



GLEN EIRA
CITY COUNCIL

BENTLEIGH
BENTLEIGH EAST
BRIGHTON EAST
CARNEGIE
CAULFIELD
ELSTERNWICK
GARDENVALE
GLEN HUNTLY
MCKINNON
MURRUMBEENA
ORMOND
ST KILDA EAST

Glen Eira City Council

Oakleigh Electorate — State Election Advocacy Priorities 2026



Artist's impression of a future Ames Avenue (Rosstown) open space — neighbourhood park, Carnegie.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Glen Eira City Council acknowledges the Boon Wurrung/ Bunurong and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation as Traditional Owners and Custodians, and pays respect to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to land and waterways. Council extends its respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Council honours the rich histories and cultures of First Nations peoples and recognises and values the important contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in enriching our community. We support the Uluru Statement from the Heart and are committed to a *Reconciliation Action Plan* which is underpinned by the principles of self-determination. We work towards improved outcomes and long-term generational change, and to consolidate Glen Eira as a culturally safe place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We are committed to achieving equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to live healthy and prosperous lives and to improve life outcomes for current and future generations.

Glen Eira resides on country that always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

I am pleased to present Glen Eira City Council's advocacy priorities for the Oakleigh electorate. These priorities focus on the Carnegie and Murrumbeena precincts, where our community has told us they want more usable open space, safer and more accessible streets, and modern community facilities that keep pace with growth.

Through these projects and programs, we are seeking to:

- deliver new neighbourhood parks and greener, cooler streets
- modernise key community facilities, including libraries and sports infrastructure
- improve pedestrian and cycling safety, particularly around schools and activity centres
- support safe, inclusive and connected communities, and
- accelerate meaningful climate action and resilience at the local level.

Like many councils, we are facing rising costs and growing demand for services and infrastructure. We are carefully prioritising essential services and making every dollar work harder, but we cannot meet all of these needs alone. Fair and sustained partnerships with the Victorian Government are vital so we can deliver the open space, community facilities, transport links and local programs that our residents rely on.

We invite you to work with us to progress these priorities and to visit Carnegie and Murrumbeena to see first-hand the opportunities these projects present for the Oakleigh community.

Cr Dr Simone Zmood

Glen Eira Mayor



MAJOR PROJECTS AND FUNDING ASKS

CREATING MORE OPEN SPACE AND ACTIVE PLACES



AMES AVENUE (ROSSTOWN) OPEN SPACE — NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK

What we need

\$1.5 million to support the delivery of Ames Avenue Park, Carnegie. Council has already invested \$2.4 million in land purchase, design and demolition. With State Government funding this year, construction could be completed in 2026–2027. This option delivers a new neighbourhood park that addresses the open space gap and improves local amenity, canopy cover and recreation opportunities.

Type of ask

Staged construction funding.

What this delivers

A new neighbourhood park in Carnegie that provides greener streets, local play opportunities and welcoming spaces for the community. The park has been designed to support increased density and growth, while enhancing walkability and liveability in the surrounding streets.

The opportunity

This project addresses a critical open space gap in the Carnegie area, as identified in the *Open Space Strategy Refresh 2020*. Glen Eira has one of the lowest levels of open space per capita in metropolitan Melbourne, with only 1.3 hectares per 1,000 residents. Carnegie's Major Activity Centre is projected to grow by 22 per cent by 2031, with around 70 per cent of new residents living in high-density housing.

Following the closure of the former Rosstown Community facility, Council asked the community what they wanted the site to become. In 2022, residents overwhelmingly supported transforming it into passive open space. Council then purchased the adjoining property to expand the park footprint to 4,062 m². Both sites have now been cleared and are ready to become high quality public open space.

Project readiness

Ready to deliver — detailed design completed.

Community benefit

This park will provide much-needed relief in a densely populated area with limited access to green space. It will improve local liveability, support recreation, and enhance health and wellbeing. The new passive open space will complement nearby sporting reserves, which are already under pressure from population growth.

As well as supporting community use, the park will strengthen local climate resilience by reducing heat, managing stormwater run-off and helping to minimise flooding impacts. Once delivered, it will be an intergenerational community asset that supports social connection, recreation and wellbeing for many years to come.

