



GLEN EIRA  
CITY COUNCIL

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

# GLEN EIRA 2025 FEDERAL ELECTION ADVOCACY PRIORITIES HOTHAM

ARTIST'S IMPRESSION. AMES AVENUE PARK, BENTLEIGH EAST





## 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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## MAYOR'S FOREWORD



I am pleased to present Glen Eira City Council's 2025 federal election advocacy priorities for the electorate of Hotham.

Our *Glen Eira 2040 Community Vision* is ambitious: a thriving and empowered community working together for an inclusive and sustainable future. To achieve this, we are advocating for investment in public spaces, community wellbeing and infrastructure for our growing City.

We understand that, for our community to thrive, different levels of government must collaborate. In recent years, our advocacy has led to substantial federal funding commitments and partnerships, including \$15 million for the redevelopment of the Carnegie Memorial Swimming Pool.

At the heart of our agenda is the belief that well-designed public spaces can transform communities. Vibrant, safe and accessible places strengthen the social fabric of our neighbourhoods. They build trust, encourage social cohesion, and nourish positive connections among people of all ages and backgrounds. This connection to place is what makes local government special.

Fostering feelings of safety in our local spaces is a top priority for our community. Council is committed to investing in, developing, and maintaining public spaces, with safety at the forefront of our plans. With the support of other levels of government, we can achieve this through improved lighting, signage, safer pedestrian and cycling routes, and ease of navigation.

We must adopt a visionary approach to our precincts. As our City continues to grow, proactive planning is essential to transform community spaces into intergenerational assets. By strategically investing in infrastructure, we can enhance usability and unlock long-term economic, social and environmental benefits for our community. We can shape a future that works for everyone.

As the level of government closest to the community, we have a unique understanding of local needs and priorities. Our advocacy is shaped by what matters most to the people who live, work and play here. This includes a strong commitment to enhance open space for all to enjoy.

As we continue to navigate the financial challenges posed by cost of living pressures and escalating inflation, it is important that we keep working together to prioritise key projects and initiatives that will support our community's wellbeing.

We hope to have the opportunity to discuss these priorities with all candidates at the upcoming election — no matter their party.

Cr Simone Zmood  
**Mayor, City of Glen Eira**

## We urgently need increased funding and long-term financial commitments from the federal government to adequately maintain community infrastructure and deliver essential services.

**Councils manage nearly 33 per cent of Australia's public infrastructure but receive only 3.5 per cent of total tax revenue, creating an imbalance between responsibilities and resources.**





# GIVING ROSSTOWN COMMUNITY A NEW LEASE ON LIFE

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**We are seeking \$3 million.**

**Council has contributed \$2.4 million for land purchase, design and demolition.**

**With funding this year, we could complete this project in 2025–2026.**



## The opportunity

This project directly addresses the urgent need for open space in Carnegie, in alignment with our *Open Space Strategy Refresh 2020*. This is a unique opportunity to invest in land already acquired by Council, in a high demand area with limited options for new open space.

Glen Eira has one of the lowest open space allocations per capita in Metropolitan Melbourne — only 1.3 hectares per 1,000 residents. The Carnegie Major Activity Centre in particular is set to grow by 22 per cent by 2031, with 70 per cent of new residents living in high-density housing. Accessible green spaces are invaluable in improving liveability and strengthening climate resilience.

After the closure of Rosstown Community, we asked our residents what they wanted the site to become. Community engagement in 2022 revealed a strong preference for passive open space. We purchased an adjacent property to expand the park footprint, increasing the total land size to 4,062m<sup>2</sup>. Both sites have been cleared of existing structures. They are now ready to be transformed into valuable community open space.

## What we need

Considerable work has already been undertaken to make this project shovel-ready.

Community engagement on our proposed designs revealed our community's strong desire for passive open space incorporating gardens and nature play.

The endorsed design prioritises passive gardens and greenery, while providing for a range of activities, abilities and community needs. Climate-sensitive plantings of both indigenous and exotic species, along with the incorporation of water-sensitive design elements, will create a space adaptable to climate change.

We are currently collaborating with Traditional Owners on an Indigenous name for the park. The name may be complemented by interpretive signage highlighting native plant species and local history, deepening our community's understanding and appreciation of the Traditional Owners.

We are now in the process of preparing detailed design and tender documentation.

The initial cost estimate for the park's development is approximately \$3 million, excluding the land cost and works to date. Currently, no funding has been allocated to this valued open space project.

