



Minutes

Scheduled Council Meeting
Tuesday 21 March 2023 at 6:30 pm

Council Chamber at Civic Centre,
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang 3752

Administrators

Lydia Wilson Chair of Council

Peita Duncan Administrator

Christian Zahra 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, Peita Duncan and Christian Zahra 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

Justin O'Meara Director Planning & Development

Sarah Renner Director Customer & Corporate Services

Debbie Wood Director Infrastructure & Environment

Anthony Traill Interim Director Community Wellbeing

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 6:30 pm.

“Welcome to this Council Meeting of 21 March 2023 which is being held in person in the Council Chamber at Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang and also being live streamed.

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

I am delighted to also introduce our new Administrator, Christian Zahra AM. Christian was appointed as our third Panel Member, by the Minister for Local Government effective from 2 March 2023 and was sworn into office as an Administrator of the City of Whittlesea on 4 March 2023.

Christian is a former elected member of the Federal Parliament and an accomplished executive and non-executive director with 25 years of experience in the private, government and not-for-profit sectors.

In June 2018, Christian was made a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to rural and regional development, to the advancement of Indigenous welfare, and to the Australian Parliament.

He has also served as an Administrator at the South Gippsland Shire Council from July 2019 until October 2021.

Administrator Duncan, myself and all of the organisation are delighted to have Administrator Zahra on board.

The Chair of Council also introduced Geoff Harry, Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee and Marco Bini, Independent Member of the Audit and Risk Committee and welcomed them both to the meeting.

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 Customer & Corporate Services, Sarah Renner;
Director Infrastructure & Environment, Debbie Wood;
Interim Director Community Wellbeing, Anthony Traill;
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 Oath of Office – Administrator Christian Zahra AM

On 19 June 2020, the Acting Minister for Local Government, Daniel Andrews appointed the Panel of Administrators for the City of Whittlesea and appointed Lydia Wilson as Chair of the Panel.

The Panel of Administrators comprised of Lydia Wilson, the Hon. Bruce Billson and Peita Duncan. On 3 March 2021, the Hon. Bruce Billson resigned from his position as Administrator with the City of Whittlesea.

On 12 May 2021, the Minister for Local Government appointed Chris Eddy as Administrator for the City of Whittlesea, who also resigned from his position as Administrator with the City of Whittlesea on 13 December 2022.

On 4 March 2023 Administrator Christian Zahra AM, was sworn into office as Administrator of the City of Whittlesea. A copy of the Administrator’s Oath of Office has been incorporated into these minutes.



Oath of Office

I, Christian Zahra AM, swear by Almighty God that I will undertake the duties of the office of Administrator in the best interests of the municipal community.

I will abide by the Administrator/Councillor Code of Conduct and uphold the standards of conduct set out in the Administrator/Councillor Code of Conduct.

I will faithfully and impartially carry out and exercise the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the Local Government Act 2020 or any other Act to the best of my skill and judgment.

Signature



Christian Zahra AM
Administrator

Date *4 March 2023*

Signature



Signed in the presence of the
Chief Executive Officer
Craig Lloyd

Date *4TH MARCH 2023*

1.3 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.”

1.4 Diversity and Good Governance Statement

The Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson 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.”

1.5 Acknowledgements

Chair of Council Lydia Wilson made the following acknowledgements:

1.5.1 Community Festival

On Sunday at the Community Festival we presented the winners of our City of Whittlesea Community Awards. We received some very worthy nominations for all five of our categories.

Thank you to our City of Whittlesea Community Awards Committee chaired by Matthew Bui who took the time to meet and to consider all the applications. We were very pleased to present the following award winners:

Sustainable Environment Citizen of the Year – Tanya Sharma (11 years old)

Access and Inclusion Citizen of the Year – Steven Kim Huat Lim

Young Citizen of the Year – Hansikaa Sharma (14 years old)

Senior Citizen of the Year – Mark Beeby; and

Citizen of the Year – Deborah Azzopardi.

Well done to all and thank you for your contribution to our local community.

1.5.2 Ramadan Mubarak

During Ramadan our Muslim community fast from dawn to dusk while engaging in spiritual reflection, strengthen family and community bonds, and practice kindness and generosity towards others.

We wish our local Muslim community, and all those observing the holy month a happy Ramadan as you embark on this time of reflection, prayer and fasting later this week.

