

# Minutes

Scheduled Council Meeting Tuesday 16 April 2024 at 6pm

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

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 6pm.

"Welcome to this Council Meeting of 16 April 2024 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;
Sarah Renner, Director Customer & Corporate Services;
Debbie Wood, Director Infrastructure & Environment;
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."

The Chair of Council then formally welcomed and acknowledged Council's Audit and Risk Committee Chairperson, Geoff Harry who is in attendance this evening to present item 5.1.

#### 1.2 Apologies

Nil

#### 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

The Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson made the following acknowledgement:

#### Recent events in NSW

We have all been shocked by recent events in NSW both on Saturday in Bondi and last night at the church in Wakeley.

The City of Whittlesea offers our deepest condolences to the family and friends of those who lost their lives in Saturday's horrific incident in Bondi Junction. Our thoughts are also with those who were injured, the thousands of others who were just going about their daily lives and were caught up in this terrible event and of course the first responders who showed enormous bravery.

We extend our thoughts too, to our colleagues at Waverley Council who were not only involved in the aftermath of the event but will continue to support their local community during this incredibly difficult time.

Administrator Peita Duncan made the following acknowledgement:

#### **ANZAC Day**

Next week is ANZAC Day. On this day we recognise the more than 1.5 million service people who have served our country in all conflicts, wars and peacekeeping operations. It's also a time to remember the over 103,000 Australians who sacrificed their lives in our country's name.

I will be attending the ANZAC Day Memorial March at the Epping RSL on the Sunday and Council will be laying wreaths at the dawn services at Epping and Doreen and later in the afternoon service at Whittlesea Township. I encourage our community to commemorate this important day by attending a local service, supporting the ANZAC appeal or observing a minute's silence to remember the sacrifice of those who have served our country.



#### 2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

The Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd declared a conflict of interest relating to confidential item 9.1 CEO Employment Matters - Mid Term Review, on the grounds that it contains personal information regarding his employment contract.

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

COUNCIL	RESOLUTION
Moved:	Administrator Christian Zahra
Seconded:	Administrator Peita Duncan

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

• Scheduled Council Meeting held on 19 March 2024.

**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 Nicholas Brain of Epping

At a time many councils have cut their provision of Aged Care services, it is encouraging to hear Whittlesea LGA has instead chosen to expand its provision. What will council do to ensure the expansion of these services will remain financially sustainable, and not lead to a future situation where council may have to consider curtailing Aged Care services, as other LGA's have?

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

Council's aged care services are funded through the Commonwealth Home Support Program and have historically been subsidised from Council. Over the last two years Council has implemented a range of measures to improve the financial position of our program to ensure its financial viability long term.

We remain committed to delivering aged care services to our local community.

## The Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO read the below question on behalf of Mathew Lynn of Melbourne Zero

Asking question on behalf of Melbourne Zero, an ambitious, city-wide movement to end rough sleeping by 2030. What are Council's official plans to increase affordable housing and end rough sleeping, and how is this coordinated with others, including nearby councils?

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

The City of Whittlesea is committed to increasing the amount of affordable housing in the municipality and ending rough sleeping.

Council's policy aims to facilitate the growth of affordable housing across the City in well serviced locations. Council is implementing this policy in a number of ways including:

- Advocating to the State Government to deliver more social and affordable housing in the City of Whittlesea including the use of surplus Government land for affordable housing.
- Advocating to the State Government for a specialised outreach homelessness service to support people across the municipality and break the cycle of homelessness in the City of Whittlesea.



- Negotiating agreements with developers to deliver affordable housing as part of new housing developments. An example of a successful agreement is the New Epping project that delivered 151 new social housing dwellings in collaboration with Haven Home Safe and developer Riverlee.
- Utilising Council owned land for affordable housing and crisis accommodation, where appropriate. A recent example of this is partnering with Hope Street Family and Youth Services to deliver a Youth crisis accommodation facility on Council land which is currently under construction.
- Collaborating with adjoining Councils including Hume City Council and Mitchell Shire Council on opportunities to deliver more affordable housing across the region.
- Partnering with local community organisations through the Whittlesea Housing and Homelessness Action Group. This is a group made up of 10 local community, health and housing providers committed to informing, supporting and advocating for improved long-term housing outcomes in the City of Whittlesea.

## The Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO read the below question on behalf of Julie Ahmad of Wollert

Item 5.5 – Attachment 3 - Council emphasises that planning sustainable land use for transportation options contributes to better air quality and an improved overall quality of life.

How does the decision to permit a waste to energy incinerator near residential estates align with council goals, considering the potential negative impact on residents' health and quality of life?

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

The decision whether to grant a permit for the Waste to Energy facility in Wollert rests with the Victorian Government. Council is not the planning authority for this application. Council officers have provided a submission to the Victorian Government, raising matters for their consideration from a planning, transport and environmental perspective. Council will continue to work with the Victorian Government to advocate for the best outcomes for our community.