# UNLOCKING MORE OPEN SPACE IN CARNEGIE

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## Community benefits

In such a dense and urbanised area, new open space is essential. This park will enhance Carnegie's liveability by improving access to recreation and supporting residents' health and wellbeing. It will also boost local business activity, attract new residents, and support projected housing growth in a very popular area to live.

The passive space will seamlessly integrate into Ames Avenue, while complementing nearby active spaces, which are under pressure from growth in community sports.

As well as social benefits, this park will strengthen climate resilience — reducing the urban heat island effect, managing run-off and minimising flooding impacts.

This will be an intergenerational asset for the community to enjoy as their social, recreational and wellbeing hub for many years to come.





Council is committed to advocating for projects that benefit Glen Eira residents by delivering essential services, improved facilities, and key infrastructure.

## Councils are vital in developing policies and infrastructure that meet local needs.



## ENHANCING OPEN SPACE AT MACKIE ROAD RESERVE

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**We are seeking \$5.85 million.**

**Council has contributed \$3.6 million for land purchase and design.**

**With funding this year, we could complete this project in 2026–2027.**



### The opportunity

The demand for community sports and active open spaces is rapidly growing along with our population. Meeting our community's recreational and open space needs is vital to building a connected, inclusive, and resilient community.

The *Mackie Road Reserve Masterplan* aims to revitalise one of Glen Eira's most valued community spaces into a dynamic, multifunctional precinct that caters to the growing needs of the Bentleigh East community. The Victorian Government has made a \$3 million commitment to build a new pavillion at Mackie Road Reserve, which will become a versatile community facility. We have the perfect opportunity to complement this pavillion by improving the surrounding reserve.

The project, informed by extensive community engagement, aligns with local priorities and addresses the evolving needs of the area.

### What we need

A federal funding contribution of \$5.85 million will help us to fulfill the vision of the *Masterplan* and create a thriving open space hub in Bentleigh East.

The project proposal includes:

- > significant enhancements to the existing sports oval
- > installation of inviting garden spaces and seating areas

- > the creation of an all-abilities play space
- > accessibility and visual improvements to the Orange Street entrance, particularly to parking and pathways
- > sustainability initiatives like energy-efficient lighting, water-saving technology and solar panels
- > expanded green spaces and tree canopy cover.

### Community benefits

Revitalising this community space means more than just new facilities — it's about creating a hub for active, healthy lifestyles and vibrant social connections.

The redesigned pavillion, oval, playground, and garden areas will open up new opportunities for recreation, sports, relaxation, and gathering. Inclusive design elements ensure everyone, of all ages and abilities, can enjoy it fully. With more green spaces, a lush tree canopy, and a focus on biodiversity, the precinct will support environmental sustainability and enrich our urban landscape.

Enhanced pathways, safe entrances, and convenient parking will make the reserve accessible and secure. It will encourage more active transport options, like walking and cycling, and provide better connections throughout the precinct.

This space will strengthen social bonds, celebrate cultural diversity, and become a true community destination for all.

# UPGRADING BAILEY RESERVE WITH INCLUSIVE SPORTS FACILITIES

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**We are seeking \$900,000 to upgrade Bailey Reserve Softball Pavilion.**

**With funding this year, we could complete this project in 2026–2027.**



## The opportunity

In line with our *Pavilion Redevelopment Strategy* and the recently adopted *Fair Access Policy*, Council is dedicated to ensuring equitable access to all facilities to encourage active participation in sports by people of all genders.

The Bailey Reserve Softball Pavilion serves as a vital community sports hub, supporting the Glen Eira Moorabbin Softball Association (GEMSA). The pavilion was built in the 1970s and last updated in 1999. The facilities lack dedicated amenities for women and have outdated plumbing, limited restroom facilities, and asbestos concerns.

A modern upgrade is urgently needed to meet the needs of our local sports groups and the wider community.

## What we need

A \$900,000 contribution in federal funding would allow us to undertake critical renovations and address concerns with the current pavilion.

Restroom upgrades would include removal of asbestos from the walls, plumbing improvements to resolve persistent odour issues, and new accessible shower cubicles. These improvements would protect the health and safety of users, and create a more accessible and welcoming space.

The current restrooms are also inadequate for event crowds and need to be expanded to meet demand.

Adding dedicated changerooms will significantly improve

the experience of users, especially women and children, and encourage continued participation in sports.

