



Minutes

Scheduled Council Meeting

Tuesday 21 February 2023 at 7:30 pm

Community Hall at Whittlesea Community Activity Centre,
57 Laurel Street, Whittlesea and livestreamed via Council's
website [https://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/about-
us/council/council-meetings/](https://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/about-us/council/council-meetings/)

Administrators

Lydia Wilson Chair of Council

Peita Duncan Administrator

On 19 June 2020 the Acting Minister for Local Government appointed the Panel of Administrators for the City of Whittlesea and appointed Lydia Wilson as Chair of the Panel. The Panel of Administrators comprises of Lydia Wilson and Peita Duncan who will undertake the duties of the Council of the City of Whittlesea until the October 2024 Local Government Election.

Senior Officers

Craig Lloyd Chief Executive Officer

Sarah Renner Director Customer & Corporate Services

Debbie Wood Director Infrastructure & Environment

Anthony Traill Interim Director Community Wellbeing

Debbie Blandford Acting Director Planning & Development

Frank Joyce Executive Manager Strategy & Insights

Janine Morgan Executive Manager Public Affairs

Sarah Rowe Interim Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

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1 Opening

1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions

The Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson opened the meeting at 7:30pm.

“Welcome to this Council Meeting of 21 February 2023 which is being held in person at the Whittlesea Community Activity Centre, 57 Laurel Street, Whittlesea and also being live streamed.

I am Lydia Wilson, Chair of Council and I would also like to introduce my Panel colleague, Administrator Peita Duncan.

I would also like to introduce our Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd and ask that he in turn introduce the members of the Executive Leadership Team in attendance today.”

“Good evening everyone, we also have with us:

Director Infrastructure & Environment, Debbie Wood;
Interim Director Community Wellbeing, Anthony Traill;
Acting Director Planning & Development, Debbie Blandford;
Executive Manager Strategy & Insight, Frank Joyce;
Executive Manager Public Affairs, Janine Morgan; and
Interim Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO, Sarah Rowe.

These members of the Executive Leadership Team will join us during the meeting.”

1.2 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement

The Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson read the following statement:

“On behalf of Council, I recognise the rich Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledge the Wurundjeri Willum Clan and Taungurung People as the Traditional Owners of lands within the City of Whittlesea.

I would also like to acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging.”

1.3 Diversity Statement

The Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson will read the following statement:

At the City of Whittlesea we are proud of our diversity and the many cultures, faiths and beliefs that make up our community. We strive to be an inclusive welcoming City that fosters active participation, wellbeing and connection to each other and this land. We commit as a Council to making informed decisions to benefit the people of the City of Whittlesea now and into the future, to support our community’s vision of A Place For All.

1.4 Acknowledgements

Chair of Council Lydia Wilson made the following acknowledgements:

1.4.1 Chris Eddy

I would like to take this opportunity to formally advise that Administrator Chris Eddy, resigned effective 13 December 2022.

I would like to acknowledge the significant contribution Chris made as a member of the Panel of Administrators and to our community during his time.

As an Administrator, Chris has worked alongside Administrator Peita Duncan and myself supporting our Chief Executive Officer along with the Executive Leadership Team and staff to deliver a range of service and governance improvements and support our community through COVID-19.

Administrator Duncan and I remain fully committed to our work through to October 2024 and the roadmap we have set for the future of the City of Whittlesea, including an ambitious outcome-focused program for the remainder of our term.

We are looking forward to the Victorian Government announcing a replacement Administrator for the City of Whittlesea shortly which we believe is imminent.

1.4.2 Earthquake

On behalf of Council I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the people of Türkiye and Syria following the devastating earthquakes earlier this month.

Our hearts and prayers go out to all those affected, especially the families of those who have sadly lost their lives. More than 3500 people in the City of Whittlesea identify as having Turkish, Assyrian and Kurdish heritage so we know many of these people will have family and friends in the impacted region and our thoughts are with them. Council was honoured to host a touching community vigil led by local community leaders on Friday night at the Civic Centre in solidarity with the people of Türkiye and Syria and their families and friends who call the City of Whittlesea home.

1.4.3 David Turnbull

I would like to acknowledge the late David Turnbull who was recognised on 26 January with a posthumous Medal of the Order of Australia.

A posthumous OAM is a wonderful recognition for David, a man who is well recognised for his significant impact on shaping the City of Whittlesea.

David led the City of Whittlesea from 2007 to 2016 as CEO and was the Director of Planning and Development from 1994.

He was greatly respected by staff and community alike for his calm and considered approach to leadership and his genuine interest and care for all. He was also greatly respected across the Local Government and public sectors and across strategic and statutory planning fields. I had the personal pleasure of working with him as a colleague over many years and he was a true humanitarian.

David is remembered for his legacy in many areas and was a pioneer in growing the role of local government advocacy. He also led Council through the challenging aftermath of the 2009 bushfires.

David was instrumental in creating the stunning Quarry Hills parkland which is a growing park along the ridge line of the City of Whittlesea which will ultimately see 1000 hectares of significant land in public ownership.

This is a truly well-deserved posthumous honour.

1.4.4 Whittlesea Show

I would like to congratulate the organisers of the Whittlesea Agricultural Show who delivered a wonderful event in January after the disappointment of having to reschedule due to flooding in November.

It takes an enormous effort to host an event of this scale and to be able to regroup and reorganise in such a short period of time was just incredible.

The City of Whittlesea is pleased to be the major sponsor of this event; we know how much the community look forward to it each year and the historical significance it has in our municipality.

