

City of Casey

Quarterly Community Report

APRIL TO JUNE 2024



Statement of Acknowledgement

The City of Casey proudly acknowledges the traditional owners, Casey's Aboriginal Communities and their rich culture and pays respect to their Elders past, present and future.

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as Australia's first peoples and as the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we work and live.

Diversity Statement

The City of Casey is home to remarkable diversity with many cultures, languages, faiths and communities of worship, ages, LGBTIQA+ identities, and landscapes together forming our rich and dynamic community story.

From our first Australians to our most recent arrivals and every wave between, the City of Casey welcomes and represents all community members and their respective ambitions to live healthy, rewarding, and happy lives. We recognise this diversity as our strength and we aim to share, nurture, and celebrate it.

OUR ADMINISTRATORS

In February 2020, the elected Councillors were dismissed by an act of Parliament. Three Administrators, appointed by the Minister for Local Government now fulfil the role of the Council until October 2024.

The Administrators are:

- Noelene Duff PSM — Chair of Administrators
- Miguel Belmar
- Cameron Boardman

Also in February 2020, the Municipal Monitor released a report on the City of Casey Council. This report included two recommendations for Council's Administrators to undertake:

1. a thorough review and embedding of policies, procedures and processes for more effective decision-making and responsibilities; and
2. the development and implementation of an extensive municipal-wide program to develop more and diverse community leaders, greater participation in setting a vision for Casey, and more awareness and interest in local democracy, the role of Council and the responsibilities of Councillors.

In support of these recommendations, Council's Administrators conducted a Governance Audit in April 2020, which then informed the Integrity and Ethics Action Plan. The governance audit comprehensively covered all areas of Council including:

- Direction and leadership
- Culture and behaviour
- Structure, systems and policies
- Decision making
- Communications and engagement
- Capability

Fourteen actions were identified to be undertaken by Council staff in response to the audit and have now been completed. Measures introduced as part of the audit included:

- reviewing governance and integrity systems
- setting out a clear governance audit and action plan
- endorsing a new protocol and a policy for Councillors and their role in Land Use Planning
- developed a new policy to guide strategic planning scheme amendment requests from proponents/developers
- reviewed delegations to ensure they are appropriate
- embedding conflict of interest obligations, including specific tailored workshops with Planning Services officers.

As part of our ongoing commitment to addressing these recommendations, Council Plan Strategic Objective 6 (Ensure good governance and transparent decision making) has been embedded into our reporting framework.

A program for the return to elected Councillors has been created, including a Council officer capability uplift program and detailed Councillor induction program. Three Role of Council information sessions have been held with prospective candidates since November, with Casey hosting the south-east MAV Stand for Council Session in May.

In addition, Councillor related policies are being reviewed and presented for endorsement to Council over the coming months.

CHAIR OF ADMINISTRATORS MESSAGE



Noelene Duff PSM
Chair of Administrators
City of Casey

I am pleased to present the Quarterly Community Report for the April to June 2024 period, and the last quarterly report for Year 3 of the Council Plan 2021-25.

The Panel of Administrators, comprised of myself, Miguel Belmar and Cameron Boardman, feel very privileged to work on behalf of the community to plan for the future and deliver services and facilities for the benefit of Casey's residents.

The majority of the initiatives outlined in the Annual Action Plan 2023/24 are now complete. Highlights include:

- Implementation of the Connected Libraries contemporary service model – The service model took shape this year with the implementation of multiple community focused offerings, such as the mobile library van, library lockers at Orana, Manna Gum and Cranbourne West Community Hubs and the creation of a Library Lounge at Cranbourne West Community Hub.
- Implementation of emission reduction initiatives – During the quarter a formal contract was signed with the Victorian Energy Collaboration. This fulfills Council's commitment to source 100% of its electricity supply from renewable sources by 2025 and progress Casey towards its goal of Net Zero corporate emissions by 2030.
- Increase of biodiversity and tree canopy cover – Council's annual tree planting initiative achieved a 100 per cent completion rate as part of the Capital Works Program. The Greening Casey plan will be presented to Council for approval in August and will provide a comprehensive roadmap for the City of Casey to increase tree canopy cover, build climate resilience and create places people love.

During the financial year, there were 37 actions planned for delivery, including three actions carried over from the previous financial year. Of the 37 actions planned for delivery, two actions will carry over to the new financial year. For more information, please see page 3 of the report.

Council's Capital Works Program aims to provide infrastructure that helps people connect socially and build strong, healthy, and resilient communities. The program features an investment of \$149.2 million to deliver approximately 358 projects during 2023/24.

During the quarter, a number of projects achieved completion, including the Max Pawsey Reserve Stormwater Harvesting, Max Pawsey Oval Reconstruction, Pearcedale Recreation Reserve Football/ Cricket Pavilion and Casey Fields Fitness Trail Stage 2 projects. For more information, please see the Capital Works Highlights section on page 26 of the report.

During the quarter, 20,800 people visited the Casey Conversations page to have their say on a range of consultation opportunities. More than 4,179 feedback submissions from the community were received via Casey Conversations on eight major projects. One of these projects was the proposed governance rule changes where the community was invited to submit their suggestions regarding the proposed changes. Council received two written submissions, and community's feedback was considered before the rules were endorsed in June 2024.

I would like to thank all members of the community who participated in community engagement activities and events and encourage everyone to take the opportunity to get involved to help shape a better future for our city.

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the City of Casey's Quarterly Community Report for the April to June 2024 period.

The Quarterly Community Report provides a detailed statement of Council's performance against the *Council Plan 2021-25*.

It also outlines the progress of delivering the *Annual Action Plan 2023/24*, capital works project delivery, community engagement updates and other details as requested by the Minister for Local Government.



COUNCIL PLAN PERFORMANCE

This section provides a detailed update on Council's progress in delivering the *Annual Action Plan 2023/24*, for the April to June 2024 period.

