



Minutes

Scheduled Council Meeting
Tuesday 27 June 2023 at 6:30 pm

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

Administrators

Lydia Wilson	Chair of Council
Peita Duncan	Administrator
Christian Zahra AM	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
Sarah Renner	Director Customer & Corporate Services
Debbie Wood	Director Planning & Development
Amanda Dodd	Acting Director Infrastructure & Environment
Amelia Ryan	Acting Director Community Wellbeing
Janine Morgan	Executive Manager Public Affairs
Sarah Rowe	Interim Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO
Andrew Mason	Acting Executive Manager Strategy & Insights

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1 Opening

1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions

The Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson opened the meeting at 6.30pm.

“Welcome to this Council Meeting of 27 June 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 and Christian Zahra. 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 Corporate and Customer Services, Sarah Renner;
Director Planning and Development, Debbie Wood;
Acting Director Infrastructure and Environment, Amanda Dodd;
Acting Director Community Wellbeing, Amelia Ryan;
Executive Manager Public Affairs, Janine Morgan;
Interim Executive Manager Office of Council and CEO, Sarah Rowe; and
Acting Executive Manager Strategy and Insights, Andrew Mason.

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 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.”

1.4 Acknowledgements

The Chair of Council made the following acknowledgements:

1.4.1 Awards

There has been plenty of cause for celebration recently.

Council was delighted to win the Community Partnerships award at the LGPro Awards for Excellence for the Epping Community Services Hub.

The Epping Community Services Hub brings together multi-agency and service provider partners under a collaborative model to support our community to navigate the often-complex health and community service systems.

Well done to all the staff and agencies involved in this very successful project.

We were also pleased to have received a Silver Award for our 2021-2022 Annual Report at the recent Australasian Reporting Awards.

This award recognises the effort that goes in to developing the City of Whittlesea's annual report each year. The annual report provides our community with a detailed overview of Council's achievements over the previous 12 months, highlighting the partnerships, collaboration and strong focus on supporting the community.

Congratulations to all involved.

1.4.2 Refugee Week

On Thursday last week I attended celebrations for Refugee Week at our Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre alongside the Deputy Chairperson of the Victorian Multicultural Commission Bwe Thay.

This year's theme was Finding Freedom and attendees enjoyed cultural art, music, dance and traditional food.

The City of Whittlesea supported several events to mark this important week which enabled people to tell their stories.

We recognise and celebrate the enormous contribution our refugees make to our community identity and culture.

Thank you to all those involved in putting together these events and program.

Administrator Duncan made the following acknowledgements:

1.4.3 Ageing Well Expo/World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Last week we also hosted a wonderful event for our older community - the Ageing Well Expo. This expo offered practical information on services and supports available in the City of Whittlesea, as well as opportunities to connect with others.

The expo also offered information on a very important topic – elder abuse. Thursday, 15 June was World Elder Abuse Awareness Day which is a day to highlight the importance of the rights of older people.

Elder abuse is any act causing harm to older people, often by those they trust. It includes financial, emotional, physical, social abuse and can include mistreatment and neglect

To highlight the significance of this issue the Ageing Well Expo featured a special information session with Seniors Rights Victoria.

The City of Whittlesea stands alongside communities worldwide to support this important issue.

1.4.4 Reconciliation Week

In the past month we have also marked National Sorry and National Reconciliation Week.

On Sorry Day, staff and community members came together with a heart-felt ceremony to honour the Stolen Generations. National Sorry Day is an opportunity to reflect on the tragic consequences of past laws, practices and policies that separated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families. It is also a time to acknowledge the strength of Stolen Generations Survivors and reflect on how we can all play a part in the healing process for our people and nation.

National Sorry Day was on the eve of National Reconciliation Week. This year's theme was "Be a Voice for Generations".

Administrator Zahra made the following acknowledgements:

1.4.5 Youth Summit

Earlier this month more than 220 students from 18 schools in the City of Whittlesea came together for the 2023 Youth Summit on Environmental Sustainability. The event was co-designed by a group of passionate young individuals Kaynat, Rudra, Tanya, Hansikaa, Mugtardir, and Gurteg.

