

AGENDA

Council Meeting

Monday 30 March 2026

7 PM

Council Chamber

Malvern Town Hall

Corner Glenferrie Road & High Street, Malvern



City of
STONNINGTON

About this meeting

The agenda lists all the items to be considered by the Council.

Each report is written by a Council officer and outlines the purpose of the report, relevant information and a recommendation for the Council. The Council will consider the report and either accept, reject or make amendments to the recommendation. Council decisions are adopted if they receive a majority vote from the Councillors present at the meeting.

Arrangements to ensure meetings are accessible to the public

This meeting is being held at the Council Chamber, Malvern Town Hall, corner High Street and Glenferrie Road. Entry is via Glenferrie Road via the door closest to the Malvern Police Station.

The Council Chamber is located on the first floor and is accessible via stairs or an elevator. Accessible toilets are also available.

If you require translation, interpreting services or a hearing loop, please contact Council to make appropriate arrangements before the meeting.

To assist people in attendance to follow proceedings, the meeting agenda, recommendations and motions considered by the Council are displayed on screen.

Live webcasting

Council meetings are webcast live via Council's website, allowing those interested to view proceedings without needing to attend the meeting. Members of the public attending the meeting may be captured in the video and audio webcast.

A recording of the meeting is available on the Council website after the meeting (usually within 48 hours). Live captioning occurs during the meeting.

Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2020, a Councillor must declare any Conflict of Interest pursuant to Section 130 of the Act in any items on the Agenda.

At the time indicated in the agenda, a Councillor with a conflict of interest in any item on the agenda must indicate they have a conflict of interest by clearly stating

- The item for which they have a conflict of interest;
- Whether their conflict of interest is general or material; and
- The circumstances that give rise to the conflict of interest.

Immediately prior to the consideration of the item in which they have a conflict of interest, a Councillor must indicate to the meeting the existence of the conflict of interest and leave the meeting.

Behaviour at meetings

Members of the public present at the meeting must remain silent during the proceedings other than when specifically invited to address the meeting.

The Chair may remove a person from the meeting for interjecting or offensive gesture after being asked to desist, and the Chair may cause the removal of any object or material that is deemed by the Chair to be objectionable or disrespectful.

The Chair may call a break in the meeting for either a short time, or to resume another day if the behaviour at the Council table or in the gallery is significantly disrupting the Meeting.

Your cooperation would be appreciated.

Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors, Stonnington City Council

Statement of Reconciliation

The Chair will open the meeting and recite the following Statement of Reconciliation:

We acknowledge we are meeting on the Traditional Lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong peoples of the East Kulin Nations and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

We extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We acknowledge their living connection to Country, relationship with the land and all living things extending back tens of thousands of years.

Statement of Commitment

The Chair will recite the following Statement of Commitment:

We are reminded that as Councillors we are bound by our Oath of Office to undertake the duties of Councillor in the best interests of the people of the City of Stonnington and to faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in us under the Local Government Act and any other relevant Act.

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- 1 Reading of the Statement of Reconciliation**
- 2 Reading of the Statement of Commitment**
- 3 Introduction of Councillors & Executive Staff**
- 4 Apologies**
- 5 Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting**

5.1 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16 March 2026

Officer Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Stonnington City Council held on 16 March 2026 be confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

MINUTES

Council Meeting

Monday 16 March 2026

7 PM

Council Chamber

Malvern Town Hall

Corner Glenferrie Road & High Street, Malvern



City of
STONNINGTON

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Councillors Present:

Cr Melina Sehr, Mayor
Cr Samantha Choudhury, Deputy Mayor
Cr Meghan Hopper PhD
Cr Sally Davis
Cr Jami Klisaris
Cr Tom Humphries
Cr Kate Hely
Cr Jamie Bell
Cr Steve Stefanopoulos OAM

Apologies:

There were no apologies.

Council Officers Present:

Dale Dickson PSM	Chief Executive Officer
Cath Harrod	Director Planning & Community
Simon Holloway	Director Environment & Infrastructure
Daniela Mazzone	Director Organisation Capability
Julia Gallace	Chief Financial Officer
Xavier Smerdon	Executive Manager Governance & Public Affairs
Rhys Thomas	Coordinator Governance
Emily Stockdale	Senior Governance Officer
Evelyn Huang	Governance Officer
Paul Ragageles	Information Technology Support

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1 Reading of the Statement of Reconciliation

The Mayor, Cr Melina Sehr, read the Statement of Reconciliation as follows:

We acknowledge we are meeting on the Traditional Lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong peoples of the East Kulin Nations and pay our respect to their Elders past and present.

We extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We acknowledge their living connection to Country, relationship with the land and all living things extending back tens of thousands of years.

2 Reading of the Statement of Commitment

The Mayor, Cr Melina Sehr, read the Statement of Commitment as follows:

We are reminded that as Councillors we are bound by our Oath of Office to undertake the duties of Councillor in the best interests of the people of the City of Stonnington and to faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in us under the Local Government Act and any other relevant Act.

3 Introduction of Councillors & Executive Staff

The Chair introduced the Councillors and the Executive Manager Governance & Public Affairs introduced the Council Officers present.

4 Apologies

There were no apologies for this meeting.

RESOLUTION:

MOVED: Cr Sally Davis

SECONDED: Cr Meghan Hopper PhD

That Cr Jami Klisaris be granted leave of absence for the Council meeting dated 30 March 2026.

Result of the vote:

For: Cr Melina Sehr, Cr Samantha Choudhury, Cr Jamie Bell, Cr Kate Hely, Cr Meghan Hopper PhD, Cr Tom Humphries, Cr Jami Klisaris, Cr Steve Stefanopoulos OAM

Against: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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RESOLUTION:

MOVED: Cr Steve Stefanopoulos OAM

SECONDED: Cr Jami Klisaris

That Cr Samantha Choudhury be granted leave of absence for the Council meeting dated 11 May 2026.

Result of the vote:

For: Cr Melina Sehr, Cr Samantha Choudhury, Cr Jamie Bell, Cr Kate Hely, Cr Meghan Hopper PhD, Cr Tom Humphries, Cr Jami Klisaris, Cr Steve Stefanopoulos OAM

Against: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5 Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting**5.1 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23 February 2026**

RESOLUTION:

MOVED: Cr Sally Davis

SECONDED: Cr Steve Stefanopoulos OAM

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Stonnington City Council held on 23 February 2026 be confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

Result of the vote:

For: Cr Melina Sehr, Cr Samantha Choudhury, Cr Jamie Bell, Cr Kate Hely, Cr Meghan Hopper PhD, Cr Tom Humphries, Cr Jami Klisaris, Cr Steve Stefanopoulos OAM

Against: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6 Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest for this meeting.

7 Questions From the Community

In accordance with Council's Governance Rules, three submissions were received for the Council meeting held on 16 March 2026, as follows:

- Matthew Townsend – Virtual submission – Nuisance Vehicle Noise in Stonnington
- Frances Johnson – In-person submission – Item 8.4 – Stonnington Submission to Stage 2 State Government Activity Centre Program – Phase 2

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- Jessica Vaccaro – In-person submission – Hard Waste Collection and Chapel Street Safety Issues

8 Business**8.1 Market Street, South Yarra - Proposal to Install Temporary Closure During Market Days**

RESOLUTION:

MOVED: Cr Kate Hely

SECONDED: Cr Jami Klisaris

That Council:

1. ***ENDORSES the implementation of a 12-month trial of a road closure in Market Street, South Yarra, between 5-11am on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday each week, to mitigate risk associated with Prahran Market loading operations and through traffic of vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians.***
2. ***NOTES that trial will include installation of a boom gate and intercom control at the northern end of Market Street, South Yarra, line marking and signage.***
3. ***NOTES the operation of the timed road closure will be supported by Prahran Market staff on the ground to ensure authorised vehicles in the immediate precinct can enter the street to access their properties and to continue to manage vehicular movements and associated risk.***
4. ***NOTES that the accessible parking bays within the Market Street car park area will remain available to the public at all times.***
5. ***NOTES that the trial will be evaluated and reported back to Council, including before and data, to determine its success and whether to make the timed road closure permanent.***

Result of the vote:

For: Cr Melina Sehr, Cr Samantha Choudhury, Cr Jamie Bell, Cr Kate Hely, Cr Meghan Hopper PhD, Cr Tom Humphries, Cr Jami Klisaris, Cr Steve Stefanopoulos OAM

Against: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.2 Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) Lease Options: expansion investigation results

RESOLUTION:

MOVED: Cr Kate Hely

SECONDED: Cr Steve Stefanopoulos OAM

That Council:

- 1. APPROVES two (2) additional sites for consideration to host potential future Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) Retail Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) refund points at:**
 - a. Elizabeth Street Car Park, South Yarra**
 - b. Drysdale Street Car Park, Malvern**
- 2. NOTES the progress to date on the installation of a CDS RVM at Basil Street Reserve car park.**
- 3. NOTES that Malvern Town Hall car parks have been assessed and deemed unsuitable to host a CDS Reverse Vending Machine due to identified safety, operational and risk considerations.**
- 4. NOTES ongoing efforts to expand access to CDS in Stonnington, including continued exploration of suitable Council sites and the encouragement of businesses to host CDS refund points.**
- 5. NOTES the development of a letter to be sent by the CEO and Mayor to the Minister for Environment and the CDS operator (Return-It) advocating for a priority increase in machine supply to Stonnington, noting that our municipality currently has one of the fewest refund points in metropolitan Melbourne.**
- 6. NOTES that a report will be brought back to Council in 12 months' time to re-evaluate the suitability of Prahran Square for a Retail RVM.**

Result of the vote:

For: Cr Melina Sehr, Cr Samantha Choudhury, Cr Jamie Bell, Cr Kate Hely, Cr Meghan Hopper PhD, Cr Tom Humphries, Cr Jami Klisaris, Cr Steve Stefanopoulos OAM

Against: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.3 Food and garden organics (FOGO) recovery update

MOTION:

MOVED: Cr Steve Stefanopoulos OAM SECONDED: Cr Meghan Hopper PhD

That Council:

- 1. NOTES the success of Council's trial public place food waste sites to-date.**
- 2. APPROVES the conversion of the food waste drop-off trial sites into permanent locations at:**
 - a. Armadale Baptist Church, 88 Kooyong Road, Armadale**
 - b. Barry Street, opposite 13 Barry Street, South Yarra**
 - c. Claremont Street, opposite 56-58 Claremont Street, South Yarra**
 - d. Gladstone Gardens, 23 Upton Road, Windsor**
 - e. Grattan Gardens Community Centre, 40 Grattan Street, Prahran**
 - f. Phoenix Park, 30 Rob Roy Road, Malvern East**
 - g. Prahran Aquatic Centre, 41 Essex Street, Prahran**
 - h. Orrong Romanis Reserve, opposite 10 Sydney Street, Prahran**
- 3. APPROVES the expansion of the permanent food waste drop-off sites to the following locations:**
 - a. Rockley Gardens, Rockley Road, South Yarra**
 - b. Chris Gahan Reserve, Hornby Street, Windsor**
 - c. Brookville Gardens, Canterbury Road, Toorak**
 - d. Armadale Reserve Playground, Armadale Street, Armadale**
- 4. NOTES that all food waste drop-off locations will be monitored and audited, and that the locations may be relocated and/or removed in consultation with key stakeholders.**
- 5. NOTES that Council is required to provide food waste drop-off locations for households that have successfully opted out of the kerbside Food and Garden Organics collection service.**
- 6. NOTES that the continuation of the food waste drop-off sites will be funded from existing operating and capital budgets, and that future additional locations will be delivered in response to community needs.**
- 7. NOTES that a future report will be presented to Council on the waste service collection model including consideration for collection options that increase Food and Garden Organics (FOGO) diversion.**

Result of the vote:

For: Cr Melina Sehr, Cr Samantha Choudhury, Cr Jamie Bell, Cr Kate Hely, Cr Meghan Hopper PhD, Cr Tom Humphries, Cr Jami Klisaris, Cr Steve Stefanopoulos OAM

Against: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.4 Stonnington submission to Stage 2 State Government Activity Centre Program - Phase 2

MOTION:

MOVED: Cr Steve Stefanopoulos OAM SECONDED: Cr Samantha Choudhury

That Council:

- 1. ENDORSE the City of Stonnington's submission (Attachment 1) in response to the Activity Centres Program, Stage 2, Phase 2.***
- 2. AUTHORISE Council Officers to make minor changes to the submission as required.***

Result of the vote:

For: Cr Melina Sehr, Cr Samantha Choudhury, Cr Jamie Bell, Cr Kate Hely, Cr Meghan Hopper PhD, Cr Tom Humphries, Cr Jami Klisaris, Cr Steve Stefanopoulos OAM

Against: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence tabled at the meeting.

10 Tabling of Petitions and Joint Letters

Cr Sally Davis tabled a petition with 5 signatures requesting installation of a new streetlight on power pole outside 1 Childers Road Malvern.

PROCDURAL RESOLUTION:

MOVED: Cr Steve Stefanopoulos OAM SECONDED: Cr Sally Davis

That Council resolve:

- 1. That the petition/s be received and noted.***
- 2. The petition/s be referred to the appropriate Director for consideration and action.***
- 3. The first name signatory to the petition be advised of the Council action.***

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Result of the vote:

For: Cr Melina Sehr, Cr Samantha Choudhury, Cr Jamie Bell, Cr Kate Hely, Cr Meghan Hopper PhD, Cr Tom Humphries, Cr Jami Klisaris, Cr Steve Stefanopoulos OAM

Against: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11 Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion presented to the meeting.

12 Reports by Councillors[12.1 Record of Councillor Briefing Session held on 2 March 2026](#)**RESOLUTION:**

MOVED: Cr Kate Hely **SECONDED:** Cr Samantha Choudhury

That the Council resolve to RECEIVE the Record of the Councillor Briefing Session held on 16 February 2026.

Result of the vote:

For: Cr Melina Sehr, Cr Samantha Choudhury, Cr Jamie Bell, Cr Kate Hely, Cr Meghan Hopper PhD, Cr Tom Humphries, Cr Jami Klisaris, Cr Steve Stefanopoulos OAM

Against: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

[12.2 Minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee Meeting dated 27 November 2025](#)**RESOLUTION:**

MOVED: Cr Sally Davis **SECONDED:** Cr Tom Humphries

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That Council:

1. ***NOTES the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee held on 27 November 2025.***

Result of the vote:

For: Cr Melina Sehr, Cr Samantha Choudhury, Cr Jamie Bell, Cr Kate Hely, Cr Meghan Hopper PhD, Cr Tom Humphries, Cr Jami Klisaris, Cr Steve Stefanopoulos OAM

Against: Nil

CARREID UNANIMOUSLY

12.3 Audit and Risk Committee Self-Assessment Survey Findings**RESOLUTION:**

MOVED: Cr Sally Davis **SECONDED:** Cr Tom Humphries

That Council:

1. ***NOTES the results of the annual assessment of the performance of the Audit and Risk Committee against the Audit and Risk Committee Charter for the year ended 31 December 2025.***

Result of the vote:

For: Cr Melina Sehr, Cr Samantha Choudhury, Cr Jamie Bell, Cr Kate Hely, Cr Meghan Hopper PhD, Cr Tom Humphries, Cr Jami Klisaris, Cr Steve Stefanopoulos OAM

Against: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13 Questions to Council Officers

Cr Meghan Hopper PhD asked about when Council last reviewed the twice-yearly hard waste service compared to other municipalities. The Director of Environment and Infrastructure responded.

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Cr Steve Stefanopoulos OAM asked if Council has a service to ring-up and request garbage to be collected. The Director of Environment and Infrastructure responded.

Cr Steve Stefanopoulos OAM asked about the cost of the ring-up and collect service to Council. The Director of Environment and Infrastructure took the matter on notice.

Cr Sally Davis requested confirmation that the service currently offered is the preferred service by residents based on survey feedback. The Director Environment and Infrastructure responded.

14 Urgent Business

There was no urgent business tabled at the meeting.

15 General Business

Cr Melina Sehr noted that 16 March 2026 marks the 30th anniversary of the election of the first Stonnington City Council.

Cr Melina Sehr reported on her attendance at the Malvern Marlons Swim Club launch event at Harold Holt Swim Centre.

Cr Melina Sehr announced that she has been appointed to the Local Government Mayoral Advisory Panel.

16 Confidential Business

There was no confidential business tabled at the meeting.

The meeting was declared closed at 8:24pm.

Confirmed on 30 March 2026.

.....
CR MELINA SEHR, MAYOR

6 Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

7 Questions From the Community

8 Business

8.1 Digital Parking Permit Implementation

Late report to be circulated separately.

8.2 Planning Application 0574/25 - 38-40 Bruce Street, Toorak

Planning Appeals Coordinator: Edward Wilkinson

Interim Director Community, Planning & Place: Cath Harrod

Purpose of Report

For Council to consider a planning application to construct two or more dwellings on a lot and on common property, and construction of a front fence greater than 1.5m in height, at 38-40 Bruce Street, Toorak.

Abstract

Proposal

The proposal seeks to construct a four-storey apartment building containing 9 dwellings with 18 car parking spaces.

Background

By way of brief background:

- This application was received in September 2025. The application proposed construction of a four-storey apartment building. The application was advertised in November 2025 and received 20 objections.
- On 22 December 2025, the permit applicant lodged an appeal with VCAT against Council's failure to make a decision in time. Eight objector parties have joined the VCAT proceeding.
- On 16 February 2026, Council officers advised VCAT and objectors that they would have refused the application under delegation on grounds relating to: unreasonable massing and visual bulk, the excessive height of the front fence, overshadowing of 42 Bruce Street and 45 Washington Street, and overlooking and open space concerns.
- On 24 February 2026, the applicant circulated VCAT Amended Plans. These plans have addressed the previous concerns of the planning office. Officers now recommend that Council change its position to support the development based on the VCAT Amended Plans.
- The VCAT hearing is set down for four days commencing the 20th April 2026.

Officer Recommendation Summary

That Council authorise Officers to advise VCAT that Council now supports the proposal based on VCAT Amended Plans circulated on 24 February 2026. The proposal is supported for the following reasons:

- The development is consistent with policy encouraging increased housing density in suitable locations.
- The building's design and it's landscaping is appropriate with regard to existing and preferred neighbourhood character.
- External amenity impacts are acceptable.

Issues

The following are the key issues in respect of this application:

- Building height and massing (refer to Site Layout and Built Form assessment)
- Neighbourhood character (refer to Neighbourhood Character assessment)
- Amenity impacts on the adjoining properties (refer to External Amenity assessment)

Officer's response

The development is consistent with the emerging character of the area which includes 3-4 storey buildings. The proposal is consistent with policy seeking an increase in density on sites capable of accommodating it. The upper level is highly recessive, and the appearance of the built form when viewed from the street is generally three storeys. The building is highly articulated and designed to reduce the perception of visual bulk to complement its immediate surrounds. Landscaping is incorporated throughout the development including the upper levels to strengthen the landscape character.

Executive Summary

Applicant:	Bruce St Toorak SPV Pty Ltd, C/o- Shem Curry Contour Consultants Australia Pty Ltd
Ward:	Toorak
Zone:	GRZ11
Overlay:	DCPO
Neighbourhood Precinct:	Garden River
Date Lodged:	29 August 2025
Statutory Days: (as at Council Meeting date)	Not Applicable – Application currently under review at VCAT
Trigger for Referral to Council:	Seven (7) or more objections
VCAT Hearing Date	20 April 2026
Development Contributions Plan	Yes
Number of Objections:	20 (18 separate properties)
Consultative Meeting:	No
Officer Recommendation	Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit

Background

The Proposal

The plans that form part of the basis of Council's consideration were prepared by Pandolfini and are known as Drawing No.s: TP001, TP002, TP010- TP014, TP090, TP099-TP104, TP200, TP201, TP250-TP255, TP300-TP306, TP400 and TP500-TP505 and Council date stamped 24 February 2026.

Key features of the proposal are:

- 8 x 3-bedroom apartments and 1 x 2-bedroom apartment
- 2 x car parking spaces per dwelling (18 car parking spaces total) provided in private garages within a communal basement
- New single width crossover towards the western boundary of the site with the existing central crossover removed.
- Minimum front setback to the balcony of 6.165 metres.
- Maximum building height of 12.97 metres (excluding rooftop services).
- Front fence between 1.775m and 2.4m tall, setback between 1m and 3m from the front property boundary.
- Design detail includes off-white brickwork, travertine limestone and grey render, with cantilevered cement and metal screen balcony balustrades around the front façade and side walls on each level. The angle of the balcony alignment on each level alternates for articulation.

Site and Surrounds

The site is located on the south side of Bruce Street, approximately 100m west of Grange Road and 350m east of Williams Road. The site has the following significant characteristics:

- A rectangular shape with a 30.73m frontage to Bruce Street, a maximum depth of 40.23 metres and a site area of 1222.59 square metres.
- The site is currently developed with four single storey dwellings, each within its own strata lot with a common property driveway near the centre of the site, with an associated crossover servicing Bruce Street.
- A 2m high painted white brick fence on the eastern side of the site, and a 1m high white painted timber paling fence on the west.
- A slope from the rear south-west corner towards the front north-east corner, with a fall of approximately 4 metres.
- There are no significant trees on the site. Two street trees are located in front of the site, with a smaller tree near the west boundary and a larger one near the east.

The site is located within a residential area developed with a mix of dwelling typologies, including single and double storey detached dwellings with a cottage-type architectural style, featuring gable or hip roofs and white painted brick; detached single dwelling infill development typically 2-3 storeys in height of varying architectural styles but typically with a more rectilinear form and flat roofs or large parapets; older apartment buildings 3-storeys in height, usually constructed in face brick with solid, rectangular forms and flat roofs; and contemporary apartment buildings 3-4 storeys in height, particularly on Grange Road to the

east of the subject site and Washington Street at the rear. Two four storey apartment buildings are located on the west end of Bruce Street. Most properties have high, solid front fences, usually brick, between 1.8m and 2.2m in height, although some properties have lower or visually permeable front fences.

Previous Planning Application/s

There are no previous planning permit applications relevant to the subject site.

The Title

The site is made up of four lots and common property, registered on Title as:

- Common property on Registered Plan of Strata Subdivision 000934 in Volume 12104 Folio 952
- Lot 1 on Registered Plan of Strata Subdivision 000934 in Volume 08767 Folio 154
- Lot 2 on Registered Plan of Strata Subdivision 000934 in Volume 08767 Folio 155
- Lot 3 on Registered Plan of Strata Subdivision 000934 in Volume 08767 Folio 156
- Lot 4 on Registered Plan of Strata Subdivision 000934 in Volume 08767 Folio 157

No covenants or easements affect the land.

Planning Controls

The following controls/permit triggers are considerations for this application:

Zone

Clause 32.08 – General Residential Zone

Pursuant to Clause 32.08-7 a permit is required to construct two or more dwellings on a lot

Pursuant to Clause 32.08-7 a permit is required to construct a dwelling if it is on common property

Pursuant to Clause 32.08-7 a permit is required to construct a front fence within 3 metres of a street associated with two or more dwellings on a lot with a height greater than 1.5m.

Overlay

Clause 45.06 - Development Contributions Plan Overlay

Pursuant to Clause 45.06-1, a permit granted must include any conditions required to give effect to any contributions or levies imposed, conditions or requirements set out in the relevant schedule to this overlay.

Particular Provisions

Clause 52.06 - Car Parking

The site is located with Category 2. Pursuant to Clause 52.06-5, a minimum of one car parking space is required per dwelling.

The development comprises 9 dwellings which generates a statutory requirement of 9 car parking spaces. The proposal provides 18 car parking spaces, two to each dwelling in a double garage within the basement. The statutory requirement of Clause 52.06 is therefore met.

Clause 57 – Two or More Dwellings on a Lot and Residential Buildings of Four Storeys

Clause 57 applies to an application to construct two or more dwellings on a lot in a residential building of four storeys. A development must meet all of the objectives of this clause that are relevant to the application and should meet all of the standards.

Relevant Planning Policies

Clause 2.03 – Strategic Directions
Clause 11 – Settlement
Clause 15.01 – Built Environment
Clause 15.01-1L-01 – Urban Design
Clause 15.01-2L-01 – Building Design
Clause 15.02-1L-02 – Environmentally Sustainable Development
Clause 15.01-5L – Preferred Neighbourhood Character
Clause 16.01 – Residential Development
Clause 18 – Transport
Clause 19.02 – Community Infrastructure
Clause 19.03 – Development Infrastructure
Clause 19.03-3L-02 – Water Sensitive Urban Design
Clause 65 – Decision Guidelines

Advertising

The application has been advertised pursuant to Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* by sending notices to the owners and occupiers of adjoining land (and by placing 1 sign(s) on the site). The public notification of the application has been completed satisfactorily.

The site is located in Toorak Ward and objections from 18 different properties have been received

- Neighbourhood character
- Building height
- Overdevelopment
- Traffic congestion & on-street car parking
- Construction impacts
- Internal amenity of the apartments

Referrals

NOTE: Comments provided by referral departments relate to documents received during the Council permit application process, not the VCAT Amended Plans (which form the basis of this assessment). As the two sets of plans are similar with the main changes between the plans being an architectural refinement of the design and some increased setbacks, existing referral comments are still relevant and have been relied on, but some referral department comments have been addressed since they were received.

Urban Design

- Supportive of the proposal subject to the introduction of a central break in the balcony balustrade and lowering of the front fence height.

These recommendations and further changes to reduce visual bulk have been incorporated into the plans currently under consideration.

Infrastructure

- Standard permit conditions regarding legal point of discharge, drainage, stormwater runoff and footpath levels required.

Transport & Parking

- Additional traffic generated by the proposal will not impact existing traffic patterns in Bruce Street.
- Car parking design is acceptable.
- Conditions regarding garage headrooms and minimum gradients are required.

Environmentally Sustainable Design

- Conditions are required for window shading to achieve a best practice ESD outcome.
- Above bonnet bicycle parking is not acceptable
- Two secure bicycle parking spaces must be shown for visitors

Window shading and visitor bicycle parking has since been addressed on plans.

Parks

- No objection to the street tree proposed for removal and no trees on site warrant retention.
- Impacts to neighbouring trees will be acceptable.

Waste

- Acceptable subject to dual waste chutes, e-waste and hard rubbish collection.

These have since been added to plans and the waste management plan.

Key Issues and Discussion

Strategic Context

The overarching policies at both a State and Local level encourage urban consolidation in established urban areas and medium density development in and around public transport hubs. Specifically, Clause 16 of the Stonnington Planning Scheme relates to housing and encourages diversity of housing, improved housing choice, and to make better use of existing infrastructure. Council's Municipal Planning Strategy at Clause 2.03-5 (Housing) refers to the need for diverse housing types to meet the changing needs of current and future residents.

The subject site is in an area marked for incremental change, which seeks increase the density of housing and accommodate development on suitable sites. The site is serviced by public transport, being located within the Principal Public Transport Network within walking distance from tram routes on Toorak Road to the south. Furthermore, the 605 bus route between Gardenvale and the City runs along Bruce Street.

The site is suitable for medium density development, subject to an appropriate design. An increase in the density of built form and housing on the site is supported by both policy and the site's individual context, with its links to Williams and Toorak Road and nearby public transport. The development is consistent with the height limit in the zone and the emerging character of the area which includes 3 and 4 storey infill and apartment development, noting Washington Street to the rear, Grange Road to the east, and the western end of Bruce Street all contain four storey apartment buildings. The provision of new apartments, including three-bedroom apartments, will contribute to dwelling diversity in the area and responds to the preferred and emerging building character.

Site Layout and Built Form

Neighbourhood Character

Council's local neighbourhood character policy at Clause 15.01-5L sets out the preferred neighbourhood character and design guidelines on sites across Stonnington. The subject site is located within the Garden River precinct, which generally seeks to minimise visual bulk and amenity impacts from upper levels, ensure new development is consistent with the scale of the streetscape, encourages contemporary design with a high quality of building detailing, avoid high solid front fencing, and provide generous landscaping with canopy trees.

The development is respectful of the scale of the surrounding area, designed in a way that represents an incremental increase in built form. The fourth storey of the building is well recessed and almost not visible from the street and does not result in any notable or meaningful visual bulk. What little of this level that can be seen from Bruce Street will be softened by a deep planter box on the topmost terrace which provides room for generous landscaping including canopy trees. The building generally appears to be three storeys, which is a gradual increase in building height above the predominately two storey surrounds.

The building has also been designed to appropriately reduce visual bulk. The cantilevered balcony balustrades with dwelling walls recessed beneath creates shadows and depth to avoid a sheer wall built form, and the upper balustrades have a central break which creates a visual split in the building that reduces its perceived width. The balustrades adopt mixed materials with a cement lower portion and perforated metal screen upper. The cement bottom provides stability for generous landscaping, and the metal screen upper is a softer material with a degree of transparency to reduce bulk. Hanging plants are proposed over the balcony edges to further screen and soften the building. Further in response to the objectives of the neighbourhood character policy, the design is contemporary but also innovative, avoiding boxy shapes.

Landscaping has been incorporated through the development at all levels to respond to the Garden River landscape character. The front fence is setback from the front boundary at multiple points to provide room for landscaping, including small trees which will screen the building and ensure landscaping is the predominant feature on the site. Larger canopy trees are located behind the front fence and landscaping is included on each level on the balconies, designed so that it will be visible from the street with hanging plants and canopy trees. Vegetation has been included as a key design element so that the building will be set organically amongst planting, retaining the garden setting of the street.

The front fence is a similar height to other fences within the street, which are often solid and between 1.8m – 2.4m tall. The fence steps down in height as the land slopes downwards to

respond to the topography, and the fence is setback from the street in multiple parts to provide room for landscaping.

Overall, the proposed development is a site responsive design that will sit comfortably within the varied character of Bruce Street. The development balances the objectives of increasing the density of built form while considering the prevailing character and scale of the area.

Building Height

The proposed building height complies with the mandatory provisions under the General Residential Zone of 13 metres.

Street setback

Front setbacks within the street are mixed, with setbacks as low as 4.4m and as high as 10.3m. Most properties have a front setback between 5.5 metres and 7.5 metres. The adjoining properties on either side of the subject site have setbacks of 10.3m and 5.8m.

The proposed front setback of 6.615 metres is consistent with the requirements of Clause 57 and the existing character. It is noted that this setback is to the balcony and the building walls are setback further.

Side and rear setbacks

Side setbacks have been designed to comply with the requirements of the relevant standard under Clause 57. The area is not notable for large side setbacks, with most properties containing at least one wall on boundary and narrow side setbacks where they are provided for the most part, often with sheer double storey walls near side boundaries. The standard setbacks are therefore commensurate with the surrounding area at the lower levels and meet the objective for side and rear setbacks. At upper levels the standard is designed so that the setback increases considerably, which means the building steps away from the sides as it increases in height to prevent visual bulk and amenity impacts. Rear setbacks are much greater than the requirements of the standard to provide room for canopy trees and landscaping.

Amenity Impacts

Overshadowing

The standard for overshadowing varies according to the existing solar access. For properties to the rear in Washington Street, the requirement is that at least 25 square metres of sunlight be provided for at least 5 hours per day between 9am and 3pm on the equinox. Shadow diagrams provided with the plans show this has been met for those properties.

For 36 and 42 Bruce Street, the standard is that no additional shadows be cast between 9am and 3pm on the equinox. This has been achieved for 42 Bruce Street through greater setbacks at the south-east corner of the building, as this property already receives very little sunlight. Additional overshadowing to this property would be significant and therefore shadows have been avoided. There is no additional impact to this property between 9am and 3pm on the equinox.

The development causes some new overshadowing to 36 Bruce Street at 9am, but the total extent of overshadowing is not significant when considering the total amount of solar access received and the amenity and usability of the space. A table below outlines the approximate

solar access to 36 Bruce Street, noting that any areas less than 1m in dimension have been excluded to consider functionality.

Time of day	Existing sunlight (sqm)	Proposed sunlight (sqm)
9am	35	19
10am	43	43
11am	57	57
12pm	60	60
1pm	53.5	53.5
2pm	45.5	45.5
3pm	41	41

While there is a moderate reduction in solar access at 9am, the amount of sunlight throughout the remainder of the day is over 40 square metres. The solar access is well over the typical required minimum of 25 square metres, and for all hours after 10am over half of the area with solar access is at least 3m wide, which is large enough for recreation. While there is some overshadowing to this property, it is not significant as the property receives ample sunlight throughout the rest of the day.

Overlooking

Under overlooking requirements, overlooking is not considered from a non-habitable room or a bedroom. Only balconies and rooms such as living areas, kitchens and studies must be screened.

The applicant has provided numerous overlooking diagrams demonstrating that overlooking has been limited in accordance with the requirements of Clause 57. A combination of deep planter boxes that limit downward views into adjoining properties, screens, obscure glazing, and boundary fences ensure compliance with the standard. At the south-west corner of the building on the first floor, the balcony and study room window are not screened but due to topography this level is essentially at ground level, with the ground floor actually being below ground. Overlooking diagrams show the boundary fences will limit overlooking at the first floor.

Other

All other external amenity impact requirements have been met. The buildings are setback from the side boundaries to comply with requirements to provide adequate daylight to existing windows, and there are no north-facing windows on adjoining lots near the boundary of the subject site.

Internal Amenity

Open Space

Each dwelling is provided with both ground floor courtyards and roof terraces in exceedance of the requirements of the standard except Apartment G03, which is 1sqm smaller than the minimum required 25 square metres which is at least 3m wide. However, this apartment has additional terraces from each bedroom and the main courtyard space has a 1.7m wide area on the south of the building which provide additional amenity. The ground floor courtyards to

each townhouse are also provided with convenient access from a living room. Car Parking and Traffic

Other

All other internal amenity requirements are acceptable, with the main points summarised below.

- All bedroom and living spaces meet the minimum required dimensions.
- All dwellings have been provided with storage in excess of the minimum requirements, which is all internal with no reliance on cages within the basement.
- Shared corridors within the building do not have access to light or ventilation, but given the small size of the corridors and limited number of apartments being serviced, this is acceptable.
- The front entry canopy is marginally below the required 1.2m depth, but the proposed 900mm depth is large enough to provide shelter. As the canopy is the balcony of the level above, a larger canopy would reduce the front setback.
- Secluded private open spaces are oriented to the north where possible to receive sunlight, with no reliance on spaces south of the building.

Traffic

The proposal meets the statutory car parking requirement of 9 spaces, being one for each dwelling. There is no requirement for the development to provide visitor parking for this proposal. 18 spaces are proposed, being two per dwelling.

Council's Transport & Parking Department have reviewed the provision of parking, layout and access arrangement and are generally supportive of the proposal. Traffic generation from of five additional dwellings on the lot is also considered reasonable. It is noted that draft permit conditions would be provided to VCAT to clarify minor details regarding car parking design and access.

Sustainable Design Assessment

The applicant has submitted a Sustainable Design Assessment (SDA) has been submitted in support of the application. The report includes a BESS assessment which indicates the development achieves an overall score of 58%, comprising integrated water management score of 78%, energy use score of 58%, and IEQ of 90%. All key sustainability measures committed to have been indicated on the plans with the exception of eaves to north-facing habitable room windows, and the provision of above-bonnet bicycle parking spaces is not acceptable due to difficulty of access. Shading is also required to east facing windows to achieve best practice in accordance with Clause 15.02-1L-02. These can be addressed by permit condition.

Objections

- On-street car parking

The application was referred to Council's Transport Department who did not raise concerns the development would exceed the capacity of the on-street car parking supply. More spaces than required have been provided for residents.

- Construction impacts

Construction impacts are outside the scope of considerations in the planning scheme and are an inevitable part of any buildings and work, regardless of whether a permit is required.

Development Contributions Plan Levy

The Development Contributions Plan (DCP) imposes a development infrastructure levy and community infrastructure levy to fund a range of social and physical infrastructure throughout the municipality. The DCP applies to all new development within the nine Charge Areas unless a specific exemption applies. The site is in the Toorak charge area. A condition on the permit will require the payment of the DCP levy. The DCP levy should be calculated based on the below demand units:

No of Dwellings		Retail Floorspace (sqm)		Commercial Floorspace (sqm)		Industrial Floorspace (sqm)	
Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed
4	9	0 sqm	0 sqm	0 sqm	0 sqm	0 sqm	0 sqm
Increase total: 5		NA		NA		NA	

Governance Compliance

Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

No Council Officer and/or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Decision Making Connection Disclosure

The Tim Biles Project was paid by Council during this process to provide urban design comments.

External parties who may benefit from this decision include the applicant and company director/s as follows:

Applicant:	Bruce St Toorak SPV Pty Ltd, C/o- Shem Curry Contour Consultants Australia Pty Ltd
Company Directors:	Stuart Richard Kacir Timothy Hamilton Campbell

Human Rights Consideration

This application has been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* which has been reviewed by the State Government and complies with the *Charter of Human Rights & Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Attachments

- 0574/25 - 38-40 Bruce Street, Toorak [8.2.1 - 38 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council AUTHORISE Officers to advise VCAT that Council now supports the proposal based on VCAT Amended Plans circulated on 24 February 2026 and

recommend to Grant a Planning Permit No: 574/25 for the land at 38-40 Bruce Street, Toorak be issued under the Stonnington Planning Scheme.

The permit will allow the following that is subject to review at VCAT:

Planning Scheme Clause	Matter for which the permit will be granted
32.08-7	Construct two or more dwellings on a lot in a General Residential Zone
32.08-7	Construct a dwelling on common property
32.08-7	Construct a front fence associated with two or more dwellings on a lot greater than 1.5m high in

This permit will be subject to the following conditions:

Amended Plans

1. ***Before the commencement of the development, one (1) copy of plans drawn to scale and fully dimensioned, must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. The plans must be generally in accordance with the VCAT Amended Plans (Drawing No.s: TP001, TP002, TP010- TP014, TP090, TP099-TP104, TP200, TP201, TP250-TP255, TP300-TP306, TP400 and TP500-TP505, revision C dated 24-02-26, prepared by Pandolfini.) but modified to show the following changes all to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority:***
 - a) ***Removal of above-bonnet bicycle parking and replacement with more accessible locations.***
 - b) ***Minimum clearance under garage doors and headroom within garages of 2.1m.***

Layout not to be altered

2. ***The layout of the site and the size, levels, design and location of buildings and works shown on the endorsed plans must not be modified for any reason, without the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority.***

Landscaping

3. ***Prior to the endorsement of plans pursuant to Condition 1 (or commencement of the development), a landscape plan to be prepared by a landscape architect or suitably qualified or experienced landscape designer, must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. When approved, the landscape plan will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The landscape plan must be drawn to scale with dimensions. The landscape plan must be in accordance with the landscape concept plan prepared by John Patrick Landscape Architects, referenced as Drawing No. TP00, Rev. B dated 15 October 2025, but modified to show:***
 - a) ***A survey (including botanical names) of all existing vegetation to be retained and/or removed.***

- b) Buildings and trees (including botanical names) on neighbouring properties within three metres of the boundary.**
 - c) A notation stating that the proposed planting scheme is 'water efficient', per BESS Credit 3.1 – Water Efficient Landscaping, or a notation on the plans confirming that the landscape irrigation system is to be connected to the rainwater tank and that no potable water is to be used for irrigation; and**
 - d) Details of the irrigation system and maintenance schedule.**
 - e) Any design changes required by Condition 1 of this permit.**
- 4. Prior to the endorsement of plans pursuant to Condition 1, a landscape planter-box maintenance plan prepared by a suitably qualified person must be submitted to satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. When approved, the landscape planter-box maintenance plan will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plan must address:**
 - a) Ongoing maintenance obligations for all above ground planters;**
 - b) The growing medium to be used within the planters, which must be suitable for raised planters and mineral based;**
 - c) The provision of drip irrigation to all planter boxes;**
 - d) Periodic servicing and maintenance of irrigation equipment; and**
 - e) The periodic replacement of any dead or diseased plants**
- 5. Before the occupation of the development, the landscaping works as shown on the endorsed plans must be carried out and completed to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. Landscaping must then be maintained to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority, including that any dead, diseased or damaged plants are to be replaced.**

Sustainable Design

- 6. Prior to the endorsement of plans pursuant to Condition 1, a Sustainable Design Assessment (SDA) must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. When approved, the SDA will be endorsed and will form part of the permit. The SDA must be generally in accordance with the SDA prepared by Low Impact Development Consulting, Version 2.0 dated 9 October 2025, and Council date stamped 17 October 2025, but be modified to show / include:**
 - a) Any changes required by Condition 1 of this permit.**

All proposed sustainable design initiatives must be shown or notated on the Condition 1 plans. Any amendments to the SDA must be incorporated on the Condition 1 plans. No alterations to the SDA may occur without the written consent of the Responsible Authority.
- 7. Prior to the endorsement of plans pursuant to Condition 1, a Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) Response must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. When approved the WSUD Response will be endorsed**

and will form part of the permit. The WSUD Response must include, but is not limited to, the following:

- a) Any changes required by Condition 1 of this permit.*
- 8. All proposed treatments included within the Water Sensitive Urban Design Response must be indicated on the plans.*
- 9. The development must incorporate the Sustainable Design Initiatives detailed in the endorsed plans and Sustainability Design Assessment to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.*

Tree Protection

- 10. Prior to the endorsement of plans pursuant to Condition 1 a Tree Protection Specification (TPS) and Tree Protection Plan (TPP) prepared by a suitably qualified arborist must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. When approved, the TPS and TPP will form part of this permit and all works must be undertaken in accordance with the TPS and TPP (AS 4970-2025).*

The TPS and TPP must be based on the Development Impact Assessment prepared by Arbor Survey, Council date stamped 29 August 2025 and detail measures to protect and ensure the viability of the retained street trees and trees on adjoining properties within 5m of site boundaries. Among other things, the Tree Protection Specifications and Tree Protection Plan must include the following information:

- a) Pre-construction (including demolition) – details to include a tree protection zone, height barrier around the tree protection zone, amount and type of mulch to be placed above the tree protection zone and method of cutting any roots or branches which extend beyond the tree protection zone. A plan must be submitted detailing any tree protection fencing, where the fencing is clearly identified and dimensioned.*
- b) During-construction – details to include watering regime during construction and method of protection of exposed roots.*
- c) Post-construction – details to include watering regime and time of final inspection when barrier can be removed and protection works and regime can cease.*

Pre-construction works and any root pruning must be inspected and approved by the project arborist (unless the tree is a street tree, in which case approval will be by the Responsible Authority's Parks Unit). Removal of protection works and cessation of the Tree Protection Specifications and Tree Protection Plan must be authorised by the project arborist (or Responsible Authority's Parks Unit).

- 11. Prior to the endorsement of plans pursuant to Condition 1 or prior to the commencement of any works at the site (including demolition and excavation whether or not a planning permit is required), whichever occurs sooner, a letter of engagement must be provided to the Responsible Authority from the project arborist selected to oversee all relevant tree protection works. The project*

arborist must be an appropriately experienced and qualified professional (minimum AQF level 5 - Diploma of Arboriculture or equivalent).

- 12. The project arborist must maintain a log book detailing all site visits. The log book must be made available to the Responsible Authority within 24 hours of any request.***
- 13. Prior to the commencement of any works at the site (including demolition and excavation whether or not a planning permit is required), the project arborist must advise the Responsible Authority in writing that the Tree Protection Fences have been installed to their satisfaction.***
- 14. Prior to the endorsement of plans pursuant to Condition 1, a Waste Management Plan must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. When approved, the Waste Management Plan will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The Waste Management Plan must be generally in accordance with the Waste Management Plan prepared by Traffix Group, Version C, dated 28 August 2025, Council date stamped 29 August 2025 but modified to show:***
 - a) Any changes required by Condition 1 of this permit.***

Waste collection from the development must be in accordance with the Waste Management Plan, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Car Parking and Vehicle Access

- 15. Prior to occupation of the building or commencement of the use, any existing vehicular crossing made redundant by the building and works hereby permitted must be broken out and re-instated as standard footpath and kerb and channel at the owner/developer's cost to the approval and satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.***
- 16. The level of the footpaths and/or laneways must not be lowered or altered in any way to facilitate access to the site.***
- 17. The crossover must be constructed to Council's Standard Vehicle Crossover Guidelines unless otherwise approved by the Responsible Authority. Separate consent for crossovers is required from Council's Building and Local Law Unit.***

Drainage

- 18. Prior to a building permit being issued, a report for the legal point of discharge must be obtained from Council and a drainage design for the development must be prepared by a Registered Professional Civil Engineer (VIC) in accordance with all 'recommendations' and requirements contained in that report. All drainage must be by means of a gravity-based system and not pumped, with the exception of runoff from any basement ramp and agricultural drains which may be pumped. The relevant building surveyor must check and approve the drainage design and ensure that protection of the building is provided from a 1 in 100 A.R.I. rainfall event as required by the Building Regulations. (Please do not state drainage design to satisfaction of Council, that is the responsibility of the relevant building surveyor to check and approve in accordance with the report and 'recommendations' for the legal point of discharge).***

19. *The drainage and associated agricultural drains for the basement must be isolated and protected from any surcharge from the Council drainage that is likely to occur on a frequent basis. It must be pumped to a surcharge pit within the frontage of the property and discharged by gravity (not pumped) from that pit to the Council drainage.*
20. *Prior to an 'Occupancy Permit' being issued, a Registered Professional Civil Engineer (VIC), must carry out a detailed inspection of the completed stormwater drainage system and associated works including all water storage tanks and detention (if applicable) to ensure that all works have been constructed in accordance with the approved design and the relevant planning permit conditions. Certification of the completed drainage from the Engineer must be provided to Council prior to a 'Statement of Compliance' being issued for the subdivision.*
21. *There will be significant additional stormwater runoff generated by the development and there are known drainage problems and flooding downstream of the property. The owner must at their cost provide a stormwater detention system to restrict runoff from the development to no greater than the existing runoff based on a 1 in 10 A.R.I. to the satisfaction of Council's Infrastructure Unit. Alternatively, in lieu of the stand-alone detention system, the owner may provide stormwater tanks that are in total 4,000 litres greater than those tanks required to satisfy WSUD requirements for the development. Those tanks must be connected to all toilets.*

Site Services

22. *Any new apartment development allowed by this permit must not be connected to a reticulated gas service (within the meaning of clause 53.03 of the relevant planning scheme). This condition continues to have force and effect after the development authorised by this permit has been completed.*
23. *All utility services to the subject land and buildings approved as part of this permit must be provided underground to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority by completion of the development.*
24. *Any poles, service pits or other structures/features on the footpath required to be relocated to facilitate the development must be done so at the cost of the applicant and subject to the relevant authority's consent.*

Development Contributions

25. *Prior to the issue of a building permit, a Development Infrastructure Levy must be paid to Stonnington City Council pursuant to Schedule 1 to the Development Contributions Plan Overlay of the Stonnington Planning Scheme and the approved Stonnington Municipal-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2020-2040), January 2023. The levy amount payable will be annually adjusted on 1 August each year in accordance with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and calculated at the time of payment.*
26. *Prior to the issue of a building permit, a Community Infrastructure Levy must be paid to Stonnington City Council pursuant to Schedule 1 to the Development*

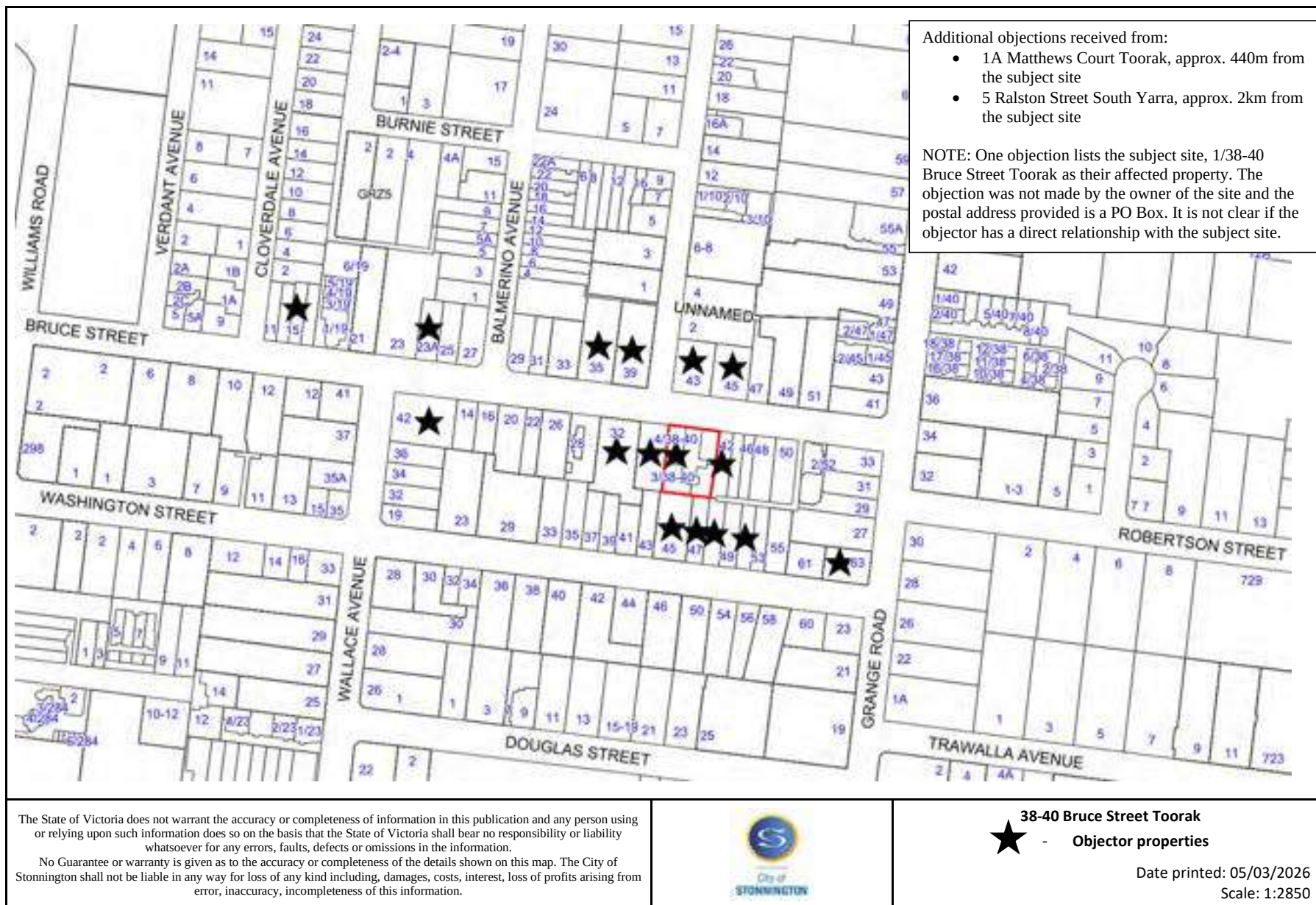
Contributions Plan Overlay of the Stonnington Planning Scheme and the approved Stonnington Municipal-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2020-2040), January 2023. The levy amount payable will be annually adjusted on 1 August each year in accordance with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and calculated at the time of payment.

Permit Expiry

27. This permit will expire if one of the following circumstances applies:

- a) The development is not started within three years of the date of this permit.**
- b) The development is not completed within five years of the date of this permit.**

In accordance with Section 69 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, a request may be submitted to the Responsible Authority within the prescribed timeframes for an extension of the periods referred to in this condition.



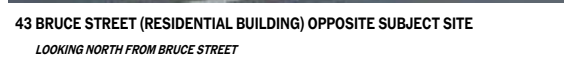
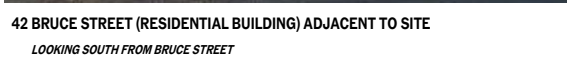
PA. 38-40 BRUCE ST TOORAK

OMITTED

DRAWING SCHEDULE

TP 000	COVER SHEET	C
TP 001	AERIAL PHOTO - CONTEXT PLAN	A
TP 002	EXISTING SITE PHOTOS	A
TP 009	SITE PLAN - EXISTING CONDITIONS	C
TP 011	SITE PLAN - PROPOSED CONDITIONS	C
TP 012	STREET ELEVATION - EXISTING CONDITIONS	B
TP 013	STREET ELEVATION - PROPOSED CONDITIONS	B
TP 014	STREET ELEVATION - BROOK FENCE	C
TP 008	EXISTING SECTION PLAN	C
TP 099	PROPOSED BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN	C
TP 100	PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR PLAN	D
TP 101	PROPOSED LEVEL 1 FLOOR PLAN	C
TP 102	PROPOSED LEVEL 2 FLOOR PLAN	C
TP 103	PROPOSED LEVEL 3 FLOOR PLAN	C
TP 104	PROPOSED ROOF PLAN	C
TP 200	ELEVATION - WEST & EAST	C
TP 201	ELEVATION - NORTH & SOUTH	C
TP 250	PROPOSED SECTIONS - SHEET 1	C
TP 251	PROPOSED SECTIONS - SHEET 2	C
TP 252	PROPOSED SECTIONS - SHEET 3	C
TP 253	PROPOSED SECTIONS - SHEET 4	C
TP 254	PROPOSED SECTIONS - SHEET 5	B
TP 255	DRIVEWAY RAMP	C
TP 300	SHADOW DIAGRAMS - 9AM	C
TP 301	SHADOW DIAGRAMS - 10AM	C
TP 302	SHADOW DIAGRAMS - 11AM	C
TP 303	SHADOW DIAGRAMS - 12PM	C
TP 304	SHADOW DIAGRAMS - 1PM	C
TP 305	SHADOW DIAGRAMS - 2PM	C
TP 306	SHADOW DIAGRAMS - 3PM	C
TP 400	MATERIAL SCHEDULE	C
TP 500	APARTMENT COMPLIANCE PLAN - SHEET 1	C
TP 501	APARTMENT COMPLIANCE PLAN - SHEET 2	C
TP 502	APARTMENT COMPLIANCE PLAN - SHEET 3	C
TP 503	APARTMENT COMPLIANCE PLAN - SHEET 4	C
TP 504	APARTMENT COMPLIANCE PLAN - SHEET 5	C
TP 600	PERSPECTIVE VIEWS	B

24.02.26	1 st	VECT READING
15.03.26	2 nd	TOWN PLANNING - RPT #1
27.08.25	3 rd	TOWN PLANNING ISSUE
0001	001	COVER SHEET
COVER SHEET		
CARPE GROUP		
38-40 BRUCE STREET		
TOORAK VIC 3142		
TOWN PLANNING ISSUE		
COVER SHEET		
TP 000		
APPROVED		
PANDOLFINI		



EXIST SITE PLAN 24 02 2025 page 14 of 17





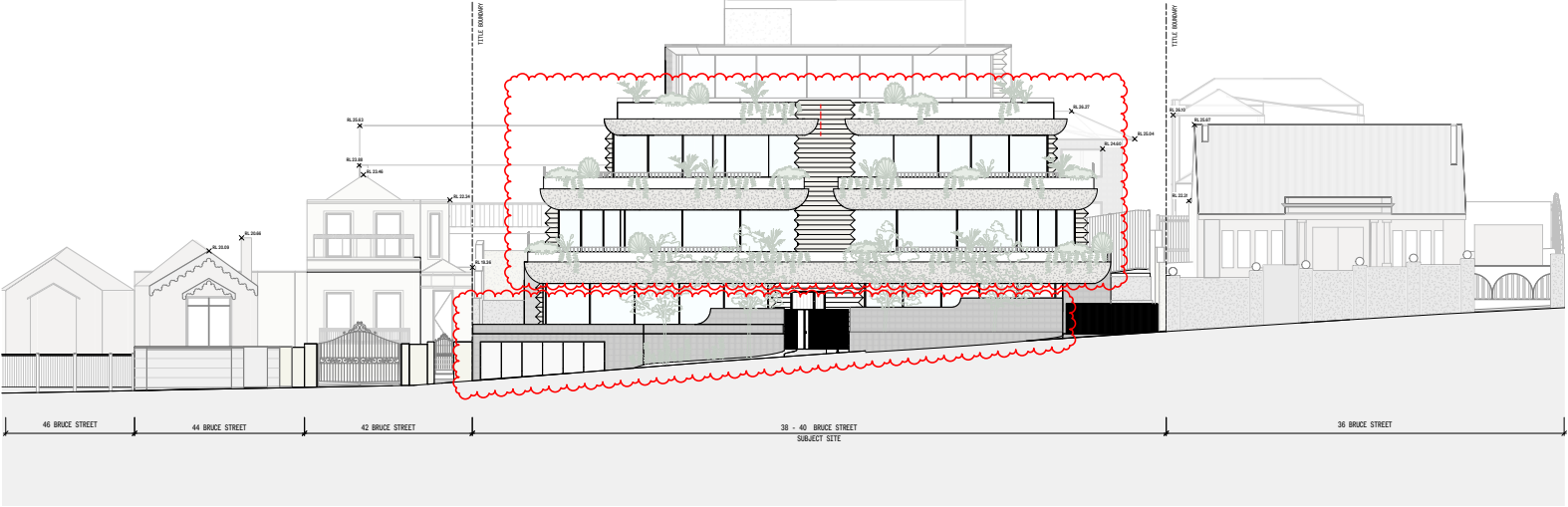
[illegible]

260 Clarendon Street, South Melbourne
VIC 3206 Australia
ieffo@pandulfini.com.au

ABN 77 600 572 165

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25/07/2025 14:00:00 Page 17 of 17

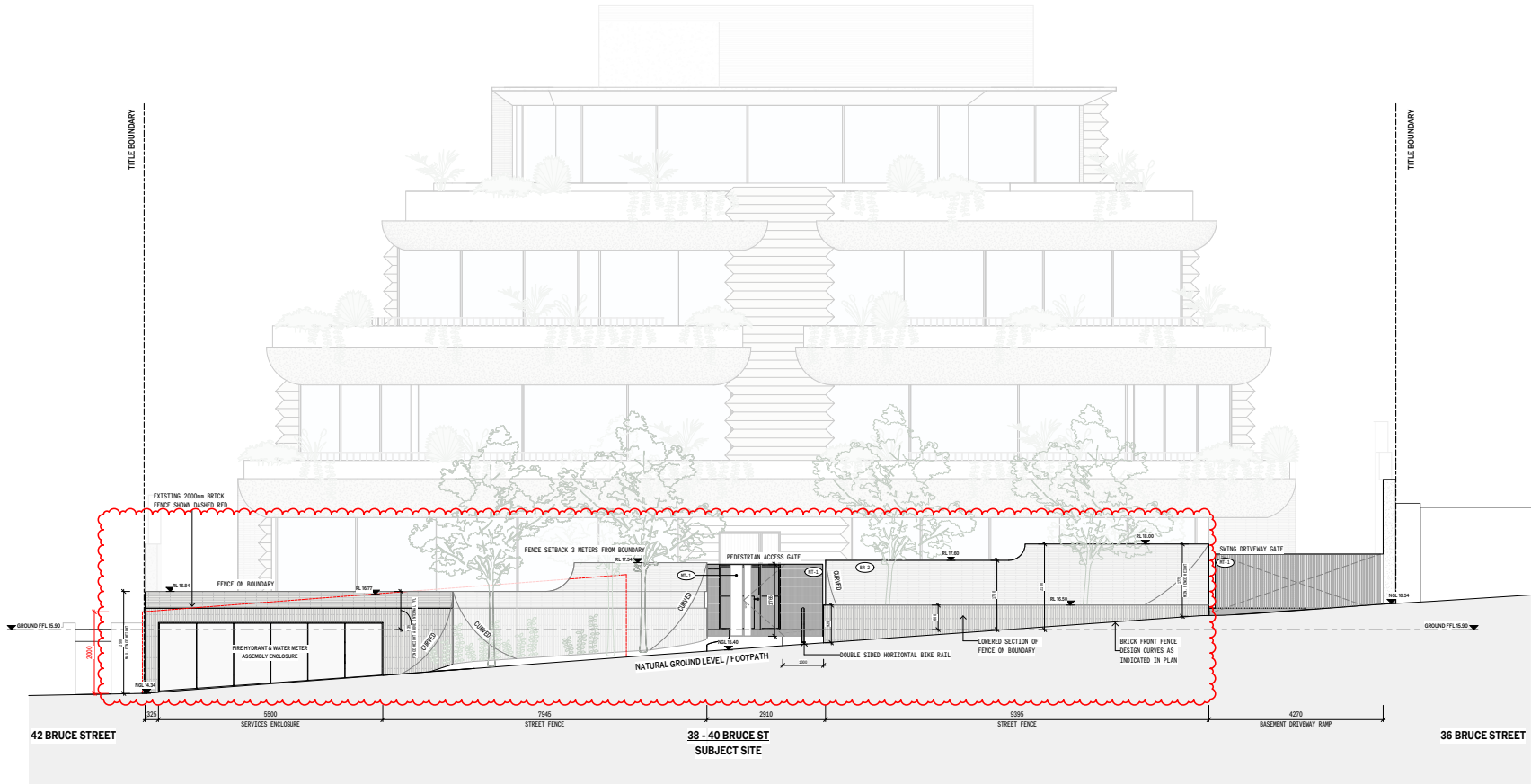


PROPOSED BRUCE STREET ELEVATION
1:100 @ A1

24.02.20	6	VCAT HEARING
27.08.25	A	TOWN PLANNING ISSUE
0001		CONTRACT
CARPE GROUP		
38-40 BRUCE STREET		
TOORAK VIC 3042		
TOWN PLANNING ISSUE		
STREET ELEVATION - PROPOSED CONDITIONS		
24/01/2026	1:100 @ A1	REVISED
TP 013		

