



Minutes

Scheduled Council Meeting

Tuesday 19 August 2025 at 6pm

Council Chamber,
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang



**City of
Whittlesea**

Councillors

Cr Martin Taylor, Mayor	South Morang Ward
Cr Daniela Zinni, Deputy Mayor	Bundoora Ward
Cr Nic Brooks	Thomastown Ward
Cr Blair Colwell	Mill Park Ward
Cr Lawrie Cox	Ganbul Gulinj Ward
Cr Deb Gunn	Painted Hills Ward
Cr Michael Labrador	Lalor Ward
Cr Jarrod Lappin	Mernda Ward
Cr David Lenberg	Epping Ward
Cr Christine Stow	North Ward

Executive Leadership Team

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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UNCONFIRMED

1 Opening

1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting at 6pm.

“Welcome to this Scheduled Council Meeting of 19 August 2025 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 Cr Martin Taylor, Mayor of the City of Whittlesea and I would like to introduce our Councillors in attendance tonight.

Deputy Mayor, Cr Daniela Zinni, Cr Nic Brooks, Cr Blair Colwell, Cr Lawrie Cox, Cr Deb Gunn, Cr Jarrod Lappin, Cr David Lenberg and Cr Christine Stow.

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.”

“Good evening everyone, I would like to introduce:

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.

Thank you Chair.”

1.2 Apologies

Cr Michael Labrador

1.3 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement

The Chair 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 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 following acknowledgements were made:

Aged Care Employee Day

Earlier this month was Aged Care Employee Day. This is a day to reflect and honour the incredible work of everyone involved in supporting older people in our community.

From staff within Council, through to the many people across our city who play a vital role in helping older people live safe, health and connected lives, we thank you. Your compassion, commitment and contributions help create a more inclusive and caring community for our older residents.

Vale Kevin Le Poidevin

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Kevin Le Poidevin who recently passed away.

Kevin had been a part of the Whittlesea Agricultural Society for several decades and was a familiar face to many. He was the Grounds Manager for many years, leading the Show Tradespace Team, and spent endless hours organising the trade space area for the Whittlesea Show each year.

Kevin was a past President of the society, and was also inducted as a Life Member.

Our thoughts are with all who knew Kevin.

2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No declarations.

3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s

Recommendation

THAT Council confirm the minutes of the Scheduled Council Meeting held on 22 July 2025, as circulated.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Cr Stow</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Lappin</i>

THAT Council confirm the minutes of the Scheduled Council Meeting held on 22 July 2025, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4 Public Questions, Petitions and Joint Letters

4.1 Public Question Time

Question 1 from Adrien Coppolino of Mernda

What is proposed for the parcel of elevated land, northside of the Granite Hills Parkland (site is adjacent to 1 Bagend Court Mernda).

Response:

Thank you for your question.

The parcel of land you are referring to is part of the bunjil nganga Parkland Quarry Hills which is a 114-hectare park that spans the hills surrounding the City of Whittlesea.

The parkland features walking trails and viewing platforms and is home to the Granite Hills Major Community Park, which is under construction, and the Aboriginal Gathering Place.

With regard to the specific area you have referred to, recently there was some work carried out to remove weeds and some trees were planted. There are no further plans at this stage for this land other than ongoing maintenance.

Question 2 from Nick Brain of Epping

How much of this annual rate increase is attributable to charges/levies that have been imposed upon households beyond Council's locus of control?

Response:

Thank you for your question.

65% of the rate notice increase is attributable to State Government charges including the State Government Landfill Levy and more notably, the introduction of the new State Government Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund.

Question 3 from Eva Moran (on behalf of The Outer Northern People's Voices Group)

Could you please confirm that the Rates for the new year will be increased by 3%.

Response:

Thank you for your question.

Council has applied a three per cent increase to general rates for the 2025–26 financial year. This is consistent with the rate cap set by the Victorian Government under the Fair Go Rates system.

While the average increase in general rates across the municipality is three per cent, the impact for individual ratepayers will vary depending on property valuations undertaken by the Victorian Government's Valuer-General.

4.2 Petitions

No Petitions

4.3 Joint Letters

No Joint Letters

UNCONFIRMED

5 Officers' Reports

5.1 Draft Strategic Property and Land Plan

Director/Executive Manager: Director Planning & Development

Report Author: Unit Manager Portfolio Development

In Attendance: Manager Strategic Property & Portfolio Development
Unit Manager Portfolio Development

Executive Summary

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the draft Strategic Property and Land Plan included at Attachment 1 and seek endorsement to commence community consultation on the Plan for the period 25 August – 21 September 2025.

Background

The City of Whittlesea owns over 2,000 properties and manages a high-volume of buildings, land and infrastructure across the municipality. These properties help Council to build strong, inclusive communities by supporting service delivery and creating vibrant and connected spaces for residents and visitors. They support the achievement of long-term strategic goals outlined in the Community Vision and respond to actions in the Community Plan.

Council decisions related to property often require timely assessments and streamlined processes to support informed decision-making on transactions such as acquisitions, divestments, leasing and licensing, and strategic development. The draft Strategic Property and Land Plan (the Plan) provides a clear and proactive framework to guide how the city manages its property portfolio. It applies to all land and buildings owned, leased, or managed by Council, ensuring a consistent and strategic approach to decision-making across Council assets.

The Plan is informed by robust demographic and population forecast analysis, alignment with relevant legislation and government policies, the current condition of infrastructure, and a strong understanding of community needs for services and facilities.

This approach presents valuable opportunities to optimise the use of property, reduce ongoing costs, and unlock value through targeted rationalisation or redevelopment.

