

CASEY CATCH UP

Winter 2026

THIS EDITION:

- Casey Budget feature 2026/27
- Your rates explained
- Update on kerbside bin changes

SIGN UP TO THE MONTHLY DIGITAL EDITION

Visit Council's website and
search Casey Catch Up





MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to the winter edition of *Casey Catch Up*.

We adopted our 2026/27 Budget and Annual Action Plan in June, an important milestone that will guide what we deliver for our community over the year ahead.

I'm proud to share some of the highlights in this edition and showcase how we're focusing on what our community has told us matters most. Guided by your feedback, our plans prioritise creating a safer, more connected, liveable and sustainable Casey as our city continues to grow.

We're investing in initiatives that make a real difference in everyday life - strengthening community safety, supporting young people, and building social connection across our diverse community. At the same time, we're planning for growth and liveability, with significant investment in local infrastructure, parks, community facilities and services that ensure people can access what they need close to home.

Caring for our environment also remains central, with continued delivery of our *Greening Casey* plan and increased investment in climate action to support a more resilient future.

With many households experiencing cost-of-living pressures, we've balanced investment in essential services with measures to ease costs, including keeping rates in line with the State Government cap and freezing waste charges this year.

You'll also find useful information in this edition to help you better understand your rates notice, along with the latest update on Casey's implementation of the statewide kerbside waste reforms.

I encourage you to read on and discover the many ways we're working together to build a connected, innovative and resilient community.

Cr Stefan Koomen
Mayor, City of Casey

Front cover: The new Pearcedale Reserve playground and upgraded skatepark are proving a hit with local families. Turn to page 4 to see what's next for playground upgrades across Casey.



Councillors Gary Rowe, Lynette Pereira and Mayor Stefan Koomen at Cairns Road Reserve – one of the participating Active After Dark venues.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: ACTIVE AFTER DARK

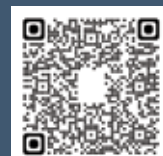
One of the projects Council has invested in this year is the expansion of *Active After Dark*, with a \$200,000 project to build on the success of last year's pilot program.

Active After Dark helps residents stay active during the cooler, darker months by lighting up selected sports grounds and recreation spaces for community use after sunset.

When facilities are not being used by local sporting clubs, they are opened up as free, safe and accessible spaces to enjoy informal activities such as walking, running, kicking a football or simply spending time outdoors.

Active After Dark is running at selected locations across Casey until September 2026.

To view participating locations and hours search '*Active After Dark*' on Council's website or scan the QR code.



2026/27 BUDGET AND ANNUAL ACTION PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

DELIVERING WHAT MATTERS MOST FOR OUR COMMUNITY

The City of Casey's 2026/27 Budget and Annual Action Plan are focused on delivering what matters most today, while planning responsibly for the future.

Guided by the *Long Term Community Vision 2035* and *Council Plan 2025-29*, the Budget and Action Plan turn long-term goals into practical action, helping create a more connected, liveable and sustainable Casey.

This year, Council is investing in initiatives that strengthen our community and create a greener, more sustainable future for Casey. From community safety and youth support to local economic development and climate action, these investments will help build a connected, innovative and resilient community.

Key focus areas for 2026/27



COMMUNITY SAFETY

- \$1.2M+ invested in community safety initiatives.
- Mobile CCTV trial in partnership with Victoria Police.
- Community Safety and Crime Meetings continue.
- Targeted, community-led family violence prevention initiatives.
- Development of *Public Open Space Lighting Guide* to support safer public spaces.



Managing Council rates within the Victorian Government's 2.75% cap



Waste charges frozen - no increase in 2026/27



\$551.5M invested in essential services



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

- \$2.8 million invested in youth services for 10–25-year-olds.
- Youth mental health roundtable to strengthen local collaboration.
- Youth engagement programs including Late Night Hoops, Youth Information Centre support and low-cost school holiday activities.



\$136.5M Capital Works Program for new and upgraded infrastructure



25,000 trees + 185,000 shrubs to be planted over 2 years



THRIVING ECONOMY

- \$905,000 invested in streetscape upgrades across five shopping precincts.
- Partnership plans with Federation University and Chisholm TAFE to support employment pathways and skills development for residents.



