



Minutes

Scheduled Council Meeting

Tuesday 23 September 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

Debbie Wood	Acting Chief Executive Officer
Emma Appleton	Director Planning & Development
Agata Chmielewski	Director Community Wellbeing
Sarah Renner	Director Customer & Corporate Services
Arashdeep Singh	Acting Director Infrastructure & Environment
Jacinta Stevens	Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO
Sarah Oldman	Acting Executive Manager Public Affairs

Order of Business

1	Opening	5
1.1	Meeting Opening and Introductions.....	5
1.2	Apologies	5
1.3	Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement	5
1.4	Diversity and Good Governance Statement	5
1.5	Acknowledgements	6
2	Declarations of Conflict of Interest	7
3	Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s.....	7
4	Public Questions, Petitions and Joint Letters	8
4.1	Public Question Time	8
4.2	Petitions	9
4.2.1	Findon Road/Maserati Drive Intersection	9
4.3	Joint Letters	10
5	Officers' Reports.....	11
5.1	Planning Scheme Amendment C288 – Environmental Significance Overlays in the Whittlesea Green Wedge – Request for Authorisation	11
5.2	Planning Scheme Amendment C282 – Development & Infrastructure Contributions and Sequencing of Development Local Policies - Request for Authorisation	15
5.3	Certification of 2024-25 Financial Statements and Performance Statement	18
5.4	Q4 Community Grants Update	20
5.5	Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2030 - Commencement of Community Consultation	22
5.6	CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy.....	25
5.7	Governance Report.....	27
6	Notices of Motion.....	31
6.1	Advocacy for Stronger Penalties to Address Illegal Rubbish Dumping	31

7 Urgent Business.....	33
8 Reports from Councillors and CEO Update	33
8.1 Reports from Councillors	33
8.2 Acting Chief Executive Officer, Debbie Wood Update.....	37
9 Tabled Reports	39
9.1 Audit & Risk Committee Annual Report	39
10 Confidential Business	39
11 Closure.....	39

1 Opening

1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting at 6pm.

“Welcome to this Scheduled Council Meeting of 23 September 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 Acting Chief Executive Officer, Debbie Wood and ask that members of the Executive Leadership Team be introduced.”

“Good evening everyone, I would like to introduce:

Emma Appleton, Director Planning & Development;
Agata Chmielewski, Director Community Wellbeing;
Sarah Renner, Director Customer & Corporate Services;
Arashdeep Singh, Acting Director Infrastructure & Environment;
Jacinta Stevens, Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO; and
Sarah Oldman, Acting Executive Manager Public Affairs.

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:

Police Officers killed in the line of duty

On behalf of Council, I would like to send our deepest condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of the two police officers lost in the line of duty in Porepunkah late last month.

We acknowledge the police members who serve us each day with courage and compassion, often facing danger as they strive keep our community safe. Thank you.

Cr Labrador new baby

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate our colleague Cr Labrador and his wife on the recent safe arrival of their new baby. We look forward to welcoming Cr Labrador back to the chamber very soon.

Emergency Services Expo

On Saturday 4 October from 10am to 12pm at the Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre here at Civic we will be hosting the Emergency Services Expo and 29th annual Blessing of the Emergency Services Fleet. This free community event includes a special multi-faith ceremony to bring together emergency services personnel, faith leaders and the community to bless the vehicles and equipment used to respond to emergencies in the season ahead.

Success of Walking Thomastown

On Saturday 30 August was the very successful Walking Thomastown event. The night was filled with glowing neon lights, art installations, live performances and community spirit, as familiar streets and landmarks were transformed into a magical celebration of culture and creativity. Community feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Thank you to all those who attended and well done to all the teams involved in bringing it to life.

Women's Health Week

September 1 to 5 was Women's Health Week. This year's theme, "say yes to you," highlighted the importance of self-care while recognising that when women thrive, the whole community benefits. Council is proud to support women's health and inclusion including initiatives to increase women and girls' participation and leadership in sport. By creating more opportunities and fostering inclusive environments, Women's Health Week is a reminder to put health first and get involved in activities and supports that strengthen the entire community.

Early Childhood Educators Day

Early Childhood Educators Day 2025 was also in early September. The day celebrates the vital role early childhood professionals play in supporting children's learning, growth and wellbeing. Council extends its sincere gratitude to all early childhood educators across the municipality for their professionalism, care, commitment and positive impact on families and the community.

2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No declarations.

3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s

Recommendation

THAT Council confirm the minutes of the:

1. Scheduled Council Meeting held on 19 August 2025, as circulated.
2. Hearing of Submissions Committee Meeting held on 9 September 2025, as circulated.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT Council confirm the minutes of the:

1. Scheduled Council Meeting held on 19 August 2025, as circulated.
2. Hearing of Submissions Committee Meeting held on 9 September 2025, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4 Public Questions, Petitions and Joint Letters

4.1 Public Question Time

Nick Brain of Epping

Can Council please explain what steps it is considering to take, or is taking, to help play its part in preventing the occurrence of crime in our community.

Acting Chief Executive Officer, Debbie Wood

Thank you for your question.