To effectively manage the Property and Land Portfolio, Council will focus its work within three key directions. These directions provide a framework for planning, decision-making and resource allocation. By working within these defined focus areas, property and land will be managed efficiently, transparently, and in a way that delivers lasting value to the community.

Key Direction 1:

Optimising Council property for community benefit and financial sustainability:

- Align property activities with community needs in a financially sustainable way.

Key Direction 2:

Reinforcing governance, transparency and compliance:

- Ensure high standards of probity, risk management, and regulatory compliance are maintained across all property functions.

Key Direction 3:

Enabling sustainable and innovative property development:

- Use Council property and land to enable sustainable growth, showcase quality design, unlock value and support long-term infrastructure planning.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Endorse the draft Strategic Property and Land Plan for community consultation in accordance with the Community Engagement Policy 2023-2027 for the period 25 August to 21 September 2025.
2. Note the Strategic Property and Land Plan will be presented to a future Council meeting for approval, accompanied by a report outlining feedback and submissions received, along with any changes made as a result of those submissions.

Cr Cox moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Cr Cox</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Brooks</i>

THAT Council:

1. Endorse the draft Strategic Property and Land Plan for community consultation in accordance with the Community Engagement Policy 2023-2027 for the period 25 August to 21 September 2025.
2. Note the Strategic Property and Land Plan will be presented to a future Council meeting for approval, accompanied by a report outlining feedback and submissions received, along with any changes made as a result of those submissions.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Cox

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Cr Taylor</i> <i>Cr Zinni</i> <i>Cr Brooks</i> <i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr Stow</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

5.2 Draft Affordable Housing Plan

Director/Executive Manager: Director Planning & Development

Report Author: Affordable Housing Policy & Project Officer

In Attendance: Manager Strategic Property & Portfolio Development
Unit Manager Portfolio Development

Executive Summary

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to introduce the Draft Affordable Housing Plan included at Attachment 1 and seek endorsement to commence community consultation on the Plan for the period of 25 August – 21 September 2025.

Background

Affordable, safe and secure housing is essential community infrastructure. As it stands, the City of Whittlesea does not have enough affordable housing, and too many residents are spending more than they can afford on housing. This plan seeks to increase new supply of affordable housing in the City of Whittlesea so that more people can access the good quality homes they need.

High-Level Issues

Australia's housing crisis is one of the most important social policy and human rights issues facing the country.

In 2025, it is estimated that 5,173 (6.1%) of all households in the Whittlesea Local Government Area will have an unmet need for affordable housing. This is expected to grow to 8,942 (8.1%) of all households by 2041.

Without immediate and strategic action, the shortage of affordable housing will continue to undermine community stability, strain public services and displace vulnerable populations.

It is imperative that all levels of government, and in partnership with the private sector take coordinated and decisive action to reverse the current trend, ensuring that affordable housing options are accessible and available to all people.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Endorse the draft Affordable Housing Plan for community consultation in accordance with the Community Engagement Policy 2023-2027 for the period 25 August to 21 September 2025.
2. Note the Affordable Housing Plan will be presented to a future Council meeting for approval, accompanied by a report outlining feedback and submissions received, along with any changes made as a result of those submissions.

Cr Zinni moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Cr Zinni</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Gunn</i>

THAT Council:

1. Endorse the draft Affordable Housing Plan for community consultation in accordance with the Community Engagement Policy 2023-2027 for the period 25 August to 21 September 2025.
2. Note the Affordable Housing Plan will be presented to a future Council meeting for approval, accompanied by a report outlining feedback and submissions received, along with any changes made as a result of those submissions.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Zinni, Cr Gunn, Cr Colwell, Cr Cox and Cr Taylor

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Cr Taylor</i> <i>Cr Zinni</i> <i>Cr Brooks</i> <i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr Stow</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

5.3 17-19 Johnsons Road Residential Development, Mernda

Director/Executive Manager: Director Planning & Development

Report Author: Project Manager Development

In Attendance: Manager Strategic Property & Portfolio Development
Unit Manager Portfolio Development

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to present for approval, the residential subdivision of 17-19 Johnsons Road, Mernda to deliver a quality neighbourhood consisting of 37 lots, reserving 6 lots for the provision of affordable housing.

In 2015, Council purchased the former Mernda Primary School site for \$1.8million ex. GST for the purpose of delivering a future residential subdivision.

On 6 December 2021, Council resolved to subdivide and sell 17-19 Johnsons Road, Mernda, in accordance with an approved 35 lot plan of subdivision reserving 3 of the 35 lots for affordable housing. In addition, the concept proposed retention of open space and upgrades to road infrastructure.

Since this time, officers have undertaken extensive analysis of delivery options to ensure the success of the project and to maximise community value. In January 2025, Council was successful in receiving \$7.1million in funding for the delivery of the subdivision and revitalisation of Johnsons Road via the Federal Government's Housing Support Program-Community Enabling Stream. The project included delivering the neighbourhood infrastructure of street trees, water sensitive urban design solutions, indented parking and connections to open space.

Layout improvements have enabled a residential neighbourhood delivering 37 dwellings - an increase of 2 lots. It is proposed to increase the number of affordable homes within the neighbourhood to 6, aligning with Council's Social and Affordable Housing Policy and Strategy 2012-2016, which encourages 15% of all new dwellings as affordable housing to address unmet demand.