\$2.8M for youth services supporting ages 10–25



\$150K Emergency Food Relief funding pool



SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

- 25,000 trees and 185,000 shrubs to be planted over the next two years through the *Greening Casey* plan.
- \$4.8 million invested in greening, landscape and ecological projects to improve open spaces, habitat connectivity and tree canopy.
- 17% increase in climate investment to support local programs and help the community prepare for future challenges.



\$1.19M for local economy - business support and resilience

Tip: Want to get involved?

Council hosts community tree planting days during the year. Subscribe to the '*Green Living in Casey*' newsletter on Council's website to stay up-to-date.

2026/27 BUDGET AND ANNUAL ACTION PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

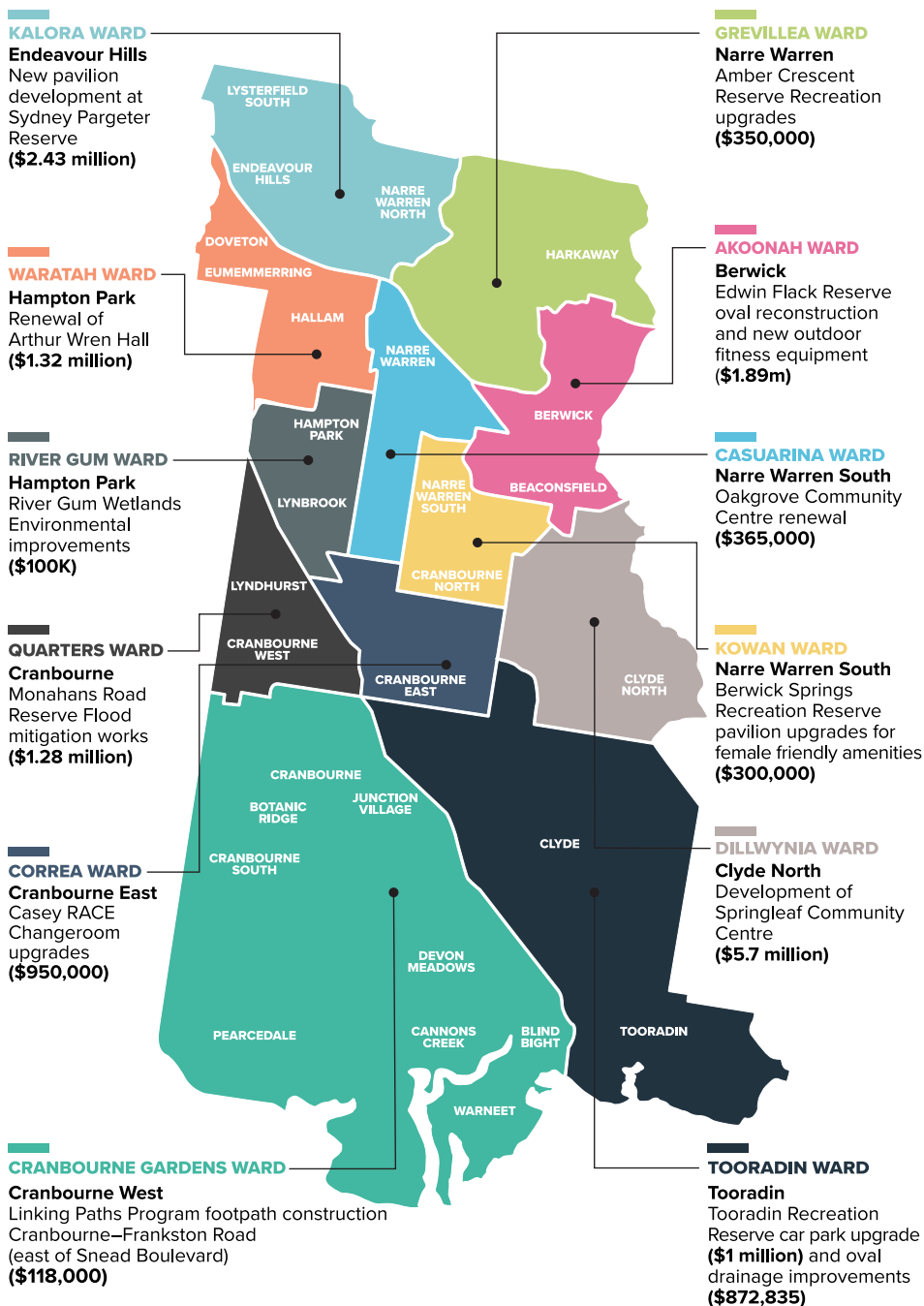
BUILDING A MORE LIVEABLE CITY

As Casey continues to grow, Council is investing in the places, services and infrastructure our community relies on every day. From new growth areas to established neighbourhoods, we're delivering upgraded facilities, improving access to essential services and advocating for better transport and road connections to keep pace with growth.

2026/27 Capital Works Program

Total \$136.5 million includes:

- \$66.2 million of new assets
- \$44.9 million of renewal works
- \$19.4 million of upgrades to existing facilities
- \$5.9 million to expand existing assets

**READY, SET, PLAY... UPGRADES ON THE WAY!**

Playtime is getting an upgrade across Casey, with more than \$7 million being invested in 2026/27 towards safer, more modern and inclusive playgrounds for local families.

Alongside these upgrades, we're also developing a new *Casey Playground Framework* this year to guide future play spaces, including exploring opportunities for an iconic, multigenerational destination.

These playgrounds are set for an upgrade this year:

Berwick:

Farnborough Way Reserve (\$520K)
 Thornley Drive Reserve (\$225K)
 Timbarra Park (\$700K)
 Wilson Botanic Park (\$1.2M)

Cranbourne:

Cranbourne Place Reserve (\$800K)
 Ebony Street Reserve (\$280K)

Cranbourne West:

Bernborough Avenue Reserve (\$700K)

Endeavour Hills:

James Cook Primary School (\$250K)
 Singleton Reserve (\$250K)

Hallam:

Glenburn Drive Reserve (\$1M)

