

# Agenda

Youth Council Meeting Monday 7 July 2025 at 6pm

Council Chamber,
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang



## **Youth Councillors**

Youth Cr Kaynat Virk

Youth Mayor

Youth Cr Emily Tricarico

**Deputy Youth Mayor** 

Youth Cr Osama Akkad

Youth Cr Angelica Banquil

Youth Cr Bavleen Kaur

Youth Cr Mustafa Khraim

Youth Cr Zachary Melvaine

Youth Cr Angela Rolevska

Youth Cr Tanya Sharma

Youth Cr Sandy Tran

Youth Cr Elly Watson

Youth Cr Sophie Winter

## Officers

Jacinta Stevens

Bobbie-Lea Bright

Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Unit Manager Compliance & Governance



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#### 1 Opening

#### 1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions

The Youth Mayor will open the meeting and welcome everyone in attendance.

#### 1.2 Apologies/Absent

#### 1.3 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement

The Chair will 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 personally acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging."

#### 1.4 Youth Council Charter

The Chair will read the following statement:

"We the members of the City of Whittlesea Youth Council, commit to advocating for and being the voice of the youth within our municipality. We ensure a safe space for all, to engage in constructive collaboration on matters affecting young people. We aim to empower and foster community connectedness in our youth so they feel valued and supported to achieve their aspirations."

#### 1.5 Acknowledgements

- 2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest
- 3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s

#### Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council confirm the Minutes of the Youth Council Meeting held on 2 June 2025, as circulated.



#### 4 Officers' Reports

#### 4.1 Draft Affordable Housing Plan

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

**Report Author:** Senior Project Manager (Development)

In Attendance: Manager Strategic Property & Portfolio Development

Senior Project Manager (Development)

#### **Executive Summary**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to introduce the Affordable Housing Plan included at *Attachment 1* and seek feedback on the clarity, tone and accessibility of the document prior to seeking endorsement from Council to commence community consultation.

#### **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 is our plan to increase new supply of affordable housing in the City of Whittlesea so that more people can access the housing 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 2026, it is estimated that 5,418 (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 the Youth Council:**

- 1. In collaboration with all Youth Councillors, provide feedback on the clarity, tone and accessibility of the document to the Councillor Support Officer.
- 2. Note the feedback will be tabled at the next Youth Council meeting for noting.
- 3. Recommend any changes to improve how this information is communicated to young people.



#### Background / Key Information

Affordable, safe and secure housing is essential community infrastructure. It enables greater life opportunities, improves health and education outcomes, and underpins economic resilience.

The City of Whittlesea does not have enough affordable housing; demand is growing faster than supply and too many residents are spending more than they can afford on housing.

The Affordable Housing Plan sets a strategic intent to increase the supply of affordable housing in the City of Whittlesea. The plan is informed with up-to-date data on trends that are affecting housing affordability and insecurity, as well as insights from engagement with our residents. It includes clear actions that we will take in the short, medium and long-term. These actions will be reviewed and monitored every 12 months to make sure we are delivering on our plan.

This plan is designed to:

#### **Engage the community**

Help residents understand the complexities of housing affordability and the effect this essential infrastructure can have on their neighbourhood. It will also provide insights into the role of Council in supporting other levels of government to increase the provision of and access to affordable housing.

#### **Support developers**

Clarify the important role developers can play in bridging the affordability gap and outline the pathways and incentives that may be available to them.

#### **Reaffirm Council's commitment**

Renew our dedication to addressing housing affordability and communicate this commitment clearly to developers and Community Housing Organisations (CHOs). The plan will also establish accountable actions on how Council will facilitate more affordable housing over the next five years.

#### Our goal

To increase new supply of affordable housing in the City of Whittlesea so that more people can access the housing they need.