AMES AVENUE (ROSSTOWN) OPEN SPACE — NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK



Ames Avenue (Rosstown) open space scheme.

AMES AVENUE (ROSSTOWN) OPEN SPACE — NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK



Artist's impressions: Ames Avenue (Rosstown) open space — neighbourhood park, Carnegie.

KOORNANG ROAD REVITALISATION — CARNEGIE

What we need

\$2.25 million in state funding to co-fund detailed design and construction.

Type of ask

Staged construction funding.

What this delivers

Upgrades guided by the *Koornang Road Masterplan*, including:

- more trees and improved shade
- upgraded footpaths
- safer pedestrian crossings
- new seating and public realm improvements
- enhanced lighting and accessibility
- spaces that support outdoor dining and community gathering

These works will create a safer, greener and more welcoming activity centre that supports local traders and encourages people to walk, shop and connect.

The opportunity

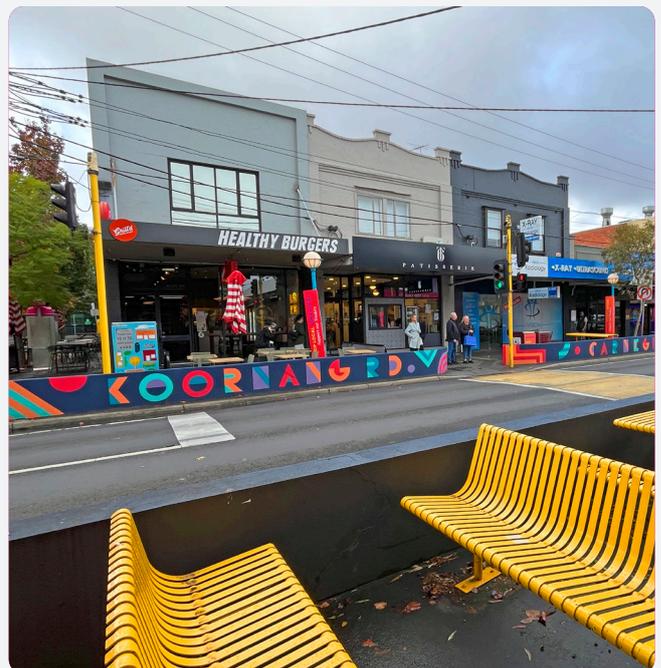
Koornang Road is already one of Glen Eira's most vibrant and well-loved activity centres. With strategic investment, it can become a truly people-focused high street that attracts more visitors, supports local traders and strengthens the character of Carnegie. Streetscape upgrades offer the chance to create a greener, safer and more welcoming environment that encourages outdoor dining, community gathering and active travel. This project provides a rare opportunity to shape the long-term identity and economic vitality of one of Glen Eira's busiest precincts.

Project readiness

Masterplan currently being developed. Funding sought for detailed design and construction, with flexibility to deliver the project in stages.

Community benefit

- A greener, cooler and more attractive shopping precinct
- Safer crossings for children, older residents and people with disability
- Better footpaths that make it easier for people to move around the precinct
- Stronger support for local traders through improved amenity and increased foot traffic
- More welcoming spaces for outdoor dining, socialising and community events
- A revitalised activity centre that boosts local economic activity
- Improved comfort through shade, seating and upgraded public spaces
- A more accessible, people-friendly Carnegie for residents, visitors and businesses.



Koornang Road shopping precinct, Carnegie.

BUTE STREET NETBALL AND MULTIPURPOSE FACILITIES

What we need

\$500,000 for detailed design and construction of new community sport and multipurpose facilities at Bute Street, Murrumbeena.

Type of ask

Funding for detailed design and construction.

What this delivers

New, modern netball and multipurpose courts supported by upgraded community facilities. The project will increase access to safe, high-quality places to play sport, train, learn and gather. It will particularly expand opportunities for women, girls and young people to participate in organised sport and casual recreation.