Lynbrook:

Parnum Place (new playspace) (\$300K)

Lyndhurst:

Waterbush Crescent Reserve (\$800K)

MAJOR PROJECTS UPDATE



Image: We've recently released new renders showcasing the design of Cranbourne Hub. Visit Casey Conversations to see more.

Cranbourne Hub

A major new community facility is on the horizon for Cranbourne, set to bring essential services together in one vibrant, central location.

Council is progressing plans for the \$40.6 million Cranbourne Hub. Detailed design work is expected to be finalised in 2026, with construction beginning in early 2027 and the Hub expected to open to the community in 2029.

Located at 1-3 Lyall Street, the Hub will create a modern, welcoming space in the heart of Cranbourne, bringing together services including Council's Customer Service and Youth Information Centres, Connected Libraries – Cranbourne Branch, Peninsula Community Legal Centre, Wellsprings for Women and WAYSS Ltd.

Shaped by community input, the Hub will focus on accessibility, safety and flexible shared spaces, creating a central place for connection, support and lifelong learning.

In an exciting milestone, we recently released new concept renders of the Hub, giving residents a glimpse of the modern, community-focused space to come.

A dedicated project webpage has also been launched to keep the community informed as the project progresses.

Visit conversations.casey.vic.gov.au/cranbourne-hub to find out more or scan the QR code.



Image: Render for Doveton Pool in the Park upgrades. This image does not include the future local park and playground area which is still under design.

Doveton Pool in the Park

Exciting new additions are planned for Doveton Pool in the Park in 2026/27, with Stage 4 of the redevelopment set to get underway soon. The next phase will focus on recommissioning the former program pool and adding a brand-new standalone waterslide.

Stage 1 – Completed

In May 2026, Council completed upgrades to the 50-metre outdoor pool, including reducing its depth, adding a new accessible entry ramp and constructing a new filtration system.

Stage 2 – Planning underway

Design and planning work is underway for a new public open space area and playground, creating more opportunities for recreation, relaxation and family fun. This is expected to be delivered in 2027.