The proposed changes also improve neighbourhood design by activating street frontages at the entrance of the site and enhancing passive surveillance of the open space. These changes do not significantly affect the project's financial feasibility but improve amenity and the community value of the neighbourhood.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note that on 6 December 2021, Council endorsed 17-19 Johnsons Road, Mernda for a 35-lot plan subdivision, with 3 of the 35 lots reserved for affordable housing.
2. Approve proposed changes to the neighbourhood design at Attachment 1, delivering 37 lots, including 6 affordable homes, as well as improving the amenity of the neighbourhood through ensuring houses face the public spaces.
3. Approve 17-19 Johnsons Road Mernda to be subdivided for a minimum 37 lot residential neighbourhood, with the sale of lots on the open market by public sale, public auction or by an expression of interest process.
4. Note that 6 lots will be reserved for affordable housing in accordance with Council's Social and Affordable Housing Policy and Strategy (2012-2016), which seeks 15% of all new dwellings on suitable vacant land to be affordable housing to address unmet demand across the municipality.

Cr Lappin moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Cr Lappin</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Stow</i>

THAT Council:

1. Note that on 6 December 2021, Council endorsed 17-19 Johnsons Road, Mernda for a 35-lot plan subdivision, with 3 of the 35 lots reserved for affordable housing.
2. Approve proposed changes to the neighbourhood design at Attachment 1, delivering 37 lots, including 6 affordable homes, as well as improving the amenity of the neighbourhood through ensuring houses face the public spaces.
3. Approve 17-19 Johnsons Road Mernda to be subdivided for a minimum 37 lot residential neighbourhood, with the sale of lots on the open market by public sale, public auction or by an expression of interest process.
4. Note that 6 lots will be reserved for affordable housing in accordance with Council's Social and Affordable Housing Policy and Strategy (2012-2016), which seeks 15% of all new dwellings on suitable vacant land to be affordable housing to address unmet demand across the municipality.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Lappin, Cr Stow, Cr Colwell and Cr Cox

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Cr Taylor</i> <i>Cr Zinni</i> <i>Cr Brooks</i> <i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr Stow</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

5.4 70W Regent Street and 2W Brickwell Lane, Mernda - Proposed Partial Road Discontinuance

Director/Executive Manager: Director Planning and Development

Report Author: Manager Strategic Property & Portfolio Development

In Attendance: Manager Strategic Property & Portfolio Development
Unit Manager Portfolio Development

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to finalise the statutory procedures under the *Local Government Act 1989* for the discontinuance of a 264sqm section of road in Regent Street, Mernda.

The purpose of the road discontinuance is to correct alignment of titles along Regent Street, immediately adjacent to 70W Regent Street and 2W Brickwell Lane where it connects to 46 Regent Street, Mernda. The discontinuance will ensure continuity of title boundaries along Regent Street to facilitate future road widening and upgrades to Regent Street which may include delivery of shared paths, nature strips, bus bay allocation and parking lanes (where required).

The section of road concerned is shown hatched on the road discontinuance plan, referred to as 'Subject Land' (Attachment 1) and is contained across three certificates of title; Volume 09379 Folio 181, Volume 11382 Folio 254 and Volume 11694 Folio 614. The discontinuance is adjacent to 70W Regent Street and 65W Regent Street, both of which are in Council ownership and underutilised.

Commencement of the statutory process was approved by the Chief Executive Officer in April 2025, under delegation. A public notice of the proposal was published on Council's website and in the Northern Star Weekly newspaper with submissions open for the period 27 May 2025 to 30 June 2025. The submission period is now closed, and no submissions were received.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. In accordance with sections 206, 207A(a) and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*:
 - a. by giving public notice in the Northern Star Weekly on 27 May 2025;
 - b. by providing an opportunity for submissions and for those submitters to be heard; and
 - c. by recording that no submissions were received; form the view that the section of road is no longer reasonably required for general public use for the following reasons. The proposal:
 - i. does not restrict any public rights of use or access; and
 - ii. will not impact the movement of pedestrians or vehicles within the vicinity of the road.
2. Resolve to discontinue the section of the road and publish a notice in the Victoria Government Gazette confirming the discontinuance in accordance with section 206 and clause 3(a) of Schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
3. Authorise the amendment of Council's Register of Public Roads to reflect the discontinuance of the section of road following publication of the notice in the Victorian Government Gazette.
4. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer, or their delegate, to sign all documents relating to the discontinuance of the road reserve that will be retained for municipal purposes.

Cr Stow moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Cr Stow</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Lappin</i>

THAT Council:

1. In accordance with sections 206, 207A(a) and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*:
 - a. by giving public notice in the Northern Star Weekly on 27 May 2025;
 - b. by providing an opportunity for submissions and for those submitters to be heard; and
 - c. by recording that no submissions were received; form the view that the section of road is no longer reasonably required for general public use for the following reasons. The proposal:
 - i. does not restrict any public rights of use or access; and
 - ii. will not impact the movement of pedestrians or vehicles within the vicinity of the road.
2. Resolve to discontinue the section of the road and publish a notice in the Victoria Government Gazette confirming the discontinuance in accordance with section 206 and clause 3(a) of Schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

3. Authorise the amendment of Council's Register of Public Roads to reflect the discontinuance of the section of road following publication of the notice in the Victorian Government Gazette.
4. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer, or their delegate, to sign all documents relating to the discontinuance of the road reserve that will be retained for municipal purposes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION
Cr Stow, Cr Cox and Cr Taylor

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Cr Taylor</i> <i>Cr Zinni</i> <i>Cr Brooks</i> <i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr Stow</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

5.5 Suburb Boundary Realignment

Director/Executive Manager: Director Planning & Development

Report Author: Unit Manager Compliance & Governance

In Attendance: Manager Building & Planning
Unit Manager Subdivisions

Executive Summary

This report presents a proposal to realign the boundary between the suburbs of Epping and Lalor to include two industrial properties within the suburb of Epping; and Lalor and Thomastown, to include two reserves within the suburb of Thomastown.

The proposal is in response to a request from the landowners of 481 and 485 Cooper Street, Lalor, due diligence of the request highlighted the opportunities to also consider resources.