#### **Our priorities**

To respond to the increasing demand for affordable housing in Whittlesea, Council will focus its work within three key directions:



#### 1. Research and advocacy

- Continue to research current and future housing need and affordability trends to inform future need.
- Advocate for increased public and private investment in affordable housing.
- Advocate to State Government for compulsory Affordable Housing provisions within the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.
- Advocate to utilise State Government owned land for Affordable Housing Projects.

#### 2. Partner and incentivise

- Design and implement a comprehensive community education campaign to enhance public understanding of affordable housing, foster greater acceptance, and strengthen social licence.
- Collaborate with the community, developers, and relevant stakeholders to foster a
  greater understanding of the essential role affordable housing plays in building
  cohesive communities and great neighbourhood.
- Collaborate with registered Community Housing Organisations to support their efforts in delivering affordable housing.
- Partner with neighbouring and interface Local Governments, including Hume City Council and Mitchell Shire Council, and through the Inter-Council Affordable Housing Forum, to address housing challenges regionally.
- Explore cost reduction avenues to support Community Housing Organisations to provide more affordable housing and to encourage more developments to include an affordable housing component.

#### 3. Facilitate and deliver

- Proactively pursue Federal and State funding opportunities to deliver affordable housing in our municipality.
- Encourage affordable housing to be located in proximity of a network of metropolitan, major and neighbourhood activity centres.
- Review Council's property portfolio to identify a pipeline of priority sites that are suitable for affordable housing.
- Investigate long-term ownership and operating models for Council led delivery of affordable housing.

#### Implementation Strategy

#### Communication

Youth Councillors are requested to review the draft document and provide feedback. This will be used to refine the finalise the information before it is shared with Council and the broader community.



#### **Critical Dates**

- 21 July 2025: Youth Council provide feedback.
- **5 August 2025:** Affordable Housing Plan is presented to Council at the regular scheduled Councillor Briefing to seek feedback.
- **19 August 2025:** Affordable Housing Plan is presented at the regular scheduled Council Meeting to seek endorsement to proceed to community consultation.

#### **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Under Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers providing advice to Council are required to disclose any conflict of interest they have in a matter and explain the nature of the conflict.

The Responsible Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

#### **Attachments**

- 1. Draft Affordable Housing Plan 240625 [4.1.1 33 pages]
- 2. Affordable Housing Plan Youth Cr Briefing Presentation [4.1.2 17 pages]



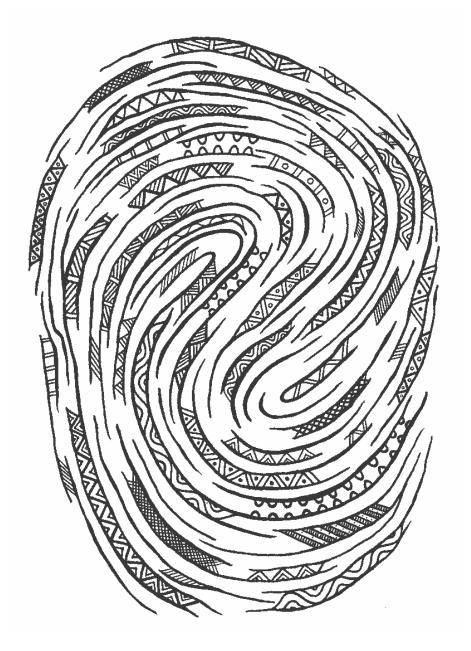


City of Whittlesea

## **Affordable Housing Plan**

2025 - 2030

June 2025



The City of Whittlesea recognises the rich Aboriginal Heritage of this Country and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Willum Clan and Taungurung people as the Traditional Owners of this place. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

#### City of Whittlesea

### **Contents**



### **About this Plan**

#### Introduction

Affordable, safe and secure housing is deemed as essential community infrastructure. It enables greater life opportunities, improves health and education outcomes, and underpins economic resilience. Affordable housing is a central pillar for a healthy and inclusive society.

Councils play an important role in supporting affordable housing by planning for growth, setting local policies, working with Community Housing Organisations, developers and Federal and State Governments.