I'd like to thank the entire show committee and the many volunteers involved for their efforts and commend President Erica Hawke and Vice President Judy Clements for their inspirational leadership.

On a personal note, it was a great honour to be in attendance and present the City of Whittlesea Perpetual Trophy.

1.4.5 Country Music Festival

Another wonderful event I'd like to acknowledge is the Whittlesea Country Music Festival which occurred earlier this month.

Whittlesea Township is certainly spoilt for choice with local events.

The rain held off and it was in fact a beautiful day and night at Walker Reserve and my congratulations to Anthony Holding, Dave Watson and the entire festival committee and volunteers who delivered such a great showcase of live music. Council was pleased to support the event again this year and we are already looking forward to the line-up for 2024.

Administrator Peita Duncan made the following acknowledgements:

1.4.6 Bushfire Anniversary

Recently, on 7 February, we marked the 14th anniversary of the 2009 bushfires.

I know in this community here in Whittlesea the memories are still very much with you and that for many of you the journey to recovery continues to this day.

Each year we remember the 173 people who lost their lives in Victoria - 12 in our municipality. We remember those who were displaced and who lost their homes and properties.

And we remember just how important the Whittlesea Township was during the recovery phase as the support point for so many.

Thank you to all those in our community who played a role in response and recovery since that day.

This year as we do every year, we reflect, respect and remember.

1.4.7 Whittlesea Customer Service Centre

We know for our residents who live in Whittlesea and surrounding areas that travelling to South Morang to do business with Council is inconvenient and for many people it's a barrier to accessing important services.

I am delighted to announce that Council will be opening a customer hub at the former Westpac Bank site in Church St in mid-2023.

We are in the process of working through all the details, but we will have customer service staff, representatives from Economic Development, community development and our planning teams available to talk to residents. You'll be able to register a pet, make a cashless payments or just pop in to ask a question.

We know this will make life a whole lot easier for those in the north of the municipality and we look forward to sharing more details closer to the opening.

1.5 Attendance

Members:

Lydia Wilson, Chair of Council

Peita Duncan, Administrator

Officers:

Craig Lloyd, Chief Executive Officer

Debbie Wood, Director Infrastructure & Environment

Anthony Traill, Interim Director Community Wellbeing

Debbie Blandford, Acting Director Planning & Development

Frank Joyce, Executive Manager Strategy & Insights

Janine Morgan, Executive Manager Public Affairs

Sarah Rowe, Interim Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Apology:

Justin O'Meara, Director Planning & Development

Sarah Renner, Director Customer & Corporate Services

2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No declarations.

3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Administrator Peita Duncan

Seconded: Chairperson Lydia Wilson

**THAT the following Minutes of the preceding meeting as circulated, be confirmed:
Scheduled Meeting of Council 12 December 2022.**

CARRIED

4 Public Questions, Petitions and Joint Letters

4.1 Public Question Time

Evie Wallace, South Melbourne

'Some councils require small businesses to obtain business permits to trade in public places, such as a footpath trading permit or a roadside trading permit. Will street-based sex workers be required to obtain any permits following the planning scheme changes to support the decriminalisation of sex work?'

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

'Street-based sex work is now a legal activity in Victoria as a result of the Sex Work Decriminalisation Bill 2021 passed by the Victorian Parliament on 22 February 2022. The laws recognise that sex work is legitimate work and should be regulated like all other industries through standard business laws and existing agencies such as WorkSafe, the Department of Health and local governments. The legislation includes provisions on times and locations for street-based sex work. Currently the City of Whittlesea does not require any permits for street-based sex workers.'

Vesna Koncar, Epping - Question 1

'Please provide and confirm Epping Road upgrade from McDonalds Road Epping to Donnybrook Road (Craigieburn Road) will include 2 lanes south and 2 lanes northbound with appropriate left and right turning lanes into side streets, this means an additional 2 lanes (4 lanes in total). Also, left turning lane into Lyndarum (northbound) and right turning into Hayston Boulevard. Also, please confirm that this will include an additional walkway/bike track away from traffic.'

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

'The Epping Road Upgrade is a project that is being delivered by the Victorian Government through Major Road Projects Victoria. Detailed project information can be found on the Big Build website – www.bigbuild.vic.gov.au or by calling 1800 105 105. Council officers regularly meet with the Department of Transport and Planning on major projects.'

Vesna Koncar, Epping - Question 2

'All hard waste rubbish should be picked up from homes. This should include and not be restricted to white good, electrical goods. These items are bulky and residents who are older, injured or physically unable to pick these items are being discriminated against. Please provide confirmation that Whittlesea Council will provide pick up of all waste items from households. This will eliminate the illegal dumping of household items.'

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

'The City of Whittlesea provides all households with a range of waste disposal options, including two free kerbside hard rubbish collections per financial year. The hard rubbish collection is for household items that are broken or cannot be reused, however some items cannot currently be collected as part of this service. It is illegal for whitegoods, or any e-waste (that is items that have a cord or battery), to be disposed of in landfill, and as such, these items cannot be collected through our hard waste collection service.

Council holds regularly, free e-waste drop-off events across the municipality where residents can bring their e-waste to dispose of safely.

Council can also work with residents directly who may require additional support to dispose of items that cannot be accepted as part of the hard rubbish collection. We encourage residents to contact us directly in these circumstances.

Council is currently investigating opportunities to expand the kerbside collection service to include other materials and ensure that hard waste service meets the need of our residents.

Council is also providing additional information and education to residents around the waste disposal options available to them and we are also addressing illegal dumping throughout our municipality through our litter enforcement team. We encourage all residents to report any instances of illegal dumping occurring in their neighbourhoods to help us keep our neighbourhoods tidy.