Industrial Properties

The industrial properties form part of the Epping Employment Precinct, one of Victoria's strategically significant industrial and commercial hubs. Due to the construction of the Hume Freeway, the properties no longer have any direct access to Lalor, with all existing and future access being through Epping. This has created ongoing operational issues related to addressing, wayfinding, emergency service response, and confusion for couriers and deliveries.

Realigning the Epping/Lalor suburb boundary to include both properties will resolve the naming non-compliance, provide clarity for emergency services and stakeholders, align with Council's strategic planning for the Epping Employment Precinct.

Reserves

As a result of this realignment, two residual parcels - 190 and 228 Barry Road, Lalor will remain west of the Hume Freeway, these parcels are also severed from the suburb of Lalor, with no direct vehicular access. These two parcels are part of the larger Merri Creek Reserve (190 Barry Road) and the Melbourne Water land abutting the Merri Creek (228 Barry Road). It is considered appropriate to realign the Lalor/Thomastown boundary to connect these parcels with their relevant wider parcels, located within the suburb of Thomastown.

A realignment of both the Epping/Lalor and Lalor/Thomastown boundaries to include the identified properties within Epping and Thomastown is an approach that provides a clear and logical resolution and does not impact electoral boundaries. It provides alignment with naming regulations, responds to stakeholder concerns, supports the ongoing development and investment in the Epping Employment Precinct as well as achieving consistency within the Merri Creek Reserve area.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Endorse the realignment of the Epping/Lalor suburb boundary to include two industrial properties located at 481 and 485 Cooper Street within the suburb of Epping.
2. Endorse the realignment of the Lalor/Thomastown suburb boundary to include two reserves located at 190 and 228 Barry Road within the suburb of Thomastown.
3. Endorse the commencement of community consultation seeking feedback on the realignment of the Epping/Lalor and Lalor/Thomastown boundaries in accordance with the requirements of Geographic Names Victoria's *Naming rules for places in Victoria*.

Cr Cox moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Cr Cox</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Zinni</i>

THAT Council:

1. Endorse the realignment of the Epping/Lalor suburb boundary to include two industrial properties located at 481 and 485 Cooper Street within the suburb of Epping.
2. Endorse the realignment of the Lalor/Thomastown suburb boundary to include two reserves located at 190 and 228 Barry Road within the suburb of Thomastown.
3. Endorse the commencement of community consultation seeking feedback on the realignment of the Epping/Lalor and Lalor/Thomastown boundaries in accordance with the requirements of Geographic Names Victoria's *Naming rules for places in Victoria*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Cox and Cr Zinni

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Cr Taylor</i> <i>Cr Zinni</i> <i>Cr Brooks</i> <i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr Stow</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

5.6 Planning Scheme Amendment C275 – Local Planning Policies Update – Planning Panel Outcome and Council Adoption

Director/Executive Manager: Director Planning & Development

Report Author: Strategic Planner

In Attendance: Manager Strategic Futures
Coordinator Planning Policy & Implementation

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to consider the recommendation of the independent Planning Panel conducted in respect to Amendment C275wsea – Updates to the Display Homes, Materials Recycling Centres and Medical Centres Local Planning Policies – to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme (Amendment C275wsea), as outlined in their report (*Attachment 1*). The Amendment is at the final stage of decision making where Council must decide whether to adopt the Amendment.

Amendment C275wsea proposes updates to three existing local planning policies in the Whittlesea Planning Scheme, to implement recommendations from the Planning Scheme Reviews (PSR) completed in 2018 and 2022. The specific policies updated are:

- Clause 13.07-1L - Display Homes.
- Clause 19.02-1L - Materials Recycling Centres.
- Clause 19.03-5L - Medical Centres.

Updating these policies will assist Council's decision making in respect to these uses and improve the design and amenity outcomes associated with these uses and developments.

Council resolved to commence Amendment C275wsea at its meeting on 19 December 2023. The Amendment was publicly exhibited between 25 June and 16 August 2024. Six submissions were received from the exhibition period, of which the issues contained in one of the submissions could not be resolved.

Council considered the submissions at its meeting on 18 February 2025 and resolved to request the appointment of an independent Planning Panel to consider the received submissions. The Planning Panel process was conducted from March to May 2025 and its report released on 28 May 2025.

The Panel report recommends that Council make one change to the exhibited amendment documents and adopt the final Amendment. The recommended change is minor in nature and responds to a change in terminology used in State Government documents relating to waste and recycling facilities in its updated Victorian Recycling Infrastructure Plan, 2024. The change does not alter the strategic direction or purpose of the Amendment.

Council officers supported the proposed change and put forward the revised wording during the Planning Panel process.

Accordingly, this report recommends that Council support the change recommended by the Planning Panel and adopt Amendment C275wsea in the form contained at *Attachment 2* to this report. This report also recommends that Council submits the Amendment to the Minister for Planning for approval.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the Panel Report which recommends adoption of Amendment C275wsea – Updates to the Display Homes, Materials Recycling Centres and Medical Centres Local Planning Policies – to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme at Attachment 1.
2. Adopt the Amendment C275wsea – Local Policies Update – to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme which updates three local planning policies in the Whittlesea Planning Scheme, in the form of the revised Amendment documents at Attachment 2.
3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer, on behalf of Council, to submit the adopted Amendment C275wsea to the Minister for Planning for approval.
4. Note that submitters to Amendment C275wsea will be notified of Council's decision on the Amendment.
5. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer, on behalf of Council, to write to the Minister for Planning to highlight the unnecessary costs and delays associated with convening a Planning Panel for Amendment C275wsea, in support of impending changes to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* which propose to avoid low impact Planning Scheme Amendments and frivolous, vexatious or irrelevant submissions being referred to a Planning Panel.