Council works closely with Victoria Police and other agencies to support community safety.

We are involved in community safety networks and partnerships; supporting programs and events that promote social connection, participation, skill-building and positive relationships; and we advocate for community safety initiatives.

We also plan, build and maintain safe public spaces such as parks and community centres which enhance the safety and accessibility of these through good design and regular maintenance.

Gaurav Surati of Mernda

Could Council consider holding free clean days over weekends for residents to dispose of rubbish similar to what Hume Council have done?

Acting Chief Executive Officer, Debbie Wood

Thank you for your question.

Currently Council delivers a range of free and low-cost waste services. This includes two free at home hard waste collections, unlimited free at home bundled branch collections, four free green waste vouchers, four free timber waste vouchers, two free brick and rubble vouchers and a significantly discounted tip voucher. A range of free waste pop-up events focusing on e-waste, cardboard and polystyrene are held throughout the year. We also encourage residents to go to our website and look at the A-Z recycling guide to find easy and affordable solutions for waste and recycling. Council continually reviews its services, including hard waste, to ensure what we are offering meets community need.

4.2 Petitions

4.2.1 Findon Road/Maserati Drive Intersection

A petition has been received from 201 residents and 253 non-residents requesting Council advocate to the State Government to:

1. Declare Findon Road as a major arterial road.
2. Work with Council to, or otherwise directly install, urgent appropriate traffic safety measures at the Findon Road/Maserati Drive intersection.
3. Create a long-term plan to upgrade Findon Road to handle current and future traffic.

Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the petition received from 454 signatories.
2. Refer the petition to the relevant directorate for consideration.

Cr Cox moved the Recommendation as the motion:

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

THAT Council:

1. Note the petition received from 454 signatories.
2. Refer the petition to the relevant directorate for consideration.

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>

4.3 Joint Letters

No Joint Letters

UNCONFIRMED

5 Officers' Reports

5.1 Planning Scheme Amendment C288 – Environmental Significance Overlays in the Whittlesea Green Wedge – Request for Authorisation

Director/Executive Manager: Director Planning & Development

Report Author: Senior Strategic Planner

In Attendance: Manager Sustainable Environment
Coordinator Planning Policy & Implementation

Executive Summary

This report presents proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C288wsea – Environment Significance Overlays (Amendment C288wsea), which seeks to protect areas of significant biodiversity value in the northern part of the City of Whittlesea.

The City of Whittlesea spans approximately 490 square kilometres, of which the green wedge (green wedge) occupies about 60%. This includes all land outside the urban growth boundary, which is outer limit of urban development in the Melbourne metropolitan area. The green wedge includes farmland, conservation zones, natural reserves and national parks – including the Kinglake National Park – which contribute significantly to the region's biodiversity and landscape character. The varied landscapes support a range of habitats that are distinct within metropolitan Melbourne and provide critical habitat for several threatened fauna species. *Attachment 1* shows the environmental and landscape values of the City of Whittlesea at a municipal level.

The Whittlesea Planning Scheme includes several overlays that protect the environmental values in the City of Whittlesea. These reflect Council's commitment to protecting biodiversity and to mitigate the impacts associated with urbanisation, land use and climate change. These overlays are mostly located within the urban growth boundary, implemented through the development process, which creates an opportunity to set aside land with high environmental values.

Council has recently completed the *City of Whittlesea Biodiversity Asset Mapping, 2025* (BAM Report) and the *City of Whittlesea Habitat Connectivity Study, 2025* (Connectivity Study), which map areas of significant biodiversity value across the green wedge (*Attachments 2 and 3*). The reports identify areas of high environmental value that support threatened fauna species. These species include the Brush-tailed Phascogale, Common Dunnart, Powerful Owl, and Gang-gang Cockatoo by providing nesting sites and food sources.

These landscapes form essential habitat links to large, protected areas such as Kinglake National Park. These core habitat areas and key connections between them enable animals to breed, forage, and adapt to climate change and local disturbances like wildfires.

Amendment C288wsea proposes to implement new planning controls in the Whittlesea Planning Scheme to protect the significant environmental values identified in the abovementioned reports. The Amendment will apply the Environment Significance Overlay (ESO) to 366 lots (in part or fully), which equates to approximately 7.5% of the green wedge. Only 10 properties which are recognised as farming businesses will be included in the Amendment.

The proposed planning controls have been developed with specific consideration of agricultural land use. The controls exempt certain routine activities—such as fencing—from requiring a planning permit, provided they meet specified conditions, such as fencing being within a maximum height limit. The area to which the ESO is proposed to be applied is identified at *Attachment 4*.

The ESO is a planning control designed to protect environmental values by regulating development in sensitive areas. It applies to land where environmental constraints may affect development, or where development could harm existing ecological features. Under the ESO, landowners must obtain a permit before removing native vegetation or carrying out building works, such as large sheds or fencing, that could impact these values.

It is important to note that these requirements will not apply retrospectively. Existing structures will not be subject to the new provisions. Only new development proposed after the amendment process is complete will require a planning permit.

Additionally, where the ESO applies to only part of a property, the permit requirements will only apply to that area. Areas of the property outside the overlay will not be subject to these requirements.