Additionally, a lighting upgrade would extend evening use of the reserve, which would benefit both GEMSA and the East Bentleigh Soccer Club, who would have more available playing hours for evening games and training sessions. Better lighting would also improve safety for other users of the park, from pedestrians and dog walkers to local residents.

Finally, the current playing surface of reserve is substandard, especially when compared to neighbouring grounds, and needs to be replaced to improve players' experience.

## Community benefits

Upgrading the Bailey Reserve Softball Pavilion will create a more inclusive and welcoming space, boosting community connections and particularly inviting more women and girls to play sports. Modern facilities will turn the pavilion into a lively hub for sports and events, encouraging more people to get involved. This sustainable upgrade will also cut down on future maintenance costs, keeping the pavilion a valuable community asset for years to come.

The improvements align with our commitment to promoting active living by providing safe, accessible spaces for people of all ages and abilities.

# IMPROVING ROAD SAFETY IN MURRUMBEENA

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**We are seeking \$350,000.**

**Council will contribute \$17,000 to the project.**

**With funding this year, we could complete this project in 2025–2026.**



## The opportunity

Located just a short walk from Murrumbena Primary School, Boyd Park connects the Djerring Trail to Dandenong Road and beyond. With a playground, picnic shelter, open lawns and dog off-leash area, the park is popular with families and their young children.

An existing school crossing over Neerim Road is used daily by students and families, as well as cyclists. Improving this crossing would boost the safety and accessibility of this route, for locals and park visitors alike.

## What we need

We are seeking \$350,000 to upgrade the existing crossing over Neerim Road, Murrumbena at Boyd Park, by installing a pedestrian-operated signal crossing.

## Community benefits

This project enhances road safety and accessibility in the community by creating a safe, convenient crossing point.

Pedestrian crossings slow traffic and reduce accidents, making our streets safer and more welcoming. They uplift neighbourhood appeal and strengthen community pride.

Our younger residents and students will benefit from reduced stress when crossing. Park visitors will be able to more easily navigate the different areas and trails on offer. Cyclists from the Djerring Trail will have a clearer route through the area. Overall, more people will choose active travel, a healthier and more sustainable option, in line with our *Integrated Transport Strategy 2018–2031 (2024 Refresh)*.





# IMPROVING COMMUNITY SAFETY NEAR CARNEGIE LIBRARY

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**A \$250,000 contribution will enhance safety in the Carnegie Library and Community Centre car park laneway.**



## The opportunity

This laneway connects the Carnegie Library and Community Centre forecourt to the Carnegie Community Space on Neerim Road. Running alongside the library car park and behind the Koornang Road shops, it serves as a critical connection for the community. The laneway sees high foot traffic, as pedestrians move between key sites in the Carnegie Major Activity Centre.

However, the current lighting arrangement in the laneway is insufficient, relying heavily on spill light from the adjacent car park. This creates uneven illumination and diminishes the perceived and actual safety of the area, especially during the evening and at night.

The laneway faces challenges related to the storage and cleanliness of back-of-house areas, which detract from its usability and overall appeal. Addressing these issues is essential to ensure the laneway remains a safe and welcoming pedestrian thoroughfare.

The project aligns with the Carnegie Structure Plan, supporting broader efforts to develop Carnegie as a vibrant and safe hub for residents and visitors alike.

## What we need

A \$250,000 contribution will help us install new high-quality lighting to improve visibility, as well as further amenity upgrades to create a more inviting environment. Enhancing this space offers a unique opportunity to improve safety, accessibility, and user experience in one of Carnegie's most frequently used pathways.

## Community benefits

Upgrading the lighting and improving the pedestrian amenities in this laneway will instil a greater sense of safety for the community, especially women and other vulnerable users. High-quality, consistent lighting will reduce shadows and eliminate hidden areas, making it easier to identify others and detect potential risks.

A well-designed amenity upgrade will create a more pleasant and functional environment for pedestrians. It will carry through the feelings of social connection and pride of place created by the Carnegie Community Space.

These improvements will strengthen the connection between the library, shopping strip, and car park, encouraging greater use of the laneway and fostering a sense of community.

**Council is committed to creating  
a safe community where  
everyone feels welcome.**

**Initiatives that improve lighting and signage along pedestrian  
and cycling routes are invaluable in creating safe, inclusive and  
accessible public spaces.**



## PRIORITY POLICY REFORMS SNAPSHOT

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### Fostering safety and social cohesion

Social cohesion is the resilience, connection and wellbeing of a community — it is the ‘glue’ that holds us together. A sense of belonging and participation contributes to a healthy and resilient community with lower crime rates and improved safety.