Cr Brooks moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Cr Brooks</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Lenberg</i>

THAT Council:

1. Note the Panel Report which recommends adoption of Amendment C275wsea – Updates to the Display Homes, Materials Recycling Centres and Medical Centres Local Planning Policies – to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme at Attachment 1.
2. Adopt the Amendment C275wsea – Local Policies Update – to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme which updates three local planning policies in the Whittlesea Planning Scheme, in the form of the revised Amendment documents at Attachment 2.
3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer, on behalf of Council, to submit the adopted Amendment C275wsea to the Minister for Planning for approval.
4. Note that submitters to Amendment C275wsea will be notified of Council's decision on the Amendment.
5. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer, on behalf of Council, to write to the Minister for Planning to highlight the unnecessary costs and delays associated with convening a Planning Panel for Amendment C275wsea, in support of impending changes to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* which propose to avoid low impact Planning Scheme Amendments and frivolous, vexatious or irrelevant submissions being referred to a Planning Panel.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Nil

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Cr Taylor</i> <i>Cr Zinni</i> <i>Cr Brooks</i> <i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr Stow</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

5.7 Lowalde Recreation Reserve Master Plan

Director/Executive Manager: Director Infrastructure & Environment

Report Author: Coordinator Open Space Planning

In Attendance: Manager Urban Design & Transport
Coordinator Open Space Planning

Executive Summary

Lowalde Recreation Reserve is a municipal open space located on the south-eastern edge of Epping, one of Australia's fastest-growing residential areas. Surrounded by residential properties and within walking distance to commercial and community facilities including Greenbrook Primary School, Greenbrook Kindergarten, Greenbrook Community House and Greenbrook shops, the reserve plays an important role in the local open space network. The site features a central lawn with a cricket pitch, native vegetation and a small playground. While the oval is formally designated as a training ground under a club agreement, it is rarely used due to poor surface quality and is also used informally by a parallel cricket group without a formal agreement.

The master planning process included two phases of community consultation, with Phase 2 engaging 71 participants through online surveys and in-person pop-up sessions. Feedback confirmed strong community support for the draft plan, with 89% of respondents in favour. Community priorities include upgraded play spaces, fitness equipment, improved car park and lighting, and enhanced sports facilities. The updated master plan reflects these priorities while maintaining the core vision. Key outcomes include a walking and running loop, improved lighting and safety, new toilets and picnic facilities, a basketball half court and enhancements to the informal sports field. Vegetation will be preserved and enhanced, with landscaping designed to support passive surveillance.

When endorsed by Council, the next steps will include finalising the business case for inclusion in the long-term financial plan and closing the loop with the community to share the outcomes and future direction.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Approve the Lowalde Recreation Reserve Master Plan at Attachment 1 for implementation.
2. Note the community consultation and engagement undertaken has assisted and informed the finalisation of the Lowalde Recreation Reserve Master Plan.
3. Acknowledge and thank the community and key stakeholders that provided valuable feedback on the Lowalde Recreation Reserve Master Plan.

Cr Lenberg moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Cr Lenberg</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Lappin</i>

THAT Council:

- 1. Approve the Lowalde Recreation Reserve Master Plan at Attachment 1 for implementation.**
- 2. Note the community consultation and engagement undertaken has assisted and informed the finalisation of the Lowalde Recreation Reserve Master Plan.**
- 3. Acknowledge and thank the community and key stakeholders that provided valuable feedback on the Lowalde Recreation Reserve Master Plan.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Lenberg, Cr Lappin, Cr Colwell, Cr Cox and Cr Zinni

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Cr Taylor</i> <i>Cr Zinni</i> <i>Cr Brooks</i> <i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr Stow</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

5.8 2019-2: Awarding of Contract Variation for Conservation Management Service

Director/Executive Manager: Director Infrastructure & Environment

Report Author: Unit Manager Conservation

In Attendance: Manager Sustainable Environment

This attachment has been designated as confidential in accordance with sections 66(5) and 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* on the grounds that it contains private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—

- (i) relates to trade secrets; or
- (ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

Executive Summary

Contract 2019-2 Conservation Management Services is Council's primary services contract for the maintenance of all conservation reserves. It is proposed that part of the extension option available is used, extending the contract by 19 months to 30 June 2027.

To facilitate this extension, an increase in the contract limit is required allowing for additional growth in the number of reserves over the 2026-27 financial year. This extension will ensure that operational maintenance of public reserves may continue while a review of the current contract specifications is completed for future tendering.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note on 1 October 2019 Council resolved to:
 - a. enter into a contract with Naturelinks Landscape Management for the provision of conservation management services from 1 December 2019 to 1 April 2025, with optional extensions up to 1 April 2029; and
 - b. limit the contract expenditure to \$7,000,000 ex. GST, unless approved by Council.
2. Note the executed contract was for a period of 6 years, meaning the end date for the initial contract term ends on 30 November 2025.
3. Approve an optional extension for a period of 19 months from 1 December 2025 to 30 June 2027 and approve a financial variation of \$408,910 ex. GST bringing the cumulative contract spend limit to \$7,408,910 ex. GST.
4. Note should any further financial or non-financial variations be required, they will be undertaken in accordance with the Chief Executive Officer's delegation, or if above the Chief Executive Officer's delegation, be brought back to Council for approval.

5. Note during the term of the extension, officers will be reviewing the existing scope of services provided prior to undertaking a competitive tender process to establish a new contract.

Mayor, Cr Taylor adjourned the meeting at 6:55pm to allow for adjustments to be made to the Officers' recommendation presented on-screen.

Mayor, Cr Taylor recommenced the meeting at 6:58pm. Cr Cox and Cr Lappin approved the updated motion as displayed.