In summary, Amendment C288wsea seeks to amend the Whittlesea Planning Scheme to:

- apply the ESO to 366 lots (in part or fully). The area to which the ESO is proposed to be applied is identified in the maps at *Attachment 4*.
- insert a new Schedule to the ESO titled Northern Flora and Fauna Habitat Areas, which outlines the environmental values which are of significance. The part of the ESO that is applied consistently across the State is included at *Attachment 5* and a copy of the draft schedule, which provides specific local details and requirements is included at *Attachment 6*.

This report recommends that Council resolve to commence the Amendment C288wsea process and seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit the Amendment.

Following the Amendment receiving authorisation from the Minister for Planning, it will be publicly exhibited to the community and affected property owners and occupiers through a comprehensive consultation process. The outcomes of the public exhibition and consultation process will be subsequently reported back to Council as part of a future report.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the significant environmental and biodiversity values identified in the Environmental and Landscape Values Plan at Attachment 1, the City of Whittlesea Biodiversity Asset Mapping (2025) at Attachment 2, and the City of Whittlesea Habitat Connectivity Study (2025) at Attachment 3.
2. Resolve to prepare and exhibit Planning Scheme Amendment C288wsea to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme, which seeks to apply the Environmental Significance Overlay to land within the green wedge to protect areas of significant environmental value.
3. Authorise the Acting Chief Executive Officer, or their delegate, to:
 - a. Seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit the proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C288wsea, as outlined in Attachment 4, in accordance with section 8A of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.
 - b. Make any further changes to the amendment to comply with the Minister for Planning's conditions of authorisation and to make administrative changes to correct errors and grammatical changes.

Cr Stow moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

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

THAT Council:

1. Note the significant environmental and biodiversity values identified in the Environmental and Landscape Values Plan at Attachment 1, the City of Whittlesea Biodiversity Asset Mapping (2025) at Attachment 2, and the City of Whittlesea Habitat Connectivity Study (2025) at Attachment 3.
2. Resolve to prepare and exhibit Planning Scheme Amendment C288wsea to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme, which seeks to apply the Environmental Significance Overlay to land within the green wedge to protect areas of significant environmental value.
3. Authorise the Acting Chief Executive Officer, or their delegate, to:
 - a. Seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit the proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C288wsea, as outlined in Attachment 4, in accordance with section 8A of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

- b. Make any further changes to the amendment to comply with the Minister for Planning's conditions of authorisation and to make administrative changes to correct errors and grammatical changes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Taylor, Cr Zinni, Cr Colwell, Cr Stow

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 Planning Scheme Amendment C282 – Development & Infrastructure Contributions and Sequencing of Development Local Policies - Request for Authorisation

Director/Executive Manager: Director Planning & Development

Report Author: Coordinator Planning Policy & Implementation

In Attendance: Manager Strategic Futures
Coordinator Planning Policy & Implementation

Executive Summary

This report presents proposes a Planning Scheme Amendment to update the Development & Infrastructure Contributions local policy and insert a new Sequencing of Development local policy in the Whittlesea Planning Scheme (Amendment C282wsea).

As a growing municipality, our new communities require timely provision of local infrastructure, including roads, footpaths, and community facilities. In our urban growth areas, this infrastructure is funded in part through development or infrastructure contribution plans, which collect contributions from developers for the provision of local infrastructure. These plans are prepared along with the Precinct Structure Plans, which are strategic land-use plans, that identify the infrastructure required for each area. Contributions are paid by developers to Council upon development of the land.

Amendment C282wsea proposes to update the Whittlesea Planning Scheme to help ensure that new development facilitates provision of the infrastructure needed by new communities in a timely and cost-effective manner through the collection development and infrastructure contributions. The policy updates also aim to ensure that development occurs in a sequenced manner to ensure that new residents have access to infrastructure and services. The policy updates seek to provide certainty and clarity to the development industry so they can more effectively plan for the sequencing and staging of their development.

The updated local planning policy will support existing state planning policy. It will assist planning officers when making decisions on strategic and statutory planning matters and help support them ensuring that equitable contributions are made by developers to infrastructure and that it is delivered in a timely manner. This builds on the to the work already undertaken by Council in respect to its established systems and processes for managing its development contributions.

The updated policy also responds to some current challenges in Whittlesea's growth areas, where development is not proceeding in an orderly manner supported by the infrastructure it needs. This is resulting in new residents moving into areas which are isolated from services and missing key transport connections. The policy will provide clearer guidance to the development industry in respect to Council's expectations for development sequencing and encourage cooperation between developers to connect housing estates.

In summary, Amendment C282wsea seeks to amend the Whittlesea Planning Scheme to:

- Update a local planning policy Clause 19.03-1L of the *Whittlesea Planning Scheme* – Development and infrastructure contributions to guide the application of development and infrastructure contributions across the municipality;
- Introduce a new local planning policy under Clause 11.02-3L – Sequencing of development to support planners ensuring that development occurs in a sequenced manner and avoid isolated developments; and
- Amend the schedule to Clause 74.02 further strategic work to investigate the potential for development contributions within the established areas of the municipality.