100 Cleveland Street, South Melbourne
VIC 3205 Australia
info@pandolfini.com.au
03 9594 4000
Fax: 03 959 5100

PANDOLFINI



24.02.20	1	VEGETATION
15.03.20	2	TOWN PLANNING - BP1/01
27.08.25	3	TOWN PLANNING ISSUE
03.01.26	4	CONCEPT

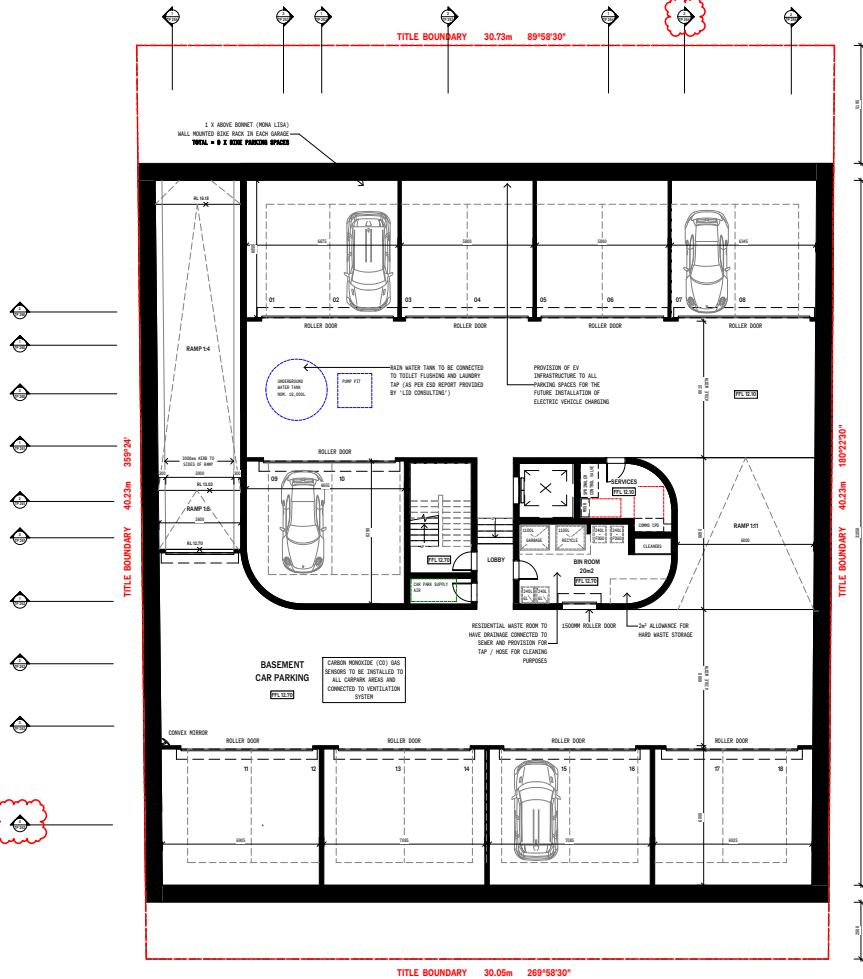
38-40 BRUCE STREET	24/04/2025
YODAK NC 242	AS NOTICED

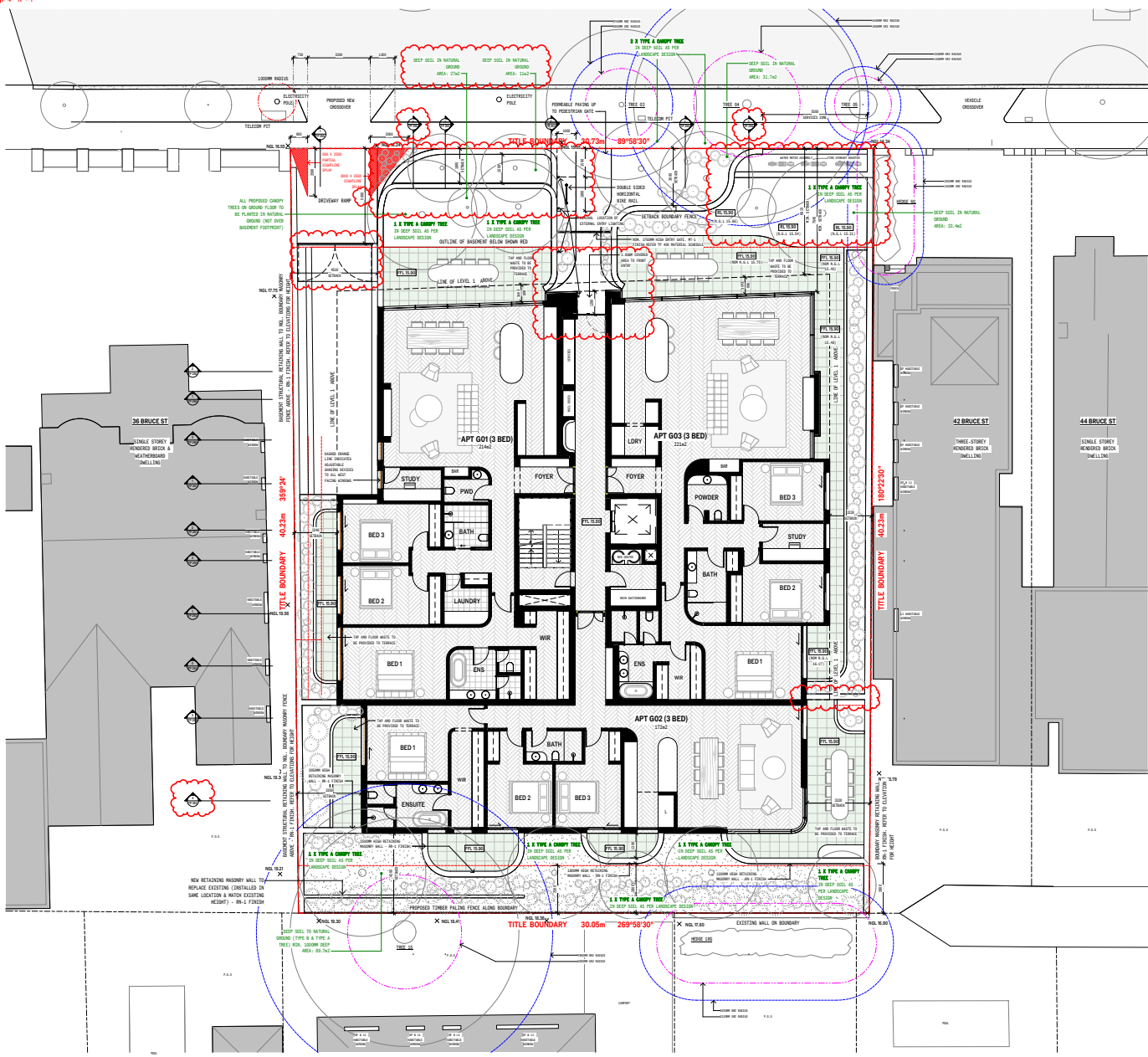
TP 014	24/04/2025
AS NOTICED	AS NOTICED

PANDOLFINI



10/01/2026 10:00 AM 10/01/2026 10:00 AM





DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY		
SITE AREA	84	3 BED APARTMENTS
2200m ²	14	2 BED APARTMENT

PROPOSED SITE AREA SCHEDULE		
PROPOSED	REQUIRED	PROVIDED
SITE COVERAGE: 60% (max 770m ²)	60% (770m ²)	60% (770m ²)
GARDEN AREA: 30% (max 1027m ²)	30% (1027m ²)	30% (1027m ²)
PERMEABILITY: 20% (max 676m ²)	20% (676m ²)	20% (676m ²)
BASINETS: 75% (max 2551m ²)	75% (2551m ²)	75% (2551m ²)

- ESD NOTES**
- APARTMENTS TO BE ALL ELECTRIC HEATING/COOLING SYSTEMS WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE ELECTRIC SYSTEMS. HWS WILL BE FROM HEAT PUMP STORAGE UNITS. COOLING WILL BE FROM ELECTRIC REDUCED/NO.
 - DWELLINGS WITHIN THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT WILL MEET 60/20/20 STAR RATED PERFORMANCE. STANDING FLOOR LEVELS RELEVANT HEATING AND COOLING LOAD LIMITS.
 - CAR PARK VENTILATION WILL BE DESIGNED TO BEST PRACTICE EXISTING EFFICIENCY WITH THE EXISTING FANS. INSTALLED WITH CO₂ SENSORS WHICH CONTROL THE SPEED AND OPERATION OF VENTILATION FANS.
 - THE MAXIMUM ILLUMINATION POWER DENSITY IN AT LEAST 50% OF THE AREA OF THE RELEVANT BUILDING CLASS SHALL MEET THE REQUIREMENTS IN 2023 OF THE NCC 2022 VOL. 1.
 - COMMON, EXTERNAL, SERVICE AREAS LIGHTING WILL BE CONTROLLED USING MOTION SENSORS AND/OR DAYLIGHT SENSORS.
 - LOW VOC PAINTS, ADHESIVES, SEALANTS & CARPETS AND LOW FORMALDEHYDE PRODUCTS TO BE USED. (REFER TO ESD REPORT FOR LIMITS)
 - WATER EFFICIENT FITTINGS TO BE INSTALLED TO ALL APARTMENTS. MINIMUM WELS STAR REQUIREMENTS AS PER ESD REPORT.
 - RAINWATER HARVESTING AND REUSE SYSTEM TO BE UTILISED. RAINWATER TANK TO BE CONNECTED TO TOILETS AND LAUNDRY (REFER WELS REPORT FOR DETAILS).
 - WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPING TO BE INCORPORATED IN GARDEN AREAS.
 - BICYCLE PARKING FOR EACH DWELLING IS PROVIDED WITHIN EACH PRIVATE GARDEN.
 - FACILITIES IN PLACE FOR FIRE SPRINKLER TESTING WATER TO DRAIN TOWARDS STORAGE TANK FOR RE-USE (REFER FIRE ENG OR HWY).
 - ALL APARTMENTS TO HAVE ACCESS TO FOUR-BED SYSTEM INCLUDING GENERAL WASTE, RECYCLING AND ORGANIC/GARDEN WASTE, GROSS WASTE.
 - INDIVIDUAL METERS ON GAS METERS PROVIDED FOR ALL DWELLINGS, COMMON AREAS TO HAVE SUB-METERS.
- *PLANS ARE TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ENDORSED ESD REPORT AND ALL MATERIALS CONTAINED WITHIN MUST BE IMPLEMENTED TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE RELEVANT AUTHORITY.

LANDSCAPING		
REQUIRED	PROVIDED	
CANOPY COVER	20% (max 676m ²)	20% (676m ²)

24.02.26	1	VEAT HEARING
15.11.25	1	TOWN PLANNING - BP#2
15.11.25	1	TOWN PLANNING - BP#1
27.08.25	1	TOWN PLANNING ISSUE
2025		

CARPE GROUP

38-40 BRUCE STREET
TOWNSHIP MC 242

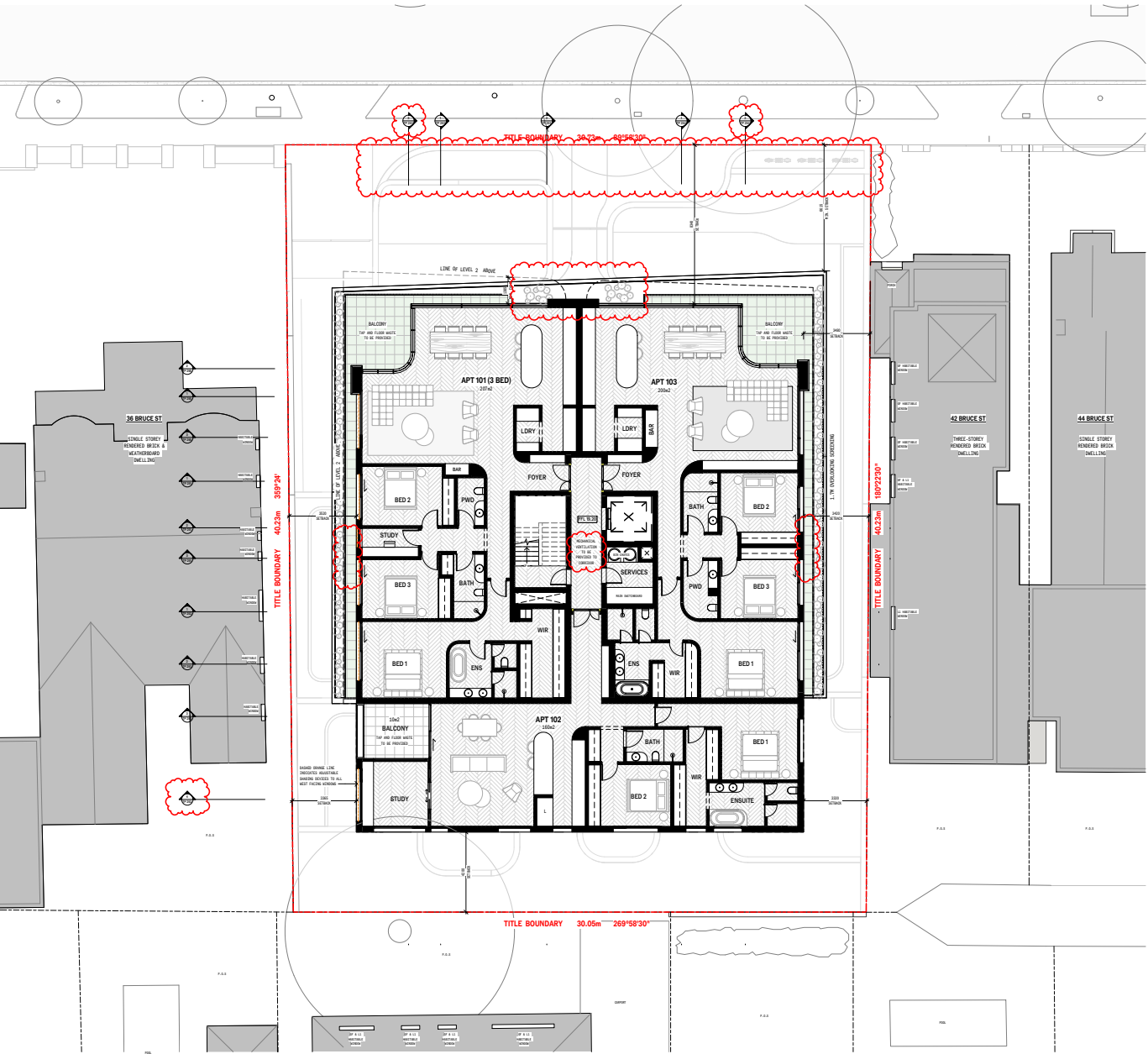
TOWN PLANNING ISSUE

PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR PLAN		
PROPOSED	REQUIRED	PROVIDED
TP 100	24-000/2025	24-000/2025

38-40 BRUCE STREET
TOWNSHIP MC 242

38-40 BRUCE STREET
TOWNSHIP MC 242

38-40 BRUCE STREET
TOWNSHIP MC 242



DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY		
SITE AREA	8+	3 BED APARTMENTS
2200m ²	1+	2 BED APARTMENT

PROPOSED SITE AREA SCHEDULE		
PROPOSED	PROPOSED	PROPOSED
SITE COVERAGE: 60% max (750m ²)	60% (750m ²)	60% (750m ²)
GARDEN AREA: 30% min (375m ²)	30% (375m ²)	30% (375m ²)
PERMEABILITY: 20% min (250m ²)	20% (250m ²)	20% (250m ²)
BASEMENT: 70% min (875m ²)	70% (875m ²)	70% (875m ²)

- ESD NOTES**
- APARTMENTS TO BE ALL-ELECTRIC HEATING/COOLING SYSTEM WILL BE REQUIRED CYCLE ELECTRIC SYSTEMS. HWS WILL BE FROM HEAT PUMP STORAGE UNITS. COOLING WILL BE FROM ELECTRIC REDUCTION.
 - DWELLINGS WITHIN THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT WILL MEET VIC2022 7-STAR BUILDERS PERFORMANCE STANDARDS, INCLUDING RELEVANT HEATING AND COOLING LOAD LIMITS.
 - CAR PARK VENTILATION WILL BE DESIGNED TO BEST PRACTICE ENERGY EFFICIENCY WITH THE EXHAUST FANS INSTALLED WITH CO₂ SENSORS WHICH CONTROL THE SPEED AND OPERATION OF VENTILATION FANS.
 - THE MAXIMUM ILLUMINATION POWER DENSITY IN AT LEAST 50% OF THE AREA OF THE RELEVANT BUILDING CLASS SHALL MEET THE REQUIREMENTS IN 2023 OF THE NCC 2022 VOL. 1.
 - COMMON, EXTERNAL, SERVICE AREAS LIGHTING WILL BE CONTROLLED USING MOTION SENSORS AND/OR DAYLIGHT SENSORS.
 - LOW VOC PAINTS, ADHESIVES, SEALANTS & CARPETS AND LOW FORMALDEHYDE PRODUCTS TO BE USED. (REFER TO ESD REPORT FOR LIMITS)
 - WATER EFFICIENT FITTINGS TO BE INSTALLED TO ALL APARTMENTS. MINIMUM WELS STAR REQUIREMENTS AS PER ESD REPORT.
 - RAINWATER HARVESTING AND REUSE SYSTEM TO BE UTILISED. RAINWATER TANK TO BE CONNECTED TO TOILETS AND LAUNDRY (REFER WELS REPORT FOR DETAILS).
 - WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPING TO BE INCORPORATED IN GARDEN AREAS.
 - RECYCLE PANNING FOR EACH DWELLING IS PROVIDED WITHIN EACH PRIVATE GARDEN.
 - FACILITIES IN PLACE FOR THE SPRINKLER TESTING WATER TO DRAIN TOWARDS STORAGE TANK FOR RE-USE (REFER WELS REPORT FOR DETAILS).
 - ALL APARTMENTS TO HAVE ACCESS TO FOUR-BIN SYSTEM INCLUDING GENERAL WASTE, RECYCLING AND ORGANIC/GARDEN WASTE, GLASS WASTE.
 - INDIVIDUAL METERS ON GAS METER PROVIDED FOR ALL DWELLINGS, COMMON AREAS TO HAVE SUB-METERS.
 - PLANS ARE TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ENDORSED ESD REPORT AND ALL MATERIALS CONTAINED WITHIN MUST BE IMPLEMENTED TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE RELEVANT AUTHORITY.

LANDSCAPING		
REQUIRED	PROVIDED	
CANOPY COVER	24.4 M ²	23.8 M ²
	(50% OF SITE AREA ABOVE 1000mm)	(50/50%)

24.02.26	12	VEGETATION
15.03.26	8	TOWN PLANNING - BP#1
27.08.25	8	TOWN PLANNING ISSUE
2025		CONTRACT

CAIPE GROUP

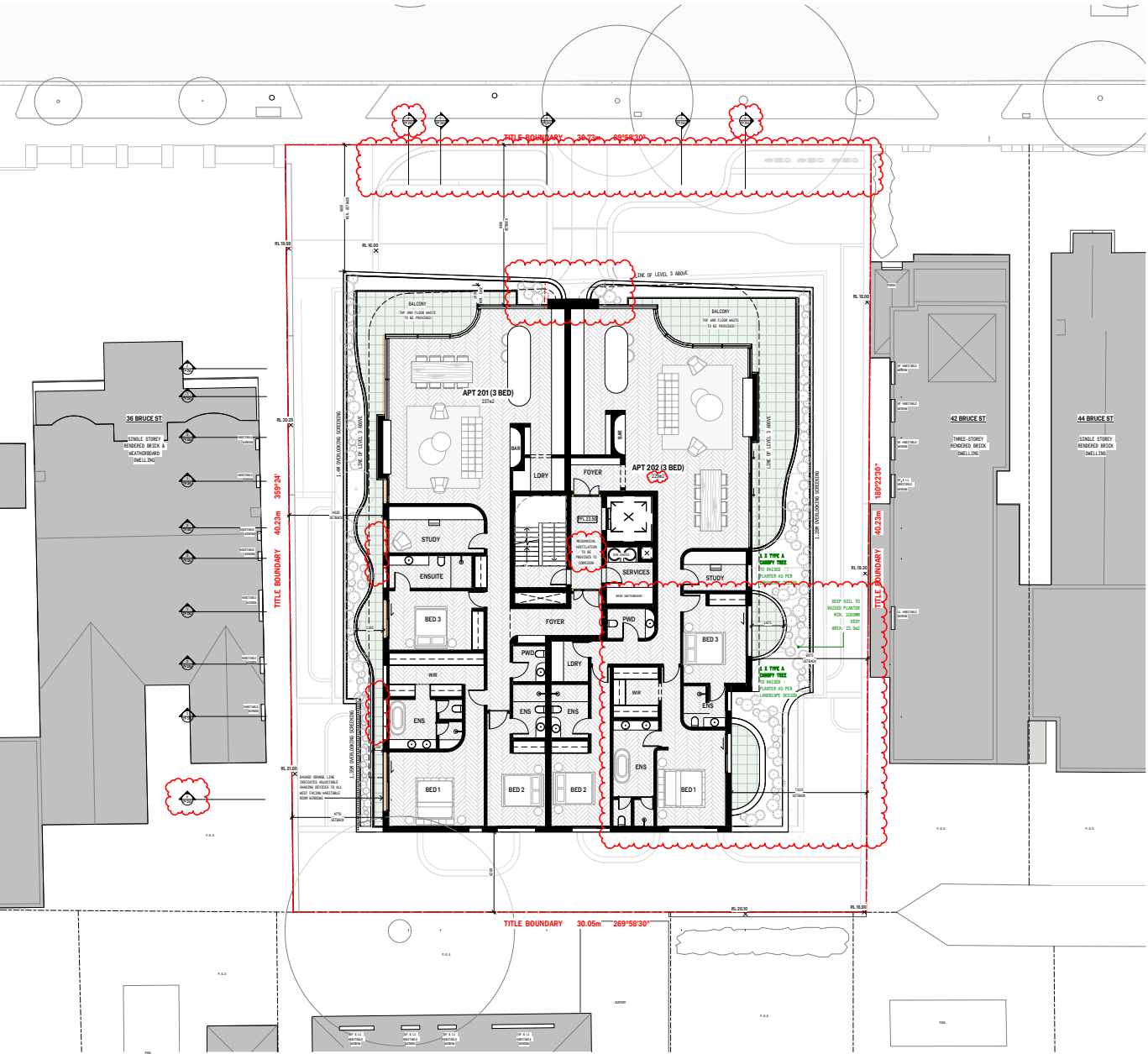
38-40 BRUCE STREET
TOORAK VIC 3142

TOWN PLANNING ISSUE

PROPOSED LEVEL 1 FLOOR PLAN		
PROPOSED	24/04/2025	2025
TP 101	2025	ASSOCIATED

385 Cleveland Street, South Melbourne
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info@pandolfini.com.au
03 9595 4000
03 9595 1000

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PROPOSED LEVEL 2 FLOOR PLAN
1:100 @ A

DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY		
SITE AREA	8+	3 BED APARTMENTS
2200m ²	1+	2 BED APARTMENT

PROPOSED SITE AREA SCHEDULE		
PROPOSED	PROPOSED	PROPOSED
SITE COVERAGE: 60% max (750m ²)	60% (750m ²)	60% (750m ²)
GARDEN AREA: 30% min (375m ²)	30% (375m ²)	30% (375m ²)
PERMEABILITY: 20% min (250m ²)	20% (250m ²)	20% (250m ²)
BASEMENT: 70% min (875m ²)	70% (875m ²)	70% (875m ²)

- ESD NOTES**
- APARTMENTS TO BE ALL-ELECTRIC HEATING/COOLING SYSTEM WILL BE REQUIRED CYCLE ELECTRIC SYSTEMS. HWS WILL BE FROM HEAT PUMP STORAGE UNITS. COOLING WILL BE FROM ELECTRIC REDUCTION.
 - DWELLINGS WITHIN THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT WILL MEET 60/20/20 7-STAR BUILDERS PERFORMANCE STANDARDS, INCLUDING RELEVANT HEATING AND COOLING LOAD LIMITS.
 - CAR PARK VENTILATION WILL BE DESIGNED TO BEST PRACTICE ENERGY EFFICIENCY WITH THE EXHAUST FANS INSTALLED WITH CO₂ SENSORS WHICH CONTROL THE SPEED AND OPERATION OF VENTILATION FANS.
 - THE MAXIMUM ILLUMINATION POWER DENSITY IN AT LEAST 50% OF THE AREA OF THE RELEVANT BUILDING CLASS SHALL MEET THE REQUIREMENTS IN 2023 OF THE NCC 2022 VOL. 1.
 - COMMON, EXTERNAL, SERVICE AREAS LIGHTING WILL BE CONTROLLED USING MOTOR SENSORS AND/OR DAYLIGHT SENSORS.
 - LOW VOC PAINTS, ADHESIVES, SEALANTS & CARPETS AND LOW FORMALDEHYDE PRODUCTS TO BE USED. (REFER TO ESD REPORT FOR LIMITS)
 - WATER EFFICIENT FITTINGS TO BE INSTALLED TO ALL APARTMENTS. MINIMUM WELS STAR REQUIREMENTS AS PER ESD REPORT.
 - RAINWATER HARVESTING AND REUSE SYSTEM TO BE UTILISED. RAINWATER TANK TO BE CONNECTED TO TOILETS AND LAUNDRY (REFER WELS REPORT FOR DETAILS).
 - WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPING TO BE INCORPORATED IN GARDEN AREAS.
 - BICYCLE PARKING FOR EACH DWELLING IS PROVIDED WITHIN EACH PRIVATE GARDEN.
 - FACILITIES IN PLACE FOR THE SPILLWATER TESTING WATER TO DRAIN TOWARDS STORAGE TANK FOR RE-USE (REFER THE WEL REPORT FOR DETAILS).
 - ALL APARTMENTS TO HAVE ACCESS TO FOUR BINS SYSTEM INCLUDING GENERAL WASTE, RECYCLING AND ORGANIC/GARDEN WASTE, GLASS WASTE.
 - INDIVIDUAL METERS OR SUB-METERS PROVIDED FOR ALL DWELLINGS, COMMON AREAS TO HAVE SUB-METERS.
- *PLANS ARE TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DEVELOPER'S ESD REPORT AND ALL MATERIALS CONTAINED WITHIN MUST BE IMPLEMENTED TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE RELEVANT AUTHORITY.

LANDSCAPING		
REQUIRED	PROVIDED	
CANOPY COVER	20% OF SITE AREA ABOVE 1000mm	20% (200m ²)

24.02.26	0	VEGETATION
15.03.26	0	TOWN PLANNING - BP#1
27.08.25	A	TOWN PLANNING ISSUE
2025		COMPLETED

CAIPE GROUP
38-40 BRUCE STREET
TODDRAK VIC 3142

TOWN PLANNING ISSUE
PROPOSED LEVEL 2 FLOOR PLAN
24/02/2026
TP 102
ASSOCIATED

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03 9595 1000





LANDSCAPING		
	REQUIRED	PROVIDED
CANOPY COVER	244.6 M ² (20% OF SITE AREA ABOVE 1000 MM)	252.9 M ² (20.72%)

Do not write through.

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info@pandolfici.com.au
02 9000 4899
ASN 77 600 572 165



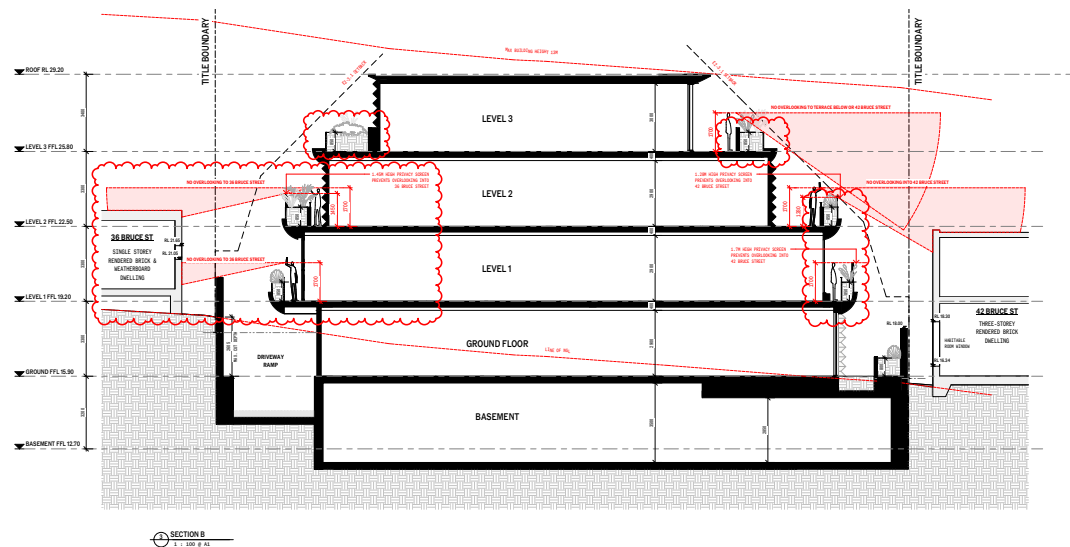
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15.10.25	B	TOWN PLANNING - RP1#1	
27.08.25	A	TOWN PLANNING ISSUE	
DATE	REV	COMMENTS	
NAME			
CAMP GROUP			
PROJECT			
38-40 BRUCE STREET 1000AK VIC 3042			
ADDRESS			
TOWN PLANNING ISSUE			
TITLE			
ELEVATION - WEST & EAST			
DATE/REV	REV	COMMENTS	
24/02/2026		AS DISCUSSED	
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION			
ALL dimensions and/or offsets are unless prior to the construction of works.			
This document is a preliminary drawing and is not intended for the construction of finished structures. It is intended for use as a guide only. It is not intended for construction.			

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AMN 77 600 572 165

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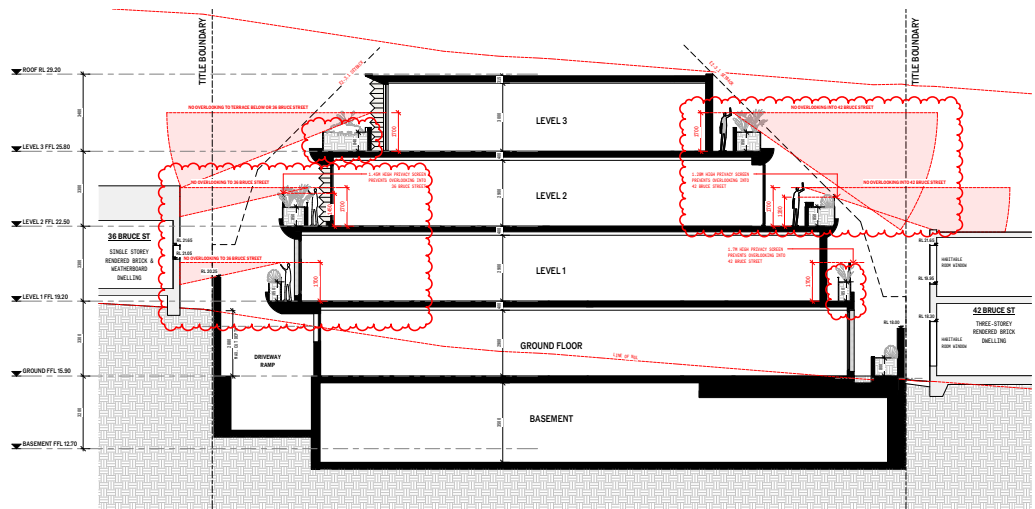


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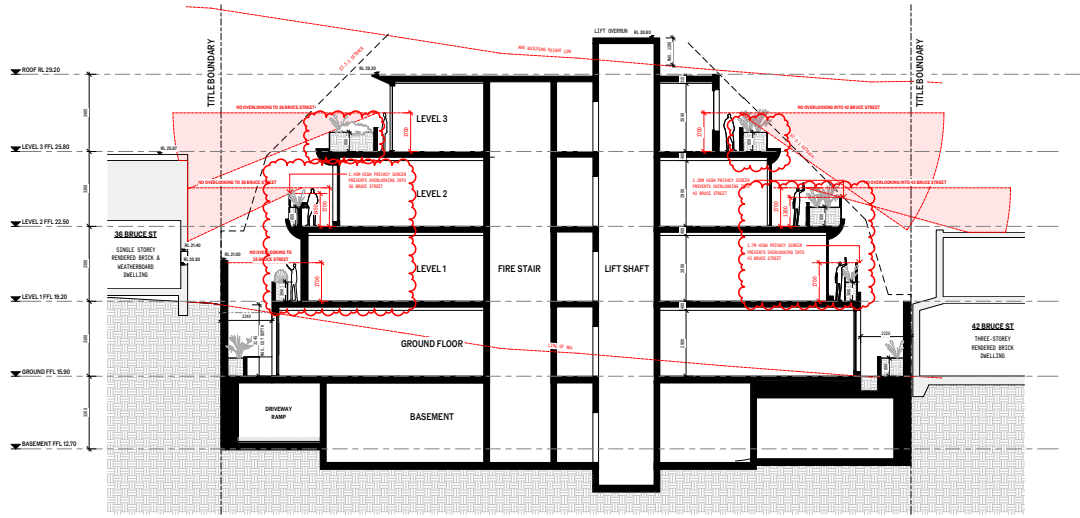


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VIC 3205 Australia
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02 9000 4899
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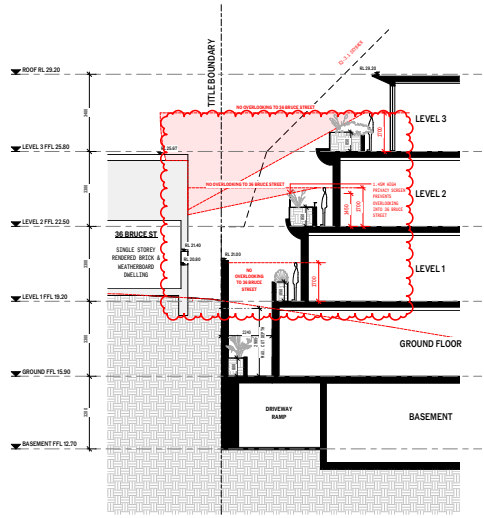
EST Plans Reference 24 02 2025 page 45 of 77



SECTION B2 - OVERLOOKING
1:1 - 1/200 @ A1



SECTION C
1:1 - 1/200 @ A1

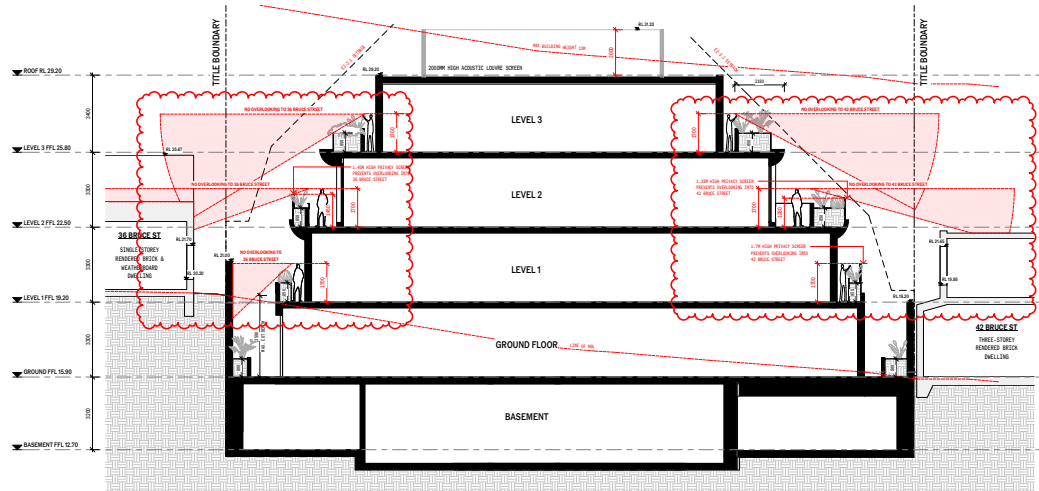


SECTION C2 - OVERLOOKING
1:1 - 1/200 @ A1

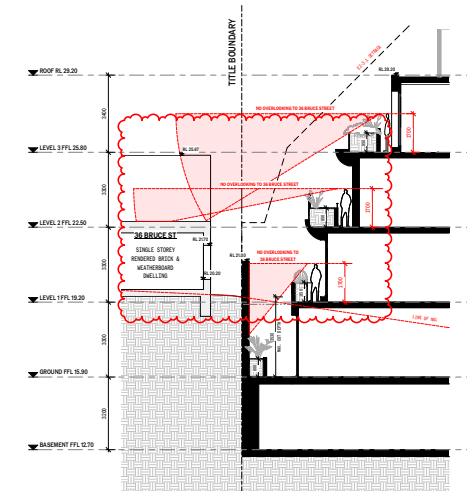
24.02.26	1	VEAT HEARING
15.03.26	6	TOWN PLANNING - BPP #1
27.08.25	A	TOWN PLANNING ISSUE
02.07.25		CONCEPT
CAIPE GROUP		
38-42 BRUCE STREET		
TOORAK VIC 3042		
TOWN PLANNING ISSUE		
PROPOSED SECTIONS - SHEET 2		
24/04/2026	TP 251	AS NOTICED

100 Cleveland Street, South Melbourne
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03 9595 4000
03 9595 1000

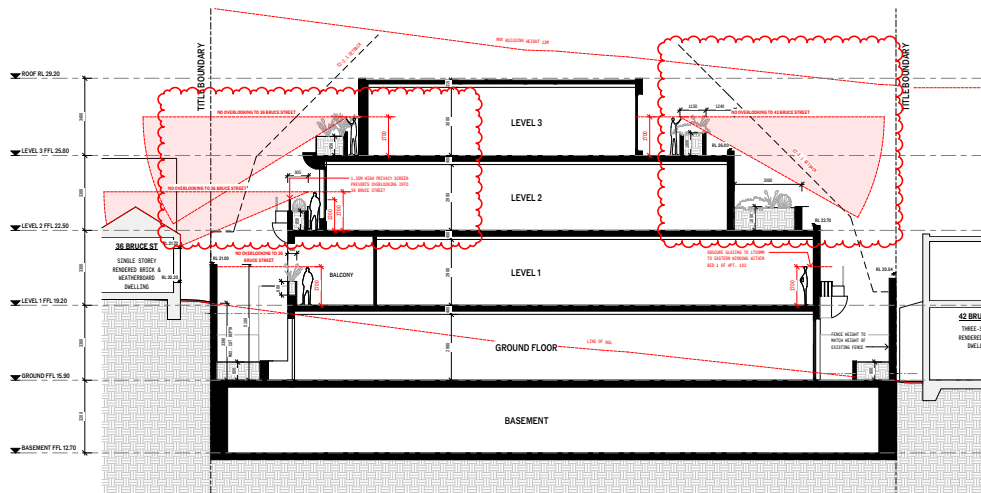
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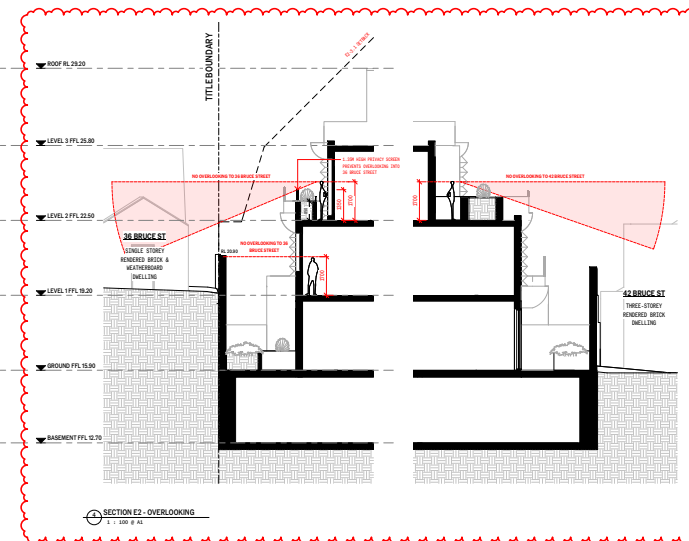
SECTION D
1:100 @ A1



SECTION D2
1:100 @ A1



SECTION E
1:100 @ A1



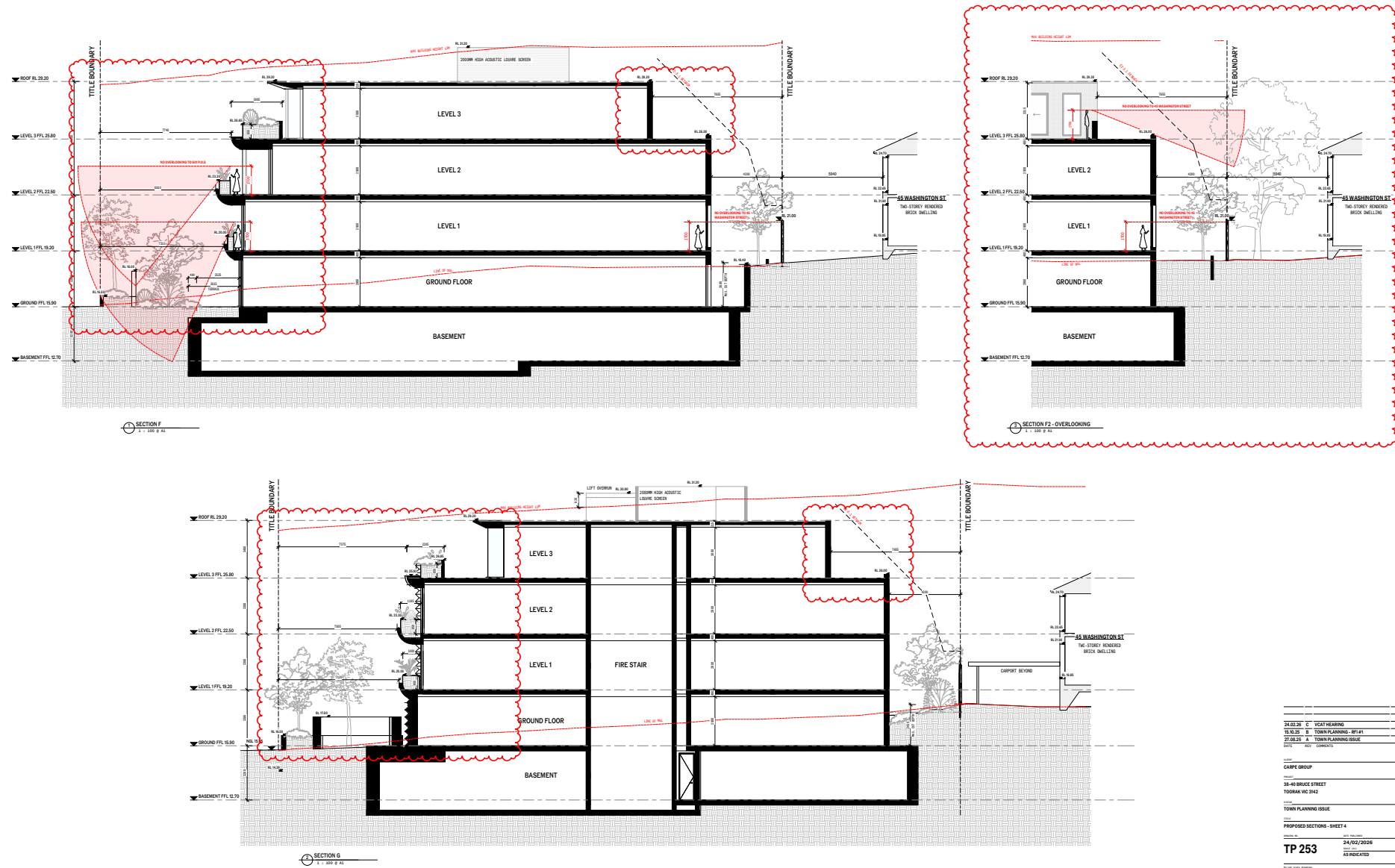
SECTION E2 - OVERLOOKING
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24.02.26	12	VEAT READING
15.03.26	8	TOWN PLANNING - BPT #1
27.08.25	A	TOWN PLANNING ISSUE
2025		REV. COMMENTS
CARPE GROUP		
36-42 BRUCE STREET		
TOORAK VIC 3042		
TOWN PLANNING ISSUE		
PROPOSED SECTIONS - SHEET 3		
TP 252	36-42 BRUCE STREET	AS NOTED

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61 3 9595 4088
61 3 9595 1010

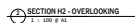
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25/01/2025 14:00:00 24/02/2025 Page 11 of 17



24.02.26	C	VEAT HEARING
15.03.26	B	TOWN PLANNING - BP/01
27.08.25	A	TOWN PLANNING ISSUE
0000		CONCEPT
NAME		
CARPE GROUP		
PROJECT		
38-40 BRUCE STREET		
TODDRAK VIC 3142		
TOWN		
TOWN PLANNING ISSUE		
PROPOSED SECTIONS - SHEET 4		
PROJECT NO.	24/001/2025B	
TP 253		
DATE	24/02/2025	
DESIGNED BY	ARCHITECT	
NOT TO BE USED WITHOUT		
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS FOR THE USE OF THE TOWN PLANNING AUTHORITY ONLY. IT IS NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE. THE TOWN PLANNING AUTHORITY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN.		
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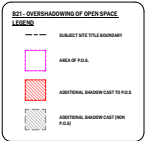
59 of 288



266 Clarendon Street, South Melbourne
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SHADOW DIAGRAMS

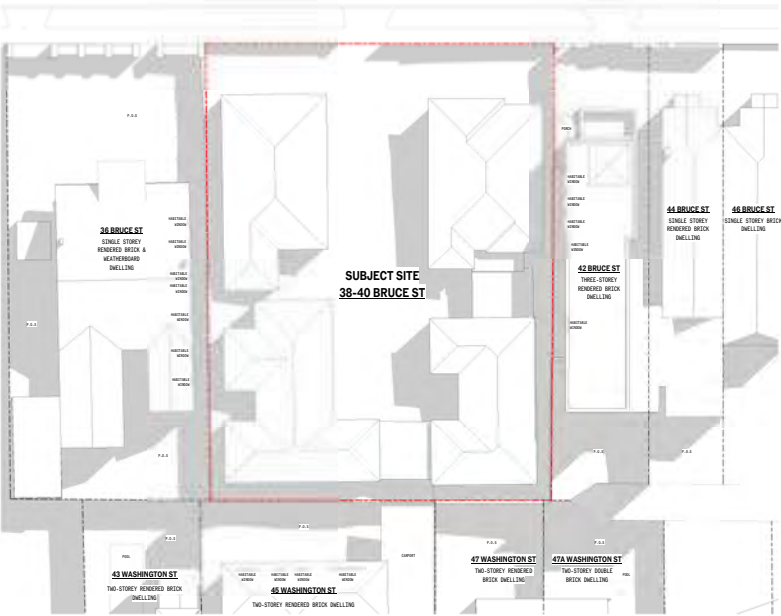
9AM - SEPTEMBER 22ND EQUINOX



PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SHADOW CAST - SAM

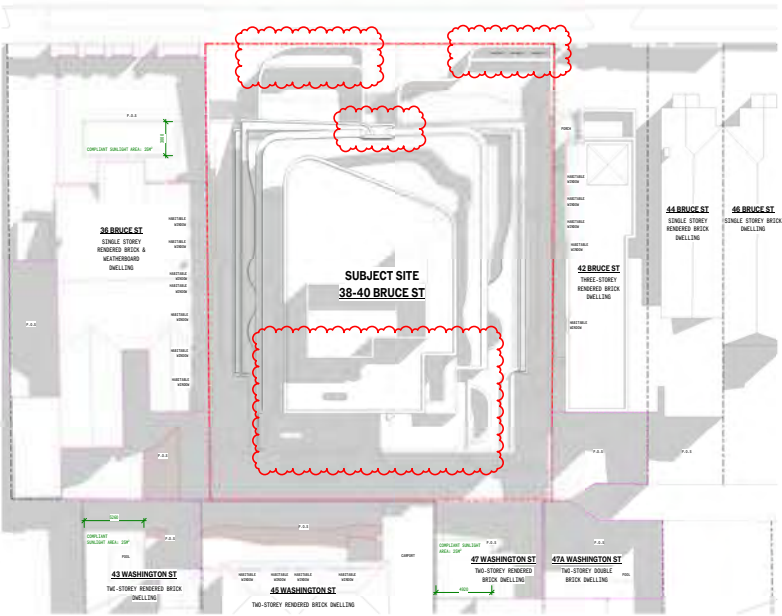
PROPERTY	TOTAL P.O.S. AREA	EXISTING SHADOW CAST	PROPOSED SHADOW CAST	PROPOSED TOTAL SHADOW CAST
42 BRUCE ST	1047	1047	1047	1047
38 BRUCE ST	1047	1047	1047	1047
44 BRUCE ST	1047	1047	1047	1047
46 BRUCE ST	1047	1047	1047	1047
43 WASHINGTON ST	1047	1047	1047	1047
45 WASHINGTON ST	1047	1047	1047	1047
47 WASHINGTON ST	1047	1047	1047	1047
49 WASHINGTON ST	1047	1047	1047	1047

BRUCE STREET



EXISTING SHADOWS 9AM SEPT 22ND EQUINOX
1:1, 200 @ 3/4"

BRUCE STREET



SHADOWS 9AM SEPT 22ND EQUINOX
1:1, 200 @ 3/4"

24.02.2017 VECT HERRING
15.03.2018 TOWN PLANNING - BP#1
27.08.2018 TOWN PLANNING ISSUE
2021 - COMPLETED

CARPE GROUP
38-40 BRUCE STREET
TODDAN VIC 3042

TOWN PLANNING ISSUE

SHADOW DIAGRAMS - SAM

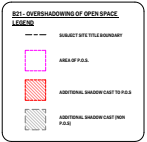
TP 300
24/04/2020
AS NOTIFIED

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61 3 9593 4000
61 3 9593 1010

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SHADOW DIAGRAMS

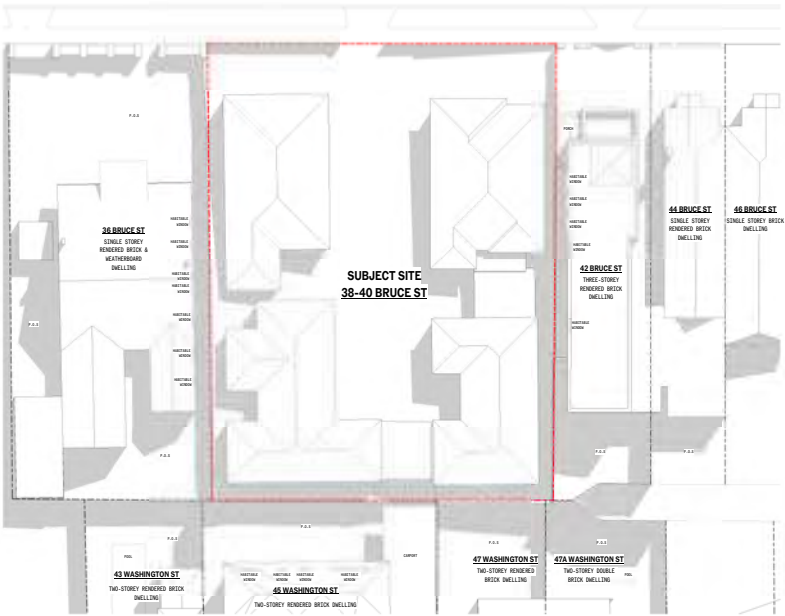
10AM - SEPTEMBER 22ND EQUINOX



PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SHADOW CAST - 10AM					
PROPERTY	TOTAL P.O.S. AREA	ADDITIONAL SHADOW CAST AREA	PROPOSED SHADOW CAST	PROPOSED TOTAL SHADOW CAST	PROPOSED TOTAL SHADOW CAST
42 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
38 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
44 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
46 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
48 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
50 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
52 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
54 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
56 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
58 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
60 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
62 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
64 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
66 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
68 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
70 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
72 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
74 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
76 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
78 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
80 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
82 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
84 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
86 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
88 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
90 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
92 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
94 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
96 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
98 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00
100 BRUCE ST	10.00	0.00	-	10.00	10.00

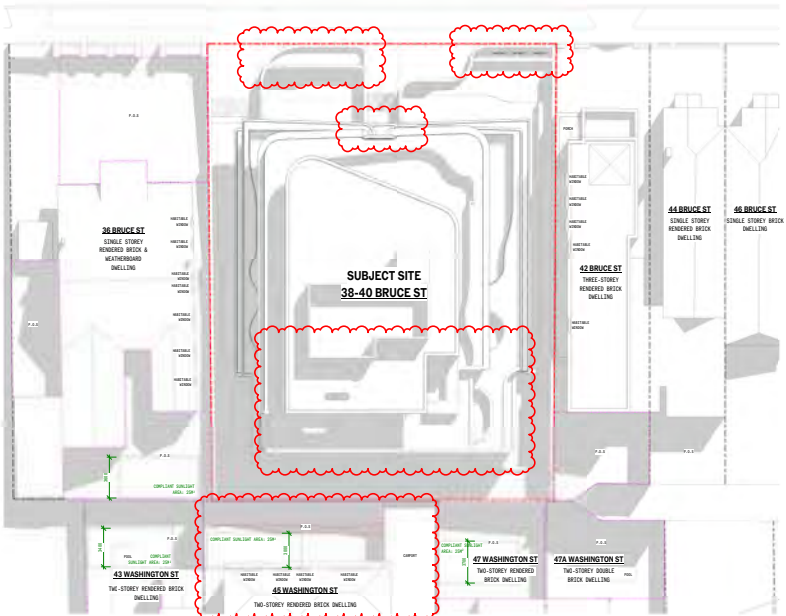
* Shadow castings are 10% of 100% shadow cast

BRUCE STREET



EXISTING SHADOWS 10AM SEPT 22ND EQUINOX
1:1, 200 @ 4%

BRUCE STREET



SHADOWS 10AM SEPT 22ND EQUINOX
1:1, 200 @ 4%

24.02.20	10	VEGETATION
15.03.20	0	TOWN PLANNING - BP1
27.08.25	0	TOWN PLANNING ISSUE
01.01.26	0	CONSENT

CAPE GROUP
38-40 BRUCE STREET
TODD VIC 3042

TOWN PLANNING ISSUE

SHADOW DIAGRAMS - 10AM

TP 301
24/04/2025
AS NOTIFIED

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03 9595 1000

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1PM - SEPTEMBER 22ND EQUINOX

PROPERTY	TOTAL P.A.S. AREA	EXISTING SHADOW CAST	PROPOSED ADDITIONAL SHADOW CAST	PROPOSED TOTAL SUNLIGHT RECEIVING AREA
42 BRUCE ST	580 ¹	40.80 ¹	-	17.20 ²
56 BRUCE ST	2650 ¹	72.30 ¹	-	272.30 ²
40 WINGHAMTON ST	1030 ¹	270 ¹	-	870 ²
40 WINGHAMTON ST	850 ¹	24.30 ¹	-	50.30 ²
47 WILKINSON ST	8613 ¹	261.30 ¹	-	52.30 ²
414 WASHINGTON ST	500 ¹	270 ¹	-	420 ²

¹ Sunlight receiving area, 80% or 20% whichever is the lesser

The map shows a street grid with the following properties and streets:

- 36 BRUCE ST**: SINGLE STORY RENDERED BRICK & METALWORK SHEDDING
- 38-40 BRUCE ST**: SUBJECT SITE
- 42 BRUCE ST**: THREE-STOREY RENDERED BRICK SHEDDING
- 44 BRUCE ST**: DOUBLE STOREY RENDERED BRICK SHEDDING
- 46 BRUCE ST**: DOUBLE STOREY BRICK SHEDDING
- 43 WASHINGTON ST**: TWO-STOREY RENDERED BRICK SHEDDING
- 45 WASHINGTON ST**: TWO-STOREY RENDERED BRICK SHEDDING
- 47 WASHINGTON ST**: TWO-STOREY RENDERED BRICK SHEDDING
- 47A WASHINGTON ST**: TWO-STOREY DOUBLE BRICK SHEDDING

Streets shown include P.A.S. (Pittsboro Avenue South), WASHINGTON ST, and BRUCE ST. The subject site is highlighted with a red dashed border.

1 EXISTING SHADOWS 1PM SEPT 22ND EQUINOX
1 : 200 @ A1

[illegible]

2 SHADOWS 1PM SEPT 22ND EQUINOX
1 : 200 @ A1

24.02.26	C	VCAT HEARING
15.10.25	B	TOWN PLANNING - RP1 #1
27.08.25	A	TOWN PLANNING ISSUE
DATE	REV	COMMENTS

CAPPE GROUP

38-40 BRUCE STREET
TOORAK VIC 3142

Włodzisław Wysocki

TOWN PLANNING ISSUE
 Title _____

SHADOW DIAGRAMS - 1P

TD 204

IP 304

be not under duress.

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 may be sensitive or confidential. It is to be
 controlled and handled in accordance with
 the applicable information security policy.