There were 37 actions planned for delivery in 2023/24, including three actions carried over from the previous financial year. Of those 37 actions, 35 have been completed and 2 will carry over to the 2024/25 financial year.

The three actions in progress that will carry over to 2024/25 are:

1. Undertake a strategic review of Council's property portfolio to ensure Council's landholdings are appropriate for current or future service need.
2. Work in partnership with the community to support the activation of a new Family and Community Centre in Clyde North to increase opportunities for families to access key services and feel a sense of belonging at a local level.



Strategic Objective 1

Deliver sustainable infrastructure and activate places

Strategy 1.1 Advocate and build an accessible and well-connected local transport network

Due date: 30 June 2024

Action: Influence State and Federal Government priorities for infrastructure investment, grants and partnerships to improve and deliver infrastructure for the growing Casey community.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: Council has embedded State budget projects into the 2024/25 Capital Works Program to support their successful delivery. In June 2024 Council officers attended a briefing with State Ministers to discuss infrastructure investment priorities.

Council has been successful in securing funding via the State Government's Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution (GAIC) fund to support the delivery of some important local infrastructure and transport projects. These projects include:

- Shared user path design and construction of Craig Road, Botanic Ridge
- Shared user path development of Soldiers Road, Berwick
- Land acquisition for the new CFA Clyde Fire Station
- Extended bus service on Casey Bells Road in Casey
- Bus service extension to Clyde North via Hardys Road in Casey

Strategy 1.2 Foster partnerships that ensure Casey remains a destination for arts, culture, sport and leisure

Due date: 30 June 2024

Action: Leverage sporting partnerships and events of significance to provide residents opportunities to watch, and pathways to participate in higher levels of sporting competition within the City of Casey.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: During the quarter several events/activities were hosted across the municipality, including:

- The Melbourne Storm Casey Round at AAMI Park saw 20,000 people attend the game, including 100 Casey residents who were provided free tickets as well as some of the Casey Award Winners. An on-field interview with Council officers gave Council an opportunity to promote the Melbourne Storm partnership.
- The Melbourne Football Club Little Demon Day saw 2,000 people attend the event.
- A Melbourne Storm & NRL Victoria Rugby League 9's Schools Tournament which saw 500 spectators attend.
- Round 2 of the Victorian Football League and women's Victorian Football League included 14 games.

Strategy 1.3 Design, build and cultivate places that create a sense of belonging, connection and pride

Due date: 30 June 2024

Action: Finalise the detailed design for a new Cranbourne Community Hub where the community can access services, connect and learn.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: The proposed Cranbourne Community Hub is a purpose-built facility that will bring together Council and community services in central Cranbourne and aims to improve interactions with Council. The co design process for the Cranbourne Community Hub has commenced with stakeholder workshops held in May and June 2024. The workshops explored shared vision, aspirations, service values, site constraints, site opportunities as well as required building elements.

Further progress updates will be included as part of the 2024/25 council reporting

Action: Finalise the construction of major infrastructure projects including Casey Fields Soccer Stage 2, Max Pawsey Stormwater harvesting and wetland, Pearcedale Recreation Reserve Pavilion, Robert Booth Recreation Reserve Pavilion and Clyde Township Family and Community Centre.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: This quarters construction updates:

- Casey Fields Soccer Stage 2 — in March 2024, the Casey Fields Soccer Stage 2 - City Football Academy project was successfully completed. Melbourne City Football Club have now commenced operations.
- Max Pawsey Stormwater Harvesting and Wetland — all equipment has been installed and works completed for the Max Pawsey Stormwater Harvesting project. The only outstanding item is the power/meters which is expected to be delivered by AusNet in July
- Pearcedale Recreation Reserve Pavilion — all works for the Pearcedale Recreation Reserve Pavilion were completed in May 2024 and the club has now taken up occupancy.
- Robert Booth Recreation Reserve Pavilion — this project was completed in December 2023 and a sporting club is now occupying the facility.
- Clyde Township Family and Community Centre — Original building works were delayed due to the contracted builder going into liquidation during construction. A re-tender process was undertaken in early 2024, and a new builder was contracted to finish the remainder of the project. Building works recommenced in March 2024 and completion of the centre is expected in early October 2024. Building works on the Clyde Township building is practically complete ahead of schedule, with landscaping currently underway.

Action: Build strong relationships and deliver gender equality initiatives that are inclusive and reject violence against women in Casey communities.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: The *Safe and Equal Casey: Gender Equality and Prevention of Violence Against Women Strategic Plan 2022-2032* initiatives are aimed at empowering community members and raising awareness of the prevention of violence against women in multicultural communities within Casey through internal and external partnerships.

During the quarter a number of women empowerment programs were held:

- The Women Friendship café at Ramleigh and Manna Gum raised awareness on various issues including gender equality and causes that lead to violence. Women are connected to support services if there are any disclosures that require further support. During this program it was noted that women are seeking more information around business and trades to improve their financial independence.
- The Community Seed Initiative Driving program was designed for women who have newly arrived and are struggling to become independent due to an inability to access driving classes. This program has funded 13 women to help them learn to drive.
- Healthy Families, Healthy Relationships - Connect/Respect and Thrive program that aims to support Refugee/Asylum seekers that speak Farsi/Dari/Hindi/Urdu/Punjabi languages. These workshops were conducted in Burmese/Rohingya/Indian and focussed on raising awareness on family violence, causes, awareness of laws in Australia and family violence support services. Women have been connected to support services through this project.
- The Hampton Park Project included Council's Kindergarten team, focused on building capacity of the kindergarten teachers and team leaders to recognise, respond and refer in culturally appropriate ways. This project empowered staff to feel supported in their work and the ability to provide options for families. Weaving workshops, held at the Aboriginal Gathering Place provided communities support with conversations around the prevention of family violence. Weaving has deep cultural significance in First Nations culture and produces works of beauty. It is also a way to share knowledge, connect to people, and Country while inviting mindfulness and a place of quiet yarning.
- The Hakimah Workshop program connected with community leaders to support women with a Refugee and Asylum seeker background. Encouraging them to share their stories in a safe space and find innovative solutions to understand ways in which they can access services and raise awareness within their own communities.