It was a wonderful opportunity to listen to the voices of young people and the event sparked powerful conversations and left everyone who attended motivated to tackle the challenges ahead.

1.4.6 NAIDOC Week

And finally, National NAIDOC Week is celebrated across Australia from 2 to 9 July. The City of Whittlesea is holding a variety of events to mark this important week. We would invite our community to explore what is on offer and take this opportunity to deepen their understanding of First Nations cultures and histories. Information is available on Council's website.

1.5 Attendance

Members:

Lydia Wilson, Chair of Council
Peita Duncan, Administrator
Christian Zahra AM, Administrator

Officers:

Craig Lloyd, Chief Executive Officer
Sarah Renner, Director Customer & Corporate Services
Debbie Wood, Director Planning & Development
Amanda Dodd, Acting Director Infrastructure & Environment
Amelia Ryan, Acting Director Community Wellbeing
Janine Morgan, Executive Manager Public Affairs
Sarah Rowe, Interim Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO
Andrew Mason, Acting Executive Manager Strategy & Insights

Apology:

Nil

2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No declarations

3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>

THAT the following Minutes of the preceding meeting as circulated, be confirmed:

Scheduled Meeting of Council held on 16 May 2023; and
Draft Budget & Community Plan Action Plan 2023-2024 Advisory Committee held
on 30 May 2023.

CARRIED

4 Public Questions, Petitions and Joint Letters

4.1 Public Question Time

The Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson advised the meeting that Council have received two public questions for this evening, which will be read by myself and the response will be provided by the Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd. Questions and responses are as follows:

Question 1 – Norma Simons, Wollert

This question relates to 42 Steen Avenue Wollert.

Is it necessary for Council to approve rectification works prior to commencement, which will require either:

1. an amendment to the plan; or
2. a new planning permit issued

Response

Rectification works to a building are usually dealt with under existing permits. Significant changes may require amendments to permits.

In Victoria, building industry matters such as regulatory controls, construction standards, legal liability of parties and dispute resolution are managed by the State Government.

When a Building Permit is obtained through a Private Building Surveyor the role of assessment and compliance is the responsibility of the Private Building Surveyor and monitored by the Victorian Building Authority.

Council has no compliance or approval role where a Private Building Surveyor has been engaged, or where disputes arise.

As per discussions previously with Council Officers, matters of this nature should be referred to the Victorian Building Authority for investigation.

Question 2 – Nick Brain, Epping

When Council signed off on the Mernda Megaproject at its July 2022 meeting it had an estimated price tag of \$113.4 million. Council's website however currently has it described as having an estimated cost of \$180 million. Even allowing for the annual CPI rate reported by the ABS in April 2023, that's a blow out of approximately \$56 million.

Why has the estimated cost grown a staggering 58.7% beyond its original estimated price tag in one year alone, and what is being done to mitigate the risk of further construction costs ultimately being worn by Whittlesea ratepayers?

Response

The figures referenced by Mr. Brain reflect an early high-level estimate provided to Council prior to the completion and adoption of a detailed Business Case.

The business case for the Regional Aquatic and Sports Centre at Mernda, prepared by Deloitte Australia, costed the three stages of the project at a total of \$180.5 million. The business case was endorsed by Council at the 17 July 2022 Council Meeting.

The costs increased from the initial scoping back in December 2021 as a result of the ongoing challenges post-pandemic of major infrastructure delivery including global supply chain challenges and labour pressure as well as finalising the scope and definition of the project, which is standard practice at the business case stage.

At the July 2022 Meeting, Council endorsed \$48 million funding for delivery of Stage 2 of the project which includes six indoor sports courts and eight outdoor netball courts plus detailed design for Stage 3 which is the aquatic and leisure components.

Council has built in an ongoing review process so we can continue to evaluate cost implications in the changing marketplace throughout the life of the project and funding for Stage 3 will be presented to Council for consideration in 2025/26.

Staging the project spreads the costs over a number of years, and ensures Council can continue to deliver other important infrastructure and facilities across the municipality.

Council has been advocating strongly to secure funding support from the Federal and State Governments for this much-needed project and we welcomed the Victorian Government's announcement of \$20 million funding contribution for the project in October 2022.