The proposed Amendment implements a recommendation of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme Review, 2018 and 2022 (PSR), which recommended a program to review and update five existing local planning policies so that they reflect best practice planning and current community expectations.

This report recommends that Council resolve to commence the Planning Scheme Amendment process and seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit the Amendment. Following, the Amendment receiving authorisation from the Minister for Planning, it will be publicly exhibited to the community. The outcomes of the public exhibition and consultation process will be reported back to Council as part of a future report.

Officers Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to prepare and exhibit Planning Scheme Amendment C282wsea to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme, which seeks to update the Development and Infrastructure local policy, insert a new Sequencing of Development local policy, and update the schedule to the future strategic work clause in the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.
2. Authorise the Acting Chief Executive Officer, or their delegate, to:
 - a. Seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit the proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C282wsea, as outlined in Attachments 1 through to 4, in accordance with section 8A of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

- b. Make any further changes to the amendment to comply with the Minister for Planning's conditions of authorisation and to make administrative changes to correct errors and grammatical changes.

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 prepare and exhibit Planning Scheme Amendment C282wsea to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme, which seeks to update the Development and Infrastructure local policy, insert a new Sequencing of Development local policy, and update the schedule to the future strategic work clause in the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.
2. Authorise the Acting Chief Executive Officer, or their delegate, to:
 - a. Seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit the proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C282wsea, as outlined in Attachments 1 through to 4, in accordance with section 8A of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.
 - b. Make any further changes to the amendment to comply with the Minister for Planning's conditions of authorisation and to make administrative changes to correct errors and grammatical changes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Colwell, Cr Cox, 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>

5.3 Certification of 2024-25 Financial Statements and Performance Statement

Director/Executive Manager: Director Customer & Corporate Services

Report Author: Unit Manager Financial Compliance & Control

In Attendance: Chief Financial Officer
Unit Manager Financial Compliance & Control

Extension of Speaking Time

The Mayor, Cr Taylor exercised his discretion to extend the speaking time for up to 5 minutes in accordance with Governance Rule 35.5.

Executive Summary

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*, Management has prepared an Annual Financial Report (Attachment 1) and the Performance Statement (Attachment 2) for the year ended 30 June 2025 and the Governance and Management Checklist (Attachment 3).

Council is required to present audited Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement to a Council Meeting by 31 October each year under the *Local Government Act 2020* Section 98(1).

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Approve in principle the Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2025.
2. Authorise the Principal Accounting Officer to make minor editorial amendments to the Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2025, if required, to meet the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) requirements.
3. Authorise Audit and Risk Committee Council representatives, the Mayor, Cr Taylor and Cr Lenberg to sign-off on the Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2025.
4. Authorise the Acting Chief Executive Officer and Principal Accounting Officer to sign-off on the Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2025.
5. Authorise the final audited Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2025 to be emailed to auditor by 31 October 2025.

Cr Lenberg moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

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

THAT Council:

1. Approve in principle the Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2025.
2. Authorise the Principal Accounting Officer to make minor editorial amendments to the Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2025, if required, to meet the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) requirements.
3. Authorise Audit and Risk Committee Council representatives, the Mayor, Cr Taylor and Cr Lenberg to sign-off on the Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2025.
4. Authorise the Acting Chief Executive Officer and Principal Accounting Officer to sign-off on the Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2025.
5. Authorise the final audited Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2025 to be emailed to auditor by 31 October 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Cox, 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>

5.4 Q4 Community Grants Update

Director/Executive Manager: Director Customer & Corporate Services

Report Author: Grants Coordinator

In Attendance: Manager ePMO & Change
Grants Coordinator

Executive Summary

This report is to provide an overview of the grants processed for the Quarter 4 period of the 2024-2025 Financial Year from 1 April 2025 to 30 June 2025. The delay between the end of the Q4 reporting period and the report to Council at the Council Meeting on 23 September is due to applications received right up to 30 June 2025 and assessments requiring 6 weeks for final approval.

This quarter saw the highest number of submissions for applications with a total of 60 applications submitted across seven grant categories. In addition to all year round grants available to community, this quarter included a Female Participation in Sport Grant and ongoing support to the Community Based Emergency Services (CFA and SES).

The Centralised Grants budget has allocated 95% (\$2.5M) of the total grants budget (\$2.68M) for the 2024-2025 financial year. In addition to all the grant programs reported in previous quarters of this financial year, the total allocations also include service agreements.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council note the 2024-2025 Q4 Centralised Grants Overview Report.

Cr Gunn moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

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

THAT Council note the 2024-2025 Q4 Centralised Grants Overview Report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Taylor, Cr Gunn, Cr Lappin, Cr Stow

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 Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2030 - Commencement of Community Consultation

Director/Executive Manager: Director Planning & Development

Report Author: Manager Compliance & Environmental Health

In Attendance: Manager Compliance & Environmental Health
Unit Manager Animal Management

Executive Summary

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-30 (the Plan) for public exhibition and community consultation between 25 September and 16 October 2025.

