



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 GOLDSTEIN

HODGSON RESERVE, BENTLEIGH



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 Goldstein.

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.



REDEVELOPING OPEN SPACE AT PORTER ROAD, BENTLEIGH

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We are seeking \$2 million.

Council has contributed \$5.8 million for land purchase and design.

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



The opportunity

Glen Eira has one of the lowest open space allocations per capita in Metropolitan Melbourne — only 1.3 hectares per 1,000 residents. Council has made a significant commitment to securing the land needed to create new open space for residents, responding to a clear community need.

Now, we're seeking funding to turn this vision into reality — transforming open space on Porter Road into a lively, accessible, and sustainable park for everyone to enjoy. Investing in this development will give residents a high-quality space that meets their needs now and in the future.

The project will deliver close to 2,000 square metres of new public open space in an area that currently has limited access to parks.

What we need

Porter Road Park will become a key community meeting place with a combination of social spaces and a range of informal recreation facilities to encourage exercise. The design enlarges the park by extending it into road reserves and using parallel parking space.

The footpath will be widened to provide direct north-south connectivity along Porter Road. The open grassed area in the north is large enough for informal ball games while south of the path, we propose a range of unstructured recreational facilities that suit all ages. This includes a basketball and netball half court, play area with swings, a treehouse and slide for diverse ages, and a shelter with two picnic tables to encourage social activities.

The design includes retaining existing trees and planting new trees to provide shade and canopy cover. Garden beds will contribute to the greening and the landscape character of the park.

Dense screen perimeter planting to the adjoining properties will retain privacy and strengthen the greening of new open space. Proposed planting will be predominantly native with some deciduous trees for winter sunlight access and summer shade.

UNLOCKING MORE OPEN SPACE IN BENTLEIGH

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Community benefits

Transforming this area into vibrant public open space delivers what our community has been asking for — more green spaces and essential infrastructure for a growing population in our thriving suburbs.

Green spaces are vital for mental health, recreation, and social connections. This project will offer an inclusive, safe and natural escape that reflects community needs.

This park will also help tackle climate impacts by cooling the City during heatwaves and managing flood risks.

With funding, Porter Road Park can become a community space treasured by locals for generations.



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.



UPGRADING FACILITIES AT MCKINNON RESERVE PAVILION

We are seeking \$5.5 million to upgrade and modernise this valued community hub.

With funding this year, we could complete this project in 2027–2028.



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 E.M.C. Fox Pavilion at McKinnon Reserve is a top priority for upgrades, offering a unique opportunity to modernise this key community hub.

What we need

To realise this vision, we are seeking funding to cover the design, consultation, and implementation of these upgrades, estimated at \$5.5 million.

This investment will support essential improvements, including accessible change facilities, upgraded social rooms, and expanded storage, which are vital to meeting the current and future needs of the community.

Community benefits

The upgraded E.M.C. Fox Pavilion will transform McKinnon Reserve into a premier hub for community activity. With modernised, inclusive facilities, it will drive greater sports participation across all ages and genders, fostering a healthier, more connected community.

These enhancements will empower local clubs to expand programs, create vibrant social connections, and attract high-profile events, boosting local pride and stimulating the economy. This investment promises lasting impact by elevating community wellbeing and making McKinnon a flagship destination for sports and social gatherings alike.



EXPANDING OUR TREE CANOPY ON GLEN HUNTLY ROAD

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We are seeking \$250,000 to improve Glen Huntly Road.

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



The opportunity

The Glen Huntly Major Activity Centre is a busy hub for our community, in proximity to schools, public transport and other community infrastructure. However, it is a highly dense and urbanised commercial area with very little greenery or open space.

With the recent completion of the Level Crossing Removal Project, we see an opportunity to carry through streetscape upgrades along the length of the commercial strip. Upgraded street furniture, increased shrubbery and more street trees in kerb outstands would align with the new station precinct. Improvements to the amenity, sustainability and visual appeal of this road would enhance liveability and wellbeing.

What we need

We are seeking \$250,000 for street tree planting on Glen Huntly Road, Glen Huntly. This project will improve the Glen Huntly Major Activity Centre and align with our *Better Streets, Better Places* program.