Councils help guide where and how housing is built, and negotiate for affordable housing through the planning process. Many councils are now looking to how they can use their own land to help deliver more affordable homes where it is needed most.

As it stands, the City of Whittlesea does not have enough affordable housing. Demand is growing faster than supply and too many residents are spending more than they can afford on housing. This is our plan to increase new supply of affordable housing in the City of Whittlesea so that more people can access the housing they need.

This plan is informed with up-to-date data on trends that are affecting housing affordability and insecurity, as well as insights from engagement with our residents. It includes clear actions that we will take in the short-, medium- and long-term. These actions will be reviewed and monitored every 12 months to make sure we are delivering on our plan.

#### This plan is designed to:

#### **Engage the Community**

Help residents understand the complexities of housing affordability and the benefits affordable housing can bring to their neighbourhood. It will also provide insights of the role of Council in supporting other levels of government to increase the provision of, and access to, affordable housing.

#### Support the Private sector

Clarify the important role developers and the private sector can play in bridging the affordability gap and outline the pathways and incentives that may be available to them. It will outline what Council will do to facilitate and incentivise affordable housing as part of development.

#### **Reaffirm Council's Commitment**

Renew our dedication to addressing housing affordability and communicate this commitment clearly to developers and Community Housing Organisations (CHOs). The plan will also establish accountable actions on how Council will facilitate more affordable housing over the next five years

#### 4 ABOUT THIS PLAN

### **Our Goal**

To increase supply of affordable housing in the City of Whittlesea so that more people can access the housing they need

## **About Affordable Housing**

### what is affordable housing?

Affordable housing is a broad term describing housing (to buy or rent) which is suitable for the needs of very low to moderate-income households. Affordable housing is quality, and fit for purpose, priced at a level which is affordable relative to the income of its occupants and still allows these households to meet their other essential living costs.

This is often referred to as 'housing stress' where those households on very low to moderate incomes pay more than 30% of their gross income on housing costs.

The Planning and Environment Act 1987 defines affordable housing as being "housing, including social housing, that is appropriate for the housing needs any of the following: very low income households, low income households, moderate income households." The definition is supported by a public notice and public Order which specifies the income range classifications for very low to moderate- income households. This data is updated yearly.

Based on this definition, some private market housing may be considered affordable, depending on its price, property type, location and size. However, in many neighbourhoods, the private market is not providing enough affordable housing options and is generally unallocated explicitly to the households in need to the affordable housing.

For the purposes of this plan, the term 'affordable housing' includes affordable housing provided through interventions such as:

- Social housing: Social housing is an umbrella term that includes both public housing and community housing for rent. It generally indicates housing that involves some degree of subsidy.
  - ♦ Public housing: Public housing is housing owned and managed by Homes Victoria, the State government agency that manages Victoria's public housing system. The government provides public housing to eligible Victorians including people who are unemployed, on low-incomes, live with a disability or a mental illness, or who are at risk of homelessness.
  - ♦ Community housing: Community housing is housing owned or managed by Community Housing Organisations.

    CHOs are highly regulated, not-for profit organisations that specialise in housing the diverse range of tenants who require both public and affordable homes.
- Subsidised market housing: Housing
  provided by the private market through a range
  of subsidy types. Subsidies may support rental
  or ownership of affordable housing.

#### The Victorian Housing Register

The Victorian Housing Register (VHR) is where you can register for social housing in Victoria. Social housing is made up of public housing (managed by the State government) and community housing. The register has two categories:

- Priority Access: This is for people who are homeless and receiving support, are escaping or have escaped family violence, living with a disability or significant support needs or need to move for health reasons.
- Register of Interest: This is for people who do not meet the Priority Access criteria but are seeking to live in social housing

#### The housing continuum

The housing continuum in Figure 1 below clarifies what housing affordability in the City of Whittlesea includes. It illustrates the range of housing options available in the community recognising there is no one-size-fits-all solution when it comes to housing. Many factors influence an individual's or household's ability to access housing, making it essential for the market to offer a diverse range of housing options to meet these varying needs.