#### 4.2 Petitions

No Petitions

#### 4.3 Joint Letters

No Joint Letters



#### **5** Officers' Reports

#### 5.1 Audit and Risk Committee Report on Activity

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

**Report Author:** Compliance & Audit Officer

**External In Attendance:** Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee

#### **Executive Summary**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an overview of key activities undertaken by the Audit and Risk Committee (the Committee) during the period 6 September 2023 to February 2024.

The Committee's Biannual Report (Attachment 1) provides Council with information on:

- The progress of its Annual Work Plan and activities for this reporting period.
- Activities that the Committee monitors and reviews to ensure it complies with the requirements under the Committee Charter.
- Details of discussions and recommendations made relating to the key activities of risk management, financial and performance reporting, systems of internal control, internal assurance, internal audit, external audit, compliance and governance.

#### Officers' Recommendation

#### THAT Council note:

- 1. The Audit and Risk Committee's Biannual Report for the period 6 September 2023 to February 2024 at Attachment 1.
- 2. The Audit and Risk Committee have provided valuable support to Council and discharged their responsibilities under the Audit and Risk Committee Charter including providing oversight on financial and performance reporting, systems of internal control, risk management and audit and assurance activities.

#### **Extension of Speaking Time**

Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson exercised her discretion to extend speaking time for up to 5 minutes in accordance with Governance Rule 35.5.



COUNCII	L RESOLUTION
Moved:	Administrator Christian Zahra
Seconded:	Chair of Council Lydia Wilson

#### **THAT Council note:**

- The Audit and Risk Committee's Biannual Report for the period 6 September 2023 to February 2024 at Attachment 1.
- 2. The Audit and Risk Committee have provided valuable support to Council and discharged their responsibilities under the Audit and Risk Committee Charter including providing oversight on financial and performance reporting, systems of internal control, risk management and audit and assurance activities.

**CARRIED** 

## **ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION**

Administrator Christian Zahra

Chair of Council Lydia Wilson

VOTING			
UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			



#### **5.2 Informal Meetings of Administrators**

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

**Report Author:** Coordinator Governance Administration

#### **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

The summary of matters discussed at the meeting must be:

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

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

#### Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council note the record of Informal Meetings of Administrators at Attachment 1.

COUNCII	L RESOLUTION
Moved:	Administrator Peita Duncan
Seconded:	Administrator Christian Zahra

THAT Council note the record of Informal Meetings of Administrators at Attachment 1.

**CARRIED** 

## ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Nil

VOTING			
UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			



#### 5.3 VR Michael Reserve Draft Master Plan

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

**Report Author:** Open Space Planner

In Attendance: Coordinator Open Space Planning

#### **Executive Summary**

 The VR Michael Reserve Master Plan project is the result of a council resolution, at the Council meeting on 12 December 2022, in response to a petition requesting an increase to car parking spaces and accessible parking at VR Michael Reserve in Lalor. The Council resolutions were to:

- Undertake a park masterplan in the 2023/24 Financial Year for a more comprehensive approach to park planning for existing and future uses;
- Upgrade the offsite parking (east of entrance of VR Michael Reserve) and provide all weather pedestrian connection from the parking to the clubrooms as part of the 2023/24 capital works program.
- The Open Space Planning Team has developed the draft VR Michael Reserve Master Plan which provides the City of Whittlesea with a vision, objectives, recommendations and prioritisation for future development over the 10 years.
- As per the Council resolution, a plan to upgrade the existing gravel parking lot located in the southeast of VR Michael Reserve has been completed. The upgrade includes the construction of a Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant shared path from the car park to the Lalor Bocce Social Club within the reserve, the extension of the existing footpath along High Street as well as the provision of 24 car parking bays.
- Phase One of community consultation and internal stakeholder engagement have been completed, and the community feedback has shaped the draft master plan.
- The master plan will enhance our preparedness for advocacy, contributing to better open space and urban design outcomes. This includes addressing challenges such as rail corridor land acquisition and ensuring a balanced approach to open space loss.



#### Officers' Recommendation

#### **THAT Council:**

- Note that the draft VR Michael Reserve Master Plan has been informed from feedback gathered during the phase one consultation, undertaken from 26 June to 24 July 2023.
- 2. Endorse the draft VR Michael Reserve Master Plan to be presented for community consultation from 22 April 2024 to 20 May 2024 to gather additional feedback and comments to refine and finalise the Master Plan.
- 3. Resolves to refer the draft VR Michael Reserve Master Plan to the Youth Council for feedback prior to the final Master Plan coming back to Council for adoption.

