engaging in these activities can be a stress reliever and contribute to overall mental wellbeing.

Economic benefits:

Mountain bike (MTB) and BMX facilities can provide economic benefits generated through spending by riders visiting a region for the purpose of riding their bike.

Environmental benefits:

MTB riders are renown for the volunteer contribution they make towards trail care and maintenance with many trail networks in Victoria and throughout Australia the recipient of hundreds of volunteer hours. The planned development of MTB trails can also provide environmental benefit by increasing community ownership and ensuring trails do not compromise environmentally sensitive areas.



2.4 Community Consultation

We sought community feedback on the draft plan between 19 May to 22 June 2025. There was also targeted consultation with local schools near the proposed facilities including, Doncaster Secondary College, Doncaster Primary School, St Clement of Rome Primary School (Bulleen) and Wonga Park Primary School. We also met with Council's Youth Advisory Committee and the Recreation and Sport Advisory Committee.

Overall, there was strong support for the recommendations in the draft plan and the identified projects.

Before any of the projects are built, Council will undertake further consultation with more detailed designs for each site.

Consultation snapshot

Participation	**Results**	**Themes**
2,600 visits to the Your Say Manningham page with 705 survey submissions Feedback from 134 students through facilitated workshops across 3 primary and 1 secondary schools. Feedback from the Youth; and Recreation and Sport Advisory Committees. 5 Customer Requests, 1 email and 1 community visit about the project.	There was overwhelming support with 90% of all participants indicating they support the development of these facilities across our open space network. 31% of the survey participants were aged 25 and under. 62% of participants in the targeted survey indicated the facilities would encourage them to get on their bikes and ride more.	General support - there is resounding support for Council to develop these types of facilities. Examples of such feedback include: "Great initiative!", "Please make this happen", "We need more mountain bike tracks", "Excited to see what's in store". Design and Maintenance – participants recognised the importance of professionally built tracks and trails that are inclusive and cater to a wide range of users and skill levels. The importance of preserving the facilities at a high level so they can be used over time was also mentioned frequently.
How we asked	**Priority Sites – community ranking**	**Themes continued**

Your Say page with background information and a dedicated survey to test support for the draft plan Targeted sessions with stakeholder groups Social media campaign to promote awareness and encourage participation in the online survey Tailored site-specific signage about the proposed facilities, inviting community members to participate in the survey.	1. Stintons Reserve 2. Wonga Park Reserve 3. Morris Williams Reserve The order in which the projects are delivered will depend on several factors, including the priorities identified by the community, works underway or planned at each site, and project readiness. Further consultation will be held for each proposal once designs are developed. Future works are dependant on the availability of funds, and projects will be nominated as part of the annual Council Budget process.	Ancillary infrastructure – the importance of having seating, shelter, water and toilets close by was raised. In the targeted survey, participants also brought up the importance of having facilities close by for people that didn't like riding such as playgrounds or basketball courts so they could still be close to their friends. Environmental sensitivity - the importance of preserving the natural landscapes and wildlife corridors in proposed sites and avoiding disruption to the existing quality of the park and its activities, the primary example given was dog walking. Connectivity – the need for shared trail connections to each site is critical, and the potential to connect many of these facilities to others via a trail network as well as to schools and activity centres was raised as an idea.

RECREATIONAL CYCLING FACILITIES

3 Types of facilities

3.1.1 Mountain Bike Trails

A mountain bike trail comes in various forms. While large networks typically reside outside of urban areas it is not uncommon for urban areas with adequate density to have some trail networks within parkland or reserves, such as in Candlebark Park, Templestowe. These are typically focused specifically for the recreation/sport of mountain biking. They provide relatively easy access for the local population. These networks are typically smaller and compact networks or loops that cater to a shorter ride rather than all day epics.

Trails come in a range of forms catering to different users and interests. These include:

- Trail that is typically 2 - 3m wide, often dual use, with no technical riding features that allow people to experience the trail environment. Examples include rail trails, 4WD tracks and gravel roads.
- Trails in a natural environment that contains technical trail features in both the uphill and downhill sections of the trail, usually single direction and mountain bike specific. Trail corridors typically vary depending on trail type 800 - 2000mm wide with clearing required up to 2200 - 2400mm above the trail.
- Flow trails could be considered a trail that has features for the user to utilise gravity and pump as much as pedal for speed generation. Flow trails have a freestyle focus.
- Downhill trails cater to a small group of users and requires an adequate amount of vertical topography. A downhill trail usually contains significant technical trail features and is mountain bike specific. There is usually a shuttle option or other access method back to the top of the trail given a typical downhill bike is very uneconomical to pedal uphill

Figure 1: Parks Victoria Mountain Bike Trail examples

3.1.2 Pump Tracks

A pump track is a 1-3 metre wide track that can be used for bicycle, skateboard, in-line skates and scooter riders to practice skills on a series of features, such as berms and rollers placed in quick succession.

Figure 2: Pump Track example, Chadwick Reserve, Dingley Village

Essentially, they are scaled down BMX tracks which do not require pedalling. 'Pump' refers to the action made by riders pushing down with their arms and legs to manoeuvre the bike or board over features to maintain momentum without pedalling or pushing-off the ground. Typically, tracks can be ridden continuously with different combinations of features linked to provide a varied challenge. Bike handling skills can be transferred to other types of tracks.

Well-designed pump tracks cater for all abilities, with all features rollable for beginners, and allowing for progression to pumping, and even jumping for more advanced riders. Riding a pump track is easy and children are typically comfortable using them within 10-20 minutes.

A well-designed pump track provides enough challenges to stay attractive for years, with the rollers and berms able to be combined and transitioned in different directions, creating opportunity for skilled riders to do jumps and manoeuvres. Pump tracks can be made from natural soil, hardened surfaces, wood, fiberglass, concrete or asphalt.

Historically pump tracks were constructed from natural soil blends and required significant ongoing maintenance. More recently, world's best practice is tending toward lower maintenance surfacing techniques and materials such as asphalt, which are inclusive for a larger user base of wheeled-sports including skateboarding, scooters, in-line skates and non-off-road bikes.

Pump tracks do appeal to a group of the mountain bike community within the urban context.

Within the world of pump tracks there are varying styles of tracks including pump trails, pump tracks and pump parks. While use is predominantly recreation-based competition and racing is becoming more common. Pump tracks are often associated with other urban facilities such as skate parks or form a part of a broader wheeled

sports facility referred to as a Challenge Park.

Figure 3: Pump track example, Albany Challenge Park, Western Australia

3.1.3 Jump Parks

Jump parks typically feature a series of tracks with jumps of various size and technicality in multiple lines to accommodate a range of rider abilities.

Provision of jump tracks is a vital inclusion allowing for progression for young people through to adults who seek an alternate and often more challenging experience than a pump track. Jumps are developed so that they allow for progression while always keeping safety in mind. Featuring all types of jumps including table-tops, gaps, step-ups, step-downs and hips, with features linked so riders flow immediately from one to the next. Ideally, a rider will not have to brake between jumps.

Figure 4: Jump Park examples - Dyoondalup Bike Park, WA

Well-designed jump tracks offer a wide variety of challenges, from easy rollers to big jumps. A diversity of lines will allow riders to build their skills gradually and will create a park that is fun for all abilities. Typically, jump lines are arranged side-by-side with increasing difficulty, all starting at a common roll-in hill and traveling in the same direction.

Jump tracks are primarily constructed of soil, however jump take offs and landing (impact) areas are being made from hardened surfaces, such as wood, concrete, asphalt and rubber matting. This significantly reduces ongoing maintenance and improves the rideability and safety of the facility.

There are two distinct styles of jump parks that cater to different styles of jumping. Broadly put this could be described as a jump park for BMX riders and another for MTB riders however there is a large amount of crossover. The shape, material and upkeep vary slightly between them.

Figure 5: Jump trail example - Clarence Mountain Bike Park, Mornington, Tasmania

3.1.4 Skills Track

Skills tracks/trails/parks feature man-made technical trail features that test the skills of a rider and allow them to try features that they may encounter on trails in the region. Typical features may include log rollovers, log rides, balance planks, rock drops and other technical features. They can also incorporate street features such as rails and wall rides, or freeride stunts like ladder bridges, skinnys, teeters and drops.

Importantly all features are built with progression in mind allowing users to start small and build their confidence up to larger features.

Successfully executed skills park areas feature a diverse range of materials and can look like well landscaped areas or 'nature play' areas with natural features such as timber, logs and rocks.

Figure 6: Skills Park example, Southside Mountain Bike Skills Park, Cairns

3.2 Facility Classification

Table 1: Facility Classification

Community Facility *2.5km radius catchment*	Local Facility *5km radius catchment*	Regional Facility *10km radius catchment*	State Facility *Unrestricted catchment*
Community level facilities are designed to service the community in the immediate vicinity or are supplementary to existing experiences offered at a location. They are small scale, minimal budget projects that typically create opportunity for introductory experiences and skills development for beginners.	A local level facility is intended to service Manningham residents. Users may travel within the City to access the facility. Multiple local facilities should be strategically distributed across the municipality. Facilities incorporate basic design, simple detail and are value for money. They should be an engaging facility for all level of users with progression promotion for both beginner and intermediate users. Local facilities should be constructed within recreation spaces while adjacent to existing infrastructure, this will then provide the capability of holding small local events, competitions and workshops.	A regional level facility will be attractive to a wider market and will attract users from outside the immediate area. Regional facilities provide a greater level of satisfaction and a desire for residents to return to the same location. These facilities incorporate more technical design elements, increased detail and will be of higher cost depending on technical features and supporting infrastructure. Development around existing infrastructure greatly reduces the cost of regional facilities. There will be an opportunity to host larger events, competitions and workshops.	State level facilities capture a much broader market, with individuals traveling great distances to participate. These facilities will attract all user groups from beginners and new participants through to elite riders. Significant capital expenditure is required to develop a State level facility, but there are major opportunities for return on investment. Competitions will draw spectator crowds, opportunities for facility and equipment hire. There are also opportunities for private enterprise in areas such as hospitality, coaching and private sporting clubs within the facility. State facilities require a significant investment in supporting infrastructure such as car parking, ablutions, shower facilities, food and beverage; therefore, require a significant parcel of land.

3.3 Support infrastructure

Table 2: Infrastructure requirements

Key Requirements	Community	Local	Regional	State
Toilets			✓	✓
Changing facilities and showers				✓
Drinking water	✓	✓	✓	✓
Designated emergency access			✓	✓
Designated spectator viewing and seating			✓	✓
Food and beverage outlets				✓
Lighting				✓
Parking and drop off			✓	✓
Proximity to major community centre			✓	✓
Rubbish bins	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shelter / Shade			✓	✓

The following table provides an outline of the suggested supporting infrastructure at each type of facility. This is more of a guide as to what should be included however every site needs to be assessed and designed based on its unique characteristics.

3.4 Provision of facilities in Manningham

3.4.1 Creating variety

Distributing bike facilities across Manningham will ensure facilities are accessible to all Manningham residents, encourage active transport like riding a bike to a nearby facility, prevent an influx of users to one particular destination and provide a differing challenge and experience across the City. Depending on the level of investment, there are opportunities to design and construct facilities that meet growing demand and encourage new users to participate in riding a bike.

A varying classification of bike facilities will influence the number of users. Developing large-scale, leading-edge facilities will see an influx of riders from outside and within Manningham. The recommendations within this report are directed at servicing the Manningham residents first, but at the same time creating facilities that are exciting, create a desire for continual and repeat use and benefit from economic gains by encouraging visitors into the City.

In suitable locations the opportunity of grouping MTB and BMX facilities with other facilities to create a Challenge Park should be considered. A Challenge Park is most rewarding for the user and generally the most successful facility when considering wheeled sports use. Multi-disciplinary sites allow for introductory experiences and skills progression.

A single discipline community MTB and/or BMX facility is well placed with non-cycling activities to provide an alternative experience whilst other family members are participating in activities such as team sports.

3.4.2 Site selection

Different facilities require different characteristics suitable to their intended use. The key physical constraints include topography, suitable soil conditions, the ability to execute suitable drainage, enough space to accommodate the bike facility including vegetation protection, and infrastructure such as service poles, pits, furniture, shelters etc.

3.4.3 Multi-criteria assessment

Sites were analysed based on six criteria to provide a broad assessment of the conditions that would determine them suitable for development. Each criteria was then scored, and all sites were rated against each other for prioritisation. The assessment can be seen in the table below.

Table 2: Multi Criteria Assessment Scoring

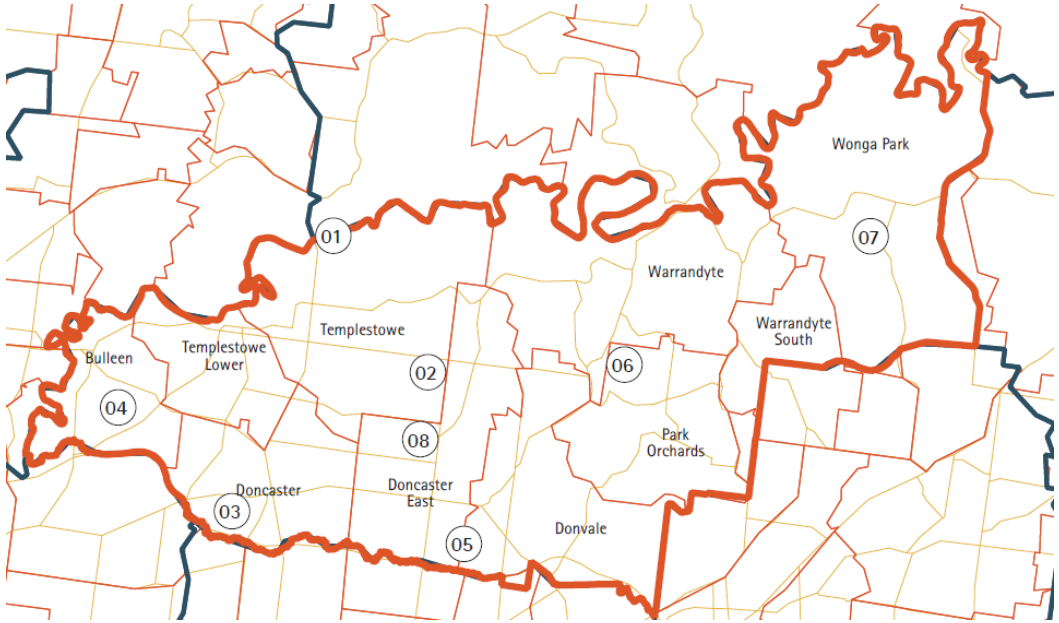
Criteria (Rated out of 5) 5/5 Excellent 4/5 Good 3/5 Fair 2/5 Poor 1/5 Very Weak 0/5 Non existent	Fitzsimons	Jenkins	Katrina Gully	Morris Williams	St Clems	Stintons	Wonga Park	Zerbes
Physical site condition and technical considerations								
Is the site suitable for any classification of bike facility up to a State facility	3	3	2	3	2	3	3	3
Does the site contain appropriate terrain/geology/hydrology for bike facility development	5	3	3	4	4	5	3	4
Is the shape of the suite suitable to accommodate a bike facility	5	4	3	5	2	5	3	3
Is the tenure of the site suitable to allow deliverability of a bike facility	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Are the flora/fauna/cultural/phytophthora hygiene constraints suitable to allow the development of a bike facility	3	4	4	5	3	4	3	2
Access and Transport								
Are there pedestrian/footpath connections from transport nodes to the site	5	5	2	5	3	0	2	4
Is there a safe drop off area or adequate parking at the site	4	3	1	4	2	4	5	5
Is the site in proximity to a Shared Use Path	5	5	5	5	5	0	2	5
Passive Surveillance, Security and Safety								
Is the site visually prominent with good passive surveillance from other park users	3	5	3	5	5	2	4	5
Are emergency services a short distance from the site	4	4	4	5	5	4	3	5
Is there ease of access for emergency vehicles	4	5	1	5	4	5	4	5
Does the location enable safe entry to and from the site and allow for adequate setbacks from busy roads	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	3
Supporting Amenities (Water, Toilets, Shade, Food and Drink)								
Are associated amenities such as public toilets, water, shade, existing and available or cost effective to install	3	5	3	3	2	4	5	5
Impact on Existing Facilities, Environment, Adjoining uses and users								
Is the site located a sufficient distance from nearby incompatible use, activities or services	5	4	2	4	3	5	4	3
Is the site located such that noise and visual impacts for surrounding residents could be minimised	5	4	1	4	2	5	3	4
Context								
Is the site located in proximity to other similar existing or proposed facilities	5	3	4	5	3	5	5	4
Is there any existing planning that support the inclusion of a bike facility	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	0
TOTAL (max possible score is 85)	69	67	44	72	55	66	64	65
% Score	81%	78%	52%	84%	64%	77%	75%	76%

ASSESSMENTS

Assessments of identified locations

4 Assessment sites

01. Fitzsimons Reserve
02. Jenkins Park
03. Katrina Gully (Koonung Creek Linear Park)
04. Morris Williams Reserve
05. St Clems Reserve
06. Stintons Reserve
07. Wonga Park Reserve
08. Zerbes Reserve



It is important to note that the proposals shown below are preliminary schematics only and are subject to further planning, community consultation outcomes and design work. The proposals will be developed in accordance with best practice standards to enhance the existing reserves and provide broad community benefit. The proposals will also be considered in the context of delivering other recreational facility priorities and projects. They are presented in order of their scoring.

4.1 Morris Williams Reserve, Bulleen

Morris Williams Reserve is well utilised reserve with strong community ownership of the park. It contains multiple complementary facilities including a playground, basketball pad, open space for picnics, a dog off leash area, a large playing field. It also has significant and mature vegetation across the site and is near Yarraleen Preschool. Some existing dirt mounds were created by local bike riders for jumping and indicate demand for a facility here.

Recommendation: Pump track facility **Scale:** Local

Figure 7: Precedent imagery - Pump Tracks

Figure 8: Morris Williams Reserve Existing Site Features and Identified Subject Site

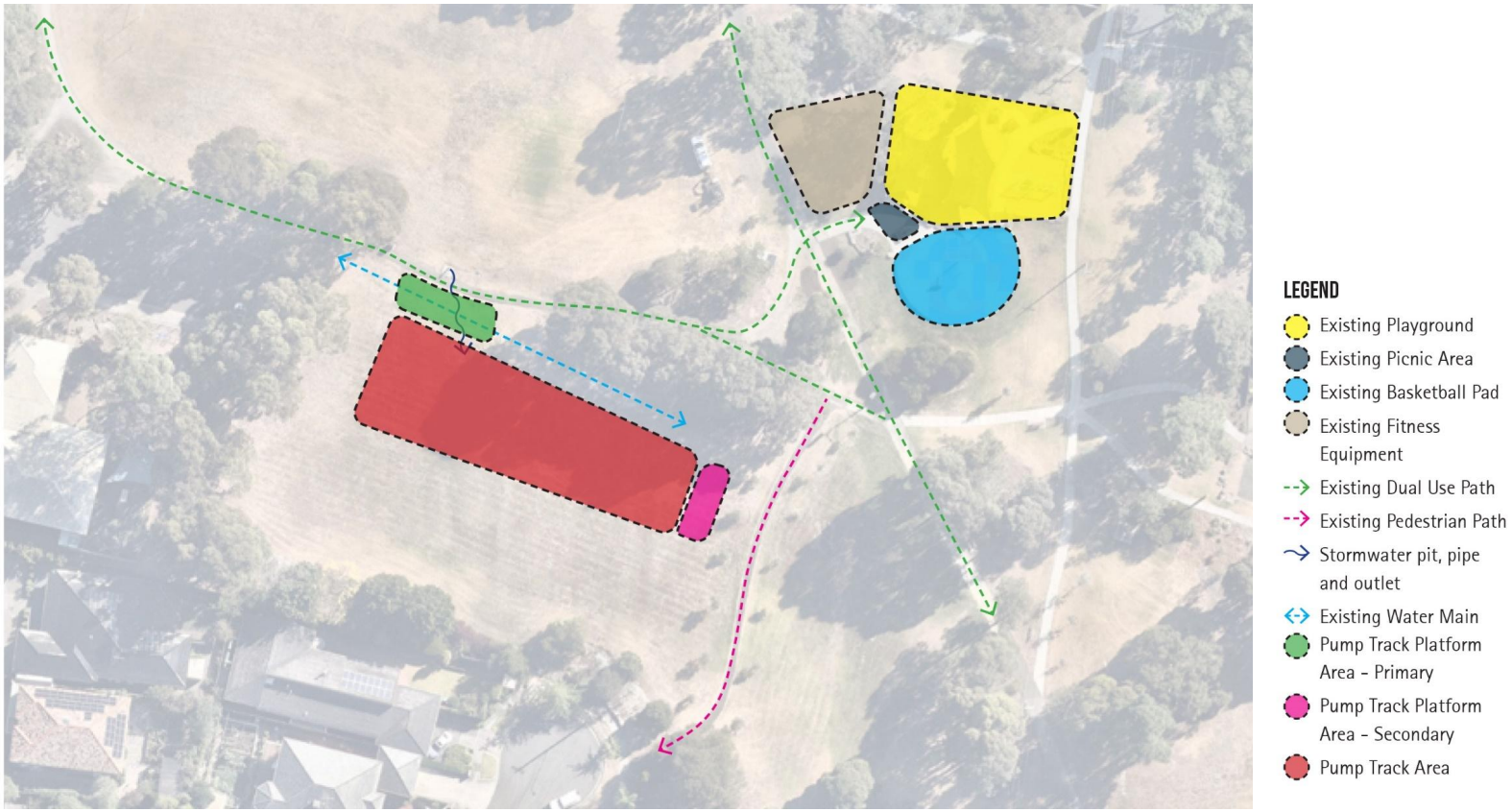


Figure 9: Morris Williams Reserve Indicative Site Development

4.2 Fitzsimons Reserve, Templestowe

Fitzsimons Reserve is a large reserve used predominantly for passive and informal recreation activities. It is adjacent to Candlebark Park and Westerfolds Park and forms part of the Yarra Valley Parklands. The Main Yarra Trail intersects the reserve, and the perimeter path is popular with walkers, trail runners and bike riders. There is evidence of an unsanctioned trail network within the site and the adjacent parklands indicating demand for a bike facility here. The site is bounded on the north and west by the Yarra River and the nearby canoe facilities lend itself to an adventure focus.

Fitzsimons Reserve has significant overhead powerlines running through the site. While this would present little constraint to the development of a bike facility on the ground, there may be easement constraints that impact the ability for this corridor to be developed.

Recommendation: Flow trail facility **Scale:** Regional

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Figure 10: Precedent imagery Flow Trails

Figure 11 Fitzsimons Reserve Existing Site Features and Identified Subject Site

Figure 12 Fitzsimons Reserve Indicative Design Development

4.3 Jenkins Park, Templestowe

Jenkins Park is a significant district reserve and habitat corridor that has an existing range of facilities and open space to support both active and passive uses. There are complementary facilities including a playground, exercise equipment and toilets. They are connected by a looping shared use path, part of which has lighting. There is also an internal pedestrian path which can also cater to wheeled sports equipment.

The topography and shape of the open space limit its ability to provide suitable areas for formal ball sports. There is significant planting within the site that provides both habitat and amenity.

Recommendation: Bike Playground **Scale:** Community

Figure 13: Precedent imagery Bike Playgrounds

Figure 14: Jenkins Reserve Existing Site Features and Proposed Subject Site

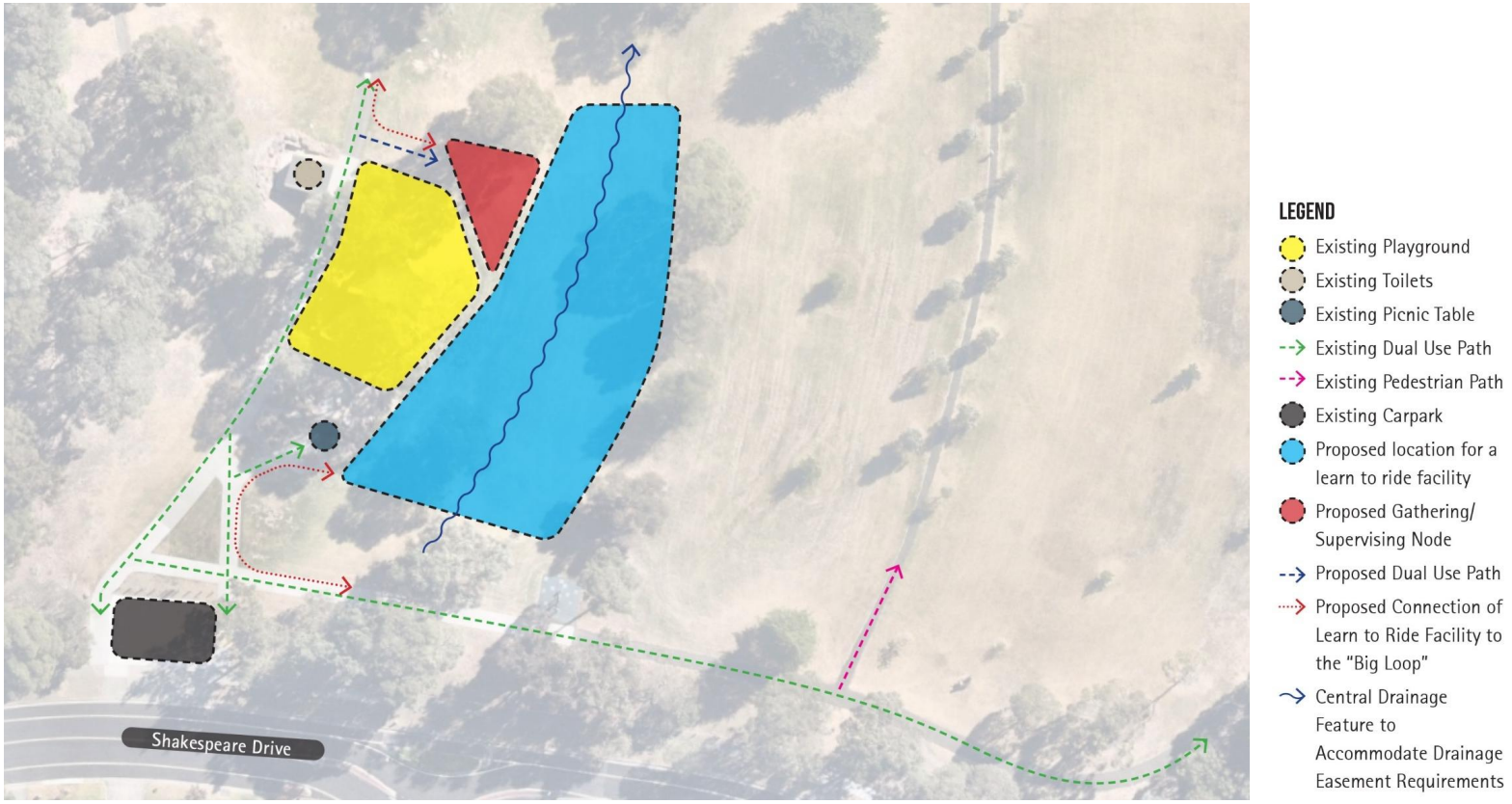


Figure 15: Jenkins Reserve Indicative Design Development

4.4 Zerbes Reserve, Doncaster East

Zerbes is a large reserve that provides a range of facilities including a sporting oval, pavilion, cricket nets, Girl Guides Hall, nature playground, passive open space, war memorial and bushland reserve. It is a valued asset to the local community and due to its multiple functions, requires careful consideration and a high level of consultation on any future development and introduction of activities like a bike facility.

There is an opportunity to form a unique nature-based playground with a combined bike playground and skill facility. The facility should be small in scale to minimise any adverse environmental impacts. Zerbes Reserve is a valued asset to the local community and due to its multiple functions, requires careful consideration of any future development.

Recommendation: Bike Playground + Skills Track **Scale:** Community

Figure 16: Precedent Imagery Natural Bike Playground and Skills Track

Figure 17: Zerbes Reserve Existing Site Features and Identified Subject Site

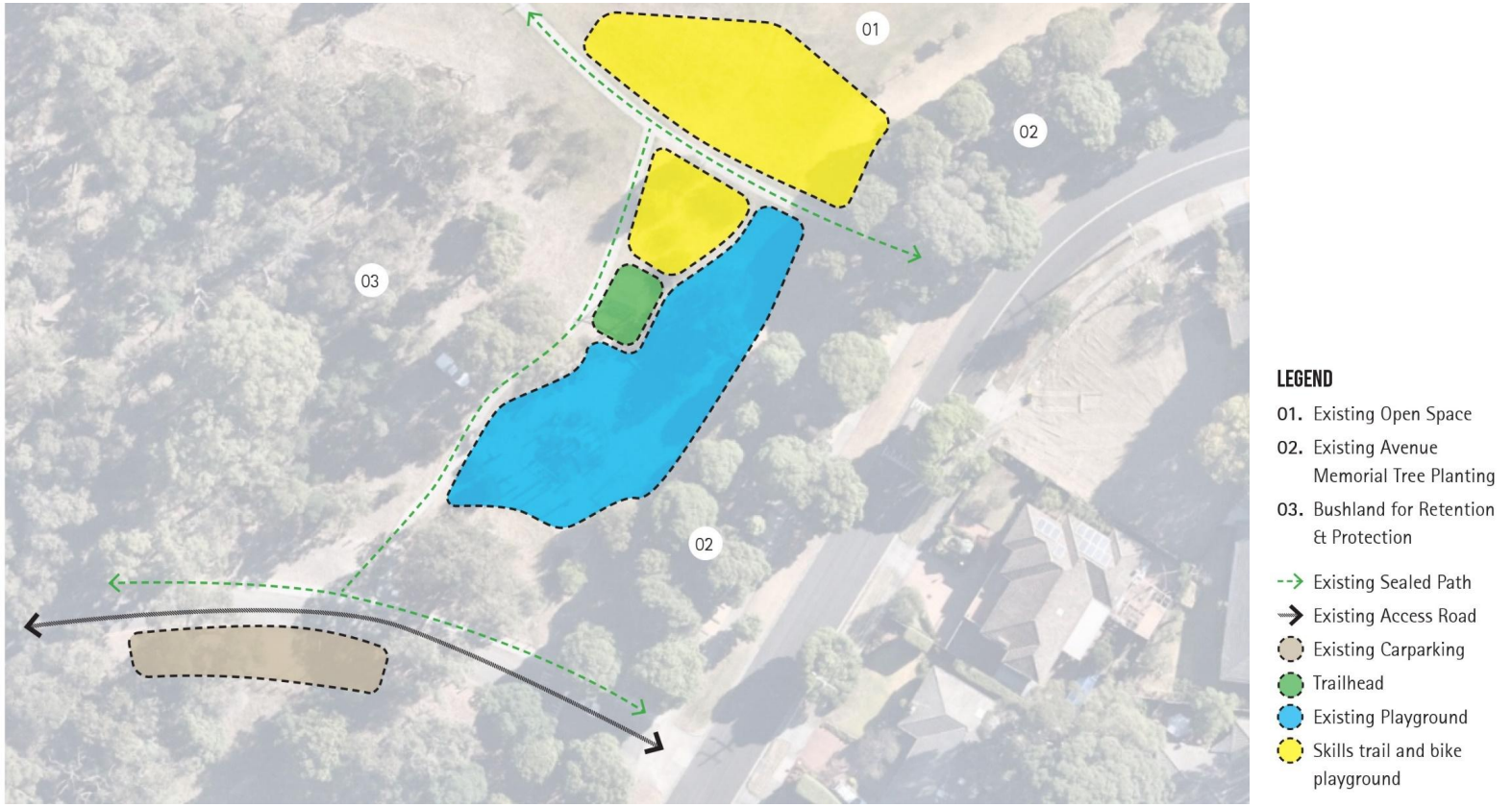


Figure 18: Zerbes Reserve Indicative Design Development

4.5 Wonga Park Reserve, Wonga Park

Wonga Park Reserve is an active precinct with multiple facilities for active sport use such as two ovals, pavilions, netball courts, cricket nets, a network of paths, the Wonga Park Tennis Club, playgrounds and one of Council's dirt jump tracks. It is surrounded by pockets of high priority remnant vegetation that is of state significance. Development in the park is guided by the *Wonga Park Reserve Masterplan*, 2022 to direct the development of the reserve.

The direction from the Masterplan is to upgrade the existing dirt jumps to provide graded challenges and provide improved amenity around the facility and better signage and access to it.

Recommendation: Upgrade jumps **Scale:** Community

Figure 19: Precedent imagery - sealed jump / flow trail facility

LEGEND

- Subject Site
- **01.** Site Access Point
- **02.** Oval
- **03.** Netball Courts
- **04.** Cricket Nets
- **05.** Burch Memorial Kindergarten
- **06.** Wonga Park Community Cottage
- **07.** Existing Dirt Jumps
- **08.** Vegetation/Bushland
- **09.** Wonga Park Hall
- **10.** Wonga Park Tennis Club
- **11.** Carparking
- **12.** Playground
- **13.** Reserve Boundary

Figure 20: Wonga Park Existing Site Features and Identified Subject Site

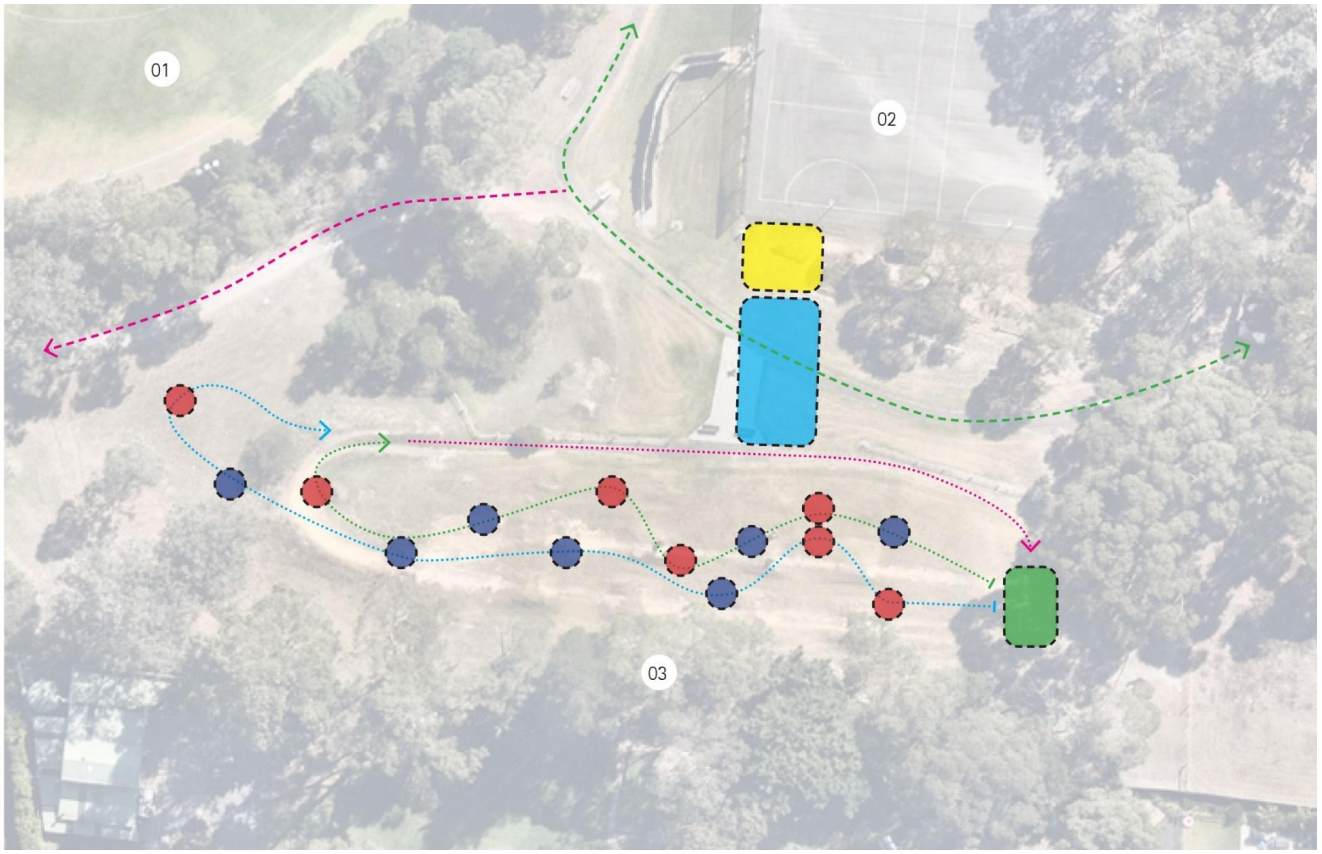


Figure 21: Wonga Park Reserve Indicative Design Development

4.6 Stintons Reserve, Park Orchards

Stintons Reserve has three existing active functions including the Park Orchards BMX Club Facility, the football oval and the greyhound slipping track. The reserve also contains a picnic area with a shelter and BBQs. The other half of the reserve is high value indigenous bushland that is considered high priority for conservation. The Reserve is in a low-density portion of Manningham and has no connecting cycle or pedestrian paths, and most users would have to drive to the reserve.

A bike facility would benefit from the shape of the site, topography and infrastructure. The facility could also support the adjoining State Competition BMX track.

Recommendation: Pump track facility **Scale:** Community

Figure 22: Precedent imagery pump tracks

Figure 23: Stintons Reserve Existing Site Features and Indicative Subject Site

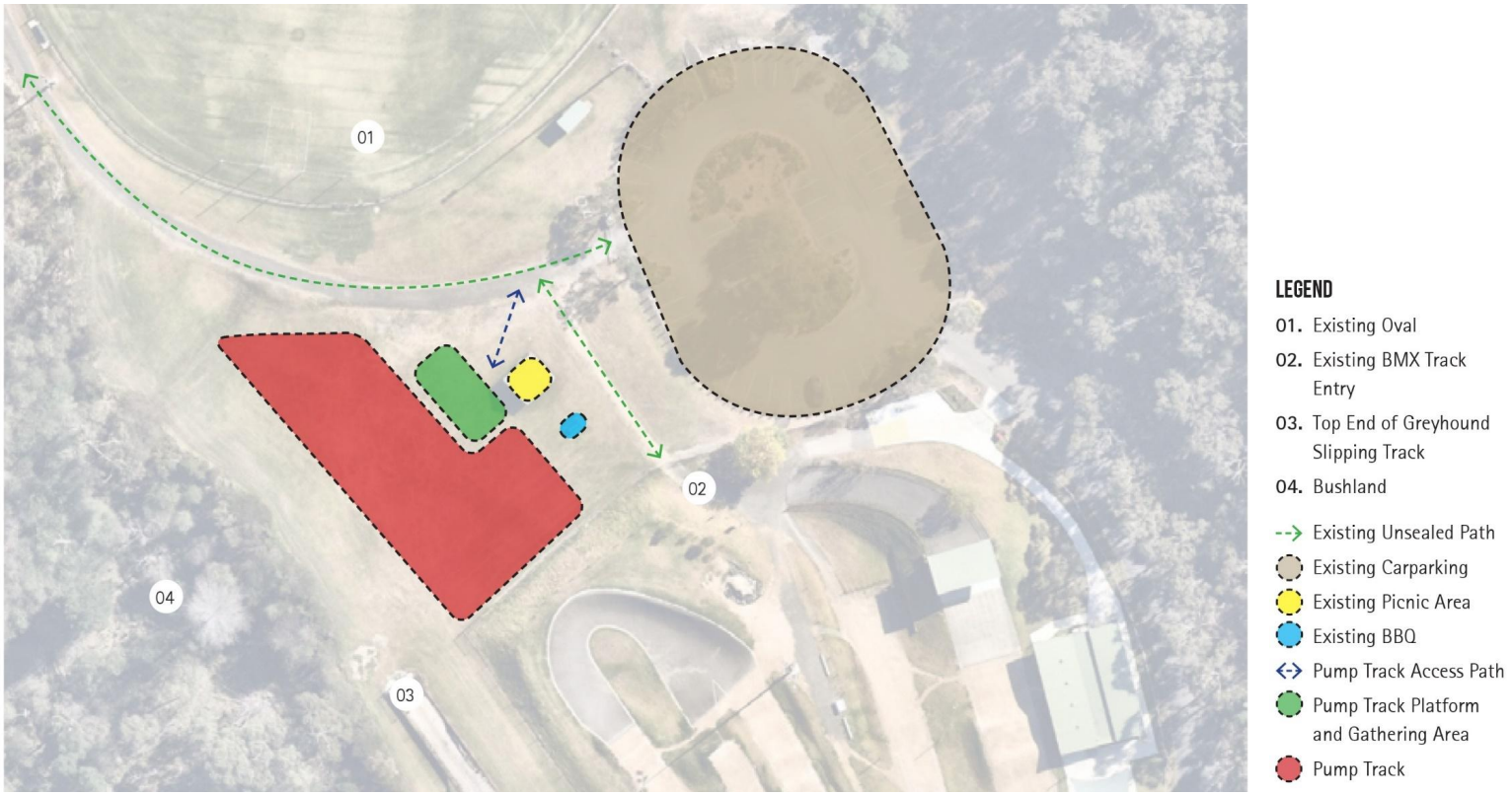


Figure 24: Stintons Reserve Indicative Design Development (subject to the Draft Masterplan endorsement)

4.7 St Clems Reserve, Doncaster East

This linear reserve is an attractive park that provides a habitat link north of the Koonung Creek Linear Park as well as a shared use path linking to the Koonung Creek Trail. It extends along a natural drainage corridor that contains pockets of open space that are spatially separated by pockets of mature vegetation. The site is easily accessed from multiple points allowing ease of access for local residents as well as good passive surveillance across the site from adjoining residences.

A small-scale skills trail could be located in the northern section of the reserve near the playground, where it would better suit the site conditions and avoid potential conflict with shared-trail users.

Recommendation: Skills trail **Scale:** Community

Figure 25: Precedent imagery skills trails

LEGEND

01. Access Point
02. Playground
03. Tunstall Road Pre-School
04. Dual Use Path
05. Reserve Boundary

Figure 26: St Clems Reserve Existing Site Features

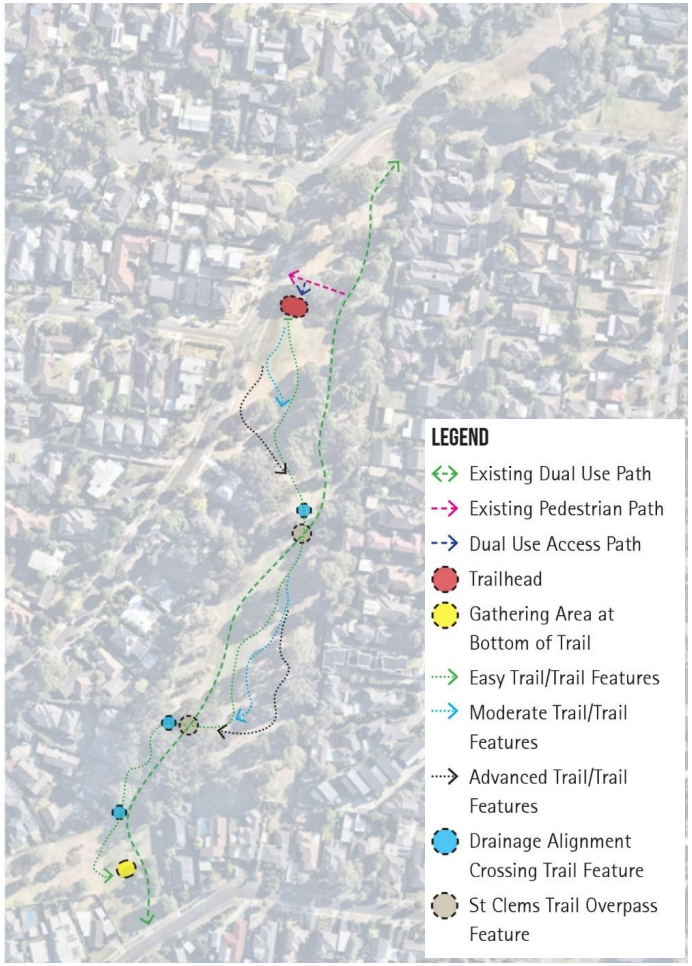
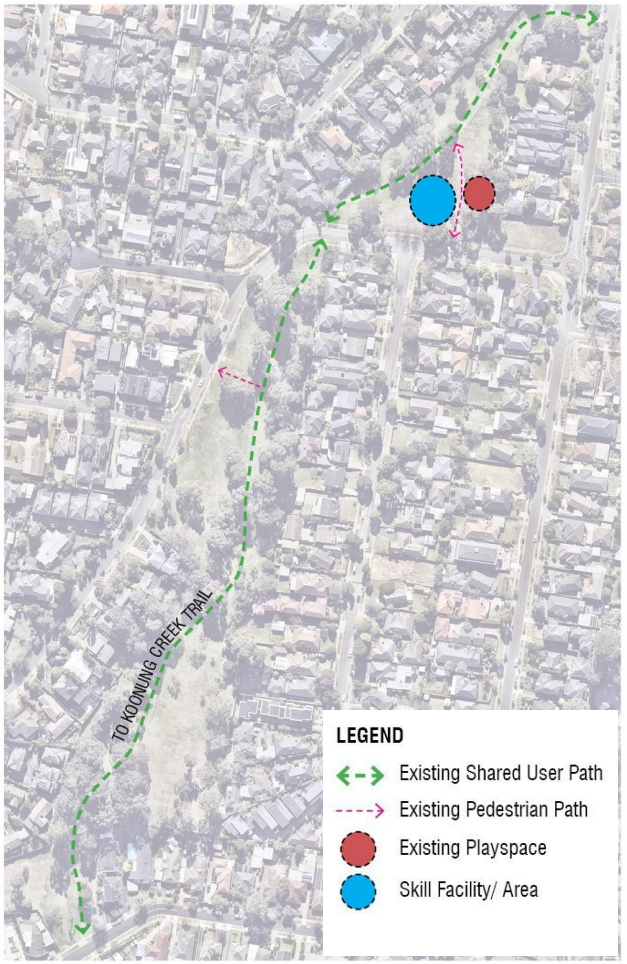


Figure 27: St Clems Original Indicative Design Development



St Clems Updated Indicative Design Development

4.8 Katrina Gully, Doncaster

Katrina Gully is a park of two spaces, the southern active space, and the northern passive space. The southern side contains pathways, playground and fitness equipment, a basketball pad, picnic areas and shade structures. The passive space to the north is open grassland with parkland tree planting. The reserve is part of the Koonung Creek Linear Park and Trail.

The topography of the open space area in the northern side lends itself to a flow trail facility which could be integrated in with the existing active space in the south. This will include a facility suitable to a broad range of users that could access the site from the Koonung Trail.

Recommendation: Flow trail **Scale:** Community

Figure 28: Precedent imagery flow trails

LEGEND

01. Playground
02. Shade Sail Picnic Area
03. Basketball Pad
04. Wetland Area
05. Dual Use Bridge
06. Dual Use Path
07. Pedestrian Path
08. Reserve Boundary
09. Fitness Station

Figure 29: Katrina Gully Reserve Existing Site Features

Figure 30: Katrina Gully Reserve Indicative Design Development

IMPLEMENTATION AND DELIVERY

5 Recommendations

The table of recommendations below provides an overview of the recommendations at each site and indicative costings.

Table 3: Summary of Final Recommendations

Location	Priority	Facility	Focus	Scale	Indicative Cost
MORRIS WILLIAMS RESERVE	1	A pump track facility with suitable support infrastructure. The facility can comfortably be designed to connect to the existing path network including the shared use path.	This facility can accommodate beginner, intermediate and advanced users and gives bike riders a specific location to ride to beyond the existing path networks.	Local	$ 475,000
FITZSIMONS RESERVE	2	A set of flow trails with a starting trailhead and a catchment at the base of the site would be an appropriate bike facility at this site	At minimum a beginner, intermediate and difficult descending flow trails with a single return trail would be included. This will accommodate most users and allow for user progression. If room permits in design then extreme features may be included.	Regional	$ 280,000
JENKINS PARK	3	Learn to ride track and a bike playground with supporting infrastructure	A beginner/junior user focus to best align with the existing user group of the adjacent playspace.	Community	$ 418,000
ZERBES RESERVE	4	Skills trail and bike playground	A beginner use focus integrated with the current/upgraded playspace.	Community	$ 330,000
WONGA PARK RESERVE	5	Hybrid flow/jump line	A beginner / Intermediate use course to upgrade the current dirt jumps.	Community	$ 385,000
STINTONS RESERVE	6	Pump track	This facility can accommodate beginner, intermediate and advanced users. This track may	Local	$ 640,000

			be designed as a technical track suitable for racing as a supporting facility to the BMX track.		
ST CLEMS RESERVE	7	Skills trail	Provide a small skills trail located in the northern section close to the playground. It would focus on the beginner and intermediate user groups.	Community	$ 200,000
KATRINA GULLY (KCLP)	8	Flow trails	This facility could contain a beginner, intermediate and advanced descending flow trails with a single return trail. This will accommodate most users and allow for user progression.	Community	$ 440,000

5.1 Next steps and implementation

The recommended next steps include progressing each location through appropriate development processes including:

- Further investigations (where required)
- Community consultation
- Development of Concept Plans for each proposed facility/site

The recommendations will be considered in the context of other recreation facility priorities and projects, funding availability and any strategic work that underpins the development of each site such as strategies, masterplans and management plans.

5.2 Capital costs

Annual budget bids will be put forward as part of the Council budget cycle. Indicative costs for the proposed facilities are provided in Table 4 – Summary of Final Recommendations. CPI will need to be applied for the year in which the project is planned to be delivered. Council will need design by industry specific designers and professional contractors to implement the work. It will be important to have community buy in where projects are proposed so they can become valued community resources.

5.3 Ongoing costs

Once a bike facility is established, it is essential to understand the ongoing upkeep required to maintain the facility to a safe and functional condition. A management plan should be developed for each site prior to proceeding to outline the required maintenance, resources, annual budgets and asset lifespan information. It is estimated that bike facilities outlined in the assessment, if designed and constructed to best practice principles, meeting the required tolerances and specifications of current industry standards, will have a functional life of approximately 15 years before major repairs, renovation or renewal is needed. Regular maintenance is also extremely important to ensure the function and relevance of the facilities.

The table below provides an estimate for ongoing maintenance of recreational cycling infrastructure.

Table 4: Ongoing maintenance rates

	% of original cost	Tasks
Ongoing maintenance (annual)	1-3%	Ongoing maintenance includes minor repairs, inspecting for defects and ensuring the facility is safe for use.
Renovation (5 years)	3-5%	Major renovation to rectify any significant issues
Renovation (10-15 years)	5-10%	Major renovation to rectify any significant issues
End of life (20 years)	100% plus inflation	Full replacement

5.4 Supporting amenities

The existing and proposed supporting amenities for each site is shown in the table below that will compliment the proposed bike facility.

Table 6: Supporting amenities for each site

Location	Bike Path Connection	Toilets	Bike Repair	Water	Seats	Tables	Spectator Shade	Car Park	Play - ground	Park Lighting	Food Providers
Fitzsimons Reserve	Yes	Nearby	Yes	Nearby	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Stintons Reserve	Planned	Planned	Planned	Yes	Yes	Yes	Shelter	Yes	No	No	Canteen?
Morris Williams Reserve	Yes	Planned	Planned	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Small	Yes +Fitness	Yes	No
Wonga Park Reserve	Planned	Planned	Planned	Yes	Yes	Yes	Planned	Yes	3	No	Nearby
Zerbes Reserve	Yes	Yes	Planned	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Partial	Nearby
Jenkins Park	Yes	Yes	Planned	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Small	Yes	Yes	No
St Clems Reserve	Yes	No	Planned	Yes	Yes	Yes	Natural	Nearby	Yes	No	Nearby
Katrina Gully	Yes	No	Planned	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes +Fitness	No	No

10.2 Draft Integrated Water Management Strategy for Community Consultation

File Number: IN25/784

Responsible Director: Director City Planning and Liveability

Attachments:
1 Part A: Integrated Water Management (IWM) Strategy ⇩
2 Part B: Background Report - Integrated Water Management (IWM) Strategy
3 Flooding and Stormwater Management Community Reference Panel Feedback ⇩

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council support to release the draft Manningham Integrated Water Management (IWM) Strategy for community consultation for a 6 week period between 31 October to 15 December 2025.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Water is essential for life. It supports our health and wellbeing and supports our overall liveability.

To be more resilient to changing climatic conditions and respond to developmental pressures we need to adopt a more integrated and holistic approach to the way we manage our water resources.

The purpose of the Manningham Integrated Water Management (IWM) Strategy is to set Council's strategic direction on how we and the community can better manage water within our built and natural environments over the next 10 years. Whilst IWM measures can benefit flood mitigation, the Strategy identifies the complementary role that more traditional drainage assets and flood management measures play.

The development of the draft IWM Strategy has been influenced by the State Government's IWM policy framework. In this regard, Council is an active member of the Yarra Catchment IWM Forum that is led by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).

Input has also been provided from a broad range of stakeholders. They include: Council's internal Working Group and other relevant Council officers, specialist consultants, Melbourne Water, Yarra Valley Water, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Council's Flooding and Stormwater Management Community Reference Panel (CRP).

The draft IWM Strategy is comprised of two parts being Part A, the strategy and Part B, a separate background document.

Importantly, there will need to be a sufficient budget allocation to meet the capital costs and ongoing maintenance demand and operational costs associated with the existing and any future infrastructure assets.

The IWM Strategy requires a whole of Council approach to ensure success. There are significant opportunities to focus on greater collaboration to create efficiencies and drive innovative approaches to water management.

Importantly, Council and the community need to work together so that collectively we can better manage our water resources to create a more sustainable community and liveable municipality.

1. RECOMMEDATION

That Council:

A. Endorse the draft Integrated Water Management Strategy comprising Parts A and B for community consultation for a 6 week period, between 31 October to 15 December 2025. Part A (Attachment 1) is the Strategy and Part B (Attachment 2) is the Background Report.

B. Note that the draft Manningham Integrated Water Management Strategy has been informed by feedback from key stakeholders including Council's internal Working Group, Melbourne Water, Yarra Valley Water and the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. The Strategy also takes into consideration feedback received from Council's Flooding and Stormwater Management Community Reference Panel (CRP).

C. Note that the draft Strategy aligns with key State Government policies and helps support Council's commitment and obligations to the Yarra Catchment Integrated Water Management Forum that is led by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).

D. Note Attachment 3 detailing the feedback on the draft Strategy from the CRP and associated officer response on this feedback.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Water is essential for life, supporting our health and wellbeing and impacting our overall liveability. However, our water resources are under increasing pressure due to population growth, urbanisation and climate change.

2.2 Our weather is becoming more unpredictable. We are experiencing hotter temperatures, less rainfall that leads to drought, as well as more intense rain events which can lead to flooding. All these factors place more pressure on our water supply.

2.3 To be more resilient to these climatic conditions and respond to developmental pressures we need to adopt a more integrated and holistic approach to the way we manage our water resources.

2.4 The purpose of the Integrated Water Management (IWM) Strategy is to set Council's strategic direction on how we can better manage water within our built and natural environments over the next 10 years.

2.5 The Strategy will help guide Council and educate the community to use water more sustainably and inform Council investment on a range of stormwater management measures so that collectively we can enhance our liveability and improve waterway health and biodiversity.

Our Water Supply – Now and in the Future

2.6 Many of Council's core services rely on water. They include street tree planting; park and sports field maintenance and irrigation; and the operation of our community facilities, particularly our leisure centres, including Aquarena. Likewise, our community rely on water for their daily needs.

2.7 Melbourne's water supply primarily relies on rainfall which is captured in a series of dams and reservoirs across the region. The native forests and soils provide natural filtration. It is anticipated that with climate change these reservoirs and the surrounding national parks and state forests will be placed under increasing pressure.

2.8 To secure our water supply and maintain our standard of living we need to modify the way we use water.

Flooding and Drainage

2.9 Our traditional drainage assets and integrated water management improvements must co-exist if we are to address the emerging climate challenges and population growth to achieve a sustainable future.

2.10 Council's Stormwater Management Policy sets out the basis for capital drainage project prioritisation and was adopted by Council on 16 September 2024. A review of drainage project priorities has since been conducted in line with the Council adopted criteria to inform drainage project priorities in the short term. Action 18 of the draft IWM Strategy requires that upon completion of Council's flood mapping and modelling project, Council's approach to responding to flood risk (including capital improvements and emergency management practices) be reviewed. Consideration will also be given to the renewal requirements for existing drainage assets.

Flood Mapping Update

2.11 On 3 October 2025, the Minister for Water announced that Melbourne Water will be given stronger accountabilities to prepare and endorse flood mapping across Victoria. The new approach will use a flood hazard rating system and will be supported by improved community engagement in preparing flood mapping.

2.12 The Minister for Planning and Minister for Housing and Building also announced the preparation of new State-led planning and building controls to identify flood impacted areas and ensure the latest information is taken into account, with homes built to suit the local environment.

2.13 This will support Melbourne Water to lead flood modelling and community engagement to streamline flood-related planning scheme amendments led by the Minister for Planning.

2.14 Melbourne Water will release updated flood mapping across Greater Melbourne over the next two years and undertake further community engagement.

2.15 Officers will engage with Melbourne Water officers to better understand the implications of the ministerial announcements for local government and Manningham.

What is Integrated Water Management?

2.16 Integrated water management (IWM) is the co-ordinated approach to the way we plan, manage and deliver water services. It addresses all aspects of the water cycle including water consumption, rainwater, stormwater and wastewater to enable a range of environmental, social and economic benefits for the wider catchment.

2.17 The aim of managing water in a more integrated way is to:

- Reduce our reliance on potable (drinking) water
- Capture and treat alternative water sources like stormwater for appropriate uses such as greening our environment
- Manage the flow of stormwater and minimise the amount of pollutants in the water before entering our waterways
- Support flood mitigation to reduce flood damage in our urban areas and better protect the environment.
- Complement traditional drainage and flooding management measures.

2.18 By considering all elements of the water cycle, our valuable water resources help create a more sustainable and liveable community as shown in Figure 1.

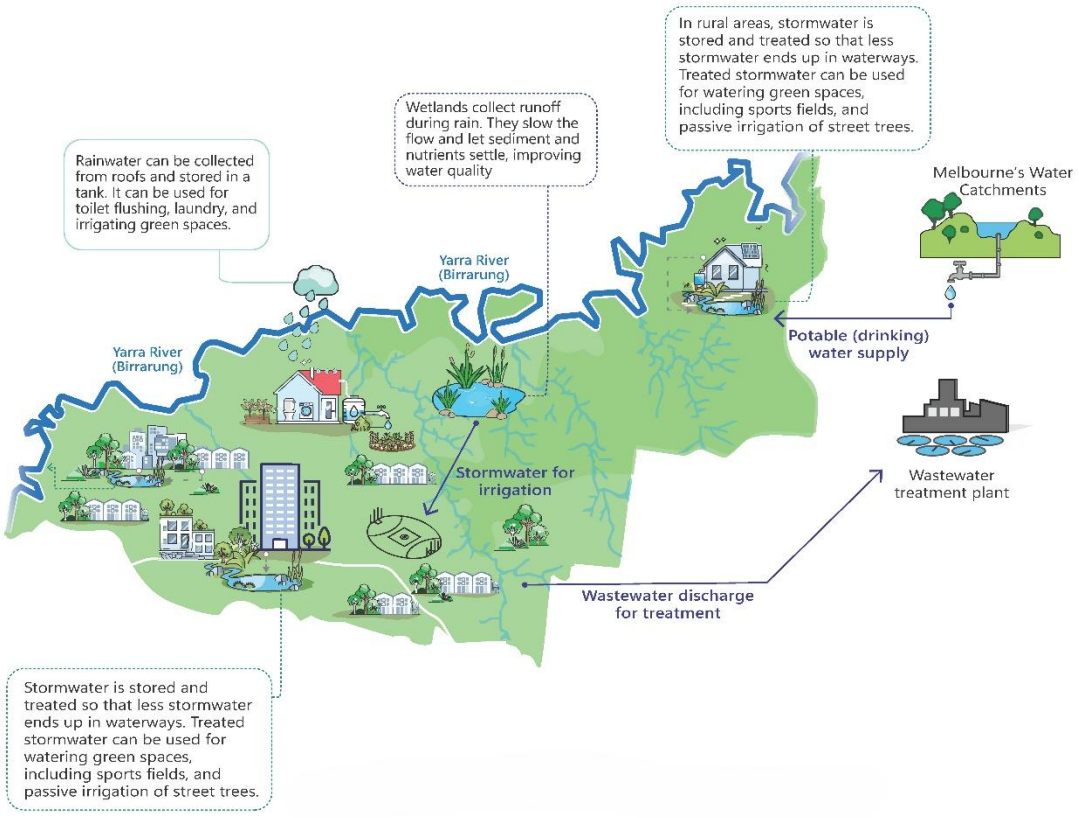


Figure 1: Urban Water Cycle

Manningham – Yarra Catchment IWM Forum

2.19 A key State Government policy document *Water for Victoria* 2016 addresses the need for climate resilience and seeks to better manage water for agriculture, the environment and community. It also recognises that water has cultural importance for Traditional Owners and seeks to provide greater First Nations participation in water planning and management.

2.20 In 2017, the State Government established Integrated Water Management (IWM) Forums to foster collaboration among various water management stakeholders and to develop joint objectives for the water cycle and IWM. Five integrated water management IWM forums were established that correspond with the five major water catchments within the Port Phillip and Western Port region. Manningham forms part of the broader Yarra catchment, which drains into Port Phillip Bay.

2.21 Each IWM forum, including the Yarra Catchment, has produced strategic directions that include a regional context, shared vision and outcomes. The Yarra Catchment IWM forum plan has seven strategic outcomes. Several of the strategic outcomes require a whole of catchment approach, whilst other strategic outcomes are focussed on a more localised scale. Our IWM Strategy will align with the strategic directions and measures, with particular attention given to what Council can influence at a local level.

Eastern Region Group of Councils (ERG)

2.22 The ERG draft Strategic Plan 2025-2029 recognises the importance of the Integrated Water Management Forum. Officers have been involved in collaboration with Councils in the eastern region to allow for a cross-council approach to IWM projects.

Development of the Strategy

2.23 The development of the draft Strategy has been influenced by the State Government's IWM policy framework, Council's internal Working Group and other relevant Council officers and specialist consultants. There has also been input from Melbourne Water and Yarra Valley Water and representatives of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. Engagement has also been undertaken with Council's Flooding and Stormwater Management Community Reference Panel (CRP) since November 2022.

Council's Flooding and Stormwater Management Community Reference Panel (CRP)

2.24 CRP input into the IWM Strategy development has been provided. The CRP's input has helped influence the approach, priorities and structure of the Strategy.

2.25 The CRP has:

- Contributed to the development of Council's draft IWM vision;
- Brought a community perspective to the development of the IWM Masterplan and shortlisting of projects;
- Provided input into community engagement initiatives including the water stories campaign;
- Provided feedback on the four strategic directions within the IWM Strategy
- Reviewed the 70% complete draft IWM Strategy and Action Plan

- Reviewed the communications and engagement material and digital content to inform the community engagement activities on the draft IWM Strategy.

2.26 Attachment 3 provides in greater detail the feedback received at two dedicated workshops, and officer's response to the feedback.

CRP Workshop 1

2.27 In preparation for the 6 August workshop, on 31 July 2025, the CRP received a preliminary working draft IWM Strategy that was approximately 70% developed, along with three specific questions relating to the draft Strategy.

2.28 Each of the three questions included a preamble, that provided a basis or explanation for the question. The questions related to:

- The readability of the document
- Whether any additional actions should be provided including actions about community engagement and education
- Whether there was sufficient justification for increased investment in IWM

2.29 In response the CRP's feedback on 6 August, the following key changes were made:

- Restructuring of the Strategy into two parts
- Introduction of the concept of IWM and its benefits early in the background report
- Referencing the millennial drought and water sensitive urban design (WSUD)
- Reinforcing the importance of community education and engagement
- Reviewing the roles and responsibilities of key organisations, including Council and the community
- Addressing the financial implications of IWM and the importance of financial resources to implement the Strategy.

Workshop 2

2.30 In preparation for the 10 September workshop, on 4 September, the CRP received material focussing on community engagement activities planned as part of the community consultation on the draft IWM Strategy, along with three specific questions to inform workshop discussions.

2.31 Each of the three questions included a preamble, that provided a basis or explanation for the question. The questions related to:

- Whether the survey seeking community feedback on the IWM Strategy is easy to understand and respond to, and if there were any additional areas of the strategy that we should seek feedback on.
- Key messages to be conveyed during the in-person engagement activities as well as feedback on the 4 draft Fact Sheets providing key information on topics of interest for the community on IWM.
- Whether there are any other engagement activities we should consider, including across digital platforms, and including information inclusive of multiple languages.

2.32 Key matters that were raised include:

- Suggested key messages for use during in-person engagement;
- Simplifying the Fact Sheets to be less text heavy, with more use of links / QR codes and infographics;
- Re-alignment of questions in the survey, and with more use of links / QR codes and infographics;
- Opportunities to share information with schools, various community groups, including different language platforms.
- Clearly defining the role of Council, the community and other stakeholders in the role of IWM.
- Keeping the community informed on how their feedback has influenced the IWM Strategy.

2.33 The CRP feedback has been used to update the communications material and activities identified in the Communications and Engagement Plan that will inform the 6 week community consultation period. The key communications and engagement activities are outlined in Section 6.3 and the accompanying table in this report.

2.34 Consideration of their feedback needs to be balanced with the directions of the State Government's IWM policy framework and related policies, the requirements of water authorities and Council's strategic policies and budgetary priorities.

3. DISCUSSION / ISSUE

3.1 The draft Integrated Water Management (IWM) Strategy is Manningham's first document that addresses integrated water management and all aspects of the water cycle, including water consumption, rainwater, stormwater and wastewater.

3.2 The draft Strategy has been written to be understood by the broader community as well as addressing technical aspects of the water cycle. Whilst IWM measures can benefit flood mitigation, the Strategy identifies the complementary role that traditional drainage assets and flood management measures play.

3.3 As a foundational document, the draft Strategy will have a 10 year timeframe that will be reviewed in five years to align with the 2030 Yarra Catchment IWM Forum targets. An interim review is recommended at year 3 in response to findings from some pilot projects (refer to paragraph 5.6 of the report) and a condition audit of existing Council IWM assets.

3.4 The content of the Strategy is influenced by various State legislation and policies together with Manningham's key strategic documents. Refer to Section 4 (Council Plan / Strategy) for more details.

3.5 The Strategy will help guide Council and educate the community to use water more sustainably and inform Council investment so collectively we can enhance our liveability and improve waterway health and biodiversity.

Strategy Structure

3.6 The draft IWM Strategy is comprised of two volumes as follows:

- **Part A** is the Strategy that includes the Purpose, Vision, Guiding Principles, Strategic Directions and Actions.
- **Part B**: is the background report that outlines information about integrated water management, the policy and legislative framework, Manningham's use of water resources and flooding and drainage and how traditional drainage approaches complement the IWM approach.

3.7 In Part A, Following the Strategy Vision and guiding principles, there are four strategic directions. The strategic directions are:

- Using Water Sustainably: To better manage our water resources and increase alternative water use in response to population growth and climate change.
- Improving Waterway Health and Biodiversity: To minimise the impacts of land use and development by better managing stormwater entering our waterways.
- Improving Flood Management: To use a range of flood management measures to support drainage infrastructure to reduce exposure to flood risk.
- Increasing Community Understanding and Strengthening Partnerships: To work together so the Council community, responsible agencies, Traditional Owners and other key stakeholders can help create a more sustainable future.

3.8 The actions have been developed to respond directly to the strategic directions and details the key priorities to be implemented over the life of the Strategy and broadly covers capital works, asset management, community education and engagement, and policy development in response to legislative requirements.

3.9 Given water is fundamental to many Council operations, the implementation of the IWM Strategy needs a whole of organisation approach to ensure success. There are significant opportunities to focus on greater collaboration to create efficiencies and drive innovative approaches to water management.

3.10 Based on 2019 data, Council operations utilised only 2% of the water consumed across Manningham. As a consequence, Council has limited ability to conserve potable (drinking) water, compared with the broader community. Whilst Council has an important role to play in IWM, it is acknowledged the community can also contribute to water conservation, management of the impacts of stormwater and increase the benefits of IWM approaches.

3.11 The community's high proportion of water consumption reinforces the need to prioritise community education and engagement so the community can develop a greater understanding about the broader benefits of IWM, including how it can improve overall liveability and enhance the environment. Refer to Section 5 for more details (under the heading Education and Engagement).

Key Actions

3.12 A key focus of the Yarra Catchment IWM Forum is to improve stormwater quality by reducing the amount of pollutants and the volume of stormwater entering our waterways, which ultimately end up in Port Phillip Bay.

3.13 IWM projects can be delivered over a range of scales, including:

- Regional - Projects which may serve significant areas of a municipality or multiple municipalities and are typically located in open space areas.
- Precinct – Projects which may serve significant areas of a municipality or multiple municipalities and generally located in open space reserves.
- Street – Street scale IWM projects, also known as water sensitive urban design (WSUD), which are constructed on public land and can include passive irrigation of street trees, raingardens, permeable pavements and other infrastructure
- Allotment – These are smaller scale assets located on a private property, such as rainwater tanks

Precinct Realm

3.14 These projects involve stormwater harvesting to help irrigate ovals, open space reserves and wetlands to help clean stormwater before entering waterways.

3.15 Importantly, site selection for precinct scale projects requires consideration of the following factors:

- Land slope – Flatter sites are more appropriate for WSUD / IWM infrastructure;
- Site proximity to the drainage network and reuse opportunities – the closer the site is to the drainage network, the lower the pumping and water diversion costs. Stormwater harvesting systems need to be designed for an irrigation demand associated with a sports oval or specific facility; and
- Upstream catchment area – Sufficient land must be located upstream of the proposed site to ensure that there will be sufficient and reliable stormwater supply.

3.16 Action 2 in the IWM Strategy proposes to plan, design and construct one precinct scale project every four years.

3.17 The first two sites proposed for more detailed investigation and delivery will be Rieschiecks Reserve and Templestowe Reserve. These sites have been selected as the highest priority based on an assessment of costs and benefits associated with the five shortlisted projects. Further investigation of Timber Reserve will be undertaken at the end of the Strategy term.

3.18 Concepts will be developed to confirm project feasibility for each site, including undertaking a cost benefit analysis which will also inform grant funding applications.

3.19 Individual project development will also include consultation with the affected community members and key stakeholders and will consider how the community currently utilises the open space.

Street Realm

3.20 Street Realm projects are constructed at street scale on public land and can include raingardens, permeable pavements, passively irrigated street trees and other infrastructure. Passively irrigated street trees are watered with stormwater directed to the tree typically from a kerb.

3.21 The Strategy recommends that a range of options for passive irrigation of street trees and permeable kerb or pavement be trialled at various locations. The trial is expected to include around 90 - 100 trees and an area of up to 150 square metres of permeable pavement. The aim of this project is to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these treatments from an IWM performance, constructability and financial (value for money) perspectives.

Allotment realm

3.22 Allotment Realm assets are smaller property scale assets which reuse rainwater for toilet flushing, laundry or irrigation, or treat stormwater to improve its quality before releasing it to the Council drainage system.

3.23 Individual households play a key role in achieving IWM outcomes. The Victorian Planning Provisions (VPPs) require compliance with IWM standards. An action of the strategy is to prepare a Developers Guide to outline Council's expectations on how these provisions can be satisfactorily met. The broader community's understanding of IWM however will be further supported by Council's educational and engagement activities.

4. COUNCIL PLAN / STRATEGY

4.1 Water is fundamental to many Council operations, as a result there are many synergies between the draft IWM Strategy and several key State Government documents, the Council Plan and other endorsed Council strategies and policies.

4.2 The following diagram shows a summary of key State and Local government strategies / policies that intersect with integrated water management principles.

4.3 The Council Plan 2025 - 2029 reinforces the importance of climate resilience. Given integrated water management is relevant to many of Council's functions, the following Council Plan themes apply: Safe and Healthy Community, Liveable Places and Spaces, Resilient Environment and Well Governed and Innovative Council. The IWM strategy will also focus on efficiency and innovation in the way that we manage water in the landscape.

4.4 The Council Plan 2025-2029 also focuses on collaboration, efficiency and innovation, and given the IWM Strategy affects the whole of Council, there are significant opportunities to focus on collaborating internally and externally to create efficiencies and drive innovative approaches to water management.

4.5 Action 5.3.4. states: Develop the Integrated Water Management Strategy to provide direction on achieving sustainable water.

4.6 The draft Strategy aligns with key State Government policies, including the Yarra Strategic Plan and helps support Council's commitment to the Yarra Catchment Integrated Water Management Forum that is led by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).

4.7 Further to the diagram under item 4.2, key documents which contribute to and guide Council's approach to flood management are listed under item 6.2.2 of Attachment 2 (Part B: Background report of the IWM Strategy).

5. IMPACTS AND IMPLICATIONS

Financial / Resource Implications

5.1 The IWM Strategy will result in upgrades to and an increase in the number of IWM / WSUD assets and also lead to changes to various Council operational processes. A sufficient budget allocation will be required to facilitate these outcomes. Business cases will be prepared and funding will be subject to Council's annual budgetary and capital works management processes.

5.2 Larger scale precinct realm projects, for example the master plan projects that include potential stormwater harvesting projects and wetlands that would be located in public spaces like reserves would be subject to a cost benefit analysis to evaluate the environmental, economic and social implications of each project.

5.3 In order to partially fund IWM initiatives and to offset Council capital expenditure, officers will apply for grant funding through Melbourne Water's Liveable Communities, Liveable Waterways funding program. Other grant opportunities will also be explored where appropriate.

5.4 The IWM Working Group will monitor progress against the strategy and refer progress and any issues arising through an annual report at Executive level. The Group will also periodically review the medium and long term actions.

5.5 As the implementation of the Strategy progresses, consideration of IWM progress and resources will be further considered and reported to Council following the review undertaken after year 3 and 5, with the aim to build momentum and elevate IWM within the organisation and to align with State Government priorities.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 Whilst an internal Integrated Water Management Working Group has already been established, an action of the Strategy proposes to review the Group's membership and Terms of Reference, so the focus is on the implementation of the Strategy and embedding IWM considerations as part of Council's daily operations.

6.2 A Communications and Engagement Plan has been prepared to inform activities associated with the proposed 6-week exhibition period between 31 October to 15 December. The following table outlines the key communications and engagement activities that will be undertaken during the community consultation period.

6.3 We will provide interpreter services as well as a range of consultation material in different languages to optimise the opportunity for our multicultural community to engage with us during the consultation period.

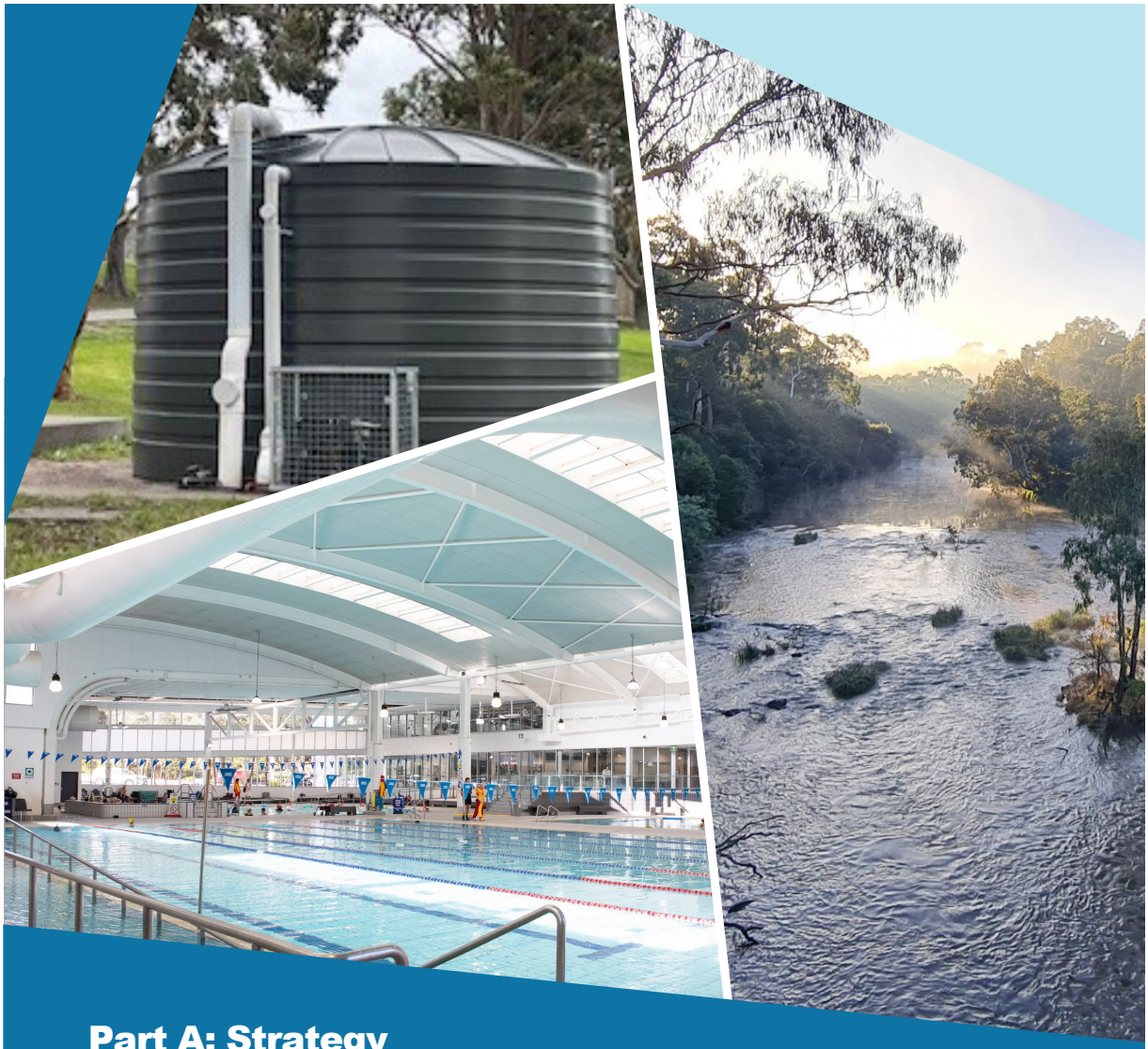
Is engagement required?	Yes
Stakeholder Groups	1.The Flooding and Stormwater Management Community Reference Panel (CRP) 2. Internal Service Units 3.Councillors / Council 4. Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, Melbourne Water and Yarra Valley Water 5. Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation 6. Broader Community, Special Interest Community Groups and neighbouring Councils
Where does it sit on the IAP2 spectrum?	Inform Consult
Approach	Dedicated project yoursaymanningham page Community Survey Fact Sheets Manningham website Manningham Matters magazine Manningham eNews Social Media Water Stories Library displays Postcard with QR code with link to yoursay page and community survey Interpreter service and material in different languages <u>In-Person Engagement Activities</u> Warrandyte Riverside Market – Sat, 1 November Park Orchards Market – Sat 15 November Tunstall Square Market - Sunday 30 Nov Community drop-in session – Wednesday 3 December

Timelines

Council meeting – Endorsement for community engagement on draft IWM Strategy	28 October 2025
Community consultation - Draft IWM Strategy	31 October to 15 December 2025
Review of submissions and finalisation of Strategy	16 December to early 2026
Council endorsement of final IWM Strategy	Early - Mid 2026

7. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest in this matter.



Part A: Strategy

Draft Manningham Integrated Water Management Strategy

Improved water outcomes for our community and environment 2026 – 2036

Interpreter service **9840 9355**
普通话 廣東話 Ελληνικά Italiano فارسی العربية

MANNINGHAM

DRAFT

Contents

Acknowledgement of Country **1**
Executive Summary **2**
1 Introduction **4**
1.1 Structure of Strategy 4
1.2 Purpose of Strategy 4
1.3 State and Local Government Policy Context 5
1.4 Flooding and Drainage 5
2 Vision and Strategic Directions **6**
2.1 Our Vision 6
2.2 Guiding Principles 6
2.3 Strategic Directions 7
2.4 Financial Implications 7
2.4.1 Grant Funding 7
3 Actions **8**
4 Monitoring and Evaluation **20**
5 Glossary **21**

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Acknowledgement of Country

Manningham covers the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people. Being Traditional Custodians, they have managed land and water sustainably for thousands of years and maintain an active connection to Country.

Manningham Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional Owners of the land and waterways now known as Manningham, particularly the Yarra River (Birrarung). As we prepare our first Integrated Water Management Strategy, Council pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging. We value their holistic approach to Caring for Country and acknowledge them as the first integrated water managers in balancing water's cultural, spiritual, environmental and economic significance.

Manningham Council also acknowledges the contribution made to Manningham over the years by people of diverse backgrounds and cultures.

Executive Summary

Water is central to Manningham's liveability, environment and future prosperity. Climate change, population growth and urbanisation are placing increasing pressure on water resources, resulting in increased demand on potable (drinking) water, degradation of waterways, and increased flood risk.

Manningham's first Integrated Water Management Strategy sets a 10 year direction for using and reusing alternative water sources and conserving potable water in a co-ordinated and sustainable way to benefit our community. It outlines a list of actions and initiatives to better manage our water resources, enhance our liveability and improve waterway health and biodiversity.

Key Challenges

- Average annual rainfall is declining, and rainfall patterns are changing, resulting in more frequent high intensity rainfall events
- Extreme heat, drought and longer dry periods between rainfall events are forecast
- Manningham's projected population growth from around 130,000 in 2024 to around 144,000 by 2036 will drive higher demand for potable (drinking) water and an increased demand on public open space
- Increased urbanisation associated with population growth will result in more hard surfaces resulting in increased volumes of stormwater runoff

The IWM Vision for Manningham is that:

Manningham is an adaptable community that values water as a vital resource for present and future generations. Through sustainable integrated water management, we will conserve water, improve waterway health, reduce flood risk and support community wellbeing.

Guiding Principles

Valuing Water and waterways – Treat water as a valuable resource. Build understanding within our community about the importance of water in our lives having regard to economic, environmental, social and cultural considerations.

Collaboration - Promote shared responsibility and the need to work together to ensure that water is managed responsibly and continues to support our health and wellbeing. This includes working with and supporting Traditional Owners so their cultural values are incorporated into water management approaches. Furthermore, continue to work with the Yarra Catchment IWM Forum, government agencies, and the broader community to ensure water management aligns with government policy directions.

Integrated decision making – Align decisions and investment in Council operations to embed IWM considerations in everyday practice to maximise opportunities to treat water as a resource and support broader Council objectives relating to our natural environment.

Innovation – Pilot cost effective emerging technologies and embed innovation to realise IWM benefits

Strategic Directions

Using Water Sustainably – To better manage our water resources and increase alternative water use in response to population growth and climate change.

Improving Waterway Health and Biodiversity – To minimise the impacts of urbanisation and development by better managing stormwater entering our waterways.

Improving flood management – To use a range of flood management measures to support drainage infrastructure to reduce exposure to flood risk.

Increasing Community Understanding and Strengthening Partnerships – To work together so the Council, community, responsible agencies, Traditional Owners and other key stakeholders can help create a more culturally aware and sustainable future.

1 Introduction

Water is essential for life. It supports our health and wellbeing and impacts our overall liveability. However, our water resources are under increasing pressure due to population growth, urbanisation and climate change.

To be more resilient to a changing climate and respond to developmental pressures we need to adopt a more integrated and holistic approach to the way we manage our water resources. This Strategy recognises that whilst IWM measures can assist with better managing our water sources and minimising the impacts of floods, traditional drainage assets and flood mitigation approaches also serve an important purpose. The two water management approaches therefore have complementary roles.

This document is Manningham's first Integrated Water Management (IWM) Strategy. It is a foundational piece that will help Manningham, our community, responsible agencies, Traditional Owners and other key stakeholders work together to better manage our water resources and consider all aspects of the water cycle when planning, designing, developing and delivering infrastructure and services across the municipality.

1.1 Structure of Strategy

This Strategy is divided into two parts:

Part A: (this document) is the Strategy that includes the Purpose, Vision, Guiding Principles, Strategic Directions and Actions.

Part B: is the Background Report that outlines what integrated water management is, the policy and legislative framework, Manningham's use of water resources as well as explain the need and benefits of IWM.

1.2 Purpose of Strategy

The purpose of this Strategy is to set Manningham's strategic direction on how we can better manage water within our built and natural environments over the next 10 years.

The Strategy will help guide Council and the broader community to use water more sustainably and inform Council investment on a range of stormwater management measures, so collectively we can enhance our liveability and improve waterway health and biodiversity.

The actions in this Strategy will be reviewed after 3 and 5 years to ensure it continues to align with the State Government policies and Council priorities.

This Strategy relies on collaboration and partnerships between Council, State Government, water managers, our community, Traditional Owners and other stakeholders so together we can conserve and manage our precious water resources for current and future generations.

1.3 State and Local Government Policy Context

The Strategy aligns with key State Government policies including the Yarra Strategic Plan and helps support Council's commitment to the Yarra Catchment Integrated Water Management that is led by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).

The Environment Protection Act (2017) provides the legislative framework for the protection of human health and the environment from pollution and waste in Victoria and sets out the General Environmental Duty (GED). The GED requires anyone conducting an activity that may give rise to risks of harm to human health or the environment from pollution or waste, to eliminate or minimise those risks.

Council has a statutory obligation to prepare a Stormwater Management Plan to minimise risks from urban stormwater associated with Council operations. The preparation of the Stormwater Management Plan is identified as an action of this Strategy.

The actions also includes a range of Council's design guidelines and specifications to align with current EPA requirements.

1.4 Flooding and Drainage

Traditional drainage assets and integrated water management improvements play a complementary role in addressing emerging climate challenges and increased population growth.

Council's Stormwater Management Policy (2024) sets the basis for capital drainage project prioritisation. Melbourne Water and Manningham are currently undertaking flood modelling and mapping for the municipality. A further review of drainage project priorities will be informed once the flood modelling and mapping results are completed.

2 Vision and Strategic Directions

2.1 Our Vision

The IWM Vision for Manningham is that:

Manningham is an adaptable community that values water as a vital resource for present and future generations. Through sustainable integrated water management, we will conserve water, improve waterway health, reduce flood risk and support community wellbeing.

2.2 Guiding Principles

Valuing Water and waterways – Treat water as a valuable resource. Build understanding within our community about the importance of water in our lives having regard to economic, environmental, social and cultural considerations.

Collaboration - Promote shared responsibility and the need to work together to ensure that water is managed responsibly and continues to support our health and wellbeing. This includes working with and supporting Traditional Owners, so their cultural values are incorporated into water management approaches. Furthermore, continue to work with the Yarra Catchment IWM Forum, government agencies, and the broader community to ensure water management aligns with government policy directions.

Integrated decision making – Align decisions and investment in Council operations to embed IWM considerations in everyday practice, to maximise opportunities to treat water as a resource and support broader Council objectives.

Innovation – Pilot cost effective emerging technologies and embed innovation to realise IWM benefits

2.3 Strategic Directions

The Strategic Directions provide the framework to achieve the Vision and the actions.

Using Water Sustainably – To better manage our water resources and increase alternative water use in response to population growth and climate change.

Improving Waterway Health and Biodiversity – To minimise the impacts of land use and development by better managing stormwater entering our waterways.

Improving flood management – To use a range of flood management measures to support drainage infrastructure to reduce exposure to flood risk.

Increasing Community Understanding and Strengthening Partnerships – To work together so the Council, community, responsible agencies, Traditional Owners and other key stakeholders can help create a more sustainable future.

2.4 Financial Implications

The IWM Strategy will result in upgrades to and an increase in the number of IWM / WSUD assets and also lead to changes to various Council operational processes. A sufficient budget allocation will be required to facilitate these outcomes. Where feasible, actions will be funded from existing resources and build on existing programmes.

Larger scale precinct realm projects, for example the master plan projects that include potential stormwater harvesting projects and wetlands that would be located in public spaces like reserves, would be subject to a separate process. This would include the preparation of a Business Case that includes the lifecycle costs and cost benefit analysis to evaluate the environmental, economic, cultural and social implications of each project. Upon endorsement of this Strategy, applications for additional external funding for projects will be subject to Council's budgetary processes.

As the implementation of the Strategy progresses, actions and financial investment will be reported on, with the opportunity to build momentum and elevate IWM within the organisation and to align with State Government priorities.

2.4.1 Grant Funding

Officers will seek opportunities to apply for grant funding through multiple funding streams, such as Melbourne Water's Liveable Communities, Liveable Waterways funding program and other programs as identified, to contribute to the cost of IWM initiatives and to offset Council capital expenditure.

3 Actions

The Strategy includes a list of actions to achieve each strategic direction. Each action includes measures to help us monitor the ongoing implementation of the Strategy. A column is also included that reflects the alignment with specific strategic outcomes identified in the State Government's Yarra Catchment IWM forum that is led by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)

ACTION TIMING

Short term: 1 - 4 years
Medium term: 5 – 7 years
Long term: 8 – 10 years

IWM Forum Strategic Outcomes

- Safe secure and affordable water supplies in an uncertain future
- Effective and affordable wastewater systems
- Existing and future flood risks are managed to maximise outcomes for the community
- Healthy and valued waterways and marine environments
- Healthy and valued urban and rural landscapes
- Community values are reflected in place-based planning

Strategic Direction 1:

Using Water Sustainably – To better manage our water resources and increase alternative water use in response to population growth and climate change.

No	Action	Timing	Alignment with IWM Forum Strategic Outcomes	Measure	External Agency / Council Teams Lead (L) and Supporting Unit (S)
1.	Register Council buildings including the Civic Centre, Depot, MC2, Mullum Mullum Stadium and Aquarena for water data logging and water efficiency audits through Yarra Valley Water's Smartwater program to examine water use trends and ways to reduce the use of potable (drinking) water.	Short term		Audits completed and facility action plans developed that address recommendations.	Facilities Management (L) Recreation and Leisure (S) City Planning (S)
2.	In accordance with the 'Yarra Catchment Integrated Water Management Plan – Actions for Delivery' (2024) prepare a masterplan for 5 potential stormwater treatment / harvesting projects that support precinct realm IWM irrigation opportunities by 2050. Progress business cases for two priority projects including a review of the project cost benefit analysis. The scope of works would include planning, community consultation, design and construction. The two priority projects are:	Short term		Assess sites across Manningham for suitability for IWM and complete concept plans for the top two priority options.	City Planning (L) Integrated Stormwater (S) Parks and Natural Environment (S) Community Projects and Planning (S) City Design (S) Statutory Planning (S) Engaged Communities (S) Community Wellbeing and Partnership(S)
2a	Rieschiecks Reserve	Short term		Reduce potable water demand by 3ML/annum.	As above

No	Action	Timing	Alignment with IWM Forum Strategic Outcomes	Measure	External Agency / Council Teams Lead (L) and Supporting Unit (S)
2b	Templestowe Reserve	Medium term		Reduce potable water demand by 4ML/annum.	As above
3.	Continue to work with Yarra Valley Water to ensure sustainable water supplies for Doncaster Hill / Tullamore Estate and reduce potable (drinking) water demand.	Short to medium term		Minimisation of potable water use at Doncaster Hill and Tullamore Estate.	Yarra Valley Water (L) City Planning (L) Integrated Stormwater (S) Statutory Planning (S) Infrastructure and Development (S)
4.	Review Council's existing water storage facilities, including rainwater tanks and the underground storage facility at the Tullamore Estate to determine how these resources could support the irrigation of street trees and offset the use of potable (drinking) water.	Short term		Substitute 0.25ML/year of potable water with harvested stormwater for street tree watering.	City Planning (L) Parks and Natural Environment (S) Facilities Management (S) Geographical Information Systems (S)

Strategic Direction 2:

Improving Waterway Health and Biodiversity – To minimise the impacts of urbanisation and development by better managing stormwater entering our waterways

No	Action	Timing	Alignment with IWM Forum Strategic Outcomes	Measure	External Agency Council Teams / Lead (L) and Supporting (S) Unit
5.	Explore with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation opportunities to incorporate ancient knowledge and cultural values to improve the health of Country including the Birrarung (Yarra River).	Ongoing		Activities and programs where the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation have influenced decisions that help improve the health of Country including the Birrarung (Yarra River)	City Planning (L) Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (S) Social Planning and Community Strengthening (S) and other departments as required
6.	Undertake a condition audit of existing Council IWM / WSUD assets and develop maintenance plans and costings to provide ongoing environmental benefits. Update the Asset Register and GIS program to reflect the new information.	Short term		Audit of all Council WSUD / IWM assets. A report addressing the condition, maintenance and rehabilitation requirements and recommended way forward to be presented to Council in 2029.	Asset Management Team (S) Integrated Stormwater (L) Parks and Natural Environment (S)

No	Action	Timing	Alignment with IWM Forum Strategic Outcomes	Measure	External Agency Council Teams / Lead (L) and Supporting (S) Unit
7.	Prepare an Asset Management Plan for WSUD / IWM stormwater assets to guide future infrastructure investment.	Medium term		Complete the IWM/ WSUD Stormwater Asset Management Plan and financial modelling to ensure sustainable long term asset management.	Strategic Asset Management (L) Parks and Natural Environment (S) Integrated Stormwater (S)
8.	Complete and launch the IWM / WSUD Developers Guide to inform developers on how to comply with the Manningham Planning Scheme IWM requirements as part of the approval of a new development.	Short term		Guide to be developed, uploaded to the Manningham website and communicated to developers. Future planning applications to be tested against the Guide requirements.	City Planning (L) Infrastructure and Development (S) Integrated Stormwater (S) Statutory Planning (S)
9.	Investigate the preparation of a stormwater compliance framework for WSUD assets and detention systems on private property to ensure that these assets remain operational and effective.	Medium		Investigation of options for auditing of allotment scale WSUD assets to ensure lifecycle compliance with planning permit conditions. Consideration to be given to options to map and monitor asset status, locations and non-compliance for follow up.	Integrated Stormwater (L) Infrastructure and Development (S) Statutory Planning (S) Geographical Information Systems (S) Strategic Asset Management (S)

No	Action	Timing	Alignment with IWM Forum Strategic Outcomes	Measure	External Agency Council Teams / Lead (L) and Supporting (S) Unit
10.	Develop a Stormwater Management Plan for Manningham as required under the Obligations of Managers of Land or Infrastructure (urban stormwater management), the Environment Protection Act 2017 and the EPA's Urban Stormwater Management Guidance (2021).	Short term		Plan to meet the requirements of the Environment Protection Act 2017, including the identification of stormwater risks and controls associated with Council operations, to minimise risks of harm to human health and the environment.	City Planning (L) Infrastructure and Development (S) Integrated Stormwater (S) Statutory Planning (S) Facilities Management (S) Risk and Assurance (S) Integrated Stormwater (S)
11.	Undertake a review of Council documents to ensure that stormwater management obligations inform future capital works business cases. These documents include: • Manningham Better Building Design Guide • Civil design guides / briefs and other relevant documents.	Short to medium term		Key documents reviewed. IWM elements incorporated to meet the legal requirements under the EPA Act 2017 and Water Act 1989 and in accordance with Council's Stormwater obligations as referred to in Action 10.	City Planning (L) Integrated Stormwater (S) Community Projects and Planning (S) Building Projects (S) Civil Projects (S) City Projects (S) City Design (S)

No	Action	Timing	Alignment with IWM Forum Strategic Outcomes	Measure	External Agency Council Teams / Lead (L) and Supporting (S) Unit
12.	Continue to work in partnership with Melbourne Water to develop a litter reduction approach for Ruffey Lake to minimise the discharge of gross pollutants downstream and protect fauna including platypus.	Short to medium term		Approach to inform understanding of litter sources for Ruffey catchment, identify and assess litter reduction options including at source strategies. Reduction in waterborne litter impacting Ruffey Lake.	Waste and Resource Recovery (L) Melbourne Water (L) Parks and Natural Environment (S) Climate Emergency and Environment (S) Integrated Stormwater (S) Community Engagement (S)
13.	Undertake a pilot project to trial passively irrigated street trees and porous pavements in a variety of locations to support Council's street tree planting program. The identification of trial sites should consider a range of data including urban heat mapping. Use the findings of these trials to inform the approach to any future street realm project. Update the Asset Register and GIS program to reflect the new information.	Short term		Deliver up to 150 square metres of permeable pavement and 90-100 passively irrigated street trees over 2 years. M, onitor the performance of these projects and report to Council early in 2028 with the trial results and a recommended way forward.	Integrated Stormwater (L) Parks and Natural Environment (S) Strategic Asset Management (S)
14.	Develop a Point of Drainage Discharge Policy to align with site stormwater discharge requirements.	Medium		Policy will address flow requirements, specifically for redevelopment of single dwelling properties.	Infrastructure and Development (L) Integrated Stormwater (S)

Strategic Direction 3:

Improving flood management – To use a range of flood management measures to support drainage infrastructure to reduce exposure to flood risk

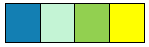
No	Action	Timing	Alignment with IWM Forum Strategic Outcomes	Measure	External Agency Council Teams / Lead (L) and Supporting (S) Unit
15.	Continue to work with Melbourne Water to complete draft flood modelling across Manningham having consideration to the impacts of climate change. Consult with affected property owners to seek feedback and refine the flood extents.	Short term	■	Draft flood mapping results prepared by Melbourne Water and Council presented to the community. Consider feedback to make any required changes to flood mapping for Council endorsement.	City Planning (L) Integrated Stormwater (S) Statutory Planning (S) Geographical Information Systems (S) Emergency Management (S) Strategic Asset Management (S) Melbourne Water (L) State Emergency Service (S) Engaged Communities (S)
16.	Work with Melbourne Water as part of the introduction of new or updated flood controls in the Manningham Planning Scheme	Short to medium term	■	Progress an amendment to the Manningham Planning Scheme to update the existing Melbourne Water regional flood overlays and to introduce flood controls for Manningham's drainage network.	City Planning (L) Integrated Stormwater (S) Legal Counsel (S) Engaged Communities (S) Geographical Information Systems (S)

No	Action	Timing	Alignment with IWM Forum Strategic Outcomes	Measure	External Agency Council Teams / Lead (L) and Supporting (S) Unit
17.	Endorse the Port Phillip and Westernport Flood Management Strategy (2021-2031) to ensure consistency between Melbourne Water's and Council's approach to flood management. Council benefits include: a better understanding of flood risk; opportunities to partner in innovative local flood management; adaptation to climate risks and building community resilience to flood risk.	Short term		Endorsement of the Strategy and delivery of relevant Local Government actions in partnership with flood management agencies.	City Planning (L) Integrated Stormwater (S)
18.	Upon completion of Council's flood mapping and modelling project, review Council's approach to better respond to flood risk. For example, capital improvements and emergency management practices.	Short term		Flood mitigation practices respond to the identified flood risk.	Integrated Stormwater (L) City Planning (S) Legal Counsel (S) Engaged Communities (S) Geographical Information Systems (S)
19.	Review and update Council's Stormwater Management Policy (2024) to guide the prioritisation of Council drainage works, having regard to the flood mapping results.	Short to medium term		Update Policy as required to align with the direction set out in the IWM Strategy, Stormwater Asset Management Plan and the flood modelling.	Integrated Stormwater (L) City Planning (S)

Strategic Direction 4:

Increasing Community Understanding and Strengthening Partnerships – To work together so the Council, community, responsible agencies, Traditional Owners and other key stakeholders can help create a more sustainable future.