## The Australian Housing System

Federal and State Governments have identified the lack of affordable housing as one of the major economic and social issues facing the country, committing billions of dollars to addressing the issue. The system is complex and includes all levels of government, investors and the building and construction sector among others. Table 2 below outlines the policy frameworks that determine the scope of influence that each level of government has on housing markets and the supply of social and affordable housing.<sup>1</sup> This shows that local government has a relatively small yet still important role to play in increasing supply of social and affordable housing.

Level of government	Policy levers		
Federal	<ul> <li>Population settings</li> <li>Taxation settings</li> <li>Financial regulation</li> <li>Welfare support</li> <li>National Partnership funding for public housing and homelessness services (NHHA)</li> <li>Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF)</li> <li>National Agreement on Social Housing and Homelessness (NASHH)</li> </ul>		
State	<ul> <li>Public Housing – construction and management</li> <li>Community housing support and regulation</li> <li>Rental regulation</li> <li>Planning and Environment Act 1987, planning schemes and some planning decisions</li> </ul>		
Local	<ul> <li>Planning administration</li> <li>Local infrastructure</li> <li>Rates</li> <li>Advocacy and partnerships to facilitate affordable housing</li> </ul>		

Table 2 Housing policy levers by government level in Australia

<sup>1</sup> Understanding the housing policy levers of Commonwealth, state and territory, and local government  $\mid$  AHURI

## Why do we need an Affordable Housing Plan?



Federal and State Governments have identified the lack of affordable housing as one of the major economic and social issues facing the country, committing billions of dollars to addressing the issue.



In 2026, it is estimated that 5,418 (6.1%) of all households will have an unmet need for affordable housing in the Whittlesea local government area. This is expected to grow to 8,942 (8.1%) of all households by 2041.



Demand is growing faster than supply and all levels of government, and the private sector must act to reverse this trend to ensure that affordable housing options are available to all people.



The City of Whittlesea has a vital role in shaping the future of housing for its community. While Federal and State Governments bear the primary responsibility for delivering and maintaining social and affordable housing, Local Governments have a integral role in advocating, planning and driving initiatives that create more homes affordable for our community.

## Whittlesea Snapshot

4,373 households had an unmet need for affordable housing in the City of Whittlesea in 2021. This represented 5.7% of all households



Located in Melbourne's North, the City of Whittlesea is one of Melbourne's largest and fastest growing municipalities. Covering a land area of 489 square kilometres, the City of Whittlesea is estimated to have a current population of almost 250,000 people. There are more than 75,000 households that call City of Whittlesea home. 1 The population has almost doubled in the last 20 years and is projected to grow by more than 120,000 new residents by 2040. Whittlesea is in the top 10 fastest growing Local Government Areas in Australia. Thomastown and Lalor recorded the highest percentage of households with an unmet need for Affordable Housing in 2021 with Single Parent households exceeding other household types. City of Whittlesea exceeds Greater Melbourne in population percentages of marginally housed people as well as very low to low-income people experiencing rental stress. The number of people experiencing homelessness is forecast to increase from 853 to 1792. And the number of people living in marginal housing is expected to rise from 803 to 1314 by 2041 in the City of Whittlesea<sup>2</sup>.

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City of Whittlesea analysis and forecasting