COUNCII	L RESOLUTION
Moved:	Administrator Christian Zahra
Seconded:	Administrator Peita Duncan

#### **THAT Council:**

- 1. Note that the draft VR Michael Reserve Master Plan has been informed from feedback gathered during the phase one consultation, undertaken from 26 June to 24 July 2023.
- 2. Endorse the draft VR Michael Reserve Master Plan to be presented for community consultation from 22 April 2024 to 20 May 2024 to gather additional feedback and comments to refine and finalise the Master Plan.
- 3. Resolves to refer the draft VR Michael Reserve Master Plan to the Youth Council for feedback prior to the final Master Plan coming back to Council for adoption.

**CARRIED** 

### **ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION**

Administrator Christian Zahra

Administrator Peita Duncan

Chair of Council Lydia Wilson

VOTING			
UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			



#### **5.4 Lalor Recreation Reserve Master Plan**

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

**Report Author:** Coordinator Open Space Planning

In Attendance: Coordinator Open Space Planning

#### **Executive Summary**

This report is to present and seek Council's endorsement of the Lalor Recreation Reserve Master Plan.

The Lalor Recreation Reserve Master Plan was initiated to provide a cohesive and succinct plan to manage and improve this valuable open space asset for the continued use by sporting clubs and to increase provision of facilities for use by the broader community. Proposals for the reserve include the improvement and increase of informal active recreation facilities such as play spaces, exercise equipment, walking and running paths, and public amenity lighting. Council's continued support of the sporting clubs is reflected in the formalisation of car parking, increased opportunity for weather protection, and new interfaces with the pavilion.

The master plan has undergone two phases of community consultation to assist and inform the development and refinement of the Master Plan. The community has also contributed to the prioritisation of actions implementation. The master plan has had meaningful key stakeholder involvement throughout its development, with opportunities to provide feedback and suggestions at different stages. Stakeholders will be invited to participate further to shape each discrete project, such as pavilion refurbishments and car park improvements.

#### Officers' Recommendation

#### THAT Council:

- 1. Note the community engagement activities undertaken, as outlined in the body of this report, that have assisted and informed the finalisation of the Lalor Recreation Reserve Master Plan.
- Endorse the Lalor Recreation Reserve Master Plan at Attachment 1 for implementation.
- 3. Acknowledge and thank the community members and key stakeholders that provided feedback on the Lalor Recreation Reserve Master Plan.



COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	Administrator Peita Duncan
Seconded:	Administrator Christian Zahra

#### **THAT Council:**

- Note the community engagement activities undertaken, as outlined in the body of this report, that have assisted and informed the finalisation of the Lalor Recreation Reserve Master Plan.
- 2. Endorse the Lalor Recreation Reserve Master Plan at Attachment 1 for implementation.
- 3. Acknowledge and thank the community members and key stakeholders that provided feedback on the Lalor Recreation Reserve Master Plan.

**CARRIED** 

## **ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION**

Administrator Peita Duncan

Administrator Christian Zahra

Chair of Council Lydia Wilson

VOTING			
UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			



## 5.5 Draft Integrated Transport Plan (ITP) - Endorsement for Community Consultation

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

**Report Author:** Senior Transport Planner

In Attendance: Manager Urban Design & Transport

#### **Executive Summary**

The Draft Integrated Transport Plan 2024 (ITP) sets out a vision for transport planning in the municipality over the next ten years. It will allow Council to strategically plan for, and respond to, future challenges and opportunities, inform advocacy for our transport needs and guide the development and expansion of the transport network in Whittlesea.

The Draft ITP will demonstrate Council's leadership and commitment to improving transport outcomes in the municipality. It is also envisaged to guide and influence future investment decisions.

The Draft ITP will support the Whittlesea 2040 vision as an action item in the Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy Action Plan and will be a Level 3 document within the Integrated Planning Framework. It will supersede the existing Integrated Transport Strategy 2014.

If the Draft ITP is fully implemented, the community can expect to benefit from:

- Improved and increased travel choices (especially for short trips)
- Improved walkability and public transport
- Reduced congestion and trip distances
- Greater social connections
- Improved access to employment and recreation

Council endorsement is sought to undertake community consultation on the Draft ITP.



#### Officers' Recommendation

#### **THAT Council:**

- 1. Note the community consultation held between 11 December 2023 and 15 February 2024, which helped inform the strategic direction of the draft Integrated Transport Plan at Attachment 1.
- Resolve to endorse the draft City of Whittlesea Integrated Transport Plan provided at Attachment 1 for community consultation between the period 22 April 2024 to 19 May 2024.
- 3. Note a subsequent report will be provided at the 16 July 2024 Scheduled Council Meeting for consideration and adoption of the Integration Transport Plan.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	Chair of Council Lydia Wilson
Seconded:	Administrator Peita Duncan

#### MOTION

#### **THAT Council:**

- 1. Note the community consultation held between 11 December 2023 and 15 February 2024, which helped inform the strategic direction of the draft Integrated Transport Plan at Attachment 1.
- 2. Resolve to endorse the draft City of Whittlesea Integrated Transport Plan provided at Attachment 1 for community consultation between the period 22 April 2024 to 19 May 2024.
- 3. Note a subsequent report will be provided at the 16 July 2024 Scheduled Council Meeting for consideration and adoption of the Integrated Transport Plan.

