

1. Chairperson's Report



This is the third Annual Report of the Dandenong Development Board. It brings to a close a year which has seen significant advances in the revitalisation of Dandenong as a centre for business, entertainment, residential living and community.

Following its establishment in 2003, the Board's initial focus was on the planning and infrastructure requirements necessary to underpin the renewal of Dandenong's city centre. That work culminated in the announcement by the State Government in September 2005 of the \$92.8 million Revitalising Central Dandenong project and was followed in April 2006 by additional State funding of \$197 million. The Revitalising Central Dandenong project will focus on land assembly, investment attraction and the delivery of new infrastructure. It will be delivered by VicUrban in partnership with the Greater Dandenong City Council.

With that work underway, the Board has been able to turn its attention to its social and economic objectives under the *Dandenong Development Board Act 2003*. Although Dandenong is located in one of Australia's fastest growing urban corridors, sections of its community experience significant social and economic hardship. A socially cohesive and economically confident community will be necessary to support Dandenong's ongoing role as a vibrant regional centre.

During the latter half of 2005, the Board consulted with stakeholder agencies to identify opportunities to address social and economic hardship. The Board confirmed a collaborative multi-agency approach which has resulted in a number of projects having been initiated, including a review of community and social facilities in Dandenong. These and other similar projects will continue throughout the year ahead.

I would like to thank the members of the Board for their time, commitment and valuable contributions over the past twelve months. On behalf of the Board I would also like to acknowledge the significant contributions of James Cain, Carl Wulff, Cr Maria Sampey and John Tabart who, due to changed circumstances, have retired from the Board.

I also thank the staff of the Board and particularly Executive Officer, Robert Davies, for their commitment and excellent support.

With the physical renewal of central Dandenong already well underway, the Board is looking forward to continuing its collaborative work with agencies to address the complementary social and economic aspects of Dandenong's revitalisation.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David Cowlshaw'.

David Cowlshaw
Chairperson

2. Role and Functions

2.1

Manner of establishment and the relevant Ministers

The Dandenong Development Board was established in October 2003 under the *Dandenong Development Board Act 2003* (the Act). The Act expires on 30 June 2010. Under the Act, “Dandenong” means the municipal district of the City of Greater Dandenong. The responsible Minister is the Minister for Planning, the Hon. Rob Hulls MP.

2.2

Objectives, functions, powers and duties

It is the role of the Board to work with key stakeholders to facilitate and support the revitalisation of Dandenong as a priority activity centre, including facilitation of improved social and economic outcomes for the broader Dandenong community. This will be achieved through the adoption of a multi-agency approach where projects are identified, agreed and implemented through partnerships involving local and state governments, businesses and the community.

The work of the Board takes place within the policy context applying at a state and local level. The most significant policy initiatives that affect the Board are Growing Victoria Together, A Fairer Victoria and Melbourne 2030.

The **objects** of the *Dandenong Development Board Act 2003*, as expressed in section 4 of the Act, are:

- to promote Dandenong as a key centre for employment, housing, service delivery and community activity in south-east Melbourne; and
- to facilitate the economic, cultural and community development of, and employment growth in, Dandenong.

The specific **functions** and undertakings of the Board are noted in section 6 of the Act. They are:

- to facilitate the development of Dandenong as a key centre for employment and services for south-east metropolitan Melbourne;
- to encourage activities (including community and cultural activities) which contribute to the role of Dandenong as a key centre for community and culture in south-east Melbourne;
- to recommend to the Minister infrastructure and other works considered necessary to facilitate development and economic and cultural activity within Dandenong;
- to encourage the development of housing diversity within Dandenong, including affordable housing;
- to promote economic growth in Dandenong; and
- to carry out any other functions conferred on the Board by the Act.