Stage 3 – Under construction

A \$4 million upgrade of the main pool building is progressing well and is expected to be completed by November 2026.

The upgrade will deliver renewed change facilities, a new entrance foyer, a family change village, additional amenities, a first aid room, and a new kitchen and serving area, creating a more welcoming and convenient experience for visitors.

Stage 4 – Coming next

Construction is expected to start late August 2026 and will include recommissioning the former program pool and building a new standalone waterslide.

The Doveton Pool in the Park redevelopment is thanks to major investment of around \$7.5 million from Australian Government's *Thriving Suburbs Program*. These upgrades will help ensure Doveton Pool in the Park remains a much-loved destination for the community to relax, connect and create lasting memories.

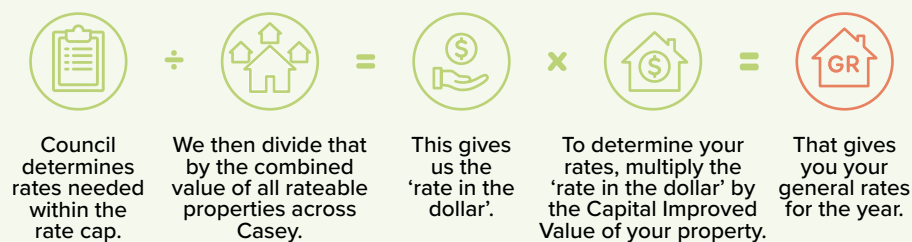
RATES

Your rates play a vital role in supporting Casey, funding the services and infrastructure you rely on every day. From parks and playgrounds to early years services, community facilities, roads, footpaths and sporting fields, your rates help keep Casey moving, connected and a great place to live.

Council is focused on striking the right balance, carefully managing rising costs, minimising pressure on households and continuing to invest in what matters most to our community.

Your rates notice explained

The amount of revenue Council collects from rates will increase by 2.75% this year, in line with the Victorian Government's rate cap. The amount each household pays may increase by a different amount depending on their property's value. This is how your rates are calculated:



WASTE CHARGE

This covers the cost of waste and recycling services.

Council has made the decision to freeze waste charges for 2026/27, with no increase from last year.



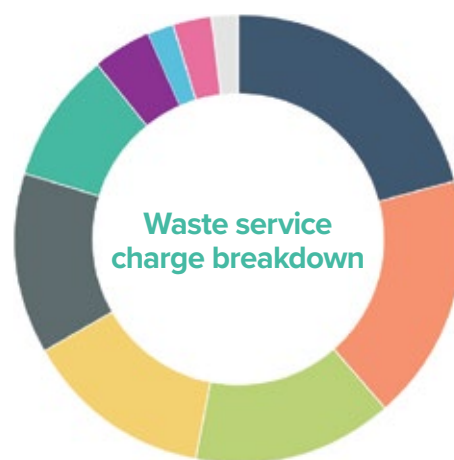
EMERGENCY SERVICES AND VOLUNTEERS FUND (ESVF):

Introduced by the Victorian Government in 2025 to replace the Fire Services Property Levy, the ESVF supports a broader range of emergency services.

It appears as a separate charge on your rates notice. Council collects this on behalf of the State Government, with all funds passed on — it does not generate revenue for Council. To learn more, visit sro.vic.gov.au/esvf.

Understanding your waste charge

Your annual waste charge funds the services that help manage household waste and keep Casey clean. It covers much more than your kerbside bin collections, including:



- Garbage service
- Landfill Levy - a Victorian Government tax on waste sent to landfill.
- Food and garden service
- Recycling service
- Hard Waste service
- Dumped rubbish, street sweeping and litter bins
- Glass bin supply & lid change over
- Glass service
- Programs and services
- Staff admin

Waste charge freeze

To help ease the impact of the four-bin rollout on households, Council has used savings from its waste reserve to freeze the standard waste charge for 2026/27. This means there is no increase to the standard waste charge from last year.

Your new and improved payment experience

Choose the payment schedule that works best for you, with weekly, fortnightly or monthly payments, or set up Autopay to pay your instalments or annual rates payment on the due date.