Action (carried over from 2022/23): Advocate to the Victorian and Australian Governments for funding to help deliver the Doveton Pool in the Park Masterplan.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: While Council allocated funds in the 2024/25 Council Budget to commence Stage 1 works (pool redevelopment), no funds were allocated in the State or Federal Government budgets for Doveton Pool in the Park redevelopment project. Council has been advised to make an application to the Forecast Funding Opportunity of the Thriving Suburbs Program for Stages 2 and 3. Council is preparing documentation in advance of this program opening for submissions.

Further progress updates will be included as part of the 2024/25 council reporting

Strategy 1.4 Manage urban growth and deliver future-focused infrastructure that is innovative, sustainable and adaptable

Due date: 30 June 2024

Action: Undertake a strategic review of Council's property portfolio to ensure Council's landholdings are appropriate for current or future service need.

Status: In progress ■

Latest update: The strategic review aims to provide a high-level, long-term focus for Council's property assets, as well as a policy framework to guide decision making in relation to Council owned land and property needs. The strategic review of Council's property portfolio will continue into the 2024/25 financial year and will include the review of Council's current strategic property program and Council's Property Strategy. It is expected that further stakeholder engagement will also be conducted in the new financial year.

Further progress updates will be included as part of the 2024/25 council reporting

Action: Continue to work with the Victorian Planning Authority to finalise and implement precinct structure plans to create vibrant new communities in Casey's growth areas around Clyde and Cranbourne.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: Council continues to partner with the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) to prepare the Croskell (Employment) and Casey Fields South and Devon Meadows Precinct Structure Plans (PSPs). During the quarter, Council officers worked with the VPA, state agencies, landowners, and developers to progress both PSPs through the agency validation phase towards the public exhibition phase programmed for 2024/25.

Strategy 1.5 Prioritise investment that revitalises our existing infrastructure and services to meet changing needs

Due date: 30 June 2024

Action: Implement a contemporary library service model that meets the needs of the community with Casey's library partner.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: All innovation projects are in full operation through Connected Libraries, with community utilisation in Casey's growth areas continuing to expand. Initiatives include the mobile library van, library lockers at Orana, Manna Gum and Cranbourne West Community Hubs and a Library Lounge at Cranbourne West Community Hub.

Council will govern these initiatives through ongoing connection with Connected Libraries and regular reviews of the memoranda of understanding. Council will also continue to build on existing agreements with Connected Libraries to oversee the provision of the library service throughout Casey.

Strategy 1.6 Create and maintain safe and clean open spaces and places

Due date: 30 June 2024

Action: Work with local agencies to reduce anti-social behaviour and prevent crime so that all residents and visitors can work, travel, live and play in a safe and secure environment.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: During the quarter, several key meetings were attended or hosted by Council officers to help reduce anti-social behaviour and prevent crime. Meetings included:

- The Safer Casey Reference Group meeting was held with the local police command and shopping centre managers. A number of discussions occurred to help identify local crime trends and policing priorities, as well as a presentation on a local alcohol and drug recovery centre program.
- Council officers attended three Casey Neighbourhood Watch meetings and supported increasing membership numbers by improving the group definition, purpose and priorities.
- Council officers also attended four new estate safety committee information sessions held at Smiths Lane and Marriot Waters.
- In addition, Council officers responded to residents' concerns regarding antisocial behaviour in parks in Endeavour Hills and carparks in Berwick.

Action: Renew playgrounds and parks to ensure the community is provided with safe and fit for purpose public open spaces.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: The City of Casey's Playground Strategy guides the provision and management of playground facilities to meet the present and future needs of Casey residents. This means that the location, scale and number of playgrounds changes every year. During the 2023/24 financial year all playground renewal projects were completed and open to the public. A number of renewal projects completed during the year included, the Hampton Drive playground renewal, the Cherryhills fitness station, Avery Drive half basketball court and Nestle Retreat Reserve Playground.

Following community feedback of last year's mowing performance, Council conducted a thorough review of our mowing services model and have committed to providing an improved service to our community. In line with this commitment, seven new mowing contracts were awarded to help maintain our parks and open spaces. The contract expansion will help Council deliver a more effective mowing service for our community and address the backlog of grass growth through the spring months.

Strategic Objective 2

Grow Casey's current and emerging sectors

Strategy 2.1 Support the creation of new jobs, by focusing on developing local businesses, attracting investments, revitalising activity centres and facilitating employment pathways

Due date: 30 June 2024

Action: Review and amend Council's regulatory process for local businesses to make it easier to do business in Casey and increase economic activity.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: During the quarter Council initiated a 6-week project with Department Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions. This project will support Council to develop a business friendly approach for customers who engage in the regulatory process. The project engaged several businesses and Council officers for their insights and has reviewed a number of products and process to enhance the customers experience when opening or growing their business.

Action: Deliver a targeted investment and attraction campaign aimed at priority industry sectors to bring in new business and create jobs.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: Council launched its Choose Casey LinkedIn page in August 2023, with an aim of promoting Casey's investment attraction program to businesses and investors. The page complements the existing 'Choose Casey' website which highlights the reasons why a business should choose Casey as a place to expand, relocate and grow their business. The page has more than 200 followers with some international followers from Switzerland, Bulgaria, Turkey and South Africa. Planning is underway to launch the Choose Casey website, an initiative to attract businesses and investors to Casey and to promote why they should choose Casey as a place to expand, relocate and grow their business.