Council is urging residents to take responsibility for correctly disposing of goods at the end of their life cycle.'

Glenn Eckardt, Mill Park

'Whittlesea township is perfectly located to take advantage of opportunities for eco-tourism that will benefit local businesses. There has been previous work completed to develop a masterplan to establish a Whittlesea Rail Trail between the Whittlesea township and Mernda along the old rail corridor, which could be used by multiple different path users e.g., cyclists pedestrians, horse riders, etc. I understand that some barriers were identified that prevented this work from progressing.

My question to Council is what work is currently being undertaken to address the issues identified and what is the time-line for resolution to enable this project to get back on track?'

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

'Council is committed to providing safe and accessible walking and cycling options in our municipality for the community to enjoy. We are aware of the importance of the development of a shared trail between Mernda and Whittlesea and the strong community support for this project. The development of this trail is identified in Council's Walking and Cycling Plan 2022-2027 and as a top priority in the draft Northern Trails 2022 Strategy which will be presented at the next Council Meeting on 21 March 2023.

In the 2023-2024 financial year, Council is planning to undertake further investigation and update the existing feasibility study to support our advocacy to the State Government for funding for the project and to progress to the detailed design phase. Officers will work with key stakeholders and interested parties in the design stages.'

Steven Mann, Mill Park - Question 1

'As a corporation, how can you have authority over local residents?'

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

'City of Whittlesea is one of 79 Councils in Victoria. Councils are not a corporation but instead a tier of government under the Constitution Act 1975 and Local Government Act 2020.'

As a local government, Council has roles and responsibilities under more than 100 Acts and regulations. Local laws can be developed by Council to deal with important community safety, peace and order issues such as public health, management of council property, environment and amenity and are established to respond to local issues or community need.'

Steven Mann, Mill Park - Question 2

'We want to see the agreement that you the Council have with the United Nations.'

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

'The City of Whittlesea has no affiliation, membership or agreement with the United Nations and receives no financial support or benefits from this organisation.'

Bruce Langford, Whittlesea - Question 1

'Since there is a great outcry from people in England who are experiencing the restrictions, the surveillance and the extra costs resulting from the 15 or 20 minute neighbourhoods, will the Council conduct a two-year long shire-wide survey and consultation from its citizens before they consider implementing any recommendation coming from outside the Shire?'

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

'The 20-minute city or neighbourhood concept is simply an idea that communities are planned and well designed to make sure everything they need day-to-day is close to home.'

It seeks to create connected and walkable places where people can access basic facilities and services (buy their bread/milk at local shops, community facilities/schools, parks) within their local neighbourhood, whether you have a car or not.

A 20-minute city should make life easier and more equitable; people shouldn't have to spend long periods of time or money travelling to get to services they need.

As a growth area municipality, we are faced with the challenge of getting schools, community facilities, roads, public transport, open space and other services out to these newly growing suburbs in a timely manner close by to where people live in order to make life easier for our residents/local communities and avoid long commutes.

We are also aware that people need to access regional services like major shopping/entertainment centres, that they work outside the City of Whittlesea or that they have friends and family that live in other parts of Melbourne.

That is why, as well as looking to provide local services/facilities for local people, we also advocate strongly for regional infrastructure such as rail extensions, more buses, construction of new road projects such as the E6 road, the outer metropolitan ring road, widening of arterial roads like Epping Road, Plenty Road, Craigieburn Road, Donnybrook Road, Bridge Inn Road and others to allow our residents to make those trips that they require across Melbourne more efficiently, to limit travel times and allow people to spend more time with their families and friends.

Unfortunately, there appears to be a conspiracy theory circulating online about the intent of 20-minute neighbourhoods. As with any matter of public interest, Council encourages residents to seek information from reputable sources to inform their viewpoint.'

Bruce Langford, Whittlesea - Question 2

'Since thousands of testimonies are now circulating from people suffering serious ongoing conditions or who have lost loved ones as a result of the mRNA inoculations.

Since recent disclosures of corruption from pharmaceutical companies like Pfizer, who continue to profit from the sales of their noxious products, have revealed that the early studies they kept secret now show the incredible harms of their experimental drug.

Since our own country's excess death rate has risen to 15% since the vax roll-out, totally separate to Covid cases.

Since recent NSW government statistics confirm what many other heavily vaccinated countries are experiencing, that the more a person is jabbed, the more they seem to suffer from adverse effects.

Since we now know that anybody can catch, transfer and spread Covid regardless of their vax status.

Will the Whittlesea Council, with its commitment to stamp out discrimination and corruption where it exists, petition every employer in the Shire, whether government operated or not, to stop their discrimination so that valuable, qualified and experienced health care workers can fill the shortages in our overrun medical system and return to provide vital care for our citizens in all the health care facilities in our Shire?'

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

'Vaccination mandates for health care workers are set by the Victorian State Government under the Health Services Act. Council abides by and supports the requirements of the Act to safeguard the health and safety of our staff and community and will not be petitioning employers.'

Noeleen Anderson, Doreen

'I am aware that City of Whittlesea has signed up to be a 20 minute Neighbourhood. Oxford in England are currently trialling this. They have put bollards in place and are using number plate identification cameras, and planning on facial recognition equipment also.

Do you plan on consulting with the community as per Clause 4(b) of the Local Government Act 2020?

Who will be paying for this infrastructure?'

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

'The 20-minute city or neighbourhood concept is simply an idea that communities are planned and well designed to make sure everything they need day-to-day is close to home.