Cr Cox moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Cr Cox</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Lappin</i>

THAT Council:

1. Note on 1 October 2019 Council resolved to:
 - a. enter into a contract with Naturelinks Landscape Management for the provision of conservation management services from 1 December 2019 to 1 April 2025, with optional extensions up to 1 April 2029; and
 - b. limit the contract expenditure to \$7,000,000 ex. GST, unless approved by Council.
2. Note the executed contract was for a period of 6 years, meaning the end date for the initial contract term ends on 30 November 2025.
3. Approve an optional extension for a period of 19 months from 1 December 2025 to 30 June 2027 and approve a financial variation of \$408,910 ex. GST bringing the cumulative contract spend limit to \$7,408,910 ex. GST.
4. Note should any further financial or non-financial variations be required, they will be undertaken in accordance with the Chief Executive Officer's delegation, or if above the Chief Executive Officer's delegation, be brought back to Council for approval.
5. Note during the term of the extension, officers will be reviewing the existing scope of services provided prior to undertaking a competitive tender process to establish a new contract.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Cox, Cr Lappin and Cr Zinni

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Cr Taylor</i> <i>Cr Zinni</i> <i>Cr Brooks</i> <i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr Stow</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

5.9 2024-65: Concrete Construction and Reinstatement

Director/Executive Manager: Director Infrastructure & Environment

Report Author: Senior Infrastructure Engineer

In Attendance: Manager Maintenance & Operations
Senior Infrastructure Engineer

The attachments in this report have been designated as confidential in accordance with sections 66(5) and 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* on the grounds that they contain private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—

- (i) relates to trade secrets; or
- (ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

Executive Summary

The City of Whittlesea manages an asset portfolio of footpaths, bicycle paths, shared user paths, kerbs and channels valued at a combined \$663 million across established, rural and growth areas.

Council's responsibilities for maintaining and servicing that portfolio are established via Council's Asset Management Plan 2025-35, and Council's Road Management Plan 2021, which encapsulates Council's legislative requirements in accordance with the *Road Management Act 2004* and *Local Government Act 2020*.

The maintenance of concrete infrastructure was historically provided via third-party contractors under a panel of supply contract that has been in place since May 2021, and is due to expire on 1 September 2025.

In February 2025, Council held a public procurement process via a public tender calling for a new panel of supply arrangement. 27 tender submissions were received and evaluated across two categories of works:

- works greater than 10 metres or 10 square metres (category one works); and
- works less than 10 metres or 10 square metres (category two works).

Across the categories, nine suppliers were selected to represent best value for the community. Against the average submitted price of tender submissions, Council stands to save a potential \$6,531,912 across the five-year term of the contract for category one works, and a potential \$15,676,591 across the five-year term of the contract for category two works, with the proposed panel arrangement.

Collaborative tendering was not undertaken in relation to this procurement because it is not listed in the Northern Councils Alliance consolidated contract register.

Further details of the full evaluation process can be found in the confidential attachments.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to award contract 2024-65 Concrete Construction and Reinstatement Works to a panel of contractors listed below, between the period 1 September 2025 to 3 August 2030 at a value up to \$26,127,651.75 excluding GST:
 - a. A & F Basile Paving Pty Ltd
 - b. A and G Concrete Constructions Pty Ltd
 - c. S & J Investments (Australia) Pty Ltd (ASJ Concrete & Constructions)
 - d. Blooming Constructions Pty Ltd
 - e. Creded Constructions Pty Ltd
 - f. Grounds Paving Pty Ltd
 - g. N & G Nerone Paving Pty Ltd
 - h. Northside Concrete and Construction Pty Ltd
 - i. Tompsett Civil Construction Pty Ltd
2. Approve the funding arrangements as detailed in the confidential attachment to this report.
3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign and execute the contract on behalf of Council.

Cr Zinni moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Cr Zinni</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Lenberg</i>

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to award contract 2024-65 Concrete Construction and Reinstatement Works to a panel of contractors listed below, between the period 1 September 2025 to 3 August 2030 at a value up to \$26,127,651.75 excluding GST:
 - a. A & F Basile Paving Pty Ltd
 - b. A and G Concrete Constructions Pty Ltd
 - c. S & J Investments (Australia) Pty Ltd (ASJ Concrete & Constructions)
 - d. Blooming Constructions Pty Ltd
 - e. Creded Constructions Pty Ltd
 - f. Grounds Paving Pty Ltd
 - g. N & G Nerone Paving Pty Ltd
 - h. Northside Concrete and Construction Pty Ltd
 - i. Tompsett Civil Construction Pty Ltd

2. Approve the funding arrangements as detailed in the confidential attachment to this report.
3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign and execute the contract on behalf of Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Zinni and Cr Lenberg

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Cr Taylor</i> <i>Cr Zinni</i> <i>Cr Brooks</i> <i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr Stow</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

5.10 2025-22: Construction of Pavilion, Tennis Courts, Carpark and Landscaping at Huskisson Reserve

Director/Executive Manager: Director Infrastructure & Environment

Report Author: Acting Coordinator Major Works

In Attendance: Manager Capital Delivery
Acting Coordinator Major Works

This attachment has been designated as confidential in accordance with sections 66(5) and 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* on the grounds that it contains private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—

- (i) relates to trade secrets; or
- (ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

Executive Summary

This report summaries the evaluation of the 15 tender submissions received for the 2025-22, Construction of Pavilion, Tennis Courts, Carpark and Landscaping at Huskisson Reserve, Lalor.

