

# Minutes

Scheduled Council Meeting

Tuesday 19 December 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

Emma Appleton                      Director Planning & Development

Agata Chmielewski                      Director Community Wellbeing

Sarah Renner                      Director Customer & Corporate Services

Debbie Wood                      Director Infrastructure & Environment

Frank Joyce                      Executive Manager Strategy & Insights

Janine Morgan                      Executive Manager Public Affairs

Jacinta Stevens                      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 19 December 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:

Emma Appleton, Director Planning & Development;  
Agata Chmielewski, Director Community Wellbeing;  
Debbie Wood, Director Infrastructure & Environment;  
Frank Joyce, Executive Manager Strategy & Insight;  
Janine Morgan, Executive Manager Public Affairs; and  
Jacinta Stevens, Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO.

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

### **1.2 Apologies**

Sarah Renner, Director Customer & Corporate Services.

### **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

Administrator Christian Zahra made the following acknowledgement:

### Community Awards

We are once again looking to recognise and celebrate the wonderful people we have here in the City of Whittlesea, with the 2023 City of Whittlesea Community Awards. I am very excited personally to be part of the Committee for these awards and it is always amazing to see the calibre of nominations that come in and to hear about the selfless and very generous spirit of those people we are fortunate enough to have in our local community.

Nominations are now open, and we have five award categories: Citizen of the Year; Young Citizen of the Year; Senior Citizen of the Year; Access and Inclusion Citizen of the Year and Sustainable Environment Citizen or Group of the Year. I'd like to encourage everyone to think about people in their networks who they could nominate – you will find the forms on our website.

Administrator Peita Duncan made the following acknowledgement:

### Whittlesea Community Connections 50 years

I would like to acknowledge Whittlesea Community Connections, it's their 50th anniversary and on behalf of Council extend my congratulations to WCC. They were established by Whittlesea residents to provide those in need, access to critical support services. Whittlesea Community Connections has grown over the years, with more than 300 volunteers who work alongside just a small team of permanent staff to help deliver their services.

We here at Council are extremely proud to be supporting an organisation that does so much great work in assisting our community, and it's through a range of services, including legal, financial and health assistance programs. We very much look forward to continuing our partnership with Whittlesea Community Connections, congratulations to everyone at Whittlesea Community Connections.

Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson made the following acknowledgements:

### Art Exhibition

I would like to congratulate all the Art Award Winners of this year's City of Whittlesea Art Exhibition, which had the theme of 'The Webs We Weave'. We were fortunate to have 127 artwork entries that really showcased amazing talent across all forms of art.

What started as a community-driven initiative by local artist and community member Suzy Duncan in 2005, has since become a long-standing tradition here at the City of Whittlesea, showcasing the many talents of our community members. I had the privilege of being a part of the judging panel along with Suzy Duncan, and it was an exceptional evening of celebrations.

Congratulations to all the award recipients and everybody who submitted their works. You can now look at our online gallery by visiting [www.arts.whittlesea.vic.gov.au](http://www.arts.whittlesea.vic.gov.au).

### **Carols**

My final acknowledgement this evening is in relation to Carols by Candlelight which occurred last Friday evening. It was an amazing event with many thousands of people in attendance. We had wonderful weather, and I really wanted to congratulate the many staff from across the organisation involved in putting together another successful Carols by Candlelight.

A particular acknowledgement to our community choir and the Diamond Valley brass band. We had 60 choir members and from memory, the youngest member of the choir was only six years of age. They were fantastic and really helped to contribute to the atmosphere on the evening.

### **Final Council Meeting for 2023**

As this is the final Council meeting for the year, I would really like on behalf of Administrators to take this opportunity to you Craig and to the members of your Executive Leadership Team, but also to the many wonderful staff across the organisation to acknowledge a huge effort over the past 12 months and a real sense of achievement. Thank you all for the contribution that you have made.

We also would like, as Administrators, to wish our community members and local businesses, those people who are celebrating Christmas all the very best for festive season and into the new year. So, thank you for that.

**2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

No declarations.