This significant investment into a regional sports and aquatic facility is about improving the health and wellbeing of our community. The City of Whittlesea has the highest portion of overweight adults in north-eastern Melbourne, the third highest portion of adults with type 2 diabetes in Victoria and the sixth highest proportion of adults with heart disease in Victoria with 44% of adults doing insufficient physical activity. On top of this, our municipality also has lower rates of participation in formal sports and recreation pursuits than other municipalities.

The costs of this project are outlined in the business case which is available on Council's website.

4.2 Petitions

No Petitions

4.3 Joint Letters

No Joint Letters

5 Officers' Reports

5.1 High Performing Organisation

5.1.1 Administrator Update Report

Responsible Officer Chair of Council

Author Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson

Purpose

To provide an update on the work and achievements and future priorities of the Panel of Administrators from the date of commencement to date, to ensure good governance and an active representational role.

Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the Administrator Update report (Attachment 1), June 2023 and supporting attachments (1-3).
2. Provide a copy of the Administrator Update report and attachments, to the Hon Melissa Horne, Minister for Local Government Victoria and all local Members of Parliament.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Chairperson Lydia Wilson</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>

THAT Council:

1. **Note the Administrator Update report (Attachment 1), June 2023 and supporting attachments (1-4 inclusive).**
2. **Provide a copy of the Administrator Update report and attachments, to the Hon. Melissa Horne, Minister for Local Government Victoria, to Local Government Victoria (LGV) and to Federal and State local Members of Parliament.**

CARRIED

5.1.2 Budget 2023-2024 and Community Plan Action Plan 2023-2024 - Adoption and Declaration of Rates

Responsible Officer Director Customer & Corporate Services

Author Chief Financial Officer

In Attendance Chief Financial Officer

Purpose

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

The Budget and Action Plan have been developed to align to community priorities identified through consultation and Council's key strategic directions. It is proposed that Council consider the inclusion of recommendations of the Budget and Action Plan Submissions Advisory Committee and Officers in determining the Budget 2023-2024 and the Community Plan Action Plan 2023-2024 for adoption.

Additional Comments

Administrator Zahra made the following comments in relation to the Doreen United Soccer Club submission:

'One of the great things about this process was the public participation we had throughout, and all those people who took the time to make written contributions and a smaller group who came and presented to us in person. We were all impressed by the Doreen United Soccer Club who attended the Advisory Committee Meeting on 30 May. I know there is some detail in the papers that have been circulated but it might be useful if we can give a bit of a greater sense as to what we are proposing to do in relation to responding to those community needs that were identified, even at a higher level so we can communicate to them what we are proposing in this public forum.'

Director Customer & Corporate Services responded with:

'Submissions from the Doreen United Soccer Club were around two particular areas, one being the ground lighting upgrades. We would like to respond, with the guidance of the Administrators and the Advisory Committee Meeting, is we do recognise the benefits of upgrading the existing sports ground flood lighting and we will be adding this to the list of potential projects that will be prioritised for feasibility studies in the coming financial year.

The second was recognising the rapid growth in the club itself, it has been a wonderful success story and that was acknowledged by all Administrators during the Advisory Committee Meeting.

What we would like to commit to is through the development of our long-term community infrastructure plan looking at a longer-term strategy for investment into community facilities across the municipality including this facility and other sporting facilities.’

Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. **Accept the recommendations of the Council Budget and Community Plan Action Plan Advisory Committee outlined in Attachment 1, following its hearing and consideration of public submissions on the Draft Budget 2023-2024 and Draft Community Plan Action Plan 2023-2024, noting that the Committee’s recommendations have a zero net impact on the Budget.**
2. **Notify all submitters that Council has considered their submissions relating to the Draft Budget 2023-2024 and Draft Community Plan Action Plan 2023-2024 and that the submitters be advised of the outcome of the consideration as it relates to their specific submission, and they be thanked for their contributions.**
3. **Accept officer recommendations of financial changes to decrease the operating surplus in the Budget 2023-2024 by \$0.54 million mainly relating to a capped funding agreement between City of Whittlesea and Casa D’Abruzzo in line with Council resolution made on 21 March 2023.**
4. **Adopt the Budget 2023-2024 (Attachment 2), noting that the Budget 2023-2024 has been updated in accordance with recommendations 1 and 3.**
5. **Adopt the Community Plan Action Plan 2023-2024 (Attachment 3).**
6. **Declare that the amount which Council intends to raise by general rates is \$179,609,303 and such further amount as lawfully levied as a consequence of this resolution.**
7. **Declare that the general rate be declared in respect of the 2023-2024 financial year.**
8. **Resolve on funding the Aboriginal Gathering Place while continuing to pursue external supportive funding for associated projects.**
9. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to give public notice of the decision to adopt the Budget and the Community Plan Action Plan.**
10. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to effect administrative and wording changes to the final Budget and Community Plan Action Plan documents that may be required.**

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Chairperson Lydia Wilson</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>

THAT Council extend the speaking time for a further two minutes to allow the Chief Financial Officer to present report.

CARRIED

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Chairperson Lydia Wilson</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for the Budget 2023-2024 and Community Plan Action Plan 2023-2024 - Adoption and Declaration of Rates.

CARRIED

5.1.3 Proposed Draft Community Local Law

Responsible Officer: Director Planning & Development

Author: Coordinator Regulatory Programs

In Attendance: Acting Executive Manager Strategy & Insights

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the draft *Community Local Law 2024* and draft *Community Impact Statement* for endorsement ahead of the stage 2 consultation period.

Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Endorse the draft **Community Local Law 2024** and **Community Impact Statement** for public consultation between the dates of 29 June – 13 August 2023.
2. Consider any submissions received, associated recommendations and final version of the **Community Local Law 2024** and **Transition Plan** at the 21 November 2023 Council meeting.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for the Proposed Draft Community Local Law.

CARRIED

5.1.4 Whittlesea Park Master Plan Endorsement

Responsible Officer: Acting Director Infrastructure & Environment

Author: Coordinator Open Space Projects

In Attendance: Unit Manager Parks Development

Purpose

To seek Council endorsement of the Whittlesea Park Master Plan including the new land management and land maintenance proposal.

Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Support the findings of the Whittlesea Park Master Plan Community Consultation and Findings Report.
2. Endorse the Whittlesea Park Master Plan.
3. Support the new land management and maintenance proposal for Whittlesea Park.
4. Acknowledge the work of the Whittlesea Showgrounds and Recreation Reserves Committee of Management in managing the Whittlesea Park.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>
Seconded:	<i>Chairperson Lydia Wilson</i>

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for the Whittlesea Park Master Plan Endorsement.

CARRIED

5.1.5 Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation under the Planning and Environment Act

Responsible Officer: Interim Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Author: Interim Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Purpose

The *Planning and Environment Act 1987* requires that Council by resolution appoint Authorised Officers to exercise their powers under the Act. This power cannot be delegated to the CEO.

Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. **Appoints Council Officers (attached) as Authorised Officers under section 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and section 313 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.**
2. **Have the Instrument come into effect when it is executed and remain in force until Council decides to vary or revoke it.**

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for the Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation under the *Planning and Environment Act*.

CARRIED

5.2 Connected Communities

5.2.1 Community Grants Framework

Responsible Officer Director Customer & Corporate Services

Author Grants Coordinator

In Attendance Manager EPMO & Change

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement for the draft community grant guidelines, following community consultation, with a planned go-live date of 1 August 2023.

Recommendation

THAT Council endorse the new City of Whittlesea Community Grant Guidelines 2023-24 with a planned go-live date of 1 August 2023.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for the Community Grants Framework.

CARRIED

5.2.2 Library Service Review Update

Responsible Officer: Acting Director Community Wellbeing

Author: Manager Active & Creative Communities

In Attendance: Manager Active & Creative Communities

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to request an amendment to resolution 1, in the Council Resolution for Item 5.1.1 carried at the 12 December 2022 Council Meeting.

Recommendation

THAT Council approve the amendment of the December 2022 Council resolution (Item 5.1.1, point 1) to present key findings of the library service review, from June 2023 Council Meeting to September 2023 Council Meeting.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>
Seconded:	<i>Chairperson Lydia Wilson</i>

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for the Library Service Review Update.

