



WORKING TOGETHER

Quarterly Advocacy Report

13 November 2025 – 28 February 2026

Our objectives for advocacy

- To strengthen our reputation as a professional and effective partner to all levels of government.
- To develop the organisation's internal knowledge, capability, and capacity to work closely and effectively with government and stakeholders.
- To help us target our efforts for maximum impact and the best outcome.

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Overview

This report covers the period 13 November 2025 to 28 February 2026.

The Christmas and summer period is typically one of the quieter times for advocacy, however parliamentary representatives in Kingston continued to actively seek advice and pass on constituent matters for investigation and resolution through the period.

The first quarter of calendar year 2026 has seen the commencement of preparation for the coming Victorian State Election, which will be on Saturday 28 November 2026.

We are also actively pursuing grants from both the State and Commonwealth Governments.

Highlights



27 February 2026

Official opening of the newly resurfaced greens at Mordialloc Bowls Club, assisted by \$350,000 in funding from the Victorian Government.

Mordialloc MP Tim Richardson officiated with the Mayor to officially launch the upgrade.



27 November 2025

Refurbished cricket nets at Beazley Reserve, home of the Chelsea Heights Aspendale Gardens Cricket Club. Council's advocacy secured \$30,000 from the Australian Cricket Infrastructure Fund to bring the 20-year-old facilities up to Cricket Victoria standards.



17 November 2025

The City of Kingston and Hawthorn Football Club celebrate the opening of the new club headquarters in Dingley. A central feature is a massive new playing field that will be available to the community, thanks to Kingston's partnership with the club.

Formal meetings

Over the period of this report, the Mayor, CEO and executive pursued a range of opportunities to promote the interests of Council through meetings with MPs and neighbouring councils.

Date	Attendees	Purpose/topic
17 November	Premier of Victoria, Meng Heang Tak, Hawthorn Football Club President and Committee Mayor, CEO,	Official Opening of the Kennedy Community Centre, Dingley Village
8 December	Anne-Marie Hermans MP and Bev McArthur MP Mayor, Deputy Mayor	Discuss Kingston issues
11 December	Meng Heang Tak MP CEO, General Manager, Planning & Place	Kingswood Golf Course
23 December	Tim Richardson MP Mayor, CEO, General Manager Planning & Place	Rossdale Golf Course
4 February	Tim Richardson MP Mayor, CEO	Rossdale Golf Course
27 February	Tim Richardson MP Mayor, Deputy Mayor	Official opening of new greens at Mordialloc Bowls Club

Current advocacy priorities

This section summarises work underway on major advocacy priorities.

Issue	Current situation	Next steps
Mordialloc SUP Bridge	Bridge over Nepean Highway identified as a critical missing piece of SUP linking Frankston and Cheltenham: designs being refined and costed. LXRA has now committed \$7.5m funding to support the construction of a new bridge, matching Kingston's commitment. Further funding is being sought from the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure to meet what is expected to be a shortfall against the likely cost.	Continued meetings with Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure to identify eligible grant funding source. Attempting to overcome a technicality that makes Kingston ineligible for funding due to bridge being erroneously defined as railway infrastructure.
Suburban Rail Loop	Multiple resolutions establish Council's position in relation to SRL: 23/262211 – SRL Precincts Discussion paper 24/158397 – Submission to SRL Key Directions Plans 24/32878 – Submission on SRL Draft Vision City of Kingston and SRLA still in discussions over an MOU to identify SRLA investments in community infrastructure at Sir William Fry Reserve. Report expected to come to Council in April or May 2026.	Independent Advisory Committee Hearings concluded, publication date of report unknown. Negotiations continue in relation to SRLA contribution to community infrastructure that will be confirmed in upcoming MOU.

Issue	Current situation	Next steps
Chain of Parks	Resolutions are currently on the record to establish a position on: • Purchase of adjoining sites • Undertaking site assessment and rehabilitation. Proposed works on some of the Council-owned sites are complex, and cost of land rehabilitation is greater than anticipated. A further area of land needs to be acquired to complete the contiguous chain of parks in Clayton South.	Work continues to seek funding for remediation and purchase of suitable linking land parcel. Our interaction with the responsible government agencies is yielding no progress.
Golf courses	Rossdale Golf Course: Council's position continues to be that Rossdale is not required to meet housing targets and has significant environmental issues. Rossdale Club has made no effort to sell course an ongoing golf facility, preferring to sell it to developers, if development approval is forthcoming. Kingswood: Victorian Government has released a Plan for consultation. Community concerns still significant about density, connectivity, environmental and drainage issues	Rossdale. MPs whose electorates cover Rossdale Golf Course were briefed in detail on the issues during this period. Council has appealed to VCAT about the process. Kingswood. Discussions taking place with owner to achieve community-advocated outcomes.