No	Action	Timing	Alignment with IWM Forum Strategic Outcomes	Measure	External Agency Council Teams / Lead (L) and Supporting (S) Unit
20.	Build on Council's existing communications and education programs relating to environmental sustainability and waste management. The focus will be to improve the community's understanding of the water cycle from cultural and environmental perspectives. The plan should also outline opportunities: − for the community to become involved in practical activities to increase their understanding of how they can conserve water at home and at work. − to focus on the importance of enhancing custodianship of our waterways.	Ongoing		Participation in activities as identified in the Communications and Engagement Plan which focuses on Council led and support in regional initiatives.	Climate Emergency and Environment (L) City Planning (S) Integrated Stormwater (S) Engaged Communities (S) Emergency Management (S) Yarra Catchment IWM Forum (S) Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (S)

No	Action	Timing	Alignment with IWM Forum Strategic Outcomes	Measure	External Agency Council Teams / Lead (L) and Supporting (S) Unit
21.	Introduce signage on key (existing and future) Council IWM assets that explains their role in capturing water and / or removing pollutants before entering waterways.	Short term Ongoing		Installation of signage on key IWM assets that explains the IWM benefits.	City Planning (L) City Design (S) City Projects (S) Engaged Communities (S)
22.	Investigate with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation potential opportunities to work together to support Wurundjeri values and align with Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo 2022 – 2032 (BBBU) (Yarra Strategic Plan).	Short to long term		Joint selection of activities to work together on to progress toward IWM objectives in Manningham.	City Planning (L) Climate Emergency and Environment (S) Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (S) Integrated Stormwater (S) Social Planning and Community Strengthening (S) Other Council teams as required, depending on the selected activities.
23.	Review and amend the governance model, the Terms of Reference and membership of Council's internal Integrated Water Management Working Group to facilitate and monitor the implementation of the IWM Strategy.	Ongoing		The establishment of the Working Group, that includes Executive oversight and the approval of the Terms of Reference.	City Planning (L) Integrated Stormwater (S) Strategic Asset Management (S) Statutory Planning (S) Community Projects and Planning (S) Building Projects (S)

No	Action	Timing	Alignment with IWM Forum Strategic Outcomes	Measure	External Agency Council Teams / Lead (L) and Supporting (S) Unit
					Civil Projects (S) City Design (S) Climate Emergency and Environment (S) Engaged Communities (S)
24.	Continue to participate in regional collaborations including the Yarra Catchment IWM Forum and Working Group, including delivery and progress reporting on: • Mullum Mullum Creek Collaboration and • The management plan for erosion along the Yarra River in Warrandyte.	Ongoing		Continued involvement in Forum decision making and IWM direction setting. IWM Working Group involvement to maximise collaboration in the achievement of IWM outcomes, including the Mullum Mullum Creek Collaboration and management plan for erosion along the Yarra River.	DEECA (L) Melbourne Water (L) Yarra Catchment IWM Forum / Working Group (S) Climate Emergency and Environment (L) City Planning (S) Parks and Natural Environment (S) Wurundjeri Woi -wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (S)
25.	Work collaboratively with Yarra Valley Water to encourage the community to connect to the proposed sewerage reticulation system in Park Orchards.	Short to medium		Increase rate of community connections to sewerage reticulation.	Yarra Valley Water (L) Environmental Health (L) City Planning (S) Climate Emergency and Environment (S)

4 Monitoring and Evaluation

An action of the Strategy is to amend the governance model, Terms of Reference and membership of Council's existing internal Integrated Water Management Working Group to:

- Oversee the delivery of actions
- Maximise cross collaboration and build capacity within the organisation on IWM initiatives
- Identify future financial investment required to facilitate deliverables.

The IWM Working Group will monitor progress against the strategy and refer progress and any issues arising through an annual report at Executive level.

The Group will also periodically review the medium and long term actions with a view to refining the scope and timing of actions.

The Strategy has three key stages where reporting will take place. These include:

- A report to Council in 2029 with:
  - A status update of actions including the results of the existing IWM asset condition audit and recommendations; and
  - The results of a pilot project that relates to the passively irrigated tree and permeable pavement trials and associated recommendations.
- Mid-term strategy review in 2031 to coincide with DEECA's findings from its review of progress against the 2030 IWM targets.
- Final strategy review, including key learnings at year 9 to inform the development of the new Council IWM Strategy.

As a member of the Yarra Catchment Integrated Water Management Forum, Council also participates in activities identified in the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, and Improvement (MERI) Plan for Metropolitan Melbourne Integrated Water Management (IWM) Forums.

The Forum tracks progress across 22 aspirational catchment performance targets at years 2030 and 2050, through a data collection program conducted every two years. These performance target align with the strategic outcomes in the Yarra Catchment IWM Plan (2024).

Council's monitoring and evaluation will align with the catchment performance targets, noting however that DEECA's IWM target measures relate to a regional area.

5 Glossary

Word	Definition
Asset	Assets are resources that provide benefit. They include infrastructure such as wetlands, pipes and pumps, rainwater tanks and the like. There are also community assets including sporting pavilions, public open space and street trees.
Catchment	An area where water falling as rain (or snow/ice) is collected by the landscape, eventually flowing and accumulating along a defined valley to a body of water such as a creek.
Climate Change	Changes in the state of the climate, including an increase in the occurrence of extreme weather events, long-term changes in weather patterns, attributed directly or indirectly to human activity. Distinct from climate variability as the changes persist for an extended time, typically decades or longer.
Drainage pit	An underground structure which connects to drainage pipe(s) and acts to capture and collect surface stormwater runoff into drainage pipes.
Flood risk	The chance a flood will happen, what it will affect, and how badly it will be affected when a flood occurs.
Flora	All the plants that grow in a specific place, like a forest or a garden, including trees, flowers, grasses, and bushes.
Groundwater	All subsurface water, generally occupying the pores and crevices of rock and soil.
Infrastructure	Basic facilities and networks needed for the functioning of a local community or broader society.
Integrated Water Management (IWM)	Is a holistic and collaborative approach to managing water that considers all aspects of the water cycle, including wastewater management, water supply, stormwater management and water treatment considering environmental, cultural, economic and social benefits.
Integrated Water Management Forum (Yarra Catchment)	A meeting of urban water management organisations to identify, prioritise and commit to the investigation and delivery of integrated water management opportunities convened by Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). It includes all agencies with water management responsibilities, including Melbourne Water, Yarra Valley Water and all councils in the catchment and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWCHAC).
Passive watering	Irrigating landscapes using gravity to direct rainfall runoff or stormwater from adjacent surfaces to vegetation.

Word	Definition
Potable Water (or mains water)	Water suitable for human drinking purposes/consumption. In Melbourne our drinking water supply is sourced from catchments and a series of dams and reservoirs, particularly the Silvan Reservoir which connects to Melbourne's water reticulation system.
Stormwater	Rainfall that runs off roofs, roads and other urban surfaces into gutters, drains, creeks and rivers, and eventually into the sea. This water can carry contaminants such as sediments, litter, oils, detergents, heavy metals, nutrients, pathogens and other toxicants.
Urban Greening	Growing plants wherever possible in cities to contribute to urban vegetation coverage.
Wastewater	Water that has had its quality affected by human influence, associated with industrial, domestic, agricultural or commercial activities.
Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)	An approach to urban planning that integrates water into the built environment to mimic natural processes, minimising the negative impacts of urban runoff on waterways and retaining water in urban areas to create green and cool spaces.
Waterway	A river, canal, or other route for water to travel.
Wetland	An area of land with still or slow-moving water that acts as an "ecological kidney," either permanently, seasonally, or intermittently, filtering pollutants and improving the quality of stormwater before it reaches rivers, while also providing valuable habitat for wildlife.
Liveability	The attributes of a place that make it good or suitable for living in and ability to attract and retain people by fostering a positive and flourishing environment.
Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWCHAC)	Under the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 the Corporation is a Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for the greater area of Melbourne and surrounding areas, including Manningham and have the responsibility to protect and manage Aboriginal cultural heritage within this boundary. The Corporation offers a range of services including cultural heritage knowledge, natural resource management, cultural practices for events, education, training and research.
Yarra Strategic Plan	A Victorian Government Strategy to protect the entire length of the Birrarung (Yarra River), measuring 242 kilometres. It recognises the Birrarung as a living entity that needs to be protected. It promotes collaboration between State and local government agencies and supports Traditional Owners as decision makers and partners on their Country.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Policy Title:	Integrated Water Management Strategy
Responsible Officer Position:	Director City Planning and Liveability
Next Review Date:	2029
To be included on website?	Yes

Last Updated	Meeting Type - Council or EMT	Meeting Date	Item Number
New Strategy	Council Meeting	28 October 2025	To be confirmed on finalisation of Council minutes.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

From time to time, circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to the Strategy where an update does not materially alter this strategy. Administrative changes include changes to names of Manningham City Council departments or a minor amendment to legislation that does not have material impact.

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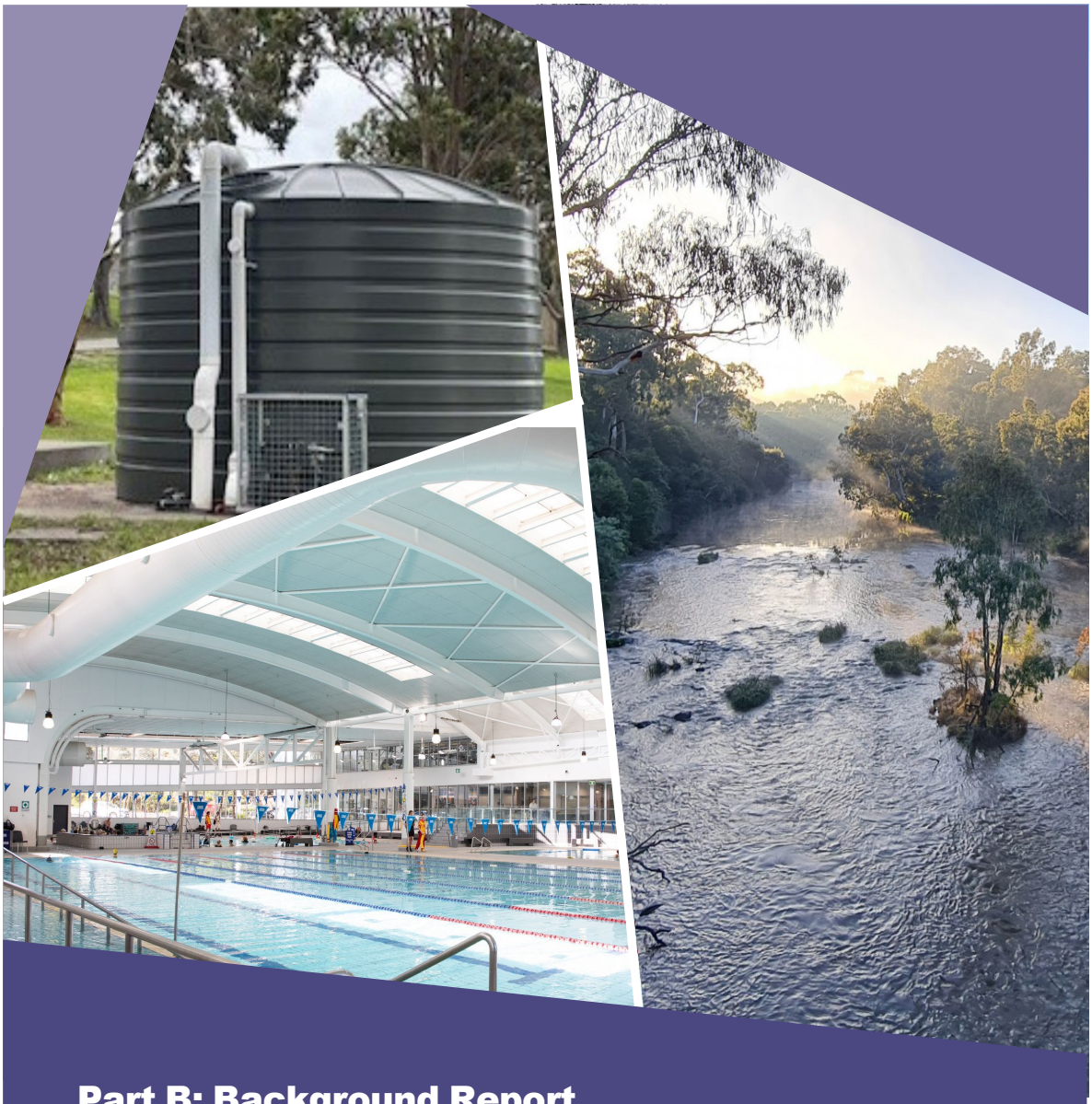

Part B: Background Report

Draft Manningham Integrated Water Management Strategy

Improved water outcomes for our community and environment 2026 – 2036

Interpreter service **9840 9355**
普通话 廣東話 Ελληνικά Italiano فارسی العربية

MANNINGHAM

Contents

Acknowledgement of Country **1**
1 Introduction **2**
1.1 Structure of Strategy 2
2 What is Integrated Water Management? **3**
2.1 Why We Need to Do Things Differently 5
2.2 Water Sensitive Urban Design – Using Water as a Resource 5
2.2.1 Raingardens 5
2.2.2 Wetlands 7
2.2.3 Stormwater Harvesting Systems 8
2.2.4 Rainwater Tanks 9
2.2.5 Case Study 1: Council Stormwater Harvesting for Street Tree Watering 10
3 Manningham's Waterways **12**
4 Water – Our Uncertain Future **14**
4.1 The water cycle and how it impacts our daily lives 14
4.2 Our Changing Climate and its Impacts 16
4.2.1 The Millennium Drought 17
4.3 We All Have a Role to Play 18
4.4 Community Opportunities 19
4.4.1 Changing our Behaviours 20
4.4.2 Community Education 20
5 Our Water Situation **22**
5.1 Our Water Supply and Demand 22
5.2 Manningham Council potable (drinking) water use 24
5.2.1 Sports Grounds and facilities 24
5.2.2 Aquarena Aquatic and Leisure Centre and Major Council Buildings 25
5.3 Onsite Wastewater Management 25
6 Flooding and Drainage **26**
6.1 Traditional Drainage Infrastructure (Pits and Pipes) 26
6.1.1 Council's Existing Drainage Infrastructure and responsibilities 26
6.1.2 Council's Drainage Infrastructure – Renewal, Expansion and Priorities 27
6.1.3 Council's Drainage Capacity 28
6.2 Flooding and Drainage Management 29
6.2.1 Flood Characteristics and Responsibilities 29
6.2.2 Council's Approach to Flood Management 30

6.2.3 Flood Modelling and Mapping 31
6.2.4 Integrated Water and Flood Management 32
6.2.5 Case study 3 – Tullamore Residential Estate 32
7 Legislative and Policy Context 35
7.1 EPA Act 2017 - Stormwater Obligations 37
7.2 Integrated Water Management Yarra Catchment Forum 37
8 Creating a More Resilient Future – A shared responsibility 41
8.1 IWM Projects at Various Scales 41
8.2 Manningham IWM Projects – Various Scales 44
8.3 Evaluation of IWM Performance at Various Scales 47
9 Glossary 48

Acknowledgement of Country

Manningham covers the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people. Being Traditional Custodians, they have managed land and water sustainably for thousands of years and maintain an active connection to Country.

Manningham Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional Owners of the land and waterways now known as Manningham, particularly the Birrarung (Yarra River). As we prepare our first Integrated Water Management Strategy, Council pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging. We value their holistic approach to Caring for Country and acknowledge them as the first integrated water managers in balancing water's cultural, spiritual, environmental and economic significance.

Manningham Council also acknowledges the contributions made to Manningham over the years by people of diverse backgrounds and cultures.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Structure of Strategy

Part A is the Strategy that includes the Vision, Guiding Principles, Strategic Directions and Actions

This document is Part B of Council's Integrated Water Management (IWM) Strategy. It is a background report that provides information about integrated water management and Manningham's use of water resources.

This document provides an explanation as to what Integrated Planning is and why we need to better manage our water resources. It addresses the following:

- Ways to conserve potable (drinking) water
- Opportunities to capture stormwater and reuse
- Policy and legislative framework relating to water management
- Manningham Council and the community's water use
- Case studies on how Manningham Council uses integrated water management measures in our public reserves
- Flooding and drainage and how traditional drainage approaches complement IWM approach

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2 What is Integrated Water Management?

Integrated water management is a collaborative approach to the way we plan, manage and deliver water services. It addresses all aspects of the water cycle including water consumption, rainwater, stormwater, wastewater, ground water and flood management to secure a range of environmental, social and economic benefits for the wider catchment.

The aim of managing water in a more integrated way is to:

1. Limit the use of potable (drinking) water to premium uses such as drinking
2. Use alternative water sources like stormwater for appropriate uses such as greening and cooling our environment
3. Manage the intensity of water and remove pollutants from stormwater before it enters our waterways
4. Support flood mitigation to reduce flood damage in our urban areas and better protect the environment.

Stormwater

Stormwater has a considerable impact on our environment, and yet provides an important opportunity to be reused. Urban stormwater runoff is generated from rainfall which flows over surfaces like roofs, footpaths and roads which become polluted.

Stormwater is now the major source of many pollutants in Port Phillip Bay, and degrades water quality. Such pollutants include litter, nutrients (including nitrogen and phosphorous) heavy metals, oil and grease, pesticides and detergents. Urbanisation also increases the volume of stormwater runoff.

Stormwater runoff enters waterways during, and shortly after rain events, changes the flow of waterways which leads to the scouring of river banks, and impacts the habitats of various aquatic plants and animals.

By treating stormwater as a resource, our valuable water resources go further to creating a more sustainable and liveable community.

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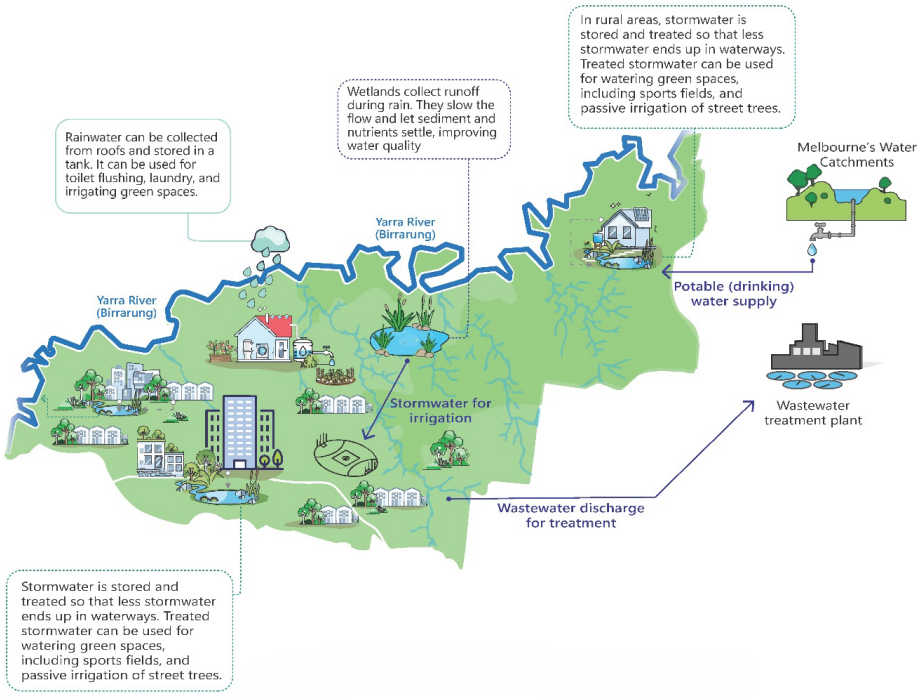

Figure 1: Components of Integrated Water Management

Figure 1 shows the different components of integrated water management. It shows that:

- Rainwater collected from roofs and stored in a rainwater tank can be used for toilets, laundry and water garden areas
- Stormwater stored and treated can be used to water street trees and sports fields meaning less water ends up in our waterways
- Wastewater treatment plant can turn sewage into recycled water for uses including toilet flushing watering gardens and laundry.

A video explaining integrated water management can be found here.

https://www.clearwatervic.com.au/resource-library/video-gallery/integrated-water-management-video.php

2.1 Why We Need to Do Things Differently

Council and the community cannot continue to manage water in the way we currently do.

Our continued reliance on potable (drinking) water without expanding the use of alternative sources such as recycled water, rainwater and stormwater would result in:

Increased pressure on drinking water – currently we are relying on the use of desalinated water from the Wonthaggi desalination plant to top up our water supplies. Continued pressure on potable (drinking) water supplies may require major infrastructure investment to construct a second desalination plant for Melbourne's water supply.

Decline in urban greening, tree canopy health and coverage – without a reliable source of irrigation that infiltrates the soil, the health of our trees and associated vegetation would decline, resulting in less shade and an increase in the temperature of our urban spaces (also known as the urban heat island effect). It would also have negative impacts on biodiversity values.

Reduced community amenity and liveability – public spaces and open space areas would become drier and hotter and become less inviting. A reduction in our water supply could impact Council's ability to water its sports grounds which would impact their useability by the community.

Degradation of local waterway health – excess stormwater contributes to erosion, sedimentation and pollutant loads. Increased flow rates and poor water quality also impact flora and fauna health.

2.2 Water Sensitive Urban Design – Using Water as a Resource

Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) is part of an Integrated Water Management approach that captures and treats stormwater before it enters our waterways.

Stormwater impacts our waterways for two main reasons. As water runs off roofs and roads it collects litter, rubbish and pollutants that degrades the aquatic ecosystems. In addition, the sheer volume of water, alters the natural flow of a waterway creating erosion.

WSUD can cover a broad range of projects that are designed to capture, treat and reuse stormwater to help support urban greening initiatives and help cleanse water before entering our waterways. It can also provide an alternative water source.

Examples of WSUD are explained below:

2.2.1 Raingardens

A raingarden is designed to capture stormwater from hard surfaces such as roads, car parks and roofs. It is made of layers of infiltration media to assist with the removal of pollution such a nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment, litter and oils that are collected from hard surfaces. A raingarden also contains selected plants and layers of sandy soil that help clean stormwater.

The water then exits the raingarden through a pipe below the soil into a stormwater drain, or the water can be harvested and reused.

Raingardens protect aquatic habitats by capturing, treating and slowing the flow of stormwater. Raingardens can help to reduce flood risk.

Like all assets, raingardens require ongoing maintenance of both the infrastructure and plants.

For further information, visit Melbourne Water | Raingardens

Figure 2: Raingarden at MC2 at Manningham Civic Centre, Doncaster

Figure 3: Explanation on how the raingarden functions at MC^2 at Manningham Civic Centre

2.2.2 Wetlands

A wetland is a depression in the landscape that holds still or very slow-moving water. It can be natural or constructed, with permanent or periodic water bodies.

Wetlands can act to:

- filter nutrients, pollutants and sediments from stormwater to improve the water quality of downstream rivers and marine environments
- help absorb water into the soil and contribute to restoring a natural flow regime
- reduce the impacts of flooding by holding and slowing floodwater
- provide habitat for a diverse range of native plants and animals.

As part of their ongoing health and function, typical wetland maintenance includes vegetation management to maintain healthy ecosystems and water quality.

Figure 4: Wetland in Donvale

2.2.3 Stormwater Harvesting Systems

Stormwater is usually collected from a Council or Melbourne Water drain and treated prior to use to reduce pollutants and remove sediment. Stormwater is temporarily held in above-ground, or below-ground storage tanks so it can be used to irrigate sports ovals and green spaces. Above-ground tanks are generally more cost-effective to install and vegetation is often planted to screen the tanks. The systems will typically require pumping and piping to supply water for irrigation. In Melbourne, a license is required to harvest stormwater in urban areas.

Figure 5: Stormwater harvesting plant at Domeney Reserve, Park Orchards

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2.2.4 Rainwater Tanks

A rainwater tank helps reduce our reliance on precious drinking (potable) water resources, by allowing us to substitute potable (drinking) water for uses such as toilet flushing, laundry uses and garden irrigation. Additionally, by retaining rainwater on site, we reduce the volume of stormwater and quantity of pollutants entering our local waterways.

Rainwater tanks come in many different colours, materials and designs. They can be installed above ground, below ground, below car parks, beneath outdoor decks, under buildings, or even hidden within planter boxes. The size of a rainwater tank varies and is influenced by roof size and house design.

Figure 6: Rainwater tank at Schramms Reserve, Doncaster used for toilet flushing. An additional rainwater tank is located underground to water the sports oval

2.2.5 Case Study 1: Council Stormwater Harvesting for Street Tree Watering

Location

Manningham Council Depot, 620-628 Blackburn Road, Doncaster East

Overview

During the Millenium Drought, Council installed 18 rainwater tanks at its Depot site to collect rainwater from the roof areas of its buildings to help irrigate new street trees during their initial two year establishment period. The harvested water is also used for operational purposes. On average, 700,000 litres of water is collected each year at this site, which is enough to irrigate 300 new street trees each year.

Council aims to plant 2,000 to 3,000 street trees each year to increase the tree canopy across the municipality and to replace trees where required.

Figure 7: Rainwater Tanks at the Manningham Council Depot Site, Doncaster East

Figure 8: Trees providing greenery and shade in Tunstall Square Activity Centre, Donvale

Benefits

The benefit of trees are many. Trees:

- Clean the air by absorbing pollutants and storing carbon
- Cool the air, provide shade and pump water vapour into the environment
- Support biodiversity as trees are typically associated with 30 to 50 dependent species including birds
- Improve community health and well-being by promoting outdoor activity and can enhance mental and physical health.

The benefits of irrigating trees with rain or stormwater include:

- Reduced demand for potable (drinking) water
- Reduced stormwater and pollutant runoff which improves waterway health and natural flow patterns.

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3 Manningham's Waterways

Waterways are an integral part of Manningham, with the Birrarung (Yarra River), Mullum Mullum, Koonung, Jumping, Brushy, Ruffey and Andersons Creeks all forming part of a larger regional network of watercourses.

These areas are often surrounded by public open space and linear trails and support a range of plants and animals, which form part of an important ecosystem.

Figure 9: The distribution of waterways in the Manningham municipality

The Birrarung (Yarra River) forms Manningham's northern and western boundaries boundary and supplies 70% of Melbourne's potable (drinking) water. All stormwater runoff from Manningham discharges to the Birrarung.

The Birrarung (Yarra River) is a culturally significant waterway for the Wurundjeri woi-wurrung people, who are the Traditional Owners of the land and waterways that we now know as Manningham.

'The Birrarung is a river of mists and shadows – the river and its environs are a living and breathing entity that follows Wurundjeri songlines and forms a central part of the Dreaming of the Wurundjeri.'[1]

'The Birrarung is part of our identity.'[2]

– Aunty Margaret Gardiner

The 'Wurundjeri woi-wurrung people talk of river systems as being one of the vital components of Country. The river supported the riverine and woodland ecological diversity they relied upon for water, food and storytelling. 'Resources and food were harvested from the floodplain and surrounding landscape, then taken to the living areas on higher ground for food processing and manufacturing' (pg 18, Yarra Strategic Plan).

Wetlands were also sources of food and tools for Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people.

Figure 10: Birrarung (Yarra River), Warrandyte

"There are lessons we can learn by watching and listening to what the River does, understanding that it has a life that we as human cannot control" [3]

Uncle Dave Wandin, Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, Elder, Yarning Circle, 2024

[1] Nhanbu narrun ba ngargunin twarn Birrarung - Ancient Spirit and Lore of the Yarra
[2] Yarra Strategic Plan pg 34
[3] Birrarung Council Annual Report (2024)

4 Water – Our Uncertain Future

Less than 1% of the earth's water is available to drink[4]

Water is essential for our survival, but our water supply is limited. As a result of climate change and increased population growth, our demand for water could outstrip our supply, particularly in years when there is less rainfall. We need to protect and better manage our water supply.

4.1 The water cycle and how it impacts our daily lives

All the earth's water already exists and has been moving through the natural water cycle for billions of years.

It is captured in the ground, oceans, lakes, ice, snow and the atmosphere and delivers our potable (drinking) water supply.

The natural water cycle is our planets way of recycling water and is essential for life on earth. It is driven by the energy of the sun. It involves several stages: evaporation, where water transforms from liquid to vapor; condensation as vapor forms clouds; precipitation, when water falls back to Earth as rain, snow, or other forms; and runoff, where water soaks into the ground with the excess flowing into rivers and oceans, restarting the cycle.

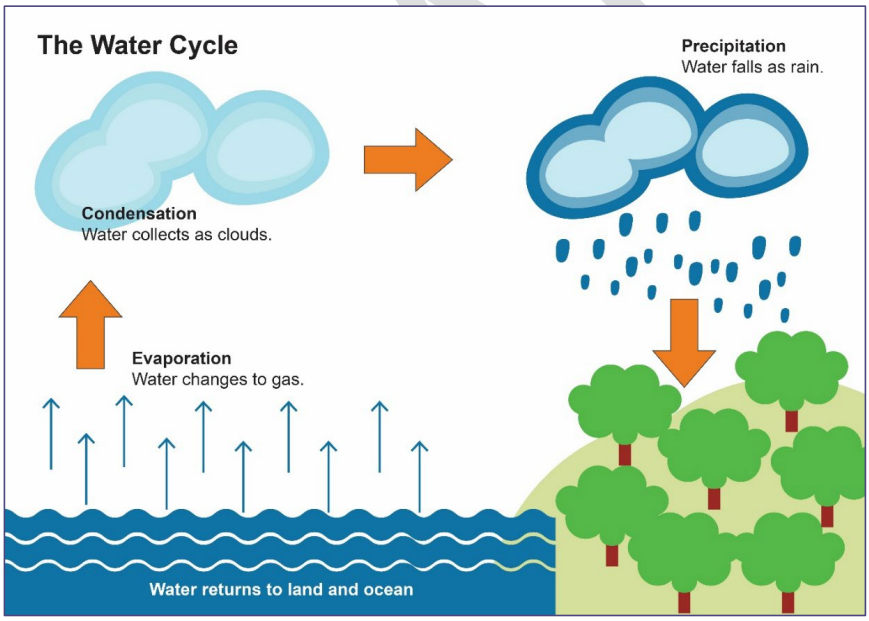

Figure 11: Water Cycle

Water flows differently within natural and built environments as shown in Figure 12.

[4] Let's talk water | Melbourne Water

In natural environments, rainwater predominately evaporates or is absorbed by plants or soaks into the soil, with the excess water (around 15-20%) entering a water course.

In contrast, urban areas are characterised by more buildings and hard surfaces, including roads and pavements which provide fewer opportunities for water to be absorbed in the soil. As a result, rainwater runs off these hard surfaces, through stormwater drains and straight into our waterways as polluted stormwater, given it picks up oils, rubbish and other particles. In extreme weather conditions the presence of hard surfaces increases stormwater runoff and flood risk.

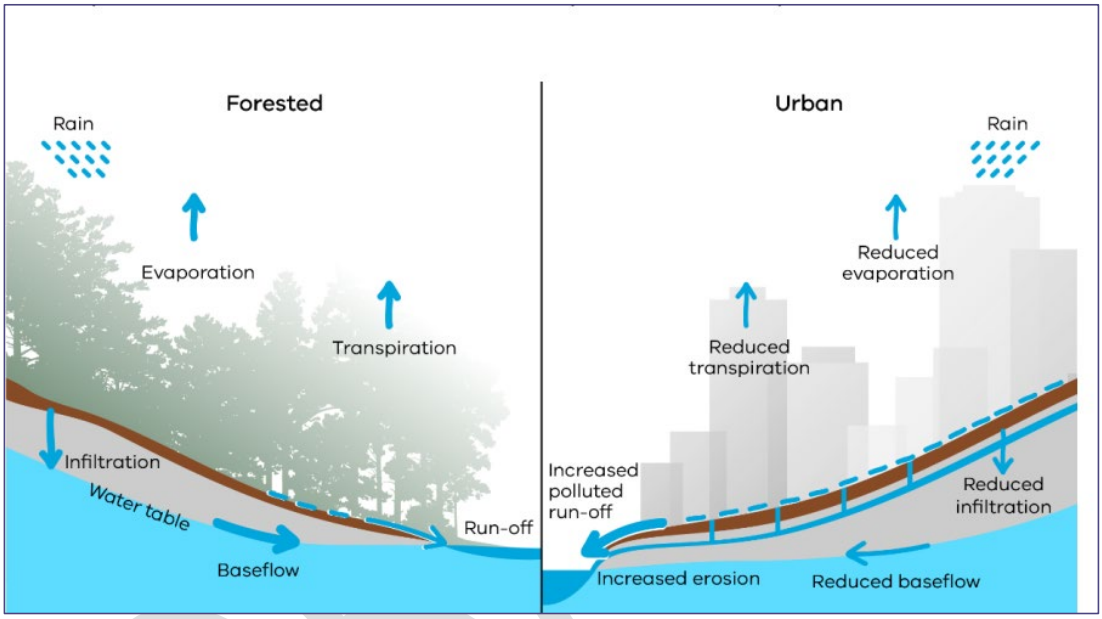

Figure 12: Water moving differently between a natural setting and an urbanised area

Source: Melbourne Water 2013 (adapted from Walsh et al, 2004)

4.2 Our Changing Climate and its Impacts

Since the 20th century Victoria has become hotter, and drier during the cool season, and has experienced more frequent extreme weather events.

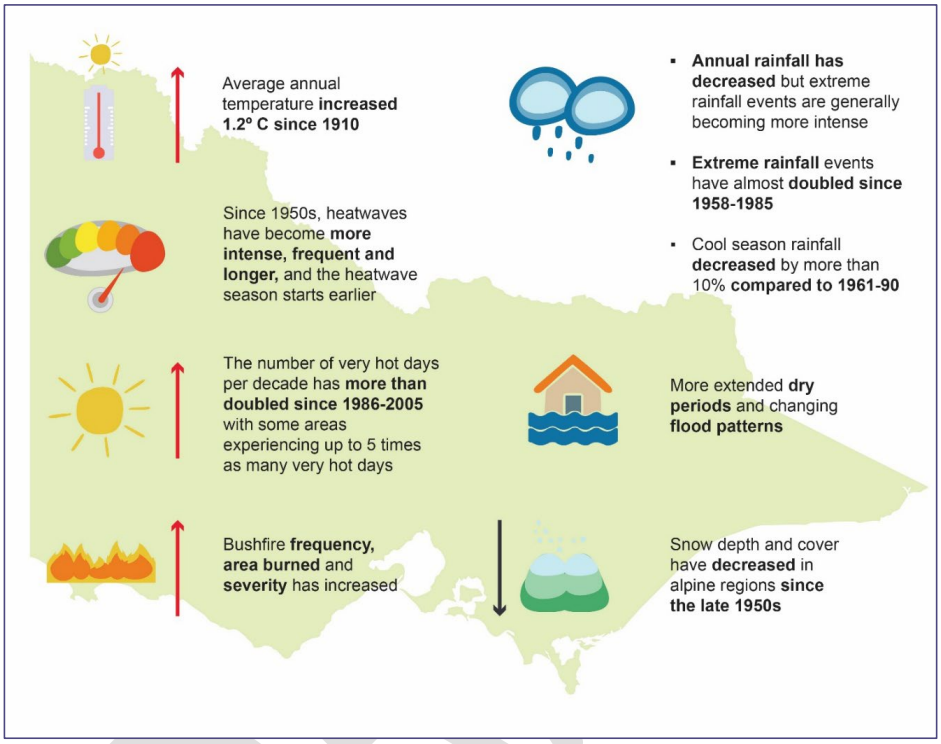

Figure 13: Victoria's changing weather pattern since 1910

Image based on diagram in Victoria's Climate Science Report 2024 (Victoria, State Government, Department, Energy, Environment and Climate Action)

Figure 13 shows the historical trends of Victoria's weather patterns since 1910. It shows that:

- The average annual temperature has increased
- There have been more intense, frequent and longer heatwaves
- The average annual rainfall has decreased
- Rainfall patterns have changed to result in fewer periods of light rain and more frequent extreme rainfall events.

It is forecast that these climate trends will continue in Victoria.

In a warming world, the atmosphere can hold more moisture, so there are less regular low intensity rainfall events. When the atmosphere holds a large volume of water, heavier rainfall occurs and poses increased flood risk. Reduction in average annual rainfall and changes in rainfall patterns are resulting in reduced water availability from our traditional water supply catchments. This is coupled with an increase in demand for potable (drinking water) as a result of population growth.

The reduction in average annual rainfall would result in less rainfall infiltrating into soils which would have negative impacts on the health of trees and other vegetation. This could lead to the decline of trees, the loss of shade and have a negative impact on our ecosystems.

4.2.1 The Millennium Drought

Victoria's Millennium Drought was one of the most severe and prolonged dry periods in Australia's history, spanning between 1997 to 2009. It significantly impacted the state's water resources and management practices. The drought, characterized by low rainfall and reduced river flows, tested the resilience of Victoria's water supply systems and highlighted the need for improved water management strategies. Melbourne was particularly affected. It's water storages fell significantly and at one point in 2009 dropped below 26% capacity. Higher temperatures increased evaporation rates that compounded water loss.

The impacts:

Water restrictions: Strict measures were introduced that restricted garden watering and car washing.

Water Saving Campaigns: "Target 155' encouraged households to use less than 155 per litres per person per day. People were encouraged to take four minute showers.

Environmental: River systems, wetlands and rural farmland suffered.

Urban Landscapes: Parks, sports fields, and gardens dried out changing the city's green and attractive spaces.

Fauna and Biodiversity: The ecosystems were significantly impacted resulting in the loss of a range of several species including birds, fish, marsupials, reptiles and insects due to reduced river flows, wetlands and rivers drying out and loss of vegetation. After rains returned in 2010 – 2011 some species recovered however the drought significantly impacted ecological processes and impacted important species.

Infrastructure Projects: Desalination Plant (Wonthaggi): Victoria's first large-scale seawater desalination plant was built in Wonthaggi to provide an independent water source of potable (drinking) water to supply Melbourne, Geelong and other areas.

Manningham Sports and Active Recreation:

During the Millenium drought, as a result of water restrictions, several sports grounds in Manningham needed to be closed due to safety concerns associated with hard ground surfaces which resulted in some sport being cancelled.

Forecasts for a warming climate indicate that it is likely that there will be pressure on irrigation supplies which could lead to potential future disruptions to sports and active recreation events, giving rise to community health and fitness impacts.

There is a need to take the key learnings of Council's experience in the Millenium Drought to inform how we prepare for any similar situation that may occur in the future.

Treatments require planning and investment to ensure that they will be effective in the long term under a range of conditions and are affordable. Several actions identified in this Strategy will assist with pre-planning for future drought events.

4.3 We All Have a Role to Play

Various organisations are responsible for different aspects of water management in Manningham, with the Manningham community being the key consumer of water.

Table 1 shows the existing roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders.

Stakeholder	Roles and Responsibilities
Households, Businesses and Visitors	Consumers of the vast majority of water provided by retailers. Participating in programs and activities to protect waterways by State and local governments and water authorities.
Manningham Council	Consumer of water for Council assets including sports ground irrigation and Aquarena, Aquatic and Leisure Centre. Manages the local stormwater drainage network. Manages flood risks associated with the local drainage network. Issues land use and development approvals required under the Manningham Planning Scheme. Participates in overseeing and collaborating on a range of State Government strategies including: − Yarra Strategic Plan (Burndap Birrrarung burndap umarkoo) 2022 − Yarra Catchment Integrated Water Management Plan 2022 Convenes the Manningham IWM Working Group which facilitates and monitors the implementation of the IWM Strategy.
Melbourne Water	Melbourne Water is the regional water Catchment Management Authority for the Port Phillip and Western Port Region, that includes Manningham. Melbourne Water is also the waterway manager, meaning it is responsible for all rivers and creeks in the Region. This covers the Birrarung (Yarra River) and all creeks within Manningham. Melbourne Water acts as a wholesaler, managing the major water and sewerage infrastructure for the entire Melbourne metropolitan area, including supplying bulk water to Yarra Valley Water and other retail water corporations. Oversees the implementation of various Strategies and Plans including: - Yarra Strategic Plan 2022 (Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo) - Healthy Waterways Strategy 2023, which focuses on improving and maintaining the health of Melbourne's rivers, creeks, and catchments. - Administers various waterway grants programs
Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation	Under the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 the Corporation is a Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for the greater area of Melbourne and surrounding areas, including Manningham and have the responsibility to protect and manage Aboriginal cultural heritage within this boundary. The Corporation offers a range of services including cultural heritage knowledge, natural resource management, cultural practices for events, education, training and research.
Yarra Valley Water	Water supply retailer to individual homes and businesses, including drinking and recycled water. Manage the local sewerage network

Stakeholder	Roles and Responsibilities
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action DEECA	Establish governance and water legislation, in partnership with a network of government agencies and water authorities. Oversee the implementation of various key strategies including Water for Victoria Convenes the **Integrated Water Management (IWM) forums** across Victoria. The Forum comprises a group of water management organisations that identify, prioritise and commit to the investigation of integrated water management opportunities.
Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)	The EPA is the environmental regulator, tasked with protecting human health and the environment from pollution and waste.
Victorian Environmental Water Holder (VEWH):	Holds and manages Victoria's water for the environment, working with Catchment Management Authorities, including Melbourne Water to plan and deliver water for environmental needs.

Table 1: Roles and Responsibilities of Responsible Agencies and other Key Stakeholders

4.4 Community Opportunities

Overall households are responsible for more than two-thirds of Melbourne's total water use.

In Manningham, 68% of land is privately owned (7,611 hectares).

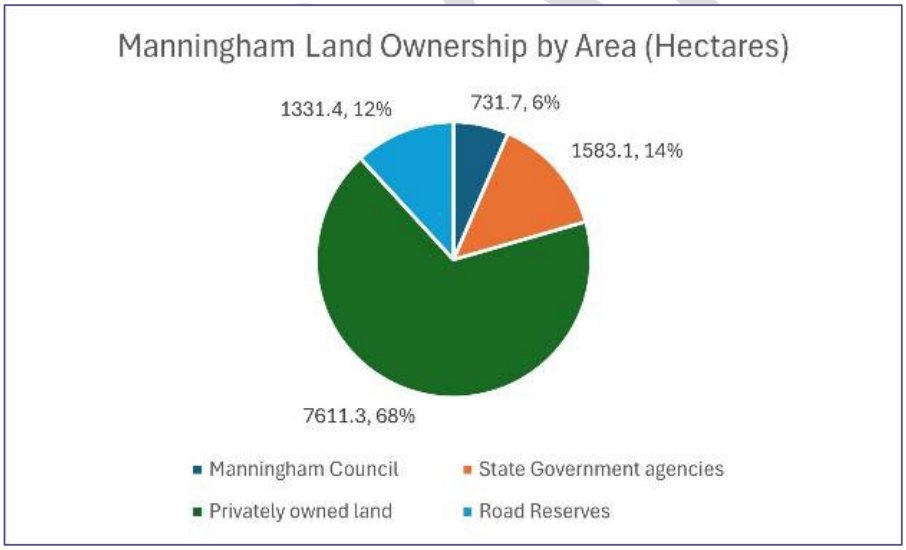

Figure 14: Manningham Land Ownership

In 2024, Manningham's population was close to 130,000 people who lived in an estimated 50,000 dwellings.[5] Based on the State Government Victoria in Future (VIF) forecasting, it is

[5] Dwelling type | Manningham City Council | Community profile

expected that by 2036 Manningham's population will grow to around 144,155 which will result in around 8,200 new dwellings.[6]

Whilst the State Government has announced an aspirational housing target for an additional 28,500 new dwellings by 2050 it demonstrates that this increased urbanisation and population will result in a greater demand for potable (drinking) water.

4.4.1 Changing our Behaviours

Changing our behaviours, no matter how small, can save money on water bills and help the environment.

Such actions could include:

Inside the House

- Installing water efficient appliances such as low flow toilets and showerheads
- Buying a water-efficient washing machine
- Using biodegradable detergents
- Taking a minute off your shower
- Brushing your teeth with the tap off

Outside the House

- Installing rainwater tanks to harvest stormwater or building a raingarden to water the garden
- Using a broom to sweep the driveway, instead of a hose.
- Using greywater systems to reuse water from sinks and showers for irrigation
- Fixing any leaks
- Planting native plants in your garden as they rely on less water

4.4.2 Community Education

Education also plays a critical role. The actions forming part of this Strategy promotes strengthening the community's understanding of the water cycle and what they can do to help better manage our water sources. It might start with an individual but could include neighbours and the broader residents of the street or apartment block so collectively people can make a difference to the Planet, help save money and build connection with the broader community.

[6] Victoria in Future . December 2023

Case Study 2: Warrandyte Uniting Church

Warrandyte Uniting Church has a vision which in part focuses on engaging the community in ways to protect and care for our environment. In keeping with this vision, the church is leading a program around raingardens and caring for the earth.

A feature of the program is a newly constructed raingarden that will divert and treat rainfall runoff from across the site. This project also demonstrates to the community what they can do in their own gardens.

Figure 15: Warrandyte Uniting Church

5 Our Water Situation

Manningham consists of a mix of urban and semi-rural areas. The Mullum Mullum Creek divides the municipality. The western part of the municipality is urbanised and is characterised by residential neighbourhoods, activity centres and key transport routes. The eastern section of the municipality, including Donvale, Warrandyte, Park Orchards and Wonga Park have a more rural feel given the larger sized lots, sloping topography, and more vegetation and wildlife.

5.1 Our Water Supply and Demand

Understanding how Manningham Council and our community use water influences the strategic directions and actions of our IWM Strategy.

Our water use in Manningham is largely supplied from the potable (drinking) water system including the dams and reservoirs and to a much lesser extent from harvested rain and river water.

Figure 16 shows Manningham's water use, wastewater generation as well as rainfall, runoff and infiltration in 2019. This information is based on Manningham's water interactions from 2019, based on a population of 122,274 people.

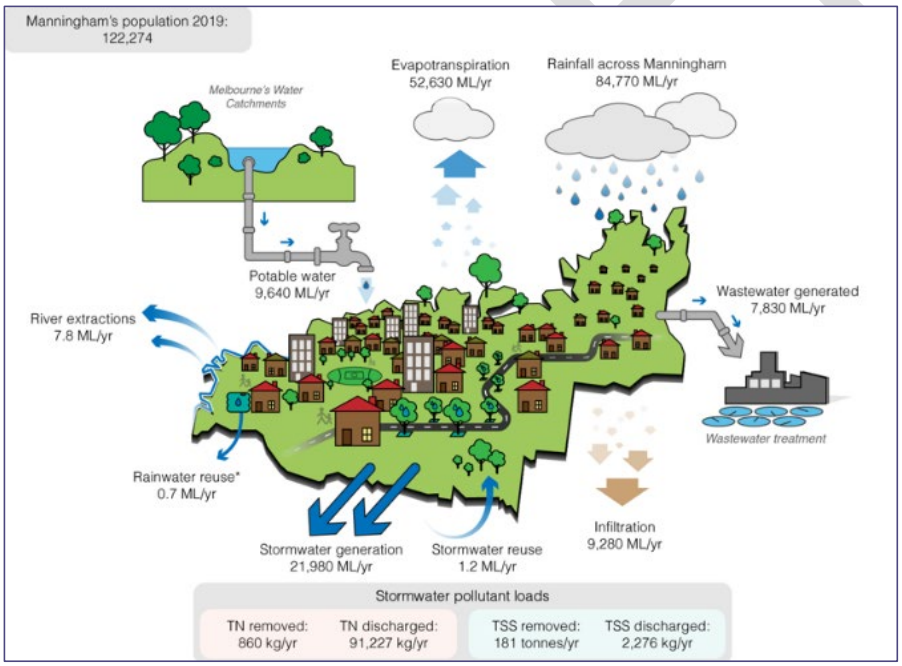

Figure 16: 2019 Water use in Manningham

Source: Yarra Catchment Scale IWM Plan (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2021)

Note: TSS and TN referenced at the bottom of the above image relate to key stormwater pollutant indicators as follows:

- TN or Total Nitrogen is a common pollutant and nutrient in stormwater and promotes dense plant growth;
- TSS relates to Total Suspended Solids which are particles which remain suspended in water and contribute to poor water clarity and potentially harm to aquatic life.

Figure 16 shows that in 2019 around 85ML (megalitres) of rain fell in Manningham. This was supported by an additional 9.640 ML (megalitres) of drinking water, which totals around 94.4(ML) megalitres of water into Manningham.

Key observations from the above data show that:

- Manningham's water demand in 2019 was heavily reliant on the use of potable (drinking) water
- Approximately 7.8ML of that water, approximately 80%, was discharged to the sewerage network from bathrooms, toilets, laundries and kitchens and other sources.

A further review of water consumption in 2019 shows that the Manningham community (residents and businesses) used the vast majority of potable (drinking) water. Of the 9,640 megalitres of drinking water, the community used 9,484 ML, totalling 98% of the total amount compared to Council's usage of 156 Megalitres, which constitutes close to 2%.

This demonstrates that the community and businesses play a key role in modifying their behaviours to better manage our water resources. Saving water can help save money on water bills and also help the environment.

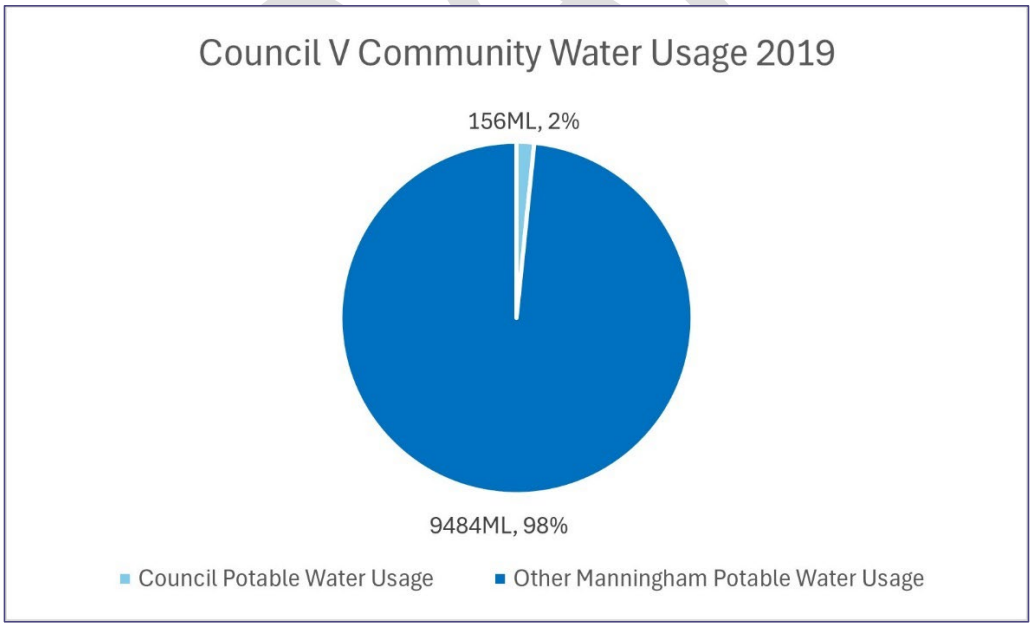

Figure 17: Council and Community Water Usage 2019

5.2 Manningham Council potable (drinking) water use

There are significant opportunities to expand the treatment and harvesting of stormwater and treatment and reuse of wastewater to meet future needs.

Manningham Council water usage in 2019 totalled to 156ML. The breakdown on how this water was utilised is shown in the following diagram.

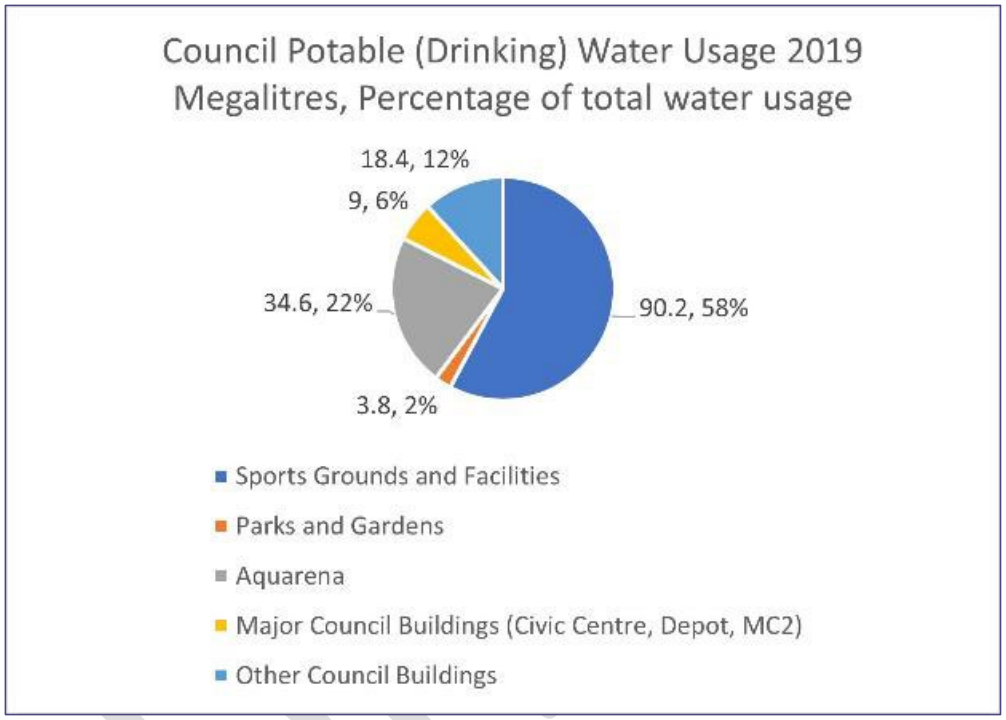

Figure 18: Council Potable (Drinking) Water Usage 2019

Council's water uses in order from the largest to the least volume are as follows:

- Sports grounds and facilities including pavilions (58% of the total volume)
- Aquarena leisure centre 22% of the total volume
- Council buildings including halls, preschools public toilets and the Pines Living and Learning Centre (12%)
- Council's Civic Centre, Depot and MC2 (6%)
- Parks and Gardens (2%).

Council is currently adopting practices to minimise its use of potable (drinking) water as outlined below:

5.2.1 Sports Grounds and facilities

In 2022 Council adopted the use of the Smart Irrigation Asset Management (SIAM) Program to monitor irrigation assets, and improve water efficiency and functionality of various grass surfaces

used at a range of open space sporting reserves. The program combines the management of irrigation infrastructure with smart technologies like sensors, and data analytics.

The recommendations of this study resulted in water efficiencies and improvements in irrigation software and monitoring systems across various reserves.

5.2.2 Aquarena Aquatic and Leisure Centre and Major Council Buildings

A major refurbishment of the outdoor pool is planned for the 2025/2026 financial year and will include the construction of new outdoor changeroom facilities. Water efficiency improvements are proposed to harvest rainwater and reuse treated pool backwash water for toilet flushing in the new changerooms and garden irrigation.

The Action Plan identifies registering several Council sites including the existing Aquarena facility in the State Governments Watersmart program. Under the program, Yarra Valley Water conduct a water efficiency audit to provide data on usage patterns and inform recommendations for optimising water use and conserving potable (drinking) water.

5.3 Onsite Wastewater Management

In the eastern part of the municipality, generally located in the Green Wedge, a proportion of existing homes do not have access to reticulated sewerage services and therefore rely on onsite wastewater management systems (septic tanks) to treat wastewater including toilet waste and/or wastewater from bathrooms, laundries and kitchens, depending on existing permit conditions and the age of the permit. In some cases, wastewater from the kitchen, bathroom and laundry is discharged to the stormwater drainage system untreated, contributing to pollution of our waterways, creeks, the Birrarung (Yarra River) and Port Phillip Bay.

Over 21% of the affected properties in the municipality, have not connected to the sewerage reticulation system despite reticulated sewerage being available since 2011. There remains around 1,127 properties in the Park Orchards area that rely on Onsite Wastewater Management systems. Yarra Valley Water have commenced the design of a sewerage reticulation system which will serve many properties in Park Orchards.

An action forming part of this Strategy includes an opportunity for Yarra Valley Water and Council officers to work collaboratively to increase the rate of connections to sewerage reticulation in Park Orchards. This action is also reflected in the Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo (Yarra Strategic Plan). This demonstrates that there are aligned strategies that support in the delivery of IWM outcomes.

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6 Flooding and Drainage

6.1 Traditional Drainage Infrastructure (Pits and Pipes)

Traditional drainage infrastructure, such as underground pits and pipes, has historically played a key role in urban stormwater management by conveying stormwater runoff away from developed areas. Whilst typically effective in reducing local inundation, these systems were designed and engineered at a point in time with limited consideration for surrounding environmental impacts or water reuse opportunities.

Integrated Water Management recognises the role of traditional drainage systems which treat stormwater as a waste, in the context of our changing climate and population growth. There is a need to transition to valuing stormwater as a resource in order to contribute to a more sustainable future.

Given that the western area of Manningham in particular is largely developed, Integrated Water Management approaches must be prioritised to compliment traditional drainage infrastructure. Within this Integrated Water Management (IWM) Strategy, traditional drainage infrastructure is recognised as one part of a broader, more holistic approach to valuing and managing water within our environment.

6.1.1 Council's Existing Drainage Infrastructure and responsibilities

Whilst we work towards a holistic approach to Stormwater Management, Council's Traditional Drainage Infrastructure continues to play an important role in collecting and carrying stormwater.

Council has an extensive network of drainage infrastructure valued at over $0.5 Billion, which includes the following assets:

Drainage Pipes	Over 1,000 km
Drainage Pits	Over 49,000 pits
Drainage Table (or open) Drain	Over 36 km

These assets are also supplemented by other Council infrastructure including detention systems and retarding basins, which temporarily store flows and slowly release water to suit the capacity of the existing downstream drainage system. Detention systems on private property required under the provisions of planning permits also contribute to the reduction of stormwater flow rates.

Under the Local Government Act 2020 Council is required to maintain its existing public infrastructure, which includes drainage infrastructure. Council meets this requirement through the following maintenance activities.

Operational	Inspection and silt / debris removal from Stormwater Infrastructure and clearing of blockages and tree root infiltration to restore system capacity
Maintenance	Minor repairs of Stormwater Infrastructure (Pit Lid Replacement, Pipe Patching etc.)
Renewal	Renewal of Drainage Pipes and Pits that meet intervention levels to replace or refurbish an existing drainage asset to restore its service capability to current standards.

Councils' management of its existing infrastructure is outlined in Manningham's Asset Plan 2025-2035 (the Asset Plan).

6.1.2 Council's Drainage Infrastructure – Renewal, Expansion and Priorities

Council's drains are ageing with over 35% of the network constructed in the 1960's. It is anticipated that Council's drainage asset management costs will increase in the future as these assets continue to age.

Whilst Council's requirements are to maintain existing infrastructure, it is important to note that the works undertaken to renew assets will consider the capacity of the existing infrastructure, available renewal methodologies, access for works, environmental constraints and cost.

New drains are to be designed to the requirements of Australian Rainfall and Runoff 2019.

The design Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) for new systems is to be selected based on a risk assessment but will be no less than a 20% Annual Exceedance Probability. Renewal of existing assets also results in increased network capacity and reduced maintenance costs. Improvements to the design and management of Council's assets including financial modelling will be considered as part of Councils Drainage Asset Management Plan review.

Manningham encompasses a diverse range of land uses, from the semi-rural character of Wonga Park and Warrandyte to the highly urbanised areas of Doncaster and Bulleen. This variation, coupled with development patterns dating back to the 1960s, has resulted in several parts of the municipality being served by lower levels of drainage infrastructure.

To address these service gaps and align with broader Council objectives, drainage improvement works are identified based on a cost, benefit and needs analysis and prioritised based on the criteria set out in Council's Stormwater Management Policy 2024.

Council has adopted financial management principles as part of the Asset Plan which prioritise the renewal of existing assets and preserving the network function over the construction of new assets.

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6.1.3 Council's Drainage Capacity

All land within Manningham ultimately drains to the Birrarung (Yarra River), meaning the municipality's drainage capacity is intrinsically linked to the river's ability to receive and convey stormwater flows.

As development increases, so too does the volume of stormwater entering our waterways and Birrarung (Yarra River. Over time, this has contributed to waterway degradation, including widespread erosion, prompting targeted actions within the State Government's Yarra Catchment Integrated Water Management (IWM) Action Plan.

In response, Council must consider alternatives to traditional approaches or directly diverting more flow to the Birrarung. These alternatives may include the adoption of distributed stormwater retention, stormwater reuse, infiltration, and treatment measures that align with IWM principles. This means reducing peak flows, improving water quality and managing stormwater volumes, to protect the health of waterways.

Maintenance of Councils existing drainage assets is essential not only for ensuring their continued performance but also for supporting IWM outcomes. By regularly inspecting and cleaning pipes, pits, gross pollutant traps, and other conventional systems, Council can minimise pollutant loads and sediment entering our waterways and help protect environmental values.

Ongoing maintenance also enhances the performance of complementary Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)infrastructure, which helps ensure that stormwater is effectively treated before it is discharged into waterways. In this way, maintenance programs directly contribute to improved water quality, asset longevity, and more sustainable urban water systems.

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6.2 Flooding and Drainage Management

6.2.1 Flood Characteristics and Responsibilities

The impacts of flooding in urban areas generally increase with storm intensity. In urban areas, it can result in the flooding of buildings, loss of personal belongings, disruption to access and public transport. In rare circumstances, flooding can result in the loss of life.

In Manningham, the key authorities responsible for flood management are Melbourne Water and Council. Each authority has a different role but work together to reduce the impact of flooding on people, property and the environment.

The responsibilities and flood characteristics managed by Melbourne Water and Manningham are summarised in the following table:

	Melbourne Water	Manningham Council
Role	Flood Plain Manager and Catchment Management Authority	Manages local catchment public stormwater infrastructure and contributes to flood management.
Key Responsibilities	Coordinates planning and delivery of regional flood management and drainage services	Operates, manages and maintains most of the public drainage infrastructure within the municipal boundaries. Also contributes to local catchment flood management and responsible for flow management in accordance with Water Act 1989 requirements.
Flood Type	Manages regional / riverine flooding when a river or stream overflows its banks due to excessive rainfall	Manages local / flash flooding
Catchment size	Larger scale catchments generally greater than 60 hectares in area. Regional catchment often extend beyond Manningham's boundaries	A smaller scale catchment generally less than 60 hectares in area. (The MCG is equivalent to around 2 hectares)
Flood Level / Intensity	Riverine floods involve much greater volumes of waters and impact a larger land area.	Local flooding involves lower volumes of flood waters and impacts a smaller land area.
Flood Characteristics	Riverine or regional flooding occurs when waterways or main drains overflow. It generally takes a longer time before the flood peak is reached (often days) and takes a longer time for flood waters to subside.	Local / flash flooding results from heavy rainfall in local areas, when the capacity of the local drains is exceeded. Local flooding tends to happen quickly, with little warning. Flood flows subside relatively quickly and often within an hour.

Table 2: Flood Responsibilities of Melbourne Water and Manningham Council

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It is also noted that the maintenance and management of general drainage infrastructure, including gutters and downpipes, rainwater tanks and detention systems within a private property is the responsibility of a homeowner.

6.2.2 Council's Approach to Flood Management

Flood management is the process of planning, preparing for, and responding to floods to minimize their negative impacts on communities and the environment.

In addition to the functions discussed above, Council's drainage infrastructure assists in flood management. Council's approach also includes communication of flood risk to stakeholders and planning, response and recovery from emergencies. The Manningham Planning Scheme also includes controls associated with regional flooding which allow the setting of floor levels above modelled flood levels to manage flood risk. Mitigating against flood risk is complex because of population growth, increased urbanisation and the ever-changing climate, which is why having accurate data becomes critical to determining flood management priorities and mitigation strategies.

Key documents guiding the management of flood risk in Manningham and their roles include:

Document	Purpose
Flood Management Strategy for Port Phillip and Westernport 2021-2031	Sets the strategic direction for regional flood management, including Manningham. It identifies parties involved with flood management and identifies actions and opportunities for collaboration with the aims of reducing flood risk across the region. Exposure to flood risk is compounded by the limitations of the drainage infrastructure given the age of the assets, and as a result of debris accumulating in a flash flood event. The Strategy identifies the importance of having up to date flood modelling to forecast the likelihood and impacts of floods to inform our flood management approach. Importantly, the strategy identifies that it is not technically feasible to entirely remove flood risk from the region.
Council's Asset Plan 2025-2035	Guides the management of drainage and other Council assets, to best support drainage services to the community. The Plan gives priority to maintaining the function of existing assets over the creation of new ones.
Council's Stormwater Management Policy 2024	Guides the prioritisation of drainage capital works projects to create new drainage assets.

Document	Purpose
Victorian State Emergency Service (VICSES) Manningham Storm & Flood Plan 2020	Outlines the arrangements for managing local storm and flood risks including prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery from emergencies. It details coordination with local, regional, and state emergency planning.
Victorian State Emergency Service (VICSES) Manningham Local Flood Guide 2020	Supports local community awareness and planning, helping residents to respond effectively during emergency flood events.

Table 3: Government documents Guiding the Management of Flood Risk

6.2.3 Flood Modelling and Mapping

Melbourne Water is working with local councils to update flood information across Greater Melbourne to better understand the risk of flooding. Improving flood information using sophisticated flood modelling, helps to understand how best to prepare for flooding and minimise its impacts. To assist Councils Flood Management, Council is undertaking flood modelling in collaboration with Melbourne Water.

Flood modelling and associated mapping are essential to understand flood risk and inform the appropriate flood management response. The flood mapping project considers the impacts of climate change based on Melbourne Waters flood mapping specification. The modelling provides detailed information on the location, flood depths and flow speeds for a range of storm scenarios.

Importantly, it is anticipated that the flood modelling information would be implemented through the introduction of statutory planning controls in the Victorian Planning Provisions and Manningham Planning Scheme. This approach will ensure that new developments are located and designed above designated flood levels to minimise future flood damage and prevent increase in flood impacts for neighbouring properties. The implementation of planning and building controls to identify flood impacted areas will be State Government led.

Flood modelling can also provide additional benefits. These include:

- Assisting in the prioritisation of flood mitigation activities including drainage upgrades
- Influencing maintenance programs to prioritise areas subject to the highest level of flood risk
- Supporting education programs to inform the community about flood risk and measures to minimise damage to people and property
- Informing Council's response to emergency management events.

6.2.4 Integrated Water and Flood Management

The provision of drainage infrastructure contributes to managing stormwater and mitigating against flood risk. However, using IWM measures, will help slow the flow and reduce the volume of stormwater and work towards achieving a more sustainable outcome for the built and natural environments.

It is accepted that in some cases flood mitigation projects may require a more traditional flood management approach. The focus however should be to tailor the solutions to be responsive to the characteristics of various parts of the municipality in line with an IWM approach.

The pressures that drove the development of our traditional drainage network still exist but our understanding of the impacts of stormwater, our changing climate, population growth and forecasts of a more water constrained future demand a more holistic and innovative approach to water management. Our traditional drainage assets and integrated water management improvements must co-exist if we are to address the emerging challenges and achieve a sustainable future.

6.2.5 Case study 3 – Tullamore Residential Estate

Project Name: Tullamore Estate stormwater management (the former Eastern Golf Course site)

Location:13 Heritage Boulevard, Doncaster

Overview

The Tullamore residential estate, fronting Doncaster Road, Doncaster, comprises around 900 dwellings on an area of 47 hectares. Stormwater from this site discharges to a Melbourne Water drain and Koonung Creek to the west.

Typically, a residential development of this scale results in more hard surfaces as a result of the construction of houses, roads, roads and footpaths which ordinarily would result in increased stormwater runoff and pollutants.

Importantly, the Tullamore Estate incorporates several stormwater management features to manage these impacts. By adopting an Integrated Water Management approach, the subdivision maximises its water resources resulting in environmental benefits.

The subdivision incorporates the following features:

- **Stormwater treatment has been incorporated into the development**, comprising a Gross Pollutant Trap and a Biofilta planter bed. The Gross Pollutant trap filters litter, sediment and oils from the stormwater. The partially treated stormwater is then diverted to the Biofilta which removes nitrogen, phosphorous and other waterborne pollutants from the stormwater.
- The **treated and harvested stormwater is then stored in a 100 cubic metre underground tank to be used for irrigation**. This arrangement reduces the quantity of stormwater leaving the site and treats the stormwater as a resource, reducing the volume of drinking water needed for irrigation purposes.
- **A 11,000 cubic metre retention basin has been constructed** at the western end of the subdivision to temporarily store excess stormwater flows and slowly release the flows during major storm events, **minimising downstream flood impacts**.

Figure 19 shows the Biofilta. Figure 20 shows the location of the retention basin, Biofilta planter bed and Gross Pollutant Trap.

Figure 19: Tullamore Estate, Doncaster Biofilta Planter Bed

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Figure 20: Tullamore Estate Retention Basin, Biofilta and Gross Pollutant Trap

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7 Legislative and Policy Context

Our approach to this Strategy has been influenced by State Government legislation and policy documents along with key Council strategies and policies. The following diagram shows a summary of key State and Local government strategies / policies that contribute to the delivery of IWM outcomes.

Figure 21: Summary of IWM legislation and policy documents

Two key State Government documents relating to the Birrarung (Yarra River) which Council is legally obliged to act in accordance with are:

- Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murron) Act 2017 which means 'keep the Birrarung alive' in Woi-wurrung language
- Yarra Strategic Plan (2022) Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo, meaning 'what is good for the Yarra is good for all.'

The Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murron) Act 2017 is the first legislation in Australia to be co-titled in Traditional Owner language. The Birrarung (Yarra River) is one of only four rivers in the world that is legally recognised as a 'living entity'.

A requirement of this Act was the preparation the Yarra Strategic Plan. The Yarra Strategic Plan (Burndap Birraraung burndap umarkoo) is an overarching Plan to protect the entire length of the

Birrarung (Yarra RIver). It is the first plan for the Birrarung developed in partnership with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporations.

Two key aspects of the Plan are to:

- Work collaboratively with Traditional Owners, State and local government agencies to enhance the natural beauty, biodiversity, environmental health, cultural values and recreation of the Birrarung (Yarra River) Corridor

- Support Traditional Owners as decision makers.

The four objectives of the plan are:

1. Improving the water quality and biodiversity
2. Supporting a culturally diverse river
3. Providing quality parklands for a growing population
4. Protecting the natural beauty of the Yarra River corridor

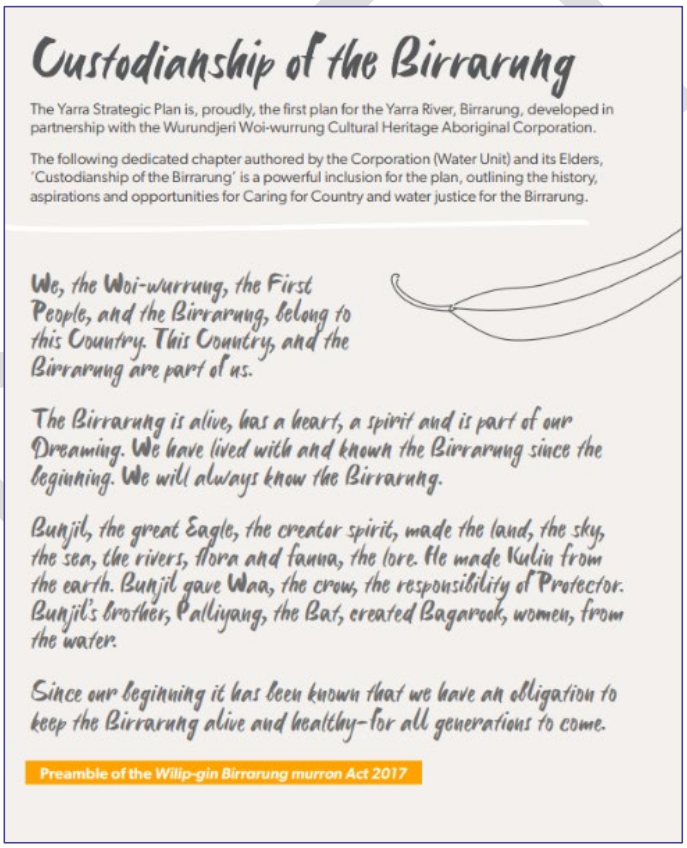

Figure 22: Preamble of the Wilip-gin Birrarung murron Act 2017, Yarra River Protection Act 2017

Source: Yarra Strategic Plan, Burndap Birrarung burnap umarkoo, Victoria State Government, 2022

7.1 EPA Act 2017 - Stormwater Obligations

The Environment Protection Act (2017) provides a legislative framework in Victoria for protecting human health and the environment from pollution and waste and sets out the General Environmental Duty (GED). The GED requires anyone conducting an activity that may give rise to risks of harm to human health or the environment (from pollution or waste), to eliminate or minimise those risks.

The EPA has two new policy documents that address stormwater management. They include:

- Victorian EPA's Urban Stormwater Management Guidance (2021)
- Obligations of Managers of Land or Infrastructure (Urban stormwater management).

Council has a statutory obligation to prepare a Stormwater Management Plan to minimise risks from urban stormwater associated with Council operations. The preparation of the Stormwater Management Plan is an action of this Strategy.

The Strategy also identifies an action to review Council design guidelines and specifications relating to Council capital works delivery to align with current EPA requirements.

7.2 Integrated Water Management Yarra Catchment Forum

A key State Government policy document *Water for Victoria* 2016 addresses the importance of becoming resilient to climate change conditions by better managing our use of water for three key areas namely: agriculture, the environment and community.

The IWM Framework of Victoria (2017) was developed to help the government, the water sector, Traditional Owners and the community work together to better plan, manage and deliver water in Victoria's towns and cities. IWM requires a collective effort across the entire Metropolitan Melbourne region and focuses on a strong collaborative approach between various stakeholders to deliver results at a regional scale.

The Framework resulted in the formation of IWM Forums which have been created across five major waterway catchments in the Greater Metropolitan Melbourne Region, (Werribee, Maribyrnong, Yarra, Dandenong and Western Port) and for ten regional forum areas. Manningham is part of the Yarra Catchment IWM Forum.

The Yarra Catchment extends north from Melbourne's central business district to southern mountains of the Great Dividing Range and extends east to Yarra Ranges, covering an area of around 4,076 square kilometres. It is estimated that the population of this catchment was around 1.87 million in 2021 and is projected to increase to 3.13 million in 2050 resulting in a 67% increase.

Figure 23: Melbourne Metropolitan IWM Forum Catchments

Source: Yarra Catchment Integrated Water Management Plan

Each IWM forum has prepared a Strategic Directions Statement that covers the IWM vision and strategic outcomes for each catchment. IWM Forum planning relates to years 2030 and 2050 to monitor progress towards catchment targets.

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The 'Yarra Catchment Integrated Water Management Plan - Actions for Delivery' (2024) has seven strategic outcomes, with six of most relevance to Local Government, as outlined below:

	Strategic Outcome	Explanation
	Safe, secure and affordable water supplies in an uncertain future	Protecting and conserving potable (drinking) water resources
	Effective and affordable wastewater systems	Using wastewater as a resource.
	Existing and future flood risks are managed to maximise outcomes for the community	Harvesting stormwater and retaining more water in the landscape or creating more storage in urban environments to slow flows to the drainage system to complement the stormwater drainage system.
	Healthy and valued waterways and marine environments	Improving the health of waterways by reducing stormwater volumes and the level of pollutants entering our waterways which will minimise erosion and improve ecosystems
	Healthy and valued urban and rural landscapes	Supporting green spaces to improve liveability and support health and well being through the use of recycled water or rainwater harvesting to irrigate trees and provide recreational opportunities.
	Community values are reflected in place based planning	Increasing community understanding of the water cycle. Incorporating water and green spaces in urban spaces to support health and well being. Respecting and better understanding Traditional Owners cultural, spiritual and economic connection to water.

Figure 24: IWM Strategic Outcomes for Yarra Catchment from IWM Forums

Source: Yarra Catchment Integrated Water Management Plan, Actions for Delivery, Department of Energy and Climate Action (2024)

The 'Yarra Catchment Integrated Water Management Plan - Actions for Delivery' (2024) includes four potential projects that relate to Manningham. They include:

Project	Description	Lead Agency
Doncaster Hill recycled water project – Stage 1	The underground water recycling facility located at the Tram Road Reserve is planned to deliver high quality recycled water to over 5,000 properties around Doncaster Hill as well as local sports grounds and parks.	Yarra Valley Water
Develop a plan for the management of erosion risks along the Birrarung (Yarra River), Warrandyte	To produce a management plan to identify remedial works along the Yarra River (Birrarung) in Warrandyte. It will investigate riverbank erosion, access for people and animals, particularly dogs, and measures to preserve native flora, fauna and habitat along the Yarra River (Birrarung) corridor.	Melbourne Water, Manningham Council
Mullum Mullum Creek Collaborative Management Plan	To develop a management plan for Mullum Mullum Creek to upgrade the waterway resulting in significant social, cultural and environmental benefits.	Manningham Council and Maroondah Council
Manningham IWM Masterplan	To produce an IWM masterplan for Manningham to identify and prioritise stormwater treatment projects and harvesting schemes across the municipality. Thirty opportunities have been assessed to quantify benefits delivered in relation to: potable (drinking) water savings, reduction in stormwater runoff and pollutant loads and improved environmental outcomes. The five highest priority opportunities are identified in Section 9.2 and the first two proposed projects are identified as an action in this Strategy.	Manningham Council

Table 3: IWM projects affecting Manningham outlined in the Yarra Catchment Integrated Water Management Plan – Actions for Delivery (2024)

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8 Creating a More Resilient Future – A shared responsibility

'We are all connected by water. It is essential for our life and liveability and prosperity'. [7]

8.1 IWM Projects at Various Scales

A key focus of the Yarra Catchment IWM Forum is to improve stormwater quality by reducing the amount of pollutants and volume of stormwater entering our waterways, which ultimately end up in Port Phillip Bay.

The IWM forum seeks to align its actions with the Environment Protection Authority Publication 1733 - 'Development of environmental quality indicators and objectives for State Environment Protection Policy SEPP (Waters)'. This publication seeks to ensure that "nitrogen loads entering the Bay should not exceed current levels to reduce the risk of frequent and intense algal blooms" and a sediment target "to improve water quality and reduce pollutants that are typically bound to sediment particles".

The Yarra Catchment forum also promotes the importance of key stakeholders to work together to achieve tangible outcomes. Stakeholders include water corporations, local government, Traditional Owners, private developers and members of the community. With collaboration, IWM projects can be delivered over a range of scales, including:

- Regional
- Precinct
- Street
- Allotment

An explanation of IWM projects at various scales is described below:

Scale	Project Description
Regional Realm	Projects which may serve significant areas of a municipality or multiple municipalities and are typically delivered by water corporations. An example is the Bolin Bolin Integrated Water Management facility which supplies harvested stormwater to the Boroondara Freeway Golf Course, Carey Grammar sports fields and Manningham's Bulleen Park sports fields.
Precinct Realm	Larger scale IWM projects, typically constructed in reserves. The types of assets include stormwater harvesting systems and larger scale stormwater treatments such as wetlands. An example is the stormwater management treatments at the Tullamore Estate (see Case Study 3, Section 6.2.5)

[7] Taken from Yarra Catchment Integrated Water Management Plan - Actions for Delivery – April 2024 pg v

Scale	Project Description
Street Realm	Street scale IWM projects, also known as water sensitive urban design (WSUD), are constructed on public land and can include passive irrigation of street trees, raingardens, porous pavements and other infrastructure.
Allotment Realm	These are smaller scale assets such as rainwater tanks. These assets are typically required as part of a new development. Council is currently developing an IWM Developers Guide, explaining how to comply with the relevant sections of the Manningham Planning Scheme that have objectives and standards relating to integrated water management.

Examples of IWM projects are various scales is illustrated in Figure 26.

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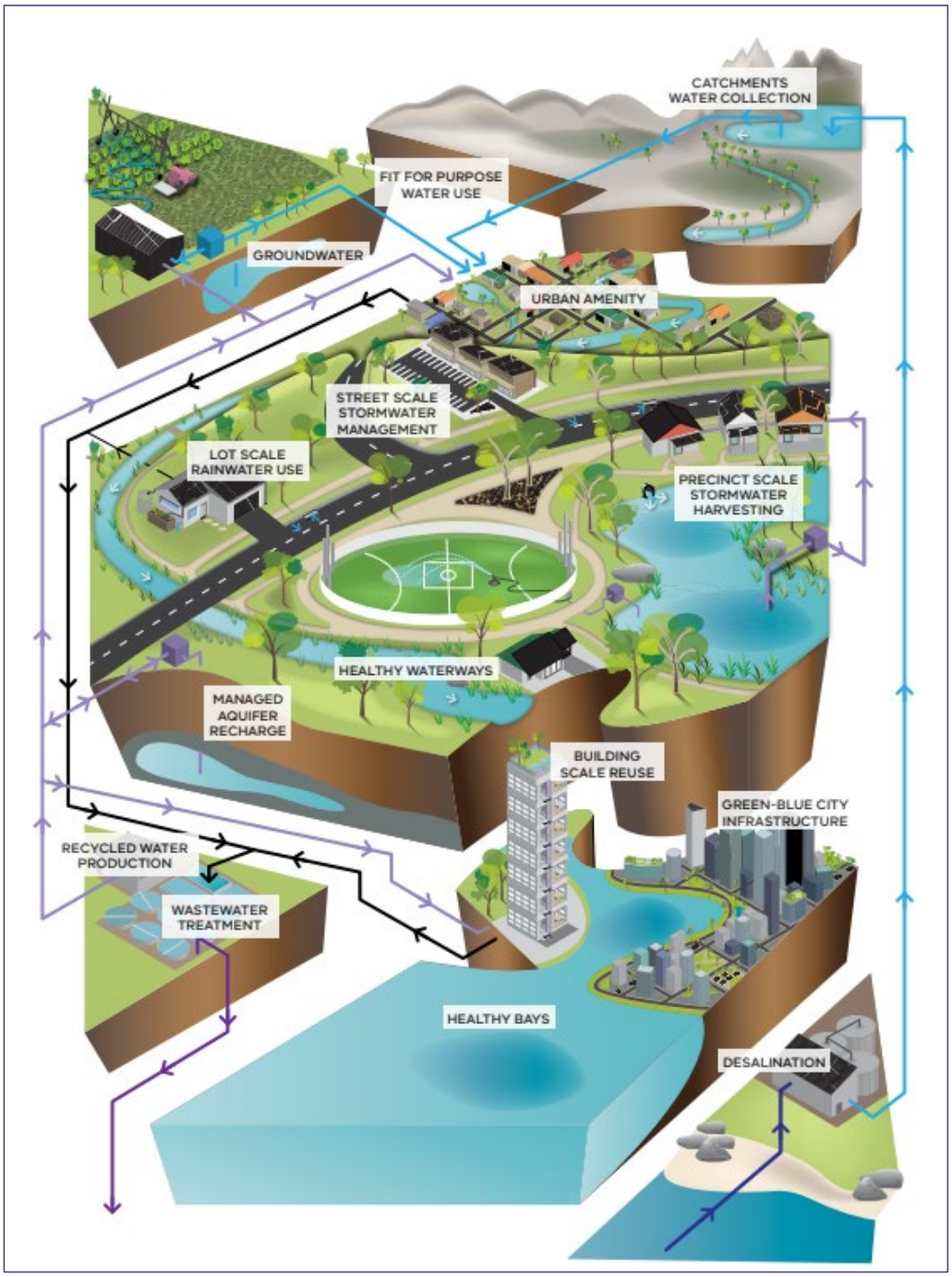

Figure 25: The application of IWM in the Urban Environment
Source: Integrated Water Management Framework for Victoria (2017)

8.2 Manningham IWM Projects – Various Scales

In line with the Yarra Catchment Integrated Water Management Plan – Actions for Delivery' (2024) this Strategy focuses on the following IWM projects.

Precinct Realm Project - Manningham IWM / WSUD Masterplan

An IWM masterplan is currently being undertaken to identify and prioritise larger precinct scale stormwater treatment and harvesting projects across the municipality. Sites have been identified and assessed based on their ability to:

- Utilise an alternative water source, which would reduce our dependence on potable (drinking water) use
- Reduce stormwater runoff and pollutant load, which would improve the health of our waterways and ultimately Port Phillip Bay.

This masterplan project seeks to maximise the stormwater in the environment, so it can be used to irrigate our ovals and open space reserves, including trees and improve stormwater quality. By capturing this water, Council will be able to continue to provide recreational opportunities in the summer months, as well as providing cooler and greener spaces. The utilisation of the stormwater runoff can also contribute to flood mitigation.

The Masterplan project site identification process considered the following factors:

- Land ownership
- Topographical features including slope and vegetation cover
- Proximity to the drainage network
- Stormwater reuse demands.

This process resulted in the identification of over 30 sites. Importantly, site suitability for the development of precinct scale IWM / WSUD assets depends on the following factors:

- **Land slope** – Flatter sites are more appropriate for WSUD / IWM infrastructure.
- **Site proximity to the drainage network and reuse opportunities** – The closer the site is to the drainage network, the lower the pumping and water diversion costs. Stormwater harvesting systems need to be designed for an irrigation demand associated with a sports oval or specific facility.
- **Upstream catchment area** – Sufficient land must be located upstream of the proposed site to ensure that there will be sufficient and reliable stormwater supply.

The following further steps were undertaken to shortlist precinct scale projects for further consideration:

- Modelling was undertaken to size the potential treatments and assess the initial project cost, pollutant reduction and volume of stormwater reuse offered by each option
- Through this process, a cost benefit assessment was undertaken for each project that resulted in a shortlist of 11 potential projects
- Site visits were undertaken to assess the physical site constraints

- Stakeholder workshops were undertaken with Council's Flooding and Stormwater Management Community Reference Panel, Council, Yarra Valley Water and Melbourne Water.

This resulted in shortlisting 5 potential projects. They include:

1. Rieschiecks Reserve
2. Templestowe Reserve
3. Pleasant Reserve / Sheahans Reserve / Morang Reserve
4. Timber Reserve / Anthony Reserve
5. Penderel Reserve.

The location of these 5 sites is shown in Figure 26.

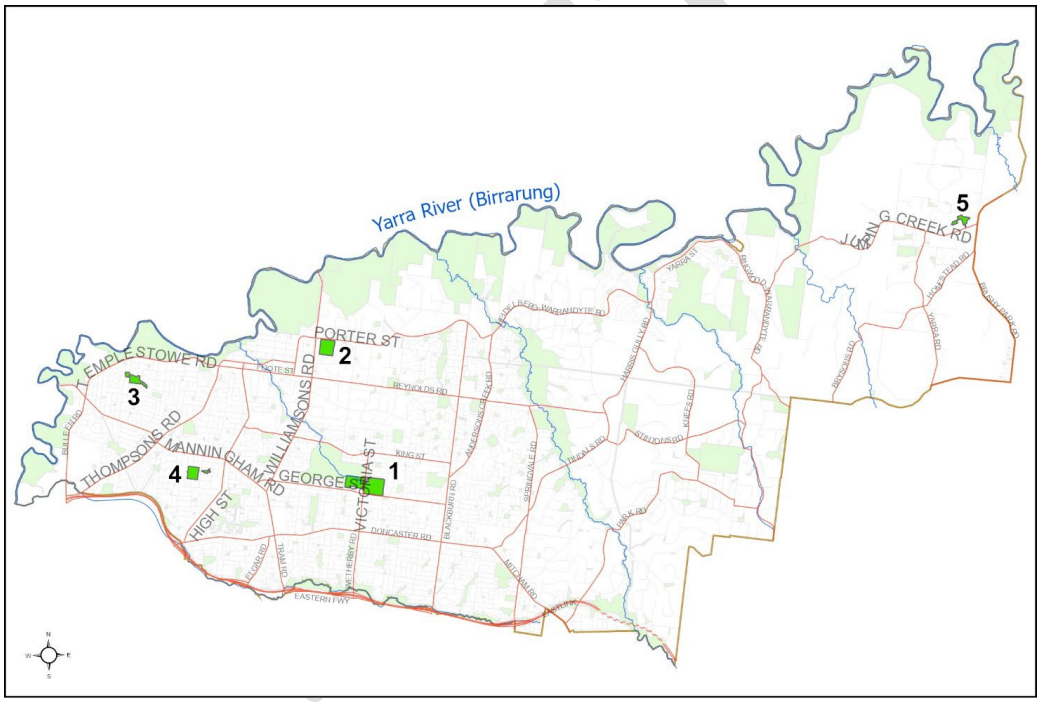

Figure 26: Short Listed Precinct Scale IWM Project Sites

These sites will be subject to further investigation and cost benefit analysis as part of the project planning and design phases.

An action of the Strategy proposes to plan, design and construct one precinct scale project every four years.

The first two sites proposed for more detailed investigation and delivery will be Rieschiecks Reserve and Templestowe Reserve. These sites have been selected as the highest priority based on the costs and benefits analysis. Further investigation of Timber Reserve will be undertaken at the end of the Strategy term.

Concepts will be developed to confirm project feasibility for each site and take into consideration a range of matters including potential impacts on passive recreation
Individual project development will also include consultation with the affected community members and key stakeholders.

Street Realm IWM / WSUD infrastructure

Water travelling along kerb and channel in the road reservation provides an opportunity to be captured and used to support the greening and cooling of our public spaces.

Permeable pavements can reduce stormwater flow volumes, reduce sediment loads in stormwater and can assist in irrigating landscaping.

Passively irrigated street trees and raingardens use stormwater to irrigate plantings and help remove pollutants, nutrients and sediments from stormwater. They also reduce the volume of stormwater discharging to waterways including the Birrarung (Yarra River).

The benefits of trees in the urban environment are well-known. They provide shade, amenity and support biodiversity. As trees mature, they increase in their capacity to absorb stormwater and reduce pollutant discharge to waterways (a 2 year old tree needs 2.5 L per day whereas a 20 year old tree can consume 35 L/day). Large trees with a healthy canopy are unequalled in their ability to cool their environment.

In the future, drier and hotter conditions are likely to impact the resilience of a substantial proportion of trees in Melbourne, including Manningham, which may not be able to survive future climates. The provision of irrigation is a key strategy to improve survival rates.

An Action of the Strategy relates to a pilot project to trial passively irrigated street trees and permeable pavements.

The pilot project will guide future Council expenditure on street realm infrastructure and build on current Council capital WSUD initiatives and existing assets.

Allotment Realm IWM / WSUD Infrastructure

Single lot houses are being replaced by townhouses and apartments as urban consolidation continues to support population growth across the municipality. Council will prepare an IWM Developers Guide to explain how to comply with integrated water management provisions of the Manningham Planning Scheme, along with matters for consideration having regard to the municipality's land use and local conditions.

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8.3 Evaluation of IWM Performance at Various Scales

Specialist consultants have undertaken modelling to gain an understanding of the relative merits of the regional, precinct and allotment scale IWM infrastructure.

This work examined the relative benefits of the various scales of infrastructure based on the ability to:

- Reduce stormwater pollutant loads from entering receiving waterways
- Substitute potable (drinking) water with an alternative water source for non-drinking purposes.

The modelling was based on the following data:

- Forecast development for Manningham based on Victoria in Future projections to 2036 and projected forward to 2050
- Manningham Planning Scheme requirements for new development
- Information released by Yarra Valley Water regarding the proposed Tram Road Water Recycling Facility
- Consideration of delivery of the Manningham IWM / WSUD Masterplan projects at rates of delivery of one project every five years or a 'fast tracked' option with delivery of one project every three years.

Key observations from the modelling include:

- **Allotment realm development** - The greatest benefit in terms of pollutant load reduction and drinking water substitution for Manningham is delivered by allotment realm development. This highlights the importance of private development in the context of delivering IWM benefits for Manningham.

- **Regional Realm -** The second greatest benefit in terms of potable (drinking) water substitution is delivered by regional realm projects, as compared with precinct realm interventions. This is consistent with the investment capacity of the State Government.

- **Precinct Realm Master Plan** – The Masterplan projects are the largest scale IWM projects. Based on the five shortlisted projects, it is forecast that they deliver 5% of the potable (drinking) water substitution benefit and approximately one quarter of the pollutant load reduction compared to the Allotment Realm projects.

However, the Masterplan projects that relate to stormwater harvesting provide a valuable alternative water source for the irrigation of sports grounds which assists with the ongoing sustainability of these important community assets.

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9 Glossary

Word	Definition
Annual Exceedance Probability	The likelihood, expressed as a percentage, of a specific flood or rainfall event occurring or being exceeded in any given year. For example, a 1% AEP flood means there's a 1% chance (or 1 in 100 chance) that an event of that size will occur in any given year.
Asset	Assets are resources that provide benefit. They include infrastructure such as wetlands, pipes and pumps, rainwater tanks and the like. There are also community assets including sporting pavilions, public open space and street trees.
Catchment	An area where water falling as rain (or snow/ice) is collected by the landscape, eventually flowing and accumulating along a defined valley to a body of water such as a creek.
Climate Change	Changes in the state of the climate, including an increase in the occurrence of extreme weather events, long-term changes in weather patterns, attributed directly or indirectly to human activity. Distinct from climate variability as the changes persist for an extended time, typically decades or longer.
Condensation	The conversion of a vapour or gas to a liquid.
Discharge	Flow of water released.
Drainage pit	An underground structure which connects to drainage pipe(s) and acts to capture and collect surface stormwater runoff into drainage pipes.
Evaporation	Part of the water cycle, in which water is transferred from the land to the atmosphere as vapour from the soil, water bodies and other surfaces and by transpiration from plants.
Flood resilience	The ability to withstand, respond to, and recover quickly from flood events.
Flood risk	The chance a flood will happen, what it will affect, and how badly it will be affected when the flood occurs.
Floodplain	Low-lying land adjacent to a river or stream hat periodically floods when the river overflows its banks.
Flow	The rate of movement of water, expressed as the volume passing in a set period of time.
Flora	All the plants that grow in a specific place, like a forest or a garden, including trees, flowers, grasses, and bushes.
Greywater	Wastewater from the kitchen, laundry and bathroom, but not the toilet. It usually contains soap, detergent and fats.
Groundwater	All subsurface water, generally occupying the pores and crevices of rock and soil.
Infiltration	Permeation of water into soil by filtration.
Infrastructure	Basic facilities and networks needed for the functioning of a local community or broader society.

Word	Definition
Integrated Water Management (IWM)	Is a holistic and collaborative approach to managing water that considers all aspects of the water cycle, including wastewater management, water supply, stormwater management and water treatment considering environmental, cultural, economic and social benefits.
Integrated Water Management Forum	A meeting of urban water management organisations to identify, prioritise and commit to the investigation and delivery of integrated water management opportunities.
Passive watering	Irrigating landscapes using gravity to direct rainfall runoff or stormwater from adjacent surfaces to vegetation.
Potable Water (or mains water)	Water suitable for human drinking purposes/consumption. In Melbourne our drinking water supply is sourced from catchments and a series of dams and reservoirs, particularly the Silvan Reservoir which connects to Melbourne's water reticulation system.
Precipitation	Rain, snow, sleet, or hail that falls to or condenses on the ground
Raingarden	Specially designed gardens with plantings and layers of media that intercept, filter, and absorb stormwater runoff from paved areas and roofs, minimising pollutants entering waterways.
Rainwater harvesting	The process of collecting, storing, and reusing rainwater and/or stormwater that would otherwise run off surfaces like roofs and roads
Retarding Basin	Large, open, free draining basin that temporarily detains collected stormwater runoff, to limit the rate of downstream flows and flood impacts.
Riparian	Land and vegetation that adjoins a river, creek, estuary, lake or wetland.
Runoff	The portion of rainfall that ends up as streamflow, also known as rainfall excess
Stormwater	Rainfall that runs off roofs, roads and other urban surfaces into gutters, drains, creeks and rivers, and eventually into the sea. This water can carry contaminants such as sediments, litter, oils, detergents, heavy metals, nutrients, pathogens and other toxicants.
Swale	Swales are vegetated, shallow and gently graded channels that collect and transfer stormwater. They can delay and reduce stormwater runoff through infiltration into the soil and can filter out gross pollutants and coarse sediment.
Total Nitrogen	The sum of all nitrogen forms in a water sample, including organic nitrogen, ammonia, nitrite, and nitrate. It is a critical measure for understanding nitrogen pollution.
Total Suspended Solids	A measure of the total dry-weight of non-dissolved solid particles in a water sample such as silt, sand, algae, and organic matter. A high concentration of TSS can decrease water quality and clarity, block sunlight, reduce oxygen levels and harm aquatic life.
Urban Greening	Growing plants wherever possible in cities to contribute to urban vegetation coverage
Wastewater	Water that has had its quality affected by human influence, associated with industrial, domestic, agricultural or commercial activities.

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Word	Definition
Water Cycle	The water cycle is the path that all water follows as it moves around our planet. Heat from the Sun causes water to evaporate from oceans, lakes and streams, forming water vapor in our atmosphere. Water vapour from plants and trees also enters the atmosphere through transpiration. As warm water vapor rises up through Earth's atmosphere, it cools causing the water vapor to turn back into liquid water, creating clouds through condensation. When a cloud becomes full of liquid water, it falls from the sky as rain or snow—also known as precipitation and the process starts all over again.
Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)	An approach to urban planning that integrates water into the built environment to mimic natural processes, minimising the negative impacts of urban runoff on waterways and retaining water in urban areas to create green and cool spaces.
Waterway	A river, canal, or other route for water to travel.
Wetland	An area of land with still or slow-moving water that acts as an "ecological kidney," either permanently, seasonally, or intermittently, filtering pollutants and improving the quality of stormwater before it reaches rivers, while also providing valuable habitat for wildlife.
Liveability	The attributes of a place that make it good or suitable for living in and ability to attract and retain people by fostering a positive and flourishing environment.
Yarra Strategic Plan	A Victorian Government Strategy to protect the entire length of the Birrarung (Yarra River), measuring 242 kilometres. It recognises the Birrarung as a living entity that needs to be protected. It promotes collaboration between State and local government agencies and supports Traditional Owners as decision makers and partners on their Country.

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DOCUMENT HISTORY

Policy Title:	Integrated Water Management Strategy- Background Report
Responsible Officer Position:	Director City Planning and Liveability
Next Review Date:	2029
To be included on website?	Yes

Last Updated	Meeting Type - Council or EMT	Meeting Date	Item Number
New Strategy	Council Meeting	28 October 2025	To be confirmed on finalisation of Council minutes.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

From time to time, circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to the Strategy. Where an update does not materially alter this strategy, such a change may be made by the Responsible Officer. Examples of minor administrative changes include changes to names of Manningham City Council departments or a minor amendment to legislation that does not have material impact.