The opportunity

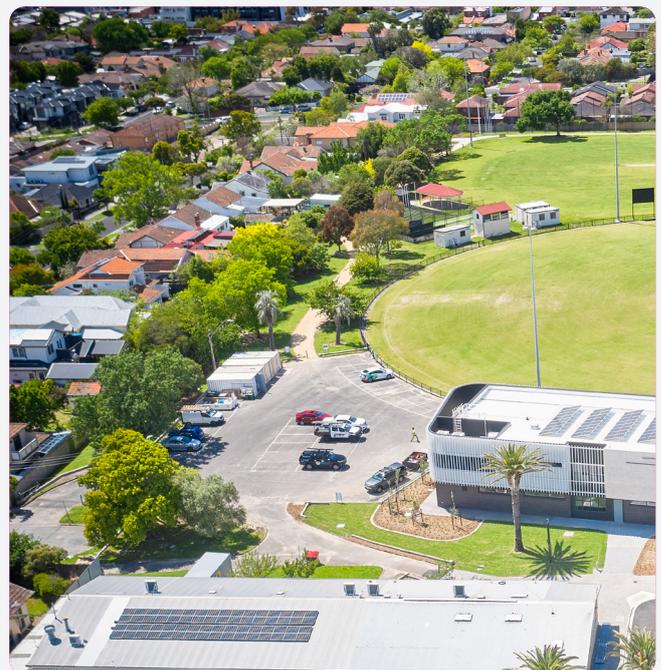
Glen Eira has high demand for modern, accessible sporting facilities, especially for women and girls. Bute Street provides a unique opportunity to deliver new community sport spaces that respond directly to this need. With the concept design nearly complete, the project can move quickly into delivery. The redevelopment will activate an under-utilised site, support local clubs and create flexible facilities that serve community needs beyond sport. It is a chance to deliver fit-for-purpose, female-friendly infrastructure that strengthens health, connection and participation.

Project readiness

Concept design nearly completed.

Community benefit

- More opportunities for women and girls to participate in netball and other sports, addressing long-standing gaps in female-friendly facilities
- Improved access to local sport, reducing travel time and supporting families with convenient, nearby facilities
- Flexible spaces for multiple community uses, including training, exercise, social sport, school programs and community activities
- Healthier and more active communities, with more opportunities for regular physical activity
- Safer, modern facilities that meet current standards for lighting, accessibility and community use
- Support for local clubs and volunteers, with better infrastructure that helps clubs grow and engage more participants
- Stronger community connection, with more places for people to meet, play, learn and socialise close to home.



Bute Street car park, Murrumbeena Community Hub, Murrumbeena.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY CENTRE UPGRADE

What we need

\$200,000 in funding for detailed design and \$2 million for construction to progress the next stage of the redevelopment.

Type of ask

Funding for detailed design and construction.

What this delivers

A reconfigured and modernised Carnegie Library and Community Centre that supports contemporary library services, flexible learning spaces, inclusive community use and improved accessibility. The upgrade will transform the existing building to better meet the needs of a growing and diverse community.

The opportunity

Carnegie Library and Community Centre is already a key community anchor in one of Glen Eira's busiest activity centres. Modernising the building presents a significant opportunity to re-imagine how the space supports learning, creativity, connection and lifelong education. By redesigning the layout, upgrading accessibility and improving environmental performance, the library can evolve into a contemporary community hub that meets changing needs.

The project enables Council to future-proof a highly valued asset, strengthen local activity and deliver flexible spaces that support programs, digital inclusion and community life.

Project readiness

Concept design completed.

Community benefit

A renewed Carnegie Library and Community Centre will:

- create welcoming, flexible spaces for reading, study, collaboration and creative learning
- support children, young people and families with better program rooms and dedicated areas
- improve accessibility so people of all ages and abilities can comfortably use the building
- provide modern facilities for community groups, workshops, lifelong learning and digital inclusion programs
- strengthen Carnegie's role as a vibrant local centre and gathering place
- support community wellbeing by creating a safe, inclusive and connected public space
- improve environmental performance, reducing long-term operating costs and emissions.



Carnegie Library and Community Centre, Carnegie.