Strategy 2.2 Build and leverage partnerships that enhance service provision, infrastructure delivery and funding opportunities

Due date: 30 June 2024

Action: Progress the revitalisation of Council owned land in the Bunjil Place Precinct and Narre Warren Village to create opportunities for new civic, community and commercial outcomes.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: Council officers continued preparation of a commercial approach for the development of the Bunjil Place Precinct, which is exploring the timing and staging of the delivery of the precinct in the context of current external market conditions. Due diligence for other Council owned land within the Narre Warren Village has progressed and preparation of a business case for potential future commercial or development opportunities has commenced.

Action (*carried over from 2022/23*): Work with Melbourne City Football Club to introduce the first year of the Club's Community Initiatives program, which will offer the community a chance to participate in local programs and events, while enhancing the partnership.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: Melbourne City Football Club (MCFC) continued to deliver programs to the community through the 'City in the Community' program, giving access to the local community to professional coaching and training. Discussions between MCFC and Council officers continued throughout this quarter to develop community initiatives for the first year of the partnership.

The initiatives will include community programs, educational programs, a Family Day, podcasts involving MCFC players and Council officers and the delivery of social media promoting MCFC and Casey activities. The partnership will officially commence when the lease license agreement is signed and once MCFC occupy the new soccer pavilion.

Strategic Objective 3

Foster environmentally sustainable practices and work towards being climate ready

Strategy 3.1 Conserve, enhance and restore the natural environment

Due date: 30 June 2024

Action: Implement initiatives that will increase biodiversity and tree canopy cover to work towards achieving climate resilience.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: The annual tree planting initiative has achieved a 100 per cent completion rate as part of the Capital Works Program. Furthermore, the Greening Casey plan is slated for Council approval in August. The Greening Casey plan is a comprehensive roadmap to increase tree canopy cover throughout Casey, build climate resilience and create places people love.

Strategy 3.2 Contribute towards a circular economy through waste management and resource recovery

Due date: 30 June 2024

Action: Progress the procurement of an Advanced Waste Processing solution to replace landfill as the preferred method of residual waste disposal and secure the long-term waste needs of South East Melbourne.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: The City of Casey joined 14 other councils in Melbourne's south east to form a company to deliver an advanced waste processing alternative to landfill. This type of company is called a special purpose vehicle (SPV) and is common in projects where there are many organisations working together. In order to secure the long-term waste needs of south east Melbourne, a tender process has been undertaken for the regional procurement of an Advanced Waste Processing provider.

During the quarter, work continued on the evaluation of industry candidates detailed proposals. Council's Administrators will be briefed on the progress of the procurement of an Advanced Waste Processing solution in July 2024.

Further progress updates will be included as part of the 2024/25 council reporting.

Action: Continue rollout of the first stages of the Victorian Government Waste Kerbside Reform Program to ensure consistency across Victoria and enable the increased recovery of recyclable materials.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: The Waste Kerbside Reform Program aims to change how Victorian's recycle so that materials collected from households are high quality and can be re-used to make new products. The program includes changing over bin lids, which has now commenced, and the introduction of a glass service (fourth bin) by the end of 2027. The rollout of compliant bin lid colours continues for all new and replacement kerbside bins.

In June 2024, the tender for bin supply and lid changeover closed, and tender assessments will commence in July. Community consultation for the program will commence delivery in July, with a report expected to be presented to Council in February 2025.

Further progress updates will be included as part of the 2024/25 council reporting.

Strategy 3.3 Support a climate-ready city through climate change mitigation and adaptation

Due date: 30 June 2024

Action: Support and empower the community to reduce their energy usage by providing access to climate mitigation information.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: The draft Climate Resilient Casey Plan was developed and will remain open for public consultation until mid-July 2024. The plan aims to provide a roadmap for a safer, connected and more resilient Casey, where Council and the community are climate ready and better prepared together. It also aims to build the adaptive capacity of Council and the broader community by articulating and integrating environmental, infrastructure, and community considerations. It emphasises the importance of collective action and continuous adaptation to safeguard the future of the Casey community against climate impacts.

This quarter saw the community consultation undertaken for the draft City of Casey Coastal Framework. This framework aims to safeguard Casey's coastal region and address the risks posed by climate change and rising sea levels. Both the City of Casey Coastal Framework and Climate Resilient Casey are due to be presented to Council in August 2024.

Action: Implement emission reduction initiatives with a focus on sourcing green energy, improving building efficiencies and expanding roof top solar on council facilities.

Status: Complete 

Latest update: The City of Casey has committed to a 2030 carbon neutrality target for all council facilities, assets and buildings. Council has investigated a number of options to achieve this goal, including the development of a solar farm in Cranbourne and sourcing green power for 100% of Council building electricity use. In addition, Council developed a 10-year emission reduction capital works program, a building envelope thermal performance assessment to inform an insulation upgrade program across council buildings, and installation of a solar PV system on the Old Cheese Factory woodworkers shed.

This quarter, Council signed a formal contract with the Victorian Energy Collaboration. This fulfills the Environment Strategy commitment to source 100% of its electricity supply from renewable sources by 2025 and progress Casey towards its goal of Net Zero corporate emissions by 2030.

Strategic Objective 4

Advocate to State and Federal Governments for key service and infrastructure delivery

Strategy 4.1 Secure funding through Council's advocacy campaign, Connecting Casey, to provide transport, infrastructure and community services

Due date: 30 June 2024

Action: Identify and progress City of Casey and Greater South East Melbourne region industry development and investment opportunities to support economic growth.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: In May, Council hosted the Greater South East Melbourne (GSEM) Jobs and Skills Summit. This event was well attended and had representatives from all seven member councils as well as The Hon Brendan O'Connor, the Federal Minister for Skills and Training. Following this event a roadmap was taken to Parliament House in Canberra to advocate for the Greater South East Region to receive support to create jobs for the future and ensure workers have the skills they need to live, work and succeed.