It seeks to create connected and walkable places where people can access basic facilities and services (buy their bread/milk at local shops, community facilities/schools, parks) within their local neighbourhood, whether you have a car or not.

A 20-minute city should make life easier and more equitable; people shouldn't have to spend long periods of time or money travelling to get to services they need.

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That is why, as well as looking to provide local services/facilities for local people, we also advocate strongly for regional infrastructure such as rail extensions, more buses, construction of new road projects such as the E6 road, the outer metropolitan ring road, widening of arterial roads like Epping Road, Plenty Road, Craigieburn Road, Donnybrook Road, Bridge Inn Road and others to allow our residents to make those trips that they require across Melbourne more efficiently, to limit travel times and allow people to spend more time with their families and friends.'

Craig Stow, Doreen - Question 1

'Under the Local Government Act 2020 – an objective of the Act is that “Councils are constituted as representative bodies that are accountable, transparent, collaborative, efficient and engaged with their communities. If this is the case – why does the council have “Confidential Business” on their agenda towards the end of their meetings and why is this business hidden from the ratepayers and residents?'

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

'The City of Whittlesea Council actively minimise the number of confidential items. Council's Public Transparency Policy is available on our website as well as Council's Governance Rules which outlines how Council undertakes Council decision making at Council meetings.

We publicly report on our percentage of Council resolutions made at meetings closed to the public (confidential decisions) each year. Last year this was 4.08% and the average for similar/interface Councils was 9.26% with all metro Councils averaging 6.92%. Council's decisions made in public meetings has increased from 87% in 2020 to 96% in 2022.

There are some reports for Council that are deemed confidential. “Confidential information” is defined in section 3 of the Local Government Act 2020 and is for example any information or decision making around tenders, security information, planning information that might encourage land speculation, law enforcement information that may prejudice an investigation, information that is legally privileged, personal information that is unreasonable to disclose and private commercial information.

There is no confidential business at today's and the previous Council Meeting.'

Craig Stow, Doreen - Question 2

'Does the City of Whittlesea (as per Division 8 of the Local Government Act) have an “Audit and Risk Committee? If so, who is part of this Committee, how often do they meet and who do they report to?'

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

'The Audit & Risk Committee is an independent advisory committee of Council, and its role is to report to Council and provide appropriate advice and recommendations on matters presented to it. It acts in this capacity by monitoring, reviewing and advising on issues within its scope of responsibility and assisting Council's governance obligations to its community.

The Audit and Risk Committee work in accordance with their Charter which is endorsed by Council. The Charter governs the Committee's functions and responsibilities including monitoring Council's compliance, financial performance, risk management and fraud prevention systems, and internal and external audit functions.

The membership consists of four independent members and two Councillors/Administrators and they meet five times per year.

We note that the independent chair of the Audit and Risk Committee will be presenting an update at the March public Council Meeting.'

Isabel Conway, Whittlesea

'Councils are constituted as representative bodies that are accountable, transparent, collaborative, efficient and engaged with their community. (Local Government Act 2020). If the council is keen to build resilient and strong communities, there must be transparency, collaboration, and efficient engagement with the community in all discussions, proposals and decision making.

Why are issues and agendas pertaining to connected communities, liveable neighbourhoods, strong local economy, sustainable environment, and high performing organisation discussed in a closed meeting? What is being discussed that Council does not want the public to know?

In addition, this situation raises a level of confusion and ethical questions not just for council but also for the community. On the one hand governance calls for transparency, collaboration and efficient engagement with the community – but on the other hand endorses confidential discussions and decision making on issues that have great impact on the future of many residents.

I am especially keen for this issue to be answered in the February 2023 meeting as it directly relates to matters listed in the Agenda. More importantly I am looking forward to council explaining how they are going to manage this conflict.

Following on from my question above, It greatly concerns me that these key issues and decisions that directly impact residents/ratepayers are made in secret. How do we know that decisions are made with ethical/moral principles and that conflict of interest is transparent? To hide behind confidentiality rules/legislation is in itself immoral and unethical.

The community should be informed and consulted in all discussions and included in the decision making. This is especially more pertinent given that council is in administration, and we do not have councillors to represent us.

Transparency in all levels of governance encourages accountability. Transparency also encourages:

- accurate risk and safety assessment, for both the council with their decisions and community by providing a safe liveable space;
- accurate financial costing, (remember council is legally accountable financially) and given the current financial/economic situation any council income whether gathered from ratepayers or other revenue needs to be spent wisely;
- accurate planning/decision making regarding sustainable living/liveable neighbourhoods;
- valid and appropriate research to determine impact on the environment and climate change; and
- a strong local economy as business and consumers have a high level of trust in council to act morally and ethically on their behalf.'

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

'The City of Whittlesea Council actively minimises the number of confidential items. Council's Public Transparency Policy is available on our website as well as Council's Governance Rules which outline how Council undertakes decision-making at Council meetings.

We publicly report on our percentage of Council resolutions made at meetings closed to the public (confidential decisions) each year. Last year this was 4.08% and the average for similar/interface Councils was 9.26% with all metro Councils averaging 6.92%. Council's decisions made in public meetings has increased from 87% in 2020 to 96% in 2022.

There are some reports for Council that are deemed confidential. "Confidential information" is defined in section 3 of the Local Government Act 2020 and is for example any information or decision making around tenders, security information, planning information that might encourage land speculation, law enforcement information that may prejudice an investigation, information that is legally privileged, personal information that is unreasonable to disclose and private commercial information.