Background

A Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) is a strategic document that guides how a Council will deliver animal management services and regulate dogs, cats, and domestic animal businesses within the municipality. It details the actions that Council will take to promote responsible pet ownership, comply with legislation, and improve animal welfare.

The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (the Act) requires Council to prepare a DAMP every four years. The current DAMP 2021-25 is due to sunset on 4 December 2025.

In 2021, Council undertook a comprehensive review of its DAMP. This resulted in the development and implementation of several key initiatives, including:

- A 24-hour cat curfew.
- Mandatory desexing of cats.
- Delivery of an annual Pet Expo.
- Running subsidised desexing programs for pets in our municipality.

These initiatives within the current DAMP have proven to be highly effective and have been carried forward into this draft Plan.

The Plan has been informed by insights and feedback gathered from the community and key stakeholders during initial engagement activities conducted in June 2025. The initiatives and actions are underpinned by an analysis of current data, emerging trends, and alignment with relevant state policies. Furthermore, the Plan incorporates collaborative actions developed in partnership with neighbouring municipalities and reflects innovative approaches within the sector.

The public exhibition period aims to confirm feedback already received and capture any items that were missed during the first two stages of community engagement. All feedback will be considered and, where possible, incorporated into the final version of the Plan.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the Engagement Summary Report, which has informed the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-30.
2. Endorse the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-30 for community consultation, in accordance with the Community Engagement Policy 2023-2027, for the period between 25 September and 16 October 2025.
3. Authorise the Acting Chief Executive Officer, or their delegate, to make any further editorial or graphical changes prior to publication.
4. Note that the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-30 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 Lappin</i>

THAT Council:

1. Note the Engagement Summary Report, which has informed the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-30.
2. Endorse the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-30 for community consultation, in accordance with the Community Engagement Policy 2023-2027, for the period between 25 September and 16 October 2025.
3. Authorise the Acting Chief Executive Officer, or their delegate, to make any further editorial or graphical changes prior to publication.
4. Note that the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-30 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.

CARRIEDD UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Taylor, Cr Zinni, Cr Colwell, Cr Cox, 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>

5.6 CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy

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

Report Author: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Executive Summary

In accordance with section 45 of the *Local Government Act 2020 (Act)* Council must develop, adopt and keep in force a Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy (**the Policy**). In addition, and while not a legislative requirement, clause 1 of the Policy requires it to be reviewed within 12 months of a general local Council election.

The CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee (**CEMAC**) recently reviewed the Policy and was presented at a Council briefing on 26 August 2025 seeking Councillor feedback.

No significant amendments were made, rather the Policy was streamlined for ease of readability and to remove duplicate sections and align formatting.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee (CEMAC) have undertaken a review of the Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy.
2. Resolve to adopt the Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy (the Policy) at Attachment 1.
3. Note a copy of the Policy will be made available on Council's website and provided to CEMAC's Independent Chair.

Cr Colwell moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

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

THAT Council:

1. Note the CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee (CEMAC) have undertaken a review of the Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy.
2. Resolve to adopt the Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy (the Policy) at Attachment 1.
3. Note a copy of the Policy will be made available on Council's website and provided to CEMAC's Independent Chair.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Colwell, Cr Cox, Cr Gunn

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 Governance Report

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

Report Author: Unit Manager Council Governance

Executive Summary

In accordance with best practice, good governance principles, transparent and accountable reporting, officers deem it appropriate to consolidate governance and administrative reports into one standing report to provide a single reporting mechanism for a range of statutory compliance, transparency and governance matters. This also ensures compliance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council's Governance Rules and related regulations.

The purpose of this report is to provide information and endorsement for the following governance related matters:

- Summary of Informal Meetings of Council.
- Attendance at the National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA) Parliamentary Delegation in Canberra.
- Council Meeting Schedule for October 2025 to December 2026.
- Unconfirmed Summary Minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee Meeting held on 9 September 2025.
- Instrument of Delegation (s6) to Members of Council Staff.
- Epping Cemetery Community Asset Committee Appointments.

Further information on the above listed matters is located within the body of this report.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the Governance Report for September 2025.
2. Note the summary of Informal Meetings of Council for the period 17 July 2025 17 September 2025 at Attachment 1.
3. Authorise Cr Cox to attend the National Growth Areas Alliance Parliamentary Delegation visit to be held in Canberra between 25-27 November 2025 at an approximate cost of \$1,960.
4. Adopt the Council meeting schedule outlined below, noting all meetings will commence at 6pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard South Morang, and Public Notice will be given for the below Council meeting dates:
 - Tuesday 14 October 2025
 - Tuesday 21 October 2025
 - Tuesday 18 November 2025 (Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor) (6pm)
 - Tuesday 18 November 2025 (7:30pm)