Action: Deliver campaigns for priority advocacy projects, including Thompsons Road extension and Casey Fields Soccer Stage 3.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: Advocacy for priority projects including the extension and upgrade of Thompsons Road, Clyde Road duplication, Doveton Pool in the Park and Casey Fields Soccer Stage 3 is ongoing. These advocacy priorities, as well as others, were discussed with Federal and State MPs throughout May and June ahead of their annual budget planning process for 2025/26.

Strategic Objective 5

Create a resilient, active and connected community

Strategy 5.1 Address key health and wellbeing needs within the community, by connecting people to community and services

Due date: 30 June 2024

Action: Strengthen age friendly planning, support ageing in place and positively influence Council's services and programs for older people through the delivery of the Living and Ageing Well Action Plan.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: The Living and Ageing Well Action Plan celebrated its 12 month anniversary with each of the four focus areas progressing well. Progress updates on each of the focus areas this quarter are as follows:

1. Natural and built environment:

- Engagement was undertaken with Councils 55 and older advisory group for the redevelopment of the Ray Bastin Reserve Park, which led to the seniors park being relocated closer to the car park area to enable easier access and participation by older people and people with a disability.
- Making open spaces safer and more accessible for older people through the Open Spaces Strategy.
- Commencement of the Heatwave Resilience Project which works with people of all ages and diversities to create an accessible heatwave resource for community.

2. Social environment:

- Co-ordination and facilitation of three Living and Ageing Well Community Reference Group meetings.
- Strengthening community awareness and knowledge of the impacts of ageism and elder abuse through a variety of engagements.

3. Service environment:

- Caseys Delivered Meals program was successfully transitioned to the Delivered Meals Program with its new supplier, Lite'n'Easy.
- Co-ordination and delivery of customised training programs to address reform needs of aged-care providers operating in the Casey region.
- Launch of the Casey Ageing Well Network. This network brings professionals together to collaborate and collectively respond to and plan for supporting older communities social and health needs.
- Delivery of the Move Well Age Well physical activity pilot which works with older Aboriginal communities and Afghan women groups.

4. Council environment:

- Establishment of the Living and Ageing Well Council Reference Group and facilitation of several meetings.
- Delivery of two ageism training sessions as well as four ageism aware pop-ups for Council officers.

Further progress updates will be included as part of the 2024/25 council reporting.

Action: Advocate and partner to enable greater access to safe, affordable and appropriate housing options into the future.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: This quarter, Casey's Affordable Housing Strategy progress review was finalised and identified seven key focus areas for the remainder of 2024. The three primary objectives are to:

- a) Scope emerging opportunities (at State and Federal levels) to map a range of options that Casey could consider in the affordable housing space;
- b) Determine agreed advocacy agenda and approach for Casey in relation to affordable housing; and
- c) Establish an Implementation Group to undertake the above, as well as continue to support the Casey Affordable Housing Action Plan.

Council also submitted a proposal to Plan Victoria, advocating for Local Government Area (LGA) housing targets that include a minimum quota of social and affordable housing, and for the State Government to permit Councils to apply enforceable, non-voluntary statutory mechanisms to increase social and affordable housing.

The Social Housing Message Guide, a project of the Regional Local Government Homelessness and Social Housing Group Charter, was completed and training for its application was provided. The guide is intended for anyone aiming to build local support and reduce stigma regarding social housing.

A number of updates were also made to the Casey Affordable Housing Strategy page on Council's website to provide more information on work occurring in this space.

Action (*carried over from 2022/23*): Work in partnership with the community to support the activation of a new Family and Community Centre in Clyde North to increase opportunities for families to access key services and feel a sense of belonging at a local level.

Status: In progress ■

Latest update: As the original contracted builder went into liquidation, a new builder was contracted to complete the outstanding works for the community facility in January 2024. Construction is now expected to be completed in October 2024. Once complete, Council will re-engage with the community for further consultation regarding the facility's services. This action will carryover and be reported on as part of the 2024/25 council reporting.

This action will carry over and be reported on as part of the 2024/25 council reporting.

Strategy 5.2 Improve Council decision-making to reflect community needs and priorities

Due date: 30 June 2024

Action: Integrate principles of access and inclusion into Council policy and programs, partners and community organisations through the development and implementation of the Reconciliation Action Plan and LGBTIQA+ Action Plan.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: The endorsement of the Rainbow Action Plan 2024-2028 in June 2024 has led to the facilitation of LGBTIQA+ inclusive actions for the Casey community and Council officers. Through support from the Council's Executive Leadership team and Administrators, the action plan was noted as an important document and resource that ensure principles of access and inclusion are brought into council policy and programs. The actions include development of partnerships with community organisations and other external stakeholders to provide more inclusive services and opportunities for the Casey community.

The Rainbow Advisory group and Councils internal Rainbow Champions Committee will assist the facilitation of the Rainbow Action Plan and will support the actions, initiatives, and partnerships to sponsor the vision of the action plan, to create a City of Casey where LGBTIQA+ people can feel safe to be who they are and can thrive wherever they live, work or play.

In April 2024, the Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) was officially launched, marking a significant milestone in Councils commitment to reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. The organisation is now actively progressing with the implementation of the Year One actions outlined in the RAP and the ongoing commitment to these actions underscores Councils dedication to advancing reconciliation within the organisation.

Strategic Objective 6

Ensure good governance and transparent decision making

Strategy 6.1 Grow the capacity of community leadership through dedicated leadership programs and pathways

Due date: 30 June 2024

Action: Deliver year three of the Community Leadership Program to increase leadership skills in the community, build capacity, and enhance reputation and trust in civic democracy in Casey.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: The Community Leadership Program is a free program for new, emerging and existing community leaders aged 18 years and over, who want to enhance their leadership skills, create new personal and professional networks and learn more about local government. The highly successful 2023 program concluded with the Leadership Masterclass and Graduation Ceremony in November 2023. Since commencing the program in 2021, 89 leaders have now graduated.