**3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s**

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

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

**Scheduled Meeting of Council held on 21 November 2023.**

**CARRIED**

## **4 Public Questions, Petitions and Joint Letters**

### **4.1 Public Question Time**

**The Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO read the below question on behalf of Matthew Brown of Wollert:**

Can I please request reasoning of the general appearance of the municipality. The area has significantly become an eye sore with overgrown weeds in median, nature strips overgrown and dumped rubbish. Send Snap Solves unresolved. Our rates went up, we expect services to match this and the community expectations of this has not been met.

**Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd**

Thank you for your question.

We know there has been some recent challenges with the appearance of public areas, and some of this is a result of industrial action taken by some of our staff during the negotiation of a new Enterprise Agreement. We are pleased that the action has now concluded following the successful negotiation of a new Agreement.

We have been working to catch up - and I am pleased to advise our hard waste collections are now back on track.

With regards to overgrown grass and weeds, this can be complex as the responsibility for the maintenance of grass on roadsides and median strips varies.

Council is responsible for local roads, while VicRoads are responsible for main or arterial roads. There is a list on Council's website which provides more detail.

Residents are responsible for maintaining their own nature strip.

Council's crews and contractors continue to work hard to maintain the areas that the City of Whittlesea is responsible for. We also publish our mowing schedule on our website should you wish to view specific areas.

Council does have a zero-tolerance approach to dumped rubbish and has significantly increased patrols, reviewing of surveillance footage and sifting through dumped rubbish to identify those responsible with fines and enforcement action taken against those doing the wrong thing.

We are happy to follow up directly with Matthew regarding any specific concerns.

**4.2 Petitions**

No Petitions

**4.3 Joint Letters**

No Joint Letters

## 5 Officers' Reports

### 5.1 Proposed Amendment C275 - Local Policies Update to Clause 13.07-1L - Display Homes, Clause 19.02-1L - Medical Centres and Clause 19.03-5L - Materials Recycling Centre

**Director/Executive Manager:** Director Planning & Development

**Report Author:** Strategic Planner

**In Attendance:** Manager Strategic Futures  
Coordinator Planning Policy and Implementation

#### Executive Summary

Amendment C275 proposes changes to the following three local policies in the *Whittlesea Planning Scheme* (scheme): Clause 13.07-1L-Display homes, Clause 19.02-1L - Medical centres and Clause 19.03-5L - Materials recycling centre. This proposal implements 3 of 37 recommendations made in the *Planning Scheme Review 2018* (PSR). The proposed policies are included as Attachment 1 of this report.

This report recommends that Council approves the proposed amendment for submission to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to exhibit the proposed amendment.

While the review found that the scheme is generally operating effectively, it makes several recommendations to update and further improve its efficiency. This included a program to amend or update 5 local policies that had not been reviewed for some time. This amendment focuses on 3 local policies, with the remaining two local policies to be the subject of future amendments.

Following consultation with relevant internal Council departments and external stakeholders, including the Environment Protection Agency (EPA), the 3 policies were redrafted to update existing content, objectives, strategies, guidelines and include new policy documents. In summary, the proposed changes seek to focus greater attention on the offsite impacts of the 3 land uses, for example through strategies to minimise potential negative amenity impacts like noise and dust. The changes are also aimed at improving useability for users of the scheme.

The amendment will ensure the scheme is up to date with current policy and community expectations.

The three policies with proposed changes (shown in track-changes) are included at Attachment 1.

**Officers' Recommendation**

**THAT Council Approves the proposed Amendment C275 for submission to the Department of Transport and Planning for authorisation from the Minister for Planning, to formally prepare and exhibit Amendment C275 to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme, as outlined within Attachment 1.**

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

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

**THAT Council adopt the recommendation in relation to the Proposed Amendment C275 - Local Policies Update to Clause 13.07-1L - Display Homes, Clause 19.02-1L - Medical Centres and Clause 19.03-5L - Materials Recycling Centre.**