CARRIED

5.2.3 Petition - Removal and Replacement of Nature Strip Trees, Incana Drive, Mill Park

Responsible Officer: Acting Director Infrastructure & Environment

Author: Acting Manager Maintenance & Operations

In Attendance: Acting Manager Maintenance & Operations

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to outline the response to a petition received from 49 residents, requesting that Council remove all existing, nature strips trees along Incana Drive, Mill Park and replace them as part of its Street Tree Renewal capital works program. The reason for their request is to address safety concerns they perceive stemming from excessive leaf, gumnut, and twig drop, as well as suggested infrastructure damage to structures and private property.

Recommendation

THAT Council in response to the petition received from 49 residents requesting that Council remove all existing, nature strips trees along Incana Drive, Mill Park and replace them as part of its Street Tree Renewal capital works program, write to the head petitioner to advise that:

- 1. Following an independent arborist report of all the nature strip trees on Incana Drive, Mill Park it was deemed all trees did not display any safety risks, that required their removal and replacement, except for:
 - a. one young tree sapling with poor structure; and**
 - b. one Red Spotted Gum tree which was determined to have caused infrastructure damage that could not be abated.****

Both trees will be removed and replaced with an appropriate species, in the next 3 months.

- 2. Remedial pruning works will be carried out to nature strip trees in the next 12 months and all trees will continue to be monitored and maintained as part of Council's biennial inspection program.**
- 3. Street sweeping is carried out every 8-12 weeks and the program will be monitored to ensure debris will not pose issues to road guttering and drainage systems. The requirement for additional street sweeping during periods of heavy leaf litter will be monitored.**

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Chairperson Lydia Wilson</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for the petition in relation to the removal and replacement of nature strip trees along Incana Drive, Mill Park.

CARRIED

5.3 Liveable Neighborhoods

5.3.1 Planning Scheme Amendment C249: Planning Scheme Review - For Decision - Seeking Authorisation

Responsible Officer Director Planning & Development

Author Strategic Planner

In Attendance Strategic Planner

Purpose

This report presents proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C249 that seeks to update the Whittlesea Planning Scheme to implement the outcomes of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme Review 2022.

The report also seeks to adopt the *City of Whittlesea Stage Two Dry Stone Wall Study: Thematic History and Precincts (Moloney, 2020)*, for inclusion in the Whittlesea Planning Scheme, as part of the proposed Amendment.

The report recommends that Council seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C249.

Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. **Adopt the *City of Whittlesea Stage Two Dry Stone Wall Study: Thematic History and Precincts (Moloney, 2020)*, at Attachment 2 of this report.**
2. **Request the Minister for Planning to authorise the preparation and exhibition of Planning Scheme Amendment C249wsea to update the Whittlesea Planning Scheme, as outlined in Attachment 1 of this report.**

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>

THAT Council adopt the recommendation seeking a decision and authorisation for the Planning Scheme Review in relation to Planning Scheme Amendment C249.

CARRIED

5.3.2 Planning Scheme Amendment C271 Rezoning of Mernda Regional Recreation Reserve - Exhibition Outcomes

Responsible Officer Director Planning & Development

Author Strategic Planner

In Attendance Manager Strategic Futures

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the outcomes of the exhibition of Amendment C271 and recommend that Council adopt the Amendment and submit it to the Minister for Planning for approval.

The exhibition resulted in one submission being received which has been resolved without changes to the Amendment. Amendment C271 seeks to rezone land in Council ownership in Mernda from General Residential Zone to Public Park and Recreation Zone to facilitate the use and development of the land for the Mernda Regional Aquatic and Sports and Centre project (RASC).

Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. **Adopt Amendment C271 to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme as contained in Attachments 1 - 3 of this report.**
2. **Submit Amendment C271 to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme as proposed in 1. above to the Minister for Planning for approval.**

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>

THAT Council adopt the recommendation in relation to the exhibition outcomes for Planning Scheme Amendment C271 rezoning of Mernda Regional Recreation Reserve.

