



WORKING TOGETHER

Quarterly Advocacy Report

June - August 2025

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.

Contents

Our objectives for advocacy.....	2
Contents	3
Overview.....	3
Highlights.....	4
Formal meetings.....	5
Current advocacy priorities.....	6
Strong relationships with our MPs.....	9
Funding applications for the period	10
Our parliamentary representation.....	11

Overview

This report covers the period 20 June 2025 to 31 August 2025.

The period saw an easing of activity associated with the federal election.

Both the Commonwealth and State Parliaments went into their annual winter recess, so many local MPs were in their electorates and more available for meetings and events.

Advocacy activity focused on face-to-face meetings with MPs seeking to understand their priorities for the year ahead. We began the process of seeding the upcoming state and federal budget process with Kingston's capital works priorities.

Over this period, Council signed off on the list of priority projects for our 2025-27 advocacy program and we began to talk to relevant MPs to place these priorities on their personal agendas.

Highlights

Over the period covered by this report, Council advocacy covered a broad range of events and activities, including:



- A visit to the Mordi Aquatic Centre by the Mayor and local federal member, Hon Mark Dreyfus MP, to inspect the completed 50m swimming pool shell and observe the installation of the first exterior wall panels.
- Attendance by Councillors and the CEO at the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly. Several Kingston councillors spoke at the conference and Kingston sponsored two motions at the Assembly, one on aged care funding, the other on cost-of-living issues affecting Council services. Both were carried.
- The launch of our *Better buses for Kingston* community consultation, which sought input from across the City of Kingston about how to improve bus services in the municipality. This work was in anticipation of the proposed re-contracting of bus routes in this region, and will form the basis of advocacy to the Department of Transport and Planning that will seek greater frequency of some of the main bus routes in Kingston – particularly the 903 which runs between Altona and Mordialloc and the 828 which runs between Berwick and Hampton, via Southland and DFO.
- Multiple events to celebrate the completion of Active Kingston projects funded through advocacy to various State MPS, including events at:
 - Bicentennial Park Chelsea, with Tim Richardson MP, to mark the completion of a new outdoor gym, 50% funded by Sport & Recreation Victoria (SRV)
 - Beazley Reserve Chelsea, with Tim Richardson MP, to mark the switching on of new sportsground lighting 50% funded by SRV
 - Dane Road Reserve, with Hon Nick Staikos MP and Ryan Batchelor MP to mark the switching on of new sportsground lighting, 50% funded by SRV.

Formal meetings

Date	Attendees	Purpose
24/6	Tim Richardson MP Mayor, CEO	Discuss Mordialloc Underpass closure
17/7	Tim Richardson MP Mayor, CEO	Discuss Local Government ministerial responsibilities
30/6	Hon Mark Dreyfus MP Mayor, CEO	Discuss LXP SUP Bridge and Underpass closure
25/7	Mayor Bolam, City of Frankston Mayor	General discussion of shared priorities
30/7	Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP Mayor, CEO	Discuss Activity Centre planning policies
4/8	Greater South East Melbourne Executives CEO	General meeting
4/8	Ryan Batchelor MP Mayor, CEO	Discuss general priorities for the year ahead
4/8	Hon Mark Dreyfus MP Mayor, CEO	Discuss Moorabbin Airport planning issues and Rosedale Golf Course
6/8	Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP Mayor, CEO	Discuss general electorate priorities for the year ahead
6/8	David Limbrick MP Mayor, CEO	Discuss general electorate priorities
29/8	Hon Clare O'Neil MP Mayor, CEO	Discuss electorate priorities, Housing & Homelessness portfolio
29/8	Hon Tim Wilson MP Mayor CEO	Discuss general electorate priorities for the year ahead

Current advocacy priorities

Council has been working on many individual advocacy opportunities, but the largest, most complex, difficult and strategically important issues are summarised here.