266 Clarendon Street, S
100 022 000 000 000

VIC 3205 8447-4114
info@pandolfini.com.au
02 9000 4829

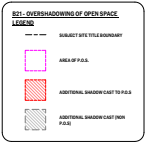
DATE

PANL

65

SHADOW DIAGRAMS

2PM - SEPTEMBER 22ND EQUINOX

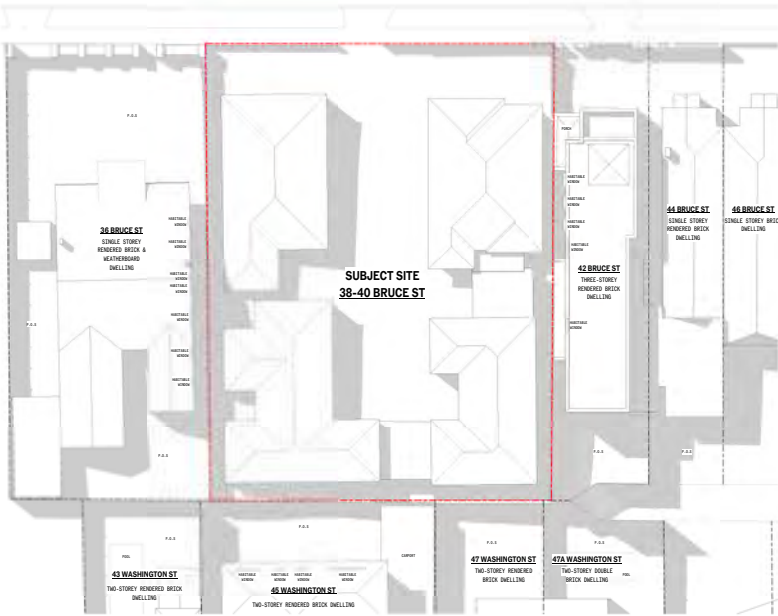


PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SHADOW CAST - 2PM

PROPERTY	TOTAL P.O.S. AREA	EXISTING SHADOW CAST	PROPOSED SHADOW CAST	PROPOSED TOTAL SHADOW CAST
42 BRUCE ST	48M ²	48M ²	-	96M ²
38 BRUCE ST	48M ²	48M ²	-	96M ²
44 BRUCE ST	48M ²	48M ²	-	96M ²
46 BRUCE ST	48M ²	48M ²	-	96M ²
43 WASHINGTON ST	48M ²	48M ²	-	96M ²
45 WASHINGTON ST	48M ²	48M ²	-	96M ²
47 WASHINGTON ST	48M ²	48M ²	-	96M ²
49 WASHINGTON ST	48M ²	48M ²	-	96M ²

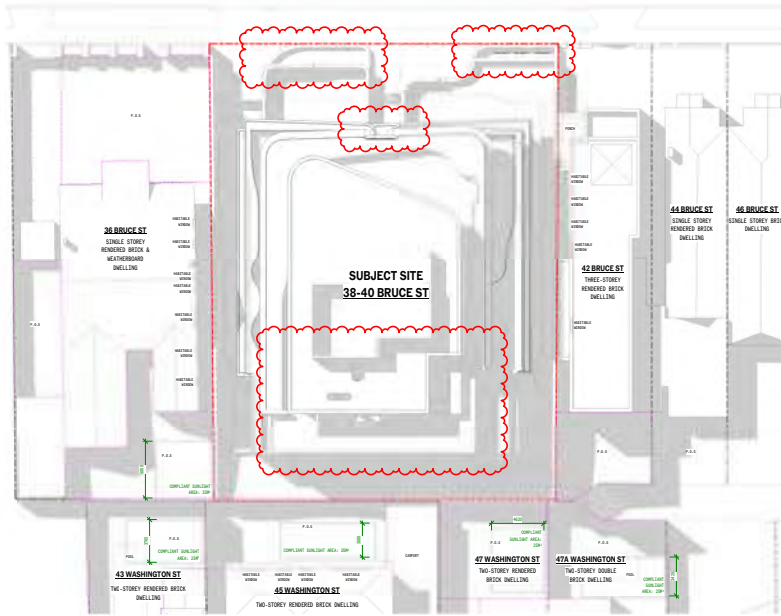
* Shadow casting area 48M² is 20M² (10M² x 2M²)

BRUCE STREET



EXISTING SHADOWS 2PM SEPT 22ND EQUINOX
1:1, 200 @ 4%

BRUCE STREET



SHADOWS 2PM SEPT 22ND EQUINOX
1:1, 200 @ 4%

24.02.26	10	VEGETATION
15.03.26	0	TOWN PLANNING - BP#1
27.08.25	A	TOWN PLANNING ISSUE
0000	0000	0000

CAPE GROUP
38-46 BRUCE STREET
TODDAR VIC 3042

TOWN PLANNING ISSUE

SHADOW DIAGRAMS - 2PM

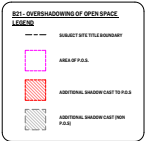
TP 305
ASSOCIATED

386 Cleveland Street, South Melbourne
VIC 3206 Australia
info@pandolfini.com.au
03 9595 4000
03 9595 1000

PANDOLFINI

SHADOW DIAGRAMS

3PM - SEPTEMBER 22ND EQUINOX

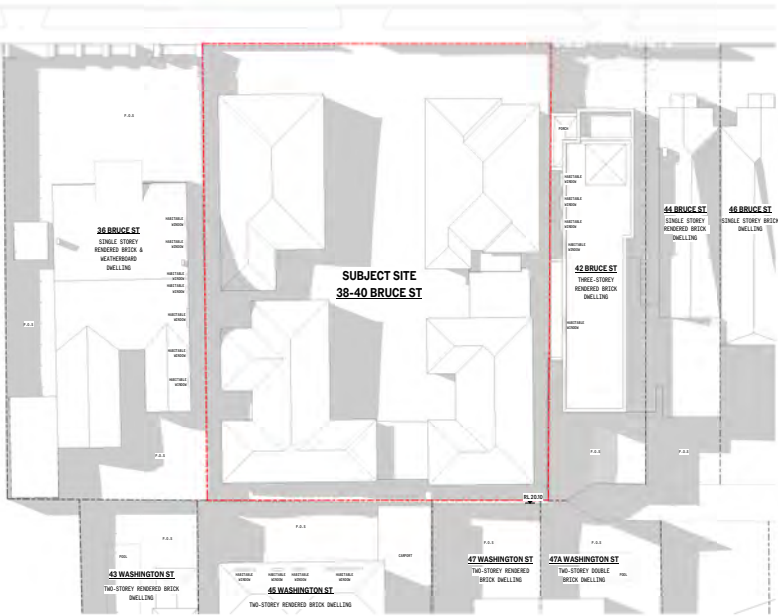


PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SHADOW CAST - 3PM

PROPERTY	TOTAL P.O.S. AREA	EXISTING SHADOW CAST	PROPOSED SHADOW CAST	PROPOSED TOTAL SHADOW CAST
42 BRUCE ST	50M ²	45.0M ²	-	5.0M ²
38 BRUCE ST	50M ²	45.0M ²	-	5.0M ²
44 BRUCE ST	50M ²	45.0M ²	-	5.0M ²
46 BRUCE ST	50M ²	45.0M ²	-	5.0M ²
43 WASHINGTON ST	50M ²	45.0M ²	-	5.0M ²
45 WASHINGTON ST	50M ²	45.0M ²	-	5.0M ²
47 WASHINGTON ST	50M ²	45.0M ²	-	5.0M ²
49 WASHINGTON ST	50M ²	45.0M ²	-	5.0M ²

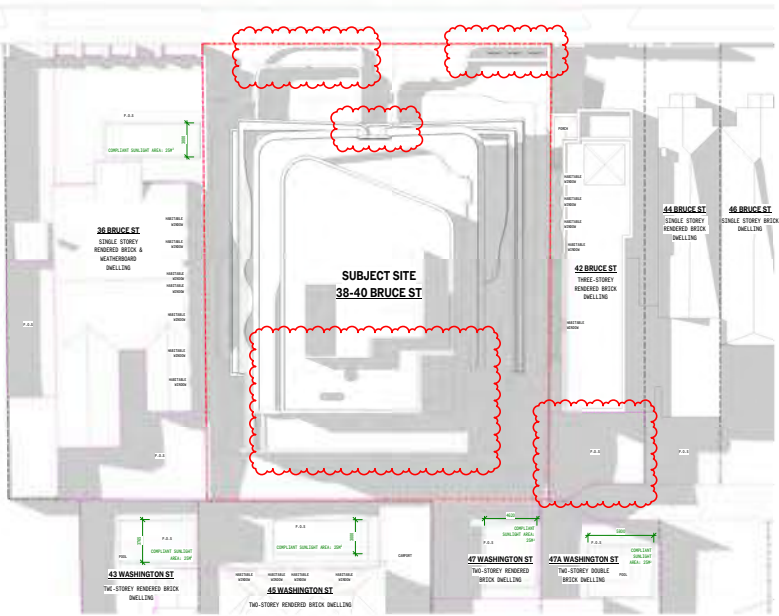
* Shadow castings are 3PM on 22nd September in the North

BRUCE STREET



EXISTING SHADOWS 3PM SEPT 22ND EQUINOX
1:1, 200 @ 42

BRUCE STREET



SHADOWS 3PM SEPT 22ND EQUINOX
1:1, 200 @ 42

DATE: 24.02.26
BY: J. VENT
CHECKED: 15.03.26
APPROVED: 27.03.26

PROJECT: 38-40 BRUCE STREET
TOWN: TOWN PLANNING ISSUE

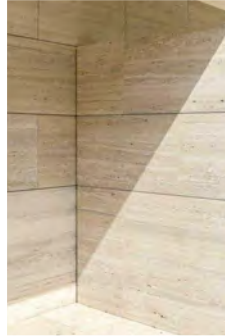
SHADOW DIAGRAM - 3PM

PROJECT NO: TP 306
DATE: 24.02.2025
STATUS: ASSOCIATED

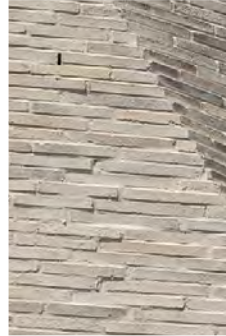
PREPARED BY: PANDOLFINI
300 Cleveland Street, South Melbourne
VIC 3207 Australia
info@pandolfini.com.au
03 9594 4000
03 9594 1000



CN-1
TEXTURED CONCRETE
(FACADE PLANTERS)



ST-1
VEIN CUT TRAVERTINE
(THROUGHOUT)



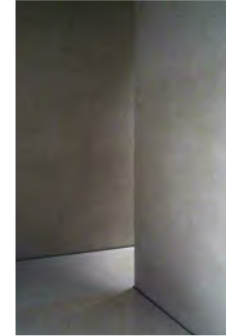
BR-1
OFF WHITE BRICKWORK
(THROUGHOUT)



BR-2
VERTICAL & HORIZONTAL OFF WHITE BRICKWORK
(STREET FENCES)



RN-1
GREY STUCCO RENDER
(BOUNDARY FENCES & RETAINING WALLS)



RN-2
GREY TEXTURED RENDER
(THROUGHOUT)



MT-1
STEEL FRAMES GATES NOM 50% OPEN
(PEDESTRIAN & DRIVEWAY GATE)



MT-2
PERFORATED METAL SCREENING
(SERVICES ENCLOSURE)



MT-3
METAL CLADDING
(LEVEL 3 ROOF CANOPY)



MT-4
METAL PRIVACY SCREENING
(LEVEL ONE & TWO)
MAX 35% PERMEABLE



MT-5
ACOUSTIC LOUVRE SERVICES
SCREENING
(ROOF)



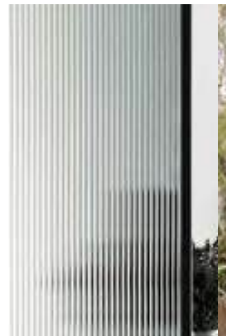
MT-6
AGED BRASS CLADDING
(ENTRY & FENCE SERVICES ZONE)



MT-7
STEEL PLANTER
(FACADE PLANTERS)



GL-1
CLEAR GLAZING
(THROUGHOUT)



GL-2
FLUTED OBSCURE GLAZING
(THROUGHOUT)

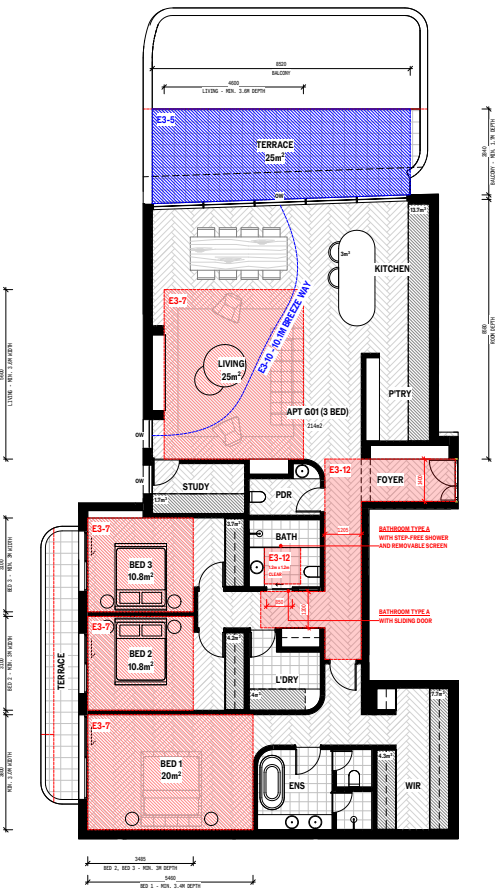


SD-1
EXTERNAL ADJUSTABLE SHADING DEVICES
(WESTERN HABITABLE ROOM WINDOWS)

24.02.26	12	VEAT HEARING
15.03.26	8	TOWN PLANNING - BP1 #1
27.03.26	4	TOWN PLANNING ISSUE
03.04.26	1	CONCULT
CAFFE GROUP		
38-40 BRUCE STREET		
TOORAK VIC 3042		
TOWN PLANNING ISSUE		
MATERIAL SCHEDULE		
TP 400	24/03/2026	AS NOTICED

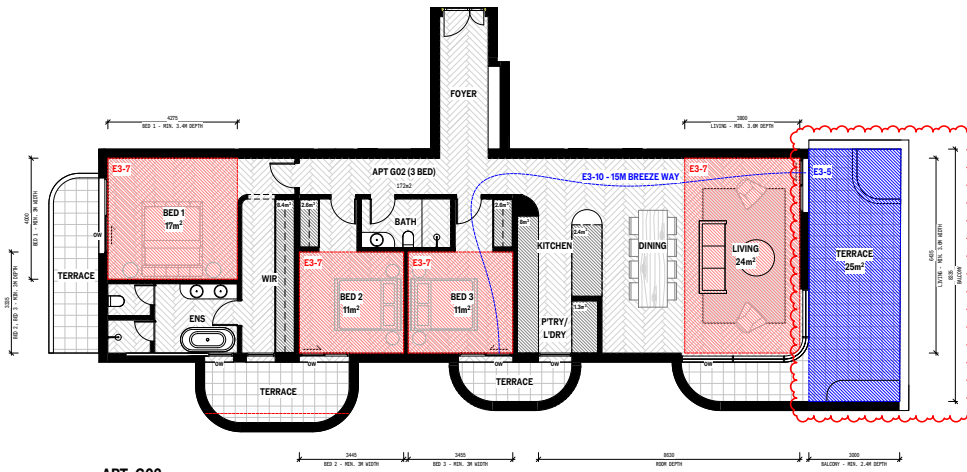
100 Cleveland Street, South Melbourne
VIC 3205 Australia
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03 9593 4000

PANDOLFINI



APT. G01

DESCRIPTION - GROUND FLOOR - 3 BEDROOMS - 2 BATHROOMS - MIN 2.8m CH IN LIVING AREAS - MIN 2.5m CH IN UTILITY ROOMS	REQUIRED STORAGE MIN. INTERNAL REQUIRED: 15m³ TOTAL MIN. REQUIRED: 18m³
PARKING CAR SPACES: 2	PROPOSED STORAGE INTERNAL: 42.3m³ TOTAL: 42.3m³
CLAUSE 67 - FOUR STOREY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS	
E3-12 ACCESSIBILITY:	COMPLIES
E3-5 OPEN SPACE OBJECTIVE:	COMPLIES
E3-11 STORAGE OBJECTIVE:	COMPLIES
E3-7 INTERNAL AMENITY:	COMPLIES
E3-8 ROOM DEPTH OBJECTIVE:	COMPLIES
E3-10 VENTILATION:	COMPLIES



APT. G02

DESCRIPTION - GROUND FLOOR - 3 BEDROOMS - 2 BATHROOMS - MIN 2.8m CH IN LIVING AREAS - MIN 2.5m CH IN UTILITY ROOMS	REQUIRED STORAGE MIN. INTERNAL REQUIRED: 15m³ TOTAL MIN. REQUIRED: 18m³
PARKING CAR SPACES: 2	PROPOSED STORAGE INTERNAL: 25.3m³ TOTAL: 25.3m³
CLAUSE 67 - FOUR STOREY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS	
E3-12 ACCESSIBILITY:	DOES NOT COMPLY
E3-5 OPEN SPACE OBJECTIVE:	COMPLIES
E3-11 STORAGE OBJECTIVE:	COMPLIES
E3-7 INTERNAL AMENITY:	COMPLIES
E3-8 ROOM DEPTH OBJECTIVE:	COMPLIES
E3-10 VENTILATION:	COMPLIES

CLAUSE 67 - FOUR STOREY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS	
E3-12 ACCESSIBILITY	COMPLIES
E3-5 BALCONY / TERRACE AREA	COMPLIES
E3-11 STORAGE AREA	COMPLIES
E3-7 INTERNAL ROOM AREA	COMPLIES
E3-10 BREEZE PATH	COMPLIES

RATIO OF COMPLIANT APARTMENTS E3-12 ACCESSIBILITY	
APARTMENT G01	COMPLIES
APARTMENT G02	DOES NOT COMPLY
APARTMENT G03	COMPLIES
APARTMENT G04	COMPLIES
APARTMENT G05	COMPLIES
APARTMENT G06	COMPLIES
APARTMENT G07	DOES NOT COMPLY
APARTMENT G08	DOES NOT COMPLY
APARTMENT G09	DOES NOT COMPLY
APARTMENT G10	DOES NOT COMPLY
TOTAL APARTMENTS	9 100%
REQUIRED COMPLIANCE	4.5 50%
COMPLIANT APARTMENTS	5 55%

RATIO OF COMPLIANT APARTMENTS E3-10 VENTILATION	
APARTMENT G01	COMPLIES
APARTMENT G02	COMPLIES
APARTMENT G03	COMPLIES
APARTMENT G04	COMPLIES
APARTMENT G05	COMPLIES
APARTMENT G06	COMPLIES
APARTMENT G07	COMPLIES
APARTMENT G08	COMPLIES
APARTMENT G09	COMPLIES
APARTMENT G10	COMPLIES
TOTAL APARTMENTS	9 100%
REQUIRED COMPLIANCE	4.5 50%
COMPLIANT APARTMENTS	9 100%

24.02.26 12 VENTILATION - BPT#1
15.03.26 8 TOWN PLANNING - BPT#1
27.08.25 8 TOWN PLANNING ISSUE
0001 - COMPLETED

CARPE GROUP
38-40 BRUCE STREET
TOWNSHIP VIC 3442

TOWN PLANNING ISSUE
0001 - COMPLETED

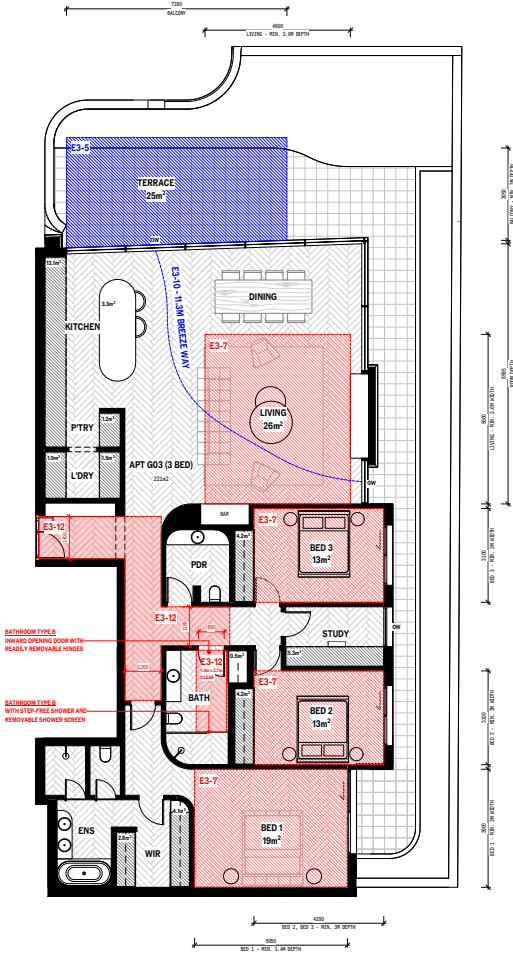
APARTMENT COMPLIANCE PLAN - SHEET 1
TP 500
24/04/2025
REVISED
APPROVED

100 Cleveland Street, South Melbourne
VIC 3205 Australia
info@pandolfini.com.au
03 9591 4888
03 9591 1000

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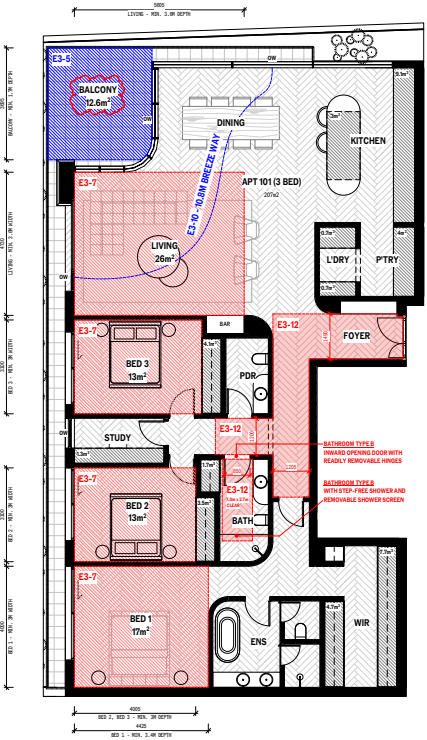
69 of 288

APT Floor Plans 24.02.2026 Page 1 of 7



APT. G03

DESCRIPTION -GROUND FLOOR -3 BEDROOMS -3 BATHROOMS -MIN. 2.0m CH IN LIVING AREAS -MIN. 2.0m CH IN UTILITY ROOMS	REQUIRED STORAGE MIN. INTERNAL REQUIRED: 15m³ TOTAL MIN. REQUIRED: 18m³
PARKING CAR SPACES: 2	PROPOSED STORAGE INTERNAL: 42.5m³ TOTAL: 42.5m³
CLAUSE 57 - FOUR STOREY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS	
E3-12 ACCESSIBILITY:	COMPLIES
E3-6 OPEN SPACE OBJECTIVE:	COMPLIES
E3-11 STORAGE OBJECTIVE:	COMPLIES
E3-7 INTERNAL AMENITY:	COMPLIES
E3-8 ROOM DEPTH OBJECTIVE:	COMPLIES
E3-10 VENTILATION:	COMPLIES



APT. 101

DESCRIPTION -FIRST FLOOR -3 BEDROOMS -3 BATHROOMS -MIN. 2.0m CH IN LIVING AREAS -MIN. 2.0m CH IN UTILITY ROOMS	REQUIRED STORAGE MIN. INTERNAL REQUIRED: 15m³ TOTAL MIN. REQUIRED: 18m³
PARKING CAR SPACES: 2	PROPOSED STORAGE INTERNAL: 31.3m³ TOTAL: 31.3m³
CLAUSE 57 - FOUR STOREY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS	
E3-12 ACCESSIBILITY:	COMPLIES
E3-6 OPEN SPACE OBJECTIVE:	COMPLIES
E3-11 STORAGE OBJECTIVE:	COMPLIES
E3-7 INTERNAL AMENITY:	COMPLIES
E3-8 ROOM DEPTH OBJECTIVE:	COMPLIES
E3-10 VENTILATION:	COMPLIES

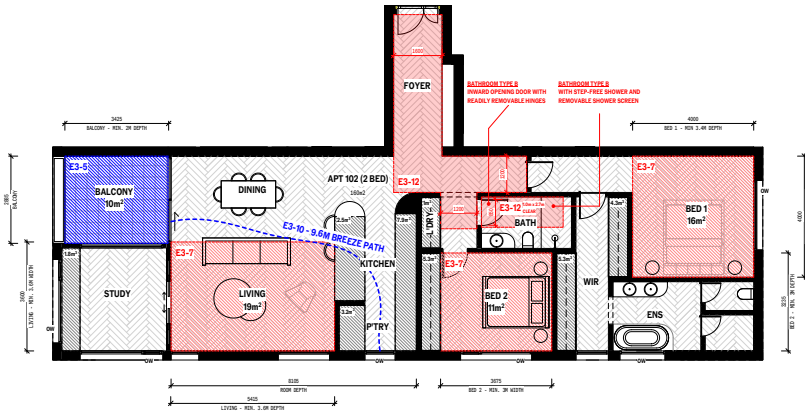
CLAUSE 57 - FOUR STOREY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS	
E3-12 ACCESSIBILITY	COMPLIES
E3-6 BALCONY / TERRACE AREA	COMPLIES
E3-11 STORAGE AREA	COMPLIES
E3-7 INTERNAL ROOM AREA	COMPLIES
E3-10 BREEZE PATH	COMPLIES

RATIO OF COMPLIANT APARTMENTS	
E3-12 ACCESSIBILITY	
APARTMENT 001	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 002	DOES NOT COMPLY
APARTMENT 003	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 101	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 102	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 201	DOES NOT COMPLY
APARTMENT 202	DOES NOT COMPLY
APARTMENT 203	DOES NOT COMPLY
TOTAL APARTMENTS	9 100%
REQUIRED COMPLIANCE	4.5 50%
COMPLIANT APARTMENTS	5 55%

RATIO OF COMPLIANT APARTMENTS	
E3-10 VENTILATION	
APARTMENT 001	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 002	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 003	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 101	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 102	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 201	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 202	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 203	COMPLIES
TOTAL APARTMENTS	9 100%
REQUIRED COMPLIANCE	4.5 50%
COMPLIANT APARTMENTS	9 100%

24.02.2026	24.02.2026
15.03.25	15.03.25
27.08.25	27.08.25
01.01	01.01
CAPE GROUP	
38-40 BRUCE STREET	
TOWN PLANNING ISSUE	
APARTMENT COMPLIANCE PLAN - SHEET 2	
TP 501	TP 501
24.02.2026	24.02.2026
15.03.25	15.03.25
27.08.25	27.08.25
01.01	01.01

Cost Plan Reference 24-02-2025 page 14 of 17

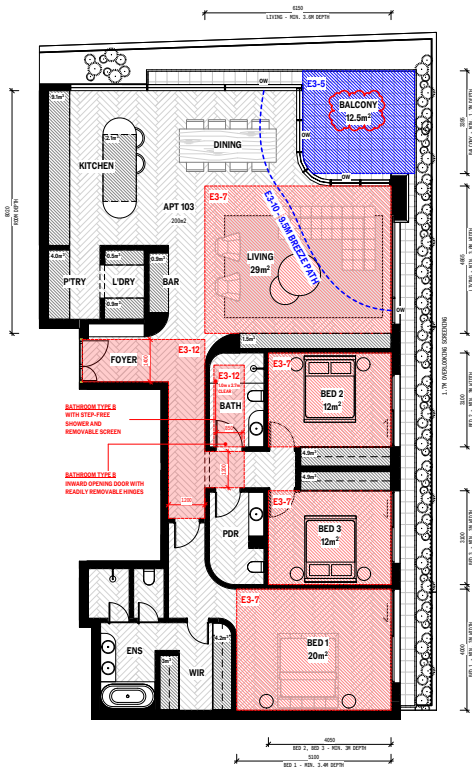


APT. 102

DESCRIPTION	REQUIRED STORAGE
FIRST FLOOR	MIN. INTERNAL REQUIRED 3m³
2 BEDROOMS	TOTAL MIN. REQUIRED 15m³
2 BATHROOMS	
MIN. 2.5m CH IN LIVING AREAS	
MIN. 2.5m CH IN UTILITY ROOMS	
PARKING	
CAR SPACES: 2	

PROPOSED STORAGE
INTERNAL: 31.5m³
TOTAL: 31.5m³

CLAUSE 57 - FOUR STOREY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS
E3-12 ACCESSIBILITY: COMPLIES
E3-6 OPEN SPACE OBJECTIVE: COMPLIES
E3-11 STORAGE OBJECTIVE: COMPLIES
E3-7 INTERNAL AMENITY: COMPLIES
E3-8 ROOM DEPTH OBJECTIVE: COMPLIES
E3-10 VENTILATION: COMPLIES



APT. 103

DESCRIPTION	REQUIRED STORAGE
FIRST FLOOR	MIN. INTERNAL REQUIRED 15m³
2 BEDROOMS	TOTAL MIN. REQUIRED 15m³
2 BATHROOMS	
MIN. 2.5m CH IN LIVING AREAS	
MIN. 2.5m CH IN UTILITY ROOMS	
PARKING	
CAR SPACES: 2	

PROPOSED STORAGE
INTERNAL: 38m³
TOTAL: 38m³

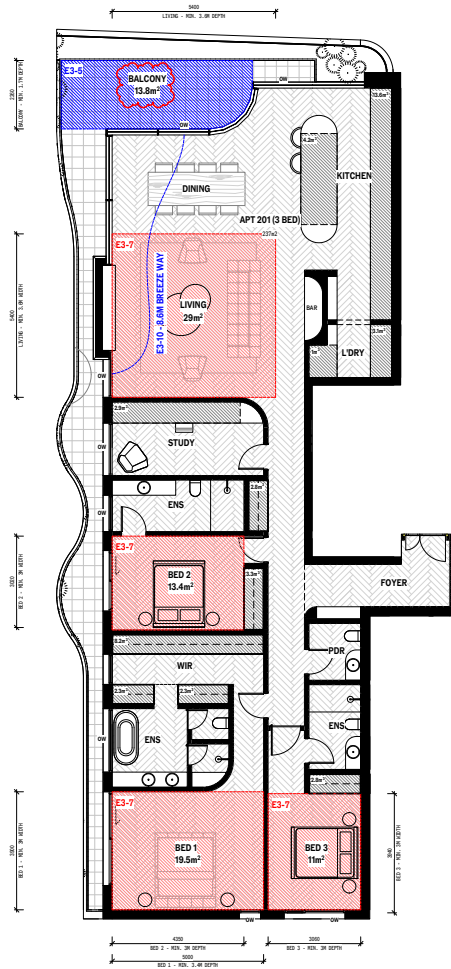
CLAUSE 57 - FOUR STOREY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS
E3-12 ACCESSIBILITY: COMPLIES
E3-6 OPEN SPACE OBJECTIVE: COMPLIES
E3-11 STORAGE OBJECTIVE: COMPLIES
E3-7 INTERNAL AMENITY: COMPLIES
E3-8 ROOM DEPTH OBJECTIVE: COMPLIES
E3-10 VENTILATION: COMPLIES

CLAUSE 57 - FOUR STOREY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS
E3-12 ACCESSIBILITY: COMPLIES
E3-6 OPEN SPACE OBJECTIVE: COMPLIES
E3-11 STORAGE OBJECTIVE: COMPLIES
E3-7 INTERNAL AMENITY: COMPLIES
E3-8 ROOM DEPTH OBJECTIVE: COMPLIES
E3-10 VENTILATION: COMPLIES

RATIO OF COMPLIANT APARTMENTS E3-12 ACCESSIBILITY
APARTMENT 001: COMPLIES
APARTMENT 002: DOES NOT COMPLY
APARTMENT 003: COMPLIES
APARTMENT 101: COMPLIES
APARTMENT 102: COMPLIES
APARTMENT 103: COMPLIES
APARTMENT 201: DOES NOT COMPLY
APARTMENT 202: DOES NOT COMPLY
APARTMENT 203: DOES NOT COMPLY
TOTAL APARTMENTS: 9
REQUIRED COMPLIANCE: 4.5
COMPLIANT APARTMENTS: 5

RATIO OF COMPLIANT APARTMENTS E3-10 VENTILATION
APARTMENT 001: COMPLIES
APARTMENT 002: COMPLIES
APARTMENT 003: COMPLIES
APARTMENT 101: COMPLIES
APARTMENT 102: COMPLIES
APARTMENT 103: COMPLIES
APARTMENT 201: COMPLIES
APARTMENT 202: COMPLIES
APARTMENT 203: COMPLIES
TOTAL APARTMENTS: 9
REQUIRED COMPLIANCE: 4.5
COMPLIANT APARTMENTS: 9

38-46 BRUCE STREET TODDRAK VIC 3042
TOWN PLANNING ISSUE
APARTMENT COMPLIANCE PLAN - SHEET 3
TP 502
24/04/2025
AS REVISED
38-46 BRUCE STREET TODDRAK VIC 3042
TOWN PLANNING ISSUE
APARTMENT COMPLIANCE PLAN - SHEET 3
TP 502
24/04/2025
AS REVISED

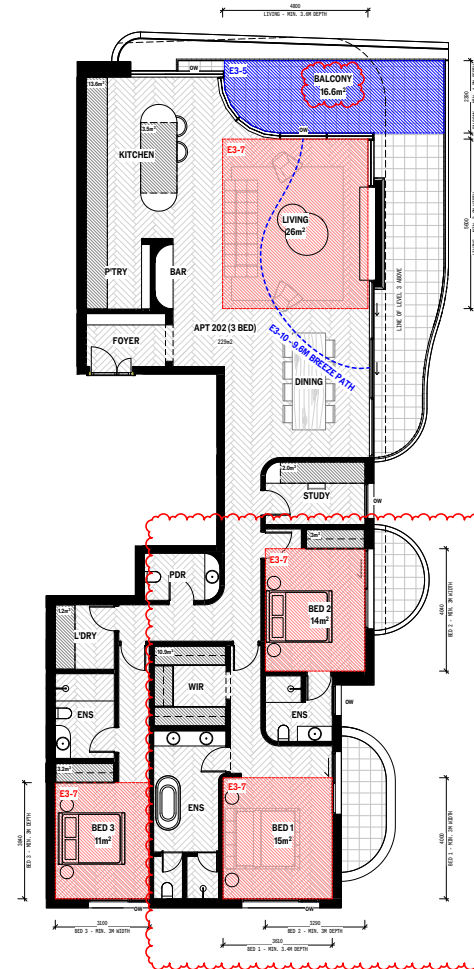


APT. 201

DESCRIPTION -SECOND FLOOR -2 BEDROOMS -4 BATHROOMS -MIN. 2.0 CM IN LIVING AREAS -MIN. 2.0 CM IN KITCHEN & DINING ROOMS PARKING CAR SPACES: 2	REQUIRED STORAGE MIN. INTERNAL REQUIRED: 32m³ TOTAL MIN. REQUIRED: 32m³ PROPOSED STORAGE INTERNAL: 46.5m³ TOTAL: 46.5m³
---	---

CLAUSE 67 - FOUR STOREY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

E3-12 ACCESSIBILITY:	DONE NOT COMPLY
E3-1 OPEN SPACE OBJECTIVE:	COMPLIES
E3-11 STORAGE OBJECTIVE:	COMPLIES
E3-7 INSURING IDENTITY:	COMPLIES
E3-8 ROOM DEPTH OBJECTIVE:	COMPLIES
E3-10 VENTILATION:	COMPLIES

APT. 202

DESCRIPTION - FIRST FLOOR - 2 BEDROOMS - 4 BATHROOMS - MIN. 2.5m ON LIVING AREAS - MIN. 1.5m ON UTILITY ROOMS	REQUIRED STORAGE MIN. INTERNAL REQUIRED: 12m³ TOTAL MIN. REQUIRED: 12m³
PARKING CAR SPACES: 2	PROPOSED STORAGE INTERNAL: 27.4m³ TOTAL: 27.4m³

**CLause 57- FOUR STOREY
STANDARD DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS**

**RATIO OF COMPLAINT APARTMENTS
E-12 ACCESSIBILITY**

APARTMENT 001	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 002	DOES NOT COMPLY
APARTMENT 003	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 101	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 102	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 201	DOES NOT COMPLY
APARTMENT 202	DOES NOT COMPLY
APARTMENT 203	DOES NOT COMPLY

TOTAL APARTMENTS 9 100%
 REQUIRED COMPLIANCE 4.8 50%
 COMPLAINT APARTMENTS 5 50%

**RATIO OF COMPLAINT APARTMENTS
E-10 VENTILATION**

APARTMENT 001	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 002	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 101	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 102	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 103	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 201	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 202	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 203	COMPLIES

TOTAL APARTMENTS 9 100%
 REQUIRED COMPLIANCE 4.8 50%
 COMPLAINT APARTMENTS 5 100%

DATE	BY	COMMENTS
24.03.28	C	VCAT HEARING
15.12.25	B	TOWN PLANNING - #P1#1
27.12.25	B	TOWN PLANNING ISSUE

DATE BY COMMENTS

CARPE GROUP

PROJECT:

**38-40 BRUCE STREET
TOORAK VIC 32042**

OWNER:

TOWN PLANNING ISSUE

APARTMENT COMPLIANCE PLAN - SHEET 4

ISSUED BY: DATE RELEASED:

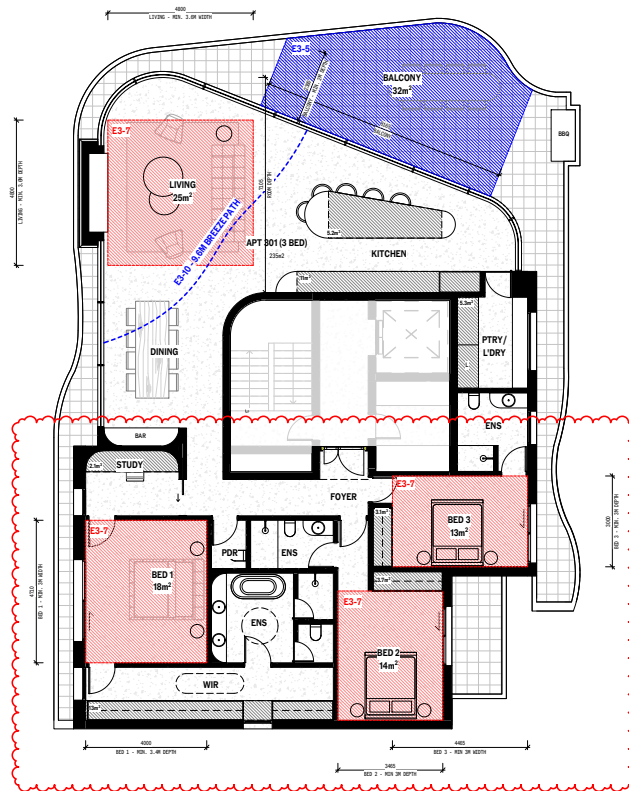
TP 503 **24/03/2022**

AS NOTICED

1. All drawings shall be verified on site prior to commencement of works.

2. Information contained in this document is the property of Architectural Services Pty Ltd and shall not be used or reproduced in whole or in part without the written consent of Architectural Services Pty Ltd.

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VIC 3205 Australia
Lafayette@tp.com.au
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404 03 9200 3000, 03 9200 1655



APT. 301

DESCRIPTION 1ST FLOOR 1-BEDROOMS 2-BATHROOMS MIN. 2.5m CH LIVING AREAS MIN. 2.5m CH UTILITY ROOMS PARKING CAR SPACES: 2	REQUIRED STORAGE MIN. INTERNAL REQUIRED: 12m³ TOTAL MIN. REQUIRED: 18m³
	PROPOSED STORAGE INTERNAL: 42.4m³ TOTAL: 42.4m³

CLAUSE 57 - FOUR STOREY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

E3-12 ACCESSIBILITY: E3-16 OPEN SPACE OBJECTIVE: E3-17 STAIRING OBJECTIVE: E3-17 INTERNAL AMENITY: E3-8 ROOM DEPTH OBJECTIVE: E3-10 VENTILATION:	DOES NOT COMPLY COMPLEX COMPLEX COMPLEX COMPLEX COMPLEX
--	---

RATIO OF COMPLIANT APARTMENTS	
E3-12 ACCESSIBILITY	
APARTMENT 001	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 002	DOES NOT COMPLY
APARTMENT 003	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 101	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 102	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 103	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 201	DOES NOT COMPLY
APARTMENT 202	DOES NOT COMPLY
APARTMENT 301	DOES NOT COMPLY
TOTAL APARTMENTS	9 100%
REQUIRED COMPLIANCE	4 50%
COMPLIANT APARTMENTS	5 55%

<u>RATIO OF COMPLIANT APARTMENTS</u>	
<u>E3-10 VENTILATION</u>	
APARTMENT 601	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 602	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 603	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 101	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 102	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 103	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 201	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 202	COMPLIES
APARTMENT 301	COMPLIES
TOTAL APARTMENTS	9 100%
REQUIRED COMPLIANCE	4 50%
COMPLIANT APARTMENTS	9 100%

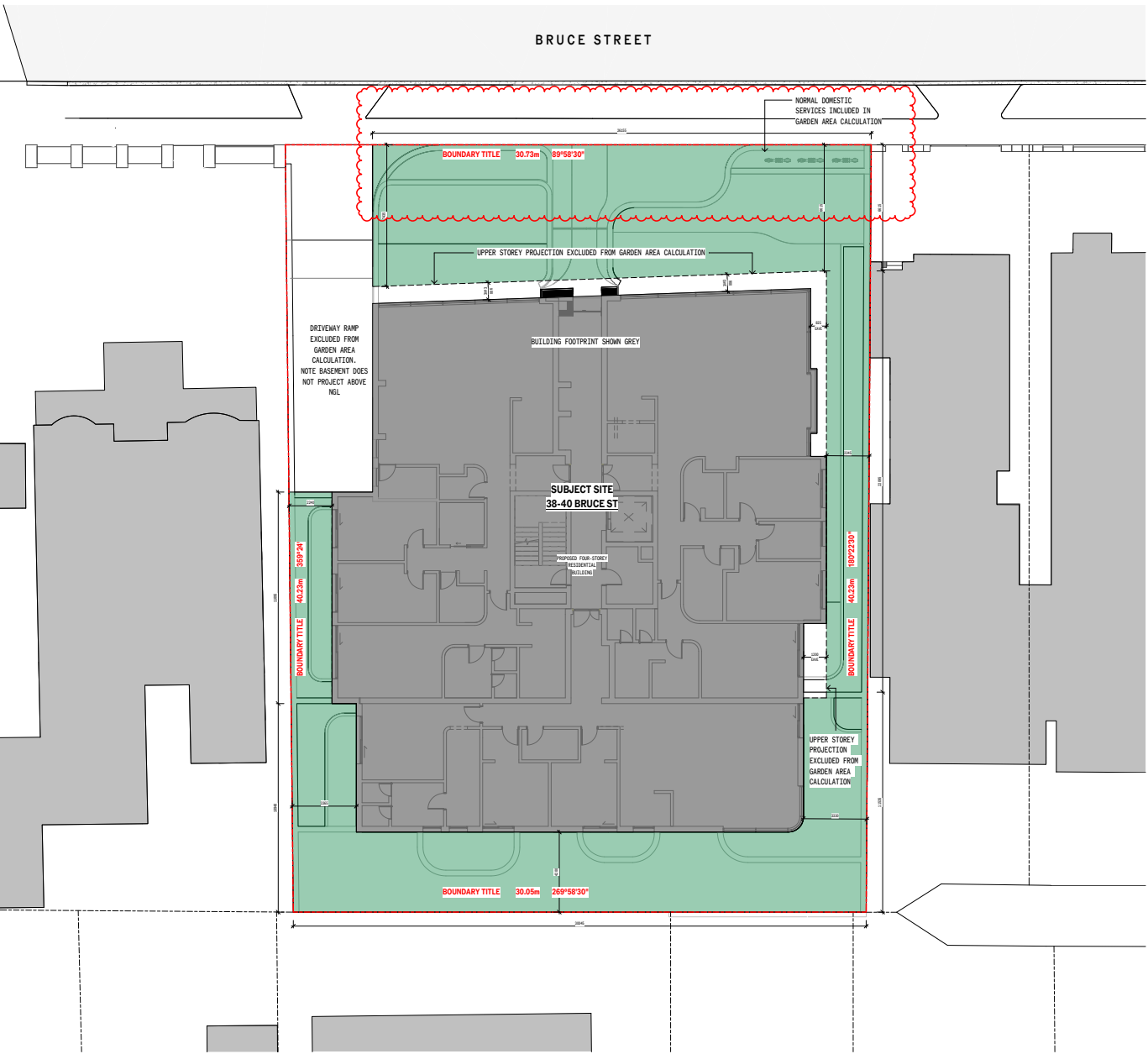
24.02.28	C	VCAT HEARING
25.02.28	C	TOWN PLANNING - PP141
27.02.28	A	TOWN PLANNING ISSUE
DATE	REV	COMMENTS

01.0000 CARPE GROUP PROJECT 38-40 BRUCE STREET TODDRAK VIC 3042 CITY TOWN PLANNING ISSUE SHEET 5 APARTMENT COMPLIANCE PLAN - SHEET 5 DRAWING NO. DATE REVISIONS TP 504 AS DATED 2026 24/02/2026
--

We warrant that the information on this plan complies with the requirements of section 52(1) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic) and that the information is true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

For and on behalf of the proponent, I, the undersigned, declare that the information on this plan complies with the requirements of section 52(1) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic) and that the information is true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

265, Clevedon Street, South Melbourne
 VIC 3205 Australia
 info@carpegroup.com.au
 03 9200 4000
 0438 77 72 272 265



PROPOSED GARDEN AREA	
SITE AREA:	1225m ²
GARDEN AREA REQUIRED:	427m ² (35%)
GARDEN AREA PROVIDED (SHOWN GREEN):	425.8m ² (34.7%)
GARDEN AREA EXCLUSIONS:	- DRIVEWAY RAMP - UPPER LEVEL PROJECTIONS

PROPOSED GROUND GARDEN AREA PLAN
1:100 @ A3

38-40 BRUCE STREET TODORAK VIC 3142	
TOWN PLANNING ISSUE	
PROPOSED GARDEN AREA PLAN	
PROJECT NO.	24/001/20208
TP 505	ASSOCIATED

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PANDOLFINI

8.3 Stonnington Animal Management Taskforce Findings

Manager City Business: Georgie Birch

Interim Director Community, Planning & Place: Cath Harrod

Linkage to Council Plan

3.1 - People are safe and able to fully participate in community life

5.2 - We are transparent, accountable, and community-centred in our decision-making

Purpose of Report

To present the final report the Stonnington Animal Management Taskforce.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. ***NOTES the final report of the Stonnington Animal Management Taskforce (CONFIDENTIAL Attachment 1).***
2. ***THANKS the Chair, secretariat and community representatives for their contribution to the Taskforce.***
3. ***NOTES the findings of the Taskforce report, and preliminary officer responses (Attachment 3).***
4. ***NOTES the recommendation of the Taskforce report and that officers will prepare a response for Council consideration by 25 May 2026.***
5. ***AUTHORISES the CEO, or their delegate, to extend the current contract with Save-A-Dog Scheme for continued animal management services for a period of 6 months (to 31 December 2026), with an option for an additional six months (to 30 June 2027), on terms similar to current arrangements to allow for a compliant EOI and tender process to be undertaken.***

Executive Summary

1. At its meetings on 26 May 2025, Council resolved not to award Tender T25007 (Animal Management Services), instead extending arrangements with Save-A-Dog Scheme (SADS) until no later than 30 June 2026, and to establish a Stonnington Animal Management Taskforce (the Taskforce) as an Advisory Committee.
2. The Taskforce was directed to report to Council by 15 December 2025 with recommendations for future animal management and welfare services capable of being implemented by 1 July 2026. On 1 December 2025, an extension of three months was granted for the provision of the Taskforce's report.
3. The Taskforce has now completed its deliberations in accordance with its Terms of Reference (**Attachment 5**) and presents its findings and recommendations for Council's consideration.

Background

4. On 26 May 2025, Council resolved:
 - Not to award Tender T25007 (Animal Management Services).

- To authorise the CEO to secure an agreement with SADS for continued animal management services until no later than 30 June 2026, on terms similar to current arrangements.
 - To establish a Stonnington Animal Management Taskforce by 30 June 2025 to conclude by 1 July 2026.
 - To direct the Taskforce to report to Council by 15 December 2025 with recommended proposals for future animal management and welfare services.
 - To reaffirm its commitment to minimising animal euthanasia through preventative measures, including desexing programs and supporting adoption and fostering programs, consistent with the Domestic Animal Management Plan principles.
5. On 30 June 2025, Council formally established the Taskforce as an Advisory Committee, approved its Terms of Reference, appointed Councillors, an independent Chair and secretariat, and directed the CEO to undertake a public Expression of Interest process to appoint up to three community representatives. Community representatives were then appointed on 28 July 2025.
6. The Taskforce commenced in July 2025 and has met regularly to consider service delivery models, financial implications, governance arrangements and animal welfare outcomes.

Key Issues and Discussion

7. In accordance with its Terms of Reference, the Taskforce has finalised its report (refer **CONFIDENTIAL Attachment 1**) and submitted it to Council for consideration. The report considers a range of possible future service models, and presents findings and a final recommendation with sub-sections. A copy of the report with confidential information redacted is at **Attachment 2**.
8. Officers have prepared preliminary commentary against each finding (refer **Attachment 3**), noting the need to obtain additional advice against some items.
9. The ultimate recommendation (refer **Attachment 4**) reflects the Taskforce's considered view of the most appropriate and sustainable model for future animal management and welfare services for the City of Stonnington.
10. Due to the complex, multi-layered nature of the recommendation, Officers will seek additional advice and engage with officers from Boroondara and Glen Eira, before presenting further recommendations to Council for decision.
11. Officers will review and scope the matters relating to Pound facility improvements. Upgrades will be staged, beginning with those that can be efficiently delivered to address compliance gaps.
12. It is considered prudent to allow sufficient time for this to occur, and on this basis, officers recommend a further extension to the existing pound contract.

Governance Compliance

Policy Implications

13. The Terms of Reference (**Attachment 5**) align with the Stonnington Committees' Policy.

Financial and Resource Implications

14. Payment for the Secretariat function was made on an hourly basis. So far, an invoice for \$16,487 ex GST for work undertaken through December 2025. A final invoice is due shortly.
15. Payment for the Chair was set in line with the fees payable for the Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee per annum (\$11,103.03) pro rata, however in recognition of the significant amount of work undertaken, the overall payment to the chair was raised under delegation to align more closely with the payment provided to the secretariat, totalling \$15,000.
16. Community representatives served in a voluntary, unpaid capacity.
17. \$100,000 has been proposed for scoping of Pound facility improvements in FY 26/27 budget.
18. Financial implications associated with implementation of the recommended model will be subject to further detailed assessment and reported to Council as part of any procurement or budget process.

Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

19. No Council officer and/or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Decision Making Connection Disclosure

20. As noted above the independent chair, Tim Dyke, and secretariat, Lesley Humphreys, were paid for their involvement in the Taskforce.
21. This decision will benefit Stonnington residents and their animals through improved animal welfare outcomes. It will also benefit SADS through the extension of their contract, and the relevant provider ultimately selected via EOI/tender to manage Council's pound facility.

Legal / Risk Implications

22. Extending the existing contract for Pound management services will be necessary to ensure ongoing animal managements services in Stonnington. It will not be possible to run a compliant EOI and tender process in the months remaining before the end of the existing contract (30 June 2026). This is reflected in the recommendation.

Environmental Implications

23. There are no environmental implications relevant to this report.

Community Consultation

24. Community consultation was undertaken to appoint the community representatives to the Taskforce.

Purpose	To seek expressions of interest from suitably qualified people who have the time and interest in being one of up to three community representatives on Council's recently established Animal Management Taskforce.
IAP2 Goal:	Collaborate
Exhibition period	4 July to midday 18 July 2025.
Method:	The EOI was promoted through social media posts on Council's platforms on 7 and 14 July 2025.
Reach:	<u>Connect Stonnington:</u>

Confidential information redacted



STONNINGTON ANIMAL MANAGEMENT TASKFORCE

FINAL REPORT

MARCH 12 2026

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Executive summary

The City of Stonnington established the Stonnington Animal Management Taskforce (the Taskforce) in response to community concerns raised about the proposed transfer of management of pound and associated rehoming services from Save-A-Dog Scheme (SADS), the incumbent pound / shelter service provider of 29 years to the Lost Dogs Home.

Council's contract with SADS to manage the city's pound reached the end of its term in 2024 prior to which Council was required to go to tender to seek proposals for the ongoing management of the service. This is in line with the requirements of Local Government Act and Council's Procurement Policy. The request for tenders was openly advertised. To ensure continued service provision, the SADS contract was extended to July 2025 and then again till July 2026.

One tender was received, this being from the Lost Dogs Home. SADS notified Council the organisation would not be tendering for the service because it 'could not comply with the conditions of the tender specifications'.

The tender submitted by the Lost Dogs Home complied with tender specifications and conditions and was presented to Council for consideration. Council did not proceed with finalising the tender.

The purpose of the Taskforce was to advise Council on recommended proposals for future animal management and welfare services which can be in place by 1 July 2026.

Services recommended could include but are not limited to:

- a regional pound,
- in-house service delivery,
- value-for-money review,
- potential new tender specifications,
- philanthropy options, and
- potential revenue generation opportunities.

Additional matters that arose and were considered as part of the review relate to:

- council articulating its position on animal welfare and especially euthanasia
- compliance of council's pound with state government legislation and codes of practice
- strengthening of council's service profile
- integration of services
- inclusion/revisions to future tender documentation
- philanthropic opportunities
- strategies to minimise the number of animals entering the pound

The Taskforce comprised three community/industry representatives; four councillors; council staff and resourcing support and involved a review of relevant council strategic plans and policies, interviews with industry professionals, a review of science-based papers; and

The review considered eight provision service models.

The Taskforce made thirteen findings (contained within the body of the report) and the following recommendation.

Taskforce recommendation to Council

In consideration of the practical and financial aspects, the Taskforce recommends that

- a) The existing pound facility be updated to be compliant with the Code of Practice to appropriately serve as a CoS pound facility
 - o with the capacity to directly rehome from the facility
 - o with short-term shelter arrangements, predominantly for the purposes of maximising the local availability and re-homing of suitable animals
- b) Council continue active consultation with neighbouring Councils to investigate whether the current facility could accommodate a small number of animals but likely not a complete pound service at this time

-
- c) Council progress a (select) tender process after it conducts a rapid Expression of Interest process to determine sector interest in providing pound services using the current facility consistent with Option 3. To progress this, the Taskforce recommends that the following be included in the expectations for tender submissions for provision of animal management services being:
- a. Ability to deliver statutory pound services, and shelter rehoming services as a continuous and integrated operation
 - b. Retain responsibility for animals beyond the statutory period
 - c. Maintain oversight and accountability for individual animal welfare pathways and for final outcome of all animals received
 - d. Demonstrate their commitment to:
 - i. adopt the PACT Tenet 'Alleviate suffering and make appropriate euthanasia decisions' as a principles-based approach to euthanasia.
 - ii. support the principles of G2Z and 'no-kill' in that it undertakes to saving every healthy, treatable, and rehabilitatable animal in its care
 - iii. recognise there may be a need for euthanasia on animal welfare and public safety grounds when
 - an animal is in unresolvable, irremediable pain or suffering as assessed by an independent veterinarian
 - when the welfare of an animal is irreparably compromised and/or when the welfare prognosis is poor as assessed by an independent veterinarian and not able to be managed by a suitable member of the public (as determined by a suitability assessment) who intends to adopt the animal
 - when an animal exhibits severe behavioural problems, as assessed by at least two people with experience e.g. an independent behaviouralist and an independent veterinarian (as per Finding 5 above (Note – 'independence' means independent from Council or service provider)
 - iv. Limit non-disclosure matters in Confidentiality/Non-Disclosure Agreements to matters such as the following:
 - client details, including financial information and other data
 - trade confidences
 - intellectual/proprietary information
 - sensitive operational information relating to finances, marketing, bequests
 - information relating to sponsors, volunteers, staff protection
 - v. Include a 'public interest disclosure' clause that protects whistleblowers when matters deemed to be of community and/or customer interest are disclosed. (Finding 9)
- d) Council establish future infrastructure requirements to address long-term capacity for a regional hub facility including community and regional Council consultation.
- e) Council ensure the following principles are applied to the evaluation of pound service tenders and of the service ongoing, as required by the Victorian Local Government Act (2020) s106 (a) services should be provided in an equitable manner and be responsive to the diverse needs of the municipal community;
- (b) services should be accessible to the members of the municipal community for whom the services are intended;
 - (c) quality and costs standards for services set by the Council should provide good value to the municipal community;
 - (d) a Council should seek to continuously improve service delivery to the municipal community in response to performance monitoring;
 - (e) service delivery must include a fair and effective process for considering and responding to complaints about service provision.
-

1. Introduction

Council's contract with Save a Dog Scheme to manage the city's pound reached the end of its term in 2025 prior to which Council was required to go to tender to seek proposals for the ongoing management of the service. This is in line with the requirements of Local Government Act and Council's Procurement Policy. The request for tenders was openly advertised.

One tender was received, this being from the Lost Dogs Home. SADS notified Council they would not be tendering for the service because they 'could not comply with the conditions of the tender specifications'.

The tender submitted by the Lost Dogs Home was deemed to comply with tender specifications and was presented to Council for consideration.

Council established the Stonnington Animal Management Taskforce (the Taskforce) in response to extreme and passionate concerns expressed by an unprecedented contingent of community animal owners and advocates about the proposed transfer of management of pound and associated rehoming services to the Lost Dogs Home.

1.1. The Purpose of the Taskforce

The Taskforce was formed to advise Council on options for the management pound and associated welfare services for animals residing in and/or found wandering at large within the Stonnington municipal boundary.

The Taskforce was to advise Council on recommended proposals for future animal management and welfare services which can be in place by 1 July 2026.

Services recommended could include but are not limited to: a regional pound, in-house service delivery, value-for-money review, potential new tender specifications, philanthropy options, and potential revenue generation opportunities. Council originally required that recommendations be presented to Council by 15 December 2025 so that the preferred service model could be in place by 1 July 2026. Due to the complexity of the issues identified by the Taskforce, Council extended the Taskforce to end March 2026.

1.2. Membership of the Taskforce

Council resolved that the Taskforce would comprise:

- Four Councillors
- At least one animal welfare expert
- Community representatives with demonstrated business, financial, or strategic planning expertise
- A chairperson
- A secretariat

Three community representatives were appointed.

1.3. The Principles that Underpin Taskforce Deliberations

The following understandings have guided the Taskforce research and deliberations:

Table 1 – Principles that guided taskforce research	
	Principles
	The Importance of Pets and Their Welfare
	The Taskforce recognises: • the importance and benefits of pet ownership • community service planning expectations relating to lost, abandoned and stray pets • the longer-term health and wellbeing needs of lost, abandoned and stray pets requires a multi-disciplinary approach that involves all levels of government, community agencies and the general community
	Animal Management Services
1	The Taskforce recognises the Council's passion and care about the wellbeing of domestic animals in the community and the role they play in the lives of residents. This passion and care is reflected in the objective and principles contained in the 2021-2026 DAMP adopted by Council in 2021.
2	The Taskforce acknowledges that their Terms of Reference include to advise Council on recommended proposals for future animal management and welfare services for animals that are registered, or found wandering at large or impounded in the Stonnington environs. Services recommended could include but are not limited to: a regional pound, in-house service delivery, value-for-money review, potential new tender specifications, philanthropy options, and potential revenue generation opportunities.
3	The Taskforce acknowledges matters relating to domestic animals are extremely sensitive and many situations are particularly challenging for individuals, communities and Council to address.
4	The Taskforce acknowledges the need for strong and productive community partnerships to address the complexity of matters associated with domestic animal management including: • in situations of: ◦ animal abuse ◦ owner downturn in economic circumstances, hospitalisation or homelessness ◦ family instability such as domestic violence • community perceptions • the viability and capacity of community-based foster and rehoming groups and initiatives • opportunities to manage preventive strategies to reduce the possibility of stray animals are considered elsewhere e.g. measures outlined in the CoS DAMP.

Table 1 – Principles that guided taskforce research	
Principles	
Compliance	
5	The Taskforce acknowledges the Council has an obligation to comply with relevant state government regulations and Codes of Practice, and to ensure service partners do the same in carrying out services on behalf of Council. These obligations relate to: • Vic. Local Government Act (2020), including Service performance principles • Vic. Domestic Animals Act (1984) • Vic. Gender Equality Act (2020) • Various relevant Codes of practice
Service Performance Principles and Transparency of Operations	
6	The Taskforce recognises the Council must comply with the requirements of the LG Act (2020) and consider Service Performance Principles (s106)
7	The Taskforce recognises that community expectations of local government have increased especially in terms of local government playing an active role to: • maximise the reclaiming of animals by owners and rehoming of surrendered and seized animals • ensure the wellbeing of animals in respective communities • ensure providers of pound and shelter services are held accountable • support volunteer-based rescue groups who are bearing the brunt of rehoming animals from communities.
Good Practice	
8	The Taskforce acknowledges the following guidance documents that are publicly available: • PACT tenets - PACT - The Association for Animal Welfare Advancement • The Association of Shelter Veterinarians Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters - The Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters: Second Edition Journal of Shelter Medicine and Community Animal Health • G2Z - Checklist Form - G2Z • No-kill Network - Victoria Australia: Find one near me - The nOkill Network: AU Further the Taskforce notes that the Victorian government formed a taskforce on Rehoming Pets in 2021 and supports its recommendation to develop a regulatory framework for the sector. (Pet rehoming sector reforms Shelters and pounds Domestic animal businesses Animal Welfare Victoria Livestock and animals Agriculture Victoria) and is aware that further regulation around pet rehoming may be introduced in the future.

2. Glossary of Terms and Definitions

Table 2 – Terms and Definitions	
Acronym	Definition
AIAM	Australian Institute of Animal Management
Authorised Officer	Person authorised by Council under section 224 of the Local Government Act to administer /enforce legislation
AMOs	Animal Management Officers
CoB	City of Boroondara
CFCNs (DAA) to be replaced by 'PRO' (Pet Rehoming Organisations) under Nov 2025 revision to the DAA	Community Foster Care Networks/Pet Rehoming Organisations
CoS	City of Stonnington
DAA	Victorian Domestic Animals Act, 1994
DAMP	Domestic Animal Management Plan
Euthanasia or removal of an animals from the establishment (Code of Practice)	At the conclusion of the statutory period specified in the Act for seized or surrendered animals, animals must be: - made available for rehoming to a new owner, or - euthanased because of disease, injury, behaviour, age, unsuitability for sale, or - placed in appropriate foster care and returned at an appropriate date for rehoming, or - released under a written agreement to a person or body which operates in accordance with the Act to care for and dispose of the animal, at the discretion of the operations manager or veterinary practitioner. The preferred method of euthanasia is barbiturate overdose, which must be conducted by a veterinary practitioner. Any method of euthanasia must be conducted humanely. Euthanasia must be performed in an area that is separated from animal accommodation at the establishment and must not be conducted in view of any other animals or members of the public.
Feral	Cats which do not obtain any food or shelter from humans. Estimated to represent only 10% of cats entering pounds. ¹
Foster care (Code of Practice)	Can be in the form of - juvenile foster care - veterinary rehabilitation foster care - behavioural rehabilitation foster care - short term relief foster care
G2Z	Getting to Zero (https://www.g2z.org.au/)
CoGE	City of Glen Eira City
Impound	To impound a stray animal means to:

¹ Managing Cats Humanely and Scientifically to Reduce Cats, Wildlife Predation and Costs, J. Rand

Table 2 – Terms and Definitions	
Acronym	Definition
	- Seize and detain the animal, usually by a Council-authorised officer - Transport it to a municipal pound or animal shelter - Hold it for a legally defined period while attempts are made to locate the owner. Pounds have statutory authority under the Domestic Animals Act 1994 to impound animals, especially those found wandering or unregistered.
Isolation housing (Code of Practice)	Pens, cages or modules that are kept in a separate area to general housing and used for animals suspected of having, or diagnosed with, an infectious disease.
Council	Stonnington City Council
LDH	Lost Dogs Home
No-kill	An animal shelter or rescue organization that commits to saving every healthy, treatable, and rehabilitatable animal in its care. In practice: 90% Save Rate Benchmark: A shelter is typically considered "no kill" if it saves at least 90% of the animals it takes in. The remaining 10% may include animals who are terminally ill or pose a serious danger to public safety. - Euthanasia as Mercy: Euthanasia is only used for animals who are suffering or cannot be safely rehomed—not due to time limits, space constraints, or convenience. - Transparency: shelters are open about their intake, outcomes, and policies. They don't label animals "unadoptable" just to justify euthanasia.
Owned (CoS DAMP)	Animal that receives full care by owners
PACT tenets	People and Animals in Community Together (refer Appendix 1)
PROs (as per Nov. 2025 DAA Amendment)	Pet Rehoming Organisations
Pound (Code of Practice)	An establishment operated by a municipal Council for the seizure, housing, and care of dogs and cats that are: - Found wandering at large - Seized under the Act (e.g. due to non-registration, nuisance, or aggression) - Surrendered by owners This includes any holding facilities used by Councils for short-term or long-term housing of animals prior to rehoming, return to owner, or other lawful disposal. Key Features of a Pound - Must comply with the Code of Practice under section 59 of the Domestic Animals Act - Must provide adequate accommodation, nutrition, and veterinary care - Must scan animals for microchips and attempt to contact owners - Must hold seized animals for a minimum of 8 days before rehoming or euthanasia

Table 2 – Terms and Definitions	
Acronym	Definition
	May operate in conjunction with animal shelters or welfare organisations An alternative definition: Pound (About shelters and pounds Shelters and pounds Domestic animal businesses Animal Welfare Victoria Livestock and animals Agriculture Victoria) An establishment that impounds and cares for lost, stray, injured, or unowned dogs and cats. Pounds manage compliance and enforcement (e.g. holding animals until reclaimed or rehomed). Pounds have statutory authority under the Domestic Animals Act 1994 to impound animals, especially those found wandering or unregistered.
Public place	Includes all streets, roads, footways, reserves, lanes, parks, schools, public halls etc.
Seize (not defined in the DAA)	To take into custody an animal either by an AMO or community member (E: pet-welfare@agriculture.vic.gov.au)
Seizing of animals (DAA)	Animals taken into custody by a Council-Authorised Officer or other designated authority as identified in the DAA. Matters giving rise to the possible seizing of animals by a Council-Authorised Officer or other designated authority as identified in the DAA: - S23 - Dogs and cats on private property without permission - S24 - Dogs found at large (Dogs wandering in a public place without control of owner) - S25 - Cats found at large (Cat's wandering outside owner's premises) - S26 - Dogs and cats found in places specified by the Council e.g. unleashed where they should be on a leashed; present where and/or at times where they should not be present - S84A - Seizure of cat without current identification - S82 - Seizure of unregistered dog or cat (The animal is unregistered or not microchipped) - S78 - Seizure of dangerous or restricted breed dogs - The animal is involved in a nuisance complaint, attack, or menacing behaviour - S79 - Seizure of restricted breed dogs (The animal is suspected of being a dangerous or restricted breed) - S81 - Seizure of dog urged or trained to attack or having attacked
RSPCA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
SCC	Stonnington City Council
Semi-owned cat (CoS DAMP)	Cats that have been given some form of long-term care (generally food) by humans. Estimated to be 33% of surrenders. ²
Shelter	An establishment that takes in and cares for lost, stray, injured, or unowned dogs and cats, often with a focus on rehoming. Shelters often focus more on rehabilitation and adoption

² Managing Cats Humanely and Scientifically to Reduce Cats, Wildlife Predation and Costs, J. Rand

Table 2 – Terms and Definitions	
Acronym	Definition
	https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/animal-welfare-victoria/domestic-animal-businesses/shelters-and-pounds/about-shelters-and-pounds
8-day Statutory Period (DAA)	The number of days a lost/stray/impounded animal must be held and within which an owner can reclaim before it is transferred
Stray animal (see also Urban Stray Cat)	Typically defined as: • A domestic pet (dog or cat) found wandering at large in a public place • Not under effective control by its owner (e.g. off-leash in a non-designated area) • Not wearing identification or registration tags
Surrender (implied in DAA)	To surrender a domestic animal means that the owner voluntarily relinquishes ownership and control of the animal to a municipal Council, pound, or shelter, typically for rehoming or lawful disposal. Section 33A of the Act, states: "A Council animal shelter or Council pound must accept a dog or cat that is surrendered by its owner."
Urban stray cat (see also Stray animal) (CoS DAMP)	Typically, are lost or wandering owned cats, abandoned cats, or semi-owned cats receiving some care (e.g. food) from humans.
Vic. LGA	Victorian Local Government Act, 2020

3. Taskforce Review Context

3.1. State Government Context

The following Victorian State Government legislation is particularly relevant to the Taskforce Review.