1.6 Attendance

Members:

Lydia Wilson, Chair of Council

Peita Duncan, Administrator

Christian Zahra, Administrator

Officers:

Craig Lloyd, Chief Executive Officer

Sarah Renner, Director Customer & Corporate Services

Debbie Wood, Director Infrastructure & Environment

Anthony Traill, Interim Director Community Wellbeing

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

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 21 February 2023.**

CARRIED

4 Public Questions, Petitions and Joint Letters

4.1 Public Question Time

Eva Moran on behalf of the Outer Northern People's Voice's Group

On behalf of the Outer Northern People's Voice's Group. We wish to bring to your attention that we oppose allowing caravans to be parked in our streets due to space restrictions.

Our streets are not wide enough to accommodate caravans, cars, boats as this will cause a traffic hazard and congestion. In the event of an emergency, the Ambulance Service and Fire Brigade will encounter difficulties in getting through and every minute counts to save a life.

We ask that you support this practical and sensible request for everyone's safety.

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

We understand the parking of caravans on local streets is a matter of concern for many people. Council is currently reviewing its Local Law and the parking and storage of trailers, caravans and boats in the street is one of the key themes being explored in this review.

Our first stage of community consultation on key issues and themes concluded yesterday and during the nine-week period we heard from more than 1100 people at in-person pop ups and almost 600 people online.

We have incorporated your feedback into this first stage of community consultation which will be used to help inform the drafting our new Community Local Law.

Residents will be given another opportunity to have their say on the draft Community Local Law in June. We will be informing the community about when they can next have their say on the Local Law, however you can also follow the project on our Engage Whittlesea website- engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au to receive notifications.

Noeleen Anderson, Doreen – Question 1

Has the Council purchased or obtained any number plate recognition or facial recognition cameras to be installed in the Shire?

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

Council has been using number plate recognition technology on some of our vehicles for the past three years to assist with efficiently and effectively monitoring parking compliance, particularly in and around shopping centre car parks. We use the technology in accordance with relevant state government approvals and regulations. We have not purchased facial recognition technology.

Noeleen Anderson, Doreen – Question 2

The Council works for the community. The canvassing of 800 people (as stated at the last Council Meeting) from 223,000 residents is not adequate to reflect community opinion. What is the Council going to do to ensure a much wider community participation in any decisions that impact our lives?

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

Community participation in decision-making is a high priority for Council.

We conducted extensive community consultation in the development of our W2040 vision which sets the key direction that guides all the work of Council. Over 4,000 individuals, community groups and organisations shared their ideas through workshops, surveys, online maps, postcards, children's drawing sheets, events and special activities held across our City.

We provide numerous opportunities for the community to have their say on projects that impact them as well as regular opportunities for consultation such as at community events, monthly Coffee with Council and our Let's Talk community conversation events.

At the Community Festival last weekend more than 10,000 people attended and had the opportunity to provide their views on all manner of topics.

Council invests in ensuring community engagement is far reaching and has a dedicated website for consultation – engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Information about how and when you can have your say is provided across all Council's channels, including print and digital. Our engagement levels have consistently grown with our emphasis on community participation and recent local law consultation is a great example. We have spoken with more than 1100 people in person and more than 600 people filled out our survey online which is an excellent result and above what is considered statistically valid.

We will continue to ensure we are providing opportunities for community voices to be heard and considered in decision-making.

Isabel Conway, Whittlesea

Whittlesea Council's vision states that Whittlesea is 'A place for all'. Your values are to 'Make lives better' by 'Delivering for our Community', Working as a team', and 'Caring for each other'. It seems these principals were not in practice at the last meeting. Why was it necessary to have any police attend a Council Meeting, let alone eight police cars and private security?? Why were the staff escorted to their cars at the end of the meeting?

What was the total cost of security at the last Council Meeting and who paid for it – the ratepayer, taxpayer or a combination?

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

Under the OH&S Act we have a legal responsibility to ensure the health, safety and welfare of employees and other people at work premises including Community Council Meetings. As part of our standard risk assessment and in collaboration with Victoria Police security measures were deemed appropriate.

Security costs for any Council event are factored into Council's operational Budget. Victoria Police is funded by the State Government.

Graeme Conway, Whittlesea – Question 1

Peer review evidence from the United States Senate Bill No 637 has shown that communities surrounded by 5G towers show increases in the following health issues - Diabetes, Renal Failure, deterioration of Mental Health, drug use/abuse, violence, and suicide (National Library of Medicine, reviewed data). These health issues are magnified when combined with EMF radiation from SMART meters, cameras, phones, Electric Car Charge stations etc.