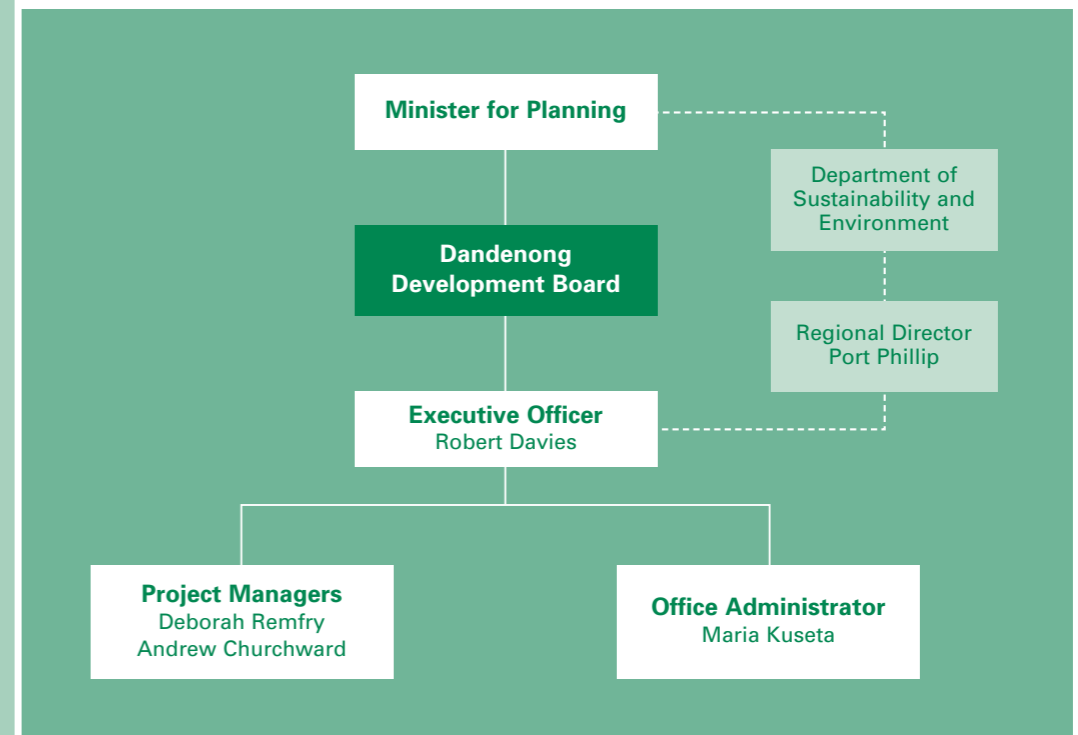
In accordance with section 7 of the Act, the Board has the **power** to do all things which are necessary or convenient to be done to perform its functions under the Act.

2. Role and Functions (continued)

- The Dandenong Development Board is specifically empowered under its legislation to:
- undertake or contribute to studies or investigations relating to:
 - the planning, design and development of Dandenong;
 - identifying necessary infrastructure or other public works within or relating to the development of Dandenong;
 - identifying works or other activities to be carried out by or on behalf of the Council or of Government agencies in Dandenong;
 - enter into contracts, agreements or arrangements with any person or body and do everything, including the payment of money, that is necessary or expedient for carrying the contracts, agreements or arrangements into effect;
 - employ agents or contractors;
 - with the approval of the Minister, act as agent of another person;
 - establish committees in accordance with section 18.

2.3

Organisational Structure



3. Membership

3.1

Dandenong Development Board

The membership of the Dandenong Development Board reflects a breadth of knowledge across urban planning, infrastructure provision, the development sector, government, and local and regional business networks. In accordance with section 10 of the Act, the Board has nine membership positions.

The Chairperson and business representatives have been appointed to the Board by the Governor in Council for a term of four years. They are then eligible for reappointment. The appointed members are entitled to receive fees, travelling and other expenses fixed by the Governor in Council.

Membership of the Board at June 2006, is noted below.