Reference 1 - Victorian Local Government Act

- Section 55 – Requires councils to prepare a Community Engagement (CE) Policy that is prepared in conjunction with community, contains CE principles and capable of being applied to the making of Local Laws, budget and policy development
- Section 71 -Power to make Local Laws
- Section 89-93 Requires councils to prepare a Council Plan, inclusive of 'community vision', associated budget requirements, potential risks associated with implementation etc.; an Asset Plan; a Financial Plan; a Revenue and Rating Plan etc.
- Section 106 – Requires the Council to plan and deliver services consistent with service performance principles that relate to ensure equitable, 'good value', quality, accessible (for whom the services are intended) and responsive distribution of services
- Section 109 – Procurement.

Reference 2 - Victorian Domestic Animals Act (1994)

The purpose of the Victorian Domestic Animals Act is to promote animal welfare, the responsible ownership of dogs and cats and the protection of the environment. It contains the obligations of local government particularly relating to the:

- protection of the community and the environment from feral and nuisance dogs and cats
- registration and identification of dogs and cats
- identification and control of dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs
- registration of domestic animal businesses (DABs)
- regulation of matters relating to the breeding and sale of dogs and cats
- registration of foster carers
- the boarding of dogs and cats
- the permanent identification of dogs, cats, horses and other animals

Section 84Y of the DAA

Of particular relevance to the Taskforce is section 84Y of the DAA which allows Councils to enter into agreements with appropriately skilled individuals or organisations to receive lost or stray animals.

Section 84Y of the Victorian DAA states that Councils can engage a person or organisation to:

- 'seize' a cat or dog under section 84 of the DAA³
- retain custody of the cat/dog
- sell or destroy the seized animal
- give the seized cat/dog to a CFCN (must be desexed/microchipped) or animal shelter
- charge fees for the above

Animal Welfare Victoria provides further clarification on 84Y Agreements in the document '84Y Agreements Guidance (DAA)' and states⁴ that Councils have the authority to enter into written agreements with a person or organisation to support '*the capture, holding, rehoming or disposal of dogs and cats*', including:

³ Noted that the DAA allows 'a person' to seize a dog if it is found in an area or in circumstances where the owner of the animal would be guilty of an offence under section 23, 24, 25 or 26 (section 84); or a cat outside its property without ID (section 84A)

⁴ 84Y Agreements Guidance (DAA), pages 2, 4

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- A provider of a pound and/or shelter service, noting that these entities must comply with the requirements of the DAA relating to the operation of pounds, be registered as a Domestic Animal Business (DAB) and comply with the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds
 - Veterinary practices
 - Community Foster Care Networks (CFCN)/Pet Rehoming Organisations (PROs)
 - Foster carers

The Guidance document notes the following benefits of 84Y Agreements:

- reduced burden on Councils to manage lost or stray animals
- increased number of animal management facilities or services within a Council area, meaning more places for:
 - o cats and dogs to be cared for
 - o the public to access when delivering up lost animals
 - o adoptions to take place
 - o increased care options for animals, potentially reducing euthanasia rates and increasing the possibility of adoption.

Reference 4 - Domestic Animals Amendment (Rehoming Cats and Dogs and Other Matters) Act 2025, No. of 2025

This Act will come into effect in April 2027.

The main purposes of the Act are to amend the DAA to:

- provide for an authorisation scheme for pet rehoming organisations to assist those organisations to rehome dogs and cats
- further provide for Councils to be informed about animals in foster care in their municipal district
- provide for the collection of information about the outcome of efforts to rehome dogs and cats
- clarify the powers of authorised officers in relation to entering premises for certain purposes
- provide for other minor and related matters.

As part of the implementation of the Domestic Animals Amendment (Rehoming Cats and Dogs and Other Matters) Act 2025, Victoria is introducing the APRO scheme, which begins on April 10, 2027. This is a voluntary scheme that will replace the old Foster Carer Registration Scheme (FCRS), which will be repealed on April 10, 2028. To become an APRO, organisations must meet certain criteria.

Reference 5 - Code of Practice for the Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds (Revision 1)

The purpose of the Code of Practice is to specify the minimum standards of accommodation, management and care appropriate to the physical and behavioural needs of dogs and cats housed in an animal shelter or Council pound and/or holding facilities.

Specific conditions apply to the long-term housing of dogs seized and held for legislative purposes.

Reference 6- Victorian Government (VG) Response to the Final Report and Recommendations of the Taskforce on Rehoming Pets, 2022 Taskforce on Rehoming Pets

The government adopted all 17 of the Taskforce recommendations. Of particular relevance to the Taskforce Review are the following recommendations:

- Recommendation 4 - VG to review and consider options to improve animal behavioural testing
 - Recommendation 5 - VG to consider and develop appropriate protections to minimise the use of euthanasia for animals with treatable or manageable health conditions. (The VG notes the lack of comprehensive and contemporary data on the use of euthanasia in shelters and pounds.)
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- Recommendation 7 - VG to work with the sector to develop and implement a regulatory framework for the sector that considers and, where relevant, reviews existing regulatory instruments.
 - Recommendation 8 - VG to amend the DA Act to introduce a registration scheme for the sector, similar to other registration schemes for existing domestic animal care and management organisations.
 - Recommendation 9- VG to develop and introduce minimum standards for the care and management of animals by the sector (i.e. animals in temporary care).

3.2. Council Service Planning and Policy Context

3.2.1. Council Documents

The following documents are referenced because they contain information considered relevant to matters being considered by the Taskforce or were relevant to issues raised as part of Taskforce deliberations.

Reference 7 - Stonnington Domestic Animals Management Plan (DAMP), 2022-2025

The 2022-2025 DAMP addresses specific matters relating to the management of cats and dogs as required by Domestic Animals Act (DAA)⁵ with a particular focus on matters relating to:

- service effectiveness, including the training of staff; reviewing of policies, procedures and local laws and orders
- encouraging responsible pet ownership attitudes and behaviours
- increasing rates of pet registration
- ensuring people who own or care for pets, and animal related businesses comply with their obligations
- minimising risk and nuisance associated with pets
- initiatives to reduce abandonment of pets and euthanasia rates of pets, particularly in relation to cats.

In addition, the 2022-2025 DAMP recognises broader community and personal matters relating to pets and that need to be better understood and addressed including matters associated with:

- provision for dogs on and off-leash
- pet ownership in medium-high density living environments
- opportunities to partner with community groups to optimise community strengthening outcomes relating to pets
- support to vulnerable pet owning families.

Of relevance to the Taskforce Review the 2022-2025 DAMP notes/references:

- A benchmark review that at the time of the writing of the DAMP, Stonnington appeared to have the lowest level of AMO resourcing; a comparatively low level of resourcing and high level of (animal related) complaint per head of population/registered animals; and the lowest net spend for the service⁶
- The following recommendations made in the DAMP have particular relevance to the Taskforce Review including:

⁵ Domestic Animals Act, Section 68A, Victorian State Government.

⁶ Mornington Peninsula Council DAMP benchmarking exercise

Reference 8- Stonnington Council Plan and Community Vision (Stonnington Tomorrow)

Vision Statement Welcome to Stonnington 2040 A modern, sustainable and interconnected community that supports the good health and wellbeing of all. Our community is a safe, accessible and creative city that celebrates and embraces all cultures including First Peoples past and present.

There are six principles that underpin the Vision, two of which are particularly relevant to the Taskforce Review. These are:

- Principle 3 - Be a caring and compassionate city that promotes and facilitates opportunities for community connections
- Principle 4 - Have accountable and transparent governance with community representation in decision making through accessible and consultative communication.

Actions in the Community Plan have direct implications for the Taskforce Review including Actions:

- Objective - 1.1 Planning and infrastructure keep pace with population growth
 - o Focus Area - 1.1.3 Plan for services and amenities to be within an easily accessible, sustainable journey for all residents
- Objective - 3.1 People are safe and able to fully participate in community life
 - o Focus Area - 3.1.4 Foster a pet-friendly and responsible city
- Objective 5.1 We are financially sustainable
 - o Focus Area - 5.1.2 Continue to review and improve our services to ensure these are efficient, cost-effective and responsive to community needs
 - o Focus Area - 5.1.3 Manage our assets strategically and invest in assets that will provide long term community benefit
 - o Focus Area - 5.1.4 Optimise our property portfolio to balance community benefit and financial sustainability.
- Objective - 5.2 We are transparent, accountable, and community-centred in our decision-making
 - o Focus Area - 5.2.3 Communicate clearly, openly and in a timely way to build trust and confidence in our decisions
- Objective 5.3 We deliver excellent customer experiences
 - o Focus Area - 5.3.1 Design customer experiences to meet the evolving needs of our community and deliver these to consistent, high-quality standards
 - o Focus Area - 5.3.2 Make it easier for people to access information and interact with us in ways that suit them
- Objective 5.4 We value safety, security, and capability in our workplace
 - o Focus Area - 5.4.3 Invest in our staff and systems to improve operational capability and capacity.

In addition, some actions may have indirect implications for owners and their pets but these implications are outside the scope of the Taskforce and will be addressed in the review of the Domestic Animal Management Plan. Examples of these relate to:

- Homelessness (Action 3.1.2)
- Safety in homes (Action 3.1.1)
- Community Connection through programs and events (Action 3.2.2)

Reference 9 - Public Transparency Policy

This policy seeks to promote:

- Greater clarity in Council's decision-making processes

-
- Increased confidence and trust in the community through greater understanding and awareness
 - Enhanced decision making by the community
 - Improve Council's performance
 - Access to information that is current, easily accessible and disseminated in a timely manner
 - Reassurance to the community that Council is spending public monies wisely.

The policy also makes note of information that is not available on the basis that the information is confidential⁷ or if its release would be contrary to the public interest or not in compliance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014.

Council may determine if the release of the information is not in the public interest if for example it involves:

- internal working documents that have not been approved or submitted to Council, especially where their release may mislead the public;
- directions to Council staff regarding negotiations in contractual or civil liability matters, where release may damage the Council's capacity to negotiate the best outcome for the community,
- correspondence with members of the community, where release may inappropriately expose a person's private dealings.

The following summarises the implications of these documents for the planning and management of Animal Management Services:

- The need for compliance with obligations under the DAA, including requirements on any 2nd party involved in the provision of pound and / or associated services e.g. external pound operator, 84Y partners
- The need for effective liaison between Council service areas to ensure an understanding of the existing and emerging matters relating to pets in the community, and the need for a council-wide approach to addressing service priorities
- The need for well-established and clear protocols for communicating messages and information about pet owner responsibilities. This will:
 - o eliminate/minimise the use of the generic term 'responsible pet ownership'
 - o focus on targeting/reinforcing a smaller number of priority and specific issues at a time through multiple channels, rather generic messaging of multiple issues/matters
 - o require context specific messaging and information
 - o require information/education for council staff, councillors etc. so:
 - o there is a strong organisation understanding of the need for/ benefits of direct, and not generic messaging
 - o to reduced/eliminated use of the term in council documentation
- The need to work with SADS, or any provided or pound/shelter services to ensure the following information is collected when animals are taken in. This will identify areas that can be targeted to address specific issues/ needs:
 - o Intake information e.g.
 - o Intake type e.g. ranger pick-up, surrender, finder stray, trapped, involved in incident
 - o Address where animal came from/was collected from
 - o If registered and microchipped at time of intake
 - o Reasons for surrender
 - o Outgoing information e.g.
 - o Reclaimed, adopted, transferred to other facility/rescue group
 - o If euthanised, the reason

⁷ 'Confidential information' is defined in section 3 of the Local Government Act 2020. It includes the types of information listed in the table on page 6 of the policy

- The need for relevant staff to undertake CRAF (Common Risk Assessment Framework) or similar training (Family Violence)
- The need to ensure that consideration is given to the requirements of pet owners when the document Preventing Violence Together: A Strategy for the Southern Metropolitan Region (2016-2021) is reviewed
- The need to work with domestic violence organisations to help promote awareness of assistance for pet owners experiencing domestic violence
- The need to ensure that all council's strategic planning processes and documents recognise issues and opportunities relating to pet owners

3.2.2. Animal Management Service Structure

Animal Management (AM) Services reports to the Manager City Business and is part of the Planning and Place Directorate. The AM team includes the AM Co-ordinator who is responsible for overseeing the operations of three Rangers and the pound contract with Save a Dog Scheme (SADS). The team is responsible for ensuring Council and associated service providers comply with the requirements of the DAA and relevant Codes of Practice.

3.2.3. Pound Facilities

Council owns a pound facility located at 36 Weir Street Glen Iris that includes 20 cat condos and 16 dog pens that is also used as shelter facilities and for the rehoming of animals. The site occupied by the pound is approximately 1.3 Ha and adjoins the 1.7 Ha Tooronga Park.

The facility has been leased to SADS^a since 2015 who have operated the pound on behalf of Council since September 2015, via an agreement. SADS, via agreement with Council also provided pound services to the City of Boroondara between 2010-2015.

Table 3 – Number of cats and dogs taken in by Stonnington over last 2 years						
	2023/2024		2024/2025		@ trend 2023/2024 to 2024/2025	
	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats
Incoming	105	120	101	142	-3.81%	18.33%
Outgoing	109	127	101	142		

A high-level review of the facility by Taskforce members finds that some sections of the facility do not comply with Codes of Practice, state government legislation and/industry good practice guidelines. This is discussed more fully in section 5.2.

The original service agreement with SADS:

- Allows for the ownership of impounded animals at the end of the statutory holding period to be conferred to SADS in accordance with the Act and
- States that the Council will not accept responsibility for any animal housing costs after the statutory holding period or any veterinary costs relating to the rehoming of animals by SADS.
- Stipulates that the Council is only responsible for animals seized, impounded or surrendered in accordance with the provisions of the Act and Regulations within the City of Stonnington
- Allows for SADS to sub-contract housing of seized animals with agreement of the Council
- Allows for SADS to house animals after the expiration of the statutory period or after 4 days for surrendered animals and is entitled to retail, sell or give away such animals in accordance with the Code.
- Requires SADS to provide various data and regular reports including animals transferred to SADS and those transfers that are adopted

^a \$11.00 per annum

The contract signed in Dec 2024 (effective date 1 Oct 2024 to 30 June 2025) is for the provision of Pound services within the Council's municipal district.

The original lease for SADS to lease the Council premises:

- Describes permitted use as i) animal shelter ii) animal pound iii) peripheral sales of merchandise for fundraising purposes
- Details that the Council does not have the right to enter into any other pound services contracts at the premises where SADS holds the lease
- Details that SADS could enter into any contract to provide pound services to another municipality from the premises
- Annexure B describes lease responsibilities of the Council and SADS
- At signing in 2020 describes a rent of \$11.00 per annum (and a market rent of \$67,000),

The lease signed October 2024 is simplified and does not have the statements noted in the original lease. Rent remains as \$11.00 per annum.

3.3. Industry Context

3.3.1. Regional Context

Prior to the Taskforce being established, Council commenced discussions with Boroondara and Glen Eira Councils to investigate interest in establishing a regional service model for pound and allied services as might be deemed relevant.

RSPCA had provided pound and rehoming services to both Councils but gave notification that RSPCA was no longer going to provide pound services to local government. The RSPCA gave Boroondara and Glen Eira Councils a period of time before pound operations would cease.

3.3.1.1. [REDACTED]

[illegible]

Table 4. (Continued)

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3.3.1.2. [REDACTED]

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Table 5 [REDACTED]						
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3.3.2. Pet Rehoming Organisations

The primary responsibility for rehoming pets is increasingly falling to volunteer-based foster care and rehoming organisations, many of which are under-resourced.

A survey of 18 PROs in 2024⁹ found their main barrier to rehoming animals was cost and access to long-term foster care. Data provided by these groups showed it costs at least \$500 to rehome a dog, between \$200 and \$500 to rehome a cat, and up to \$200 to rehome 'pocket pets'.¹⁰ This survey also reveals that PROs rescued/rehomed over 1,291 animals of which 58% (743) were surrendered to them directly by residents and 42% (548) by the local Council.

These 18 groups were found to service 52 Council areas between them.

This indicates the pressure PROs are facing and the need for initiatives to better support the sector. These groups noted:

- The economic climate is impacting on:
 - o the number of animals surrendered
 - o the capacity of volunteers to fund their commitment to foster caring
- Many rescue groups feel 'imposed on'/unsupported by local government
- Many in the community have a concern about pounds and the fate of animals entering pounds and feel that closer direct relationships with Councils would result in a more positive perspective on the Council support of rehoming and minimising euthanasia
- The management of cats is a complex issue that can sometimes put local government and state government at odds with rescue groups

These groups identified the following help from local government would significantly relieved financial, practical and emotional pressure on foster groups:

- Veterinary assistance – Vet checks, desexing, vaccinating & micro-chipping, medication/prescriptions/followup veterinary support
- Detailed (and honest) behaviour assessments and handover notes incl. images, and medical assessments
- Efficient and complete administration e.g. re health/behavioural reports, vaccination certificates, transfer of registration information, microchip information
- 'Deal sweeteners' - Balance in transfers of easier-to-rehome animals e.g. small dogs, socialised/healthy animals in addition to large/less socialised dogs
- Quality donations of toys, leads, bedding and especially food etc.

There is varied sentiment within the PRO networks relating to the euthanasia of some cohorts of cats and dogs based on differing operational philosophy regarding:

- the health and wellbeing impact of long stays in a shelter/foster care environment
- a priority for investing in optimising outcomes for multiple animals vs the funding of expensive procedures to remedy deformities, injuries or disease
- behavioural considerations that may pose a risk to a potential owner, the public, carers, veterinary professionals and the etc.

Discussions indicate SADS does not partner with other foster care/rehoming groups to optimise rehoming of animals or to minimise the length of stay of animals in the shelter.

3.4. The Importance of Pets and Service Priorities

Stonnington residents responding to a survey undertaken to inform the 2022-25 DAMP highlighted the importance of pets. Both multiple choice and written responses to this survey emphasised the

⁹ Melton Council survey conducted as part of the 2026-2029 DAMP research/consultation

¹⁰ Taskforce on Rehoming Pets: Final Report to the Victorian Government, December 2021

importance of pets in terms of companionship, unconditional affection, connection with community, and for people living on their own or dealing with mental health challenges¹¹.

Table 6 - What Stonnington DAMP Survey respondents say about their pets	
Responses	%
Pets are an important part of my family	99
It is important for me to have a pet in my life	96
My pets give me great comfort in times of need	93
My pet is important because they give me unconditional affection	90
Pets give me a strong reason for living	74
My pet is important because they give me peace of mind	65
* % of 2021 Pet survey respondents selecting 'Agree' + 'Strongly Agree'	

The DAMP also referenced the large number of respondents who referred to the importance of their pets during Covid lockdowns and the 64% respondents who choose their recreation activities based on being able to take their pets with them.

In the emotionally charged environment preceding the Taskforce being established, Council, councillors and council staff were the target of extreme accusations. This was triggered primarily because of the recommendation to award the pound contract to an alternative service provider and associated sentiment that this reflected a lack of concern for the welfare of animals more generally by Council.

However, in the less fraught environment when the DAMP survey was conducted in 2021, Council was perceived well by the broader community, including pet owners which demonstrated that¹²:

- Council Animal Management staff were considered to be helpful and courteous (89%) and to care about the welfare of animals (89%)
- Council was seen to understand and recognise the importance and value of pets (87%)
- Council staff were seen to care about the welfare of animals (89%).

A community survey of 238 people conducted in 2025 showed that the top 5 animal management service priorities for respondents relate to dog litter; off-leash area management; behaviour/control of dogs in parks; and aggressive and dangerous dogs. It is noted that dog litter is the issue that annoys respondents to a far greater extent than any other matters associated with pets.

4. Models of Provision

4.1. Trends Across Councils

There are seventy-nine (79) LGAs in Victoria. Forty-four (44) Victorian Councils contract¹³ out their pound service to another party. These Councils may have their own pound and/or pound/shelter or temporary holding facilities but will rely heavily on animals being transferred offsite to a providers' facility for rehoming following the statutory holding period. Some external providers also have partnerships in place with PROs. Examples of external providers include organisations with agreements with multiple Councils such as Cat Protection Society, Victorian Animal Aid Trust, Lort Smith Animal Hospital, and until recently the RSPCA.

Some external providers deliver pound and/or rehoming services for one Council only, such as Geelong Animal Welfare Society (GAWS for the City of Greater Geelong) and Save a Dog Scheme (SADS) (for CoS).

Of the remaining thirty-five (35) Councils, a number have their own facilities, some of which have direct rehoming programs and/or 84Y Agreements with PROs. Examples include Melton, Bendigo

¹¹ 2021 DAMP Community Survey

¹² 2021 DAMP Community Survey

¹³ As an Agreement in line with section 84Y of the DAA

and Mornington Councils. Alternatively, some contract the pound services to another Council that has direct and/or indirect rehoming programs in place. Examples include Merri-bek and Darebin Councils that outsource their pound service to Whittlesea Council, and Indigo and Wangaratta Councils that outsource their service to Albury Council.

Good practice pound operations are considered to have a 'seamless transfer' of animals from the pound to the rehoming environment. Research for the Taskforce indicates that historically it has been perceived that this is best carried out by a single organisation.

However, research for the Taskforce demonstrates this is now being successfully achieved in the sector via effective partnerships with PROs¹⁴ to maximise re-homing.

More recently there appears to be a shift by local government towards increasing partnerships with PROs and where capacity allows, rehoming directly from pound facilities following the statutory period. Discussions indicate a number of Councils are reviewing current operational models including the merits of returning pound services to in-house delivery by Council staff.

The reasons for this shift appear to include:

- the withdrawal of the RSPCA, a major and relatively trusted service provider, from operating pound services. This has/will result in fewer pound and pound/shelter external service providers offering options for local government. It will also place additional pressure on remaining external service providers.
- a significant escalation in costs associated with external providers. It is noted that there has been a tendency in the past for some shelters to take on pound contracts for reasons of enhancing survival rates but at a cost to the organisation. Not-for-profit groups foresee that they cannot absorb escalating costs and demand and are now passing real costs on to Councils
 - service vulnerability and the impact of over/total reliance external providers with no avenue of recourse because of off-load facilities and/or not investing/under investing in pound facilities
 - the desire of some Councils for greater oversight/control of outcomes for animals, to have greater service flexibility and to reinstate/enhance Council's connection with community.

4.2. The Various Models Used and Services Provided

Interviews were conducted with representatives from Victorian and interstate councils to understand the benefits and challenges associated with different models of animal pound provision. Table 7 provides an overview of these models.

Council	In-house or external provider of pound services	Regional Hub?	84Y agreements or similar	Other comments
Stonnington (for reference)	External – SADS	No	No rehoming partnerships in place	Rehoming from pound site and facility in Yarrambat
Boroondara	External – RSPCA	Interested in investigating options	No	RSPCA responsible for rehoming
Glen Eira	External – RSPCA	Interested in investigating options	No	RSPCA responsible for rehoming
Whittlesea	In-house	Yes – For Merri-bek and Darebin	Yes	Direct rehoming also

¹⁴ Bendigo Council (BARC), Melton Council, Manningham Council, Cairns Council

Table 7 – Examples of service models				
Council	In-house or external provider of pound services	Regional Hub?	84Y agreements or similar	Other comments
		Councils on a fee-for-service basis		
Geelong	External – Geelong Animal Welfare Society (GAWS)	GAWS provides pound services for Golden Plains, Surf Coast, Geelong and Queenscliffe council areas on a fee-for-service basis	Foster carers via GAWS	Direct rehoming also
Melton*	In-house	No But considering this as part of feasibility study	Yes	Direct rehoming also
Bendigo	In-house (BARC)	No	Yes	Direct rehoming also
Campaspe***	In-house	No	Yes	No direct rehoming
Albury	In-house (Albury Animal Care Centre)	For Wodonga Wangaratta, Toowong Councils (Vic); and Greater Hume and Indigo Councils (NSW)	Yes	Direct rehoming via appointment after adoption application submitted/via 'Pet Rescue' adoption platform ¹⁵ .
City of Melbourne**	External - Lost Dogs Home	No	LDH responsible	Direct rehoming also
Hawkesbury (NSW)	In-house	Yes on a fee-for-service basis	Yes	Direct rehoming also
Blacktown (NSW)	In-house	Yes – on a condos/pen lease arrangement	Yes	Direct rehoming also
Cairns (QLD)	In-house	No	Yes	No direct rehoming
* Melton DAMP (section 5.9; p26) notes changed community expectations about the care of lost/abandoned animals; different service models being assessed as part of a facility feasibility study; the vulnerability/lack of control associated with reliance on an external provider. ** Domestic Animal Management Plan City of Melbourne *** Understood to be subject of compliance related investigations on hold until outcome of current review on rehoming of cats and dogs.				

There are two approaches to management of pounds.

A) Council provides its own pound service only either by:

- A.1. Management by in-house Council staff
- A.2. An external provider from a Council facility and/or from the provider's own facility off-site.

¹⁵ www.petrescue.com.au

After the mandatory 8-day holding period animals may be transferred to rehoming pens/condos on site for direct rehoming and/or to an off-site facility and/or to PROs.

The degree to which animals are rehomed from the site depends on factors such as:

- council service principles and/or level of commitment to service levels that extend beyond mandatory requirements and to best practice
- whether council provides a pound only facility/service or an integrated pound/rehoming service
- the capacity of the site e.g. the number of compliant pens/condos on site and other Code of Practice compliance requirements
- competing budget/resourcing demands
- community expectations/demand

Feedback¹⁶ received as part of the Taskforce indicates that:

- animals are more likely to be reclaimed if they can be retrieved locally (AIAM)
- the proximity of animals for rehoming to relevant population centres will enhance rates of rehoming
- rehoming is significantly enhanced when strong partnerships with PROs, usually multiple, are in place regardless of whether the pound/rehoming service is provided in-house or by an external provider¹⁷.
 - Example of Councils operating under this model include:
 - Geelong Council – Pound and rehoming service provided by an external provider, Geelong Animal Welfare Society (GAWS)
 - Melton Council – Inhouse pound with direct rehoming and partnerships with PROs.
 - Bendigo Council (Bendigo Animal Relief Centre/BARC) – Inhouse pound with direct rehoming and partnerships with PROs.

B) Pound services provided by a Council for several Councils (regional model)¹⁸

Research for the Taskforce has identified the following models in operation including:

- Fixed and variable cost apportionment – Total costs are apportioned according to the number of animals entering the pound from each Council area
- Fixed daily rate per cat and dog impounded
- 'Pen/condo hire' – Other Councils pay for the pen regardless of whether the pen/condo is used by that Council.

Example of Councils operating under a regional hub model include:

- Albury Council (Vic - Albury Animal Care Centre) that provides pound services for Wangaratta and Towong Councils in Victoria, and Indigo and Greater Hume Councils in NSW
- Whittlesea Council (Vic - Wat Djerring Animal Facility) that provides pound services for Darebin and Merri-bek Councils
- Hawkesbury Council (NSW) that provides pound services for four Council areas
- Blacktown Council (NSW)

¹⁶ Increasing Returns to Owners, www.g2z.org.au/G2ZGuidetoIncreasingReturntoOwners_National_InternalPrint_FINAL.pdf

¹⁷ Various Councils and PROs interviewed as part of the Taskforce

¹⁸ Wangaratta Albury Pound and Animal Care Centre Regional Pound/Animal Care Centre

5. Taskforce Findings

5.1. The Pound and Rehoming of Animals

Findings from the 2021 community survey¹⁹ indicates a negative perception of 'pounds', not specifically the Stonnington pound. Of the 2136 respondents to the 2022-25 DAMP survey:

- 42% of respondents believe most people associate the term 'animal pound' with a place where animals are euthanised rather than cared for or rehomed (36% 'No', 21% 'Unsure')
- 37% were concerned that if their animal was impounded that it would be euthanised or rehomed before they could retrieve it (46% 'No', 17% 'Unsure')

Of note from the survey is the 75% of respondents who indicated they 'understand that some impounded/surrendered animals are unsuited for rehoming because of their temperament (11% 'No', 15% 'Unsure')

Compared to respondents overall, cat owners:

- had a greater level of concern about cat euthanasia rates (83% or 545 of 660 respondents vs 63% or 1350 of 2,135 respondents)
- were less likely to respond as 'don't know'/'unsure' of their position on cat euthanasia than non-cat owners (13% compared to 29%)

A 2025 Council survey attracted 238 survey responses and two email submissions. Of survey respondents 91.2% (217 respondents) owned cats and/or dogs and of these, 28.1% rescuing/adopting an animal was a motivator for owning a pet.

In addition, 18% (43 respondents) used free-text fields to express support for a 'no-kill' policy to apply at the pound, and 4% (9) specifically in support of retaining the Save-A-Dog Scheme as the pound service operator.

Notably, many comments referred to maintaining a no-kill 'shelter', which is not the purpose of a pound facility/operation. It is noted there was similar phrasing and language across several responses suggesting a level of co-ordinated submission.

The two written submissions, relevant to pounds, both praised SADS' approach, with one specifically advocating for its retention.

For the current DAMP revision, no questions were specifically asked about the pound or pound services.

The Taskforce noted that it is important that Council be recognised for its investment in the service and, at a minimum consider co-badging of the service.

Finding 1 (The Pound and Rehoming of Animals)

The Taskforce finds that Council should, in its public communications, use terminology more in line with modern day community sentiment and expectations. This would help to designate the pound as a safe place for animals and better reflect Council aspirations for animals.

5.2. Services Outside the Scope of the Taskforce Review

Discussions undertaken as part of the Taskforce Review identified matters are related to but were not identified as part of the scope for the review. Some of these matters were documented in the 2022-25 DAMP but not addressed over the term of the DAMP, or to an extent that has resulted in desired outcomes.

It is critical that these matters be addressed to continue to minimise the number of animals entering the Council pound environment and council/community shelter environments.

This will require investment in preventative strategies, most of which were highlighted in the 2022-25 DAMP, such as:

- low cost/no cost desexing initiatives, especially for cats to prevent unwanted litters
- strategies to increase microchipping of animals to enable Local Laws Officers to take stray animals to their home rather than the pound return

¹⁹ 2021 community survey conducted for the review of the DAMP

- strategies that target problematic issues and associated neighbourhoods to prevent impound and surrenders e.g. adoption of stray cats, poorly controlled/nuisance dogs

This is particularly relevant in relation to cats. Based on pound intake and the lack of negative commentary in the 2021 community survey it appears that issues relating to stray cats are minimal.

The survey indicates that 8.4% of respondents feed a 'stray cat' which is similar to industry research findings. It is not clear whether these cats are unowned strays or rather owned cats that have wandered. Stray cats are less prevalent in high socio-economic areas such as Stonnington where financial pressures, exacerbated by rising living costs are less consequential, and where compliance with regulations relating to desexing, containment, microchipping, and registration is likely to be greater.

Respondents do not necessarily hold negative perceptions of the Stonnington pound or have had negative experiences about the facility. However, concerns run high about cats that end up in a pound with:

- 76% would be more likely to take a stray cat to the pound if they knew it would be desexed and rehomed
- 48% believing that if a stray cat was taken to the pound it would most likely be euthanised.

SADS indicates that rehoming cats within an appropriate time frame, in particular older cats, is problematic.

Finding 2 (Services Outside the Scope of the Taskforce Review)

The Taskforce finds that Council should continue to proactively pursue strategies to minimise animals entering the pound and shelter system and to minimise the length of stays in pound/shelter environment including:

- Encouraging direct 'home to home rehoming'
- Preventing pregnancies resulting in unwanted/unowned kittens
- Encouraging/promoting benefits of adopting older cats
- Strengthening partnerships with breed specific and generic rehoming groups.

5.3. Strategic Planning

A review of documents relevant to the Taskforce Review indicates that council's overall and DAMP strategic planning aspirations and objectives need to more clearly align with the current and future pound services and wider animal management services, particularly in terms of:

- good/best industry practice
- community aspirations and expectations
- asset planning
- community engagement, communication and partnership building
- the necessary resourcing to enable implementation of service plans recommendations (DAMP)

A detailed summary of documents relevant to the Taskforce Review is contained in section 3.1

Finding 3 – (Strategic Planning)

The Taskforce finds that Council should:

- a) consider the implications of the Council Plan Objectives and Focus Areas as noted in this report particularly in terms of:
 - o the planning and future provision of pound and rehoming services, and potentially wider animal management service provision
 - o building/strengthening relations and profile directly with the community in relation to animals and pet owners
 - o committing to operational capability and capacity, high-quality standards of customer service, communication that builds trust and confidence in decision-making, responsiveness to community needs, and asset management.
- b) recognise and acknowledge the changing state government, animal welfare sector and community climate in relation to the welfare, care and rehoming of animals; including the protocols relating to the euthanasia of animals.
- c) reinforce the service principles espoused in the 2022-2025 DAMP
- d) consider adopting relevant practices as recommended in Industry Taskforce Reviews (including the 2022 Taskforce on Rehoming Pets recommendations) including:
 - o options to improve animal behaviour testing procedures and accountability
 - o protections to minimise the use of euthanasia for animals with treatable or manageable health conditions
 - o minimum standards for the care and management of animals by the sector (i.e. animals in temporary care).
- e) ensure that animal holding facilities comply with relevant codes of practice and council review its capital works plan to include budget allocations to achieve this.
- f) in preparation for the introduction of the Domestic Animals Amendment (Rehoming Cats and Dogs and Other Matters) Act in 2027, determine its position in terms of:
 - o the tracking of outcomes for animals transferred to other organisations for rehoming
 - o adherence of these organisations with best practice relating to the holding, transfer and rehoming of animals.
- g) With respect to contracts 84Y Agreements with organisations:
 - o ensure it makes clear its reporting requirements relating to the care and outcome of all animals including animals transferred to other organisations for rehoming
 - o articulates Service Performance Principles as required by section 106 of the Local Government Act (2020).

5.4. Adopting Good or Best Practice

The Taskforce researched and discussed model guidelines that are the most universally accepted as representing best practice relating to the care and wellbeing of surrendered or impounded animals. The Taskforce suggested the adoption of:

- a) the PACT (People and Animals in Community Together) tenets to guide the management of animals impounded by council or surrendered to council.²⁰

'PACT is a compassionate, transparent and thoughtful model of how shelters, rescues, and other animal welfare organizations can best support vulnerable animals. PACT is a shared set of tenets that animal welfare organizations around the world are embracing to create best possible outcomes for companion animals.'²¹

The PACT tenets are summarised as follows:

- o Ensure every unwanted or homeless pet has a safe place to go for care.
- o Place every healthy and safe animal

²⁰ <https://theaawa.org/pact/>

²¹ <https://theaawa.org/pact/>

- o Assess the medical and behavioural needs of homeless animals, and ensure these needs are met
 - o Alleviate suffering and make appropriate euthanasia decisions
 - o Align policy with the needs of the community
 - o Enhance the human-animal bond through thoughtful placements and post-adoption support
 - o Consider the health and wellness of each animal and community when transferring
 - o Implement inclusive policies and practices
 - o Foster a culture of transparency, ethical decision making, mutual respect, continual learning, and collaboration
- h) the guidance provided by the Association of Shelter Veterinarians Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters'²²

The restriction of deliberations to pound services only presented challenges for Taskforce members. Research demonstrates the best outcome for impounded animals is achieved via a fully integrated pound and shelter service:

- that involves a seamless transition for animals from the pound to the shelter environment
- that involves a whole of community and government approach in order to successfully address the overpopulation and abandonment of pets and minimises animals entering pounds, and that
- that does not place the full onus of rehabilitating and rehoming animals on the over stretched volunteer and not-for-profit sectors.

Whilst Taskforce members understand that council is facing significant financial challenges and therefore the primary consideration for council is that it complies with its statutory obligations, which currently do not require councils to address the needs of impounded animals beyond 8-days, the Taskforce is of the view that integration of pound and shelter services optimises animal welfare of the animals involved.

Finding 4 (Adopting Good or Best Practice)

The Taskforce finds that Council should:

- adopt the tenets of the PACT (People and Animals in Community Together) Tenets as a foundation for service planning and delivery.
- take into consideration the guidance provided by the Association of Shelter Veterinarians Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters'²³ particularly in relation to facilities and individual enclosures.

5.5. Minimising Unnecessary Euthanasia of Animals

The Taskforce recognises that the issue of animal euthanasia is sensitive, arouses high levels of community interest and is challenging for decision-makers and community to discuss.

The Taskforce recognises the criticism that has been levelled at some sector pound and shelter providers for their inconsistencies between policy and practice relating to euthanasia. It also acknowledges the mistrust that some people have of local government reporting on euthanasia rates and the 'passing of the buck' of these challenging decisions to increasingly over-whelmed shelters and rescue groups.

In addition, the Taskforce recognises that some sections of the community are equally critical of local government generally, and some major shelter providers for classifying cats as 'feral' or cats and dogs as having 'unsound temperament' to justify euthanasia.

The Taskforce acknowledges the merits of media and in particular social media in helping to keep providers in the sector accountable. However, it can also result in unfounded negative commentary that is not supported by relevant context.

²² <https://www.sheltervet.org/guidelines-for-standards-of-care-in-animal-shelters>

²³ <https://www.sheltervet.org/guidelines-for-standards-of-care-in-animal-shelters>

On a purely pragmatic and legislative level Council has the option of considering matters associated with euthanasia:

- a) at the end of the statutory 8-day holding period for impounded/ and/or seized animals
 - b) for providers under agreements with Council to provide shelter and rehoming opportunities.
- Decisions to consider euthanasia as an option can be based on animal welfare, behavioural, or public safety grounds.

There are different moral considerations regarding the use of euthanasia in the management of seized or surrendered animals. The Taskforce acknowledged that opinion the approach to managing domestic animals post-statutory holding periods varies, particularly in relation to euthanasia.

Earlier in the report, the Taskforce recommended the adoption of the PACT tenets to guide the planning and delivery of pound services. One of those tenets is to 'alleviate suffering and make appropriate euthanasia decisions'.

'PACT shelters have open discussions about how to prevent and alleviate suffering for the animals in their care. Through relationships with local and national coalition partners, shelters can reduce the euthanasia of healthy, treatable, and safe animals. When a pet is diagnosed with a severe illness or has a behaviour issue that presents a risk to the community or pet owners, PACT shelters will determine if humane euthanasia is the most compassionate choice for that animal.'²⁴

Alternatively, the principles of G2Z could be adopted which advocate for:

- commitment to reducing killing/euthanasia of abandoned companion animals
- promotion/encouragement of desexing
- increasing the rehabilitation and rehoming of abandoned companion animals
- education and support to the community
- and compliance with laws and regulations that support a reduction in unwanted animals and improvements in their care and rehoming.

Some sectors of the community may view that the concept of 'no-kill' means that no animals are euthanised. This is why use of the term is confusing and is often used without context.

The Taskforce had numerous intense discussions around the concept of 'no-kill' and while some in the community may perceive 'no-kill' to mean that no animals will be killed, the concept²⁵ means that it represents a commitment that an organisation e.g. an animal shelter or rescue organisation undertakes to saving every healthy, treatable, and rehabilitatable animal in its care. In practice:

Such organisations commit to a 90% Save Rate i.e. they commit to saving at least 90% of the animals it takes in. The remaining 10% may include animals who are terminally ill or pose a risk to public safety because of severe aggression toward people or other dogs and/or a history of biting. Euthanasia is only used for animals who are suffering or cannot be safely rehomed—not due to time limits, space constraints, or convenience. Further, such organisations do not label animals 'unadoptable' just to justify euthanasia.

Finding 5 (Minimising Unnecessary Euthanasia of Animals)

The Taskforce finds that Council should determine and clearly communicate to the community its position on euthanasia

To assist in this matter, the Taskforce encourages the Council to:

- a) adopt the PACT Tenet 'Alleviate suffering and make appropriate euthanasia decisions' as a principles-based approach to euthanasia
- b) support the principles of G2Z and 'no-kill' that undertake to saving every healthy, treatable, and rehabilitatable animal in its care
- c) recognise there may be a need for euthanasia on animal welfare and public safety grounds when:

²⁴ <https://theaawa.org/pact/>

²⁵ Refer to definitions section in this report

- o an animal is in unresolvable, irremediable pain or suffering as assessed by an independent veterinarian, or
 - o when the welfare of an animal is irreparably compromised and/or when the welfare prognosis is poor as assessed by an independent veterinarian and not able to be managed by a suitable member of the public (as determined by a suitability assessment) who intends to adopt the animal, or
 - o when an animal exhibits severe behavioural problems, as assessed by at least two people with experience e.g. an independent behaviouralist and an independent veterinarian
- Note – 'independence' means independent from Council or service provider
- d) require any contracted external service providers to operate under principles in a) to c) above.

5.5.1. Council Resourcing

Council is operating in an environment where there is a rapidly expanding gap between the income council receives from rates and other sources and the rising costs of operations. Like many Councils in Victoria, Stonnington is facing growing financial pressures to maintain important assets and services like roads, footpaths, sports fields, playgrounds and community and recreation centres.

In addition, the insurance environment is dramatically impacting Council budgets as is the need to continually update of technology systems to optimise productivity and ensure the security of information and data.

This is in an environment where the community continues to have increasing expectations about the type and level of services. The Stonnington Financial Plan notes 'that Council cannot sustain existing levels of operation or invest in future priorities without additional funding' and is considering the following options to address funding shortfalls:

- more divestment or repurposing of underperforming assets
- future changes to the special rates schemes applied to Stonnington's commercial precincts
- paid on-street parking, as it currently operates in inner-metro Councils
- selected and defensible increases to eligible fees and charges
- future service level changes
- changes to the Council's service delivery models and discretionary expenditure
- a future application for a modest, one-off adjustment to Stonnington's low rates above the prescribed rates cap²⁶

The Financial Plan, including Asset Plan, currently does not have specific budget allocation for works to upgrade the pound, including works to achieve Code of Practice compliance requirements.

Finding 6 (Council Resourcing)

The Taskforces finds that Council should allocate budget to upgrade the current pound facility to meet the requirements of at least the Code of Practice, with particular attention to the non-compliance of the dog holding areas.

²⁶ Financial Plan, 2025-26 to 2034-35 and Budget 2025-26

5.5.2. Costs of Running the Current Stonnington Facility

Refer to tables 13 to 15 in section 7, for actual costs in running the current Stonnington facility that are paid for by Council.

5.6. Reduced Numbers of Possible Service Providers

The taskforce was aware that there a limited number of providers that may be interested in providing pound or combined pound and shelter services, using the Council facilities.

5.7. Save A Dog Scheme

SADS is the current provider of pound services for CoS. It is a well-established organisation with a respected and high profile in the local community, recognised for its care of animals and optimising outcomes for animals.

SADS was established in 1985 as a shelter for unclaimed/abandoned dogs and later expanded to also provide a shelter for cats. SADS has had various contractual arrangements with CoS. The most recent formal contract, which has been added to over time was originally entered into in 2015, and has had several extensions since then, including to 30 June 2026.

The organisation promotes itself as a 'no-kill' organisation and is committed to sheltering animals for an extended period to optimise the rehoming of animals. It is noted that the longest length of stay for a dog is 2 years+. The Taskforce did not determine the average or range of lengths of shelter stays for cats and dogs.

Animals are housed at either at Council's Glen Iris facility or at SADS Yarrambat facility.

SADS operates a significant business with assets valued at \$9.5M and attracts most of its income from donations. In 2024 the percentage of income from donations was 81.72%, from investments 8.83% and government 5.47%.

Table 8 provides an overview of operations as reported to the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission in 2022 and 2024 information submitted.

Table 8 – SADS reports to the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission for 2022 and 2024		
	2022	2024
EFT Employees	8.82	13.77
Fulltime	1	1
Part time	0	1
Casual	18	16
Volunteers	100	104
Gross income	\$1,961,391	2,155,248
Total Comprehensive Income	\$939,369	\$450,991
Total Assets	\$8,488,893	\$9,542,200
Current Assets	\$2,101,222	\$4,483,511
Non-current Assets	\$6,387,671	\$5,058,689

5.8. Operational and Potential Capital Works Considerations

The Taskforce sought to understand the real cost of providing a pound service and noted the operation of the pound has been at arms-length for approximately 30 years (refer above).

There was a lack of information about fixed and variable costs associated with operating the pound facility specifically as separate from shelter and rehoming functions carried out from the facility.

In addition, capital works associated with ensuring the facility complies with the Code of Practice²⁷ have not been documented by either Council or the provider and incorporated into Council's capital works program.

The Taskforce has identified key issues relating to compliance with the Victorian Code of Practice and OHS legislation; and good practice as documented in Association of Shelter Veterinarians (ASV) Guidelines²⁸.

These issues primarily relate to:

- Housing for Dogs including cracking/peeling of sealant; inadequate drainage; temperature control, noise and ventilation; floor space requirements (isolation kennels); and separation of isolation pens (disease control); feeding, bedding, toileting proximity in pens;; lack of access to outdoor areas; design limitations that impact on ability to comply with good practice relating to infection control/disinfecting, isolation of animals with different behavioural or medical conditions,
- Circulation areas and security including dog housing leading directly into spaces accessed by public/staff/volunteer spaces; appropriateness of AMO drop off facilities (security and potentially difficult to negotiate for/with stressed animals; security measures relating to containment; holding and handling of dangerous/potentially dangerous or menacing dogs (separation).
- The challenges that arise as the site on which the facility is located is relatively landlocked and therefore expansion options would be limited

A detailed assessment of the facility is required to assess works required to bring the facility up to Code of Practice, and to optimise conditions/environments for animals in line with the Code of Practice and industry guidelines regardless of the service model Council determines for the pound and associated rehoming programs.

The Taskforce recognises restrictions to modify/expand the facility to any significant degree because this may require impost into adjoining parkland and/or depot facilities. Because current operations have not warranted a need for expansion, an investigation of options has not yet been pursued. The Taskforce recognises the limited parkland available in Stonnington and therefore the need to consider Council policy and priorities relating to this asset class.

Finding 7 (Operational and Potential Capital Works Considerations)

The Taskforce finds that Council should undertake a detailed audit of facilities at the pound to determine the program of works needed:

- to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and codes of practice and in consideration of relevant good practice guidelines
- to increase capacity if a regional facility is the preferred future model of provision, and if so, how this can be achieved within the existing site footprint and/or
- identify opportunities to expand the facility footprint based on tolerances as may be determined by Council policy and/or community priorities. This would be in consideration of opportunities associated with land occupied by the depot and/or adjoining parkland; and in consideration of the Stonnington 'Public Realm Strategy' and 'Strategies for Creation of Open Spaces'.

²⁷ Code of Practice for the Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds (Revision 1)

²⁸ ASV Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters; University of Wisconsin, USA, (Version 2024)

5.9. Communications and Partnerships with the Community

The Taskforce noted the need for open and public communications and encourages Council to develop and implement an effective community communications program regarding its decisions related to its animal management services and any options pursued regarding fostering and rehoming.

Finding 8 (Communications and Partnerships with the Community)

The Taskforces finds that Council should develop and implement an effective community communications program regarding its decisions related to its animal management services and any options pursued regarding fostering and rehoming. This would be in addition to a previous recommendation regarding public communication on its position on euthanasia.

5.10. Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs)

The terms Non-Disclosure Agreement and Confidentiality Agreements are used interchangeably as are their points of difference or similarity depending on the point of reference²⁹.

A Non-Disclosure Agreement or Confidentiality Agreement is a legally binding contract that establishes a confidential relationship between two parties and protects the information they share from disclosure to outsiders. They have their benefits and their challenges. The key benefits of non-disclosure agreements are protection of:

- client details, including financial information and other data
- trade confidences
- intellectual/proprietary information
- sensitive operational information relating to finances, marketing, bequests
- information relating to sponsors, volunteers, staff

The key downsides of non-disclosure agreements, depending on their primary purpose are that they can:

- foster a sense of mistrust between employers and employees
- stifle discussions/initiatives that address problematic operational matters
- prevent potential wrong-doings from being reported/exposed. However, even with a signed agreement, information may be leaked, and seeking legal remedies for any breach can be costly

Some organisations also include notifications of penalties for 'false disclosures' which can have a significant impact on an organisation's reputation, the reputation of others; and result in unnecessary waste of time, effort and emotion. Deliberately false disclosures are not protected by whistleblower laws.

The Taskforce notes concern about the use of Non-Disclosure and/or Confidentiality Agreements that are put in place by animal welfare organisations for the purpose of:

- minimising/preventing the reporting of practices that are contrary to codes of practice and/or legislative requirements
- preventing staff or volunteers from reporting inconsistencies/perceived inconsistencies between information and data reported to the community vs facts and practices observed to be the case
- convenient use of undefined/poorly defined terminology in legislation to justify practices that may be inconsistent with espoused organisational values and practices and therefore community understanding of these practices. An example being the application of terminology such as 'feral' to justify euthanasia of cats in order to address issues associated with overcrowding.

²⁹ Crime & Corruption Commission QLD; www.ccc.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/Docs/Publications/CCC/Prevention-in-focus-Use-of-non-disclosure-agreements-what%20are-the-corruption-risks-2020.pdf; <https://jsigroup.com.au/non-disclosure-vs-confidentiality-agreements-understanding-the-differences>; IP Australia, www.ipaustralia.gov.au/tools-and-research/business-resources/non-disclosure-agreements

The Taskforce acknowledges the overwhelming pressure on animal welfare organisations that bear the brunt of pet, but especially cat, over population and abandonment issues.

The Taskforce recognises that community expectations have changed but strategies have not been resourced by any level of government to ensure outcomes are consistent with these expectations.

However, the Taskforce notes this does not excuse any organisation for practices that are inconsistent with codes of practice or from misinforming the community.

It should not be assumed that the use of the term Non-Disclosure Agreement as opposed to Confidentiality Agreement, or the detail in such documents, necessarily means any more or less onerous obligations on staff or volunteers working with shelters.

For example, the SADS Confidentiality Agreement is concise and to the point, whereas the Victorian Animal Aid Trust document is lengthier but details the rights and protection afforded whistleblowers.

Examples of organisations in the sector with a form of confidentiality agreement:

- RSPCA³⁰
- Victorian Animal Aid Trust³¹ - Whistleblower Policy that specifies matters protected by a confidentiality agreement ('protected matters') and whistleblower protection clause.
- SADS – Confidentiality Agreement must be signed as part of Volunteer Application
- Peninsula Animal Aid – Confidentiality clause under 'Member Responsibilities'.³²
- Lort Smith Animal Hospital.³³
- BARC (foster carers) – Clause 5 in Foster Care Agreement

The Victorian Public Interest Disclosures Act, 2012 requires all Councils to have a Public Interest Disclosure Co-ordinator that protects whistleblowers who have legitimate complaints that satisfy the following thresholds:

- Improper conduct – These complaints relate to criminal conduct or other conduct specified under the Act. Examples include serious professional misconduct, intentional or reckless breach of public trust and conduct adversely affecting the honest performance of a public officer.
- Detrimental action- These complaints involve harassment or discrimination, or other adverse action taken against the discloser in reprisal for having reported the alleged improper conduct.³⁴

Finding 9 (Confidentiality and Non-disclosure Agreements)

The Taskforce finds that Council should only consider potential service providers that:

- Limit non-disclosure matters in Confidentiality/Non-Disclosure Agreements to matters such as the following:
 - o client details, including financial information and other data
 - o trade confidences
 - o intellectual/proprietary information
 - o sensitive operational information relating to finances, marketing, bequests
 - o information relating to sponsors, volunteers, staff protection
- Include a 'public interest disclosure' clause that protects whistleblowers when matters deemed to be of community and/or customer interest are disclosed.

6. Consideration of Council Expectations for the Taskforce

³⁰ <https://www.rspcasa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/RSA-POL-001-Commitment-to-Employees-Volunteers-and-Officers-Policy.pdf>

³¹ <https://animalaid.org.au/whistleblower-policy/>

³² <https://peninsulaanimalaid.com.au/assets/docs/POL.143%20v2%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Members.pdf>

³³ Code of Conduct v4 Section 3.8 Promotions and Public Relations

³⁴ <https://www.ibac.vic.gov.au/publications-and-resources/article/fact-sheet-what-is-a-public-interest-disclosure>

Council specifically asked the Taskforce to consider certain matters related to animal management services. These are discussed below.

6.1. Serving as a Regional Hub for other Councils

Members of the taskforce met with representatives of, and received animal data from Glen Eira and Boroondara. Serving as a regional hub for delivery of pound services is considered in the proposed business models below.

A number of factors for Council to consider include:

- a) The need for contractual arrangements
- b) Appropriate fee for service arrangements
- c) Demand expectations versus the current facility's capacity to accommodate seized and surrendered animals

[illegible]

6.2. In-house delivery

In-house delivery of pound services is considered in the proposed business models below.

6.3. Value for money

The Taskforce considered section 106 Service Performance Principles of the Victorian Local Government Act (2020) in developing service provision models for Council consideration. Financial details were also included.

6.4. Tender specifications

The Taskforce raised the option of the Council pursuing an Expression of Interest (EOI) before going out for tender. Internal procurement advice was that a two Stage EOI could be facilitated – the first stage being focused on capability to respond, the second stage moving into more detailed proposals for the first stage responders.

In this situation an EOI would allow Council to gauge the level of interest and capability in the market and initially would be less onerous on EOI respondents.

Also, Council can use any proposed innovative solutions or alternative models to draft up the final specifications to the shortlisted EOJ respondents, (rather than respond initially to a prescriptive RfT).

The downside would be that the two-stage process will take longer in terms of the evaluation process and drafting of the final RFT specifications based on the EOI responses.

During its discussions the Taskforce raised various issues that would be relevant to any tender offered, largely around the expectations that Council may describe about the management of

animals after the statutory period. The Taskforce discussed the challenges of imposing post-pound conditions on organisations that were tendering to provide pound services if there were no contractual (and financial) arrangements in place for management of animals after the statutory holding period. The Taskforce was aware that the arrangement with SADS enabled SADS to utilise the Council facility for other purposes including providing shelter services, and that one provider offering both pound and shelter services allowed efficient flow of animals between the two functions.

Finding 10 (Canvassing of Expressions of Interest)

The Taskforce finds that Council should consider publishing an EOI before going out for tender to determine the level of interest in providing a tender.

Finding 11 (Revising of Tender Specifications)

The Taskforce finds that Council should consider changes to tender specifications that address other relevant recommendations in the report, particularly animal management in the post-statutory period and Findings 5 and 9.

6.5. Philanthropy

The Taskforce acknowledged that philanthropy and donations are some of the main mechanisms by which shelter providers, PROs and other community groups receive money or in-kind support (including donations of food, blankets, bedding etc.) The Taskforce acknowledges that it would not be appropriate for Council to receive philanthropic donations directly.

The Taskforce discussed that a way that Council could be involved was to enable greater access to information for community members to encourage their involvement in rehoming efforts, including public links to provider websites to increase donations and how to volunteer for other services.

Finding 12 (Philanthropy)

The Taskforce finds that the Council's website and social media should encourage donations (including money) be given directly to the identified provider/s of services under agreement with Council. This would also include links to any volunteering opportunities that the provider may offer.

6.6. Revenue Generating Options

With regard to the pound service, the Taskforce did not identify any revenue generating options other than appropriate recovery of fees for owners to recover their animals. The Taskforce noted that Council received revenue for animal registrations and this money was available for allocation to animal management services the Council offered. The Taskforce noted that if a regional hub using Council facilities was developed that adjacent Councils would be expected to pay for services provided, and this would likely be on a cost-recovery basis, so CoS was not subsidising activities related to other Councils.

The Taskforce noted that there are arrangements in place for Councils to cooperate contractually with each other (without the need for a tender arrangement). The Taskforce also considered that if the current facility were to undergo infrastructure development, then negotiations may need to be undertaken with other Councils using the facility related to capital expenditure.

Finding 13 (Revenue Generating Options)

The Taskforce finds that Council should explore a partnership with both or either Glen Eira and Boroondara depending on assessments of capacity and financial feasibility in the longer term.

7. Service Delivery Options and Evaluation of Value for Money

The Taskforce developed and considered a range of possible business models (Refer table 10).

The Taskforce identified that best practice was demonstrated in a seamless flow from pound and shelter models for efficiency and animal welfare considerations. Considering different providers for each was not best practice, unless Council operated in-house pound services. The Taskforce also identified that 'pound' service delivery and 'shelter' service delivery had different responsibilities and these should be clearly managed separately to ensure Council compliance with laws and regulations.

Regarding in-house delivery of pound services, the Taskforce was informed that previous internal Council discussions had not advanced in-house service delivery as being cost-effective.

Early in discussions, the Taskforce had considered that the Council should establish a CoS model for internal needs before consideration of offers to other Councils. However, the timing of other Councils' finding solutions to a lack of service providers meant that the Taskforce was asked to consider and advance discussions on regional hub models within the timeframe of the Taskforce.

7.1. High Level Analysis of CoS Pound and/or Shelter Options

As discussed in section 3.4.2 good practice pound operations are considered to have a 'seamless transfer' of animals from the pound to rehoming environments and that research for the Taskforce indicated that historically it has been perceived that this is best carried out by a single organisation. The Taskforce was aware that Council wants to continue to use its Glen Iris facility as the pound site for holding animals in the statutory period.

Learnings from research carried out for the Taskforce demonstrates there are successful models in place that are achieving this outcome without the need for single organisation operation. In particular, animals are being quickly moved out of shelter environments and re-homed due to the building of strong partnerships with multiple rehoming pathways³⁵. This is indicative of several Councils interviewed for the Taskforce.

Table 10 provides an overview of the options for business models that are then reviewed in greater detail in Tables 11 and 12. This evaluation is a compilation of findings from research conducted as part of the Taskforce, including legislated obligations relating to pound operations and good practice relating to the rehoming of animals.

Given the direction of the Taskforce to consider all practical service provision options, including pound only and pound transition to rehoming options the following eight options have been considered.