<sup>2</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics



Average cost of a home is now 5 times average household income in Australia



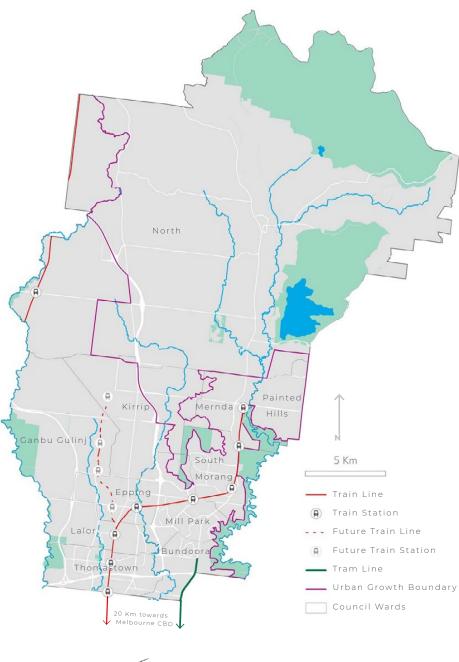
Population doubled in the last 20 years in City of Whittlesea



3267 households are experiencing rental stress in City of Whittlesea



24% of people rent their homes





43% more households will need marginal housing by 2041

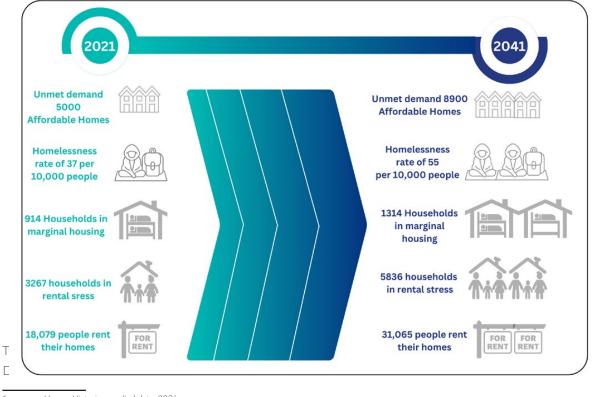


Number of people experiencing homelessness will increase from 853 to 1792 by 2041

# Affordable Housing in City of Whittlesea

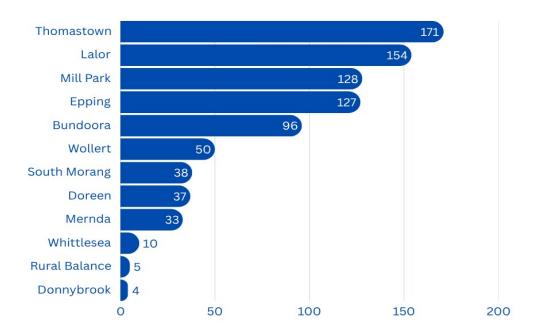
The City of Whittlesea has a significant unmet need for affordable housing. Whittlesea's share of rental social housing sits at 1.6%, whereas Metropolitan Melbourne's average is 2.3%¹. Rental affordability is also steadily declining where new rentals affordable to people on low-incomes fell from 19.7% in 2014 to 6.7% in 2024². Thomastown and Lalor currently have the highest need for affordable housing.

demand for affordable housing.<sup>3</sup> Wollert followed by Epping are forecast to have the highest increase in the number of households that need affordable housing by 2041. The forecast demonstrated that to effectively meet growing demand in the City of Whittlesea, 15% of all new dwellings will need to be affordable housing. Below are some of the key findings:

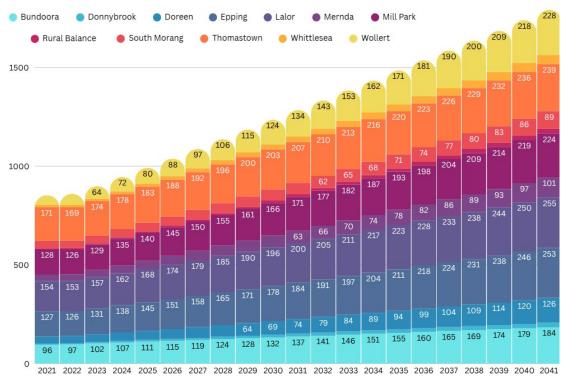


- Homes Victoria, supplied data, 2024
- 2 Department of Families Fairness and Housing Victoria | Rental report (dffh.vic.gov.au)
- 3 City of Whittlesea analysis and forecasting

#### 12 AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN WHITTLESEA



Graphl Unmet need for affordable housing by COW suburb 2021



Graph2 Forecast Unmet need for affordable housing by COW suburb 2041

### Who is affordable housing for?

A wide range of people may need affordable housing during their life. Affordable housing is for anyone who is part of a very low, low or moderate-income household.