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ATTACHMENT 3

Feedback from Council's Flooding and Stormwater Management Community Reference Panel (CRP)

Workshop held 6 August 2025

The workshop focused on three specific questions that related to the preliminary draft Integrated Water Management (IWM) Strategy, that was approximately 70% developed. The information in this Table provides a response to the feedback received at the workshop, as well as any additional information provided by the CRP members in response to the three questions.

Question 1:
The IWM Strategy has been prepared as an accessible and easy to understand document rather than as a technical document. Its intent is to clearly outline to our community our approach for managing water in a more holistic manner.

Is the draft strategy readable and understandable by the community? How could the strategy be improved to help the community to understand what IWM is all about?

Item	Summary of Feedback	Response
1.1	To make the document easier to read, introduce the concept of integrated water management earlier in the document.	The document has been restructured, so that the concept of integrated water management and its benefits are addressed in Chapter 2 of the background report.
1.2	Good start but needs to be simpler.	The document has been made more concise and includes more photos and diagrams to help explain concepts.
1.3	Water sensitive urban design should have its own chapter.	A section about water sensitive urban design (WSUD) including examples has been added to Chapter 2 of the background report.
1.4	Like the infographics but more images would assist.	More images have been included.
1.5	In relation to IWM the following should be provided: • The role of individuals • The benefits • How it will improve the community's lives.	This has been addressed.
1.6	Remind people of the millennial drought.	Information about the millennial drought has been referenced in section 4.2.1 of the background report.
1.7	Section 5.1 is easy to understand and could replace some earlier sections.	Section 5.1 of the background report relates to Manningham's water supply and demand. Parts of this section have been brought forward in the document.
1.8	Need to acknowledge multicultural community and their ability to understand the Document.	Interpreter services, as well as a range of consultation material in different languages will be provided to optimise the opportunity for our multicultural community to engage with Council during the

ATTACHMENT 3

Item	Summary of Feedback	Response
		consultation period.
1.9	Concerns that the Stormwater Policy provides very little guidance for the development of the IWM Strategy.	The primary purpose of the Stormwater Management Policy is to set prioritisation criteria for drainage capital works projects. The prioritisation of drainage works is beyond the scope of the Strategy. There is an overlap in relation to drainage and flooding, but the IWM Strategy addresses a holistic management of water. The draft IWM Strategy has been influenced by the Yarra Catchment IWM Forum and other relevant State and Council strategic documents.
1.10	Disagree with including an Action Plan in the Strategy. The Action Plan should be based on the approved Strategy.	Noted. Council's general approach to preparing a Strategy is to include actions. The actions form part of the implementation of a strategy.
1.11	The sentence (in para 1.2) "The actions in the Strategy will help guide and prioritise Council investment in stormwater management measures to contribute to the liveability of our suburbs and improve environmental outcomes" Does not make sense, the strategy guides the investment and thus results in "actions".	This sentence has been reworded. Section 1.2 relating to the Purpose of the Strategy now states: The Strategy will help guide Council and the broader community to use water more sustainably and inform Council investment on a range of stormwater management measures….'
1.12	The Draft refers to the Strategy being reviewed after 5 years. It is recommended it is reviewed every 6 months.	Section 4 of the Strategy addresses the monitoring and evaluation. Progress of the strategy will be monitored annually and reported on. Additional review and reporting will be undertaken after years 3 and 5 to ensure it continues to align with the State Government policies and Council priorities' and will be reported to Council.
1.13	Wording relating to Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people needs clarification. Who is the organisation that represents them. Is it the 'Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. If so, this should be documented.	The document has been amended to ensure consistency when reference is made to the 'Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. Reference to the Corporation in Table 1 has been amended. T he draft Strategy has also been referred to the Corporation for comment.
1.14	The term "Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung" is spelt in several different ways. There should be one spelling the document.	The document has been reviewed to ensure consistency in spelling.
1.15	The images of the rope to depict the concept of IWM provides an incomplete picture and should be removed.	The image has been removed.
1.16	The Table showing roles and responsibilities of key organisations needs further clarification, particularly the roles of Manningham Council and Yarra Valley Water.	The roles and responsibilities of organisations, particularly Manningham Council and Yarra Valley Water have been updated in Table 1 in the background report.

ATTACHMENT 3

Item	Summary of Feedback	Response
1.17	The Table outlining roles and responsibilities should be rearranged into a more relevant and logical sequence. It is suggested that households and Manningham Council should be at the beginning of the Table followed by Melbourne Water, Yarra Valley Water and other government departments. Also: • need to clarify the role and responsibilities of the 'Wurundjeri Traditional Owners'; and • expand the roles and responsibilities of 'households, businesses and visitors' and 'Manningham Council.'	Table 1 in the background report has been rearranged and updated to reflect the feedback received.
1.18	In the Table outlining roles and responsibilities the 'water corporations' should identify which 'water corporations'.	Reference to 'water corporations' has been removed from the Table because the water corporations applying to Manningham include Melbourne Water and Yarra Valley Water both of which have been addressed in Table 1 in the Background report.
1.19	The contact details of the stakeholders should be provided.	The purpose of the Strategy is not to provide the contact details of various organisations. The contact details of these organizations can change over time, which could unnecessarily make the Strategy outdated.
1.20	The Policy Context section needs rework. There are a large number of policies and strategies listed. These documents should be listed in an appendix, along with links to the documents and a list of the relevant paragraphs that are applicable to IWM.	Chapter 7 of the background report provides a broad overview of the key policies that influence IWM. The purpose is to provide policy context rather than a complete list or literature review.
1.21	Paragraph 5.2 under the Policy context section refers to the key aspects of the plan are to work and support Traditional Owners but not state who they need to talk to.	Chapter 7 of the background report references the Yarra Strategic Plan (also known as Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo). Two key aspects of the Plan are to: • Work collaboratively with Traditional Owners, State and local government agencies to protect the Birrarung (Yarra River) Corridor; and • Support Traditional Owners as decision makers. The Strategy focuses on collaboration. The extent of collaboration and with whom varies according to a project or activity that is proposed in the Yarra River Corridor.
1.22	The statement 'In 2024 Catchment scale IMW Plans for the Yarra Catchment were released'. This sentence does not make sense as this document is not referenced in the list of policies (Policy Context section).	The wording of this sentence has been changed to reflect the title of the document in the Policy Context section of the draft background report.
1.23	Attention is required in relation to documenting authors and approvers and overall formatting.	The version reviewed by the CRP was a working document at 70% progressed and it is acknowledged that it was an incomplete document that required

ATTACHMENT 3

Item	Summary of Feedback	Response
		formatting and editing. The draft Strategy and Background report for public exhibition has been formatted to address these types of matters. The approvers of the Strategy and background report will be Council, given that it is going through a formal Council adoption process. The document history has been added to the end of both the draft Strategy and the background report.
1.24	There are several formatting issues. The draft document does not show authors, approvers and revision number. Basic project management processes are missing in the development of the Policy and Strategy.	The version reviewed by the CRP was a working document at 70% progressed and it is acknowledged that it was an incomplete document that required formatting and editing. The draft Strategy and Background report for public exhibition has been formatted to address these types of matters. A section titled Document History that includes the responsible officer position for the document has been included. This format is consistent with Council's policy template.
1.25	A CRP member submitted an extract from a document (not identified) that provided information about 'Features of an Integrated Water Strategy'.	The information has been considered with aspects of the information included in the draft Strategy.
1.26	Reference was made to ensure that the draft Strategy is consistent with the Local Government Acts and the Productivity Commission Research Paper.	Officers have read the Productivity Commission Research paper. The Productivity Commission paper was prepared with a federal focus in 2020 and identifies ten barriers to the implementation of IWM around policy, linkages between land and water planning, issues with collaboration and regulation. There has been significant work in the IWM space since 2020. In Victoria, Integrated Water Management (IWM) Forums oversee the implementation of collaborative water opportunities. These opportunities include structural and systemic actions to tackle barriers to mainstreaming IWM such as funding, policy, and planning barriers. The Forums bring together organisations, including local government, water corporations, Traditional Owners, and state government agencies. Manningham is part of the Yarra Catchment IWM Forum and Manningham's draft IWM Strategy responds to this framework.

ATTACHMENT 3

Question 2:
The action table outlines how we plan to respond to the challenges identified in the IWM Strategy. We want to make sure our actions lead to real outcomes, including when it comes to community engagement and education, which was highlighted at the last CRP workshop as an interest area of the group.

Our action table remains a work in progress. What additional actions would you like to see that would contribute to the delivery of IWM outcomes, including actions around community engagement and education?

Item	Summary of Feedback	Response
2.1	Informing and educating on existing programs. Messaging should be around the community to look after your creek. Reference should be made to informing the community about existing education programs	There was considerable discussion about the importance of community engagement and education. Community education could involve a range of options (or combination of options). Depending on the level of community education and engagement activities deployed these initiatives would require additional financial resources and potentially personnel. A communications plan is currently being prepared that addresses engaging with the community and seeking comment on the draft Strategy and background report via various platforms such as social media, council website and face to face activities and programs. A series of videos (referred to as water stories) are currently being developed to foster community connection to waterways and by extension, care for the health of the waterways and environment. These videos will be promoted via the Your Say Manningham and other forms of social media. Action 20 of the draft Strategy requires communications and engagement focusing on the strategy implementation phase.
2.2	Showcase examples in Manningham Matters / Warrandyte Diary	Refer to response in 2.1.
2.3	Workshops or stalls at market, or Council offices. Kids engaged in practical skills like building a rain garden.	Refer to response in 2.1.
2.4	Collaborate with local nurseries to encourage community to grow non-invasive, drought tolerant plants	Refer to response in 2.1.
2.5	Review process for greywater permits to increase take up	New domestic wastewater permits in Manningham require that all wastewater be treated and contained within the boundaries of the property. This is a key requirement under the Environment Protection Authority (EPA)'s regulations, to protect human health and the environment. Action 25 of the draft Strategy is to approach Yarra Valley Water to work in partnership with Council to increase the rate of connections to proposed sewers in

ATTACHMENT 3

Item	Summary of Feedback	Response
		Park Orchards.
2.6	Review existing process and report water leaks and drainage issues and streamline and promote education	Council has a reporting process for the community to send requests to Council on matters that need to be addressed. This process is known as 'Snap, Send, Solve'. Residents can continue to report issues via phone, email, or in person visits to Council offices. Maintaining a variety of channels to report issues is critical.
2.7	Water usage app	The action request is unclear but if intended for use by the community, the action could be referred to Yarra Valley Water for consideration as the local water retailer.
2.8	Slowing the speed of stormwater before it enters creeks and waterways (Husseys Lane under Gold Memorial)	This is often achieved by reducing the grade of the final run of drainage pipe to be flatter and reduce the flow velocity before it discharges to ground or a watercourse. New drainage outlet flow velocities are to be limited and works are to be undertaken where warranted to protect against erosion. The outlet at Husseys Lane is to be inspected.
2.9	Outlining the problem so people can engage with IWM	The issue of our water sources being under increased pressure as a result of climate change and population growth has been elevated in the Strategy.
2.10	There are four projects listed that are outlined in the 2024 Yarra Catchment IWM Plan – Actions for Delivery but no status and completion dates are provided, nor how they will fit into the proposed Action Plan and if they will be included under the IWM Strategy.	The IWM Plan does not specify a completion date. Councils working draft IWM Strategy that was circulated to CRP specified that the 'action table remains a work in progress'. The final draft Strategy includes actions to progress these projects – refer Strategy section 3

ATTACHMENT 3

Question 3:

The IWM Strategy aims to clearly show the value of investing in integrated water management outcomes, including assets and solutions that help improve our environment.

How do you think we could strengthen the IWM Strategy to better justify increasing this investment and taking more innovative approaches to water management?

Item	Feedback	Response
3.1	Need financial commitment from Council for IWM and to improve water way health.	The financial implications of the Strategy will be considered by Council during the reporting stages and also through Councils capital planning and annual budgetary processes.
3.2	The Action Plan should run using typical Programme Management processes as identified by organisations such as the APM and the PMI.	An internal cross organisational IWM Working Group has been formed to assist in developing the draft Strategy. An action of the Strategy is to refresh this Working Group to focus on the implementation of the Strategy and manage the governance of the strategy delivery. The monitoring and reporting section of the strategy defines strategy delivery progress milestones. Council's capital project management system will be employed for capital delivery. Council's internal management systems will also be applied to strategy delivery. Implementation of the Strategy will also be reported against the performance measures defined by the Yarra Catchment IWM forum, where relevant.
3.3	Increased investment leads to better outcomes	Noted. Financial implications is summarized in the Strategy Section 2.4. Upon endorsement of this Strategy, applications for additional external funding for projects will be subject to Council's budgetary processes.
3.4	There needs to be a method to quantify benefits in financial terms i.e. undertake a cost benefit analysis.	Financial implications is summarised in the Strategy Section 2.4. Benefits of individual Masterplan projects, as identified in the State Government's 'Yarra Catchment IWM Plan-Actions for Delivery report' (2024) and Action 2 of the Strategy will be quantified, and cost benefit analysis will be undertaken to inform grant funding applications and internal budgetary processes.
3.5	Need to demonstrate the benefits of increasing investment from environmental, economic and community perspective.	The benefits of IWM as a broad approach from an environmental, amenity and economic perspective have been strengthened in the strategy. The IWM benefits of selected projects can also be promoted as part of Council's education program and as part of project based community messaging i.e. potable water savings, environmental and social benefits.

ATTACHMENT 3

Item	Feedback	Response
3.6	Should incentivise for people to have 4 min showers and invest in water tanks.	Noted. These are key messages that Council can include in communications material, for community to consider to reduce use of drinking water.
3.7	Need to consider how Council can manage / enforce water tanks on private property to ensure that they remain operational.	Action 9 of the draft Strategy requires investigation of a compliance framework to securing the long term operation of private rainwater tanks and WSUD assets on private property.
3.8	Onsite detention / retention systems must be checked yearly by Council to ensure compliance.	Action 9 has been included in the draft IWM Strategy to investigate development of a stormwater management framework for WSUD assets and detention systems in private realm development.
3.9	Undertake annual reviews of water sampling results from local watercourses (e.g. from Waterwatch) to help prioritise areas of the catchment for IWM initiatives, and to monitor trends over time. (Any positive trends could help provide evidence of benefits to assist with receiving future investment).	The waterways are under Melbourne Water jurisdiction. The Waterwatch program undertakes water sampling and testing for selected waterways. There has been a significant decline in voluntary participation in the Water Watch Program in Manningham over the last decade, reducing the amount of available data. The ability to draw actionable Manningham specific conclusions from this data is limited by the fact that Manningham's watercourses often cross municipal boundaries, limiting the ability to isolate Manningham's contribution and the number of actors within the catchment who can contribute to water quality outcomes. Tracking of progress towards Melbourne Water Healthy Waterways targets for the Yarra River can assist to inform regional trends over time. The IWM Forums however track the impacts of IWM initiatives through the assessment of the benefits of individual treatments.
3.10	Council needs to assign a yearly budget amount plus an increase percentage to maintain the standard.	The draft Strategy will result in a greater number of IWM / WSUD assets, and / or upgrades to existing assets and operations. Capital improvements will be subject to the preparation of business cases to secure delivery budgets. A further review of budget requirements will be undertaken following delivery of Action 6 to undertake a condition audit of existing WSUD assets.

ATTACHMENT 3

Item	Feedback	Response
3.11	An Integrated Water Management Overlay would allow councils to apply stricter IWM requirements (like mandatory on-site retention / detention, increased size of rainwater tanks and increased permeability standards) to address local or catchment level issues.	The Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) do not have a specific "Integrated Water Management Overlay". However, integrated water management (IWM) is addressed through various mechanisms within the VPP including: specific clauses (Cl 19.03-3S), various overlays, as well as broader policy guidance. With the State Government's changes to the planning provisions, particularly the Deemed to Comply provisions, it is unclear if the provisions relating to IWM will need to be incorporated into new development.

4. Additional Matters

Item	Feedback	Response
4.1	Concerns that the Stormwater Policy provides very little guidance for the development of the IWM Strategy.	The primary purpose of the Stormwater Management Policy is to set prioritisation criteria for drainage capital works projects. The prioritisation of drainage works is beyond the scope of the Strategy. There is an overlap in relation to drainage and flooding but the IWM Strategy addresses a more holistic management of the water more generally. The draft IWM Strategy has been influenced by the Yarra Catchment IWM Forum and other relevant State and Council strategic documents.
4.2	Reference to current standards (including 300mm diameter pipe as well as addressing pits) should be further explained in the Strategy.	Inlet pit requirements will be considered as part of any drainage upgrade. The term 'current standards' has been deleted from the strategy and further explanation of the factors considered when renewing Council drains has been added. Requirements for new drainage works have also been added, clarifying that new drains are to be designed based on a risk management approach with the minimum standard to be a 20% AEP (annual exceedance probability) standard, which translates to the old 1 in 5 year annual recurrence interval.
4.3	Need to review all design standards, including storm frequency and adequacy to minimise flooding.	Further information on proposed drainage works has been added to the strategy as follows: *New drainage works are to be prioritised in accordance with the criteria set out in the Stormwater Management Policy.* *New drains are to be designed to the requirements of Australian Rainfall and Runoff 2019. The design Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) for new systems is to be selected based on a risk assessment but will be no less that a 20% standard.*

ATTACHMENT 3

Item	Feedback	Response
4.4	Currently flooding in built up areas is managed through Special Building Overlays (SBO) with floor level controls. This approach is designated to protect life and property in an at-risk area. It does not however work as a proactive mechanism to reduce flooding from occurring in the first instance. WSUD should be considered as a tool in addition to an SBO with a preventative approach designed to deliver a catchment based solution to flood risk at the source.	Melbourne Water's '*Flood Management Strategy for Port Phillip and Westernport 2021-2031'* states that it is not technically feasible to entirely remove flood risk from the region. Flood modelling and mapping enhances understanding of flood risk and is a critical component of Council's flood management approach. This is supported by a range of interventions which includes capital works, such as drainage infrastructure, detention systems, retarding basins, asset management and maintenance, as well as the communication of flood risk to our community. The type and siting of any Council IWM/WSUD treatments will be determined based on a range of factors, including potential flood risk.

ATTACHMENT 3

5. Supplementary Feedback

Some additional feedback was received based on the version of the draft Strategy that was approximately 70% developed. Parts of the supplementary feedback reiterated matters that were outlined in table addressing feedback received as part of workshop 1 (information listed above).

Item	Summary of Feedback	Response
5.1	The IWM Policy and Strategy repeat the same information which is also held in fact sheets. The IWM Policy was only an information document and provides insufficient guidance to prepare the IWM Strategy.	This matter has been previously referenced in Items 1.9 and 4.1. It is assumed that reference to the IWM Policy, relates to the Manningham Stormwater Management Policy (2024).
5.3	The IWM Strategy should be approved before any projects are selected. The projects should be identified in the IWM Strategic Plan after approval of the IWM Strategy and selected based on the parameters and priorities set in the IWM Strategy. The strategic plan therefore needs to be separate document to the IWS Strategy. The Strategy should not change without approval, but the IWS Strategic Plan may change as long as the project meets the IWS Strategy criteria.	The Strategy includes actions that relate to each of the strategic directions. This approach is consistent with many of Council's policies and strategies. This approach is also consistent with IWM policies or strategies prepared by other local government organisations.
5.4	Advice was provided regarding the preparation of various documents including: Policy – which should identify the boundaries of the Strategy and the positions responsible to writing and approving the Strategy. Strategy – which should identify the parameters that should be used to select projects and the positions responsible for writing and approving the Strategic Plan. Plan (often called a Strategic Plan) – that lists potential projects and how they support the strategy and identify a process of selecting projects to be executed, a progress reporting process, risk, budget etc	The advice is noted. Council is currently in the process of reviewing its report hierarchy and exploring a standardized structure for various documents including for a: • Strategy • Policy • Action Plan
5.5	It has been recommended that the Strategy should be around 10 pages and include the following matters: • Introduction • Council Philosophy and Values • Aims of the Strategy • Summary • Responsibilities • Project selection criteria	In response to the feedback received the Strategy has been separated into two documents. **Part A: Strategy** - comprising purpose, brief policy context, vision, guiding principles, strategic directions, financial implications, actions. This is now much shorter. **Part B**: **Background Report** - comprising information about integrated water management, the policy and legislative framework, Manningham's use of water resources and how a traditional drainage approach, that includes flood management measures, also play an important role in complementing the IWM approach.

ATTACHMENT 3

	General information should be avoided in these documents.	
5.6	There needs to be document control that includes persons responsible for writing, reviewing and approving the document.	A section titled Document History that includes responsible officer position for the document has been included. This format is consistent with Council's policy template.

11 CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

11.1 Creative Communities Framework

File Number: IN25/758

Responsible Director: Acting Director Connected Communities

Attachments: 1 DRAFT Creative Communities Framework 2025-30 ⇩

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides Council with an overview of the Creative Communities Framework, shaped by extensive community consultation, and seeks approval to release it for final public consultation prior to formal endorsement.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines the Creative Communities Framework ('the Framework') which is designed to guide our work across arts and cultural services for the next 5 years.

The Framework has been developed following broad community consultation.

Key concepts that inform the Framework include:

- ***Themes and Priorities:*** *These are the core principles that underpin the program and focus on community representation, access and availability in addition to improved supports for local creative and cultural sectors.*

- ***Program Pillars:*** *These provide focus for the type and scale of programming appropriate to the community context and the cultural infrastructure available to support the program.*

- ***Clarity on our Role:*** *The Framework and accompanying Action Plan specifically outline our role to deliver, partner and advocate for creative and cultural sectors in Manningham.*

- ***Sustainable Change:*** *An approach to strengthen and realign our program pillars and supports using existing resources and build towards growing the program through a process of testing new approaches.*

The Framework provides a clear rationale for delivering arts and cultural programs that reflect community aspirations and needs. It introduces a more effective approach to program design and audience engagement. To support its implementation, an accompanying action plan has been developed to guide the strategic use of existing resources in line with the Framework's identified priorities.

Next steps include Council endorsement to proceed with public consultation on the draft framework, with the final version and community feedback to be presented for formal endorsement at the December 2025 Council Meeting.

1. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

A. Endorses the draft Creative Communities Framework 2025-30 (Attachment 1).

B. Endorses the release of the Creative Communities Framework for public consultation.

C. Notes that the final Framework will be presented to Council for endorsement at the December 2025 Council Meeting.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 In 2024, an internal review of our arts, culture and creative programs was undertaken highlighting an opportunity for:

- increased focus on cultural diversity.
- increased public program activity.
- improved approaches to audience engagement.
- increased opportunities for local participation.

2.2 The Creative Communities Framework ('the Framework') has been developed following broad community consultation and engagement, analysis of service review recommendations, audience data and feedback.

2.3 Officers will use the Framework to prioritise actions and deliverables each year, with a focus on improving current service delivery in the short term and towards partnership and advocacy in the long term. This has been detailed in an operational Creative Communities Action Plan which will be revised annually.

3. DISCUSSION / ISSUE

3.1 Community Engagement and Consultation

Community consultation on a multi-year arts action plan commenced in February 2025, which included community surveying, focus groups and pop-up activities at community events.

Based on these activities. the following recommendations were made:

- **Establish a centralised arts and culture hub (physical and digital):** Many participants indicated they were unaware of what was on, struggled with booking systems, or lacked access to information.
- **Invest in inclusive and accessible infrastructure and experiences:** Access issues such as parking, disability support, and timing clashed with people's ability to participate.

- **Build and maintain a creative directory and network:** There is currently no Manningham Council database of local artists or cultural groups, resulting in artists feeling isolated.

- **Evolve our Role to be an 'enabler' not just 'producer':** Participants, especially creatives, want us to be a facilitator and supporter, not just a top-down deliverer of events.

- **Prioritise cultural representation and First Nations storytelling:** Participants feel cultural identity and diverse storytelling are underrepresented in our strategy and visibility.

From this, Officers conducted additional engagement to capture the perspectives of children and young people, and tested early findings, verbatim feedback and recommendations with artists and creatives, and with our Advisory Committees.

Feedback from additional consultation confirmed the recommendations but also identified a broader community desire for arts and cultural experiences to be more available in their localities and for what is accessible to be reflective of place character and cultural and social diversity.

A full list of consultation activities is listed in the Framework in Appendix B. In total over 600 people participate in surveys, focus groups, discussions and direct engagement activities including over 70 children and young people.

3.2 Themes and Priorities

Four key themes were identified to underpin the Framework, with priorities noted for each theme. These four themes consolidate the findings of the consultation into areas of focus that can inform future decision-making about the program and service.

- **Theme One – Representation:** Desire to see better representation of the diverse cultural and social identities of Manningham, including First Nations representation.

- **Theme Two – Art in Everyday:** Desire to encounter arts experiences in everyday settings, such as in parks and activity centres, as well as in cultural places such as galleries and art studios.

- **Theme Three – Localism:** Ensuring that activities support local artists with opportunities and access, as well as being authentic to the character of the local community.

- **Theme Four – Creative Ecology:** Ensuring that activities contribute to a broader Manningham identity as a place where creativity, arts and culture are valued, and the creative community is supported and connected.

3.3 Program Pillars

The Framework consolidates our work into Program Pillars to provide focus for the scale and type of programming that is suited to the community context and to the cultural infrastructure that can support it.

Previous approaches to describing the program and service have focused on cultural venues as a primary driver of program delivery. This renewed approach prioritises the function that the program provides to the community:

- **Exhibitions:** Anchored by the curated annual program at Manningham Art Gallery and expanded with additional spaces available to local artists as relevant to their career stage.
- **Live Performance:** Support for live music and other forms of live performance, growing from providing venue hire to building space for creative development and community-led performance making.
- **Public Art and Collections:** Investing in new commissions, caring for our collections and activating them through public programs, as well as support to activate community-held collections.
- **Public Programs:** Opportunities for lifelong learning, social connection and active participation in creative activities through workshops, events, public talks and creative place activation.
- **Creative Ecology:** A program of supports that offer artists, creators, community and cultural organisations and the creative sector visibility and viability in Manningham, while encouraging community and sector led activity.

3.4 An operational action plan is being developed to translate the Framework into actionable priorities, guiding delivery, partnerships and advocacy across the program. It consolidates the overarching approach to arts and culture and ensures consistency with the long-term vision for creativity, inclusion and community connection. The intention is to review this annually.

3.5 **Next Steps**

Following Council's endorsement, Officers will publish the draft Framework on 'Your Say Manningham' to invite further feedback. This will be supported by targeted engagement with stakeholders who have participated to date, as well as others with an interest in the Framework and the broader community, to ensure alignment with community priorities.

Any changes to priorities will be noted in the December Council report and reflected in the updated Framework for endorsement.

Suggested actions arising from this round of consultation will be considered for inclusion in the accompanying operational action plan.

Once endorsed, the final Framework will guide short-term service improvements and inform long-term service planning.

4. COUNCIL PLAN / STRATEGY

4.1 **Council Plan 2025-29**

The Framework has been structured to align with and deliver on the following actions in the Council Plan Action Plan 2025-29:

- 8.3.1: Collaborate with Traditional Owners to share culture and stories that celebrate living history.

- 8.3.2: Partner with local history groups to connect with community and build their visibility and viability.

- 8.3.3: Develop and deliver programs for local artists and creatives including business development and opportunities to present their work.

- 8.3.4: Activate Manningham Art Gallery and Manningham's Public Art program as key cultural assets that attract visitation to our venues, parks and activity centres.

Additionally, the suggested approach towards improved community access also aligns with the following priority in the Council Plan.

- 4.1: Provide high quality, fit for purpose community facilities that maximise use and public value.

The Framework supports the delivery of Council's strategic objectives:

- **Theme One – Safe and Healthy Community:** The Framework sets out clear priorities to improve social inclusion, access and participation.

- **Theme Two – Liveable Spaces and Places:** The Framework identifies and prioritises opportunities to make art experiences more accessible, discoverable and localised.

- **Theme Four – Thriving Economy:** The Framework outlines a renewed focus on supporting the creative sector and community-led creative and cultural activity, including supports for local artists and creators.

5. IMPACTS AND IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Finance / Resource Implications

The Framework outlines a process of sustainable change to achieve improvements to the service over time. This includes:

- Review and strengthening of current programs and trialling change of delivery models where required.

- Improved approaches to audience engagement and impact measurement using available tools.

- Improved understanding of our role in delivery, partnership and advocacy.

- Redirecting existing funding where required.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 Communication and Engagement

Following Council endorsement to proceed to public consultation, a process of reporting back to the community will be undertaken to acknowledge and share outcomes with all who participated in the initial consultation for the Framework.

Further engagement and communications planning to socialise the Framework with internal and external stakeholders will be undertaken alongside audience engagement activities, and publishing of the Framework on our website once the final version is endorsed.

Is engagement required?	Yes
Stakeholder Groups	1. Participants in Consultation 2. Advisory Committees and Working Groups 3. Internal Teams 4. Community
Where does it sit on the IAP2 spectrum?	Consult
Approach	Project updated on 'Your Say Manningham' Public Consultation period Reporting back to Advisory Committees via secretariats Framework published on our website EDM/social media campaigns In person briefing at relevant team meetings

6.2 Timelines

Community consultation will occur over a three week period. Feedback will be considered with a final framework to be presented at the December Council Meeting.

Actions that are achievable with current resourcing, or redirection of current resourcing can be commenced for short term delivery.

Longer term actions will be planned forward for delivery over the next 5 years.

The Framework will also inform the 2026/27 planning cycle, with actions to be prioritised for the 2026 annual program across Manningham Art Gallery and Manningham Art Studios.

7. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest in this matter.

Creative Communities Framework

2025-30

MANNINGHAM

Contents

Introduction **1**
Our context **2**
Community context 2
Creative context 3
Council Plan 2025-29 3
Collaboration 4
Our program pillars **5**
What we heard **6**
Theme One: Representation 7
Theme Two: Art in Everyday 8
Theme Three: Localism 9
Theme Four: Creative Ecology 10
Our approach **11**
Appendix A: Glossary **12**
Appendix B: Consultation & Engagement **13**

Cover Image: *Future Ahead* (2024) - Skunk Control at Hepburn Reserve. Photo by Charlie Kinross.

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Image: *Pictures of Me* (2025) – Beci Orpin installation view. Photo by Charlie Kinross

Introduction

‘I would like to see more people like me reflected and visible in public spaces’

Multicultural Advisory Group workshop participant

The Creative Communities Framework, (the “framework”), sets out a vision for Manningham as a place where creativity, arts and culture are valued, and the creative community is supported and connected.

We play multiple roles in realising this vision:

- We **deliver** arts and cultural programs that invite participation through what we present and what we produce.
- We **partner** to support creative and cultural participation that includes everyone, and to offer new experiences that platform and represent our community.
- We **advocate** for artists and cultural producers, using our resources and expertise. We follow industry best practice to get great outcomes for our community.

Our context

Manningham is located on the lands and waters of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and contains many sites of cultural significance.

Our community is a place grounded in sites of natural beauty, histories of agriculture and industry and waves of migration that continue to shape the community that is here today.

Community context

The Manningham State of the City Report provides a snapshot of our community and identifies key trends that will influence our service demand and inform our planning.

Some features of our community that influence our work include:

- Our cultural diversity, with 44% of residents born overseas and 46% speaking a language other than English at home.
- Our increasing First Nations population (a 40% increase between 2016-2021), with much of this increase aged under 18 years.
- Our higher proportion of young people who access NDIS support compared to the Eastern Metropolitan Region.
- An ageing population, with 17% aged over 70 as more people choose to 'age in place'.
- Predominately households of couples with children (38%) or lone person households (20%).
- A higher than average segment of very low-income households (25%), and low income households (19%) compared to Greater Melbourne (19% and 17% respectively).
- Volunteering is in decline, and this is across all genders and age groups apart from those aged 85+.
- 20% of Manningham adults reported experiencing loneliness.
- 70% of residents must travel outside of Manningham for work.

For our arts and cultural programs, this means meeting the community where they are and at times that suit them.

- Our **programs** should reflect and adapt to the people that are here and be delivered in a way that reduces barriers to participation.

- Our **partnerships** should aim to build the capacity and viability of community-led arts and cultural organisations and offer pathways for artists and creatives in our community.

- Our **advocacy** should be focused on building an ecology for cultural participation that is locally connected and accessible to people at all levels of engagement with the arts as creators, participants and audiences.

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Creative context

Our creative context is underpinned by a history of significant artists and arts and cultural movements that have emerged from Manningham.

Heide Museum of Modern Arts is a significant cultural institution in Bulleen that anchors us to the modernist movement of the 1930s. It also provides a place to experience a changing program of contemporary art and a sculpture park amongst a bushland setting framed by the Birrarung.

Potters Cottage was a co-operative founded in Warrandyte in 1958, positioning modern, handmade and functional pottery as an enhancement to contemporary life. This legacy is seen in the Manningham Art Gallery Collection which features a strong selection of pottery, as well as a strong community interest in the practice.

These legacies, and the legacies of many other significant artists, musicians and creators are present in our creative community.

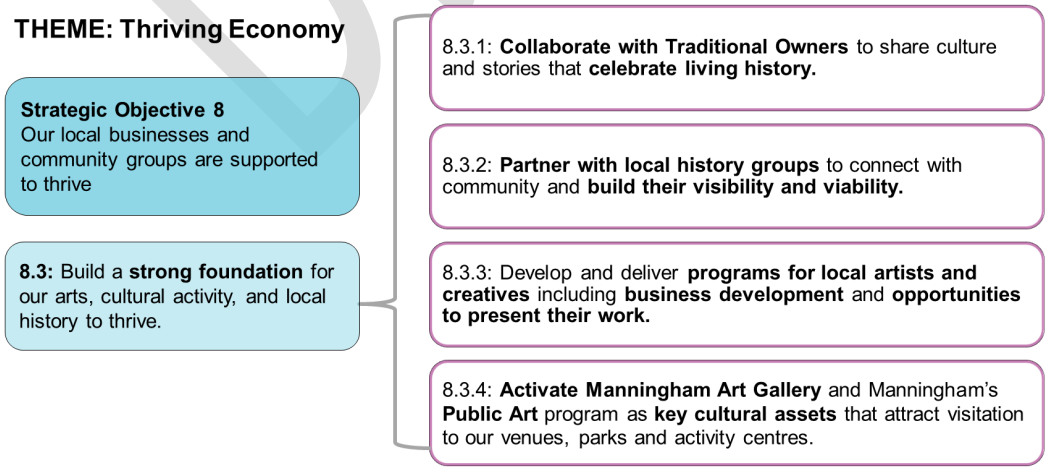
Council Plan 2025-29

Our work is positioned within the Council Plan 2025-29 under the theme of **Thriving Economy** under Strategic Objective 8.3:

Build a strong foundation for our arts, cultural activity and local history to thrive.

This means that the focus of our work and this Framework is to create good conditions for our creative community to thrive through what we deliver, how we partner and how we advocate for our community.

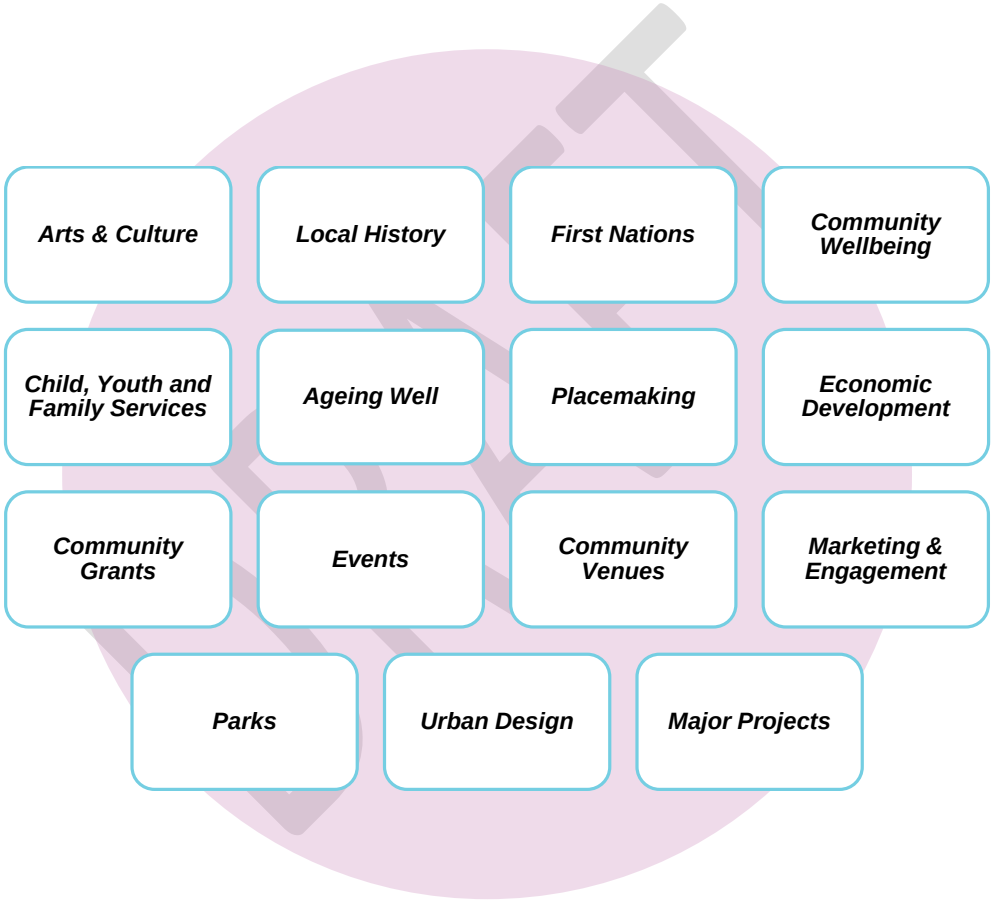
This positioning reflects that access to arts, creative and cultural opportunities are key drivers of community connection and wellbeing alongside place character, liveability and are attractors of economic development.



Collaboration

A successful creative and cultural program is delivered in partnership between many functions across our organisation, representing the many ways that we work for and alongside the community.

The Framework describes these collaborations, and the benefits generated with a focus on bringing art experiences into the public realm through placemaking, urban design and major projects, connecting with people across our community and making arts experiences accessible to everyone across our venues, parks and open spaces.



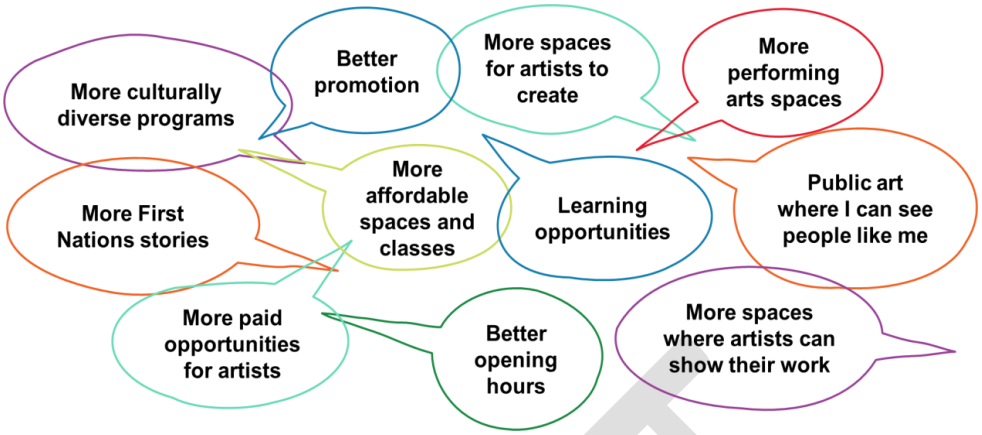
Our program pillars

Our work has primarily focused on delivery of programs at its venues, commissioning of public art and some additional community-facing activity.

The Framework offers an opportunity to reimagine how our resources will achieve outcomes that better meet actual community needs.

These pillars describe the scope of our work, and form a structure for how we can deliver, partner and advocate for creative, arts and cultural activity in Manningham.

Pillars	Timeframe	Activities
Exhibitions *Inviting curiosity and discovery.*	Current Programs	• Annual curated program at Manningham Art Gallery • Project space at Manningham Art Gallery • Cabinets at MC Square and Civic Centre • Public View – Outdoor Exhibitions • A2 Artspace at MC Square
	Additional Programs	• Identify future spaces that can support exhibitions and plan for cultural infrastructure to support this
Live Performance *Live, local and experienced together.*	Current Programs	• Venue hire at Doncaster Playhouse for presentation • Live and Local, network building and micro festivals
	Additional Programs	• Live music and busking programs • Creative development supports in our venues
Public Art & Collections *Investment for now and care for our collections.*	Current Programs	• Permanent public art commissions and projects • Public art collection management and care • Gallery collection acquisition, management, and care • Public art commissions and programs that are temporary
	Additional Programs	• Support for local artists to create public artwork • Collection of audio/ sound works • Collection activation through public programs • Support to activate community-held collections including historical collections
Public Programs *Share, learn and create together.*	Current Programs	• Quarterly workshop program at Manningham Art Studios. • Launch events at Manningham Art Gallery.
	Additional Programs	• Public talks and events at Manningham Art Gallery • Workshops produced in partnership with community and sector • Participatory programs and projects delivered in community and activity centres across artforms including visual arts, performance and literature.
Creative Ecology *Connecting and growing our creative community.*	Current Programs	• Advice and support for artists and community arts organisations • Advice and support for local history groups • Investment via community grants
	Additional Programs	• Professional development opportunities • Connections to the sector locally, regionally and nationally



What we heard

‘Art has a unifying cultural effect’

Gender Equality and LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee workshop participant

Extensive consultation and engagement have formed the basis of the Framework. This has included broad consultation with the general community alongside more targeted consultations with artists, creators, community groups, Manningham Council’s Advisory Committees, children and young people.

A full list of consultation activities is shown in Appendix B.

Common ideas and topics from the consultation have been drawn into four central themes that will guide our work over next 5 years.

Theme One: Representation
Presenting and platforming the perspectives of our community’s diverse cultural and social identities.

Theme Two: Art in Every Day
Creating opportunities to encounter arts experiences in everyday settings.

Theme Three: Localism
Our program is authentic to the character of local communities and supports local artists and local people.

Theme Four: Creative Ecology
Supporting, connecting and advocating for arts, culture and creative industries.

DRAFT

Theme One: Representation

Presenting and platforming the perspectives of our community's diverse cultural and social identities.

There is a desire to see greater representation of the diverse cultural and social identities of the communities in Manningham, including First Nations representation.

Priorities

1.1. Present diverse perspectives in our exhibitions and public programs.

1.2. Increase community arts participation in collaboration with cultural and community groups.

1.3. Ensure that public art commissions and collection acquisitions are representative of cultural and social diversity.

1.4. Ensure there are meaningful opportunities for young people to be engaged with the arts and creative industries.

1.5. Collaborate with Traditional Owners to share culture and stories that celebrate living history.

1.6. Partner with local history groups to connect with community and build their visibility and viability.

What this means

Our program should platform and reflect the cultures of the communities that live here now, as well as telling the stories of our past and living history.

This theme speaks to a sense of identity, and how arts and cultural opportunities build community connectivity, encourage and present a range of perspectives that invite critical thinking, and offer ways to better understand each other.

Our framework in action…

An annual highlight of our exhibition program at Manningham Art Gallery is the major exhibition and public program we present to align with Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week.

Each year, we present First Nations perspectives on connection to community and land, contemporary First Nations art, as well as insights into our shared living history.

DRAFT

Theme Two: Art in Everyday

Creating opportunities to encounter arts experiences in everyday settings.

There is a desire to encounter arts experiences in everyday settings like parks and activity centres, and cultural settings like galleries, art studios and live performance venues.

Priorities

2.1. Deliver more creative programs and live performance in activity centres, parks and community places.

2.2. Support placemaking in activity centres through investment in public art commissions and programs.

2.3. Diversify the program at Manningham Arts Studio and develop models to remove barriers to participation.

2.4. Investigate models of creative program delivery that meet community in the places where they gather.

What this means

Central to this theme is the idea that arts and cultural experiences can be discovered as well as specifically sought out, and that these opportunities are accessible to people across all life stages and across all of Manningham while reducing barriers to participation.

Everyday access to art also has health and wellbeing benefits. This is where taking additional steps to reduce barriers, as well as providing a range of access points and types of arts experiences is critical to support community wellbeing.

Our framework in action…

PUBLIC VIEW is a new public art program that brings art into the everyday.

Located in our activity centres, PUBLIC VIEW is creating a series of outdoor galleries that will host a changing program of exhibitions.

New sites will be coming in 2026, with MC Square and Tunstall Square already activated with art.

DRAFT

Theme Three: Localism

Our program is authentic to the character of local communities and supports local artists and local people.

Localism speaks to being authentic to the character of local communities and ensuring a range of activities that support local artists, local people and celebrates our living history.

Priorities

3.1. Partner with local cultural and community groups to co-deliver arts programs and projects.

3.2. Prioritise local artists for selected public art and exhibition opportunities.

3.3. Ensure our curatorial framework responds to place character in balance with global perspectives that are relevant to our community.

3.4. Celebrate local stories and histories through creative activities, storytelling and use of our existing platforms.

What this means

Our program should be balanced between exposure to arts and cultural offers that invite new thinking and challenge perceptions, and those that platform and celebrate our history, what is here, and what is current.

Important to this theme is the concept that many of the communities of Manningham bring global perspectives and connections that inform what is important to them, alongside their local perspectives and connections.

Our framework in action…

'Our Community Heritage' is a series of interviews spotlighting Manningham's rich cultural and community heritage as told by the local people who lived it.

The video interviews feature stories about agricultural innovations, community resilience, how migration has shaped our community and how generations of people connect to our unique landscapes and place character.

This series is available online through our social media platforms.

DRAFT

Theme Four: Creative Ecology

Supporting, connecting and advocating for arts, culture and creative industries.

Artists and creatives in our community are seeking more from us as a supporter of and advocate for arts and cultural activities.

Priorities

4.1 Support local creative industry through networking, skill building and support.

4.2 Consider how we can better communicate and market arts and cultural activities, opportunities and impact.

4.3 Investigate regional partnerships to support live performance presentation.

4.4 Investigate how we can better use our existing cultural infrastructure to support a broader range of creative uses.

What this means

A strong message from our community consultation was a need for our work to focus more on opportunities for local artists and to make improvements to how arts and cultural activity and opportunities are communicated.

Access to venues for creative development across all artforms, and presentation of live performance such as live music, theatre and dance are critical gaps for the creative community.

All our activities should contribute to a broader Manningham identity as a place where creativity, arts and culture are valued, and the creative community is supported and connected.

Our framework in action…

Our live music scene is receiving a welcome boost through our participation in Live and Local, a national program delivered in partnership with the Live Music Office.

This program combines consultation, networking, professional development opportunities and micro-festivals in our activity centres to support live music industry development for musicians, creators, arts workers and venues.

This program will also result in some actions to deliver on our Creative Communities Framework over the next 5 years.

DRAFT

Our approach

‘Go to where the community is. There are lots of cultures and local artists that want to connect’

Health & Wellbeing Advisory Committee workshop participant

Our approach is to make sustainable changes towards our desired future state for Manningham where creativity, arts and culture are valued, and the creative community is supported and connected.

This means that some of the work can be achieved in the short- term over the next 1-3 years, and some of the work will need to be developed over longer timeframes over the next 3-5 years and beyond.

The Creative Communities Framework is a tool to drive decision-making about what to prioritise, and what role we need to take for the best outcome for community. It will inform how we approach our program, our partnerships and our advocacy.

An action plan to deliver the Framework will be reviewed annually, with outcomes against each priority to be reported on annually.

DRAFT

Appendix A: Glossary

Cultural Identity describes an individual and collective sense of belonging to one or more cultural groups shaped by shared beliefs, values, traditions, language and heritage.

Social Identity describes elements of identity such as race, gender, sexuality, disability, age, socio-economic status, religious beliefs, citizenship status and other elements of identity that inform an intersectional lens on social inclusion and access.

Public Programs are designed to make cultural places like galleries, live performance spaces and art studios a welcoming place for everyone. It includes workshops, public talks, events, opportunities to participate and programs for children and young people.

Creative Industries describe economic sectors centred on creativity, skills and talent and include music, performing arts, design, visual arts, craft, fashion, games, screen, publishing and other forms of creative production that creates intellectual property.

Live Performance describes the real-time presentation of a play, musical performance, dance, or other act of entertainment directly before an audience, rather than being recorded and broadcast later.

Public Art is artwork that is presented in the public realm on a permanent or temporary basis, including documentation of temporary artworks produced by professional practicing artists.

Collections refer to cultural assets that are held, commissioned or acquired. They may have cultural or historical value and have an independently assessed financial value.

Placemaking describes a multifaceted approach to the planning, design and management of public spaces to support community wellbeing through building a strong sense of local place and identity.

DRAFT

Appendix B: Consultation & Engagement

Delivered by external consultants

- Pop Up consultation at Warrandyte Farmers Market and Manningham Asian Cultural Festival
- Online Survey via Your Say Manningham
- Focus Groups
- Consultation report outlining findings and key themes

Approximately 387 people consulted

Delivered by Council Officers

- Children's Engagement Activities at Manningham Art Gallery and Manningham Art Studios
- Youth Workshop at Doncaster High
- Local Artist Meet Up (to test emerging themes and workshop actions)
- Live Music Industry Forum (as part of Live and Local)
- Presentation and workshops with Manningham Council Advisory Committees:
  - Arts Advisory Committee
  - Disability Advisory Committee (on public art)
  - Gender Equality and LGBTQIA+ Advisory Committee
  - Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee
  - Healthy Ageing Advisory Committee
  - Historical Societies Working Group
  - Multicultural Communities Advisory Committee
  - Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group (Yarning Circle)

Over 225 people consulted (including over 70 children and young people).

DRAFT

12 CITY SERVICES

12.1 Open Space and Landscape Construction Services Panel Contract Award

File Number: IN25/799

Responsible Director: Acting Director City Services

Attachments: 1 Open Space Landscape Construction Services Panel Award Report (confidential)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

Recommend the award of the supply and services contract – Open Space and Landscape Construction Services Panel.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Manningham Council's Parks and Natural Environment department has developed this contract to support ongoing upgrades, improvements, inspections and maintenance to its open space areas throughout the municipality including (but not limited to) landscaped areas, sportsgrounds, passive reserves, playgrounds, park assets and trees. Major projects of a more complex nature may be subject to separate tender processes in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy.

Manningham Council requires a panel of contractors and also suppliers of materials and products for its delivery of horticultural, arboricultural, construction and landscape services. This contract will be mainly utilised by the Parks and Natural Environment and the City Design departments; however, other Council departments will also access this contract for services.

The nature and level of the required services is subject to Council's prevailing workloads, priorities, and the availability of internal and external funding. Council does not guarantee any minimum funding level, minimum value of work or continuity of workflow.

Due to the miscellaneous nature of this contract the provision of prices and schedules of rates will vary depending on the service provided by the business engaged under the contract.

Council reserves the right to invite quotations or call tenders from non-panel suppliers where it considers, in its sole discretion, that the required capacity, expertise, and experience are not available from any of the existing suppliers on the panel.

Collaborative procurement opportunities for this panel contract were considered, but not possible due to the limited time availability for the current award requirements. These opportunities will be further explored upon the next renewal period for the contract.

1. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

A. resolves to award the Open Space and Landscape Construction Services Panel as set out in the recommendations contained in the Evaluation Panel Report, in the confidential attachment to this report;

B. notes the total sum is $4,500,000.00 (ex GST) for an initial contract of three (3) years, with the option of two (2) x one (1) year extensions. If the additional extension options are exercised, the total estimated spend over the full term of the contract will be $7,500,000.00 (ex GST);

C. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate to formalise the contract with the recommended contractors; and

D. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate to negotiate contract terms, operational changes, service changes and adjustments as well as execute further extension options.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Manningham Council requires a panel of contractors and suppliers of materials and products for its delivery of horticultural, arboricultural, construction landscape services and suppliers.

2.2 This contract will undertake works such as landscape construction, playground construction, horticultural services, fence construction, arboricultural consultancy and supply of park furniture and bollards.

2.3 The materials and services procured from this panel contract are niche skillsets, plant and equipment that is not financially viable to be held and resourced internally. Contracting these services also enables seasonal flexibility to deliver cost effective service delivery.

2.4 Arboricultural Consulting

2.4.1 Manningham Council seeks to establish a panel of qualified Arboricultural Consultants to support the management of urban forest and tree assets. The panel will deliver expert services such as tree assessments, data collection, root investigations, and input into planning and implementation. These services are vital for ensuring tree health and safety, meeting legislative requirements, and maintaining the environmental and community benefits of trees. A dedicated panel will enable timely access to expertise and ensure consistent arboricultural standards across council operations.

2.5 Horticultural Services

2.5.1 Manningham Council requires horticultural services to maintain and enhance public landscapes and open spaces. These services support a safe, clean, and attractive environment, promote ecological sustainability, and improve community amenity. Engaging experienced providers ensures high-quality care, consistent service delivery, and responsiveness to seasonal and site-specific needs.

2.6 **Fence Construction & Maintenance**

2.6.1 Manningham Council requires professional fencing services for the installation, repair, and upkeep of fences across public spaces and assets. These works ensure safety, asset protection, and visual harmony with the landscape. Engaging skilled contractors assists with ensuring durable construction, regulatory compliance, and consistent service across varied sites.

2.7 **Parks, Asset & Playspace Supply, Installation & Maintenance**

2.7.1 **Manningham Council is seeking contractors to provide a range of services aimed at enhancing and maintaining public parks and open spaces. This includes the supply and installation of park assets such as seats, tables, and drinking fountains, as well as the renewal and maintenance of existing assets. Contractors will also be responsible for installing playspace features, conducting rubber impact testing, and providing cleaning services for playspaces and other park assets. Additionally, Manningham is seeking consultants to provide playspace and asset auditing services to ensure safety and compliance.**

2.8 Parks Plant and Equipment Hire

2.8.1 Manningham Council requires the hire of plant and equipment, with skilled operators, to support maintenance and improvement works in parks and open spaces. This includes machinery for earthworks, landscaping, infrastructure, and site preparation. Reliable equipment and experienced operators are essential for safe, efficient project delivery, especially in challenging or time-sensitive conditions. Engaging trusted suppliers supports flexibility, responsiveness, and compliance with safety and environmental standards.

2.9 **Installation of Porous Pavement and Environmentally Sustainable Design Elements**

2.9.1 Manningham Council requires the delivery of services for the installation of porous pavement and other environmentally sustainable design elements within open space areas. These works support Council's commitment to sustainable urban development and the enhancement of natural systems within the built environment. Porous paving, biofilters, rain gardens, and other water-sensitive urban design (WSUD) features are integral to improving stormwater management, reducing runoff, and enhancing soil permeability. The implementation of these elements contributes to long-term environmental resilience, supports local biodiversity, and improves the usability and aesthetic quality of public spaces. Engaging experienced contractors supports high-quality, technically sound installation in accordance with environmental best practices and Council specifications.

2.10 Supply of Materials

2.10.1 Manningham Council requires a range of options to provide supply of materials for the undertaking of works associated with this contract and internal Council resourcing. These materials may be delivered to the Council depot or a site within Manningham City Council as directed by the contract supervisor.

3. DISCUSSION / ISSUE

3.1 Benefits for the Community

3.1.1 Use of a panel of suppliers for a fixed term assists with uninterrupted, high-quality services for the community. Consistent and dependable service builds trust and satisfaction, promoting more stable and supportive local environment. Experienced local contractors, already familiar with the community understand concerns and expectations, allowing them to address issues more effectively and to ensure that the program aligns with community needs.

3.2 Environmental/Sustainable Benefits

3.2.1 Manningham Council is committed to environmentally responsible practices. Contractors are expected to use sustainable and recycled materials where appropriate and reduce greenhouse gas emissions through efficient equipment use. Minimise waste and ensure proper disposal. Avoid use of harmful chemicals or practices near waterways.

3.2.2 Contractors are required to familiarise themselves with Council's Sustainability Policy, Tree Management Guidelines, and Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles.

3.3 Benefits for Council Business Continuity

3.3.1 Continuity with established contractors and suppliers supports uninterrupted business operations, reducing risk of delays and disruptions to the ongoing program. This ensures that Council services remain reliable and efficient, avoiding potential operation setbacks. Contractors with a history of working with the Council are familiar with internal process, key personnel and program requirements, allowing for smoother coordination and faster response times to any issues that may arise.

3.4 Cost Benefits

3.4.1 Council can avoid the expenses associated with repetitive tendering/quoting and onboarding of new contractors and suppliers. Additionally, contractors with a history of Council projects can provide more accurate cost estimates and efficient resource management.

3.5 Mitigating Contractual Risks

3.5.1 Utilising known contractors and suppliers mitigates the risk associated with new contractual relationships. Familiarity with Council expectations and contractual requirements reduces the likelihood of misunderstandings and/or non-compliance. This reduces the potential for contractual disputes and enhances overall program stability. Established contractors are also likely to have proven track records or reliability and adherence to safety standards, reducing the risk of program delays or incidents. This stability ensures that all contractual obligations are met, safeguarding the Council against potential liabilities and financial losses.

3.6 Procurement Process

3.6.1 In August 2025, a public tender was launched for a new contract for an initial contract of three (3) years, with the option of two (2) x one (1) year extensions. Thirty-eight (38) submissions were received.

3.6.2 Through a thorough tender evaluation process, it is recommended that the contract be awarded to thirty contractor/suppliers. A governance process was in place throughout the tender assessment phase and an external probity advisor was present at all deliberation meetings.

3.6.3 The evaluation panel noted that the prices received as part of the submissions had increased from the previous contract. This increase was anticipated, and we understand this is due to multiple factors including the increased cost of goods and services.

3.6.4 The evaluation panel considered the overall value, capacity/ability to deliver, proven safety history and expertise to fulfill future works in a timely and financially responsible manner.

3.6.5 All tenderers will be informed of the outcome of the process following Council's decision.

4. COUNCIL PLAN / STRATEGY

4.1 The strategy identified in this report aligns with the Council Plan Theme, Well Governed Council. The outcome from the successful implementation of the strategy will lead to the creation of Liveable Places and Spaces.

5. IMPACTS AND IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Finance / Resource Implications

5.1.1 A spend of $1.5 million per annum is estimated, with the overall spend for the three-year contract totalling $ 4.5 million (ex. GST)

5.1.2 The contract allows for the option of two (2) x one (1) year extensions. If the additional extension options are exercised, the total estimated spend over the full term of the contract will be $ 7.5 million (ex. GST).

5.1.3 Expenditure will vary from department to department in accordance with the approved contract and budget allocations.

5.1.4 Council endorsement for the award of contract is required because the total cumulative spending over the full term of the contract exceeds the delegation level approved for the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

6. IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 Communication and Engagement

Is engagement required?	No
Stakeholder Groups	N/A
Where does it sit on the IAP2 spectrum?	N/A
Approach	N/A

7. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Acting Coordinator Parks and Natural Environment declared a general Conflict of Interest due to a prior working relationship with one of the tenderers. They submitted a disclosure of conflict of interest form to the Governance team and removed themselves from the evaluation of this tenderer.

13 EXPERIENCE AND CAPABILITY

13.1 Review of Flying Flags in the Civic Precinct Policy

File Number: IN25/617

Responsible Director: Director Experience and Capability

Attachments: 1 Draft Flying of Flags in the Civic Precinct Policy ⇩

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report presents the Flying Flags in the Civic Precinct Policy. Council's Flying Flags in the Civic Precinct Policy was last adopted by Council in 2021.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Flying Flags in the Civic Precinct Policy (the Policy), last adopted by Council on 26 October 2021, has been reviewed as part of Council's regular policy review cycle. Officers consider that the Policy remains contemporary.

Minor administrative amendments are proposed to ensure clarity and maintain alignment with legislative and protocol requirements.

The revised Policy is presented to Council for formal endorsement.

1. RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the Flying Flags in the Civic Precinct Policy.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Flying Flags in the Civic Precinct Policy (the Policy) was endorsed by Council on 26 October 2021. The purpose of the Policy is to provide a consistent approach to flying of flags in the Civic Precinct.

2.2 The Policy was established after extensive research and consultation to ensure flags are flown in accordance with federal and state government flag flying protocols and the *Flags Act 1953*. It also brought together several prior Council decisions and consolidated them into one central policy position.

3. DISCUSSION / ISSUE

3.1 The Policy sets out the circumstances upon which Council will fly flags in the Civic Precinct.

3.2 The following official flags are flown permanently in the Civic Precinct.

- Australian National Flag
- Victorian State flag
- Aboriginal Flag
- Torres Strait Islander Flag
- Manningham Council Flag

3.3 The policy also provides for an Annual Flag Schedule which celebrates several significant dates and events which may be amended by Council at any time. The current schedule includes:

- International Women's Day
- Anzac Day
- IDAHOBIT Day
- Sorry Day
- National Reconciliation Week
- NAIDOC Week
- United Nations Day
- Remembrance day

3.4 These dates are widely celebrated and acknowledged in Australia and are consistent with Council's values and commitment to inclusiveness.

3.5 The Australian National Flag Protocols stipulate that only official flags of nations recognised by Australia should be flown in conjunction with the Australian National Flag. The Policy provides that Council will only fly the national flags of other countries during Council sanctioned visits by dignitaries of that country.

3.6 The reason for this policy position is to mitigate the risk of causing offence to sectors of the community in flying flags of other sovereign nations. In taking this policy position, Council's commitment to an inclusive and harmonious community is upheld. Outside of flying flags, Manningham may like to consider other ways different sectors of the community might be recognised and acknowledged.

3.7 When a permanent flag needs to be removed to accommodate an endorsed celebration or event, the policy states that the Manningham flag will be replaced with the relevant flag for the specified event or timeframe.

3.8 In addition to the provisions relating to official flags, the Policy also outlines the conditions under which Council will consider flying community flags. It proposes a fair, transparent and accountable application process that provides the opportunity for Council to consider such requests from the community. It should be noted that no requests to fly community flags have been received since the policy was implemented in October 2021.

4. COUNCIL PLAN / STRATEGY

4.1 This Policy enables Council's leadership in executing good governance, promoting an inclusive community and respect and support for First Nations peoples, culture and heritage as outlined in the Council Plan and the Reconciliation Action Plan. Further, the draft policy facilitates Manningham being a harmonious, inclusive and safe community.

5. IMPACTS AND IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Under the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006 (Vic), Councils are required to protect the distinct cultural rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Victoria. The Policy meets the requirements of this Charter as well as Council's longstanding commitment to reconciliation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

5.2 The Policy includes an application process and the maintenance of an Annual Schedule, which requires staff resources to process and keep updated. It is anticipated that the application process can be managed within existing resources.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 Communication and Engagement

Is engagement required?	No
Stakeholder Groups	Council and the community
Where does it sit on the IAP2 spectrum?	Inform
Approach	The adopted Policy will be published on Council's website.

7. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest in this matter.

Policy Register

Flying Flags in the Civic Precinct

Policy Classification	-	**Governance**
Policy N°	-	**POL/317**
Policy Status	-	Draft ~~Approved~~
Responsible Service Unit	-	~~Legal Governance and Risk~~ Integrity
Authorised by	-	**Council**
Date Adopted	-	28 October 2025~~ 26 October 2021~~
Next Review Date	-	~~31 October 202330~~ October 2029

This policy is part of a suite of policies adopted by Council or the Executive Management Team (EMT).

New or replacement policies can be created and developed within Service Units but can only be added to Council's Policy Register by the Governance Team following approval of the policy by Council or the EMT.

Policy Register

Flying Flags in the Civic Precinct

MANNINGHAM

Contents

1. PURPOSE 2
2. POLICY STATEMENT 2
3. OFFICIAL FLAGS 2
4. COMMUNITY FLAGS 3
4.1 Annual Flag Schedule 3
4.2 General Principles- Community Flags 3
4.3 Procedural Guidelines - Community Flags 4
5. SCOPE OF POLICY 4
6. RESPONSIBILITY 4
7. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES 5
8. DEFINITIONS 5
9. RELATED POLICIES 5
10. SUPPORTING PROCEDURES 5
11. ACTION PLANS 5
12. GUIDELINES 6
13. RELATED LEGISLATION 6
14. SUPPORTING RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS 6
15. DOCUMENT HISTORY 6
Annual Flag Schedule- Attachment 1 7
Flag Flying Application Form- Attachment 2 9

Policy Register

Flying Flags in the Civic Precinct

MANNINGHAM

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a consistent approach to the flying of flags in the Civic Precinct. The policy ensures that flags are flown in accordance with the federal and state government flag flying protocols and the *Flags Act 1953*.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

2.1 This policy identifies the basis upon which the Council will fly flags in the Civic Precinct.

2.2 In flying flags, Council will observe the flag protocols set out by the federal and state government as well as the *Flags Act 1953.*

2.3 Official flags are flown as an expression of Council's governance responsibilities and will be flown permanently outside on designated flagpoles in the Manningham Civic Precinct, indoors at Council meetings, and at Citizenship ceremonies.

3. OFFICIAL FLAGS

3.1 Council recognises the Australian National Flag should be treated with respect and dignity. While Council facilities are not considered federal government buildings or establishments, Council will observe, as far as practicable, the Australian National Flag Protocols.

3.2 Council recognises the significance of certain flags and will utilise the five (5) designated flagpoles within the Civic Precinct to permanently fly the following officially proclaimed flags:

- Australian National Flag
- Victorian State Flag
- Aboriginal Flag
- Torres Strait Islander Flag
- Manningham Council Flag

3.3 The Australian National Flag Protocols stipulate that only official flags of nations recognised by Australia should be flown in conjunction with the Australian National Flag. Council will only fly the national flags of other countries during Council sanctioned visits by dignitaries of that country.

3.4 When a permanent flag needs to be removed to accommodate an endorsed celebration or event, the Manningham flag will be replaced with the relevant flag for the specified event or timeframe.

3.5 The Australian National flag, Victorian State flag, Aboriginal flag and Torres Strait Islander flags will not be replaced with the other flag for the specified event or timeframe.

3.6 Council will fly flags at half-mast as a sign of mourning on appropriate occasions in accordance with Council's Condolence Protocols and as advised by the Department of Premier and Cabinet (Victoria), the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and the Australian National Flag Protocols.

3.7 The Australian and Aboriginal flags will be displayed in accordance with the Australian Flag Protocols at all Council meetings behind the Mayor or in an alternate suitable location.

3.8 Citizenship ceremonies are conducted in accordance with the Australian Citizenship Ceremonies Code (the Code) and the flying of flags at ceremonies shall be consistent with the requirements of the Code.

4. COMMUNITY FLAGS

The flying of any community flag must align with and support Council's vision, values and strategy as outlined in the Council Plan. Council will consider requests to fly community flags in accordance with this policy and the Australian National Flag Protocols.

4.1 Annual Flag Schedule

4.1.1 Council, through this policy, will determine an Annual Flag Schedule (Attachment 1).

4.1.2 In considering the addition of flags to the Annual Flag Schedule, regard will be given to whether the flying of the flag will cause offence to sectors of the community or whether highlighting a particular issue, cause or group would be inconsistent with Council's plan, values and commitment to inclusiveness.

4.1.3 The Annual Flag Schedule is considered to be a living document and may be modified by Council resolution, either for a one off occasion or on an ongoing basis.

4.2 General Principles- Community Flags

4.2.1 Official flag flying requirements take priority over community flag flying requests at all times.

4.2.2 When a permanent flag needs to be removed to accommodate a community flag, the Manningham Council flag will be replaced with the relevant flag for the specified event or timeframe.

4.2.3 No community flag shall be permitted to be flown for more than seven (7) days and Council reserves the right to determine the period of time that any approved flag may be flown.

4.2.4 New requests for community flag flying will be considered by Council resolution. Where Council approves an application to fly a community flag, the applicant is responsible for providing Council with one flag at the appropriate standard size (1800cm x 900cm) and is responsible for any costs associated with the provision of the flag.

4.2.5 Council reserves the right to withdraw approval to fly a community flag at any time.

4.2.6 Notwithstanding this policy, no community flags will be flown during designated days where it is desirable to have the Manningham Council flag flying eg; during an election period for local, State or Federal government elections.

4.3 Procedural Guidelines - Community Flags

4.3.1 Applications are to be submitted to Council using the Community Flag Flying Application Form (Attachment 2).

4.3.2 Applications must be submitted a minimum of 45 calendar days prior to the event to allow sufficient time for Council to consider the request.

4.3.3 Council reserves the right to refuse a request to fly another flag where sufficient notice is not provided.

4.3.4 Requests to fly community flags will be referred to the CEO (or their delegate) to prepare a report for Council's consideration.

4.3.5 Where the application is endorsed by Council the flag request will be actioned on a one off basis.

5. SCOPE OF POLICY

This policy applies to the flying of flags in the Manningham Civic Precinct.

6. RESPONSIBILITY

6.1 Governance

The Governance team is responsible for:

- Receiving requests for the flying of flags from community groups
- Preparation and submission of Council reports
- Conducting periodic reviews of this policy

Policy Register
Flying Flags in the Civic Precinct

MANNINGHAM

6.2 Community Venues & Functions

The Community Venues and Functions team is responsible for:

- Maintaining a subscription to the Department of Prime Minster and Cabinet's Commonwealth Flag Network email notification service and the Department of Premier and Cabinet Flag email notification service.
- Arranging the flying of flags in accordance with this policy
- Monitoring the condition of flags and flagpoles and reporting any maintenance issues as required
- Timely replacement of damaged flags

7. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

From time to time, circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this policy. Where an update does not materially alter this policy, such a change may be made administratively. Examples of minor administrative changes include changes to names of Manningham Council departments or a minor amendment to legislation that does not have material impact. Where any change or update may materially change the intent of this policy, it must be considered by Council.

8. DEFINITIONS

In this policy:

Manningham Civic Precinct means all buildings and grounds at the Manningham Civic Centre and MC^2 located at 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster.

Annual Flag Schedule means the schedule adopted in conjunction with this policy and amended by Council resolution thereafter, which sets out which flags shall be flown, when they shall be flown, and which flagpoles shall be used.

9. RELATED POLICIES

Nil

10. SUPPORTING PROCEDURES

Manningham Condolence Protocols

11. ACTION PLANS

Reconciliation Action Plan 2021-2024

Policy Register
Flying Flags in the Civic Precinct

MANNINGHAM

12. GUIDELINES

Australian National Flag Protocols produced by the Commonwealth Government: *https://www.pmc.gov.au/government/australian-national-flag/australian-national-flag-protocols* and *https://www.pmc.gov.au/resource-centre/government/australian-flags-booklet-part-two*

Protocols and Special Events Branch – Department of Premier and Cabinet – Victoria
https://www.vic.gov.au/flag-notifications

13. RELATED LEGISLATION

Flags Act 1953

This Policy has been assessed as being compatible with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic).*

14. SUPPORTING RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

Research and benchmarking with local, state and federal governments has been undertaken to provide a consistent approach to the flying of flags in the Manningham Civic Precinct.

15. DOCUMENT HISTORY

Policy Title:	Flying Flags in the Civic Precinct
Responsible Officer:	~~Senior Governance Advisor~~ Governance Lead
Next Review Date:	This Policy will be reviewed every four (4) years, unless an earlier review date is deemed necessary.
To be included on website?	Yes

Last Updated	Meeting type? - Council or EMT	Meeting Date	Item N°
26 October 2021	Council	26 October 2021	13.3

Policy Register
Flying Flags in the Civic Precinct

MANNINGHAM

Annual Flag Schedule- Attachment 1

Attachment 1

Council will fly flags in accordance with this annual schedule:

International Women's Day - 8 March

International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality.

Anzac Day - 25 April

Anzac Day is a day of special significance to Australians, particularly for serving military personnel and returned veterans. In accordance with Australian flag protocols, flags will be flown at half-mast on 25 April, from dawn until noon, at which time the flag should be raised to the peak of the flag mast for the remainder of the day. Requests to fly community flags on this day will not be considered.

IDAHOBIT Day – 17 May

International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia celebrates LGBTQIA+ people globally, and raises awareness for the work still needed to combat discrimination.

Sorry Day - 26 May

National Sorry Day acknowledges and raises awareness of the history and continued effect of the forced removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from their families, communities and culture. The Australian Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flags are flown permanently in the Manningham Civic Precinct. Requests to fly community flags on this day will not be considered.

National Reconciliation Week

The Australian Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flags are flown permanently in the Manningham Civic Precinct. Requests to fly community flags during this period will not be considered.

NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC week celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but also by Australians from all walks of life. The Australian Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flags are flown permanently in the Manningham Civic Precinct. Requests to fly community flags during NAIDOC week will not be considered.

United Nations Day – 24 October

United Nations Day is observed in Australia on 24 October each year to commemorate the entry into force of the United Nations Carter in 1945. The UN provides critical services to millions of people in need every day, in many parts of the world including protection from war, and humanitarian and development assistance. Australia has been integrally involved in global efforts to build and restore peace for over 70 years.

Policy Register
Flying Flags in the Civic Precinct

MANNINGHAM

Remembrance Day - 11 November

Remembrance Day is a day of special significance to Australians, commemorating the loss of Australian lives in all wars, conflicts and peace operations. Flags will be flown at the peak of the flagpole from approximately 8:00 am until precisely 10:30 am (local time) when it should be adjusted to the half-mast position. At 11:02 am the Australian National Flag should be moved back to the peak for the remainder of the day. This protocol allows for the traditional ceremonial duties to be carried out, including a minute of silence from 11:00 am. Requests to fly community flags during this period will not be considered.

Policy Register
Flying Flags in the Civic Precinct

MANNINGHAM

Attachment 2

Flag Flying Application Form- Attachment 2

- Council will consider requests to fly community flags in accordance with this policy and the Australian National Flag Protocols.
- Applications must be received a minimum of 45 calendar days prior to the proposed date/s to allow time for any necessary approvals. Council reserves the right to refuse a request to fly another flag where sufficient notice is not provided.
- Notwithstanding this policy, no community flags will be flown during designated days where it is desirable to have the Manningham Council flag flying eg; during an election period for local, State or Federal government elections.

Policy Register

Flying Flags in the Civic Precinct

MANNINGHAM

Applicant details	
Name:	Date:
Address:	
Organisation *(external)*:	Organisation Website:
Telephone number:	Email address:
Explain your organisation's connection to Manningham	
Flag details	
Type, size and description of flag to be flown:	Proposed date/s: First Date to be flown: Last Date to be flown: Time frame is 1-7 days and Council reserves the right to determine the period of time that any approved flag may be flown.
Location of flag: Manningham Civic Precinct	
Explain how the flying of your community flag supports Council's vision, values and strategy as outlined in the adopted Council Plan available here.	
Background information: *please outline why you are requesting the flag to be flown and attach any supporting documentation*	

Please note

- Where an application to fly a flag/s is approved, it is the responsibility of the applicant to provide Council with the required number of flags of an appropriate size (dimensions 1800 x 900 mm) prior to the date/s the flag/s are to be flown. Flags must be in an appropriate condition for flying (i.e. not torn or faded).
- Council reserves the right to withdraw approval to fly a community flag at any time.
- Council's official flag schedule will take precedence over any requests to fly other flags.

Privacy Collection Notice

Manningham Council is committed to protecting your privacy. The personal information you provide on this form is being collected for the primary purpose of assessing your request to fly a flag at Council's facilities in accordance with the Flying Flags in the Civic Precinct Policy. Where required, your identity and the information you have provided in this form will be provided to Manningham Council staff and/or contractors to enable them to consider your application. Your personal information will not be disclosed to any other external party without your consent, unless required or authorised by law. If you wish to gain access to, or alter any personal information you have supplied on this application, please contact the Governance team on 03 9840 9333 or email GovernanceTeam@manningham.vic.gov.au. You can access Council's Privacy Policy ***here.***

13.2 Our Advocacy Priorities

File Number: IN25/811

Responsible Director: Acting Director Experience and Capability

Attachments: Nil

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of Manningham Council's strategic advocacy priorities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

One of Council's key roles is to advocate on behalf of the Manningham community.

We are committed to strengthening our advocacy approach, in line with our Council Plan commitment to increase our advocacy effort to improve community outcomes and obtain financial support from state and federal government and other partnerships.

Through our advocacy, we are the voice of our community, working to encourage support for Council-led projects to address the community's needs and aspirations.

Five strategic advocacy priorities have been identified, including:

- ***Glass recycling reform** - We want a flexible and cost-effective approach to glass recycling*
- ***Better bus services** - We want fast, frequent, reliable and well-connected bus services for a growing Manningham.*
- ***Investment in Aquarena** - We want to enhance the Aquarena precinct to keep Manningham active, connected and healthy.*
- ***Transparency in delivering North East Link** - We want the North East Link Authority and construction partners to mitigate the impacts of this significant road project on the Manningham community.*
- ***Better services for children and young people -** We want essential community infrastructure and services to ensure our children and young people thrive.*

1. RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

A. Endorse the following strategic advocacy priorities:

- **Glass recycling reform**
- **Better bus services**
- **Investment in Aquarena**
- **Accountability in delivering North East Link**
- **Better services for children and young people**

B. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make minor administrative amendments to the strategic advocacy priorities that do not materially alter the content.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 One of Council's key roles is to advocate on behalf of the Manningham community. This commitment is embedded in our new mission statement and supported through the Council Plan and supporting action plan, as well as other strategic plans. This includes a commitment to increase our advocacy effort to improve community outcomes and obtain financial support from state and federal governments and other partnerships.

2.2 Our advocacy approach builds on our strengths and networks by identifying and leveraging opportunities throughout the year. It enables us to focus our key campaigns with clarity and purpose, while providing a structured framework for advocating effectively with ministers, candidates, and key stakeholders.

2.3 Each of the five strategic advocacy priorities have a clear actionable task tailored to be shared across a range of channels with a wide audience including government, partners and community members.

2.4 We will also develop an overarching advocacy plan with a timeframe for delivery.

2.5 In addition to the five strategic advocacy priorities, we will develop a list of other advocacy asks that will be described but not detailed. This will include several Council endorsed infrastructure projects and policy or service changes and will be updated by officers as required.

3. DISCUSSION / ISSUE

3.1 Manningham Council is proud of our strong track record in financial sustainability, which underpins our ability to deliver vital services and maintain the core infrastructure our community relies on. Our long-term financial planning reflects this commitment and has enabled us to meet community needs with resilience and foresight.

3.2 However, the landscape is shifting. As State and Federal Governments adjust their budget priorities, we are increasingly absorbing the cost of delivering essential service including school crossing supervision, maternal and child health, immunisation, libraries, arterial roadside maintenance, emergency management, and landfill levies. These are services traditionally funded by other levels of government, and the growing financial burden is placing pressure on our ability to sustain them.

3.3 In addition to our five strategic priorities, we will continue to work with other councils to ask that the federal government restores Federal Assistance Grants (FAGs) to 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue and that both State and Federal governments review and reform funding mechanisms to enable Manningham Council to be more agile and responsive by unlocking new funding opportunities and removing legislative barriers that limit innovation and adaptability.

3.4 Manningham is also planning for a significant increase in housing, with 28,500 new dwellings expected by 2051 - 57% growth in our housing stock over the next 25 years. This growth presents an opportunity to strengthen our community but also brings increased demand for essential services and infrastructure including roads, footpaths, parks, neighbourhood houses, public libraries and other community spaces. The current rate system and other income generated by

Council will not keep pace with the community need and we will continue to look for opportunities to make this case to funding bodies for our community.

3.5 The following strategic advocacy priorities has been developed for Council's endorsement:

Our Ask	Why this is important
Glass recycling reform We want a flexible and cost-effective approach to glass recycling.	The proposed fourth bin is estimated to cost $4 million upfront, with an ongoing additional annual cost to households. At a time when cost of living pressures are rising, we are deeply concerned about the financial impact this would have on our community. We propose expanding the Container Deposit Scheme as an environmentally sound alternative to a kerbside service. This approach will align Victoria with other States.
Better bus services We want fast, frequent, reliable and well-connected bus services for a growing and thriving Manningham.	With a target of 28,500 new dwellings by 2051 and no access to rail, we urgently need investment in fast, frequent, reliable and well-connected bus services to support our residents in accessing employment, education and other services, including along Manningham's main growth corridor. We call on State government to invest in improvements to Manningham's bus network, including: • A feasibility study for a high-frequency busway solution to support the Doncaster Road corridor (main growth corridor). • Implementation funding for the North-eastern pilot area network review from the State's Bus Reforms, to provide revised routes. • An orbital, high frequency bus route to follow future SRL North route. • A Templestowe bus route from the Pines to Heidelberg Station via Templestowe Road. • A route to address the community need currently serviced by the 'Manningham Mover' following any network changes. • Maximising the benefits of the new Doncaster Park and Ride upon its opening, by taking full advantage of the additional capacity to expand and improve bus services including revised routes and better frequence and reliability.

Investment in Aquarena We want to enhance the Aquarena precinct to keep Manningham active, connected and healthy.	Aquarena is Manningham's only aquatic centre, serving both our local community and residents from neighbouring areas. Our aim is for Aquarena to be a welcoming, modern and functional environment where people of all ages and backgrounds can stay active, connected and healthy. A major redevelopment of Aquarena is being undertaken over the next 2 years at a cost of approximately $30 million with the final costs yet to be determined. External funding support is essential to help Council deliver the full scope of this project. Aquarena is a major wellness hub, attracting over 800,000 visits per annum and encouraging healthy lifestyles through exercise and connection. Living a more active life reduces the burden of disease on the government funded health system. Active living is an effective prevention strategy. It creates highly functional individuals, families and communities. The outdoor pool was originally built around the Melbourne Olympics and is at the end of its useful life. A new 50m pool is now required to serve our community for the next 50 years. This pool will incorporate a ramp and moveable swim wall to cater for people of all abilities, and the provision of new change rooms and tiered spectator seating will cater for the high number of schools that use the centre from across the region. The provision of additional elements including a toddlers pool, water play area, cafe and picnic facilities will help to make Aquarena a destination for families and will create a lasting legacy for the community. Government funding to fully develop the potential of the site will deliver improved health and wellbeing for all for generations to come.

Transparency in delivering North East Link We want the North East Link Authority and construction partners to mitigate the impacts of this significant road project on the Manningham community, and provide timely data on health and wellbeing impacts.	North East Link is a major State Government road project being built through Manningham and significantly impacting our community. We want improved transparency on noise and air quality indicators to minimise the impacts on the community. We ask for: • Information to the Manningham community on noise and air quality measures during the construction phase and post construction monitoring. • Improved timeliness of access to Environment Protection Agency (EPA) air quality data reports. • Filters installed within the Southern Portal Ventilation Stack or the provision or transparency to the Manningham community on the trigger for filters being required.
Better services for children and young people We want essential community infrastructure and services to ensure our children and young people thrive.	Today's young people are tomorrow's leaders. Through our Community Panel, engagement with young people, strong relationships with local primary and secondary schools, and early years feedback, we have received a strong message that quality services matter for our children and young people. While we are proud of the work we do locally, our ability to meet these expectations is increasingly limited by funding that is constrained and inflexible. To continue delivering services that create lasting community and strategic value, for our growing population we are seeking stronger partnerships with State and Federal Governments that empower us to invest in the wellbeing and potential of our next generation. We call for: • Sustainable funding for early years programs including the Sleep and Settling Program, Mabels (legal support through Maternal and Child Health centres regarding family violence) and appropriate infrastructure for Maternal and Child Health service to meet the needs of our growing multicultural population. • Increased, adaptable investment in infrastructure to facilitate 3 and 4 year old preschool and pre-prep education targets that meet the needs of local communities and population growth targets with a principle of co-locating preschool and pre-pre facilities with primary schools wherever possible.

	• Increased funding certainty for localised youth mental health services to be delivered through trusted partnerships such as community health services. • Maintain the School Focussed Youth Service to enable disengaged young people to stay connected to their school and education.

4. COUNCIL PLAN / STRATEGY

4.1 Well Governed and Innovative Council: Strategic Objective 9 | Our Council is effective, efficient and financially responsible.

- *9.1.3 Increase our advocacy effort to improve community outcomes and obtain financial support from state and federal government and other partnerships.*

5. IMPACTS AND IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Finance / Resource Implications

The resourcing required will be dependent on the level of effort and communication plan developed for each strategic priority.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 Communication and Engagement

Is engagement required?	Yes
Stakeholder Groups	Ministers Local Members of Parliament Election Candidates External organisations Community
Where does it sit on the IAP2 spectrum?	Inform
Approach	Following endorsement, advocacy campaigns will be developed and activated in late 2025 and throughout 2026, ahead of the State election on 28 November 2026. These campaigns will be leveraged year-round through targeted communication campaigns and ongoing stakeholder engagement.

7. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest in this matter.

13.3 Annual Report 2024-25

File Number: IN25/767

Responsible Director: Acting Director Experience and Capability

Attachments: 1 DRAFT Manningham Council Annual Report 2024-25 - 15 October 2025 ⇩

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek endorsement of the Annual Report 2024-25 (report of operations).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Our Annual Report 2024-25 (report of operations) has been prepared following input from service units across the organisation.

The Annual Report includes a report of Council's operations along with an audited Financial Report and audited Performance Statement for the 2024-25 year.

This is the final Annual Report that will report on the Council Plan 2021-2025. As in previous years, community-focused information is included in a community-focused shorter main report, with more detailed information in a comprehensive appendix.

The Annual Report is required to be completed and endorsed by Council by 31 October 2025.

1. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

A. Endorse the Annual Report 2024-25, which includes the audited Financial Report and Performance Statement.

B. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make minor administrative amendments to the Annual Report that do not materially alter the content.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Every year, Council prepares an Annual Report, which is an important way for us to report on our performance.

2.2 The Annual Report provides the community with a comprehensive overview of our performance during 2024-25. The report must include a report of Council's operations, audited financial statements and audited performance statement.

2.3 The report of operations is the front section of the Annual Report which covers a range of information, including:

- A review of Council's performance against the Council Plan themes.
- A statement of progress in relation to the major initiatives and initiatives identified in the Annual Budget.

- The indicators, measures and results of the prescribed service performance indicators and measures as part of the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.

- The results in the prescribed form of Council's assessment against the governance and management checklist.

- Information on the nature and range of activities and services delivered.

- Highlights, achievements, and challenges for each Council Plan theme.

- Details of the Councillors that served during the year and the administrative structure of Council, including the name of the Chief Executive Officer and Executive Management Team and their areas of responsibility, including an organisational chart.

2.4 Since 2021-22, the report of operations has been prepared as a community-focused, shorter main report followed by a more comprehensive appendix.

3. DISCUSSION / ISSUE

3.1 The Annual Report (report of operations) has been prepared with input from all service units across the organisation.

3.2 It follows a consistent format from previous years, designed to make it easier for our community to find the information they're looking for.

3.3 The main report includes details of who we are, what we do, what we achieved and our challenges for the year, including a summary of what we delivered and did to support each Council Plan theme.

3.4 As this is the final year of reporting against the Council Plan 2021-2025, the Annual Report includes a section highlighting our achievements over the past 4 years.

3.5 For each Council Plan theme, we've featured a case study from 2024-25, these include:

- For Healthy community – Manningham Asian Cultural Festival

- For Liveable Places and Spaces – A new park for Doncaster Hill, Hepburn Reserve

- For Resilient Environment – SEED sustainability education program with local primary schools

- For Vibrant and Prosperous Economy – Summer celebration program

- For Well governed Council – Our deliberative Community Panel process.

3.6 The appendix provides detailed reporting information about our people and our performance. This includes how we progressed the major initiatives and initiatives in our Council Plan, the Local Government Performance Reporting (LGPRF) indicators and services funded in our budget.

3.7 The following will be attached to the report of operations:

- Audited Financial Statement for 2024-25, including a Guide to the Financial Statements.
- Audited Performance Statement for 2024-25.
- Victorian Auditor General Office (VAGO) reports.

4. COUNCIL PLAN / STRATEGY

4.1 The Annual Report includes a review of the progress of all Council Plan 2021-2025 themes during the 2024-25 year.

5. IMPACTS AND IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Finance / Resource Implications

N/A

6. IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 Communication and Engagement

Is engagement required?	No
Stakeholder Groups	Manningham community
Where does it sit on the IAP2 spectrum?	Inform
Approach	Publish on our website at manningham.vic.gov.au.annual-report

6.2 Timelines

The Annual Report is required to be completed and endorsed by Council by 31 October 2025. Following endorsement it will be published on the Council website.

7. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest in this matter.

Manningham Council

Annual Report

2024/25

MANNINGHAM

We warmly welcome you to our Annual Report.

Manningham is a great place to live, work and play. We are passionate about doing everything we can to support our community to enjoy our local environment and live happy, healthy lives.

Why we have an Annual Report

Our Annual Report informs our community and stakeholders about our activities, performance and future direction.

We submit an Annual Report to the Minister for Local Government each year.

How to read this document

We have structured this report to make it easy to find what you need.

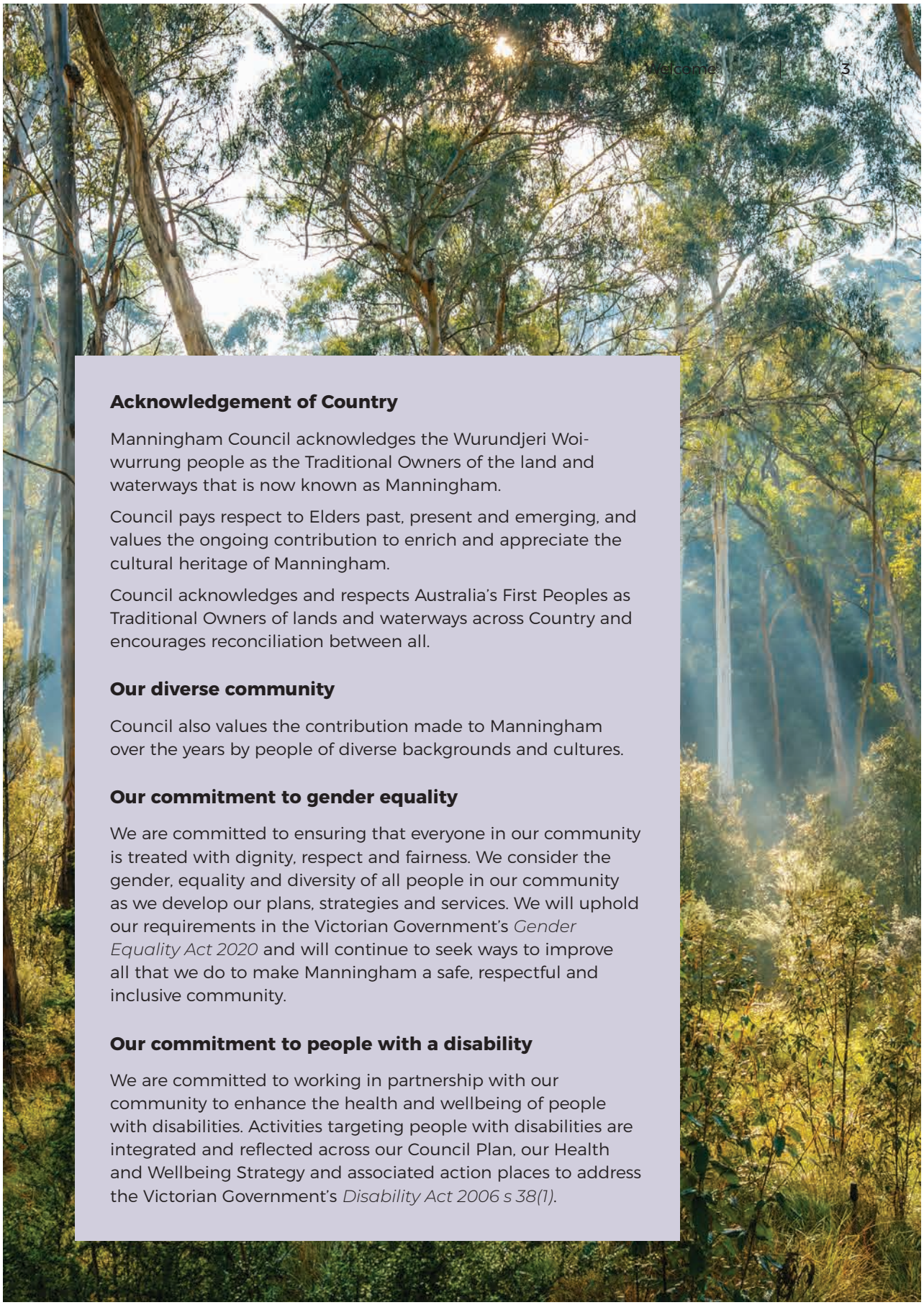
On the following pages, you will find information about who we are, what we do, what we have achieved, our challenges and our plans for the future.

You can also find out how to get involved in our thriving community and local places.

We have interviewed local people about how our work impacts them and our much-valued community.

You will find further information on our financials, strategic reporting, corporate structure and governance in the appendix.

We hope you enjoy reading about our achievements in 2024-25.



Acknowledgement of Country

Manningham Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional Owners of the land and waterways that is now known as Manningham.

Council pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging, and values the ongoing contribution to enrich and appreciate the cultural heritage of Manningham.

Council acknowledges and respects Australia's First Peoples as Traditional Owners of lands and waterways across Country and encourages reconciliation between all.

Our diverse community

Council also values the contribution made to Manningham over the years by people of diverse backgrounds and cultures.

Our commitment to gender equality

We are committed to ensuring that everyone in our community is treated with dignity, respect and fairness. We consider the gender, equality and diversity of all people in our community as we develop our plans, strategies and services. We will uphold our requirements in the Victorian Government's *Gender Equality Act 2020* and will continue to seek ways to improve all that we do to make Manningham a safe, respectful and inclusive community.

Our commitment to people with a disability

We are committed to working in partnership with our community to enhance the health and wellbeing of people with disabilities. Activities targeting people with disabilities are integrated and reflected across our Council Plan, our Health and Wellbeing Strategy and associated action places to address the Victorian Government's *Disability Act 2006 s 38(1).*

Contents

Welcome

Message from our Mayor 6

Message from our CEO 7

Who we are

Our vision 8

Our mission 8

Our strategic direction 8

Our values 8

Year in review 10

About Manningham 12

Our Councillors 14

Our organisation 16

How we govern 18

What we do

We set out what we will work towards 19

Highlights achieved over the 2021-2025 Council Plan period 20

Looking forward to the Council Plan 2025-2029 25

We report our performance against our goals 26

We represent our community and advance their needs 27

What we achieved in 2024/25

The services we provided 30

Our major projects 31

What we did to support a Healthy Community

What you told us to focus on 32

What we delivered 34

Challenges 40

What we did to support Livable Places and Spaces

What you told us to focus on 44
What we delivered 46
Challenges 53

What we did to support a Resilient Environment

What you told us to focus on 60
What we delivered 62
Challenges 69

What we did to support a Vibrant and Prosperous Economy

What you told us to focus on 72
What we delivered 74
Challenges 76

What we did to support a Well Governed Council

What you told us to focus on 80
What we delivered 82
Challenges 91

Our financial performance

Income 97
Expenditure 98
Net worth 98
Assets 98
Liabilities 99
Capital investment 100
Liquidity 100

Our year ahead 101

Get involved 105

Appendix 106

Financial report 244

Performance statement 302

Message from **our Mayor**

On behalf of my fellow Councillors, I am proud to present our 2024-25 Annual Report, the final report on the Council Plan 2021–2025. This report highlights our achievements under the 2021-2025 Council Plan, while also laying the foundations for the future.

Following last year's Council elections, we have worked with our community to develop the new Council Plan 2025–2029 to guide our work over the next 4 years. We established and worked with our Manningham Community Panel to make sure this plan reflects the community's priorities and vision for the future. The panel's recommendations have shaped the new Council Plan, which we will report on in next year's Annual Report.

I am proud of the way our newly elected Councillor group has come together and worked respectfully and collaboratively with our CEO, executive team and staff to deliver positive outcomes for Manningham. This partnership has delivered a range of initiatives that strengthen our community.

A highlight has been increasing support projects that meet the needs of Manningham's ageing community with the launch of a new Healthy Ageing Grant. The program promotes inclusion, improves health and wellbeing, builds resilience and fosters collaboration between our Council, community groups and organisations.

We advanced some of our major infrastructure projects, including selecting a contractor to deliver works on the Aquarena outdoor redevelopment. We also continued to advocate for residents affected by the North East Link, working to find solutions to issues such as contractor parking.

Our multicultural community is one of our greatest strengths. This year we proudly supported events and programs that celebrated diversity. The first Manningham Asian Cultural Festival brought people together in March to share food, performances and culture, while the Persian Fire Festival attracted more than 10,000 people to Manningham. These events built stronger connections across our community.

I thank my fellow Councillors, staff and the community for working with us to make sure Manningham continues to thrive as a vibrant, inclusive and resilient place to live work and visit.

I encourage you to read on to find out more about our achievements during 2024-25.

Cr Deirdre Diamante
Mayor

Message from **our CEO**

Welcome to our 2024-25 Annual Report. In this report we will share what we achieved, the challenges we managed and the projects we delivered throughout 2024-25. This report marks the final year of reporting on the 2021-2025 Council Plan and includes a summary of key achievements delivered over the life of the Plan.

We provided more than 100 services and a $52 million capital works program this year. We upgraded roads, footpaths, parks, sportsgrounds and community buildings while keeping a strong focus on financial sustainability and making sure we deliver the best value for our community.

Some of the major projects delivered include the completion and opening of Hepburn Reserve, a brand-new park in Doncaster and new pedestrian bridges and boardwalk upgrades at Ruffey Lake Park. We also progressed planning and design work for significant road upgrades along Templestowe route and at Jumping Creek Road in Wonga Park.