Strategy 6.2 Continue to identify opportunities to improve better Council decision making through governance and community engagement

Due date: 30 June 2024

Action: Prepare the organisation and community for the return to elected Councillors in October 2024, enhancing good governance and ethical decision making.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: During the quarter a number of Role of Council sessions were held to support candidates in the upcoming Council Elections. The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) have programmed sessions to support the sector in the upcoming elections. People who attended the MAV and Role of Council sessions are also being informed of key election matters.

An uplift program has also been implemented internally to support Council officers under an elected Council environment and will continue until November 2024.

Further progress updates will be included as part of the 2024/25 council reporting.

Action: Respond to recommendations provided through the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC) Operation Sandon investigation to address their report findings.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: In July 2023, IBAC tabled its Operation Sandon report. The report makes 34 recommendations designed to improve the state's planning processes, promote transparency in decision making, enhance donation and lobbying regulation and strengthen Council governance. In response to these reforms, this quarter, Council revised its Governance Rules to reflect the recommendations of the Operation Sandon Special Report, which were endorsed at the Council Meeting in June 2024.

Protocols for Councillors – Land Use Planning policy was also re-introduced as a stand-alone policy to reflect the role of the Council in the decision-making process for planning matters and endorsed at the Council Meeting on 21 May 2024. It gives effect to relevant IBAC Operation Sandon recommendations that will ensure robust and transparent decision making on matters before the Council.

Two additions to the policy implement recommendations from IBAC's Operation Sandon report (Recommendation No. 7, part No. 26 and No. 6). The first addition is in relation to any Land Use Planning Matter that is before Council for a decision. This addition will require the proponent and those involved in the matter (applicant, developer, landowner, consultant) to declare financial interests to best enable the Councillors to understand any conflicts of interest that may arise.

The second addition to the Policy, to give effect to the IBAC Operation Sandon recommendations, is to require Council to record reasons for why a Council officer recommendation is not supported. This would be required in relation to alternate recommendations for any Planning Scheme Amendment decisions. This will contribute to better transparency in decision making, with all relevant points of the planning scheme amendment process requiring statutory decisions and reasons to be documented, including decisions to authorise, adopt and approve planning scheme amendments.

Action: Respond and advocate to the Local Government Electoral Representation Review to ensure the electoral structure reflects the diversity of Casey's communities and is compliant with the legislative requirements.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: The City of Casey responded to the Local Government Electoral Representation Review's Preliminary Report, supporting the option for a single councillor ward structure, comprising of 12 councillors. In February, the Minister for Local Government confirmed a new structure, and this new structure will come into effect from Saturday 26 October 2024. Work is underway to update Councils systems and processes to reflect this change.

Action: Deliver candidate information sessions to inform the 2024 Election cycle to ensure there is clear understanding of the role and responsibilities of being a councillor.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: During the quarter, several candidate sessions were held for prospective candidates. These sessions were designed to give community leaders and residents the chance to find out more about the diverse range of functions and services local government provides, the role of Councillors and to provide the resources required for potential candidates for the election.

Strategic Objective 7

Create an adaptable, innovative and financially sustainable organisation that delivers maximum community benefit

Strategy 7.1 Enhance our services with a focus on innovation and partnerships, to ensure positive outcomes are delivered to the community

Due date: 30 June 2024

Action: Develop strategic plans for key services to ensure they are innovative, partnership driven and deliver maximum value to the community.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: Strategic Service Plans (SSPs) are used to support Council to plan for services to ensure that community needs can be met into the future. These plans will provide a better understanding of the full impact of service decisions, including the service delivery, asset, and infrastructure requirements. This quarter saw the endorsement of the Business, Skills and Jobs Strategic Service Plan. Previously endorsed Strategic Service Plans were also added to the City of Casey website this quarter.

Action: Implement a range of automated and digital solutions to make it easier and faster for customers to make requests online.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: Council continued to deliver on the commitment to maximise self-service options, with further enhancements developed and provided to the Casey community. These have included enhancements to Councils 'report an issue' on the website via the Snap Send Solve platform which provide further options for customers to report issues.

Work has also been completed to ensure reports are provided to service areas with minimal delay which has resulted in customer issues being resolved faster. New online options for customers to report and request waste related enquires will be available to customers in July and early August 2024. Enhancement of self-service options, has resulted in a 15 per cent increase of online options by the community over the last 18 months.

Strategy 7.2 Identify and implement a sustainable operating model which enhances Casey's future-readiness

Due date: 30 June 2024

Action: Implement new prioritisation and performance measurement for the organisation that focuses on community outcomes and ensures Casey is adaptable and sustainable into the future

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: This quarter saw advancement in the implementation of Council's new performance model, with performance checks and prioritisation implemented to support alignment to community outcomes. This will ensure comprehensive performance reporting is available to adjust priorities and respond to performance challenges that impact the community outcomes. In support of this, work has also commenced on the development of improved performance measures for each of Council's strategic services.

Action: Implement the first stage of technology upgrades across Council's systems to support the future readiness of community service delivery.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: The first phase of a multi-year program of business process and software improvements is progressing to plan and is on track for delivery by mid-2025. These improvements will result in more seamless delivery of council services and an improved customer experience.

Strategy 7.3 Build Council's ability to pursue innovative partnerships for greater community outcomes

Due date: 30 June 2024

Action: Implement key Smart Casey Launchpad projects to improve the uptake of technology, innovation and data to create a connected, sustainable, inclusive and innovative future for our growing City.

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: Sensor deployment at Casey Fields and Stage 1 deployment at Ray Bastin has been successfully completed. Approximately 75 per cent of end users provided feedback that the sensors would be beneficial for data-driven decision-making.

In addition, significant progress has been made in operationalising the living lab, including drafting a playbook and engaging 18 partners so far, resulting in in-kind contributions exceeding \$180,000 this financial year. Throughout this financial year, community engagement has been robust, with over 90 per cent of Community Reference Group members finding the engagement sessions informative, contributing to a Net Promoter Score of 80.