Further recent evidence from Scandinavia conducted by an independent panel reviewing the roll out of 5G has also corroborated increase of dementia. Alzheimers, Parkinsons disease. Scandanavia has now ceased the roll out of 5G, pending further research on the impacts of their population.

My question to council, what Health and Safety studies have been undertaken by council to protect the residents of Whittlesea?

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.

Graeme Conway, Whittlesea – Question 2

At the February Council Meeting, in answering questions in regard to SMART cities, EMF radiation and CV 19 practices, CEO Craig Lloyd made numerous remarks in relation to seeking information from 'reputable' news sources and not conspiracy theories. Most residents in the room found these remarks to be extremely condescending and offensive and were widely discussed outside the venue for quite some time.

Seeing that more and more information is emanating from Europe, USA and now South East Asia that CV 19 mandates re distancing, mask wearing and vaccine efficacy, EMF standards in Australia nearly 100 times greater than Europe and that climate change (being the major push for the SMART cities) is itself a conspiracy being pushed by the world media, a media dominated by 6 groups all linked to the UN, WHO and WEF. Surely, we can all see that the media, governments and Green lobbyists are at best extremely compromised.

My question to Council, when will Whittlesea City Council look outside the box and seek information by higher qualified and un-compromised experts in relation to these matters and properly inform the residents of this city with genuine facts and not global elite rhetoric?

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

Council's work is informed by organisations with recognised credentials and authority including State and Federal Governments.

Sophie Mantus, Whittlesea – Question 1

I noticed at the last meeting, that all questions were answered with a scripted response. These scripted responses did not answer concerns raised by your Ratepayers. My question is “Why don't the Administrators of this council fully research all aspects of a concern so that we can all be informed of the various potential agendas?”

By acknowledging your Ratepayers concerns - a plan or decision can be examined from all angles and any potential adverse opportunities can be mitigated.

This action will create trust for the community. You will also be working in line with your Code of Conduct. After all, you frequently promote engagement, consultation and transparency in your administration/management of this council and the affect to the Ratepayers.

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

Responses to any public questions are researched by Council Officers to the best of their ability using credible sources within the time available. Questions asked at meetings may be taken on notice and a written response will be provided following the meeting.

Sophie Mantus, Whittlesea – Question 2

We invite the administrators to a meeting with a small group of concerned ratepayers. We are keen to share our research and find common ground. When would the Administrators like to meet with us?

Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson

Administrators are always happy to meet with ratepayers to discuss matters that are of importance to them. We have noted your contact details and will reach out to arrange a time.

Wemi Oyekanmi, Mill Park

I have a drainage problem from my property to the main road.

I contacted Council many times including sending emails, however I never got any responses. The issue started in November 2022 and I was advised that that I would receive a response by 10 February 2023. As there was still no response by this date I then contacted the Ombudsman. It was only after this that I received a call from Garry Fowler.

On three occasions I have employed plumbers, but my main concern now is that the place where I have the problem is Council have planted a tree on my nature strip and the roots are causing an issue. The last time I had a plumber out it cost me \$3,000 (I do have photographs). When the Council eventually sent someone, they said the drainage is my problem because it is within my property but if there is proof that the issue is caused through the roots of the tree on naturestrip, I will be able to get reimbursed, but Council must send someone to have a look.

So all I'm trying to say is when will someone come to investigate and how do I organise to get reimbursed and solve this problem?

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

Question to be taken on notice so that further investigation can be undertaken. Director Infrastructure and Environment to contact Wemi directly.

4.2 Petitions

4.2.1 Petition - Wingspan Avenue, South Morang

A petition has been received from 25 residents requesting the following:

‘Assess the mess that is created by the trees planted in front of our houses. These trees cause a massive mess at the front of the house and even in our backyard as the leaves travel from the front of our house to the back. We have to clean these areas every day because of the mess that has been created by these trees. This issue is getting out of hand, it is not practical for us (especially the elderly residents) to have to clean the front and back of our house every day. Not only that but, the leaves that fall from these trees even fly into the gutters which results in them becoming blocked. We request that you take action to eliminate this issue.’