CARRIED

5.3.3 Epping Central Structure Plan for Endorsement

Responsible Officer Director Planning & Development

Author Senior Strategic Planner

In Attendance Senior Strategic Planner

Purpose

This report considers the feedback received from the public exhibition of the draft Epping Central Structure Plan conducted in late 2022. A number of updates to the draft Structure Plan have been made in response to the community feedback. The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the refreshed Epping Central Structure Plan. Subsequent to the endorsement of the Structure Plan, it is proposed to prepare a planning scheme amendment to give effect to the updated Structure Plan.

Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. **Endorse the refreshed Epping Central Structure Plan (refer Attachment 3).**
2. **Notify submitters of Council's decision to endorse the Epping Central Structure Plan.**
3. **Commence the review of the planning controls for the purpose of preparing a planning scheme amendment to give effect to the Epping Central Structure Plan in the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.**

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>
Seconded:	<i>Chairperson Lydia Wilson</i>

THAT Council adopt the recommendation endorsing the Epping Central Structure Plan.

CARRIED

5.3.4 Lalor Development Plan Addendum

Responsible Officer Director Planning & Development

Author Strategic Planner

In Attendance Strategic Planner

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to discuss the outcomes of the public exhibition of a proposed amendment to the Lalor Development Plan. The proposal seeks to amend a land use designation within the Development Plan for the property at 50s Gillwell Road, Lalor, from “Integrated Residential Age in Place Estate” to “medium density residential”.

Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. **Approve the Addendum at Attachment 3 of this report showing the change in land use for 50S Gillwell Road, to form part of the Endorsed Lalor Development Plan (Carlingford & Mosaic Living).**
2. **Advise the submitter and proponent of Council’s decision to approve the Addendum to the Development Plan.**

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>
Seconded:	<i>Chairperson Lydia Wilson</i>

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for the Lalor Development Plan Addendum.

CARRIED

5.3.5 Petition - 605 Dalton Road Epping Nature Strip

Responsible Officer: Acting Director Infrastructure & Environment

Author: Unit Manager Landscape & Open Space Planning

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to outline the response to a petition received from 15 residents requesting Council allow the nature strip mulch at 605 Dalton Road, Epping to remain and small endemic grasses and wildflowers to be planted as per the City of Whittlesea's Urban Nature Strip Guidelines 2015.

Recommendation

THAT Council, in responding to the petition to allow the nature strip mulch at 605 Dalton Road Epping to remain and small endemic grasses and wildflowers to be planted as per the Urban Nature Strip Guidelines 2015, resolves to:

1. Allow the alterations to the nature strip to remain with changes aligning to proposed Draft Nature Strip Garden Guidelines 2023.
2. Advise the head petitioner of Council's decision.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Chairperson Lydia Wilson</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>

THAT Council adopt the recommendation in relation to the petition relating to the nature strip at 605 Dalton Road, Epping.

CARRIED

5.4 Strong Local Economy

No reports

5.5 Sustainable Environment

5.5.1 Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2012 - 2022 Close Out

Responsible Officer: Acting Director Infrastructure & Environment

Author: Sustainable Organisation Officer

In Attendance: Sustainable Organisation Officer

Purpose

This report presents the close out report on the implementation of Whittlesea's *Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2012-2022*.

The *Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2012-2022* was adopted by Council on 7 May 2013. It set out 206 actions prioritised over ten years to achieve the strategic objectives and community's vision to live sustainably in the urban and rural areas of the municipality and, ensure that our carbon footprint, water, waste, energy use, flora and fauna are managed sustainably. This is the second and final progress report on the *Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2012-2022*.

Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. **Note the successful completion of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2012-2022 and officially close out the document.**
2. **Write to the Minister for Climate Action and the Minister for Environment to provide an update on the outcomes of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2012-2022.**
3. **Write to members of Parliament representing Upper and Lower House seats in our municipality to provide an update on the outcomes of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2012-2022.**

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>
Seconded:	<i>Chairperson Lydia Wilson</i>

THAT Council adopt the recommendation closing out the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2012-2022.