There is no confidential business at today's and the previous Council Meeting. It should be noted that the City of Whittlesea Council does not hide its decision from the community.

Councillors/Administrators are required to declare and manage any Conflicts of Interest in accordance with the Local Government Act and Council's Governance Rules. As part of every Council Meeting the Chair advises all Councillors/Administrators that they must disclose any conflict of interest on the agenda including the type and nature of the interest. Where there is a conflict, the Administrator/Councillor must leave the meeting prior to consideration and voting on the agenda item for which they have a Conflict of Interest. Any declared conflicts are also included in the Council minutes for transparency.'

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: *Chairperson Lydia Wilson*

Seconded: *Administrator Peita Duncan*

THAT Council extend the speaking time to allow for further Public Questions, Petitions and Joint Letters to be considered.

CARRIED

Matthew Lawson, Whittlesea

'I am a long-term Whittlesea constituent and I am very concerned the council has adopted the UN's sustainability goals as part of their website and ongoing agenda. Before moving forwards with a foreign bodies objectives, was consultation taken up with members of Whittlesea. Is there funding coming through council from the UN in regards to these practices?'

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

'The City of Whittlesea has no affiliation or membership of the United Nations, and receives no financial support or benefits from this organisation.

The Sustainable Environment Strategy and Climate Change Plan were shaped after consultation with the community. Council had more than 800 people contribute to the development of the City of Whittlesea's new Sustainable Environment Strategy 2022-2032, Climate Change Plan 2022-2032 and Sustainable Environment Action Plan 2022-2024. The plans set a clear path that will help us tackle climate change and environmental sustainability as we move towards becoming a net zero emissions city by 2036.

It is most regrettable that the good work of Councils and their environment plans which have been developed in consultation with the community are being undermined.'

Graeme Conway, Whittlesea

'I have been doing research into the Electro Magnetic Frequencies (EMF) and the effects on the environment, humans and climate change. Some research states Melbourne, Australia is the new testing ground for 26,000 MHz wave 5G technology.

Peer review reports - over 2000 -show biological harm from 3G and 4G wireless technology. Now we are being exposed to 5G with associated increased radiation harm. MHz of 26,000-millimetre waves have not been tested or proven safe by the telecommunication industry.

The township of Whittlesea has a total of 13 transmitters within 1km range. (x4 3G, x2 4G, x3 4GX, x4 5G). There are further 11 transmitters located within the local area where I live (x4 3G, x3 4G, x3 4GX, x15G).

Residents of the township are exposed to a total of 24 transmitters as they travel locally, attending to daily activities. As you can see, the transmitters range from 3G through to 5G.

What independent risk and safety assessment has been done to:

- test the effects and safety of radiation emitting from individual transmitters
- test the effects and safety of the total output of radiation emitting from individual telecommunication towers
- test the cumulative effects of overlapping radiation emanating from the 24 transmitters in our local area

In relation to my question above, please advise what the increase EMF output will be with the installation of the new surveillance equipment.

The additional layer of radiation emitting from the surveillance equipment needs to be included in all risk and safety assessments. Council needs to be transparent with all and any installation that can have adverse effect on the community. We can not achieve sustainable communities if the health of the community is at risk from untested equipment or products. A community that has been harmed by radiation poses a financial burden on limited resources.

We wish to be included in collaborative consultation once the above risk and safety data is established.

Should the data indicate that radiation poses harm for the environment, including residents, at what level do we take a course of action against possible injuries from this untested high magnitude EMF.

Insurance companies stated they will not insure damages from EMF. Our only course of action will be a civil class action against all levels of government including councils and their employees who made the decision for towers and transmitters to be erected and activated.'

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

'In response to your questions, the Australian Communications & Media Authority (ACMA) sets the allowable exposure limits for telecommunications facility within Australia. The allowable exposure limits of telecommunication facilities are nationwide, and any telecommunication facility must meet the mandated requirements set by Australian Communications & Media Authority (ACMA).

Telecommunication facilities must meet the relevant requirements and once operational must have a compliance certified by an accredited person. Any additional infrastructure added to the facility at a later date (such as a second carrier) would require the documentation to support and changed to ensure it meets report mandatory compliance requirements.

Unfortunately, conspiracy theories continue to circulate on this matter, and we suggest any resident that has concerns contact ACMA.'

Meralisa Langford, Whittlesea - Question 1

'Given that there is now a tower on the hill above my house in Whittlesea township with 5G capable apparatus attached, I would like to know whether the Whittlesea council has received independent health reports, without any hint of vested interest, which include long-term toxicological or carcinogenic studies declaring that the 5G technology that is currently being rolled out in our Shire will have NO detrimental effect on our health?'

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

'The Australian Communications & Media Authority (ACMA) sets the allowable exposure limits for telecommunications facility within Australia. The allowable exposure limits of telecommunication facilities are nationwide, and any telecommunication facility must meet the mandated requirements set by Australian Communications & Media Authority (ACMA). Telecommunication facilities must meet the relevant requirements and once operational must have a compliance certified by an accredited person. Any additional infrastructure added to the facility at a later date (such as a second carrier) would require the documentation to support and changed to ensure it meets report mandatory compliance requirements.'

Meralisa Langford, Whittlesea - Question 2

'I've heard of a law that was passed surreptitiously last year by the Labour government in Victoria that will effectively forbid me to share the meat that I might slaughter on my property, the eggs that my chickens might produce, and the fruit & veggies that I grow in my own garden. If this is true, I would like to know what kind of consultative process took place to implement this law in our Shire and how we can reverse this decision until the democratic process can take place which gives due process to consultation in our community. If this is not the case, you can set my mind at ease by assuring the residents in this shire that their right to buy, sell & barter freely will NOT be hindered in this commonwealth by such laws that smack of the feudal system of a bygone era where the rich landowners forbid the poor from hunting & gathering in forests and sought to control and tax everything they did on their own land.'