**CARRIED**

**ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION**

*Administrator Christian Zahra*

*Chair of Council Lydia Wilson*

**VOTING**

UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

## 5.2 Integrated Strategies - Connected Community, Long Term Infrastructure Plan and Liveable Neighbourhoods

**Director/Executive Manager:** Director Community Wellbeing  
Director Planning and Development

**Report Author:** Social Planning & Project Officer

**In Attendance:** Manager Strategic Futures  
Manager Community & Place  
Acting Manager Strategic Projects

### Executive Summary

This report seeks endorsement of the Connected Community Strategy 2023-2033 (CCS), the Long-Term Community Infrastructure Plan 2024-2033 (LTCIP), and the Liveable Neighbourhood Strategy 2023 –2033 (LNS) (the Strategies), following community consultation on the draft documents.

Council's Integrated Planning Framework guides the development of integrated Council Strategies to ensure alignment, efficiency, effectiveness and to avoid duplication. The three Strategies under consideration are closely aligned and, together, identify priorities to enable liveable neighbourhoods and connected communities, through the provision of community infrastructure and community programs and services, and the planning and design of great places for people.

The CCS outlines the Council's commitment to fostering inclusive, healthy, safe, and welcoming places where all community members are celebrated and supported. The CCS articulates shared community outcomes that provide a focus towards strengthening social connections and building community.

The LNS outlines the City of Whittlesea's approach to creating and maintaining liveable neighbourhoods that are attractive and well-planned with open spaces and town centres that are convenient and vibrant places for all.

The LTCIP uses guiding principles to prioritise community infrastructure for the City of Whittlesea over the next ten years, considering a climate of significant population growth, a diverse and changing community, and state government policy reform.

As the Strategies are closely aligned, community and stakeholder consultation was undertaken on the three Strategies together from May to October 2023.

This consultation sought feedback to ensure priorities in each of the Strategies were aligned with community and stakeholder expectations, and that the draft Strategies were informed by community and stakeholder input. 186 community contributions were received during the consultation period with over 90 per cent of participants supportive of the Strategies.

### Officers' Recommendation

#### THAT Council:

1. **Notes the feedback received during the integrated community consultation process, run from May to October 2023, for the Connected Community Strategy 2023-2033, Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy 2023-2033, and Long-Term Community Infrastructure Plan 2024-2033 at Attachment 1.**
2. **Endorses the Connected Community Strategy 2023-2033 at Attachment 2.**
3. **Endorses the Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy 2023-2033 at Attachment 3.**
4. **Endorses the Long-Term Community Infrastructure Plan 2024-2033 at Attachment 4.**
5. **Acknowledges and thanks the community and stakeholders who have contributed to the development of the Connected Community Strategy 2023-2033, Long Term Community Infrastructure Plan 2024-2033, and Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy 2023-2033.**

### Extension of speaking time

Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson exercised her discretion to extend speaking time for up to four minutes in accordance with Governance Rule 35.5.

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

**THAT Council adopt the recommendation for the Connected Community, Long Term Infrastructure Plan and Liveable Neighbourhoods integrated strategies.**

**CARRIED**

### ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

*Administrator Peita Duncan*

*Administrator Christian Zahra*

*Chair of Council Lydia Wilson*

<b>VOTING</b>			
<b>UNANIMOUS</b>	<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>ABSTAINED</b>
<i>YES</i>			

### 5.3 Contract 2023-100 Construction of Plenty Road and Everton Drive Signalise Intersection

**Director/Executive Manager:** Director Infrastructure & Environment

**Report Author:** Coordinator Civil Engineering Delivery

**In Attendance:** Manager Capital Delivery  
Unit Manager Engineering Design & Construction  
Coordinator Civil Engineering Delivery

#### Executive Summary

It is proposed that contract number 2023-100 for the Construction of Plenty Road and Everton Drive Signalised Intersection, Mernda is awarded to Bild Infrastructure Pty Ltd for the lump sum price of \$5,847,373.55 (excluding GST).

This report summarises the evaluation of the six tender submissions received for the Construction of Plenty Road and Everton Drive Signalised Intersection, Mernda.