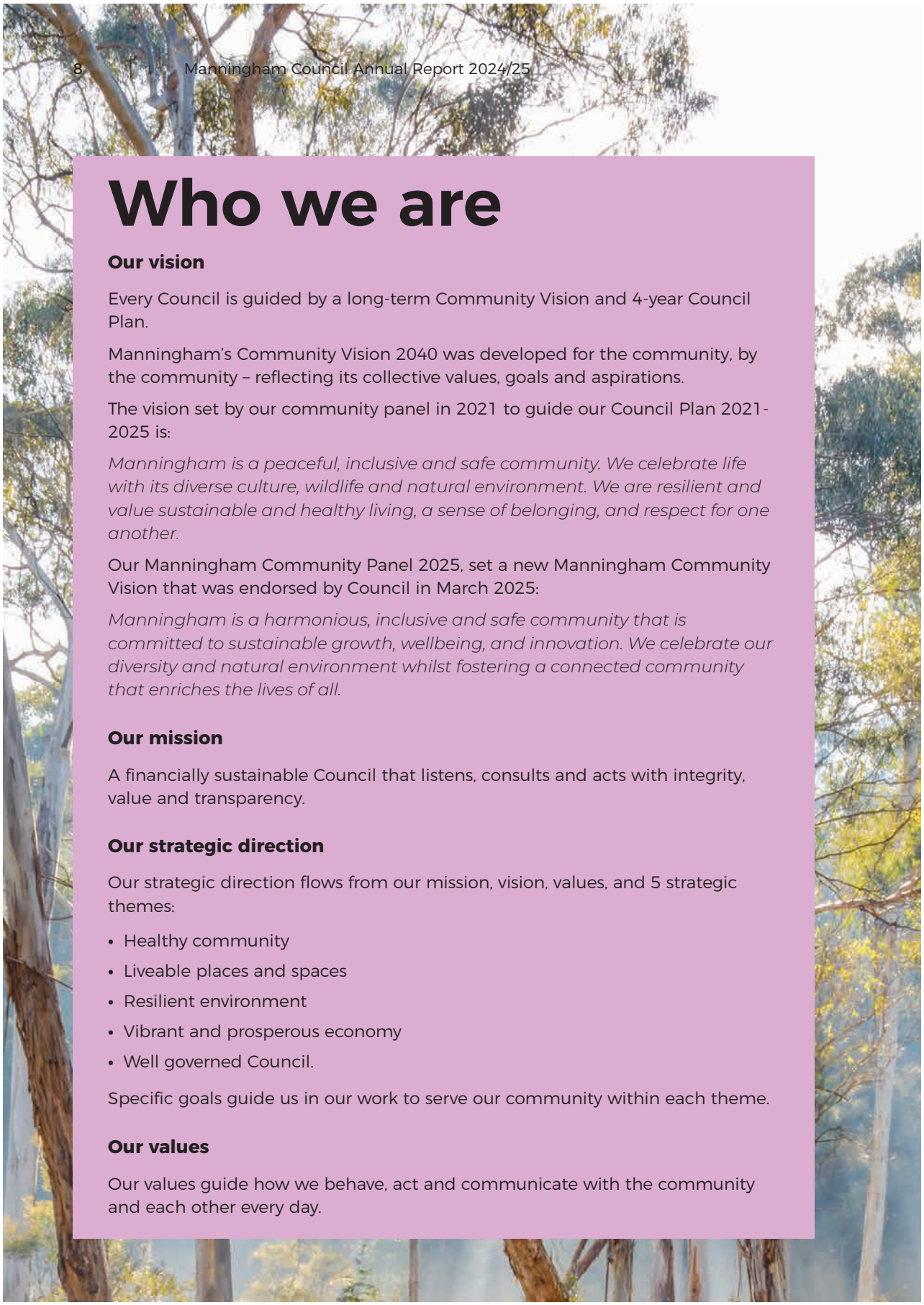
We prepared a suite of new strategic plans to help guide our Council into the future. Along with the Council Plan 2025–2029, this included a 10-Year Asset Plan, 10-Year Financial Plan and an updated Community Vision 2040. We ran a robust deliberative engagement process to shape these plans with 40 randomly selected community members to form our Manningham Community Panel.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing Councillors who finished their service at the end of the 2021-2024 Council term.

A warm welcome to our new Council, who will lead delivery of these plans. We will report on our first year of actions in next year's Annual Report.

In the year ahead, we look forward to delivering on the first year of our Council Plan 2025-2029.

Andrew Day
Chief Executive Officer



Who we are

Our vision

Every Council is guided by a long-term Community Vision and 4-year Council Plan.

Manningham's Community Vision 2040 was developed for the community, by the community – reflecting its collective values, goals and aspirations.

The vision set by our community panel in 2021 to guide our Council Plan 2021-2025 is:

Manningham is a peaceful, inclusive and safe community. We celebrate life with its diverse culture, wildlife and natural environment. We are resilient and value sustainable and healthy living, a sense of belonging, and respect for one another.

Our Manningham Community Panel 2025, set a new Manningham Community Vision that was endorsed by Council in March 2025:

Manningham is a harmonious, inclusive and safe community that is committed to sustainable growth, wellbeing, and innovation. We celebrate our diversity and natural environment whilst fostering a connected community that enriches the lives of all.

Our mission

A financially sustainable Council that listens, consults and acts with integrity, value and transparency.

Our strategic direction

Our strategic direction flows from our mission, vision, values, and 5 strategic themes:

- Healthy community
- Liveable places and spaces
- Resilient environment
- Vibrant and prosperous economy
- Well governed Council.

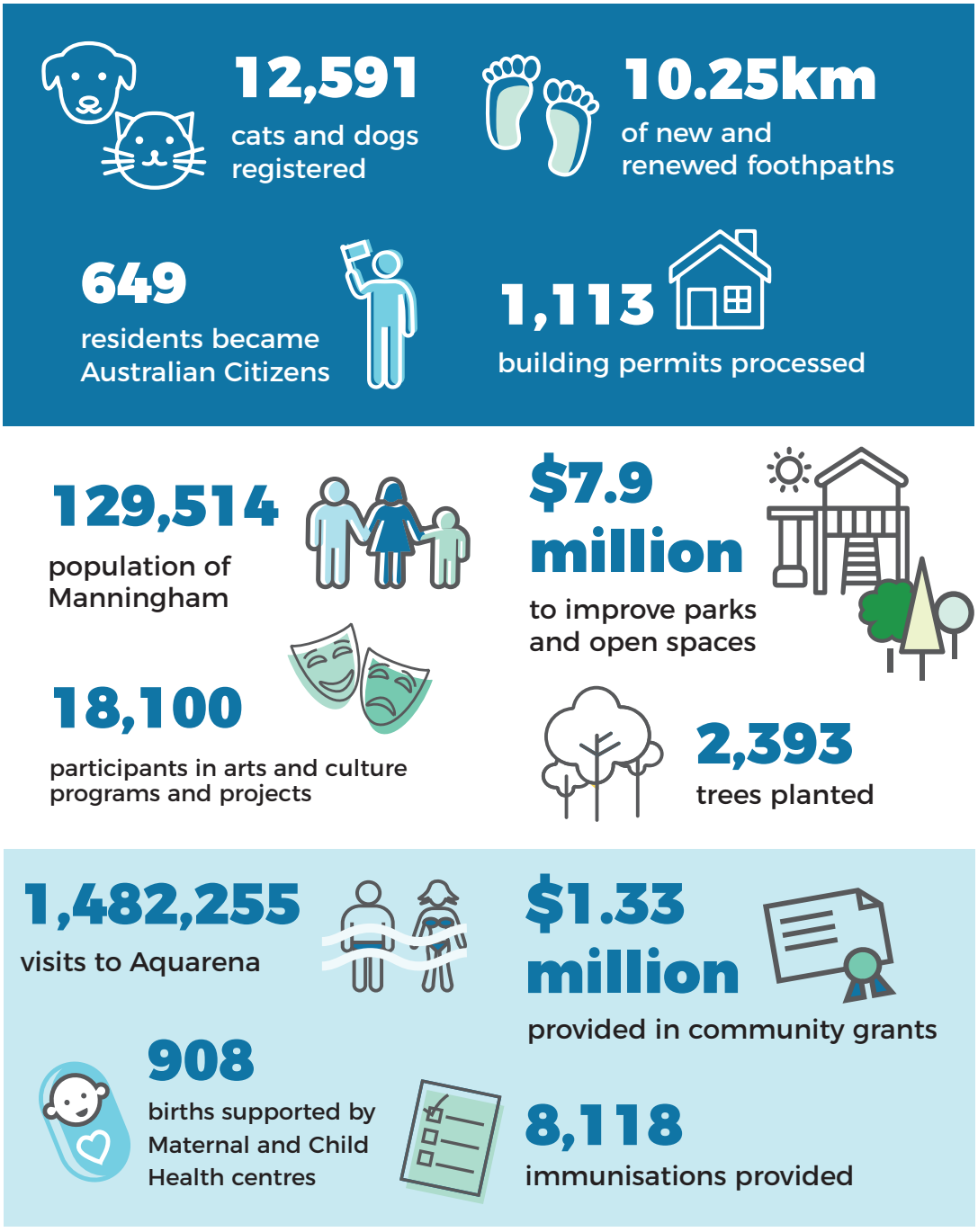
Specific goals guide us in our work to serve our community within each theme.

Our values

Our values guide how we behave, act and communicate with the community and each other every day.

We aRE
MANNINGHAM
Working together
Creating a safe and inclusive environment
Actively sharing information, resources and knowledge
Collaboratively developing ideas and solutions
Excellence
Striving to 'be your best'
Responding flexibly to challenges and opportunities
Proactively seeking better ways
Accountable
Taking personal responsibility for your behaviour
Taking ownership and delivering on commitments
Making meaningful contributions
Respectful
Honest and positive when communicating with others
Treating others in a consistent and equitable manner
Being considerate of others' needs, priorities, and perspective
Empowered
Trusting in others
Supporting others to succeed and 'grow'
Being courageous and prepared to take chances

Year in review



74.05%
of waste diverted from landfill

1,412,872
loans including physical loans, e-books and renewals

87,361
calls received by the contact centre

19.2km
roads resurfaced

82%
of planning applications decided within statutory time frames

747,676
page views on manningham.vic.gov.au

$52.14 million
in capital works projects delivered

61,153
visits to yoursaymanningham

Recognised locals' outstanding commitments to Manningham with our Civic Awards

Citizen of the Year
Brian Tyedin

Community Organisation of the Year
Rotary Club of Manningham City

Doreen Stoves AM PSM JP Volunteer of the Year
Kate Gniel and Luke Bastian

Sports Volunteer of the Year
Anthony Milicia

About Manningham

We are passionate about protecting and enhancing our 114 km² municipality in Melbourne's east, stretching from Bulleen to Wonga Park.

Our large areas of open space, including more than 300 parks and reserves, offer great places for our community to exercise, play and enjoy our natural environment.

A large section of Manningham is designated as a Green Wedge to protect our significant natural and rural environment.

Our municipality offers residents and visitors vibrant shopping and dining precincts, wineries, local galleries, nurseries and attractions.

Our community

Our vibrant residential neighbourhoods are home to 125,827 people.

People of all ages, household types, incomes and cultural backgrounds reside in a wide mix of housing options throughout Manningham.

We welcome and celebrate people from all backgrounds and embrace the contribution that all residents make to the social fabric of our region.

Our history

The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people are the Traditional Owners of the land and waterways that we now know as Manningham.

Manningham Council was formed in 1994 to serve the local community.

We value our Traditional Owners' ongoing contribution to Country, and we are committed to working in partnership to enrich, protect and celebrate the cultural heritage of Manningham.

Our suburbs

The suburbs in Manningham are:

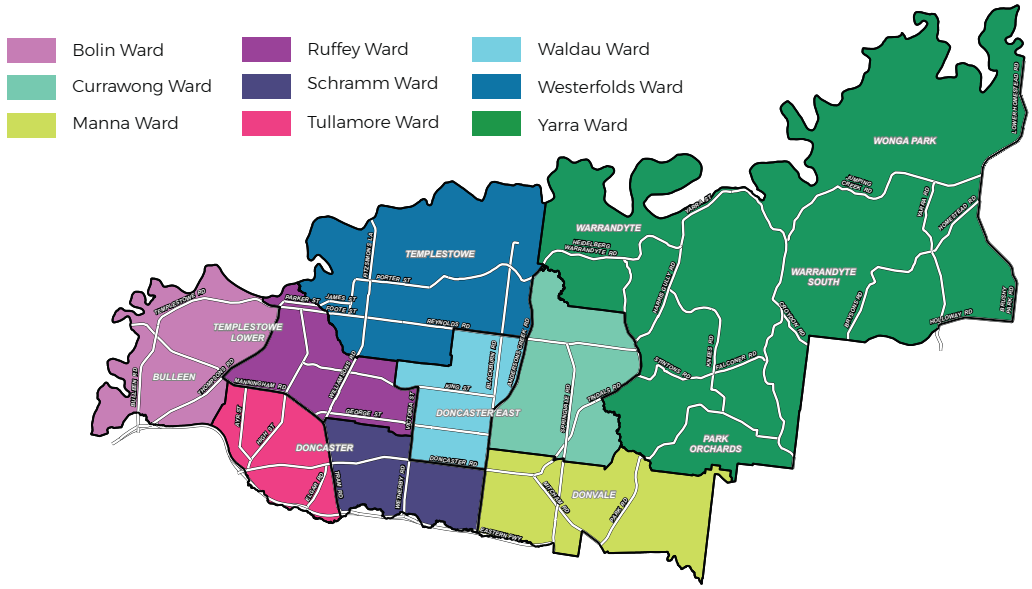
- Bulleen
- Doncaster
- Doncaster East
- Donvale
- part of Nunawading
- Park Orchards
- part of Ringwood North
- Templestowe
- Templestowe Lower
- Warrandyte
- Warrandyte South
- Wonga Park.

Council wards

Our municipality is divided into 9 areas, known as 'wards'. One elected Councillor represents each ward.

- Currawong Ward
- Waldau Ward
- Bolin Ward
- Manna Ward
- Ruffey Ward
- Schramm Ward
- Tullamore Ward
- Westerfolds Ward
- Yarra Ward.

Figure 1: Manningham Council wards



Our Councillors

Our community elects Councillors to represent them in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* every 4 years.

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) conducted our last elections in October 2024. Following the elections, Councillors were sworn in on 19 November 2024. The new Council consists of 6 returning Councillors and 3 new Councillors.

Our 9 Councillors collectively make decisions and guide the development of strategies and policies to shape Manningham's future.

Our Councillors elect a new Mayor and Deputy Mayor each year. The current Mayor and Deputy Mayor were elected in November 2024.

November 2024 – June 2025

Mayor Cr Deirdre Diamante
Deputy Mayor Cr Andrew Conlon

July 2023 – October 2024

Mayor Cr Carli Lange
Deputy Mayor Cr Laura Mayne

Table 1: Electoral Structure and Representation 19 November 2024 – 30 June 2025

Cr Deirdre Diamante
Mayor

Your Councillor for Tullamore Ward

Cr Andrew Conlon
Deputy Mayor

Your Councillor for Currawong Ward

Cr Geoff Gough

Your Councillor for Bolin Ward

Cr Peter Bain

Your Councillor for Manna Ward

Cr Jim Grivas

Your Councillor for Ruffey Ward

Cr Laura Mayne

Your Councillor for Schramm Ward

Cr Anna Chen

Your Councillor for Waldau Ward

Cr Isabella Eltaha

Your Councillor for Westerfolds Ward

Cr Carli Lange

Your Councillor for Yarra Ward

The below Councillors served from July to October 2024, before finishing their time on Council at the election. We thank them for their years of dedicated service.

Table 2: Outgoing Councillors who served from 1 July to October 2024.

Cr Michelle Kleinert OAM

Westerfolds Ward

Cr Tomas Lightbody

Manna Ward

Cr Stephen Mayne

Ruffey Ward

Our organisation

Our elected Councillors guide the direction of our organisation. Our CEO reports to the Mayor and Councillors and is supported by our Executive Management Team, service unit managers and staff to oversee and manage our operations.

Our Council Plan guides our work and helps us monitor and report on our progress.

We support our staff to demonstrate our values in their work to make sure we meet our community's needs.

Table 3: Executive Management Team 2024-25

Andrew Day
Chief Executive Officer

September 2018 to present

Rachelle Quattrocchi
Director City Services

March 2020 to April 2025

Kerryn Paterson
Director Experience and Capability

December 2021 to present

Lee Robson

Director Connected Communities

December 2022 to present

Andrew McMaster

Director City Planning and Liveability

February 2024 to present

The Chief Financial Officer position is no longer a member of the executive team but remains a key role in the organisation.

How we govern

We are a public statutory body constituted under the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

Manningham Council is made up of 2 parts:

1. The elected Council – 9 Councillors who represent our community, make formal decisions and set our strategic priorities.
2. The organisation – which acts on the decisions and strategic directions set by the Council and delivers over 100 services to our community.

Under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020*, our day-to-day operations are managed by our CEO. The Council also delegate various powers and responsibilities to the CEO and staff. The CEO can also delegate their powers and responsibilities to staff to ensure the organisation runs efficiently.

We recognise it's critical to make sure our elected Councillors and staff are accountable to our community. That's why we value good governance as it makes sure we operate effectively, efficiently, impartially and with integrity.

Our good governance principles ensure:

- We make lawful and transparent decisions based on expert advice.
- We adhere to processes and systems.
- Our officers implement decisions appropriately and in good time.

What we do

We set out what we will work towards

We deliver over 100 services to our community and manage $3.24 billion in community assets.

As an organisation, we:

- Make decisions based on the diverse needs of our local community.
- Provide leadership and advocate for the interests of the local community to other communities and governments.
- Foster community cohesion and encourage active participation in civic life.
- Ensure we manage our resources in a responsible and accountable manner.

Our 2021 – 2025 Council Plan outlines where we will direct our time, resources and efforts during that time. You can find our Council Plan at manningham.vic.gov.au/council-plan

This year marks the final year of reporting on our Council Plan 2021-2025.

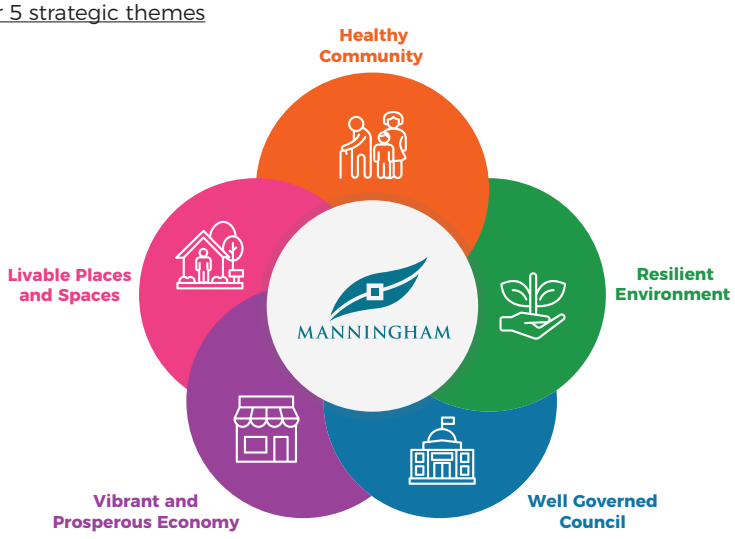
Back in 2020-21, we spoke to more than 2,500 community members who informed the development of our 4-year Council Plan that guided our activities from 2021 to 2025.

As part of our consultation, we asked community members "what is important in Manningham?" We used this information to inform our Council Plan 2021-2025, with a strong focus on getting back to basics and delivering quality services to our community.

The Plan outlines 5 key focus areas. We call these focus areas 'themes', and each theme has goals and specific actions for us to achieve.

We report on our key achievements and challenges in each theme throughout this document.

Figure 2: Our 5 strategic themes



Highlights achieved over the 2021-2025 Council Plan period

For our healthy community

- To respond and adapt to COVID-19, we implemented hygiene products and processes, modified HVAC systems, and maintained essential services and assets during the pandemic. We also supported the community through lockdowns and restrictions and distributed 155,600 RATs on behalf of the Victorian Government.
- We hosted events to bring our community together, including Carols by Candlelight. We supported our community through our Community Grants program and worked to re-engage the community post-pandemic.
- We successfully delivered our capital works program, including upgrading our community buildings, footpaths, roads and drainage.
- We reviewed our environmental health service, introduced new EPA legislation and immunisation systems and participated in food safety regulation inquiries.
- We allocated sports facilities to community clubs, provided casual usage to schools and groups, and engaged a new provider to manage Aquarena and nine stadiums.
- We chaired the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee and developed a site-specific Flood Response Plan.
- We established new Advisory Committees, updated our wellbeing card and created a new Youth Hub.

For our places and spaces

- We delivered more than $285 million in capital works, including major upgrades at Aquarena, and the construction of one new park, 5 playspaces, 8 fitness stations and 7 bike hubs.
- We completed significant road and footpath upgrades across the municipality, improving pedestrian links, safety and access in key locations including James Street, Ringwood-Warrandyte Road, Jumping Creek Road, and the Fitzsimons Lane–Main Road corridor.
- We upgraded many of parks and reserves, including Ruffey Lake Park, Green Gully Linear Park, Morris Williams Reserve, and Ted Ajani Reserve, with improvements such as trails, playspaces, paths, landscaping and signage.
- We delivered major projects in line with the Ruffey Lake Park Landscape Masterplan, including upgrading the Victoria Street adventure playground, a new 18-hole disc golf course, upgraded fitness trails and equipment, pedestrian bridges, public art, new signage and environmental education features.
- We completed the design and construction of Hepburn Reserve, delivering a new park in Doncaster with accessible paths, open space and the sculptural installation Future Ahead, inspired by native flora.
- We progressed our Open Space Strategy, acquiring 5 properties to expand the open space network and continuing to improve connectivity through footpath and shared trail projects.
- We promoted safe and sustainable travel through road safety projects, lighting, drainage and footpath upgrades and traffic control programs. We also embedded Integrated Water Management and Water Sensitive Urban Design across projects.

For the environment

- ✓ We declared a Climate Emergency and began developing a Climate Action Plan to guide long-term action on climate change.
- ✓ We delivered the Bolin Bolin Integrated Water Management Facility in partnership with local stakeholders, treating stormwater for reuse and reducing demand on potable water supplies.
- ✓ We reduced emissions across Council operations by installing solar panels, batteries and electric equipment, including a new electric mower, and tracked lower carbon emissions in 2024–25 compared to the previous year.
- ✓ We supported waste reduction and recycling through the introduction of the FOGO (Food Organics Garden Organics) service, upgraded bin systems, improved landfill diversion rates, and the successful rollout of the Container Deposit Scheme, with over 8.69 million bottles and cans returned across 5 sites.
- ✓ We protected local biodiversity by implementing a 24-hour cat confinement order, running an education campaign to support the community, and progressing our new Nature Plan and Urban Forest Strategy, informed by feedback from more than 200 community members.
- ✓ We trialled smart technologies for greener maintenance, including drones and ground-based LiDAR to assess tree health, improving safety and efficiency across parks and open spaces.
- ✓ We reinvested $142,000 from tree removal and vandalism charges under our Tree Amenity Policy and explored new ways to reuse waste, including processing over 2,500 tonnes of street sweepings into organic landscaping soil.

For our vibrant and prosperous economy

- We delivered a comprehensive business development program and strengthened local procurement through updates to Council's Procurement Policy.
- We ran successful buy local campaigns including #ExploreBuyLocal and Find Your Local and partnered with trader associations such as Jackson Court to deliver events like the Halloween Spooktacular.
- We supported the local tourism and creative sectors through partnerships with Yarra Ranges Tourism, local artists and performers, and by hosting major community events such as the Warrandyte Festival, Persian Fire Festival, Manningham Family Festival and the Pottery Expo.
- We endorsed a new Economic Development Strategy (2023–2028) and progressed the Liveable City Strategy to attract investment, activate activity centres and boost local jobs.
- We invested in Smart Cities technology, launching a pilot at Jackson Court to improve service efficiency, safety and place activation.
- We continued to advocate for improved public transport in the region, including the Suburban Rail Loop (Stage 1) with a proposed station at Doncaster Hill, and Bus Rapid Transit along Doncaster Road.

For a well governed council

- We embedded our We Are Values across the organisation, building a culture of collaboration, empowerment, accountability, respect and excellence.
- We delivered strong financial and organisational performance, including successful enterprise agreement negotiations that introduced enhanced parental leave and study support for staff.
- We improved customer service through a refurbished centre, a new Customer Relationship Management system and mobile field service tools, and digital enhancements including live chat, a website chatbot and a Voice of Customer program. We supported 85,000 centre visits, answered 400,000 calls, and distributed more than 21,000 FOGO bin liners and 4,000 Manningham Community Calendars.
- We adopted key strategic documents including the Council Plan 2025-2029 and a new Community Vision, developed through a deliberative community engagement process. These plans integrate health and wellbeing priorities and reflect our community's values and aspirations.
- We delivered important governance initiatives, including a comprehensive Councillor induction program following the 2024 elections and the completion of our Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021–2025, while preparing for the 2026–2029 plan.
- We continued to advocate on behalf of our community for positive outcomes from the North East Link Project, focusing on minimising impacts and securing local benefits.

Looking forward to our 2025-2029 Council Plan

After the Council election on 26 October 2024, our new Councillors began developing the Council Plan 2025-2029.

To help set priorities for the next 4 years, we carried out a broad community engagement process. This included a survey, targeted conversations and the formation of a Community Panel.

We invited 8,000 randomly selected households to express interest in joining the Panel. More than 40 community members were chosen to take part.

The Panel met over 6 externally facilitated sessions between September 2024 and February 2025. Over 40 hours, members considered community feedback, data and evidence. Together, they refreshed our Community Vision and developed 12 recommendations about the range and level of services the community is willing to pay for.

We promised to listen to the Panel. Their recommendations were considered and, where possible, included in our strategic plans. These include the Council Plan 2025-2029, Asset Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan.

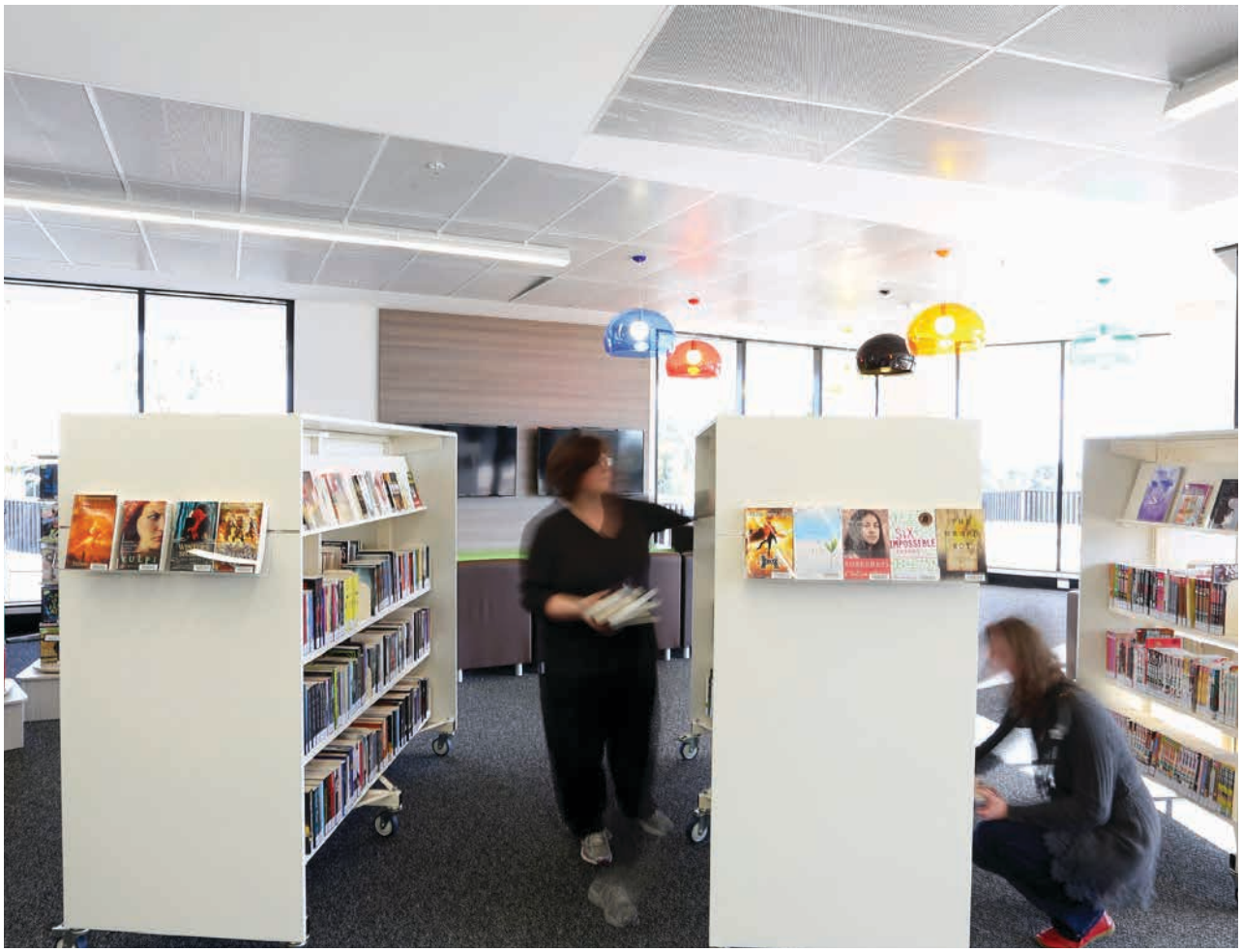
The next Annual Report will show our progress against the first year of the 2025-2029 Council Plan.

We report on our performance against our goals

We measure our performance against:

- The strategic themes and goals set out in our Council Plan 2021–2025.
- Our 2024/25 Annual Budget (including our Strategic Resource Plan) detailing our major initiatives and capital works, and services delivered
- The service, financial, and sustainability capacity performance indicators set by the Victorian Government in the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF). We report on these indicators for 2024-25 and the 3 preceding years, so you can get a full picture of our performance over time.

You will find this information in this report's appendix.



We represent our community and advance their needs

We are committed to representing and raising awareness of our community's needs.

We listen to our residents and partner with other levels of government to advance our community's interests. When we speak up on behalf of our community to seek support, services and funding from other levels of the government, we are 'advocating' for our community.

We focused on a range of key advocacy areas in 2024-25, including:

Aquarena outdoor redevelopment

We are advocating for $15 million from the Victorian and Australian Governments to redevelop Aquarena's ageing outdoor pool facilities.

The popular centre receives more than 1.1 million visits each year. The outdoor precinct redevelopment will support year-round access to health and wellbeing opportunities for our growing community.

High frequency busway

We are seeking $800,000 to complete a business case for a High Frequency Busway along Doncaster Road, between Doncaster Park and Ride and Mitcham Station.

A High Frequency Busway would provide faster, more reliable public transport and better connect Manningham to surrounding areas.

Five Ways intersection

We continue to advocate for safety upgrades to the Five Ways intersection in Warrandyte South.

This includes Ringwood-Warrandyte Road, Croydon Road, Husseys Lane and Brumbys Road. We've undertaken a road safety assessment, traffic survey and developed draft concepts for interim improvements.

In the lead up to the Federal election, we successfully advocated and received a federal funding commitment of $25 million for safety improvements at the Five-ways Intersection. We also continue to raise this issue in our meetings with the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning.

North East Link Project

We continue to work with the Victorian Government and North East Link Program (NELP) to reduce community impacts and ensure local benefits.

We successfully advocated for the redevelopment of Doncaster Park and Ride for better public transport connections for our community.

Open space upgrades

We are seeking funding for a rolling program of open space improvements.

Upgrades would include new paths, landscaping and shelters at reserves across the municipality, creating more accessible and inviting public spaces for everyone.

Community legal services

We are advocating for a permanent, place-based community legal service in Manningham.

There is currently no dedicated service in our municipality, making it difficult for vulnerable residents to access timely and affordable legal advice close to home.

Park Orchards Community House and Learning Centre

We are supporting the redevelopment of Park Orchards Community House and Learning Centre to meet the needs of current and future users.

The upgrade would create more accessible and flexible spaces for learning, childcare and community connection.

Other ways we're advocating for you

We are also advocating for a wide range of range of infrastructure and open space upgrades, better public transport, the Suburban Rail Loop and more affordable housing options for our community in Manningham.

How you can get involved

- Read about our ongoing advocacy at manningham.vic.gov.au/advocacy
- Share your ideas and provide feedback on issues and projects that matter to you at yoursay.manningham.vic.gov.au

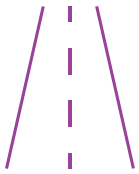
What we achieved in 2024-25

The services we provided

For every $100 we spent this year, we spent this much in each area.

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

$32.09



ROADS, FOOTPATHS AND DRAINAGE

$8.31

WASTE SERVICES AND RECYCLING

$11.02

PARKS, GARDENS AND SPORTSGROUNDS

$9.12

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

$8.60

ARTS, CULTURE AND LIBRARIES

$4.04

HEALTHY COMMUNITY

$4.21

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

$3.08

CUSTOMER SERVICE, GOVERNANCE AND ADMINSTRATION

$14.53

COUNCIL OWNED COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

$2.06

RISK MANAGEMENT AND INSURANCES

$2.94

Our major projects

We are committed to providing safe, accessible and appropriate infrastructure that meets the changing lifestyles of our community.

We delivered $52.1 million of capital projects in 2024-25, including capital ($45.5 million) and property (land) ($6.6 million).

Some specific projects funded during 2024-25 include:

- Schramm's Cottage Visitor Centre – $2.7 million
- Jumping Creek Road upgrade – $2.4 million
- Ruffey Lake Park pedestrian bridges and boardwalk – $1.2 million
- Aquarena outdoor precinct redevelopment design – $990,000
- Melbourne Hill Road drainage upgrade project – $660,000
- Templestowe Route upgrade project – $600,000
- Blair Street drainage upgrade – $600,000
- Hepburn Reserve, a new park in Doncaster – $540,000.

What we did to support a healthy community

We understand our residents value feeling connected and included in a community that feels safe.

Social connection and a focus on mental health are critical to our community.

Our community has told us that recreation and fitness are high priorities. We pursue this by providing accessible and well-maintained parks and open spaces for organised and passive recreation, as well as opportunities to participate in organised sports at our sports grounds and facilities.

We are committed to working with our partners to support groups in our community that are at increased risk of experiencing loneliness. These groups include young people, older adults, people from multicultural backgrounds, the rainbow community and people living with disability and their carers.

From our research and conversations with our residents, we have committed to building, sustaining and enhancing a healthy community by working towards the following goals:

- Healthy, safe and resilient community
- Connected and inclusive community.

What you told us to focus on

- Mental, spiritual and physical wellbeing
- Places, spaces and activities that are inclusive and accessible for all
- An active, safe and resilient community
- Community connections and more opportunities to work with community leaders, local groups and volunteer networks.

297
Identify as First Nations, Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander
CIAO
你好
Χαίρετε
76 Languages spoken
44%
Born overseas
38 Religions
Additional 2,015 seniors in 2021 compared to 2016
16% Have disabilities
1 in 2 say their health is very good to excellent
13% Volunteer
FEELING SAFE
1032
Family incidents (as recorded by police)
103%
Increase in dementia expected by 2054
57% Will walk alone at night
OUR LIVES
48% don't eat well or exercise enough
74% Feel part of the community
37%
Live on <$500/week
20%
Live alone
Growing need for health and support services

What we delivered

We launched the Vax app to make it easier for people to access our immunisation service. Community members can now book appointments, give consent, make payments and receive vaccine reminders online. We delivered more than 5,000 vaccines to 3,400 people through 115 public immunisation sessions and 9 school sessions, helping to protect our community from preventable illness.

We regulated more than 1,500 food and health businesses and carried out over 1,760 inspections, including assessments of 99.8% of Class 1 and 2 premises. This work helped to maintain high safety standards and reduce the risk of illness in our community.

We submitted 165 food samples for analysis and monitored online food sales, meeting all food sampling obligations to help ensure food sold in Manningham remains safe for residents and visitors.

We introduced a new food safety education program and provided targeted support to food businesses that needed to improve their practices, helping reduce health risks and protect the community.

We supported tobacco reform by educating retailers about their legal responsibilities, carrying out underage test purchases and taking enforcement action where needed. We also participated in a statewide advisory group to support coordinated reform efforts.

We responded to viral gastroenteritis outbreaks in local private aged care and childcare centres by supervising infection control, helping to contain the outbreaks and protect vulnerable residents and children.

We tested over 60 water samples from public pools and submitted 56 creek water samples to monitor environmental health. We also assessed 224 properties for onsite wastewater compliance, helping to keep our waterways healthy and protect public health.

We attended and presented at community forums, including Friends of Manningham Dogs and Cats (FOMDAC), to support responsible pet ownership and strengthen community connections.

We supported families and children to travel safely to and from school by covering 430 shifts each week across 43 school crossing sites, staffed by 48 trained school crossing supervisors.

We expanded our Community Grants Program in response to increased demand, awarding $1.3 million in funding to support more than 80 events and initiatives. These included projects that promote health, wellbeing, inclusion and community connection. We also appointed a new Community Grants Assessment Panel for 2025-26 and delivered 2 community grant information sessions and a grant writing workshop.

We recorded our highest-ever attendance at Carols by Candlelight, with more than 10,000 people attending. We also introduced a livestream to make the event more accessible and inclusive.

We supported and celebrated our diverse community through inclusive events, including a Seniors Morning Tea for over 300 older adults, an International Women's Day breakfast with more than 200 attendees, and appreciation events for volunteers and emergency services.

We endorsed the introduction of the Manningham Community Awards and the Annual Grant Celebration. The new annual events recognise and celebrate community contributions.

We hosted Citizenship Ceremonies where we welcomed 649 residents as new Australian citizens, helping to strengthen our inclusive and multicultural community.

We supported the work of our Multicultural, Gender Equity, LGBTQIA+, Disability, and Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committees and reconvened the Manningham Multicultural Network to strengthen collaboration between local community organisations.

We held workshops with advisory committees and community partners to help refine our approach to the 10 Victorian health and wellbeing priorities, ensuring our work is guided by local insight and lived experience.

We advocated to the Victorian and Australian Governments to improve access to local services, including mental health support, food security, legal services and gambling harm prevention, helping to address key issues facing our community.

We partnered with VicHealth to support the wellbeing of young people and women through programs such as Stride or Glide and Manningham Girls Can. We also hosted the VicHealth CEO to showcase our work under the VicHealth Local Government Partnership.

We provided financial support to local food relief organisations through the Manningham Food Relief Network, helping residents experiencing food insecurity access the support they need.

We continued our partnership with Whitehorse Manningham Libraries to deliver Multicultural Storytime sessions in a range of languages, promoting literacy and cultural inclusion for local families.

We reviewed the Manningham Volunteer Resource Service to better understand how we can support and grow volunteering in our community. We also used our Community Strengthening e-newsletter to connect residents with programs and events.

We launched a Healthy Ageing e-newsletter, delivered 49 Healthy Ageing pop-ups and distributed 1,327 dementia information booklets. These efforts helped older residents stay connected, informed and supported.

We delivered 12 free community information sessions in partnership with 25 local organisations, reaching nearly 1,000 people. Topics included health, scams, legal rights and grant writing, supporting community knowledge and confidence.

We supported seniors clubs to plan for the future and introduced a new Clubs Network to strengthen collaboration. Monthly gatherings help clubs share ideas and build stronger relationships.

We hosted World Elder Abuse Awareness Day forums in both 2024 and 2025 to raise awareness and provide support. The 2025 Healthy, Happy and Wise forum included a panel discussion and information stalls from local providers.

We continued to support seniors through Manningham Community Transport, offering regular routes, one-on-one services and monthly social outings to help older residents stay connected to the community.

We reviewed Manningham Community Transport with La Trobe University to explore options beyond the current contract, helping to ensure the service continues meeting community needs into the future.

We worked with La Trobe University and the Healthy Ageing Advisory Committee to develop our own framework as an Age-Friendly City, guided by the World Health Organization's Age-friendly Cities Framework.

We delivered flexible Maternal and Child Health services, with 8,647 key age and stage appointments, together with a pop-up clinic in Wonga Park, Saturday sessions and fully booked Feeding Hub groups. We also expanded the Infant Program for all families.

We provided more than 3,400 hours of additional Maternal and Child Health support, including enhanced care, phone consultations, interpreter sessions and outreach, ensuring all families could access help when needed.

We supported 170 family violence consultations, 2,475 child counselling sessions and over 120 information-sharing requests with Child Protection and The Orange Door, helping keep children and families safe.

We achieved a 97.4% 'very satisfied' rating in our Maternal and Child Health customer satisfaction survey, showing strong confidence in the service from local families.

We supported 908 newborns and delivered 8,647 Key Age and Stage appointments, including 875 4-week checks to help families track early development.

We supported 123 pre-school children and 100 kindergarten educators through our Preschool Field Officer program and Kindergarten Teacher Network, helping to support inclusion and early childhood development.

We delivered 100,230 hours of childcare at Early Years at MC Square and partnered with staff and families to continuously improve service quality.

We hosted our annual Principals' Breakfast to share strategies and resources to support student wellbeing and respond to social media-related challenges.

We opened MY Hub, a dedicated youth space offering programs, activities and support. We also facilitated the Manningham Youth Advisory Committee to give young people a voice in shaping local decisions.

We delivered Youth Fest 2024 with Victorian Government funding, offering cultural cooking events and inclusive activities that empowered young people to connect and celebrate diversity.

We hosted 4 Manningham Youth Providers Network meetings, featuring 20 guest presenters and attracting over 130 participants, to strengthen collaboration between local youth services and schools.

We held an intergenerational parenting seminar, Grandparenting with Dr Michael Carr-Gregg, offering practical tips and guidance for grandparents in our community.

We brought the community together to promote inclusion and safety through events such as IDAHOBIT and the 16 Days of Activism program, which engaged more than 460 people.

We distributed over 7,000 Find Support cards and displayed posters at 20 bus shelters to help residents connect with local services.

We responded to 92 referrals for people experiencing homelessness and provided free access to showers through the Manningham Showers Program, supporting about 30 people each month.

We worked to improve the accessibility of Council programs and services for people from culturally and socially diverse backgrounds.

We supported clubs and community groups to apply for Healthy Ageing and Seniors Club Support Grants in 2024-25, helping to strengthen social connections and support the wellbeing of older residents.

We saw a 10% increase in participation across our Aquarena Aquatic and Leisure Centre and the 9 indoor stadiums, which was more than 100,000 additional visits to these centres.

We facilitated a range of recreation programs, activities and events to support participation for people of all stages of life, including young people, women, culturally diverse and other priority groups. Some examples include:

- Women's-only swimming and sensory quiet time sessions at Aquarena
- Multicultural water safety events
- Pride Night at Aquarena
- Abilities Unleashed event for people with a disability
- This Girl Can activities
- Get Active Kids Voucher program.

Recreation programs included a kids multi-sport program, accelerated learn-to-swim program, older adult exercise programs at community centres, paddling program and 3-on-3 youth basketball tournament.

We ran a sports club forum, with 46 club administrators from 30 clubs, and 5 state sports associations in attendance. The forum provided clubs with the opportunity to network, learn about updates to our policies and procedures and hear from a guest speaker.

Aquarena Aquatic and Leisure Centre won the Swim School of the Year award at the Aquatics and Recreation Victoria awards. Swimming lessons enrolments increased by 11%, customer satisfaction increased by 37% and schools program attendances grew by 40% at the centre in 2024-25.

The inaugural My Manningham Fun Run and Walk took place at Ruffey Lake Park with 120 participants. The fun run raised more than $3,000 for food and grocery relief to local Manningham residents in need.

We continued our involvement with Disability Sport and Recreation's 'LGA Connect' program, which aims to improve sport and recreation opportunities for Victorians with a disability.

We delivered a wide range of recreation programs to help people of all ages and backgrounds get active. Highlights included events celebrating diversity, programs for women and people with a disability, and activities for children and older adults. These initiatives supported inclusion, participation and community wellbeing.

Challenges

We delivered an expanded Community Grants Program despite limited resources, ensuring continued support for community initiatives that strengthen local connection and inclusion.

Volunteer-led organisations are supporting more residents with complex needs, often with limited resources. Fewer volunteers and rising demand have forced local welfare services to cap crisis support. We now deliver volunteer support in-house following a service review, aiming to better meet community needs.

International conflict and global unrest have affected the wellbeing of many Manningham residents. We partnered with Doncare to provide culturally sensitive counselling in multiple languages to help residents feel supported during uncertain times.

We have seen an increase in people sleeping rough and a growing need for emergency food and housing support. This is placing pressure on support services and increasing demand for assistance from Council and local partners.

Many First Nations community members continue to feel a sense of unrest following the outcome of the national referendum, highlighting the need for ongoing reconciliation and culturally safe support.

Some cultural communities in Manningham face increased need for wellbeing, crisis and visa-related support. Local services are working hard to respond, but demand is high.

Mapping shows more Manningham residents live within walking distance of alcohol outlets than fresh food retailers. This may have implications for overall community health and wellbeing.

We transitioned our aged care services to a navigation model which supports older adults and their families to find the right service or support. A key challenge has been reaching those without an existing contact history. This limits our ability to provide timely information and help to vulnerable older residents.

We have found that the way people use Manningham Community Transport is changing. Our monthly social outings are popular and often booked out, while demand for weekly bus routes remains low. We completed a service review to understand how to better meet the mobility and social needs of older residents.

The unexpected cut to Sleep and Settling funding disrupted our family support services. We worked with Access Health and Community to expand parent groups with infant sessions on healthy eating and play and are planning new sessions for families with newborns.

It remains difficult to find accessible venues to host parent groups and pop-up Maternal and Child Health sessions. This limits our ability to reach families across all parts of Manningham.

A lack of funding from the Victorian Government remains a barrier to establishing key support programs, including Mabels (Maternal and Child Health and legal support) and broader community legal services. Without these programs, some community members are unable to access early help for health, safety or legal issues.

Youth mental health remains a significant issue in our community. We are supporting young people through Manningham Youth Services and the Victorian Government funded School Focussed Youth Services program.

We have an ongoing challenge to seek out ways to reduce barriers to participation in physical activity, particularly for the inactive.

The already high demands on local sports club volunteers continue to increase.

We are seeing increased demand for organised sports activities which is exceeding current availability of facilities in Manningham.

Celebrating culture and community

We support inclusive and vibrant events that bring our community together to celebrate culture, connection and creativity.

We hosted the first-ever Manningham Asian Cultural Festival at Doncaster Reserve in March 2025.

The festival was delivered in partnership with the Asian Business Association of Whitehorse and the Jackson Court Traders Association.

The family-friendly event was free to attend and attracted more than 10,000 people for a joyful day of performances, food and fun.

The event celebrated the rich cultural heritage of Manningham's Asian communities and featured traditional and contemporary music, dance, storytelling and art. A highlight of the event was the lion and dragon dances.

Local traders were invited to participate and saw increased levels of visitation across the day.

Food trucks and market stalls offered a taste of Asian cuisines and handmade goods, creating a lively and welcoming atmosphere for all ages. The festival closed with a fireworks display which lit up the skies over Doncaster.

"We were very happy to work alongside Manningham Council, who have been very supportive of our organisation," Vice President of the Asian Business Association of Whitehorse, Richard Shi said.

"The event welcomed people of all ages from across the community and was very successful from our perspective," Richard said.

The festival aligned with our goal of supporting an inclusive community and building community pride through shared experiences that reflect our city's cultural diversity.

How you can get involved

- Find out more about upcoming events **manningham.vic.gov.au/events**

What we did to support liveable places and spaces

Our community has told us that they generally love where they live, and value our parks, trees, open spaces and the natural environment.

What you told us to focus on

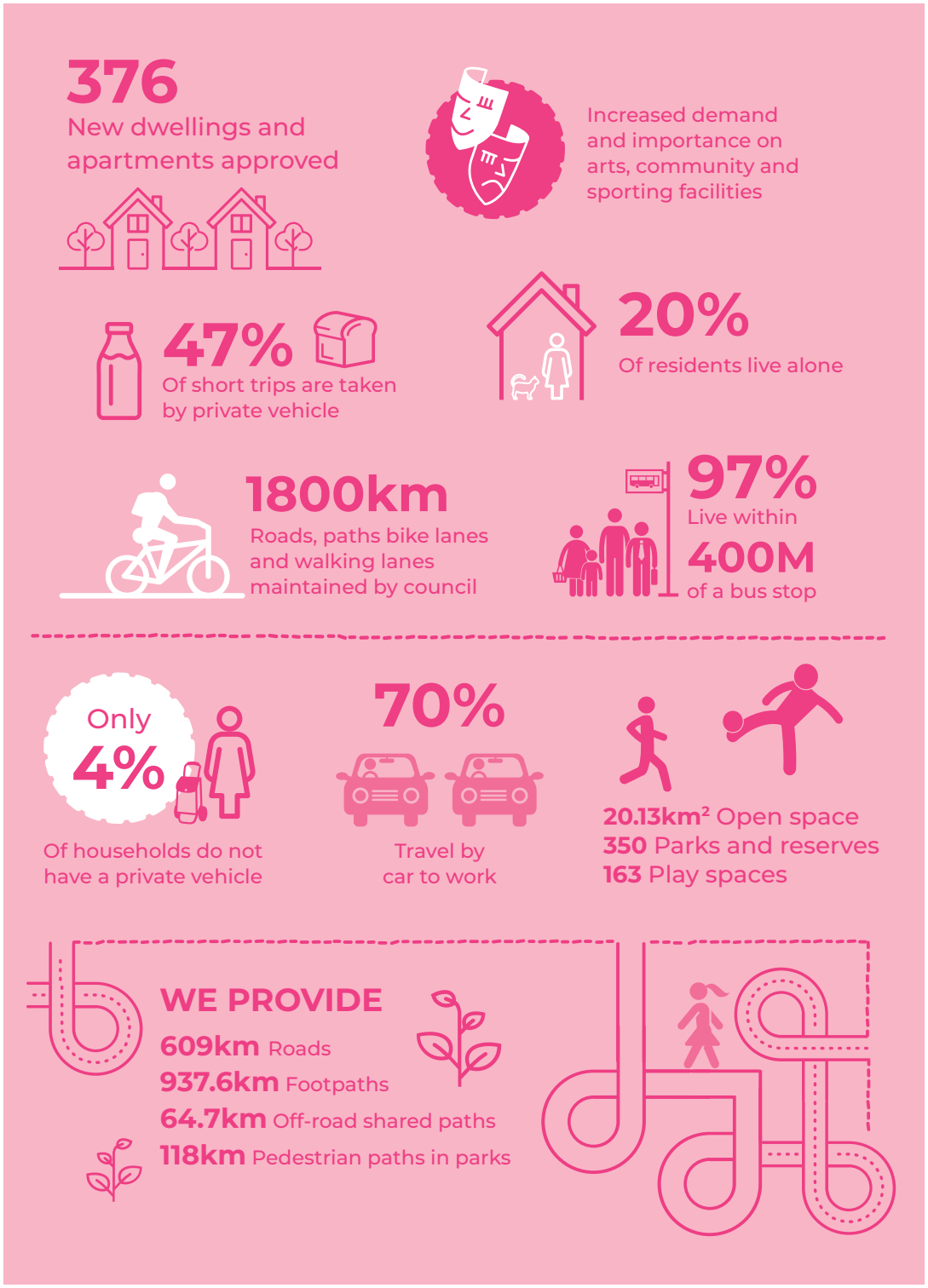
- Meeting demand and balancing city and country
- Public spaces for people to meet and connect
- Neighbourhood character and amenity that is welcoming and attractive
- Valuing our parks and open spaces
- Safe, easy and environmentally friendly travel
- Community infrastructure that is multi-purpose and well utilised
- Community facilities that are responsive to changing community, education and sporting needs.

We know we can support our community with shared paths and linear trails that provide connections within neighbourhoods and community facilities such as libraries.

Responsible housing and development are key priorities for our residents. We are committed to responsible planning to protect our environment, green open spaces, environmental sustainability and balance of city and country.

From our research and conversations with our residents, we have committed to work towards the following goals:

- Inviting places and spaces
- Enhanced parks, open space and streetscapes
- Well connected, safe and accessible travel
- Well utilised and maintained community infrastructure.


376
New dwellings and apartments approved
Increased demand and importance on arts, community and sporting facilities
47%
Of short trips are taken by private vehicle
20%
Of residents live alone
1800km
Roads, paths bike lanes and walking lanes maintained by council
97%
Live within
400M
of a bus stop
Only
4%
Of households do not have a private vehicle
70%
Travel by car to work
20.13km² Open space
350 Parks and reserves
163 Play spaces
WE PROVIDE
609km Roads
937.6km Footpaths
64.7km Off-road shared paths
118km Pedestrian paths in parks

What we delivered

We maintained over 1,100 open spaces and 746 landscaped areas across Manningham, including parks, median strips and shopping precincts. We also managed more than 4,900 open space assets and began developing a new field-based monitoring system to better track and respond to maintenance needs. This work helps keep public spaces safe, attractive and welcoming.

We created more inclusive, engaging and accessible spaces for local families by upgrading 11 playspaces through our Parks Improvement Program. This included the renewal of the Victoria Street adventure playground at Ruffey Lake Park, which preserved its original character and reused materials from the previous structure. We also completed a new play space at Eric Reserve in Templestowe Lower, providing more opportunities for children and families to enjoy outdoor play close to home.

We undertook a comprehensive safety audit of all 163 playspaces and spread more than 1,000 cubic metres of soft fall mulch to support safe and enjoyable environments for children and families. We also continued regular upkeep of all 163 playspaces and fitness stations to help keep these community assets safe and high-quality.

We completed the construction of Hepburn Reserve, a new park in Doncaster Hill that supports the area's growing population. The reserve includes new facilities, greenery and a sculptural public artwork, Future Ahead by Skunk Control, inspired by the native daisy Xerochrysum viscosum.

We continued to implement the Ruffey Lake Park Landscape Masterplan with the installation of 2 new bridges, a 115-step trail and interpretive signs. These works improve accessibility, celebrate local stories and complete the park's signage rollout.

We continued delivering the Manningham Open Space Strategy by acquiring 4 properties to further expand our open space network and improve access to parks across the municipality.

We designed and consulted with the community on a new sensory garden at Finns Reserve to provide an inclusive and engaging outdoor space for people of all ages and abilities.

We completed several complex drainage and infrastructure upgrades to manage stormwater, reduce localised flooding and support safe development. Works included new drainage systems at Blair and Brett Streets in Warrandyte, erosion control on steep embankments in Donvale and Templestowe, and new flood mitigation infrastructure such as a spillway, retarding basin and detention drains.

We addressed drainage issues at Park Avenue Reserve by upgrading infrastructure, improving paths and clearing surrounding pipework to reduce flooding and improve access for Manningham Juventus FC and the wider community. We also upgraded drainage at Lawford Reserve to reduce waterlogging, improve turf health and make the space more usable throughout the year.

We delivered stormwater upgrades and renewal projects to reduce flood risks near homes, footpaths and community facilities. We also reviewed strategies to address long-standing local flooding issues through targeted works, enforcement and regular maintenance.

We responded to 1,425 drainage-related customer requests, including 323 from the community, and replaced 600 pit lids and 200 surrounds to support safer streets and improved stormwater management. We also processed over 520 Legal Point of Discharge applications to help property owners manage stormwater responsibly and protect neighbouring land from water damage.

We delivered $1 million in flood mitigation projects. These upgrades helped protect homes and public areas from overland flow and reduced the risk of damage during heavy rain.

We processed around 100 Minor and 15 Major Build Over Easement applications to make sure new structures do not interfere with essential infrastructure like stormwater drains and sewer lines.

We replaced 935 metres of kerb and channel to improve drainage, footpath safety and road condition across Manningham.

We renewed 23.7 kilometres of local roads across Doncaster, Doncaster East, Wonga Park, Bulleen and Templestowe, improving safety and amenity for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

We resurfaced over 11,000 square metres of car parks, including upgrades at Ruffey Lake Park, Rieschiecks Reserve and Aranga Reserve. These works improved accessibility and safety for vehicles and pedestrians.

We delivered more than 10 kilometres of new and upgraded footpaths at Websters Way, King Street, Hillcroft and Jenkins Reserves, and Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road. These projects strengthened walking and cycling connections to make it safer and easier to access shops, services and parks.

We improved pedestrian access near schools and community hubs to support safer, more connected neighbourhoods and encourage local walking. We also upgraded pedestrian traffic signals near Doncaster Gardens Primary School and developed a new Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan. Together with securing $2 million in grant funding, these actions support long-term improvements to safety and travel across Manningham.

We delivered strategic footpath projects that used permeable paving around trees to improve drainage and preserve the natural landscape, while supporting walkable neighbourhoods and active lifestyles.

We installed new pedestrian traffic signals on Foote Street to complete missing links along the Ruffey Trail. This upgrade improves connectivity and safety and supports the health and wellbeing of local trail users.

We partnered with the Department of Transport to maintain key roads across Manningham to help keep travel routes well-kept and safe for all users.

We completed our autumn leaf sweeping program, collecting more than 700 truckloads of leaves, or around 4,000 cubic metres in total. Despite a longer autumn and late seasonal changes, we maintained regular sweeping services and responded to community requests.

We responded to 561 street sweeping requests and swept 6,564 kilometres of kerb and channel. This is equivalent to sweeping from Melbourne to Perth and back to keep our roads clear and safe.

We replaced 64 damaged Manningham banners and refreshed worn signage and poles following a detailed audit. These works improved the appearance of our activity centres and boosted local pride.

We installed more than 50 new planters across 3 activity centres. This work enhances the visual appeal and supports a vibrant and welcoming streetscape.

We responded to 773 reports of unsightly land and issued compulsory clearance orders where required. Twenty-nine properties were cleared due to non-compliance. These actions supported a cleaner and safer environment for local residents.

We continued to inspect and maintain 4,966 open space assets and began developing a new field-based monitoring system to improve how we manage and respond to maintenance needs in parks and open spaces.

We processed 733 planning applications. Of these, 76.92% of standard stream applications were completed within 60 statutory days. This processing time is well above the metropolitan average of 66.43%. For VicSmart applications, 98.76% were completed within 10 business days, outperforming the metro average of 84.45%.

We assessed and approved several major development applications that support housing choice and economic growth in Manningham. These included a 93-dwelling apartment building in Doncaster, a 106-dwelling apartment building in Doncaster East, a 403-dwelling apartment development in Doncaster and a 25-townhouse project also in Doncaster. We also approved a residential hotel and a new wastewater recycling facility at Tram Road Reserve.

We made written submissions on several major planning reforms released by the Victorian Government to advocate for Manningham's interests. Our submissions included feedback on:

- Plan for Victoria and Housing Targets.
- ResCode Deemed to Comply Provisions.
- Activity Centre Program.
- Parliamentary Inquiry into the Victoria Planning Provisions and Amendments VC257, VC267 and VC274.

We continued work on the new Manningham Residential Strategy and Activity Centre Design Guidelines. These projects will help shape residential and mixed-use development across the municipality. Community feedback from Stage 1 consultation in May 2024 continues to inform our next steps.

A total of 1,113 building permits were issued, with approved works valued at over $684 million. This included 376 new dwellings, supporting population growth and housing needs.

We completed the refurbishment of Doncaster Library, transforming it into a modern, inclusive and accessible space for learning, reading and community use.

We completed construction of the new Schramms Cottage Museum at Rieschiecks Reserve in Doncaster East. This project was delivered in partnership with the Doncaster Templestowe Historical Society and local stakeholders. The centre now supports school excursions and displays of Manningham's historical collections.

We completed upgrades to our animal pound to improve functionality and support better animal welfare outcomes.

We maintained 32 sporting reserves across Manningham, including the ongoing care of 7 turf cricket wickets and multiple sportsground surfaces to support local participation and safe community sport. This included drainage and turf upgrades at Lawford Reserve to reduce waterlogging and improve year-round access for sport and community use.

We delivered several modular public toilet facilities in key parks and activity centres. These facilities improved accessibility and community amenity while delivering cost and time efficiencies.

We progressed the design of new sports pavilions and preschool facilities to support future delivery of community-focused infrastructure.

We supported the design of reticulated sewer infrastructure in Park Orchards in partnership with Yarra Valley Water.

We completed upgrades at the Templestowe and Warrandyte RSL memorials to improve accessibility and community use. Templestowe's new space supported its largest-ever Anzac Day gathering.

We worked with the North East Link Project to plan a major upgrade of sporting facilities at Bulleen Park. The project will deliver 2 new pavilions and upgraded playing fields, with construction continuing through to 2028.

We endorsed a new Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan following community consultation. The plan includes targeted safety upgrades and will help guide future investment in safer local streets.

We secured $2 million in Victorian Government funding to deliver new road safety infrastructure. This funding will support safer pedestrian access and reduce risks for all road users.

We supported the delivery of major road upgrades including Jumping Creek Road and the Templestowe Route and helped manage the impact of North East Link works by improving parking arrangements.

We continued working with Cladding Safety Victoria to improve building safety. So far, 83% of buildings in their Rectification Program have been resolved. We acted on all concerns referred to us under the Victorian Government's Combustible Cladding Program.

We supported community safety through the Victorian Government's Swimming Pool and Spa Safety Program. So far, 98% of known swimming pools have been registered and 95% have been inspected with compliance certificates issued.

Customers hiring Manningham community venues indicated a high level of overall satisfaction, rating their overall booking experience at 4.6 out of 5.

We saw an increase in demand and the number of people visiting our community venues with 12,330 bookings and 680,000 reported attendances in 2024-25, up 10,000 from the previous year. We've also seen an increase in the number of return and regular hirers totalling 165 in 2024-25, up from 100 in 2023-24.

The design process and first stage of procurement was completed for the Aquarena Outdoor Redevelopment, which will include an exciting new water play area, 50 metre pool, change rooms and improved café.

We delivered the Doncaster Library refurbishment project which included renovating the front counter area, improving study and program spaces and more.

We completed the Pines Early Learning Centre playground upgrade in Doncaster East.

We completed tennis court and floodlight upgrades at Park Orchards Tennis Club, Donvale Tennis Club and Bulleen Tennis Club.

We completed feasibility studies for future projects including:

- the Park Orchards Community House
- future expansion at Beverley Hills Preschool and Doncaster Park Preschool.
- We have progressed key planning projects for local community facilities, including:
- Early Years Infrastructure Plan
- Warrandyte Community Facilities Review
- Men's Shed Needs Assessment
- Indoor Sports Facility Plan
- Stintons Reserve Master Plan
- Timber Reserve Development Plan.

We received more than $4 million in external grant funding for a range of local infrastructure improvement projects, including:

- Wonga Park Reserve Netball Upgrades – $1.47m
- Bulleen Library Refurbishment – $211,000
- Gum Nut Gully Preschool Redevelopment – approximately $2.5m
- Recreation Strategy Development – $40,000
- Domeney Reserve Floodlight Upgrade – $162,937

We secured grant funding for major projects, including the Wonga Park Netball redevelopment, Aquarena Outdoor Redevelopment, Domeney Reserve floodlight upgrade and the Manningham Recreation Strategy.

We completed planning and design for key projects, including the Aquarena Outdoor redevelopment, Wonga Park Netball redevelopment, Donvale Bowling Club upgrades and Anderson Park synthetic field conversion.

Challenges

We delivered upgrades to footpaths, bus shelters and drainage systems in established and constrained areas. These sites require tailored designs due to limited or complex space. These constraints increased project timeframes and design costs which delayed access to improved infrastructure for the community.

We continued to balance differing community expectations, such as calls for accessible concrete footpaths from some residents while others preferred gravel paths to preserve a natural look or opposed new paths entirely.

We are committed to improving accessibility and creating more inclusive environments for our community. However, we continue to face challenges integrating universal design and Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliance into constrained sites. Retrofitting inclusive design elements into older and spatially limited buildings is complex and costly. This limits the pace of upgrades and delays access to fully inclusive community spaces.

Rising construction costs and ongoing workforce shortages put pressure on our project budgets and timelines. These challenges have made it harder to deliver new infrastructure on schedule, which means communities may need to wait longer to see improvements in their local areas.

We managed an increase in discarded shopping trolleys across the municipality, particularly in areas with new multi-storey apartment developments. These trolleys present a safety hazard and visual clutter. We continue to work with retailers to reduce their impact on local streets and public areas.

We continue to respond to illegal dumping across Manningham, with a dedicated Waste Officer investigating more than 2,866 cases. This helps protect public spaces and maintain the amenity of our streets and parks.

It became more difficult to rehome animals, especially cats, due to an oversupply across the sector. This increased pressure on welfare organisations and slowed down the rehoming process, which may have affected community confidence in our animal management services.

We continued to remove and impound abandoned vehicles from local roads. If left unattended for long periods, these vehicles take up valuable parking space and can reduce amenity in local neighbourhoods.

We represented our community's concerns to the Victorian Government regarding the Plan for Victoria and the newly released housing targets. We are concerned that the scale of planned housing growth is not matched by the funding needed for essential infrastructure such as public open space, transport, drainage, education and health services. Without this investment, our growing community risks being underserved and access to vital services may not keep pace with development. A lack of available land also limits our ability to provide the community services and facilities needed to support future growth. We also highlighted the challenge of meeting increased housing targets while also achieving urban tree canopy goals, reinforcing the need for balanced planning that protects community liveability.

Community members living near the North East Link (NELP) works continue to experience significant disruption. Much of Bulleen Road, the Manningham Interchange area and the Eastern Freeway are now major construction sites. The landscape has changed dramatically with widespread tree removal, large-scale construction machinery and daily changes to traffic conditions. Community members have raised ongoing concerns about the scale of this impact. We continue to advocate on our community's behalf, providing an escalation point for residents whose issues remain unresolved and seeking improved outcomes from NELP and other agencies.

We continue to advocate to the Victorian Government's Department of Transport and Planning regarding recent planning reforms. We are urging the Government to engage closely with Council to ensure these reforms reflect the needs and expectations of our local communities.

The future of the Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) Stage 2 and its implications for Manningham remain unclear. While Stage 1 includes a station at Box Hill, the closest to our municipality, Council continues to engage with the SRL Authority to plan for a future station at Doncaster Hill. Manningham remains the only Melbourne metropolitan LGA without direct access to train services.

The temporary closure of Doncaster Park and Ride for the Doncaster Road bridge reconstruction disrupted local travel and reduced bus use. As buses are the only form of public transport in Manningham, we are strongly advocating for the redeveloped facility to better serve our community and for broader improvements to bus services across the municipality.

As buses are Manningham's only form of public transport and play a vital role in connecting residents with Melbourne. Council continues to advocate to the Victorian Government to fund the implementation of the Bus Reform pilot projects to deliver a more reliable and efficient bus network for the Manningham community.

We continue to receive community concerns about overland flows from surrounding drains, roads and properties. We are reviewing drainage capacity and working to improve stormwater performance, particularly in older areas experiencing infill development.

Open drain culverts continue to raise community concerns about road and vehicle safety, as well as access for drainage maintenance. We are working to address these risks while improving perceptions of safety.

Community demand for new footpaths, improved drainage and safer public spaces continues to grow. Residents have told us they want better lighting in the evenings and safer walking routes. With increasing requests and limited resources, we face ongoing challenges in prioritising projects to meet these needs across our municipality.

Traffic and parking congestion during school pick-up and drop-off times remain a common community concern. We continue to investigate and implement local improvements and advocate to the Department of Transport and Planning for broader road safety upgrades.

We continue to work with service authorities to ensure their operations do not negatively impact our community. We intervene where required to protect local amenity and infrastructure.

Autumn remains a challenging time for street sweeping, with high leaf fall and increased customer demand exceeding available service capacity. We continue to prioritise high-need areas and respond to community requests where possible.

We continue to manage and monitor historic and closed landfill sites to ensure safety and environmental compliance for nearby communities.

Cost increases for materials, civil services, and waste disposal continue to put pressure on budgets. Despite this, we remain committed to delivering essential infrastructure such as footpaths and roads, while keeping services running efficiently.

Some parts of Manningham have older or informal stormwater infrastructure, which can cause ongoing issues like flooding or drainage problems. These can take time to fix because they often need detailed investigations and coordination. We're working on long-term solutions to make sure everyone has fair access to safe and reliable stormwater systems.

We continue to make sure stormwater infrastructure keeps pace with development. Large subdivisions can create drainage pressures, so we work to make sure they include appropriate solutions like drainage easements or wetlands. Coordinating timely, well-designed systems is essential to managing stormwater effectively and supporting new housing and business activity across Manningham.

Some planning permits present challenges, especially when they involve matters not yet clearly defined in our planning scheme, like overland flow paths. These applications often require detailed assessment to ensure safety and compliance.

We continue to receive proposals for multi-storey apartment buildings in local streets. These raise concerns about traffic impacts and neighbourhood character. We assess these proposals carefully to balance growth with community expectations.

There's growing demand for childcare centres to be built in already busy areas. These proposals often raise issues around traffic and parking, particularly during school and work drop-off times. We work with applicants to reduce local disruption and keep neighbourhoods safe and accessible.

Volatile construction costs and a shortage of qualified builders have made it harder to plan and deliver community buildings on time and within budget.

We responded to significant planning compliance issues, including illegal excavation, dam modifications, drainage problems and unfinished civil works. These interventions helped prevent further safety and environmental concerns for surrounding properties.

The number of ageing community venue facilities has increased the need and focus on building maintenance and asset management.

We are seeing an increase in demand for community halls in areas across Manningham, which has meant we have been unable to accommodate some requests for hire during peak periods at popular venues.

Victorian Government funding for recreation and facilities has reduced, so alternate funding streams are being explored.

The Victorian Government's *Best Start, Best Life* reforms are influencing strategy direction for our facilities.

A new place to play at Doncaster Hill

We're committed to creating high-quality open spaces that support active, healthy lifestyles and bring people together. In 2024, we delivered a new local park at Hepburn Reserve, providing much-needed green space for the Doncaster Hill community.

The idea for the park began more than 20 years ago as part of the Doncaster Hill Strategy, which called for more open space to support apartment living and provide a green buffer between housing types.

Over time, we purchased 4 properties on Hepburn Road so the land could be turned into a local park. This involved working with property owners and updating planning rules to support the project. It was also guided by our Open Space Strategy.

The new park reflects our goal to create welcoming, attractive places and enhance our streetscapes and open spaces.

We invited the community to help shape the park design through 2 rounds of consultation in 2019 and 2020. Following extensive planning and design process, construction started in January 2024 and was completed in August 2024.

The $2.8 million project was fully funded through developer contributions set aside for local parks and public spaces.

We officially opened Hepburn Reserve in August 2024 with a family fun event – with 600 people attending from the local area, it was a wonderful community celebration.

A sweet celebration to open Hepburn Reserve

The community opening of Hepburn Reserve was inspired by a young student's creative idea.

In the lead up to the event, 8-year-old Teddy presented a proposal to Council for an event where community members could meet their neighbours, build connections and enjoy donuts together.

We were excited to see this vision come to life within the Doncaster Hill community at Hepburn Reserve. It added a sweet touch to the opening event.

Since opening, Hepburn Reserve has become a popular and well-used space for the local community in Doncaster.

How you can get involved

- Find out more about our parks and open spaces **manningham.vic.gov.au/parks**

What we did to support a resilient environment

We share our community's passion for environmental sustainability, biodiversity and climate.

What you told us to focus on

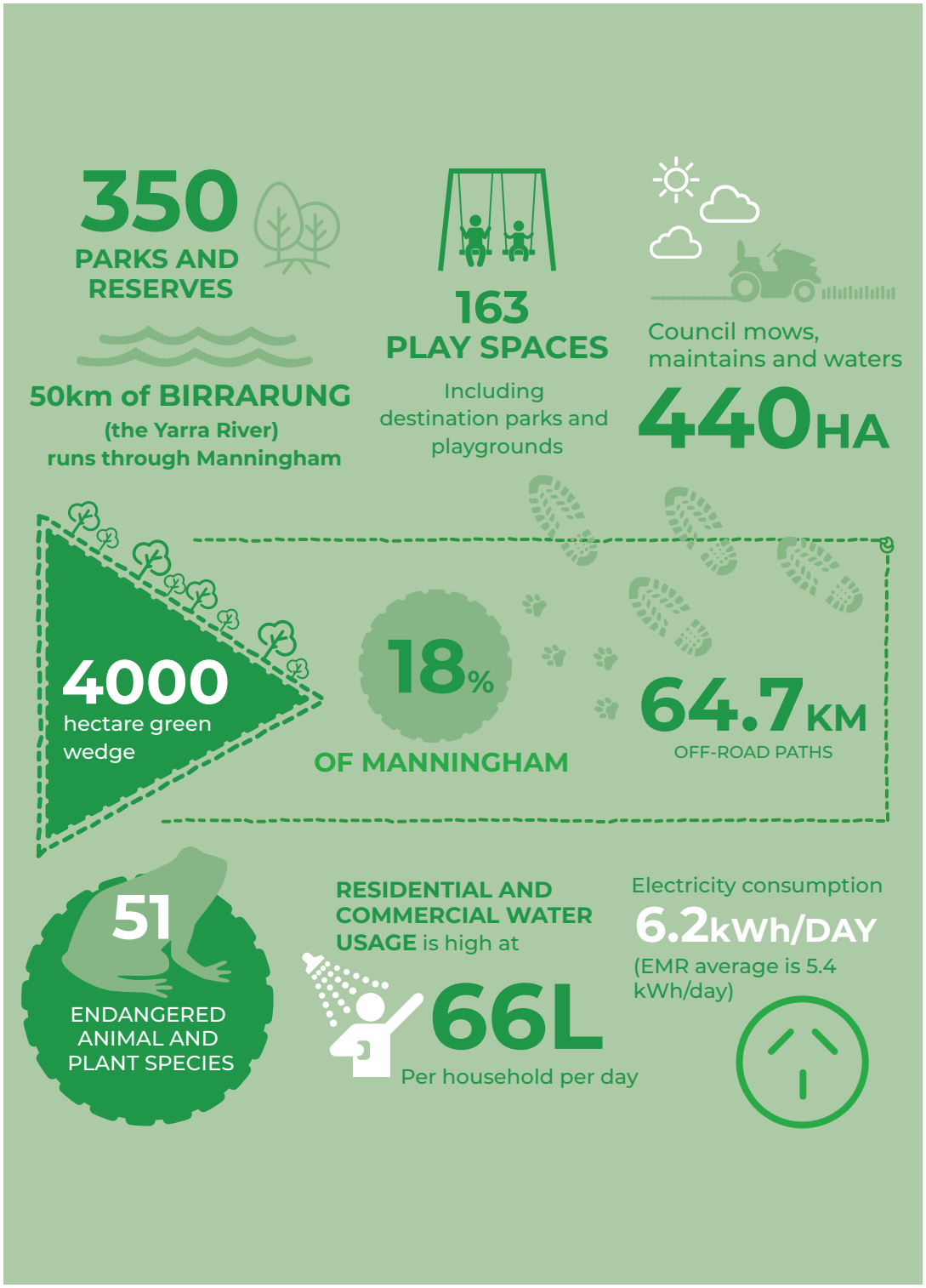
- Act on climate change – advocacy, education to support the community
- Providing leadership in sustainable practices for waste, water and energy
- Protecting our natural environment, heritage and conservation
- Allow for biodiversity and the environment.

The connection between environmental sustainability and Manningham's liveability goes hand in hand. We are committed to being proactive on conservation, waste and biodiversity to protect and enhance our natural environment.

We will demonstrate strong leadership and partner with our local community and the Victorian and Australian Governments to address the significant challenges and global impacts facing our environment.

From our research and talking with our residents, we have committed to building, sustaining and enhancing a resilient environment by working towards the following goals:

- Protect and enhance our environment and biodiversity
- Reduce our environmental impact and adapt to climate change.


350
PARKS AND RESERVES
50km of BIRRARUNG
(the Yarra River)
runs through Manningham
163
PLAY SPACES
Including destination parks and playgrounds
Council mows, maintains and waters
440HA
4000
hectare green wedge
18%
OF MANNINGHAM
64.7KM
OFF-ROAD PATHS
51
ENDANGERED ANIMAL AND PLANT SPECIES
RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL WATER USAGE is high at
66L
Per household per day
Electricity consumption
6.2kWh/DAY
(EMR average is 5.4 kWh/day)

What we delivered

We progressed the preparation of Manningham's Integrated Water Management Strategy. The Strategy will guide how we manage water in our built and natural environments over the next 10 years to make sure Manningham remains liveable while protecting our waterways and environment. Community and stakeholder consultation is planned for late 2025.

We worked with the Environment Protection Authority and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action to improve the Victorian Government's approach to onsite wastewater management.

We began reviewing our Domestic Wastewater Management Plan, which helps water authorities prioritise sewerage infrastructure in unsewered areas.

We installed 1.5km of virtual wildlife fencing along Jumping Creek Road and Brysons Road in Wonga Park to help protect native fauna. An additional 500m of wildlife fencing will be installed on Porter Street, Templestowe.

We continue to reduce Council's carbon emissions by transitioning to electric operations and renewable energy. In 2024-25, our emissions tracked lower than last year. Recent upgrades have improved energy efficiency and supporting our environmental sustainability goals. These upgrades include rooftop solar panels, batteries and supporting infrastructure at multiple Council facilities.

We implemented a 24-hour cat confinement order to better protect local wildlife. We completed an education campaign and implementation plan to support the community with the change.

We delivered actions in the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025 and began preparing the new Plan for 2026-2029. Community consultation will help shape the next version of the Plan.

We established an internal committee with executive oversight to support the implementation of the Victorian Government's Yarra Strategic Plan 2022-2032 (Burndap Birrarung Burndap Umarkoo). We are one of 15 agencies contributing to coordinated protection of the Birrarung (Yarra River).

We reported on projects aligned with the Yarra Strategic Plan to Melbourne Water as part of our statutory obligations. These efforts support better water quality, stronger planning protections, increased recreational access and respect for Traditional Owners' cultural connection to the Birrarung. Melbourne Water's 2024 Implementation Report was tabled in the Victorian Parliament.

Over the past year, we continued our joint flood modelling project with Melbourne Water, progressing the modelling for 5 of the 6 catchments in Manningham. This work helps us better understand flood risk and proactively plan to manage the impact of future flooding with the community.

We secured a second car share provider for Manningham to support a key goal of our 2024 Manningham Car Share Policy. This helps offer our community more sustainable transport choices, reduces car dependency and supports our shift towards net-zero emissions. Negotiations are underway to finalise details with the provider.

We continued supporting landholders through our Deer Monitoring and Control Project to reduce the local feral deer population. With 45 Green Wedge properties involved, the program led to the removal of 175 Sambar deer. This work was delivered through our Local Environment Assistance Fund (LEAF) and co-funded by a DEECA grant.

We delivered the Landholder Environmental Assistance Fund, contacting 200 landholders and providing funding to over 100 to help them improve the environmental condition of their properties.

We developed a 3-year program to improve our local waterway corridors, which are essential for biodiversity. The program is co-funded through the Liveable Communities, Liveable Waterways program and will support restoration along Mullum Mullum Creek, Andersons Creek, the Yarra River, Jumping Creek, Ruffey Creek, Koonung Creek and Brushy Creek.

We held a series of Environmental Stewardship events, including 8 biodiversity and wildlife sessions, 6 Wurundjeri cultural awareness events, and 30 Spring outdoor activities, reaching over 1,000 residents. We also ran a Lead 2 Sustain student conference with 14 schools and 240 children.

We delivered 10 citizen science nature walks and environmental seminars and supported environmental volunteers through activities like water quality monitoring, the backyard bird count, bioblitz and the City Nature Challenge.

We delivered our Inspired Living Program with sustainability and environmental awareness events held every two months, attracting over 200 attendees throughout the year. We also launched the 2025 Inspired Living Series with a sell-out opening event that drew over 250 people, including a younger audience than in previous years.

We continued our popular Home Harvest program, with 50 to 70 people attending each month to learn about sustainable gardening and growing their own food.

We launched our Electrify Your Life program, offering practical information and in-person sessions to help our community switch to electric appliances. We held 14 events with over 250 attendees, including sessions in Mandarin and Cantonese. We also translated our Solar Savers materials into multiple languages to support our diverse community.

We delivered 2 major Waste Drop Off Days, with 847 attendees in October 2024 and 757 in March 2025. Together, the events collected over 36,676kg of e-waste and 14,182kg of materials like paint, gas bottles, cardboard, batteries, fluorescent tubes and polystyrene.

We piloted the Sustainability and Environmental Education Day (SEED), delivering 8 school incursions in Term 2 for up to 800 primary school students. Sessions covered waste education, biodiversity, Wurundjeri cultural awareness, and composting.

We delivered 14 community education sessions to retirement villages, early learning centres, schools and community groups. The sessions focused on waste reduction and composting.

Our community collected 12,779 rolls of Food Organics, Green Organics (FOGO) compostable liners, helping residents reduce food waste and keep bins clean.

Since the start of the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS), we have supported container recycling with more than 8.69 million bottles and cans returned through Manningham's five collection points.

We diverted 75.5% of waste from landfill, progressing towards the Victorian Government's 80% target by 2030. This included collecting over 11,366 tonnes of garbage, 8,884 tonnes of recycling, and 23,551 tonnes of FOGO waste.

We completed 24,050 hard and bundled garden waste collections across the municipality.

We carried out 13,495 recycling bin inspections, rejecting 6% and warning 3% for contamination. Encouragingly, 80% of bins were free of contamination.

We conducted 20,507 FOGO bin inspections, with only 3% rejected and less than 1% warned. Most properties (57%) had clean, uncontaminated FOGO bins.

We maintained and improved 949 environmentally significant sites across Manningham, including 42 high-quality bushland reserves. This work helps to protect biodiversity and provides inviting natural spaces for the community to enjoy.

We completed fire mitigation works in bushfire-prone areas, including roadside slashing and maintenance of asset protection zones. This work reduces bushfire risk and helps keep our community safe.

We planted and maintained 2,393 advanced trees through our annual street and park tree planting program, including 300 offset trees funded by the North East Link Project (NELP). These plantings help offset canopy loss, enhance our urban landscape, and support a cooler, greener environment across Manningham.

We updated our street tree database, with all 92,000 trees inspected within the past 5 years, ensuring safer streets, better planning, and healthier trees for the community.

We integrated our first electric vehicle into our City Services fleet, transitioned landscaping teams to battery-powered tools and replaced a diesel ride-on mower with an electric Green Machine mower. These changes reduce noise and emissions in public spaces, supporting our community's clean air and climate goals.

We trialled new park maintenance technology, including drones and ground-based LiDAR for tree inspections, to improve tree health, service efficiency and safety in our green spaces.

We implemented our Tree Amenity Policy, generating $142,000 from charges related to vandalised or removed trees and reinvesting this into improving our urban forest for everyone to enjoy.

We delivered our cyclic tree pruning and electric line clearance program, meeting legislative requirements and helping to prevent power outages and fire risks, especially in high-risk areas.

We installed over 5,500m² of drought-tolerant grass on local sports fields, reducing water use and creating more resilient, year-round playing surfaces for our sporting clubs and families.

We introduced a remote-controlled slope mower to safely maintain steep terrain. The new mower improves safety for our maintenance teams and makes sure steep areas remain neat and accessible.

We constructed a 400,000L water tank and pump compound at Donvale Reserve, enabling efficient irrigation of the 4-hectare site, supporting healthier turf while reducing water waste.

We installed smart irrigation technology at Warrandyte and Schramms Reserves, enabling real-time leak detection and automatic shut-off to conserve water and reduce long-term maintenance costs.

We planted 3,000 trees and shrubs across Ruffey Lake Park and Mullum Mullum Reserve during community planting days, including on National Tree Day 2024, strengthening local biodiversity and encouraging community connection to nature.

We planted over 15,000 tube stock plants in bushland reserves and open spaces to improve habitat quality, increase tree canopy and enhance the resilience of local ecosystems.

We trialled smart lighting at Mullum Mullum Reserve and Pettys Reserve to support community safety and energy efficiency in these popular open spaces.

We provided design advice on Yarra Valley Water's proposed Elgar Road sewerage and recycling plant, ensuring environmental protections are in place for the significant infrastructure project.

We worked closely with Melbourne Water and local community members to address erosion along the banks of the Birrarung (Yarra River), guiding improvement works that protect both the environment and public access to key riverside areas.

We explored sustainable alternatives for waste reuse, including sending over 2,500 tonnes of street sweeping and drain-cleaning material to be processed into high-grade organic soil for landscaping and park upgrades.

We maintained EPA compliance at our closed landfill site and repurposed over 600 aluminum signs, reducing waste and extending the life of Council assets.

We removed 483 dead or hazardous trees to protect public safety and support the long-term health of our urban forest.

We improved our emergency preparedness by strengthening Council's ability to support the community during floods, fires and other emergencies. This included recruiting internal staff to support community in emergencies and designing a dedicated training pathway to support Emergency Relief Centre processes. This work will support a rapid and coordinated response when it matters most.

We created an eco-friendly reserve that is maintained without pesticides, sprays or fuel, using electric mowers, tools and manual weed management.

We applied water-sensitive urban design (WSUD) principles to key capital works and planning applications to enhance local amenity and create greener, more sustainable neighbourhoods. We also created a new Sustainable Water Officer role to lead this work and support the goals of our Integrated Water Management Strategy.

We progressed work on a new Nature Plan and Urban Forest Strategy to guide biodiversity and tree management over the next 15 years. More than 200 community members took part in online and in-person sessions to share their ideas and help shape the draft strategies. Once complete, these plans will guide how we care for the natural environment as our city grows and the climate changes.

We updated the 2004 Biosites Report in 2025 to reflect current biodiversity conditions across Manningham. This includes revised mapping of rare and threatened species in our bushland. The report will help guide planning decisions and conservation actions into the future.

We continued to take action on climate change by installing solar systems at 8 Council facilities, including pavilions, scout halls and activity centres. A neighbourhood battery will also be installed at Mullum Mullum Stadium thanks to a successful grant, supporting more resilient and sustainable energy use across the community.

We are completing detailed flood modelling across the municipality, which will provide updated flood risk information and guide flood management activities. These efforts will assist in reducing flood risk and improve the level of protection for our neighbourhoods in the long term.

We undertook a comprehensive review of our land and vegetation management services to strengthen how we manage areas of high biodiversity value. This included identifying opportunities to improve efficiency and developing a new contract to better deliver fire mitigation and open space works.

We implemented the Tree Amenity Policy, protecting trees from vandalism and unauthorised development while generating $140,000 in enforcement revenue that supports further urban forest investment.

We supplied plants and trees grown in our own nursery for Council projects, reducing the need for external purchases and lowering project delivery costs.

We accrued $1,700 in external nursery sales, demonstrating community interest in local greening and supporting broader environmental goals.

We supported our City Greening program by growing plants and trees in-house, helping reduce procurement costs and promoting sustainable practices in park and streetscape enhancements.

Challenges

We delivered projects in sensitive areas including near mature trees, waterways and parklands, carefully planning works to reduce ecological disruption and preserve the natural environment.

We worked within the constraints of ageing infrastructure at some sites, requiring extra coordination with engineers and stakeholders to meet environmental and sustainability goals without compromising on project outcomes.

We have seen an increase in wildlife deaths along busy roads, which has been linked to growing urban development, rising population and a dry autumn. We installed virtual wildlife fencing and fauna bridges at high-risk areas. Monitoring shows all 7 bridges on Jumping Creek and Brysons Road are actively used, helping native animals move safely through our suburbs.

We co-led the statewide glass advocacy project alongside Maroondah Council, representing 33 Victorian councils to appeal to the Minister for Environment. We are advocating for expanding the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) rather than mandating a fourth kerbside bin for glass. This approach would help reduce costs for households and improve recycling outcomes.

Educating our community on correct use of compostable liners in Food Organics, Green Organics (FOGO) bins remains an ongoing challenge. Many residents continue to mistakenly use mint-green supermarket liners, which are not accepted in the FOGO system. Only lime-green, certified compostable liners are suitable. While 57% of inspected FOGO bins were uncontaminated, ongoing education is essential to reduce contamination and ensure FOGO waste can be properly processed.

We are preparing to meet the ongoing requirements of the Victorian Government's Swimming Pool and Spa Safety Program, which mandates all pool owners submit safety compliance certificates every 4 years. Ensuring community understanding and compliance is resource-intensive but essential to reducing safety risks.

We are working to shift from reactive to proactive stormwater management as heavy rainfall events become more frequent. While we continue to respond to urgent drainage issues, we are investing in better data, detailed modelling and planning to improve resilience. This supports safer streets and protects homes and infrastructure from future flooding.

We continued working with builders and developers to improve building site compliance. By providing clear information and working collaboratively, we aim to reduce construction impacts such as dust, noise and poor site practices. This helps minimise disruptions for nearby residents during development works.

Helping local students grow a greener future through SEED

We launched our first Sustainability and Environmental Education Day (SEED) to help local students learn about sustainability, biodiversity, waste, and cultural connection to Country.

In Term 2, we delivered 8 SEED incursions to primary schools across Manningham, reaching up to 800 students. The half-day program included 4 themed workshops focused on composting, biodiversity, waste education, and Wurundjeri cultural awareness.

Led by our Waste and Environment officers, alongside experts from Chooktopia and the Wurundjeri Corporation Education Unit, each session blended theory with interactive, hands-on learning. Students explored how to embrace sustainability at school, at home and in their communities.

"The SEED incursion was a terrific opportunity for students to be curious about their connection with the earth, talk about recycling and learn about how things can be remade," Donburn Primary School teacher, Lynette, said.

"There is a great deal of rich learning that occurs when students engage in hands on experiences like what was offered by the SEED incursion.

It's learning they grasp quickly, take home and share with their families – often taking action in their own lives to improve the environment," Carey Baptist Grammar School teacher, Adam, said.

By engaging students in real-world sustainability and cultural education, SEED supports our goals to foster environmental stewardship and a deeper respect for Traditional Owners' connection to land and water.

"It's vital for students to learn about topics such as biodiversity and cultural awareness because without this knowledge, they are not personally invested in caring for and protecting the environment. By developing their cultural awareness of the importance of the land and country from local elders they begin to understand why we must care for it," Adam said.

We plan to continue delivering SEED to more primary schools across Manningham in future terms.

How you can get involved

- Learn more about SEED and other sustainability programs at **manningham.vic.gov.au/environment**

What we did to support a vibrant and prosperous economy

We know that supporting and promoting local businesses is critical to our vibrant and thriving community.

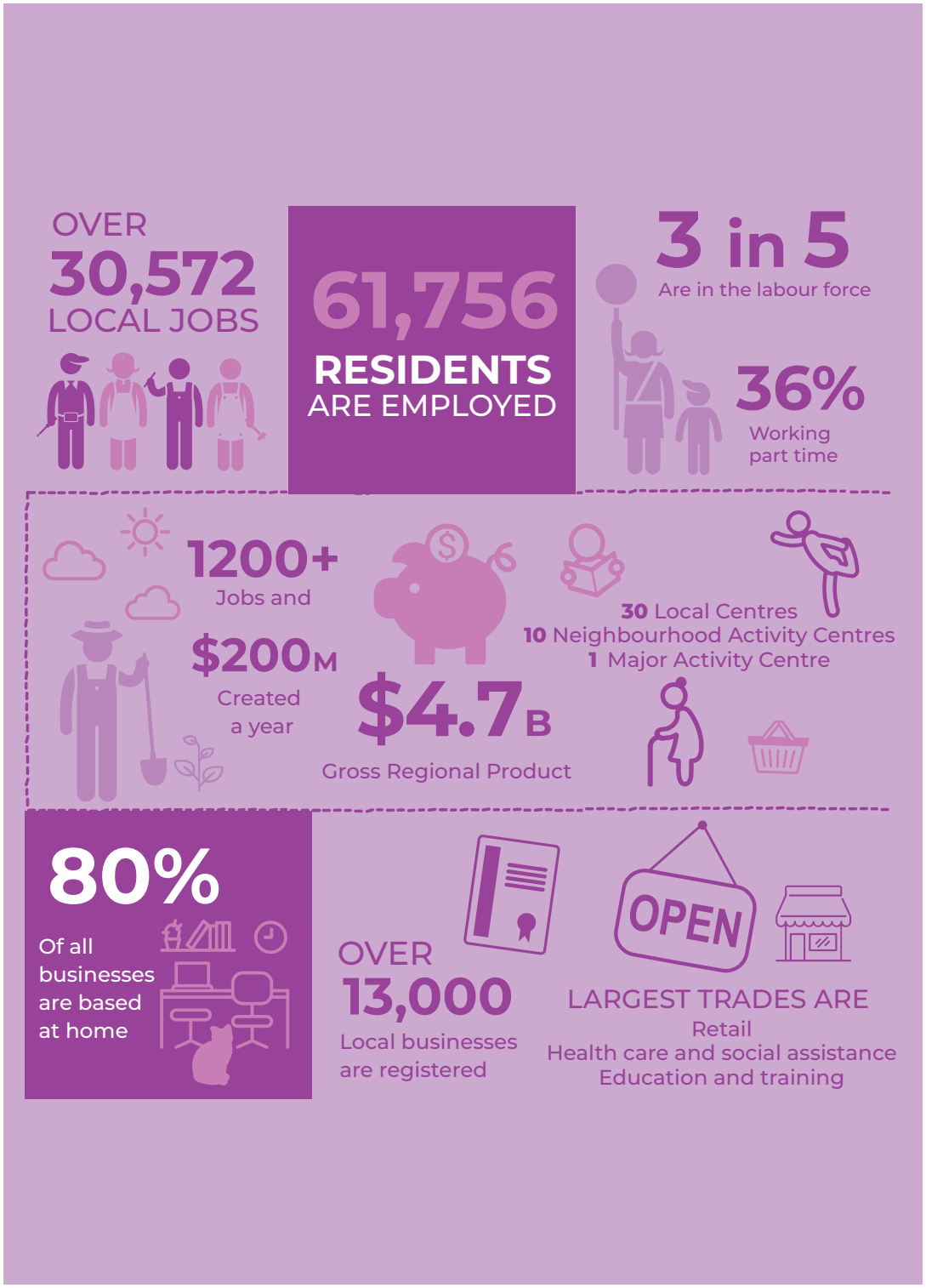
Our community has told us it is essential to create vibrant villages and inviting places that are attractive, welcoming and accessible for residents, visitors and businesses.

We are committed to continuing our work to build the capacity of our local businesses and find new ways to support local industries and employment.

From our research and conversations with our residents, we are committed to working to support the growth of our local businesses and economy.

What you told us to focus on

- Supporting local businesses
- Providing places and spaces that are attractive and welcoming to residents, businesses and visitors
- Creating places and spaces that are vibrant and accessible for shopping, employment and community
- Fostering a sense of place and belonging
- Encouraging opportunities for youth employment.


OVER
30,572
LOCAL JOBS
61,756
RESIDENTS
ARE EMPLOYED
3 in 5
Are in the labour force
36%
Working part time
1200+
Jobs and
$200M
Created a year
$4.7B
Gross Regional Product
30 Local Centres
10 Neighbourhood Activity Centres
1 Major Activity Centre
80%
Of all businesses are based at home
OVER
13,000
Local businesses are registered
OPEN
LARGEST TRADES ARE
Retail
Health care and social assistance
Education and training

What we delivered

We introduced additional parking officers to improve turnover and access in activity centres and high-demand areas. This makes it easier for residents and visitors to find parking, supports local businesses and helps reduce congestion.

We delivered streetscape enhancements through our Placemaking program, including the addition of lighting and planters to boost the appeal of local centres.

We continued to collaborate with traders to identify areas that could benefit from joining our Trader Group Partnership Program.

In light of rising cost-of-living pressures, we supported strong local spending by encouraging residents to shop locally and activating our activity centres. We did this through events, place-making initiatives and improved public spaces. These efforts help attract visitors, support local businesses and create vibrant, welcoming precincts.

We supported our local creative industry by engaging 3 Manningham-based artists in our curated exhibition program.

We helped keep our venues accessible by offering subsidised hire of the Playhouse theatre, with 25 events welcoming over 3,000 audience members.

We partnered with the Live Music Office, OneMusic Australia and APRA AMCOS to deliver the Live and Local program, supporting musicians, industry professionals, businesses and venues to present live music in Manningham.

We welcomed more than 1,100 people to take part in workshops at Manningham Art Studios, encouraging creative participation across the community.

We attracted over 4,000 visitors to exhibitions at Manningham Art Gallery, helping to showcase local and regional talent.

We hosted more than 3,000 audience members at the Playhouse Theatre, supporting a vibrant performing arts scene.

We delivered more than 80 8-week art courses and over 100 creative workshops at Manningham Art Studios. These programs reached more than 1,100 people, including older residents, children, young people and people with a disability.

We partnered with external organisations to host creative activities for the community, such as a zine workshop with the Satellite Foundation and youth songwriting workshops with EACH.

We worked with diverse cultural groups to co-design the Migrant Peace Project public artwork, which will be launched in 2025.

We presented 6 exhibitions at Manningham Art Gallery, showcasing the work of 19 artists. The exhibitions explored themes such as cultural connection, migrant experiences, gender identity, intergenerational appeal and our relationship to land through Indigenous perspectives.

We carried out a high-pressure clean of all major activity centres and a one-off deep clean of shopping precincts to create cleaner, safer and more welcoming spaces during the winter months. The improvements were well received by local businesses and helped enhance the overall experience for the community.

We continued our partnership with Onemda for a second year, supporting employment pathways for people with disability through initiatives like the operation of Embrace Café. The café is a social enterprise that provides hands-on hospitality training and real-world work experience for adults with intellectual disability. It helps participants build skills and confidence while fostering inclusion and creating a welcoming space for the community.

We approved more than 80 community events to take place on Council land to help local groups bring people together and activate public spaces.

We completed community engagement for our new Creative Communities Framework, which will guide future programs to reflect the needs and aspirations of our community.

We restored Boulder by Inge King and ensured the responsible relocation of other public art assets affected by the North East Link Project.

We launched Phase 1 of our online Venues Booking System, allowing community members to book arts and event spaces without manual handling.

Challenges

We continued to support home-based food businesses as they recover from the lasting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, helping them meet health and safety requirements and adapt to changing business conditions.

We faced increasing pressure to support local artists, who are dealing with the same financial and structural challenges seen across the broader arts sector. This puts additional expectations on Council to help keep local creative practice viable.

We identified a need to better support local history groups, who face declining volunteer numbers and limited visibility. Helping these groups remain active and engaged is vital to preserving Manningham's community heritage.

We identified a growing trend of unregistered food businesses operating from private homes. This presents challenges in maintaining food safety standards and ensuring compliance with health regulations. This trend has increased the need for education, monitoring and enforcement to protect public health and support a level playing field for registered businesses.

WE'RE OPEN
WE'RE OPEN
WE'RE OPEN

Showcasing local artists and vibrant spaces

We support a thriving local economy by creating spaces where people connect, shop and celebrate.

Over summer our Summer Celebration series saw 66 live performances from local creative artists and musicians in 7 activity centres including Templestowe Village, Jackson Court and Park Orchards.

The celebration focussed on engaging Manningham artists attracting such talented acts as Jessihoopz, Super Mande, Ben Langdon and Cleo Black. Photo booths and facepainting added to the fun.

Each event was free and family friendly. Pop-up performances, chalk art, live music and roaming entertainers helped community engage and connect with each other.

"The event gave people a reason to come and have a look at what's going on", Ash from D'ORO Restaurant and Wine Bar in Templestowe said.

These micro events encouraged people to eat, shop and take time enjoying their local businesses. Their creativity and artistry turned quiet unused transition spaces into gatherings of locals making memories with friends and community.

"It's great to see Council supporting events like Summer Celebrations because when our villages thrive, businesses thrive," Ash said.

Council staff attended each event to connect with the community. We shared information about upcoming projects, answered questions, and invited feedback on local initiatives.

These conversations help shape future decisions and make sure our work reflects the needs and priorities of our community.

Local events bring people together to strengthen community connections and help to make our neighbourhoods even more vibrant.

How you can get involved

- Find out more about upcoming events **manningham.vic.gov.au/events**

What we did to support a well governed Council

We understand our community places high importance on Council being transparent, accountable and providing value for money.

This includes making our communications and engagement inclusive and accessible for all and serving our community in a financially sustainable way.

We understand we need to measure and report on how our services meet the needs of our community.

Our residents have told us they want to be kept up to date with our services, initiatives, actions and programs.

From our conversations with our community, we have committed to working towards the following goals:

- A financially sustainable Council that manages resources effectively and efficiently.
- A Council that values our customers and community in all that we do.

What you told us to focus on

- Improving communication and community engagement
- Involving our community in decision making
- Contributing value to our community in everything we do
- Providing inclusive and responsive customer service and communications
- Demonstrating transparency and accountability.