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

'The City of Whittlesea is not aware of any such State Government legislation. We suggest making contact with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action as the responsible authority.'

Brian Matthews, Doreen

'What services will be provided in the new 'hub' in Whittlesea.'

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

'We are in the process of working through all the details, we will have customer service staff, representatives from our Economic Development area, Community Development and our Planning teams available to talk to residents and they will also be able to register pets, make cashless payments, or just pop in to ask a Council related question.'

Therese Sutton, Whittlesea

'Can signage be added on Church Street that points to businesses on the side street, ie naturopath, chiropractor to increase awareness of those businesses.'

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

Question to be taken on notice so that further information can be obtained and a written response will be provided to Terese.

4.2 Petitions

4.2.1 Petition - Request to remove trees on nature strips on Harrison Street Mernda

A petition has been received from 21 residents requesting Council remove all nature strip trees on Harrison Street, Mernda.

Recommendation

THAT Council note the petition from 21 residents requesting Council remove all nature strip trees and write to the signatories to inform them that:

1. The trees along the street were recently assessed and comply with the City of Whittlesea's Street Tree Management Plan;
2. A meeting with the Head Petitioner will be organised with the Director Infrastructure and Environment (or representative) on site, to understand their concerns and any further rationale for their request;
3. An independent Arboricultural assessment will be prepared in relation to residents' concerns, following the site meeting; and
4. A report to Council will be prepared for the 18 April 2023 Council Meeting, advising how the petitioners concerns have been addressed, in consultation with Director Infrastructure and Environment. All signatories to the petition will be advised of Council's decision following the 18 April 2023 Council Meeting.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Chairperson Lydia Wilson

Seconded: Administrator Peita Duncan

THAT Council note the petition from 21 residents requesting that Council remove all nature strip trees on Harrison Street and Kilpatrick Street Mernda and write to the signatories to inform them that:

1. A meeting with the Head Petitioner will be organised with the Director Infrastructure and Environment (or representative) on site, to understand their concerns and any further rationale for their request.
2. An independent Arboricultural assessment will be prepared in relation to residents' concerns, following the site meeting.
3. A report to Council will be prepared for the April 2023 Council Meeting, advising how the petitioners concerns will be addressed, in consultation with the Director Infrastructure and Environment. All signatories to the petition will be advised of Council's decision following the April Council Meeting.

CARRIED

4.3 Joint Letters

Nil Joint Letters.

5 Officers' Reports

5.1 Connected Communities

Nil reports.

5.2 Liveable Neighborhoods

5.2.1 Planning Scheme Amendment C245: Heritage Overlay on 90 and 150C (formerly 100) Bindts Road, Wollert - Adoption

Responsible Officer	Acting Director Planning & Development
Author	Denise Turner, Coordinator Planning Policy & Implementation
In Attendance	Julie Paget, Strategic Planner

Purpose

This report provides an update on the outcome of exhibition of Amendment C245 which seeks to apply and amend heritage controls at 90 and 150C (formerly 100) Bindts Road, Wollert.

It is recommended that Council adopt Amendment C245 with the reduced 'post exhibition' curtilage outlined in Attachment 2 and submit the Amendment to the Minister for Planning for approval.

Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. **Adopt Amendment C245wsea with the reduced post exhibition curtilage, as outlined in Attachment 2;**
2. **Submit Amendment C245wsea as detailed in 1. above, to the Minister for Planning for approval; and**
3. **Advise the submitters of Council's decision as outlined in 1 and 2 above.**

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Administrator Peita Duncan

Seconded: Chairperson Lydia Wilson

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for Planning Scheme Amendment C245: Heritage Overlay on 90 and 150C (formerly 100) Bindts Road, Wollert - Adoption.

CARRIED

5.3 Strong Local Economy

Nil reports

5.4 Sustainable Environment

5.4.1 Green Wedge Management Plan 2023 - 2033

Responsible Officer Acting Director Planning & Development

Author Julie Paget, Strategic Planner

In Attendance Julie Paget, Strategic Planner

Purpose

This report seeks to update Council on the outcomes of the Stage 2 community engagement on the draft Green Wedge Management Plan held in May – July 2022. It recommends that Council resolve to adopt the new Green Wedge Management Plan 2023-2033.

Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Adopt the Green Wedge Management Plan 2023-2033 at Attachment 1.
2. Write to the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Environment to provide a copy of the Green Wedge Management Plan 2023-2033.
3. Provide a copy of the Green Wedge Management Plan 2023-2033 to local State Members of Parliament.
4. Make a copy of the Green Wedge Management Plan 2023-2033 and the Findings from the Green Wedge Management Plan Review Stage 2 Community Engagement 2022 report, at Attachment 1 and 2, publicly available, including on Council's website.
5. Write to the Minister for Planning to request that the Green Wedge and Agricultural Land Review be finalised and implemented as a matter of urgency.
6. Provide a copy of the adopted Green Wedge Management Plan 2023-2033, at Attachment 1, to the Municipal Association of Victoria and request they advocate for the urgent finalisation and implementation of the Green Wedge and Agricultural Land Review.
7. Inform the stakeholders who provided a written submission to the Stage 2 community engagement, of Council's decision and how the issues raised have informed the adopted Green Wedge Management Plan 2023-2033.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: *Chairperson Lydia Wilson*