Action: Commence a targeted program to attract new community service organisations that will fill service gaps and enhance the health, wellbeing and safety of residents.

Status: Complete 

Latest update: The Community Service Organisation Growth and Attraction Framework was endorsed by Council in June 2024. This framework sets out a new and dynamic approach to building the sectors capacity and leading coordinated advocacy efforts to attract funding and specialist services to Casey where they are most needed. The new framework was established in response to the *Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2025* which identified the current approach to service provision would not meet residents' needs into the future.

ADMINISTRATOR ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY

During the quarter, the Administrators attended 18 events in the community.

These events included:

- Casey L2P 15 Year Celebration
- Multiple citizenship ceremonies including a ceremony with Melbourne City Football Club at AAMI Park
- ANZAC Day Dawn and mid-morning services
- Volunteer Appreciation Day
- Refugee week citizenship ceremonies
- Melbourne City Football Academy Official Opening

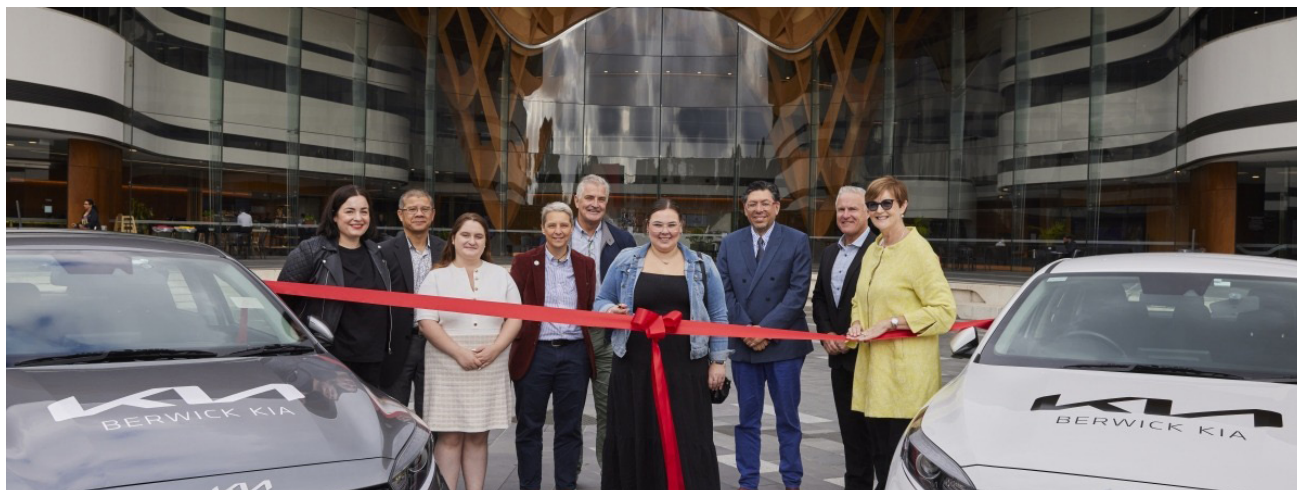


Image: Noelene Duff and Miguel Belmar at the Casey L2P 15 Year Celebration



Image: Noelene Duff and Cameron Boardman at the Melbourne City Football Academy Opening

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

During the quarter, the City of Casey launched eight consultations with our community, using a mix of online engagement activities on Casey Conversations, as well as via email and mail.

During this period, 20,800 people visited the Casey Conversations page and more than 4,179 community feedback submissions were received via the Casey Conversations engagement platform

Casey Coastal Framework



The draft Casey Coastal Framework has been created to proactively plan for changing coastal conditions and increase the resilience of Casey's coastal areas.

Between May and June 2024, the second phase of community engagement took place to share findings from the assessment, ask people their thoughts on different aspects of coastal hazard adaptation, and provide the draft Casey Coastal Framework to community and stakeholders for public comment.

Council is currently reviewing community feedback and it is anticipated that adoption will occur in August 2024. Further information can be found here <https://conversations.casey.vic.gov.au/casey-coastal-framework>

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Proposed Governance Rule changes

Throughout April and May 2024, the community was invited to submit their feedback regarding the Proposed Governance Rules changes. Two written submissions were received. Council considered the community's feedback and endorsed the new rules in June 2024.

Further information can be found here <https://conversations.casey.vic.gov.au/proposed-governance-rules-1>

Max Pawsey Reserve Master Plan

Throughout April and May 2024, Council sought the communities feedback on the changes the Max Pawsey Reserve Master Plan.

A large majority of participants expressed concern regarding the possible changes to the scout hall. Council has taken this feedback and adapted the plan to reflect the community's concerns. Council expects to inform the community in late 2024 of the changes to the plan.

Further information can be found here <https://conversations.casey.vic.gov.au/max-pawsey-reserve-master-plan-2024-review-and-updates>

Want to have your say?

Be the first to hear of any new opportunities to have your say by registering your details on our dedicated community engagement website, [Casey Conversations](#).

We will continue to provide you with opportunities to have your say and be involved in Council projects, strategies and decision-making

Your feedback is crucial in helping us provide the services and infrastructure needed to support Casey's growing community.

CAPITAL WORKS HIGHLIGHTS

Summary

The City of Casey's 2023/24 Capital Works Program features 358 projects and an investment of \$149.2 million.

A map of capital works projects for 2023/24 is available on Council's website at: www.casey.vic.gov.au/corporate-planning-reporting

Max Pawsey Reserve Oval Reconstruction, Narre Warren

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: The total cost of this project is \$2.6 million fully funded by Council. The project included the full reconstruction of the oval including demolition of the existing field and new construction of drainage, cricket turf wickets, irrigation, concrete footpath, picket fencing, and 28m sports lighting.

In the last quarter, turfing of the field was completed in preparation for the 2024/25 season. Sport lighting towers were installed and recycled plastic boundary fencing completed. Project works were completed in June 2024.