The tender evaluation panel advises that:

- Six tenders were received.
- The recommended tender is the highest ranked tenderer. The highest ranked tenderer has demonstrated the required capability, capacity, qualification and represents best value for council to deliver this project.
- Collaborative tendering was not undertaken in relation to this procurement because it is not listed in the Northern Councils Alliance consolidated contract register and this contract relates to a unique need for the City of Whittlesea.

**Officers' Recommendation**

THAT Council:

1. Accept the tender submitted by Bild Infrastructure Pty Ltd for the following contract:
  - Number: 2023-100
  - Title: Construction of Plenty Road and Everton Drive Signalised Intersection, Mernda
  - Cost: A lump sum of \$5,847,373.55 (excluding GST) subject to the following conditions:
    - a) Tenderer to provide proof of currency of insurance cover and contract security as required in the tender documents.
    - b) Price variations to be in accordance with the provisions as set out in the tender documents.
2. Approve the funding arrangements detailed in the confidential attachment.
3. Delegates to the Chief Executive Officer authority to sign and execute the contract on behalf of Council.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

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

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for Contract 2023-100 in relation to the Construction of Plenty Road and Everton Drive Signalise Intersection.

CARRIED

**ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION**

*Administrator Christian Zahra*

*Administrator Peita Duncan*

**VOTING**

UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

## 5.4 Community Engagement Policy

**Director/Executive Manager:** Executive Manager Public Affairs

**Report Author:** Unit Manager Community Engagement

**In Attendance:** Manager Communications & Engagement  
Unit Manager Community Engagement

### Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of an update to Council's Community Engagement Policy following a four-week period of community consultation.

The City of Whittlesea is committed to ensuring the voices of its community are heard and considered in Council decision-making. This revised Community Engagement Policy will replace the previous A Voice for All Community Engagement Policy that was adopted on 1 March 2021 to adhere to the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic).

The Policy has been updated following an internal review as well as benchmarking best practice community engagement in the public sector.

The updated Policy was shared with the community and feedback encouraged during a four-week period of community consultation from 2-29 October 2023.

### Officers' Recommendation

**THAT Council:**

- 1. Adopts the Community Engagement Policy at Attachment 1.**
- 2. Notes the Engagement Summary Report – Community Engagement Policy at Attachment 2.**

### Extension of speaking time

Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson exercised her discretion to extend speaking time for a further two minutes in accordance with Governance Rule 35.5.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

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

**THAT Council adopt the recommendation in relation to the Community Engagement Policy.**

**CARRIED**

**ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION**

- Administrator Peita Duncan*
- Administrator Christian Zahra*
- Chair of Council Lydia Wilson*

**VOTING**

<b>UNANIMOUS</b>	<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>ABSTAINED</b>
YES			

## 5.5 Council Policies for Rescission

**Director/Executive Manager:** Executive Manager Strategy & Insights

**Report Author:** Unit Manager Corporate Planning & Improvement

**In Attendance:** Senior Corporate Planner

### Executive Summary

Under the endorsed Integrated Planning Framework (IPF), Council policies, plans and strategies are consolidated to minimise Council's policy landscape and ensure greater efficiency in service planning and delivery.

The purpose of this report is to rescind 22 Council policies which have been identified as no longer relevant to Council's function. Upon review, they were found to be (a) reflected in the Connected Community, Liveable Neighbourhoods, Strong Local Economy, or Sustainable Environment Strategies, (b) better retained internally as corporate policies, or (c) covered by other existing Policies, Guidelines or legislation.

### Officers' Recommendation

**THAT Council rescind the following policies and strategies as they are:**

1. **Reflected in the Connected Communities, Liveable Neighbourhoods, Sustainable Environment or Strong Local Economy Strategies:**
  - Arts Policy
  - Asylum Seeker Policy
  - Community Building Policy
  - Community Building Strategy
  - Community Safety Crime Prevention Policy
  - Community Transport Policy
  - Community Volunteering Policy
  - Lifelong Learning Policy
  - Positive Ageing Policy
  - Preventing Alcohol Related Harm Policy
  - Thriving Children, Young People & Families Strategy
2. **Operational in nature and to be retained internally as Corporate policies or guidelines:**
  - Animal Registration and Refund Policy
  - Early Activation of New Communities Policy
  - Roadside Management Strategy
3. **Superseded and covered by existing policies, plans, guidelines and or legislation:**
  - Clothing Recycling Bin Policy

