

Media Response

15 April 2025

**Please attribute the following response to Greater Dandenong Mayor,
Councillor Jim Memeti:**

Council is grappling with the community concern over the name of the Thomas Street precinct. It will take time and careful consideration to put together a plan for community consultation over whether we keep the name Afghan Bazaar, have a new name, or stop using a name altogether. We must be meticulous in putting together an engagement plan that is demonstrably fair and avoids any perceptions of bias.

While we plan for this process, Council provided an update last night. The Council resolution noted the current issues, and resolved (for now), to stop using the name Afghan Bazaar, subject to a later engagement process.

As several Councillors noted last night, we are very proud of Thomas Street. It's a credit to the hard work, resilience and entrepreneurial spirit of our refugee and migrant communities. While we will work through the naming process, our focus and priority is to celebrate Thomas Street and promote social cohesion and respectful discourse within our community.

ENDS

Media Enquiry

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From The Age

Thank you for the message.

I spoke to a fair few of the attendees at last night's meeting about their disappointment with the decision last night.

Many believe this was a political decision to help Labor MP Julian Hill in the upcoming federal election.

How does the council respond to that?

Were politics a factor in the motion last night?

If not, why the sudden backflip?

Please reply by midday or feel free to call me on 0406 305 970.