

City of Whittlesea

Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy Action Plan 2026-28



City of
Whittlesea

Whittlesea
2040

A place for all



Artwork © Mandy Nicholson, 2017

Acknowledgement

We 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.

The lands along the Birrarung River and its tributaries - the Merri, Edgars and Darebin Creeks and the Plenty River were home to the Wurundjeri Willum and Taungurung Peoples. This Country offered more than just sustenance; it provided fresh water, food, shelter and a thriving environment rich with fish and birdlife.

For countless generations, Country offered places of living and gathering. Cultural ceremonies, trade and important business were conducted at sacred sites - places that continue to hold deep cultural and spiritual significance today. More than seventy of these sites remain in the City of Whittlesea, along with many scarred trees, standing as living testaments to an enduring connection to Country.

In acknowledging this heritage, we honour the knowledge, resilience and custodianship of the Traditional Owners, whose care for this land stretches back tens of thousands of years and continues today.

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Purpose of this document

The Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy Action Plan 2026-28 (Action Plan) sets out the actions Council will focus on delivering to support the implementation of the Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy 2023-33 (Strategy).

The Action Plan outlines how Council will translate the Strategy into a practical and deliverable program of work over the identified period. The Liveable Neighbourhoods Action Plan summarises what Council will do to deliver on the Liveable Neighbourhoods key directions in Council's vision Whittlesea 2040: *A place for all*.

- smart, connected transport networks
- well-designed neighbourhoods and vibrant activity centres
- housing for diverse needs.

Actions are organised under three Key Directions, showing how they contribute to the outcomes of the Strategy. The Action Plan draws on key actions from plans that fall under the Liveable Neighbourhoods goal.



Key direction 1: Smart, connected transport network

Outcomes

- Our community has sustainable options to easily travel where they need to go.



Key direction 2: Well-designed neighbourhoods and vibrant town centres

Outcomes

- Our neighbourhoods are attractive and desirable places to live, work and play.
- Our community has infrastructure that can adapt to their changing needs.
- Our neighbourhoods are well-designed and enable all people to connect.



Key direction 3: Housing for diverse needs

Outcomes

- Our community has the right mix and supply of housing to provide choices for all.



Council's role



Deliverer/ provider/partner:

Council directly delivers services and infrastructure, either on its own, or in partnership with other levels of government, the community or private organisations.



Funder/enabler:

Council provides financial and/or in-kind support to organisations that are better positioned to manage or deliver specific services or infrastructure.



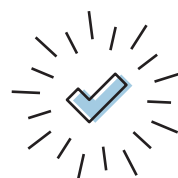
Planner:

Council develops and implements plans that ensure sustainable, well-organised and quality growth and change in the community. This includes land use, housing, transport, town centres, business precincts and community facilities.



Regulator/statutory authority/monitor:

Council enforces laws, policies and regulations that maintain public safety, health and wellbeing.



Facilitator:

Council facilitates partnerships, connects stakeholders and ensures that local needs are heard and addressed.



Advocate:

Council represents the interests of the community to other levels of government or other stakeholders. This could involve making the case and negotiating funding, policy changes or programs that benefit the local community.

KEY DIRECTION 1

Smart, connected transport network

Actions	Council's Role
Outcome 1.1: Our community has sustainable options to easily travel where they need to go	
Develop and implement a new Road Safety Plan to improve road safety outcomes for the community.	Planner
Develop a municipality-wide Parking Management Plan to manage parking in an equitable and inclusive manner and meet the parking needs of our growing community.	Planner
Complete the Yan Yean Pipe Track between Centenary Drive to Bush Boulevard, Mill Park to expand and develop the overall Pipe Track and contribute towards the overall walking and cycling network within the municipality.	Deliverer/ provider/partner
Advocate for expanded transportation options and improvements to the transport network, including road upgrades, enhanced shared pathways and increased public transport, including Epping to Wollert Rail.	Advocate
Complete design and commence construction for the Edgars Creek Trail between German Lane to Kingsway Drive in Lalor to improve north-south walking and cycling links.	Deliverer/ provider/partner
Construct traffic signals at Findon Road and Great Eastern Way, South Morang to improve safety at this key intersection.	Deliverer/ provider/partner