**CARRIED** 

### ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Chair of Council Lydia Wilson

Administrator Christian Zahra

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's Report

- Council Briefing held on 2 April 2024.
- Citizenship ceremony with a total 150 conferees held on 11 April 2024.
- Yarn with Council held on 16 April 2024.
- Scheduled Council Meeting held on 16 April 2024.

#### 8.2 Administrator Christian Zahra's Report

- Council Briefing held on 2 April 2024.
- Yarn with Council held on 16 April 2024.
- Scheduled Council Meeting held on 16 April 2024.

#### 8.3 Chair of Council Lydia Wilson's Report

- Urban Development Institute of Australia National Awards for Excellence Gala Dinner held on 20 March 2024.
- Northern Councils Alliance Meeting held on 21 March 2024.
- Council Briefing held on 2 April 2024.
- Yarn with Council held on 16 April 2024.
- Scheduled Council Meeting held on 16 April 2024.



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

#### **Budget**

Thank you to all those that took the time to view and provide a submission on our Proposed Budget and Proposed Community Plan Action Plan for 2024-25.

We received 14 submissions which will now be considered by a Hearing of Submissions Committee on 6 May, before the final Budget and Community Plan Action Plan are considered for endorsement at the May Council Meeting.

#### **Murnong Community Centre**

Late last month it was my pleasure to join Member for Yan Yean, Lauren Kathage in turning the first sod on the Murnong Community Centre at Donnybrook. The \$11.4 million facility, which will be the suburb's first community centre, will help to address the growing demand for essential community services.

The centre will have two kindergarten rooms offering three and four year-old kinder and maternal and child health services will be delivered from two consultation suites.

A mini-branch library will provide residents access to Yarra Plenty Regional Library's extensive catalogue, as well as free Wi-Fi and flexible spaces to work and study.

Council is contributing more than \$4 million towards the centre, with the remainder to be funded by Victorian Government grants. These include \$4.5 million from the Building Blocks Capital Grants Program, \$2 million from the Growing Suburbs Fund, \$709,500 from the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program and \$180,000 from the Changing Places Program.

Construction is expected to start in mid-2024.

#### **Riverside Community Activity Centre and Reserve**

I am pleased to report that work is progressing well on a \$1 million upgrade to the Riverside Community Activity Centre and Reserve in South Morang.

The project's first stage, the refurbishment of the Community Centre, is almost complete. Some of the improvements include the creation of an additional meeting room for people, groups and organisations to use, improved acoustics in the community hall to assist those with hearing difficulties and an upgrade of the accessible toilet.

Work on the project's second stage, the upgrade of the Riverside Reserve, will run until the end of June and deliver an improved social gathering space, and new facilities to make the space more accessible and welcoming.



The project is funded by a \$500,000 contribution from Council and a \$500,000 from the Victorian Government's Growing Suburbs Fund.

#### **Park Upgrades**

We know how important our parks are to our community and we are pleased to report on some of the good progress being made on upgrades.

Porsche Park in Epping is being fitted with multiple slides, swings and furniture. Upgrades to Kellaway Park in Mill Park and Warrenwood Park in Bundoora have also recently finished including new play equipment, furniture, nature play elements and some fresh landscaping.

The upgrade of Holburn Park in Epping is under way while works at Edward Street Park in Bundoora and Timbertop Park in Doreen will start in the coming weeks.



#### 9 Confidential Business

#### 9.0 Close Meeting to the Public Meeting

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 CEO Employment Matters Mid-term Review
- 9.2 Appointment of acting Chief Executive Officers

COUNCIL RESOLUTION		
Moved:	Administrator Peita Duncan	
Seconded:	Administrator Christian Zahra	

THAT Council adopt the recommendation to close the meeting to the public.

**CARRIED** 

#### **Meeting Closure**

The meeting closed to the public at 6:49pm

The following members of the Executive Leadership Team left the meeting at the conclusion of the open portion of the meeting at 6:49pm.

Emma Appleton, Director Planning & Development; Agata Chmielewski, Director Community Wellbeing; Sarah Renner, Director Customer & Corporate Services; Debbie Wood, Director Infrastructure & Environment; and Janine Morgan, Executive Manager Public Affairs.



### 10 Closure

There being no further business the Chair of Council formally closed the meeting at 6:54pm.
Confirmed this 21 <sup>st</sup> day of May 2024.
Lydia Wilson
Chair of Council