What we delivered

We continued to hold twice-yearly drop-in sessions in Warrandyte and Wonga Park, to give residents the chance to learn about and share feedback on local footpath, road, and drainage projects.

We strengthened oversight of our capital works program by:

- organising 10 Capital Works Steering Committee meetings
- holding 70 performance meetings for capital works
- producing 11 capital works status reports
- hosting 12 capital works development workshops
- delivering 50 updates of the 10-Year Capital Works Program
- completing 4 ABS engineering construction surveys
- processing 3,950 incoming supplier invoices.

We adopted the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025, which outlines how we promote responsible pet ownership and meet our obligations under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*. We completed actions from the current plan and began preparing the new Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026 to 2029.

We finalised the new Capital Works Handbook and implemented systems to ensure key project completion certificates are properly recorded.

We enhanced our infringement review process, which was confirmed as compliant by Fines Victoria. We also finalised a contract for a new Infringement Management System to improve efficiency, transparency and customer experience. The new system streamlines customer service and enforcement.

We engaged extensively with user groups and sporting clubs during the design phase of sports pavilions and modular toilets to ensure the designs were inclusive and fit-for-purpose.

We adopted the Community Local Law 2023, ensuring our local laws remain relevant and support amenity, safety, and good governance.

We permanently appointed 2 dedicated parking officers to improve turnover and compliance in high-demand areas. We also established an infringement review officer role. An infringement review panel was introduced to ensure decisions are transparent and procedurally fair.

We introduced a fire prevention module to our Geographic Information System (GIS) to improve risk management and emergency preparedness. This helps us map and analyse high-risk areas, plan mitigation works more effectively and respond faster during emergency events.

We implemented all internal audit recommendations for our Community Grants Program to improve accountability and governance.

We adopted our Council Plan 2025-2029, which integrated our Health and Wellbeing Plan. Extensive community consultation also helped shape a new Community Vision and an updated Council mission statement. This approach makes sure our strategic direction aligns with the needs of our community.

We commenced work on digitising our service plans to make service planning easier and more consistent across the organisation.

We established a Voice of Customer program to embed community feedback into how we review and improve our services.

We successfully implemented major digital platforms including Microsoft Teams telephony, a new HR Information System and the Community Booking System to modernise our operations and improve service efficiency.

We received a Snap Send Solve Top 5 Solvers Award, recognising our responsiveness to community-reported issues.

We transitioned to a new contact centre telephony system to improve reliability and service delivery after-hours.

We launched customer surveys via the Feedback Management module to better understand resident satisfaction and sentiment and introduced qualitative performance reporting using sentiment analysis, Net Promoter Score (NPS) and customer satisfaction metrics.

We responded to 87,361 calls to the contact centre, assisted 27,141 walk-in customers, and logged 76,204 service requests in our customer relationship management system.

We supported proactive community engagement, with 6,396 issues reported via Snap Send Solve.

We completed the Legal Services Panel Tender to strengthen governance and improve the way we manage legal matters across Council. This process ensures access to high-quality legal expertise and supports consistent, cost-effective service delivery.

We supported compliant procurement processes, ensuring transparency and alignment with legislative requirements.

We delivered a suite of leadership development programs to strengthen leadership capability, enabling more effective decision-making and the delivery of best value services for our community.

We successfully implemented a new Human Resources Information System, streamlining our recruitment, onboarding, performance development and learning systems to enhance the employee experience.

We introduced a new Employee Assistance Program, replacing the previous service and providing access to a digital wellbeing portal with increased counselling session limits, supporting staff mental health and wellbeing.

We continued to support youth and graduate-based employment opportunities, helping to build a diverse and future-ready workforce. This included 5 graduates in a 2-year program, 14 Year 10 students participating in work experience, 3 undergraduate positions, 2 internships and 2 unpaid tertiary placements.

We began reviewing our stormwater asset data which will inform the future development of a Stormwater Asset Management Plan. This will provide a strategic framework for managing our community's infrastructure assets, making sure they remain safe, reliable and capable of meeting current and future demands.

We endorsed a new Stormwater Management Policy which identifies strategic objectives and criteria for us to plan, consider and prioritise flood risk locations when considering future stormwater capital works projects.

We completed risk assessments and submitted data to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) for 6 school crossings, strengthening safety measures and compliance. We also secured funding for the School Crossing Supervisor Scheme to support the continued delivery of safe crossings around local schools.

We reduced reliance on external contractors by investing in specialised equipment, improving efficiency and cost-effectiveness across our operational services.

We processed approximately 3,250 property ownership transfers, supporting the accurate management of property data and enabling timely Council services.

We began cleansing and updating name and address records in our property and rating system to improve our data accuracy and correspondence.

We delivered the 2025/26 Annual Budget to continue providing over 100 essential services that help people of all ages feel supported, connected and safe. We brought forward the timing of the 2025/26 Annual Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan to align with strategic planning documents and the deliberative community engagement process, strengthening transparency and integration.

We set aside an operating budget of $161 million to make sure essential services like waste collection, community programs and local infrastructure continue to run smoothly and meet growing community needs.

We invested $52 million in capital works to upgrade existing facilities and build new community spaces like playgrounds, footpaths, and sporting pavilions. Investing in these community spaces allows more people can enjoy safe and accessible places.

We updated the Enterprise Budgeting system with our 2025/26 Service Plan and created a simple guide for staff. This helps staff plan and manage services better, leading to more efficient and responsive delivery for the community.

We improved how staff budget for salaries. These improvements make it easier to track and plan workforce needs, which helps us keep the right staff in the right roles to serve the community well.

We automated calculations for labour capitalisation, reducing manual work and saving time so staff can focus more on delivering outcomes for the community.

We supported the financial setup of the new Bookable venue booking system, ensuring all compliance requirements were met. As part of the launch, we improved internal cost recovery processes to support smoother bookings and better access to facilities for community groups and residents.

We refined our payment workflows and developed new data processes to make sure suppliers, especially small and local businesses, are paid on time.

We improved payroll reporting to make it easier to monitor staffing and budget data. This makes sure we have better oversight and smarter decision-making.

We improved how we handle financial transactions by streamlining processes and improving how our systems work together. This makes our operations more accurate and efficient and strengthens our financial controls to help us deliver better value to the community.

We provided updated asset valuations that meet national accounting standards, improving transparency and accuracy in our financial reporting.

We completed key end-of-financial-year tasks, including implementing updated pay rates and superannuation increases, helping to maintain accurate and timely payroll services for our employees.

We streamlined Council's utility management by consolidating major accounts (Yarra Valley Water, AGL and Energy Australia), reducing the number of providers, and successfully applying for a Water System Rebate Credit from the State Revenue Office. These improvements help save time and money, allowing us to invest more in services and infrastructure that benefit our community.

We developed a comprehensive induction program and supporting resources to help newly elected Councillors get up to speed quickly following the 2024 Council elections.

We delivered a new leadership training module, 'Navigating Corporate Governance', to strengthen leadership capability and understanding of good governance practices. We also reviewed and updated Manningham's Governance Rules to improve transparency, including clearer processes for managing community petitions.

We worked with neighbouring councils to run candidate information sessions ahead of the 2024 Council elections. The sessions helped prospective candidates understand the election process and Council's role.

We reviewed our Election Period Policy and ran training sessions for staff and Councillors to ensure compliance with rules around communication, decision-making and conduct during the election period.

We held a strategic risk workshop with Councillors, leading to a refreshed Strategic Risk Register that aligns with our Council Plan and strengthens our decision-making.

We delivered a successful insurance broking tender that resulted in cost savings, helping to reduce pressure on Council's budget and deliver better value to the community.

We worked closely with City Services to improve how we manage risk across the organisation, including applying best practice in the review of our Road Management Plan to help ensure safer, more reliable roads.

We received a 'Highly Commended' award from the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply for excellence in procurement and change transformation. We also won the Social Procurement Award from Procurement Australia, recognising our commitment to ethical, community-focused purchasing.

We led a collaborative tender process on behalf of 5 other councils, demonstrating strong regional leadership and improving procurement outcomes across the sector.

We strengthened communication between Council and the organisation by launching a dedicated Councillor intranet.

We reviewed and updated the Council Expenses Policy for 2024–2026 to make sure it reflects best practice and community expectations.

We continued to share key updates and achievements with staff across the organisation through our CEO-led All Staff Summits.

We supported Council's advocacy work by facilitating regular engagement with local Members of Parliament and correspondence with Ministers on important community issues.

We established a coordinated internal working group to support the planning and delivery of civic events involving the Mayor and Councillors.

We supported the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to complete their additional mandatory induction within one month of their appointment. This program focused on their roles and responsibilities, chairing meetings effectively, engagement, advocacy and leadership.

We launched a refreshed design of Manningham Matters, shaped by community feedback. The new magazine includes a more prominent What's On calendar, a Council meeting round-up and vibrant community stories that celebrate the people and places of Manningham.

We introduced multilingual access to Manningham Matters, making full-length stories available in Simplified and Traditional Chinese, Greek, Italian, Arabic and Farsi. By scanning the QR code on the magazine cover, readers can access translated articles online, helping more people stay connected and informed.

Our *Manningham eNews* continues to grow as an effective, data-driven way to keep our community informed. We've made it easier to explore stories by adding bold links and clear calls to action throughout each edition. Most content now features or is written by local residents which makes sure our community's voice is front and centre. Monthly data insights help us refine each campaign so it remains relevant, engaging and reflective of what matters to Manningham.

We trialled new ways to connect with young people, using Active Manningham's venues, digital platforms, school outreach and targeted social media to boost engagement. We also amplified youth voices by sharing stories that recognise their contributions to our community.

We delivered targeted communications to support Council's federal advocacy efforts. This included factsheets, campaign messaging, promotional plans and collateral for key priorities such as the Aquarena Outdoor Redevelopment, the High Frequency Busway and 5 Ways Intersection Safety Improvements. Engaging videos helped raise public awareness and build community support for these important projects.

We continue to make it easier for our community to interact with us online by providing 24/7 access to self-service tools that help residents find information and complete tasks in their own time. Our website's accessibility rating reached 90.81 per cent (WCAG 2.0 compliance), well above the industry average of 85.11 per cent, helping ensure all residents can access information easily.

Our community consultation website, Your Say Manningham, saw a big boost in community involvement, with contributions more than doubling in 2024-25. Engagement rose from 1,815 to 4,250 contributions, and the engagement rate nearly doubled from 5.3% to 10.3%.

We led 2 new in-person engagement initiatives: a community panel to shape our key strategic plans and a collaborative workshop to co-design our new Nature Plan. These activities helped residents directly influence Council decisions.

We ran targeted consultations on a range of projects including playground upgrades, our Road Safety Strategy 2025-2034, and the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029. Community participation was strong, with nearly 1,900 responses to the DAMP survey alone.

We completed successful negotiations with staff and unions for a new 3-year Enterprise Agreement. The Agreement includes enhanced parental leave and study support. Our communications campaign on the Agreement achieved 83% staff participation and a 60.7% 'yes' vote, the highest first-round result in Manningham's history. This reflects our investment in training, better systems and clear communication. It has helped create a motivated and connected workforce that delivers better outcomes for our community.

We continuously improved our website, manningham.vic.gov.au, by responding to customer feedback submitted directly on the site. The website received 2,2828,154 page views, helping residents easily find information and access services online. Our engagement platform, Your Say Manningham, recorded 61,153 visits, showing strong interest in the projects we are seeking community feedback on.

We developed and delivered the State of the City report, which provided key data to support engagement with the deliberative panel and helped shape the health and wellbeing components of the integrated Council Plan.

We led the integration of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan into the Manningham Council Plan for the first time. We also began developing the Manningham Disability Action Plan.

We reviewed how the website is structured using data analysis, surveys and one-on-one testing with community members. This informed a clear plan to improve navigation and content in the year ahead.

We improved how we capture and analyse data across our website and social media channels, giving us better insights into community interests and helping us tailor content across the organisation.

We are committed to maintaining strong community engagement by making our processes inclusive and accessible for everyone. We design our engagement activities to reflect the diversity of Manningham and encourage wide participation.

We introduced new technology within our community halls, including tablet-based venue inspections completed online (via iAuditor) to improve our health and safety reporting.

Challenges

While engaging on social media remains a challenge in a crowded digital space, we're improving our performance by tracking data more closely, spotting trends, and creating a roadmap for future digital engagement.

We managed increased costs for major events, including Carols by Candlelight, which impacted planning and delivery.

We are advocating for fairer funding from the Victorian Government to make sure councils can meet the needs of a growing population and deliver essential services and infrastructure.

We faced ongoing challenges in delivering our capital works program due to volatile construction costs, limited builder availability, changing priorities, incomplete datasets and difficulty forecasting expenditure. Cost escalations driven by inflation, supply chain pressures and cost shifting from other levels of government also made it harder to plan, procure and deliver infrastructure and services, particularly for medium-sized community buildings.

Some areas of the organisation experienced a significant increase in workload due to a growing population, more residents working from home and higher community expectations, all of which resulted in more service requests and investigations.

Adapting to frequent changes in legislation and government reporting requirements remains a challenge. We continue to manage these shifts while supporting staff to meet growing responsibilities. Ongoing changes in legislation and government reporting requirements have required us to quickly adapt systems and processes to meet legal obligations. We continue to manage these shifts while supporting staff to meet growing responsibilities and maintain delivery of our core services.

At times, we redirected Local Laws officers to cover school crossing shifts due to difficulties recruiting supervisors and an ageing workforce. This redeployment impacted our Local Laws officer to perform their usual duties.

The rapid evolution of generative AI presents both opportunities and risks. Keeping up with this fast-paced change with limited resources is a challenge, but we have begun upskilling staff and piloting strategic use of AI in collaboration with our Executive Team.

Balancing business-as-usual services with the need to deliver multiple major projects at the same time has challenged our capacity and led to delays in some areas.

Recruiting skilled staff across several fields, including project management and technology has been challenging and reflects broader workforce shortages.

Adapting to rapid technological change remains a challenge, requiring continuous upskilling and the introduction of new systems while maintaining consistent service levels for the community.

Managing requests related to older records, including past infrastructure maintenance, has required extensive research and collaboration across teams, taking time away from more forward-focused work.

We continue to support ratepayers experiencing financial hardship, while also managing Council's responsibility to collect rates that fund essential services.

We've developed tenders to secure good annual supply rates for materials like concrete, asphalt and drainage, but changing market conditions still make it hard to plan and deliver projects.

The rising volume of financial transactions and changes in accounting standards have increased workload and complexity in financial reporting and compliance.

Ensuring timely payments from sundry debtors remains a challenge, particularly during periods of economic stress.

Processing a high volume of rates and valuation notices – about 179,000 this year – while managing customer queries and maintaining accuracy, places pressure on our systems and staff.

We are using a strategic megatrends model to better understand emerging risks, such as climate change, new technologies and demographic shifts. This approach helps us adjust our plans to stay ahead of these changes. It also supports long-term decision-making that protects what matters to our community.

Like many councils, we are experiencing increased legal claims, partly due to the rise of plaintiff law firms. While we use insurance to manage financial risk, our staff are spending more time investigating and responding to claims, which can affect how quickly we respond to other community needs.

We continue to balance the need for high-quality engagement with limited resources, especially in a challenging economic environment. While in-depth engagement provides valuable insights, it also requires more time and investment. We are using smart planning and prioritisation to make sure our engagement remains meaningful and cost-effective.

Helping shape Manningham's future

We are committed to making sure the voice of our community is included in everything we do, especially when it comes to planning for the future.

In 2024, we brought together a randomly selected group of 37 community members to take part in our most in-depth engagement process to date.

The Manningham Community Panel met over 7 externally-facilitated sessions between September 2024 and February 2025. Across more than 40 hours of discussion, participants explored the key challenges, opportunities and trade-offs that Council faces in planning for the future.

Dereck, a participant on the Panel said "It was great to meet a range of people reflective of the Manningham community. It was heartening to see the selection process was so effective."

Panel members were supported with expert presentations, background reports and independent facilitation. They learned about Council services, infrastructure and finances before working together to develop 14 recommendations and a minority report.

These were formally presented to Councillors in February 2025. Council committed to implementing the recommendations to the maximum extent possible.

The Panel's input has shaped our new Council Plan 2025-2029, 10-Year Asset Plan, 10-Year Financial Plan and Community Vision 2040. These key strategic documents will guide our work over the coming years and ensure our long-term planning reflects the values and priorities of our community.

"The involvement of young people on the Panel was phenomenal. Their enthusiasm was impressive", Dereck said.

This process demonstrates our commitment to inclusive decision-making and involving our community in shaping Manningham's future.

How you can get involved

- Find out more at **yoursay.manningham.vic.gov.au/help-shape-manninghams-future**

Our financial performance

Our financial results remain strong and demonstrate our commitment to maintaining long-term financial sustainability while providing cost-effective services and delivering infrastructure projects to meet the needs of our community.

Operating position

- In 2024-25, we achieved an operating surplus of $32.07 million which was $16.94 million greater than the adopted budget surplus of $15.13 million.
- The increase in the operating surplus was driven by the $26.26 million of North East Link Project land compensation payments received during the year and a 50 per cent advance payment to Council of the 2025-26 Finance Assistance Grants allocation.

Within Council's surplus, there are several income items that are either restricted in use or 'non-cash' in nature. The adjusted underlying result excludes these items such as non-recurrent capital grants, non-monetary asset contributions and other contributions to fund capital expenditure (including developer and open space contributions).

The adjusted underlying surplus was $23.70 million due to the North East Link Project land compensation payments received during the year and a 50% advance payment to Council of the 2025-26 Finance Assistance Grants allocation.

Income

We derived our income from various sources including rates, user fees and charges, grants, interest and other contributions. Our total income for 2024-25 was $194.67 million, compared to a budget of $170.00 million.

Table 4: 2024-25 Income

Income $'000	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
General rates	88,853	92,216	95,767	98,317	100,853	104,934	108,797
Waste charges	13,126	13,737	13,916	15,998	16,627	17,607	17,934
User fees, charges and fines	14,570	12,308	9,976	10,110	11,675	12,278	12,950
Operating grants	12,129	12,257	13,641	13,292	13,860	6,904	8,587
Capital grants	2,043	1,661	3,622	6,800	7,079	2,250	4,315
Contributions (monetary and non-monetary)	14,578	18,406	18,857	23,128	7,185	12,344	6,895
Other income	3,301	2,864	2,444	2,014	3,976	4,771	35,188
Total	**148,600**	**153,449**	**157,923**	**169,659**	**161,255**	**161,088**	**194,666**

Expenditure

Our total expenditure for 2024-25 was $162.60 million, compared to a budget of $154.87 million. In 2024-25, the main expense was employee costs, which accounted for $60.34 million.

Table 5: 2024-25 Expenditure

Expenditure $'000	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Employee costs	53,326	54,120	56,221	53,813	61,530	58,812	60,344
Materials and contracts	23,446	28,469	27,853	29,029	32,020	37,113	38,466
Depreciation and amortisation	21,640	23,946	26,028	26,394	29,124	32,695	33,808
Other expenses	21,036	20,586	18,859	28,303	30,984	24,202	29,980
Total	**119,448**	**127,121**	**128,961**	**137,539**	**153,658**	**152,822**	**162,598**

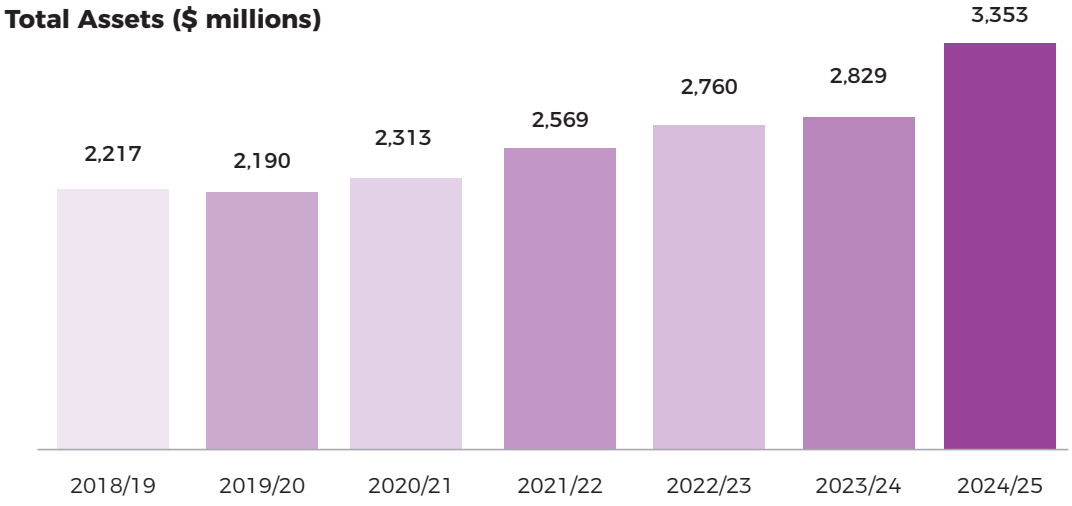
Net worth

Our financial strength is indicated by net assets (what we own less what we owe). As of 30 June 2025, Council owns net assets of $3.30 billion, including community infrastructure assets of $3.24 billion.

Assets

Our total assets are valued at $3.35 billion. This is an increase of $524 million or 18.5% on the prior year and is primarily due to Council now recognising all of our land under roads assets and an increase in the value of land and infrastructure assets.

Figure 3: Total assets ($millions)

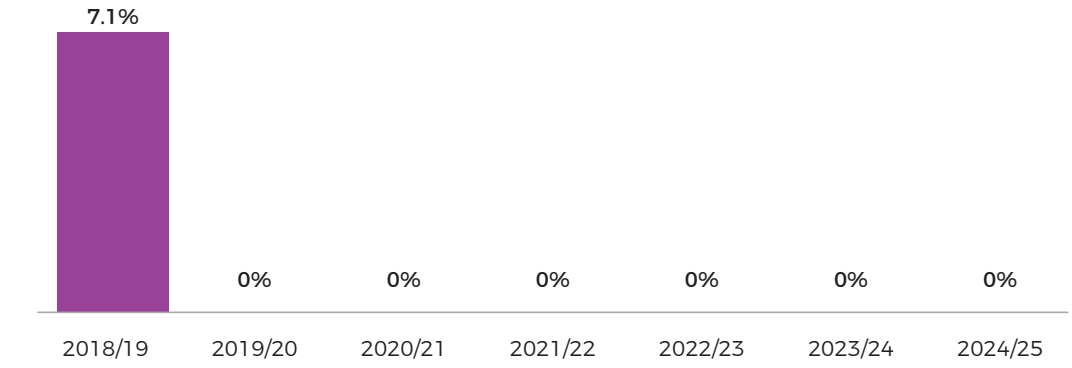


Liabilities

Our liabilities include amounts owed to suppliers and employee leave entitlements. Total liabilities at 30 June 2025 were $52.31 million, a decrease of $2.84 million over the previous year.

Council continues to be debt free having fully repaid $7.28 million of loan borrowings during 2019/20.

Figure 4: Debt to rates and charges (%)

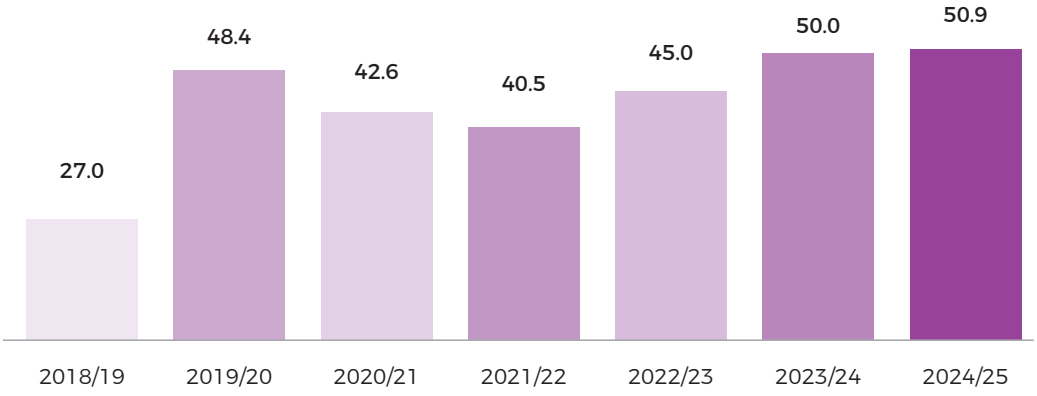


Capital investment

We invested $51 million in an extensive Capital Works Program to renew and upgrade community assets throughout the municipality.

Figure 5: Capital Works Program ($millions)

Capital works program ($ millions)

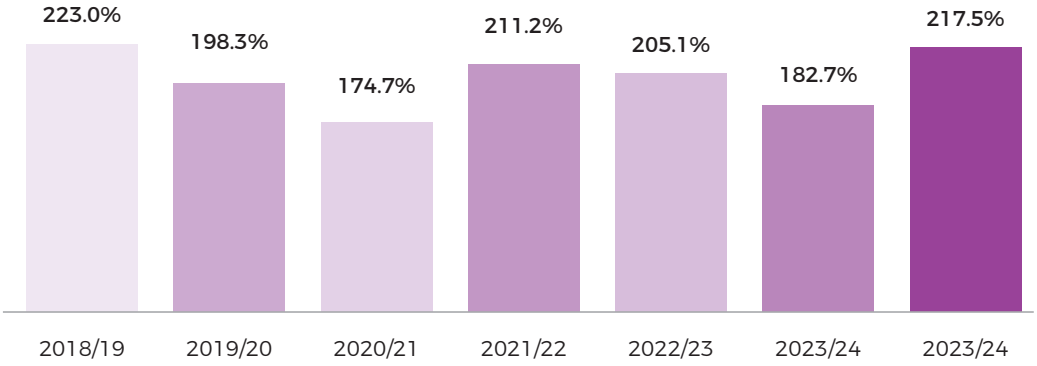


Liquidity

Cash and term deposits at 30 June 2025 were $78.61 million, an increase of $12.27 million from the previous year. Our working capital ratio is strong at 217.5%, which indicates that for every dollar of short-term liabilities, we have $2.18 worth of assets.

Figure 6: Working capital ratio (%)

Working capital ratio (%)

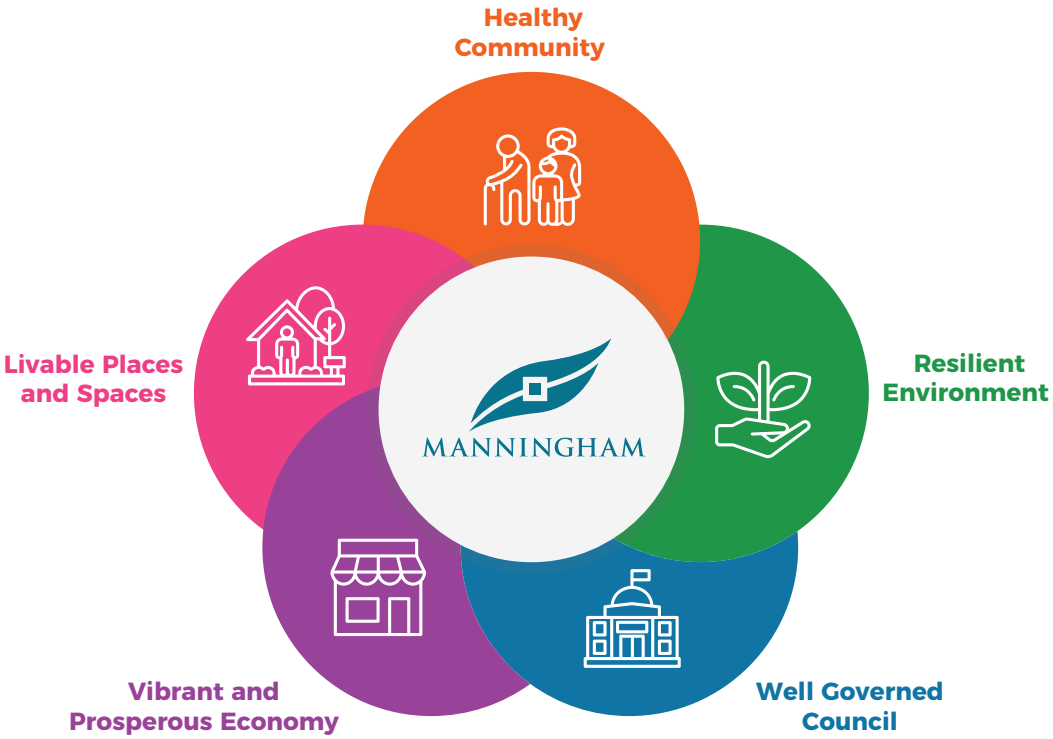


Our year ahead

Over the year ahead we will start delivering on the strategic objectives of our new Council Plan 2025-2029.

This will include addressing the recommendations of the Community Panel through our major initiatives, which set out what we are working towards achieving for our community.

Our major initiatives are organised by the themes of our Council Plan 2025-2029, which include:



Safe and Healthy Community

- Our community is safe, connected and inclusive.
- Our community is active and healthy with improved wellbeing.

Our major initiatives for 2025-26:

- Foster Manningham as a Welcoming Community where everyone, including newly arrived communities, can belong and participate in social, cultural, economic and civic life.
- Invest in community safety, including reducing harm.
- Proactively respond to challenges linked to disadvantage to support inclusion and connection.
- Partnerships that educate and support for a safe community where violence and gender inequality are not tolerated.
- Improve the mental health and wellbeing of our community in all life stages to connect and reduce loneliness.
- Facilitate opportunities for the people of all life stages and abilities to participate in active living, recreation and sport.

Liveable Places and Spaces

- Our city is designed for safety, liveability and sustainable growth.
- Our infrastructure is fit for purpose and well maintained, and its utilisation is maximised

Our major initiatives for 2025-26:

- Plan for safety, liveability and sustainable growth: to respond to current and emerging issues to manage and plan for population growth.
- Enable greater ease of movement in and around Manningham.
- Plan, design and deliver our valued parks and open spaces to meet changing community needs
- Provide quality, fit for purpose community facilities that maximise use and public value.
- Enhance the diversity, use and development of sport and recreation facilities throughout Manningham.
- Improve our local area by upgrading roads, nature strips, footpaths and drainage.

Resilient Environment

- Our natural ecosystems are protected and thrive.
- Environmental stewardship is at the heart of our programs and practices.

Our major initiatives for 2025-26:

- Plan for safety, liveability and sustainable growth: to respond to current and emerging issues to manage and plan for population growth.
- Enable greater ease of movement in and around Manningham.
- Plan, design and deliver our valued parks and open spaces to meet changing community needs
- Provide quality, fit for purpose community facilities that maximise use and public value.
- Enhance the diversity, use and development of sport and recreation facilities throughout Manningham.
- Improve our local area by upgrading roads, nature strips, footpaths and drainage.

Thriving Economy

- Our economy is activated through partnering, promoting and enabling employment and investment opportunities.
- Our local businesses and community groups are supported to thrive.

Our major initiatives for 2025-26:

- Enhance vibrant activity centres and local shops where our community can come together.
- Work with businesses and trader groups to ensure an inclusive process informs projects.
- Support economic growth and investment in our activity centres and surrounds.
- Support small business and community groups to thrive.
- Create an economy that offers pathways into employment and promotes equity, diversity and community engagement.
- Build a strong foundation for our arts, cultural activity and local history to thrive.

Well Governed and Innovative Council

- Our Council is effective, efficient and financially responsible.
- Our Council is innovative, well governed and values our community.

Our major initiatives for 2025-26:

- Explore ways to improve our financial sustainability by diversifying our revenue streams
- Improve effectiveness and efficiency through the adoption of new and innovative ways of working.
- Improve customer experience by delivering on Our Customer Promise.
- Be an open and transparent Council that is trusted to make evidenced based decisions.
- Build an agile, skilled and future focused workforce by driving initiatives that strengthen capability and foster a culture aligned with our values.

Get involved

Thank you for reading Manningham Council's Annual Report 2024-25. We hope this report has given you a good understanding of our achievements and performance. We value your feedback, and you can provide this by contacting us.

We want to hear your ideas and feedback on issues and projects that matter to you.

Connect online

facebook/ManninghamCouncil

Instagram/ManninghamCouncil

manningham.vic.gov.au

yoursay.manningham.vic.gov.au

Email us

manningham@manningham.vic.gov.au

Call us

03 9840 9333

Meet us

Manningham Civic Centre
699 Doncaster Road Doncaster

Council Depot
Corner Blackburn and Warrandyte Roads Doncaster East

Write to us

Manningham Council
PO Box 1
Doncaster Vic 3108

Access our interpreter service

9840 9355

Read Manningham Matters

manningham.vic.gov.au/manningham-matters

Appendix

Contents

Welcome **111**

Our community 111

Our history 111

Our employees **112**

Major achievements with our employees 112

Our people 114

Staff profile 115

Staff turnover 116

Conditions of employment 118

Diversity and inclusion in the workplace 118

Reward and recognition 119

Directorate Excellence Awards 119

Service awards 119

Reporting on our performance **120**

Planning and reporting framework 120

Our council plan 122

How we developed our council plan 122

Reporting our progress 122

Our performance: major initiatives and initiatives 123

Our performance: LGPRF indicators 123

Our performance: healthy community **124**

Services funded in our annual budget 124

Goal 1: healthy, resilient and safe community 126

Key focus areas 126

Our performance — major initiatives and initiatives 127

Our performance: LGPRF indicators 134

Goal 2: connected and inclusive community 138

Key focus areas 138

Our performance — major initiatives and initiatives 139

Our performance: liveable places and spaces **146**

Services funded in our annual budget 146

Goal 1: inviting places and spaces 150

Key focus areas 150

Our performance — major initiatives and initiatives 150

Our performance: LGPRF indicators 153

Goal 2: Enhanced parks, open space, and streetscapes 155

Key focus areas 155

Our performance — major initiatives and initiatives 156

Goal 3: Well connected, safe and accessible travel 158

Key focus areas 158

Our performance — major initiatives and initiatives 159

Our performance: LGPRF indicators 164

Goal 4: Well maintained and utilised community infrastructures 165

Key focus areas 165

Our performance — major initiatives and initiatives 166

Our performance: resilient environment 170

Services funded in our annual budget 170

Goal 1: protect and enhance our environment and biodiversity 177

Key focus areas 171

Our performance — major initiatives and initiatives 172

Goal 2: reduce our environmental impact and adapt to climate change 177

Key focus areas 177

Our performance — major initiatives and initiatives 178

Our performance: LGPRF indicators 182

Our performance: vibrant and prosperous economy 183

Services funded in our annual budget 183

Goal 1: grow our local business, tourism, and economy 184

Key focus areas 184

Our performance — major initiatives and initiatives 185

Our performance: well governed council 187

Services funded in our annual budget 187

Goal 1: a financially sustainable council that manages resources effectively and efficiently 189

Key focus areas 189

Our performance — major initiatives and initiatives 189

Goal 2: a council that values our customers and community in all that we do 191

Key focus areas 191

Our performance — major initiatives and initiatives 192

Our performance: LGPRF indicators 195

Our Governance System 198

Governance framework 198

Democratic governance 199

Decisions 199

Council meetings 199

Strategic briefing sessions (sbs) 200

Committees 200

Code of conduct 204

Conflicts of interest 204

Councillor allowances 206

Councillor expenses 206

CEO expenditure 2024/25 207

Expense categories 208

Corporate governance 208

Senior officers 208

Employee code of conduct 209

Management 210

Audit and risk committee 210

Internal audit 211

External audit 211

Fraud and corruption control 211

Risk management 212

Compliance and assurance 214

Safety and wellbeing 215

Governance and Management Checklist 218

Statutory information 221

Public Transparency Grants and Funding 221

Public interest disclosures (formerly protected disclosure procedures) 222

Reconciliation Action Plan 2023-25 222

Welcoming Cities 223

Freedom of information 223

Information privacy 224

The Manningham Healthy and Wellbeing strategy 2021–2025 224

Domestic animal management plan 225

Road management act — ministerial directions 227

Infrastructure and development contributions 227

Development contributions plan (dcp) 227

Local law 228

Property holdings 228

Procurement policy 231

State of the Assets Report 234

Financial Report 244

Performance Statement 302

Glossary and abbreviations 316

Glossary 316

Abbreviations 320

Index 321

Welcome

Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, all Victorian local governments must submit an Annual Report to the Minister for Local Government each year. We take our accountability to our community seriously, and this Annual Report is one of the primary tools we use to report on our performance transparently and accurately.

This Annual Report details our performance against the strategic themes outlined in our Council Plan 2021-2025, our 2024/25 Annual Budget initiatives and our 2021-2025 Strategic Resource Plan.

Our community

Manningham has an estimated population of 129,514, living in 49,918 dwellings with an average household size of 2.67.

In 2021, 74.5% of households were purchasing or fully owned their home, 19.4% were renting privately and 0.6% lived in social housing. Even with this strong level of home ownership, Manningham has a higher proportion of very low-income households (25%) than the Greater Melbourne average (19%).

Overall, 19.7% of the population is aged between 0 and 17 which is slightly lower than the Greater Melbourne average, with 28.4% aged 60 years and over which is higher than the Greater Melbourne average. Manningham has a larger percentage of seniors and retirees and a smaller percentage of young workforce and parents/ homebuilders.

Manningham has a high proportion of the population who were born overseas and increasing cultural diversity over time. A total of 46.3% speak a language other than English at home, with Mandarin (13.9%) and Cantonese (8.5%) being the most common. 43.5% of our community were born overseas, mostly in China.

Our history

The history of Manningham dates back millennia to the Wurundjeri people, whose way of life is closely linked to the natural environment.

In the late 1830s, the first European settlers began growing wheat, vegetables, and grapes before eventually planting orchards.

The discovery of gold in Warrandyte was a real turning point and by 1851, fortune hunters were trying their luck panning the streams and digging the rich soil around Harris Gully.

Local Government in the area began with the election of the Templestowe District Roads Board in 1856. On 28 February 1967, the Shire of Doncaster and Templestowe was proclaimed a City.

The City of Manningham was formed in 1994 as part of local government amalgamations.

Our employees

One of the ways we deliver positive outcomes for our community is by being inclusive and passionate about what we do. This approach shapes how we manage our workforce. Our people programs focus on attracting, retaining and developing a diverse range of skilled people.

Major achievements with our employees

Strengthening our safety culture and supporting workforce wellbeing

To strengthen our safety culture, we delivered a range of preventative activities including:

- Undertaking staff occupational health monitoring including audiometry, lung function tests, and skin checks.
- Completing safety audits and inspections, as well as testing and tagging of electrical equipment.
- Running a health expo for all staff.

We enhanced safety knowledge, skills, and awareness across the organisation through targeted initiatives, including:

- Running Occupational Violence and Aggression De-escalation training.
- Delivering Situational Awareness Training to prevent occupational violence and aggression.
- Running staff wellbeing sessions.
- Holding emergency response drills.
- Running first aid training.
- Running warden training.
- Delivering R U OK? Day activities.
- Delivering Health and Safety Representative (HSR) training.

We improved systems, policies and practices that reinforce our commitment to workplace safety including:

- Delivering online contractor safety induction
- Delivering a Contractor Safety Management framework.
- Providing ongoing support to staff in managing safety-related incidents.
- Conducting incident investigations and sharing learnings and safety information to support continuous improvement.
- Consulting regularly through our Work Health and Safety Committees.
- Coordinating effective emergency response management through the Central Emergency Planning Committee.
- Proactively managing and supporting injured employees and improving return to work outcomes.

Improving our workplace experience through targeted culture and leadership initiatives

In 2024-25 we strengthened our commitment to providing a safe, inclusive and high-performing workplace through targeted culture and leadership initiatives.

We continued to support workplace diversity, equality and inclusion by refining our governance model to provide a stronger platform for strategic oversight and staff voice and reflect a more intersectional approach to equity and inclusion across Manningham Council.

We are progressing implementation of our Gender Equality Action Plan and are building the skills and confidence of our people through inclusive leadership development, unconscious bias awareness and respectful workplace training. Staff are increasingly engaged in equity-focused practices, such as conducting Gender Impact Assessments.

In parallel, we continued to promote cultural inclusion through a range of initiatives including participation in the Pride March and celebrations for International Women's Day and Harmony Week celebrations.

We delivered an employee pulse survey to gather insights into staff engagement, collaboration and connection and our leadership development suite continues to expand.

Delivering systems and structures that transform how we work and enable best-value outcomes

We implemented a new Human Resources Information System (HRIS). This platform streamlines end-to-end recruitment and creates a seamless transition from application to employment offer, enhancing the candidate experience. It also supports online learning, performance development and annual reviews, providing a foundation for more integrated and efficient people management.

Building on this, we are now focusing on reducing manual processes by digitising forms and workflows, further improving efficiency and user experience across the organisation.

We have also leveraged existing technologies to support equity initiatives including the development of tools that enable more efficient and transparent tracking of Gender Impact Assessments.

We reviewed and updated strategies, plans and policies, in particular compliance with the *Local Government Act 2020*. This included updating our Code of Conduct. Updates reflect both legislative obligations and our commitment to maintaining a contemporary, values-driven workplace.

Building frameworks and structures that enable and empower positive experiences and best-value outcomes

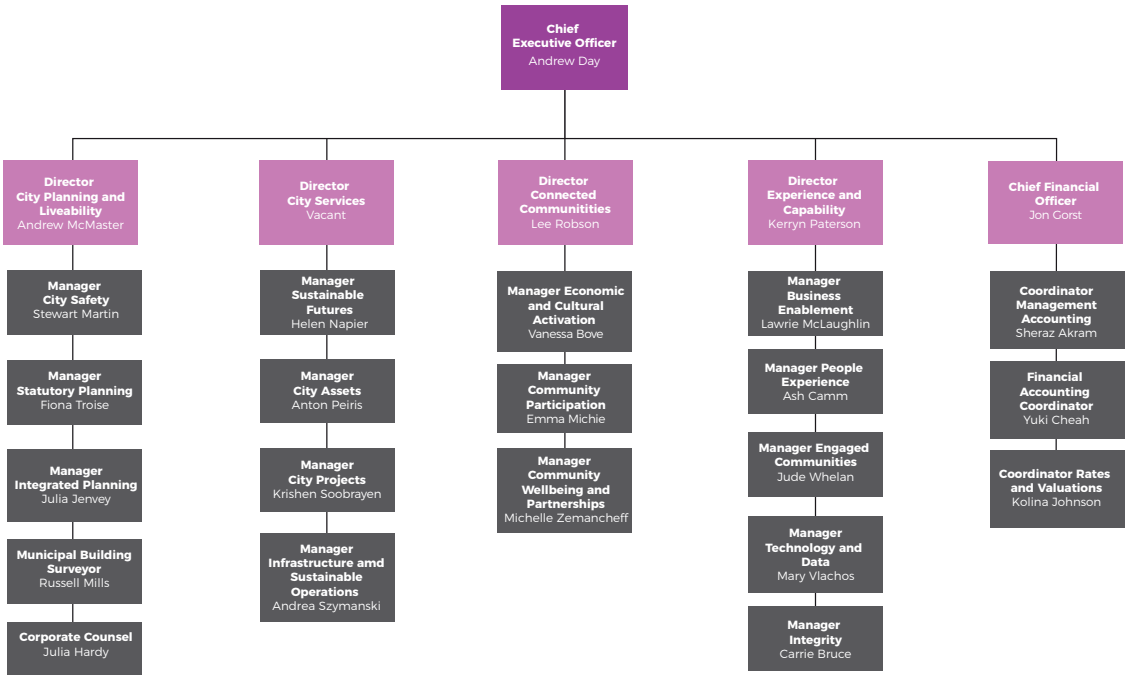
Our workforce resource management process continues to support sustainable and responsible management of total employee numbers and costs.

Our people

As of 30 June 2025, Manningham Council employed 572 people full-time, part-time, or casual, equating to 465.91 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees.

Our people deliver a diverse range of functions including engineering, customer service, administration, finance, community, planning, waste management, parks and recreation, local laws, arts and culture, and management.

Figure 1 – Manningham Council Organisational Chart as at June 2025



Staff profile

The tables below show the total number of Manningham employees, including headcount and full-time equivalent, as of 30 June 2025.The tables break down our workforce by directorate, employment type, employment classification and gender.

Table 1: 2024-25 Staff Profile (per headcount)

Employment Type/ Gender	Chief Executive Office	City Services	City Planning and Liveability	Connected Communities	Experience and Capability
Full Time – Female	14	35	39	29	52
Full Time – Male	7	122	39	11	31
Full Time – Self Described	-	-	<5	-	-
Part Time – Female	6	11	49	45	18
Part Time – Male	2	5	18	3	-
Part Time – Self Described	-	-	-	<5	-
Casual – Female	-	1	10	14	-
Casual – Male	1	-	7	1	-
Casual – Self Described					
Total	**30**	**174**	**163**	**104**	**101**

Table 2: 2024-2025 Employment Classification (per full-time-equivalent)

Employment Classification	Female FTE	Male FTE	Self -Described FTE	Total FTE
Band 1	7.20	4.36		11.56
Band 2	1.79	4.09	-	5.88
Band 3	5.62	41.00	-	46.62
Band 4	17.18	22.42	-	39.61
Band 5	56.53	26.64	<5.00	84.18
Band 6	60.70	39.43	<5.00	100.94
Band 7	45.44	38.01	-	83.46
Band 8	17.39	33.80	-	51.19
Nurses	11.28	0.01	-	11.29
Senior officers*	19.8	11.0	-	30.80
Total	**242.95**	**220.77**	**1.80**	**465.51**

* Senior officers are any Council officer who is employed beyond a Band 8 classification.

Staff turnover

The organisational turnover rate for the year was 14.8%, including 11.4% unplanned turnover. This represents a significant decrease in turnover for the overall organisation of 17.75%, and a slight decrease in unplanned turnover by approximately 1%.

The following tables show unplanned staff turnover (such as resignations or other unplanned departures), employee level and age breakdown of our employees by classification level and age group. These figures are represented as individuals, not full-time-equivalents (FTE).

Table 3: 2024-25 Unplanned Staff Turnover

Staff turnover	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Staff turnover	12%	9%	18%	15%	12%	11%

Table 4: 2024-25 Employment Level

Employment level	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Officer Level	95%	93%	95%	98%	94%	94%
Senior Officers*	5%	7%	5%	2%	6%	6%

* Senior officers are any Council officer who is employed beyond a Band 8 classification

Table 5: 2024-25 Staff Age Profile

Age profile	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
≤25 years	14	10	8	9	20	16
26 – 35 years	72	73	75	79	82	81
36 – 45 years	134	138	134	138	146	136
46 – 55 years	210	188	175	167	154	150
56 – 65 years	165	175	182	183	145	142
> 65 years	71	65	64	69	46	47
Total	**666**	**649**	**638**	**645**	**593**	**572**

As of 30 June 2025, 83% of our employees were aged over 35, with 51% aged between 46 and 65 and 17% under 35.

The majority of employees (94%) were classified at the officer level, with senior officers making up 6% of the total workforce.

Conditions of employment

Most of our staff are employed under the Manningham Council Agreement 2024, which has a nominal expiry date of 30 June 2027. The Agreement followed successful negotiations with unions and staff for a new Enterprise Agreement, supported by a majority "Yes" vote in 2024.

We offer a wide range of benefits to our employees:

- Providing flexible work options, including additional purchased leave and the ability to work from alternate locations.
- Supporting staff with paid leave for assisted reproduction, competitive paid leave for primary and secondary caregivers, superannuation during parental leave and flexible arrangements such as job-share and part-time return to work options.
- Offering confidential and independent counselling through our Employee Assistance Program.
- Extending our Study Assistance program to both full-time and part-time staff, with up to $3,114.23 per person per year for eligible expenses and up to 4 hours of additional leave per week, pro-rata for part-time employees.
- Delivering personal and professional development through learning opportunities aligned to regulatory and governance frameworks. In 2024-25, staff completed over 5,182 hours of learning, including compliance eLearning, leadership programs and self-directed development.
- Promoting health and safety with proactive wellbeing initiatives such as the Local Government Employees (LGE) Health Plan, immunisation access and manual handling programs.
- Providing fleet vehicles and MYKI cards for staff travelling for work.
- Offering discounted memberships to Manningham's leisure facilities.
- Encouraging connection through an employee-led social club.

Diversity and Inclusion in the workplace

This year we continued to build a more inclusive and equitable workplace by strengthening our practices, systems and leadership capability.

Through stronger governance and active staff engagement, we are making steady progress in creating a culture where all employees feel safe, respected and valued.

We reported regularly on our progress and achievements towards our diversity and inclusion goals to a range of internal and external stakeholders, including staff, leadership, unions, Councillors and the community.

Table 6: Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Policy success measurements

Indicator	Result
Number of contact officers available across the organisation. Target: 6	Result: 6

Reward and recognition

The contribution of our people is vital to our success as an organisation. We have a Reward and Recognition Award Program to recognise our people for excellence.

Directorate Excellence Awards

In 2024-25, we re-launched our staff acknowledgement awards program as the Directorate Values Awards, with a renewed focus on celebrating how our people live our organisational values.

Across 5 directorate-based events, we proudly presented 54 awards to individuals and teams nominated by their peers. These awards recognise staff who consistently demonstrate our values through their actions, decisions, and achievements.

At Manningham Council, our values are more than words, they are the foundation of our culture and guide the way we work, lead and serve our community.

Service Awards

We recognised long-standing employees' contributions by presenting awards at milestones of 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50 years of service. This year we recognised 37 employees with these awards.

Reporting on our Performance

Planning and reporting framework

The Victorian Government introduced the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF) in 2014 to help all Victorian councils measure and report on performance consistently.

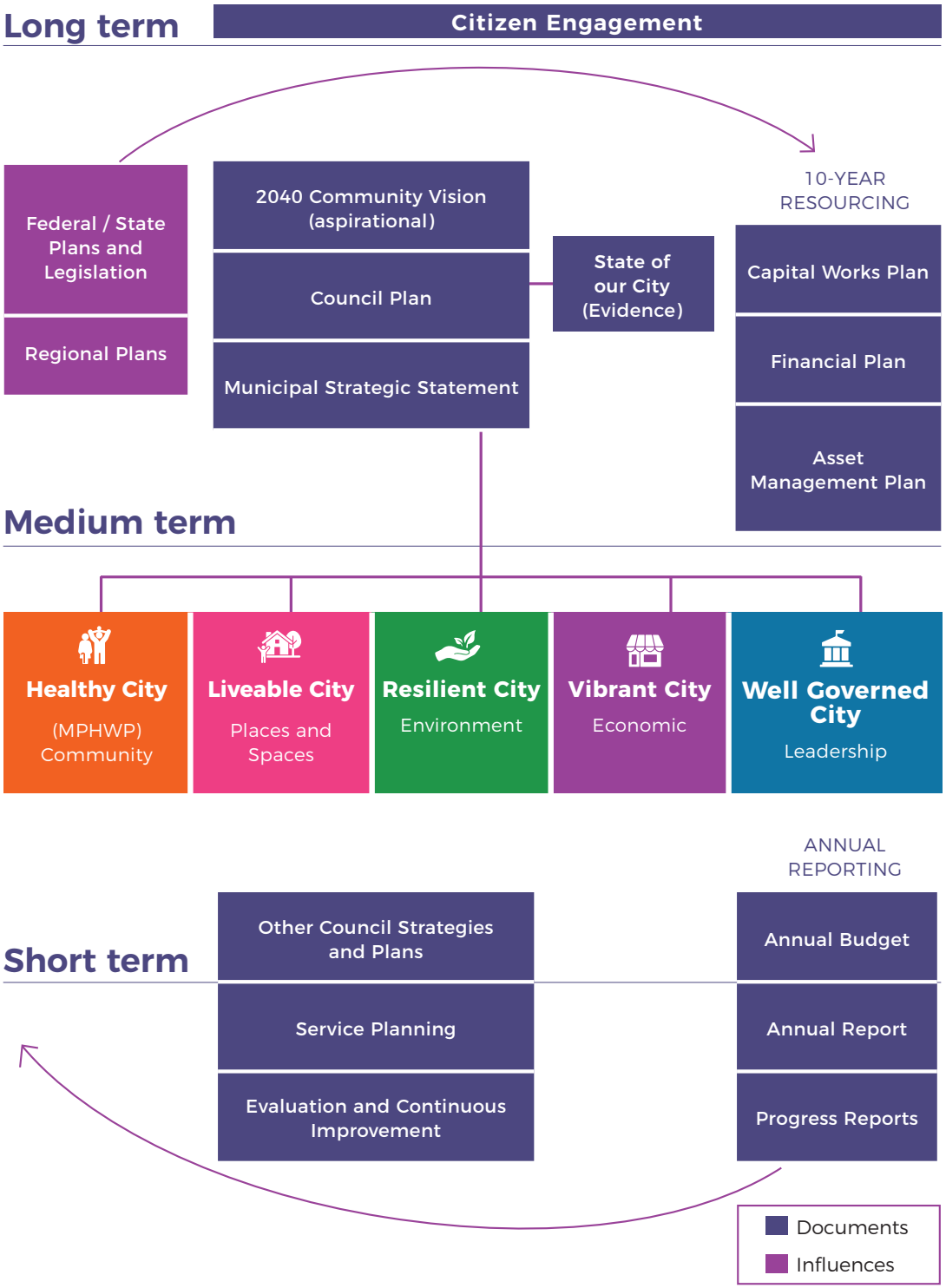
To report on our performance, we prepare:

- A Council Plan within 6 months after each general election or by 30 June, whichever is later.
- A Strategic Resource Plan covering at least four years.
- An Annual Budget for each financial year.
- An Annual Report for each financial year.

Figure 1 shows the key planning and reporting documents that make up the local government planning and accountability framework, and the relationships between them. It also shows where we provide opportunities for community and stakeholder input.

Our Community Vision and Council Plan guide our short, medium and long-term planning. As shown below, we support these commitments through resource plans and report on progress in the Annual Report.

Figure 2: Planning and accountability framework



Our Council Plan

How we developed our Council Plan

The Council Plan we report on in this document was developed by our 2020-2024 Council group. The Plan sets out the goals, initiatives, and actions to be delivered over the 4 years.

This year marks the final year of reporting on our Council Plan 2021-2025.

Following the Council election on 26 October 2024, our new Councillors began developing a new Council Plan for 2025-2029.

To help set priorities for the next 4 years, we carried out a broad community engagement process.

This included a survey, targeted conversations and the formation of our first Deliberative Community Panel.

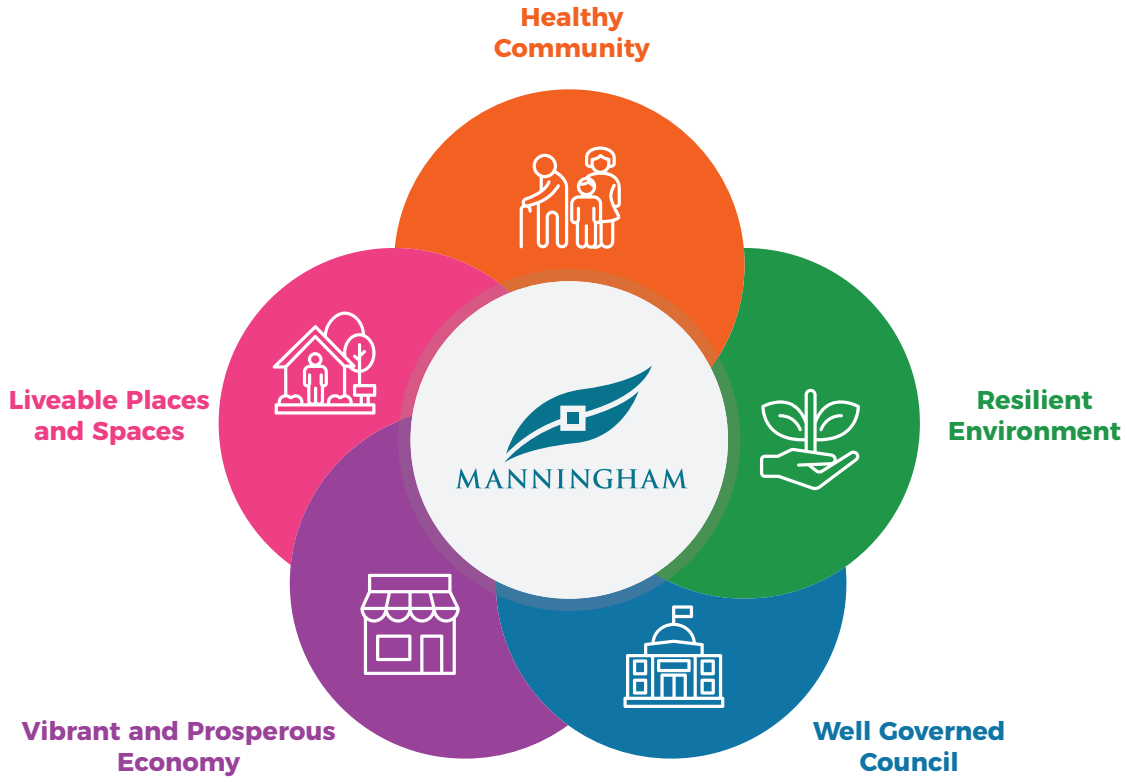
The next Annual Report will show our progress against the first year of the 2025-2029 Council Plan.

Reporting our progress

We report our performance throughout the year in the Manningham Quarterly Report, *Manningham Matters* and online channels.

We report on our progress of our Council Plan actions for the 2024-25 year below.

Figure 3: Our Council Plan themes



Our performance: major initiatives and initiatives

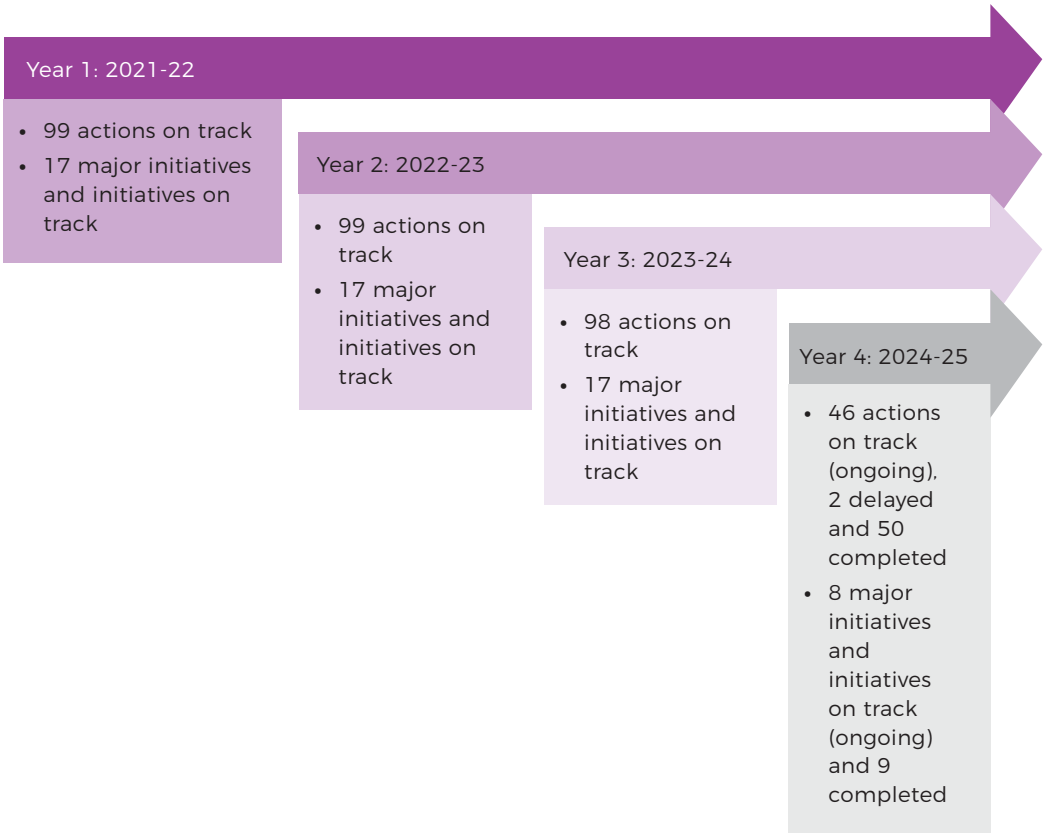
Our major initiatives and initiatives are identified in our 2024/25 Annual Budget and Strategic Resource Plan 2021–2025.

We report on our progress of major initiatives and initiatives for the 2024-25 year below.

Our performance: LGPRF indicators

This is the eleventh year we are reporting on several service, financial and sustainability performance indicators under the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF).

We report on our progress of our performance indicators for the 2024-25 year below.



Our progress towards the aspirational community vision is below covering:

- Major initiatives and initiatives in our 2024/25 Annual Budget.
- Council Plan actions and indicators in our Council Plan 2021-2025.
- Service, financial and sustainability performance indicators under the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF).

Our performance: Healthy Community

Services funded in our Annual Budget

Activity	Description	Budget $'000	Actual $'000	Variance $'000
Children and Family Services	Delivers a range of programs and services designed to support children, young people and families in Manningham. They partner with organisations like EACH to manage Manningham Youth Services to provide free and confidential services for youth aged 12-25; support early childhood educators through the Preschool Field Officer Program; support the local kindergarten network with their services; and offer early childhood long day care at MC Square, licensed under the Victorian Department of Education.	211	320	(109)
Community Grants and Events	Delivers innovative grant programs and management of a diverse portfolio of community and corporate events. Their grants program offers approximately $1.50 million annually to support a wide range of community initiatives. They organise major events like Manningham Carols by Candlelight, Citizenship Ceremonies and various Mayoral events. They also review and approve requests for events on Council land, including filming and busking permits, and provide ongoing support to grant recipients.	2,256	2,185	71
Emergency Management	Builds community and organisational resilience through preparedness, response, relief and recovery in emergencies. They coordinate with agencies, facilitate local emergency management planning, and lead relief and recovery efforts for affected communities. Their responsibilities include supporting response agencies, activating a municipal emergency coordination centre, and activating emergency relief centres for displaced residents. They also manage emergency prevention and preparedness, including fire hazard inspections and community resilience programs.	593	501	92
City Compliance	Maintains the safety and amenity of Manningham by monitoring and enforcing rules related to breaches of the Local Laws, parking enforcement, planning compliance, noise related complaints, animal management, as well as managing school crossings. Their team includes compliance officers who investigate breaches of relevant legislation and school crossing supervisors. They provide a range of services, from parking enforcement and planning enforcement to local laws administration and animal management.	1,603	1,538	65

Activity	Description	Budget $'000	Actual $'000	Variance $'000
Environmental Health	Ensures Council meets its legal responsibilities in food safety regulation, health premises regulation, communicable disease management, onsite wastewater systems, immunisation services, tobacco control, and emergency management. This includes monitoring and regulating food premises, health premises, managing onsite wastewater systems, providing immunisation services and responding to public health complaints.	964	1,058	94
Healthy Ageing	Provides timely information and support for older residents to stay connected and engaged in the community. They also provide a transport service that supports older residents in accessing necessary services and opportunities for older people to participate via partnership initiatives.	1,387	1,028	359
Libraries	Provides opportunities for local learning in modern and efficient services delivered through local branches and e-services. Including book collection, research tools and interactive learning programs. Managed by the Whitehorse Manningham Library Corporation.	4,869	4,708	161
Maternal and Child Health	Provides free growth and development checks for children from birth to school age, along with mental health and family violence assessments. Their service includes ten key age-and-stage appointments, as well as targeted support programs like feeding support, enhanced support, and sleep and settling programs. Partly funded by Manningham Council and the Victorian Government's Department of Health, they aim to strengthen parents' capacity and resilience while actively promoting health and well-being for all families.	892	992	(100)
Recreation and Leisure	Provides and manage a diverse range of sport, recreation and leisure services, programs and facilities across the municipality for people of all ages and abilities. This includes the allocation of sportsgrounds to sports clubs each season, delivery of strategies to increase physical participation, and in conjunction with their contract partners, Aligned Leisure, the management of Aquarena and nine indoor sports stadiums.	(367)	101	(468)

Activity	Description	Budget $'000	Actual $'000	Variance $'000
Social Planning and Community Strengthening	Leads the development of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy which informs their work. They work with partners to reduce gambling harms, manage risks related to alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs, and address homelessness and affordable housing issues. Their efforts include facilitating food systems and food relief, supporting disability access and inclusion and promoting First Nations reconciliation. Additionally, they implement health and wellbeing actions while conducting research and advocacy to address the community's needs. They also support the direct delivery of social support services via a contract to Doncare. They also support local clubs and organisations, work to prevent violence and gender inequality, strengthen multicultural communities and promote inclusion for the LGBTQIA+ community. Their efforts also include oversight of the Manningham Volunteer Resource Service (contracted to EV Strengthening Communities) and ensuring effective community connections through various programs and initiatives.	1,276	1,049	227

Goal 1: Healthy, resilient and safe community

Key focus areas

Council Plan Theme	What we are focussing on
Healthy Community	Mental wellbeing services, particularly for younger and older people. Safe and respectful relationships.
Liveable Places and Spaces	Popular and well-maintained programs and facilities for recreation and leisure, arts and culture. Safety in and around the home.
Resilient Environment	Support to prepare for and respond to emergencies. Preparing for climate changes and using Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD).
Vibrant and Prosperous Economy	Everything you need is local. Shops and activities centres are accessible. Supporting local employment and business.
Well Governed Council	Connecting service providers, community groups, local organisations, and networks to improve community outcomes. Leading the way in creating an inclusive and welcoming City.

Our performance – major initiatives and initiatives

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
Major initiatives			
We will undertake evidence-based planning for equitable, inclusive and accessible services and infrastructure improvements for prominent issues including:			
	Continue gender equality impact assessments on significant Council policies, services and programs.		We do a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) to deliver on our commitment to gender equality and to fulfil the requirements in the *Victorian Gender Equality Act 2020*. We have introduced a new app to identify and consider equity, inclusion and access in the review of our policies, services and programs. The app supports a consistent approach to create, monitor and report gender impact and outcomes. In 2024-25, GIAs were completed on: 1. Domeney Reserve Sports field LED Floodlight Upgrade 2. Body Worn Cameras – City Safety Unit 3. Warrandyte Community Facilities Review 4. Community Panel 5. Road Management Plan review 6. Recruitment Policy 7. Manningham Road Safety Strategy Action Plan 2025-2034. 8. The Pop-up Maternal Child Health 9. Park Orchards Community House and Learning Centre Feasibility Study 10. Acquisition and Disposal Policy 11. Social Media Policy 12. Manningham Mens' Shed Needs Assessment 13. Child Safe Policy 14. Employee Code of Conduct
	Improve the range of accessible supports and services available to young people within Manningham, exploring a youth hub, advocating for improved mental health resources and working collaboratively with youth agencies.		We have extended services for MY Hub, our youth hub at Manningham Community Centre (MC2). Services are provided in collaboration with other organisations including Doncaster Library. We continue discussions with Headspace for further partnership opportunities.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
	Continue collaborative forums to engage with businesses, community leaders, community groups and residents from culturally diverse backgrounds.		We worked to connect and profile community outcomes by: • Working with leaders from multicultural communities to provide wellbeing support. • Working with Welcoming Cities Australia on the accreditation and on training for communities in trauma. • Working with Welcoming Australia to prepare documentation for the audit process for re-accreditation for continuing to be an accredited Welcoming City. • Supporting the Manningham Multicultural Network to complete a series of workshops to help them to redefine their purpose. This saw the Network resume in December with a celebration and continue as a network through the remainder of the year.
	Investigate extended use of community facilities, including libraries, to address social isolation.		• We have extended the hours offered by Warrandyte Library (including self-service between the hours of 8am and 10pm) and Doncaster Library (now open from 9am to 8pm weekdays and 9am to 5pm Saturday and 1pm to 5pm Sundays). • The neighbourhood houses are working collectively and individually to offer diverse programs to address social isolation.
Initiatives			
	Pursue strategies to reduce the impact of gambling on the community, considering areas such as poker machines and advertising on Council buildings.		We have progressed the implementation of the endorsed Gambling Policy Action Plan. Key achievements include: • Attending the Sports Club Forum to promote gambling harm awareness. • Implementing a social media campaign to support/promote gambling harm awareness. • Updating grant guidelines to exclude gambling, tobacco, drugs and/or alcohol. • Updating the Sport and Recreation Licensing Agreement to prohibit racist, sexist, homophobic, harmful (e.g. cigarettes, alcohol and gambling) or socially unacceptable products (e.g. brothels).

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
Actions 2021-2025			
	Work with our partners and Advisory Groups to improve access to health and wellbeing services and programs for all people in our community.		Our Advisory Committees covering Health and Wellbeing, Multicultural Communities, Gender Equality and LGBTQIA+, Disability and Youth Advisory Committees played a vital role in sharing their insights on: • 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence. • Planning for the future Council Plan. • Welcoming Cities audit. • Health and Wellbeing Strategy. • Council's understanding of health and wellbeing priorities. This information will contribute to the priorities within the integrated Council Plan and Health & Wellbeing Strategy. • Understanding arts, nature and events specific to each Advisory Committee.
	Increase diversity of opportunities to participate in life-long arts and cultural learning for adults, youth and children.		• We have delivered a trial of a youth focused 'Open Studio' in partnership with EACH Youth Hub. • Ten of the 24 term workshops on offer at Manningham Art Studios were targeted towards children and young people, with these offers being our most popular. • A public program activity alongside the Beci Orpin exhibition engaged a majority of children aged under 10 alongside their parents or caregivers. • We commissioned a new public artwork at Hepburn Reserve, which was supported with a public program focused on children.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
	Improve access to community legal services.		We worked to understand and improve legal services through: • Promoting law week on 20 - 24 May 2025, with a range of local activities held at the neighbourhood houses, libraries and online. The activities included young people and affirmative consent, disability and understanding medical power of attorney and general legal guidance in a variety of safe settings. • Working with local Eastern Community Legal Services, Neighbourhood Houses, local legal services and libraries to prepare a range of information stalls, activities and events to occur during National Law week in May 2025. • A workshop conducted with the Healthy Ageing Advisory Committee on their gaps in legal services knowledge. Scheduled workshops with other Advisory Committees. • Continued work with Boroondara and Whitehorse Council to advocate for the need to locate Mabels services in our local area. Mabels enables women to receive legal advice and assistance at a much earlier point in their experience of family violence than they may have otherwise. • We have continued our advocacy for community legal services.
	Provide opportunities to promote local arts and culture in the community.		We completed community engagement for a new Creative Communities Framework which will guide our work, ensuring that our programs respond to community needs and aspirations. • We continued to support local creative industry through engaging 3 local artists in our exhibition program. • We partnered with the Live Music Office, One Music Australia and APRA AMCOS to deliver Live and Local to support musicians, music industry professionals, venues and businesses to present live music in Manningham. • We published Arts Manningham eNews monthly and are trialling content that supports access to opportunities. We also reviewed the layout and developed a new campaign to increase readership.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
	Identify strategies to get people to be more active at all stages of life to increase participation by juniors, women, culturally diverse and other priority groups.		We facilitated a wide range of recreation programs, activities and events for the community, with the aim to reduce barriers to participation for people at all stages of life, including young people, women, culturally diverse and other priority groups. Examples include: • women's-only swimming • multicultural water safety • Pride Night event • inaugural 'My Manningham Fun Run & Walk' at Ruffey Lake Park (120 participants, $3,000 raised towards grocery relief) • Abilities Unleashed event for people with a disability • participation in Disability Sport and Recreation's 'LGA Connect' program, improving sport and recreation opportunities for Victorians with a disability • This Girl Can campaign • Get Active Kids Voucher program • sensory quiet time sessions at Aquarena • skateboarding sessions • kids multi-sport program • accelerated learn-to-swim holiday program • older adult exercise programs at community centres • paddling program • 3-on-3 youth basketball tournament.
	Review and implement the new Community Local Law to protect the amenity and safety of Manningham.		This action was completed in 2023-24.
	Develop and activate Council's network of cultural venues and public art sites as community arts spaces through innovative public programs and engagement.		• We continued to support access to our venues with subsidised venue hire at the Doncaster Playhouse, with 25 hires reaching over 3,000 audience members. • We presented 6 exhibitions (total 19 artists) at Manningham Art Gallery, with themes such as connecting cultures and communities through making, migrant experiences, gender identity, exhibitions that appealed to all ages and our relationship to land as seen through Indigenous perspectives. • We commenced the new PUBLIC VIEW program with lightboxes at MC Square showing works from our public art collection.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
	Improve access to active, leisure and recreation destinations across the municipality by embracing the 20-minute neighbourhood.		The Victorian Government's *Plan for Victoria Strategy* continues to reinforce the principles of living in close proximity to activity centres, public transport and active, leisure and recreation destinations. We are preparing a draft Residential Strategy and Activity Centre Design Guidelines that will align with the 20-minute neighbourhood principle. We will continue to engage with the Victorian Government to further discuss and monitor the progress of this work.
	Support effective preparation, response, relief and recovery for emergency events.		We supported effective preparation, response, relief and recovery for emergency events through: • Hosting the "Exercise East" at Mullum Mullum Stadium, with 250 participants from councils and emergency partners, simulating a bushfire scenario and Emergency Relief Centre operations. • Delivering the annual multi-agency Municipal Hot Spots Tour to showcase emergency risks and mitigation efforts to Councillors. • Conducting the Emergency Preparedness Survey, with 200 community responses received, which informed future programming. • Developing a successful training pathway for new Emergency Management Support Staff. • Providing the Country Fire Authority (CFA) with detailed mapping of our bushfire mitigation works — a first for local government. This further contributes to integrated fire management practices for all local fire agencies. • Finalising policy and procedures for using fire as a land management tool, including support for cultural burns. • Developing a Manningham Animal Welfare Trailer for use at emergency relief centres, available for regional sharing, to better support animals in emergencies. • Hosting a river safety forum with 30+ experts, shaping the Local Water Safety Plan. • Implementing regional hazard plans to boost emergency management capability and streamline processes. • Building the capability and capacity of council to support community following emergencies through increasing the numbers of confident and trained staff. • Continuing to host and chair the quarterly Municipal Emergency Planning Committee (MEMPC) which is made up of representation from over 25 community, business.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
	Investigate and implement improvements to reduce future climate and environmental impact to the community in Council buildings and facilities.		We reduced the future climate and environmental impact on our community of our buildings and facilities through: • Installing new solar PV systems and batteries at several Council buildings. • Investigating electrification and energy efficiency opportunities. • Monitoring the performance of renewable infrastructure to ensure it is effective. • Using recycled materials in buildings and applying modular and sustainable construction methods.
	Develop an Economic Development Strategy to ensure we plan for a diverse business community that supports local employment.		We endorsed a new Economic Development Strategy 2023-2028 and are now focused on delivering the Strategy's actions.

Our performance: Local Government Performance Reporting Framework indicators

LGPRF Indicators	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Aquatics Management					
Health inspections of aquatic facilities Number of authorised officer inspections of Council aquatic facilities / Number of Council aquatic facilities]	1.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	We place a high priority on community safety. We have been able to undertake our inspections in accordance with the *Public Health and Safety Act 2008*.
Utilisation of aquatic facilities [Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Population]	1.44	3.38	5.14	6.12	Aquarena provides great value with a variety of programs and activities. We are pleased to see visits continue to rise.
Cost of aquatic facilities Direct cost of aquatic facilities less income received / Number of visits to aquatic facilities]	$4.33	-$0.29	$0.16	$0.05	We have seen the cost of facilities stabilise and return to pre-COVID-19 levels. Aquarena provides great value with a variety of programs and activities.
Animal Management					
Time taken to action animal management requests [Number of days between receipt and first response action for all animal management requests / Number of animal management requests]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	As there was no capacity to draw this data through our CRM, a new system has been built and is being tested it should be in place in 2025-26. We work hard to provide a timely response to all animal management requests. All requests are triaged based on risk and actioned in a timely manner. We know that our workload associated with animal management continues to rise and are working on our case management system to extract data for this indicator.
Animals reclaimed [Number of animals reclaimed / Number of animals collected] x100	50.00%	50.00%	54.01%	41.58%	As identified across the sector the number of cats in the community is significant and has impacted on this figure with a greater number of cats being impounded.

LGPRF Indicators	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Animals rehomed [Number of unclaimed collected animals rehomed / Number of unclaimed collected animals] x100	33.77%	40.48%	86.36%	69.41%	As a result of strong rehoming network all animals suitable for rehoming were able to be rehomed.
Cost of animal management service per population [Direct cost of the animal management service / Population]	$3.21	$3.52	$4.21	$3.48	We developed the new Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026–2029 in-house, reducing external costs. Better alignment of staff resources with animal management services also helped lower overall expenditure.
Animal management prosecutions [Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Number of animal management prosecutions] x 100	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	Our focus is to promote responsible animal management. Accordingly, we pursue prosecutions for serious animal management matters.
Food Safety					
Time taken to action food complaints [Number of days between receipt and first response action for all food complaints / Number of food complaints]	2.20	1.17	1.46	1.49	We continue to work hard to ensure the community can eat safely in Manningham with all food complaints triaged according to risk and actioned in a timely manner.
Food safety assessments [Number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that receive an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the Food Act 1984 / Number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that require an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the Food Act 1984] x100	83.16%	99.67%	99.33%	99.83%	We continue to prioritise class 1 & 2 food premises assessments and achieved a 99% result for this important indicator.

LGPRF Indicators	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Cost of food safety service [Direct cost of the food safety service / Number of food premises registered or notified in accordance with the Food Act 1984]	$400.44	$398.62	$428.57	$469.49	We work hard to provide a high-quality cost-efficient food safety service. Overall, the cost of service only increased slightly this year.
Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications [Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises] x100	96.10%	98.88%	97.15%	98.46%	Environmental Health Officers followed up 98% of non -compliance notifications.
Food Safety Samples [Number of food samples obtained / Required number of food samples] × 100	New	New	132%	115.38%	We will continue to work hard to ensure the community can eat safely in Manningham and exceeded our statutory food sampling quota by 15%.
Maternal and Child Health (MCH)					
Infant enrolments in the MCH service [Number of infants enrolled in the MCH service (from birth notifications received) / Number of birth notifications received] x100	101.54%	101.66%	100.97%	101.11%	At the end of the 12-month period, we have 100% of birth notices received enrolled in the MCH service.
Cost of the MCH service [Cost of the MCH service / Hours worked by MCH nurses]	$74.85	$72.32	$82.58	$87.72	With a small increase in staffing levels, we have been able to provide a more consistent service. This has enabled an increase in our participation.

LGPRF Indicators	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Participation in the MCH service [Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	77.86%	81.28%	81.08%	81.54%	We continue to maintain 81.54% participation rates for all children in Manningham. This is a slight increase which we attribute to outreaching clients having difficulty attending as well as the Wonga Park pop up.
Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children [Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	100.00%	100.00%	94.29%	90.63%	Currently all Aboriginal children enrolled are 100% engaged with our service. Due to client illness, there are 2 children that will now have their visit early in the new financial year.
Participation in 4-week Key Age and Stage visit [Number of 4-week key age and stage visits / Number of birth notifications received] x100	99.39%	93.25%	96.55%	97.44%	We have seen an increase in participation of the 4-week Key Age and Stage visit with MCH. This has occurred as the administration staff continue to follow up clients unable to attend, offering Wonga Park pop up to reach families not easily able to get to another centre, as well as offering outreach to those that can't get to a centre.
Collected from the start of the 2021 Council Plan					
People using library services and facilities		252,217	502,525	484,265	The result may have been impacted by the closure of The Pines branch for a week due to maintenance.

Goal 2: Connected and Inclusive Community

Key focus areas

Council Plan Theme	What we are focussing on
Healthy Community	Opportunities for everyone in Manningham to connect and engage in community life
Liveable Places and Spaces	Services and infrastructure that are equitable and accessible for all
Resilient Environment	Celebrate and value the rich cultural heritages of First Nations, their diversity, strengths and roles as knowledge holders
Vibrant and Prosperous Economy	Access to services and programs for employment, education and culture.
Well Governed Council	Welcoming to people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexuality, gender and cultures

Our performance – major initiatives and initiatives

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
Major initiatives			
	Support and educate to connect inclusive and healthy communities (inclusive of our First Nations and culturally diverse communities): • Implementing recommendations in the Reconciliation Action Plan to enhance recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. • Resources and information that link our community to the understanding of and responses to family violence.		We supported our community with activities including: • Progressing the delivery of the Manningham Reconciliation Action Plan. • Purchasing Wurundjeri children stories for Maternal and Child Health Centre in preparation for NAIDOC week. • Commencing staff capacity building on saying the Acknowledgement of Country. • Continuing to work closely with the Wurundjeri and local first Nations People on the establishment of a cultural protocol on Welcome to and Acknowledgement of Country. • Successfully recruiting a First Nations Officer. • Holding a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Working Group yarning circle in December 2024, with a focus on progress of the RAP, engagement for the new Council Plan and discussion on Council's Water Strategy. • Participating in an Eastern local government workshop investigating First Nations procurement options. • Hosting the Manningham RAP Working Group meet at Yaluk Langa (Heide Museum) to have the annual in-person yarning circle. This year the focus was on issues impacting local first nations people and the environment. We focussed on the prevention of family violence through: • An advertising campaign using the Manningham bus shelters to promote the Wellbeing Support services. • Building a collaboration with the Pines Neighbourhood House to establish a Mandarin speaking playgroup located in Doncaster. This will be a pilot program to provide a safe space for Chinese mums to connect. • A noticeable increase in demand in December for Wellbeing Cards in our public facilitates (neighbourhood houses and childcare). • Supporting families experiencing family violence continues to be a daily operation for the MCH Nurses. To address this, early years programs have been explored to reduce family violence and enhance our services.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
			• Holding Together for Equality and Respect meetings with partners, with a focus on preventative initiatives for the 2025 calendar year. Progressing VicHealth projects with a focus on young people and mental health and race-based discrimination.
	Work with local leaders to better understand the needs of newly arrived and culturally diverse communities to better tailor access to programs and services to meet those needs.		We worked with local leaders to build understanding through: • Holding regular meetings with cultural organisations to learn about local needs and provide local connections. • Working with the Multicultural Advisory Committee to understand the needs of local multicultural residents. This has been captured into the Manningham Welcoming Cities work plan. • Continuing our regular meetings with cultural organisations to learn about local needs and provide local connections. • Updating the website and reprinting the Wellbeing Card. The website has been updated and reprinted, and the Wellbeing Card poster has been prepared for placement on local bus shelters. • Working closely with the Manningham Multicultural Communities Network to confirm its focus and re-establish its work as a network.
	Enhance and create meaningful, inclusive opportunities for older people to connect, participate and contribute to the community through partnerships, volunteering and activities.		The Manningham Community Transport Service continued to operate. The long-term viability of this service is under review. The Healthy Ageing Participation Officer established strong connections with senior clubs, supporting them with governance and assistance in seeking Council grants for activities that help create opportunities for older adults to connect and participate in the community. The Seniors Clubs Network was launched in February 2025, providing a space for club committee leaders to connect, collaborate, access training and receive information from guest facilitators.
	Develop and deliver diverse community arts and public art programs that enable a celebration of local culture.		• We delivered over 80 8-week art courses and over 100 workshops through the Manningham Art Studios, reaching over 1,100 people, including older residents, children, young people and people with a disability • We collaborated with external organisations to host creative offerings for the community – e.g. Satellite Foundation Zine workshop, EACH youth songwriting workshops • We worked with diverse cultural groups to design the Migrant Peace Project public artwork, which will be launched later in 2025.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
	Develop meaningful relationships with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community groups, organisations, and local networks.		We have worked to strengthen meaningful relationships with First Nations people through: • Meeting with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Corporation every 8 weeks to discuss local items of importance. • Conducting 4 yarning circles per year with the Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group to progress items of importance. For example, in February 2025, the yarning circle explored cultural safety in the workplace and employment. • Quarterly meetings of the Manningham Reconciliation Action Plan Committee to oversee the implementation of the action plan and report to Reconciliation Australia.
	Deliver activities to support anti-ageism and share resources and stories with the community to raise awareness around stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination on the basis of age.		The Manningham Healthy Ageing team delivered information sessions to help raise awareness about ageism and its links with poor health outcomes, loneliness and elder abuse. Information sessions included: • Seniors Rights Victoria • Elders Rights Advocacy • Housing of the Aged Action Group • Living our Best Lives • Neighbourhood Watch • Financial Literacy for older women. Related resources and materials were distributed within the community. A significant forum was presented in June 2025 to highlight World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. This included a panel of subject matter experts discussing issues experienced by older people and providing information and resources aligned to the theme: “Healthy, Happy and Wise”. Over 130 community members attended, with 5 panel members and 13 community sector stallholders providing information to attendees. Manningham is an active member of the Eastern Elder Abuse Network (EEAN). Ageism – its causes, prevention and education – is a key focus of this network.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
	Recognise the contribution of our volunteers through Council's Civic Awards and Volunteers Recognition activities.		The Manningham Civic Awards received 22 nominations across 5 categories in 2024. The Awards honour and celebrate the achievements of ordinary people who do extraordinary things in our community. The nominees were recognised for their outstanding contributions, and the winners were announced for their exceptional community service. The 6 awards were presented in front of 180 guests at the ceremony on 22 August 2024, recognising: • Citizen of the Year – Brian Tyedin • Volunteer of the Year – Kate Gniel and Luke Bastian • Sports Volunteer of the Year – Anthony Milicia • Highly Commended Sports Volunteer of the Year – Michael James • Community Organisation of the Year – Rotary Club of Manningham City • Highly Commended Community Organisation of the Year – Manningham Toy Library The Volunteer Recognition Evening was held on Monday 26 May 2025 at the Manningham Function Centre, celebrating the contributions of 150 attendees from across the community. The new Manningham Community Awards launched in June 2025. The expanded program celebrates individuals and groups who have gone above and beyond in making Manningham a better place to live, work and visit over the past 12 months. The awards recognise achievements in 8 categories and one of these category winners will be named the Manningham Citizen of the Year. A total of 70 nominations were received, highlighting the depth of community contribution across Manningham.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
			The Manningham Community Award categories are: • **Doreen Stoves Excellence in Volunteering:** Recognising an individual who has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to volunteerism. • **Active Community:** Recognising an individual or group who has contributed to community participation in active lifestyles, sports or physical activity. • **Ageing Well:** Recognising an individual or group who has contributed to enhancing the lives of older residents, fostering social connection, safety or active ageing. • **Artistic Achievement:** Celebrating an individual or group who has contributed to Manningham's creative community, sparking artistic, cultural or creative expression. • **Community Excellence:** Honouring a community organisation or group that has delivered outstanding programs or initiatives contributing to the wellbeing, development and cohesion of the Manningham community. • **Community Health and Wellbeing:** Recognising individual or group efforts that have enhanced health, wellbeing or resilience in the community, whether through advocacy, program development or direct service delivery. • **Inclusive Community:** Recognising an individual or group who has actively contributed to community accessibility, inclusivity or diversity. • **Young Achiever:** Recognising a young person aged under 25, who has made a positive impact within the Manningham community through demonstrated leadership, innovation, or commitment to helping others.
	Improve housing choice to meet community needs by reviewing the Affordable Housing Policy and Manningham Planning Scheme.		The Manningham Affordable Housing Policy was endorsed by Council at its meeting on 31 October 2023. The Policy has been uploaded onto the Manningham website and the implementation of actions has commenced.
	Increase seating and amenities along our footpaths and trails to give people places to meet and rest.		We have continued to identify locations for new seating and other improvements through our footpath upgrade and repair program. Where opportunities exist through our footpath renewal and new construction programs, we also install new seating to create efficiencies. Some key locations include Jenkins Reserve and Hillcroft Reserve.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
	Deliver a 10-year Public Toilet Plan to ensure a network of safe, accessible, well maintained, and sustainable toilet facilities.		Construction is underway on the new toilet facility at Conos Court (Mullum Mullum trail), with expected completion in 2025-26. Detailed design on the proposed new toilet facility for Cat Jump Park is nearing completion with construction scheduled to commence in early 2025-26. A review of the toilet plan has also been undertaken which included community consultation. This will be completed in late 2025
	Increase activities to improve community understanding and conservation of areas of significance.		A new yarning circle format for Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group has been successfully implemented. The RAP Working Group has considered a range of projects that support conservation along the Birrarung (Yarra River). There is a Yarra Strategic Plan that involves an internal working group that includes the Yarra Strategic Plan Partnerships Group and the Birrarung Council. In 2025, we delivered the Manningham Bush Park Program involving local schools. This program included playing "marn-grook'".
	Improve energy efficient lighting in public places for community safety and activity.		We are undertaking 2 Smart Lighting pilot studies covering various sites including Mullum Mullum Reserve and Petty's Pavilion. This project is designed to trial the implementation of adaptive lighting measures permitted within Council's Public Lighting Guidelines. This may include but is not limited to exploring the use of smart lighting to modify lighting levels (or switch off lights) based on human activity (pre-programmed and real time) and modifying lighting levels (or switch off lights) based on wildlife migration, mating or nesting patterns.
	Support and promote local businesses through the Manningham Business Network.		A further year of support has been provided to the Manningham Business Network to grow their reach into the business community. The annual calendar of breakfast business meetings and after-hours networking has provided support to small and home-based businesses. A new Memorandum of Understanding for 2025-26 has been signed.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
	Work with Manningham Youth Services and other partners to support young people to engage in education, employment and community life.		We have worked closely with Manningham Youth Services (MYAC) and EACH to encourage and support young people. This has included: • Consulting with MYAC on the draft gambling policy review and the review of the Health and Wellbeing Action Plan. • Attending and promoting services at Templestowe College Pool Party, Templestowe College Athletics Day, Doncaster Secondary College Wellness Expo and Warrandyte Festival. Hosting fortnightly Songwriter Sessions at Doncaster Playhouse, monthly Job Ready sessions at Doncaster Library, monthly pop-ups at the Pines, Bulleen, and Warrandyte Libraries, and continuing MY Pride. • Providing individual and single session support and referrals, which saw an increase in reports of housing instability and family violence. We have improved our communication and engagement practices through: • Working on standard letters for regular communications to include more assistance for reading the letter in one's own language. • Completing a 2-year progress report with translations available on demand. • Continuing to work with teams to deliver accessible information using translations and QR codes. • Reviewing Manningham Matters. • Establishing the deliberative engagement panel, which has considered the needs of our multicultural communities.

Our performance: Liveable Places and Spaces

Services funded in our Annual Budget

Activity	Description	Budget $'000	Actual $'000	Variance $'000
Assets and Environment	Manages and maintains roadside furniture, signs, bollards, underground drains, roads, and footpaths, ensuring they are clear and free of debris. They carry out works within easements, undertake proactive maintenance programs and respond to community requests. The team manages street sweeping and cleaning of shopping centres. They ensure teams are equipped with the necessary tools and equipment to perform these tasks safely and effectively.	3,922	3,926	(4)
Strategic Asset Management	Provides strategic advice on asset performance. By assessing their condition, quantity, and value, they create strategic documents that help manage various assets, including roads, footpaths, drainage pipes, buildings, and recreation facilities. They run models to forecast when assets need renewal. They coordinate asset inspections every four years using contractors and advanced technologies. They also provide critical asset information to Victorian and Australian Governments for grant determinations.	1,001	861	140
City Design	Responsible for planning, designing, and constructing new and upgraded public spaces, including parks and activity centres that contribute to the liveability of our city for current and future populations. This work includes determining the location of new open spaces, deciding where existing spaces should be expanded and selecting appropriate infrastructure such as play equipment, fitness facilities, or toilets. They oversee the planning, design, and construction of capital improvements to these areas. To guide these efforts, they prepare and implement strategies and policies, including the Open Space Strategy and Liveable City Strategy.	(2,966)	(4,793)	1,827

Activity	Description	Budget $'000	Actual $'000	Variance $'000
City Planning	The team considers the needs and aspirations of the community, having regard for the Victorian Government planning requirements, including the new Planning Reforms. They are responsible for shaping the future direction of Manningham's land use and development. This is achieved by balancing growth and a range of planning matters, including vegetation and heritage protection, neighbourhood character, sustainable development, sustainable water management, and natural hazards such as flooding and bushfires. They prepare strategies and policies that inform planning controls in the Manningham Planning Scheme and provide broader strategic guidance. They also advocate to the Victorian Government for improvements to the planning system that benefits their community.	1,780	1,734	46
City Projects	Delivers the annual capital program, with projects ranging from road improvements to building upgrades and public amenities. This includes project planning, procurement, construction supervision, and timely delivery of capital works projects. They aim to invest $530 million in infrastructure improvements over the next 10 years. They are also responsible for delivering high-quality building projects that prioritise accessibility, environmental sustainability, and financial responsibility.	723	722	1
Integrated Transport	Strategic transport planning, advocacy, and representing Manningham's interests in external projects like the North East Link and Suburban Rail Loop. They manage and assist in implementing strategic transport documents and policies, advocating for Council priorities, and ensuring community needs are considered in large-scale infrastructure planning and delivery.	318	231	87

Activity	Description	Budget $'000	Actual $'000	Variance $'000
Community Projects and Planning	Ensures that Manningham's community infrastructure meets current and future community needs. This includes sporting facilities, early years facilities, and general community facilities like libraries and men's sheds.	858	861	(3)
Facilities Management	Oversees the maintenance and improvement of Council-owned building assets, ensuring they are safe, functional, and meet the community's needs. Their assets include sporting facilities, early years buildings, community facilities, heritage buildings, public toilets, libraries, picnic shelters, shade sails and more. They manage cleaning, graffiti removal, pest control, plumbing, electrical, security, and safety matters. They undertake Essential Safety Measures (ESM) and height safety inspections. Additionally, they roll out environmentally sustainable initiatives like solar panel installations and LED lighting upgrades and work with services to identify and prioritise building improvement works.	3,601	4,045	(444)
Building Services	Ensures community safety and local amenity by enforcing the *Building Act 1993* and Building Regulations 2018. Their responsibilities include managing building legislation enforcement, providing technical advice and inspections, addressing dangerous cladding, and ensuring pool safety compliance.	752	739	13
Roads and Infrastructure	Responsible for managing and maintaining road-related infrastructure within Manningham, including roads, footpaths, open drains, car parks, and pedestrian bridges. They undertake routine maintenance, site inspections, and respond to community requests. They also monitor and protect Council assets during private building developments. Their work is guided by the Road Management Plan (RMP) and various legislative requirements.	3,358	4,738	(1,380)

Activity	Description	Budget $'000	Actual $'000	Variance $'000
Statutory Planning	Assess and process planning and subdivision applications and provide planning advice to customers, including determining if a planning permit is required under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the Manningham Planning Scheme.	1,898	1,743	155
Traffic and Development	Engage with the community to promote road and pedestrian safety, manage public lighting and oversee parking arrangements in streets and car parks. They also manage the L2P (Learners to Probationary) program for young drivers. Additionally, they provide traffic, civil, and development engineering referral advice to the Planning Team. They also advocate to the Department of Transport and Planning on community road and traffic issues. Their responsibilities also include reviewing development plans, maintaining bus shelters, and managing local traffic devices.	2,593	2237	266

Goal 1: Inviting places and spaces

Key focus areas

Council Plan Theme	What we are focussing on
Healthy Community	Accessible and connected mixed-use places and streetscapes to recreate, gather and celebrate.
Liveable Places and Spaces	Meeting demand for housing, services and infrastructure and balancing city and country.
Resilient Environment	Plan for developments in a way that protects our environment and green open spaces.
Vibrant and Prosperous Economy	Neighbourhoods retain their distinct character and improved access to local services.
Well Governed Council	Recognise and promote Aboriginal cultural heritage and connection to Country.

Our performance – major initiatives and initiatives

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
Major initiatives			
	We will implement our principles to guide responsible planning for new developments and enhance protection of the environment through implementation of high-priority recommendations of the Manningham Planning Scheme 2020 Review.		We are continuing to progress several of the recommendations within the Manningham Planning Scheme Review. Key projects include: • The draft Manningham Residential Strategy and the draft Manningham Neighbourhood Activity Centre Design Guidelines. While progress has been made on both these projects, the recent Victorian Government planning reforms have had a significant impact on how these projects can progress without further guidance by the Victorian Government. • Continuing to engage with the Victorian Government to further discuss and monitor the progress of this work.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
Actions			
	Improve activation of places and neighbourhoods for people to recreate, gather and participate in community life.		We delivered 3 new playspaces, located in Eric Reserve, Templestowe, Murillo Reserve, Doncaster and at the new Hepburn Reserve, Doncaster. We completed 11 playspaces upgrades at Ruffey Lake Park (Victoria Street), Fahey Park, Doncaster Reserve, Maggs Reserve, St Denys Reserve, Mossdale Reserve, Dellfield Reserve, Kevin Reserve, Celeste East Reserve, Katrina Gully and Hillcroft Reserve. In Ruffey Lake Park, the steps trail was completed, linking the Ruffey Lake Circuit with the Hill Tops Circuit and providing park users with a challenging and scenic workout. A new suite of interpretive signs was installed, providing an opportunity for park users to connect with country, and experience nature and historical sites on the Ruffey Lake Park Heritage Trail.
	Increase activities to improve the Manningham community's understanding and conservation of areas of significance to Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.		Our activities to improve understanding and conservation of areas of significance included: • Supporting conservation along the Birrarung (Yarra River). There is a Yarra Strategic Plan which involves an internal working group, Yarra Strategic Plan Partnerships Group and working with the Birrarung Council. • Delivering the Manningham Bush Park Program involving local schools. This program included playing "marn-grook'". • Working with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Corporation to develop interpretative signage to be located at Ruffey Lake Park to encourage visitors understanding of First Nations significant locations and culture. • Working on initiatives for NADOC Week and National Reconciliation Week and provided advice for the wording for the Mayor's speech for 26 January - Australia Day.
	Develop a preferred neighbourhood character to make sure our neighbourhoods are well designed as part of the Liveable City Strategy 2040.		Work continues on the preparation of the draft Residential Strategy, informed in part by preferred neighbourhood character statements. Several planning reforms have been announced by the Victorian Government and officers are considering the implications of these changes and the impact that this will have on the work being progressed on the Residential Strategy. In particular, the reforms will likely change Manningham's character, as the planning controls now have limited consideration of neighbourhood character.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
	Improve our streetscapes with increased vegetation and water sensitive design to cool the landscape and bolster biodiversity.		We have continued the development of the Urban Forest Strategy. We have implemented the tree planting program within Manningham streets and parks and continued the implementation of conservation contract. We undertook the National Tree Planting Day with the community planting 3000 + plants.
	Review our Streetscape Management Plan and Nature Strip Policy by 30 June 2022 to help guide our street planting and management of our streetscapes with consideration of urban design, character areas and our natural environment.		We have reviewed our Management Plan and Policy. This has resulted in a new Street Tree Planting Guide.
	Commence long term plans to create a network of greenways to reduce our impact on the environment and improve the amenity of the city.		Progress continues to be made on the establishment of greenways through related projects such as: • Delivering on our existing bicycle strategy, through the capital works program, to complete links in the network, including the design for the Main Yarra Trail Stage 3. • Progression of land acquisition for open space. • Development of the Manningham Active Transport Strategy with community consultation to happen in 2025-26.
	Implement the Doncaster Hill Strategy and Economic Development Strategy recommendations to encourage and support our night-time economy, visitor economy and local employment opportunities.		Initiatives continue to be delivered in activity centres to attract higher levels of visitation. A number of centres have seen safety and beautification improvements with the implementation of planter boxes filled with locally grown plants. The initiative introduces greenery to an urban landscape and provides an aesthetically pleasing barrier between vehicles and pedestrians.