Seconded: *Administrator Peita Duncan*

THAT Council:

- 1. Adopt the Green Wedge Management Plan 2023-2033 at Attachment 1.**
- 2. Write to the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Environment to provide a copy of the Green Wedge Management Plan 2023-2033.**
- 3. Provide a copy of the Green Wedge Management Plan 2023-2033 to local State Members of Parliament.**
- 4. Provide a copy of the Green Wedge Management Plan 2023-2033 to all Library branches of the Yarra Plenty Regional Library Corporation.**
- 5. Make a copy of the Green Wedge Management Plan 2023-2033 and the Findings from the Green Wedge Management Plan Review Stage 2 Community Engagement 2022 report, at Attachment 1 and 2, publicly available, including on Council's website.**
- 6. Write to the Minister for Planning to request that the Green Wedge and Agricultural Land Review be finalised and implemented as a matter of urgency.**
- 7. Provide a copy of the adopted Green Wedge Management Plan 2023-2033, at Attachment 1, to the Municipal Association of Victoria and request they advocate for the urgent finalisation and implementation of the Green Wedge and Agricultural Land Review.**
- 8. Inform the stakeholders who provided a written submission to the Stage 2 community engagement, of Council's decision and how the issues raised have informed the adopted Green Wedge Management Plan 2023-2033.**

CARRIED

5.5 High Performing Organisation

5.5.1 Advocating for Funding and Better Outcomes for Whittlesea Community

Responsible Officer	Interim Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO
Author	Sarah Rowe, Interim Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO
In Attendance	Sarah Rowe, Interim Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for Chair of Administrators, Lydia Wilson and Administrator Peita Duncan to travel interstate along with Council's Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd and members of Council's Executive Leadership Team.

Brief Overview

There is an opportunity for Chair of Administrators, Lydia Wilson to attend Canberra in conjunction with Council's Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd to meet with Federal Government politicians and senior advisors to advocate for funding and better outcomes for the Whittlesea community.

Additionally, Administrator Peita Duncan has the opportunity to attend the 2023 National General Assembly hosted by the Australian Local Government Association, along with Council's Director Planning and Development Justin O'Meara and Director Customer and Corporate Services, Sarah Renner in Canberra to further advocate for the Whittlesea community.

Council approval is required for any interstate travel by Councillors/Administrators.

Recommendation

THAT Council authorise Chair of Administrators Lydia Wilson and Administrator Peita Duncan to travel interstate to advocate for funding and better outcomes for the Whittlesea community between the period March to June 2023.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Administrator Peita Duncan

Seconded: Chairperson Lydia Wilson

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for advocating for funding and better outcomes for Whittlesea Community.

CARRIED

5.5.2 Quarterly Corporate Performance Report - Q2 ended 31/12/2022

Responsible Officer	Director Customer & Corporate Services
Author	Rahul Shah, Unit Manager Financial Strategy
In Attendance	Aaron Gerrard, Acting Chief Financial Officer Robert Kisgen, Unit Manager Corporate Planning & Improvement

Purpose

That Council notes the Quarterly Corporate Performance Report for the period ended 31 December 2022 (Attachment 1).

Recommendation

THAT Council notes the:

1. Quarterly Corporate Performance Report for December 2022 (Attachment 1).
2. Outcome of the 2022-2023 Quarter 2 Forecast Review.
3. Progress made against the key actions included in the Community Plan Action Plan 2022-2023 as highlighted in the Quarter 2 Performance Snapshot (Attachment 2).
4. Good governance actions over the past quarter.
5. Capital Works program performance for the period ended 31 December 2022.
6. Status of the infrastructure grants for the period ended 31 December 2022 as outlined in Grants Status Update (Attachment 3).
7. Financial performance for the period ended 31 December 2022.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Chairperson Lydia Wilson

Seconded: Administrator Peita Duncan

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for Quarterly Corporate Performance Report - Q2 ended 31 December 2022.

CARRIED

5.5.3 Appointment of Independent Member of CEO Employment Matters Committee

Responsible Officer	Executive Manager Governance & Strategy
Author	Frank Joyce, Executive Manager Governance & Strategy
In Attendance	Frank Joyce, Executive Manager Governance & Strategy

Purpose

The current independent Chair of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Employment Matters Committee (CEMAC) Margaret Devlin's term expired 31 December 2022. The purpose of this report is for Council to appoint a new Chair of CEMAC for a four-year term commencing 1 March 2023 and ending 28 February 2027.

Recommendation

THAT Council:

- 1. Appoints Christine Mileham as Independent Chair to the City of Whittlesea's CEO Employment Matters Committee commencing 1 March 2023 for a four-year term ending 28 February 2027, in accordance with the terms of reference contained in the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy;**
- 2. Sets the rates of CEMAC Chair as \$2,500 per formal meeting with this being an all-inclusive rate including work and attendance at any pre meetings, travel, preparatory work, agenda setting, minutes taking/review and benchmarking or reporting required in the role of Chair;**
- 3. Authorises the Executive Manager Strategy and Insights to prepare an appointment letter and confidentiality agreement to confirm the appointment and terms and conditions as outlined in points 1 and 2; and**
- 4. Writes to Margaret Devlin to thank her for her significant service to the CEO Employment Matters Committee and Council over the past 2.5 years.**

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: *Chairperson Lydia Wilson*

Seconded: *Administrator Peita Duncan*

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for appointment of Independent Member of CEO Employment Matters Committee.

CARRIED

6 Notices of Motion

Nil Notices of Motion.