- Domestic Animal Welfare Support Policy (effective from 30 April 2024)
- Early Years Policy
- Library Strategy for Mernda and Epping North Final Report 2015-2016
- Meals on Wheels Volunteers Policy
- Public Question Time Policy
- Street Activities Policy (effective from 30 June 2024)
- Street Numbering Policy

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

THAT Council adopt the recommendation to rescind the Council Policies outlined.

CARRIED

### ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

*Administrator Christian Zahra*

*Chair of Council Lydia Wilson*

<b>VOTING</b>			
UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

## 5.6 Unconfirmed Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee

**Director/Executive Manager:** Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

**Report Author:** Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

### Executive Summary

On 15 November 2023, the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC), an independent advisory committee of Council, held their quarterly scheduled meeting to consider reports relating to such matters as:

- Council’s strategic risk profile.
- Directorate risk profiles.
- Procurement and significant contracts & projects.
- Internal audit scopes and status of actions arising from audits.
- Compliance and governance matters as outlined in the ARC annual work plan.

For transparency and in line with the ARC Charter, a copy of the 15 November 2023 unconfirmed meeting minutes is provided at **Attachment 1** for Council to note.

### Officers’ Recommendation

**THAT Council note the 15 November 2023 unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee at Attachment 1 to this report.**

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

**THAT Council adopt the recommendation to note the Unconfirmed Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee.**

**CARRIED**

### ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

*Nil*

### VOTING

UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

## 5.7 Informal Meetings of Administrators

**Director/Executive Manager:** Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

**Report Author:** Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

### Executive Summary

Chapter 5 of the Council Governance Rules requires a summary of the matters discussed at a meeting of Councillors (Administrators) that:

- is scheduled or planned for the purpose of discussing the business of Council or briefing Councillors (Administrators);
- is attended by at least one member of Council staff; and
- is not a Council meeting or Delegated Committee meeting;

are tabled at the next convenient Council meeting and recorded in the minutes of that Council meeting.

The attached record of Informal Meetings of Councillors (Administrators) (**Attachment 1 & 2**) is reported to Council in accordance with this requirement.

### Officers' Recommendation

**THAT Council resolve to receive and note the record of Informal Meetings of Administrators.**

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

**THAT Council adopt the recommendation to note the record of Informal Meetings of Administrators.**

**CARRIED**

### ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

*Nil*

### VOTING

UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

## **6 Notices of Motion**

No Notices of Motion

## **7 Urgent Business**

No Urgent Business

## **8 Reports from Council Representatives and CEO Update**

### **8.1 Administrator, Peita Duncan Report**

- Council Briefing held on 28 November 2023.
- Council Briefing held on 5 December 2023.
- Staff Recognition – Years of Service awards on 6 December 2023.
- Coffee with Council held at Pacific Epping on 19 December 2023.

### **8.2 Administrator, Christian Zahra Report**

- Council Briefing held on 28 November 2023.
- Council Briefing held on 5 December 2023.
- Coffee with Council held at Pacific Epping on 19 December 2023.

### **8.3 Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson Report**

- Business Advisory Panel on 23 November 2023.
- Opening of the Norris Bank Reserve Upgrade on 24 November 2023.
- Council Briefing held on 28 November 2023.
- Council Briefing held on 5 December 2023.
- Staff Recognition – Years of Service awards on 6 December 2023.
- Yarra Plenty Regional Library Ordinary Board Meeting on 7 December 2023.
- Northern Council's Alliance on 13 December 2023.
- Carols by Candlelight on 15 December 2023.
- Coffee with Council held at Pacific Epping on 19 December 2023.

#### **8.4 Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd Update**

##### **Whittlesea Public Gardens Stage 2 redevelopment**

Earlier this month it was my pleasure to join with the Member for Thomastown, Bronwyn Halfpenny MP, to turn the first sod on the second stage of the Whittlesea Public Gardens redevelopment.

