



YOUTH COUNCIL 2026 GOALS STATEMENT

CITY OF GREATER BENDIGO

The City of Greater Bendigo's vision is *"Greater Bendigo celebrates and respects our diverse and growing community. We aim to be welcoming, sustainable and flourishing. Walking hand-in-hand with our First Nations communities. Building on our heritage for a safe and happy future."*

The City aspires to deliver this vision by being a values-driven organisation that is guided by four values: *We Collaborate, We are Accountable, We Respect, and We Evolve*. These values underpin the way Councillors, staff, volunteers, and Youth Councillors conduct themselves.

YOUTH COUNCIL PURPOSE

The City of Greater Bendigo Youth Council is an advisory and advocacy committee whose role is to represent the voice of young people who live, work and/or study in the City of Greater Bendigo. Youth Council achieves this by:

- + Providing advice to the City of Greater Bendigo Council on plans, strategies, policies, and projects so that they better align to the needs of young people;
- + Engaging with young people to identify their priorities; and
- + Advocating on issues that directly impact young people.

YOUTH COUNCIL 2026 GOALS

The City of Greater Bendigo Youth Council aspires to achieve the following goals in 2026:

- Youth Council initiates its own submissions when appropriate and actively advocates to Council on issues important to young people.
- Youth Council actively advocates to improve the lives of young people in Greater Bendigo.
- Youth Council Working Groups develop and present at least one proposal to Youth Council each in 2026.
- When appropriate, individual Youth Councillors are members of City advisory committees and external committees of management as Youth Council representatives.
- When appropriate, individual Youth Councillors attend City events and/or speak at events.

CITY OF GREATER BENDIGO Youth Council

- Youth Councillors play an active role in the City of Greater Bendigo Youth Awards.
- Youth Council encourages young people to make submissions on City projects via Let's Talk including but not limited to the City's budget.
- Youth Council promotes youth-based surveys like the Mission Australia Youth Survey.
- Youth Council achieves quorum at every briefing and meeting.
- All Youth Councillors are active participants in briefings, meetings and joint Council-Youth Council meetings.
- Most Youth Councillors attend briefings, meetings, and joint Council and Youth Council meetings.
- When relevant, individual Youth Councillors attend Ordinary Council Meetings.
- All Youth Councillors maintain a positive relationship with City Councillors, management, and staff; are professional when representing the City and adhere to the City's code of conduct and values: *We Collaborate, We are Accountable, We Respect, and We Evolve.*
- Experienced Youth Councillors actively engage with newer Youth Councillors to support their development and participation via Buddy Groups and individual efforts.
- All Youth Councillors behave in a manner that ensures the functioning and longevity of the Youth Council as a program.

REVIEW OF YOUTH COUNCIL GOALS

The City of Greater Bendigo Youth Council will review and update its Goals Statement annually at the beginning of each year.