Recommendation

THAT Council note the petition from 25 residents requesting Council assess the mess that is created by the street trees along Wingspan Avenue and 1045-1063 Plenty Road, South Morang and write to the signatories to inform them that:

1. The trees along the street were previously 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 as well as a review of current street sweeping frequency.
4. A report to Council will be prepared for the June 2023 Council Meeting, advising how the petitioners concerns have been addressed, in consultation with Director Infrastructure and Environment. All signatories will be advised of Council’s decision following the June Council Meeting.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Administrator Christian Zahra

Seconded: Administrator Peita Duncan

THAT Council note the petition from 25 residents requesting Council assess the mess that is created by the street trees along Wingspan Avenue and 1045-1063 Plenty Road, South Morang 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 as well as a review of current street sweeping frequency.
3. A report to Council will be prepared for the July 2023 Council Meeting, advising how the petitioners concerns have been addressed, in consultation with Director Infrastructure and Environment. All signatories will be advised of Council’s decision following the July Council Meeting.

CARRIED

4.3 Joint Letters

No Joint Letters

5 Officers' Reports

5.1 High Performing Organisation

5.1.1 Audit & Risk Committee Report on Activity

Responsible Officer	Executive Manager Strategy & Insights
In Attendance	Frank Joyce, Executive Manager Strategy & Insights
External in Attendance	Geoff Harry, Independent Chair of Audit & Risk Committee

Purpose

The Audit and Risk Committee has prepared a biannual report on its activities to provide Council with a summary of matters that the Committee has addressed during the six-month period, between October 2022 and March 2023, to discharge its Charter responsibilities.

Recommendation

That Council note the Audit and Risk Committee's Report on Activity for the six-month period, between October 2022 and March 2023; incorporating meetings held on 1 December 2022 and 16 February 2023.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: *Chairperson Lydia Wilson*
Seconded: *Administrator Peita Duncan*

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for Audit & Risk Committee Report on Activity.
CARRIED

5.1.2 Proposed Budget 2023-2024 and Proposed Community Plan Action Plan 2023-2024

Responsible Officer	Director Customer & Corporate Services
Author	Aaron Gerrard, Acting Chief Financial Officer
In Attendance	Aaron Gerrard, Acting Chief Financial Officer

Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the Proposed Budget 2023-2024 (the 'Proposed Budget', Attachment 1), and the Proposed Community Plan Action Plan 2023-2024 (the 'Proposed Action Plan', Attachment 2) which have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The Proposed Budget and Proposed Action Plan have been developed to align to community priorities identified through consultation and Council's key strategic directions. It is recommended that the proposed budget and yearly action plan be endorsed for community consultation for a four-week period, and a Committee of Council be established to consider submissions from the community.

Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Endorse the Proposed Budget 2023-2024 (the 'Proposed Budget', Attachment 1), and the Proposed Community Plan Action Plan 2023-2024 (the 'Proposed Action Plan', Attachment 2) and the Proposed Fees and Charges Schedule (the 'Proposed Fees and Charges Schedule', Attachment 3) to be released for consultation from Wednesday 29 March 2023 to Tuesday 25 April 2023, 5pm;
2. Note that the Proposed Budget and the Proposed Action Plan will be available for inspection via the City of Whittlesea's online engagement platform engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au;
3. Proactively seek and promote opportunities for public feedback on the Proposed Budget and the Proposed Action Plan during the consultation period including community pop up sessions;
4. Establish an Advisory Committee of Council to consider submissions on the Proposed Budget and the Proposed Action Plan, providing an opportunity for those who would like to speak in support of their submission to be heard in person, comprising of Administrator _____ and Administrator _____; and
5. Note the Advisory Committee will provide recommendations to Council at the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 27 June 2023.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Chairperson Lydia Wilson

Seconded: Administrator Christian Zahra

THAT Council extend the speaking time to allow Acting Chief Financial Officer, Aaron Gerrard to present report.

CARRIED

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Chairperson Lydia Wilson

Seconded: Administrator Peita Duncan

THAT Council:

- 1. Endorse the Proposed Budget 2023-2024 (the 'Proposed Budget', Attachment 1), and the Proposed Community Plan Action Plan 2023-2024 (the 'Proposed Action Plan', Attachment 2) and the Proposed Fees and Charges Schedule (the 'Proposed Fees and Charges Schedule', Attachment 3) to be released for consultation from Wednesday 29 March 2023 to Tuesday 25 April 2023, 5pm;**
- 2. Note that the Proposed Budget and the Proposed Action Plan will be available for inspection via the City of Whittlesea's online engagement platform engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au and in hard copy format at Yarra Plenty Regional Library Corporation Branches within the City of Whittlesea, Community Activity Centre's and the Civic Offices;**
- 3. Proactively seek and promote opportunities for public feedback on the Proposed Budget and the Proposed Action Plan during the consultation period including community pop up sessions;**
- 4. Establish an Advisory Committee of Council to consider submissions on the Proposed Budget and the Proposed Action Plan, providing an opportunity for those who would like to speak in support of their submission to be heard in person, comprising of Administrator Wilson (Chair), Administrator Duncan and Administrator Zahra; and**
- 5. Note the Advisory Committee will provide recommendations to Council at the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 27 June 2023.**