Community benefits

Improving the street amenity with green space and new street furniture is likely to attract more foot traffic, positively impacting local businesses. New greenery will encourage walking along the street, which fosters social connection and promotes physical and mental health. It also has potential to reduce car traffic along the road and encourage use of alternative forms of transport.

With new street tree plantings, this project will provide more shade, improve air quality, and reduce the urban heat island effect. In dense and populated areas, such climate change mitigation actions improve the long-term liveability of our community.

Creating more inviting public spaces strengthens social connections and neighbourhood pride. With greater visual appeal, our community will seek to spend more time enjoying the area, benefiting the local economy.

This investment is a step toward making Glen Huntly Road a greener and more liveable local hub.

IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY AND SAFETY IN OUR LOCAL PARKS

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We are seeking \$1.2 million to install innovative smart public lighting in two parks.

With funding this year, we could complete this project in 2027–2028.



The opportunity

Council is committed to the safety and sustainability of our community and parks. As part of this commitment, we are seeking support to trial innovative smart public lighting technology in key open spaces.

Our community reports that they feel less safe when walking alone at night. Better lighting in our parks will improve feelings of safety and encourage park users to enjoy our green spaces into the evening.

The technology proposed for this trial also minimises environmental impacts by using sensor-based and dimmable lighting that adapts to the actual usage of the reserves.

What we need

The two priority sites for this trial are Hodgson Reserve in Bentleigh and Allnut Park in McKinnon. By implementing lighting that adjusts to real-time activity, we can keep our park users safe while reducing energy consumption and light pollution at night.

The estimated \$600,000 cost per site is for the design, consultation, and implementation of this project. Through this project, we aim to create safer, more sustainable, and more welcoming public spaces for everyone.

Community benefits

Well-lit public spaces are crucial for community safety. Smart lighting technology will ensure that these parks are well-lit during peak usage times, significantly reducing the risk of accidents and deterring potential criminal activity.

By utilising dimmable and sensor-based technologies, we aim to significantly cut down on power consumption. This not only supports our environmental goals but also helps manage public spending effectively.



IMPROVING COMMUNITY SAFETY IN EAT STREET

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A \$200,000 contribution to enhance safety at the Eat Street car park in Bentleigh.



The opportunity

Eat Street in Bentleigh is a thriving plaza with outdoor seating and a rotunda. The area is a vibrant hub of cafes, restaurants, and bars. Located south of Centre Road along Vickery Street, it connects seamlessly to the Bentleigh Major Activity Centre and serves as a centre for community and businesses.

However, the adjacent car park currently suffers from inadequate lighting, which limits the area's full potential, particularly in the evenings. Visitors, especially families and vulnerable community members, often feel unsafe walking to and from their cars.

We have an opportunity to improve lighting in the car park, addressing these safety concerns and improving connectivity to Centre Road shopping.

What we need

With a \$200,000 investment of federal funding, we can improve the amenity and lighting of the Eat Street car park, thereby enhancing safety, inclusivity, and connectivity.

Community benefits

This investment represents a strategic opportunity to address safety concerns while delivering lasting benefits to the Bentleigh community.

By increasing visibility and creating a secure environment, this project will reduce anti-social behaviour and ease the concerns of visitors, allowing them to feel safe and comfortable when accessing Eat Street. This improvement will encourage more people to visit the area in the evenings, supporting the local night-time economy and boosting patronage for restaurants, cafes, and bars.

Enhancing the car park will also strengthen urban connectivity by integrating Eat Street with the Bentleigh Major Activity Centre. As a key gateway to the plaza, a safer and more inviting car park will encourage seamless movement between these spaces, making it easier for visitors to explore all that the precinct has to offer. This upgrade will help drive foot traffic, attract residents and visitors, and support businesses by extending trading hours and increasing economic activity.

The improved car park will reinforce Bentleigh's reputation as a welcoming and vibrant destination for social gatherings, cultural events, and recreational activities. By enhancing this important public space, the project will ultimately contribute to a stronger 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

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