MURRUMBEENA PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

What we need

We are seeking \$350,000 to upgrade the existing school crossing on Neerim Road, Murrumbeena, by installing a pedestrian-operated signal crossing. Council will contribute \$17,000 to the project. With State Government funding this year, the upgrade can be completed in 2026–2027.

Type of ask

Funding for detailed design and construction.

What this delivers

A new pedestrian operated signal crossing near Murrumbeena Primary School and Boyd Park. This will improve safety and accessibility for children, families, cyclists and park visitors who use this busy route every day.

The opportunity

Boyd Park is a well used community space linking the Djerring Trail to Dandenong Road and beyond. With a playground, picnic facilities, open lawns and a dog off leash area, it attracts families, young children and recreational users.

The current school crossing on Neerim Road is heavily used by students, families and cyclists. Upgrading this point to a signalised crossing will significantly improve safety, reduce risk and support easier connections between the different areas of the park and surrounding walking and cycling networks.

Project readiness

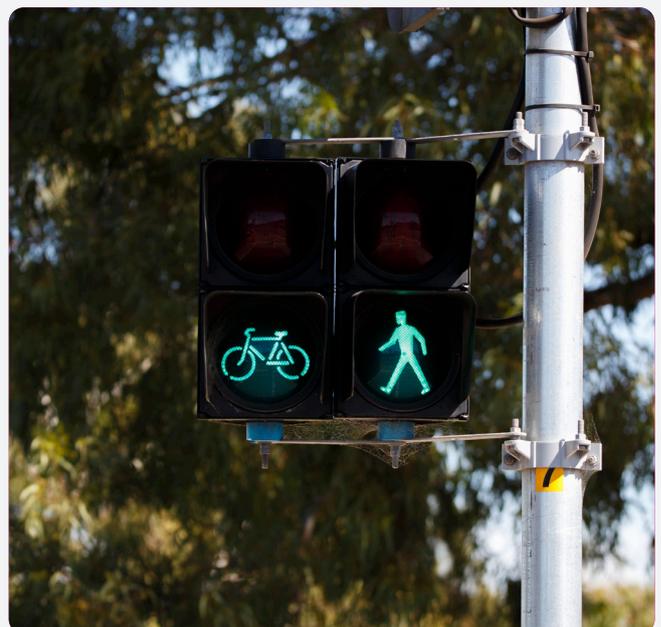
Concept design underway.

Community benefit

This project will improve safety, reduce traffic conflicts and make it easier and more comfortable for people to cross Neerim Road. Signalised pedestrian crossings slow traffic and reduce crashes. They also make neighbourhoods more walkable and appealing.

Children and young people will benefit from a safer, less stressful journey to school. Park visitors will be able to move more easily between the Djerring Trail, the playground and surrounding residential streets. Cyclists will enjoy clearer and safer connections through the area.

By making walking and riding more attractive, this project supports healthier, more active travel. It aligns with Council's *Integrated Transport Strategy 2018–2031 (2024 Refresh)* and helps build a more sustainable local transport network.



An upgrade the existing school crossing on Neerim Road, Murrumbeena is needed,



MAJOR POLICY ASKS

**SAFE, SUPPORTED AND
INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES**

FUTURE READY PLACES

**RESILIENT COMMUNITIES
AND CLEAN ENERGY**

LOCAL HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE (ZERO PROJECT MODEL)

Type of ask

Program funding

What this delivers

A coordinated homelessness response with early intervention, proactive outreach and clear pathways to housing, health and employment.

Why it's needed

Homelessness in Glen Eira is increasing. Most people are in unsafe, insecure or short-term accommodation, which harms health and stability. Service gaps and fragmented systems delay help.

What we need

- \$200,000 to establish a coordinated, place-based housing first model.
- Joint governance to close service gaps.
- Co-designed solutions with people with lived experience.

Community benefit

Earlier support, fewer people reaching crisis, and smoother transitions into stable housing.



ANTI-HATE AND SOCIAL COHESION PROGRAMS

Type of ask

Program funding

What this delivers

Local programs that reduce antisemitism, racism and discrimination, and build safer, more connected neighbourhoods.