7 Urgent Business

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: *Chairperson Lydia Wilson*

Seconded: *Administrator Peita Duncan*

THAT Council:

1. **Notes with deep concern and sorrow the devastating earthquakes that have struck Türkiye and Syria.**
2. **Expresses its firm solidarity with members of the Whittlesea community who are of Turkish and Syrian background, and offers sincere condolences at this difficult time.**
3. **Approves a \$15,000 contribution to the Emergency Action Alliance that are offering support to Türkiye and Syria through a coalition of humanitarian charities.**

CARRIED

8 Reports from Council Representatives and CEO Update

8.1 Administrator, Peita Duncan Report

Administrator Duncan's report was provided verbally at the 21 February 2023 Scheduled Council Meeting. Since the last Council Meeting Administrator, Peita Duncan attended:

- Community Awards Committee;
- City of Whittlesea Audit & Risk Committee;
- Midsumma Pride March;
- Trust for Nature - Protecting Grassy Eucalypt Woodlands; and
- Whittlesea Public Gardens Opening / 200th Growing Suburbs Project Event - thank you to the Victorian Government for their contribution from the Growing Suburbs Fund.

8.2 Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson Report

Chair Administrator Wilson's report was provided verbally at the 21 February 2023 Scheduled Council Meeting. Since the last Council Meeting Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson attended:

- Yarra Plenty Regional Library - CEO Employment Matters Sub-Committee;
- Interface Councils Group Meeting;
- City of Whittlesea Business Advisory Panel Committee;
- City of Whittlesea Audit & Risk Committee;
- Four Citizenship Ceremonies with 130 attendees at each Ceremony;
- Whittlesea Show;
- Whittlesea Country Music Festival;
- Midsumma Pride March;
- Trust for Nature - Protecting Grassy Eucalypt Woodlands;
- Whittlesea Public Gardens Opening / 200th Growing Suburbs Project Event; and
- Community Vigil.

8.3 Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd Report

The Chief Executive Officer's report was provided verbally at the 21 February 2023 Scheduled Council Meeting:

Dumped rubbish

- Council had stepped up its surveillance of litter hot spots and was actively investigating incidences or issuing on the spot fines.
- In the last six months alone, Council's Litter Enforcement Team have issued over 60 fines to people illegally dumping rubbish on kerbsides, vacant blocks and back streets.
- Unfortunately, some people still think they can get away with this sort of behaviour, but our message to them is that they will get caught. And we are encouraging residents who see littering to report it.
- Dumped rubbish not only creates an eyesore for residents, and costs Council and ratepayers thousands of dollars a year but can also cause significant damage to the environment.

- Residents can report dumped rubbish at www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/litter or by calling 9217 2170.

Whittlesea Skate Park and BMX Track

- The redevelopment of the Whittlesea Skate Park and BMX Track has been completed.
- The park was redesigned following extensive consultation with local skaters and riders and key features include an open bowl, quarter pipes, asphalt pump and street-style section.
- The upgrades are designed to cater for users of beginner, intermediate and advanced skill levels.
- The upgrade also provides improved amenities, such as social spaces, spectator areas, seating and drinking fountains, to make visits to the park more comfortable.
- The City of Whittlesea contributed \$600,000 to the redevelopment and the Victorian Government provided \$375,000 via its Growing Suburbs Fund grants program.

Missing Footpath Links Program

- Eight projects under this financial year's \$250,000 Missing Footpath Links Program have been completed.

Footpath improvements have been carried out in:

- Ridge Road, Whittlesea;
- Cerridwen Street, Epping;
- Loughton Avenue, Epping;
- Crabapple Road, South Morang;
- Wedge Street, Epping;
- Brookwood Avenue, Doreen;
- Collingrove Crescent, Doreen; and
- The Shared Path at Cooper Street, Epping.

Community Festival

- Reminder that our Community Festival is back on 19 March at the Civic Centre precinct.
- From 11am to 5pm there will be live performances, free activities, art installations, live music, market stalls, delicious food, roving performers, cultural activities and much more.
- Highlights will include a pet expo and sustainability lane.
- We will also be presenting our City of Whittlesea Community Awards on this day, recognising those who have gone above and beyond to help make their community better.

Love where we live

- Lalor residents visiting the Summer Series World Kitchen event on Saturday 25 February are invited to reconnect and celebrate the latest offering in Council's *Love Where We Live* campaign.
- The campaign debuted in Wollert last year where residents were invited to help keep their neighbourhoods clear of dumped rubbish as well as learn about the Council services available.
- Now the next chapter in the campaign will kick off at the Summer Series event to be held in the centre of Lalor.
- From 11am until 3pm on Saturday 25 February, residents will be invited to enjoy music, activities for the family, food and fun close to the Lalor shops, the nearby library, neighbourhood house and senior citizens centre.
- *Love Where We Live* will also be coming to other events in the Epping, Thomastown and Lalor areas over the next few months culminating in the Walking Thomastown event on 5 May.

9 Confidential Business

9.1 Confidential Connected Communities

Nil Reports

9.2 Confidential Liveable Neighbourhoods

Nil Reports

9.3 Confidential Strong Local Economy

Nil Reports

9.4 Confidential Sustainable Environment

Nil Reports

9.5 Confidential High Performing Organisation

Nil Reports

9.6 Confidential Notices of Motion

Nil Confidential Notices of Motion

12 Closure

There being no further business the Chair of Council closed the 21 February 2023 Scheduled Council Meeting at 9:12pm.

Confirmed this 21st day of March 2023.



Lydia Wilson
Chair of Council