- Tuesday 16 December 2025
 - Tuesday 17 February 2026
 - Tuesday 17 March 2026
 - Tuesday 21 April 2026
 - Tuesday 19 May 2026
 - Tuesday 16 June 2026
 - Tuesday 21 July 2026
 - Tuesday 18 August 2026
 - Tuesday 15 September 2026
 - Tuesday 20 October 2026
 - Tuesday 17 November 2026 (Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor) (6pm)
 - Tuesday 17 November 2026 (7:30pm)
 - Tuesday 15 December 2026
5. Note the 9 September 2025 unconfirmed summary minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee at Attachment 2.
 6. Resolve to delegate to the members of staff holding the relevant positions the powers, duties and functions set out in the Instrument of Delegation (s6) from Council to Members of Council Staff at Attachment 3.
 7. Resolve to commence operation of the s6 Instrument of Delegation from Council to Members of Council Staff at Attachment 3 immediately upon the signing by the Mayor and Acting Chief Executive Officer, and common seal of Council being affixed to the Instrument.
 8. Appoint the below residents to the Epping Cemetery Community Asset Committee for a term of up to 3 years, noting officers will write to both the successful and unsuccessful candidates advising of the outcome:
 - Barbara Miller;
 - Bruno Tassone;
 - Elizabeth Paglia;
 - Dr Sarvesh Soni; and
 - Tanya Grook.

Cr Zinni moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

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

THAT Council:

1. **Note the Governance Report for September 2025.**
2. **Note the summary of Informal Meetings of Council for the period 17 July 2025 17 September 2025 at Attachment 1.**

3. Authorise Cr Cox to attend the National Growth Areas Alliance Parliamentary Delegation visit to be held in Canberra between 25-27 November 2025 at an approximate cost of \$1,960.
4. Adopt the Council meeting schedule outlined below, noting all meetings will commence at 6pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard South Morang, and Public Notice will be given for the below Council meeting dates:
 - Tuesday 14 October 2025
 - Tuesday 21 October 2025
 - Tuesday 18 November 2025 (Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor) (6pm)
 - Tuesday 18 November 2025 (7:30pm)
 - Tuesday 16 December 2025
 - Tuesday 17 February 2026
 - Tuesday 17 March 2026
 - Tuesday 21 April 2026
 - Tuesday 19 May 2026
 - Tuesday 16 June 2026
 - Tuesday 21 July 2026
 - Tuesday 18 August 2026
 - Tuesday 15 September 2026
 - Tuesday 20 October 2026
 - Tuesday 17 November 2026 (Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor) (6pm)
 - Tuesday 17 November 2026 (7:30pm)
 - Tuesday 15 December 2026
5. Note the 9 September 2025 unconfirmed summary minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee at Attachment 2.
6. Resolve to delegate to the members of staff holding the relevant positions the powers, duties and functions set out in the Instrument of Delegation (s6) from Council to Members of Council Staff at Attachment 3.
7. Resolve to commence operation of the s6 Instrument of Delegation from Council to Members of Council Staff at Attachment 3 immediately upon the signing by the Mayor and Acting Chief Executive Officer, and common seal of Council being affixed to the Instrument.
8. Appoint the below residents to the Epping Cemetery Community Asset Committee for a term of up to 3 years, noting officers will write to both the successful and unsuccessful candidates advising of the outcome:
 - Barbara Miller;
 - Bruno Tassone;
 - Elizabeth Paglia;
 - Dr Sarvesh Soni; and
 - Tanya Grook.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

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

The Chair, Cr Taylor vacated the chair as it is his intention to move the Notice of Motion up for consideration.

The Deputy Mayor, Cr Zinni assumed Chair of the meeting.

6.1 Advocacy for Stronger Penalties to Address Illegal Rubbish Dumping

Mayor, Cr Taylor has given notice that it is their intention to move the following Motion at the Scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 23 September at 6pm.

Motion

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to advocate to the Victorian Government for law reform to increase the penalty units applicable to illegal rubbish dumping offences under the *Environment Protection Act 2017* (Vic) and associated Regulations.
2. Through advocacy, seeks the following increases in penalties:
 - a. Body Corporate: Increase infringement penalties from fifty (50) penalty units to two hundred and fifty (250) penalty units; and
 - b. Natural person (Individuals): Increase infringement penalties from ten (10) penalty units to fifty (50) penalty units.
3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer and the Mayor to draft, jointly sign and send a formal letter, on behalf of Council, to the Minister for Environment, the Minister for Local Government, the Attorney General of Victoria, and the local members of State parliament advocating for the above legislative reforms.

Cr Taylor moved the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Cr Taylor</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Colwell</i>

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to advocate to the Victorian Government for law reform to increase the penalty units applicable to illegal rubbish dumping offences under the *Environment Protection Act 2017* (Vic) and associated Regulations.
2. Through advocacy, seeks the following increases in penalties:
 - a. Body Corporate: Increase infringement penalties from fifty (50) penalty units to two hundred and fifty (250) penalty units; and
 - b. Natural person (Individuals): Increase infringement penalties from ten (10) penalty units to fifty (50) penalty units.
3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer and the Mayor to draft, jointly sign and send a formal letter, on behalf of Council, to the Minister for Environment, the Minister

for Local Government, the Attorney General of Victoria, and the local members of State parliament advocating for the above legislative reforms.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Taylor, Cr Colwell

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>

The Mayor, Cr Taylor resumed the Chair.