Chairperson	David Cowlshaw
Department of Sustainability and Environment	Ron Ben-David GM Strategic Policy & Projects Resources and Regional Services
Department of Infrastructure	James Cain* Executive Director, Major Projects Victoria
Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development	Lynne Williams Deputy Secretary, Business Support
VicUrban	Mark Allan Chief Operating Officer Revitalisation & Transit Cities
Greater Dandenong City Council	Cr Peter Brown Mayor
Greater Dandenong City Council	Carl Wulff* Chief Executive Officer
Business Representative	Roy Sanderson Director, RJ Sanderson & Associates P/L
Business Representative	Mark Pheely Divisional Manager, General Property Trust

* Members retiring from the Board due to a change of circumstances

3.2

Review Sub-committee

The Review Sub-committee of the Board was established in June 2004, to identify, consider and make recommendations to the Board on planning and infrastructure requirements for central Dandenong. In 2005, the Board began to turn its attention toward the social and economic objectives of the *Dandenong Development Board Act 2003*. Due to this change of focus, the Review Sub-committee met for the final time in April 2005.

4. Meetings

4.1

Dandenong Development Board

During the period 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006, the Dandenong Development Board met on five occasions.

TABLE 4.1.1: MEETINGS OF THE DANDENONG DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MEETING DATES 2005-06	LOCATIONS
16 August 2005	VicUrban office, Docklands
25 October 2005	Dandenong Plaza Centre Management office, Dandenong
28 February 2006	Dandenong Development Board office, Dandenong
04 April 2006	Dandenong Development Board office, Dandenong
20 June 2006	Dandenong Town Hall, Dandenong

TABLE 4.1.2: ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS AT BOARD MEETINGS

MEMBER	ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND	ATTENDANCE
David Cowlshaw	5	5
Michael Scrafton (15.06.04–10.03.06)	3	0
Ron Ben-David (20.06.06–ongoing)	1	1
James Cain (17.02.04–04.04.06)	4	1
Lynne Williams	5	4
John Tabart (17.02.04–22.01.06)	2	1
Mark Allan (20.06.06–ongoing)	1	0
Cr Maria Sampey (21.12.04–25.10.05)	2	1
Cr Peter Brown (28.02.06–ongoing)	3	2
Carl Wulff (17.08.04–04.04.06)	4	4
Roy Sanderson	5	5
Mark Pheely	5	4

5. Board Operations

5.1

Administration

The office of the Dandenong Development Board is located in the Victorian Business Centre at 314a Thomas Street, Dandenong, 3175 (telephone 03 9238 4444, facsimile 03 9794 5644).

The Board is supported by four staff members, all of whom are employees of the Department of Sustainability and Environment. There are two male and two female staff (no change compared to 2004–05):

Executive Officer	Robert Davies
Project Manager	Deborah Remfry
Project Manager	Andrew Churchward
Office Administrator	Maria Kuseta

In accordance with section 19(2) of the Act, the Executive Officer has the day-to-day control and management of the affairs of the Board.

5.2

Financial information

Funding of \$1million per year for the period 2002–06 was allocated in the State Budget 2002 for the establishment and operation of the Dandenong Development Board. Funding for a further three-year period (2006–09) was allocated in the State Budget 2005.

The Board met for the first time in October 2003 following the introduction of the *Dandenong Development Board Act 2003*. A summary of the Board's budget and expenditure since its establishment is provided in Table 5.2.1. There were no significant changes in the Board's financial position during the past year and no events during the reporting period expected to affect Board operations in the year ahead.