Issue	Current situation	Next steps
Road funding	Major roads in Kingston continue to receive little or no maintenance funding from the Department of Transport and Planning. Potholes, rutting and cracking continue to worsen along many major routes, together with roadside mowing.	Significant work has taken place on Mornington Peninsula Freeway. Advocacy via local MPs is ongoing. Continuing to work with Melbourne Water and DTP on allocating appropriate responsibility for mowing and roadside maintenance.
Mordialloc Underpass	Issue has reached an impasse with the closure of the underpass and no commitment from LXRA for any funding to replace it. LXRA has indicated that it believes 'the matter is closed'.	An LXRA plan for re-direction of cycle and foot traffic via Albert St and Park St is still in development.
Kingston City Hall	City Hall master plan is now complete and ready to promote to key parliamentary influencers and stakeholders. Program of refurbishment is divided into digestible projects to improve chances of success with attracting grants.	Ongoing program of 'backstage tours' and briefings on the master plan for selected MPs who may be influential in attracting future funding · Identification of and lodgement of applications for relevant grants of sufficient magnitude to support substantive progress towards the master plan.

Issue	Current situation	Next steps
Better Buses for Kingston	Lodgement of submission to DTP on improvements to bus routes 828, 903 and 708 which traverse Kingston and represent important transport infrastructure to support future population and housing growth. Copies of our submission have been provided to all key MPs, the Minister and stakeholders. Bus submission will form part of our advocacy to MPs and candidates at the State Election to secure cross-party support for bus route improvements.	Continued advocacy to local MPs and election candidates as they declare their candidacy, to secure cross-party support for bus route improvement. Continuing relationship management with key DTP stakeholders.

Strong relationships with our MPs

The Advocacy function has become a regular point of contact for virtually all State and Federal MPs in Kingston. MPs and their staff often receive representations from constituents, many of which are a council matter, not a state or federal responsibility.

The issues are diverse but mostly straight-forward to deal with. MPs have indicated that they value the simplicity of a single point of contact for routine inquiries. It saves the effort of generating correspondence for matters that are not complex. It has become known internally as the 'concierge' service. Most, if not all issues are resolved quickly, and to the satisfaction of the MP or staff members.

Between 13 November and 28 February, 33 matters were dealt with, which was fewer than the previous quarter, but still a substantial number given the Christmas holiday break.

Member of Parliament	Requests last quarter	Requests this quarter
Ryan Batchelor MP	1	1
Jodie Belyea MP	1	1
Georgie Crozier MP	-	1
Mark Dreyfus MP	1	1
Meng Heang Tak MP	14	5
Sonya Kilkenny MP	11	6
Clare O'Neil MP	1	-
Rachel Payne MP	2	2
Tim Richardson MP	11	15
Nick Staikos MP	1	1
Tim Wilson MP	2	-
	45	33

The issues on which MPs approach Council vary widely. Among this quarter's queries:

- Ongoing concerns about the failure of street trees planted by LXRA in Carrum
- Disappearance/theft of a plaque commemorating the centenary of Chelsea Railway Station.
- Congestion in Mordialloc Shopping causing by street dining, impacting people with disability
- MPs have increasingly sought Council's assistance in taking on mowing and other maintenance tasks on Melbourne Water and DTP lands.

Grant funding applications for the period

The Advocacy function has become a regular point of contact for virtually all State and Federal MPs in Kingston. MPs and their staff often receive representations from constituents, many of which are a council matter, not a state or federal responsibility.

Funder	Value	Purpose	Status
Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program	\$5.0m	Commonwealth contribution to construction of SUP bridge over Nepean Hwy, Mordialloc	Unsuccessful
Victorian Department of Education	\$1,000	Children's Week Operating Grant	Successful
DEECA	\$194,000	Peri-urban weed management partnership	Successful
Victorian Government Office of the Arts	\$150,000	Support for Live Music program at City Hall	Pending
Commonwealth Dept of Infrastructure	\$800,000	Precinct development and planning for City Hall	Pending
Suburban Rail Loop Authority	\$15,000	Community Project	Pending
Victorian School Building Authority	\$748,000	Edithvale Family and Children's Centre upgrades	Pending
Victorian School Building Authority	\$749,000	Parkdale Family and Children's Centre	Pending
Commonwealth Dept of Infrastructure	\$900,000	Namatjira Park lighting and other fixtures	Successful
Commonwealth Dept of Infrastructure	\$270,000	Southern Road Reserve works	Successful

Commonwealth Dept of Veterans Affairs	\$9,750	War Memorial refurbishment – reapplication on departmental advice	Pending
DEECA	\$9,250	Port Phillip Bay Stewardship Education and Engagement	Pending
DEECA	\$136,500	Rehabilitation of water sensitive urban design assets	Pending
DEECA	\$194,000	Repair Patterson Riverbank assets and repair damaged seawall	Successful
Libraries Victoria	\$1,000	Science Week Seed Grant	Successful
Commonwealth Dept of Infrastructure	\$1.5m	Bentleigh Greens New Soccer Pitch	Successful
Victorian Department of Transport and Planning	\$250,000	Refurbishment to Doug Denyer Reserve and Kevin Hayes Reserve	Pending