Table 10 – Overview of Pound Service Delivery Options				
Service Delivery Models	CoS as PROVIDER (Refer Table 11)		EXTERNAL PROVIDER using the Council facility (Refer Table 12)	
	For CoS animals only	For Regional Facility	For CoS animals only	For Regional Facility
Pound only				
With Transfer and no direct rehoming from the facility	Option 1A	Option 2A	Option 3A	Option 4A
Pound with Transfer and/or direct rehoming from the facility	Option 1B	Option 2B	Option 3B	Option 4B

³⁵ Bendigo Council (BARC), Melton Council, Manningham Council, Cairns Council

Definitions for the purpose of Table 9 to 11:

- 84Y Agreement – An agreement under section 84Y of the DAA
- Adoptable = Animals are assessed as being suitable for immediate adoption
- Direct Rehoming = Rehoming of adoptable animals that occurs directly from a pound facility where an allocated number of pens/condos are available for animals at adoption stage.
- External Provider – Can be a commercial/semi-commercial provider e.g. Cat Protection Society, Blue Cross or a PRO
- Foster Carers = Community members who volunteer with a Council's foster care program. Noted that Rescue Groups have foster carers who work directly with them
- Pound = A Holding Facility where animals are held for statutory period according to law e.g., 8 days
- Pound/shelter model – Can include a pound/shelter service provided by the one service provider OR by multiple service provider e.g. Council providing pound service and 84Y partnerships providing rehoming/shelter services
- PRO = Pet Rehoming Organisation or rescue group that rehomes animals under an 84Y agreement with Councils
- Regional facility – A facility that caters for the pound needs of CoS and either both or one of CoB or CoGE
- Rehoming = Via accredited/approved pathways e.g. PRO, animal shelter
- Rescue Group = Groups that rehome animals under an 84Y agreement with Councils
- Shelter = A place where animals are cared for prior to being rehomed e.g. an animal care facility
- Transfer = Transfer of ownership of animals after the statutory period for shelter and rehoming.

Table 11 – CoS as the PROVIDER of the service			
Benefits / Strengths (Internal)	Weaknesses (Internal)	Opportunities (External)	Threats (External)
Option 1A – CoS OPERATING POUND FOR CoS <u>ANIMALS ONLY</u> with Transfer TO EXTERNAL PROVIDER/S for rehoming Assumes: - No direct rehoming from the facility - Agreements would be put in place with 84Y organisations for transfer/rehoming and if needed as backup for the holding of impounded animals			
- Gears up Council's internal capacity/capability - Allows Council to fully govern, cost, and monitor the service and provide accurate external reporting - Retains full decision-making and operational control in-house - Direct control over meeting legislative requirements - Gives Council control over open and direct reporting accountability - Positions/profiles Council commitment/role (animal care) - Opportunity for integration of the service with other Council services e.g. re family violence, children and dog attacks - Public certainty of the service - Potential for enhanced integration of pound with compliance function of the service	- Not currently resourced in-house, requisite skills will need to be sourced - Cost e.g. implications as Council award salaries are higher than other relevant awards - Implications of staff turnover within a small team - Time and capacity to gear up the operations - Full cost of maintaining and upgrading the facility falls to Council - Council delivers most community services using outsourced contract service providers - Note the expected capital costs associated with upgrading facilities to comply with CoP (applicable regardless of provision model)	- To strengthen relationships with the community - To strengthen industry knowledge, skill and support-based relationships with Council - To enhance/increase Council badged communiques to the community - Enhance Council/service engagements with 84Y groups - Consistent with other Councils returning to an in-house pound/ rehoming model) - Provide financial or other assistance to 84Y groups e.g., how donors can contribute to 84Y groups	- Inconsistent with community concerns re a move to a pound-only statutory holding model - Would infer a compliance-led framework that does not embed an integrated welfare-led shelter and rehoming model - Disadvantages CoS community from being able to collect adoptable animals locally - Relies on the good reputation and practices of the organisation re 'transfers' for rehoming - Potential community/PR fallout - May not achieve service standards and outcomes demanded by community - Existing provider's preparedness to continue to work with Council - Increased expectations placed on the service

Table 11 – CoS as the PROVIDER of the service			
Benefits / Strengths (Internal)	Weaknesses (Internal)	Opportunities (External)	Threats (External)
			because Council operated service - Removes a potential partner, i.e. contractor that may assist in-house with community development initiatives e.g. volunteering - Willingness of the community to work with Council e.g. volunteer/foster support - Ability of 84Y groups to remain viable in current economic climate without financial/in-kind support
Option 1B – CoS operating pound for CoS animals only with TRANSFER AND/OR DIRECT REHOMING FROM THE FACILITY Assumes: - The level of Direct Rehoming vs Transfer will vary depending on animal numbers, capacity of the pound facility and/or of PROs - Agreements would be in place with 84Y organisations for transfer/rehoming			
- As for Option 1, and - Optimises use of facility (when low impound numbers) - Acknowledge the role of Council in rehoming animals ASAP - Provides opportunity to build relationships with community e.g. facility visitations, Rescue Groups - Potentially provides opportunity for staff development/alternative career path/career diversity	- As for Option 1, and - Increase in expenses for direct re-homing e.g. relating to rehabilitation/vet care etc.; requirements for desexing, vaccination, microchipping etc. - Capacity to deal with influx of animals e.g. kitten season - Cost of/implications of attracting/ managing foster carers - Costs associated with longer 'hold periods' to enable immediate direct rehoming	- As for Option 1, and - To establish Council as a good practice organisation	- As for Option 1, and - Unlikely to attract the same level of philanthropic interest to cover shelter expenses/rehoming, as would a NFP - Council will likely be closely scrutinised regarding its success of direct rehoming

Table 11 – CoS as the PROVIDER of the service			
Benefits / Strengths (Internal)	Weaknesses (Internal)	Opportunities (External)	Threats (External)
• Opportunity to significantly destigmatise 'the pound' as an unsafe place for lost/abandoned pets; and build trust for dealing with potential problems relating to pets e.g. barking dogs, stray cats • Optimises avenues through which animals can be adopted • Provides further opportunity to build relationships with community e.g. • proactive/industry leading/ committed in terms of good practice • the potential foster carers (to prepare animals for direct rehoming).			
Option 2A – CoS AS PROVIDER OF <u>REGIONAL POUND</u> service with 'Transfer' TO EXTERNAL PROVIDER/S for rehoming Assumes: • No direct rehoming from the facility			
• Potential scale cost savings if all costs (incl. fixed costs) are 'apportioned' based on % of animals from each Council. This has the potential to assist Council achieve service aspirations associated with 'animal welfare' e.g. rehoming and community development and support	• Would require significant gearing up of Council skills and resources. (Noted that a number of Council's have achieved this and offer assistance of advice if requested) • Would require establishment of rehoming pathways within the local community e.g. of PROs	• The nature of the contractual relationship with regional Councils needs to be clarified. CoS can consider to: ◦ determine all costs and apportion costs to each partner Council (potential for optimising income)	• Facility capacity • Community demand • Needs to be costed • A complex service difficult to scope and cost. May require testing in the market. Needs tender if expected expenditure > \$300K

Table 11 – CoS as the PROVIDER of the service			
Benefits / Strengths (Internal)	Weaknesses (Internal)	Opportunities (External)	Threats (External)
initiatives (e.g. DV/aged support) Potential for optimising of use of pound facilities (as pound facilities as opposed to 'shelter'/rehoming facility) with associated income generation potential to offset costs of running the facility	Increases the complexity of the service. Would need to be regional Council consensus on service values, mission, outcomes; fees structure between Councils within a short space of time	- put the combined services out to tender under CoS banner - join with partner Councils and put the service out to tender under an umbrella/regional agreement - Regional facility may increase potential for government funding - Potential for co-operative agreements between Councils for other components of the service e.g. backup support for Ranger and after-hours services - Potential for other Councils to manage 'transfer/rehome' agreements - Assistance provided to other local Councils - Potential for coordinated Regional 'branding' and social marketing to optimise rehoming - optimise profile of PROs and opportunities for rehoming directly via these groups - build awareness of other service-related matters e.g. dog control	- Not providing service in line with service agreements with other Councils - Potential complexity associated with different fee structure/policies/expectations between COUNCILS re: - Reclaim fees - Penalties - Care/welfare of animals 'Transfer'/rehoming - Demand from other Councils for pound and 'transfer' services that exceeds capacity of facility. May require a local holding facility in partner Councils - Overwhelm if partner Councils not equally invested in preventative programs to manage/ reduce pound intake (e.g. unsocialised/semi-owned cats; feral cats) - Will require partner Councils to commit to developing rehoming pathways for own area (e.g. via 84Ys)

Table 11 – CoS as the PROVIDER of the service			
Benefits / Strengths (Internal)	Weaknesses (Internal)	Opportunities (External)	Threats (External)
Option 2B – CoS as provider of <u>Regional Pound</u> with Transfer and/or direct rehoming from the facility			
- As for Option 2A, and - Retains benefits associated with rehoming from the facility i.e. relationship with community	- As for Option 2A - Combined demand may limit space available for rehoming services within current facility - Expectation from other Councils that facility will comply with Code of Practice which may need capital expenditure	- As for Option 2A - CoS seen as strong regional contributor	- As for Option 2A - Community perception that limited space will not allow re-homing from premises

Table 12 – EXTERNAL PROVIDER for pound services			
Benefits / Strengths (Internal)	Weaknesses (Internal)	Opportunities (External)	Threats (External)
Option 3A – EXTERNAL PROVIDER FOR CoS <u>IMPOUNDED ANIMALS ONLY</u> with TRANSFER OFFSITE FOR REHOMING Assumes: - Transfer can be to: - offsite to External Providers facility, and/or - to PROs			
- Aligns with community expectations for a pound-shelter provider (if written into contractor requirements) - Council does not have to get involved in day-to-day operational matters associated with the pound or rehoming arrangements - Benefits if provider has large capacity at an offsite facility	- Council has less control over operational matters, including future of transferred animals (unless written into contractor requirements) - Less flexibility if Council determines to change service delivery policy, values, mission. Would generally require re-negotiation of contract/ agreement	- To review the outcomes of past arrangements with the current provider, including the need for: - contract management to be in accordance with clear guidelines and protocols to avoid any conflicts of interest - agreed protocols relating to animals transferred for rehoming that is in-line with industry good practice relating to health	- If additional providers withdraw from the market, then less competition. This will/may result in providers being selective in terms of scope and conditions of the service they offer including increased budget - Few/small number of providers potentially available/interested in tendering for the Stonnington services (as evident from the single tenderer in 2025)

Table 12 – EXTERNAL PROVIDER for pound services			
Benefits / Strengths (Internal)	Weaknesses (Internal)	Opportunities (External)	Threats (External)
- Places Council at arm's length from community concerns about the issues associated with the service/service provider - Animals transferred no longer the responsibility of Council - Predictability of annual service fee - Potential for removing any commitment by Council to support 84Y PROs - Existing providers in the sector already geared up with requisite experience and protocols in place and potentially with strong networks in place with PROs - Simplicity of contract – Does not involve complexity associated with a regional model	- Relies on the goodwill of the service provider to optimise rehoming pathways - Will require the detailing of Council service levels and expectations - Requires strong reporting requirements (back to Council) to be imposed on external provider - Potential for lack of disclosure - No opportunity for apportionment of fixed costs as in a regional model	- status, behavioural assessment, period of containment etc. - strengthened partnerships with other rehoming organisations to optimise rehoming of animals and minimising stay in a shelter environment. - Council's capacity re the last two points may be restricted depending on the nature of the contract/agreement - To require provider to develop & maintain local PRO networks/ rehoming avenues	- Council will potentially have to address community concerns if the current provider does not submit tender or is not awarded the contract for the service - Potential for increase in euthanasia rates if provider intake exceeds capacity
Option 3B – EXTERNAL PROVIDER for CoS <u>impounded animals ONLY</u> with Transfer and/or direct rehoming from the facility Assumes: - Transfer can be to: - allocated pens/condos onsite as per agreement with CoS, and/or - offsite to the External Providers facility, and/or - to PROs			
- As for Option 3A, and - Council has historic data on costs associated with this model	- As for Option 3A, and - Potentially increase in expenses for direct rehoming e.g. relating to	As for Option 3A	- As for Option 3A and - Preparedness of provider to optimise local rehoming

Table 12 – EXTERNAL PROVIDER for pound services			
Benefits / Strengths (Internal)	Weaknesses (Internal)	Opportunities (External)	Threats (External)
- Optimises use of facility (esp. when low impound numbers) and rehoming pathways - Enhances opportunity to highlight the role of Council in rehoming animals - Still provides opportunity to build relationships with community e.g. facility visitations, PROs - Still provides opportunity to destigmatise 'the pound' as an unsafe place for lost/abandoned pets; and build trust	- rehabilitation/vet care etc.; requirements for desexing, vaccination, microchipping etc. - Rehoming capacity will decrease from facility during peak periods e.g. kitten season - Cost of/implications of attracting/ managing volunteers (if relevant) - Costs associated with longer 'hold periods' to enable immediate direct rehoming		pathways and networks e.g. PROs
Option 4A – EXTERNAL PROVIDER for REGIONAL POUND with 'Transfer' offsite for rehoming Assumes: - Transfer can be off-site to: - the External Providers facility, and/or - a PRO			
As for Option 3A	- As for Option 3A and - Removes the possible financial benefits for CoS that may be associated with managing the regional service in-house and apportioning all costs. - Complexity of the model for CoS if they were the 'tendering organisation' on behalf of other Councils. This would be addressed if a 'regional tender' was	As for Option 3A	- As for Option 3A and - Have potential to compromise and reduce delivery and attention to service and control for CoS community animals - Demand and larger volumes from other Councils for pound and 'transfer' services that exceed capacity of facility. - Volume and flow are uncertain including seasonally and in

Table 12 – EXTERNAL PROVIDER for pound services			
Benefits / Strengths (Internal)	Weaknesses (Internal)	Opportunities (External)	Threats (External)
	entered into proportionally by each Council Capacity/capability of external provider to provide for regional demand		times of unexpected peak demand - May require a local holding facility in partner Councils - Overwhelm if partner Councils do not equally invest in preventative programs to manage/reduce pound intake (e.g. unsocialised/semi-owned cats; feral cats, surrendered animal)
Option 4B – EXTERNAL PROVIDER for REGIONAL POUND with Transfer and/or direct rehoming from the facility Assumes: - Transfer can be to: - allocated pens/condos onsite as per agreement with CoS, and/or - offsite to the External Providers facility, and/or - to a PRO			
- As for Option 4A and 2B and - Retains benefits associated with rehoming from the facility i.e. relationship with community	As for Option 4A and 2B	As for Option 4A and 2B	As for Option 4A and 2B

In reviewing all 4 models, the Taskforce acknowledged the factors that support (strengths) and detract (weaknesses) from each model, and the externalities (opportunities and threats) that are likely to exist for each.

The Taskforce identified that direct rehoming from the pound facility was an important need (i.e. the 'B' options for all models) and was best supported by a concept of an integrated pound-shelter model where animals could easily move from statutory period in a pound to a shelter. Whilst this integrated model is possible when the Council runs the pound and an external provider runs the shelter component (with strong communication links between the two), the Taskforce was of the view that this would be best under a one-service provider model where an external service provider operated both pound and shelter arms.

The Taskforce was also of the view that if an external provider model was chosen that there would still need to be strong communication links between the external provider and the Council Animal Management Services staff to ensure contractual obligations, including accurate reporting and minimizing euthanasia, were met. Until infrastructure needs for the Council facility for dogs are addressed to bring the facility up to Code requirements, and expected capacity calculated, it was the Taskforce's view that it was too premature for the concept of a regional pound (either being serviced by Council staff or an external provider). Using the existing facility as a regional pound would compromise two important community needs

- a) A priority for service provision for CoS animals
- b) The ability to provide direct re-homing if other Council animals competed for existing spaces in the current facility.

Table 13 [REDACTED]

	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

7.2.1. Total Animal Management Cost Estimates

Table 14

7.2.2. Costs Currently Associated with the Operation of the Pound Facility

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Table 15 [REDACTED]		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Table 16 [REDACTED]		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

7.2.3. Option 1 - Costs of In-house Pound (CoS only)

- Pound operated by Stonnington staff, with a separate arrangement with another organisation to take shelter animals after statutory period.

[REDACTED]

Table 17 [REDACTED]		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Table 18 [REDACTED]		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[illegible]

55

56

Table 19 [REDACTED]				
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]			

7.2.4. Option 2 - Shared in-house Pound

[REDACTED]

Table 20 [REDACTED]		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[illegible]

Table 21 [REDACTED]			
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
		[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		
	[REDACTED]		
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]			
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	

Table 21 [REDACTED]			
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]			
[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	
		[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]			
[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]			
[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	

7.2.5. Option 3 - Outsourced pound (CoS only)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Table 22 [REDACTED]		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

7.2.6. Option 4 - Shared Outsourced Pound

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Table 23 [REDACTED]		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

7.3. Recommended Model

The Taskforce supported the view that:

- pound and shelter services must be integrated for an efficient flow of animals from pound to shelter and
- pound services would ideally be provided by a party who can also provide shelter services to ensure efficient flow of animals unless the Council decides to operate pound services in-house and
- shelter providers must have effective relationships with (or incorporate into their own delivery commitments) foster care networks, foster and rescue groups to ensure the maximum numbers of appropriate animals are re-homed and to minimize the time they stay in a shelter environment.

Recommendation

In consideration of the practical and financial aspects, the Taskforce recommends that

- a) The existing pound facility be updated to be compliant with the Code of Practice to appropriately serve as a CoS pound facility
 - o with the capacity to directly rehome from the facility
 - o with limited short-term shelter arrangements, predominantly for the purposes of maximising the local availability and re-homing of suitable animals
- b) Council continue active consultation with neighbouring Councils to investigate whether the current facility could accommodate a small number of animals but likely not a complete pound service at this time
- c) Council progress a (select) tender process after it conducts a rapid Expression of Interest process to determine sector interest in providing pound services using the current facility consistent with Option 3. To progress this, the Taskforce recommends that the following be included in the expectations for tender submissions for provision of animal management services being:
 - a. Ability to deliver statutory pound services, and shelter rehoming services as a continuous and integrated operation
 - b. Retain responsibility for animals beyond the statutory period
 - c. Maintain oversight and accountability for individual animal welfare pathways and for final outcome of all animals received
 - d. Demonstrate their commitment to:
 - i. adopt the PACT Tenet 'Alleviate suffering and make appropriate euthanasia decisions' as a principles-based approach to euthanasia.
 - ii. support the principles of G2Z and 'no-kill' in that it undertakes to saving every healthy, treatable, and rehabilitatable animal in its care
 - iii. recognise there may be a need for euthanasia on animal welfare and public safety grounds when
 - o an animal is in unresolvable, irremediable pain or suffering as assessed by an independent veterinarian
 - o when the welfare of an animal is irreparably compromised and/or when the welfare prognosis is poor as assessed by an independent veterinarian and not able to be managed by a suitable member of the public (as determined by a suitability assessment) who intends to adopt the animal
 - o when an animal exhibits severe behavioural problems, as assessed by at least two people with experience e.g. an independent behaviourist and an independent veterinarian (as per Finding 5 above (Note – 'independence' means independent from Council or service provider)
 - iv. Limit non-disclosure matters in Confidentiality/Non-Disclosure Agreements to matters such as the following:
 - o client details, including financial information and other data

- o trade confidences
- o intellectual/proprietary information
- o sensitive operational information relating to finances, marketing, bequests
- o information relating to sponsors, volunteers, staff protection
- v) Include a 'public interest disclosure' clause that protects whistleblowers when matters deemed to be of community and/or customer interest are disclosed. (Finding 9)
- d) Council establish future infrastructure requirements to address long-term capacity for a regional hub facility including community and regional Council consultation..
- e) Council ensure the following principles are applied to the evaluation of pound service tenders and of the service ongoing, as required by section 106 (Service Performance Principles) of the Victorian Local Government Act (2020)
 - (a) services should be provided in an equitable manner and be responsive to the diverse needs of the municipal community;
 - (b) services should be accessible to the members of the municipal community for whom the services are intended;
 - (c) quality and costs standards for services set by the Council should provide good value to the municipal community;
 - (d) a Council should seek to continuously improve service delivery to the municipal community in response to performance monitoring;
 - (e) service delivery must include a fair and effective process for considering and responding to complaints about service provision.

8. Consultation and References

The following provides a summary of consultation and research undertaken to date:

- Council staff:
 - o Animal Management
 - o Finance
 - o Strategic planning
- Community consultation undertaken in 2021 for the preparation of the 2022-2-25 DAMP
- State/Local Government-Pound facility operations
- Animal Welfare Victoria
- City of Boroondara
- City of Glen Eira
- Bendigo Animal Relief Centre
- Wat Djerring Animal Facility (Whittlesea City Council) – Regional pound and animal care facility also for Maribyrnong and Darebin Councils. Partners with 84Y rehoming groups
- Melton City Council – Pound and rehoming facility. Partners with 84Y foster care groups for rehoming
- Cairns City Council Animal Care Facility
- Wollongong City Council
- Blacktown City Council – Regional facility
- Campaspe Shire Council – (current and past facility managers)
- Peak Associations
- Australian Institute of Animal Management
- G2Z (Getting to Zero)
- Other organisations
- Cat Protection Society
- RSPCA (Victoria)
- Victorian Animal Aid Trust
- Albury Animal Shelter

9. Disclaimer

The information contained in this report is provided in good faith. The Taskforce, including individual members of the Taskforce, has applied its experience, knowledge and professional expertise and enquiry to this project but has also relied on information supplied by council and other councils. This report is provided solely for general guidance and information purposes.

The information in this report is obtained from sources believed to be reliable as of the report's date. While reasonable care has been taken to ensure accuracy and completeness, the Taskforce makes no guarantees regarding the absence of errors or omissions.

Financial estimates in the report are subject to risks, uncertainties, and other factors that may cause actual outcomes to differ materially from expectations. Forward-looking statements are inherently uncertain and should not be relied upon without independent/updated evaluation.

Accordingly, the Taskforce nor members of the Taskforce make any representation or warranty, express or implied, regarding the accuracy or completeness of the information in this report and accept no liability for any loss arising from its use.

10. Appendices

10.1. Appendix 1 - Taskforce processes

- Terms of reference
- Appointments
 - o Chair and Secretariat – approved by Council resolution
 - o Members – approved by Council
 - o Councillors self-nominated
 - o Community members and experts
 - o Council staff attended meetings as observers
- Taskforce Meetings

The Taskforce met in 2025 on:

 - o 14 August
 - o 3 September
 - o 10 September
 - o 2 October
 - o 15 October
 - o 30 October
 - o 5 November
 - o 13 November
 - o 4 December

The Taskforce met in 2026 on:

 - o 29 January
 - o 26 February
 - o 12 March
- Interviews

The Chair and/or Secretariat held interviews with

 - o Council Animal Management staff
 - o Council finance staff
 - o Council Strategic planning staff regarding DAMP revisions
 - o Staff representatives of City of Glen Eira and City of Boroondara
 - o Australian Institute of Animal Management
 - o Information gathering
 - o Cat Protection Society
 - o RSPCA (Victoria)
 - o Various Councils

10.2. CONFIDENTIAL Appendix 2 – Intake and Outgoing Animal Data – Stonnington, Glen Eira and Boroondara

Table 24: [REDACTED]

	[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]				[REDACTED]	
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]			[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]										
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]						[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]								[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[illegible]

10.3. Appendix 3 - Statements on Euthanasia

Peak Associations/Government

The Association for Animal Welfare Advancement [PACT - The Association for Animal Welfare Advancement](#)

Place Every Healthy and Safe Animal.

PACT shelters and rescues find placements for all pets who:

- Either have no signs of clinical disease or have evidence of disease that has a good or excellent prognosis for a comfortable life, *AND*
- Have not exhibited behavior that is likely to result in severe injury or death to another animal or person.

Notably, this tenet does not preclude PACT shelters from placing pets who have medical or behavioural conditions that can be safely and effectively managed outside of the shelter environment.

South Australian Animal Welfare League

Animal Welfare League of South Australia Incorporated (AWL) is of the opinion that all healthy and behaviourally sound companion animals are not to be euthanased³⁶.

Australian Veterinary Association (AVA)

When is euthanasia used?

- when pain, distress or suffering are likely to exceed manageable levels
- when the health or welfare of animals is irredeemably compromised; this can include animals affected by drought or other natural disasters.

Humane killing for other reasons

- in research, to provide tissues for scientific purposes, or at the end of studies (NHMRC 2013)
- when animals are no longer required for breeding or other specific purposes
- for control of vertebrate pests
- for slaughter of stock at abattoirs
- for strays and unwanted pets that cannot be rehomed.

RSPCA Australia

RSPCA Policy A5 Euthanasia of companion animals

5.1 A decision to euthanase a companion animal should ordinarily be made in consultation with a veterinarian and/or animal behaviourist as appropriate, including an assessment of the animal's current and expected quality of life. Euthanasia may be indicated where the animal is likely to experience significant ongoing physical or mental suffering and a good quality of life.

G2Z (Getting To Zero) ³⁷

As a G2Z participating local government department, organisation or individual we understand and agree to:

- Be committed to reducing killing/euthanasia of abandoned companion animals
 - o Participants must be committed to reducing killing/euthanasia of companion animals and to the implementation of strategies that work towards the G2Z goal.
- Promote desexing

³⁶ <https://awl.org.au/our-policies>

³⁷ www.g2z.org.au/g2z-participant-code-of-ethics.html

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- o Participants must agree to advocate for desexing of companion animals and ensure that any cats and dogs they rehome are desexed.
 - Increase the rehabilitation and rehoming of abandoned companion animals
 - o Participants must provide for the welfare of the animals in their care and work to maximise rehoming opportunities. Any fees charged for rehoming must fund ongoing work to save lives.
 - Educate and support the community
 - o Provide education and support programs to the community in order to reduce surrenders, increase claim rates, increase adoption rates, reduce euthanasia rates and increase understanding of the relevant issues in the community.
 - Advocate for, and comply with, laws and regulations which support a reduction in unwanted animals and improvements in their care and rehoming
 - o Contribute to the advancement of federal, state, and local companion animal and/or wildlife regulations, laws, rules, ordinances, statutes, and codes, which support G22 goals, comply with these requirements, and possess the required permits or licence(s) (if applicable).

Victorian State Government

Silent on the justification criteria for euthanasia but provides guidelines as to how it is to be implemented.³⁸

If you still can't keep your pet, it's important to find an appropriate new home:

Rehoming: Consider giving your pet to family or friends. If your pet came from a breeder, they might be willing to take it back.

Surrendering: Your local Council, animal shelter, or rescue organization can assist. However, this decision should be made carefully, as not all pets can be successfully rehomed.

As a last resort, if you cannot rehome your pet, euthanasia by a vet is a kinder option than dumping or abandoning your pet. A vet will ensure this is done humanely. However, a vet may decline to perform euthanasia, particularly if they believe there are practical alternatives to any behavioural and health concerns.

Local Government

Bendigo Animal Relief Centre (BARC)

1.2 The policy seeks to:

- 1.2.1 provide a clear policy position on euthanasia for staff at BARC and the community;
- 1.2.2 ensure animal welfare is given due consideration by decision makers;
- 1.2.3 support staff associated with euthanasia in line with the City's values and behaviours;
- 1.2.4 ensure the staff meet legislative obligations with respect to animal welfare; and
- 1.2.5 provide policy support for staff when engaging with Councillors, colleagues, the community, the media and animal welfare organisations.

6.1 General

- 6.1.1. The City is opposed to all inhumane methods of killing animals.
- 6.1.2. The City will not euthanise any physically healthy and behaviourally sound Animals that are suitable for rehoming.
- 6.1.3. The City upholds the Code and will only euthanise animals because of disease, injury, behaviour, age, or unsuitability for rehoming.
- 6.1.4. Euthanasia of animals by the City will be in strict accordance with:
 - (a) the Domestic Animal Act 1994 (Vic);

³⁸ <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/animal-welfare-victoria/cats/legal-requirements/if-you-cant-keep>

-
- (b) the Code; and
 - (c) the Plan.

6.2 Holding period

In accordance with section 84M of the Act, a person may recover an animal retained at BARC, which the City has decided not to retain custody, within 8 days (or 14 days in the case of an abandoned animal).

6.3 Unclaimed animals

At the conclusion of the statutory period specified in the Act, if any animal is unclaimed it must be:

- 6.3.1 made available for rehoming to a new owner;
- 6.3.2 Euthanised because of disease, injury, behaviour, age or unsuitability for rehoming;
- 6.3.3 placed in appropriate foster care and returned at an appropriate date for rehoming; or
- 6.3.4 released under a written agreement to a person or body which operates in accordance with the Act to care for and dispose of the Animal, at the discretion of the City's Operations Manager or Veterinary Practitioner

Wat Djerring Animal Facility

"The facility only euthanises animals as a very last resort when it is the most humane option. We work closely with animal rescue organisations to minimise euthanasia rates at our facility."³⁹

Shepparton Animal Shelter

The Shepparton Animal Shelter accepts an animal surrendered for euthanasia where the owner is unable to arrange for a veterinarian to euthanase the animal. The animal may have attacked a person or may have an injury or illness where the animal is in pain. To assist with the costs of euthanasia by a veterinarian, the Shepparton Animal Shelter requests a donation of \$50 per animal when possible.⁴⁰

Victorian Code of Practice for Shelters

2.6 Euthanasia or removal of an animal from the establishment

At the conclusion of the statutory period specified in the Act for seized or surrendered animals, animals must be:

- made available for rehoming to a new owner, or
- euthanased because of disease, injury, behaviour, age, unsuitability for sale, or
- placed in appropriate foster care and returned at an appropriate date for rehoming, or
- released under a written agreement to a person or body which operates in accordance with the Act to care for and dispose of the animal, at the discretion of the operations manager or veterinary practitioner.

Other

Blue Cross (United Kingdom) ⁴¹

What are the reasons why Blue Cross would put a pet to sleep?

- The pet has a serious injury or illness which, despite treatment, would make their quality of life unacceptable

³⁹ <https://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/Services/Pets-and-animals/Lost-and-found-pets/wat-djerring-Animal-Facility#section-6>

⁴⁰ <https://greater-shepparton.com.au/animals-environment-and-waste/animals/animal-shelter>

⁴¹ <https://www.bluecross.org.uk/euthanasia-policy>

-
- They have an infectious disease which poses a serious health risk to other animals, either at Blue Cross or to the local community if they were rehomed
 - They have a severe behavioural problem which could make them a danger to staff, potential new owners, the public or other animals
 - The pet is an illegal dog under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 so it would be against the law to rehome them

Who makes the decision to put a Blue Cross pet to sleep?

- Pets that come to Blue Cross are fully assessed by a vet, an experienced member of our behaviour team and the staff that are responsible for the pet's day to day care. It is a team decision to put a pet to sleep, which is not taken lightly, and is only made after a thorough assessment has been carried out.

10.4. Appendix 4- Non-disclosure Agreements

BARC – Foster Carer Confidentiality Clause

Section 5. Confidentiality.

5.1 The contents of this Agreement and any other information provided by BARC to the Foster Carer and marked as confidential must not be disclosed by the Foster Carer to any person without the prior consent of BARC.

5.2 This clause 5 continues notwithstanding the determination or the earlier termination of this agreement

Save a Dog Scheme (SADS)

Volunteer Agreement required as part of online volunteer application as follows:

'Volunteers are expected to be professional, conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner and are to follow the reasonable direction of Save a Dog staff members at all times. They are expected to carry out their duties in a safe and responsible manner and to report any unsafe practices, hazards, incidents, injuries and near misses to a Save a Dog staff member as per OH&S policy.

Volunteers are not to share any information about staff, other volunteers, the animals or members of the public without prior approval of Management.

Volunteers should provide adequate notice if unable to attend an allocated shift. By completing and signing this form you understand that you are registering your interest in volunteering with SADS and will abide by the expectations detailed above.

All information provided is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge. This information is collected solely for the purpose of determining your suitability as a volunteer and will be kept subject to SADS and Stonnington Council's privacy policy.'

Victorian Animal Aid Trust (Animal Aid)

Whistleblower Policy as available on the organisations website⁴² and notes:

'Protection is given to any of the following who make a protected disclosure:

- the Company employees and officers as well as their relatives and dependents (paid and unpaid)
- suppliers of goods or services to the Company
- employees of suppliers of goods or services to the Company and
- the Company related bodies corporate (and their directors/secretaries).

There is no requirement for a Discloser to identify themselves to be protected by Whistleblower Laws. That is, protected disclosures may be made anonymously.'

⁴² <https://animalaid.org.au/whistleblower-policy/>

10.5. CONFIDENTIAL - Attachment 5 – 2024/2025 Financial Year Maintenance Outgoings for the CoS Pound/shelter Facility

[illegible]

Animal Management Taskforce Findings / Officer Commentary

No	Finding	Officer Commentary
1	Finding 1 (The Pound and Rehoming of Animals) The Taskforce finds that Council should, in its public communications, use terminology more in line with modern day community sentiment and expectations. This would help to designate the pound as a safe place for animals and better reflect Council aspirations for animals.	Officers will continue to improve communications to increase use of plain-English and reduce the use of technical language, ensuring care of animals is prominent.
2	Finding 2 (Services Outside the Scope of the Taskforce Review) The Taskforce finds that Council should continue to proactively pursue strategies to minimise animals entering the pound and shelter system and to minimise the length of stays in pound/shelter environment including: • Encouraging direct 'home to home rehoming' • Preventing pregnancies resulting in unwanted/unowned kittens • Encouraging/promoting benefits of adopting older cats • Strengthening partnerships with breed specific and generic rehoming groups	These matters lie beyond the scope of the Taskforce, however officers note they offer good practice guidance to the Animal Management Team, and Pound and Shelter operators. It is also noted that some of the actions in the draft DAMP reference similar initiatives and an enhanced communications campaign that can focus on same.
3	Finding 3 (Strategic Planning) The Taskforce finds that Council should: a) consider the implications of the Council Plan Objectives and Focus Areas as noted in this report particularly in terms of: • the planning and future provision of pound and rehoming services, and potentially wider animal management service provision • building/strengthening relations and profile directly with the community in relation to animals and pet owners • committing to operational capability and capacity. high-quality standards of customer service, communication that builds trust and confidence in decision-making, responsiveness to community needs, and asset management.	Officers notes the finding and its alignment to the draft DAMP 2026-29 which commits to increasing proactive patrols and community engagement, strengthening communications and education, ensuring high-quality customer service, and investigating a multidisciplinary compliance model to expand service capacity and responsiveness.
	b) recognise and acknowledge the changing state government, animal welfare sector and community climate in relation to the welfare, care and rehoming of animals; including the protocols relating to the euthanasia of animals.	Noted. Authorised Officers will continue to adhere to all updated Acts and guidelines.
	c) reinforce the service principles espoused in the 2022-2025 DAMP	Officers note that the service principles from the 2022-2025 DAMP are consistent with best practice and continue to be supported, vis: (Extract from 2022-2025 DAMP)

No	Finding	Officer Commentary
		Council Aims The principles that will guide the delivery of Animal Management Services: We strive for professionalism that is underpinned by: – a legal responsibility to ensure residents and Council comply with State Government legislation and Council policy relating to pets – a passion for the wellbeing of animals – a need to balance the needs of pet owners and non-pet owners – a desire to work with the community to explore new initiatives that optimise outcomes for people and pets. • We aim to be approachable, fair and helpful. • We will provide a service that is based on industry good practice and substantiated social and scientific research. • We recognise the need for our service to consider opportunities to engender inclusion and respect. We appreciate: – that pets are an important part of many households and many residents attribute health and wellbeing benefits to their pets – that pet owners have a responsibility to ensure the wellbeing of their pets and to ensure they do not impact adversely on other people, other pets and the environment in which they live and interact – that some people do not want to interact with animals in private or public places and this is to be respected. • We recognise that some of the issues we need to address and find resolution on are often challenging and need the good will of the community to address and resolve.
	d) consider adopting relevant practices as recommended in Industry Taskforce Reviews (including the 2022 Taskforce on Rehoming Pets recommendations) including: • options to improve animal behaviour testing procedures and accountability • protections to minimise the use of euthanasia for animals with treatable or manageable health conditions • minimum standards for the care and management of animals by the sector (i.e. animals in temporary care).	Noted. Council will always follow the relevant laws and Codes of Practice, aiming to ensure the welfare and comfort of all animals that come into its care.

No	Finding	Officer Commentary
	e) ensure that animal holding facilities comply with relevant codes of practice and council review its capital works plan to include budget allocations to achieve this. f) in preparation for the introduction of the Domestic Animals Amendment (Rehoming Cats and Dogs and Other Matters) Act in 2027, determine its position in terms of: • the tracking of outcomes for animals transferred to other organisations for rehoming • adherence of these organisations with best practice relating to the holding, transfer and rehoming of animals. g) With respect to contracts 84Y Agreements with organisations: • ensure it makes clear its reporting requirements relating to the care and outcome of all animals including animals transferred to other organisations for rehoming • articulates Service Performance Principles as required by section 106 of the Local Government Act (2020).	Noted. The Pound facility was constructed in 2006, upgraded in 2012, and continues to be maintained against a regular schedule by both Council and the contracted tenant. Last financial year Council spent approximately \$16,000 on maintenance at the pound. Officers will propose a budget allocation of \$100,000 in FY26/27, and will commence the uplift with a phased approach starting with initiatives that address compliance gaps. Officers will incorporate the contemporary requirements of the newer Code of Practice into the forthcoming EOI/tender process to support further enhancement of the facility. Council will adhere to any new regulations or requirements introduced by the Domestic Animals Amendment Act. All agreements under 84Y are governed by the DAA. Council will ensure any such agreements entered into are compliant with the Act and Code of Practice. Council is obliged to observe the Service Performance principles outlined in the LGA 2020 s106 and the obligations described in Council's Procurement Policy (a requirement of s109 of the LGA 2020).
4	Finding 4 (Adopting Good or Best Practice) The Taskforce finds that Council should: • adopt the tenets of the PACT (People and Animals in Community Together) Tenets as a foundation for service planning and delivery. • take into consideration the guidance provided by the Association of Shelter Veterinarians Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters' particularly in relation to facilities and individual enclosures.	Officers are supportive of the PACT tenets, noting that they are consistent with the principles espoused in the DAMP and represent a best practice approach to animal management.
5	Finding 5 (Minimising Unnecessary Euthanasia of Animals) The Taskforce finds that Council should determine and clearly communicate to the community its position on euthanasia. To assist in this matter, the Taskforce encourages the Council to:	Noted. Council will always promote responsible pet ownership and animal welfare in line with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (POCTA). Additionally, officers note the Code of Practice is binding on Council and on parties with whom Council contracts to carry out relevant services, such as operation of a Council pound. Failure to

No	Finding	Officer Commentary
		comply with the Code of Practice is an offence and carries significant penalties.
	a) adopt the PACT Tenet 'Alleviate suffering and make appropriate euthanasia decisions' as a principles-based approach to euthanasia.	Officers are supportive of the PACT tenets, noting that they are consistent with the principles espoused in the DAMP and represent a best practice approach to animal management.
	b) support the principles of G2Z and "no-kill" in that it undertakes to saving every healthy, treatable, and rehabilitatable animal in its care	G2Z originated in Queensland and details principles, structures and strategies for keeping people and pets together and reducing intake to pounds and shelter, in whole communities. Stonnington has low numbers of impounded animals, and the DAMP (new and previous) continues to promote responsible pet ownership, desexing and other initiatives, which is in line with G2Z.
	c) recognise there may be a need for euthanasia on animal welfare and public safety grounds when • an animal is in unresolvable, irremediable pain or suffering as assessed by an independent veterinarian • when the welfare of an animal is irreparably compromised and/or when the welfare prognosis is poor as assessed by an independent veterinarian and not able to be managed by a suitable member of the public (as determined by a suitability assessment) who intends to adopt the animal • when an animal exhibits severe behavioural problems, as assessed by at least two people with experience e.g. an independent behaviouralist and an independent veterinarian Note – 'independence' means independent from Council or service provider	Officers agree that an independent party, while not legally mandatory, is a positive initiative to ensure clarity in decision making, noting also that any euthanasia is required to be in line with the Code of Practice and Domestic Animals Act.
	d) require any contracted external service providers to operate under principles in a) to c) above.	All shelter operators are governed by the Code of Practice, DAA and POCTA.
6	Finding 6 (Council Resourcing) The Taskforces finds that Council should allocate budget to upgrade the current pound facility to meet the requirements of at least the Code of Practice, with particular attention to the non-compliance of the dog holding areas.	Noted. Officers will propose a budget allocation of \$100,000 in FY26/27, and will commence the uplift with a phased approach starting with initiatives that address compliance gaps. Officers will incorporate the contemporary requirements of the newer Code of Practice into the forthcoming EOI/tender process to support further enhancement of the facility.
7	Finding 7 (Operational and Potential Capital Works Considerations) The Taskforce finds that Council should undertake a detailed audit of facilities at the pound to determine the program of works needed: • to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and codes of practice and in	Officers agree that an audit of the facility is an important first step in identifying and prioritising any necessary works, and when considering future state.

No	Finding	Officer Commentary
	consideration of relevant good practice guidelines • to increase capacity if a regional facility is the preferred future model of provision, and if so, how this can be achieved within the existing site footprint and/or • identify opportunities to expand the facility footprint based on tolerances as may be determined by Council policy and/or community priorities. This would be in consideration of opportunities associated with land occupied by the depot and/or adjoining parkland; and in consideration of the Stonnington 'Public Realm Strategy' and 'Strategies for Creation of Open Spaces'.	
8	Finding 8 (Communications and Partnerships with the Community) The Taskforces finds that Council should develop and implement an effective community communications program regarding its decisions related to its animal management services and any options pursued regarding fostering and rehoming. This would be in addition to a previous recommendation regarding public communication on its position on euthanasia.	Officers note that a concentrated focus on communications is proposed via the new draft DAMP (2025 - 2028).
9	Finding 9 (Confidentiality and Non-disclosure Agreements) The Taskforce finds that Council should only consider potential service providers that: • Limit non-disclosure matters in Confidentiality/Non-Disclosure Agreements to matters such as the following: - client details, including financial information and other data - trade confidences - intellectual/proprietary information - sensitive operational information relating to finances, marketing, bequests - information relating to sponsors, volunteers, staff protection • Include a 'public interest disclosure' clause that protects whistleblowers when matters deemed to be of community and/or customer interest are disclosed.	Officers note the finding and acknowledge that confidentiality and non-disclosure provisions must comply with the Local Government Act 2020, Council Policy, and principles of transparency, accountability, and public interest. From a procurement perspective, limiting confidentiality clauses to legitimate commercial protections - such as client information, financial data, trade secrets, proprietary systems, and sensitive operational information - is consistent with good practice and avoids overly broad restrictions. It is also noted that overly restrictive NDAs can create procurement and contract-management risks, including reduced transparency, barriers to performance oversight, and potential non-compliance with Council's obligations to report service outcomes to the community. In any EOI/tender process, officers will ensure the appropriate requirements and protections are in place.
10	Finding 10 (Canvassing of Expressions of Interest) The Taskforce finds that Council should consider publishing an EOI before going out for tender to determine the level of interest in providing a tender.	Officers note the finding and acknowledge that undertaking an Expression of Interest (EOI) process prior to tender would support Council's obligations under the Local Government Act 2020 to ensure open and fair competition, transparency, and value for money. An EOI would allow officers to assess market capacity, capability, and interest in delivering statutory pound services before progressing to a formal tender, reducing the risk of a non-competitive or unsuccessful

No	Finding	Officer Commentary
		procurement. Insights from the EOI would also inform the development of tender evaluation criteria by identifying which requirements are realistic as mandatory criteria and which may need to be framed as weighted criteria to avoid unintentionally excluding capable providers. This step mitigates the risk of a failed tender due to overly prescriptive mandatory requirements and ensures the final tender aligns with value for money principles and Council's Procurement Policy.
11	Finding 11 (Revising of Tender Specifications) The Taskforce finds that Council should consider changes to tender specifications that address other relevant recommendations in the report, particularly animal management in the post-statutory period and Findings 5 and 9.	Council notes the finding and recognises that revisions to tender specifications must reflect statutory requirements under the Domestic Animals Act, the Code of Practice, and Council's obligations under the Local Government Act 2020 to ensure lawful, ethical, and value for money procurement. From a procurement perspective, specifications will need to clearly define the scope of statutory pound services versus post-statutory rehoming activities, ensure that no requirements conflict with legislation or legal advice. Careful structuring of evaluation criteria is essential to avoid mandatory requirements that could unintentionally narrow the market or create legal or commercial risk, while at the same time, ensuring the appropriate requirements and protections are in place.
12	Finding 12 (Philanthropy) The Taskforce finds that the Council's website and social media should encourage donations (including money) be given directly to the identified provider/s of services under agreement with Council. This would also include links to any volunteering opportunities that the provider may offer.	Officers will consider profiling the identified provider as part of community communication campaigns, noting that, as always, officers will need to consider and balance preferential treatment to one service provider over others that operate within Stonnington. Additional advice will be sought on this matter.
13	Finding 13 (Revenue Generating Options) The Taskforce finds that Council should explore a partnership with both or either Glen Eira and Boroondara depending on assessments of capacity and financial feasibility in the longer term.	Officers will continue discussions with the Cities of Glen Eira and Boroondara.

Stonnington Animal Management Taskforce

Recommendation

In consideration of the practical and financial aspects, the Taskforce recommends that

- a) The existing pound facility be updated to be compliant with the Code of Practice to appropriately serve as a CoS pound facility
 - o with the capacity to directly rehome from the facility
 - o with limited short-term shelter arrangements, predominantly for the purposes of maximising the local availability and re-homing of suitable animals
- b) Council continue active consultation with neighbouring Councils to investigate whether the current facility could accommodate a small number of animals but likely not a complete pound service at this time
- c) Council progress a (select) tender process after it conducts a rapid Expression of Interest process to determine sector interest in providing pound services using the current facility consistent with Option 3. To progress this, the Taskforce recommends that the following be included in the expectations for tender submissions for provision of animal management services being:
 - a. Ability to deliver statutory pound services, and shelter rehoming services as a continuous and integrated operation
 - b. Retain responsibility for animals beyond the statutory period
 - c. Maintain oversight and accountability for individual animal welfare pathways and for final outcome of all animals received
 - d. Demonstrate their commitment to:
 - i. adopt the PACT Tenet 'Alleviate suffering and make appropriate euthanasia decisions' as a principles-based approach to euthanasia.
 - ii. support the principles of G22 and 'no-kill' in that it undertakes to saving every healthy, treatable, and rehabilitatable animal in its care
 - iii. recognise there may be a need for euthanasia on animal welfare and public safety grounds when
 - o an animal is in unresolvable, irremediable pain or suffering as assessed by an independent veterinarian
 - o when the welfare of an animal is irreparably compromised and/or when the welfare prognosis is poor as assessed by an independent veterinarian and not able to be managed by a suitable member of the public (as determined by a suitability assessment) who intends to adopt the animal
 - o when an animal exhibits severe behavioural problems, as assessed by at least two people with experience e.g. an independent behaviouralist and an independent veterinarian (as per Finding 5 above (Note – 'independence' means independent from Council or service provider)
 - iv. Limit non-disclosure matters in Confidentiality/Non-Disclosure Agreements to matters such as the following:
 - o client details, including financial information and other data
 - o trade confidences
 - o intellectual/proprietary information
 - o sensitive operational information relating to finances, marketing, bequests
 - o information relating to sponsors, volunteers, staff protection
 - v. Include a 'public interest disclosure' clause that protects whistleblowers when matters deemed to be of community and/or customer interest are disclosed. (Finding 9)
- d) Council establish future infrastructure requirements to address long-term capacity for a regional hub facility including community and regional Council consultation.

- e) Council ensure the following principles are applied to the evaluation of pound service tenders and of the service ongoing, as required by section 106 (Service Performance Principles) of the Victorian Local Government Act (2020)
 - (a) services should be provided in an equitable manner and be responsive to the diverse needs of the municipal community;
 - (b) services should be accessible to the members of the municipal community for whom the services are intended;
 - (c) quality and costs standards for services set by the Council should provide good value to the municipal community;
 - (d) a Council should seek to continuously improve service delivery to the municipal community in response to performance monitoring;
 - (e) service delivery must include a fair and effective process for considering and responding to complaints about service provision.



JUNE 2025

Stonnington Animal Management Taskforce Terms of Reference

STONNINGTON.VIC.GOV.AU

 [stonningtoncouncil](#)  [StonningtonNews](#)  [city-of-stonnington](#)



Community Safety and Chapel Street Taskforce

Terms of Reference

Committee type	Advisory Committee
Purpose and objectives	To advise Council on recommended proposals for future animal management and welfare services which can be in place by 1 July 2026. Services recommended could include but are not limited to: a regional pound, in-house service delivery, value-for-money review, potential new tender specifications, philanthropy options, and potential revenue generation opportunities.
Membership	The Taskforce comprises: • Four Councillors • Up to one community representative with leadership experience in the animal welfare sector, with proven expertise in low-kill animal management models, including comprehensive animal rescue, rehoming, and foster care programs. Up to one to two community representatives with demonstrated expertise in business management, financial analysis, and strategic planning
External member selection	Appropriate community representatives with relevant expertise will be selected via a public Expression of Interest process. Current or potential pound or shelter operators will not be eligible for selection.
Chairperson	The Chairperson will be appointed by Council resolution. Tim Dyke was appointed by Council resolution on 30 June 2025.
Meeting arrangements	Timing of meetings is to be determined at the first meeting of the Taskforce.
Policy departures	None
Secretariat	Lesley Humphreys was appointed by Council resolution on 30 June 2025.
Timeline	The taskforce will conclude following provision of its final report to Council on or before 15 December 2025.

8.4 Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-29

Manager City Business: Georgie Birch

Interim Director Community, Planning & Place: Cath Harrod

Linkage to Council Plan

3.1 - People are safe and able to fully participate in community life

Purpose of Report

To provide a draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-29 for endorsement for public exhibition, in accordance with the requirements of the Domestic Animals Act 1994, prior to final adoption.

This matter was discussed at the Councillor Briefing Session on Monday 2 March 2026 and was deferred for further discussion.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. ENDORSES the Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2026-29 (Attachment 1) for public consultation.**
- 2. NOTES the proposed public exhibition period of four weeks, from 31 March to 28 April 2026.**
- 3. NOTES that feedback received during the exhibition period will inform the final DAMP for adoption by Council.**
- 4. NOTES that Council must submit an approved DAMP 2026-29 to the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) by 30 June 2026.**

Executive Summary

- The Domestic Animals Act 1994 requires Council to prepare and adopt a Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) every four years. Council's current DAMP is for the period 2021-25, necessitating the development of a new DAMP.
- While the deadline established by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) for adoption of new Domestic Animal Management Plans was 4 December 2025, Council was granted an extension by the Secretary of the Department until 30 June 2026, in the context of the animal management issues under consideration by Council more generally.
- The draft DAMP 2026-29 (refer **Attachment 1**) establishes Council's strategic approach to managing dogs and cats in Stonnington, with a focus on promoting responsible pet ownership, ensuring pets and people are safe and live well together, and balancing shared use of public spaces.
- The draft has been informed by service data, community engagement findings and alignment with Council's broader strategic framework, including the Council Plan 2025-29 and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-29.

5. Subject to Council endorsement, the Draft Plan is proposed to be released for public exhibition for a period of four weeks, to seek feedback from the community prior to finalisation and adoption.

Background

6. Section 68A of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 requires all Victorian councils to prepare a DAMP every four years. The DAMP must outline how Council will manage dogs and cats, promote responsible pet ownership, and minimise risks to the community.
7. Council's current DAMP is for the period 2021-25. Development of a new DAMP provides an opportunity to reflect current legislative requirements and best practice, community expectations, emerging trends, and challenges.
8. Council was initially required to adopt a new DAMP by 4 December 2025 however, an extension to 30 June 2026 was approved by the Secretary of DEECA. This extension recognised Council's constraints on undertaking strategic planning arising from the combined impact of organisational restructuring and the need to manage a complex and sensitive environment in relation to animal management, including the establishment of Council's Animal Management Taskforce.
9. The draft DAMP 2026-29 has been developed to provide a clear, practical framework that balances education and compliance, responding to Stonnington's urban context and community feedback.

Key Issues and Discussion

10. The draft DAMP 2026-29 is structured around seven focus areas that reflect Council's statutory responsibilities and the key challenges associated with domestic animal management in Stonnington, including:
 - a) Training of Authorised Officers
 - b) Responsible pet ownership and reducing nuisance
 - c) Pet registration and identification
11. Preventing overpopulation and minimising euthanasia
 - d) Dog attacks and dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs
 - e) Domestic animal businesses
 - f) Pets in public open spaces
12. There is also a section on pets in emergencies. This section does not propose new actions, instead recognising that emergency preparedness and response for domestic animals is addressed through Council's Municipal Emergency Management Plan, which is scheduled to undergo a comprehensive review in 2026.
13. While the core focus areas of domestic animal management plans are broadly consistent across Victorian councils due to statutory requirements, councils have discretion to include additional focus areas to reflect local context and priorities. In Stonnington's case, focus area 07: 'Pets in public open spaces' has been included to ensure stronger alignment with Council's open space and biodiversity objectives, recognising the pressures on shared public spaces and wildlife habitat in a dense urban environment.

14. The draft DAMP adopts an education-led approach, supported by proportionate enforcement where required, and seeks to embed animal management considerations within broader Council planning and service delivery.
15. Concurrent to development of the draft DAMP, the Animal Management Taskforce has been working to finalise its report. While the DAMP is also concerned with improving animal welfare, its focus is more on education and prevention to avoid animals ending up in the pound. The work of the AMT and the DAMP is complementary.
16. Subject to Council endorsement, the draft DAMP 2026-29 will be released for public exhibition for a period of four weeks (planned for 31 March – 28 April 2026).
17. Feedback received during the exhibition period will be reviewed and, where appropriate, incorporated into the final DAMP 2026-29 prior to presentation to and adoption by Council before 30 June 2026.

Governance Compliance

Policy Alignment

18. The DAMP aligns with Direction 3: A Thriving Community of the Council Plan 2025-29, responding directly to focus area 3.1.4: 'Foster a pet-friendly and responsible city'. It also supports a number of other Council strategies and plans, including the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-29, Municipal Emergency Management Plan 2023-26 and emerging Open Space Strategy and Environment Strategy.
19. The DAMP also specifies how Council's General Local Law 2018 (amended 2023) and Orders made by Council under the Act.

Financial and Resource Implications

20. The Draft DAMP 2026-29 has been developed with a focus on core service delivery, supported largely by existing resources. Implementation of any actions with additional resource implications will be subject to Council's annual budget process.

Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

21. No Council officer and/or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Decision Making Connection Disclosure

22. The DAMP was prepared in-house by Council officers using existing resources. No external consultants, companies or contractors were engaged or paid as part of the development.
23. The decision will benefit the general community, including pet owners and non-pet owners, through improved animal management services focusing on reducing nuisance, supporting respectful use of shared spaces, and improving safety for both people and pets.

Legal / Risk Implications

24. Preparation and adoption of a Domestic Animal Management Plan is a statutory requirement under the Domestic Animals Act 1994. Endorsement of the draft DAMP 2026-29 for public exhibition supports Council's compliance with this requirement within the approved extended timeframe.

Community Consultation

25. A summary of engagement completed to date and proposed future engagement is below. For further details of completed engagement, refer to the attached DAMP Engagement Report September 2025 (refer **Attachment 2**).

Purpose	To gather community feedback on issues relating to domestic animals and to test community priorities for domestic animal management in Stonnington to inform development of the new Domestic Animal Management Plan.
IAP2 Goal:	Consult - To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.
Exhibition period	31 March to 28 April 2026 (proposed)
Method:	Phase 1 community engagement August to September 2025 (completed): • Connect Stonnington online survey held 8 August to 1 September • 2 popups held 23 August (Pahran Market) and 28 August (Malvern Cricket Ground) Phase 2 public exhibition 31 March to 28 April 2026 (proposed): Connect Stonnington survey
Reach:	Communications activities for phase 1 engagement August to September 2025: • Corflutes displayed at 26 off-leash areas • A3 posters displayed at pet shops and vet businesses in the municipality • Website news • Electronic direct mail (Paws and Claws newsletter) – 8,456 subscribers • Social media: - o 2 x Instagram posts – 3,910 views - o 2 x Facebook posts – 1,349 views • 2 x pop-up events – Pahran Market, Malvern Cricket Ground Phase 1 community engagement results: • 238 survey responses (including representation across all suburbs and age groups, with more than 9% identifying as from a culturally and linguistically diverse background and 7% living with a disability) • 2 email submissions • 35 pop-up participants (approximately) 688 page views, 567 page visits and 437 unique visitors.
Summary of feedback:	• Commonly experienced issues relating to dogs included uncollected or improper disposal of dog poo, dogs off-leash where they shouldn't be, and barking dogs (as reported by more than half the survey respondents). • Main issues of concern relating to cats (while reported by less than half of survey respondents) included cats roaming streets or wandering onto other properties, stray cats and cats affecting wildlife. • Top priorities survey respondents wanted Council to focus on included disposal of dog poo, management of off-leash areas (e.g. design, signage or rules) and bins and waste bags in parks and public spaces. • Feedback from pop-ups reflected general satisfaction with animal management in Stonnington, and similar concerns around owners not

	controlling their dogs as well as opportunities for improving off-leash area facilities.
Impact:	Summary of level of influence: Our promise to community (per 'consult' level of influence under Council's Engagement Policy): <i>We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.</i> Impact of feedback: The draft plan strongly reflects the community priorities above, by incorporating actions to increase education and awareness around responsible pet ownership, and opportunities to achieve optimal outcomes through appropriate signage, information and park/off-leash area design. The following focus areas in the draft plan respond directly to the issues identified in the community feedback: • Focus area 2: Responsible pet ownership and reducing nuisance – addresses proper disposal of dog poo, reinforcing on/off-leash rules, and preventing barking through socialisation and training. • Focus area 3: Registration and identification – encourages pet registration to reduce incidents of wandering/lost cats and dogs. • Focus area 4: Preventing overpopulation and minimising euthanasia – addresses the importance of desexing pets and management of stray cats. • Focus area 7: Pets in public open spaces – addresses cat containment, and the design of off-leash areas to protect natural habitat and wildlife.
Next steps:	What we'll do next: • Alert the broader community and respondents who participated in the first round of engagement that the draft plan is now open for public exhibition through: - o social media posts - o email via Connect Stonnington inbox to email addresses of participants of the first-round of engagement. • Update the Connect Stonnington page with high-level results of the first round of engagement.

Human Rights Consideration

26. Complies with the Charter of Human Rights & Responsibilities Act 2006.

Attachments

1. DRAFT - Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-29 [8.4.1 - 41 pages]
2. DAMP Engagement Report September 2025 [8.4.2 - 16 pages]



2026 – 2029

Domestic Animal Management Plan

DRAFT FEBRUARY 2026

Reconciliation Acknowledgement Statement

The City of Stonnington acknowledges that we are on the Traditional Lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong peoples of the East Kulin Nations and pay our respect to their Elders past and present. We extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We acknowledge their living connection to Country, relationship with the land and all living things extending back tens of thousands of years.

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Message from the Mayor

To be written following public exhibition.

Introduction

Why we have this Plan

Pets play a big role in people's lives. They offer companionship, connection and joy – for many, they're part of the family. At the same time, managing domestic animals in a dense urban environment comes with important responsibilities to ensure Stonnington is safe, accessible and welcoming for everyone, whether they own pets or not.

This Domestic Animal Management Plan sets out how we'll manage dogs and cats in our community over the next four years. It outlines our approach to supporting responsible pet ownership so that pets are kept safe and healthy, and public spaces are shared considerately. It also ensures we meet our responsibilities under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*.

This Plan focuses on enhancing core services we deliver every day, like registration, inspections, education and enforcement. Through this work, we'll help build positive relationships between pets, their owners and the wider community.

What is responsible pet ownership?

We use the term responsible pet ownership to describe behaviours like:

- » adopting pets from shelters or using reputable, ethical breeders
- » registering and microchipping your pet
- » desexing your pet unless breeding responsibly
- » keeping pets safe, secure and under control at home and in public
- » cleaning up after your dog
- » preventing pets from roaming or harming wildlife
- » meeting your pet's needs for care, shelter, stimulation and exercise
- » taking steps to avoid nuisance issues like barking
- » keeping pets safe during heatwaves, storms, floods and other extreme weather events.



Paws for thought

Picking up after your dog isn't just polite – it helps stop nutrients and bacteria from washing into waterways, where they can fuel algae growth and harm aquatic life.

Legislative context

Under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* ('the Act'), all local governments in Victoria are required to prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan every four years.

The Plan must evaluate the effectiveness of existing animal management services and outline how the council will:

- » ensure compliance with animal-related laws and regulations
- » review relevant Local Laws and Orders
- » promote responsible ownership of dogs and cats
- » minimise nuisance issues
- » support pet registration and identification
- » reduce overpopulation and euthanasia rates for cats and dogs
- » minimise the risk of dog attacks
- » manage dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs
- » plan for pets in times of emergency
- » monitor, evaluate and report on our progress.

This Plan meets these requirements and outlines clear actions to support delivery over the Plan's life.

Our responsibilities under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*

The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* provides the legislative basis for our animal management services. It sets out our obligations in relation to:

- » registering and permanently identifying dogs and cats
- » managing dogs and cats, including controls for dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs
- » regulating domestic animal businesses (e.g. breeding, rearing, boarding, training and greyhound establishments, pounds, shelters and pet shops)
- » collecting and impounding lost, stray or abandoned animals
- » appointing Authorised Officers.

The Act also establishes six mandatory codes of practice for the operation of domestic animal businesses. Councils are responsible for monitoring and enforcing compliance with these codes within their municipality.

Local laws and orders

The Act enables councils to introduce local regulations to address community needs and manage the interaction between people and animals in public and private spaces. Stonnington has two key instruments in place, which are reviewed regularly to ensure they remain appropriate and effective:

Stonnington General Local Law 2018 (last amended 2023)

Part 15 of our Local Law includes provisions for the keeping, control and behaviour of animals within the municipality. It specifies limits on how many cats and dogs may be kept at any one residence (Table 1), and requires that:

- » animals must not pose a nuisance
- » people walking dogs must carry a device for the collection of dog litter and responsibly dispose of the litter
- » property fencing must be adequate to contain dogs.