TABLE 5.2.1: FINANCIAL SUMMARY

ITEM	2005–06 (\$)	2004–05 (\$)	2003–04 (\$)	2002–03 (\$)
BUDGET				
Salaries and Wages	440,000	367,000	420,000	330,000
Operating Expenses	65,000	90,000	80,000	175,000
Plant and Vehicle Expenses	2,000	3,000	5,000	5,000
Office Overheads	35,000	22,000	45,000	40,000
Projects	458,000	518,000	450,000	450,000
TOTAL BUDGET	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
EXPENDITURE				
Salaries and Wages	374,699	359,342	338,407	271,541
Operating Expenses	67,505	49,794	78,888	169,053
Plant and Vehicle Expenses	2,237	1,671	2,828	0
Office Overheads	36,600	18,176	29,187	12,628
Projects	458,000	549,120	573,086	600,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	939,041	978,103	1,022,396	1,053,222

5. Board Operations (continued)

The Board also partnered with the Greater Dandenong City Council to undertake a number of joint strategic planning and capital works projects in Dandenong. Funding grants by the Board are noted in Table 5.2.2.

TABLE 5.2.2: PROJECTS – FUNDING GRANTS

FUNDING GRANTS	2005–06 (\$)
Dandenong Community and Social Facilities Project	36,000
Dandenong Declared Area Residential Attraction Strategy	60,000
Dandenong Palm Plaza Activation Plan	45,000
George Street Bridge Artistic Design Project	180,000
Stage 1 Gateway Lighting Project	50,000
Stage 1 Gateway Flagpole Project	30,000
TOTAL	401,000

There were no direct studies undertaken by the Board during the year which were greater than \$100,000.

The Board's administration in areas of financial management and account management, industrial relations, HR policy and administrative procedures is resourced through the systems, controls and procedures of the Department of Sustainability and Environment. Detailed financial and other information relating to the *Financial Management Act 1994* is included in the Department's Annual Report for 2005–06.

6. 2005–06 Key Achievements

During the period 2005-06, the Dandenong Development Board worked in collaboration with the Greater Dandenong City Council, VicUrban and other stakeholders toward four strategic priorities. They were to:

1. promote Dandenong;
2. provide an effective forum for agency collaboration in Dandenong;
3. facilitate the change necessary to revitalise Dandenong; and
4. deliver effective Board operations.

Projects and activities initiated or facilitated by the Board during 2005-06 included:

- the provision of briefings to the Minister for Planning and the Secretary of the Department of Sustainability and Environment by the Chairperson and Executive Officer regarding the work of the Board;
- meetings between the Board's Chairperson and Executive Officer and the Minister for Major Projects, Minister for Tourism, Minister for Police and Emergency Services and local Members of Parliament, to report on the progress of the Board and to discuss future planning for Dandenong;
- meetings with and visits to Dandenong by senior departmental officers and agency representatives, regarding the objectives, issues and activities underway in the revitalisation of Dandenong;
- representation by the Executive Officer on the Dandenong Education Precinct Reference Group, which provided information and feedback to the Project Committee for the establishment of a new best practice secondary college in Dandenong;
- representation by staff of the Board on the Greater Dandenong Community Safety Committee, which addresses safety issues facing the community;
- the delivery of presentations by the Executive Officer and staff to stakeholder organisations and forums on the work of the Board;
- in partnership with the Council, and key government and non-government agencies, the investigation of opportunities to further strengthen agency coordination processes and, thereby, better address social and economic disadvantage in Dandenong;
- in partnership with the Council, the installation of the iconic 'Reverie' artwork on the corner of Lonsdale Street and Walker Street in the city centre;
- completion of the Central Dandenong Traffic and Land Use Modelling Study in partnership with the Department of Infrastructure, Greater Dandenong City Council and VicRoads. The Study developed microsimulation and regional traffic models for use in the assessment of future development proposals and infrastructure improvements in the city centre;
- completion of the Central Dandenong Retail & Commercial Revitalisation Strategy. The Strategy reviewed the operation of the retail and commercial sectors in central Dandenong and developed strategies for their revitalisation;
- completion of the Central Dandenong Gateways and Landmarks Study, which identified important gateway entry points into central Dandenong and prepared a strategy for their enhancement;
- completion of streetscape works complementing the redevelopment by Council of the Dandenong Town Hall and Drum Theatre;
- in partnership with the Council, installation of new, upgraded pedestrian information and direction signs throughout the city centre;