CAPITAL WORKS HIGHLIGHTS

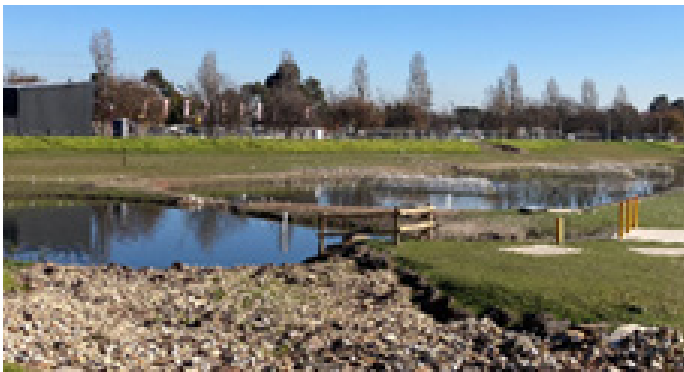
Max Pawsey Reserve Stormwater Harvesting, Narre Warren

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: The total cost of this project is \$6.17 million and funded by Council, the State Government with a grant of \$1.7 million received through the Integrated Water Stimulus Package, and a contribution from Melbourne Water of \$550,000 and South East Water of \$200,000.

The overall Narre Warren Alternative Water project will be delivered in stages. This project comprised of Stage 1A which will harvest and treat stormwater from Fountain Gate catchment which will be used to irrigate Max Pawsey Reserve and for non-potable uses like dust suppression. The proposed stormwater harvesting system will help to reduce the impact of nutrients and pollutant discharge through the landscape to Port Phillip Bay.

This quarter hydroseeding and timber fencing within the wetlands were completed along with planting of the submerged marsh zones. The Advance Treatment Facility (ATF) building works and plant installation was also completed. Final commissioning of the ATF is pending Ausnet providing meters and power to the facility. This is expected to occur mid July 2024.



CAPITAL WORKS HIGHLIGHTS

Pearcedale Recreation Reserve Football/Cricket Pavilion, Pearcedale

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: The total cost of this project is \$4.9 million and is jointly funded by Council and the Victorian Government, with \$2.5 million received through the Growing Suburbs Fund and the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund, with the remainder funded by Council.

The project included the demolition and reconstruction of the current football/cricket pavilion to provide compliant and female friendly facilities that align with the standards outlined in Sports Facilities Framework. The new community pavilion will incorporate 2 football / cricket change rooms, 2 female change rooms (shared football/ netball), 2 umpires/ referees' spaces, community/ social space, canteen/ kitchen, bar, and storage.

Planned benefits include improved customer satisfaction, better space utilisation, enhanced social networks, improved health and wellbeing, welcoming inclusive environment, gender equity, increased participation, job creation, and increased economic output. The project works were completed in April 2024.



CAPITAL WORKS HIGHLIGHTS

Casey Fields Fitness Trail Stage 2, Cranbourne East

Status: Complete ■

Latest update: The total cost of this project is \$1.2million and is jointly funded by Council and the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund – Community Facilities Stream with a contribution of \$250,000 funded by Sport & Recreation Victoria Developers.

The project delivered a 4km fitness trail around the Regional Sporting Precinct. Stage 2 of the Fitness Trail was completed with the remaining 1.3km of path works, 2 fitness nodes along the trail, and responded to insufficient ancillary infrastructure such as benches, water stations, lighting and signage to increase recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities for the Casey region and beyond. The project was completed in June 2024.



CONTRACTS AWARDED GREATER THAN \$5M

Background

Council's contract awarding processes are underpinned by a strong governance framework and best practice procurement processes which enable procurement decisions that:

- use public resources efficiently, economically and ethically
- facilitate accountable and transparent decision making
- encourage competition and are non-discriminatory
- encourage appropriate engagement with risk
- are proportional to the scale and scope of a requirement
- allow for continuous improvement and innovation

Financial year to date

During the April to June 2024 period, three contracts of greater than \$5 million were awarded.

Title	Supplier	Amount (incl. gst)	Date awarded	Awarded by
Animal Pound Services	Lost Dogs Home	\$5,500,000.00	08/07/2023	Chief Executive Officer
Open Space Maintenance – Central Zones 7, 8, 9	Panel of Suppliers (4 Suppliers)	\$40,406,877.63	15/08/2023	Council
Asphalt Resurfacing of Various Roads for year 2023/2024	R & C Asphalt Paving Pty Ltd	\$5,500,000.00	26/09/2023	Chief Executive Officer
CTE00305 - IT Infrastructure Program	Logicalis Australia	\$14,500,000.00	1/10/2023	Chief Executive Officer
CT000825 – General Garden-ing and Mowing Services and Landscape Works	Panel of suppliers (3 suppliers): • Asplundh Tree Experts (Australia) Pty Ltd • Marsupial Landscape Management Pty Ltd • Munns Parks and Gardens Pty Ltd	\$9,308,917.31	2/04/2024	Chief Executive Officer
CT000904 – VECO 2.0 Re-newable Energy Contract	Red Energy Pty Limited	\$17,000,000.00 (Estimated budget cost)	10/05/2024	Chief Executive Officer
CT000907 – Open Space Maintenance (South)	Panel of suppliers (4 suppliers): • Summit Open Space Services • Skyline Landscape Services Pty Ltd • Programmed Property Services Pty Ltd • Munns Parks and Gardens Pty Ltd	\$29,653,885.34	13/06/2024	Chief Executive Officer

Contact City of Casey

03 9705 5200

NRS: 133 677 (for the deaf,
hearing or speech impaired)



TIS: 131450 (Translating and Interpreting Service)

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Customer Service Centres

Cranbourne

Customer Service Centre Cranbourne
Park Shopping Centre, Shop 156,
South Gippsland Highway, Cranbourne

Narre Warren

Bunjil Place,
2 Patrick Northeast Drive,
Narre Warren



City of
Casey