Table 1 shows the income ranges specified in the Order referenced in in the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* as of July 2024 for different households to qualify as eligible for affordable housing. These figures are updated annually by the State government. There are some key concepts that help us better understand who affordable housing is for. Key workers, people experiencing homelessness, and people in marginal housing are three concepts that are often used but also misunderstood or poorly defined. This plan uses the following definitions:

Key workers – Workers that are crucial to the proper functioning of society. They include teachers, nurses, childcare and aged care workers, police, fire and emergency personnel. It also includes lower income people that support the local economy such as cleaners, hospitality, and retail workers.

#### **◊** People experiencing homelessness –

People experiencing homelessness lack one or more elements that represent 'home'. This includes people:

- in improvised dwellings, tents, or sleeping out (rough sleepers)
- in supported accommodation for the homeless
- staying temporarily with other households (couch surfing)
- living in boarding houses
- living in 'severely' crowded dwellings

#### People living in Marginal housing –

Rental accommodation that relies on shared facilities and offers limited tenancy rights. It includes some boarding and rooming houses that are not captured as homeless, and some secondary dwellings like 'granny flats' and caravan parks.

Household	Very low-income range (annual)	Low-income range (annual)	Moderate-income range (annual)
Single Adult	Up to \$30,640	\$30,641 to \$49,020	\$49,021 to \$73,530
Couple, no dependants	Up to \$45,950	\$45,951 to \$73,530	\$73,531 to \$110,300
Family ( with one or two parents) and dependant children	Up to \$64,330	\$64,331 to \$102,950	\$102,951 to \$154,410

Table 1 Income ranges for households to be eligible for affordable housing as of July 2024

#### 14 ABOUT AFFORDABLE HOUSING

## Myth Busting: Affordable Housing in our Community

There are some common misconceptions about affordable housing. However, research consistently shows that affordable housing has positive social and economics impacts on local neighbourhoods and communities.

## Myth 1: Affordable housing isn't good for my community

Affordable housing helps key workers, families, older residents, and many others live close to jobs, services and support networks. This supports a diverse, inclusive community and can contribute to the local economu by supporting a stable workforce. Affordable housing also reduces homelessness and housing stress, leading to better health and social outcomes.<sup>1</sup>

## Myth 2: Affordable housing will lower surrounding property values

Numerous studies have found that affordale housing does not reduce nearby property values. Well-designed and maintained affordable housing is often indistinguishable from market housing and can even enhance neighbourhoods through investment and renewal. <sup>2</sup>

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2023) National social housing survey 2023, https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/housing-assistance/national-social-housing-survey-2023/contents/benefits-of-living-in-social-housing

www.alinw.gov.au/reports/incoling/assistants/intolinal section for the fifth of living in-social-housing 2 AHURI Understanding and addressing community opposition to affordable housing development (2013) https://www.ahuri.edu.au/research/final-reports/211

#### **Case study**

The Epping Renewal Site, developed by Riverlee, and named New Epping represents the City of Whittlesea's most recent and significant project. This new mixed-use development will offer a wide variety of homes, including affordable and diverse housing options, in the heart of Epping Central, the City's largest activity centre.

In September 2023, the government highlighted Epping Metropolitan Activity Centre as one of 10 key locations across the State where planning rules will be streamlined to boost housing supply. Epping is one of Melbourne's fastest- growing suburbs, offering everything from job opportunities and healthcare to shopping and education. It is home to important facilities such as the Northern Hospital, Northern Private Hospital, Pacific Epping Shopping Centre, and Melbourne Polytechnic. Additionally, the nearby Cooper Street Employment Area and Melbourne Wholesale Fruit, Vegetable, and Flower Market contribute to the area's appeal. The Epping Renewal Site is ideally positioned to deliver affordable housing close to existing and proposed amenities.