The Tender Evaluation Panel advises that:

- 15 tenders were received.
- The recommended tenderer offered the most competitive submission, achieving the highest overall score while also submitting the lowest priced tender. They were deemed to offer the best value for money based on their demonstrated capability and capacity to deliver the project in accordance with Council's specified scope and quality requirements.
- Collaborative tendering was not undertaken in relation to this procurement because it is not listed in the Northern Councils Alliance consolidated contract register as this contract relates to a unique need for the City of Whittlesea.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to award Contract No: 2025-22 to Izza Group Pty Ltd for the Construction of Pavilion, Tennis Courts, Carpark, and Landscape Works at Huskisson Reserve for a lump sum of \$6,439,513.79 (excluding GST).
2. Approve the funding arrangements as detailed in the confidential attachment.
3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign and execute the contract on behalf of Council.

4. Note any price variations to be in accordance with the provisions as set out in the conditions of contract.

Cr Cox moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Cr Cox</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Lenberg</i>

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to award Contract No: 2025-22 to Izza Group Pty Ltd for the Construction of Pavilion, Tennis Courts, Carpark, and Landscape Works at Huskisson Reserve for a lump sum of \$6,439,513.79 (excluding GST).
2. Approve the funding arrangements as detailed in the confidential attachment.
3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign and execute the contract on behalf of Council.
4. Note any price variations to be in accordance with the provisions as set out in the conditions of contract.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Cox, Cr Lenberg, Cr Stow and Cr Zinni

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Cr Taylor</i> <i>Cr Zinni</i> <i>Cr Brooks</i> <i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr Stow</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

6 Notices of Motion

No Notices of Motion

7 Urgent Business

Urgent Business

8 Reports from Councillors and CEO Update

8.1 Reports from Councillors

Cr Colwell:

- 24 July Coffee with Council at Station Grind Café, Mernda.
- Provided evidence into the Parliamentary Inquiry into Fraud and Corruption around Local Government.
- 28 July participated in the Community Plan filming.
- 8 August nugal biik Social Enterprise with Whittlesea Community Connections
- 12 August visited Kelynack Reserve.
- 13 August attended the Declaration of Lalor Ward By-election.
- Acknowledged outgoing Councillor Stevan Kozmevski and the many years of service he has given to the City of Whittlesea. He has been a great representative and as much as it is nice to welcome Cr Labrador as our colleague it's also a sad time as Steve no longer holds the role of Councillor.

Cr Gunn:

- Acknowledged the great work done by Steve Kozmevski as a Councillor, he was an asset to our team and will be sadly missed, and likewise I also welcome Cr Labrador to the team.
- Attended usual Briefings and Meetings.
- Attended the National Tree Planting Day.
- Participated in the Draft Community Plan filming.
- Dealt with a number of customer requests, with one of the main ones being in relation to Lauries Field Master Plan. It was reiterated that this is a draft Master Plan that is out for community consultation.

Cr Lenberg:

- Has received numerous calls from concerned residents regarding:
 - trucks and commercial vehicles on residential streets;
 - anti-social behaviour in public areas; and
 - disregard for residents to enjoy their homes through repeat offenders for rubbish and parking.

"I absolutely hear you", "I absolutely support you" as does the rest of Council. These issues are not going to be resolved overnight. I know they are a concern, but we are onto it. Please continue to use snap send solve and lodge issues using the City of Whittlesea customer portal and as a last resort you can call me, if needed.

- A petition has been sent out to the community in relation to Maserati Drive and Findon Road Epping, this intersection is a major hotspot. I completely support this petition through Better Deal Whittlesea and I will be out in the community over the next few weeks to get support for this also.
- Attended opening of the Great Southern Bank at Pacific Epping.
- Attended Coffee with Council at Station Grind, Mernda.
- Participated in the Draft Community Plan filming.
- Visited the Melbourne Arboretum, Mernda.
- Epping Scout Group Awards Night.

Cr Zinni:

- Attended the National Tree Planting Day. Acknowledged the SES who attended and assisted on the day.
- Welcomed at the BAPS Temple in Mill Park.
- Attended meeting with the Bundoora Community Outreach who advocate in the community trying to establish some winter shelters and outreach programs to our most vulnerable. I will also be working with Banyule and Darebin to help support this initiative.
- Norris Bank Reserve, Bundoora site visit checking for improvements for walking safety and children's safety on the play equipment.
- Attended July Citizenship Ceremony.
- Met with Minister D'Ambrosio to speak about Council Advocacy and the community safety for Mill Park and Bundoora residents, especially the concerns regarding the Kelynack Reserve, and the improvements to safety in surrounding streets of Rivergum and Blossom Park.
- Site visit to Kelynack Reserve for lighting improvements and the Master Plan.

Cr Stow:

- Acknowledged former Cr Stevan Kozmevski for his work over the years, I've had a long friendship with Cr Kozmevski and I've only ever known being on Council with Cr Kozmevski. I'm a little bit sad but also excited to welcome Cr Labrador to Council.
- Attended Coffee Catch-up in Donnybrook regarding Donnybrook Road.
- Visited Donnybrook Primary School to listen to concerns raised by the school community.
- Visited Whittlesea Kindergarten and Whittlesea Community House.
- Attended Whittlesea Community House Cooking classes.
- Expressed concern regarding an accident on the corner of McDonalds Road and Pindari Avenue Epping and that McDonalds Road hasn't been handed over to the State Government.
- Also expressed concern over machete attack at the Epping IGA.
- Received numerous requests to clean up the roads, mainly State Government roads so we should continue to lobby the Government.

Cr Lappin:

- Attended the National Tree Planting Day, Brunton Park Conservation Area.
- Met with Gary Doorbar, Unit Controller at Mernda SES and had a tour of the unit and discussed how Council can assist as they cover a massive area.
- Attended the Northern Homelessness Week Community Expo that was hosted by the Northern Homelessness Network, Merri-Bek Council and also supported by Hume Council.
- Attended the Building for a Greener Future Seminar which was hosted by the Mernda Neighbourhood House and supported by Council.