KEY DIRECTION 2

Well-designed neighbourhoods and vibrant town centres

Actions	Council’s Role
Outcome 2.1: Our neighbourhoods are attractive and desirable places to live, work and play	
Review the Epping Activity Centre planning controls focused on delivering high quality design and open space outcomes.	Planner
Finalise the review of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme and commence priority further work and projects.	Planner
Complete the Bundoora Place Framework to identify opportunities for increased investment, additional housing and public realm improvements.	Deliverer/ provider/partner
Prepare a framework to guide future planning for activity centres and commence background work to inform planning controls for priority centres.	Planner
Continue delivering The Boulevard streetscape works in Thomastown.	Deliverer/ provider/partner
Outcome 2.2: Our community has infrastructure that can adapt to their changing needs	
Complete design and commence delivery of the endorsed Nick Ascenzo Park Master plan actions to upgrade current play standards and provide inclusive spaces.	Deliverer/ provider/partner
Complete delivering the recommendations outlined in the Whittlesea Public Gardens Masterplan, ensuring they reflect current community needs and maximise long-term value.	Deliverer/ provider/partner
Commence implementation of actions within the City of Whittlesea Public Open Space Plan 2026-36.	Planner
Proactively pursue development opportunities for the future Council-owned land within the Mernda Town Centre to support the long-term delivery of a vibrant, inclusive and high-quality town centre.	Planner

Outcome 2.3: Our neighbourhoods are well-designed and enable all people to connect	
Design the Mill Park Drive Precinct streetscape and public open space to improve pedestrian safety, amenity and activation of the public realm.	Planner
Design Memorial Avenue Shops streetscape and adjacent Memorial Hall and open space to improve pedestrian safety, amenity and future planning of this precinct.	Planner
Develop a program of works for Coulstock Street Place Plan to allow a coordinated upgrade of public realm within the Precinct.	Planner
Prepare and progress a Planning Scheme Amendment to protect significant Dry Stone Walls across the City of Whittlesea.	Planner
Develop a Cultural Investment Plan for bunjil nganga Parklands (Quarry Hills) to celebrate and raise awareness of Aboriginal cultural heritage.	Planner
Partner with Hume City Council and Mitchell Shire Council to deliver an Urban Design Framework for the future Cloverton Activity Centre.	Deliverer/ provider/partner
Undertake a Cultural Values Study of the Edgars Creek Corridor to inform development of the Master Plan for the creek.	Planner

KEY DIRECTION 3

Housing for diverse needs

Actions	Council’s Role
Outcome 3.1: Our community has the right mix and supply of housing to provide choices for all	
Support the community housing provider to complete construction of the Ashline Street Affordable Housing Project in Wollert, providing affordable homes for local people.	Deliverer/ provider/partner
Commence civil works of the Johnsons Road residential development subdivision in Mernda, comprising 37 homes, including affordable housing, open spaces, and pathways linking to the Plenty River.	Deliverer/ provider/partner
Commence civil works of the Downs Road residential development subdivision in Lalor, comprising at least 25 homes, including affordable housing and providing passive surveillance over Whittlesea Public Gardens.	Deliverer/ provider/partner
Advance the key directions of the Affordable Housing Plan, including the development of tools and resources to support community and developer awareness, education, and informed decision-making, while actively pursuing funding opportunities to increase affordable housing supply.	Advocate
In response to the planning reforms, investigate Council’s options to plan for and manage housing supply and diversity.	Planner
Prepare a Development Plan for Council land in Regent Street, Mernda to support housing diversity within a sustainable environment.	Planner





COUNCIL OFFICES

Civic Centre
25 Ferres Boulevard
South Morang VIC 3752

Opening hours

Monday – Friday, 8.30am–5pm

Whittlesea Services Hub

63 Church Street,
Whittlesea VIC 3752

Opening hours

Monday – Friday, 9.30am–5pm

Telephone 03 9217 2170

National Relay Service 133 677
(ask for 9217 2170)

Postal address

Locked Bag 1, Bundoora MDC, VIC 3083

 whittlesea.vic.gov.au

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