Our performance: LGPRF indicators

LGPRF Indicators	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Loans per population [Number of library collection item loans / Population]	New	New	10.45	8.67	Loans have increased on previous year, mainly due to an increase in electronic (eBook and eAudio) loans.
Number of library collection items purchased in the last 5 years / Number of library collection items] x100	72.28%	64.91%	64.13%	59.98%	The timing of new collection purchasing and withdrawal of existing collection items has impacted results over the reporting period. The location of floating collection items at any time is variable and may also impact results.
Library Membership [Number of registered library members / Population] x100	New	New	28%	27.53%	This measure was introduced in 2023-24 and captures the number of active library users per head of population. We are pleased to see this result demonstrating that our community place a high value on our library service.
Cost of library service per population [Direct cost of the library service / Population]	$28.13	$27.45	$29.10	$28.65	Whitehorse Manningham Libraries (WML) offer a range of services to meet the diverse needs of the community. This result is consistent results achieved in previous years.
Library visits per head of population [Number of library visits / Population]	New	New	3.74	3.77	Visitation statistics are slightly higher than the previous year. Doncaster Library was closed for renovation from 19 August - 25 August 2024 which may have impacted visitation statistics.
Statutory Planning					
Time taken to decide planning applications [The median number of days between receipt of a planning application and a decision on the application]	67.00	76.00	70.00	69.00	We have continued to process planning applications in a timely manner and we have further reduced our processing time to 69 days.

LGPRF Indicators	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Planning applications decided within required time frames [(Number of regular planning application decisions made within 60 days) + (Number of VicSmart planning application decisions made within 10 days) / Number of planning application decisions made] x100	78.99%	93.30%	90.21%	81.72%	While there has been a slight reduction in the time taken to process applications, we have continued to process a high percentage of all applications within statutory time frames, well above the metropolitan average.
Cost of statutory planning service [Direct cost of the statutory planning service / Number of planning applications received]	$2,685.23	$3,178.86	$3,564.19	$4,095.32	We have seen an increase in the cost of the service from the previous year as a result of an increase in employee costs.
Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT [Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside council's decision in relation to a planning application / Number of VCAT decisions in relation to planning applications] x100	57.14%	71.43%	63.16%	61.11%	There has been a slight reduction in the number of appeals decided by VCAT from 19 application in 2023-24 to 18 in 2024-25. Sixty-one per cent of planning decisions have been upheld at VCAT.

These indicators have been collected from the start of the 2021-2025 Council Plan.

Council Plan	2021	2022	2023	2024	Source
Satisfaction with our local area (overall performance	66	63	63	61	Community Satisfaction Survey (Overall performance)
Local Gross Domestic Product	$4,989.404	$212.314 billion.	$9.952 billion	$10.872 billion	Remplan
Maintain the balance of city and country by limiting two-thirds of medium and high-density development to our growth area	met	met	met	met	Council Data
90% of capital works programs delivered	88% achieved	87% achieved	88% achieved	84% achieved	Council Data

Goal 2: Enhanced parks, open space, and streetscapes

Key focus areas

Council Plan Theme	What we are focussing on
Healthy Community	Create accessible and well-connected areas that inspire activity, recreation, and relaxation
Liveable Places and Spaces	Services and infrastructure that are equitable and accessible for all
Resilient Environment	Protect and enhance the sustainability of parks and reserves using environmentally sustainable materials to build paths, trails, street furniture
Vibrant and Prosperous Economy	Access to local activity centres and walkability around the City
Well Governed Council	Promote awareness of Manningham's culture, heritage and conservation in our parks, trails, and open spaces

Our performance – major initiatives and initiatives

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
Major initiatives			
	We will continue to improve our local road, parks and recreation facilities (as scheduled) to a high standard: Parks and Recreation Facilities upgrade including Ted Ajani playspace, Joroma Reserve playspace and Astelot Reserve playspace.		Work is continuing to progress on the Ruffey Lake Park Landscape Masterplan implementation. The 'steps' project and the two new pedestrian bridges across Ruffey Creek have been completed. Construction of the boardwalk on the lake is well underway, and due to be completed in 2025-26.
Actions			
	Make improvements to our open space facilities to increase safety and use of our parks and open spaces to facilitate activity, recreation, and relaxation.		Landscape upgrades at Dellfield playspace and Mossdale and Hillcroft Reserves, are complete and open to the public. These works improve accessibility and visibility through these open spaces. Designs have been completed for upgrade works at Manna Gum and Windella playspaces taking into consideration Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles. Construction works for these playspaces is scheduled for early 2025-26.
	Actively support new and existing local community environmental groups, including Landcare, 'friends of', and other environmental sustainability stewardship groups.		Work continues with Landcare Groups such as Andersons Creek, which has included planting days to encourage community participation. We have worked collaboratively with Parks Victoria and Friends of Warrandyte State Park to undertake weekly revegetation and planting within Warrandyte State Park. We also supported the Jumping Creek Landcare group with deer monitoring and control.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
	Protect and enhance the sustainability of parks and reserves using environmentally sustainable materials to build paths, trails, and more street furniture.		We continue to collaborate with Melbourne Water on the concept design of the Warrandyte Walk along the Yarra River. Throughout 2024-25 we replaced 2.85km of path and constructed 7.4km of new paths (1.96km of renewed paths in parks and 5.44km of new paths along our road networks). We also installed 1.5km of virtual wildlife fencing along Jumping Creek Road and Bryson's Road to protect native fauna with another 0.5km to be installed in Porter Street Templestowe. We received 601 requests regarding signs and street furniture and we responded with a 90 per cent completion rate. We installed over 50 new planter boxes in 3 Activity Centers contributing towards enhancing the amenity within the centres. We also replaced the Manningham banners at various locations within the Municipality.
	Facilitate an increase in tree canopy across our parks as part of the Resilient Melbourne - Metropolitan Urban Forest Strategy.		In 2024-25, our tree planting efforts included: • Planting 2393 advanced trees, including 300 offset trees, paid for by NELP. • Planting 3000 trees and shrubs across Ruffey Lake Park and Mullum Mullum Reserve with the community and National Tree Day 2024. • Developing an Urban Forest Plan. • Commencing the development of the significant Tree Register for the protection of Manningham's significant trees on public and private land. • Continuing the implementation of the Tree Amenity Policy for the protection of trees, which generated revenue of $140k to be put back into City Greening.
	Deliver sustainability initiatives throughout the green wedge to preserve and protect our local environment.		The review of the Sites of Biological significance Report (2004) is underway and will inform a review of the current Environmental Significance Overlays (ESO) to ensure current protection of the Green Wedge. This review is now expected to be completed later in 2025-26. Other actions delivered include: • Awarding Local Environment Assistance Fund (LEAF) grants for predominately Green Wedge properties. • Completing mailouts to Green Wedge properties to inform owners of the significance of the area. Delivery of educational programs including bi-monthly environment seminars and nature walks have been delivered in this period.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
	Acquire and develop new or expanded parks, open spaces, and pedestrian links to support our growing population.		We have commenced landscape construction works to expand and upgrade Carawatha Reserve, Doncaster. This is expected to be completed in 2025-26. We completed the demolition of the dwelling at 17 Hanke to expand Hanke Reserve. We have acquired properties at 34 and 36 Clay Drive, Doncaster and 34 Talford Street, Doncaster East. These are scheduled for demolition in early 2025-26, with park expansion/upgrade works to immediately follow.
	Implement a responsive and customer-focused approach to the maintenance and management of streetscape matters including nature strips and trees reported by the community.		Our Parks and Natural Environment teams have responded to 5,798 Customer enquiries. We improved response times for tree inspections. We integrated Manningham's Customer Service request system with the Parks TreePlotter system to enable instant infield access to tree related enquiries. We undertook significant planting programs throughout shopping strips and landscape areas throughout the municipality.

Goal 3: Well connected, safe and accessible travel

Key focus areas

Council Plan Theme	What we are focussing on
Healthy Community	Well connected, safe and accessible public transport and active transport options
Liveable Places and Spaces	Education and infrastructure to support environmentally friendly transport and travel
Resilient Environment	Education to improve sustainable transport options to reduce congestion
Vibrant and Prosperous Economy	Pursue a 20-minute neighbourhood (in line with Plan Melbourne)
Well Governed Council	Advocacy for easier travel options to and within Manningham and surrounding areas

Our performance – major initiatives and initiatives

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
Major initiatives			
	Continue our work to maintain a high standard for our roads, footpaths, and drains (major initiative).		We continued to maintain a high standard for our roads, footpaths, and drains by: • Finalising the Stormwater Management Policy – providing clear prioritisation criteria for all future capital works projects. • Supporting the flood modelling project and development of the Integrated Water Management Strategy providing clarity and holistic strategies to our Stormwater management.
	We will deliver the Road Improvement Program (as scheduled) including Jumping Creek Road, Templestowe Route and Tram/Merlin Traffic signals.		The Road Improvement Program we undertook in 2024-25 included: • Awarding a contract for the Jumping Creek Road and Templestowe route project. • Commencing Tram Merlin Construction.
	Provide ways for people to connect by: i. Prioritising grant funding to support community inclusion and connections in a way that responds to community needs.		Council endorsed 30 Annual Community Grants, totaling $314,223. We awarded $33,759.25 in Small Grant funding to 16 organisations. We distributed $290,924.91 in Community Partnership grant installments. We distributed $150,000 in Neighbourhood Houses grant installments.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
	ii. Improving transport options through the 2021 Transport Action Plan and by contributing to planning of the Suburban Rail Loop, Doncaster Busway, Bus Rapid Transit, bus network and service review and enhancing the walking and cycling network.		We progressed improving transport options through: • Implementing the Transport Action Plan 2021 (TAP21), whilst also being dynamic and responding to evolving changing demands. • Proactively engaging with the Minister and relevant officers of the Suburban Rail Loop (SRL). We are seeking transparency on the next stage of the SRL project, which will have significant implications for Manningham. • Advocating for a high frequency busway solution for the Doncaster Road Corridor, with the work and partnership-building previously undertaken for a federal grant opportunity now being leveraged to inform a wider advocacy campaign. • Advocating for the implementation of improvements to bus networks and services in Manningham, which remains a high priority and is supported by advocacy groups including Eastern Transport Coalition (ETC) and Metropolitan Transport Forum (MTF). • Commencing the Manningham Active Transport Strategy refresh project in May 2025, which is expected to enhance walking and cycling opportunities.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
	iii. Community safety in and around schools through traffic and parking management programs.		Council endorsed the revised Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan 2025-2035. This document outlines our vision, objectives, and actions to improve road safety in Manningham over the next ten years. The strategy was informed by feedback from community consultation, local road safety data and input from road safety partners. In May 2025, Council worked with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) for the installation of temporary cameras around school sites, to conduct a survey of traffic and pedestrian movements aimed at identifying any road safety issues. The outcome of these surveys will contribute to building a risk profile of school crossings in general and will assist the Department of Transport and Planning to recommend funding for the upgrade of the worst crossings across the state. We have continued to organise and sponsors the following road safety programs: • Wiser Driver Course: a 4 x 2-hour sessions usually run at MC Square for senior residents wanting to learn about driving safely. • L2P Program: The Transport Accident Commission (TAC) L2P Program matches learner drivers aged 16 to 21 years old with a fully licenced volunteer driver and program vehicle to help them gain driving experience required for a probationary licence. • Fit2Drive Program: Run at secondary school, information for students that are ready to take their Learner Licence.
Actions			
	Advocate for improved safety on public transport.		We continued to advocate for improved safety on public transport by: • Meeting with relevant Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) officers on key transport-related matters and taking all opportunities to make new connections and raise safety as a key Manningham priority. • Liaising with the Kinetic bus company, who are the bus operator in Manningham. Hearing directly from the bus operator has provided an additional insight into safety (and other) considerations for public transport users. We are using this information to inform our ongoing advocacy and project work.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
	Expand and upgrade our shared trail network to improve connectivity.		We have experienced significant delays in obtaining Melbourne Water approval to construct two link trails to the Koonung Creek Trail. This is still outstanding, and construction will commence once approval is provided. The detailed design for the Victoria Street Shared Path has commenced. This is an action item from the Ruffey Lake Park Landscape Masterplan. The concept design for stage 3 of the Main Yarra Trail has commenced and will be completed in 2025-26.
	Deliver our Road Improvement Program including Jumping Creek Road, Tuckers Road, Knees Road and Templestowe Village connecting roads as scheduled.		Our Road Improvements Program progressed as scheduled, including: • The contract has been awarded for the Jumping Creek Road Templestowe Village route projects. • Tram Merlin Construction underway. • Templestowe Route is underway.
	Deliver activities to encourage people to use public and environmentally friendly transport.		We encouraged the use of public and environmentally friendly transport through: • Promoting the shift towards more sustainable transport. This remains a key priority for the Council and underpins all of our advocacy and strategic work on buses, active transport and car share. • Continuing to build on our relationship with the bus operator Kinetic in advance of the planned 2026 start-date for the transition to electrifying their Doncaster bus depot. • We also take all opportunities for knowledge sharing with other Councils and industry bodies on this topic, including through guest speakers at the Eastern Transport Coalition and Metropolitan Transport Forum meetings.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
	Engage with private car and rideshare companies to encourage an establishment of a car share program in Doncaster Hill.		We continue to make progress towards increased car share provision in Manningham. • Formal negotiations have commenced with our existing operator on a new, longer-term agreement under the Car Share Policy 2024. An interim extension to the previous MoU has been signed. • We are working on a process to encourage private developers to include provision of space for car share operators within large residential and mixed-use developments.
	Investigate options for land for employment use to reduce Council's reliance on rate revenue.		Two sites have been investigated for development. • The former Doncaster Quarry - an Expression of Interest (EOI) process was undertaken for the former quarry, with a particular look at light industry uses. The results showed the quarry fill is not fit for development due to water/ drainage issues and requires rehabilitation. • 300 Blackburn Road – we will investigate all options for the future of the site including retail uses to understand what economic potential the site may deliver to the community.

Our performance: LGPRF indicators

LGPRF Indicators	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Roads					
Sealed local road requests [Number of sealed local road requests / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100	71.54	106.04	82.57	50.14	We have seen a decrease in the number of requests, which may correlate with a reduction in weather events and a significantly drier year, reducing weather-related defects and complaints. In addition, recent works on major arterial routes may have reduced the number of requests received which relate to state-managed infrastructure.
Sealed local roads maintained to condition standards [Number of kilometres of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100	98.91%	98.49%	95.88%	96.93%	The condition of our roads remains relatively consistent, with a steady decrease in the number of roads below intervention, correlating with works to reseal and reconstruct parts of our road network
Cost of sealed local road reconstruction [Direct cost of sealed local road reconstruction / Square metres of sealed local roads reconstructed]	$112.77	$0.00	$0.00	$73.72	Major reconstruction works were completed on several roads, improving the quality of our road network.
Cost of sealed local road resealing [Direct cost of sealed local road resealing / Square metres of sealed local roads resealed]	$16.41	$28.27	$20.53	$21.54	The cost for resealing remains consistent with previous years, reflecting Council's large resurfacing program.

LGPRF Indicators	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Satisfaction with sealed local roads [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads]	66.00	58.00	58.00	59.00	We work hard to maintain our local roads and have seen results consistent with last year. We have increased community engagement this year and it may take time to see the impact of this reflected in our survey results. The survey is a sample of 400 residents participating in a Community Satisfaction Survey, managed by the Victorian Government.

Goal 4: Well maintained and utilised community infrastructure

Key focus areas

Council Plan Theme	What we are focussing on
Healthy Community	Infrastructure meets our community's needs, now and into the future
Liveable Places and Spaces	Plan, design and maintain and use our current and future facilities
Resilient Environment	Environmentally sustainable design and use of materials to promote resilience to flood, bushfire and climate
Vibrant and Prosperous Economy	Accessible and well maintained infrastructure to support getting from place to place
Well Governed Council	Stewardship in environment and design.

Our performance – major initiatives and initiatives

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
Major initiatives			

	We will investigate and review current facility use and opportunities to develop or repurpose existing facilities and use of Council land for multi-use purposes and to meet changing community needs through:
	• Continue to deliver projects set out in the Community Infrastructure Plan Action Plan.
	• Strengthening utilisation and performance of stadiums in conjunction with stadium managers.
	• Improving community access to sport and recreation facilities and spaces for broad community use and benefit.
			We worked to optimise our facilities through:
			• Improving community infrastructure through the Manningham Infrastructure Plan, which gives clear guidance on the infrastructure needs and informs our capital works program. Our activity in 2024-25 included:
			  • Delivery of the Youth Hub, Park Orchards Community House Feasibility and Redevelopment.
			  • Warrandyte Community Facilities Review.
			  • Early Years Infrastructure Plan.
			  • Bulleen Library Upgrade.
			  • Men's Shed Needs Assessment.
			In 2024-25, community access to sport and recreation facilities and the usage of our stadiums continued to be strong. We facilitated this through:
			• Continuing the concept design process for the Manningham Templestowe Leisure Centre Masterplan (includes the outdoor netball courts).
			• Preparation of an Indoor Sports Facility Plan commenced, which will guide future use and capital works planning.
			• Upgrading the lighting at Donvale Indoor Sports Centre to LED dimmable lights that will enable increased utilisation for badminton and table tennis.
			• Addition of pickleball and badminton court line markings at Manningham Templestowe Leisure Centre, enhancing the venue's flexibility through provision for a wider range of sports.
			• Additional usage of Leeds Street Stadium for taekwondo and netball.
			• Commencement of weekly Big V Basketball games at Sheahan's Reserve Stadium.
			• Manningham's stadiums hosted the Australia Day weekend tournament, with 15,238 players, 1,673 teams, and 4,947 games played across 227 courts.
			• Mullum Mullum Stadium hosted the Australian Defence Force National Netball Tournament.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
Actions			
	Identify the current and future capacity of our facilities and pavilions to make sure they meet community needs now and in the future.		A review has been undertaken to identify the occupancy rate of sports fields. This review considers the usable hours and determines an occupancy percentage based on the hours allocated for organised sport. Whilst the report identified opportunities to increase use, it is important to balance increasing structured use and retaining access for general community use.
	All works on our community facilities will be compliant with disability and accessibility standards.		When designing our projects, we strictly follow *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (DDA) guidelines and the National Construction Code (NCC). All of our new projects include DDA parking as well as compliant footpaths and ramps to improve accessibility, universal design and inclusivity. The interior design of amenities complies with the standards and NCC, including accessible and ambulant toilets and circulation spaces that allow for easy wheelchair access, with kitchen design improvements to accommodate height-adjustable benches.
	Consult with our community in the preparation of sporting grounds masterplans to take a strategic approach to provide for our community's current and future recreation needs in line with our Recreation Strategy priorities listing.		Several planning projects are currently on hold due to significant resourcing issues. Some consultation has occurred for the Stintons Reserve Master Plan and consultation remains ongoing for the Timber Reserve Development Plan. These projects have, however, seen significant delays and will be completed in 2025-26.
	Explore partnerships to maximise the use of community facilities.		The Community Infrastructure Plan was Completed in partnership with key stakeholders and approved in August 2023. Projects that were delivered in 2024-25 include: • Park Orchards Community House Feasibility and Redevelopment • Warrandyte Community Facilities Review • Early Years Infrastructure Plan • Bulleen Library Upgrade • Men's Shed Needs Assessment.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
	Demonstrate leadership in environmentally responsive building materials and locations to promote resilience to flood, bushfire, and climate.		We continued multiple electrical upgrades to reduce emissions from council sites including LED lighting upgrades. These improvements occurred at Donvale Indoor Sports Centre, MC Square, Warrandyte Kindergarten and Zerbes Reserve Pavilion.
	Proactively plan, upgrade, and improve our recreation facilities to ensure they are maintained and accessible for a broad range of community uses.		Planning and design were completed for several key sport and recreation facility projects: • Aquarena Outdoor redevelopment, which will include a new water play area, 50 metre pool, change rooms and café. • Wonga Park Netball redevelopment. • Donvale Bowling Club upgrades, including synthetic grass rink and dome roof. • Anderson Park synthetic field conversion. We successfully applied for grant funding for the following projects: • Wonga Park Netball redevelopment (Australian Government Play Our Way Program). • Aquarena Outdoor Redevelopment, Domeney Reserve sports field floodlight upgrade and Manningham Recreation Strategy (Victorian Government Local Sports Infrastructure Fund). We started work on an Indoor Sports Facility Plan, which will guide Council's current and future indoor sports facility provision. Our Pricing Policy for Use of Council Active Open Space was implemented, which helped increase utilisation of active reserves. The Outdoor Sports Infrastructure and Allocations Policy was updated to improve facility standards and make it easier to work with clubs on facility improvements.
	Deliver management and maintenance programs to manage the balance of bushfire prevention with the protection of biodiversity.		Works continue to be delivered across our teams to achieve a collaborative outcome for bushfire protection and biodiversity preservation. The Fire as a Land Management Tool policy and procedure was endorsed in May 2025, enabling for prescribed burning as a methodology for managing fuel loads and protecting biodiversity now, and in future.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
	Explore the need for a broad heritage review and assessment to protect and promote the cultural and historical significance of Council's assets.		We are progressing work associated with the preparation of a Thematic Environmental History. The first phase of community consultation concluded in mid-May 2025, including direct engagement with the historical societies in Manningham. The purpose of this engagement was to request stories of people, groups, places and events that have helped shape Manningham, from the community. The preparation of the draft Thematic Environmental History will incorporate all relevant submissions from the community and the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Corporation during the first phase of consultation. Once complete, the draft Thematic Environmental History will be publicly exhibited, prior to final endorsement by Council.
	Improve water management with the development of an Integrated Water Management Strategy.		The draft Integrated Water Management Strategy is well advanced and has been informed by technical investigations and engagement with the Flooding and Stormwater Management Community Reference Panel. The Communications and Engagement Plan has been updated and outlines key activities associated with the proposed public exhibition scheduled between November and December 2025. Council's flood modelling has been progressed for Ruffey, Mullum Mullum, Jumping, Brushy and Andersons Creeks.

Our performance: Resilient Environment

Services funded in our Annual Budget

Activity	Description	Budget $'000	Actual $'000	Variance $'000
Climate and Environment	Deliver programs to achieve net-zero emissions, including Solar Savers, energy-efficient infrastructure projects, and advocacy for state and federal support. They also focus on climate response, emissions reduction, adaptation, advocacy, and partnerships.	1,810	1,473	337
Parks and Natural Environment	Manage and enhance community spaces across Manningham. Responsibilities include maintaining open spaces, sporting reserves, tree management, tree planting, conservation areas and park assets. They also conduct fire mitigation activities, manage landscaped surroundings, and operate a Council nursery to support greening initiatives. They run community education and operate a nursery to propagate and nurture plants.	13,099	13,547	(448)
Drainage and Technical Services	Investigate and consider the impacts of stormwater on properties and places, whilst aiming to develop and deliver a sustainable and economical engineering resolution of drainage issues. This includes inspections, consultations, analysis, referrals, and capital works improvements. They also provide flood level advice on development applications and plans and implement drainage improvement works.	502	671	(169)
Fleet	Manage and maintain Council's vehicles, plant and equipment, ensuring they are safe, reliable, and fit for purpose to support the delivery of over 100 services to the community.	(586)	(798)	212
Waste and Resource Recovery	Manage kerbside collections of garbage, recycling and food organics and garden organics (FOGO) for Manningham residents. They provide hard waste and bundled garden waste collections, deliver waste services to 627 commercial properties, operate a call centre and run educational programs for community groups and schools. Additionally, they host public waste reduction events, produce related guides and brochures and engage in strategic planning for future waste initiatives.	(581)	(851)	270

Goal 1: Protect and enhance our environment and biodiversity

Key focus areas

Council Plan Theme	What we are focussing on
Healthy Community	Connection with Manningham's culture, heritage, and conservation
Liveable Places and Spaces	Partnerships with the community and others to learn, connect and protect natural spaces, parks, rivers, and creeks
Resilient Environment	Support protection of the Green Wedge and natural spaces
Vibrant and Prosperous Economy	Improvements to waste and recycling to support the transition to a circular economy, sustainable transport options, renewable energy
Well Governed Council	Advocacy to protect the environment and biodiversity

Our performance – major initiatives and initiatives

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
Major initiatives			
	• We will deliver environmental activities to: • Strengthen principles to protect the environment, biodiversity, and wildlife. • Advocate to government and business on environmental issues. • Improve management practices for bushland maintenance, pest animal and environmental weed control, and monitoring, evaluating, and improvement mechanisms. • Explore biodiversity improvement or environmental community engagement programs for local public areas in collaboration with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Melbourne, and Parks Victoria. • Build stewardship in sustainable waste management practices with the community.		To strengthen principles to protect the environment, biodiversity, and wildlife, we have: • Implemented a new bushland contract to actively enhance and maintain conservation in our reserves. The new contract focuses on vegetation management with an emphasis on fire mitigation. Contractors were selected for their expertise in bushland management and native vegetation preservation, and monitoring of the contract indicates positive ecological improvements. • Facilitated biodiversity and community connection to nature by completing revegetation at sites such as 100 Acres, Warrandyte Walk, and Mullum Mullum Creek corridor, and by holding community planting days during National Tree Day and Wattle Day. • Mapped rabbit warrens in bushland reserves to assist with managing their environmental impact and support native species recovery. To advocate to government and business on environmental issues, we have: • Continued to work with the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) and collaborative forums to develop direct partnerships with Melbourne Water and the EPA. These ongoing relationships help to ensure that local priorities are represented in broader environmental discussions. • Focused our advocacy with the Victorian Government on the Climate Offsets Program and climate risk, helping to achieve policy development that is more aligned with local climate resilience goals. • Contributed to Victorian Climate Resilient Councils advocacy through a submission that highlighted opportunities to accelerate net zero transition and strengthen community resilience. • Advocated with the Victorian Greenhouse Alliances (VGA) for collaboration between state and local governments on climate outcomes within new housing targets. The VGA requested targeted funding support for councils to overcome rate capping constraints.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress

			• Supported VGA advocacy to align housing growth with climate and ecological priorities, with a focus on:
			  • Climate hazard and risk consideration in housing development.
			  • The roadmap to zero carbon buildings by 2030.
			  • The integration of biodiversity and blue-green infrastructure.
			• Supported joint VGA and MAV advocacy to the Australian Government that requested an ambitious 2035 emissions reduction target. This work recognised local government contributions to climate action and elevated the role of councils in national climate strategy.
			To improve management practices for bushland maintenance, pest animal and environmental weed control, and monitoring, evaluation and improvement mechanisms, we:
			• Extended the bushland contract for a further year and will conduct a review to ensure that we are achieving continuous improvement in bushland management.
			• Engaged contractors to manage roadside indigenous vegetation to support ecosystem health and visual amenity.
			To explore biodiversity improvement or environmental community engagement programs for local public areas, we:
			• Implemented the Nature Plan, which required a whole-of-Council approach to addressing tree canopy requirements and implementing city greening initiatives and enhancements to the green wedge. This approach builds a resilient urban environment while respecting cultural and ecological values.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
			To build stewardship in sustainable waste management practices with the community, we have: • Continued to develop strong relationships within the community by delivering a range of community engagement and education programs, with a suite of 18 programs focused on waste reduction, recycling, upcycling, composting and reuse workshops. • Implemented garden waste disposal days for residents living in bushfire-prone areas. These occurred between September and December 2024, with 313 attendees. • Continued the Our Waste Drop-off Days, which were our largest community events. Residents could recycle a range of materials not accepted in the kerbside service. We had 847 attendees in November 2024 and 757 attendees in March 2025. • Maintained our monthly presence at the Warrandyte Market, providing our community with ongoing information about waste initiatives and upcoming events.
Actions			
	Empower the community to protect biodiversity through education and incentives for private landholders.		In 2024-25, we continued to support landholders to reduce the feral deer population. With help from a Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) grant, 45 properties were engaged, and 175 Sambar deer were removed. The Local Environment Assistance Fund continued, with 200 landholders contacted and over 100 funded through the program to improve environmental condition of their property. In 2024-25, we held a series of Environmental Stewardship events: • 8 biodiversity wildlife events • 6 Wurundjeri Cultural awareness events • 30 Spring outdoor events for over 1000 residents • Lead 2 Sustain conference attended by 14 schools (240 children). As well as this, our citizen science program events delivered 10 Nature Walks and Environmental seminars and we supported environmental volunteers with water quality monitoring, backyard bird count, bioblitz, City Nature challenge and others.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
	Collaborate with community environment groups and other public land managers to protect biodiversity.		Work continues with Landcare Groups such as Andersons Creek, which has included planting days to encourage community participation. We have worked collaboratively with Parks Victoria and Friends of Warrandyte State Park to undertake weekly revegetation and planting within Warrandyte State Park. We have supported the Jumping Creek Landcare group with deer monitoring and control.
	Increase tree and vegetation coverage to bolster biodiversity.		In 2024-25, the tree planting program planted 2,393 advanced trees planted across streets and parks. This reflects our strong progress in urban greening and canopy expansion efforts. The development of the Urban Forest Plan is underway and is expected to be completed in 2025/26. The Plan will incorporate the creation of a significant tree inventory and will guide long-term urban forest management and biodiversity outcomes. We have completed the Biosite review. The findings from the review will inform and link to the upcoming Nature Plan and ensure that ecological values are considered in broader environmental planning.
	Continue maintaining and improving Council bushland areas.		We have strengthened interdepartmental collaboration and continued to work closely with Victorian Government departments and agencies. This has resulted in stronger relationships with Melbourne Water, which has led to securing long-term grant agreements to support biodiversity improvements along waterways. Our strengthened partnership with Melbourne Water enhances funding stability and ecological outcomes. Our Bushland contract continued to operate effectively and has been extended for an additional year. The contract will be reviewed in 2025-26 to identify and implement improvements. The 2024-25 National Tree Day was highly successful, and was the largest event ever held locally. Supported by 500 community members, more than 7,000 native plants were planted. The success of the day demonstrates strong community engagement and commitment to environmental stewardship.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
	Reduce threats to biodiversity and wildlife habitat, including pest management and reducing vegetation removal.		A Victorian Government grant was received to support the deer control program for a further 2 years (2025-27) across our Green Wedge. This will ensure biodiversity and habitat will be protected across private property and through Landcare within Manningham. A review of the rabbit control program has occurred and resulted in a new mapping and control program. The mapping has been completed on Council's plotter program to ensure burrows can be geolocated.
	Help grow the market for recycled and sustainable products and materials through sustainable procurement.		For major procurement tenders, such as design and construction projects, we include a separate Sustainability Practices Questionnaire for tenderers to complete. The questionnaire covers the following: a. Environmental Sustainability – such as practices related to energy efficiency, waste reduction, etc. b. Local Sustainability – such as use of local labour, investment in local businesses, etc. c. Social Sustainability - such as collaboration with not for profit or charitable organisations. Responses to the questionnaire form part of the overall tender evaluation and selection process.
	Minimise the environmental impact of Council's capital works through our Biodiversity Impact Assessment Committee and advocate to reduce the environmental impact of Victorian Government projects.		Manningham staff meet quarterly to discuss programmed capital works and ensure upgrades such as footpaths and road works comply with environmental planning legislation and consider good biodiversity outcomes. Examples include: Ruffey Lake Park path design, Anderson Park upgrades design, internal Wildlife Awareness training, Everard Drive path consultation and Paynters Road footpath consultation.
	Deliver our drainage program (as scheduled), including the Melbourne Hill Road Drainage Upgrade.		The drainage program progressed well during 2024-25. Stage 1 of the Melbourne Hill project is complete with Stage 2 proceeding during 2025-26. Works in Everard Drive were completed and design for works at Arundel Road and Dalry Avenue in Park Orchards, will be completed in 2025-26.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
	Explore with other Councils, garden and food waste processing and separated glass collection service to reduce waste to landfill.		We are one of 3 Victorian Councils calling on the Victorian Government to reconsider the requirement of a kerbside glass recycling bin for all households by 1 July 2027. This group of Councils is advocating for the mandatory implementation of the fourth glass-only bin service to be postponed and reconsidered. The group is requesting the expansion of the Container Deposit Scheme to include wine and spirit bottles which would provide similar circularity benefits to a glass-only bin service.

Goal 2: Reduce our environmental impact and adapt to climate change

Key focus areas

Council Plan Theme	What we are focussing on
Healthy Community	Education and awareness to support waste management, compost, climate changes and biodiversity
Liveable Places and Spaces	Sustainable and innovative environmental practices for Manningham businesses, homes and neighbourhoods to optimise energy, waste and water
Resilient Environment	Manage natural spaces to remove threats and revegetate for sustainability and bushfire preparedness
Vibrant and Prosperous Economy	Implement improvements to waste and recycling services to support the transition to a circular economy
Well Governed Council	Act on climate change through advocacy, leadership and education

Our performance – major initiatives and initiatives

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
Major initiatives			
	Support and educate to connect inclusive and healthy communities (inclusive of our culturally diverse communities) through environmental education and waste programs.		We delivered a range of community engagement and education programs, with a suite of 18 programs delivered in 2025, including clothes and toy swaps, composting workshops, low-waste and beeswax workshops and our monthly presence at the Warrandyte Market. Our Waste Drop-off Days continue to be our largest community event, providing residents with the opportunity to drop off a range of items that cannot be recycled through the kerbside service, with 847 attendees in November 2024 and 757 attendees in March 2025. We launched our Sustainability and Environmental Education Day (SEED) in Term 2, 2024. The program includes 4 rotating activities: waste education, biodiversity, Wurundjeri cultural awareness education and composting. The program was delivered to 8 primary schools, with up to 800 local primary school students participating. Our FOGO guides are still available in multiple languages, and we are now working on developing a Waste and Recycling guide as well.
Actions			
	Encourage solar uptake in the community and explore other energy sustainability innovation.		Our Solar Savers program has now been translated into multiple languages to support our diverse community. In 2024–25, 14 engagement events were held with over 250 attendees. The Solar Savers program will expand in 2025–26 to offer more energy-efficient products and services via a larger panel of providers. Solar Savers can now support Manningham residents to electrify their homes and benefit from reduced energy bills and improved comfort.
	Deliver sensors for parking, bins and drains and irrigation to use technology to better meet customer needs and improve service delivery in activity centres and waste management.		We have implemented traffic sensors for parking within Templestowe Village and Jackson Court, with the opportunity to look at other locations within our Activity Centres. Council teams are continuing to review opportunities to implement new technology to help manage other services and improve response times.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
	Trial new recycled material on our roads to minimise the use of new materials and emissions to reduce our environmental impact.		As part of our commitment to driving innovation and sustainability within infrastructure delivery, we continue working closely with our panel of contractors to explore the use of advanced materials that provide both environmental and financial benefits. An exciting opportunity has emerged through the trial of Bio-Bind—a cutting-edge, low-carbon alternative to traditional bitumen used in asphalt. Derived from pine oil, a by-product of the logging industry, Bio-Bind is a petroleum-free binder designed to act as a direct substitute for conventional bitumen in road construction. The use of Bio-Bind represents a significant step forward in reducing carbon emissions associated with road infrastructure, aligning with our broader sustainability objectives and the sector's move toward net-zero targets. Full-scale trials of Bio-Bind have been completed in other municipalities. However, we are taking a low-risk approach, with our initial trial limited to use as the sub-base only, in a short section, at this stage. The outcomes of this trial will inform future application potential, cost-benefit analysis, and broader scalability across our infrastructure program.
	Develop a Waste Wise Policy to eliminate the use of single-use plastics and soft plastics in council operations, functions and at events held on council land and in facilities.		This was achieved through the state-wide single-use plastics ban from 2023 under Recycling Victoria's Circular Economy Policy. We also encouraged participation in the Plastic Free July challenge to support residents and Woolworths has recently introduced a trial soft plastics recycling program for the community.
	Investigate the provision of e-waste drop off hub(s) to collect small e-waste items.		Our recycling hubs have been active since 1 November 2021. They are situated at both the Depot and Civic Offices and at each of the Manningham library branches. We are using ACE Recycling Group to collect and recycle each of the items and the contract will be advertised again in October 2025 to renew for another 4 years.
	Reduce emissions with improved garden and food waste processing.		Our Food Organic Green Organic service (FOGO) started in July 2023, introducing a weekly FOGO collection and a fortnightly garbage service. In 2024-25, 74.1% of all waste was diverted from landfill. The introduction of FOGO greatly contributes to achieving net zero emissions by 2028 and net zero community emissions by 2035.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
	Install more solar power on Council buildings, make environmental improvements to Council facilities and switch to wind and solar generated grid electricity supply.		The 2024-25 solar program was completed. Phase 3 includes the installation of solar and batteries at 8 sites, including: • Rieschiecks Activity Centre • Finns Reserve Scout Hall • Templestowe Reserve Pavilion • Templestowe Scout Hall • Warrandyte Community Hall • Warrandyte Reserve Pavilion • Colman Park Pavilion • Park Orchards Basketball Stadium. Larger batteries have been designed and are scheduled to be installed at Mullum Mullum Stadium, Depot and Civic Centre and MC Square in 2025-26.
	Engage the community, collaborate with other Councils and advocate for reduced greenhouse gas emissions at the local, state, and federal levels.		We continue to work with the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) to advocate for lower emissions across the region. The key advocacy efforts through NAGA were improved performance ratings for dwellings, all-electric buildings, zero emissions vehicles (fuel efficiency targets) and a program for offsets. In 2025-26, we will explore purchasing offsets as a group with NAGA councils. We will also continue to advocate for offset standards; and a consistent approach to climate risk and urban heat impacts.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
3.1.2.3	Demonstrate stewardship in developing and implementing our Climate Emergency Plan actions.		The Climate Emergency Response Plan is active and will be implemented over the next 10 years, or until the community target is met. Key areas of climate action success are the solar and ecologically sustainable development programs, which have resulted in: • More than 28 Council buildings with solar installed. • Most of our streetlights now upgraded to energy-efficient LEDs, resulting in 60% savings in energy, costs and emissions. • The removal of gas hot water from 2 community centres—Deep Creek Childcare Centre and Heimat House—and plans to remove gas heating at the Depot site. • Planning for future Environmentally Sustainable Design upgrades and degasification works at our community centres and major stadiums. • Completion of 2 pilot smart lighting projects at Mullum Mullum Reserve and Pettys Pavilion. • Public lighting now powered by renewables, through the Victorian Energy Collaboration contract.
3.1.2.4	Facilitate uptake of electric vehicles in our operations and support the implementation of community infrastructure to enable the uptake of electric vehicles.		Public EV charger sites are being rolled out in Manningham. One site is under construction in Bulleen and several others have been confirmed, with construction to begin in 2025–26. There is a target of 9 sites to be installed by the end of 2025–26 by the 2 ChargePoint operators, and we will look to install more sites if feasible locations are identified. In 2024–25, the first 100% electric truck joined the Manningham fleet. EV chargers for the fleet are already installed at the Civic Centre and Depot, with additional chargers expected to be installed at the Depot in 2025–26. We have also investigated e-bike charging facilities to be installed along the Mullum Mullum Trail.

Our performance: LGPRF indicators

LGPRF Indicators	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Waste					
Kerbside collection bins missed Number of kerbside garbage and recycling collection bins missed / Number of scheduled kerbside garbage and recycling collection bin lifts] x10,000	3.80	3.27	2.77	2.79	We are pleased to see that we have achieved consistent service levels compared to last year.
Cost of kerbside garbage bin collection service [Direct cost of the kerbside garbage bin collection service / Number of kerbside garbage collection bins]	$131.62	$142.13	$80.70	$89.69	The cost of our kerbside garbage has remained lower, which is related to the change in collection frequency from weekly to fortnightly and the introduction of the weekly FOGO collection (which has resulted in food waste being moved from the garbage to FOGO bin).
Cost of kerbside recyclables collection service [Direct cost of the kerbside recyclables bin collection service / Number of kerbside recyclables collection bins]	$54.61	$56.12	$56.35	$60.70	The cost of our recyclables service has increased due to collection and transport costs.
Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill [Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside	53.60%	54.95%	75.51%	74.05%	The consistent result this year is due to the success of the introduction of FOGO (Food Organics, Green Organics) and the change to a fortnightly garbage collection. With the introduction of FOGO, our community can now place their food waste into their FOGO bin rather than their garbage bin, reducing the amount of waste going to landfill.

Our performance: Vibrant and Prosperous Economy

Services funded in our Annual Budget

Activity	Description	Budget $'000	Actual $'000	Variance $'000
Arts, Culture and Local History	Commissions public artworks such as sculptures and murals, present contemporary art exhibitions and interactive art events, and host art and craft workshops. They manage and display Manningham's art collection in our gallery and civic buildings, support local historical societies and facilitate arts and culture grant applications. They advise artists and community groups on their programs. They support artists with professional development, funding opportunities, commissions, and exhibition opportunities. They manage the Doncaster Playhouse, hiring it out for community groups and performing artists.	563	712	(149)
Community Venues and Functions	Management of over 20 multi-purpose facilities and more than 40 available venues across Manningham, providing safe, accessible, and high-quality spaces for a wide range of events. These include community events, corporate conferences, cultural celebrations, weddings, seniors clubs, social gatherings, and more. Their team supports over 11,000 bookings annually, handling everything from venue set-up and pack-down to catering services. Key venues include the Manningham Function Centre, Ajani Centre, East Doncaster Hall and also the civic centre.	468	635	(167)
Economic Development	Builds strong relationships with local businesses to drive economic growth and job creation in Manningham. Supports larger Neighbourhood Activity Centres as well as smaller Local Activity Centres. Supports businesses through initiatives in activity centres, including awards, marketing and placemaking, to create vibrant, accessible spaces. The team also supports environmental sustainability by guiding businesses on solar panel installations and recycling practices. They work to ensure that local residents have access to employment opportunities, create a workforce plan, support social enterprises, and host the annual SpeedX event that connects high school students with local employers.	887	769	118

Goal 1: Grow our local business, tourism, and economy

Key focus areas

Council Plan Theme	What we are focussing on
Healthy Community	Celebrate and promote our arts and culture to support our local economy
Liveable Places and Spaces	Optimise access and accessibility in our local shops, activity centres and public spaces
Resilient Environment	Grow the visitor economy through partnerships and promotion of local attractions and cultural tourism
Vibrant and Prosperous Economy	Support local businesses.
Well Governed Council	Attract jobs and career opportunities to the local area, particularly for young people

Our performance – major initiatives and initiatives

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
Major initiatives			
	We will support local business and the City through: I. Increased procurement with organisations that produce economic, environmental, and social outcomes for Manningham. ii. Capacity building and support through business development activities. iii. Exploring local opportunities to support local businesses to collaborate via a hub / co-working space. iv. Activities to encourage and support tourism and employment opportunities.		We have supported local businesses through: • Implementing proactive sustainable procurement in several major tendering projects, forming part of the evaluation criteria. Efforts are focused on selecting suppliers that demonstrate positive economic, environmental and social impacts. • Rolling out the Trader Group Partnership Program across the municipality. Council is working with traders in activity centres to identify opportunities to support the development of new groups. • The co-working space has undergone detailed design and is currently in a procurement phase. The facility is scheduled to open in the second half of 2026. • Current projects focused on attracting people to activity centres. One notable project is our Manningham Asian Cultural Festival, which successfully attracted more than 10,000 people to Doncaster Reserve and Jackson Court over-the-course of a single day in March 2025.
Actions			
	Support the development of local creative industries.		• We continued to support local creative industry through engaging 3 local artists in our exhibition program. • We supported access to our venues with subsidised venue hire at the Playhouse, with 25 hires reaching over 3,000 audience members. • Manningham Council has partnered with the Live Music Office, One Music Australia and APRA AMCOS to deliver Live and Local which will support musicians, music industry professionals, venues and businesses to present live music in Manningham. • We have held a network gathering of creative arts community. • We have consulted broadly with community to develop a Creative Communities Framework.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
	Collaborate with our regional partners to foster the growth of the greater Melbourne East economy and create a mix of land to stimulate business diversity in the region.		We attended regular meetings of the Eastern Council Economic Development Specialists to share information and strategies on regional initiatives.
	Develop a '10-Year Vibrant Villages Plan' to prioritise future upgrades or precinct master planning of all major and local neighbourhood activity centres.		This plan was endorsed by Council in April 2023, and we are progressing actions and next steps. Work is currently underway to upgrade a neighbourhood activity centre, with engagement with traders and the community anticipated in late 2025.

Our performance: Well Governed Council

Services funded in our Annual Budget

Activity	Description	Budget $'000	Actual $'000	Variance $'000
Business Enablement	Supports and enables the delivery of services to the community through an integrated and consistent approach to organisation planning and reporting, delivery of projects to improve service outcomes and enhance the experience for their customers and community. They manage a range of functions including planning and performance, enabling projects, and customer service.	4,792	4,459	333
CEO Office and Councillor support	Ensures that the CEO, Mayor, and Councillors are provided with the necessary administrative support to effectively govern the organisation and deliver public value for the community. Our key activities include monitoring and reporting on CEO KPIs, managing quarterly reports on CEO and Councillor expenses, coordinating the management of vexatious complainants, facilitating CRM acknowledgements, and organising meetings and summits for the CEO and Councillors. They also manage the ongoing professional development opportunities for Councillors.	1,462	1,436	26
Engaged Communities	Works closely with the Executive Management Team and service units to inform the community and stakeholders about Manningham's services and facilities. They support the organisation in representing Manningham Council and building its reputation through media relations, strategic communications, brand management, digital and social media, internal and external communications, advocacy, publications and community engagement.	2,627	2,681	(54)
Financial Services	Provides strategic leadership to maintain a financially sustainable Council by managing resources effectively. This involves living within our means, diversifying revenue, and ensuring sufficient cash flow. Our team handles financial reporting, long- term planning, budget management, investment, internal controls, revenue coordination, payments, and payroll.	4,292	4,414	(122)

Information Technology	Supports Manningham Council to leverage technology and data to enable service delivery, provide a great customer experience, and support the way their people work. They oversee a complex technical environment to ensure the data held is protected and reliable and enables their diverse mix of services delivery. This includes application management, IT operations, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).	9,946	10,166	(220)
Integrity	Focuses on effective corporate governance and risk management to ensure Manningham operates responsibly and in the public's interest. They oversee Manningham's risk management framework, which supports good governance, risk identification, and continuous improvement through compliance programs, internal audits, and staff training.	3,753	3,649	104
Legal Counsel	They oversee well governed Council with management of legal services, property management and provision of legal.	(1,357)	(1.440)	83
People Experience	Supports Manningham Council to provide a workplace where employees are engaged, performing well, and feel safe and included. They manage and support across various areas, including human resources, recruitment, learning and development, organisational change, people data management, diversity and inclusion, gender equality, and safety and wellbeing.	3,136	2,999	137
Procurement	Supports the organisation in purchasing goods and services from suppliers. This involves identifying the best suppliers, negotiating contracts, and ensuring the Council gets good value for its money. Provides centralised support across all departments, guiding staff through the procurement process and ensuring compliance.	1,071	946	125
Strategic Property Portfolio	Manages Council's property portfolio to reduce our reliance on rates to enhance services and infrastructure and support our mission to be a financially sustainable Council.	452	350	102

Goal 1: A financially sustainable Council that manages resources effectively and efficiently

Key focus areas

Council Plan Theme	What we are focussing on
Healthy Community	Proactively seeking opportunities that support our financial sustainability and maximise the value we contribute to our community
Liveable Places and Spaces	Use evidence-based data on population growth, trends, and community input to guide responsible future planning and decision making
Resilient Environment	Leadership in sustainable and innovative environmental practices
Vibrant and Prosperous Economy	Attract and maintain business interest in Manningham
Well Governed Council	Transparency in decision making and demonstrating the success of our services, and achievement of social, environmental and economic outcomes for our community

Our performance – major initiatives and initiatives

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
Major initiatives			
	We will maximise public value through the systematic planning and review of our services and effective, early and broad engagement on our projects.		We have: • Identified a program of five services to be reviewed in 2024-25 from information gathered from annual service planning. • For all Council's major services, proactively developed service plans to consider customer feedback, internal and external influences, workforce, and the resources needed for the service to deliver optimal public value.
	Explore ways to enhance performance reporting across social, environment and economic outcomes against community need.		We are exploring digital ways to make it easier to share our progress for the new Council Plan. We are developing a new digital service plan which will make it easier for services to plan and monitor their service performance.
	Ensure our long-term financial sustainability by preparing our Budget and 10-year Financial Plan incorporating key strategies to Council by 30 June 2022 (major initiative).		Following extensive engagement with our community, our 10-Year Financial Plan, Revenue and Rating Plan and 2025/26 Annual Budget were adopted by Council on 30 June 2025.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
Actions			
	Deliver our annual Capital Works Program to maintain, upgrade and develop Council assets to meet current and future needs.		We spent $50.92 million on capital projects enabling significant improvements to roads, drains, sporting facilities and footpaths.
	Ensure that future land use planning balances amenity and economic pressures.		Work is progressing on the draft Activity Centre Design Guidelines (ACDG), which aims to promote good design and high-quality public places and housing above shops in the Neighbourhood Activity Centres. While progress has been made on both these projects, the recent Victorian Government planning reforms have had a significant impact on how these projects can progress. The Victorian Government has indicated that the Housing Capacity Analysis Platform will be released to all councils by the end of 2025. Council will continue to engage with the Victorian Government to further discuss and monitor the progress of this capacity work.
	Demonstrate leadership in sustainable and innovative environmental practices e.g. Installation of solar panels on Council building.		In 2024-25, more sites have been brought on to the renewable VECO contract, including public lighting. A number of public EV Charging sites are being rolled out, with the first of the proposed 9 sites under construction and due for completion in early 2025-26. Solar systems have been installed at eight sites, including some with batteries. Designs to install larger batteries at 3 sites have been completed. These include Mullum Mullum Stadium, Depot and Civic Centre and MC Square.
	Identify initiatives that save money and deliver stronger return on investment in Council owned and managed places and spaces.		We are undertaking planning activities looking at our services delivered from facilities and the utilisation of them. We continue to work on our 5 Strategic Property Portfolio sites looking to maximise return on investment.
	Advocate to government and work with our local and regional partners to secure financial support for existing and future projects to optimise Manningham's potential.		The Mayor and CEO continue to pursue Council's adopted advocacy priorities through regular meetings with local MPs and correspondence with relevant Ministers. Council collaborates to pursue Manningham Council's interests with regional partners through a range of interest groups.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
	Take a proactive and motivated approach to be an open and transparent Council (initiative).		We continue to be transparent in our reporting to Council and the community by minimising the number of decisions made in a closed meeting. This is evidenced in 2024-25 by a reduction in the number of decisions made by Council in closed meetings. We continue to seek opportunities to make information and decisions publicly available on our website including Freedom of Information requests with a public interest overlay. Our Governance Rules were reviewed through a transparency lens with process improvements to how petitions are managed and how outcomes are reported to the community.
	Collaborate with other Councils in the region to pursue grant funding for improvements to Council services and facilities.		Available collaborative grants and procurement opportunities are monitored and pursued via the Eastern Region Group of Councils, Procurement partnership and localised partnership groups.

Goal 2: A Council that values our customers and community in all that we do

Key focus areas

Council Plan Theme	What we are focussing on
Healthy Community	Serving our community with empathy and being welcoming of all genders, cultures and abilities
Liveable Places and Spaces	Services and facilities are managed efficiently and effectively
Resilient Environment	Advocating and providing support to protect our environment
Vibrant and Prosperous Economy	Attracting a diverse employment and career opportunities
Well Governed Council	Model our organisation's values of working together, excellence, accountability, respect and empowerment

Our performance – major initiatives and initiatives

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
Major initiatives			
	Improve our customer experience to better understand and meet their specific needs (major initiative).		To improve our customers' experience, we have: • Implemented and used proactive contact centre quality assurance measures to inform targeted staff training. The training is aimed at providing a better response to customer needs across various channels such as phone and front counter operations. • Further enhanced customer experience through implementing direct customer feedback mechanisms for phone interactions, and conversation analytics following implementation of new telephony system. • Implemented the collection of survey data is through our Voice of Customer program, which will generate additional customer insights and drive improvement initiatives.
Actions			
	Deliver initiatives that advocate or demonstrate Council leadership to promote equality across gender, age, diversity, ability, and culture.		Manningham Council has refreshed two committees to strengthen its leadership on equity and inclusion. The Equity Steering Committee provides strategic oversight, and the Equity Consultative Committee provides a new mechanism for staff to share insights and advise on equity-related initiatives and support broader organisational efforts. Together, these complementary structures position Council to take a more coordinated, inclusive and intersectional approach to equity leadership in the years ahead.
	Work with our partners and advisory networks to advocate and raise awareness of inclusive practices for key priority areas - considering people from First Nations, LGBTIQA+ communities, youth, culturally diverse communities, and people with disability.		We improved our practices to understand key priority groups through: • Staff participation in the MidSumma Pride March, and the Pride Swim and Gym event at Aquarena. • For IDAHOBIT Council worked with Minus 18 to support residents and staff in understanding pronouns and feeling inclusive. Manningham Council continues to work with individual cultural groups to support their needs for culturally specific wellbeing services. • We continued discussions with EACH about Rainbow Connections initiatives, and words matter training was delivered for internal staff at both Civic and depot. • We also continued to meet quarterly with advisory committees (Disability, multicultural, Gender Equity and LGBTIQA+, youth, recreation and sport and Health and Wellbeing) to discuss and raise awareness of inclusive practices.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
	Continue to advocate, influence, and respond to the North East Link Program (NELP) for improved mitigation measures and environmental outcomes, particularly around urban design and to reduce the construction impact of the project on the community (major initiative).		We are reviewing design packages provided by the North East Link Program's Central (Tunnels) and Southern (Eastern Freeway) Packages, as well as design documentation from Development Victoria relating to the redevelopment of Bulleen Park. This work aims to ensure high-quality outcomes for the Manningham community, enhance local amenity, and identify mutually beneficial opportunities for all stakeholders. We are also conducting site inspections and reviewing documentation as part of the asset handover process.
	Attract and support young people through jobs and career development opportunities, both at Council and within the community.		We have continued to strengthen our commitment to attracting and supporting young people to build meaningful careers. A range of early career opportunities were supported in 2024-25, across areas such as bush crew, customer experience, engineering, youth services, and graduate programs. These roles provide valuable entry points into the workforce, offering practical experience while contributing directly to Council services and community outcomes. We are shifting from one-off placements to a more structured and intentional approach to early careers pathways, recognising their role in building a diverse and future-ready workforce. This work positions us as an employer of choice for young people.
	Pursue transparency, innovation and efficiencies through the use and sharing of open data sources.		We continue to regularly update Manningham's published data sets on the data.gov.au website for public access. As part of our ongoing commitment to being open and transparent, we continue to publish Freedom of Information requests on our website so that information of interest to our community and other groups is readily available. We are working with other councils to identify opportunities for shared services and partnerships.

Theme	Details	Result	Our progress
	Engage in strategic partnerships that deliver benefits for our community and the Eastern Region.		We participated in a range of regional forums such as: • Eastern Region Group of Councils • Eastern Affordable Housing Alliance • Eastern Transport Coalition • Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action. In addition, Council is working with 10 other Councils across the state to develop a Centre of Excellence (joint service provision) and also in an Eastern Region Procurement Collaboration. At a state level, Council is actively engaged with: • Metro Transport Forum • Municipal Association of Victoria • Australian Local Government Women's Association • Victorian Local Governance Association.

Our performance: LGPRF indicators

LGPRF Indicators	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Governance					
Council decisions made at meetings closed to the public [Number of Council resolutions made at meetings of Council, or at meetings of a delegated committee consisting only of Councillors, closed to the public / Number of Council resolutions made at meetings of Council or at meetings of a delegated committee consisting only of Councillors] x100	2.67%	10.08%	6.62%	6.62%	Our Council continues to demonstrate its commitment to transparency with the low number of resolutions made at closed Council meetings. Seven out of 132 decisions were made confidential as the items related to personnel, legal and contractual matters.

LGPRF Indicators	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on community consultation and engagement]	56.00	56.00	55.00	56.00	We have worked hard to improve the way we engage with our community on the things that matter. This result is the same as last year. The result is from a sample of residents participating in a Community Satisfaction Survey, managed by independent research company on behalf of the Victorian Government.
Councillor attendance at Council meetings [The sum of the number of Councillors who attended each Council meeting / (Number of Council meetings) × (Number of Councillors elected at the last Council general election)]	98.41%	97.22%	96.83%	97.44%	Our Councillors' attendance at ordinary and special council meetings remained high with almost 100% attendance for the period.
Cost of elected representation [Direct cost of the governance service / Number of Councillors elected at the last Council general election]	$51,057.78	$55,473.11	$66,276.89	$55,701.00	Our Councillors work hard to deliver an exceptional service to the Manningham community. Following the determination for Councils from the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal, allowances have increased and a deputy mayoral allowance was introduced.

LGPRF Indicators	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Satisfaction with Council decisions [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed in making decisions in the interest of the community]	58.00	57.00	54.00	56.00	We have worked hard to improve the way we engage with our community on the things that matter. Key to this improvement is that Manningham Council now follows international best practice in its deliberative engagement. These results come from the annual Community Satisfaction Survey, which samples 400 residents and is managed by the Victorian Government.

Our Governance System

We value good governance as it ensures we operate effectively, efficiently, impartially and with integrity.

There are 2 types of governance in our operations:

- Democratic: The authority of elected Councillors (the 'Council') to make decisions.
- Corporate: How the organisation is run and the framework within which its systems and processes operate.

Governance framework

We are committed to effective and sustainable democratic and corporate governance as they are the keys to ensuring that we meet our community's priorities and our responsibilities under the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Our community has many opportunities to have a say in our decision-making processes, including:

- voting for Councillors (the Council) every 4 years
- writing to, emailing, or calling Councillors
- making submissions on our budget each year and Council Plan every 4 years
- participating in public forums like question time at a Council meeting
- participating in surveys, focus groups, workshops and other consultation activities
- logging onto yoursay.manningham.vic.gov.au and commenting on the plans and projects listed there
- making submissions on major projects that are advertised throughout the year.

Find out more:
yoursay.manningham.vic.gov.au

Democratic governance

Decisions

We conduct our formal decision-making processes through the formal, regular meetings of our Council. At these meetings, our officers submit reports on matters for the Council to consider. These matters can include planning permit applications, strategic land use and development planning, community services, health and local laws, road and traffic management, administration and finance.

The Council delegates most of its decision-making powers to staff to make sure the day-to-day operations of the organisation are efficient. Specialists in their field exercise these delegations following our policies.

We have a CEO whose role includes:

- establishing and maintaining an appropriate organisational structure
- overseeing our day-to-day operations
- ensuring the organisation implements Council decisions without delay.

The Council reviews the CEO's performance annually.

Although the Mayor has no more authority than other Councillors to make decisions, the position is significant as a leader and community spokesperson.

Council meetings

Council meetings are held at the Manningham Civic Centre and are open to the public.

Residents, local traders and community members are welcome to attend. The Council may consider some matters in a closed meeting if the matter needs to be kept confidential. The community can participate in the meetings during public question time.

Additional meetings may also be called to deal with urgent matters. We conduct all meetings in accordance with Manningham's Governance Rules and the Act. The schedule of meetings, agendas and minutes are available at manningham.vic.gov.au.

In 2024-25, there were 12 scheduled meetings of Council and one additional meeting. The table below provides a summary of Councillor attendance at these meetings.

Table 7: Council meetings held 1 July 2024 – 26 October 2024

Councillor	Scheduled	Additional
Cr Anna Chen	4 out of 4	1 out of 1
Cr Andrew Conlon	4 out of 4	1 out of 1
Cr Geoff Gough	4 out of 4	0 out of 1
Cr Michelle Kleinert OAM	4 out of 4	1 out of 1
Cr Carli Lange *(Mayor until 26 October 2024)*	4 out of 4	1 out of 1
Cr Deirdre Diamante	3 out of 4	1 out of 1
Cr Laura Mayne *(Deputy Mayor until 26 October 2024)*	4 out of 4	1 out of 1
Cr Stephen Mayne	4 out of 4	1 out of 1
Cr Tomas Lightbody	4 out of 4	1 out of 1

Table 8: Council meetings held 19 November 2024 – 30 June 2025

Councillor	Scheduled
Cr Peter Bain	8 out of 8
Cr Anna Chen	8 out of 8
Cr Andrew Conlon *(Deputy Mayor from 19 November 2024)*	7 out of 8
Cr Isabella Eltaha	8 out of 8
Cr Geoff Gough	8 out of 8
Cr Jim Grivas	8 out of 8
Cr Carli Lange	8 out of 8
Cr Deirdre Diamante *(Mayor from 19 November 2024)*	8 out of 8
Cr Laura Mayne	8 out of 8

Strategic briefing sessions (SBS)

In these sessions, we provide informal briefings to the Council on strategic or policy matters before the matters are presented at a Council meeting

Committees

We have many internal advisory and other committees. Appointments to these committees enable Councillors to have input into projects, groups or events they are interested in.

The table below shows the committee appointments made by the Council for this year. These appointments are reviewed on an annual basis.

Table 9: 2024-25 Councillor Internal Committee Appointees

Committee	Appointees 1 Jul 24 – 26 Oct 24*	Appointees 26 Nov 24 – 30 Jun 25
Arts Advisory Committee	Cr L Mayne	Cr Eltaha
Audit and Risk Committee	Cr S Mayne and Cr Diamante	Cr Diamante and Cr Lange
CEO Performance and Remuneration Committee	All 9 Councillors	All 9 Councillors
Disability Advisory Committee	Cr Kleinert OAM	Cr Bain
Flooding and Stormwater Management Community Reference Panel	Cr Lange Cr Gough Cr Conlon	Cr Lange Cr Gough Cr Conlon
Gender Equality and LGBTQIA+ Advisory Committee	Cr Lightbody Cr L Mayne	Cr Mayne
Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee	Mayor	Mayor
Healthy Ageing Advisory Committee	Cr Chen and Cr Diamante	Cr Chen and Cr Bain
Historical Societies Working Group	Cr Diamante	Cr Lange
Liveable Places and Spaces Advisory Committee	Cr Gough, Cr Lange and Cr Chen	Cr Gough Cr Grivas Cr Chen
Manningham Community Fund Grants Panel	Mayor and Cr Conlon	Mayor and Cr Grivas

Manningham Youth Advisory Committee	Cr Chen, Cr L Mayne and Cr Gough	Cr Eltaha Cr Mayne Cr Chen
Multicultural Communities Advisory Committee	Cr S Mayne, Cr Chen and Cr Diamante	Cr Diamante, Cr Eltaha and Cr Bain
Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee	Cr Lange	Cr Lange
Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee	Cr Lange	Cr Lange
Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group	Cr Diamante	Cr Mayne
Recreation and Sport Advisory Committee	Cr S Mayne, Cr L Mayne and Cr Conlon	Cr Conlon, Cr Grivas and Cr Mayne

* End date of previous council term.

Councillors also represent Council on several external bodies and Committees, including the below.

Table 10: 2024-25 Councillor External Committee Appointees

External Committee	Appointees 1 Jul 24 – 26 Oct 24*	Appointees 26 Nov 24 – 30 Jun 25
Australian Local Government Women's Association Victoria (ALGWA - Vic)	Cr L Mayne	Cr L Mayne
Eastern Affordable Housing Alliance	Cr Lightbody	Cr Bain
Eastern Region Group of Councils (ERG)	Mayor and Deputy Mayor	Mayor and Cr Conlon
Eastern Transport Coalition	Cr Lightbody Alternate – Cr Chen	Cr Chen
Metropolitan Transport Forum	Cr Chen	Cr Chen
Municipal Association of Victoria	Cr Lange Substitute – Cr Diamante	Cr Grivas Substitute – Cr Lange
Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action Executive Committee	Cr L Mayne	Cr Eltaha
Victorian Local Governance Association	All 9 Councillors	All 9 Councillors
Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation	Cr Kleinert OAM and Cr Conlon	Cr Conlon and Cr Grivas

* End date of previous council term.

Code of conduct

Our Councillors (the Council) are bound by a Model Councillor Code of Conduct that describes the ethical and behavioural standards expected of them in the performance of their role.

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires that a person elected to be a Councillor must observe the Model Councillor Code of Conduct when they are sworn into office. This is a new requirement under the Act that came into effect on 26 October 2024.

Prior to this Councillors were required to make a declaration stating that they would abide by the Code of Conduct prepared by Council. All Councillors made this declaration following their election in October 2020.

- Find out more at manningham.vic.gov.au/about-council/how-council-works/council-elections/role-councillor or at the Manningham Civic Centre, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster.

Conflicts of interest

Our residents and ratepayers elect Councillors to act in the best interests of our community. When a Council delegates its powers to an officer or a Committee, the Committee or officer also needs to act in the public interest.

A conflict of interest is when a personal or private interest has the potential to affect someone's ability to act in the public interest. A conflict exists even if no improper act results from it. We have a comprehensive procedure that guides Councillors (the Council) and officers to disclose their potential conflicts of interest.

Declaration of a conflict of interest is a standard agenda item for all council and committee meetings. In general, a Councillor or officer must disclose any such interest in a specific way and step aside from either the decision-making process or performing the public duty. We maintain a record of all disclosed conflicts of interest.

During 2024-25, 5 conflicts of interest were declared at Council meetings. These are listed below.

Council meeting date	Person	Item	Conflict Details
16 September 2024	Chief Executive Officer	17.2 CEO Employment Matters	A material conflict of interest was declared as the item directly related to the CEO employment matters.
27 May 2025	Cr Lange	11.1 Manningham Youth and Recreation and Sport Advisory Committee Membership Nominations	A general conflict of interest was declared as the Councillor's daughter has been nominated to become a member of the Manningham Youth Advisory Committee.
30 June 2025	Mayor, Cr Diamante	11.1 2025 Annual Grant Program Recommendations	A material conflict of interest was declared as the Mayor holds a directorship in the Foundation for Volunteer First Responders (Thunderball), a grant applicant.
30 June 2025	Cr Lange	11.1 2025 Annual Grant Program Recommendations	A general conflict of interest was declared as the Councillor is a member of the Thunderball Foundation, a grant applicant.
30 June 2025	Cr Bain	11.1 2025 Annual Grant Program Recommendations	A general conflict of interest was declared as the Councillor has friendships with the leaders at Vantage Point Community, a grant applicant.

Councillor allowances

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors are entitled to receive an allowance while performing their duties. These allowances are determined and set by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and reviewed annually.

Each Council is assigned to a category by the Tribunal which determines the level of allowance that will be received. Manningham is a Category 3 Council.

The value of the determination was adjusted by the Tribunal effective from 18 December

Mayor	$130,506
Deputy Mayor	$69,252
Councillor	$40,769

Councillor expenses

There is an annual Councillor expenses budget of $11,900 for the Mayor and $10,500 per Councillor. This budget is all-inclusive and covers conferences, training, travel, carer responsibilities and telephones.

Councillors are expected to operate within their individual budget. Council may also reimburse Councillors for any necessary out-of-pocket expenses they incur while performing their duties as a Councillor.

Table 13 shows the actual expenses for 2024-25. Council also publishes its travel register on its website in July each year showing interstate and overseas travel by Councillors and Council officers.

Table 13: 2024-25 Councillor Expenses

Cr	Travel	Car mileage	Childcare	Information and communication	Conferences and training	Formal attendance	Meeting expenses	Memberships	Other	Total
Cr Peter Bain	$0	$0	$0	$68.15	$0	$0	$0	$100	$0	**$168.15**
Cr Anna Chen	$2186.56	$2549.11	$0	$54.52	$890.00	$553.80	$0	$100	$0	**$6333.99**
Cr Andrew Conlon	$0	$1504.14	$0	$489.89	$0	$207.17	$0	$0	$0	**$2201.20**
Cr Deirdre Diamante	$3070.25				$1052.73	$211.35	$94.83	$100		**$4529.16**
Cr Isabella Eltaha	$0	$0	$166.81	$196.36	$0	$21.00	$0	$0	$0	**$384.17**
Cr Geoff Gough	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Cr Michelle Kleinert OAM	$31.82	$0	$0	$65.45	$0	$311.77	$0	$0	$0	**$409.04**
Cr Carli Lange	$2144.53	$1288.42	$0	$334.84	$1052.73	$588.37	$280.88	$736.36	$0	**$6426.13**
Cr Tomas Lightbody	$0	$0	$0	$13.34	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	**$13.34**
Cr Laura Mayne	$0	$0	$0	$13.34	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	**$13.34**

CEO expenditure 2024-25

The Chief Executive Officer incurs various expenditures while carrying out duties relating to the CEO role.

Expense categories related specifically to the CEO role are travel, conferences and training, and miscellaneous). Gifts declared are also included in this report, although not an expense to Council. The CEO must be transparent in using Council resources as per the Employee Code of Conduct.

Table 14: CEO expenditure

Travel	Food and Beverage	Conferences and seminars	Gifts declared*	Miscellaneous	Total Expenses 2024/25
$3,177.10	$711.36	$1,143.72	$0	$0	**$4,376.73**

Note: All costs are GST exclusive

Expense categories

- Travel – covers costs associated with assisting the CEO in meeting transport costs incurred while attending meetings, functions and conferences. This includes taxi services, Uber services, car parking fees, airfares, accommodation costs etc.
- Food and Beverage – covers costs associated with food or beverages that directly relate to the CEO role within a professional context.
- Conferences and seminars – covers registration fees associated with attendance by the CEO at local conferences, functions, seminars and one-off or short-term training courses.

Meetings such as these are usually held by local government-related organisations, professional bodies and institutions, educational institutions and private sector providers on areas and events that impact the CEO's role and the general municipality.

- Gifts Declared* – relates to any gifts that exceed the token gift threshold ($50) that the CEO is required to declare as per the Token Gift Policy. This category is not added to the total expenses as it is a declaration, not a cost to Council.
- Miscellaneous – relates to any other costs associated with the CEO role not covered by the categories above.

Corporate governance

Our CEO is our only member of staff directly appointed by and responsible to our Council. Our CEO implements decisions made by our Council, ensures the organisation achieves its Council Plan objectives, and manages its day-to-day operations. Our CEO's performance is reviewed annually by the Council.

Council can delegate authority to our CEO to make certain decisions under particular circumstances that are defined in the Instruments of Delegation and in accordance with any adopted policies.

Our CEO's delegations are broad and enabling. They have further delegated powers to officers who carry out various functions daily. These powers are reviewed regularly, including by each newly elected Council.

Find out more at manningham.vic.gov.au/public-registers-and-information

Senior officers

Senior Officers include the CEO, any officer of Council who has management responsibilities and reports directly to the CEO or any other member of Council staff who is employed beyond a Band 8 classification.

As at 30 June 2025, we had 31 senior officers, with a total remuneration of $6.65 million.

The following table captures our senior officers and salary ranges:

Table 15: Executive Management Team Total Annual Remuneration

Senior Officer Ranges	2023-24	2024-25
Less than $160,000	1	1
$160,000 - $169,999	6	6
$170,000 - $179,999	1	2
$180,000 - $189,999	4	1
$190,000 - $199,999	6	2
$200,000 - $209,999	5	8
$210,000 - $219,999	1	2
$220,000 - $229,999	3	2
$230,000 - $239,999	1	1
$240,000 - $249,999		1
$260,000 - $269,999	1	
$280,000 - $289,999	3	2
$290,000 - $299,999		1
$300,000 - $309,999	1	
$310,000 - $320,000		1
$370,000 - $380,000	1	
$380,000 - $390,000		1

In May 2012, Council resolved to disclose in our Annual Report the total remuneration of our 5 highest remunerated employees. This disclosure includes contract duration, salary and benefits entitlements.

However, in accordance with the *Secure Jobs Better Pay Act 2022*, a new workplace right exists where employees can elect to disclose or not disclose their salary. The CEO has elected to fully disclose his remuneration.

Name and position	Date commenced position	Current Contract expires	Total annual remuneration
Andrew Day CEO	17 September 2018	16 September 2028	$390,000

Employee code of conduct

Our Code of Conduct includes standards of behaviour and expectations for how our employees behave as representatives of Manningham.

Our employee Code of Conduct contains elements structured around our values and aligned to the requirements of section 95 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Our Code is issued to all new staff on their commencement and applies to all employees, volunteers, students, contractors, subcontractors and consultants.

Management

We have put statutory and better practice elements into action to strengthen our management framework and foster better decision-making.

The Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 require us to assess our performance against the prescribed governance and management checklist.

Essential components of our management framework are our Audit and Risk Committee, risk and fraud policies, internal audit and strategic risk management. We provide details on these components below.

Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee (the Committee) is an independent Advisory Committee established in accordance with section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and operates under a Charter.

The Committee assists Council in fulfilling responsibilities by providing oversight, advice and guidance on Council's frameworks and systems of control including financial and performance reporting, risk management, internal and external audit and legislative and good governance compliance.

Committee membership consists of 5 people, including 3 external and independent members and 2 Councillors. The office of Chairperson is held by an independent member.

The Committee meets 5 times a year with one meeting dedicated to the end-of-year financial and performance statements. The external and internal auditors attend to present their reports and findings. The Chief Executive Officer, Manager Integrity, Chief Financial Officer and Risk and Assurance Lead attend all meetings to present management reports and respond to Committee questions. Other management representatives attend as required.

The Committee Chair formally reports to Council twice per year and meeting minutes are provided to Councillors. The Committee may meet privately with Councillors, External and Internal Auditor, without members of management being present.

Table 16: Audit and Risk Committee members

Independent	Councillors
Mr Andrew Dix (Chair)	Cr Deirdre Diamante
Mr Jonathan Kyvelidis	Cr Carli Lange
Ms Sharon Copeland-Smith	

Internal audit

The function of the internal audit is to provide independent and objective assurance to the Audit and Risk Committee that the appropriate processes and controls are in place across Council.

A risk-based 3-year Internal Audit Plan is revised annually by the Committee to ensure the audit resources remain focused on the appropriate areas. The review process considers the Council Plan, risk assurance mapping, legislative change, Council's risk profile, emerging risks, strategic projects and audit history.

The findings and recommendations of each audit are presented to the Audit and Risk Committee. Full and timely completion of management actions arising from the audits are monitored by the Committee.

In 2024-25, we delivered a program of 5 internal audits, including:

1. Compliance, Enforcement & Appeals
2. Occupational Health & Safety (Staff)
3. Depot Operations
4. Community Health and Wellbeing
5. Procurement
6. Fraud Awareness and Prevention

External audit

Each year we are externally audited by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO). For the 2024-25 financial year, our financial and performance statements were audited by a VAGO representative as required by the *Audit Act 1994*. These statements are provided in this Annual Report from page 244.

Fraud and corruption control

We are the custodian of significant public funds and assets. The community must be confident that these public funds and assets are protected from fraud.

Our integrity framework promotes good governance, transparency, identification of risks, management controls, reporting, prevention and detection measures, and staff education and training.

The Fraud and Corruption policy sets out specific guidelines and responsibilities including reporting and investigation of any irregularities. The procedure documents our approach to controlling fraud and corruption at both strategic and operational levels.

These key documents are aligned with Council's Public Interest Disclosure Procedures to assist disclosers and prospective disclosers in accordance with Section 58 of the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012*.

Key activities in our integrity framework include leadership in person training, fraud and corruption risk assessments/risk register, staff e-learning training modules, internal audit and compliance programs, fraud and corruption assurance map reporting.

Risk management

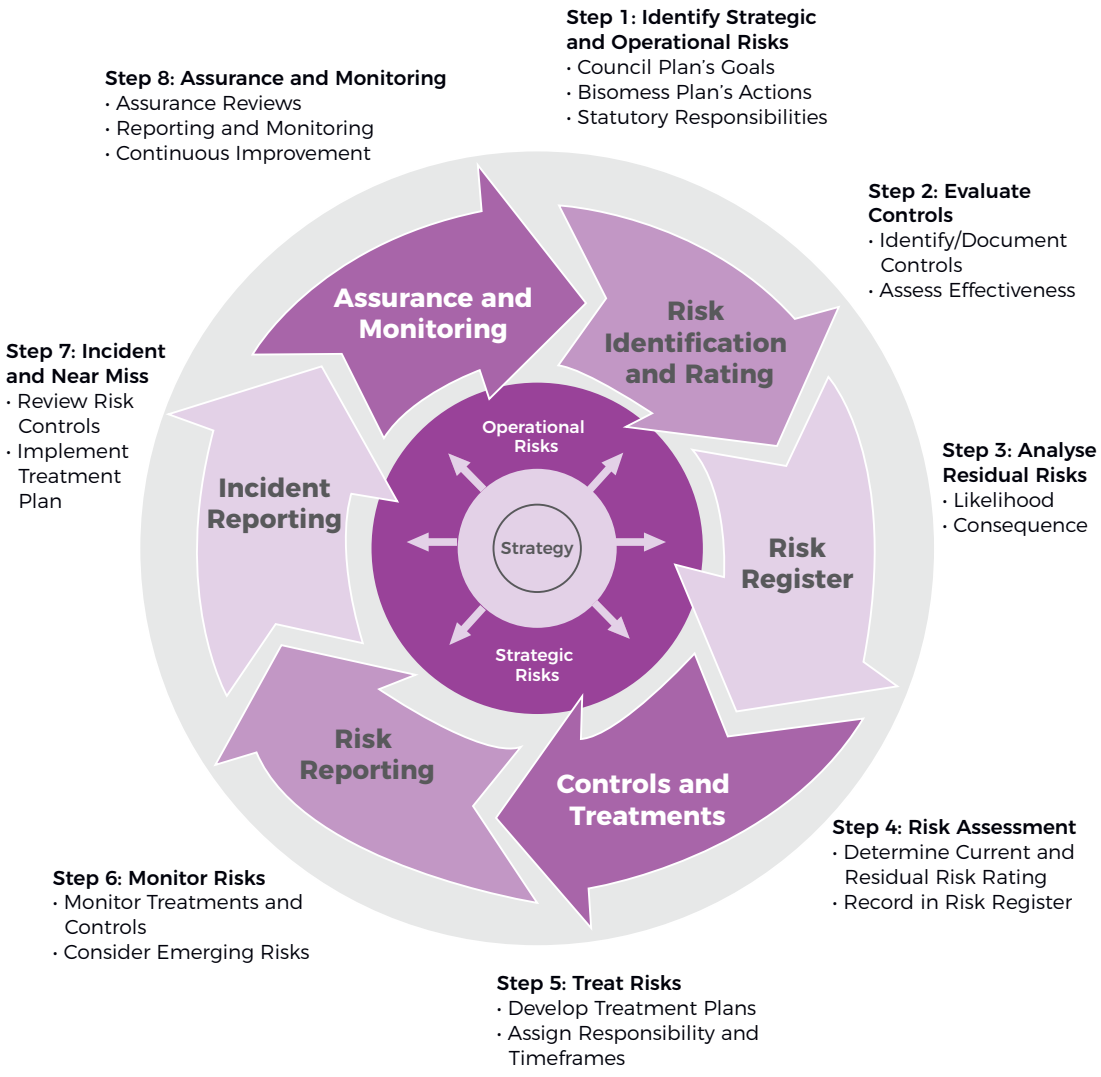
Council acknowledges its responsibility to effectively manage risks in all areas of its business activities. Our risk management framework combines organisational systems, procedures, governance, culture and assurance activities to enable value protection and value creation, as we pursue the successful delivery of Council's strategies and objectives.

The key elements of our risk management and assurance framework are:

- Risk Management Strategy and Policy
- Business Continuity Management Policy, associated plans and procedures
- Three lines of defence assurance model
- Risk Registers (strategic, operational and fraud and corruption)
- Risk reporting
- Risk management incident and near-miss procedure
- Executive Risk Management Committee (management committee)
- Audit and Risk Committee (independent committee)
- Assurance Map – strategic risks.

The role of the Executive Risk Committee is a vital strategic governance model to advance our cultural maturity target. The CEO chairs this committee with discussion, and the outcomes minuted and included in the Audit and Risk Committee agenda as a standing item.

Figure 4: Manningham's risk management process



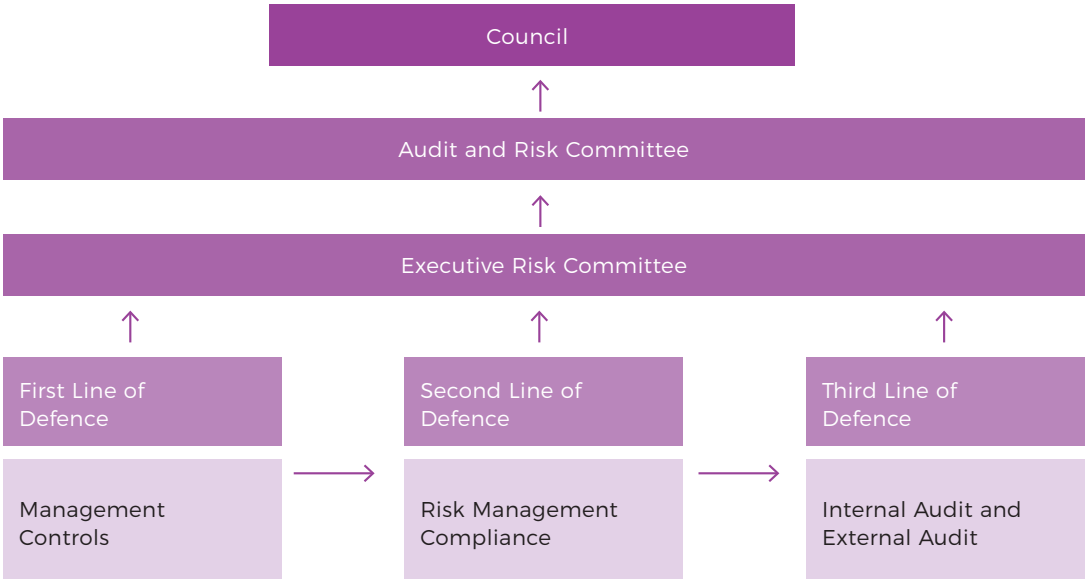
Compliance and assurance

Our compliance program tests and continuously improves Manningham's systems of control and is monitored by the Executive Risk Committee. In 2024-25, 4 reviews were conducted and addressed operational business risks.

The compliance program is a fundamental element of our 3 lines of defence assurance model for risk management.

A comprehensive Assurance Map was developed to document and review our assurance activity of control systems associated with Council's strategic risks. It assists with the annual planning of the internal audit and compliance programs.

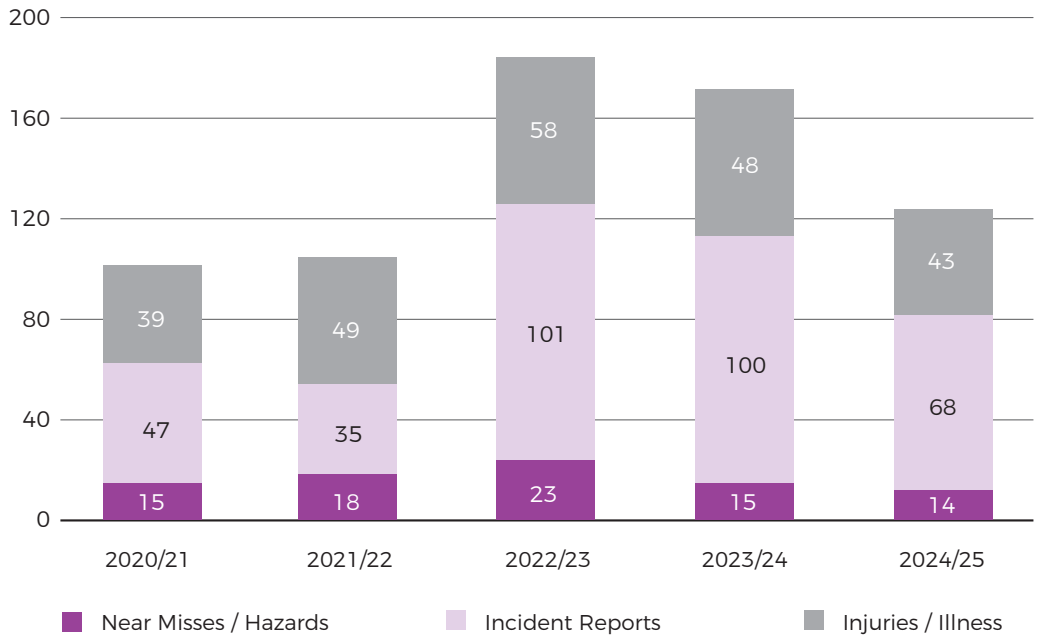
Figure 5: Assurance: Three Lines of Defence



Safety and wellbeing

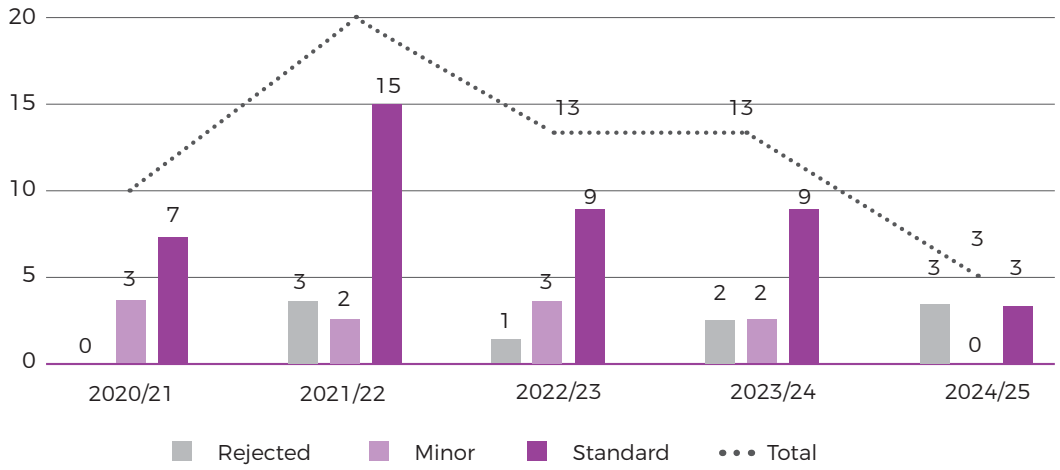
We are committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for our employees and regularly report on our workplace health and safety performance. We are dedicated to learning from previous incidents, sharing knowledge and empowering our people to take a proactive approach to managing workplace hazards by building a positive safety culture.

Figure 6: Total Reports of Hazards, Incidents, and Injuries in the last 5 years



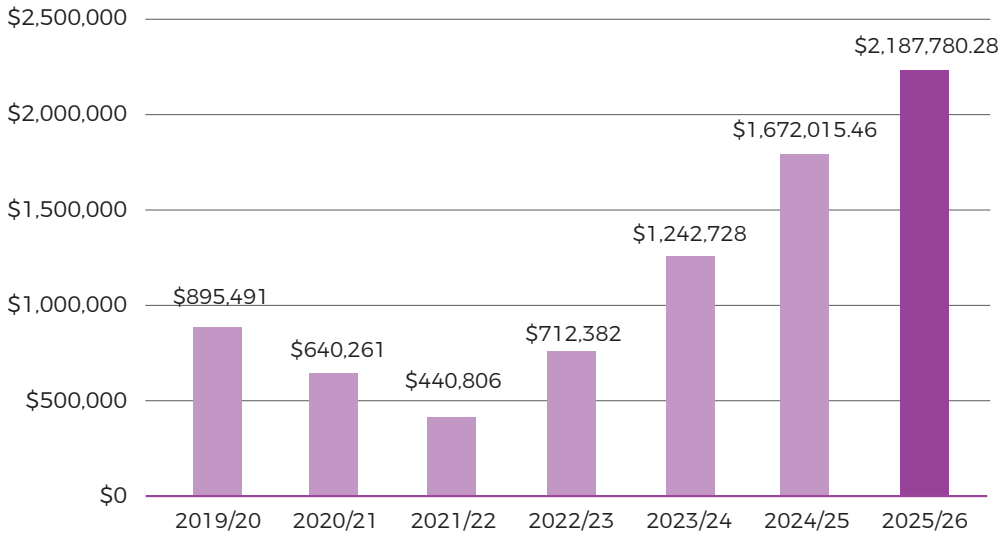
The total number of incidents, hazards, near misses and injuries reported this financial year has decreased by 23% compared to the previous year. Recorded injuries/illnesses have decreased by 10% and incident reporting decreased by 32%, while incident and near miss/ hazard reporting is similar to last year.

Figure 7: Number of WorkCover claims over the last 5 years



During the 2024-25 financial year, the number of new claims lodged decreased by 77%, in comparison to the previous year, a strong result that reflects the success of our proactive injury prevention and workplace safety initiatives. A further highlight for 2024-25 was that all the injured workers remain connected to the workplace with every relevant worker returning to work in some capacity.

Figure 8: WorkCover premium costs trend



This figure displays the WorkCover premium rate in the last 7 years, and the WorkCover premium rate calculated for 2025-26.

The premium calculations are based on a range of factors, these include:

- Workcover claims over the last 3 years and the actual or likely costs of these claims relating to the type of injury occurred, interventions required and time loss (claims above 10 days of time loss incur weekly payments which are our biggest impactor on premiums) which all impact on the financial implications of a claim to Manningham Council.
- The number of employees at each work location, and
- Our injury and claims management performance against the industry average, which as council operates in many different industries, we are compared against a range of industries inside and outside of local council.

The WorkCover premium rate has increased for the coming financial year 2025 to 26. While some factors contributing to the premium calculation are beyond Council's control, such as the increase in the weighted industry rate to 2.51 per cent, Manningham Council continues to prioritise early intervention and support for injured workers. This remains critical to managing the overall cost of claims.

Manningham Council's Employer Performance Rating has shifted from 1.197 to 1.267, reflecting an increase in employer claims costs relative to the industry average. The target for claims performance is one or less. The total cost of claims has risen from 2.18 million dollars to 2.43 million dollars.

Manningham Council remains committed to supporting injured workers, with a focus on safe and timely return to work. We will continue to monitor performance and implement targeted strategies to improve outcomes within the levers available to us, while recognising that industry-wide pressures continue to affect premiums across the sector.

Governance and management checklist

Victorian Local Government Performance Reporting Framework Governance and Management Checklist 2024-25	Date/s applicable
The following checklist demonstrates the plans and processes in place as per the *Local Government Act 2020* to promote good governance and decision-making.	
Community engagement	
Community engagement policy Policy outlining Council's commitment to engaging with the community on matters of public interest.	26/02/2021
Community engagement guidelines Guidelines to assist staff to determine when and how to engage with the community.	26/02/2021
Planning	
Financial Plan Plan under section 91 of the Act outlining the financial and non-financial resources required for at least the next 10 financial years.	30/06/2025
Asset Plan Plan that sets out the asset maintenance and renewal needs for key infrastructure asset classes for the next 10 years.	30/06/2025
Revenue and Rating Plan Plan setting out the rating structure of Council to levy rates and charges.	30/06/2025
Annual budget Plan setting out the services to be provided and initiatives to be undertaken over the next 12 months and the funding and other resources required.	30/06/2025
Risk policy Policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to minimising the risks to Councils operations.	27/03/2022
Fraud policy Policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to minimising the risk of fraud.	13/12/2022
Municipal emergency management plan Council's participation in meetings of the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC).	02/08/2024 01/11/2024 07/02/2025 02/05/2025
Procurement policy Policy under section 108 of the Act outlining the principles, processes and procedures that will apply to the purchase of goods and services by the Council.	24/08/2021

Victorian Local Government Performance Reporting Framework Governance and Management Checklist 2024-25	Date/s applicable
Business continuity plan Plan setting out the actions that will be taken to ensure that key services will continue to operate in the event of a disaster.	03/05/2023
Disaster recovery plan Plan setting the actions that will be undertaken to recover and restore business capability in the event of a disaster.	31/05/2023
Complaint Policy Policy under section 107 of the Act outlining Council's commitment and approach to managing complaints.	30/08/2024
Workforce Plan Plan outlining Council's commitment and approach to planning the current and future workforce requirements of the organisation.	23/09/2024
Payment of rates and charges hardship policy (Rate Debtor Management Policy) Policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to assisting ratepayers experiencing financial hardship or difficulty paying their rates.	05/08/2021
Monitoring	
Risk management framework Framework outlining Council's approach to managing risks to Council's operations.	22/03/2022
Audit and Risk Committee Advisory committee of Council under section 53 and 54 of the *Local Government Act*.	01/09/2020
Internal audit Independent accounting professionals engaged by the Council to provide analyses and recommendations aimed at improving Council's governance, risk and management controls.	26/10/2023
Performance reporting framework A set of indicators measuring financial and non-financial performance including indicators referred to in section 98 of the Act.	15/10/2024
Reporting	
Council Plan reporting Report reviewing the performance of the Council against the Council Plan, including the results in relation to the strategic indicators, for the first six months of the financial year.	25/02/2025

Victorian Local Government Performance Reporting Framework Governance and Management Checklist 2024-25	Date/s applicable
Quarterly budget reports Quarterly reports to Council under section 97 of the Act, comparing actual and budgeted results and an explanation of any material variation.	16/09/2024, 26/11/2024, 25/02/2025, 27/05/2025
Risk reports Six-monthly reports of strategic risks to Council's operations, their likelihood and consequences of occurring and risk minimisation strategies.	16/12/2024, 23/05/2025
Performance reports Six-monthly reports of indicators measuring the against financial and non-financial performance, including indicators referred to in section 98 of the Act.	15/10/2024, 21/03/2025
Annual report Annual report under section 98 and 99 of the Act containing a report of operations and audited financial and performance statements.	15/10/2024
Decision Making	
Model Councillor Code of Conduct Code setting out the standards of conduct to be followed by Councillors and other matters.	13/11/2024
Meeting procedures Governance rules governing the conduct of meetings of Council and delegated committees.	23/07/2024
Delegations Documents setting out powers, duties and functions of Council and Chief Executive Officer that have been delegated to members of staff.	27/05/2025, 22/07/2025

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

Andrew Day
Chief Executive Officer
Date: 23 September 2025

Cr Deirdre Diamante
Mayor
Date: 23 September 2025

Statutory information

The following information is provided in accordance with legislative and other requirements applying to Manningham.

Public transparency

Manningham Council is committed to the principles of public transparency and making as much information publicly available as we lawfully can. We provide a range of documents and information available on our website and others available for inspection at our offices.

You can request to inspect at the Manningham Civic Centre at 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster, from 8.00am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.

The types of information that we make publicly available include:

- Details of overseas or interstate travel (with the exception of interstate travel by land for less than 3 days) undertaken in an official capacity by Councillors or any member of our staff in the previous 12 months.
- Agendas for and minutes of meetings of Council Meetings held in the previous 12 months, excluding confidential information considered at a meeting closed to the public.
- A register of delegations kept in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.
- A register of all leases involving land that Manningham entered into as lessor.
- A register of Authorised Officers.
- A list of grants and donations Manningham made during the financial year.
- An Operating Statement, a Statement of Financial Position and notes to the Financial Statements.
- A summary of election campaign donation returns received following the most recent Manningham elections.
- Details of Councillor and CEO expenses.
- A summary of personal interests returns for Councillors, the CEO and nominated officers.

Find out more at manningham.vic.gov.au/public-registers-and-information

Grants and funding

We thank the Victorian and Australian Governments for supporting us to deliver services that ensure our residents experience a safe, vibrant, healthy and liveable community.

Please refer to our Financial Report for a breakdown of our major grants received.

Public Interest Disclosures (formerly Protected Disclosure Procedures)

The *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012* became law in Victoria in February 2013 to encourage and facilitate the disclosure of any improper conduct by Councillors or Council officers, and to protect people making disclosures from any reprisals they may experience in response to their actions.

Manningham endorsed a revised Public Interest Disclosures Procedure in December 2020 to supplement the provisions of the Act and further facilitate the disclosure of any improper conduct by Councillors and Council officers.

We have a Public Interest Disclosures Coordinator whose role is to receive and consider all disclosures about improper conduct and detrimental action as defined by the Act. A copy of the Public Interest Disclosures Procedure is available on our website.

In 2024-25, Manningham did not refer any public interest disclosure to the Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC).

Find out more at manningham.vic.gov.au/legislation

Reconciliation Action Plan 2023-25

Our Reconciliation Action Plan 2023-25 (RAP) was officially endorsed at the February Council 2023 Council meeting.

This is an important step in ensuring we continue to plan and create opportunities for people of First Nations and support a culturally safe and thriving city.

Reconciliation Action Plans enable organisations to sustainably and strategically take meaningful action to advance reconciliation. Reconciliation Australia has endorsed our RAP and will build relationships, respect and opportunities to advance reconciliation across Manningham.

Our key achievements in 2024-25 were:

- The delivery of the Painted Country exhibition at the Manningham Art Gallery including stunning artworks by 5 First Nations Artists exploring their connection to Country.
- The delivery of regular yarning circles with Reconciliation Action Work Group and Wurundjeri Elders.
- Starting the roll-out of workplace cultural safety training.
- Working with First Nations people, including the Birrong Council and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Corporation on the implementation of the Yarra Strategic Plan.

Welcoming Cities

Welcoming Cities provides a framework to support local councils to become more welcoming and inclusive of their diverse communities, especially multicultural, refugee and First Nations communities. Manningham Council has been an accredited Welcoming City since 2021.

In 2024-25 our achievements included:

- Commissioning a new community artwork to reflect on peace and the experiences of people who have migrated from overseas and now reside in Manningham. The artist worked with local residents from multicultural communities to design the artwork. Installation to happen late 2025.
- Hosting the inaugural Manningham Asian Cultural Festival involving a fantastic lineup of cultural performances, delicious street food and family friendly activities. A celebration of culture and community, the event finished with a fireworks display.
- Our Economic Development team worked with traders at Jackson Court Shopping Centre to promote this activity centre. The special uniqueness of the activity centres was the abundance of different cultures in one place. This has been embraced by the Jackson Court Traders Association.
- Partnering with the Whitehorse Manningham Library to deliver Multicultural Storytime in Arabic and Italian languages, funded by the Victorian Government.
- Working with the Manningham Multicultural Advisory Committee and local cultural leaders to understand the issues impacting and of most importance to our residents.
- Convening the Manningham Multicultural Network.

Freedom of information

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act)* gives our community a right to access certain Council documents. Freedom of Information (FOI) requests must be made in writing and accompanied by an application fee. Under the legislation, Council must decide within 30 days of receiving a valid request whether to provide the requested information, in whole or in part, or to deny access. This timeframe may be extended for mandatory third-party consultation or by agreement with the applicant.

In 2024-25, we received 45 valid FOI requests, as well as 4 requests carrying over from 2023-24. The outcomes for those requests were as follows:

- full access was granted for 8 requests
- partial access was granted for 6 requests
- two requests were refused access in full
- one request was withdrawn by the applicant
- no documents were located for 6 requests
- nine requests were resolved outside of the *FOI Act* prior to becoming valid
- six requests were not yet finalised as of 30 June 2025.