7 Urgent Business

No Urgent Business

8 Reports from Councillors and CEO Update

8.1 Reports from Councillors

Cr Zinni:

- Coffee and chat with local Thomastown residents.
- Outer Melbourne Council's Group Forum on advocating to the State Government for better road infrastructure and transport access.
- Met with participants of the Community Leadership Program and congratulated them on completing the program.
- Attended the Wollert Incinerator Meeting.
- Attended the Whittlesea Community Futures Partnership Quarterly Fourm.
- Met with Cr Garotti from Banyule Council and Cr Arturi from Darebin who share the Bundoora boundary and plan to work closely with them for positive outcomes for Bundoora and Mill Park communities. This alliance is crucial for neighbouring collaboration moving forward.
- Attendance at the Whittlesea Interfaith Network Festival with the Mayor.

Cr Lenberg:

- Attended the Business Advisory Panel which was hosted at Interroll Australia. Thank you to Pat for hosting the meeting.
- Attended the Advocacy Training.
- Met with Richard Welch MP.
- Attended Audit & Risk Committee Meeting.
- Coffee with Council in Whittlesea.
- Principal of Wollert Secondary School provided a tour of the school with Andrew Giles.
- Attended Citizenship Ceremonies.
- Attended a Council pop-up.
- Met with local businesses including another market tour, an introduction of the supply chain and logistics association to the Melbourne Market.

Cr Gunn:

- Attended the Laurie's Field Community Information session.
- Attended the Teej Festival with the Doreen Mernda Nepalese Community.
- Attended the Ganesh Festival with Dilse Australia. These cultural festivals are a highlight of the role of Councillor and one of my favourite parts.
- Attended the Doreen United Soccer Club's Puma Girls Cup 2025.

- Attended usual briefings, advocacy training, customer requests generated on various issues, positive feedback received in relation to the mowing schedule around the ward and as previously discussed rubbish dumping is still an issue.

Cr Colwell:

- Attended usual Briefings and Council Meetings.
- Attended Coffee with Council at TRAC.
- Attended the Roads and Connectivity Forum with Outer Melbourne Councils.
- Attended the Hearing of Submissions Committee in relation to 52W Main Street Thomastown.
- Attended the Mill Park Tamil School Annual Cultural Concert.
- Attended the City of Whittlesea Youth Summit.
- Attended Citizenship Ceremonies on Australian Citizenship Day.
- Had a tour of the wat djerring Animal Shelter.

Cr Brooks:

- Attended Coffee with Council at TRAC.
- Attended the Walking Thomastown event.
- Plenty Valley Lions Football Club reached out in an attempt to create some advocacy.
- Met with Liz from Thomastown Neighbourhood House to gain an understanding of the services they provide.
- Attended usual Briefings and Advocacy Training.

Cr Cox:

- Attended Coffee with Council's at both Whittlesea and Thomastown.
- Attended the Citizenship Ceremonies on Australian Citizenship Day.
- Attended St Monica's Sports Breakfast held at The Manor on High Street, attendees included Paralympian Ahmed Kelly, Hockeyroos player Rachael Lynch and Tony Jones from Channel Nine.
- Friends of Toorourrong celebrated their 10th Anniversary and I attended the celebrations along with the Mayor and Cr Stow.
- Attended the Wollert Incinerator Meeting held here at Civic Centre.
- Attended the Northern Business Awards function with the Mayor.

Cr Lappin:

- Attended the Victorian Greenhouse Alliance Conference.
- Met with the Whittlesea SES with the Mayor. Thank you to Gary and the team for meeting with us and showing us the facility.
- Attended Walking Thomastown event.
- Chaired the Northern Alliance of Greenhouse Action Executive Committee meeting at the Hume Council offices.
- Attended the Zero Waste festival.

Cr Stow:

- Attended both the Coffee with Council at TRAC and at Whittlesea.
- Attended the Whittlesea Historical Society Founding Farming Families.
- Met with the Principal of Whittlesea Secondary College.
- Attended the Friends of Toorourrong 10th Anniversary celebrations.
- Attended Walking Thomastown event.
- Visited the Westgarth Town Homestead and Lutheran Cemetery.
- Attended the Whittlesea Disability Network Meeting.
- Attended the National Disability Summit in the City, where the Minister for Disability and the NDIS, Jenny McAllister spoke.

Cr Taylor:

As the Mayor, I'm extremely proud and honoured to be the Mayor of the City of Whittlesea and work with such a highly competent and committed group of Councillors as we currently have within this Council. I have prepared a six-page report of my Council monthly activities and engagement report which I have attached to the transcript and documents of this meeting.

- 259 hours (average 64.75 hours per week).
- 313 emails received and responded to.
- 9 CRMs lodged and recorded.
- 4 CRMs investigated and closed.
- 33 Council meetings, briefings, committee meetings and external stakeholder meetings.
- 29 community engagement meetings attended.
- 4 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).
- 120 telephone calls made and received.
- 208 kms travelled in performance of Mayoral duties and events.
- Attended the following meetings:
 - Council Briefing Meetings.
 - Citizenship Ceremonies.
 - Outer Melbourne Councils Week: Financial Sustainability & Community Services Roundtable.
 - PVFM Radio City of Whittlesea interview.
 - Northern Councils Alliance Delegation to Federal Parliament meeting.
 - Northern Councils Alliance Delegation to Federal Parliament in ACT.