6. 2005–06 Key Achievements (continued)

- in partnership with the Council, the Department of Infrastructure, and the Department of Sustainability and Environment, completion of the design and installation of new street lighting in Walker Street, to improve safety and amenity;
- participation on the Project Control and Project Working Groups which are guiding the design and construction of the George Street Bridge. The Bridge will connect north-south across the Dandenong railway line, to improve connectivity into the city centre and unlock development opportunities adjacent to Dandenong railway station;
- commencement of the Dandenong Community and Social Facilities Project. The project will review and analyse the provision of facilities that provide for children's and family services in Dandenong, as well as general capacity building services that deliver to the community through support, learning, arts and culture;
- commencement of the Dandenong Palm Plaza Activation Plan project. The project will prepare an action plan for the immediate introduction of a program of events and activities to activate Palm Plaza as a vibrant public space;
- commencement of the Dandenong Declared Area Residential Attraction Strategy project. The project will undertake research, investigate barriers and incentives, provide an analysis of existing conditions and recommend strategies to attract sustainable residential development and living into Dandenong's city centre and Declared Area.

7. Statements of Legislative Compliance

7.1

Major Contracts

The Board did not enter into any contracts greater than \$10 million in value during the reporting period.

7.2

National Competition Policy

The national competition reform agenda has resulted in a greater emphasis on the encouragement of competition in the community. Competitive neutrality is a principle of the National Competition Policy and requires that, as far as practicable, government-owned businesses compete with private sector businesses on the same footing.

The Board purchases services and goods in line with the Victorian Government Purchasing Authority's guidelines.

7.3

Community Inclusiveness

The Board is committed to policies, programs and strategies aimed at delivering culturally appropriate services to all Victorians.

7.4

Overseas Travel

No Board members or staff participated in overseas travel on behalf of the Board during the reporting period.

7.5

Merit and Equity

In accordance with the *Public Administration Act 2004*, the Board is committed to the principles of equal employment opportunity and the establishment and maintenance of a non-discriminatory work environment. The Board ensures that all persons are assessed solely on the basis of merit with respect to recruitment, promotion and access to training and other programs and facilities. This approach reflects the Board's desire to have a work-place free from discrimination, where each person has the opportunity to progress to the extent of their ability and the needs of the organisation.

Employers must ensure that:

- decisions are based on merit;
- employees are treated fairly and reasonably;
- equal employment opportunity is provided; and
- there are reasonable avenues of redress against unfair or unreasonable treatment.

Employees must:

- act with impartiality;
- display integrity, including avoiding real or apparent conflicts of interest;
- show accountability for actions; and
- provide responsive service.

7. Statements of Legislative Compliance (continued)

7.6

Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S)

Board management and staff participate in regular OH&S meetings relating to the Dandenong Development Board's work-place. Recommendations from the meetings are acted on by management as required.

7.7

Industrial Relations

The Dandenong Development Board enjoys a cooperative relationship with employee representative organisations. No time has been lost during the year through industrial accidents or disputes.

7.8

Freedom of Information

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* allows the public a right of access to documents held by the Board. There were no Freedom of Information (FOI) requests received during the reporting period.

FOI requests are made in writing describing the documents requested and including payment of the \$21.50 application fee. Further charges may be payable. FOI fees and charges are not subject to GST. Requests to the Board should be sent to Freedom of Information, Dandenong Development Board, 314a Thomas Street, Dandenong, 3175. The telephone contact number is 03 9238 4444.

7.9

Building Act 1993

The Board does not own property, but leases premises at 314a Thomas Street, Dandenong.

7.10

Whistleblowers Protection Act 2001

The *Whistleblowers Protection Act 2001* is designed to protect people who disclose information about serious wrongdoing within the Victorian Public Sector and to provide a framework for the investigation of these matters.