CARRIED

5.1.3 Audit and Risk Committee Minutes, Charter, Remuneration and Tenure of Chair

Responsible Officer	Executive Manager Strategy & Insights
Author	Nicole North-Vanner, Internal Assurance & Governance Advisor

Purpose

The Audit & Risk Committee Charter (**Charter**), Audit & Risk Committee (**Committee**) membership, and independent member fees have been reviewed and require Council approval, and the Committee Performance Survey results and the most recent Committee meeting minutes from 1 December 2022 and 16 February 2023 are attached for noting.

Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Approve the Audit and Risk Committee Charter which reflects changes recommended by the Audit and Risk Committee in September 2022.
2. Extend Geoff Harry's appointment as Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee, commencing 1 October 2023 for a three-year term ending 30 September 2026.
3. Set Audit and Risk Committee independent membership fees as \$12,000 per annum (Chairperson) and \$8,500 per annum (member) effective 1 July 2023.
4. Note the Committee Performance Results reviewed by the Committee at its meeting 1 December 2022.
5. Note the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meetings held 1 December 2022 (confirmed) and 16 February 2023 (unconfirmed).

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: *Chairperson Lydia Wilson*

Seconded: *Administrator Peita Duncan*

THAT Council:

1. **Approve the Audit and Risk Committee Charter which reflects changes recommended by the Audit and Risk Committee in September 2022.**
2. **Extend Geoff Harry's appointment as Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee, commencing 1 October 2023 for a three-year term ending 30 September 2026, noting his significant expertise in this role and committee continuity of skills.**
3. **Set Audit and Risk Committee independent membership fees as \$12,000 per annum (Chairperson) and \$8,500 per annum (member) effective 1 July 2023.**
4. **Note the Committee Performance Results reviewed by the Committee at its meeting 1 December 2022.**
5. **Note the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meetings held 1 December 2022 (confirmed) and 16 February 2023 (unconfirmed).**

CARRIED

5.1.4 Motions for MAV State Council Meeting and National Assembly 2023

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

Purpose

That Council notes the following motions submitted to the MAV State Council Meeting on 19 May 2023 and support the proposed motions to the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly on 13 – 16 June 2023.

Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the following motions were submitted for consideration at the MAV State Council Meeting on 19 May 2023:
 - a. Reform the funding models for social and affordable housing and the planning system to ensure it consistently facilitates new social and affordable housing development;
 - b. Development of a state-wide illegal dumping campaign focusing on cultural and linguistically communities;
 - c. Seeking a variation to landfill levy to support - Community clean days and Water sensitive urban design clean outs.
2. Support the submission of the following motions for consideration at the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly on 13 – 16 June 2023:
 - a. Reform the funding models for social and affordable housing and the planning system to ensure it consistently facilitates new social and affordable housing development;
 - b. Aged care program support and funding; and
 - c. Electronic Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Administrator Peita Duncan

Seconded: Chairperson Lydia Wilson

THAT Council:

1. Endorse the following motions which were submitted for consideration at the MAV State Council Meeting on 19 May 2023:
 - a. Reform the funding models for social and affordable housing and the planning system to ensure it consistently facilitates new social and affordable housing development;
 - b. Development of a state-wide illegal dumping campaign focusing on cultural and linguistically communities;
 - c. Seeking a variation to landfill levy to support - Community clean days and Water sensitive urban design clean outs.

- 2. Endorse the submission of the following motions for consideration at the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly on 13 – 16 June 2023:**
- a. Reform the funding models for social and affordable housing and the planning system to ensure it consistently facilitates new social and affordable housing development;**
 - b. Aged care program support and funding; and**
 - c. Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure.**

CARRIED

5.2 Connected Communities

5.2.1 Petition - Request to upgrade Mansfield Park, Epping

Responsible Officer	Director Infrastructure & Environment
Author	Tara Jolfaei, Coordinator Open Space Planning
In Attendance	Arashdeep Singh, Manager Urban Design & Transport

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to consider a petition received from 13 residents requesting that Council upgrades the playground at Mansfield Park in Epping.