Animal	Houses	Units, townhouses, apartments, flats
Cats	2	2
Cats under 3 months	12	2
Dogs	2	1
Dogs under 3 months	12	1

Table 1. Number of cats and dogs permitted in residential properties in Stonnington without a permit.

Residents wishing to keep additional dogs or cats at a property must obtain an Excess Animal Permit from Council to do so.

The Local Law is reviewed in full every 10 years, with the next review to be undertaken in 2028.

Council Order under section 26(2) of the Act

First adopted in 2019 and amended in 2023, this Order regulates how dogs are exercised in public places. Key elements include:

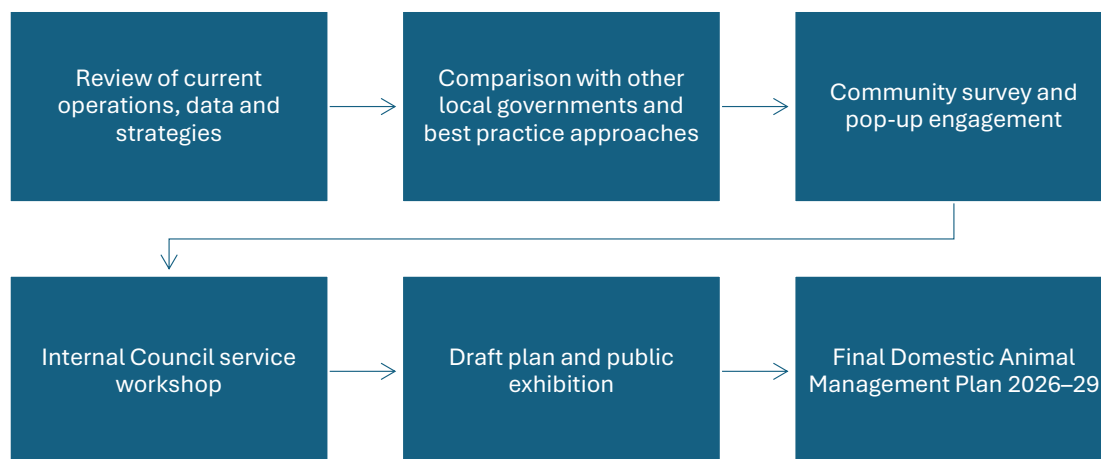
- » Designation of 28 areas where dogs may be exercised off-leash.
- » A requirement that dogs are leashed (maximum three metres) in all other public areas.
- » Prohibition of dogs entering sports grounds when Council-approved matches or training are underway, or playgrounds at any time.
- » Conditions requiring all dogs to be under effective control when off-leash, meaning they must remain in sight, respond reliably to voice or hand commands, and not cause harm, nuisance or damage to people, animals, property or Council assets.

Council Order under section 10A(1) of the Act

Adopted in 2012, this Order states that Council will not accept the registration of a cat unless the cat is desexed or exempted under the Act from any requirement to be desexed.

How we developed this Plan

This Plan brings together data, community feedback and internal expertise to guide our next four years.



Findings from our community engagement process are summarised later in this Plan.



Strategic context

This Domestic Animal Management Plan supports the broader directions of **Stonnington Tomorrow** – our key strategic document incorporating the Stonnington Community Vision 2040 and Council Plan 2025–29.



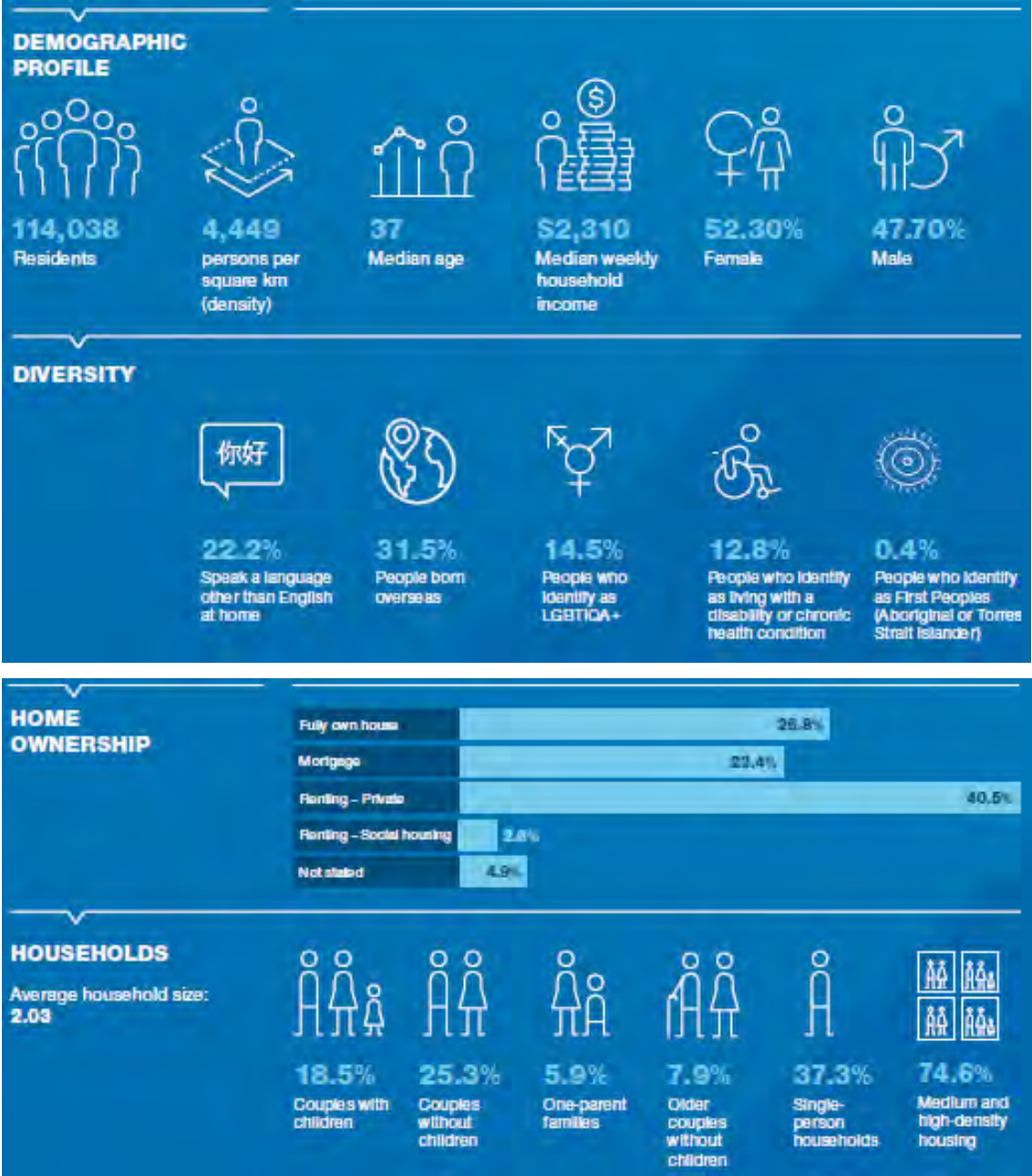
Related strategies and plans

This Plan aligns with and supports a range of other strategies and plans across Council, specifically our:

- » **Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025–29** by promoting the physical, mental and social benefits of pet ownership, while also addressing risks associated with nuisance and safety
- » **Open Space Strategy 2026–36 (in development)** by informing the design, planning and shared use of public open space, including off-leash areas and dog-friendly infrastructure
- » **Environment Strategy 2040 (in development)** by helping to prevent impacts from pets on local ecosystems and wildlife, supporting biodiversity protection
- » **Municipal Emergency Management Plan 2023–26** by recognising the need to plan for animals in emergencies and support residents to care for their pets during times of disruption.

Our annual work programs and service plans are developed in line with the priorities of these and other strategic documents.

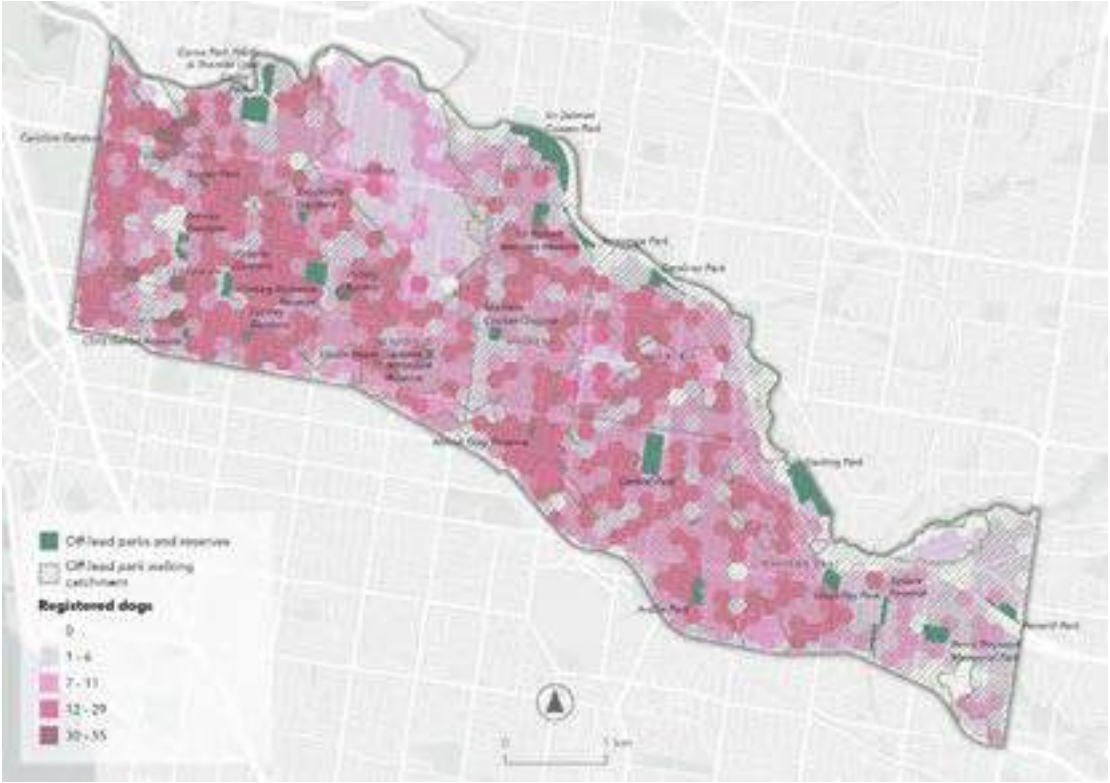
Our city



Our pets

PETS			
9,412	3,187	10	0
registered dogs (▲ 23.2% since 2016)	registered cats (▲ 20.7% since 2016)	Domestic animal businesses	Dangerous, menacing or restricted breed dogs
Top dog breeds	Top cat breeds	88%	100%
1. Cavoodle	1. Domestic short hair	registered dogs desexed	registered cats desexed
2. Golden retriever	2. Domestic medium hair		
3. Labradoodle	3. British short hair		
4. Labrador			
5. Border collie			
Top dog names	Top cat names	69%	3,000+
1. Alfie	1. Luna	Lost animals reclaimed in 2024–25	service requests per year, most commonly reports of nuisance, dogs off-leash, and uncollected dog poo
2. Frankie	2. Charlie		
3. Winnie	3. Millie		
4. Daisy	4. Max		
5. Ziggy	5. Coco		

Density of pet registrations



Our Animal Management service

Overview

Our Animal Management team plays a key role in supporting responsible pet ownership and helping people and pets live well together in Stonnington. Our officers are responsible for day-to-day patrols, investigations, enforcement and education related to dogs and cats. They are often the first point of contact for residents with questions, concerns or complaints about animals in the community.

The team responds to a wide range of issues, including:

- » pet registration and microchipping
- » dogs off-leash or not under effective control
- » barking dogs and other nuisance complaints
- » cat trespass/cat trap hire requests
- » dog attacks or rushes
- » management of dangerous, menacing or restricted breed dogs
- » unregistered or wandering animals
- » animal welfare concerns (assisting authorised organisations in their investigations)
- » domestic animal business registration and compliance
- » local emergencies involving domestic animals
- » non-compliance in parks and public spaces.

Our officers aim to resolve issues fairly and respectfully, balancing education with enforcement and supporting the health, safety and wellbeing of all residents and animals.

Council also owns the City of Stonnington's animal pound, located at 36 Weir St, Glen Iris. This facility is currently operated by an organisation contracted by Council to provide care for lost and found animals and help reconnect pets with their owners.



Figure 2. Organisational structure of Animal Management service (January 2026)

Programs and services

We offer the following animal management programs and services.

Program/Service	Service level
Identification and registration of dogs and cats	Annual cat and dog registration renewal Annual registration renewal reminders and follow-up notices to registered pet owners Prompt reactive enforcement Registration of cats and dogs before release from pound Replacements for lost pet tags
Domestic animal complaints	Initial response within 10 days with follow up as required
Dangerous dog complaints	Immediate response if situation deemed dangerous Otherwise, response within 10 days Investigation and prosecution of serious dog attacks, dog rushes and dogs at large, or infringements for non-serious incidents
Desexing support	Discounted pet registration fees for desexed pets
Animal shelter	Dogs and cat pound open seven days a week
Domestic animal businesses	Processing of new domestic animal business applications in a timely manner Annual (and random) audits
Promotion of responsible animal ownership	'Welcome pack' for households registering a pet for the first time with information on local rules and responsibilities of pet owners 'Pets in the Park' event aimed at raising awareness around responsible pet ownership 'Paws and Claws' newsletter and social media-based promotion Council website information for pet owners
Park/street patrols	Regular patrols of parks and streets Targeted patrols based on community complaints
Investigation and prosecution	Conducted as required, 100% prosecution success rate
After hours animal emergency service	Operational 365 days a year, 24 hours a day

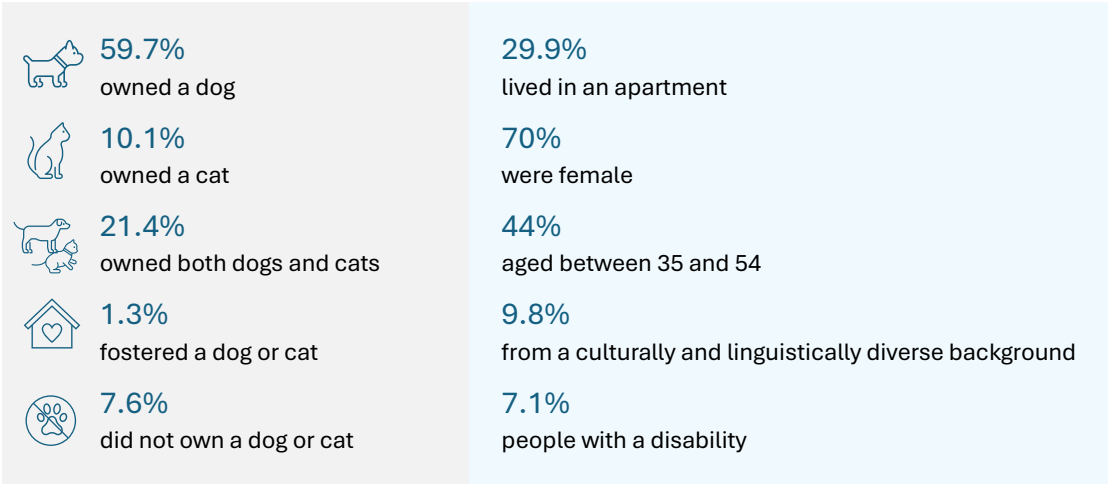
Community engagement

Between 8 August and 1 September 2025, we invited the community to share their experiences and priorities for the management of dogs and cats in Stonnington. Engagement took place through:

- » Online survey hosted on Connect Stonnington (688 visits, 238 responses)
- » Two pop-up events at Prahran Market and Malvern Cricket Ground (approximately 35 participants)
- » Two written submissions received by email
- » A communications campaign including signage at 26 off-leash areas, posters in pet shops and vet clinics, social media posts, website updates and targeted e-newsletters.

Who we heard from

Survey respondents were mostly pet owners. However, we also heard from a meaningful number of residents who do not currently own a pet, capturing both perspectives.



What we heard

Pets support wellbeing

Overwhelmingly, respondents saw pets as family, and a source of wellbeing. Even those without pets still showed a strong affinity for them – only 10.5% said they simply weren't interested in owning a cat or dog.

- » 99.0% said their pet is an important part of their household.
- » 98.1% said their pet improves their wellbeing.
- » Companionship was the most common motivation to own a pet (89.9%), followed by health or lifestyle benefits (64.1%).
- » 86.1% reported being more active because of their pet, and 84.7% said they talk to more people because of their pet.

"We don't have children – dogs are our family and mean a lot to us."

– Survey respondent (Malvern East)

"I love animals and they help companionship and stress management."

– Survey respondent (Toorak)

This demonstrates the significant role pets play in people's daily routines, physical activity, social connections and overall health.

Most owners had registered, microchipped and desexed their pet

Almost all respondents reported their pets were registered (96.3%), microchipped (99.5%) and desexed (97.2%). Most who hadn't registered their pet either didn't know they needed to, or cited cost as a barrier, while most of those who hadn't desexed their pet indicated they planned to do so soon or intended to breed their pet.

These compliance rates are a strength and indicate strong awareness of pet ownership responsibilities.

Balancing use of open spaces

People told us how important parks and reserves are for exercising and socialising their dogs, with strong support for more off-leash opportunities across the municipality – particularly fenced areas with bins and bag dispensers to support responsible use.

At the same time, many people also spoke about the need for better signage and communication around the rules, especially when it comes to off-leash areas. Others highlighted the need for more visible patrols and stronger enforcement. This can be particularly difficult where only part of a park is designated as off-leash, or there are time-based restrictions.

Some residents told us they had never experienced an issue and enjoyed the friendliness of local dogs and owners. Others, however, expressed strong frustration with inattentive owners or poorly trained dogs, and said this affected their confidence in using certain parks. While many supported more off-leash opportunities, others emphasised the need to balance these with safety and comfort for non-dog owners and families.

"We spend most of our time at Central Park and we walk with our dog and pram daily. We very rarely see dogs acting out or displaying anti social behaviour. And we love the public toy library for the dogs; it's a great initiative. The rules could be clearer around leashed areas of the park as we have found this confusing recently."

– Survey respondent (Glen Iris)

"There's a practice among many dog owners to treat any open space as off leash. Whether it's walking unleashed on the street or treating the entirety of a park as off leash when only a portion holds that designation. This removes the control that we have on how dogs interact with us, simply avoiding off-leash parks isn't enough to ensure you won't interact with an off-leash dog."

– Survey respondent (Malvern East)

Key issues



Most common dog-related issues:

1. Uncollected dog poo (95.3%)
2. Dog poo bags not put in bins (76.7%)
3. Dogs off-leash where they shouldn't be (72.6%)
4. Barking dogs (70.1%)
5. Owners letting their dogs annoy other dogs, my dog, people or myself (67.0%)



Most common cat-related issues:

1. Cats roaming streets or wandering onto properties (45.7%)
2. Stray cats (27.4%)
3. Cats affecting wildlife (22.5%)

Overall, issues related to cats were less commonly experienced. It should be noted these behaviours are generally more discreet and therefore, less likely to be observed.

Percentages reflect the proportion of survey respondents who indicated they had experienced the issue 'sometimes' or 'often' in the past 12 months (Total number of responses: 238).

Feedback showed strong support for:

- » More enforcement of regulations (e.g. off-leash areas, dog poo collection)
- » More fenced in/fully enclosed off-leash areas
- » More bins and waste bags in public spaces
- » Initiatives that reduce euthanasia and promote animal welfare

In addition to the formal engagement for the Domestic Animal Management Plan, we received significant local community and other correspondence throughout April and May 2025 regarding the contract for management of the Stonnington Pound, which is owned by Council and operated by a contracted service provider. The feedback focused mainly on animal welfare, standards of care and rehoming practices.

How we've used these insights

This Plan reflects the feedback we gathered from our community. It focuses on supporting people to care for their pets responsibly, maintaining high standards of animal welfare, and managing shared public spaces so they are safe and welcoming for everyone. Further survey results are referenced throughout the focus area sections that follow.

Our Plan

Many of the activities that support pets and pet owners are already part of our core business. Over the next four years, our focus is on strengthening and improving these services and expanding them where needed. Our Plan is structured around the following focus areas.



Focus area 1: Training of Authorised Officers

Service objective

Our Authorised Officers are skilled, confident and supported to deliver safe, consistent and community-focused animal management services.

Why this matters

Authorised Officers are at the frontline of our animal management services. They educate the community, respond to concerns, investigate incidents and enforce the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*. They play a key role in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of both people and animals.

Officers must understand complex legislation, apply sound judgement in dynamic situations, communicate effectively with a diverse community and safely handle animals – sometimes in stressful or emotionally charged circumstances. As our community grows and expectations evolve, our officers need access to contemporary training, clear procedures, ongoing professional development and a safe, supportive working environment.

Investing in officer capability strengthens the quality and consistency of our decision-making, reduces operational risk, and supports safer, more effective service delivery.

What the evidence tells us

High-performing Animal Management teams prioritise structured and ongoing training. Review of other councils and best practice guidance shows that effective services combine:

- » accredited baseline qualifications (typically Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation or equivalent)
- » annual training plans and skills audits
- » specialist development in investigation, conflict resolution, animal behaviour and welfare
- » strong safety systems supported by clear operating procedures
- » capability development in community engagement and education, not just compliance
- » regular contact and connection with other councils and animal welfare organisations.

Officers are also increasingly encountering situations where animal issues intersect with broader social and wellbeing concerns – such as hoarding and squalor, homelessness and rough sleeping, complex mental health challenges or family violence. Responding safely and appropriately to these situations requires well-developed communication skills, strong judgement, empathy and care, reinforcing the value of dedicated training in these areas.

The number of survey respondents who had interacted directly with our animal management team in the past year was relatively low (around 10%). However, this feedback still provides an important reference point. Of those who had interacted, 62.5% were satisfied or very satisfied with their experience, while 25% were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. This reflects a positive experience for most people but also highlights an opportunity to improve. This can be challenging in regulatory services like animal management, where some interactions may be perceived negatively because of the outcome or decision itself, even where officers have engaged in a professional and respectful way.

What we'll do

Ongoing activities

We'll continue to:

- » Ensure all Authorised Officers hold a minimum Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation (or equivalent recognised qualification).
- » Maintain an annual staff development program to identify training needs and professional development goals for each officer.
- » Support staff to complete ongoing and refresher training in core areas including animal handling, legislative updates, investigations, conflict de-escalation, child safety and OHS.
- » Ensure officers maintain competencies in operating vehicles, equipment and digital systems.
- » Regularly review Safe Work Procedures and support officers to apply them consistently.
- » Provide a structured corporate induction program for new officers.
- » Participate in industry networks and forums.
- » Regularly review and update operational policies, procedures and protocols.
- » Regularly upgrade vans, animal cages and other equipment to ensure animal and officer safety.

New actions for the next four years

Action	Timeframe	Cost
1.1 Develop and maintain a formal training register that records officer qualifications, mandatory training and professional development activities.	Year 1 (then ongoing)	Staff time only
1.2 Develop and maintain a specific induction program for new Animal Management Officers to complement the broader corporate induction program, focused on providing an overview of the service, operational procedures and local context.	Year 1 (then ongoing)	Staff time only
1.3 Review the current service model and determine the benefits, operational impacts, and capability needs of adopting a multi-disciplined compliance model (i.e. building animal management capability across Local Laws).	Year 2	Staff time only

How we'll measure progress

Indicator	Target	Data source
Percentage of Authorised Officers who have completed all mandatory training modules.	100%	Training register
Customer satisfaction with interaction with Animal Management unit	Increasing trend	Community survey (every four years)

Focus area 2: Responsible pet ownership and reducing nuisance

Service objective

Our community understands what responsible pet ownership means in practice, and has the information, tools and support needed to keep their pets healthy, safe and well behaved – helping to prevent animal-related nuisance.

Why this matters

Responsible pet ownership underpins almost every outcome this Plan aims to achieve. While pet ownership brings many benefits, it also involves important responsibilities to ensure pets are well cared for and do not negatively impact others. Animal-related nuisance, like excessive barking, roaming pets, repeated noise, strong odours, uncollected dog poo or unsafe behaviour in shared spaces can have a real impact on how people feel in their homes and neighbourhoods. This is particularly important in a dense municipality like ours, where pets and people live and move in close proximity across public places, parks, pathways and apartment buildings.

Most nuisance issues are preventable. Often, owners simply don't realise their pet is causing a disturbance – for example, dogs barking while no one is home or cats visiting neighbouring yards. Other issues stem from boredom, anxiety, under-stimulation, lack of training or socialisation, or gaps in fencing. With early and open communication, many concerns can be resolved quickly and amicably, without the need for formal investigations or enforcement.

Clear expectations and consistent owner behaviours can make a meaningful difference. When owners understand their obligations and have practical support to meet them, nuisance problems, conflict in parks, wildlife harm and even unplanned litters that may require rehoming, can be avoided.

What the evidence tells us

Community feedback consistently highlighted nuisance issues as a common and frustrating aspect of pet ownership in Stonnington. People spoke about uncollected dog poo, dogs being off-leash where they shouldn't be, ongoing barking, and cats impacting neighbouring properties. Council service data reflects similar themes, with nuisance-related matters making up a significant proportion of animal management requests each year.

While many issues can be resolved quickly through early conversations and education, others escalate when issues are not addressed or when expectations differ between neighbours.

Feedback suggests the community is seeking a more proactive and visible approach to managing recurring problems and supporting respectful behaviour in shared environments. A combination of prevention, early support and proportionate enforcement will be required to effectively address these issues over the next four years. Approaches that work well include:

- » providing clear, accessible information about responsible pet ownership expectations
- » promoting training, healthy stimulation and secure containment to address underlying causes
- » early communication between neighbours where appropriate
- » timely, educate-first responses from Council
- » consistent, evidence-based investigation processes
- » clear escalation pathways when issues persist.

What we'll do

Ongoing activities

We'll continue to:

- » Provide clear, accessible information about responsible pet ownership through our website, social media, newsletters, customer service channels and printed materials.
- » Maintain park signage and information boards that outline expectations in shared spaces.
- » Respond promptly to reports of nuisance, applying an educate-first approach where appropriate.
- » Provide a 'welcome pack' for households registering a pet for the first time, including information on local rules and responsible pet ownership expectations.
- » Deliver the Pets in the Park event to connect with pet owners and promote responsible pet ownership through expert talks, demonstrations and information stalls.
- » Provide simple guidance and tools for neighbours on how to raise nuisance concerns respectfully and constructively, encouraging considerate neighbour-to-neighbour communication where it is safe and appropriate to do so.
- » Apply consistent, evidence-based investigation processes when formal complaints are lodged.

New actions for the next four years

Action	Timeframe	Cost
2.1 Develop and deliver an annual pet owner communication program that provides clear, consistent and seasonal messaging on priority issues such as off-leash rules, picking up dog poo, preventing dog barking and cat roaming, and respectful behaviour in shared spaces.	Year 1 (then ongoing)	Under \$5,000 per year Operating budget (existing)
2.2 Expand responsible pet ownership messaging to include general advice in addition to core compliance information. For example: » healthy stimulation, socialisation and training guidance » pet safety and wellbeing during heatwaves, floods, storms, and other extreme weather events » where dogs are and aren't permitted in public places such as cafés, markets and events.	Years 1-4	Staff time only
2.3 Review the 'welcome pack' for households registering a pet for the first time to incorporate new and updated messaging.	Year 3	Staff time only
2.4 Strengthen partnerships with veterinarians, pet businesses/services and community organisations to broaden communications reach and reinforce consistent responsible ownership messages.	Years 1-4	Staff time only
2.5 Audit off-leash signage in parks and website information to identify opportunities to improve clarity and visibility. Consider additional information that may be helpful to incorporate, such as greyhound leash rules or when sporting activity is typically scheduled.	Year 1-2	Staff time only

Action	Timeframe	Cost
2.6 Undertake proactive engagement during patrols to remind people of their obligations to pick up dog poo.	Years 1-4	Staff time only
2.7 Schedule after-hours patrols during peak periods at targeted locations to raise awareness of key issues (such as dog poo and effective control) and reinforce responsible pet ownership behaviours.	Years 1-4	Under \$5,000 per year Operating budget (new)
2.8 Through the upcoming Local Law review (2028), increase the number of penalty units applied to the offence of failure to 'collect and dispose of animal excrement or have a litter device'.	Years 2-3	Staff time only
2.9 Work with building managers / body corporates to distribute information and advice for pet owners in apartments, focusing on noise management and respectful use of shared spaces.	Years 3-4	Staff time only

How we'll measure progress

Indicator	Target	Data source
Delivery of the annual pet owner communication program	≥4 campaigns per year	Communications plan and outputs
Number of nuisance complaints	Decreasing trend	Council service data
Proportion of people experiencing the following dog-related issues in public spaces » Uncollected dog poo » Dog poo bags not put in bins » Dogs off-leash where they shouldn't be	Decreasing trend	Community survey (every four years)

Focus area 3: Registration and identification

Service objective

All dogs and cats in Stonnington are microchipped, registered and easily identifiable, helping lost pets get home quickly and giving us a clearer understanding of our local pet population.

Why this matters

Registration and microchipping are simple steps that make a big difference. They help lost pets get back to their families quickly, reducing stress on animals and owners, and allowing Council officers to respond effectively when pets are found wandering. If a pet is found with a microchip and up-to-date registration details, we can return them directly to their owner without them needing to enter the pound – we call this a free ride home.

Accurate registration data also helps us understand how many pets live in Stonnington, and where they are. This information is essential for planning services, understanding demand, and making sure our parks, programs and community spaces can support our pet population. When animals aren't registered, they're effectively invisible to us, making it harder to plan well and to communicate with owners.



Paws for thought

Keeping your pet's microchip details up to date can be the difference between heartbreak and a happy reunion – some shelters report 87% of dogs and 61% of cats with up-to-date microchips are reclaimed, compared with only 37% and 5% that aren't microchipped.

Source: RSPCA Queensland

What the evidence tells us

Under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, all dogs and cats over three months of age must be registered with Council. Pets must also be microchipped before registration and are required to wear an identification tag when outside the home.

Even though this law is clear, we often hear confusion about what's required, how often it needs to be renewed and why it matters. It can also be easy to forget to update details when contact information changes. This is especially common for people moving from other municipalities or interstate, where registration systems and expectations differ.

Service data shows that around half of the animals impounded each year are either unregistered or have outdated microchip details. In these cases, it takes longer to contact the owner and return the pet home, and sometimes an owner can't be found at all. These are preventable outcomes that cause unnecessary stress for pets and owners and add pressure to pound and shelter services.

A visible identification tag can also make returning a lost pet even quicker, as the finder can contact the owner directly without Council support. But tags can fall off, collars can break, and some animals won't allow a stranger close enough to read the details – so they are best seen as an added layer of safety, not a substitute for up-to-date microchipping and registration.

Australia has some of the highest pet ownership rates in the world. A national survey by Animal Medicines Australia (2022) found that nearly half (49%) of all households own a dog and one third (33%) own a cat. People renting or living in apartments were less likely to own pets, and we know this makes up a large portion of Stonnington's population. Even so, these national figures suggest that the number of registered pets locally may be significantly lower than the number of pets actually living here.

There are several approaches that help encourage and maintain registration, including timely reminders, clear communication about benefits and requirements, simple online processes, and incentives such as reduced fees for desexed animals or early renewals.

What we'll do

Ongoing activities

We'll continue to:

- » Offer reduced registration fees for pet owners who are Pensioner Concession Card holders, dogs and cats that are desexed, over 10 years old, and/or obedience trained through an approved provider; and a further reduced registration fee for the first year for pets, obtained from registered not-for-profit animal shelters.
- » Send annual registration renewal reminders and follow-up notices, including timely prompts across multiple channels (email, SMS where available, social media).
- » Maintain easy online options for registration, renewals and updating contact details.
- » Promote registration and microchipping through clear, accessible information on our website, social media and other communication channels.
- » Give found pets a 'free ride home' whenever possible when microchip and registration details are up to date, avoiding unnecessary time in the pound.
- » Work with the contracted operator of the Stonnington Pound to ensure microchip details are checked and updated as part of the reclaim process.
- » Encourage owners to attach a visible identification tag to their pet's collar to support faster return if they become lost.
- » Keep registration records as accurate as possible through data review and updates during customer interactions.

New actions for the next four years

Action	Timeframe	Cost
3.1 Develop clearer communication about registration requirements, why it matters, and how fees support services, to encourage compliance and reduce confusion.	Year 1	Staff time only
3.2 Integrate a reminder into registration and renewal notices, prompting owners to check and update their pet's microchip details, and learn how to find their microchip registry.	Year 2	Staff time only
3.3 Trial a mix of behavioural prompts and low-cost incentives (e.g. early-bird renewal messaging, benefit-focused reminders, positive reinforcement messages or small giveaways) to encourage earlier or more consistent registration.	Years 1-4	Under \$5,000 per year Operating budget (existing)
3.4 Pilot a targeted support campaign for residents in social housing to encourage pet registration and desexing (e.g. first-year registration fee waivers and/or access to desexing vouchers).	Years 3-4	\$5,000 - \$10,000 Operating budget (new)

Action	Timeframe	Cost
3.5 Work with local veterinarians to remind new pet owners about registration requirements during early visits.	Years 1-4	Staff time only

How we'll measure progress

Indicator	Target	Data source
Percentage of collected animals reclaimed	Stable or increasing trend	Council service data
Number of registered pets	Increasing trend	Council service data
Percentage of animals entering the pound via Council that are not microchipped	Decreasing trend	Council service data

Focus area 4: Preventing overpopulation and minimising euthanasia

Service objective

Fewer animals enter the pound unnecessarily, and every animal has the best possible chance of a positive outcome.

Why this matters

Preventing overpopulation means avoiding a cycle where unplanned litters place pressure on rehoming networks, rescue groups and shelter capacity. This is particularly important for cats, which breed more frequently than dogs and are more likely to encounter other cats when allowed to roam. Supporting responsible desexing of dogs and cats, preventing cats from roaming, and helping owners manage litters ethically all contribute to reduced intake and better outcomes for animals.

Every time an animal enters the pound it may experience stress and disruption. For cats in particular, the change in environment can be extremely distressing, which reduces their welfare, increases their length of stay and can make rehoming more difficult. Preventing animals, especially cats, from entering the pound unless absolutely necessary is one of the most effective ways to safeguard their wellbeing and reduce pressure on shelter systems.

Definition of different cat populations

Owned cats: Cats that receive full care by owners.

Urban stray cats: Typically lost or wandering owned cats, abandoned cats, or semi-owned cats receiving some care from humans.

Semi-owned cats: Cats that have been given some form of long-term care (generally food) by humans. Estimated to be 33% of surrenders.

Feral cats: Cats which do not obtain any food or shelter from humans. Estimated to represent only 10% of cats entering pounds.

What the evidence tells us

Stonnington does not face the same scale of stray or semi-owned cat populations or large numbers of pet surrenders as seen in some other municipalities. However, patterns in cat trap requests and roaming cat reports suggest there may be small pockets where unowned or semi-owned cats are present. If these cats – or owned cats that are allowed to roam – are not desexed, they can reproduce quickly, contributing to unwanted litters and increasing demand on rescue capacity.

Across Victoria, cats make up a disproportionate share of animals entering pounds, and often experience higher stress, poorer welfare outcomes, longer stays and lower reclaim rates compared with dogs.

Survey results suggest that most residents do not regularly experience cat-related issues. Around half of respondents reported seeing cats roaming in the past 12 months, and one quarter had seen stray cats. Although roaming and desexing ranked 9th and 10th out of 15 issues the community wanted Council to focus on, feedback also showed strong support for approaches that avoid unnecessary euthanasia and improve outcomes for animals that do enter pounds and shelters.

Research consistently shows that reducing avoidable intake is the strongest predictor of reduced euthanasia, improved welfare, and better outcomes overall. This is why leading frameworks like Getting to Zero focus on:

- » promoting desexing of cats and dogs, and preventing unwanted litters
- » supporting owners to understand safe containment practices and the benefits of keeping cats at home
- » resolving concerns in the community without defaulting to impoundment

- » increasing the rehabilitation and rehoming of stray or surrendered animals, resorting to humane euthanasia only where it is deemed the most compassionate choice for that animal.

Community cat programs focus on managing semi-owned and stray cats, by working on three areas:

- » Desexing and basic veterinary care for unowned or semi-owned cats, with healthy adults returned to the area they came from.
- » Support for owners or carers who need help desexing their cats to prevent unplanned litters.
- » Rehoming kittens and socialised cats through rescue and adoption partners.

Evidence from these programs shows significant reductions in stray cat populations, nuisance reports and pound/shelter intakes.

What we'll do

Ongoing activities

We'll continue to:

- » Promote the benefits of desexing cats and dogs.
- » Maintain a Council Order under Section 10A(1) of the Act for mandatory desexing of cats.
- » Investigate illegal breeding advertisements and reports.
- » Support owners of animals who have been reported roaming with information about keeping pets safely contained at home and preventing roaming behaviour.
- » Work with the contracted operator of the Stonnington Pound and rescue partners to assist with rehoming initiatives.
- » Assess cat trap requests individually and use trapping where necessary and appropriate.
- » Return healthy owned cats directly to their owners wherever possible to reduce stress and time spent in the pound.



Paws for thought

A single non-desexed female cat can have up to three litters a year, and her kittens can start breeding from around four months of age. That's how, in just a year or two, one stray cat can lead to dozens more.

New actions for the next four years

Action	Timeframe	Cost
4.1 Develop guidance for residents caring for unowned or semi-owned cats, focusing on practical advice such as desexing options and pathways for adoption or rehoming.	Years 1-2	Staff time only
4.2 Run a small-scale pilot community cat program to target known local issues (identified through community trap requests or roaming reports), in partnership with pound, rescue and veterinarians.	Years 2-3	Under \$5,000 Operating budget (new)
4.3 Embed a standard of minimal euthanasia in future pound management contracts, requiring compliance with relevant codes of practice and adoption of a principles-based approach to euthanasia that prioritises alleviating suffering and making appropriate, humane decisions.	Year 1	Staff time only

How we'll measure progress

Indicator	Target	Data source
Percentage of unclaimed animals rehomed or transferred for rehoming	Stable or increasing trend	Pound service data, reported to Animal Welfare Victoria
Number of animals euthanised	Stable or decreasing trend	Pound service data, reported to Animal Welfare Victoria
Number of kittens entering the pound (via Council or members of the public)	Decreasing trend	Pound service data
Proportion of registered dogs that are desexed (noting mandatory desexing order exists for cats)	Increasing trend	Council service data

Focus area 5: Dog attacks and dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs

Service objective

Dogs are safe, well-behaved and responsibly managed at home and in public, to prevent harm to people and other animals.

Why this matters

Dog attacks and aggressive behaviour can have serious physical and emotional impacts on people and animals, and such incidents can undermine confidence in using local parks and shared spaces.

Although Stonnington currently has no dogs formally declared as dangerous, menacing or a restricted breed, these categories represent only a small part of the overall risk. Any dog, regardless of breed or size, can behave aggressively if they're poorly socialised or feel threatened, frightened, or unwell. Many serious incidents involve dogs with no previous history of aggression or declaration status.

Supporting owners to prevent these behaviours, and responding quickly and proportionately when incidents occur, is critical to maintaining public safety and ensuring dogs and people can enjoy shared spaces confidently.

What the evidence tells us

Stonnington receives regular reports of dog incidents, including dog-on-dog aggression, unsafe off-leash behaviour and situations where dogs rush at or attack people. While the number of serious attacks in Stonnington is relatively low, the impacts of even one incident can be significant.

Across Victoria, evidence shows that:

- » most dog attacks occur in familiar environments (for example, at or near the owner's home), not only in public places
- » dogs that have never shown previous aggression can still bite if unwell, frightened or over-aroused
- » poor recall and off-leash behaviour are common contributors to dog-on-dog incidents
- » early socialisation, training and healthy stimulation greatly reduce the likelihood of aggression
- » owners often underestimate risks, especially when dogs appear friendly in most situations.

What are dangerous, menacing or restricted breed dogs?

Under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, councils can formally declare certain dogs when there is a demonstrated risk to the community.

- » **Dangerous dogs** are dogs that have caused serious injury, or are kept for guarding or protection.
- » **Menacing dogs** are dogs that have rushed at or threatened a person or animal.

These declarations apply to very few dogs, but when used, they come with strict management requirements.

Restricted breed dogs are different. They are specific breeds that are controlled under Victorian law based on their breed/type rather than behaviour. Restricted breeds include:

- » American Pit Bull Terrier
- » Dogo Argentino
- » Fila Brasileiro
- » Japanese Tosa
- » Perro de Presa Canario

Some community survey respondents also expressed frustration with unsafe behaviour in off-leash areas, poor recall, and dogs approaching people or other dogs without consent. These behaviours don't meet the threshold for a menacing or dangerous declaration, but can still cause harm or fear.

Declaring a dog as dangerous or menacing is an important tool for managing high-risk behaviour when necessary. However, declarations are only the end point of a broader approach focused on identifying risk early, preventing further problems, helping owners manage their pets better, and making sure any enforcement is fair and evidence-based.



Paws for thought

Leash rules exist to keep everyone safe, including your own dog. If your dog is off-leash where it shouldn't be, you may be considered at fault if an incident occurs – even if your dog didn't start it. Keeping your dog on a leash gives you more control and helps prevent situations from escalating.

What we'll do

Ongoing activities

We'll continue to:

- » Respond promptly to reports of dog attacks, aggression or unsafe behaviour, conducting investigations in line with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*.
- » Apply a risk-based approach to enforcement, including education, notices, or declaration processes where appropriate.
- » Monitor and enforce on-leash and off-leash requirements in parks and public spaces to support safe interactions.
- » Provide education and advice to dog owners about socialisation, responsible off-leash behaviour, and preventing aggression in the home and in public.
- » Provide information through newsletters about safety of children with pets at home.
- » Maintain accurate records of dog incidents to identify trends, repeat locations and emerging risks.

New actions for the next four years

Action	Timeframe	Cost
5.1 Include targeted campaigns in our annual communications program, on topics such as: » keeping your dog on leash unless in a designated off-leash area » safe behaviour in off-leash areas including messaging about effective control or recall.	Years 1-4	Staff time only
5.2 Ensure declared dog requirements (if any arise during the plan period) are monitored and enforced in line with legislative obligations.	As required	Staff time only

How we'll measure progress

Indicator	Target	Data source
Number of confirmed dog attacks	Stable or decreasing trend	Council service data
Prosecution success rate	100%	Council service data

Focus area 6: Domestic animal businesses

Service objective

Domestic animal businesses in Stonnington meet high standards of care, safety and compliance.

Why this matters

Domestic animal businesses include boarding establishments, breeding and rearing businesses, pet shops, dog training businesses, shelters and pounds. These businesses may operate from commercial premises or homes in residential areas. They play an important role in supporting animals and pet owners in our community.

The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* requires these businesses to be registered with Council and comply with the relevant Code of Practice. Regular oversight helps ensure animals are housed safely, cared for appropriately, and managed in ways that minimise risk to the community.

While Stonnington has a small number of domestic animal businesses, maintaining strong and consistent regulatory oversight is important. It helps prevent poor practices, supports businesses that do the right thing, and provides reassurance to the community that animals kept, sold or trained locally are treated humanely and responsibly.

What the evidence tells us

Stonnington's domestic animal businesses have generally shown high levels of compliance, and complaints about these facilities are infrequent. However, past reviews across Victoria highlight that risks can escalate quickly when oversight lapses, including issues relating to overcrowding, cleanliness, inadequate recordkeeping, poor socialisation or inappropriate breeding practices.

Best practice in regulating domestic animal businesses includes:

- » clear and consistent inspection processes
- » transparent communication with business operators
- » early identification of issues and prompt follow-up
- » supporting operators to understand and meet Code of Practice requirements
- » maintaining accurate registration and renewal records
- » responding effectively to community concerns.

Emerging services such as commercial dog walkers, dog day-care businesses and in-home boarding are also becoming more common, and can be harder for councils to identify than traditional domestic animal businesses. Monitoring the growth in these services in Stonnington will be important to ensure all operators meet required care and safety standards.

What we'll do

Ongoing activities

We'll continue to:

- » Register and renew domestic animal businesses annually in line with legislative requirements.
- » Conduct scheduled audits and random inspections of registered domestic animal businesses to monitor compliance.
- » Investigate and respond to complaints relating to domestic animal businesses.
- » Take enforcement action where necessary to address non-compliance with legislation or codes of practice.

New actions for the next four years

Action	Timeframe	Cost
6.1 Distribute clear guidance materials, developed by State Government, to help businesses understand when animal-related activities constitute a domestic animal business, including common home-based scenarios.	Year 3	Staff time only
6.2 Proactively identify unregistered domestic animal businesses – using information from community interactions, complaints and staff observations - and support compliance through education before enforcement.	Years 1-4	Staff time only

How we'll measure progress

Indicator	Target	Data source
Percentage of domestic animal businesses inspected that are compliant with regulations	100%	Council service data
Number of registration renewals processed for domestic animal businesses	Stable or increasing trend	Council service data

Focus area 7: Pets in public open spaces

Service objective

To support safe, enjoyable and environmentally responsible use of Stonnington's open spaces by balancing recreation needs with the protection of biodiversity and sensitive natural areas.

Why this matters

Stonnington is a dense urban municipality with a limited and highly valued open space network. These spaces must support many activities and functions, often within a small footprint – including exercise, children's play, social connection, quiet recreation, sport, dog walking, access to nature, climate resilience through flood mitigation and urban cooling, as well as habitat and biodiversity protection. As population growth continues and more people live in apartments or smaller dwellings, demand on public open space will only increase. Balancing these functions is becoming more complex as space is more heavily used.

Dogs and cats can have unintended impacts on public spaces and local wildlife if not well managed. Dogs may disturb other park users, trample plantings or enter sensitive vegetation areas or waterbodies. Uncollected dog poo can kill grass or other vegetation, or be washed into the stormwater drainage system or wetlands, waterways or other water bodies, contributing to pollution and creating a health hazard for humans and wildlife alike.

Cats, when roaming outdoors, can hunt birds, reptiles and mammals, including in important habitat pockets found across Stonnington. These impacts are rarely deliberate, but they highlight the need for thoughtful design, clear rules and responsible pet ownership.

During community engagement, many people also provided feedback on off-leash areas, particularly in relation to fencing and design, clarity around rules, and the behaviour of dogs and their owners. Much of this feedback related to responsible pet ownership and is addressed in Focus area 2: Responsible pet ownership and reducing nuisance.

Getting this balance right is essential to ensuring public open spaces remain welcoming, safe and environmentally healthy for everyone who relies on them.

What the evidence tells us

Well-designed open spaces can accommodate dog walking and off-leash exercise alongside other uses, but this becomes more challenging as demand increases. Clear pathways, defined off-leash and on-leash areas, appropriate fencing, and protection of sensitive vegetation all help reduce unintended impacts. Consistent messaging and visible cues in the open space play an important role in shaping responsible behaviour.

There is strong evidence that roaming domestic cats hunt native birds, reptiles and small mammals. While studies vary, in Australia it is estimated that each roaming, hunting cat kills approximately 110 animals per year on average, the majority of which are native. This can occur both during the day and at night, and even well-fed cats retain a strong hunting instinct.

While this hunting behaviour occurs in all settings, its impact can be greater in urban environments where wildlife habitat is limited, and populations are already under pressure. Native species that are already rare or vulnerable such as Rakali (Native Water Rat) or



Paws for thought

Most pet owners never see the wildlife their cats hunt. Studies using tracking collars and scat analysis show that around 85% of animals killed by pet cats are not brought home.

Source: Biodiversity Council, Invasive Species Council & BirdLife Australia

Growling Grass Frogs, as well as many small birds and reptiles, are especially at risk – even occasional predation can contribute to local population declines.

Many inner-Melbourne councils have introduced night-time cat curfews or 24-hour cat containment orders to help reduce wildlife predation, cat-related nuisance and overpopulation driven by non-desexed roaming cats. However, experience from these councils shows they can unintentionally increase cat impoundments as community members become more vigilant in reporting roaming cats and expect Council to impound them as part of enforcing containment orders. This can increase risks for cats, including stress and poorer outcomes, as described in Focus area 4: Preventing overpopulation and euthanasia.



Paws for thought

Of 31 metropolitan councils in Victoria, Stonnington is one of only two that have no cat containment order in place, or commitment to developing a proposal for one.

Correct as of March 2026.

The evidence suggests that cat containment measures are most effective when they are supported by clear communication about why they are being introduced, practical guidance for cat owners on how to keep cats safely contained, and a focus on education and behaviour change alongside enforcement. This approach requires careful planning and sustained resourcing.

What we'll do

Ongoing activities

We'll continue to:

- » Plan, design and maintain parks and open spaces to support shared use by people, pets and wildlife.
- » Provide and maintain designated on-leash and off-leash areas for dogs, informed by open space planning and community need.
- » Use signage in parks and reserves to communicate pet access rules.
- » Provide clear information on our website about responsible owner behaviour in public spaces and the protection of local wildlife.

New actions for the next four years

Action	Timeframe	Cost
7.1 Deliver an education-led program to support voluntary cat containment, including practical guidance on safe containment and healthy stimulation, helping owners reduce roaming while supporting cat wellbeing and wildlife protection.	Year 2	Staff time only
7.2 Undertake community engagement to test attitudes toward additional cat management measures – including night-time curfews or place-based restrictions – and report outcomes to Council.	Year 2	Staff time only
7.3 Consider design elements, including fencing, in the planning of new or upgraded off-leash areas to support respectful shared use, help protect sensitive environments, improve safety for people and pets, and clearly define where and when dogs can be off-leash.	Years 1-4	Staff time only

Action	Timeframe	Cost
7.4 Improve coordination and reporting processes so Council teams working in parks and public spaces can consistently and proactively report animal-related issues to the Animal Management team.	Year 1	Staff time only

How we'll measure progress

Indicator	Target	Data source
Number of cat trap requests	Decreasing trend	Council service data
Proportion of people experiencing the following cat-related issues in public spaces » Stray cats » Cats roaming or wandering onto properties » Cats affecting wildlife	Decreasing trend	Community survey (every four years)
Proportion of people dissatisfied with the off-leash area: » Location » Quality » Quantity	Decreasing trend	Community survey (every four years)

Pets in emergencies

Emergencies can occur with little warning, and pets depend on their owners and emergency services working together to keep them safe. Clear planning helps reduce stress, protect pets, and ensures our municipal response is coordinated and effective.

The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* requires Council to outline how pets will be considered in emergencies, and the City of Stonnington's Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) 2023–26 sets out arrangements for managing animals during local emergency events.

Stonnington's MEMP is a document developed and shared by multiple agencies and is due to be reviewed in 2026. During this process, we will ensure animal management arrangements continue to be considered with arrangements to reflect current context, operations and legislation.

Our role

During an emergency, our responsibilities focus on:

- » Supporting the municipal response outlined in the MEMP, including considerations for animals in evacuation, relief and recovery arrangements.
- » Providing advice to pet owners through public communications before, during and after emergencies.
- » Assisting with containment, identification and reunification of animals where it is safe and appropriate to do so.
- » Ensuring relief centres consider pets, consistent with state emergency guidelines and local planning.

What pet owners can do

Some emergency risks can be reduced with a little preparation. We encourage all residents to:

- » Prepare a pet emergency kit, including food, water, medication, a leash or carrier, vaccination records and any comfort items.
- » Keep microchip and registration details up to date, so animals can be quickly reunited if separated during an emergency.
- » Plan ahead for evacuation, including transport arrangements and identifying friends, family or boarding facilities that could temporarily care for pets.
- » Follow emergency warnings and instructions, including any directions about movement, evacuation or relief centre access.

Where to find more information

Full details about how pets are managed in local emergencies are contained in our Municipal Emergency Management Plan, which is available on our website. This plan guides our coordinated approach with emergency services to support residents, including those with animals, during emergency response and recovery.

In an emergency: Always follow VicEmergency warnings and updates at emergency.vic.gov.au or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

Monitoring and reporting

We will monitor implementation of this Plan using the evaluation measures (indicators) referenced throughout the document. Appendix 1 contains a full, consolidated list of actions.

The Plan will be reviewed annually to assess progress, identify emerging issues and respond to changing community needs, legislative settings and evidence. Where appropriate, actions may be adjusted or reprioritised to ensure the Plan remains relevant and effective.

We'll report on the implementation of this plan through our Annual Report, in line with the requirements of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* and the *Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF)*.

Full list of evaluation measures

Indicator	Baseline (2024–25)	Target (2028–29)	Data source
Focus area 1: Training of Authorised Officers			
Percentage of Authorised Officers who have completed all mandatory training modules.	100%	100%	Training register
Customer satisfaction with interaction with Animal Management unit	62.5%	Increasing trend	Community survey (every four years)
Focus area 2: Responsible pet ownership and reducing nuisance			
Delivery of the annual pet owner communication program	Quarterly newsletter	≥4 campaigns per year	Communications plan and outputs
Number of nuisance complaints	301	Decreasing trend	Council service data
Proportion of people experiencing the following dog-related issues in public spaces:		Decreasing trend	Community survey (every four years)
» Uncollected dog poo	95.3%		
» Dog poo bags not put in bins	76.7%		
» Dogs off-leash where they shouldn't be	72.6%		
Focus area 3: Registration and identification			
Percentage of collected animals reclaimed (LGPRF measure AM2)	69.05%	Stable or increasing trend	Council service data
Number of registered pets	12,599	Increasing trend	Council service data
Percentage of animals entering the pound via Council that are not microchipped	28%	Decreasing trend	Council and pound service data
Focus area 4: Preventing overpopulation and euthanasia			
Percentage of unclaimed animals rehomed or transferred for rehoming	81.6% (2024 data)	Stable or increasing trend	Pound service data, reported to Animal Welfare Victoria

Indicator	Baseline (2024–25)	Target (2028–29)	Data source
Number of animals euthanised	29 (2024 data)	Decreasing trend	Pound service data, reported to Animal Welfare Victoria
Number of kittens entering the pound (via Council or members of the public)	64	Decreasing trend	Pound service data
Proportion of registered dogs that are desexed (noting mandatory desexing order exists for cats)	88%	Increasing trend	Council service data
Focus area 5: Dog attacks and dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs			
Number of confirmed dog attacks	21	Stable or decreasing trend	Council service data
Prosecution success rate (LGPRF measure AM7)	100%	100%	Council service data
Focus area 6: Domestic animal businesses			
Percentage of domestic animal businesses inspected that are compliant with regulations	100%	100%	Council service data
Number of registration renewals processed for domestic animal businesses	10	Stable or increasing trend	Council service data
Focus area 7: Pets in public open spaces			
Number of cat trap requests	35	Decreasing trend	Council service data
Proportion of people experiencing the following cat-related issues in public spaces		Decreasing trend	Community survey (every four years)
» Stray cats	27.4%		
» Cats roaming or wandering onto properties	45.7%		
» Cats affecting wildlife	22.5%		
Proportion of people dissatisfied with off-leash area:		Decreasing trend	Community survey (every four years)
» Location	7.0%		
» Quality	11.1%		
» Quantity	14.2%		

Appendix A: Consolidated action table

Action	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029 (Jul-Dec)	Cost
Focus area 1: Training of Authorised Officers					
1.1 Develop and maintain a formal training register that records officer qualifications, mandatory training and professional development activities.	●	●	●	●	Staff time only
1.2 Develop and maintain a specific induction program for new Animal Management Officers to complement the broader corporate induction program, focused on service overview, operational procedures and local context.	●	●	●	●	Staff time only
1.3 Review the current service model and determine the benefits, operational impacts, and capability needs of adopting a multi-disciplined compliance model (i.e. building animal management capability across Local Laws).		●			Staff time only
Focus area 2: Responsible pet ownership and reducing nuisance					
2.1 Develop and deliver an annual communication program that provides clear, consistent and seasonal messaging on priority issues such as off-leash rules, picking up dog poo, preventing dog barking and cat roaming, and respectful behaviour in shared spaces.	●	●	●	●	Under \$5,000 per year Operating budget (existing)
2.2 Expand responsible pet ownership messaging to include general advice in addition to core compliance information. For example: » healthy stimulation, socialisation and training guidance » pet safety and wellbeing during heatwaves, floods, storms, and other extreme weather events » where dogs are and aren't permitted in public places such as cafés, markets and events.	●	●	●	●	Staff time only
2.3 Review the 'welcome pack' for households registering a pet for the first time to incorporate new and updated messaging.			●		Staff time only

Action	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029 (Jul-Dec)	Cost
2.4 Strengthen partnerships with veterinarians, pet businesses/services and local community organisations to broaden communications reach and reinforce consistent responsible ownership messages.	●	●	●	●	Staff time only
2.5 Audit off-leash signage in parks and website information to identify opportunities to improve clarity and visibility. Consider additional information that may be helpful to incorporate, for example greyhound leash rules.	●	●			Staff time only
2.6 Undertake proactive engagement during patrols to remind people of their obligations to pick up dog poo.	●	●	●	●	Staff time only
2.7 Schedule after-hours patrols during peak periods at targeted locations to raise awareness of key issues (such as dog poo and effective control) and reinforce responsible pet ownership behaviours.	●	●	●	●	Under \$5,000 per year Operating budget (new)
2.8 Through the upcoming Local Law review (2028), increase the number of penalty units applied to the offence of failure to 'collect and dispose of animal excrement or have a litter device'.		●	●		Staff time only
2.9 Work with building managers / body corporates to distribute information and advice for pet owners in apartments, focusing on noise management and respectful use of shared spaces.			●	●	Staff time only
Focus area 3: Registration and identification					
3.1 Develop clearer communication about registration requirements, why it matters, and how fees support services, to encourage compliance and reduce confusion	●				Staff time only
3.2 Integrate a reminder into registration and renewal notices prompting owners to check and update their pet's microchip details, and how to find their microchip registry.		●	●	●	Staff time only
3.3 Trial a mix of behavioural prompts and low-cost incentives (e.g. early-bird renewal messaging, benefit-focused reminders, positive reinforcement messages or small giveaways) to encourage earlier or more consistent registration.	●	●	●	●	Under \$5,000 per year

Action	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029 (Jul-Dec)	Cost
					Operating budget (existing)
3.4 Deliver a targeted support campaign for residents in social housing to encourage pet registration and desexing (e.g. first-year registration fee waivers and/or access to desexing vouchers).			●	●	\$5,000 - \$10,000 Operating budget (new)
3.5 Work with local veterinarians to remind new pet owners about registration requirements during early visits.	●	●	●	●	Staff time only
Focus area 4: Preventing overpopulation and euthanasia					
4.1 Develop guidance for residents caring for unowned or semi-owned cats, focusing on practical advice such as desexing options and pathways for adoption or rehoming.	●	●			Staff time only
4.2 Run a small-scale pilot community cat program to target known local issues (identified through community trap requests or roaming reports), in partnership with pound, rescue and veterinarians.		●	●		Under \$5,000 Operating budget (new)
4.3 Embed a standard of minimal euthanasia in future pound management contracts, requiring compliance with relevant codes of practice and adoption of a principles-based approach to euthanasia that prioritises alleviating suffering and making appropriate, humane decisions.	●	●	●	●	Staff time only
Focus area 5: Dog attacks and dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs					
5.1 Include targeted campaigns in our annual communications program, on topics such as:					
» keeping your dog on leash unless in a designated off-leash area	●	●	●	●	Staff time only
» safe behaviour in off-leash areas including messaging about effective control or recall.					
5.2 Ensure declared dog requirements (if any arise during the plan period) are monitored and enforced in line with legislative obligations.	●	●	●	●	Staff time only

Action	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029 (Jul-Dec)	Cost
Focus area 6: Domestic animal businesses					
6.1 Distribute clear guidance materials, developed by State Government, to help businesses understand when animal-related activities constitute a domestic animal business, including common home-based scenarios.			●		Staff time only
6.2 Proactively identify unregistered domestic animal businesses – using information from community interactions, complaints and staff observations - and support compliance through education before enforcement.	●	●	●	●	Staff time only
Focus area 7: Pets in public open spaces					
7.1 Deliver an education-led program to support voluntary cat containment, including practical guidance on safe containment and healthy stimulation, helping owners reduce roaming while supporting cat wellbeing and wildlife protection.		●			Staff time only
7.2 Undertake community engagement to test attitudes toward additional cat management measures - including night-time curfews or place-based restrictions - and report outcomes to Council.		●			Staff time only
7.3 Consider design elements, including fencing, in the planning of new or upgraded off-leash areas to support respectful shared use, help protect sensitive environments, improve safety for people and pets, and clearly define where and when dogs can be off-leash.	●	●	●	●	Staff time only
7.4 Improve coordination and reporting processes so Council teams working in parks and public spaces can consistently.	●				Staff time only



Domestic Animal Management Plan Engagement Report

Prepared by: Engagement & Insights team

Date: 16th September 2025

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

Council is required to prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan (Plan) every four years. The Plan establishes a policy and planning framework that guides the delivery of Animal Management Services for the next four years. The Plan addresses specific matters relating to the management of cats and dogs as required by the *Domestic Animals Act* (DAA). Community engagement is important to help shape the Plan, ensuring priorities and actions in the Plan reflect community needs and priorities.

1.2 Engagement objectives

Objectives of this engagement were to:

- Understand the experiences and motivations of pet owners, foster carers, and those who do not own pets
- Understand the prevalence of issues relating to domestic animals
- Develop and test community priorities for domestic animal management in the municipality
- Guide the development of actions to be included in the DAMP.