Why it's needed

Hate incidents are rising in Victoria, including in Glen Eira. These incidents undermine safety and cohesion. Councils are best placed to lead prevention and rapid response but need state backing to scale this work. The planned Royal Commission into antisemitism highlights the urgency.

What we need

- A dedicated state funding stream and partnership model.
- Resources for evidence-based programs like upstander training and social cohesion taskforces.
- Support for Council, State and community collaboration to share best practice and respond to incidents.

Community benefit

Safer spaces, stronger trust and more resilient communities.



DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PROGRAMS

Type of ask

Program funding

What this delivers

Community-led programs that strengthen belonging and participation across Glen Eira's diverse communities.

Why it's needed

Glen Eira is one of Melbourne's most culturally diverse municipalities. More than one in three residents (37 per cent) were born overseas, and nearly one-third (30.9 per cent) speak a language other than English at home.

This diversity is a major strength — but not all communities have equal access to connection, representation or opportunities to participate in civic and community life. Smaller, emerging and marginalised groups often face barriers to engagement, including language, cost and lack of culturally safe spaces.

As the population continues to grow and diversify, targeted, locally delivered programs are needed to ensure no one is left behind.

What we need

- Small, flexible grants that build social connection, cultural expression and community leadership.

Community benefit

More welcoming neighbourhoods where everyone feels seen, valued and connected.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Type of ask

Program funding

What this delivers

Evidence-based prevention and early intervention programs that improve safety in homes and public spaces, reduce harm and strengthen community wellbeing.

Why it's needed

Community safety pressures are growing as suburbs become busier. Property crime and perceptions of safety — especially after dark — affect how people use streets, shops and transport.

Family violence remains a serious issue. In 2023, 154 Glen Eira children were recorded as affected family members, with women the majority of victim-survivors. Without early intervention, impacts on children and families are long-lasting.

Safety is shaped by more than enforcement alone. Social connection, safe public spaces and accessible early support all play a critical role in preventing harm before it escalates.

What we need

- Long-term funding for prevention and early intervention programs that address both family violence and broader community safety.
- Targeted, tailored initiatives for families, women, older people and culturally diverse communities.
- Improved access to early support, including locally delivered, non-stigmatising entry points and place-based safety initiatives.

Community benefit

Safer households, safer streets and stronger long-term outcomes for children.

GAMBLING, COST OF LIVING AND HOUSING INSECURITY

Type of ask

Policy reform

What this delivers

Reforms that reduce gambling harm, strengthen housing access and support people at risk.

Why it's needed

- Cost-of-living pressures are pushing more people into housing stress.
- Glen Eira residents lost \$71.76 million in 2023–24 on gambling.
- Social and affordable housing supply is among the lowest in Melbourne.
- Planning reforms have shifted power away from councils without addressing the real barriers: construction costs, workforce shortages and market conditions.

What we need

- Major investment in social and affordable housing.
- Sustained early-intervention funding to prevent homelessness.
- Implementation of Alliance for Gambling Reform measures.
- Planning reforms that target real delivery barriers.
- Collaboration across councils, state, industry and financiers to convert approvals into built homes.
- Support for council-led strategic planning.

Community benefit

More housing, fewer gambling harms and better financial stability for residents.

KINDERGARTEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Type of ask

Capital funding

What this delivers

Modern, expanded kindergarten and early years facilities that can meet rapidly growing demand under Best Start, Best Life.

Why it's needed

Demand for kindergarten places is increasing faster than existing facilities can accommodate. Without investment, Glen Eira will face significant shortfalls in early years capacity over the next few years. This impacts families directly, reduces access to early learning, and places additional pressure on Council assets that are already ageing and stretched.

What we need

Significant capital investment to upgrade, expand and modernise early years centres across Glen Eira so that local families can access the places they are entitled to.

Community benefit

More children accessing high-quality early learning, stronger development outcomes, and greater certainty and choice for local families.



TRANSPORT, CONNECTIVITY AND ACTIVE TRAVEL

Type of ask

Capital and program funding

What this delivers

Safer crossings, better public transport connections and real, everyday options to walk, cycle or catch public transport — supported by state investment that makes networks work at scale, not just in isolated pockets.