Cr Cox:

- Attended the Residents Association Meeting in the Wollert/Epping North area with the major topic being discussed is the incinerator, noting that the EPA is apparently making an announcement on the topic on 30 August.
- Attended the National Growth Areas Alliance in Perth with the Mayor, Cr Taylor at the end of July.
- Represented the Mayor at the Dyson's Bus Depot for the sod-turn of the electrical bus charging station on McKimmies Road.
- Attended the Municipal Association Regional Meeting with the Mayor.
- Attended a morning tea at the Wollert Lifestyle Community.
- Attended the Great Southern Bank Opening at Pacific Epping.
- Attended the Teej Mela Nepalese Epping North Community.

Cr Brooks:

- Regular Council Briefings.
- Participated in the Draft Community Plan filming.
- Attended the Metropolitan Transport Forum in August.
- Attended the Whittlesea Disability Network Briefing.
- Noted Coffee with Council is in Thomastown this Thursday at TRAC commencing at 10am.
- Noted as part of the Whittlesea Multicultural Conference Council Sub-committee the October meeting is being held here in the Council Chambers. This will be an opportunity for all Councillors and officers interested in listening the group.

Cr Taylor:

- Acknowledged Cr Kozmevski's efforts and long service with Council and he will be sadly missed as a significant contributor to this Council. I also welcome onboard Cr Labrador and I look forward to, as we all do, working with him.

As the Mayor, I'm extremely privileged every day and excited to see the significant work that Councillors do within this Council, and I commend you all for the hard work that you do. As Mayor my activity and engagement report consist of the following:

- 201 hours (average 50.25 hours per week).
- 459 emails received and responded to.
- 35 CRMs lodged and recorded.

- 18 CRMs investigated and closed.
- 12 Council meetings, briefings, committee meetings and external stakeholder meetings.
- 7 community engagement meetings attended.
- 8 formal Council meetings, for which committees I have been placed on by Council, see below:
 - Outer Melbourne Councils Committee.
 - Northern Councils Alliance Committee.
 - Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board (YPRL).
 - Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee.
 - City of Whittlesea Business Advisory Panel.
 - Audit and Risk Committee (ARC).
 - CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee (CEMAC).
 - Hearing of Submissions Committee (HoS).
- 163 telephone calls made and received.
- 287 kms travelled in performance of Mayoral duties and events.
- 22 events attended, most of which I have had the privilege of attending with my fellow colleague Councillors. Some of the more notable ones were:
 - Epping Scout Group Awards Night.
 - Community Plan Pop Up, Lalor Library.
 - Community Bus Tour with Positive Aging.
 - BlueFit Swimming Grand Reopening, South Morang.

8.2 Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd Update

Peter Hopper Lake

The project to revitalise Peter Hopper Lake in Mill Park is continuing well, with several major milestones reached recently.

Construction of the lake's new sediment pond has finished and installation of a new raingarden is taking shape.

The sediment pond has an important role to play in preventing pollutants entering the lake from stormwater, while the raingarden will improve water quality by continuously filtering lake water to remove excess nutrients.

A gross pollutant trap, which captures things like bottles and leaves has been installed.

The installation of a new pump station to support water circulation and landscaping works around the lake will be completed later in the year.

This project is jointly funded by the Australian Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program, and the City of Whittlesea.

French Street Hall

Visitors to Lalor's French Street Hall will notice that the centre has undergone a series of upgrades to make it more inclusive and accessible.

As part of the project, the kitchen has been enlarged to make it fully accessible for people with a disability, and a new kitchenette provides visitors with easy access to tea and coffee.

The hall's accessible toilet has also been refurbished and now includes a nappy change table and shower.

The French Street Hall is a well-used Council facility that is home to Lalor Neighbourhood House, various social groups, adult learning, food relief and a weekly community lunch. Council fully funded the upgrade.

West Wollert Community Centre

I am very pleased to report that construction of the West Wollert Community Centre is progressing well, with wall and roof framing now underway following the installation of inground services.

Set to open in late 2026, the Jardin Road centre will be one of four new community hubs in Wollert, offering kindergarten rooms and a mini-branch library.

Other features include Maternal and Child Health Services consulting spaces, community hall, kitchen, meeting rooms, gardens and outdoor areas.

The community centre will be built with sustainability in mind and features include solar panels, rainwater harvesting and permeable paving.

The \$16.1 million dollar project is funded by a \$7.7 million dollar contribution from the City of Whittlesea, \$8.25 million dollars from the Victorian Government and \$168 thousand dollars from Melbourne Water.

Lauries Field Master Plan

As mentioned by Cr Gunn, we are currently consulting on the draft Master Plan for Lauries Field in Doreen, and it's been fantastic to see such strong community interest, particularly around how stormwater will be managed on the site, and how we improve the health of the water.

Council is inviting the local community to come along to an information session this Thursday evening at the Brookwood Community Centre, where you'll be able to learn more about the draft plan.

Consultation is open until 7 September, and community feedback will play an important role in shaping the final plan.

If you'd like to learn more about the project or register to attend the session, please visit engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au.

And just a reminder, this plan is still in draft form. Unfortunately, misinformation is being spread, particularly online, that Council has already made a decision. This is quite simply false. The purpose of the consultation is to make sure we hear from you, the community, before anything is finalised and presented back to Council for consideration. We are encouraging everyone to have their say on the range of options that have been identified, and any other ideas you may have.

UNCONFIRMED

9 Tabled Reports

No Tabled Reports

10 Confidential Business

No Confidential Business

11 Closure

There being no further business the Mayor formally closed the meeting at 7:35pm.

Confirmed this on 23rd day of September.

Cr Martin Taylor
Mayor

UNCONFIRMED