1.3 Engagement activities

Online engagement

The DAMP had a dedicated page on Connect Stonnington. The page was open to the community for feedback between 8 August and 1 September. An online survey was available to complete.

Activity data:

Survey responses	238
Email submissions	2

Connect page data:

Total page views	688
Visits	567
Unique visitors	437

Communications activities

A communications plan accompanied the engagement activities. The table below indicates the channels and audiences reached.

Channel	Audience	Reach
PRINT		
Corflutes	Whole of municipality	Displayed at 26 off leash areas
Posters (A3)	Whole of municipality	Displayed at several pet shops and vet businesses in the municipality
DIGITAL		
Website news	Website visitors	
EDMs (Paws and Claws)	Subscribers	8,456 emails
Social media	Followers	Instagram – 2 posts: 3,910 views Facebook – 2 posts: 1,349 views

Pop up events

Two pop up events were held at Prahran Market and Malvern Cricket Ground to promote the engagement and provide an avenue for face-to-face feedback from the general community, and users of dog off leash areas.

2.0 Survey results

The following section provides an overview of the online survey results. 238 surveys were completed.

2.1 Demographics

Suburb of respondent

The highest proportion of respondents were from South Yarra (15.7%) and Malvern (14.0%). For those that lived outside Stonnington, answers included Boroondara, Melbourne, and Bayside.

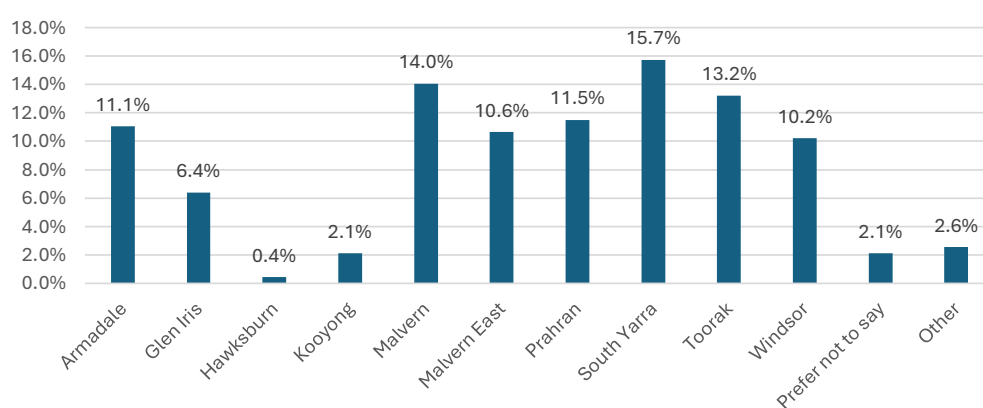


Figure 1: Suburb of respondents (n=235)

In comparison to Census data, survey respondents from Glen Iris and Prahran had similar representation (+0.2% and -0.2% difference compared to 2021 Census).

Suburb	Survey Representation	2021 Census	Difference
South Yarra	15.7%	20.2%	-4.5%
Malvern	14.0%	9.5%	+4.5%
Toorak & Hawksburn	13.6%	12.2%	+1.4%
Prahran	11.5%	11.7%	-0.2%
Armadale	11.1%	8.9%	+2.2%
Malvern East	10.6%	21.3%	-10.7%
Windsor	10.2%	6.4%	+3.8
Glen Iris	6.4%	6.2%	+0.2%
Kooyong	2.1%	0.8%	+1.3%

Gender

Over a third (70%) of respondents were female (compared to 52.3% of total population according to 2021 Census), and almost one quarter were male (22.6% compared to 47.7% of total population according to 2021 Census).

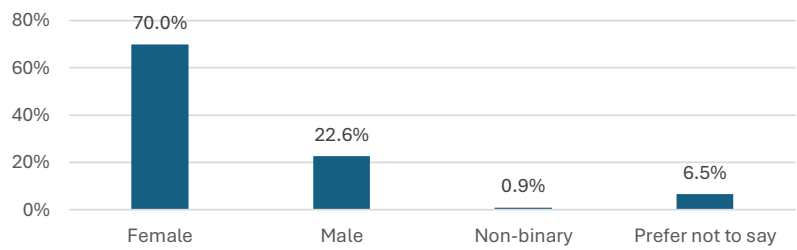


Figure 2: Gender of respondents (n=230).

Age

The largest proportion of respondents were aged between 35 to 44 years, who comprised nearly one in four respondents (22.2%).

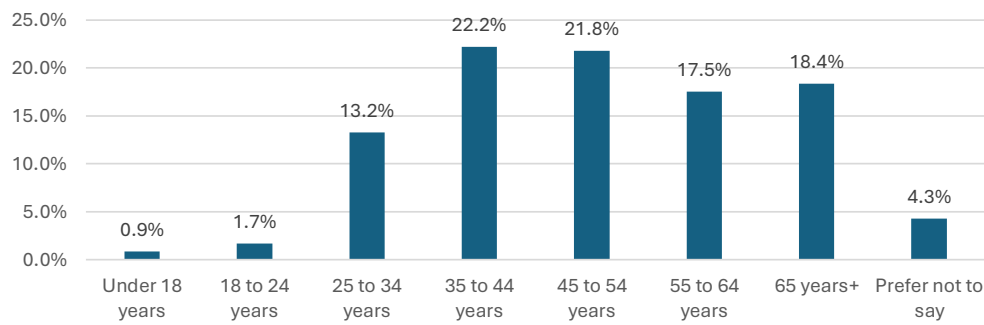


Figure 3: Age of respondents (n=234).

The following table compares the survey representation compared to the overall Stonnington population ages (ABS Census 2021).

Age Group	Survey Representation	Stonnington	Difference
Under 25	2.6%	23.7%	-21.1%
25-44	35.4%	37.1%	-1.7%
45-64	39.3%	22.3%	+17%
65+	18.4%	17.0%	+1.4%

Connection to Stonnington

Almost all (94.5%) of respondents lived in Stonnington.

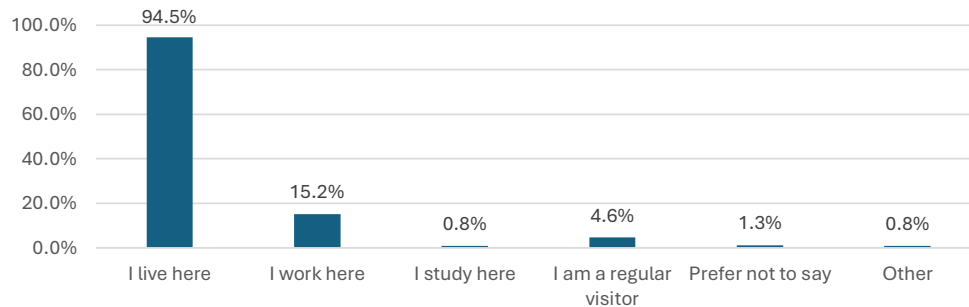


Figure 4: Connection to Stonnington (n=237). Data note: Respondents were asked to choose all demographic diversity indicators; therefore, results reflect the proportion of respondents for each response option and do not total 100%.

Diversity indicators

Almost ten percent (9.8%) of respondents identified as from a culturally and linguistically diverse background, and 7.1% identified as a person with a disability. Of people who said they spoke a language other than English at home (5.5%), languages included Afrikaans, Italian, Farsi, Portuguese, Cantonese, Greek, Korean, and Japanese.

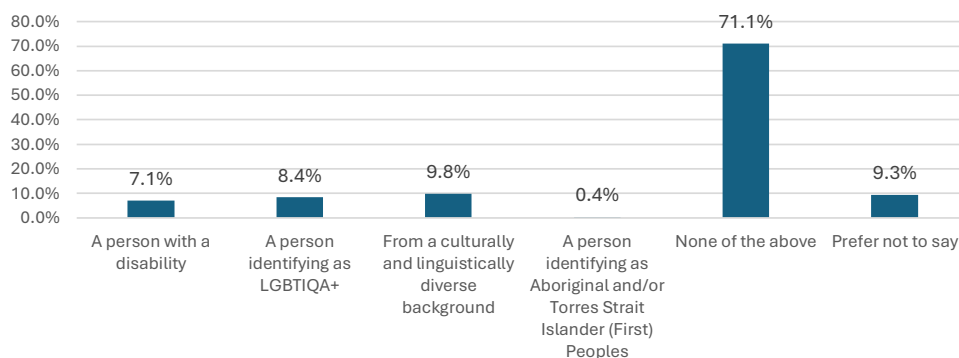


Figure 5: Demographic diversity of respondents (n=225). Data note: Respondents were asked to choose all demographic diversity indicators; therefore, results reflect the proportion of respondents for each response option and do not total 100%.

The following table compares the survey representation compared to the overall Stonnington population for diversity indicators (Census 2021, and Stonnington Council data sources).

Indicator	Survey representation	Stonnington community	Difference
Person with a disability	7.1%	12.8% Identify as living with a disability or chronic health condition	-5.7%
Person identifying as LGBTIQ+	8.4%	14.5%	-6.1%
A person identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (First) people	0.4%	0.4%	+0.0%
From a culturally or linguistically diverse background	9.8%	22.2% Speak a language other than English at home	-12.4%

Housing indicators

Most respondents lived in a detached house (40.6%), while 29.9% lived in an apartment in a multistorey block. Almost 80% (79.1%) owned (including joint ownership, with a mortgage) and 14.4% rented from a private landlord.

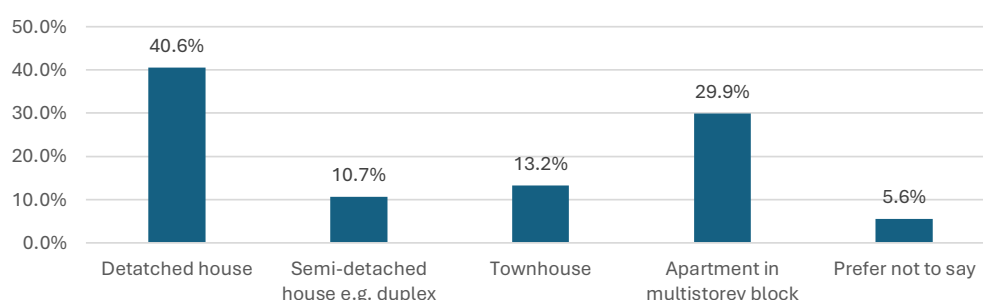


Figure 6: Type of housing of respondents (n=234).

2.2 Experiences with pets

Cat and dog ownership

Almost all (91.2%) of respondents owned a dog or a cat, while 1.3% fostered a dog or a cat.

Most respondents (66.8%) owned one dog, while 20.4% owned two dogs. 16.7% of respondents owned one cat, and 8.6% owned two cats.

Motivations and views on pet ownership

Companionship was the most common motivation to own a pet (89.9%). Almost one third of respondents (64.1%) said health or lifestyle benefits were a motivator.

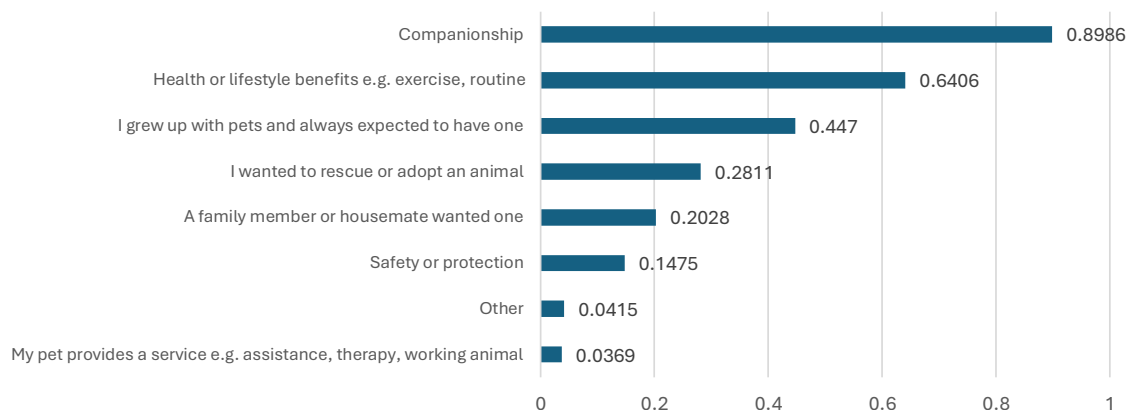


Figure 7: Motivations to own a pet (n=217). Data note: Respondents were asked to choose all demographic diversity indicators; therefore, results reflect the proportion of respondents for each response option and do not total 100%.

For those that did not own a pet or fostered a cat/dog (8.8% of total survey respondents), one third (36.8%) said the reason was they didn't have enough time or stability, while 31.6% said they recently lost a pet.

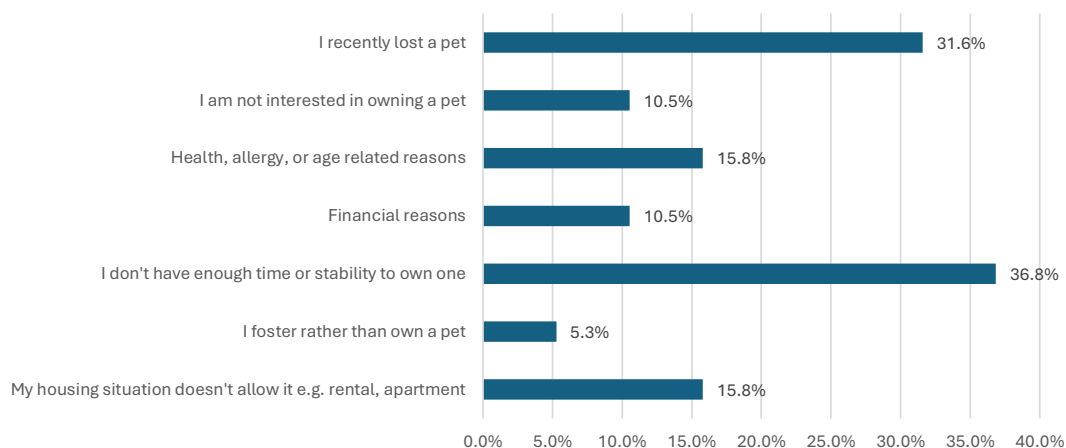


Figure 8: Reasons for not owning a pet (n=19). Data note: Respondents were asked to choose all demographic diversity indicators; therefore, results reflect the proportion of respondents for each response option and do not total 100%.

Over 98% of respondents agreed that pets were an important part of their household (99.0%), and that their pet improves their wellbeing (98.1%).

Over half (57.2%) of respondents agreed they that they felt supported as a pet owner in Stonnington, however 12.5% disagreed.

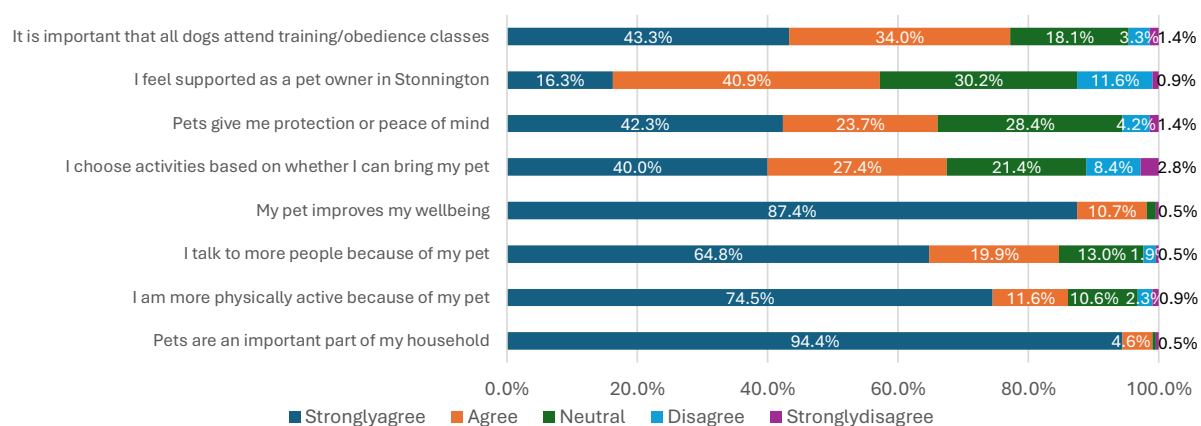


Figure 9: Views of pet ownership (n = 216).

Registration, desexing, and microchipping

Over 96% of respondents said their pets were registered (96.3%), microchipped (99.5%) and desexed (97.2%).

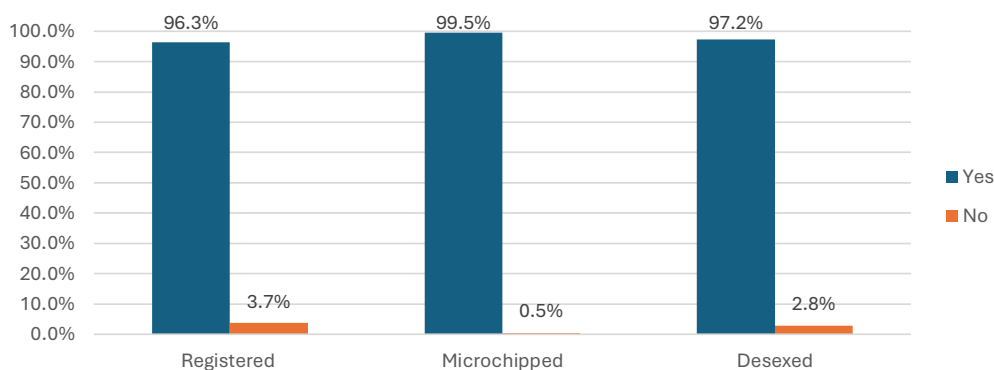


Figure 10: Registration, microchip, and desexing of pets (n=216).

For respondents that said no to having registered their pet (3.7%), the top reasons were that they didn't know they needed to, and too expensive.

For respondents that said no to having their pet microchipped, the reason was that the pet is "end of life and only has maybe a year of life left".

For respondents that said no to having their pet desexed, the reasons included that they intend to breed their pet (33.3%). Other responses included that the pet was too young, and too at risk to undergo the procedure.

Open space experiences

Almost 62% (61.8%) of respondents said they visited open spaces (with or without pets) daily, while almost one quarter (24.8%) said they visited a few times a week.

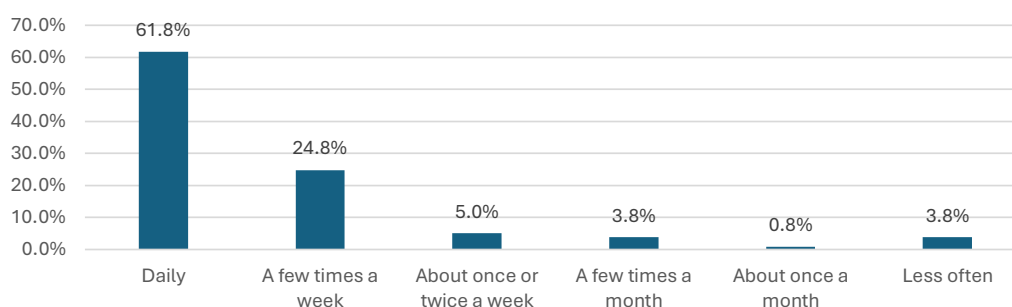


Figure 11: Frequency of visiting open spaces (n=238).

Over one third (67.1%) said they felt safe using parks or open spaces when there are dogs around, while 22.4% said sometimes, and 10.6% said they did not feel safe.

For those that said yes, they felt safe using spaces when dogs are around, reasons centred on themes including:

- Owners generally acting responsibly to keep their dogs under control
- Being confident around dogs
- Having dogs and people around makes it feel safer
- The positive outcomes of dogs being able to socialise
- Providing an opportunity to socialise with other dog owners.

For those that said they do not feel safe, or sometimes feel safe, reasons centred on themes including:

- Dogs off leash in on leash areas
- Owners not having control of their dog
- Uncollected dog poo
- Poor lighting
- Dogs scaring other dogs or children

2.3 Experiences of pet issues

Issues related to dogs experienced in the last 12 months

The top issue that respondents experienced often in the last 12 months was uncollected dog poo (48.7%), and 32.1% of respondents said they experienced dogs off leash where they shouldn't be. Over half of respondents sometimes experienced barking dogs (58.8%) and dog poo bags not put in bins (56.8%). Over half of respondents said they never experienced owners letter their dogs dig up parks, streets, and sports grounds (60.6%), dogs in shops and cafes where they shouldn't be (58.5%), and aggressive dogs or dog attacks (50.0%).

Other issues experienced included:

- Too restrictive on dogs in venues
- Owners not paying attention to their dogs
- Dog urine on streets and belongings
- Dogs rushing up to people in public (on and off leash)

Waste bag dispensers empty

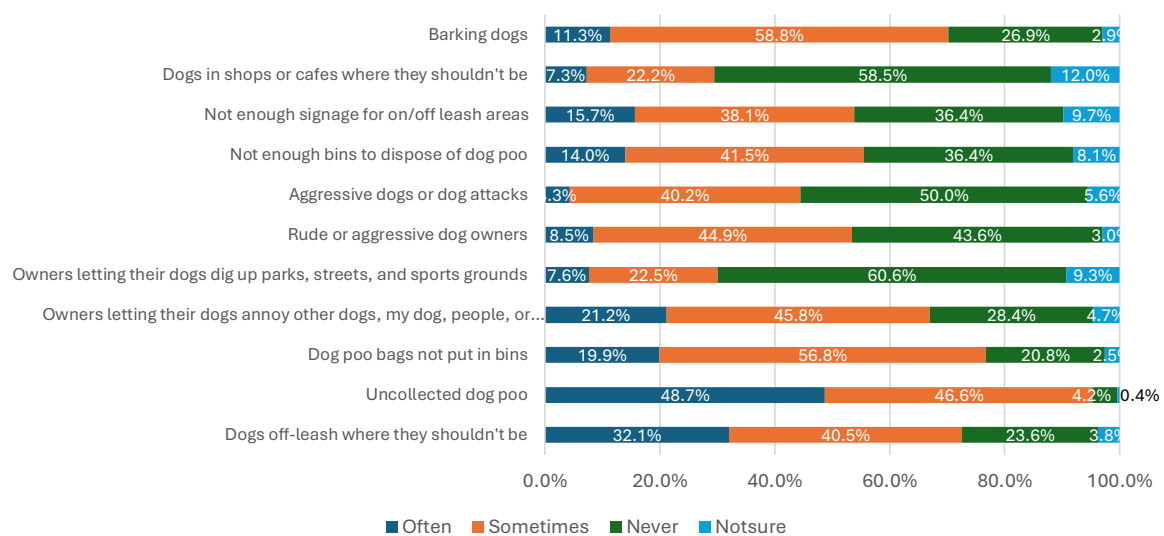


Figure 12: Prevalence of issues related to dogs (n=238).

Issues related to cats experienced in the last 12 months

About three quarters of respondents had never experienced cats fighting (74.0%), cats affecting wildlife (64.5%), stray cats (59.6%), or cats roaming streets or wandering onto properties (51.3%). One third (34.9%) had sometimes experienced cats roaming streets or wandering onto properties. Other issues relating to cats noted by respondents included cats sitting on top of cars and scratching them, or cats using backyards to poo.

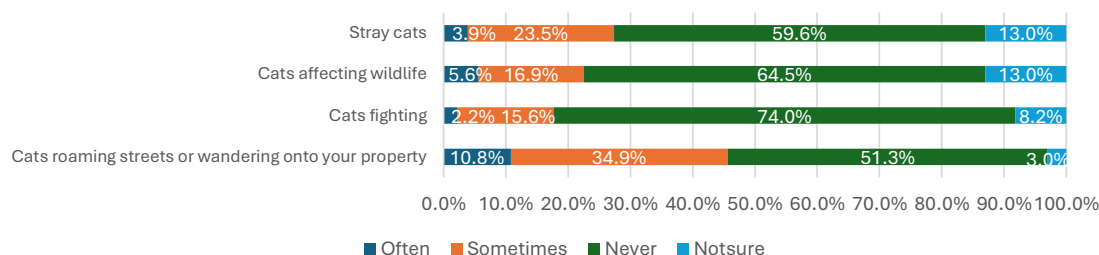


Figure 13: Prevalence of issues related to cats (n=232).

Over 70% (72.3%) of respondents said they used off-leash areas with their pets. Of those that said they used off-leash areas, 72.7% were satisfied or very satisfied with the **location** of the areas, 67.1% were satisfied with the **quality/condition** of the areas, and 66% were satisfied with the **amount** of off-leash areas (14.2% were dissatisfied).

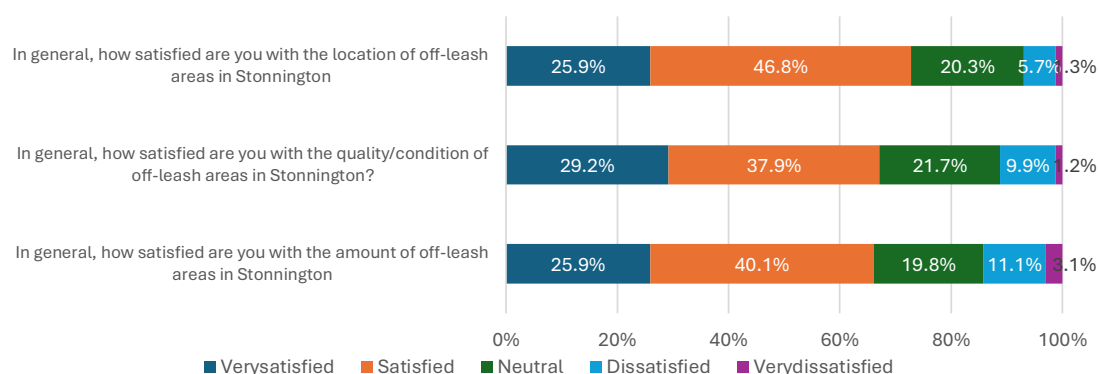


Figure 14: satisfaction levels with off-leash areas (n=162).

Other comments about off-leash areas related to themes including:

- The need for more fenced in/fully enclosed off-leash areas
- Better landscaping/maintenance e.g. grass cover/mowing and more durable plant species
- The need to balance uses including sports, other activities, and dog off-leash times
- Better enforcement at off-leash areas, and for dog poo collection
- Lighting improvements at off-leash areas (on at later times, more lighting).

2.5 Animal management experiences

Over 10% (10.2%) of respondents had directly interacted with Council's Animal Management team in the past 12 months (not including any interactions with the Stonnington Pound). One quarter (25.4%) said they had interacted indirectly, while 64.4% said no or not sure.

Of those that had interacted, 62.5% were satisfied or very satisfied, and 25% were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.

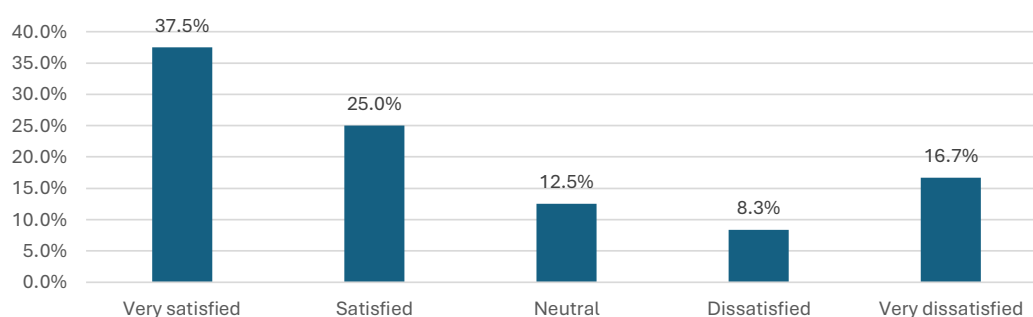


Figure 15: Satisfaction with respondents' interaction with council's Animal Management team (n=24).

2.6 Priorities and actions

Respondents were asked the top three animal management priorities they'd like Council to focus on. The top animal management priorities respondents noted included dog poo not being picked up, off-leash area design, signage, or rules, and bins and waste bags in parks and public spaces.

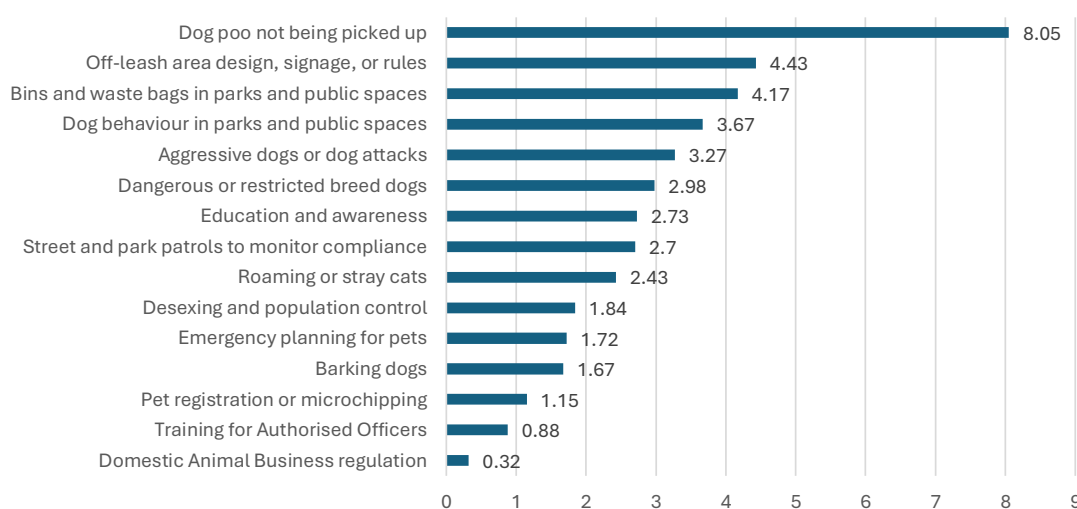


Figure 16: Score (represents the weighted average, with higher scores indicating greater overall preference) of priorities for animal management in Stonnington (n=218).

Other animal management priorities related to themes including:

- More green space, and more off-leash areas
- Enforcement of regulations e.g. dogs off-leash, not picking up poo
- Continuation of a no kill shelter
- Animal welfare concerns e.g. animals living in unsuitable environments, baiting issues, assisting rescuers and foster carers to provide care
- Cat curfew at night, and limit cats roaming
- Number of dogs and cats allowed per household (increase and decrease).

Actions relating to priorities

Respondents noted actions that could be put in place relating to the priorities above.

Comments related to actions including:

- Extra cleaning to remove dog urine from footpaths
- Landscaping and grassing of parks and off-leash areas
- More off-leash areas, and areas with secure fencing (including for greyhounds and cats)
- Greater patrols by animal management team to enforce regulations
- Council to respond to aggressive dogs
- Council to respond to injured animals including wildlife
- Greater support for a no-kill shelter
- More bins and waste bag dispensers
- More signage with rules for owners at parks and off-leash spaces
- Providing resources for owners on training and control of dogs and cats e.g. videos on QR codes at parks, training sessions in parks
- Allowing pets in more venues
- Program to assist rescuers and foster carers with resources
- Program to encourage desexing, and registration of pets e.g. cheaper for older animals
- Informal ways to interact with animal management team e.g. pop up at a park

3.0 Pop up results

Two pop ups were held throughout the engagement period: Saturday 23 August at Prahran Market, and Thursday 28 August at Malvern Cricket Ground. At the pop ups respondents were asked to complete the survey, and this feedback is captured above.

Not all demographic data for engaged community members was captured, however a snapshot of the community members engaged is below:

Gender	Male	Female	Non-binary
	48%	52%	0%

Age	Under 18	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
	4%	8%	24%	36%	16%	12%

(n= 25)

Comments from pop ups included:

- Satisfaction with animal management in Stonnington e.g. off leash areas, waste bag availability, including from people who lived outside of Stonnington
- Concerns of owners not controlling their dogs in on and off leash areas
- Importance of pets providing an opportunity for socialising and companionship
- Opportunities for allowing cats outside on leash
- Need for more bins, and dog bowls at off leash areas
- Opportunities for better lighting at off leash areas.

8.5 Significant Community Benefit Policy

Acting Manager City Growth: Tamara Lowen

Interim Director Community, Planning & Place: Cath Harrod

Linkage to Council Plan

1.1 - Planning and infrastructure keep pace with population growth

Purpose of Report

To present the draft proposed Significant Community Benefit Policy to Council for adoption.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. ADOPT the Significant Community Benefit Policy (Attachment 1).**

Executive Summary

1. Stonnington currently has a significant community benefit provision, in the Chapel Street Activity Centre Zone (ACZ1) planning scheme provisions.
2. Developments can exceed the preferred maximum building height if it can be demonstrated that a significant community benefit can be achieved (for example, a new public plaza or pedestrian link).
3. The Significant Community Benefit Policy (SCB Policy) has been drafted to underpin the existing significant community benefit provision. The SCB Policy outlines what a significant community benefit is and how to calculate the value of the benefit required.
4. This is timely given the State Government's review of the ACZ1 planning provisions (containing the current significant community benefit provisions) as part of the Activity Centres Program.

Background

5. In July 2014, Council adopted the Chapel reVision Structure Plan, guiding land use and built form development within the Chapel Street Activity Centre. Permanent planning controls to implement Chapel reVision came into operation in 2017 through Planning Scheme Amendment C172. The controls are in the form of the Activity Centre Zone, Schedule 1 (ACZ1), and include preferred maximum building heights, setbacks and allowable land uses (mandatory building heights apply in some locations).
6. Clause 4.4 'Height and Massing Guidelines' of the ACZ1 provides the circumstances in which preferred maximum building heights can be exceeded. It states:
The preferred maximum building height may be exceeded in some circumstances if:
 - *it can be demonstrated that a significant community benefit can be achieved; and*
 - *it continues to meet the objectives, requirements and guidelines in relation to visual impact and overshadowing with increased upper-level setbacks.*
7. Over time, Council has used this provision to negotiate provision of significant community benefits as part of developments, generally in the form of public realm improvements. Examples include:

- a new pedestrian link from Claremont to Yarra streets at 14-16 Yarra Street and 35-41 Claremont Street, South Yarra
- a public plaza and pedestrian link at 16 Claremont Street, South Yarra
- streetscape works and the transfer of land for footpaths/roads at the Capitol Grand.

Key Issues and Discussion

The SCB Policy

8. Stonnington's draft SCB Policy has been drafted to support the existing height exceedance provisions in the ACZ1. It provides greater certainty to property owners and developers. It will aid the efficient processing of major planning applications in the Chapel Street Activity Centre.
9. The SCB Policy has been developed having regard to other similar policies in Victoria. City of Melbourne's Central City planning controls also contemplate allowing development to exceed floor area ratios if an appropriate 'public benefit' is provided. The public benefit must be equal or greater value than the value of the floor area uplift that forms part of the proposed development, as proposed in Stonnington's SCB Policy.
10. Specifically, the SCB Policy provides:
 - a definition of significant community benefit
 - a method for calculation of the uplift in value from exceeding the height limit
 - a confirmation statement that the policy is separate from and will not diminish any other obligation (such as the Development Contribution Plan Overlay).
11. The establishment of a 'Significant Community Benefit Reserve - Chapel Street' to hold money for exclusively providing community benefits within the Chapel Street Activity Centre
 - application requirements and implementation through s173 agreements.
12. Broadly, developers will have two options to provide a significant community benefit that meets or exceeds the value of the uplift:
 - a) a cash contribution to the Community Benefit Reserve - Chapel Street which will be established exclusively for providing community infrastructure and other local improvements within the Chapel Street Activity Centre; or
 - b) a significant community benefit, for example in the form of a land transfer (with or without works delivered by the applicant), affordable housing or the provision of privately-owned publicly accessible space for the use and enjoyment by the public in perpetuity or other agreed alternative community benefit.
13. For paragraph b. above, the developer will need to provide justification that the value of the significant community benefit equals or exceeds the value of the uplift.
14. Implementation of this policy will be subject to oversight via the Office of the CEO to ensure the coordinated, whole of Council identification of significant community benefits consistent with the terms of the policy.

Impact on development feasibility

15. The uplift values within the SCB Policy have been tested to ensure development feasibility with current market conditions and also consider the cumulative impact along with other development fees and government levies.
16. It is important to note this provision is voluntary and only applies where applicants seek to build above the preferred heights set out in the ACZ1.
17. Both a development contribution, public open space contribution and a significant community benefit will be required for a development application in the ACZ1, which exceeds the maximum building height.

Interaction with the State's Activity Centre Program

18. The ACZ1 is included in the State Government's Stage 2 Train and Tram Zone Activity Centres Program (South Yarra, Prahran and Windsor train stations). Adoption of the SCB Policy is time critical as the State Government is reviewing the ACZ1 over the coming months as part of this Program.
19. Council adoption of the SCB Policy strengthens Council's position to advocate to maintain the existing significant community benefit provision as an important mechanism to support our growing community. Without Council adoption of the SCB policy, it is likely that the opportunity to retain the provision within the ACZ1 will be lost.
20. Stage 2 draft maps released for consultation on 11 February 2026 show increased heights for many sites within ACZ1. This may limit the Policy's application given a significant community benefit only applies to floor space above the preferred height. However, there are still opportunities for the application of a significant community benefit provision and further potential gains to be realised.

Governance Compliance

Policy Implications

21. The SCB Policy aligns with Schedule 1 to the Activity Centre Zone in the Stonnington Planning Scheme.

Financial and Resource Implications

22. Endorsing this Policy would not create any financial or resource implications for Council beyond administering the reserve.
23. Adoption of the SCB Policy may provide contributions towards infrastructure for our growing community.

Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

24. No Council officer and/or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Decision Making Connection Disclosure

25. Consultants SGS Economics and Planning and M3 Property prepared the draft SCB Policy and undertook background work informing it.
26. The policy will benefit both the wider community through improved infrastructure along with landowners through enhanced amenity.

Legal / Risk Implications

27. Adoption of the SCB Policy will provide more certainty regarding the existing provisions.
28. The SCB Policy has undergone a legal review.

Environmental Implications

29. There are no environmental implications relevant to this report.

Community Consultation

30. Community consultation has not been undertaken to develop the SCB Policy. If a planning scheme amendment is pursued to incorporate or make it as a background document to the planning scheme, community consultation will be undertaken at this time.

Human Rights Consideration

31. Complies with the Charter of Human Rights & Responsibilities Act 2006.

Attachments

1. Draft Significant Community Benefit Policy [**8.5.1** - 8 pages]

Significant Community Benefit Policy

Significant Community Benefit Policy

Description	A policy to provide guidance for both applicants and Council to accurately define and calculate a significant community benefit where a proposed development seeks to exceed the preferred maximum building height and offer a significant community benefit in exchange.
Type	Council policy
Approval authority	Council
Responsible officer	Manager City Growth
Approval date	[insert date]
Review cycle	Four years (with value table updated annually)
Review date	[insert date]
Document reference	
Version history	Version 1 – Adopted on [insert date]
Human rights	This policy has been assessed and is compatible with the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities.

1 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance for both applicants and Council to accurately define and calculate a significant community benefit where a proposed development seeks to exceed the preferred maximum building height and offer a significant community benefit in exchange.
- 1.2 It ensures that negotiations with developers are transparent, consistent, and aligned with the objectives of the planning scheme. The policy establishes a defined framework for identifying and assessing community benefits to ensure that outcomes deliver genuine and measurable value to the local community.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Activity Centre Zone – Schedule 1 (ACZ1) in the Stonnington Planning Scheme provides height limitations for development within the Chapel Street Activity Centre.
- 2.2 Most of the height limitations are discretionary and can be varied through the grant of a planning permit. Some of the height limitations are mandatory and cannot be varied.
- 2.3 Clause 4.4 'Height and Massing Guidelines' of the ACZ1 provides the circumstances in which preferred maximum building heights can be exceeded (Height Exceedance Policy). It states:

The preferred maximum building height may be exceeded in some circumstances if:

 - *It can be demonstrated that a significant community benefit can be achieved; and*
 - *It continues to meet the objectives, requirements and guidelines in relation to visual impact and overshadowing with increased upper level setbacks.*
- 2.4 The above Height Exceedance Policy does not apply where mandatory height controls exist.
- 2.5 This Significant Community Benefits Policy (Policy) addresses the first criterion of the Height Exceedance Policy. The purpose of this Policy is to provide a definition of, and assessment criteria for, a 'Significant Community Benefit' which is proposed to be provided under the first criterion.
- 2.6 It is important to note that even if the proposal meets the first criterion in relation to the 'Significant Community Benefit', it will also need to meet the second criterion for Council to be able to exercise its discretion to allow a development to exceed a preferred maximum building height under the Height Exceedance Policy at clause 4.4 of the ACZ1.

3 Definitions

- 3.1 Under this Policy, a 'Community Benefit' is (as defined in Table 2):
 - (a) land transfers to Council (with or without works delivered by the applicant);
 - (b) affordable housing as defined in the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*;
 - (c) privately-owned, publicly accessible open space;
 - (d) an alternative community benefit identified by Council at its absolute discretion.

- 3.2 A 'Significant Community Benefit' is a Community Benefit that is at least equal to the value added to the land through the additional building height above the preferred maximum building height (Uplift Value). The Uplift Value will be calculated in accordance with the method detailed in Section 4.
- 3.3 Further, a 'Significant Community Benefit' is defined to be over and above the usual utility and external benefits provided as part of any development.
- 3.4 Provision of a 'Significant Community Benefit' under this Policy is also separate from, and does not diminish, any other obligation the applicant might have to provide development contributions under the Stonnington Planning Scheme (including those set down in Clause 53.01 and via a Development Contribution Plan Overlay (DCPO)), the *Planning & Environment Act 1987* or any other relevant legislation.
- 3.5 Any requirement to pay levies under a DCPO or any other statutory requirement for development contributions will be based on the total floor space proposed in the development, including the floor space above the preferred maximum height limit.

4 Calculating the Uplift Value

- 4.1 To demonstrate a Significant Community Benefit, applicants must provide Community Benefits that are of at least the same value, in dollar terms, to the uplift in land value resulting from the building exceeding the preferred maximum building heights. This figure is known as the 'Uplift Value'.
- 4.2 The Uplift Value is determined by multiplying the quantum of floor space (in square metres) by the nominal value in Table 1 for the type of development above the preferred maximum height limit.

Table 1: Calculating the uplift value*

	<i>Value per additional sqm of gross floor area (GFA) above preferred height</i>			
Land use:	Precinct 1 Forrest Hill	Precinct 2 South Yarra	Precinct 3 Prahran	Precinct 4 Windsor
<i>All land uses</i>	\$1,625	\$1,350	\$875	\$900

*Value as at 06/03/2026.

Uplift value is recalculated in August each year based on 30 June Producer Price Index (PPI) 'Building Construction – Victoria' inflation of the preceding 12 months.



Figure 1: Precincts within the ACZ1

5 The type and value of Significant Community Benefits

5.1 A Significant Community Benefit provided under this Policy must be acceptable to Council.

5.2 The Significant Community Benefit must be:

- (a) drawn from the schedule of Significant Community Benefits at Table 2 or otherwise acceptable to Council at its absolute discretion; and
- (b) supported by independent certification from a qualified valuer that the value of the tendered Significant Community Benefit equals or exceeds the Uplift Value.

Table 2: Scheduled Significant Community Benefits

Benefit category Description and components	Benefit category Description and components
Land transfers to Council (with or without works delivered by the applicant)	Council acquires part of a site, for example to improve footpaths, road or laneway widths, to create new linkages and / or to create or enlarge public open spaces.
Affordable housing as defined in the <i>Planning and Environment Act</i>	The provision of affordable housing within the development with title(s) transferred to a State registered housing association or provider.
Privately-owned publicly accessible space	The provision of privately-owned publicly accessible space for the use and enjoyment by the public in perpetuity. This may take the form of a pedestrian link, urban plaza, atrium space or other agreed spatial arrangement.

5.3 Council, at its absolute discretion, may accept alternative community benefits proposed by Council or the applicant including, but not limited to, a cash contribution to the Community Benefit Reserve-Chapel Street.

5.4 Under this Policy, the Community Benefit Reserve-Chapel Street is a fund established by Council to hold money for exclusive use in providing community infrastructure and other local improvements within the Chapel Street Activity Centre, including, but not limited to:

- (a) Projects or investments referred to in Council's strategic plans and policies for

the Chapel Street Activity Centre;

- (b) Chapel Street revitalisation project(s);
 - (c) Acquisition and embellishment of public open space;
 - (d) New indoor and outdoor recreational facilities;
 - (e) Public art and creative spaces;
 - (f) New community facilities; and
 - (g) Any other projects or investments identified by Council.
- 5.5 At Council's absolute discretion, Council may require the valuation certification of the Significant Community Benefit be independently peer reviewed before agreeing to accept the Significant Community Benefit.
- 5.6 The value of the Significant Community Benefit must not include benefits that are already to be expected from the development, including, but not limited to:
- (a) Increase in construction jobs
 - (b) Increase in commercial floor space (or flow on impacts)
 - (c) Housing increases (except for Affordable or Social Housing)
 - (d) High quality architecture
 - (e) Low car parking provision
 - (f) Activation of spaces previously not active
 - (g) Any particular ESD offering, and
 - (h) Capital works improvements that are required to support the development, including, but not limited to, improvements to footpath access, drainage work.

6 Application Requirements

- 6.1 For the purposes of the Significant Community Benefit assessment, the applicant must supply the following information and documentation when lodging the planning permit application:
- (a) The quantum of additional floor area sought, expressed as Gross Floor Area.
 - (b) The applicant's calculation of the nominal Uplift Value of the additional floor area based on Table 1.
 - (c) The applicant's Significant Community Benefit offer and an analysis of how it complies with this Policy.
 - (d) Independent certification from a qualified valuer that the value of the proposed Significant Community Benefit equals or exceeds the Uplift Value.

7 Delivery

- 7.1 Unless otherwise agreed by Council in its absolute discretion, the Significant Community Benefit must be delivered as specified in Table 3.

Table 3: Delivery of Community Benefits

Benefit category	Delivery
Land transfers to Council and works provided by the applicant	A Section 173 agreement must be entered into prior to commencement of buildings and works which requires land titles to be provided to Council at zero consideration and any agreed works completed.
The provision of affordable housing	Prior to the issue of Certificate of Occupancy – a Section 173 agreement must be entered into prior to commencement of buildings and works which requires land titles to be provided to the not-for-profit registered housing association or provider at zero consideration or such other terms agreed with the registered provider.
Privately – owned publicly accessible space	A Section 173 agreement must be entered into prior to commencement of buildings and works which ensures that the public access rights will attach to, and run with, the title to the land.
Other benefits	As agreed by Council in its absolute discretion.

7.2 Council will maintain a register of all legal agreements for delivery of Significant Community Benefits under this Policy.

8 Related Legislation and Policies

This Policy should be considered in conjunction with current Council strategic plans, policies and programs relevant to the Chapel Street Activity Centre Zone as well as related legislation including, but not limited to, the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

8.6 Stonnington Illicit Tobacco

Interim Director Community, Planning & Place: Cath Harrod

Linkage to Council Plan

3.1 - People are safe and able to fully participate in community life

Purpose of Report

To formally advise Council and respond to item 3 of the MAV Council resolution passed on Monday 23 February 2026, to report on any planning, permit, local laws, legislative or other mechanisms that Council could activate to close or prevent illicit tobacco stores operating in Stonnington.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. ***NOTES that Council does not have any local statutory powers to directly close or prevent illicit tobacco stores.***
2. ***NOTES that Officers will continue to liaise with Tobacco Licensing Victoria, Victoria Police and other relevant state enforcement agencies to provide intelligence and local insights.***
3. ***SUPPORTS state-led investigations and compliance activities through the sharing of local observations and data.***
4. ***MONITORS opportunities for advocacy or legislative change to enhance Council's capacity to respond to illicit tobacco activity in the future.***
5. ***NOTES that on Sunday 15 March 2026 the Victorian Government announced it is progressing 90-day closure powers for premises linked to illicit tobacco activity, enabling enforcement agencies to temporarily close stores suspected of serious breaches under the State's tobacco licensing scheme.***

Executive Summary

1. At the Monday 23 February Council Meeting, Officers were requested to prepare a report *outlining any planning, permit, bi-laws, laws, rules or conditions which can be activated by Council to close and prevent illicit tobacco stores from opening in Stonnington.*
2. In response, Officers reviewed Council's regulatory frameworks, including planning controls, local laws and permit conditions, to determine whether any mechanisms exist to address illicit tobacco operations at the municipal level. Officers have determined that the City of Stonnington does not currently hold statutory powers to directly close or prevent illicit tobacco stores, as enforcement sits with state and federal authorities.

Background

3. At its meeting on 23 February 2026, Council resolved to submit a motion to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council seeking stronger enforcement powers to address illicit tobacco activity across Victoria.

4. Council officers have supported state enforcement efforts through intelligence sharing and engagement with relevant taskforces. Recent Victorian Government announcements indicate the progression of 90-day closure powers for premises linked to illicit tobacco activity, strengthening enforcement under the State's tobacco licensing scheme and aligning with the advocacy position raised through the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV).

Key Issues and Discussion

5. A review of Council's planning scheme, local laws, building codes and relevant state legislation has confirmed that the City of Stonnington does not currently have statutory powers to directly close or prevent businesses involved in the sale of illicit tobacco. Responsibility for regulating illicit tobacco and enforcing the tobacco licensing scheme sits with state and federal agencies, including Tobacco Licensing Victoria, the Department of Health, Therapeutic Goods Administration, Australian Taxation Office and Victoria Police.
6. Council's Public Health Unit does, however, play an important role in regulating the lawful sale of tobacco products within the municipality. This includes undertaking education with retailers, responding to complaints and investigating potential breaches of tobacco control legislation. Officers also undertake test purchasing programs, where they supervise young persons' attempts to purchase tobacco products from retailers. Where breaches are identified, enforcement action may include education, formal warnings, infringement notices and, where appropriate, prosecution through the Magistrates' Court.
7. While illicit tobacco enforcement is outside Council's direct regulatory authority, the Public Health Unit maintains strong working relationships with relevant enforcement agencies and has detailed knowledge of local businesses and retail activity. As a result, information or observations relating to suspected illicit tobacco activity are frequently shared with the appropriate authorities. Council officers have also engaged with state enforcement taskforces that contributed to significant seizures of illicit tobacco products and arrests. Council continues to support investigations through the provision of local intelligence and observations.
8. Council also continues to undertake education and enforcement activities relating to the lawful sale of tobacco products, while supporting state enforcement agencies through information sharing and collaboration where appropriate.

Planning Permit Requirements/ Planning Investigations

9. Statutory planning in Victoria deals primarily with land use permissions, development approvals, and planning scheme compliance. Its enforcement powers relate to matters such as unauthorised land use, permit breaches, and development offences. They do not relate to criminal conduct or regulated product offences like illicit tobacco. The responsibility for addressing illicit tobacco sits with Tobacco Licensing Victoria (TLV) and Victoria Police, not local planning authorities.
10. The Stonnington Planning Scheme outlines that the use of the land to sell tobacco would be best defined as a 'shop'. Clause 73.03 of the Stonnington Planning Scheme defines a 'shop' as *land used to sell goods or services, or to hire goods*.

11. A shop is an as-of-right use in the Commercial 1 Zone and Activity Centre Zone, Schedule 1. Consequently, a planning permit is not required to use the land for the purpose of selling tobacco (i.e. shop) in these zones and Planning Investigations cannot close a premises that is operating, as there is no breach of the Stonnington Planning Scheme. That a premises may be selling illicit tobacco is outside the remit of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (*"the Act"*) and the Stonnington Planning Scheme. There are no powers under *the Act* to close a premises down or seek that they apply for a planning permit as this is not required for the use.
12. Given statutory planning enforcement has no legislative authority over tobacco licensing or criminal trade, planning departments cannot shut an illicit tobacco premises. Closure actions (where possible) fall under Victoria Police, operating under criminal law and specialised taskforces, not local planning mechanisms.

Local Laws

13. Local laws allow councils to address amenity impacts, including nuisance or danger, unsightly premises, waste, litter, and footpath obstructions. Councils can issue notices to comply, infringements, or pursue court action. Signage controls also allow action against illegal advertising, requiring removal or issuing fines for unapproved signs or displays.
14. Typically, illicit tobacco premises are masked, and rarely, if ever, commit these offences and officers have no direct power under the local law to require closure.

Governance Compliance

Policy Alignment

15. This report aligns with the following Council policies:
 - a. Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-29
 - b. Stonnington Planning Scheme
 - c. Stonnington General Local Law 2018-28

In addition to the following State Government Acts:

- a. Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008
- b. Tobacco Act 1987
- c. Planning and Environment Act 1987

Financial and Resource Implications

16. There are no financial and resource implications associated with this report.

Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

17. No Council officer and/or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Decision Making Connection Disclosure

18. There are no identified decisions required as part of this report.

Legal / Risk Implications

19. There are no legal / risk implications relevant to this report.

Community Consultation

20. There was no requirement for community consultation.

Human Rights Consideration

21. Complies with the Charter of Human Rights & Responsibilities Act 2006.

Attachments

Nil

8.7 Elizabeth Street Car Parking Project

Manager Strategic Property and Revenue: Mark Spaziani

Chief Financial Officer: Julia Gallace

Linkage to Council Plan

- 1.1 - Planning and infrastructure keep pace with population growth
- 2.2 - Diverse local businesses are supported to grow and thrive
- 3.2 - People are connected and feel they belong

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with details on the outcomes from the 1-hour free parking solution for usage at Elizabeth Street Car Park between 7am to 11am on 'Market Days' via ticket validation by traders for purchases over \$20 from 1 September 2025 and to provide a recommendation to continue this arrangement while options to mitigate the State Government Congestion Levy are developed for approval.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. ***NOTES the outcomes of the 1-hour free parking initiative at Elizabeth Street Car Park between 7:00am and 11:00am on Market Days, accessed via trader ticket validation for purchases over \$20.***
2. ***CONFIRMS the continuation of the 1-hour free parking initiative at Elizabeth Street Car Park between 7:00am and 11:00am on Market Days, accessed via trader ticket validation for purchases over \$20, while further analysis of options to mitigate the State Government Congestion Levy is undertaken.***
3. ***NOTES that on Market Days the first hour of parking represents approximately 85% of all parking usage at Elizabeth Street Car Park.***
4. ***NOTES that while the initiative was estimated to result in lost revenue of approximately \$123,000 over six months in the 2025–26 financial year, the actual impact is \$54,546, which has been offset through savings in Council's insurance premium costs for 2025–26.***
5. ***NOTES that further assessment is underway regarding the future of paid off-street parking following the introduction of the State Government Congestion Levy at Elizabeth Street Car Park from 1 January 2026, including consideration of a validation model to mitigate financial impacts and support operational outcomes.***

Executive Summary

1. At the Council Meeting on 11 August 2025, Council approved the implementation of a one-hour free parking initiative at the Elizabeth Street Car Park between 7am and 11am on Market Days. The offer applies via ticket validation for purchases over \$20 and commenced mid-September 2025.

2. Whilst the trial estimated to result in lost revenue for the 2025-26 Financial Year of around \$123,000 over a 6-month period, the actual cost for the period was \$54,546, which represents the issuing of 10,000 validation tickets
3. Of the issued tickets, from the period September 2025 to February 2026, 5,153 out of 10,000 tickets have been validated, which represents an average usage of around 934 per month.
4. Footfall at the market continues to be higher than the same period last year (1.43 million vs 1.34 million), with increases of between 3.14 to 14.08% over the validation period except for December 2025 which had a decrease of (3%).
5. The move to a validation model, while not achieving the same footfall results as the initial 1-hour free parking model, did result in positive increases in footfall over the period September 2025 to February 2026 relative to the previous free parking offering.
6. One option to mitigate the impacts of the State Government Congestion Levy is to introduce a validation model for free 1-hour car parking at the Elizabeht Car Park, which represents an over \$677,000 concession applied to the current levy fee levels.
7. Continuation of the validation option is recommended to allow for the levy options analysis to be finalised given the potential cost reduction benefits and limited revenue impact outcomes of this model.

Background

8. In August 2024 the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Prahran Market Pty Ltd (PMPL) presented to Council benchmarking undertaken of the car parking offered at Elizabeth Street Car Park compared to other markets across Melbourne.
9. The benchmarking review identified that:
 - The management at South Melbourne Market (SMM) and Queen Victoria Market (QVM) are both responsible for the management and revenue associated with the car park operations for the markets.
 - Both of these markets offer a 'discount' for shoppers on trading days albeit different in both locations.
 - Preston Market offer 2 hours free parking on all Market Days.
 - Benchmarked markets utilise their car park asset to help drive visitation to the markets.
 - There is significant capacity at the Elizabeth Street carpark to improve visitation and overall revenue for the carpark long-term.
10. As an outcome of this analysis, PMPL proposed to Council an initiative to pilot 'Free Parking' at the Elizabeth Street carpark on Market Days.

11. The objective of the trial was to increase customer footfall and dwell time at the Prahran Market, in order to promote greater utilisation and patronage of the market to improve the Market's financial returns to both vendors (increased sales via higher customer volume) and Stonnington City Council as the facility owners (via attraction of new or eventual renegotiations with existing leasees to adjust rental arrangements due to improved vendor profitability).
12. To facilitate this request and understand the financial impacts on Council in approving a free carparking trial, Council Officers were asked to analyse the revenue risks of a number of scenarios at the Elizabeth carpark that could meet the project's objectives. The options analysed (which also considered any impacts on Council's other multi-deck carparks within the Prahran precinct) included:
 - Free Parking on Market Days 7 to 11am
 - 2Hrs Free Parking on Market Days before 11am
 - 1Hr Free Parking on Market Days before 11am
 - Free Parking for the Second Hour on Market Days 5 to 11am
 - A Validation Model before 11am.
13. The analysis determined that the financial impact was estimated to range from \$40,000 dollars to \$295,000 per annum depending on the option approved.
14. After considering the impacts of both the financial scenarios as well as to the Precinct Traders, it was recommended to Council that a 6-month Pilot period be offered to facilitate the Market/Precinct initiative as per the below:
 - Free Parking on Market Days 7 to 11am
 - Supporting Analysis - This proposal has been assessed using the available parking data for period 2 May to 30 June 2024, which was then annualised (taking into consideration seasonal parking revenue trends). In addition, there is expected to be an impact of the proposal on Council's other multi-deck carparks within the Prahran precinct.
 - Projected Financial Impacts - Total Revenue Loss for 6 months - \$75 to \$85k (depending on the impact on other carparking)
 - Trial Period - From 1 November 2024 to 30 April 2025.
15. In assessing the impacts and success of the 6-month trial period and determining how this initiative could be progressed, if successful, into the long-term, the following reportable target metrics were approved:
 - Increased Carpark utilisation (Elizabeth Street)
 - Increase in footfall
 - Increase in dwell time
 - Increase Precinct spend (if available)

16. Financial impacts of the trial were proposed to be mitigated/offset through other positive forecast variance to budget movements through the financial year, with any long-term opportunity to be assessed against the future rental yield from the Market to Council.
17. To support the promotion of the trial, the project proposed that Council would be responsible for communicating the initiative to the Precinct area (Local Traders and Residents) and PMPL would be responsible for communicating to the Prahran Market Traders and their customers. From a marketing perspective, the direct promotion of the trial was the responsibility of PMPL.
18. Following the initial trial period, analysis of the financial and operational outcomes were assessed. Positive gains in footfall and dwell time were obtained over this period. Elizabeth Street usage increased significantly by around 17%.
19. As a result of the trial outcomes, Council approved at the 11 August 2025 meeting a 1-hour free-parking option via validation by traders for purchases over \$20 for a further 6 months. To support this action, promotion was undertaken by Prahran Market of this arrangement.

Key Issues and Discussion

Initial Trial Outcomes

20. The free car park trial had a number of assessment metrics to gauge the overall impact of car parking on market patronage. In determining the success of the trial, all the metrics were considered together with the economic impacts on the car parks weighed against community considerations and market usage numbers. Council received a report on the trial outcomes on 11 August 2025. Details of this assessment are provided at **Attachment 1**.
21. The overall outcomes of the free car park trial were:
 - Elizabeth Street usage increased significantly by around 17%;
 - Council revenues were impacted by 15% resulting in a loss of around \$70,000 which was slightly below initial estimates;
 - Average market traffic for the same period when compared to the prior year increased by 17.9%;
 - Average duration (dwell time spent at the Market) for the same period when compared to the prior year increased by 6.2% or around 2-minutes; and
 - Community and Market user/tenant feedback was overwhelmingly positive with 96% of Council survey responses, over 2,000 social media interactions from Prahran Market promotions and 30 trader testimonials all detailing the benefits of the trial.
 - These results highlight the positive PMPL operating outcomes achieved through increased usage at the Elizabeth Street car park, with financial impacts being slightly lower than estimated.

22. Given the approved reportable target assessment metrics for determining the impact and success of the trial, the outcomes above show:

- Increased Carpark utilisation (Elizabeth Street) - Achieved
- Increase in footfall - Achieved
- Increase in dwell time - Achieved
- Increase Precinct spend (if available) – No available, however testimonials and PMPL submissions point to increase sales volume.

23. In addition, the financial impacts of the trial on Councils parking revenue were slightly lower than projected which also highlights the success of the project.