Recommendation

THAT Council in response to the petition received from 13 residents requesting an upgrade of the playground in Mansfield Park, Epping:

1. Schedule a maintenance refresh of the playground in Mansfield Park in the 2022-2023 financial year to address wear and tear.
2. Schedule the upgrade of the playground in Mansfield Park for the 2026-2027 financial year as part of Council's prioritized Playground Renewal Program.
3. Notifies and meets with the Head Petitioner to advise of Council's decision.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Administrator Peita Duncan

Seconded: Administrator Christian Zahra

THAT Council in response to the petition received from 13 residents requesting an upgrade of the playground in Mansfield Park, Epping:

1. **Schedule maintenance works at Mansfield Park in the 2022-2023 financial year to address wear and tear and immediate safety concerns and opportunities for increased shade provision adjacent to the playground and seating area.**
2. **Schedule the upgrade of the playground in Mansfield Park for the 2026-2027 financial year as part of Council's prioritized Playground Renewal Program.**
3. **Notifies and meets with the Head Petitioner to advise of Council's decision.**

CARRIED

5.2.2 Petition - Request for Olive Trees to be planted in Kalorama Place, Thomastown

Responsible Officer	Director Infrastructure & Environment
Author	Michael Hobbs, Coordinator Parks & City Forest Business Improvement

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to consider a petition received from 12 residents requesting that Council plants olive trees at Kalorama Place, Thomastown.

Recommendation

THAT Council in response to the petition received from 12 residents of Kalorama Place, Thomastown on 27 October 2022:

1. Notes that following an independent arborist report, four trees were removed from Kalorama Place, Thomastown in February 2023 for structural and condition reasons.
2. Plants ten olive trees at Kalorama Place, Thomastown as part of the 2022-2023 financial year annual planting program. Six olive trees will be planted in vacant planting sites and four will replace trees removed in February 2023.
3. Notifies the 12 residents of Council's decision to plant ten olive trees in Kalorama Place as part of the 2022-2023 financial year annual planting program, in response to their request.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Chairperson Lydia Wilson

Seconded: Administrator Christian Zahra

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for Petition - Request for Olive Trees to be planted in Kalorama Place, Thomastown.

CARRIED

5.2.3 Casa D'Abruzzo Lease

Responsible Officer	Interim Director Community Wellbeing
Author	Andrew George, Unit Manager Leisure & Recreation
In Attendance	Amelia Ryan, Acting Manager Active & Creative Communities

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present a proposal and seek endorsement to enter into a funding agreement contractual arrangement with the Casa D'Abruzzo Club that provides Council all-inclusive access to the rectangular pitches and supporting amenities for programming community sport.

Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Endorses an all-inclusive, no fee, 20-year licence for community use and programming of the soccer facilities at the Casa D'Abruzzo Club.
2. Endorses a funding agreement with Casa D'Abruzzo to the value of \$3,610,000 over twenty years which includes \$3,010,000 for capital upgrades and \$600,000 for ongoing maintenance of the pitches and surrounds.
3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute the licence and funding agreement in accordance with this resolution.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Administrator Peita Duncan

Seconded: Chairperson Lydia Wilson

THAT Council:

1. **Endorses an all-inclusive, no fee, 20-year licence for community use and programming of the soccer facilities at the Casa D'Abruzzo Club.**
2. **Endorses a funding agreement with Casa D'Abruzzo to the value of \$3,610,000 (excluding GST) over twenty years which includes \$3,010,000 (excluding GST) for capital upgrades and \$600,000 (excluding GST) for ongoing maintenance of the pitches and surrounds.**
3. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute the licence and funding agreement in accordance with this resolution.**

CARRIED

5.3 Liveable Neighborhoods

5.3.1 Northern Trails 2022 Strategy - Endorsement

Responsible Officer	Director Infrastructure & Environment
Author	Russell Tricker, Senior Transport Planner
In Attendance	Arashdeep Singh, Manager Urban Design & Transport

Purpose

To seek Council endorsement of the Northern Trails 2022 strategy.