The \$2 million project will deliver a 100m-long street-style skate park, two half-court basketball courts, rock-climbing wall and much more. There will also be a whole lot of amenities being installed as well, including shelters, barbecues, seating, drinking fountains, paths, lighting and landscaping.

The project, set to be completed in mid-2024, will complement the fantastic playground that was completed earlier in the year and is proving very popular. Council's \$1.35 million contribution to that project supported by a \$650,000 grant from the Victorian Government's Growing Suburbs Fund.

##### **Mill Park Softball Practice Nets/Harvest Home Road synthetic pitch**

Tomorrow we will be officially opening improved facilities at two of our local community sporting centres.

We have just completed a \$300,000 upgrade to the softball practice nets at the Mill Park Recreation Reserve. The new enclosed nets and associated lighting will meet the needs of member clubs for years to come. Council has contributed \$120,000 towards this project, with \$180,000 coming from the Victorian Government's Local Sports Infrastructure Fund.

Tomorrow will also see the unveiling of a new \$2.25 million synthetic soccer pitch at Harvest Home Road Recreation Reserve in Epping. That pitch replaces one laid in 2008 and will help the Whittlesea Ranges Football Club to grow its female and junior programs. Council made a commitment of \$1.75 million towards the project and that was supported by a \$500,000 contribution from Sport and Recreation Victoria's World Game Facilities Fund.

##### **Glass recycling**

We've recently marked one year of glass recycling at the City of Whittlesea, being the first metropolitan Council to introduce that service. In that time residents have recycled an incredible 2132 tonnes of glass – that's more than an Olympic-sized swimming pool of glass.

Glass recycling allows old bottles and jars to be given a new life contributing to the circular economy. Sorting, recycling and manufacturing of the glass is all done here in Melbourne.

While residents can now also recycle some glass bottles through Victoria's new Container Deposit Scheme (CDS), the kerbside glass recycling service will continue to provide an avenue for other glass bottles to be received that are not accepted through the scheme, creating a comprehensive and effective approach to recycling and sustainability.

You can find your monthly glass recycling schedule on Council's website by using the My Neighbourhood feature.

**Farewell Frank Joyce, Executive Manager Strategy & Insights**

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of Frank Joyce, our Executive Manager Strategy and Insights, this is Franks last meeting. Frank commenced with Council in January 2017, as Manager Corporate Accountability and Performance, he then joined our Executive Leadership Team in 2021.

Frank has led many important initiatives and improvements, all of which have benefited our community. Some of those include leading the 2017-2021 and 2021-2025 Council Plan development. He also led our Business Continuity Committee during the extended COVID crisis and the implementation of the *Local Government Act*.

We congratulate Frank on his appointment as Director at Mitchell Shire, where I know, he will continue to make a huge difference for their community as I know he has done ours. Thank you, Frank.

**Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson acknowledgement to Frank Joyce, Executive Manager  
Strategy and Insights**

On behalf of Administrators, I would also like to acknowledge the enormous contribution of Frank Joyce over a number of years and certainly the huge amount of support and advice that he has provided to Administrators since we have been appointed.

We wish you well, as the new Director Organisational Performance at the Mitchell Shire Council and, no doubt we will continue to have an ongoing relationship with you, albeit at the Shire of Mitchell. Thanks again Frank.

## 9 Confidential Business

### 9.0 Close Meeting to the Public

Under section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* a meeting considering confidential information may be closed to the public. Pursuant to sections 3(1) and 66(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

#### Recommendation

**THAT the Chair of Council recommends that the meeting be closed to the public for the purpose of considering details relating to the following confidential matters in accordance with Section 66(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* as detailed.**

#### 9.1 Growling Frog Lease Extension

#### 9.2 2023-1 Garden Bed Contract Variation

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

**THAT Council adopt the recommendation to Close the Meeting to the Public.**

**CARRIED**

## 10 Closure

There being no further business the Chair of Council formally closed the meeting at 7:35pm.

Confirmed this 20<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024.

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Lydia Wilson  
Chair of Council