An additional 7 FOI applications were received in 2024-25 but were not processed as valid requests as they did not comply with the requirements outlined under section 17 of the FOI Act, including non-payment of the application fee or no response from applicants after seeking clarification.

There were 4 requests to the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner ('OVIC') for external review of access decisions in 2024/24, all related to neighbour disputes. There were no applications for review lodged with VCAT relating to requests we processed in 2023/24. All enquiries relating to accessing documents under the FOI Act should be directed to our FOI Officer on 03 9840 9333 or FOI@manningham.vic.gov.au.

- Find out more about Council's FOI process at manningham.vic.gov.au/about-council/governance-public-registers-and-your-rights/request-freedom-information

Information privacy

We are committed to protecting the personal privacy of our residents and ratepayers. We only collect, use, or disclose personal or health information where it is necessary to perform our functions or where required by law. We work hard to fully comply with our obligations under the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* and the *Health Records Act 2001*.

- Further information about our information privacy policies can be found at manningham.vic.gov.au/privacy

The Manningham Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2025

Every Victorian Local Government is required under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act* 2008 to prepare a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) within 12 months of a Council Election.

The MPHWP must consider:

- state health priorities outlined within the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
- local health status and determinants
- partnership opportunities with the community and agencies.

The Manningham Health and Wellbeing Strategy uses an integrated planning approach with the Council Plan 2021-2025.

- Our key achievements in 2024-25 were:
- We delivered the Multicultural, Gender Equity and LGBTQIA+, Disability and Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committees. Including the RAP working Group.
- Held Advisory Committee and Health and Wellbeing partnership workshops with the aim to refine Council's approach to addressing the 10 State Health and Wellbeing priorities.
- We convened the Manningham Multicultural Network.
- We advocated to Victorian and Australian Government to address local services needs relating to mental health, community legal services and gambling harm.

- We worked in partnership with VicHealth towards improving the wellbeing of young people through the Stride or Glide, This Girl Can and exploring the Manningham food system.
- We provided financial support to top-up local food relief organisations through the Manningham Food Relief Network.
- We partnered with Whitehorse Manningham Library to continue to deliver Multicultural Storytime in various languages, funded by the Victorian Government.
- We ran a community grants program that supported festivals, events and programs such as 16 Days of Activism, as well as services that promote wellbeing, gender equity and multicultural celebration in Manningham.

Domestic Animal Management Plan

Under section 68(A) 3(C) of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, Council is required to provide an update on implementation of its Domestic Animals Management Plan 2021-2025 in the Annual Report.

Council continued to fulfil its ongoing commitments as outlined in the Domestic Animal Management Plan by:

Promoting responsible pet ownership

- We continue to educate the community on responsible pet ownership topics such as picking up after dogs, animal registration, identification, and the impact of domestic animals on wildlife. This is done through regular enforcement, attendance, and collaboration with community groups such as Friends of Manningham Dogs and Cats (FOMDAC).
- We review and update our website, social media and in-person messaging via park patrols and investigations to promote appropriate pet control in public.

Introducing a 24-hour cat confinement order

- On 1 April 2024, Council gazetted and introduced a 24-hour cat confinement order adopted in December 2023.
- A communications campaign was developed to provide regular education and updates through media releases, social media, community information sessions and advertising, including posters at bus stops.

Promoting desexing rates

- We are investigating subsidised desexing via local vets and welfare organisations, providing direct information to pet owners, and supporting information sessions by local interest groups such as FOMDAC.
- During annual registration renewals, we promote discounted fees for desexed animals on the Council website and renewal form.

Undertaking activities to better identify pet registration and non-compliance

- We have implemented incentives like free first-year registration for animals under 6 months and those adopted from welfare organisations Council has 84Y agreements with.
- We continue to complete in-field registration checks and follow up on dog and cat sale notifications. All impounded animals are registered before release.
- We follow up on all unregistered animals identified through the renewal process and take enforcement action to ensure compliance.

Reducing dog waste in public spaces

- We conduct regular park patrols to ensure compliance and partner with Council's waste team to ensure an adequate number of dog waste bins are provided.
- We continue investigating improved messaging

Increasing patrols, education and enforcement activities

- We conduct regular patrols in parks and open spaces to meet expectations and ensure officer presence across the municipality.
- We have reviewed standard operating procedures, including barking dog investigation processes.
- We ensure a balanced approach to dog off-lead areas in Manningham.
- We consider dogs in open space in the planning of park upgrades, including lighting and playground enhancements.
- We regularly inspect signage and continue installing new signage to educate the community.
- We review off-leash dog areas on a park-by-park basis.
- We secured grant funding from the Victorian Government to investigate dog park upgrades in the Warrandyte and Doncaster Hill areas.
- We completed an internal review of Council orders and off-leash parks and found them to be appropriate.

Promoting initiatives to address dog aggression

- We fully investigate all dog aggression matters including bites, attacks, and rushes, and undertake enforcement action to send a clear message to the community.
- Prosecutions relating to animal matters have a 100 per cent success rate.
- Authorised Officers regularly patrol known hotspots to educate the community and prevent potential dog aggression incidents.

Declared dangerous dogs will be identified and appropriately managed

- All declared dangerous dogs and their housing are inspected annually and as required to ensure compliance with legislation.
- Information is forwarded to owners of declared dogs to ensure awareness of their obligations.
- Dangerous dog registration is followed up as soon as it falls due to ensure continued compliance.
- Declared dogs are registered at a higher rate to discourage ownership.

Domestic animal businesses in the municipality will be identified, registered and compliant with legislation

- All domestic animal businesses are inspected and audited annually to ensure compliance with legislation and relevant Codes of Practice.
- As part of normal duties, Officers identify unregistered animal businesses and ensure they become registered and adhere to Codes of Practice.

Ensuring authorised officers have the skills and knowledge to administer their role

- Regular training is provided to staff in conducting investigations and animal handling, delivered by recognised providers.
- Animal welfare initiatives continue to be maintained in the operation of the animal pound.

For more information and to view the Domestic Animal Management Plan please see manningham.vic.gov.au/about-council/strategies-and-action-plans/ domestic-animal-management-plan

Road Management Act – Ministerial Directions

In accordance with section 22 of the *Road Management Act 2004*, Manningham must publish a copy or summary of any ministerial directions in our Annual Report. Council did not receive any ministerial directions during the 2024-25 year.

Infrastructure and development contributions

In accordance with section 46GM and 46QD of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, we must provide a report to the Minister for Planning on our infrastructure and development contributions, including levies and works in-kind during 2024-25.

Tables 17 - 17 outline infrastructure and development contributions for 2024-25

Development Contributions Plan (DCP)

Table 17: Total DCP levies received in 2024/25

DCP name (year approved)	Levies received in 2024-25 financial year $
Doncaster Hill Development Contributions Plan 2005	$0
Total	**$0**

Table 16: DCP land, works, services or facilities accepted in-kind in 2024-25

DCP name (year approved)	Project ID	Project description	Item purpose	Project value $
Doncaster Hill Development Contributions Plan 2005	-	-	-	NIL
Total	-	-	-	**NIL**

Table 17: Land, works, services or facilities delivered in 2024-25 from DCP levies collected

Project description	Project ID	DCP name (year approved)	DCP fund expended $	Works in kind accepted $	Our contribution $	Other contributions $	Total project expenditure $	Percentage of item delivered
Tram Road/ Merlin Street – traffic signals	DI_ T008	Doncaster Hill DCP 2005	$512,107	NIL	$1,445,120	Nil	$56,283.22	100%

Local Law

We are required to review and implement a new Local Law every 10 years.

We thoroughly reviewed our last community local law when we developed our new Community Local Law 2023, including:

- investigating existing and emerging challenges
- reviewing our records of complaints and feedback from residents, feedback from officers
- conducting a benchmarking exercise of other Councils' local laws.

A proposed draft Community Local Law 2023 was provided to the community for feedback in October to December 2022. In response to the consultation undertaken, 353 people visited Manningham's Your Say website.

After considering the feedback received, changes were made to the document and presented to Council for consideration in June 2023. The Community Local Law 2023 was adopted and is being implemented.

The new Community Local Law responds to changes in Victorian Government legislation, removes unnecessary duplications and addresses current and emerging issues that have the potential to impact the health, safety and well-being of Manningham's residents, business owners and visitors.

Property Holdings

As part of our commitment to increasing transparency in our financial reporting, we include a list of our top 20 properties by value.

Table 18: Top 20 Council owned properties by value

Ranking	Address	30 June 2025 consolidated value $million
1	Civic Precinct including Civic Centre, MC Square and associated car parks, sport fields, reserve 687-699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster	$138.63
2	Ruffey Lake Park 8-50 The Boulevarde Doncaster and 125-149 George Street, Doncaster East	$134.23
3	Manningham Council Depot 620-628 Blackburn Road, Doncaster East	$55.80
4	Donvale Reserve 36-82 Mitcham Road, Donvale	$40.72
5	Mullum Mullum Reserve Creek land 1-41 Springvale Road, Donvale	$32.61
6	Landscape Reserve 114-118 Landscape Drive, Doncaster East	$26.77
7	Aquarena 139-153 Williamsons Road, Templestowe Lower	$26.34
8	Ted Ajani Reserve 284 Thompsons Road, Templestowe Lower	$25.60
9	Templestowe Reserve 94-140 Porter Street, Templestowe	$23.95
10	Zerbes Reserve 293 Blackburn Road, Doncaster East	$23.91
11	Manningham Templestowe Leisure Centre 1-9 Anderson Street, Templestowe	$21.44
12	Jenkins Park 18-22 Shakespeare Drive, Templestowe	$19.04
13	Serpell Community Reserve 7 Burleigh Drive, Templestowe	$18.35

Ranking	Address	30 June 2025 consolidated value $million
14	The Pines Community Centre 522 Blackburn Road, Doncaster East	$17.85
15	St Clems Reserve 80-82 St Clems Road, Doncaster East	$17.82
16	Doncaster Reserve 918 Doncaster Road, Doncaster East	$17.32
17	Timber Ridge Reserve 6-20 Anthony Avenue, Doncaster	$15.31
18	Petty's Reserve 61-77 Reynolds Road, Templestowe	$14.86
19	Boronia Grove Reserve 105 Leeds Street, Doncaster East	$13.32
20	Anderson Park 117-121 Andersons Creek Road, Doncaster East	$12.54

All valuations as at 30 June of the respective year.

- The consolidated values contained within this list include both land and building asset values applicable to the specific sites.
- The land values included in the Council Asset Register relate to land holdings both owned and controlled by Council.
- Council is required to value land and building assets pursuant to the provisions of AASB116 and AASB13. The fair value applicable to land value assessments, specifically parkland, recreational reserves and tree reserves alike, are adjusted to reflect site physical limitations, use restrictions and also allow for the time and cost incurred for preparing the properties for actual realisation and in saleable status.
- All valuations are prepared for annual financial reporting purposes only

Procurement Policy

Our Procurement Policy was adopted in August 2021 and is currently under review. Below is a list of contracts that Council entered into with a value above Council's Procurement Policy contract value (threshold) for invitation to tender or expression of interest.

Table 18: Contracts Council entered into with a value above Procurement Policy contract value (threshold) for invitation to tender or expression of interest for 2024-25

Contract Title	Cost Actual (incl. GST)	Type	RFX Type
Panel for Design and Construction of Modular Toilet Blocks and Similar Structures	Schedule of Rates	Public	RFT
Panel for Manningham Roadside, Reserve Mowing and Fire Mitigation Program	Schedule of Rates	Public	RFT
Infringement and Inspection Management System	$284,894.50	Public	RFT
Panel for the fabrication, supply and installation of bus shelters including associated civil works	Schedule of Rates	Public	RFT
Major Roads and Civil project	$24,786,650.00	Public	RFT
Design, supply and installation of Solar PV Hybrid Systems on various Council buildings - Package 3	$390,132.00	Public	RFT
Rieschiecks Reserve Athletic Pavilion Redevelopment Consultancy Services - Feasibility and Concept Design	$247,465.00	Public	RFT
Architectural & Sub-Consultancy Services for Feasibility Studies & Development of Concept Design for 3 pavilions	$478,764.00	Public	RFT
Currawong and Bulleen Tennis Club Courts reconstruction and Floodlighting upgrade	$1,024,328.00	Public	RFT
Purchase of public litter bin surrounds	$ 909,091.00	Public	RFT
Donvale TC Courts 1&2 and Templestowe Park TC Courts 1-5 LED floodlight upgrade	$ 190,690.00	Public	RFT

Contract Title	Cost Actual (incl. GST)	Type	RFX Type
Road Restoration - Oban Road Ringwood North - Stage 1	$507,914.00	Public	RFT
Manningham Cyclic Block Pruning and Electric Line Clearance Program	$5,071,612.00	Public	RFT
Ruffey Lake Park Step Trail	$338,624.00	Public	RFT
Manningham Youth Services	$1,429,437.00	Public	RFT
Panel for Tree and Plant (Landscape) Supply	Schedule of Rates	Public	RFT
Carawatha Reserve Landscape Works	$354,483.00	Public	RFT
Leadership Development Coaching Services Panel	Schedule of Rates	Public	RFT
Panel for Service Reviews	Schedule of Rates	Public	RFT
Sportsfield Lighting Installation Panel	Schedule of Rates	Public	RFT
Audio Visual Panel for Doncaster Playhouse	Schedule of Rates	Public	RFT
Standard Catering Services Panel	Schedule of Rates	Public	RFT
Premium Catering Services Panel	Schedule of Rates	Public	RFT
Civil Construction Panel (works up to $1m)	Schedule of Rates	Public	RFT
Building Works Panel (works up to $1m including GST)	Schedule of Rates	Public	RFT
Manningham Cyclic Block Pruning and Electric Line Clearance Program	$5,578,773.00	Public	RFT
Specialised Consultancy Services Panel	Schedule of Rates	Public	RFT
Manningham Youth Services	$1,429,437.00	Public	RFT
Concrete Works Panel	Schedule of Rates	Public	RFT

Contract Title	Cost Actual (incl. GST)	Type	RFX Type
Purchase of public litter bin surrounds	Schedule of Rates	Public	RFT
Consultancy Services for the provision of Heritage Advisory Services	Schedule of Rates	Public	RFT

State of the Assets Report

Transport

Why do we have these assets?

Our transport assets, which include local roads, carpark, kerbs, footpaths and traffic management devices, provides for a safe and suitable vehicular and pedestrian network.

By maintaining these assets, we ensure a safe, functional, and sustainable transport system that supports the needs of the community now and into the future.

Operations and maintenance	Renewal	Upgrade and new
• Condition and defect inspections of assets. • Maintenance and repairs to roads and paths including potholes, crack sealing, grinding and grading. • Line-marking and sign maintenance. • Repairs to a Bus Shelter. • Kerb and road sweeping. • Condition and defect inspections of assets. • Remove silt/debris from Bridge and Major Culvert assets. • Repair kerb and channel. • Repair lights on traffic signals. • Repaint (including graffiti removal) and clean bus shelters. • Bridge repairs.	• Resurfacing of sealed roads. • Road rehabilitation. • Kerb & Channel replacement to same standard. • Pathways replacement to same standard. • Guard railing replacement. • Replacement of Bus Shelter. • Bridge or Major Culvert replacement to same standard. • Carpark replacement to same standard. • Public lighting poles that have structural defect, and lanterns replacement.	• New constructed and gifted assets by developers or subdivisions. • Road widening or duplication. • New traffic signal and Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) treatments such as road humps, roundabouts etc. • New Bridge or Major culverts. • Extend or widen existing Bridge or Major culverts. • Change pathway from unsealed to sealed path. • Seal a gravel road. • New Guard railing installed. • Extension of existing pathway network to address gaps in connectivity. • New pathways. • Replacement of bridge deck with improved material.

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	
Operational & Maintenance	3,921,000	4,121,000	5,274,000	5,379,000	4,338,000	
Renewal & Upgrade	14,018,000	11,759,000	14,827,000	17,482,000	16,074,000	
Expansion & New	4,081,000	6,768,000	5,852,000	2,931,000	2,844,000	

What are the future challenges and opportunities?

Finances	Social	Technological	Environment
• Ensure compliance with the Road Management Plan. • Ensure clarity on ownership and responsibility of assets. • Limited Victorian and Australian Government funding.	• The lack of availability of sustainable transport options, including public transport. • Increase demand on local assets due to population growth and increased dwelling density. • Victorian Government's unwillingness to take back bus shelter assets. • Balancing the need for infrastructure upgrades with community expectations (ie new footpath, against the community valuing the 'rural feel' of the area).	• Use of technology to monitor and inspect our asset performance. • Use technology to obtain real time usage data. • Use of Smart lighting technology to control street light output and monitor usage.	• Increased risk of damage to assets due to more frequent and extreme weather events. • The need to consider resilience in the design and construction of new assets.

	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35
	4,449,000	4,563,000	4,680,000	4,801,000	4,924,000	5,047,000
	19,180,000	18,920,000	13,944,000	17,101,000	21,610,000	17,575,000
	3,616,000	3,163,000	3,073,000	3,336,000	2,558,000	2,995,000

Stormwater

Why do we have these assets?

Stormwater mainly comes from run-off from hard surfaces like roads, roofs, and paved areas. It flows into table drains, pits, pipes, and other features designed to slow down and direct water, improve water quality, store or discharge water.

These Stormwater assets are important for stormwater management and help protect people, property, and public health.

Operations and maintenance	Renewal	Upgrade and new
• Condition and defect inspections of assets. • Remove silt/debris/ blockages from pipes and pits. • Repair pit lids. • Regrading of table drains. • Maintain table drains and open drains. • Remove litter from gross pollutant traps. • Grass mowing of basins.	• Pit reconstruction. • Pipe replacement to same standard. • Minor culverts replacement to same standard. • WSUD asset replacement. • Replacement of penstocks and gross pollutant traps.	• New constructed and gifted assets by developers or subdivisions. • Duplication of stormwater pipe lines. • New WSUD assets. • New table drains or open drains. • Install new pipe replacements that are upsize capacity of the existing pipes. • Extend or widen existing basin/detention system. • Extension of existing stormwater network to address gaps in connectivity. • Extend existing minor culverts.

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	
Operational & Maintenance	2,108,000	2,160,000	2,214,000	2,270,000	2,326,000	
Renewal & Upgrade	3,231,000	5,098,000	4,303,000	4,184,000	4,025,000	
Expansion & New	782,000	1,377,000	1,369,000	1,506,000	1,900,000	

What are the future challenges and opportunities?

Finances	Social	Technological	Environment
• Ensure clarity on ownership and responsibility of assets. • Limited Victorian and Australian Government funding.	• The need to upgrade the capacity of our existing stormwater network to mitigate flooding. • The need to expand the underground network to improve flood immunity.	• Use of technology to monitor our asset performance. • Use technology to obtain real time usage data.	• The need to implement stormwater quality improvements to protect receiving waterways. • The need to consider resilience in the design and construction of new assets.

	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35
	2,385,000	2,444,000	2,505,000	2,568,000	2,632,000	2,698,000
	5,660,000	5,800,000	5,379,000	5,316,000	5,406,000	5,582,000
	300,000	-	551,000	1,054,000	1,070,000	1,107,000

Buildings

Why do we have these assets?

Buildings provide important services to the community. They give people places to meet, use local facilities, learn new things, host events, and run Council and other local services.

Operations and maintenance	Renewal	Upgrade and new
• Condition and defect inspections of assets. • Remove silt and clean roof gutters. • Plumbing, electrical, heating, cooling and ventilation, cleaning, security systems and services, structure and mechanical maintenance. • Cleaning of buildings. • Minor repairs to buildings and associated infrastructure due to failure, vandalism, and other forms of damage. • Safety, statutory compliance. • Maintenance administration and contractor management. • Building Utilities.	• Buildings replacement to same standard. • Major Building Components replacement to same standard. • Energy efficient replacements.	• New constructed and gifted assets by developers or subdivisions. • New Building assets. • Install new building replacements that are upsize capacity of the existing buildings. • Install Major Building Components. replacement to a higher standard. • Extend Building assets. • Installation of solar panels, batteries, and improve thermal efficiency.

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	
Operational & Maintenance	2,658,000	2,707,000	2,736,000	2,803,000	2,872,000	
Renewal & Upgrade	6,451,000	9,698,000	6,716,000	4,825,000	2,995,000	
Expansion & New	2,462,000	50,000	-	-	-	

What are the future challenges and opportunities?

Finances	Social	Technological	Environment
• Ensure clarity on ownership and responsibility of assets. • Limited Victorian and Australian Government funding. • More frequent maintenance and upgrades as usage increases.	• Increase in demand due to population growth. • Pressure on existing buildings to accommodate new services, requiring expansion or repurposing of assets. • Changing building regulations, accessibility requirements, and environmental standards. • Changing Victorian and Australian Government service regulation.	• Use of technology to monitor our asset performance. • Use technology to obtain real time usage data.	• Increased risk to buildings due to extreme weather events. • Higher energy costs and the need for more sustainable and climate resilient buildings. • Opportunities to incorporate renewal energy solutions and energy-efficient designs.

	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35
	2,943,000	3,015,000	3,089,000	3,165,000	3,242,000	3,323,000
	1,765,000	2,725,000	3,200,000	3,095,000	3,384,000	5,086,000
	-	-	-	-	-	-

Parks

Why do we have these assets?

Park assets in reserves and open spaces are important for the health and wellbeing of the community. They help people enjoy nature and make it easier for everyone to use and access outdoor areas.

Operations and maintenance	Renewal	Upgrade and new
• Condition and defect inspections of assets. • Minor repairs to parks and associated infrastructure due to failure, vandalism, and other forms of damage. • Safety, statutory compliance, maintenance administration and contractor management. • Parks Utilities. • Mowing, vegetation/weed control. • Litter collection and cleaning. • Graffiti removal. • Landscaping maintenance.	• Park assets replaced to same standard. • Major Parks Components replacement to same standard. • Rejuvenation or replacement of entire park assets to an equivalent standard.	• New constructed and gifted assets by developers or subdivisions. • New Park assets. • Install new park asset replacements that are upsize capacity of the existing park assets. • Park assets replaced to a higher standard. • Extend Park assets.

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	
Operational & Maintenance	10,933,000	10,648,000	10,989,000	11,235,000	11,486,000	
Renewal & Upgrade	5,911,000	4,896,000	7,214,000	7,703,000	7,360,000	
Expansion & New	4,359,000	2,726,000	2,166,000	1,584,000	1,888,000	

What are the future challenges and opportunities?

Finances	Social	Technological	Environment
• Ensure clarity on ownership and responsibility of assets. • Limited Victorian and Australian Government funding. • More frequent maintenance and upgrades as usage increases.	• Increased demand for well-maintained parks, and public spaces due to population growth and urban densification. • Higher community expectations for quality open space, requiring enhanced amenities such as seating, shade, and play areas. • Need for improved accessibility to ensure spaces are inclusive for all.	• Use of technology to monitor our asset performance. • Use technology to obtain real time usage data.	• Increased focus on urban greening and biodiversity. • Extreme heat and drought conditions increase the need for climate-resilient landscaping, efficient irrigation, and shade areas. • More frequent storms causing damage to park assets.

	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35
	11,743,000	12,007,000	12,278,000	12,555,000	12,839,000	13,130,000
	8,157,000	6,533,000	5,575,000	6,591,000	7,569,000	11,790,000
	1,027,000	1,382,000	997,000	1,009,000	534,000	474,000

Sports and Recreation

Why do we have these assets?

Sports and Recreation assets in parks and open spaces are important for keeping communities healthy and active. They help people feel proud of their local area, encourage social and physical activities, and support child development and wellbeing.

Operations and maintenance	Renewal	Upgrade and new
• Condition and defect inspections of assets. • Minor repairs to parks and associated infrastructure due to failure, vandalism, and other forms of damage. • Safety, statutory compliance, maintenance administration and contractor management. • Utilities. • Mowing, vegetation/weed control. • Litter collection and cleaning. • Graffiti removal. • Landscaping maintenance.	• Recreation Sport assets replaced to same standard. • Major Recreation Sport Components replacement to same standard. • Rejuvenation or replacement of entire Recreation Sport assets to an equivalent standard.	• New constructed and gifted assets by developers or subdivisions. • New Recreation Sport assets. • Install new Recreation Sport asset replacements that are upsize capacity of the existing assets. • Assets replaced to a higher standard. • Recreation Sport court / field extension.

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	
Operational & Maintenance	2,540,000	2,603,000	2,668,000	2,735,000	
Renewal & Upgrade	5,883,000	10,908,000	13,921,000	7,044,000	
Expansion & New	1,001,000	306,000	658,000	118,000	

What are the future challenges and opportunities?

Finances	Social	Technological	Environment
• Ensure clarity on ownership and responsibility of assets. • Limited Victorian and Australian Government funding. • More frequent maintenance and upgrades as usage increases. • Raising community expectations for high-quality, well-maintained playing surfaces.	• Increased demand for sporting fields, courts and facilities as population grows. • Need for multi-use sports infrastructure to accommodate diverse sporting activities and maximise community use. • Growth in female and inclusive sports, requiring upgrades to facilities. • Growing popularity of riding, increasing demand for bike parks.	• Use of technology to monitor our asset performance. • Use technology to obtain real time usage data. • Use technology to improve field surfaces to maximise usage.	• Drought conditions increase the need for climate-resilient surfaces. • Extreme heat events affecting player safety, increasing the need for appropriate amenities. • Improved technology associated with synthetic surfaces reduces environmental impact and recycling opportunities at end of life.

	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35
	2,803,000	2,873,000	2,945,000	3,019,000	3,094,000	3,171,000
	4,660,000	2,269,000	9,566,000	13,576,000	9,468,000	11,160,000
	60,000	73,000	4,033,000	3,180,000	4,505,000	7,122,000

Financial Report

Contents

Guide to our financial report 246

Certification of the Financial Statements 250

Victorian Auditor-General's Office Report 251

Financial Statements

Comprehensive Income Statement 253

Balance Sheet 254

Statement of Changes in Equity 255

Statement of Cash Flows 256

Statement of Capital Works 257

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1: Overview 258

Note 2: Analysis of our results 259

2.1 Performance against budget 259

2.2 Analysis of Council results by program 264

Note 3: Funding for the delivery of our services 265

3.1 Rates and charges 265

3.2 Statutory fees and fines 265

3.3 User fees and charges 265

3.4 Grants 266

3.5 Contributions 268

3.6 Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment 268

3.7 Other income 268

Note 4: The cost of delivering services 269

4.1 Employee costs 269

4.2 Materials, services and contracts 269

4.3 Depreciation 269

4.4 Amortisation - Intangible assests 270

4.5 Amortisation - Right of use assets 270

4.6 Allowance for impairment losses 270

4.7 Finance costs - Leases 270

4.8 Other expenses 271

Note 5: Investing in and financing our operations 272

5.1 Financial assets 272

5.2 Non-Financial assets 273

5.3 Payables, trust funds and deposits and contract and other liabilities 273

5.4 Provisions 274

5.5 Financing arrangements 276

5.6 Commitments 276

5.7 Leases 278

Note 6: Assets we manage 280

6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant, equipment and other fixed assets 280

6.2 Investments in associates 288

Note 7: People and relationships 289

7.1 Council and key management remuneration 289

7.2 Related party disclosure 291

Note 8: Managing uncertainties 292

8.1 Contingent assets and liabilities 292

8.2 Change in accounting standards 293

8.3 Financial instruments 293

8.4 Fair value measurement 295

8.5 Events occurring after balance date 296

Note 9 Other matters 297

9.1 Reserves 297

9.2 Reconciliation of cash flow from operation activities to surplus/(deficit) 299

9.3 Superannuation 299

Note 10 Change in accounting policy 301

Guide to our financial report

This guide will help you to understand and analyse Manningham's Financial Report.

Some terms required by Australian Accounting Standards are unfamiliar to most readers, and some of the generally recognised terms used in private sector company reports are rephrased to be more appropriate for a Council's financial report.

The Financial Report is one of Manningham's key reports as it shows how we performed financially this year and a snapshot of our financial position at 30 June 2025.

We have prepared this report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and relevant legislation. Manningham's Audit and Risk Committee and Councillors have examined it, and it has been audited by the Victorian Auditor-General.

What is in the Financial Report?

Council's Financial Report has 4 main sections:

- Five Financial Statements: The Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, and Statement of Capital Works.
- Notes to the Financial Statements that disclose our accounting policies and provide more detail on the information in the statements.
- Statements by our Principal Accounting Officer and Councillors.
- The Independent Auditor's Report / Auditor-General's Report.

Comprehensive income statement

This statement (formerly known as the 'Profit and Loss Statement') and shows:

- The sources of Council's income under various categories.
- The expenditure incurred in operating Council during the year. These expenses relate only to the operations and do not include the cost associated with capital expenditure or the building of assets.

While capital expenditure is not included in the expenses there is an item for depreciation. This is the value of the assets 'used up' during the year.

A surplus means that the income was greater than the operating expenditure. The surplus is mainly used to fund the Capital Works Program.

Balance sheet

This one-page summary is a snapshot of the financial situation as at 30 June. It shows what Council owns as assets and what it owes as liabilities.

The bottom line of this statement is net assets, or equity, and this is the net worth of Council which has been built up over many years. The assets and liabilities are further separated into current and non-current categories.

Current assets or current liabilities are those which will fall due in the next 12 months or cannot be deferred for greater than 12 months.

The components of the Balance Sheet are:

Current and non-current assets

Current and non-current assets include:

- Cash and cash equivalents, including cash and investments, ie. cash held in the bank and Council's short-term investments (term deposits).
- Trade and other receivables are monies owed to Council by ratepayers and others.
- Other financial assets include term deposits with financial institutions over 90 days.
- Other assets are pre-payments of next year's expenses and monies owed to Council, other than from trading, that are not yet received.
- Investment in associates refers to Council's equity share in the Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Service.
- Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment is the largest component of Council's worth and represents the value of all the land, buildings, roads, vehicles, equipment, etc. which have been built up by Council over many years.
- Right-of-use assets are assets that represent a lessee's right to use an underlying asset for a lease term.
- Intangible assets are assets that have no physical form such as computer software and licences.

Current and non-current liabilities

Current and non-current liabilities include:

- Trade and other payables are amounts that Council owes at 30 June.
- Trust funds and deposits represent monies held in Trust by Council.
- Unearned income represents payments received for works or services yet to be done.
- Provisions include accrued employee leave entitlements.
- Interest bearing loans and borrowings represents monies owed by Council to financial institutions as at 30 June.

Net assets

This term is used to describe the difference between the value of Total Assets and the value of Total Liabilities. It represents the net worth of Council as at 30 June.

Total equity

Total equity always equates to net assets. It is made up of the following components:

- Accumulated surplus: this is the value of Council, other than the Asset Revaluation reserve and Other Reserves that has been accumulated over time.
- Asset revaluation reserve: this represents the movement in the value of assets over the years from their original cost.
- Other reserves: this is the value of unspent funds from developer contributions. These funds are restricted in use and are held for future expenditure.

Statement of changes in equity

During the year the value of total equity, as set out in the balance sheet, changes. This statement shows the values of such changes and how these changes arose. The main reasons for a change in equity arise from:

- The surplus for the year which is the amount that income exceeded operating costs as described in the Comprehensive Income Statement.
- Net asset revaluation movements reflecting the change in the value of assets.
- Transfer of amounts to or from Council's reserves shows the amounts utilised from reserves during the year or placed into reserves for future use.

Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement summarises Council's cash payments and cash receipts for the year. The values may differ from those shown in the Comprehensive Income Statement because the Comprehensive Income Statement is prepared on an accrual accounting basis and the Cash Flow Statement is based on cash receipts and cash payments. Council's cash arises from, and is used in 3 main areas:

Cash flows from operating activities

- All cash received into Council's bank account from ratepayers and others. Receipts also include the interest earnings from Council's cash investments.
- Payments. All cash paid by Council to employees, suppliers and others.

Cash flows from investing activities

This section shows the cash invested in the creation or purchase of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment assets and the cash received from the sale of these assets.

Cash flows from financing activities

This is where the receipt and repayment of borrowed funds are recorded. The last line of the Cash Flow Statement is the Cash and Cash Equivalents held at the end of the financial year.

Statement of Capital Works

This statement summarises expenditures associated with capital purchases in the asset classes prescribed by the Regulations as part of the Capital Works Program. There are 4 main classes of assets:

- Property: including land and buildings purchased or developed during the year.
- Plant, equipment and other assets - including non-infrastructure assets like computers, artworks, furniture and fixtures.
- Infrastructure: this is where the majority of the Capital Works Program is allocated. This asset class includes roads, drainage, parks, open space and recreational community facilities.
- Intangible assets: represents costs associated with computer software and licences.

- The last section of the statement provides a breakdown of the total capital expenditure into:
  - New: represents expenditure on new assets to meet current or additional service level requirements.
  - Renewal: restores or replaces an existing asset that returns the service of the asset to its original capacity.
  - Expansion: extends the capacity of an existing asset to provide an additional level of service and benefits to new users while maintaining the same standard for existing users.
  - Upgrade: enhances an existing asset.
  - To provide a higher level of service and increases the life of the asset.

Notes to the Financial Statements

The Notes are an important and informative section of the report and include information on Manningham's accounting policies and how we arrive at our figures.

Each note is numbered and these numbers are displayed beside the relevant items in the statements for easy reference. If there is other information we want to share that can't be incorporated into the statements, we provide this in the Notes, for example:

- the breakdown of our expenses, revenues, reserves and assets
- contingent liabilities
- transactions with people related to Manningham.

For a clear picture of our financial performance, please read the Financial Statements and Notes to the Financial Statements together.

Statements by Principal Accounting Officer and Councillors

Our Principal Accounting Officer is responsible for the financial management of the organisation. They are responsible for certifying that these Financial Statements, in their professional opinion, meet all statutory and professional reporting requirements. Two Councillors, on behalf of the elected Council, certify that, in their opinion, the Financial Statements are fair and not misleading.

Independent Auditor's Report and Auditor-General's Report

The Independent Auditor's Report provides readers of our Annual Report with an external, independent opinion on our Financial Report and Statements. It confirms that we have prepared our Financial Report in accordance with relevant legislation and professional standards and that it represents a fair picture of Manningham's financial affairs. The Victorian Auditor-General is Council's auditor.

Services

Each year we are externally audited by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO). For the 2024-25 financial year, our financial and performance statements were audited by a VAGO representative as required by the *Audit Act 1994*. These statements are provided in this Annual Report from page 250.

Certification of the Financial Statements

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

Jon Gorst (BCom, CPA)
Principal Accounting Officer
23 September 2025
Doncaster

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial transactions of Manningham City Council for the year ended 30 June 2025 and the financial position of Council as at that date.

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

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

Deirdre Diamante
Mayor
23 September 2025
Doncaster

Andrew Conlon
Deputy Mayor
23 September 2025
Doncaster

Andrew Day
Chief Executive Officer
23 September 2025
Doncaster

Victorian Auditor-General's Office Report

Independent Auditor's Report

Victorian Auditor-General's Office

To the Councillors of Manningham City Council

Opinion	I have audited the financial report of Manningham City Council (the council) which comprises the: • balance sheet as at 30 June 2025 • comprehensive income statement for the year then ended • statement of changes in equity for the year then ended • statement of cash flows for the year then ended • statement of capital works for the year then ended • notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information • certification of the financial statements. In my opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the council as at 30 June 2025 and their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 4 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.
Basis for Opinion	I have conducted my audit in accordance with the *Audit Act 1994* which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report. My independence is established by the *Constitution Act 1975*. My staff and I are independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.
Councillors' responsibilities for the financial report	The Councillors of the council are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the *Local Government Act 2020* and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020, and for such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial report, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

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

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

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

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

MELBOURNE
29 September 2025

Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Comprehensive Income Statement

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Income / Revenue			
Rates and charges	3.1	126,731	122,541
Statutory fees and fines	3.2	3,666	3,197
User fees and charges	3.3	9,284	9,081
Grants - operating	3.4 (a)	8,587	6,904
Grants - capital	3.4 (b)	4,315	2,250
Contributions - monetary	3.5	6,889	5,237
Contributions - non-monetary	3.5	6	7,107
Other income	3.7	35,188	4,339
Total income / revenue		**194,666**	**160,656**
Expenses			
Employee costs	4.1	60,344	58,812
Materials, services and contracts	4.2	38,466	37,113
Depreciation	4.3	31,928	30,378
Amortisation - Intangible assets	4.4	1,509	1,936
Depreciation - Right of use assets	4.5	371	381
Allowance for impairment losses	4.6	532	187
Finance costs - Leases	4.7	49	58
Net loss/(gain) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	3.6	4,032	(371)
Share of deficit/(surplus) from investment in associate	6.2	88	(61)
Other expenses	4.8	25,279	23,957
Total expenses		**162,598**	**152,390**
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		**32,068**	**8,266**
Other comprehensive income			
Item that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods			
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	9.1 (a)	86,699	63,280
Total other comprehensive income		**86,699**	**63,280**
Total comprehensive result		**118,767**	**71,546**

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

Balance Sheet

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1 (a)	18,107	22,834
Trade and other receivables	5.1 (c)	22,129	20,595
Other financial assets	5.1 (b)	60,500	43,500
Other assets	5.2 (a)	5,992	8,076
Total current assets		106,728	95,005
Non-current assets			
Trade and other receivables	5.1 (c)	350	350
Investments in associates	6.2	3,129	3,217
Property, infrastructure, plant, equipment and other fixed assets	6.1	3,240,415	2,725,726
Right-of-use assets	5.7	1,598	1,969
Intangible assets	5.2 (b)	980	2,798
Total non-current assets		3,246,472	2,734,060
Total assets		3,353,200	2,829,065
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5.3 (a)	17,782	18,527
Trust funds and deposits	5.3 (b)	11,075	12,767
Contract and other liabilities	5.3 (c)	5,829	5,393
Provisions	5.4	14,120	14,961
Lease liabilities	5.7	269	357
Total current liabilities		49,075	52,005
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	5.4	1,720	1,358
Lease liabilities	5.7	1,515	1,784
Total non-current liabilities		3,235	3,142
Total liabilities		52,310	55,147
Net Assets		3,300,890	2,773,918
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		1,289,255	843,220
Reserves	9.1	2,011,635	1,930,698
Total Equity		3,300,890	2,773,918

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

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

2025	Note	Accumulated surplus $'000	Asset revaluation reserves $'000	Other reserves $'000	Total $'000
Balance at beginning of the financial year		843,220	1,919,025	11,673	2,773,918
Adjustment for Change in accounting policy - property, infrastructure, plant, equipment and other fixed assets	6.1, 10	408,205	-	-	408,205
Adjusted Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,251,425	1,919,025	11,673	3,182,123
Surplus for the year		32,068	-	-	32,068
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	9.1 (a)	-	86,699	-	86,699
Transfer to accumulated surplus on realisation of assets	9.1 (a)	2,266	(2,266)	-	-
Transfers from other reserves	9.1 (b)	9,306	-	(9,306)	-
Transfers to other reserves	9.1 (b)	(5,810)	-	5,810	-
Balance at end of the financial year		**1,289,255**	**2,003,458**	**8,177**	**3,300,890**

2024	Note	Accumulated surplus $'000	Asset revaluation reserves $'000	Other reserves $'000	Total $'000
Balance at beginning of the financial year		830,338	1,856,159	15,875	2,702,372
Surplus for the year		8,266	-	-	8,266
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	9.1 (a)	-	63,280	-	63,280
Transfer to accumulated surplus on realisation of assets	9.1 (a)	414	(414)	-	-
Transfers from other reserves	9.1 (b)	9,253	-	(9,253)	-
Transfers to other reserves	9.1 (b)	(5,051)	-	5,051	-
Balance at end of the financial year		**843,220**	**1,919,025**	**11,673**	**2,773,918**

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

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 Inflows/(Outflows) $'000	2024 Inflows/(Outflows) $'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Rates and waste charges		125,998	119,937
Statutory fees, fines and user charges		13,129	12,388
Grants - operating		5,155	3,517
Grants - capital		7,658	5,646
Contributions - monetary		6,889	5,237
Interest received		3,224	4,024
Net increase in trust funds and deposits		(1,692)	(622)
Other receipts		26,132	437
Net GST refund/(payment)		108	(348)
Materials, services and contracts		(64,785)	(63,852)
Short-term, low value and variable lease payments		(408)	(450)
Employee costs		(59,971)	(63,945)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	9.2	**61,437**	**21,969**
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for property, plant and equipment, infrastructure, and other fixed assets		(49,533)	(47,485)
Proceeds from disposal of property, infrastructure, plant, equipment and other fixed assets	3.6	775	2,257
Receipts/(payments) for other financial assets		(17,000)	25,000
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		**(65,758)**	**(20,228)**
Cash flows from financing activities			
Interest paid - lease liability		(49)	(58)
Repayment of lease liabilities		(357)	(350)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		**(406)**	**(408)**
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(4,727)	1,333
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		22,834	21,501
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	5.1 (a)	**18,107**	**22,834**
Financing arrangements	5.5		

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

Statement of Capital Works

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Property		
Land	5,915	4,226
Buildings	8,048	9,416
Total property	**13,963**	**13,642**
Plant, equipment and other assets		
Plant, machinery and equipment	2,525	3,370
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	63	51
Computers and telecommunications	81	16
Artworks	205	354
Total plant, equipment and other assets	**2,874**	**3,791**
Infrastructure		
Roads	11,008	9,232
Bridges	257	165
Footpaths and cycleways	9,021	7,231
Off street car parks	465	283
Drainage	2,796	4,214
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	4,489	3,758
Parks, open space and streetscapes	6,043	7,717
Total infrastructure	**34,079**	**32,600**
Total capital works expenditure	**50,916**	**50,033**
Represented by:		
New asset expenditure	16,272	14,587
Asset renewal expenditure	22,917	21,377
Asset expansion expenditure	236	1,889
Asset upgrade expenditure	11,491	12,180
Total capital works expenditure	**50,916**	**50,033**

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

Note 1: Overview

Introduction

The City of Manningham was established by an Order of the Governor in Council on 15 December 1994 and is a body corporate. The Council's main office is located at 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster, Victoria.

Statement of compliance

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

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

Accounting policy information

1.1 **Basis of accounting**

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

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

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

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

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

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

- the fair value of land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.1);
- the determination of depreciation for buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.1);
- the determination of employee provisions (refer to Note 5.4);
- the determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific so as to determine whether an arrangement is within the scope of *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers* or *AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* (refer to Note 3);
- the determination, in accordance with *AASB 16 Leases*, of the lease term, the estimation of the discount rate when not implicit in the lease and whether an arrangement is in substance short-term or low value (refer to Note 5.7);
- other areas requiring judgements.

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

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

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

Note 2: Analysis of our results

2.1 Performance against budget

The performance against budget notes compare Council's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* requires explanation of any material variances. Council has adopted a materiality threshold of lower of 10% or $500,000 to budget on a line item basis, or where further explanation is warranted. Explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality threshold unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

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

2.1.1 Income/Revenue and expenditure

	Budget 2025 $'000	Actual 2025 $'000	Variance 2025 $'000	Variance 2025 %	Ref
Income / Revenue					
Rates and charges	125,865	126,731	866	1	1
Statutory fees and fines	3,463	3,666	203	6	2
User fees and charges	9,487	9,284	(203)	(2)	3
Grants - operating	7,395	8,587	1,192	16	4
Grants - capital	3,614	4,315	701	19	5
Contributions - monetary	4,539	6,889	2,350	52	6
Contributions - non-monetary	1,000	6	(994)	(99)	7
Other income	14,634	35,188	20,554	140	8
Total income / revenue	**169,997**	**194,666**	**24,669**		
Expenses					
Employee costs	59,860	60,344	(484)	(1)	9
Materials, services and contracts	37,395	38,466	(1,071)	(3)	10
Depreciation	31,490	31,928	(438)	(1)	11
Amortisation - Intangible assets	1,499	1,509	(10)	(1)	-
Depreciation - Right of use assets	371	371	-	-	-
Allowance for impairment losses	-	532	(532)	-	12
Finance costs - Leases	49	49	-	-	-
Net loss/(gain) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(150)	4,032	(4,182)	2,788	13
Share of deficit/(surplus) from investment in associate	-	88	(88)	(100)	14
Other expenses	24,356	25,279	(923)	(4)	15
Total expenses	**154,870**	**162,598**	**(7,728)**		
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	**15,127**	**32,068**	**16,941**	112	

Note 2 Analysis of our results (cont.)

2.1 Performance against budget (cont.)

2.1.1 Income/Revenue and expenditure (cont.)

(i) Explanation of material variations

Ref.	Item	Explanation
1	Rates and charges	**Outcome: Greater than budget $866,000 or 1%** Rates and charges were higher than budget by $0.87 million mainly due to interest on overdue rates and charges as the default Penalty Interest Rate (10%) continued to apply for the year. The budget was premised on an expected nominal interest rate lower than the Penalty Interest Rate as a result of the introduction of the Local Government Legislation Amendment (Rating and Other Matters) Act 2022 whereby the Minister for Local Government now has the power to determine an interest rate on overdue rates and charges. However, the Minister did not set a rate before 1 July 2024.
2	Statutory fees and fines	**Outcome: Greater than budget $203,000 or 6%** Statutory charges, fees & fines were 5.9% or $0.20 million higher than originally budgeted. This is mainly due to increased traffic enforcement activity resulting in greater than anticipated parking infringements by $0.30 million during the year.
3	User fees and charges	**Outcome: Less than budget $203,000 or 2%** User fees and charges were $0.20 million lower than budget due to lower than anticipated demand for function centre & community venue facilities ($0.24 million), child care services income utilisation lower than anticipated ($0.12 million), animal registration fees due to a reduction in animal registrations in the community ($0.14 million); partly offset by higher than budgeted statutory planning applications fees ($0.18 million) and utilities reimbursements ($0.10 million).
4	Grants - operating	**Outcome: Greater than budget $1,192,000 or 16%** A change in the timing of Financial Assistance Grants with the Federal Government bringing forward 50% of the 2025/26 grant allocation into the 2024/25 financial year (was assumed to be received in 2025/26) attributed to a favourable variance of $1.74 million. This is partly offset by a delay in delivering Maternal and Child Health programs resulting in an unfavourable variance of $0.28 million.
5	Grants - capital	**Outcome: Greater than budget $701,000 or 19%** Similar to operating grants, a change in the timing of Financial Assistance Grants with the Federal Government bringing forward 50% of the 2025/26 grant allocation into the 2024/25 financial year (was assumed to be received in the 2025/26 year) attributed to a favourable variance of $0.56 million.
6	Contributions - monetary	**Outcome: Greater than budget $2,350,000 or 52%** Developers' cash contributions in lieu of public open space and infrastructure requirements were $1.81 million higher than budget and relate to the level of development activity in Manningham. These funds are placed into a cash backed reserve to be used to fund recreation and open space improvements for the community. In addition, $0.24 million higher than budgeted contributions from clubs to fund capital work projects and sale of Victorian Energy Efficiency Certificates ($0.28 million) created from the LED retrofit of approximately 1,000 major road lighting upgrades.
7	Contributions - non-monetary	**Outcome: Less than budget $994,000 or 99%** Lower than expected transfer of infrastructure across the municipality to Manningham by developers resulted in an unfavourable variance.

Note 2 Analysis of our results (cont.)

2.1.1 Income/Revenue and expenditure (cont.)

Ref.	Item	Explanation
8	Other income	**Outcome: Greater than budget $20,554,000 or 140%** Other income was $20.55 million favourable mainly due to $15.02 million higher than budgeted North East Link Project (NELP) land acquisition compensation payments and recognition of bridges (found assets) totalling $5.67 million which were identified in a recent bridges audit.
9	Employee costs	**Outcome: Greater than budget $484,000 or 1%** Employee costs were $0.48 million or 0.8 per cent higher than budget. This mainly relates to an increase in leave entitlements (long service leave and annual leave) provisions made to adjust the liability as at 30 June 2025 based on net present value. Excluding this provision, employee costs were $0.39 million favourable due to number of vacancies across the organisation.
10	Materials, services and contracts	**Outcome: Greater than budget $1,071,000 or 3%** Materials, services and contracts were $1.07 million higher than budget. This is mainly attributable to: * costs associated with Tram/Merlin Traffic Signals project work ($1.26 million) resulted in an unfavourable variance (originally budgeted as Capital Works Program) - transfer from capital as these were operational expenditure in nature; and * increased activity in Parks and Natural Environment, Facilities Management and Recreation and Leisure facilities ($0.93 million) to conduct essential programmed and reactive maintenance work; partly offset by * favourable variances across other parts of the organisation.
11	Depreciation	**Outcome: Greater than budget $438,000 or 1%** Depreciation was higher than budget due to an increase in infrastructure assets valuations at the end of last financial year (2023/24) and new assets being added as part of the 2024/25 capital works program.
12	Allowance for impairment losses	**Outcome: Greater than budget $532,000 or 0%** Mainly due to write off of old infringements balances (Animal, Traffic, Food etc).
13	Net loss/(gain) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	**Outcome: Less than budget $4,182,000 or 2788%** Net loss on disposal of assets was mainly attributable to the write off of buildings ($2.26 million), infrastructure assets (drainage pipes and streetscapes) totalling $1.26 million and intangible software ($0.31 million) as part of the capital works program to replace with new and other infrastructure assets. This is partly offset by a net gain of $0.32 million on disposal/replacement of existing assets as part of the ongoing Plant Replacement Program.
14	Share of deficit/(surplus) from investment in associate	**Outcome: Greater than budget $88,000 or 100%** Represents Council's share of the Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation (WMRL) loss for 2024/25. Council has a 36.2% equity interest.
15	Other expenses	**Outcome: Greater than budget $923,000 or 4%** The unfavourable variance is primarily due to: * $0.82 million of operational expenditure that was originally budgeted in the Capital Works Program but has been classified as non-capital in nature and transferred to Other expenses as part of the year end process; * software licences and software subscriptions on corporate wide systems exceeded the full year budget by $0.47 million; * insurance premiums were $0.20 million higher than expected; partly offset by * favourable variances against other expenses including catering and general office expenses.

Note 2 Analysis of our results (cont.)

2.1 Performance against budget (cont.)

2.1.2 Capital works

	Budget 2025 $'000	Actual 2025 $'000	Variance 2025 $'000	Variance 2025 %	Ref
Property					
Land	6,555	5,915	640	10	16
Buildings	8,913	8,048	865	10	17
Total property	**15,468**	**13,963**	**1,505**		
Plant, equipment and other assets					
Plant, machinery and equipment	2,330	2,525	(195)	(8)	18
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	-	63	(63)	(100)	19
Computers and telecommunications	150	81	69	46	20
Artworks	180	205	(25)	(14)	21
Total plant, equipment and other assets	**2,660**	**2,874**	**(214)**		
Infrastructure					
Roads	11,886	11,008	878	7	22
Bridges	180	257	(77)	(43)	23
Footpaths and cycleways	6,033	9,021	(2,988)	(50)	24
Off street car parks	-	465	(465)	(100)	25
Drainage	4,013	2,796	1,217	30	26
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	6,874	4,489	2,385	35	27
Parks, open space and streetscapes	7,422	6,043	1,379	19	28
Total infrastructure	**36,408**	**34,079**	**2,329**		
Total capital works expenditure	**54,536**	**50,916**	**3,620**	7	
Represented by:					
New asset expenditure	17,221	16,272	949	6	
Asset renewal expenditure	21,538	22,917	(1,379)	(6)	
Asset expansion expenditure	481	236	245	51	
Asset upgrade expenditure	15,296	11,491	3,805	25	
Total capital works expenditure	**54,536**	**50,916**	**3,620**		

Note 2 Analysis of our results (cont.)

2.1 Performance against budget (cont.)

2.1.2 Capital works (cont.)

(i) Explanation of material variations

Ref.	Item	Explanation
16	Land	**Outcome: Less than budget $640,000 or 10%** Land acquisition expenditure is highly dependent on property availability and market forces. The $0.64 million under expenditure is tied to property availability.
17	Buildings	**Outcome: Less than budget $865,000 or 10%** The $0.87 million under expenditure on buildings is primarily a result of the Schramms Cottage, Youth Hub and Battery Program projects being behind schedule.
18	Plant, machinery and equipment	**Outcome: Greater than budget $195,000 or 8%** Expenditure on electric vehicle acquisitions were brought forward to take advantage of higher resale values on older stock.
19	Fixtures, fittings and furniture	**Outcome: Greater than budget $63,000 or 100%** Mainly due to expenditure on the Bulleen Library internal layout changes project which was reclassified from Buildings to Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture.
20	Computers and telecommunications	**Outcome: Less than budget $69,000 or 46%** IT hardware and equipment purchases were lower than expected.
21	Artworks	**Outcome: Greater than budget $25,000 or 14%** Mainly due to the Migrant Peace Project. This project had not been anticipated during the budget planning process.
22	Roads	**Outcome: Less than budget $878,000 or 7%** The $0.88 million under expenditure on Roads is primarily related to the majority of expenditure on the Tram / Merlin Roads Traffic Signals project being reclassified as operational expenditure (was budgeted in capital). This is due to the majority of the works taking place on State Government land (and will be a State Government asset).
23	Bridges	**Outcome: Greater than budget $77,000 or 43%** Minor bridge renewal works are typically programmed during the year in response to issues being identified. The over expenditure reflects the amount of works required during the year.
24	Footpaths and cycleways	**Outcome: Greater than budget $2,988,000 or 50%** Additional footpath renewal works were approved during the course of the year to offset under expenditure in other areas of the overall capital works program.
25	Off street car parks	**Outcome: Greater than budget $465,000 or 100%** The over expenditure is primarily the result in the reclassification of projects as off street car park projects rather than road or open space projects.
26	Drainage	**Outcome: Less than budget $1,217,000 or 30%** Primarily due to delays in the Mitchell Avenue, Corriedale Crescent and Dalry Avenue drainage projects.
27	Recreational, leisure and community facilities	**Outcome: Less than budget $2,385,000 or 35%** Primarily due to delays in the Donvale Bowls and Rieschiecks Reserve projects.
28	Parks, open space and streetscapes	**Outcome: Less than budget $1,379,000 or 19%** Primarily due to lower than anticipated expenditure on the Energy Efficient Lighting Program, The Boronia Reserve Management Plan and the Foote Street Pedestrian Operated Signals projects.

Note 2 **Analysis of our results (cont.)**

2.2 **Analysis of Council results by program**

Council delivers its functions and activities through the following programs.

2.2.1 **CEO Office**

CEO Office is responsible for providing a range of strategic and operational services including the office of the CEO and financial services.

City Services

City Services is responsible for delivering services to the community centred around accommodation, drainage amenity, cleanliness, waste management, traffic management and emergency response. It is also responsible for protecting, maintaining and enhancing Manningham's assets and natural environment, including its buildings, roads, car parks, drains, footpaths, parks, bushlands, recreation fields, streetscapes and other infrastructure.

City Planning

The City Planning area includes services relating to strategic land use planning, social planning, transport planning, strategic drainage planning, urban design and open space planning, development approvals and compliance, legal services, environmental health, animal management, local laws and school crossings.

Connected Communities

The Connected Communities area includes services relating to social planning, transport planning, recreation, economic development, community development, community and cultural events, community venues, aged and disability support, maternal and child health, kindergartens and libraries.

Experience and Capability

Experience and Capability provides a range of support services across council to enable the delivery of council services. The provision of these services includes customer service, business enablement, information technology, people and communications, elected representatives, governance, risk, and procurement services.

Corporate Activities

Corporate activities relates to services to ratepayers, council and executives which are not allocated to individual directorates. This includes general rates revenue, interest on investments, Financial Assistance Grants, asset sales, depreciation and capital grants. The value of Council land and buildings is also retained in the Corporate activities service area.

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

2025	Income / Revenue $'000	Expenses $'000	Surplus/ (Deficit) $'000	Grants included in income / revenue $'000	Total assets $'000
CEO Office	788	7,147	(6,359)	-	-
City Services	20,817	75,975	(55,158)	687	903,256
City Planning	13,924	20,666	(6,742)	481	35,675
Connected Communities	5,242	24,786	(19,544)	2,363	48,393
Experience and Capability	78	31,061	(30,983)	-	1,380
Corporate Activities	153,817	2,963	150,854	9,371	2,364,496
	194,666	**162,598**	**32,068**	**12,902**	**3,353,200**

2024	Income / Revenue $'000	Expenses $'000	Surplus/ (Deficit) $'000	Grants included in income / revenue $'000	Total assets $'000
CEO Office	850	10,776	(9,926)	-	-
City Services	20,248	76,233	(55,985)	631	861,445
City Planning	12,437	17,655	(5,218)	504	29,904
Connected Communities	8,586	24,743	(16,157)	5,631	45,001
Experience and Capability	1	21,364	(21,363)	-	3,290
Corporate Activities	118,966	2,051	116,915	2,388	1,889,425
	161,088	**152,822**	**8,266**	**9,154**	**2,829,065**

Note 3: Funding for the delivery of our services

		2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Note 3	**Funding for the delivery of our services**		
3.1	**Rates and charges**		
	The Council uses Capital Improved Value (CIV) as the basis of valuation of all properties within the municipal district. The CIV of a property is its land value and the value of improvements such as buildings and other improvements.		
	The valuation base used to calculate general rates for 2024/25 was $70,631 million (2023/24: $66,672 million).		
	General rates	106,913	103,432
	Supplementary rates	623	349
	Recreational land	17	17
	Interest on rates and charges	1,244	1,136
		108,797	104,934
	Waste charges	17,934	17,607
		17,934	17,607
	Total rates and charges	**126,731**	**122,541**
	The date of the general revaluation of land for rating purposes within the municipal district was 1 January 2024 and the valuation was first applied in the rating year commencing 1 July 2024.		
	Annual rates and charges are recognised as revenues when Council issues annual rates notices. Supplementary rates are recognised when a valuation and reassessment is completed and a supplementary rates notice issued.		
3.2	**Statutory fees and fines**		
	Infringements and costs	1,725	1,169
	Town planning fees	1,102	1,220
	Land and property information certificates	466	455
	Asset protection and other permits	373	353
	Total statutory fees and fines	**3,666**	**3,197**
	Statutory fees and fines (including parking fees and fines) are recognised as income when the service has been provided, the payment is received, or when the penalty has been applied, whichever first occurs.		
3.3	**User fees and charges**		
	Hall hire and function centre charges	1,178	1,258
	Social and community services charges	535	605
	Town planning fees (non-statutory)	728	684
	Aged services fees	-	195
	Registration fees	1,322	1,353
	Culture and recreation fees	229	270
	Chargeable works fees	1,727	1,805
	Rent and lease charges	2,233	1,991
	Other fees and charges	1,332	920
	Total user fees and charges	**9,284**	**9,081**
	User fees and charges by timing of revenue recognition		
	User fees and charges recognised over time	-	-
	User fees and charges recognised at a point in time	9,284	9,081
	Total user fees and charges	**9,284**	**9,081**
	User fees are recognised as revenue at a point in time, or over time, when (or as) the performance obligation is satisfied. Recognition is based on the underlying contractual terms.		

		2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Note 3	**Funding for the delivery of our services (cont.)**		
3.4	**Grants (Funding from other levels of government)**		
	Grants were received in respect of the following:		
	Summary of grants		
	Commonwealth funded grants	8,508	5,155
	State funded grants	4,394	4,000
	Total grants received	**12,902**	**9,155**
(a)	**Operating grants**		
	Recurrent - Commonwealth Government		
	Financial Assistance Grants	5,057	138
	Aged services	-	3,349
	Recurrent - State Government		
	Economic and environment	-	139
	Immunisation	66	67
	Maternal and child health	1,049	1,088
	School crossing supervisors	376	363
	Social and community	858	845
	Community safety	23	21
	Other	456	444
	Total recurrent operating grants	**7,885**	**6,454**
	Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government		
	Aged services	-	6
	Other	(4)	11
	Non-recurrent - State Government		
	Community safety	-	53
	Economic and environment	313	139
	Maternal and child health	149	44
	Social and community	199	180
	Recreation	30	-
	Other	15	17
	Total non-recurrent operating grants	**702**	**450**
	Total operating grants	**8,587**	**6,904**
(b)	**Capital grants**		
	Recurrent - Commonwealth Government		
	Financial Assistance Grants - local roads	1,668	47
	Roads to Recovery	697	643
	Total recurrent capital grants	**2,365**	**690**
	Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government		
	Recreation	131	-
	Footpaths and cycleways	-	128
	Roads	959	664
	Streetscapes	-	168
	Non-recurrent - State Government		
	Recreation	264	242
	Buildings	560	358
	Parks & open space	36	-
	Total non-recurrent capital grants	**1,950**	**1,560**
	Total capital grants	**4,315**	**2,250**

		2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Note 3	**Funding for the delivery of our services (cont.)**		
3.4	**Grants (Funding from other levels of government) (cont.)**		
(c)	**Recognition of grant income**		

Before recognising funding from government grants as revenue the Council assesses whether there is a contract that is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance with *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers*. When both these conditions are satisfied, the Council:
- identifies each performance obligation relating to revenue under the contract/agreement
- determines the transaction price
- recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement
- recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations, at the point in time or over time when services are rendered.

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

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

Income recognised under AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities*		
General purpose	6,724	185
Specific purpose grants to acquire non-financial assets	2,647	2,203
Other specific purpose grants	739	729
Revenue recognised under AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*		
Specific purpose grants	2,792	6,038
	12,902	**9,155**
(d) **Unspent grants received on condition that they be spent in a specific manner**		
Operating		
Balance at start of year	834	4,103
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	621	582
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(658)	(3,851)
Balance at year end	**797**	**834**
Capital		
Balance at start of year	3,396	4,328
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	1,274	577
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(1,327)	(1,509)
Balance at year end	**3,343**	**3,396**

Unspent grants are determined and disclosed on a cash basis.

		2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Note 3	**Funding for the delivery of our services (cont.)**		
3.5	**Contributions**		
	Monetary	6,889	5,237
	Non-monetary	6	7,107
	Total contributions	**6,895**	**12,344**
	Contributions of monetary assets comprised of:		
	Resort and recreation Contributions (Public Open Space contributions)	5,810	5,052
	Operating contributions	472	95
	Capital contributions	607	90
	Total monetary contributions	**6,889**	**5,237**
	Contributions of non monetary assets were received in relation to the following asset classes:		
	Land under roads	-	5,126
	Buildings	-	58
	Artworks	6	-
	Infrastructure	-	1,923
	Total non-monetary contributions	**6**	**7,107**
	Monetary and non monetary contributions are recognised as income at their fair value when Council obtains control over the contributed asset.		
3.6	**Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment**		
	Proceeds from disposal	775	2,257
	Written down value of assets disposed	(517)	(754)
	Written down value of assets scrapped	(4,290)	(1,132)
	Total net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	**(4,032)**	**371**
	The profit or loss on disposal of an asset is determined when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.		
3.7	**Other income**		
	Interest on investments	3,302	3,950
	Royalties	-	90
	Land compensation (net) *	25,914	-
	Found assets - bridges & artworks	5,754	-
	Other	218	299
	Total other income	**35,188**	**4,339**
	Interest is recognised as it is earned.		
	Other income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is recognised when Council gains control over the right to receive the income.		
	** Primarily relates to North East Link Project (NELP) land acquisition compensation payments received in 2024/25*		

Note 4: The cost of delivering services

		2025 $'000	2024 $'000
4.1	**Employee costs**		
(a)	Wages and salaries	48,619	48,110
	Casual staff	1,510	2,499
	Salary oncost *	9,882	7,796
	Other employee costs	333	407
	Total employee costs	**60,344**	**58,812**

Engineering design work and capital project supervision completed by employees to the value of $3.336 million (2024: $2.729 million) is reported in the Statement of Capital Works, and is not included in employee costs.

* *Salary oncost includes annual leave and long service leave provision, Workcover and superannuation costs.*

(b)	**Superannuation**		
	Manningham City Council made contributions to the following funds:		
	Defined benefit fund		
	Employer contributions - Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	182	226
		182	**226**
	Employer contributions payable as at 30 June	-	-
	Accumulation funds		
	Employer contributions - Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	2,409	2,494
	Employer contributions - other funds	3,416	2,829
		5,825	**5,323**
	Employer contributions payable as at 30 June	276	250

Refer to note 9.3 for further information relating to Council's superannuation obligations.

4.2	**Materials, services and contracts**		
	Materials, services and general maintenance	3,804	3,739
	Plant and equipment maintenance	550	700
	Contracts and services - community building repairs and maintenance	2,826	2,989
	Contracts and services - parks, gardens, sporting reserves and street trees	9,100	8,330
	Contracts and services - drains, roads and footpaths	5,893	4,756
	Contracts and services - waste collection and disposal services	16,293	16,599
	Total materials, services and contracts	**38,466**	**37,113**

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

4.3	**Depreciation**		
	Property	5,065	4,733
	Plant, machinery and other assets	1,726	1,823
	Infrastructure	25,137	23,822
	Total depreciation	**31,928**	**30,378**

Refer to note 6.1 for a more detailed breakdown of depreciation charges and accounting policy.

		2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Note 4	**The cost of delivering services (cont.)**		
4.4	**Amortisation - Intangible assets**		
	Software	1,509	1,936
	Total amortisation - intangible assets	**1,509**	**1,936**
	Refer to note 5.2(b) and 6.1 for a more detailed breakdown of amortisation charges and accounting policy.		
4.5	**Depreciation - Right of use assets**		
	Property	369	369
	Equipment	2	12
	Total depreciation - Right of use assets	**371**	**381**
4.6	**Allowance for impairment losses**		
	Parking fine debtors	346	95
	Other debtors	186	92
	Total allowance for impairment losses	**532**	**187**
	Movement in allowance for impairment losses in respect of debtors		
	Balance at the beginning of the year	1,887	1,767
	New allowances recognised during the year	532	187
	Amounts allowed for but recovered/written off during the year	(570)	(67)
	Balance at end of year	**1,849**	**1,887**
	An allowance for impairment losses in respect of debtors is recognised based on an expected credit loss model. This model considers both historic and forward looking information in determining the level of impairment.		
4.7	**Finance costs - Leases**		
	Interest - Lease liabilities	49	58
	Total finance costs	**49**	**58**

		2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Note 4	**The cost of delivering services (cont.)**		
4.8	**Other expenses**		
	Community grants and contributions		
	Community grants	1,733	1,462
	Library contributions	4,510	4,320
	Total community grants and contributions	6,243	5,782
	Utilities		
	Utilities - electricity, water, other	1,729	1,844
	Street lighting	875	842
	Total utilities	2,604	2,686
	Other miscellaneous expenses		
	Auditor's remuneration - VAGO - annual financial statements, performance statement and grant acquittals	82	77
	Auditor's remuneration - other parties	26	26
	Auditor's remuneration - Internal audit	139	137
	Councillors' allowances	466	462
	Fire service levy	156	140
	Insurance	1,970	1,550
	Leases	408	450
	Consultants - engineering	482	602
	Consultants - human resources	8	9
	Consultants - economic and environmental	718	752
	Consultants - other	645	543
	Bank charges	248	241
	Catering (including function centre)	433	478
	Legal	938	810
	Software licences	5,961	5,505
	Telephone	351	477
	Postage	430	436
	Printing	247	218
	Training	534	526
	Design fees, maintenance and other IT costs - non capital	824	654
	Other	1,366	1,396
	Total other miscellaneous expenses	16,432	15,489
	Total other expenses	**25,279**	**23,957**

Note 5: Investing in and financing our operations

		2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Note 5	**Investing in and financing our operations**		
5.1	**Financial assets**		
(a)	**Cash and cash equivalents**		
	Cash on hand	1	1
	Cash at bank	18,106	20,833
	Term deposits (with term up to 3 months) and at-call with banks	-	2,000
	Total cash and cash equivalents	**18,107**	**22,834**
(b)	**Other financial assets**		
	Current		
	Term deposits	60,000	43,000
	Term deposit - refundable Manningham Centre Association bond	500	500
	Total current other financial assets	**60,500**	**43,500**
	Total other financial assets	**60,500**	**43,500**
	Total cash and cash equivalents and other financial assets	**78,607**	**66,334**
	Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits at call and other highly liquid investments with original maturities of 90 days or less, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.		
	Other financial assets include term deposits and those with original maturity dates of three to 12 months are classified as current, whilst term deposits with maturity dates greater than 12 months are classified as non-current.		
	Other financial assets (term deposits) are measured at original cost.		
(c)	**Trade and other receivables**		
	Current		
	Statutory receivables		
	Rates debtors	17,271	16,524
	Infringement debtors	828	917
	Special rate schemes	75	80
	Net GST receivable	1,581	1,689
	Non statutory receivables		
	Other debtors	2,579	1,654
	Allowance for expected credit loss - other debtors	(205)	(269)
	Total current trade and other receivables	**22,129**	**20,595**
	Non-current		
	Statutory receivables		
	Infringement court	1,644	1,618
	Allowance for expected loss - infringement court	(1,644)	(1,618)
	Non statutory receivables		
	Other receivables	350	350
	Total non-current trade and other receivables	**350**	**350**
	Total trade and other receivables	**22,479**	**20,945**
	Short term receivables are carried at invoice amount. An allowance for expected credit losses is recognised based on past experience and other objective evidence of expected losses.		
(d)	**Ageing of receivables**		
	The ageing of Council's trade and other receivables (excluding statutory receivables) that are not impaired was:		
	Current (not yet due)	2,111	1,073
	Past due between 31 and 60 days	10	20
	Past due between 61 and 90 days	129	169
	Past due by more then 91 days	329	392
	Total trade and other receivables	**2,579**	**1,654**

		2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Note 5	**Investing in and financing our operations (cont.)**		
5.2	**Non-Financial assets**		
(a)	**Other assets**		
	Accrued income - interest	559	481
	Accrued income - other	935	1,498
	Prepayments	4,177	5,850
	Inventories	321	247
	Total other assets	**5,992**	**8,076**
(b)	**Intangible assets**		
	Software	980	2,798
	Total intangible assets	**980**	**2,798**
	Gross carrying amount		
	Balance at 1 July	18,370	18,370
	Fair value of assets disposed	(11,791)	-
	Balance at 30 June	6,579	18,370
	Accumulated amortisation		
	Balance at 1 July	(15,572)	(13,636)
	Amortisation expense	(1,509)	(1,936)
	Amortisation of disposals	11,482	-
	Balance at 30 June	(5,599)	(15,572)
	Net book value at 30 June	**980**	**2,798**

Intangible assets with finite lives are amortised as an expense on a systematic basis over the asset's useful life. Amortisation is generally calculated on a straight line basis, at a rate that allocates the asset value, less any estimated residual value over its estimated useful life. Estimates of the remaining useful lives and amortisation method are reviewed at least annually, and adjustments made where appropriate.

5.3	**Payables, trust funds and deposits and contract and other liabilities**		
(a)	**Trade and other payables**		
	Current		
	Non-statutory payables		
	Trade payables	8,815	9,120
	Employee benefits and related costs	3,235	4,076
	Accrued expenses	5,732	5,331
	Total current trade and other payables	**17,782**	**18,527**
(b)	**Trust funds and deposits**		
	Current		
	Contract retention	848	1,224
	Landscape bonds	1,428	2,985
	Miscellaneous works deposits	175	160
	Asset protection bonds	7,329	7,038
	Subdivider deposits	140	166
	Refundable Manningham Centre Association bond	500	500
	Fire services levy	410	399
	Other refundable deposits	245	295
	Total current trust funds and deposits	**11,075**	**12,767**

		2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Note 5	**Investing in and financing our operations (cont.)**		
5.3	**Payables, trust funds and deposits and contract and other liabilities (cont.)**		
(c)	**Contract and other liabilities**		
	Contract liabilities		
	Current		
	Grants received in advance - operating	797	833
	Grants received in advance - capital	3,343	3,396
	Income received in advance - rent	798	282
	Income received in advance - rates	891	882
	Total contract liabilities	**5,829**	**5,393**

Trust funds and deposits

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

Contract liabilities

Contract liabilities reflect consideration received in advance from customers in respect of rent, rates and grant funding. Contract liabilities are derecognised and recorded as revenue when promised goods and services are transferred to the customer. Refer to Note 3.

Purpose and nature of items

Fire Services Levy - Council is the collection agent for fire services levy on behalf of the State Government. Council remits amounts received on a quarterly basis. Amounts disclosed here will be remitted to the state government in line with that process.

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

5.4 Provisions

	Employee $ '000	Other $ '000	Total $ '000
2025			
Balance at beginning of the financial year	14,626	1,693	16,319
Amounts used	(5,531)	(1,693)	(7,224)
Additional provisions	6,747	-	6,747
Balance at the end of the financial year	**15,842**	**-**	**15,842**
Provisions - current	14,120	-	14,120
Provisions - non-current	1,720	-	1,720
2024			
Balance at beginning of the financial year	16,436	-	16,436
Amounts used	(8,474)	-	(8,474)
Additional provisions	6,664	1,693	8,357
Balance at the end of the financial year	**14,626**	**1,693**	**16,319**
Provisions - current	13,268	1,693	14,961
Provisions - non-current	1,358	-	1,358

		2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Note 5	**Investing in and financing our operations (cont.)**		
5.4	**Provisions (cont.)**		
	(a) Employee provisions		
	Current provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months		
	Annual leave	3,680	3,388
	Long service leave	512	619
		4,192	4,007
	Current provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months		
	Annual leave	1,585	1,524
	Long service leave	8,343	7,737
		9,928	9,261
	Total current employee provisions	**14,120**	**13,268**
	Non-current		
	Long service leave	1,720	1,358
	Total non-current employee provisions	**1,720**	**1,358**
	Aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions:		
	Current	14,120	13,268
	Non-current	1,720	1,358
	Total aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions	**15,840**	**14,626**

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

Annual leave

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

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

Long service leave

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

	Key assumptions:		
	- discount rate	3.76%	4.23%
	- index rate	2.75%	2.75%
	(b) Other provisions		
	Current	-	1,693
		-	**1,693**

		2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Note 5	**Investing in and financing our operations (cont.)**		
5.5	**Financing arrangements**		
	The Council has the following funding arrangements in place as at 30 June.		
	Bank overdraft	-	1,000
	Credit card facilities	250	250
	Total facilities	250	1,250
	Used facilities - credit card	48	37
	Unused facilities	202	1,213

5.6 **Commitments**

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

(a) Commitments for expenditure

2025	Not later than 1 year $'000	Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years $'000	Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years $'000	Later than 5 years $'000	Total $'000
Operating					
Garbage collection	2,170	2,260	2,354	-	6,784
Green waste collection	3,733	3,900	12,783	4,649	25,065
Recycling collection	2,011	2,100	2,193	-	6,304
Hard waste collection	1,544	1,663	1,791	-	4,998
Tipping waste management	10,165	7,914	-	-	18,079
Renewable electricity	290	-	-	-	290
Tree pruning	1,991	1,807	2,419	-	6,217
Provision of cleaning services	141	76	12	-	229
Sportsground maintenance	774	361	1	-	1,136
Environmental services	555	300	545	84	1,484
Provision of security services	549	480	189	-	1,218
Computers & telecommunications	2,992	2,237	364	-	5,593
Miscellaneous works	5,990	891	534	-	7,415
Total	32,905	23,989	23,185	4,733	84,812
Capital					
Plant, equipment and other assets	675	-	-	-	675
Land & buildings	1,299	-	-	-	1,299
Drainage	1,013	-	-	-	1,013
Roads & footpaths	23,969	-	-	-	23,969
Recreation, open space & others	1,573	-	-	-	1,573
Total	28,529	-	-	-	28,529

5.6 **Commitments (cont.)**

2024	Not later than 1 year $'000	Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years $'000	Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years $'000	Later than 5 years $'000	Total $'000
Operating					
Garbage collection	2,082	2,139	4,456	-	8,677
Green waste collection	3,614	3,717	11,799	4,160	23,290
Recycling collection	1,962	2,009	4,189	-	8,160
Hard waste collection	1,334	-	-	-	1,334
Tipping waste management	6,395	-	-	-	6,395
Renewable electricity	1,598	20	41	-	1,659
Tree pruning	884	516	678	-	2,078
Provision of cleaning services	154	4	-	-	158
Sportsground maintenance	474	444	216	-	1,134
Environmental services	917	143	26	-	1,086
Provision of security services	315	272	444	-	1,031
Computers & telecommunications	3,567	1,999	1,553	-	7,119
Miscellaneous works	4,267	2,439	2,991	-	9,697
Total	**27,563**	**13,702**	**26,393**	**4,160**	**71,818**
Capital					
Plant, equipment and other assets	756	-	-	-	756
Land & buildings	5,630	-	-	-	5,630
Drainage	3,674	-	-	-	3,674
Roads & footpaths	5,214	-	-	-	5,214
Recreation, open space & others	2,596	-	-	-	2,596
Total	**17,870**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**17,870**

(b) Operating lease receivables

At the reporting date, Council had the following operating leases for the lease of Council owned land and buildings:

These properties held under operating lease have remaining non cancellable lease term of between 1 and 35 years annual rental reviews, either by fixed percentage or CPI annually.

Future undiscounted minimum rentals receivable under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Not later than one year	1,899	1,808
Later than one year and not later than five years	6,454	6,162
Later than five years	3,286	4,775
	11,639	**12,745**

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

5.7 Leases

At inception of a contract, Council assesses whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. A contract is, or contains, a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration. To identify whether a contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset, it is necessary to assess whether:

- The contract involves the use of an identified asset;
- Council has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the asset throughout the period of use; and
- Council has the right to direct the use of the asset.

This policy is applied to contracts entered into, or changed, on or after 1 July 2019.

As a lessee, Council recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability at the lease commencement date. The right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for:

- any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received; plus
- any initial direct costs incurred; and
- an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located.

The right-of-use asset is subsequently depreciated using the straight-line method from the commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the right-of-use asset or the end of the lease term. The estimated useful lives of right-of-use assets are determined on the same basis as those of property, plant and equipment. In addition, the right-of-use asset is periodically reduced by impairment losses, if any, and adjusted for certain measurements of the lease liability.

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease or, if that rate cannot be readily determined, an appropriate incremental borrowing rate. Generally, Council uses an appropriate incremental borrowing rate as the discount rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability comprise the following:

- Fixed payments
- Variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date;
- Amounts expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee; and
- The exercise price under a purchase option that Council is reasonably certain to exercise, lease payments in an optional renewal period if Council is reasonably certain to exercise an extension option, and penalties for early termination of a lease unless Council is reasonably certain not to terminate early.

When the lease liability is remeasured in this way, a corresponding adjustment is made to the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset, or is recorded in profit or loss if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset has been reduced to zero.

Under *AASB 16 Leases*, Council as a not-for-profit entity has elected not to measure right-of-use assets at initial recognition at fair value in respect of leases that have significantly below-market terms.

5.7 Leases (cont.)

Right-of-Use Assets	Property $'000	Plant and equipment $'000	Total $'000
Balance at 1 July 2024	1,967	2	1,969
Depreciation charge	(369)	(2)	(371)
Balance at 30 June 2025	**1,598**	**-**	**1,598**

Lease Liabilities	2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Maturity analysis - contractual undiscounted cash flows		
Less than one year	311	407
One to five years	1,097	1,135
More than five years	535	808
Total undiscounted lease liabilities as at 30 June:	1,943	2,350
Lease liabilities included in the Balance Sheet at 30 June:		
Current	269	357
Non-current	1,515	1,784
Total lease liabilities	**1,784**	**2,141**

Short-term and low value leases

Council has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases of plant and equipment that have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets (individual assets worth less than exisiting capitalisation thresholds for a like asset up to a maximum of $10,000), including some IT equipment. Council recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

	2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Expenses relating to:		
Short-term leases	40	41
Leases of low value assets	368	409
Total	**408**	**450**
Variable lease payments (not included in measurement of lease liabilities)		
Variable lease payments	23	10
Total	**23**	**10**

Variable lease payments are those that depend on an index or a rate, for example payments linked to the consumer price index, a benchmark interest rate or changes in market rental rates.

Non-cancellable lease commitments - Short-term and low-value leases

Commitments for minimum lease payments for short-term and low-value leases are payable as follows:		
Payable:		
Within one year	368	312
Later than one year but not later than five years	163	274
Total lease commitments	**531**	**586**

Note 6: Assets we manage

Note 6 Assets we manage

6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant, equipment and other fixed assets

Summary of property, infrastructure, plant, equipment and other fixed assets

	Adjusted Carrying amount 1 July 2024	Additions	Contributions	Found	Revaluation	Depreciation	Disposal	Transfers	Write Offs	Reclassification	Carrying amount 30 June 2025
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Land	1,959,048	5,915	-	-	38,702	-	(60)	-	-	-	2,003,605
Buildings	262,876	3,624	-	-	13,296	(5,055)	(2,558)	759	-	232	273,164
Plant, equipment and other fixed assets	12,345	2,758	6	88	1,100	(1,726)	(625)	359	-	-	14,305
Infrastructure	888,000	21,769	-	5,666	33,601	(25,137)	(1,255)	6,102	-	(232)	928,514
Work in progress	11,662	16,850	-	-	-	-	-	(7,220)	(465)	-	20,827
	3,133,931	50,916	6	5,754	86,699	(31,928)	(4,498)	-	(465)	-	3,240,415

Change in accounting policy - Land under roads

Council now recognises all land under roads it controls at fair value. Council had previously only recognised land under roads acquired after 30 June 2008 (at cost) and did not recognise land under roads that it controlled prior to 1 July 2008 in its financial report. This change in accounting policy is to align with Local Government Victoria's (LGV) preference that all Victorian councils recognise all land under roads at fair value. LGV remains of the view that consistent and comparable financial reporting by Victorian councils is desirable (Also refer to Note 10 Change in accounting policy).

The fair value of the previously unrecognised land under roads that Council controlled prior to 1 July 2008 ($408.2 million) has been adjusted against opening land asset balances (within Property, Infrastructure, Plant, Equipment and other Fixed Assets) and the Accumulated Surplus at 1 July 2024. The previously unrecognised land under roads assets were obtained over many years prior to 1 July 2008 and hence it was impractical to retrospectively value the assets and restate prior period balances (this is in line with *AASB108 - Accounting policies, changes in accounting estimates and errors* paragraph 29(e)). The values were established by implementing a consistent valuation methodology as applied to the Land asset class.

Council will also continue to recognise Land under roads acquired after 30 June 2008 ($20.6 million). These assets were revalued for the first time in the 2024-25 year with a revaluation increment of $2.7 million credited to the Asset Revaluation Reserve.

Note 6 Assets we manage (cont.)

6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant, equipment and other fixed assets (cont.)

	Carrying amount 30 June 2024	Carrying amount 1 July 2024	Change in accounting policy adjustment	Adjusted Carrying amount 1 July 2024
Land	1,550,843	1,550,843	408,205	1,959,048
Buildings	262,876	262,876	-	262,876
Plant, equipment and other fixed assets	12,345	12,345	-	12,345
Infrastructure	888,000	888,000	-	888,000
Work in progress	11,662	11,662	-	11,662
	2,725,726	2,725,726	408,205	3,133,931

Summary of work in progress	Opening WIP 1 July 2024	Additions	Transfers	Write Offs	Closing WIP 30 June 2025
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Property	1,365	4,423	(759)	(64)	4,965
Plant, equipment and other fixed assets	402	116	(360)	2	160
Infrastructure	9,895	12,311	(6,101)	(403)	15,702
	11,662	**16,850**	**(7,220)**	**(465)**	**20,827**

Note 6 **Assets we manage (cont.)**

6.1 **Property, infrastructure, plant, equipment and other fixed assets (cont.)**

(a) **Property**

	Land - specialised $'000	Land - non-specialised $'000	Land under roads $'000	Total Land $'000	Building - specialised $'000	Building - non-specialised $'000	Total Buildings $'000	Total Property $'000	Work in Progress $'000
At fair value 1 July 2024	1,525,178	8,270	17,395	1,550,843	507,593	4,246	511,839	2,062,682	1,365
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2024	-	-	-	-	(246,510)	(2,453)	(248,963)	(248,963)	-
	1,525,178	8,270	17,395	1,550,843	261,083	1,793	262,876	1,813,719	1,365
Change in accounting policy adjustment - Land under roads (Note 10)	-	-	408,205	408,205	-	-	-	408,205	-
Adjusted carrying amount at 1 July 2024	1,525,178	8,270	425,600	1,959,048	261,083	1,793	262,876	2,221,924	1,365
Movements in fair value									
Additions of assets at fair value	-	5,915	-	5,915	2,908	716	3,624	9,539	4,423
Revaluation increments/decrements	36,280	(282)	2,704	38,702	18,053	898	18,951	57,653	-
Fair value of assets disposed	(60)	-	-	(60)	(5,117)	(874)	(5,991)	(6,051)	-
Reclassification	(532)	-	532	-	404	-	404	404	(64)
Transfers	-	-	-	-	759	-	759	759	(759)
	35,688	5,633	3,236	44,557	17,007	740	17,747	62,304	3,600
Movements in accumulated depreciation									
Depreciation and amortisation	-	-	-	-	(5,023)	(42)	(5,065)	(5,065)	-
Revaluation increments/decrements	-	-	-	-	(4,607)	(1,048)	(5,655)	(5,655)	-
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	-	-	-	-	2,929	504	3,433	3,433	-
Reclassification	-	-	-	-	(172)	-	(172)	(172)	-
	-	-	-	-	(6,873)	(586)	(7,459)	(7,459)	-
At fair value 30 June 2025	1,560,866	13,903	428,836	2,003,605	524,600	4,986	529,586	2,533,191	4,965
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2025	-	-	-	-	(253,383)	(3,039)	(256,422)	(256,422)	-
Carrying amount	1,560,866	13,903	428,836	2,003,605	271,217	1,947	273,164	2,276,769	4,965

Note 6 Assets we manage (cont.)

6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant, equipment and other fixed assets (cont.)

(b) Plant, equipment and other fixed assets

	Plant, machinery and equipment $'000	Fixtures, fittings and furniture $'000	Computers and telecom-munications $'000	Artworks $'000	Total plant, equipment and other assets $'000	Work in Progress $'000
At fair value 1 July 2024	16,762	10,066	2,419	2,214	31,461	402
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2024	(7,821)	(9,369)	(1,926)	-	(19,116)	-
	8,941	697	493	2,214	12,345	402
Movements in fair value						
Additions of assets at fair value	2,526	63	81	88	2,758	116
Contributed assets	-	-	-	6	6	-
Found assets	-	-	-	88	88	-
Revaluation increments/decrements	-	-	-	1,100	1,100	-
Fair value of assets disposed	(2,498)	(9,156)	(1,593)	-	(13,247)	-
Reclassification	-	-	-	-	-	2
Transfers	-	-	-	359	359	(360)
	28	(9,093)	(1,512)	1,641	(8,936)	(242)
Movements in accumulated depreciation						
Depreciation and amortisation	(1,447)	(112)	(167)	-	(1,726)	-
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	1,987	9,049	1,586	-	12,622	-
	540	8,937	1,419	-	10,896	-
At fair value 30 June 2025	16,790	973	907	3,855	22,525	160
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2025	(7,281)	(432)	(507)	-	(8,220)	-
Carrying amount	9,509	541	400	3,855	14,305	160

Note 6 Assets we manage (cont.)

6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant, equipment and other fixed assets (cont.)

(c) Infrastructure

	Roads $'000	Bridges $'000	Footpaths and cycleways $'000	Off street car parks $'000	Drainage $'000	Recreational, leisure and community $'000	Parks open spaces and streetscapes $'000	Waste Management $'000	Total Infrastructure $'000	Work in Progress $'000
At fair value 1 July 2024	609,280	29,593	182,636	28,135	591,595	51,397	53,057	5,415	1,551,108	9,885
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2024	(295,777)	(10,867)	(81,744)	(17,808)	(213,582)	(17,471)	(23,153)	(2,706)	(663,108)	-
	313,503	18,726	100,892	10,327	378,013	33,926	29,904	2,709	888,000	9,885
Movements in fair value										
Additions of assets at fair value	8,382	135	5,387	466	2,396	1,278	3,725	-	21,769	12,311
Found assets	-	8,435		-	-	-	-	-	8,435	-
Revaluation increments/decrements	(48,252)	(3,131)	39,757	(8,502)	57,499	-	-	-	37,371	-
Fair value of assets disposed	-	-	-	-	(2,289)	-	(2,221)	-	(4,510)	-
Reclassification	-	-	-	-	-	(372)	(32)	-	(404)	(403)
Transfers	196	-	799	2	174	1	4,930	-	6,102	(6,101)
	(39,674)	5,439	45,943	(8,034)	57,780	907	6,402	-	68,763	5,807
Movements in accumulated depreciation										
Depreciation and amortisation	(11,941)	(493)	(1,998)	(410)	(4,913)	(2,505)	(2,516)	(361)	(25,137)	-
Found assets	-	(2,769)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2,769)	-
Revaluation increments/decrements	31,080	1,905	(23,002)	6,372	(20,125)	-	-	-	(3,770)	-
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	-	-	-	-	1,373	-	1,882	-	3,255	-
Reclassification	-	-	-	-	-	169	3	-	172	-
	19,139	(1,357)	(25,000)	5,962	(23,665)	(2,336)	(631)	(361)	(28,249)	-
At fair value 30 June 2025	569,606	35,032	228,579	20,101	649,375	52,304	59,459	5,415	1,619,871	15,702
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2025	(276,638)	(12,224)	(106,744)	(11,846)	(237,247)	(19,807)	(23,784)	(3,067)	(691,357)	-
Carrying amount	292,968	22,808	121,835	8,255	412,128	32,497	35,675	2,348	928,514	15,702

Note 6 **Assets we manage (cont.)**

6.1 **Property, infrastructure, plant, equipment and other fixed assets (cont.)**

Acquisition

The purchase method of accounting is used for all acquisitions of assets, being the fair value of assets provided as consideration at the date of acquisition plus any incidental costs attributable to the acquisition. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Refer also to Note 8.4 for further disclosure regarding fair value measurement.

Where assets are constructed by Council, cost includes all materials used in construction, direct labour, borrowing costs incurred during construction, and an appropriate share of directly attributable variable and fixed overheads.

In accordance with Council's policy, the threshold limits have applied when recognising assets within an applicable asset class and unless otherwise stated are consistent with the prior year.

Asset recognition thresholds and depreciation periods

Asset class	Depreciation Period	Threshold limit $'000
Property		
Land	Infinite life	0
Land under roads	Infinite life	0
Buildings	75 - 100 years	5
Buildings on leased land	Term of lease or 75 years	
Plant, equipment and other assets		
Plant, machinery and equipment	5 - 25 years	1
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	4 - 20 years	1
Computers and telecommunications	4 - 10 years	1
Artworks	Infinite life	1
Infrastructure		
Road - pavement	30 years	10
Road - sub-pavement	120 years	10
Bridges	60 - 100 years	10
Footpaths and cycleways	60 - 100 years	10
Carparks	60 - 100 years	10
Drainage	120 years	10
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	20 years	10
Parks, open space and streetscapes	20 years	10
Waste garbage bins	20 years	0
Intangible assets		
Software	5 years	1

Land under roads

Council now recognises all land under roads it controls at fair value. Council had previously only recognised land under roads acquired after 30 June 2008 (at cost) and did not recognise land under roads that it controlled prior to 1 July 2008 in its financial report. This change in accounting policy is to align with Local Government Victoria's (LGV) preference that all Victorian councils recognise all land under roads at fair value. LGV remains of the view that consistent and comparable financial reporting by Victorian councils is desirable (Also refer to Note 10 Change in accounting policy).

The fair value of the previously unrecognised land under roads that Council controlled prior to 1 July 2008 ($408.2 million) has been adjusted against opening land asset balances (within Property, Infrastructure, Plant, Equipment and other Fixed Assets) and the Accumulated Surplus at 1 July 2024. The previously unrecognised land under roads assets were obtained over many years prior to 1 July 2008 and hence it was impractical to retrospectively value the assets and restate prior period balances (this is in line with *AASB108 - Accounting policies, changes in accounting estimates and errors* paragraph 29(e)). The values were established by implementing a consistent valuation methodology as applied to the Land asset class.

Council will also continue to recognise Land under roads acquired after 30 June 2008 ($20.6 million). These assets were revalued for the first time in the 2024-25 year with a revaluation increment of $2.7 million credited to the Asset Revaluation Reserve.

Note 6 Assets we manage (cont.)

6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant, equipment and other fixed assets (cont.)

Depreciation and amortisation

Buildings, infrastructure, plant, equipment, intangible assets, and other assets having limited useful lives are systematically depreciated over their useful lives to the Council in a manner which reflects consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets. Estimates of remaining useful lives and residual values are made on a regular basis with major asset classes reassessed annually. Depreciation rates and methods are reviewed annually.

Where assets have separate identifiable components that are subject to regular replacement, these components are assigned distinct useful lives and residual values and a separate depreciation rate is determined for each component.

Straight line depreciation is charged based on the residual useful life as determined each year.

Depreciation periods used are listed above and are consistent with the prior year unless otherwise stated.

Repairs and maintenance

Routine maintenance, repair costs, and minor renewal costs are expensed as incurred. Where the repair relates to the replacement of a component of an asset and the cost exceeds the capitalisation threshold the cost is capitalised and depreciated. The carrying value of the replaced asset is expensed.

Artworks

Artworks are not depreciated and are valued at fair value. The last full valuation was conducted during 2024 by Registered Valuer Rodney James (BA (Hons.); MA Monash University). The next full valuation will be conducted in 2026/27.

Valuation of land and buildings

Valuations were completed as at 30 June 2025 for Council. Valuations are at fair value.

Valuation of land was undertaken by Council's City Valuer, Ellis Tam, Certified Practicing Valuer (AAPI Registration Number 62592). The valuation of land under roads and buildings was undertaken by qualified valuers from Westlink Consulting (Hugh Wischer, Certified Practising Valuer (AAPI Registration Number 104712) and Sarah Morrissy, Certified Practising Valuer (AAPI Registration Number 62894)). The valuation of land, land under roads and buildings is at fair value, being market value based on highest and best use permitted by relevant land planning provisions. Where land use is restricted through existing planning provisions the valuation is reduced to reflect this limitation. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

Specialised land is valued at fair value using site values adjusted for englobo (undeveloped and/or unserviced) characteristics, access rights and private interests of other parties and entitlements of infrastructure assets and services. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

Any significant movements in the unobservable inputs for land and land under roads will have a significant impact on the fair value of these assets.

The date and type of the current valuation is detailed in the following table.

Details of the Council's land and buildings and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2025 are as follows:

	Level 1 *$'000*	*Level 2* *$'000*	*Level 3* *$'000*	*Date of Valuation*	*Type of Valuation*
Land	-	13,903	1,560,866	Jun 2025	Full
Land under roads	-	-	428,836	Jun 2025	Full
Buildings	-	1,947	271,217	Jun 2025	Full
Total	**-**	**15,850**	**2,260,919**		

Reconciliation of specialised land	*2025* *$'000*	*2024* *$'000*
Land under roads	428,836	17,395
Parks, reserves and other	1,560,866	1,525,178
Total specialised land	**1,989,702**	**1,542,573**

Note 6 Assets we manage (cont.)

6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant, equipment and other fixed assets (cont.)

Valuation of infrastructure assets

Valuations were completed as at 30 June 2025 for Council. Valuations are at fair value.

Valuation of infrastructure assets has been determined in accordance with a valuation undertaken by Council's Manager, City Assets, Anton Peiris B.Eng (Civil).

Infrastructure assets (roads, bridges, footpaths and cycleways, off street car parks and drainage) are valued using the written down replacement cost of each asset. The written down replacement cost takes into account the current replacement cost of the asset and the remaining life of the asset, which in turn is determined based on the condition of the asset.

Details of the Council's infrastructure information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2025 are as follows:

	Level 1 *$'000*	*Level 2* *$'000*	*Level 3* *$'000*	*Date of Valuation*	*Type of Valuation*
Roads	-	-	292,968	Jun 2025	Full
Bridges	-	-	22,808	Jun 2025	Full
Footpaths and cycleways	-	-	121,835	Jun 2025	Full
Off street car parks	-	-	8,255	Jun 2025	Full
Drainage	-	-	412,128	Jun 2025	Full
Total	**-**	**-**	**857,994**		

Description of significant unobservable inputs into level 3 valuations

Specialised land and land under roads is valued using a market based direct comparison technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the extent and impact of restriction of use and the market cost of land per square metre. The extent and impact of restrictions on use varies and results in a reduction to surrounding land values between 0% and 95%. The market value of land varies significantly depending on the location of the land and the current market conditions. Currently land values range between $1 and $2,831 per square metre.

Specialised buildings are valued using a current replacement cost technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of buildings. Current replacement costs are calculated on a square metre basis and ranges from $280 to $19,800 per square metre. The remaining useful lives of buildings are determined on the basis of the current condition of buildings and vary from 4 years to 78 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of buildings are sensitive to changes in expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of buildings.

Infrastructure assets (roads, bridges, footpaths and cycleways, off street car parks and drainage) are valued based on the written down replacement cost. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of infrastructure. The remaining useful lives of infrastructure assets are determined on the basis of the current condition of the asset and vary from 20 years to 120 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of infrastructure are sensitive to changes in use, expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of infrastructure assets.

		2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Note 6	**Assets we manage (cont.)**		
6.2	**Investments in associates**		

Whitehorse-Manningham Regional Library Corporation

Background

Manningham City Council has a 36.20% equity interest in the Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation (WMRLC) that was incorporated on 21 December 1995. Council has reported its interest in the WMRLC on the basis of equity accounting principles. Manningham City Council's share of the movement in net assets as at 30 June 2025, per draft WMRLC financial statements, has been taken up as deficit of ($87,284) during the year ended 30 June 2025 (2023/24, surplus of $60,636). As neither council has a controlling interest, the participating councils show their contributions towards the operating expenditure of the library as an expense.

Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	3,158	2,844
Trade and other receivables	305	126
Other assets	17	102
	3,480	3,072
Non-current assets		
Property & equipment	8,084	8,363
	8,084	8,363
Total assets	**11,564**	**11,435**
Current liabilities		
Payables	1,004	495
Provisions	1,756	1,801
	2,760	2,296
Non-current liabilities		
Provisions	160	148
	160	148
Total liabilities	**2,920**	**2,444**
Net assets	**8,644**	**8,991**
Movement in carrying value of investment		
Carrying value of investment at start of year	3,217	3,156
Share of surplus/(deficit) for year	(88)	61
Carrying value of investment at end of year	**3,129**	**3,217**

Associates are all entities over which Council has significant influence but not control or joint control. Council's investment in an associate is accounted for under the equity method as the Council has the ability to influence rather than control the operations of the entity. The investment is initially recorded at the cost of acquisition and adjusted thereafter for post-acquisition changes in the Council's share of the net assets of the entity. The Council's share of the financial result of the entity is recognised in the Comprehensive Income Statement.

Note 7: People and relationships

Note 7 People and relationships

7.1 Council and key management remuneration

(a) Related parties

Subsidiaries and Associates

Interest in associate - Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation (WMRLC) (Ref Note 6.2)

(b) Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel (KMP) are those people with the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of Manningham City Council. The Councillors, Chief Executive Officer and Directors are deemed KMP.