**Council calls on the Australian Government to prioritise critical infrastructure upgrades that enhance community safety and build community cohesion. This includes improved lighting, enhanced signage, graffiti removal, and safer pedestrian and cycling routes. Council further urges the Government to collaborate meaningfully with community groups and stakeholders to co-design targeted solutions that address specific local safety concerns.**

To support these efforts, Council advocates for the establishment of dedicated funding streams designed to:

- > support the delivery of programs, events, and other initiatives that strengthen community cohesion
- > enable public infrastructure improvements, such as security lighting, signage and urban design, and make CCTV accessible for community groups
- > support community-based organisations (such as Neighbourhood Watch and others) to educate residents about safety and promote social cohesion.



### Transitioning to a circular economy

A circular economy minimises resource use, supports recovery, and reduces emissions. Inadequate coordination at state and national levels has hindered effective recycling initiatives.

**Council calls for national targets for the use of recycled content in public infrastructure construction and for reliable funding streams for recycling infrastructure through the Recycling Modernisation Fund.**



### Unlocking more open space

Glen Eira has the lowest amount of open space per capita in metropolitan Melbourne with just 1.3 hectares for every 1,000 residents. Open space is vital for the environment and wellbeing.

**Council calls for increased funding to enhance and unlock open spaces, with a mix of passive and active spaces that are inclusive, fit-for-purpose, and flexible.**



### Responding to the climate emergency

Councils play a key role in tackling climate change by implementing solutions that reduce emissions and promote sustainability, but we need more help to do so.

**Council calls on the Australian Government to deliver financial support for climate change mitigation initiatives.**

## PRIORITY POLICY REFORMS SNAPSHOT

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### Planning for effective flood control and water management

Glen Eira residents, properties and infrastructure face flooding risks due to undersized stormwater management infrastructure. Council has invested over \$3 million to partly address the under capacity of the receiving pipes, which are the responsibility of Melbourne Water.

**Council calls on the Australian Government to deliver financial support to address the challenges of urban stormwater.**



### Preventing family violence

Family violence is a serious issue impacting community health and wellbeing. In 2023 in Glen Eira, 154 children were listed as an affected family member at a family violence incident.

**Council calls on the Australian Government to provide sustained and long-term investment in primary prevention initiatives to end family violence before it starts.**



### Addressing housing needs and homelessness

Victoria is facing a housing crisis due to population growth, rising costs and insufficient investment in social and affordable housing. Glen Eira's social housing stock is significantly lower than the Melbourne average, requiring urgent investment.

**Council calls on the Australian Government to invest in securing land and constructing housing in high-demand areas. Programs like the National Housing Accord must ensure equitable investment across local government areas.**



### Reforming gambling regulations

In the 2022–23 financial year, an estimated \$163 million was lost on legal gambling in Glen Eira. Online gambling is the fastest growing segment of the gambling market and has increased by 300 per cent since the pandemic. It's vital that we reform gambling regulations to reduce harm.

**Council calls on the Australian Government to implement the Alliance for Gambling Reform pokies agenda, including a suite of harm reduction measures.**



### Delivering sustainable services for the long term

Councils face challenges in meeting community needs due to cost shifting, rate capping, escalating construction costs, inflation and declining grants. The decline in Financial Assistance Grants over the past three decades has particularly impacted our operational budgets.

**Council calls on the Australian Government to provide adequate funding mechanisms so local governments can continue to deliver vital services effectively.**





**GLEN EIRA**  
CITY COUNCIL

## Glen Eira City Council

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### National Relay Service

If you are deaf, hearing-impaired, or speech-impaired, we ask that you call us via the National Relay Service and then ask for (03) 9524 3333.

Online: <https://internet-relay.nrscall.gov.au>

Teletypewriter (TTY): 13 36 77

Speak and Listen: 1300 555 727

### Social media

#### Glen Eira City Council:

[facebook.com/GlenEiraCityCouncil](https://facebook.com/GlenEiraCityCouncil)

#### @cityofgleneira:

[instagram.com/cityofgleneira](https://instagram.com/cityofgleneira)

#### Glen Eira arts, gallery and events:

[facebook.com/gleneiraarts](https://facebook.com/gleneiraarts)

[instagram.com/gleneiraarts](https://instagram.com/gleneiraarts)

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