Why it's needed

Glen Eira is busy and growing, but transport choices have not kept up. We have good north–south rail lines, but limited east–west links, so buses, trams and safe cycling routes do most of the work for local trips.

Bus services are often infrequent and poorly connected, especially in middle-ring suburbs like Bentleigh where the State is directing more housing growth. Without stronger bus investment, people are pushed onto already congested roads and left with few alternatives.

Cycling faces the same issue. Local upgrades help, but we need State-led delivery of strategic cycling corridors to connect between suburbs.

Accessibility is also lagging. Many train stations and tram stops still lack step-free access, limiting independence for people with disability, carers and older residents. Missing links, unsafe crossings and poor interchanges make everyday walking and cycling harder too.

What we need

- Delivery of strategic cycling corridors on State roads, beyond smaller activity centre tools — turning planned corridors into real, connected infrastructure.
- Regionally planned bus improvements with dedicated State budgets, including higher frequencies, better east–west routes, accessible stops and stronger multimodal interchanges.
- Integrated planning to improve bus/train interchange, station accessibility and first- and last-mile connections — so public transport works as a system not disconnected modes.
- Faster delivery of tram accessibility upgrades, including non-trunk sections.
- Investment in safe crossings and connected walking and cycling routes that support everyday trips.

Community benefit

Safer streets. Less congestion. Better access to education, services and jobs.

Targeted State investment in buses, trams, cycling corridors and accessibility unlocks the full value of activity centre growth. It gives people real choices, supports inclusion, improves health and cuts emissions — helping suburbs function as connected, walkable centres rather than traffic bottlenecks.



CLIMATE ACTION, RESILIENCE AND URBAN GREENING

Type of ask

Capital, program and policy funding

What this delivers

Better drainage, greener streets, stronger tree protection and reduced reliance on gas.

Why it's needed

Climate impacts are intensifying. Victoria is experiencing more frequent extreme heat days and heavier short duration rainfall, increasing flood risk and pressure on ageing drainage systems.

Glen Eira is particularly exposed. Tree canopy sits at around 14 per cent, one of the lowest levels in metropolitan Melbourne and well below what's needed to cool streets and reduce urban heat. Council's adopted target is 22 per cent canopy cover by 2040, reflecting strong evidence that trees are critical climate infrastructure. At the same time, many council buildings still rely on gas, despite Victoria moving to require all electric new buildings from 2027. Without investment, councils face rising operating costs, stranded assets and emissions that undermine climate targets.

What we need

- Drainage and stormwater upgrades to manage heavier rainfall events.
- Expansion of the *Urban Forest Strategy* and stronger canopy protections.
- Policy support for greening initiatives across public and private land.
- Support for Council's transition off gas in buildings and facilities.

Community benefit

Cooler streets, reduced flood risk, lower emissions and neighbourhoods better equipped for a changing climate.

BIODIVERSITY, PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Type of ask

Capital funding

What this delivers

More parks, green corridors and biodiversity rich habitat areas.

Why it's needed

Glen Eira has the lowest open space per capita of any metropolitan Melbourne council, limiting access to nature, play and respite — particularly in higher density areas. As the population grows, opportunities to secure new land for parks are shrinking. Without intervention, urban heat, biodiversity loss and inequitable access to green space will worsen.

Green corridors and habitat areas also play a critical role in cooling neighbourhoods, improving air quality and supporting urban wildlife, while linking communities to parks and activity centres.

What we need

- Investment in new parks, green corridors and biodiversity rich open space.
- Stronger planning rules requiring open space in high density developments.
- State led policy and sustainable funding models to support land acquisition.

Community benefit

Cleaner air, cooler streets and more places to play, relax and connect — supporting health, wellbeing and climate resilience.

ELSTER CREEK AND CLIMATE ALLIANCES

Type of ask

Program funding

What this delivers

Regional partnerships that strengthen flood management and climate resilience.

Why it's needed

Flooding does not stop at council boundaries. Catchment wide systems like Elster Creek require coordinated planning, shared data and joint investment to be effective under changing climate conditions.