Details of KMP at any time during the year are:

Councillors		
Peter Bain	Councillor	(13 November 2024 - 30 June 2025)
Anna Chen	Councillor	(1 July 2024 - 26 October 2024)
	Councillor	(13 November 2024 - 30 June 2025)
Andrew Conlon	Councillor	(1 July 2024 - 26 October 2024)
	Councillor	(13 November 2024 - 18 November 2024)
	Deputy Mayor	(19 November 2024 - 30 June 2025)
Deirdre Diamante	Councillor	(1 July 2024 - 26 October 2024)
	Councillor	(13 November 2024 - 18 November 2024)
	Mayor	(19 November 2024 - 30 June 2025)
Isabella Eltaha	Councillor	(13 November 2024 - 30 June 2025)
Geoff Gough	Councillor	(1 July 2024 - 26 October 2024)
	Councillor	(13 November 2024 - 30 June 2025)
Jim Grivas	Councillor	(13 November 2024 - 30 June 2025)
Michelle Kleinert	Councillor	(1 July 2024 - 26 October 2024)
Carli Lange	Mayor	(1 July 2024 - 26 October 2024)
	Councillor	(13 November 2024 - 30 June 2025)
Tomas Lightbody	Councillor	(1 July 2024 - 26 October 2024)
Laura Mayne	Deputy Mayor	(1 July 2024 - 26 October 2024)
	Councillor	(13 November 2024 - 30 June 2025)
Stephen Mayne	Councillor	(1 July 2024 - 26 October 2024)
Chief Executive Officer		
Andrew Day	Chief Executive Officer	(1 July 2024 - 30 June 2025)
Other Key Management Personnel		
Lee Robson	Director Connected Communities	(1 July 2024 - 30 June 2025)
Andrew McMaster	Director City Planning	(1 July 2024 - 30 June 2025)
Kerryn Paterson	Director Experience and Capability	(1 July 2024 - 30 June 2025)
Jon Gorst	Chief Financial Officer	(1 July 2024 - 30 June 2025)
Molley Qi	Acting Chief Legal and Governance Officer	(1 July 2024 - 14 July 2024)
Rachelle Quattrocchi	Director City Services	(1 July 2024 - 30 April 2025)
Helen Napier	Acting Director City Services	(1 May 2025 - 28 May 2025)
Krishen Soobrayen	Acting Director City Services	(29 May 2025 - 25 June 2025)
Andrea Szymanski	Acting Director City Services	(26 June 2025 - 30 June 2025)

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Total number of Councillors	12	9
Total of Chief Executive Officer and other Key Management Personnel	10	9
Total number Key Management Personnel	22	18

Note 7 People and relationships (cont.)

7.1 Council and key management remuneration (cont.)

(c) Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

Remuneration comprises employee benefits including all forms of consideration paid, payable or provided by Council, or on behalf of the Council, in exchange for services rendered. Remuneration of Key Management Personnel and Other senior staff is disclosed in the following categories.

Short-term employee benefits include amounts such as wages, salaries, annual leave or sick leave that are usually paid or payable on a regular basis, as well as non-monetary benefits such as allowances and free or subsidised goods or services.

Other long-term employee benefits include long service leave, other long service benefits or deferred compensation.

Post-employment benefits include pensions, and other retirement benefits paid or payable on a discrete basis when employment has ceased.

Termination benefits include termination of employment payments, such as severance packages.

Total remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:	2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Short-term employee benefits	2,777	2,700
Other long-term employee benefits	56	52
Post employment benefits	256	228
Total	**3,089**	**2,980**

The numbers of key management personnel whose total remuneration from Council and any related entities, fall within the following bands:	2025 No.	2024 No.
Less than $20,000	3	-
$20,000 - $29,999	3	-
$30,000 - $39,999	2	5
$40,000 - $49,999	2	1
$50,000 - $59,999	2	1
$60,000 - $69,999	-	1
$90,000 - $99,999	-	1
$100,000 - $109,999	1	-
$200,000 - $209,999	-	1
$210,000 - $219,999	-	1
$220,000 - $229,999	1	-
$230,000 - $239,999	1	1
$240,000 - $249,999	2	-
$270,000 - $279,999	-	1
$280,000 - $289,999	-	2
$290,000 - $299,999	1	1
$310,000 - $319,999	2	-
$310,000 - $319,999	1	1
$380,000 - $389,999	-	1
$400,000 - $409,999	1	-
	22	18

Note 7 People and relationships (cont.)

7.1 Council and key management remuneration (cont.)

(d) Remuneration of other senior staff

Other senior staff are officers of Council, other than Key Management Personnel, whose total remuneration exceeds $170,000 and who report directly to a member of the KMP.

Total remuneration of other senior staff was as follows:	2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Short-term employee benefits	2,553	3,040
Other long-term employee benefits	58	44
Post-employment benefits	266	316
Total	**2,877**	**3,400**

The number of other senior staff are shown below in their relevant income bands:

Income Range:	2025 No.	2024 No.
less than $170,000	5	-
$170,000 - $179,999	-	3
$180,000 - $189,999	-	4
$190,000 - $199,999	-	3
$200,000 - $209,999	5	3
$210,000 - $219,999	2	1
$220,000 - $229,999	3	1
$230,000 - $239,999	1	1
$240,000 - $249,999	-	1
	16	**17**

	$'000	$'000
Total remuneration for the reporting year for other senior staff included above, amounted to:	2,877	3,400

7.2 Related party disclosure

(a) Transactions with related parties

During the year Manningham City Council provided contributions to Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation (WMRLC) with the total value of $5.61 million (2024: $4.40 million) towards running costs as per the agreement. Council also provides accommodation to house libraries within Manningham.

No transactions other than remuneration payments, or the reimbursement of expenses as approved by Council were made with Related Parties during the reporting year (2024: nil).

(b) Outstanding balances with related parties

No balances are outstanding at the end of the reporting period in relation to transactions with related parties (2024: nil).

(c) Loans to/from related parties

There were no aggregate amount of loans in existence at balance date that have been made, guaranteed or secured by the Council to a responsible person of the Council, or a related party of a responsible person (2024: nil).

(d) Commitments to/from related parties

No commitments have been made by the Council to Related Parties during the reporting year (2024: nil).

Note 8: Managing uncertainties

Note 8 **Managing uncertainties**

8.1 **Contingent assets and liabilities**

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet, but are disclosed and if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable, respectively.

(a) **Contingent assets**

Contingent assets are possible assets that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council.

As at 30 June 2025, there are no potential contingent assets (2024: nil).

(b) **Contingent liabilities**

Contingent liabilities are:
- possible obligations that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council; or
- present obligations that arise from past events but are not recognised because:
- it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation; or
- the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

General

Council controls large areas of public open space, provides general and personal services to residents, visitors and ratepayers, has responsibilities and regulatory authorities including the issue of permits and approvals, and controls significant buildings and infrastructure assets. Council is involved from time to time in various claims incidental to the ordinary course of business including claims for damages relating to its services.

Council's Risk Management Plan includes securing insurance to cover insurable risks to limit exposure to liabilities arising from actions of the Council or its Officers where it is appropriate to do so. Council carries public liability and professional indemnity insurance and has an excess of $75,000 per claim on this policy.

Legal Matters

Council is presently involved in some confidential legal matters, which are being conducted through Council's solicitors. As these matters are yet to be finalised or are presently in an investigative phase such that their direction is presently unknown, the financial outcomes (if any) are unable to be reliably estimated and accordingly no allowance for these contingencies has been made in the financial report.

Bank guarantees

Council is responsible for the following bank guarantee:
Department of Primary Industries for $150,000 (2024: $150,000) in connection with Extractive Industry Licence No. 54-1.

Liability mutual insurance

Council is a participant of the MAV Liability Mutual Insurance (LMI) Scheme. The LMI scheme provides public liability and professional indemnity insurance cover. The LMI's Deed of Establishment allows for a call on each member should there be an insufficiency of capital for an insurance year which has an overall financial deficit. The deficit amount can be collected through this call and each member's liability for the amount is in direct proportion to their contribution for that year against the overall contribution pool. At reporting date Council had not been advised of call.

Superannuation contribution

Council has obligations under a defined benefit superannuation scheme, matters relating to this potential obligation are outlined in Note 9.3. As a result of the volatility in financial markets, the likelihood of making such contributions in future periods exists. At this point in time, it is not known if additional contributions will be required, their timing or potential amount.

Note 8 **Managing uncertainties (cont.)**

8.2 Change in accounting standards

Certain new Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2025 reporting period. Council assesses the impact of these new standards. As at 30 June 2025 there were no new accounting standards or interpretations issued by the AASB which are applicable for the year ending 30 June 2025 that are expected to impact Council.

AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement has been amended. This applies to the 2024-25 financial year as a result of AASB 2022-10 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities*.
These amendments:
- are applicable only to not-for-profit public sector entities;
- are limited to fair value measurements of non-financial assets not held primarily for their ability to generate net cash inflows;
- are to be applied prospectively for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024;
- would not necessarily change practice for some not-for-profit public sector entities; and
- do not indicate that entities changing practice in how they measure relevant assets made an error in applying the existing requirements of AASB13.

In December 2022, the AASB added authoritative AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement amendment* implementation guidance in relation to:
- highest and best use (HBU) - to specify circumstances where an entity needs to consider whether the highest and best use of its non-financial assets differs from its current use or if it is highly probable that the asset will be used for an alternative purpose to its current use. For example, assets currently held for sale or designated as "surplus to requirements".
- developing unobservable inputs - to clarify circumstances where an entity can use its own assumptions to develop unobservable inputs. If both the market selling price of a comparable asset and some market participant data required to measure the fair value of the asset are not observable, then an entity shall use its own assumptions as a starting point to develop unobservable inputs.
- application of the cost approach - guidance on how entities should apply the 'cost approach' to measure the fair value of their non-financial assets. Essentially, all costs that would be incurred by a market participant buyer to acquire or construct an asset should be included in the replacement cost. Amendments to AASB13 has detailed what costs are to be included in the Replacement Cost of an Asset.
This requires the inclusion, where applicable, of site preparation costs, disruption costs (such as traffic management costs) and costs to restore another entity's assets in underlying valuations.

AASB 2022-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Non-current Liabilities with Covenants which makes changes to AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements* that apply for the 2024-25 reporting period.
AASB 2022-6 amends AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements to improve the information an entity provides in its financial statements about long-term liabilities with covenants where the entity's right to defer settlement of those liabilities for at least twelve months after the reporting period is subject to the entity complying with conditions specified in the loan arrangement.
The amendments in AASB 2022-6 are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024.

In September 2024 the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) issued two Australian Sustainability Reporting Standards (ASRS). This followed Commonwealth legislation establishing Australia's sustainability reporting framework. Relevant entities will be required to undertake mandatory reporting of climate-related disclosures in future financial years. Public sector application issues remain under consideration and Council will continue to monitor developments and potential implications for future financial years.

8.3 Financial instruments

(a) Objectives and policies

Council's principal financial instruments comprise cash assets, term deposits, receivables (excluding statutory receivables), payables (excluding statutory payables) and any bank borrowings. Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, in respect of each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument is disclosed in the notes of the financial statements. Risk management is carried out by senior management under policies approved by the Council. These policies include identification and analysis of the risk exposure to Council and appropriate procedures, controls and risk minimisation.

Note 8 Managing uncertainties (cont.)

8.3 Financial instruments (cont.)

(b) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of our financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The Council's exposures to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk with insignificant exposure to other price risks and no exposure to foreign currency risk.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the value of a financial instrument or cash flows associated with the instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. Interest rate risk arises from interest bearing financial assets and liabilities. Interest bearing assets are predominantly short term liquid assets. As at 30 June 2025 Council had no long term loans or borrowings and is therefore not exposed to interest rate risk on these classes of financial liabilities.

Interest rate risk on financial assets are managed through Council's investment policy which requires the investment of surplus funds only with financial institutions approved under the *Local Government Act 2020*. The Council's investment policy provides for investment restrictions such as investment placement with authorised deposit taking institutions (ADIs), placement according to Standard and Poor's credit ratings for investment institutions, staging of investment duration, and for the regular monitoring of investment performance and investment institution credit ratings.

There has been no significant change in the Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing interest rate risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

Interest rate movements have not been sufficiently significant during the year to have an impact on the Council's year end result.

(c) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a contracting entity will not complete its obligations under a financial instrument and cause Council to make a financial loss. Council has exposure to credit risk on all financial assets included in the balance sheet. Particularly significant areas of credit risk exist in relation to outstanding fees and fines as well as loans and receivables from sporting clubs and associations. To help manage this risk:

- council may require collateral where appropriate; and
- council only invest surplus funds with financial institutions which have a recognised credit rating specified in council's investment policy.

Receivables consist of a large number of customers, spread across the ratepayer, business and government sectors. Credit risk associated with the council's financial assets is minimal because the main debtor is secured by a charge over the rateable property.

There are no material financial assets which are individually determined to be impaired.

Council may also be subject to credit risk for transactions which are not included in the balance sheet, such as when council provide a guarantee for another party. Details of our contingent liabilities are disclosed in Note 8.1(b).

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date to recognised financial assets is the carrying amount, net of any allowance for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements. Council does not hold any collateral.

(d) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk includes the risk that, as a result of council's operational liquidity requirements it will not have sufficient funds to settle a transaction when required or will be forced to sell a financial asset at below value or may be unable to settle or recover a financial asset.

To mitigate liquidity risk the entity has developed long term financial management strategies containing liquidity and cash flow targets, and regularly monitors budget performance and cash flows against forecasts. The entity has established access to overdraft facilities.

Council's maximum exposure to liquidity risk is the carrying amounts of financial liabilities as disclosed on the face of the balance sheet and the amounts related to any financial guarantees disclosed in Note 8.1(b), and is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk.

There has been no significant change in Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing liquidity risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

Unless otherwise stated, the carrying amounts of financial instruments reflect their fair value.

Council's exposure to liquidity risk is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data, cash flow and liquidity forecasts, and current assessment of risk.

(e) Sensitivity disclosure analysis

Taking into account past performance, future expectations, economic forecasts, and management's knowledge and experience of the financial markets, Council believes a parallel shift of +1.00% and -1.00% in market interest rates from year-end rates of 3.85% (2024: 4.35%) are 'reasonably possible' over the next 12 months.

These movements will not have a material impact on the valuation of Council's financial assets and liabilities, nor will they have a material impact on the results of Council's operations.

Note 8 **Managing uncertainties (cont.)**

8.4 Fair value measurement

Fair value hierarchy

Council's financial assets and liabilities are not valued in accordance with the fair value hierarchy, Council's financial assets and liabilities are measured at amortised cost.

Council measures certain assets and liabilities at fair value where required or permitted by Australian Accounting Standards. AASB 13 *Fair value measurement*, aims to improve consistency and reduce complexity by providing a definition of fair value and a single source of fair value measurement and disclosure requirements for use across Australian Accounting Standards.

Council has considered the amendments to AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement* that apply for the 2024/25 financial year as a result of AASB 2022-10 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities*. For assets, where the Council adopts a current replacement cost approach to determine fair value, the Council now considers the inclusion of site preparation costs, disruption costs and costs to restore another entity's assets in the underlying valuation.

The AASB 13 amendments apply prospectively, comparative figures have not been restated.

The AASB 13 amendments have not resulted in any material impacts to Council's financial statements.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within the fair value hierarchy, described as follows, based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole:

Level 1 — Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and

Level 3 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

For the purpose of fair value disclosures, Council has determined classes of assets and liabilities on the basis of the nature, characteristics and risks of the asset or liability and the level of the fair value hierarchy as explained above.

In addition, Council determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by re-assessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

Revaluation

Subsequent to the initial recognition of assets, non-current physical assets, other than plant and equipment, are measured at their fair value, being the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. At balance date, the Council reviewed the carrying value of the individual classes of assets measured at fair value to ensure that each asset materially approximated its fair value. Where the carrying value materially differed from the fair value at balance date, the class of asset was revalued.

Fair value valuations are determined in accordance with a valuation hierarchy. Changes to the valuation hierarchy will only occur if an external change in the restrictions or limitations of use on an asset result in changes to the permissible or practical highest and best use of the asset. Further details regarding the fair value hierarchy are disclosed at Note 6.1, Property, infrastructure, plant, equipment and other fixed assets.

In addition, Council undertakes a formal revaluation of land, buildings, and infrastructure assets on a regular basis ranging from 1 to 3 years. The valuation is performed either by experienced Council officers or independent experts.

Asset class	*Revaluation frequency*
Land	1 to 3 years
Buildings	1 to 3 years
Roads	1 to 3 years
Bridges	1 to 3 years
Footpaths and cycleways	1 to 3 years
Off street car parks	1 to 3 years
Drainage	1 to 3 years

Where the assets are revalued, the revaluation increases are credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that an increase reverses a prior year decrease for that class of asset that had been recognised as an expense in which case the increase is recognised as revenue up to the amount of the expense. Revaluation decreases are recognised as an expense except where prior increases are included in the asset revaluation reserve for that class of asset in which case the decrease is taken to the reserve to the extent of the remaining increases. Within the same class of assets, revaluation increases and decreases within the year are offset.

Note 8 Managing uncertainties (cont.)

8.4 Fair value measurement (cont.)

Impairment of assets

At each reporting date, the Council reviews the carrying value of its assets to determine whether there is any indication that these assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Value in use is the depreciated replacement cost. Any excess of the assets carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the comprehensive income statement, unless the asset is carried at the revalued amount in which case, the impairment loss is recognised directly against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that same class of asset.

8.5 Events occurring after balance date

No other matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which have significantly affected or may affect the operations of Manningham City Council, the results of the operations or the state of affairs of Manningham City Council in future financial years.

Note 9 Other matters

Note 9 Other matters

9.1 Reserves

(a) Asset revaluation reserves

2025	Balance at beginning of reporting year $'000	Increase / (decrease) $'000	Realised Revaluation Reserve $'000	Reclassification $'000	Balance at end of reporting year $'000
Property					
Land	1,299,084	35,998	(53)	(346)	1,334,683
Land under roads	-	2,704	-	346	3,050
Buildings	73,352	13,296	(998)	-	85,650
	1,372,436	51,998	(1,051)	-	1,423,383
Plant, equipment and other fixed assets					
Plant, machinery and equipment	4	-	(4)	-	-
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	1,006	-	(1,006)	-	-
Artworks	887	1,100	-	-	1,987
	1,897	1,100	(1,010)	-	1,987
Infrastructure					
Roads	216,956	(17,172)	-	-	199,784
Bridges	8,461	(1,226)	-	-	7,235
Footpaths and cycleways	45,522	16,755	-	-	62,277
Off street car parks	4,089	(2,130)	-	-	1,959
Drainage	269,459	37,374	-	-	306,833
Parks, open space and streetscapes	205	-	(205)	-	-
	544,692	33,601	(205)	-	578,088
Total	**1,919,025**	**86,699**	**(2,266)**	**-**	**2,003,458**

2024	Balance at beginning of reporting year $'000	Increase / (decrease) $'000	Realised Revaluation Reserve $'000	Reclassification $'000	Balance at end of reporting year $'000
Property					
Land	1,278,627	20,856	(399)	-	1,299,084
Buildings	58,861	14,496	(5)	-	73,352
	1,337,488	35,352	(404)	-	1,372,436
Plant, equipment and other fixed assets					
Plant, machinery and equipment	14	-	(10)	-	4
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	1,006	-	-	-	1,006
Artworks	887	-	-	-	887
	1,907	-	(10)	-	1,897
Infrastructure					
Roads	201,877	15,079	-	-	216,956
Bridges	7,679	782	-	-	8,461
Footpaths and cycleways	47,487	(1,965)	-	-	45,522
Off street car parks	847	3,242	-	-	4,089
Drainage	258,669	10,790	-	-	269,459
Parks, open space and streetscapes	205	-	-	-	205
	516,764	27,928	-	-	544,692
Total	**1,856,159**	**63,280**	**(414)**	**-**	**1,919,025**

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record the increased (net) value of Council's assets over time.

Note 9 Other matters (cont.)

9.1 Reserves (cont.)

(b) Other reserves

2025	Balance at beginning of reporting year $'000	Transfer to accumulated surplus $'000	Transfer from accumulated surplus $'000	Balance at end of reporting year $'000
Open Space (resort and recreation) Reserve (a)	11,161	(8,794)	5,810	8,177
Doncaster Hill activity centre DCP Reserve (b)	512	(512)	-	-
Total	**11,673**	**(9,306)**	**5,810**	**8,177**

2024	Balance at beginning of reporting year $'000	Transfer to accumulated surplus $'000	Transfer from accumulated surplus $'000	Balance at end of reporting year $'000
Open Space (resort and recreation) Reserve (a)	14,898	(8,788)	5,051	11,161
Doncaster Hill activity centre DCP Reserve (b)	977	(465)	-	512
Total	**15,875**	**(9,253)**	**5,051**	**11,673**

(a) The Open Space (resort and recreation) Reserve was established to control contributions received from developers that will, upon completion of developments be utilised to acquire and create open space, and develop recreation and other facilities for residents in the respective development areas.

(b) The Doncaster Hill activity centre DCP Reserve was established to control contributions levied on developers under the Doncaster Hill Development Contributions Plan Overlay (DCPO) and funds will be utilised to develop social and community infrastructure in accordance with the conditions contained in the DCPO.

		2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Note 9	Other matters (cont.)		
9.2	**Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus/(deficit)**		
	Surplus/(deficit) for the year	32,068	8,266
	Non-cash adjustments:		
	Depreciation/amortisation	33,808	32,695
	Net loss/(gain) on disposal of property, plant and equipment, infrastructure	4,032	(371)
	Contributed assets	(6)	(7,107)
	Found assets	(5,754)	-
	Share of deficit from associate	88	(61)
	Adjustment for work in progress write-off to other expenses	465	494
	Change in assets and liabilities:		
	(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(1,534)	(2,685)
	(Increase)/decrease in other assets	392	(4,601)
	Increase/(decrease) in contract and other liabilities	436	(31)
	Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(2,128)	(4,571)
	(Decrease)/increase in other assets and liabilities	49	58
	(Increase)/decrease in provisions	(479)	(117)
	Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	**61,437**	**21,969**

9.3 Superannuation

Manningham City Council makes the majority of its employer superannuation contributions in respect of employees to the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (the Fund). This Fund has two categories of membership, accumulation and defined benefit, each of which is funded differently. Obligations for contributions to the Fund are recognised as an expense in the Comprehensive Income Statement when they are made or due.

Accumulation

The Fund's accumulation category, Vision MySuper/Vision Super Saver, receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are normally based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings (for the year ended 30 June 2025, this was 11.5% as required under Superannuation Guarantee (SG) legislation (2024: 11.0%)).

Defined Benefit

Manningham City Council does not use defined benefit accounting for its defined benefit obligations under the Fund's Defined Benefit category. This is because the Fund's Defined Benefit category is a pooled multi-employer sponsored plan.

There is no proportional split of the defined benefit liabilities, assets or costs between the participating employers as the defined benefit obligation is a floating obligation between the participating employers and the only time that the aggregate obligation is allocated to specific employers is when a call is made. As a result, the level of participation of Manningham City Council in the Fund cannot be measured as a percentage compared with other participating employers. Therefore, the Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers for the purposes of AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*.

Funding arrangements

Council makes employer contributions to the Defined Benefit category of the Fund at rates determined by the Trustee on the advice of the Fund Actuary. As at 30 June 2024, an interim actuarial investigation was held as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category. The vested benefit index (VBI) of the Defined Benefit category as at 30 June 2024 (of which Council is a contributing employer) was 105.4%. The financial assumptions used to calculate the VBI were:

Net investment returns	5.60% pa
Salary information	3.50% pa
Price inflation (CPI)	2.70% pa

As at 30 June 2025, an interim actuarial investigation is underway as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category. It is expected to be completed by 31 October 2025. Vision Super has advised that the VBI at 30 June 2025 was 110.5%. Council was notified of the 30 June 2025 VBI during August 2025 (2024: August 2024). The financial assumptions used to calculate this VBI were:

Net investment returns	5.70% pa
Salary information	3.50% pa
Price inflation (CPI)	2.60% pa

The VBI is used as the primary funding indicator. Because the VBI was above 100%, the 30 June 2024 actuarial investigation determined the Defined Benefit category was in a satisfactory financial position and that no change was necessary to the Defined Benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

Note 9 Other matters (cont.)

9.3 Superannuation (cont.)

Employer contributions

Regular contributions

On the basis of the results of the 2024 interim actuarial investigation conducted by the Fund Actuary, Council makes employer contributions to the Fund's Defined Benefit category at rates determined by the Fund's Trustee. For the year ended 30 June 2025, this rate was 11.5% of members' salaries (2024: 11.0%). This rate is expected to increase in line with any increases in the SG contribution rate and was reviewed as part of the 30 June 2023 triennial valuation.

In addition, Manningham City Council reimburses the Fund to cover the excess of the benefits paid as a consequence of retrenchment above the funded resignation or retirement benefit.

Funding calls

If the Defined Benefit category is in an unsatisfactory financial position at an actuarial investigation or the Defined Benefit category's VBI is below its shortfall limit at any time other than the date of the actuarial investigation, the Defined Benefit category has a shortfall for the purposes of SPS 160 and the Fund is required to put a plan in place so that the shortfall is fully funded within three years of the shortfall occurring. The Fund monitors its VBI on a quarterly basis and the Fund has set its shortfall limit at 98% from 26 July 2024 (previously 97%).

In the event that the Fund Actuary determines that there is a shortfall based on the above requirement, the Fund's participating employers (including Manningham City Council) are required to make an employer contribution to cover the shortfall.

Using the agreed methodology, the shortfall amount is apportioned between the participating employers based on the pre-1 July 1993 and post-30 June 1993 service liabilities of the Fund's Defined Benefit category, together with the employer's payroll at 30 June 1993 and at the date the shortfall has been calculated.

Due to the nature of the contractual obligations between the participating employers and the Fund, and that the Fund includes lifetime pensioners and their reversionary beneficiaries, it is unlikely that the Fund will be wound up.

If there is a surplus in the Fund, the surplus cannot be returned to the participating employers.

In the event that a participating employer is wound-up, the defined benefit obligations of that employer will be transferred to that employer's successor.

The 2024 interim actuarial investigation surplus amounts

An actuarial investigation is conducted annually for the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer. Generally, a full actuarial investigation is conducted every three years and interim actuarial investigations are conducted for each intervening year. An interim investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2024 while a full investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2023.

The Fund's actuarial investigation identified the following for the Defined Benefit category of which Manningham City Council is a contributing employer:

	2024 (Interim) $m	2023 (Triennial) $m
• A VBI surplus	108.4	84.7
• A total service liability surplus	141.4	123.6
• A discounted accrued benefits surplus	156.7	141.9

The VBI surplus means that the market value of the fund's assets supporting the defined benefit obligations exceed the vested benefits that the defined benefit members would have been entitled to if they had all exited on 30 June 2024.

The total service liability surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category plus expected future contributions exceeds the value of expected future benefits and expenses as at 30 June 2024.

The discounted accrued benefit surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category exceeds the value of benefits payable in the future but accrued in respect of service to 30 June 2024.

Note 9 Other matters (cont.)

9.3 Superannuation (cont.)

The 2025 interim actuarial investigation

An interim actuarial investigation is being conducted for the Fund's position as at 30 June 2025 as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category. Vision Super has advised that the VBI at 30 June 2025 was 110.5%. Council was notified of the 30 June 2025 VBI during August 2025 (2024: August 2024). The financial assumptions used to calculate this VBI were:

Net investment returns	5.7% pa
Salary information	3.5% pa
Price inflation (CPI)	2.6% pa

It is anticipated that this actuarial investigation will be completed by 31 October 2025.

The 2023 triennial investigation

The last triennial actuarial investigation conducted prior to 30 June 2023 was at 30 June 2020. This actuarial investigation was completed by 31 December 2020. The financial assumptions for the purposes of that investigation was:

	2023 Triennial investigation	2020 Triennial investigation
Net investment return	5.70% pa	5.60% pa
Salary inflation	3.50% pa	2.50% pa for the first two years and 2.75% pa thereafter
Price inflation	2.80% pa	2.00% pa

Superannuation contributions

Contributions by Manningham City Council (excluding any unfunded liability payments) to the above superannuation plans for the financial year ended 30 June 2025 are detailed below:

Scheme	Type of Scheme	Rate	2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Vision super	Defined benefit	11.5% (2024: 11.0%)	182	226
Vision super	Accumulation fund	11.5% (2024: 11.0%)	2,409	2,494
Other Funds	Accumulation fund	11.5% (2024: 11.0%)	3,416	2,829

In addition to the above contributions, Manningham City Council has paid unfunded liability payments to Vision Super totalling $0 during the 2024/25 year (2023/24, $0).

There were no contributions outstanding and no loans issued from or to the above schemes as at 30 June 2025.

The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2026 is $238,000.

Note 10 Change in accounting policy

Note 10 Change in accounting policy

Property, infrastructure, plant, equipment and other fixed assets - Land Under Roads

Council now recognises all land under roads it controls at fair value. Council had previously only recognised land under roads acquired after 30 June 2008 (at cost) and did not recognise land under roads that it controlled prior to 1 July 2008 in its financial report. This change in accounting policy is to align with Local Government Victoria's (LGV) preference that all Victorian councils recognise all land under roads at fair value. LGV remains of the view that consistent and comparable financial reporting by Victorian councils is desirable (Also refer to Note 6.1 for effect of change in accounting policy).

The fair value of the previously unrecognised land under roads that Council controlled prior to 1 July 2008 ($408.2 million) has been adjusted against opening land asset balances (within Property, Infrastructure, Plant, Equipment and other Fixed Assets) and the Accumulated Surplus at 1 July 2024. The previously unrecognised land under roads assets were obtained over many years prior to 1 July 2008 and hence it was impractical to retrospectively value the assets and restate prior period balances (this is in line with *AASB108 - Accounting policies, changes in accounting estimates and errors* paragraph 29(e)). The values were established by implementing a consistent valuation methodology as applied to the Land asset class.

Council will also continue to recognise land under roads acquired after 30 June 2008 ($20.6 million). These assets were revalued for the first time in the 2024-25 year with a revaluation increment of $2.7 million credited to the Asset Revaluation Reserve.

There have been no other changes to accounting policies in the 2024/25 year.

Performance Statement

Certification of the Performance Statement

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

Jon Gorst (BCom, CPA)
Principal Accounting Officer
23 September 2025

In our opinion, the accompanying performance statement of the Manningham City Council For the year ended 30 June 2025 presents fairly the results of council's performance in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

The performance statement contains the relevant performance indicators, measures and results in relation to service performance, financial performance and sustainable capacity.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars in the performance statement to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the Council and by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* to certify this performance statement in its final form.

Deirdre Diamante
Mayor
23 September 2025
Doncaster

Andrew Conlon
Deputy Mayor
23 September 2025
Doncaster

Andrew Day
Chief Executive Officer
23 September 2025
Doncaster

Independent Auditor's Report

Victorian Auditor-General's Office

To the Councillors of Manningham City Council

Opinion	I have audited the accompanying performance statement of Manningham City Council (the council) which comprises the: • description of municipality for the year ended 30 June 2025 • service performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2025 • financial performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2025 • sustainable capacity indicators for the year ended 30 June 2025 • notes to the accounts • certification of the performance statement. In my opinion, the performance statement of Manningham City Council in respect of the year ended 30 June 2025 presents fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of Part 4 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.
Basis for Opinion	I have conducted my audit in accordance with the *Audit Act 1994* which incorporates the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the performance statement* section of my report. My independence is established by the *Constitution Act 1975*. My staff and I are independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the performance statement in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.
Councillors' responsibilities for the performance statement	The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the performance statement in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 and for such internal control as the Councillors determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a performance statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the performance statement

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

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the performance statement, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the council's internal control
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the performance statement, including the disclosures, and whether performance statement represents the underlying events and results in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

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

MELBOURNE
29 September 2025

Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Section 1. Description of Municipality

Manningham City Council is located in Melbourne's north-eastern suburbs, commencing with its western boundary in Bulleen, 12 kilometres from the Melbourne CBD and extending to Wonga Park at its eastern extremity, 32 kilometres from the CBD. The City is bounded by the Yarra River, Banyule City and Nillumbik Shire in the north, Yarra Ranges Shire in the east, Koonung Creek, Maroondah City and the cities of Whitehorse and Boroondara in the south and Banyule City and the Yarra River in the west.

The City encompasses a total land area of 114 square kilometres, including a substantial 17% green open spaces. The non-urban areas include a large tract of the Green Wedge, and are used mainly for rural residential living, conservation and small scale agriculture.

Manningham has a population of 131,761 people across the City. The City covers the suburbs of Bulleen, Doncaster, Doncaster East, Donvale, Nunawading (part), Park Orchards, Ringwood North (part), Templestowe, Templestowe Lower, Warrandyte, Warrandyte South and Wonga Park (part).

Section 2. Service Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2025

Service / indicator/ measure [formula]	2022	2023	2024	2025 Target	2025 Actual	Comments
Aquatic Facilities						
Utilisation						
Utilisation of aquatic facilities [Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population]	1.4	3.4	5.1	N/A	6.1	Aquarena provides great value with a variety of programs and activities. We are pleased to see visits continue to rise.
Animal Management						
Health and safety						
Animal management prosecutions [Number of successful animal management prosecutions]	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	N/A	100.0%	Our focus is to promote responsible pet ownership however we pursue prosecutions for serious matters and in the interest of community safety. We continue to be 100 per cent successful in animal management prosecutions.
Food Safety						
Health and safety						
Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications [Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises] x100	96.1%	98.9%	97.2%	N/A	98.5%	One of our highest priorities is community safety. There was an increased focus on community health and safety with Environmental Health Officers following up 98.5 per cent of non-compliance notifications.
Governance						
Satisfaction						
Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement [community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of Council	56	56	55	58	56	This result is an improvement on the previous year. We have worked hard to improve the way we engage with our community on the things that matter. Manningham Council now follows international best-practice with our deliberative engagement. The results are from the annual Community Satisfaction Survey. This survey samples 400 residents and is managed by the Victorian Government.
Libraries						
Participation						
Library membership [number of active registered library members/municipal population]	N/A	N/A	27.6%	N/A	27.5%	We are pleased to see this result is similar to last year and demonstrates that our community continue to place a high value on our library service.

Service/ indicator/ measure [formula]	2022	2023	2024	2025		Comments
				Target	Actual	
Maternal and Child Health (MCH)						
Participation						
Participation in the MCH service [Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	77.9%	81.3%	81.1%	N/A	81.5%	Overall participation rates remain positive with an effort made to follow up with families that have missed appointments.
Participation						
Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children [Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	100.0%	100.0%	94.3%	N/A	90.6%	Our continued effort to strengthen participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait families in the Enhanced Maternal and Child Health remains high demonstrating the high quality of engagement and continuity of care offered by the Maternal Child Health service. Due to client illness there are two children that are expected to have their visit early in 2025/26 rather than 2024/25. This impacted on the participation rate for 2024/25.
Roads						
Condition						
Sealed local roads below the intervention level [percentage of sealed local roads that are below the renewal intervention level set by Council and not requiring renewal]	98.9%	98.5%	95.9%	98.5%	96.9%	The condition of our roads remains relatively steady and consistent, with a slight decrease in the number of roads below intervention, correlating with works to reseal and reconstruct parts of our road network.
Statutory Planning						
Service Standard						
Planning applications decided within the relevant required time [percentage of planning application decisions made within the	79.0%	93.3%	90.2%	79.0%	81.7%	We have continued to process a high percentage of all applications within statutory time frames, well above the metropolitan average.
Waste Collection						
Waste diversion						
Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill [Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100	53.6%	55.0%	75.5%	70.0%	74.1%	The high result is due to the ongoing success of the introduction of FOGO (Food Organics, Green Organics) and the change to a fortnightly garbage collection. With the introduction of FOGO, our community can now place their food waste into their FOGO bin rather than their garbage bin, reducing the amount of waste going to landfill.

Section 3. Financial Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2025

Dimension / indicator / measure [formula]	Results			Target	2025 Actual	Forecast				Material Variations
	2022	2023	2024			2026	2027	2028	2029	
Efficiency										
Expenditure level										
Expenses per property assessment [Total expenses / Number of property assessments]	$2,606	$2,896	$2,862	$2,882	$3,023	$2,966	$2,982	$3,021	$3,083	We are continuing to deliver quality services in accordance with our long term plans. The focus continues to be on responsible budgeting while providing cost-effective services and delivering infrastructure projects to meet the needs of our community. The variance is mainly attributable to unbudgeted operational costs associated with the write off of building and infrastructure assets as part of the capital works program to replace with new and other infrastructure assets.
Revenue level										
Average rate per property assessment [General rates and Municipal charges / Number of property assessments]	$1,845	$1,881	$1,944	$2,001	$2,000	$2,063	$2,114	$2,160	$2,208	Our average general rate increase was 2.75 per cent in 2024/25 in line with the Victorian Government's rate cap. Rate revenue is a major source of funding for a range of Council services and assists in providing funding to maintain and renew over $3.2 billion of community assets such as local roads, community buildings, drains, footpaths, playgrounds and sporting facilities.
Liquidity										
Working capital										
Current assets compared to current liabilities [Current assets / Current liabilities] x100	211.2%	205.1%	182.7%	185.5%	217.5%	211.2%	162.3%	126.3%	121.9%	We can comfortably meet all short term financial commitments as and when they arise and are in a sound financial position. The forward year forecasts also indicate that Manningham is expecting to maintain a strong working capital ratio.

Dimension / indicator / measure [formula]	Results			Target	Actual	Forecast				Material Variations
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	
Unrestricted cash										
Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities [Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities] x100	-69.2%	-62.9%	-22.7%	58.0%	-21.5%	79.7%	38.1%	9.0%	13.9%	The unrestricted cash ratio is consistent with our financial plan as Manningham continues to invest in term deposits with a maturity of greater than 90 days to maximise interest revenue. Only term deposits with a maturity of 90 days or less are included in the calculation of cash for this ratio. The ratio would be 101.8 per cent in 2024/25 if term deposits with a maturity of greater than 90 days were also included in the calculation.
Obligations										
Loans and borrowings										
Loans and borrowings compared to rates [Interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	We are debt free. No future loan borrowings are proposed in the forecast period.
Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates [Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	We are debt free. No future loan borrowings are proposed in the forecast period.
Indebtedness										
Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue [Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue] x100	2.6%	2.6%	2.3%	2.0%	1.9%	1.7%	1.5%	1.3%	1.1%	We continue to have a low level of non-current liabilities compared to revenue.
Asset renewal and upgrade										
Asset renewal and upgrade compared to depreciation [Asset renewal and asset upgrade expense / Asset depreciation] x100	118.0%	114.3%	110.5%	117.0%	107.8%	134.4%	171.5%	143.9%	103.7%	The 2024/25 result and budget from 2025/26 onwards demonstrates our ongoing commitment to invest in the renewal and upgrade of our existing community infrastructure.

Dimension / indicator / measure [formula]	Results			Target	Actual	Forecast				Material Variations
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	
Operating position										
Adjusted underlying result Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit) [Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit)/ Adjusted underlying revenue] x100	2.8%	-3.3%	-3.8%	4.9%	12.7%	0.0%	0.7%	0.9%	0.6%	The healthy adjusted underlying result was driven by the $26.26 million of North East Link Project land compensation payments received during the year and a 50 per cent advance payment to Council of the 2025/26 Financial Assistance Grants allocation.
Stability										
Rates concentration Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue [Rate revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue] x100	80.8%	78.9%	83.2%	77.2%	68.0%	83.1%	84.2%	84.8%	85.3%	The rates concentration ratio was lower in 2024/25 due to the higher than anticipated adjusted underlying revenue (denominator) which included $26.26 million of North East Link Project land compensation payments received during the year and a 50 per cent advance payment to Council of the 2025/26 Financial Assistance Grants allocation. We receive a relatively low level of grants allocations and hence we heavily rely on rate revenue for the delivery of high-quality services and infrastructure to the community. We are continuing to seek alternative revenue streams.
Rates effort Rates compared to property values [Rate revenue / Capital improved value of rateable properties in the municipality] x100	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	This ratio highlights our relatively low and stable rate burden on our community when compared to property values.

Section 4. Sustainable Capacity Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2025

Indicator / measure [formula]	2022	2023	2024	2025	Comments - Material Variations
Population					
Expenses per head of municipal population [Total expenses / Municipal population]	$1,084	$1,216	$1,180	$1,234	Over the period, we managed to deliver high-quality services within a responsible budget at an average of $1,234 per head of municipal population. This demonstrates that we are committed to provide core services and community facilities now and in the future
Infrastructure per head of municipal population [Value of infrastructure / Municipal population]	$7,703	$8,838	$9,071	$9,387	The increase in infrastructure per head of municipal population is mainly attributable to a combination of new assets being added and an increase in the value of Council's buildings and infrastructure assets. We are committed to maintain, renew and upgrade our community infrastructure assets and each year allocate a minimum of 33 per cent of rate revenue in addition to other funding sources to fund the capital works program.
Population density per length of road [Municipal population / Kilometres of local roads]	208	207	211	215	We have a lower population density per km of road than similar councils. The maintenance and upgrade of the local road network is funded by an ongoing capital works program and maintenance funds.
Own-source revenue					
Own-source revenue per head of municipal population [Own-source revenue / Municipal population]	$996	$1,053	$1,078	$1,327	The large increase is mainly driven by the one-off receipt of $26.26 million of North East Link Project land compensation payments. Council continues to focus on generating revenue from new and different sources to ensure ongoing financial sustainability and to meet the needs of our community.
Recurrent grants					
Recurrent grants per head of municipal population [Recurrent grants / Municipal population]	$112	$117	$55	$78	In general, we receive a relatively low level of grants allocations and hence heavily rely on rate revenue for the delivery of high-quality services and infrastructure to the community. The increase over the year is mainly due to a change in the timing of Financial Assistance Grants payments to Councils. The Federal Government brought forward the payment of 50 per cent of the 2025/26 grant allocation in June 2025.
Disadvantage					
Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage [Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage by decile]	9	9	9	9	We have a low level of socio-economic disadvantage relative to many councils.
Workforce turnover					
Percentage of staff turnover [Number of permanent staff resignations and terminations / Average number of permanent staff for the financial year] x100	17.8%	18.8%	32.5%	12.4%	The elevated turnover rate in 2023/24 was largely attributed to the exit of the Aged and Disability Support Services division from direct service delivery and was planned. The total turnover rate for 2024/25 is 12.4 per cent, consisting of 10.4 per cent unplanned and 2.0 per cent planned turnover. This rate remains within expected levels and reflects a downward trend, indicating a workforce that is generally engaged and stable.

Section 5. Basis of preparation

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

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

The performance statement presents the actual results for the current year and for the prescribed financial performance indicators and measures, the results forecast by the council's strategic resource plan. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* requires explanation of any material variations in the results contained in the performance statement. Council has adopted materiality thresholds relevant to each indicator and measure and explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality thresholds unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

The forecast figures included in the performance statement are those adopted by council in its financial plan on 30 June 2025 and which forms part of the Council Plan. The financial plan includes estimates based on key assumptions about the future that were relevant at the time of adoption and aimed at achieving sustainability over the long term. Detailed information on the actual financial results is contained in the General Purpose Financial Statements. The financial plan can be obtained via Council's website or by contacting Council.

Definitions

Key term	Definition
Aboriginal children	means a child who is an Aboriginal person
Aboriginal person	has the same meaning as in the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
adjusted underlying revenue	means total income other than: - non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and - non-monetary asset contributions; and - contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to above
adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)	means adjusted underlying revenue less total expenditure
annual report	means an annual report prepared by a council under section 98 of the Act
asset renewal expenditure	means expenditure on an existing asset or on replacing an existing asset that returns the service capability of the asset to its original capability
asset upgrade expenditure	means expenditure that— (a) enhances an existing asset to provide a higher level of service; or (b) extends the life of the asset beyond its original life
critical non-compliance outcome notification	means a notification received by council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the *Food Act 1984* , or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that poses an immediate serious threat to public health
current assets	has the same meaning as in the Australian Accounting Standards
current liabilities	has the same meaning as in the Australian Accounting Standards
food premises	has the same meaning as in the *Food Act 1984*
intervention level	means the level set for the condition of a road beyond which a council will not allow the road to deteriorate and will need to intervene
local road	means a sealed or unsealed road for which the council is the responsible road authority under the *Road Management Act 2004*
major non-compliance outcome notification	means a notification received by a council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the *Food Act 1984* , or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that does not pose an immediate serious threat to public health but may do so if no remedial action is taken
MCH	means the Maternal and Child Health Service provided by a council to support the health and development of children within the municipality from birth until school age
non-current liabilities	means all liabilities other than current liabilities
own-source revenue	means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of council (including government grants)
population	means the resident population estimated by council
rate revenue	means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges
relative socio-economic disadvantage	in relation to a municipal district, means the relative socio-economic disadvantage, expressed as a decile for the relevant financial year, of the area in which the municipal district is located according to the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage of SEIFA
restricted cash	means cash, cash equivalents and financial assets, within the meaning of the Australian Accounting Standards, not available for use other than for a purpose for which it is restricted, and includes cash to be used to fund capital works expenditure from the previous financial year
SEIFA	means the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas published from time to time by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on its Internet site
unrestricted cash	means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash

Glossary and abbreviations

Advisory committee	A committee that assists Council with decision-making processes and has a Councillor representative to assist with the consultation process
Advocacy	Publicly supporting or recommending programs or services on behalf of our community to other tiers of government or service providers for community benefit.
Annual Report	A report prepared by a Council annually under sections 98, 99 and 100 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
Asset expansion expenditure	Expenditure that extends the capacity of an existing asset to provide benefits to new users at the same standard as is provided to existing beneficiaries.
Asset expenditure type	These types of asset expenditure: • **asset renewal expenditure** • **new asset expenditure** • **asset upgrade expenditure** • **asset expansion expenditure.**
Asset renewal expenditure	Expenditure on an existing asset or on replacing an existing asset that returns the service capability of the asset to its original capability.
Asset upgrade expenditure	Expenditure that: • **enhances an existing asset to provide a higher level of service; or** • **increases the life of the asset beyond its original life.**
Best value	State legislation that requires Council to review its services to ensure community expectations and value for money.
Budget	Council's originally published budget detailing the projected income, expenditure and financial position of Council.
Capital expenditure	The expenditure on items which are expected to produce future economic benefits for Council with a useful life in excess of 12 months.
Capital improved value	The market value of the property at the date of valuation including the value of the land and all improvements built on the land.
Capital Works Program	Program of scheduled infrastructure works generally encompassing capital works for road, drainage and building assets.
Capitalisation	The process whereby expenditure is charged to an account in the statement of financial position rather than to an expense account.
Council Plan	The 4-year plan for how we will deliver our 9 strategic objectives.

Community grants	Council allocates a sum of money for our Community Grants Program as part of the annual budget process. The funding supports not for profit community organisations in Manningham.
Community Satisfaction Survey	The survey the Victorian Government requires Councils to conduct once a year to gauge the level of community satisfaction with our services.
Cultural diversity	Celebrating our community's many different cultures expressed through language, tradition, religion, dress, arts, dance and lifestyle.
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus.
Community Care Program	Home and Community Care (HACC) and the Commonwealth Home Support programs established under Agreements entered into with the Australian and Victorian Governments that support people who are frail, have a disability and their families.
Community care service	Provides a range of services including domestic assistance, personal care, community respite and delivered meals that assist clients to maximise their independence in the community.
Embrace Café	A café where local people with disabilities gain valuable hands-on experience and skills to help with future employment.
Governance	Council's responsibility for the economic and ethical performance of the municipality.
Infrastructure	The stock of fixed capital equipment, including roads, public buildings, footpaths, etc.
Key performance indicator	A significant measure used on its own or in combination with other key performance indicators to monitor how well a business is achieving its quantifiable objectives.
Liquidity	The ratio of current assets to current liabilities as a percentage that shows how much cash we have on hand.
Local Government Model Financial Report	The Local Government Model Financial Report published by Local Government Victoria each year including on localgovernment.vic.gov.au
Local law	The laws adopted by Council that prohibit, regulate and control activities, events, practices and behaviours within Manningham.
Local roads	The municipal road network which is maintained by Manningham Council.
Manningham Matters	The Council newsletter we deliver to all Manningham homes and businesses that provides residents with information about local activities.
Manningham Planning Scheme	Outlines state and local planning policies including zones, overlays and other provisions.
Material variations	Significant changes to a development application, such as those that impact neighbouring properties, alter the description of the development or would affect objections to the original proposal.

Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Service	Service provided by a Council to support the health and development of children within the municipality from birth until school age.
Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)	The lobbying body for Victoria's 79 Councils.
New asset expenditure	Expenditure that creates a new asset that provides a service that does not currently exist.
Non-current assets	All assets other than current assets.
Non-recurrent grant	A grant obtained on the condition that it be expended in a specified manner and is not expected to be received again during the period covered by a Council's Strategic Resource Plan.
North East Link Project (NELP)	The largest road project in the state's history, which will involve years of planning, design and construction. It is the biggest infrastructure project to affect Manningham's municipality.
Performance indicator	A statistic identifying the extent an activity meets a specific objective.
Performance statement	The performance statement prepared by a Council under section 98 and 99 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
Placemaking	Activities and initiatives that strengthen the connection between people and the places they share to help build community resilience and make our neighbourhood centres and villages more vibrant.
Principal Accounting Officer	The person designated by a Council to be responsible for the financial management of the Council.
Recurrent grant	A grant other than a non-recurrent grant.
Report of operations	The report outlining details of Council operations prepared under section 98 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
Reserves	Monies set aside in the statement of financial position for specific purposes in accordance with statutory and discretionary principles.
Revised budget	The revised budget prepared by a Council under section 98 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
Risk management	A policy and process for identifying business risks and controlling the likelihood and/or impact of a risk event occurring.
Strategy	A plan of action intended to accomplish specific objectives.
Statement of Capital Works	A statement of capital works prepared in accordance with the Local Government Model Financial Report.

State of City Report	A comprehensive overview of Manningham's status and trends across various sectors, such as economy, population, environment, and social wellbeing.
Statement of Human Resources	A statement that shows all Council staff expenditure and the number of full-time equivalent Council staff.
Sustainable	How we meet present-day needs without compromising future generations' ability to meet their needs.
Themes	The overarching strategic objectives or focus areas of Council, as outlined in the Council Plan.
Triple bottom line	Measures community well-being by assessing the economic, social and environmental considerations.
Vision	A description of the future we aim to achieve for our city and community.
Ward	The delineation of a district within a municipality for the purposes of administration and representation.
Wellbeing	A general term to encompass health, happiness, welfare, security, comfort, quality of life and a sense of belonging.

Abbreviations

AAS	Australian Accounting Standard
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AMS	Asset Management Strategy
APRA AMCOS	Australian Performing Right Association and the Australian Mechanical Copyright Owners Society
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
Cr	Councillor
CRM	Customer Relationship Management
DECCA	Victorian Government Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action
EBA	Enterprise Bargaining Agreement
EMT	Executive Management Team
EO	Equal Opportunity
HACC	Home and Community Care
LEAF	Local Environment Assistance Fund
LGPRF	Local Government Performance Reporting Framework MAV Municipal Association of Victoria
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
MCH	Maternal Child Health
NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme
NELP	North East Link Project
RAP	Reconciliation Action Plan
SBS	Strategic Briefing Session
SEED	Sustainability and Environmental Education Day
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
VEC	Victorian Electoral Commission
VGA	Victorian Greenhouse Alliances
WCAG	Web Content Accessibility Guidelines
WHS	Workplace Health and Safety
WSUD	Water Sensitive Urban Design

Index

A

Abbreviations 320
Animal management 134, 135
Asset Management Overview 214, 210
Audit and Risk Committee 201, 211-212, 214

B

Budget 26, 97, 121, 316

C

CEO expenditure 207
Code of conduct 209
Community Grants 10, 124, 317
Community Infrastructure Plan 166-167
Compliance and assurance 214
Conditions of employment 118
Council meetings 199
Council Plan 8, 20, 25, 101, 208, 211, 219, 316
Council wards 13
Councillor expenses 206
Councillors 14
COVID-19 20, 76, 317

D

Development Contributions Plan (DCP) 227
Diversity and Inclusion 118
Domestic Animal Management Plan 225

E

Economic Development 23, 183, 223
Employee code of conduct 209
Excellence Awards 119
Expenditure 98, 208
External audit 211

F

Financial performance 96, 249
Financial Plan 25, 95, 218
Food safety 20, 135-136
Fraud and corruption control 211
Freedom of information 223

G

Gender Equality 3, 113, 201
Glossary 316
Governance 195, 198-199, 208, 218, 317

H

HACC 320
Healthy community 8, 20, 32, 102. 124
Home and Community Care 317, 320

I

Information privacy 224
Infrastructure and development contributions 227
Integrated Water Mangement Strategy 62, 67, 169
Internal audit 210-211, 214, 219

L

Liquidity 100, 317
Local Law 228

M

Management 210
Manningham Business Network 144
Manningham Planning Scheme 143, 147
Manningham Youth Services 41, 124, 145, 232
Maternal and Child Health 125, 136, 318
Message from our Mayor 6
Municipal Emergency Management Planning 20, 202, 218

N

NELP 28, 65, 318, 320
North East Link Program 28, 65, 318, 320

O

Our history 12
Our mission 8
Our people 114
Our strategic direction 8
Our suburbs 13
Our vision 8

P

Performance statement 302
Planning and reporting framework 120
Procurement Policy 231
Property Holdings 228

R

Reconciliation Action Plan 232
Resilient environment 170
Reward and recognition 119
Risk management 212
Road Improvement Program 159, 162
Road Management Act 227
Roads 148, 164, 165

S

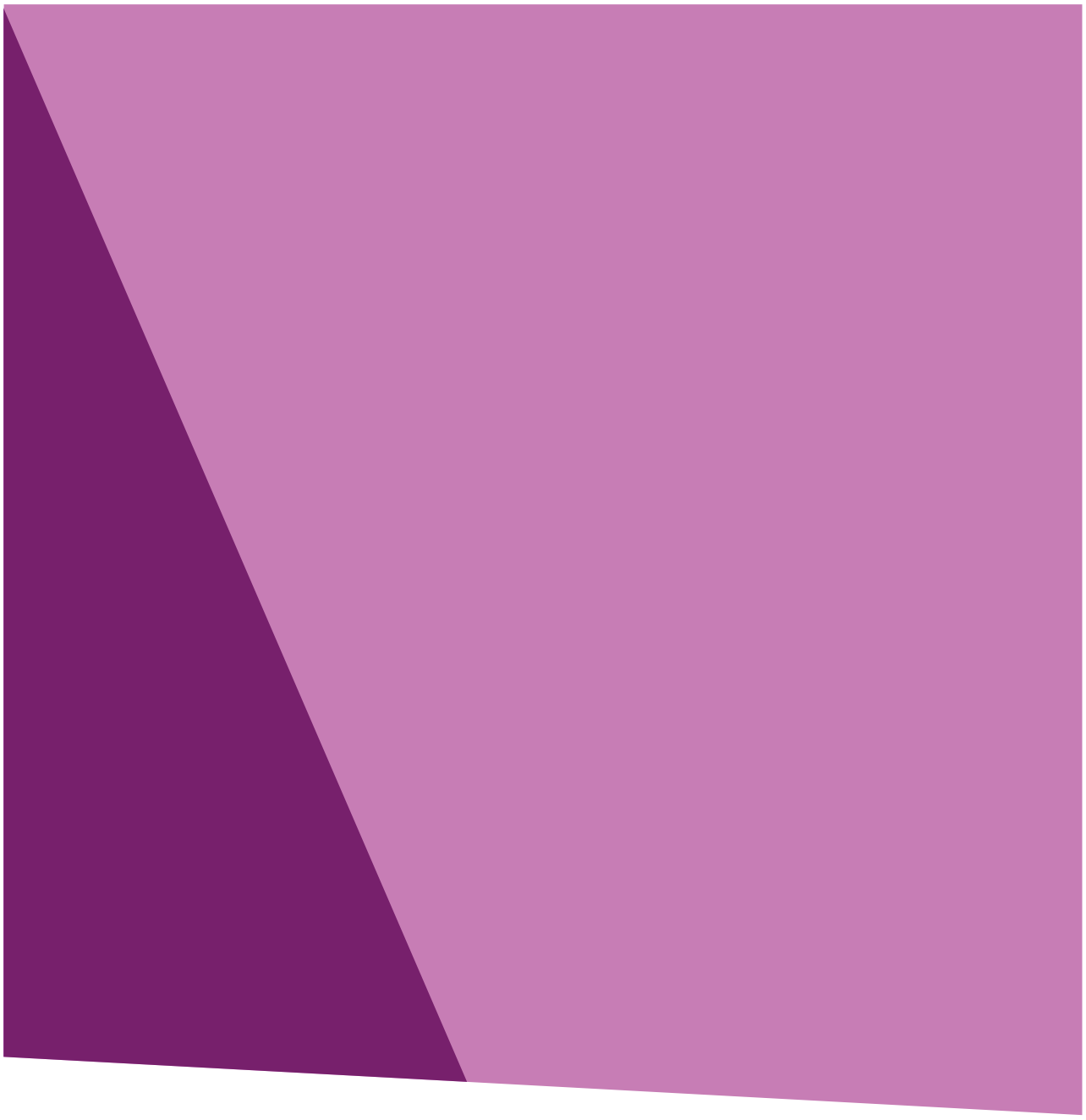
Senior officers 116, 147, 208
Staff turnover 116
Statement of Capital Works 257
Strategic briefing sessions 200
Streetscape Management Plan 152

V

Vibrant and prosperous economy 72

W

Welcome 2
Welcoming Cities 223
Well governed council 187



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13.4 Audit and Risk Committee Chair's Biannual Report

File Number: IN25/812

Responsible Director: Acting Director Experience and Capability

Attachments: 1 Audit and Risk Committee Summary committee meetings July and September 2025 attachment ⇩

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To report to Council on the activities of the advisory Audit and Risk Committee for the period end of June 2025 to October 2025.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Audit and Risk Committee (the Committee) is a committee established in accordance with Section 53 and 54 of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act). Pursuant to the Act, the Committee is to 'prepare a biannual audit and risk report that describes the activities of the Audit and Risk Committee and include its findings and recommendations'. Furthermore, the Act requires that one of these reports will be prepared after the Committee meeting at which the annual Financial Report and Performance Statement have been considered. This occurred at the Committee meeting on 5 September 2025. This report covers the period from the end of June 2025 to October 2025 which includes two Committee meetings.

1. RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the Audit and Risk Committee Chair's Biannual Report for the period end of June to October 2025, in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Audit and Risk Committee continued to undertake its role in providing independent advice to Council and management throughout the period covered in this report.

The Committee is an advisory committee of Council, established to assist the Council discharge its responsibilities under the Act to:

- Monitor the compliance of Council's policies and procedures with the overarching governance principles, the Act, regulations and any Ministerial directions;
- Monitor Council financial and performance reporting;
- Monitor and provide advice on risk management and fraud prevention systems and controls; and
- Oversee external audit and internal audit functions.

2.2 The Committee undertakes this function by assurance monitoring, receiving attestations of compliance and material matters from auditors and officers, analysing, questioning management, endorsing and advising on matters as set out in the Audit and Risk Committee Charter.

2.3 The Committee is an advisory committee to the Council and does not have executive powers or authority to implement actions in areas over which management has responsibility and does not have any delegated financial responsibility. The Committee is independent of management.

2.4 The Committee comprises five members, comprised of three independent members (including the Chairperson) and two Councillors.

2.5 A quorum of independent members and Councillor members was achieved for all meetings as outlined in the following table:-

Member	`	Meetings Attended (July & Sep)	Meetings Eligible (Jul & Sep)
Andrew Dix	Independent member and Chairperson	2	2
Sharon Copeland-Smith	Independent member	2	2
Jonathan Kyvelidis	Independent member	2	2
Cr Deirdre Diamante	Councillor committee member	2	2
Cr Carli Lange	Councillor committee member	2	2

2.6 Council's external and internal auditors attended all the meetings required of them by the workplan. Regular management attendance was represented by the CEO, CFO, Integrity Manager and the Risk and Assurance Lead, or their delegate.

2.7 The minutes of the meetings are distributed to all Councillors to keep them fully informed of meeting content and outcomes. At any point, Councillors can initiate direct contact with the Committee Chair for further clarity or confidential discussions.

3. DISCUSSION / ISSUE

3.1 The Committee's Charter and annual workplan directs the agenda content across the cycle of five Committee meetings per annum. Within this program are five key categories of report types, namely:

a) CEO Overview

b) Monitor policies and procedures (Section 54(2)(a))

c) Monitor Council's financial and performance reporting (Section 54(2)(b))

d) Monitor risk management and fraud (Section 54(2)(c))

e) Oversee internal audit function (Section 54(2)(d))

3.2 The attached Appendix summarises the activity of the Audit and Risk Committee together with the Committee's findings and resolutions for the two meetings on the 25 July and 5 September 2025.

4. COUNCIL PLAN / STRATEGY

4.1 This report demonstrates the Council Plan Theme of a 'Well Governed and Innovative Council', through the provision of a compliant report pursuant to Section 54(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020* and transparency in documenting the activities, findings and recommendations of the independent Audit and Risk Committee.

5. IMPACTS AND IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Finance / Resource Implications

Nil

6. IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 Communication and Engagement

Stakeholder Groups	Councillors and the community
Is engagement required?	Yes
Where does it sit on the IAP2 spectrum?	Inform
Approach	This report was presented by the Audit and Risk Committee Chair to the Councillors at a briefing session and provides an opportunity for any questions, ahead of tabling at the public Council meeting. A copy of the report is available on Council's website under Council Meetings.

6.2 Timelines

Nil

7. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest in this matter.

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Summary for the period June 2025 to Oct 2025

Item No.	Report Title	Findings	Resolutions
Third 2025 Audit and Risk Committee meeting on 25 July 2025			
1.Attendance & Apologies	N/A	All Committee members were in attendance.	N/A
2.Conflict of Interest Disclosure	N/A	Conflict of interests are to be declared and if warranted, the member or officer is to vacate the room for the duration of the item. Nil declarations were made.	Nil declaration
3.In Camera Discussion	3.1 In Camera Meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee only 3.2 In Camera Meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee and CEO only	This is a standing item on the agenda. This is a standing item on the agenda. Two confidential matters were discussed.	N/A.
4.Minutes of the Previous Meeting	4. Draft Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Hold on 23 May 2025	Adoption of the meeting minutes.	The Audit and Risk Committee adopted the minutes of the 23 May 2025 meeting.
5. Matters Arising from Meetings	8. Matters Arising from Meetings	This is a standing report that updated the Committee on matters raised at previous meetings and providesd follow up status of actions and information on queries raised by the Committee. The Committee asked for more explicit written responses to action outcomes in the report.	The Audit and Risk Committee noted the Matters Arising actions register be noted.
6. CEO Overview	6. CEO Overview	This is a standing item on the agenda. The CEO informed the Committee of high level matters and provided an overview of the items in the agenda. Actions arising included the CEO to report back on attendance at the Parliamentary Inquiry into Fraud and Corruption and distribute Council's submission statement. Additionally, a holding statement for residents impacted by NELP carparking restrictions, be provided, pending analysis of the data.	That the Audit and Risk Committee noted the report.
7. Standard Questions	7. Standard Questions	This is a standing item on the agenda. The Chair asked the list of standard questions of the CEO and the auditors and their answers were negative.	The Audit and Risk Committee noted the responses to the standard questions were negative.

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Summary for the period June 2025 to Oct 2025

Item No.	Report Title	Findings	Resolutions
8. Management Register – Internal Audit Outstanding Actions	9. Management Register – Internal Audit Outstanding Audit Actions	This is a standing report that updated the Committee on implementation status of high rated and overdue medium rated internal audit actions. Management spoke to the progress and completion date of a couple of specific actions.	The Audit and Risk Committee noted the Internal Audit actions items management register status.
9. Financial Reporting	N/A	N/A	N/A
10. Internal Audit Matters	10.1 Internal Audit – Compliance and Enforcement Final Report	The auditor reported that this was a large audit across five different enforcement and compliance functions; Parking, Planning, Animal Management, Asset Protection, and Fire Prevention Notices. The highest risk focus was on the process to manage legacy asset protection bonds. Management will use the opportunity of the audit to collaborate across service units to review and harmonise procedures. The Committee discussed the high cost of referring outstanding enforcement fines to Fines Victoria, but acknowledged the necessity.	The Audit and Risk Committee note the report requesting management to report back on the implementation of audit actions in six months time.
	10.2 Internal Audit – Procurement (Under Tender Threshold) Final Report	The auditor confirmed that overall good controls were in place, with the opportunity for a few improvements in the software system management, master file maintenance and adoption of AI in data analytics. The Committee discussed with management the tension between the right level of controls and process efficiency, such as purchase order exemption list and the number of written quotes required for expenditure under $15K.	The Audit and Risk Committee endorsed the report requesting management to report back on the implementation of audit actions in six months time.
	10.3 Internal Audit – Fraud Awareness Final Report.	The auditor reported that the audit outcome was a positive result. The audit examined practices against the AS 8001:2021 noting that it is not mandatory but management have agreed to timely actions where required. Management confirmed that the audit	The Audit and Risk Committee endorsed the report.

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Summary for the period June 2025 to Oct 2025

Item No.	Report Title	Findings	Resolutions
		provided assurance around existing controls and an opportunity to do things differently noting only 6% of the Australian Standards were not in place. The Committee had no further discussion on this report.	
	10.4 Draft Internal Audit Plan	The internal auditor presented the updated three year plan which included management's strategic and material risk assurance report. The Committee discussed the proposed plan, engaging with the internal auditor to understand the justification for any changes to the program. The Committee acknowledged the value of the Assurance Map when treated as a live document and requested that: A) It include the Child Safety Compliance Report and other external assurances in place. B) Management to consider how it can demonstrate that the defence processes are working effectively and how to report on this. The Committee confirmed the following internal audits for the 2025-2026 year: 1.Fleet Management 2.Immunisation Management 3.Service Planning Framework 4.Long Term Financial Planning 5.IT Disaster Recovery Planning and Business Continuity Planning 6.Maintenance Operations (Open Space) including playground maintenance	The Audit and Risk endorsed the Strategic Three Year Program of Internal Audit 2025-2028
11. Risk Management and Compliance	11. Risk Management and Compliance	Refer to item 17.3 Risk Management Short Staff Survey Results – Next Steps	Refer to item 17.3
12. Internal Control	12.1 2024/25 Capital Works Steering Committee Report	The steering committee's Chair presented this report for the Audit and Risk Committee to gain an understanding of the Infrastructure Project Management Office's governance controls and reporting processes across capital works activity. The Committee noted the terms of reference, broad	The Audit and Risk Committee: noted the report.

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Summary for the period June 2025 to Oct 2025

Item No.	Report Title	Findings	Resolutions
		representation, focus on efficiency and lowering project delivery risk, skill gap training.	
	12.2 Service and Asset Planning Steering Committee	The Committee received the inagrual presentation by the Service and Asset Planning Steering Committee Chair. The Committee noted that the function brings together service and asset management officers to enhance collaboration, share information and upskill expertise through formal asset management training.	That the Audit and Risk Committee noted the report.
	Physical and Psychosocial Risk Management	This report provided an outline of the current controls in place to manage these risks and the continuing evolution in response to changing legislation. The Committee discussed some of the industry wide issues facing staff and the operational controls being delivered.	That the Audit and Risk Committee noted the report.
14. Other Audits	Nil		
15. Reporting Responsibilities	Nil	N/A	N/A
16. Forward Agenda	As per Workplan and Actions Arising	N/A	N/A
17. Any Other Business	Nil	N/A	N/A
18. Items for Noting	17.1 End of Financial Year 2024-25 process and audit update	The Committee took the report as read.	The Committee noted the report
	17.2 Internal Auditor's Status Report	The Committee took the report as read	The Committee noted the report
	17.3 Risk Management Short Staff Survey Results – Next Steps	The Committee took the report as read	The Committee noted the report.
	17.4 Insurance Broking Tender Outcome and Insurance Renewal 2025-2026	The Committee took the report as read	The Committee noted the report.
	17.5 Executive Risk Committee Meeting Minutes 2 July 2025	The Committee took the report as read.	The Committee noted the report.

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Summary for the period June 2025 to Oct 2025

Item No.	Report Title	Findings	Resolutions
	17.6 Audit and Risk Committee Chair's Biannual Report 17.7 Audit and Risk Committee Workplan July 2025	The Committee took the report as read. The Workplan is a standing document that tracks the calendar of agenda items that the Committee is responsible for under the Charter.	The Committee noted the report. The Committee noted the status of the Workplan.
Fourth 2025 Audit and Risk Committee meeting on 5 September 2025			
1.Attendance & Apologies	N/A	All Committee members were in attendance.	N/A
2.Conflict of Interest Disclosure	N/A	Conflict of interests are to be declared and if warranted, the member or officer is to vacate the room for the duration of the item.	Nil declaration.
3.Minutes of the Previous Meeting	Audit and Risk Committee Minutes	Adoption of the meeting minutes.	The Audit and Risk Committee adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2025.
4. In Camera Discussion	4.1 In Camera Discussion of the Audit and Risk Committee Only 4.2 In Camera Discussion of the Audit and Risk Committee and CEO only 4.3 In Camera Discussion of the Audit and Risk Committee and the External Auditor	This is a standing item on the agenda. It was not required. A confidential matter was discussed. An in camera meeting was held with the Committee and the External Auditor.	Nil Nil Nil
4 .Minutes of the Previous Meeting	Audit and Risk Committee Minutes	N/A	The Audit and Risk Committee adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2025.
5. CEO Overview – Verbal Update	CEO Overview	This is a standing item on the agenda. The CEO informed the Committee of high level matters including appointment of the incoming Director City Services and the announcement of the Director Connected Communities' retirement.	The Audit and Risk Committee noted the update.

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Summary for the period June 2025 to Oct 2025

Item No.	Report Title	Findings	Resolutions
6. Audit and Risk Committee Standard Questions	6. Audit and Risk Committee Standard Questions	This is a standing item on the agenda. The Chair asked the list of standard questions of the CEO and the auditors and their answers were negative.	The Audit and Risk Committee noted the responses to the standard questions were negative.
7. Financial Reporting	7.1 2024/25 Financial Report and Performance Statement	The CFO presented a Briefing Report and referenced his email reply to the Committee's queries ahead of the meeting.	The Audit and Risk Committee noted the Briefing Report 2024/25 Financial Report and Performance Statement.
	7.2 Financial Report (Draft) for the year ended 30 June 2025	The External Auditor presented their draft report and discussed the findings with the Committee.	That the Audit and Risk Committee is satisfied that an appropriate external audit process has taken place on the proposed 2024/25 financial report; and The Audit and Risk Committee's review of the proposed 2024/25 financial report did not identify any issues that would prevent the Council from adopting the 2024/25 financial report, conditional to no material matters emerging in this final stage of the audit process.
	7.3 Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2025	The External Auditor presented their draft report and discussed the findings with the Committee.	That the Audit and Risk Committee made the following recommendation to Council: That the Council note: a) The Audit and Risk Committee is satisfied that an appropriate external audit process has taken place on the proposed 2024/25 performance statement; and b) The Audit and Risk Committee's review of the proposed 2024/25 performance statement did not identify any issues that would prevent the Council from adopting the 2024/25 performance statement, conditional to no material matters

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Summary for the period June 2025 to Oct 2025

Item No.	Report Title	Findings	Resolutions
	7.4 Closing Report to the Audit and Risk Committee and Final Management Letter; Financial year ended 30 June 2025	The External Auditor presented their closing report observing that the main focus of the audit was the valuation with the new methodology. Variations in other asset valuations identified by the new valuer needed to be gone through. The Committee congratulated Council management on the great work delivered with the challenges of the new land under road valuation process and being able to satisfy the auditor's queries. The Final Management Letter cites two recommendations as being open, purely because Council's agreed actions require implementation. The Committee concluded that they were satisfied that a satisfactory process had been gone through for Council to approve the reports in principle, subject to no material matters emerging in the final stage of the audit process.	emerging in this final stage of the audit process. The Audit and Risk Committee noted the contents and observations contained in the External Auditor's closing report on the 2024/25 audit of Manningham City Council.
16. Any Other Business	Nil	Cr Diamante appraised the Committee of a recent meeting with the Local Government Minister, who strongly encouraged all councils to implement all recommendations arising from IBAC's Operation Sandon report. Reference was also made to attendance at the Parliamentary Inquiry into Fraud and Corruption in Local Government. The Committee recommended to Management that a new Integrity and Governance report be formally included in the workplan and to give consideration to the cycle of reporting. The Committee also noted the re-appointment by Council of independent member, Mr Jonathan Kyvelidis to a second term.	N/A

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Summary for the period June 2025 to Oct 2025

Item No.	Report Title	Findings	Resolutions
17. Items for Noting	Nil	N/A	N/A
Post Audit and Risk Committee meeting 5 September 2025			
VAGO External Audit Opinion Financial Report and Performance Statement	VAGO – Manningham – audit report financial report VAGO – Manningham – audit report re performance statement	VAGO subsequently issued their independent Auditor's Report for the Financial Report and Performance Statement to Councillors, confirming a clear audit opinion for the year ended 30 June 2025. The CFO forwarded VAGO's correspondence and report to the Audit and Risk Committee on 1 October 2025, together with a list of the minor changes to the report versions that were reviewed at the meeting on 5 September. The Committee affirmed their satisfaction with the final audit result.	N/A

13.5 Council Meeting Schedule for 2026

File Number: IN25/783

Responsible Director: Acting Director Experience and Capability

Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to determine the Council meeting schedule for 2026.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Manningham's Governance Rules (the Rules) require Council to fix its meeting schedule for the forthcoming year.

Council Meetings are held monthly on the fourth Tuesday at 7:00pm unless circumstances require an alternative date. The meeting schedule for 2026 is outlined in the recommendation.

1. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

A. adopt the following meeting schedule for 2026:

Council meetings will be held on Tuesday, at 7:00pm in the Council Chamber at the Civic Centre on the following dates:

- **24 February 2026**
- **24 March 2026**
- **28 April 2026**
- **26 May 2026**
- **23 June 2026**
- **28 July 2026**
- **25 August 2026**
- **22 September 2026**
- **27 October 2026**
- **24 November 2026**
- **15 December 2026**

B. set the date for the Annual Council meeting for Thursday, 5 November 2026, at 7:00pm in the Council Chamber at the Civic Centre.

C. authorise the Chief Executive Officer to undertake all necessary actions to call the scheduled Council meetings.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Manningham's Governance Rules provide that the date, time and place for all Council meetings must be fixed by Council from time to time.

2.2 It is timely to propose meeting arrangements for 2026 to enable planning to commence for the next calendar year. The proposed dates follow the established meeting cycle, with Council meetings scheduled monthly on the fourth Tuesday at 7:00pm, unless otherwise specified.

2.3 Additional meetings may be scheduled throughout the year as required and the proposed dates if endorsed by Council may be amended if necessary.

2.4 In preparing the meeting schedule, consideration has been given to scheduled public holidays and confirmed local government conferences for 2026.

3. DISCUSSION / ISSUE

3.1 This is an administrative report to enable Council to set the meeting dates for the 2026 calendar year.

3.2 There are two variations to the proposed fourth Tuesday meeting dates in 2026:

- No Council meeting is proposed in January. However, should any matters require consideration before the first meeting in February, the Mayor may call a meeting.

- The December Council meeting is traditionally held earlier in the month to accommodate the holiday season and is proposed for the third Tuesday.

4. COUNCIL PLAN / STRATEGY

The fixing of Council meeting times, dates and places is a requirement of the Rules and forms part of Council's governance obligations.

5. IMPACTS AND IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Finance / Resource Implications

There are no finance or resource issues associated with this report.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 Communication and Engagement

Stakeholder Groups	Council and the community
Is engagement required?	No
Where does it sit on the IAP2 spectrum?	Inform

Approach	After Council's endorsement, the meeting schedule will be published in a newspaper circulating in Manningham and will be placed on the Council's website and social media channels.

6.2 Timelines

If endorsed, the meeting schedule will take effect at the commencement of 2026.

7. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest in this matter.

13.6 Informal Meetings of Councillors

File Number: IN25/781

Responsible Director: Governance Lead

Attachments:

1 Liveable Places and Spaces Committee Meeting - 18 August 2025 ⇩
2 Recreation & Sport Advisory Committee - 15 September 2025 ⇩
3 Councillor and CEO Only Time - 23 September 2025 ⇩
4 CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Meeting - 24 September 2025 ⇩
5 Strategic Briefing Session - 30 September 2025 ⇩
6 Manningham Multicultural Communities Advisory Committee - 1 October 2025 ⇩
7 Councillor Workshop (12 month check in) - 4 October 2025 ⇩
8 External Briefing – 2024-25 Annual Report & Investment Strategy Workshop - 6 October 2025 ⇩
9 CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee - 7 October 2025 ⇩
10 Strategic Briefing Session - 7 October 2025 ⇩
11 Councillor and CEO Only Time - 14 October 2025 ⇩
12 Strategic Briefing Session - 14 October 2025 ⇩
13 Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee - 16 October 2025 ⇩

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to promote transparency in Council's business by providing a record of informal meetings attended by Councillors.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Chapter 6, sub rule 1 of Manningham's Governance Rules requires a record of each meeting that constitutes an Informal Meeting of Councillors to be reported to Council and those records to be incorporated into the minutes of the Council Meeting.

1. RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the Informal Meetings of Councillors for the following meetings:

- **Liveable Places and Spaces Committee Meeting – 18 August 2025**
- **Recreation & Sport Advisory Committee – 15 September 2025**
- **Councillor and CEO Only Time – 23 September 2025**
- **CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Meeting – 24 September 2025**
- **Strategic Briefing Session – 30 September 2025**
- **Manningham Multicultural Communities Advisory Committee - 1 October**

2025

- **Councillor Workshop (12 month check in) – 4 October 2025**
- **External Briefing – 2024-25 Annual Report & Investment Strategy Workshop - 6 October 2025**
- **CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Meeting – 7 October 2025**
- **Strategic Briefing Session – 7 October 2025**
- **Councillor and CEO Only Time – 14 October 2025**
- **Strategic Briefing Session – 14 October 2025**
- **Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee – 16 October 2025**

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Section 60 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, requires a Council to develop, adopt and keep in force Governance Rules (the Rules).

2.2 Chapter 6, sub rule 1 of Manningham's Governance Rules requires the Chief Executive Officer to ensure a summary of matters discussed at an informal meeting is tabled at the next convenient Council meeting and recorded in the minutes of that meeting.

2.3 An Informal Meeting of Councillors is a meeting that:

- is a scheduled or planned meeting of all Councillors (irrespective of how many Councillors attend) with the Chief Executive Officer for the purpose of discussing the business of Council or briefing Councillors; or
- is a scheduled or planned meeting of all Councillors (irrespective of how many Councillors attend) with the Executive Management Team for the purpose of discussing the business of Council or briefing Councillors; or
- is a scheduled or planned advisory committee meeting attended by at least one Councillor and one member of Council staff; and
- is not a Council meeting, Delegated Committee meeting or Community Asset Committee meeting.

3. DISCUSSION / ISSUE

Summaries of the following informal meetings are attached to this report:

- Liveable Places and Spaces Committee Meeting – 18 August 2025
- Recreation & Sport Advisory Committee – 15 September 2025
- Councillor and CEO Only Time – 23 September 2025
- CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Meeting – 24 September 2025
- Strategic Briefing Session – 30 September 2025
- Manningham Multicultural Communities Advisory Committee - 1 October 2025
- Councillor Workshop (12 month check in) – 4 October 2025
- External Briefing – 2024-25 Annual Report & Investment Strategy Workshop - 6 October 2025
- CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Meeting – 7 October 2025
- Strategic Briefing Session – 7 October 2025
- Councillor and CEO Only Time – 14 October 2025
- Strategic Briefing Session – 14 October 2025
- Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee – 16 October 2025

4. IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Communication and Engagement

Stakeholder Groups	Councillors, Officers and members of Manningham's Advisory Committees
Is engagement required?	No. This information is provided in the interests of public transparency.
Where does it sit on the IAP2 spectrum?	N/A
Approach	N/A

5. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest in this matter.

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Chapter 6, Sub rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020

MANNINGHAM

MEETING DETAILS			
Meeting Name:	Liveable Places and Spaces Committee Meeting		
Date:	Monday, 18 August 2025	**Time Opened:**	3:30pm
		Time Closed:	4:00pm
Location:	Teams meeting (virtual)		
Councillors Present:	Cr Geoff Gough		
Officers Present:	Julia Jenvey		
Apologies:	Nil		
Items discussed:	1. LPS Advisory Committee 2. Workshop: Integrated Transport 3. City Design 4. City Planning 5. Integrated Transport 6. Other Business		

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES	
Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors?	No

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Chapter 6, Sub rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020

MANNINGHAM

MEETING DETAILS			
Meeting Name:	Recreation & Sport Advisory Committee		
Date:	Monday, 15 September 2025	**Time Opened:**	6:32pm
		Time Closed:	8:15pm
Location:	Council Chambers, Civic Centre		
Councillors Present:	Cr Andrew Conlon (Deputy Mayor), Cr Jim Grivas		
Officers Present:	Emma Michie, Patrick Boyd, Kayla Uildriks, Clare Hockey, Emma Steele		
Apologies:	Cr Laura Mayne		
Items discussed:	• Council Plan Actions – sport and recreation • Draft Active participation plan and Active Manningham Street team draft annual Plan – presentation & workshop • Draft Active Transport Strategy consultation process		

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES	
Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors?	No

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Chapter 6, Sub rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020

MANNINGHAM

MEETING DETAILS			
Meeting Name:	Councillor and CEO Only Time		
Date:	Tuesday, 23 September 2025	**Time Opened:**	5:45pm
		Time Closed:	6:15pm
Location:	Councillor Lounge, Civic Centre		
Councillors Present:	Cr Deirdre Diamante (Mayor), Cr Andrew Conlon (Deputy Mayor), Cr Anna Chen, Cr Isabella Eltaha, Cr Geoff Gough, Cr Peter Bain, Cr Jim Grivas and Cr Carli Lange		
Officers Present:	Andrew Day (CEO)		
Apologies:	Cr Laura Mayne		
Items discussed:	• Doncare gala dinner • Hume Council letter RE: Glass Reforms • Cr 12-month Check-In • CEO Employment and remuneration committee attendance • CM Agenda review		

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES	
Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors?	No

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Chapter 6, Sub rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020

MANNINGHAM

MEETING DETAILS			
Meeting Name:	CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Meeting		
Date:	Wednesday, 24 September 2025	**Time Opened:**	6:00pm
		Time Closed:	8:00pm
Location:	Council Chambers, Civic Centre		
Councillors Present:	Cr Deirdre Diamante (Mayor) (Chair), Cr Anna Chen, Cr Isabella Eltaha, Cr Geoff Gough, Cr Peter Bain, Cr Jim Grivas, Cr Andrew Conlon and Cr Carli Lange		
Officers Present:	Kerryn Paterson		
Apologies:	Cr Laura Mayne		
Items discussed:	• CEO Annual Review • Draft CEO Performance Plan		

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES	
Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors?	No

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Chapter 6, Sub rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020

MANNINGHAM

MEETING DETAILS			
Meeting Name:	Strategic Briefing Session		
Date:	Tuesday, 30 September 2025	**Time Opened:**	6:30pm
		Time Closed:	9:53pm
Location:	Council Chambers, Civic Centre		
Councillors Present:	Cr Deirdre Diamante (Mayor), Cr Andrew Conlon (Deputy Mayor), Cr Peter Bain, Cr Anna Chen, Cr Isabella Eltaha, Cr Geoff Gough, Cr Jim Grivas and Cr Carli Lange		
Officers Present:	**Executive Officers Present** Andrew Day, Chief Executive Officer Andrew McMaster, Director City Planning & Liveability Lee Robson, Director Connected Communities Tony McGann, Acting Director City Services Lawrie McLaughlin, Acting Director Experience and Capability **Other Officers in Attendance** Courtney Power, Councillor and CEO Support Team Leader Emma Michie, Manager Community Participation Robert Morton, Coordinator Community Projects and Planning Sharon Peters, Community Facilities Project Officer Julia Jenvey, Manager Integrated Planning Lydia Winstanley, Coordinator City Planning		
Apologies:	Cr Laura Mayne		
Items discussed:	1. Warrandyte Community Facilities Review 2. Proposed development application at 584-588 Doncaster Road, Doncaster - Development Facilitation Program (DFP) (Confidential) 3. Planning Scheme Amendment C125mann - Yarra Valley Country Club (Confidential) 4. Councillors verbal update on Advisory Committees 5. CEO KPI SBS Report on Service Reviews 2024-25		

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES	
Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors?	Yes - Cr Geoff Gough declared a General Conflict of Interest for Item 6.3 - Planning Scheme Amendment C125mann - Yarra Valley Country Club

1

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Chapter 6, Sub rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020

MANNINGHAM

MEETING DETAILS			
Meeting Name:	Manningham Multicultural Communities Advisory Committee		
Date:	Wednesday, 1 October 2025	**Time Opened:**	6:00pm
		Time Closed:	8:00pm
Location:	Council Chambers, Civic Centre		
Councillors Present:	Cr Deirdre Diamante (Mayor), Cr Isabella Eltaha		
Officers Present:	Michelle Zemancheff, Phil Thewlis, Emma Steele, Lydia Winstanley, Roger Woodlock		
Apologies:	Cr Peter Bain, Catherine Simcox, Jaime Edge		
Items discussed:	1. Conflict of Interest 2. Confirmation of previous meeting minutes 3. Business Arising 4. Draft Integrated Water Management Strategy – Presentation and workshop activity on the draft strategy. Presentation and feedback on the proposed communications and engagement plan, including material in different languages. 5. Active Transport Strategy refresh – Project introduction, feedback on priorities of the strategy. 6. Pulse Check 7. Other Business – Australia's special envoy to combat Islamophobia authored by Afrab Malik		

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES	
Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors?	No

1

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Chapter 6, Sub rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020

MANNINGHAM

MEETING DETAILS			
Meeting Name:	Councillor Workshop (12 month check in)		
Date:	Saturday, 4 October 2025	**Time Opened:**	3:00pm
		Time Closed:	6:00pm
Location:	Veneto Club		
Councillors Present:	Cr Deirdre Diamante (Mayor), Cr Anna Chen, Cr Isabella Eltaha, Cr Geoff Gough, Cr Peter Bain, Cr Jim Grivas, Cr Andrew Conlon and Cr Carli Lange		
Officers Present:	Andrew Day (CEO)		
Apologies:	Cr Laura Mayne		
Items discussed:	Review and reflections over the first 12 months of this Council term and focus for the next 12 months		

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES	
Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors?	No

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Chapter 6, Sub rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020

MANNINGHAM

MEETING DETAILS			
Meeting Name:	External Briefing – Item 1: Doncare 2024-25 Annual Report & Item 2: Manningham Council Investment Strategy Workshop		
Date:	Monday, 6 October 2025	**Time Opened:**	6:00pm
		Time Closed:	8:00pm
Location:	Council Chambers, Civic Centre		
Councillors Present:	Cr Deirdre Diamante (Mayor), Cr Andrew Conlon (Deputy Mayor), Cr Anna Chen, Cr Isabella Eltaha, Cr Geoff Gough, Cr Peter Bain, Cr Jim Grivas and Cr Carli Lange		
Officers Present:	Andrew Day (CEO) Kerryn Paterson Andrew McMaster Item 1: Lee Robson and Michelle Zemancheff Item 2: Jon Gorst, Anton Peiris, Linda Merlino, Sheraz Akram and Yuki Cheah		
Apologies:	Cr Laura Mayne		
Items discussed:	• Item 1: Doncare CEO presented Doncare's 2024/25 Annual Report • Item2: Manningham Council Investment Strategy Workshop		

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES	
Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors?	No

1

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Chapter 6, Sub rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020

MANNINGHAM

MEETING DETAILS			
Meeting Name:	CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Meeting		
Date:	Tuesday, 7 October 2025	**Time Opened:**	5:45pm
		Time Closed:	6:30pm
Location:	Council Chambers, Civic Centre		
Councillors Present:	Cr Deirdre Diamante (Mayor) (Chair), Cr Anna Chen, Cr Isabella Eltaha, Cr Geoff Gough, Cr Peter Bain, Cr Jim Grivas, Cr Andrew Conlon and Cr Carli Lange		
Officers Present:	Andrew Day (Chief Executive Officer), Kerryn Paterson		
Apologies:	Cr Laura Mayne		
Items discussed:	• CEO Annual Review		

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES	
Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors?	No

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Chapter 6, Sub rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020

MANNINGHAM

MEETING DETAILS			
Meeting Name:	Strategic Briefing Session		
Date:	Tuesday, 7 October 2025	**Time Opened:**	6:39pm
		Time Closed:	9:18pm
Location:	Council Chambers, Civic Centre		
Councillors Present:	Cr Deirdre Diamante (Mayor), Cr Andrew Conlon (Deputy Mayor), Cr Peter Bain, Cr Anna Chen, Cr Isabella Eltaha (online), Cr Geoff Gough, Cr Jim Grivas and Cr Carli Lange		
Officers Present:	**Executive Officers Present** Andrew Day, Chief Executive Officer Andrew McMaster, Director City Planning & Liveability Kerryn Paterson, Director Experience and Capability Lee Robson, Director Connected Communities Tony McGann, Acting Director City Services **Other Officers in Attendance** Rachna Gupta-Singh, Governance Lead Michelle Zemancheff, Manager Community Wellbeing and Partnerships Gabrielle Spence, Coordinator Healthy Ageing Annie Valentine, Healthy Ageing Team Lead Kirra Solty, Age Friendly Development Officer Julia Jenvey, Manager Integrated Planning Gabirelle OHalloran, Senior Strategic Planner Lydia Winstanley, Coordinator City Planning Roger Woodlock, Integrated Water Management – Strategic Lead Carrie Lindsay, Coordinator Urban Design Cormac McCarthy, Senior Open Space Development Officer Jude Whelan, Manager Engaged Communities		
Apologies:	Cr Laura Mayne		
Items discussed:	1. Age-friendly Manningham Framework 2026 2. Draft Integrated Water Management Strategy for Community Consultation 3. Manningham Recreational Bike Facilities Plan 2025 4. Annual Report 2024-25 5. Council Meeting Schedule for 2026		

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES	
Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors?	No

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Chapter 6, Sub rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020

MANNINGHAM

MEETING DETAILS			
Meeting Name:	Councillor and CEO Only Time		
Date:	Tuesday, 14 October 2025	**Time Opened:**	5:45pm
		Time Closed:	6:15pm
Location:	Councillor Lounge, Civic Centre		
Councillors Present:	Cr Deirdre Diamante (Mayor), Cr Andrew Conlon (Deputy Mayor), Cr Anna Chen, Cr Isabella Eltaha, Cr Geoff Gough, Cr Peter Bain, Cr Jim Grivas and Cr Carli Lange		
Officers Present:	Andrew Day (CEO)		
Apologies:	Cr Laura Mayne		
Items discussed:	• Ward updates • Councillor Ward Meeting Protocol • NELP (Eram Park) • Upcoming Council policy review		

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES	
Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors?	No

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Chapter 6, Sub rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020

MANNINGHAM

MEETING DETAILS			
Meeting Name:	Strategic Briefing Session		
Date:	Tuesday, 14 October 2025	**Time Opened:**	6:41pm
		Time Closed:	9:55pm
Location:	Council Chambers, Civic Centre		
Councillors Present:	Cr Deirdre Diamante (Mayor), Cr Andrew Conlon (Deputy Mayor), Cr Peter Bain, Cr Anna Chen, Cr Isabella Eltaha, Cr Geoff Gough, Cr Jim Grivas and Cr Carli Lange		
Officers Present:	**Executive Officers Present** Andrew Day, Chief Executive Officer Andrew McMaster, Director City Planning & Liveability Ash Camm, Acting Director Experience and Capability Lee Robson, Director Connected Communities Kerryn Paterson, Acting Director Connected Communities Tony McGann, Acting Director City Services **Other Officers in Attendance** Carrie Bruce, Manager Integrity Emma Michie, Manager Community Participation Robert Morton, Coordinator Community Projects and Planning Lisa DiCenso, Community Projects Lead **External Attendees** Andrew Dix, Audit and Risk Committee Chair (External presenter)		
Apologies:	Cr Laura Mayne		
Items discussed:	• Audit and Risk Committee Chair's Biannual Report • Gum Nut Gully Preschool Redevelopment • Update on Governance for Library Service (Confidential) • Thematic Environmental History - Project Update		

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES	
Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors?	No

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Chapter 6, Sub rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020

MANNINGHAM

MEETING DETAILS			
Meeting Name:	Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee		
Date:	Thursday, 16 October 2025	**Time Opened:**	6:00pm
		Time Closed:	8:00pm
Location:	Council Chambers, Civic Centre		
Councillors Present:	Cr Deirdre Diamante (Mayor)		
Officers Present	Michelle Zemancheff, Felicity Raper, Emma Steele		
Apologies:	Catherine Simcox		
Items discussed:	1. Confirmation of previous minutes 2. Business Arising 3. Active Transport Strategy refresh – project introduction and feedback on priorities of the strategy 4. End of Terms of Reference 5. Achievements 6. Presentation of Certificates 7. Other Business		

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES	
Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors?	No

13.7 Documents for Sealing

File Number: IN25/782

Responsible Director: Acting Director Experience and Capability

Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's authority to sign and seal the documents outlined in the recommendation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following documents are submitted for signing and sealing by the Council.

1. RECOMMENDATION

That the following documents be signed and sealed:

Community Services Lease
Council and Ajani Neighbourhood House Incorporated
Premises: Part 284-302 Thompsons Road, Templestowe Lower

Community Services Lease
Council and Warrandyte Toy Library Inc.
Premises: Part 8 Taroona Avenue, Warrandyte

Community Services Lease
Council and Zerbes Reserve Sports Club Inc.
Premises: Part Zerbes Reserve, 293 Blackburn Road, Doncaster East

Community Services Lease
Council and South Warrandyte Cricket Club Inc.
Premises: Part 64-76 Croydon Road, Warrandyte South

2. BACKGROUND

The Council's common seal must only be used on the authority of the Council or the Chief Executive Officer under delegation from the Council. An authorising Council resolution is required in relation to the documents listed in the recommendation section of this report.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Communication and Engagement

Stakeholder Groups	The other parties to the agreements
Is engagement required?	No. This information is provided in the interests of public transparency.

Where does it sit on the IAP2 spectrum?	N/A
Approach	N/A

4. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest in this matter.

14 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

There are no Chief Executive Officer reports for this month.

15 NOTICES OF MOTION

15.1 Notice of Motion by Cr Deirdre Diamante (NOM No. 1/2025)

File Number: IN25/804

Attachments: Nil

Manningham Council has actively implemented the initiatives with Recycling Victoria: A New Economy 10-year plan aimed at transforming the state's waste and resource recovery systems.

In July 2023, Council successfully launched a weekly Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) service alongside a fortnightly garbage collection that has resulted in an impressive diversion of 74% of waste from landfill demonstrating Council's commitment to recycling and reducing waste to landfill.

Further, the Manningham community has strongly embraced the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) since its introduction in November 2023 with over 18 million containers returned for recycling.

In recent discussions with Material Recovery Facilities and Glass Beneficiation Plants they don't see financial benefits through removing glass from other recyclables. Research suggests there is not a significant difference in the amount of glass recovered through co-mingled vs separate kerbside collections. Further, diversion of glass from landfill and recovery of high value recycled glass is both greater through CDS than either separated or co-mingled kerbside glass recycling.

While the Council supports glass recycling we are concerned that the mandatory purple glass bin will undermine the terrific progress and benefits of the CDS and create an additional financial impost on Manningham residents, without a discernible environmental and recycling benefit.

MOTION

That Council:

A. Expresses concerns about the financial impact the glass recycling mandate and 4th purple bin will have on our community, particularly in the context of rising cost-of-living pressures.

B. Expresses concerns about the impact the 4th purple bin will have on the Container Deposit Scheme.

C. Expresses concerns about the impact a fourth bin will have on the footprint of our streets, particularly given higher density housing, set to further increase in accordance with housing targets.

D. Urges the Victorian Government to provide alternative options to kerbside collection, for example by expanding CDS to include wine and spirit bottles instead of mandating a 4th purple bin.

E. Urges the Victorian Government to re-engage with Material Recovery Facilities and Glass Beneficiation Plants on their ability to generate strong economic value from co-mingled recyclables.

F. Calls for an updated report from Officers on the implications of the glass recycling mandate including options and costs.

G. Notes the advocacy of over 30 Councils across the state, including Manningham Council, and the recent resolution by Hume City Council in relation to the mandate.

H. Requests Officers to continue to actively participate in advocacy campaigns to seek alternatives to the glass mandate and 4th purple bin.

I. Requests Officers to engage with the community to seek their views on the glass mandate and 4th purple bin.

15.2 Notice of Motion by Cr Anna Chen (NOM No. 2/2025)

File Number: IN25/805

Attachments: Nil

As part of the Victoria's Bus Plan, the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) undertook Bus Network Reform Pilot projects across Mildura, Melbourne's North and Melbourne North-East. Consultations were undertaken from 14 September 2022 to 16 October 2022.

Common themes across all three consultations included a need for more frequent bus services, improved reliability and better connectivity to other suburbs, trains and activity centres.

It is understood the DTP has developed new network plans following this consultation, and is seeking project funding to implement the new networks.

The State Government is yet to allocate funding through its annual Victorian State Budget to implement the new networks from the Bus Network Reform Pilot projects.

The new network plans have not been shared with local Councils as this stage. However, we understand they will provide improvements in accordance with the priorities identified through consultation, being improved frequency, reliability and connectivity.

MOTION

That Council:

A. Calls for the State Government to commit funding to implement the North-East Bus Network Reform Pilot project (Pilot Project).

B. Calls for the State Government to share the new network maps from the Pilot Project with relevant Councils prior to implementation, for collaboration and feedback.

C. Authorise the Mayor to prepare a letter to be co-signed by the Mayors urging Gabrielle Williams MP, Minister for Public and Active Transport, to allocate funding in their 2026/27 State Budget to implement the Pilot Project for Melbourne's North-East.

D. The co-signed letter to be forwarded to all stakeholders seeking their support in their respective budget submissions on bus network reform.

E. Note that the Pilot Project is part of Manningham's proposed strategic advocacy priorities "Better Bus Services" for Manningham.

16 URGENT BUSINESS

17 COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND QUESTION TIME

18 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

18.1 Planning Scheme Amendment C125mann - Yarra Valley Country Club

This report contains confidential information as defined in the *Local Government Act 2020*. The relevant grounds applying are S3(1)c and h of the Act concerning land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values and confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a).

18.2 Submission - Revised Clause 57 Mid-rise Residential Standards

This report contains confidential information as defined in the *Local Government Act 2020*. The relevant ground applying is S3(1)c of the Act concerning land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values.

18.3 CEO Employment Matters

This report contains confidential information as defined in the *Local Government Act 2020*. The relevant ground applying is S3(1)f of the Act concerning personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.