- Delegation meeting with Hon Catherine King MP.
- Meeting with Hon Rob Mitchell MP.
- Delegation meeting with Jane Hume (Senator).
- Delegation meeting with Dr Anne Webster.
- Delegation meeting with James Paterson (Senator).
- Delegation meeting with Andrew Giles, Rob Mitchell, The Hon Peter Khalil MP, The Hon Kate Thwaites MP, Basem Abdo MP and Jo Briskey MP.
- City of Whittlesea Business Advisory Panel.
- YPRL Audit Committee Meeting and Board Meeting.
- Meeting with Mr Sergo.
- Mill Park Police Visit.
- Breakfast Meeting with MP.
- PVFM Radio City of Whittlesea interviews.
- Briefing re Humevale.
- Council Civic North tour.
- September 2025 Whittlesea Audit & Risk Committee Meeting.
- Hearing of Submissions Committee Meeting.
- Meeting with Lauren Kathage MP.
- Meeting with Minister D'Ambrosio MP.
- Blessing of the Fleet promotional video.
- Northern Councils Alliance Mayor and CEO meeting Hume Council.
- Meeting re Doreen Community.
- Meeting with Manager Salvation Army Charity Outlet South Morang.
- SES Mernda Site Visit with Cr Lappin.
- Lauries Field Community Information Session, Doreen.
- Northern Councils Alliance Canberra Delegation Conference.
- Outer Melbourne Councils Week: Connecting Outer Melbourne for the Future Roads and Connectivity Forum.
- Annual Report & Awards Presentation - South Morang Scout Group.
- Hendersons Creek Playground Event (The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP).
- Hazel Glen College Production – Junior Rock of Ages Musical.
- Community Leadership Program with Deputy Mayor.
- Walking Thomastown Event.
- Friends of Toorourrong 10th Anniversary Luncheon.
- No Northern Incinerator and RENW Community Meeting.
- Advocacy Training.
- Meeting with Whittlesea Football Club Executives.
- Northern Business Achievement Awards (NBAA).
- Planting Hillcroft Park Event (Hosted by Friends of Hillcroft Park).
- Doreen Scout Group Annual Reports and Awards Presentations.
- Coffee with Council – Whittlesea Ward.
- Youth Summit.
- Community Grants Information Session.
- Ministerial Construction Completion Event: Hillsvie Recreation Reserve Synthetic Soccer Pitch (The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP).

- Baptist Church Mill Park Visit.
- Whittlesea Interfaith Network - Whittlesea Carnival of Connections 2025.
- Pavilion School Community Day, Epping.
- The Mayors Institute - State Election Roundtable.
- Grants Information Training Session.
- Grants Writing Workshop.
- NCA meeting with Minister Staikos.

8.2 Acting Chief Executive Officer, Debbie Wood Update

NCA Mayor and CEO Meeting

Last week the Mayor and I attended the Northern Council Alliance Mayor and CEO meeting. It was a great opportunity to share with my counterparts some of the great work Council has been delivering and to hear from them what's been happening in their municipalities.

Plenty Road-Everton Drive Intersection

I am pleased to report that the traffic lights controlling the newly created intersection at Plenty Road and Everton Drive in Mernda were switched on last Thursday.

The new intersection provides motorists and pedestrians with safe and convenient access to the future regional sports precinct, and helps to ease traffic congestion around Mernda.

The project included extending Everton Drive by 100 metres to connect with Plenty Road, and the installation of traffic lights and pedestrian crossings.

Council delivered this project in partnership with the Victorian Government, who contributed \$5 million from the Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution Fund.

Hillsvie Reserve Synthetic soccer Pitch Upgrade

Recently we celebrated the official opening of a new synthetic soccer pitch and upgraded sports lights at Hillsvie Recreation Reserve in South Morang.

The new FIFA-accredited synthetic pitch and upgraded lighting will allow more matches and training sessions to be held at night which supports, in particular women and girls who work, study or care during the day with more opportunities to play.

Together, the pitch and lighting upgrade cost \$1.65 million, with Council contributing \$1.15 million and the Victorian Government providing \$500,000 through a Community Sport and Recreation Grant.

Hendersons Creek Wetland Park and Playground

Families are already enjoying the upgrade of Hendersons Creek Wetland Park and Playground in South Morang.

Located next to The Promenade, the revamped park includes a new playground, outdoor fitness equipment, nature play features and a sheltered seating area.

The upgrade also delivers improved pathways, including a connection to The Lakes Boulevard, and a new pedestrian crossing, making it easier and safer to access the park.

The project was funded by the City of Whittlesea with support from the Victorian Government via \$500,000 from its Open Space for Everyone – Better Parks and Playgrounds Program and the Community Support Fund.

UNCONFIRMED

9 Tabled Reports

9.1 Audit & Risk Committee Annual Report

10 Confidential Business

No Confidential Business

11 Closure

There being no further business the Mayor formally closed the meeting at 7:37pm.

Confirmed this 14th day of October 2025.

Cr Martin Taylor
Mayor