Future Car Parking Support Options Evaluated

24. As a result of the positive operational outcomes from the trial, a number of free or discounted car parking support options were evaluated to determine the financial impact of these on council's revenue following the proposed introduction by the State Government of the Congestion Levy. These support options included:

- Continuing the initial trial for a further 6-month period;
- Providing discounted car parking rates on Market Days for the first hour;
- Providing 1-hour free car parking on Market Days;
- Providing 1-hour free car parking on Market Days for specific time periods including 7-11am, 7-10am, 7-9am and before 9am; and
- Providing 1-hour free car parking on Market Days via a validation process by traders for purchases over \$20.

25. The financial impact per annum of these options ranged from around \$105,000 to \$706,000, with the 6-month impact being estimated at 50% of these values.

26. A limitation of the trial period was the inability to fully assess the financial benefit (through sale volume metrics or the use of a validation process that equated increased transactions with car parking outcomes) for traders from offering free car parking other than by submissions/testimonials and/or other non-financial details provided. As a consequence of this, the use of a validation process was evaluated as part of the options considered.

27. Council approved the use of a free-parking via a validation model from September 2025 for a further 6 months.

Validation Model Outcomes

28. For the validation model activation period of September 2025 to February 2026, the following financial outcomes were achieved:

- 10,000 validation tickets were issued to Prahran Market at a total cost of \$54,546 (excluding GST), which was well below the forecast impact of \$123,000;
- Of the tickets issued, 5,153 tickets were used/validated which represents an average usage of around 934 per month or 51.5% of the issued quantity;

29. From an operational perspective, the following table and graph detail the footfall outcomes at the Market compared to the same period last year:

Month	2024	2025	2026	24/25	25/26
January	195,734	231,817	239,662	18.43%↑	3.38%↑
February	184,731	219,849	226,757	19.01%↑	3.14%↑
March	192,008	246,122		28.18%↑	
April	186,274	220,857		18.57%↑	
May	204,266	249,131		21.96%↑	
June	207,522	239,577		15.45%↑	
July	195,758	229,101		17.03%↑	
August	213,596	250,021		17.05%↑	
September	195,318	221,876		13.60%↑	
October	204,290	233,053		14.08%↑	
November	217,445	242,878		11.70%↑	
December	272,045	263,881		-3.00%↓	
Total Visitation	2,468,987	2,848,163	466,419	15.36%↑	



30. Overall footfall increased from 1.34 to 1.43 million when compared to the same period in the previous year. On a month-by-month basis, except for December 2025, footfall increased between 3.14 to 14.08% from the previous year. December saw a decrease of (3%) when compared to the same month last year.

31. While the footfall outcomes were not as high as the initial 1-hour free trial period (17.9% compared to 6.7% for the validation model on average), the validation model still resulted in increased footfall over this period off a higher initial trial base (specifically for the months November 2024 to February 2025).
32. To mitigate the financial and operational impacts of the State Government Congestion Levy, a ticket validation model is one option being analysed to support a 50% reduction in the levies annual cost. The extent to which the current validation model meets the legislative requirements for the reduction of the levy value is being considered with other available options.

Governance Compliance

Policy Alignment

33. The Council policy which guides and supports the report includes the Revenue and Rating Plan.

Financial and Resource Implications

34. Based on the trial financial impacts and modelling undertaken for the 2025/26 Budget on Car Park Revenue, implementing the proposed 1-hour free parking solution for usage at Elizabeth Street Car Park between 7am to 11am on Market Days via ticket validation by traders for purchases over \$20 be implemented starting 1 September 2025 is estimated to result in lost revenue for the 2025-26 financial year of approximately \$123,000 over a 6-month period.
35. This estimated financial impact was funded through identified saving in council's insurance premium costs for the 2025-26 financial year.
36. The actual cost for the period to the end of February 2026 was \$54,546, which represents the issuing of 10,000 tickets. Of these, from the validation approval period September 2025 to February 2026 only 5,153 tickets were used/validated, which represents an average usage of around 934 per month.
37. One option to mitigate the impacts of the State Government Congestion Levy is to introduce a validation model for free 1-hour car parking at the Elizabeth Car Park, which represents an over \$677,000 decrease based on current levy fee levels.
38. Continuation of the validation option is recommended to allow for the levy options analysis to be finalised given the potential cost reduction benefits and limited revenue impact outcomes of this model.

Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

39. No Council officer and/or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Decision Making Connection Disclosure

40. There were no consultants, companies and any external parties paid throughout the decision-making process.

41. Beneficiaries of the recommendation include PMPL and surrounding area vendors plus Tenants, customers and user of car parking that utilise the Elizabeth Street facility.

Legal / Risk Implications

42. There are no legal / risk implications relevant to this report.

Community Consultation

43. There is no need for further community consultation as part of the extension proposal.

Human Rights Consideration

44. Complies with the Charter of Human Rights & Responsibilities Act 2006.

Attachments

1. Council Report 11 August 2025 - Elizabeth Street Car Parking Project [8.7.1 - 14 pages]

8.5 Elizabeth Street Car Parking Project

Manager Strategic Property and Revenue: Mark Spaziani

Chief Financial Officer: Julia Gallace

Linkage to Council Plan

Direction 1: A thriving and unique place

1.2 Thriving and desirable businesses

Direction 2: An inclusive and healthy community

2.2 Diverse, inclusive and safe

Direction 3: A people-centred and future ready city

3.1 Community focus, connection and engagement

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with details on the outcomes from the Free Car Park trial at Elizabeth Street over the period from 1 November 2024 to 30 April 2025 and to provide a recommendation to implement a 1-hour free parking solution for usage at Elizabeth Street Car Park between 7am to 11am on 'Market Days' via ticket validation by traders for purchases over \$20 from 1 September 2025.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. ***NOTES the outcomes of the free car park trial at the Elizabeth Street Car Park including increased patronage at Prahran Market, expected revenue impact and highly positive community/tenant feedback and support.***
2. ***CONFIRMS that in recognition of the outcomes of the free car park trial, a 1-hour free parking solution for usage at Elizabeth Street Car Park between 7am to 11am on Market Days via ticket validation by traders for purchases over \$20 will be implemented from 1 September 2025.***
3. ***NOTES that on Market Days the first 1.0 hour represents approximately 85% of all car parking volume at the Elizabeth Street Car Park.***
4. ***NOTES that the implementation of the proposed solution above at Elizabeth Street Car Park is estimated to result in lost revenue for the 2025-26 financial year of approximately \$123,000 over a 6-month period, which will be funded through identified saving in council's insurance premium costs for the 2025-26 financial year.***
5. ***NOTES that proposed solution will be subject to further detailed analysis of Prahran Market trading, foot traffic and dwell-time outcomes by January 2026. In addition, Council will be undertaking further assessment on the future of paid off-street parking as a result of the introduction by the State Government of a Congestion Levy applied to Elizabeth Street Car Park from 1 January 2026. Future options will consider how to appropriately mitigate the projected financial impacts and operational outcomes.***

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Executive Summary

1. Council approved the free car park trial at the Elizabeth Street facility over the period from 1 November 2024 to 30 April 2025. Car parking would be free on Market Days between 7am to 11am and was projected to have a negative impact on Council's revenue of between \$75 to \$85k for the 6-month period.
2. Following the completion of the trial, the overall outcomes of the free car park trial were:
 - Elizabeth Street usage increased significantly by around 17%;
 - Council revenues were impacted by 15% resulting in a loss of around \$70,000 which was slightly below initial estimates;
 - Average market traffic for the same period when compared to the prior year increased by 17.9%;
 - Average duration (dwell time spent at the market) for the same period when compared to the prior year increased by 6.2% or around 2 minutes; and
 - Community and market user/tenant feedback was overwhelmingly positive with 96% of Council survey responses, over 2,000 social media interactions from Prahran Market promotions and 30 trader testimonials all detailing the benefits of the trial.
3. Since the trial period, the State Government has introduced the Congestion Levy on paid off-street car parks which significantly impacts the financial viability of all these operations including Elizabeth Street. This impact will now need to be included in the evaluation of any ongoing options around free parking. In addition, the change will require Council to further review/analyse car parking options throughout the municipality.
4. Based on the trial financial and positive operational impacts, a number of free or discounted car parking options were evaluated to support ongoing Prahran Market foot traffic and dwell time outcomes detailed above. These included:
 - Continuing the initial trial for a further 6-month period;
 - Providing discounted car parking rates on Market Days for the first hour;
 - Providing 1-hour free car parking on Market Days;
 - Providing 1-hour free car parking on Market Days for specific time periods including 7-11am, 7-10am, 7-9am and before 9am; and
 - Providing 1-hour free car parking on Market Days via a validation process by traders for purchases over \$20.
5. These options have been discussed with Prahran Market. There is support for a 1-hour free car parking option on Market Days via validation. Details of the Prahran Market's feedback for Council on the assessed options is detailed at Point 58 below.

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6. It is proposed to implement a 1-hour free parking solution for usage at Elizabeth Street Car Park between 7am to 11am on Market Days via ticket validation by traders for purchases over \$20 starting 1 September 2025, which is estimated to result in lost revenue for the 2025-26 Financial Year of around (\$123,000) over a 6-month period, which will be funded through identified saving in council's insurance premium costs for the 2025-26 financial year.. This estimate may be impacted by new factors such as parking behaviour change resulting from significant parking fee increases in 2025-26 resulting from the introduction by the State Government of the Congestion Levy.
7. Due to the positive outcomes achieved and supportive community, user and trader feedback provided, it is recommended that support of free parking via validation with the proposed solution to be subject to further detailed analysis of Prahran Market trading, foot traffic and dwell-time outcomes by January 2026.
8. Reportable target metrics will be used to continue assessing the success of this proposal. The period to January 2026 will be subject to the finalisation of analysis on the future of paid off-street parking required as a result of the introduction by the State Government of the Congestion Levy which is to be undertaken by 31 December 2025. As part of this recommendation, project close-out and future actions communications will be developed which details the trials outcomes, community/user/tenant feedback and future approved actions.

Background

9. In August 2024 the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Prahran Market Pty Ltd (PMPL) presented to Council benchmarking undertaken of the car parking offered at Elizabeth Street Car Park compared to other markets across Melbourne.
10. The benchmarking review identified that:
 - The management at South Melbourne Market (SMM) and Queen Victoria Market (QVM) are both responsible for the management and revenue associated with the car park operations for the markets.
 - Both of these markets offer a 'discount' for shoppers on trading days albeit different in both locations.
 - Preston Market offer 2 hours free parking on all Market Days.
 - Benchmarked markets utilise their car park asset to help drive visitation to the markets.
 - There is significant capacity at the Elizabeth Street carpark to improve visitation and overall revenue for the carpark long-term.
11. As an outcome of this analysis, PMPL proposed to Council an initiative to pilot 'Free Parking' at the Elizabeth Street carpark on Market Days.
12. The objective of the trial was to increase customer footfall and dwell time at the Prahran Market, in order to promote greater utilisation and patronage of the market to improve the Market's financial returns to both vendors (increased sales via higher

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customer volume) and Stonnington City Council as the facility owners (via attraction of new or eventual renegotiations with existing leasees to adjust rental arrangements due to improved vendor profitability).

13. To facilitate this request and understand the financial impacts on Council in approving a free carparking trial, Council Officers were asked to analyse the revenue risks of a number of scenarios at the Elizabeth carpark that could meet the project's objectives. The options analysed (which also considered any impacts on Council's other multi-deck carparks within the Prahran precinct) included:
 - Free Parking on Market Days 7 to 11am
 - 2Hrs Free Parking on Market Days before 11am
 - 1Hr Free Parking on Market Days before 11am
 - Free Parking for the Second Hour on Market Days 5 to 11am
 - A Validation Model before 11am.
14. The analysis determined that the financial impact was estimated to range from \$40,000 dollars to \$295,000 per annum depending on the option approved.
15. After considering the impacts of both the financial scenarios as well as to the Precinct Traders, it was recommended to Council that a 6-month Pilot period be offered to facilitate the Market/Precinct initiative as per the below:
 - Free Parking on Market Days 7 to 11am
 - Supporting Analysis - This proposal has been assessed using the available parking data for period 2 May to 30 June 2024, which was then annualised (taking into consideration seasonal parking revenue trends). In addition, there is expected to be an impact of the proposal on Council's other multi-deck carparks within the Prahran precinct.
 - Projected Financial Impacts - Total Revenue Loss for 6 months - \$75 to \$85k (depending on the impact on other carparking)
 - Trial Period - From 1 November 2024 to 30 April 2025.
16. In assessing the impacts and success of the 6-month trial period and determining how this initiative could be progressed, if successful, into the long-term, the following reportable target metrics were approved:
 - Increased Carpark utilisation (Elizabeth Street)
 - Increase in footfall
 - Increase in dwell time
 - Increase Precinct spend (if available)
17. Financial impacts of the trial were proposed to be mitigated/offset through other positive forecast variance to budget movements through the financial year, with any

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long-term opportunity to be assessed against the future rental yield from the Market to Council.

18. To support the promotion of the trial, the project proposed that Council would be responsible for communicating the initiative to the Precinct area (Local Traders and Residents) and PMPL would be responsible for communicating to the Prahran Market Traders and their customers. From a marketing perspective, the direct promotion of the trial was the responsibility of PMPL.
19. From a Council communication prospective, a channel was available over the Pilot period.
20. Via the Stonnington Connect page to enable feedback from the local area and to support the assessment of the Pilot.

Key Issues and Discussion**Trial Outcomes**

21. The free car park trial had a number of assessment metrics to gauge the overall impact of car parking on market patronage. In determining the success of the trial, all the metrics must be considered together with the economic impacts on the car parks weighed against community considerations and market usage numbers. The trial outcomes for the reportable target metrics noted above are analysed in detail below:

Car Park Usage and Revenue Impacts

22. As expected from the provision of free car parking, the Elizabeth Street facility exhibited an increased number of parking transactions when compared to the same time in the previous financial year. The total transactions increased from 90,855 (2023-24) to 99,724 (2024-25) over the period November to April on Market Days, which is an increase of 9.76% on the previous year. The resulting impact on revenue was a decrease of (1.31%) over the same period when compared to the previous financial year. Given Council had increased fees significantly from in the 2024-25 year, this result reflects a lower-than-expected revenue take than would have been achieved without the free car parking trial. This is demonstrated by the overall results achieved during this period at the Prahran Square car park, which resulted in a revenue increase of 13.96% based on a volume reduction of (6.64%).
23. The trial was anticipated to have an impact on the surrounding paid car parking options such as Prahran Square but the results have not delivered this outcome. Using the Prahran Square experience as a basis, Elizabeth Street would have expected to achieve a higher revenue generation however, the associated reductions in transactions was also mitigated by the activation of the trial. This outcome is also consistent with Council's budget to actual reporting for the Elizabeth Street car park which was showing a positive revenue variance of 17% in the financial year period prior to the trial's start. The overall conclusion is that:

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- Car parking revenue was impacted by around 15% (approximate revenue loss of around \$70,000) despite seeing a slight comparable year decrease over the trial period; and
 - Parking transactions would have been lower by around (7%) were the trial not conducted, which has resulted in an estimated increase in usage by around 17% from enacting the free trial change.
24. Further detailed analysis comparing ticket duration (parking time) with the prior years numbers was also undertaken to determine whether the free parking resulted in longer stays outside the free parking period. The overall outcomes were:
- For the periods 0-0.5 Hours to 3-4 Hours the number of tickets for these stays excluding December were approximately 5% higher than for the same period in the previous year;
 - For the month of December, there was a significant 15% decrease in the number of tickets over all time periods compared to the same period in previous year; and
 - For the periods 4 Hours and over, there was a movement to the shorter time values of 4-6 Hours with a resulting reduction in tickets for periods greater than 6 Hours. These changes mostly offset each other with the evidence highlighting that the free parking period resulted in no significant net gain in longer stays.
25. The detailed breakdown of income, transactions and stay durations on Market Days over the trial period for Elizabeth Street and Prahran Square car parks each month compared to the same period in the previous year is detailed in **Attachment A**.

Council Community Engagement and Feedback

26. As part of Council's commitment to supporting of the free parking trial project, a communication plan was developed to promote this initiative and seek community feedback on the impact parking has on activation at both the Prahran Market and across the greater precinct area. Communication elements undertaken included:
27. Providing a landing page on the City of Stonnington (CoS) website with details of the trial along with a link to a page seeking community feedback;
- Building a survey to gather this feedback on the trial (using our survey tool);
 - Letterbox dropping residents and retailers within a 400m radius of Prahran Market – including details of the free parking offer and a link to the feedback page to encourage responses;
 - Providing signage within the car park detailing how to provide feedback;
 - Providing content for the Your Business Connect Electronic Direct Mail newsletter communicating the campaign; and
 - Shared Prahran Market social media, where applicable (after caretaker period).

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28. Additionally, posters were displayed at Elizabeth Street Car Park pedestrian traffic points, trolley bays, pay stations and customer service centres.
29. The overall results of the community engagement and feedback received was very positive with 96% supporting the trial. The main themes in the verbatim responses to the survey were:
- Encourages more trade at the market;
 - Makes shopping more cost effective;
 - It's a great incentive;
 - Improves convenience;
 - Improves accessibility; and
 - Encourages more visitors to frequent the market.
30. For Social media impact, while no organic posts were done on Council channels, Prahran Market posts were shared via our social media platform, which resulted in:
- 2.3k views (number of times a post was displayed);
 - 1.5k people reached (number of unique people who saw the post); and
 - 12 interactions (likes etc.).
31. Further detail on Council's community engagement actions and overall public feedback to the trial is provided at **Attachment B**.

Prahran Market Promotion Activities, Feedback and Trial Impacts

32. As part of the trial process, PMPL undertook actions to market/promote this initiative, gain valuable customer/tenant feedback and obtain impact insight metrics to ascertain the effectiveness of free carparking on activation within the Prahran Market. Details of these elements are outlined below:

Marketing/Promotion

33. PMPL undertook a detailed marketing/promotion campaign to promote the free car parking trial and seek community engagement responses, which included:
- Digital promotions featuring bold/fun graphics, simple content led messaging, weekly emails and social media activities over the trial period and voice overs during market hours; and
 - Significant signage in and around the market precinct.
34. These activities resulted in the following positive impacts at the Prahran Market:
- Clear increase in foot traffic over a 12-month period; and
 - Social/community support for the initiative which was demonstrated by the following marketing campaign results: 127.8k people reached and 2.036k total interactions (likes, comments, shares, saves).

35. Further details of these activities are provided at **Attachment C**.

Tenant Feedback

36. In addition to the positive feedback received from community and customers outlined in the marketing/promotion above, PMPL has also obtained significant positive comments from market tenants. Testimonials from the vendors noted the following outcomes:

- Increased foot traffic;
- Improved activation of the market especially during the morning;
- Increased sales/trade over the trial period;
- Improved atmosphere with the market being more vibrant and bustling; and
- Fostering a strong sense of community and enhancement of the shopping experience.

37. PMPL received 30 testimonials from tenants which are detailed at **Attachment D**.

38. As a result of these positive outcomes, traders have requested that the trial be extended or made permanent.

Impact Insight Metrics

39. As detailed earlier, in assessing the impacts and success of the 6-month trial period the following reportable target metrics were approved:

- Increased Carpark utilisation (Elizabeth Street)
- Increase in footfall
- Increase in dwell time
- Increase Precinct spend (if available)

40. Of these targets, PMPL were requested to measure and report on change impacts in footfall and dwell time over the free car park trial period. Increased precinct spend was not easily measured or the data was not readily available, resulting in this indicator not being actioned.

41. Detailed analysis provided by PMPL highlights the following trial outcomes:

- 17.9% increase in average market traffic for the same period when compared to the prior year;
- 25.3% increase in average market traffic when compared to the prior 5-month period before the trial;
- 6.2% or around 2-minute increase in average duration (dwell time spent at the Market) for the same period when compared to the prior year; and
- 4% increase in average duration (dwell time spent at the Market) when compared to the prior 5-month period before the trial.

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42. It is worth noting that the comparison to the previous 5-month period does not include major trading periods such as Christmas which would be expected to have a significant impact of visitor volumes and dwell times.
43. These positive results were further reinforced by the CEO of Prahran Market in his letter to councillors which noted:
- “The trial has been an overwhelming success for traders and shoppers alike.”
44. Further detail on these outcomes and PMPL CEO’s assessment of the trial is provided at **Attachment E**.

Other Changes Affecting Car Parking

45. Since the commencement of the free parking trial, the State Government introduced the Congestion Levy on paid off-street car parks (including Elizabeth Street) which impacts the future viability of all paid parking venues within the City of Stonnington as ongoing financial operations. This impact will now need to be built into any future fee structure for the car park and included in the evaluation of any ongoing options around free parking.
46. Council has commenced this process though the 2025-26 Budget by reviewing parking fees and charges which are proposed to increase significantly from their current levels (between 30% to 79% for all fee types). While enacting this first step, further analysis is required to assess car parking options throughout the municipality to determine multi-deck paid parking’s place within the broader traffic and transport requirements of the area.
47. At the Councillor briefing sessions as part of the 2025-26 Budget development process, presentations on the impact of the Congestion Levy on paid car parking were provided. The table (see Attachment G) highlights the significant impact the levy has on the financial viability of each facility.
48. For the Elizabeth Street car park, the financial position deteriorates significantly from an estimated Financial Year 2025 profit of \$503k to a projected loss in Financial Year 2027 of (\$283k). This outcome includes revenue increases included in the 2025-26 Budget of 39%. In addition, the average occupancy/utilisation of the multi-deck car parks, including Elizabeth Street is low as detailed in the following table:

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Car Park Name	Spaces	Average Occupancy	Maximum Occupancy	Unused capacity (based on max occupancy)	Levy payable on unused capacity
Multideck Car Parks					
Elizabeth Street Car Park (Non-Market Day)		19%	38%	391	\$839,790
(Market Day)	630	32%	84%	101	\$216,720
King Street Car Park	350	25%	57%	151	\$323,575
MacLellan Street Car Park	136	32%	89%	15	\$32,164
Prahran Square Car Park	500	49%	98%	20	\$21,500
Sub-total	1,616	31%	73%	778	\$983,959
At Grade Pay & Display Car Parks					
Windsor Car Park	156	29%	56%	69	\$147,576
Caroline Street South Car Park	24	75%	77%	6	\$11,868
Darling Street Car Park	48	83%	94%	3	\$6,192
Powell Street Car Park	25	52%	92%	2	\$4,300
Murphy Street Car Park	14	79%	93%	1	\$2,007
Sub-total	267	64%	82%	80	\$172,043
At Grade Monthly Fee Car Parks					
St Matthews Place Car Park	20	35%	50%	10	\$21,500
Sub-total	20	35%	50%	10	\$21,500
Total	1,903	48%	73%	868	\$787,502

49. As a consequence of these changes, in the coming years Council will need review how the impacts on the levy can be mitigated and consider options to improve occupancy and financial returns.
50. Given the significant increase in cost to Council associated with this State Government levy, the impact of providing free parking at the Elizabeth Street car park will now have a greater financial impact from lost revenue when compared to the existing outcomes noted above. Given the around (\$70,000) calculated loss of revenue over the trial period, the continuation of free parking would result in a significantly higher level of lost revenue for the 2025-26 Financial Year. Any revenue loss estimate would be impacted by the following new factors:
- The extent increased car parking fees for the 2025-26 Year create an incentive for users of nearby paid parking (such as Prahran Square users) to utilise the free offering at Elizabeth Street. While this was not observed over the trial period, higher fees may encourage this behaviour change and further negatively impact Council revenues; and
 - The impact of significantly higher fees on car park usage and associated changes in revenues. While lower fee increases in the 2024-25 year resulted in mixed outcomes for car park usage and associated revenue outcomes, with Elizabeth Street car park seeing positive revenue budget variance returns despite the introduction of the free trial period, these higher increases may see significant reductions in car park usage over the period further reducing revenues from their projected budget targets.

Trial Conclusions

51. The overall outcomes of the free car park trial were:
- Elizabeth Street usage increased significantly by around 17%;

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- Council revenues were impacted by 15% resulting in a loss of around \$70,000 which was slightly below initial estimates;
 - Average market traffic for the same period when compared to the prior year increased by 17.9%;
 - Average duration (dwell time spent at the Market) for the same period when compared to the prior year increased by 6.2% or around 2-minutes; and
 - Community and Market user/tenant feedback was overwhelmingly positive with 96% of Council survey responses, over 2,000 social media interactions from Prahran Market promotions and 30 trader testimonials all detailing the benefits of the trial.
52. These results highlight the positive PMPL operating outcomes achieved through increased usage at the Elizabeth Street car park, with financial impacts being slightly lower than estimated.
53. Given the approved reportable target assessment metrics for determining the impact and success of the trial, the outcomes above show:
- Increased Carpark utilisation (Elizabeth Street) - Achieved
 - Increase in footfall - Achieved
 - Increase in dwell time - Achieved
 - Increase Precinct spend (if available) – No available, however testimonials and PMPL submissions point to increase sales volume.
54. In addition, the financial impacts of the trial on Councils parking revenue were slightly lower than projected which also highlights the success of the project.

Future Car Parking Support Options Evaluated

55. As a result of the positive operational outcomes from the trial, a number of free or discounted car parking support options were evaluated to determine the financial impact of these on council's revenue following the proposed introduction by the State Government of the Congestion Levy. These support options included:
- Continuing the initial trial for a further 6-month period;
 - Providing discounted car parking rates on Market Days for the first hour;
 - Providing 1-hour free car parking on Market Days;
 - Providing 1-hour free car parking on Market Days for specific time periods including 7-11am, 7-10am, 7-9am and before 9am; and
 - Providing 1-hour free car parking on Market Days via a validation process by traders for purchases over \$20.
56. The financial impact per annum of these options ranged from around \$105,000 to \$706,000, with the 6-month impact being estimated at 50% of these values.

57. A limitation of the trial period was the inability to fully assess the financial benefit (through sale volume metrics or the use of a validation process that equated increased transactions with car parking outcomes) for traders from offering free car parking other than by submissions/testimonials and/or other non-financial details provided. As a consequence of this, the use of a validation process was evaluated as part of the options considered.

Prahran Market Feedback on Proposals

58. Feedback on the proposed options has been provided by the Prahran Market Board and Management Team regarding the various free or discounted car parking options detailed above. The Prahran Market's response is provided at **Attachment F**.
59. Key elements of this response include:
- The option approved needs to focus on the longer term commercial and community benefits from proposing a car park offering, with free parking being the outcome that best meets these objectives;
 - Free car parking is the only attractive offer for shoppers as an incentive to park and shop at the Market;
 - The core premise for providing car parking is to drive visitation to the area including Prahran Market;
 - The 1-hour options proposed are inconsistent with existing free parking offering at South Melbourne and Preston Markets (free for 2 Hours) which would be a disincentive to visitation;
 - The application of free car parking is viewed by the Market as the model that must be implemented and that this offer should apply to all market hours and day;
 - The use of a validation process by vendors is a considerable burden that other markets do not undertake; and
 - Price increases approved in the Council's 2025/26 Budget are expected to have a significant impact on shopping traffic for those that drive to the Market.
60. Based on the above feedback, Prahran Market have stated that there is support for a 1-hour free car parking option on Market Days via validation.

Next Steps

61. To action the proposed recommendations, the following next steps are proposed:
- Develop a Communication Plan on Trial Project Outcomes and Council Decisions on Proposed Recommendations; and
 - Determine Council and PMPL actions required to implement the approved recommendations through the re-establishment of the trial project working group which will be charge with developing the above plan.

Council Meeting - 11 August 2025 - Agenda

Governance Compliance**Policy Alignment**

62. The Council policy which guides and supports the report includes the Revenue and Rating Plan.

Financial and Resource Implications

63. Based on the trial financial impacts and modelling undertaken for the 2025/26 Budget on Car Park Revenue, implementing the proposed 1-hour free parking solution for usage at Elizabeth Street Car Park between 7am to 11am on Market Days via ticket validation by traders for purchases over \$20 be implemented starting 1 September 2025 is estimated to result in lost revenue for the 2025-26 financial year of approximately \$123,000 over a 6-month period. This estimate may be impacted by factors such as parking behaviour change resulting from significant parking fee increases in 2025-26. The use of a validation model may mitigate this impact, which will be monitored over this time.
64. This estimated financial impact will be funded through identified saving in council's insurance premium costs for the 2025-26 financial year.

Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

65. No Council officer and/or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Decision Making Connection Disclosure

66. There were no consultants, companies and any external parties paid throughout the decision-making process.
67. Beneficiaries of the recommendation include PMPL and surrounding area vendors plus Tenants, customers and user of car parking that utilise the Elizabeth Street facility.

Legal / Risk Implications

68. There are no legal / risk implications relevant to this report.

Community Consultation

69. There is no need for further community consultation as part of the extension proposal.
70. However, an updated communication plan will need to be completed as part of the next steps should the recommendation to extend free parking be approved. This is proposed to be in line with the previous plan developed to support the Trial and may include some opportunity for the community to provide feedback.

Human Rights Consideration

71. Complies with the Charter of Human Rights & Responsibilities Act 2006.

Council Meeting - 11 August 2025 - Agenda

Attachments

1. CONFIDENTIAL – Attachment A – Car Park Usage and Revenue Impacts
2. Attachment B - Communication Plan [8.5.1 - 10 pages]
3. Attachment B - Council Community Engagement and Feedback Results [8.5.2 - 3 pages]
4. Attachment C - PMPL Free Parking Marketing Overview [8.5.3 - 6 pages]
5. CONFIDENTIAL – Attachment D – PMPL Car Park Trial Tenant Testimonials
6. Attachment E - Prahran Market Free parking trial customer insights [8.5.4 - 4 pages]
7. CONFIDENTIAL – Attachment F – E Letter to Council Elizabeth St Car Park 090725
8. CONFIDENTIAL – Attachment G – Table

Attachment/s to this report are personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs under Section 3(1)(f).

Attachment/s to this report are private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that -i) relates to trade secrets; or ii) if released, would reasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage under Section 3(1)(g).

8.8 Proposed Divestment 136 Wattletree Road, Malvern

Manager Strategic Property and Revenue: Mark Spaziani

Chief Financial Officer: Julia Gallace

Linkage to Council Plan

Direction 1: A thriving and unique place

1.2 Thriving and desirable businesses

Direction 3: A people-centred and future ready city

3.1 Community focus, connection and engagement

Purpose of Report

To consider feedback from the community engagement process pursuant to the requirements of section 114 of the *Local Government 2020 (Act)* and seek approval to proceed with the divestment of 136 Wattletree Road Malvern (**Property**) and for the CEO to undertake all necessary actions required to execute a successful sale.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **CONSIDERS** the feedback received during the community engagement period for the proposed divestment of 136 Wattletree Road, Malvern, being the property contained in certificate of title Volume 9352 Folio 298 on Title Plan 741688K (**Property**), consistent with the alternative motion adopted by Council on 17 November 2025.
2. **APPROVES** the divestment of the **Property** through a public sale process.
3. **AUTHORISES** the Chief Executive Officer to proceed to undertake all necessary actions required to divest the **Property** via a public sale process including determining an acceptable reserve sale price for the **Property** in line with the current independent valuation.
4. **APPROVES** the use of net sales proceeds to be held in the Future Fund Reserve specifically for future capital investment.

Executive Summary

1. Following approval by Council, community engagement was undertaken in relation to the potential divestment of the **Property**, in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy and to meet the requirements of section 114 of the Act.
2. The community engagement took place from 8 December 2025 to 30 January 2026.
3. Through the community engagement process, Council received 23 submissions:
 - 22 via survey on the Connect Stonnington portal and
 - 1 via email.
4. There were 3 identified themes from the feedback, as detailed in Item 27 below. Officers have provided a response to each of the feedback themes.
5. After careful consideration of community feedback, Officers recommend proceeding with the divestment of the **Property**.

6. Officers also recommend that Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to proceed to undertake all necessary actions required to execute a successful sale.
7. It should be noted that the Property is located within a proposed Train and Tram Zone Activity Centre core – an initiative of *Plan for Victoria*, the Victorian Government's 30-year strategic land used plan. Community consultation is underway and final planning controls are expected to be implemented later this year.

Background

8. MECWA Limited (**MECWA**) occupied the Property as a not-for-profit opportunity shop since the early 1970s. In 1978, Council (at the time City of Malvern) compulsorily acquired the Property, which has a retail floorspace of around 67 square metres and a land size of about 85 square metres. No special or separate rates scheme was used to fund the acquisition.
9. The adjacent site was redeveloped into a car park known as 138-146 Wattletree Road, Malvern.
10. In 2002, Council considered the proposal to convert the Property to car parking, however, it was determined that it was not immediately required for car parking at the time and was to be reconsidered in the future. As such, a new lease was then executed with MECWA at a subsidised rent.
11. In 2005, Council's Manager Transport and Parking advised that the Property could remain as a retail property as it was not required for car parking in the short or medium term.
12. In 2009, Council endorsed \$35,000 for capital works to undertake refurbishment to the kitchen and bathroom at the Property.
13. In February 2025, Council completed approximately \$15,000 of structural brick repairs to the Property.
14. In June 2025, MECWA sent a letter to Council notifying that they will be vacating the Property in August 2025.
15. At its meeting on 11 August 2025, Council resolved to apply for a demolition permit for the Property and noted that it will receive a further report no later than March 2026 on the outcome of the permit application.
16. On 15 August 2025, MECWA vacated the Property and left it in a tidy, neat, and tenable state. There is no significant maintenance required for the Property in the short term.
17. After MECWA vacated the Property, Council considered three options: demolition and conversion to public open space, sale, or retaining the building for commercial lease.
18. The Property is currently affected by the Heritage Overlay (HO156) the *Claremont Avenue Heritage Precinct*. It is identified as an ungraded heritage place to the precinct.
19. The Property was reviewed in the *Malvern Heritage Review* as a contributory place to the *Glenferrie Road/High Street Precinct* (HO349). Council adopted the review and the grading of the Property in November 2022 and is awaiting approval by the Minister for Planning for incorporation into the Stonnington Planning Scheme (**Planning Scheme**).
20. Pursuant to Council's Heritage Policy at Clause 15.03-1L of the Planning Scheme, the policy discourages demolition or partial demolition of contributory buildings unless:

- *The demolition will not adversely affect the significance of the heritage precinct.*
 - *The replacement development is sympathetic to the scale, setback, and significance of the heritage precinct.*
21. The demolition of the Property would therefore not be supported from a heritage perspective.
22. Officers previously recommended that the Property be retained and rented out on commercial terms; however, Council adopted an alternative motion on 17 November 2025 to commence community consultation in relation to the proposed divestment, in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy and section 114 of the Act.

Key Issues and Discussion

23. Council undertook community engagement seeking feedback on the proposed divestment. Commencing on 8 December 2025, the submission window was open for a total period of 54 days which concluded on 30 January 2026.
24. A community engagement progress was conducted through Council's Connect Stonnington portal, where feedback was invited via online survey. This process included the issuance of a public notice of intention to sell, which was published in the Herald Sun on 8 December 2025 in accordance with section 114 of the Act.
25. To ensure owners and occupiers in the surrounding area had every opportunity to participate, letters were distributed to a total of 438 properties, comprising those within a 400-metre (approx.) radius, and the traders' association. In addition, a corflute sign was installed on site. Both letters and the corflute sign featured a QR code and website link, to enable recipients to easily access information and provide feedback.

Summary of Community Feedback

26. A total of 23 submissions were received: 22 through the Connect Stonnington portal and 1 email. Majority of the respondents were Malvern residents (approximately 55%).
27. The feedback highlighted the following key themes, and further details are provided in **Attachment 1 - Engagement report**:
- Retention for community or charitable use
 - Support for sale, including expressions of interest
 - Council's role, costs, and long-term use of the property.
28. Respondents strongly preferred that the Property remains in Council ownership for ongoing community or charitable use. Many referenced the Property's history as a not-for-profit opportunity shop and noted their understanding that it had originally been donated for community benefit. Overall, respondents expressed that selling the Property would result in the permanent loss of a valued community asset. Suggested future uses included a community hub or information centre, accessible meeting or activity spaces, facilities supporting people with disability, small-scale community services, or other initiatives that would continue to provide benefit to the local community.
29. Other respondents supported the sale of the Property, with some expressing interest in purchasing or leasing it. Submissions supporting a sale focused on the future use of the Property and practical considerations (e.g. amenity, access, storage).

Respondents expressing interest in purchasing the Property proposed commercial or retail uses.

30. A small number of respondents questioned Council's role in owning the Property and raised concerns about the costs and viability of retaining it, including consideration of heritage protections.
31. Officers have reviewed the community feedback and provided responses, as detailed in **Attachment 2 - Summary of responses and Officer comments**, and outlined as follows:
 - After MECWA decided to close the opportunity shop, terminate the lease, and vacate the site, Council considered three options: demolition and conversion to public open space, sale, or retaining the building for commercial lease.
 - MECWA has relocated and merged their opportunity shop to the 299 Waverley Rd, Malvern East location. There are a number of other alternative not-for-profit opportunity shops within proximity on Glenferrie Road. The Property was not donated to Council.
 - The recommendation to sell the Property is based on financial sustainability considerations, including ongoing maintenance, compliance obligations, and holding costs.
 - No alternative Council use for the Property has been deemed feasible. Retaining the Property is not viable in the long term, and net proceeds from the sale – if the Property is sold – will be allocated to Council's Future Fund to support reinvestment in community infrastructure.
 - Council's Disposition of Land and Buildings Policy requires that public land be divested, when appropriate, in a way that best serves current and future residents and delivers the greatest community benefit. It also requires sales to be undertaken through a transparent public process that maximises return while protecting Council and community interests.
 - If the proposed divestment is approved, it will be conducted in line with all statutory, governance and probity requirements to ensure a fair and transparent process. Any expressions of interest will be managed through this formal process.
 - Council holds property on behalf of the community to support service delivery and provide community benefit. As part of its stewardship responsibilities, Council regularly reviews its assets to ensure they align with strategic priorities and remain financially sustainable. Where a property is no longer required for core services or does not represent an efficient use of public resources, Council has an obligation to consider selling the property.
 - The Property is located within Commercial 1 Zone under the Stonnington Planning Scheme. It is subject to a Heritage Overlay (HO156) within the Claremont Avenue Precinct. Although it is identified as an ungraded heritage place within the Claremont Avenue Precinct, it has been reviewed and identified as a contributory place to the Glenferrie Road/High Street Precinct (HO349). This revised grading was adopted by Council in November 2022 and is awaiting formal incorporation into the planning scheme. The demolition of the Property and conversion to open space was contrary to Council's

Heritage Policy and Guidelines and was not supported by Council's Heritage Advisor and Statutory Planning Manager.

- The Property is within a proposed train and tram zone activity centre core Train and Tram Zone Activity Centres Program – an initiative of *Plan for Victoria*, the Victorian Government's 30-year strategic land use plan. Community consultation is underway, and final planning controls are expected to be implemented later this year. The Property is not proposed to be rezoned.
- If the Property was divested, any future planning application for the use or development of the Property will be assessed in compliance with the applicable planning controls and the Stonnington Planning Scheme.

32. Details of the Connect Stonnington verbatim submissions and email submission are provided in **Attachment 3 - Verbatim submissions (Redacted)**.

33. The following outlines the next steps in community engagement to close the loop with Connect Stonnington followers and respondents:

- a. March - April 2026 – Update the Connect Stonnington page with the final decision and high-level results from the engagement process.
- b. March - April 2026 – Email Connect Stonnington followers and respondents, inviting them to view the updated information on the Connect Stonnington page.
- c. April - May 2026 – Email Connect Stonnington followers and respondents to complete a short evaluation survey on the engagement process.

Divestment Process

34. The *Local Government Best Practice Guideline for the Sale and Exchange of Land* (2009) states that when preparing land for sale, Council should ensure that land is offered for sale in a manner that will ensure maximum price is achieved while protecting the interests of both Council and the public.

35. Should Council endorse the Officers' recommendations the following actions will be required to prepare the Property for sale:

- a. Undertake any required maintenance, and clean and tidy the Property and outdoor areas in preparation for the upcoming marketing campaign
- b. Prior to commencing the public sale process, obtain two or more independent property valuations from qualified valuers to determine the current market value of the Property
- c. Appoint a suitably qualified and experienced real estate agency to manage the marketing and sale of the Property.

36. Appointed real estate agents are expected to provide comprehensive weekly updates covering enquiry, inspections, and overall market feedback.

37. If divestment proceeds, marketing of the Property is anticipated to commence in April to June 2026.

38. The Chief Executive Officer will determine an acceptable reserve sale price for the Property in line with the current valuation advice at the time of sale.

Governance Compliance

Policy Alignment

39. Seeking community engagement on the proposed divestment of the Property is consistent with Council's Disposition of Land and Buildings Policy. This policy outlines Council's responsibility to ensure that public land is divested, when appropriate, in a manner that best serves the interests of current and future residents of the municipality and delivers the best possible community outcome. It requires that sales be conducted through a transparent public process, ensuring the land is offered for sale in a way that achieves the maximum price while safeguarding both Council and public interests. It also stipulates that any proceeds from the sale of property must be deposited into Council's Future Fund.
40. Community engagement on the proposed divestment has been undertaken in accordance with section 114 of the Act and Council's Engagement Policy.

Financial and Resource Implications

41. Following the outcomes of the community engagement process, the recommendation to divest the Property is expected to deliver a positive financial return to Council, with net sale proceeds to be held in the Future Fund Reserve specifically for future capital investment.
42. An independent valuation of the Property dated 1 October 2025 is provided in **Attachment 4: Valuation (Confidential)**.

Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

43. No Council officer and/or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Decision Making Connection Disclosure

44. Officers have provided responses to the submissions received during the community engagement process.

Legal / Risk Implications

45. Section 114 of the Act sets out the requirements that must be completed before council-owned land can be sold. Community engagement is one of these requirements, and the process undertaken provided feedback that has now been considered.

Community Consultation

46. In addition, Council published a public notice in the Herald Sun, distributed letters to owners and residents within the immediate area, including the traders' association and installed corflute signs on-site.
47. Council extended the consultation period beyond the recommended minimum four weeks under the *Local Government Best Practice Guideline for the Sale and Exchange of Land (2009)*. A 54-day engagement period was implemented to ensure broad public participation, recognising that the consultation occurred in the lead-up to the holiday break.
48. Officers have considered all feedback during the community engagement process prior to recommending the proposed divestment of the Property.

Human Rights Consideration

49. This report complies with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Attachments

1. Attachment 1 - Engagement report [**8.8.1** - 4 pages]
2. Attachment 2 - Summary of responses and Officer comments [**8.8.2** - 3 pages]
3. Attachment 3 - Verbatim submissions (Redacted) [**8.8.3** - 2 pages]
4. CONFIDENTIAL Attachment 4 – Proposed Divestment 136 Wattletree Road Malvern [**8.8.4** - 8 pages]

This report is Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released under Section 3(1)(a).

The attachments contain commercial and/or sensitive information. Their disclosure would reveal personal details and valuation data, which are considered key confidential information. While this material is classified as confidential, it may be provided in full to Councillors to support and inform their deliberations.



Wattletree Road Divestment Engagement Report

Prepared by: Engagement & Insights team

Date: 2 February 2026

1.0 Introduction

From 8 December 2025 to 30 January 2026, community feedback was sought on the proposed sale of the property at 136 Wattletree Road, Malvern.

Feedback could be made via an online survey on Connect Stonnington, by mail, or by email.

1.1. Activity data

A total of 23 responses were received: 22 unique survey responses and 1 email.

Number of survey responses	22
Number of submissions via email	1
Total responses received	23

The Connect page had a total of 273 views and 189 unique visitors. The Council report was downloaded 53 times, and Council minutes 28 times.

Total page views	273
Visits	242
Unique visitors	189
Document downloads	
Council report	53
Council minutes	28

1.2. Communications

Following the consistent approach used for divestment engagement activities, letters were sent to 438 properties, and a public notice was displayed in the Herald Sun newspaper, and on the City of Stonnington website on 8 December 2025. There was a corflute sign placed at the front of the property to inform the community about the engagement.

Deliverable / Channel	Audience/reach
Print	
Letter and public notice	438 properties in Malvern
Public notice published 8 December	- Herald Sun newspaper - City of Stonnington website (33 views)
Corflute on site	General community

2.0 Responses

The survey was open on Connect Stonnington from 8 December 2025 to 30 January 2026. A total of 22 responses were received via the survey, with one additional submission received by email.

2.1 Suburb

Respondents were asked what suburb they lived in. Most respondents lived in Malvern (55%).

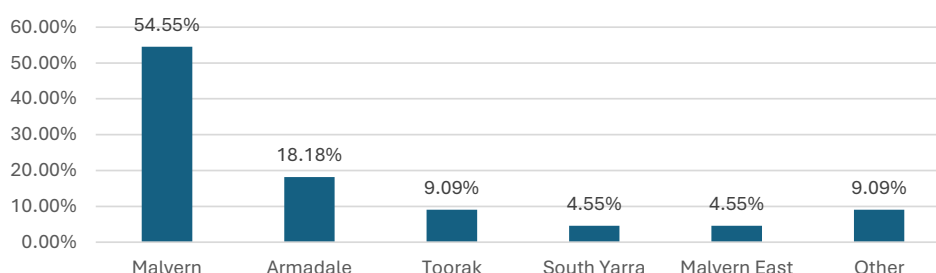


Figure 1: Suburb of respondents (n=22). Note: 'Other' included East Hawthorn, Oakleigh. 0% for Prahran, Windsor, Glen Iris, Kooyong.

2.2 Themes of responses

Respondent feedback centred on the future use of the property, with views expressed both for retaining the property for community use, and supporting the sale of the property, as well as feedback on Council's role and the viability of ongoing ownership.

See Attachment 2 for submissions aligned to themes and officer responses, and Attachment 3 for verbatim responses.

1. Retention for community or charitable use

Respondents expressed a preference for the property to be retained in Council ownership for ongoing community or charitable use. Feedback referenced the property's history as a not-for-profit opportunity shop and an understanding that it was donated for community benefit. Respondents felt that selling the property would result in the permanent loss of a valued community asset.

Suggested future uses included a community hub or information centre, accessible meeting or activity space, facilities to support people with disability, small-scale community services, or other uses that would continue to benefit the local community.

2. Support for sale, including expressions of interest

Respondents supported the sale of the property, with some respondents expressing interest in purchasing or leasing it. Submissions supporting a sale focused on the future

use of the property and practical considerations (e.g. amenity, access, storage). Respondents expressing interest in purchasing the property outlined proposed commercial or retail uses.

3. Council's role, costs and long-term use of the property

A small number of respondents questioned Council's role in owning the property and raised concerns about the costs and viability of retaining it, including consideration of heritage protections.

Other feedback

One submission did not provide substantive feedback.

3.0 Next steps

The list below provides an overview of the next steps of the engagement process for this project to evaluate the activity and close the loop with respondents:

- March - April 2026 - Update and publish the Connect Stonnington page with decision and high level results from engagement.
- March - April 2026 - Email Connect project followers and invite them to view updates on the Connect Stonnington page.
- April - May 2026 - Email Connect project followers to complete a short evaluation survey of the engagement activity.

Attachment 2 - Summary of responses and Officer comments

Response Themes	Summary of Issues Raised in Feedback	Officer Comments
1 Retention for community and charitable use <u>Total Responses: 11</u> 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15	Respondents expressed a preference for the property to be retained in Council ownership for ongoing community or charitable use. Feedback referenced the property's history as a not-for-profit opportunity shop and an understanding that it was donated for community benefit. Respondents felt that selling the property would result in the permanent loss of a valued community asset. Suggested future uses included a community hub or information centre, accessible meeting or activity space, facilities to support people with disability, small-scale community services, or other uses that would continue to benefit the local community.	Response After MECWA decided to close the opportunity shop, terminate the lease, and vacate the site, Council considered three options: demolition and conversion to public open space, sale, or retaining the building for commercial lease. MECWA has relocated and merged their opportunity shop to the 299 Waverley Rd, Malvern East location. There are a number of other alternative not-for-profit opportunity shops within close proximity on Glenferrie Road. The property was not donated to Council. The recommendation to sell the subject property is based on financial sustainability considerations, including ongoing maintenance, compliance obligations, and holding costs. No alternative Council use for the property has been identified. Retaining the property is not viable in the long term, and net proceeds from the sale – if the property is sold – will be allocated to Council's Future Fund to support reinvestment in community infrastructure.
2 Support for sale, including expressions of interest <u>Total Responses: 10</u>	Respondents supported the sale of the property, with some respondents expressing interest in purchasing or leasing it. Submissions supporting a sale focused on the future use of the property and practical considerations (e.g. amenity, access, storage). Respondents expressing interest in	Response Council's Disposition of Land and Buildings Policy requires that public land be divested, when appropriate, in a way that best serves current and future residents and delivers the greatest community benefit. It also requires sales to be undertaken through a transparent public

1, 6, 12, 14, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23	purchasing the property outlined proposed commercial or retail uses.	process that maximises return while protecting Council and community interests. If the proposed divestment is approved, it will be conducted in line with all statutory, governance and probity requirements to ensure a fair and transparent process. Any expressions of interest will be managed through this formal process.
3 Council's role, costs and long-term use of the property <u>Total Responses: 10</u> 1, 2, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21	A small number of respondents questioned Council's role in owning the property and raised concerns about the costs and viability of retaining it, including consideration of heritage protections.	Response Council holds property on behalf of the community to support service delivery and provide community benefit. As part of its stewardship responsibilities, Council regularly reviews its assets to ensure they align with strategic priorities and remain financially sustainable. Where a property is no longer required for core services or does not represent an efficient use of public resources, Council has an obligation to consider selling the property. The subject property is located within Commercial 1 Zone under the Stonnington Planning Scheme. It is subject to a Heritage Overlay (HO156) within the Claremont Avenue Precinct. Although it is identified as an ungraded heritage place within the Claremont Avenue Precinct, it has been reviewed and identified as a contributory place to the Glenferrie Road/High Street Precinct (HO349). This revised grading was adopted by Council in November 2022 and is awaiting formal incorporation into the planning scheme. The demolition of the property and conversion to open space was contrary to Council's Heritage Policy and Guidelines and was not supported by Council's Heritage Advisor and Statutory Planning Manager.

		The Property is within a proposed train and tram zone activity centre core Train and Tram Zone Activity Centres Program – an initiative of <i>Plan for Victoria</i>, the Victorian Government's 30-year strategic land use plan. Community consultation is underway, and final planning controls are expected to be implemented later this year. The Property is not proposed to be rezoned. If the Property was divested, any future planning application for the use or development of the Property will be assessed in compliance with the applicable planning controls and the Stonnington Planning Scheme.
Other Feedback <u>Total Responses:</u> 1 22	One submission did not provide substantive feedback.	

Attachment 3 – Verbatim Submissions

TABLE 1 – FEEDBACK RECEIVED THROUGH CONNECT STONNINGTON

The table below lists feedback received through Connect Stonnington and email.

Individual submitters have been de-identified for the purposes of this report.

Themes:

1. Retention for community or charitable use
2. Support for sale, including expressions of interest
3. Council's role, costs and long-term use of the property

Feedback Number	Do you have any feedback on the proposed sale of 136 Wattletree Road, Malvern?	Theme(s)
1	I suggest 136 Wattletree Road be offered for sale to the Gardiner Hotel. 136 could be used as storage for the Hotel's beer barrels and their garbage and recycling bins. I have observed these items are sometimes sitting in the laneway between the Hotel and 136, which looks untidy and impedes proper vehicle access to the laneway and carpark beyond. The single width door on the side of the 136 building could be removed and a suitable width door with a ramp built to improve access. The Hotel could also store other items such as furniture.	2, 3
2	Once sold this asset will never be recovered. While it is acknowledged that the city of Stonnington is under financial pressure, careful consideration should be made to future and current shortfalls in service delivery. As a mother of a child with a disability living in Stonnington access to services is extremely limited. There are no changing places facilities in the immediate walkable area and this represents a significant challenge for the ongoing use and maintenance of our existence in Stonnington. We would ideally like to see the council acknowledge being increasing pressure on council resources and the lack of available resources at local amenity including a railway station and nearby parks and install a mixed and fully accessible change room and support service in this location. A changing places facility with 24 hour MLC access would be much appreciated. It will also enhance the Glenroy Road shopping Centre as a place that is truly accessible and available to all.	1, 3
3, 4 and 5 (identical submissions)	I strongly object to the Council selling this property. 136 Wattletree Rd Malvern was donated to the Council some 50-60 years for the purpose of using it exclusively for community / charitable purposes. Council must retain this property and use it as was intended by the Donor. Council should not profit from the sale of this property. The Stonnington community should always benefit from the charitable use of this property as was intended when it was donated to the Council.	1
6	I am [REDACTED] Subject to the right terms and conditions I am interested in purchasing 136 world tree Road Melbourne	2
7	To be used only for community projects only, back to helping Malvern community.	1
8	I knew [REDACTED] back in the early 70s when I would cut her lawn free of charge. Her house was in back of ours of Springs Rd Malvern. We spent many hours together talking about her past and my future. [REDACTED] told me how she was [REDACTED] and how she and a few others were given a dilapidated shop for use of struggling old people of Malvern. They had to totally rebuild the shop with free help from Malvern trades. Her photo was on the mezza shop back wall till just before covid, then it vanished. In one of our talks she told me the history of the shop and their hopes and dreams. The conditions of donating the shop to Malvern city was, it was only to be used for helping needy people of Malvern, not to be sold for any other use. (Only for helping underprivileged Malvern people).	1
9	Hello. It's a great position for a council based community information hub. Lots of people pass by daily. Site could be provided on a needs basis for community group information displays or help.	1, 3

Feedback Number	Do you have any feedback on the proposed sale of 136 Wattletree Road, Malvern?	Theme(s)
10	Selling would mean short term gain- and whilst a new shop COULD spring in there - I think it being a commercial asset rather than one for the community, will reduce future ability or capacity for Charities, Groups, people, small biz to access spaces which are exorbitantly prices them out. This site could be used as an after hours community resource for small community groups needing an accessible space to work together. Also its access means that it could be useful as a tool library - or for future needs the community (likely high rise fluctuations) will need for extra community space	1, 3
11	If feasible, it'd be good to retain the property in public ownership given its strategic location. The current property footprint can be extended to transform existing car parks at the rear for a more optimal use of land. Given the lack of green open spaces in the municipality, Council can consider extending the good work on converting existing property here, i.e., reimagining 136 Wattletree Road Malvern into a green open space. There's also an opportunity to provide bike parking and end of trip facilities to this Glenferrie Road Activity Centre / shopping strip. Could also consider the provision of other community infrastructure that's needed from Council's internal assessments.	1, 3
12	Interested buyer, please keep me updated	2
13	This building was opened in 1964 as a not-for-profit opportunity shop. The building was given to the council on the condition that it continue to be a not-for-profit; therefore, is the Council in a position to be able to sell it? We, as locals, also seem to see a pattern happening here with the Gardiner Hotel, which seems to use this area as a dumping ground and also, for some reason, was allowed to hook up their mobile refrigerator to 136 Wattletree Road, Malvern, when they hadn't allowed for enough refrigeration capacity within their own premises. This building deserves a lot of respect for its history in Malvern, and it needs to stay as a not-for-profit, have some respect for this one.	1, 3
14	I would be interested in some information into purchasing this property please	2
15	I believe this property was left to Stonnington Council to be used for 'not for profit' activities, I don't believe it should be sold!	1, 3
16	I would be interested the opportunity to purchase 136 Wattletree Road, we would propose to run as a high end Bonsai / Topiary nursery. As my reference I successfully launched and ran [REDACTED] near Prahran and only recently sold [REDACTED] that constructed and still maintains many beautiful gardens throughout Stonnington.	2
17	retain till heritage of this site is approved and its 100% protected first. after its protected, then sell, I see no way to use this but a small lease holder so it would cost more to retain/improve/maintain then revenue it makes. Then as its heritage, a demo into a micropark is non viable.	2, 3
18	I would be interested in buying or leasing the property.	2
19	I would prefer it was retained with a commercial lease	3
20	I am for the sale of the property and interested in the possible acquisition of it as well.	2
21	Why does Council own this building in the first place? Councils are not in the business of being real estate agents! The sooner you sell this, the better! Put the money into fixing the footpaths along Glenferrie Road please.	2, 3
22	No	Other feedback
23	We have received your notice for the proposed disposal of 136 Wattletree Rd, Malvern. As one of the leading commercial agents in Stonnington I wanted to enquire if Council has engaged an agent to sell the property? We would be most grateful for the opportunity to tender for the job. We feel we would be most qualified to handle the sale on your behalf. Happy to discuss further or await your further advice.	2

9 Correspondence

10 Tabling of Petitions and Joint Letters

11 Notices of Motion

12 Reports by Councillors

12.1 Records of Informal Meetings of Councillors

Purpose of Report

To provide a summary of the matters discussed at the informal meetings of Councillors held on 21 and 23 March 2026 as required by the Governance Rules.

Officer Recommendation

That the Council resolve to RECEIVE the following records:

- a) Record of the Councillor Briefing Session held on 23 March 2026; and***
- b) Record of the Councillor Workshop held on 21 March 2026.***

Governance Compliance

Policy Implications

1. Chapter 6 of the Governance Rules provides a summary of the matters discussed at an informal meeting of Councillors is to be tabled at the next convenient Council meeting and recorded in the minutes of that Council meeting.

Financial and Resource Implications

2. Other than Council officer time in preparing the Council report and the Record of the Informal Meeting of Councillors, there are no financial and resource implications associated with the report.

Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

3. No member of Council staff involved in advising or in preparing this report has declared a material or general conflict of interest in relation to the matter of the report.

Legal and Risk Implications

4. Should a summary of the matters discussed at an informal meeting of Councillors not be tabled at the next convenient Council meeting and recorded in the minutes of that Council meeting then the Chief Executive Officer would be in breach of the Governance Rules. Beyond that, it is the ineffective management of Council's reputation and brand.

Community Consultation

5. There was no requirement for community consultation.

Human Rights Consideration

6. The list of prescribed human rights contained in the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 has been reviewed. It is considered that the proposed

recommendation contained in this report present no breaches of, or infringements upon, those prescribed rights.

Attachments

1. Record Councillor Workshop 21 March 2026 [**12.1.1** - 3 pages]
2. Record - Councillor Briefing Session - 23 Mar 2026 [**12.1.2** - 3 pages]

RECORD

Councillor Workshop

Held on
Saturday 21 March 2026

Prahran Town Hall
180 Greville Street, Prahran



Informal Meeting of Councillors held on 21 March 2026 - Record

Meeting Information	
Meeting Name/Type	Councillor Workshop
Meeting Date	Saturday 21 March 2026
Attendees	
Councillors	Cr Melina Sehr (Mayor) Cr Meghan Hopper PhD Cr Sally Davis Cr Jami Klisaris (from 10:20am) Cr Kate Hely Cr Tom Humphries Cr Jamie Bell Cr Steve Stefanopoulos OAM
Apologies	Cr Samantha Choudhury (Deputy Mayor)
Staff	Chief Executive Officer Director Organisation Capability Director Environment and Infrastructure Director Planning & Community Chief Financial Officer Executive Manager Governance & Public Affairs Strategy Business Partner Manager Transport & Parking Manager Active Communities Manager City Growth Senior Sport Active Spaces Planner Coordinator Strategic Planning Coordinator Special Projects
Guests	Noel Dempsey – CEO, Prahran Market

Informal Meeting of Councillors held on 21 March 2026 - Record

Councillor Workshop – 21 March 2026	
Meeting commenced: 9:00am	
Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest	Cr Meghan Hopper PhD – General Conflict of Interest – Off-Street Car Park Asset Review.
Matters discussed	• Transport Strategy • On-Street Parking Management • Strategic Off-Street Car Park Asset Review • Congestion Levy Impact Management • Open Space Strategy • Sports Infrastructure Plan • Early Years Infrastructure Review • Prahran Market
Meeting concluded: 4:05pm	

RECORD

Councillor Briefing Session

Held on
Monday 23 March 2026

Committee Room
Stonnington City Centre

311 Glenferrie Road, Malvern



Informal Meeting of Councillors held on 23 March 2026 - Record

Meeting Information	
Meeting Name/Type	Councillor Briefing Session
Meeting Date	Monday 23 March 2026
Attendees	
Councillors	Cr Melina Sehr (Mayor) (until 6:51pm) Cr Samantha Choudhury (Deputy Mayor) Cr Meghan Hopper PhD Cr Sally Davis Cr Kate Hely Cr Tom Humphries Cr Jamie Bell Cr Steve Stefanopoulos OAM
Apologies	Cr Jami Klisaris
Staff	Chief Executive Officer Director Organization Capability Director Environment and Infrastructure Director Planning & Community Chief Financial Officer Executive Manager Governance & Public Affairs Manager City Business Manager City Growth Manager Strategic Property & Revenue Coordinator Compliance Coordinator Planning Appeals Coordinator Statutory Planning Coordinator Parking Services Senior Governance Officer Governance Officer
Guests	Prahran Market Chief Executive Officer Prahran Market Finance Manager Prahran Market Board Member Chair, Stonnington Animal Management Taskforce

Informal Meeting of Councillors held on 23 March 2026 - Record

Councillor Briefing Session – 23 March 2026	
Meeting commenced: 6:00pm	
Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest	No conflicts of interest were declared at the meeting
Matters discussed	4.1 – Prahran Market Q2 Report 4.2 – Stonnington Animal Management Taskforce Findings 4.3 – Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-29 4.5 – Planning Application 0574/25 – 38-40 Bruce Street, Toorak 4.6 – Significant Community Benefit Policy 4.7 – Proposed Divestment 136 Wattletree Road, Malvern 4.8 – Elizabeth Street Car Parking Project 4.9 – Stonnington Illicit Tobacco 4.10 – Digital Parking permit Implementation
Meeting concluded: 8:48pm	

13 Questions to Council Officers

14 Urgent Business

15 General Business

16 Confidential Business