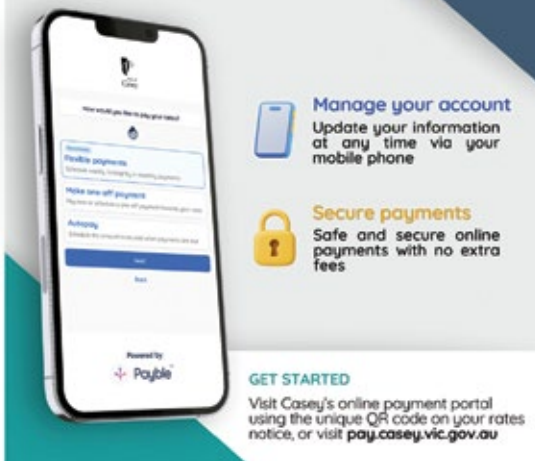
Flexible Payment Plan
Join at any time during the financial year and pay your annual rates through to 30 June 2027



Pay with card or bank
Automatic payments for all major bank accounts, credit and debit cards



Helpful reminders
Receive SMS reminders before important due dates



Manage your account
Update your information at any time via your mobile phone

Secure payments
Safe and secure online payments with no extra fees

GET STARTED

Visit Casey's online payment portal using the unique QR code on your rates notice, or visit pay.casey.vic.gov.au

Financial hardship:

If you're experiencing financial hardship or need support with your rates, please contact Council on 9705 5200 or visit casey.vic.gov.au/rates-financial-hardship to learn about available options.

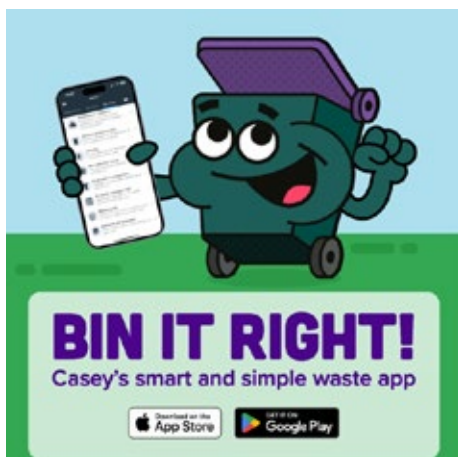
UPDATE ON KERBSIDE BIN CHANGES

As part of a Victorian Government plan to standardise household waste and recycling services, all councils across Victoria are required to introduce a four-bin system. The City of Casey has been preparing for this change for several years and will complete the final two stages of the rollout in 2026.

The four-bin system includes separate bins for:

- general rubbish (*red lid*)
- mixed recycling (*yellow lid*)
- food and garden organics (*green lid*)
- glass recycling (*purple lid*)

It is designed to make sorting waste at home easier, recover more valuable resources and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.



TIP: Download the Bin It Right app

As Casey completes the rollout of the four-bin system, the Bin It Right app is the easiest way to stay up to date and know which bin needs to go out each week.

Get personalised bin night reminders, check what goes in each bin and receive important updates about your waste and recycling services.



Glass bin

Rolling out to all households: September-November 2026



Casey is introducing a new glass recycling service. Putting glass in its own bin keeps recycling cleaner, reduces contamination, and improves glass recycling, so that glass can be made into new products.

What to expect:

- An 80-litre glass-only bin will be delivered between 7 September and 20 November 2026.
- Glass bottles and jars of any colour that have contained food or drink can go in this bin. Just give them a quick rinse and remove the lid.
- Once your purple bin is delivered, glass will no longer be accepted in the yellow-lidded recycling bin.
- Glass bins will be collected every four weeks from November 2026.

While Council is required to introduce the glass service, we continue to advocate to the Victorian Government for improvements in how it is delivered, including greater flexibility and changes to the Container Deposit Scheme.

Food and Garden Organics (FOGO) bin

Rolling out to households without one: late November 2026



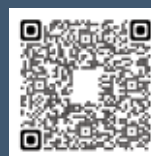
As part of the rollout of the FOGO service to all households, existing households that do not already have a FOGO bin will receive one. When food scraps and garden waste are kept out of general rubbish, they can be turned into soil conditioner instead of going to landfill, reducing emissions, improving soil health and supporting a more sustainable community.