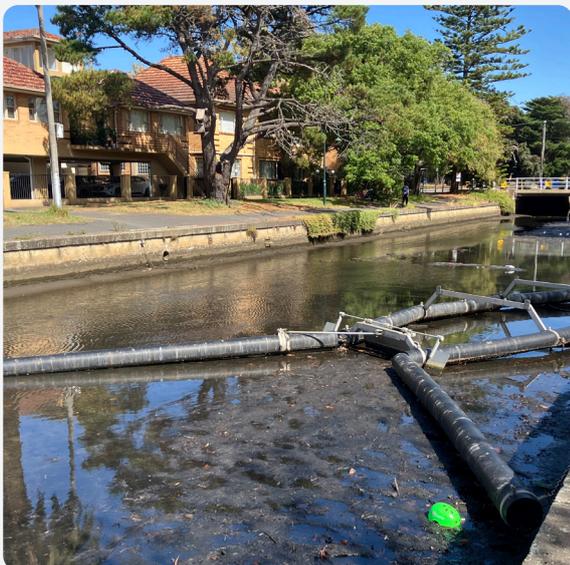
Without regional coordination, councils risk fragmented responses and higher long term costs.

What we need

- Ongoing funding for joint planning, modelling and resilience projects across the Elster Creek catchment and climate alliances.

Community benefit

Reduced flood impacts, better coordination across councils and more resilient communities.



CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME EXPANSION

Type of ask

Policy reform

What this delivers

A simpler, more effective recycling system that is easier for the community to use and more efficient for councils to operate. Expanding the scheme will reduce contamination in kerbside bins, increase recovery rates for high value materials and create clearer incentives for households to return containers. It also supports a more consistent statewide approach and reduces pressure on council waste services.

Why it's needed

The current Victorian container deposit scheme excludes wine and spirit bottles. As a result, many glass products continue to enter kerbside bins, where breakage causes contamination, lowers recycling quality and increases processing costs for councils. Expanding the scheme would shift these materials into a high value stream, reduce the burden on kerbside systems and support the transition to a more circular economy.

What we need

- Expansion of the container deposit scheme to include wine and spirit bottles, as well as other commonly used container types that remain outside the current system.
- A clear, staged implementation plan that allows councils, industry and community collection points to prepare for increased volumes.
- Alignment with statewide waste reform to ensure consistent messaging and strong public understanding.

Community benefit

Higher recycling rates, reduced contamination and less waste to landfill. A broader scheme improves environmental outcomes, supports behaviour change, reduces costs in local kerbside systems and helps build a cleaner, more circular waste economy for Victorian households.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY, WASTE REFORM AND INNOVATION

Type of ask

Policy reform

What this delivers

A stronger waste system that cuts landfill, boosts recycling and supports a more circular, low emissions future.

Why it's needed

Waste is increasing, landfill costs and emissions are rising and current systems cannot keep up. Councils need clear pathways, better infrastructure and support to adopt new technologies safely and responsibly.

What we need

- Modern recycling and resource recovery infrastructure
- Strong, ongoing community education
- National recycled content targets
- More water sensitive urban design
- Government/industry partnership to assess best practice landfill alternatives
- Engagement with government, industry and the community to explore new waste and recovery technologies
- Policy settings that support the clean energy transition and assess emerging technologies through a community, health and environmental lens

Community benefit

Cleaner neighbourhoods, less waste to landfill, lower long-term costs, new jobs and a safer, more sustainable waste system.

SERVICE RATE GUIDELINES REVIEW

Type of ask

Policy

What this delivers

A fairer, more sustainable funding model for local services.

Why it's needed

- Costs continue to rise while federal grants decline.
- Glen Eira absorbed \$18 million in unfunded service transfers last year.
- New state imposed fees are driving up costs.
- Funding for key programs has not kept pace with demand.

What we need

- A review of funding frameworks.
- An end to unfunded mandates.

Community benefit

Reliable, sustainable essential services.





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National Relay Service

A phone solution for people who have a hearing or speech impairment. Internet relay users connect to NRS then ask for 03 9524 3333.

TTY dial 13 36 77 or Speak and Listen dial 1300 555 727 then ask for 03 9524 3333. <https://internet-relay.nrscall.gov.au>

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Glen Eira arts, gallery and events:

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