

Media Response

24 October 2025



Hi Sahar,

“Social Cohesion” and “intercultural dialogue” are concepts not familiar to everyone. Given the upcoming community engagement sessions we thought it might be a good time to dig a bit deeper into what they mean. The workshops will take place in November and December but they’re still being finalised and we don’t yet have confirmation for their duration.

In case it helps, the below statement from Marjan in August, sets out the process in relation to Thomas Street:

In May this year, Council committed to a thorough, careful process of listening and community consultation, with the aim of promoting social cohesion and community resilience. This is a necessary first step, before there is any consideration of a name for this precinct.

The engagement model will be delivered in two stages.

In the first stage, we will work with the Department of Home Affairs and the Victorian Multicultural Commission, to build a shared understanding of social cohesion, strengthen connections between community and government, and explore shared values and cultural identities.

In the second stage, which will be led by Greater Dandenong City Council, we will use the insights from stage one to develop a shortlist of names. These will be assessed against the Naming Rules for Places in Victoria and released for community feedback. Final endorsement will rest with Council.

We are currently working with key partners to finalise the project plan, including a timeline. The community will be informed of the next steps once details are confirmed.

We are proud of our vibrant and diverse community. We are confident we can navigate this process and that community cohesion will be stronger as a result.

ENDS|

Media Enquiry

21 October 2025

From Dandenong Journal in relation to [Media Release - 21 October 2025 - Social Cohesion](#)

Hi Alecia,

Thank you for sending this through.

Just wanted to confirm if this is in regard to the Afghan Bazaar topic?

I know community engagement sessions will commence through these next few months, but how long will it go for?

When will a decision be made on the nickname of Thomas St?

Thank you!