What to expect:

- Households that don't already have a FOGO bin will receive one in late November 2026. Bin size depends on your property size.
- FOGO bins are collected fortnightly, on the alternate week to recycling.
- Food and garden waste must only be placed in your FOGO bin. Food waste must go in loose, with no bags allowed.
- Households receiving a new FOGO service in November 2026 will be charged the additional service fee from 1 January 2027. This will be reflected in the 2026/27 rates notice as an increase in the waste charge for the second half of the financial year.

For more information about bin changes

visit casey.vic.gov.au/kerbside-bin-changes or scan the QR code.



SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH GRANTS

The City of Casey offers a range of grant programs to support local groups, organisations and residents.

Quick Response Grants

Available year-round, these grants of up to \$1,000 support community groups facing unexpected challenges or new opportunities. In 2026/27, an additional \$50,000 has been added to introduce a new Local Connection Activities category, to fund small events and activities that bring people together and strengthen community connection.

Social Meals for Older Persons

Funding has nearly doubled to \$100,000 this year, to support community groups to provide social meals as part of their senior's programs. These gatherings help older residents stay connected, enjoy healthy meals and continue living independently.

Casey Food Relief Capacity Building Initiative

A one-off grant program offering up to \$20,000 to local not-for-profit food relief organisations. The funding can be used to strengthen food relief services through volunteer training and the purchase of equipment, infrastructure and systems. Applications are now open and close on 28 August.



Achievement Grants (Individuals)

Grants of \$150–\$500 are available to help Casey residents who have been selected to participate in sport, arts or science events at an elite national or international level.

Funding can assist with travel, accommodation, entry fees, uniforms and equipment.

To find out more about our grant programs or to apply, visit casey.vic.gov.au/grants-community or scan the QR code.



YOUR COUNCILLORS



MAYOR

Cr. Stefan Koomen
(Waratah Ward)

0403 033 243

skoomen@casey.vic.gov.au



DEPUTY MAYOR

Cr. Michelle Crowther
(Cranbourne Gardens Ward)

0428 403 907

mcrowther@casey.vic.gov.au



Cr. Scott Dowling
(Akoonah Ward)

0436 961 267

sdowling@casey.vic.gov.au



Cr. Kim Ross
(Casuarina Ward)

0428 522 174

kiross@casey.vic.gov.au



Cr. Gary Rowe
(Correa Ward)

0475 414 224

garowe@casey.vic.gov.au



Cr. Anthony Walters
(Dillwynia Ward)

0459 148 431

awalter@casey.vic.gov.au



Cr. Dave Perry
(Grevillia Ward)

0499 693 503

dperry@casey.vic.gov.au



Cr. Melinda Ambros
(Kalora Ward)

0499 797 393

mambros@casey.vic.gov.au



Cr. Shane Taylor
(Kowan Ward)

0428 980 109

shtaylor@casey.vic.gov.au



Cr. Carolyn Eaves
(Quarters Ward)

0476 650 052

ceaves@casey.vic.gov.au



Cr. Lynette Pereira
(River Gum Ward)

0400 334 591

lpereira@casey.vic.gov.au



Cr. Jennifer Dizon
(Tooradin Ward)

0497 109 542

jdizon@casey.vic.gov.au

To learn more about our new councillors and wards, visit Council's website.



Contact the City of Casey:

Web: casey.vic.gov.au

Email: caseycc@casey.vic.gov.au

Phone: 03 9705 5200

Post: PO Box 1000, Narre Warren VIC 3805



TIS: 131 450

(Translating and Interpreting Service)

المترجم الفوري
مترجم شفاهي

ਦੁਬਾਸੀਆ ਫ਼ਰਾਸ਼
ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਸੇਵਾ

Customer Service Centres:

Narre Warren: Bunjil Place, Patrick Northeast Drive

Cranbourne: Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre

CASEY.VIC.GOV.AU



NRS: 133 677

(for the deaf, hearing or speech impaired)