The Protected Disclosure Coordinator for the Department of Sustainability and Environment acts as an agent for the Dandenong Development Board to receive disclosures under the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 2001* and applies departmental procedures in managing disclosures. Disclosures may also be made directly to the Ombudsman. The contact details for the Protected Disclosure Coordinator and Ombudsman are:

- Deidre Egan, Protected Disclosure Coordinator
Department of Sustainability and Environment
PO Box 500, East Melbourne Vic 3002
telephone: 9637 8575, facsimile: 9637 8128, email: deidre.egan@dse.vic.gov.au
- The Ombudsman Victoria
Level 3, South Tower, 459 Collins Street, Melbourne Vic 3000
telephone: 9613 6222, Toll free: 1800 806 314

7. Statements of Legislative Compliance (continued)

7.11

Disclosure Index

The 2005-06 Annual Report of the Dandenong Development Board is prepared in accordance with all relevant Victorian legislation. The Disclosure Index has been prepared to facilitate identification of the Board's compliance with statutory disclosure requirements.

TABLE 7.11.1: DISCLOSURE INDEX

LEGISLATION	REQUIREMENT	PAGE
MINISTERIAL DIRECTIONS		
Report of Operations		
Charter and purpose		
FRD 22A	Manner of establishment and the relevant Ministers	2
FRD 22A	Objectives, functions, powers and duties	2-3
FRD 22A	Nature and range of services provided	2-3
Management and structure		
FRD 22A	Organisational structure	3
FRD 22A	Board members	4
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FRD 22A	Major changes or factors affecting performance	1
FRD 22A	Operational and budgetary objectives and performance against objectives	2, 6, 8-9
FRD 22A	Statement of workforce data	6
FRD 22A	Significant changes in financial position during the year	6
FRD 22A	Summary of the financial results for the year	6-7
FRD 22A	Details of consultancies under \$100,000	7
FRD 22A	Details of consultancies over \$100,000	7
FRD 22A	Subsequent events	n/a
FRD 12A	Disclosure of major contracts	10
FRD 22A	Statement on National Competition Policy	10
FRD 22A	Merit and equity	10
FRD 22A	Occupational Health and Safety	11
FRD 22A	Application and operation of <i>Freedom of Information Act 1982</i>	11
FRD 22A	Compliance with building and maintenance provisions of <i>Building Act 1993</i>	11
FRD 22A	Application and operation of the <i>Whistleblowers Protection Act 2001</i>	11
FRD 22A	Statement of availability of other information	13
FRD 15	Executive Officer disclosures	n/a
FRD 10	Disclosure Index	12-13

7. Statements of Legislative Compliance (continued)

TABLE 7.11.1: DISCLOSURE INDEX (continued)

LEGISLATION	REQUIREMENT	PAGE
Financial Statements		
Financial statements required under Part 7 of the FMA		
SD 4.2(c)	Compliance with Australian accounting standards and other authoritative pronouncements	#
SD 4.2(c)	Compliance with Ministerial Directions	#
SD 4.2(d)	Rounding of amounts	#
SD 4.2(c)	Accountable officer's declaration	#
SD 4.2(f)	Model Financial Report	#
SD 4.2(b)	Statement of financial performance	n/a
SD 4.2(b)	Statement of financial position	n/a
SD 4.2(b)	Cash flow statement	#
Other disclosures in notes to the financial statements		
FRD 9	Departmental disclosure of administered assets and liabilities	#
FRD 11	Disclosure of ex-gratia payments	n/a
FRD 13	Disclosure of parliamentary appropriations	n/a
FRD 21	Responsible person and Executive Officer disclosures	n/a

Other Information required to be available under Financial Reporting Direction 22 (FRD 22A): Information relevant to the headings listed in FRD 22A of the *Financial Management Act 1994* (FMA) is held at the Board's office and is available on request, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Information Privacy Act 2000*.

See Department of Sustainability and Environment Annual Report 2005-06