Recommendation

THAT Council endorses the Northern Trails 2022 strategy.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Administrator Christian Zahra

Seconded: Chairperson Lydia Wilson

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for Northern Trails 2022 Strategy - Endorsement
CARRIED

5.3.2 307 Bridge Inn Road & 390 Masons Road, Mernda Planning Scheme Amendment

Responsible Officer	Director Planning & Development
Author	Stephen Parker, Strategic Planner Projects & Infrastructure
In Attendance	George Saisanas, Manager Strategic Futures Stephen Parker, Strategic Planner Projects & Infrastructure

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to request authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit a Planning Scheme Amendment to rezone land at 307 Bridge Inn Road and 390 Masons Road, Mernda. It is proposed to rezone the nominated portions of these properties within the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) from the Farming Zone to the General Residential Zone (Schedule 1). In addition, it is proposed to apply the Development Plan Overlay (Schedule 27) and the Vegetation Protection Overlay (Schedule 1) to the land proposed to be rezoned.

The proposed amendment will facilitate the use and development of the sites as part of the ongoing planning of the Mernda West precinct and associated assemblage of land for the Quarry Hills Regional Parkland.

Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. **Seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit an Amendment to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme that seeks to alter the planning controls on part of the land at 307 Bridge Inn Road and 390 Masons Road, Mernda as follows:**
 - a) **Rezone the nominated portions of the land that is Farming Zone to General Residential Zone (Schedule 1) in accordance with Attachment 4.**
 - b) **Apply the Development Plan Overlay (Schedule 27) and Vegetation Protection Overlay (Schedule 1) to the land proposed to be rezoned.**
2. **Advise the owners of 307 Bridge Inn Road and 390 Masons Road, Mernda of Council's decision.**

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Administrator Peita Duncan

Seconded: Chairperson Lydia Wilson

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for 307 Bridge Inn Road & 390 Masons Road, Mernda Planning Scheme Amendment.

CARRIED

5.4 Strong Local Economy

No reports

5.5 Sustainable Environment

No Reports

6 Notices of Motion

No Notices of Motion

7 Urgent Business

No Urgent Business

8 Reports from Council Representatives and CEO Update

8.1 Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson Report

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

- Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board Meeting
- Coffee with Council, Doreen
- Northern Business Achievement Awards
- Whittlesea Garden Expo
- Canberra for Advocacy. Important meetings were held with some key Ministers as follows:
 - Minister Burney, Minister for Indigenous Australians in relation to the Aboriginal Gathering Place;
 - Minister for the Arts, Tony Burke;
 - Chief of Staff for the Minister for Communications, Michelle Rowland;
 - Minister for Regional Development and Local Government, Kristy McBain in relation to campaign seeking additional funding for regional sports and aquatic centre;
 - Also meet with our two Federal Members: Rob Mitchell and Andrew Giles.
- Two Citizenship Ceremonies
- City of Whittlesea Community Festival including the Community Awards Presentation
- Peter Hooper Lake Friends Group Information Session

8.2 Administrator, Peita Duncan Report

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

- Whittlesea Reconciliation Group Meeting
- Community Awards Committee Meeting
- Coffee with Council, Doreen
- Whittlesea Garden Expo
- International Women's Day Event

8.3 Administrator, Christian Zahra Report

Administrator Zahra acknowledged the Chair's welcome and time spent familiarising Council priorities.

8.4 Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd Report

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

Cultural Diversity Week

- To celebrate Cultural Diversity Week, Council ran an event at Epping Memorial Hall last night

- Over 200 people from different cultural backgrounds attended the event to celebrate the power, influence, and stories of our rich multicultural communities here in the City of Whittlesea.
- I'm told by our Acting Manager of Community Wellbeing that the Macedonian group joined the Syrian dance troop and everyone shook a leg to the Punjabi song and the event ended with the choir singing 'we are Australians' and everyone chiming in.
- We are proud of our multicultural communities and are committed to recognising and celebrating our community so they can live, play, work, prosper and belong in a safe community that respects difference and diversity.

Community Festival

- I write to thank and congratulate everyone that contributed to the highly successful Whittlesea Community Festival over the weekend.
- The attendance was fantastic (circa 10,000-12,000 people across the day), and the community were treated to a wide variety of entertainment, food, markets, community engagement, indigenous yarns and much more. The inclusion of our Pet Expo and Sustainability Lane, as well as the new Community Awards worked very well. One notable feature for me was the diversity of those attending, and the number of young children.
- Again, well done to staff from right across the organisation that made this event so special, particularly our Events Team for coordinating our efforts.
- Opportunities for community to connect so important especially in growth area like ours to foster a sense of belonging and community spirit and that was very evident on Sunday.