Issue	Current situation	Next steps
Suburban Rail Loop	Current Council resolutions are on the record to establish Council's position: • 23/262211 – SRL Precincts Discussion paper • 24/158397 – Submission to SRL Key Directions Plans • 24/32878 – Submission on SRL Draft Vision Resolutions of 28 July identified preferred locations for placement of Community Hub and approved an MOU for ongoing funding from SRL.	Appear at Independent Advisory Committee.
Chain of Parks	Current Council resolutions are on the record to establish Council's position on: • Purchase of sites • Undertaking site assessment and rehabilitation Proposed works are more 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.
Mordialloc Creek and Aspendale Gardens Wetlands	Council has advocated to Melbourne Water for a wetlands project on Mordialloc Creek. Melbourne Water has listed project on their work schedule with designs expected in Feb 2025, now delayed until April 2025.	Advocating to parliamentary representatives for funding of Mordialloc Creek project (Included within advocacy priority list)

Issue	Current situation	Next steps
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 gold facility, preferring to sell it to developers, if development approval is forthcoming. Kingswood: Victorian Government has released a Plan for consultation. Community protest has taken place, no change in current situation.	All MPs covering Rossdale have been invited to a briefing on the issues. One meeting with Minister Kilkenney to raise concerns, with another planned for early September. No new developments on Kingswood at this time,
Road funding	Major roads in Kingston continue to receive little or no maintenance. Potholes, rutting and cracking continue to worsen along major routes.	Seeking funding for identified locations in Kingston is now included in Kingston advocacy priorities. Limited new work on major Kingston Roads by DTP has been identified by Council officers, but work is not significant or at the scale required.
Mordialloc Underpass	Issue has reached an impasse with the closure of the underpass and no commitment from LXRA for any funding. LXRA have indicated that 'the matter is closed'.	Discussions continuing at the parliamentary level, with efforts to raise interest in agreeing on a solution with either the Minister for Level Crossing Removal or the Minister for Environment. (Included within the advocacy priority list).

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 developed and costed at \$15 million. Funding sought from LXRP and approval gained for \$5 in Vic Gov funding to match \$5m in Council funding. Gap in funding of \$5m sought from Commonwealth (unsuccessful so far).	Advocacy to local federal politician to press for Commonwealth funding to fill the gap. Continued advocacy to LXRP and state MPs to potentially increase its contribution to the bridge.

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 electorate staff often receive representations from constituents which are a council matter, and 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 when a matter is 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 24 June 31 August 2025, 37 separate matters were handled with the following Kingston-based MPs:

Member of Parliament	Requests
Jodie Belyea MP	1
Tim Wilson MP	1
Mark Dreyfus KC MP	2
Sonya Kilkenny MP	10
David Limbrick MP	1
Clare O'Neil MP	1
Tim Richardson MP	13
Meng Heang Tak	6
Nick Staikos	2

There was a wide diversity of issues raised by MPs, including:

- A request for action on a build-up of rubbish on a Mentone property
- Regular flooding in a parkland thoroughfare in Patterson Lakes
- A query on planning laws applying to sportsground scoreboards
- Rules applying to on-street parklets for restaurant dining.

Funding applications for the period

We are active in identifying and applying for Commonwealth and State funding programs. There seems to be a smaller number of grants on offer at the moment, however we actively seek out new grants rounds, and we have four live applications as at August 31. No new grants or funding was received during the period.

Program	Value	Comment
Mordialloc to Parkdale Shared User Path Bridge	\$5.0m	Application currently with Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program , Commonwealth. Pending
Waves Upgrade Project	\$2.5m	Application currently with Commonwealth Community Energy Upgrades Fund for assistance to convert Waves to an electric water heating solution to save money and reduce carbon emissions. Pending
Beach accessibility	Up to \$1m	National program to install beach ramps more widely. Multiple applications. Pending
War memorials	\$0.013m	Funding sought for audit of condition of all known Kingston War Memorials. Pending

Our parliamentary representation

Kingston is unique for number of state and federal electorate which fall within our boundaries. The municipality overlaps with 4 federal electorates (Dunkley, Goldstein, Hotham and Isaacs) and 6 state electorates (Bentleigh, Brighton, Carrum, Clarinda, Mordialloc and Sandringham). In addition, Kingston covers parts of 2 upper house regions which each have 5 members. This gives us a total of 20 members of state and federal parliament across the political spectrum: Labor, Liberal, Green, Teal, Libertarian and the Legalise Cannabis Party.