CARRIED

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

Chair Administrator Wilson's report was provided verbally at the 27 June 2023 Scheduled Council Meeting. Since the last Council Meeting Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson attended:

- MAV State Council
- City of Whittlesea Audit and Risk Committee
- Advisory Committee Community Plan Action Plan and Budget
- Interface Council Group Forum
- City of Whittlesea Business Advisory Panel Meeting
- Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board Meetings
- Five Citizenship Ceremonies with 140 conferees at each
- City of Whittlesea Business Awards
- Site visit of Plenty Gorge with the Hon John Pandazopoulos and Parks Victoria
- Yarra Plenty Regional Library Finding My Place Finale & Presentation event to Lalor North Secondary Students
- Refugee Week Event

8.2 Administrator Peita Duncan

Administrator Duncan's report was provided verbally at the 27 June 2023 Scheduled Council Meeting. Since the last Council meeting Administrator, Peita Duncan attended:

- MAV Metropolitan North Regional Meeting
- City of Whittlesea Business Advisory Panel Meeting
- Two Citizenship Ceremonies with 140 conferees at each
- Australian Local Government Association - National General Assembly in Canberra

8.3 Administrator Christian Zahra AM

Administrator Zahra's report was provided verbally at the 27 June 2023 Scheduled Council Meeting. Since the last Council Meeting Administrator, Christian Zahra attended:

- City of Whittlesea Audit and Risk Committee
- Youth Summit on Environmental Sustainability

8.4 Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

The Chief Executive Officer's report was provided verbally at the 27 June 2023 Scheduled Council Meeting:

Findon Road opening

In early June we opened the 1km east-west link on Findon Road from Williamsons Road to Plenty Road in South Morang.

The \$15 million project is a major investment by Council to improve the local road network and ease congestion. In addition to the road, the project included construction of a shared walking and cycling path, a road bridge over the Mernda rail line and an underpass for the Yan Yean Shared Path.

The road opened with a temporary traffic signals in place at the intersection of Findon Road and Williamsons Road, with permanent signals expected to be installed in 2024.

This has been a complex project and we are pleased the community are now able to utilise the road for connections to work, education, shopping and recreation facilities.

Cats

With just over one month to go until the changes to cat regulations in the City of Whittlesea, we're making every effort to ensure our community knows about the changes and that they have the information they need to ensure that they can contain their cat to their property.

From the first of August all cats must be confined to their owners' property at all times or under effective control when outside the property. All cats being registered for the first time must also be desexed. We're offering a series of free DIY workshops in the coming month to help cat owners prepare for the change to confinement rules and you can book your spot on our website at www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/cats.

Intermodal freight terminal in Beveridge

We were pleased to receive the news earlier this week that the purchase for the Inland Rail intermodal terminal in Beveridge, in the City of Whittlesea boundary, has now been completed and that these designs are progressing.

The National Intermodal has purchased 1100 hectares of land in Beveridge to build the intermodal freight terminal with the first trains due in 2025 and full operation by 2028-29.

The terminal is expected to deliver an enormous boost to local employment with some 20,000 jobs required for both the construction and the ongoing operations and it will contribute about \$3.5 billion to the economy each year.

This project has been one of Council's priority advocacy projects for some time, so we are pleased to see that happen.

Customer Service Improvements

On our customer service journey, we are committed to improving our customer services and late last year we launched a customer feedback survey to understand what we're doing well, and where we could improve.

We have really been focusing on delivering good quality customer service to our residents and I am really proud to advise that since November, that customer satisfaction score has increased by 37% and we are now averaging a customer satisfaction score of 85% for the last month.

We know we still have some work to do in that space, but we are committed to making further improvements to improve our customer service.

9 Confidential Business

9.1 Confidential High Performing Organisation

No Reports

9.2 Confidential Liveable Neighbourhoods

No Reports

9.3 Confidential Strong Local Economy

No Reports

9.4 Confidential Sustainable Environment

No Reports

9.5 Confidential Connected Communities

No Reports

10 Closure

There being no further business the Chair of Council closed the 27 June 2023 Scheduled Council Meeting at 8:35 pm.

Confirmed this 18th day of July 2023.

Lydia Wilson
Chair of Council