Congratulations

- The Consulting Surveyors Victoria (CSV) held their Biennial Awards for Subdivision Officers in Victoria on Friday 17 March 2023.
- The CSV is the peak industry body for consulting surveying firms in Victoria and Licensed Land Surveyors are one of the key customers of the Subdivision team.
- At this event, the City of Whittlesea was awarded the 2023 Award for Municipal Excellence Growth Area Category, presented by the Lord Mayor, Cr Sally Capp.
- This award recognises excellence in dealing with subdivision applications and is acknowledgement of the service provided by the Subdivision team.

Cat transition update

We are supporting our community to prepare for new regulations which will come into effect from 1 August 2023 regarding keeping cats confined to their owner's property and mandatory desexing for new cat registrations.

In addition to chatting with many locals our first pet expo on the weekend:

- We are communicating directly with all our cat owners.
- Producing resources in our most common languages.
- Articles in our newsletter and working with the local media to promote.

- Widespread promotion across our channels and at our community engagement pop ups.
- Our website is updated weekly with resources including DIY videos to make cat enclosures and other ideas.
- Offering subsidised cat desexing - working with Lort Smith.
- We will be hosting a number of workshops through May and June for the community to attend to take them through step-by-step guide to how to build a cat enclosure.

Illegal dumping

- Council is taking a zero-tolerance approach to illegal rubbish dumping, with increased patrols and surveillance in litter hotspots.
- More than 60 fines have been issued over the last six months, including a clean-up notice and fine of nearly \$6000 to a person who dumped large amounts of waste on Vearings Road in Epping.
- We have reduced the time between a report of dumped rubbish and the collection significantly – to around five days and we are also providing additional information to our community on how they can properly dispose of their waste, including the many free options available to residents, and are working with neighbouring Councils on developing coordinated efforts to stamp out illegal dumping.
- We will soon be rolling out a municipal wide campaign in support of this.

Kindergarten on School Sites

- The City of Whittlesea has seen the successful rollout of three new kindergartens to meet the growing demand for kindergarten services in our municipality.
- Meadowglen Primary School Kindergarten in Epping, Barrawang Primary School Kindergarten in Wollert and Lalor Primary School Kindergarten opened in time for the start of the school year.
- The three Kindergarten on School Sites, which cater to both three and four-year-olds, were built by the Victorian School Building Authority with assistance from the City of Whittlesea.
- Each of the kindergartens feature two learning rooms and an outdoor play space and are each licensed to cater for up to 66 children a day.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: *Chairperson Lydia Wilson*

Seconded: *Administrator Christian Zahra*

THAT Council extend the speaking time to allow Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd to present CEO Update.

CARRIED

Park and Playground Renewal

- Council's park and playground renewal program is continuing, with Tasman Drive Park in Bundoora the latest park to undergo a redevelopment.
- The upgrade saw the installation of new play equipment, a new concrete path, timber seating, garden beds and 17 new trees at a cost of about \$200,000.

- Other parks and playgrounds that will be improved under the program in the coming months include Holroyd Drive Park in Epping, Hurlstone Crescent Park in Mill Park, Healey Park in Epping and Laurimar Drainage Reserve in Doreen.

Dr Harry Jenkins Reserve

- Council is resurfacing the car park at the Dr Harry Jenkins Reserve in Mill Park as part of its 2022-23 car park rehabilitation program.
- The works, which commenced in mid-March, include re-asphalting the car park, updating the drainage and improving accessibility.
- The car park is used by not just visitors to the reserve but also residents attending the Mill Park Tennis Club and MCM Norparrin Centre.
- The works are expected to be completed in April.

9 Confidential Business

9.1 Confidential High Performing Organisation

No Reports

9.2 Confidential Connected Communities

No Reports

9.3 Confidential Liveable Neighbourhoods

No Reports

9.4 Confidential Strong Local Economy

No Reports

9.4 Confidential Sustainable Environment

No Reports

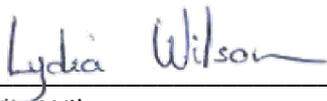
9.6 Confidential Notices of Motion

No Confidential Notices of Motion

12 Closure

There being no further business the Chair of Council closed the 21 March 2023 Scheduled Council Meeting at 8:27pm.

Confirmed this 18th day of April 2023.



Lydia Wilson
Chair of Council