Once completed, it will provide 2,000 homes including 10% affordable housing and 5% social housing. There will be a range of 1, 2, and 3-bedroom homes in different typologies, from townhouses to apartments, ensuring a diversity of housing in Melbourne's growing north.<sup>1</sup>

In December 2022, Riverlee completed Stage 1

 $1\ https://australiandevelopmentreview.com.au/new-epping-residents-welcomed/$ 

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Residences and handed them over to Haven Home Safe, a registered community housing provider to own and manage. Stage 1 Residences consists of 151 well sized 1 and 2-bed apartments designed in accordance with Better Apartment Design Standards and achieving at least a Silver Liveable Housing Australia rating. Overall, the Epping Renewal Site is set to become a thriving, inclusive, and well-connected community with good access to jobs, services, and quality amenities.

"Delivering high-quality, inclusive housing is a central pillar of our vision for New Epping. As the demand for well designed, affordable homes near services and lifestyle amenities continues to grow, Stage 1 Residences marks a significant milestone in realising that commitment. Through our valued partnership with Haven; Home, Safe, we've been able to deliver purpose-built rental housing in a vibrant, connected setting adjacent to our local park and the onsite café, Grounders. Our inaugural residents are the first to experience what will become an increasingly dynamic community as we continue to deliver on the long-term vision for New Epping."

- Ben Rowe, Project Director, Riverlee

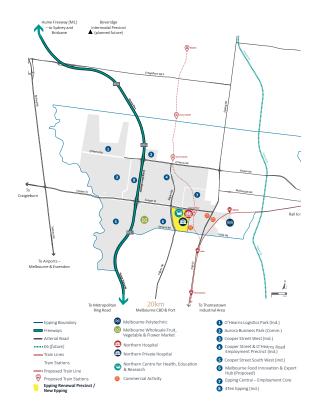


Image 1 Map illustrating project's strategic location

#### **Resident Profiles**



"I love the fact that there is all ages in this building...My new apartment is not just a roof over my head, it's home and I love it" Cathy, New Epping Resident Image and Story supplied by Riverlee



Image 2 Stage 1 apartments by Riverlee managed by Haven Home Safe - internal view



Image 3 Completed Stage 1 apartment complex by Riverlee



"I was surprised to see that it is so modern...One of my favourite things is the community spirit we got here"

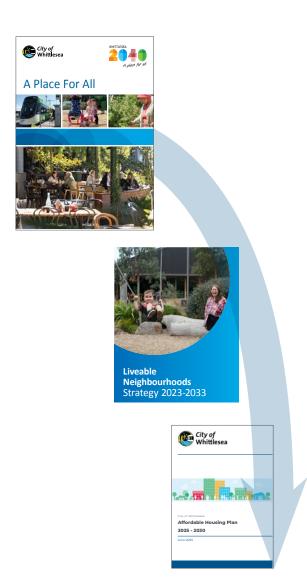
Rex, New Epping Resident

Image and story supplied by Riverlee

## How we developed this plan

### integrated planning framework

To bring together our past success and articulate our future commitment to growing affordable housing supply, this plan has been developed through our Integrated Planning Framework (IPF). The IPF is a three-tiered approach that provides our community with clear information on Council's priorities and our overall strategic direction



**At level 1,** our highest level, Council's long-term community vision Whittlesea 2040: A place for all, includes the need for more affordable housing in the municipality. A home is the foundation for us to participate in our community. City of Whittlesea recognises that housing is a human right that contributes positively to individual and community safety and wellbeing.

At level 2, the Liveable Neighbourhood Strategy (LNS) outlines Council's overall strategic direction across four areas related to liveable neighbourhoods: public space and infrastructure; activity centres; integrated transport; and housing. Key Direction 3: Housing for diverse needs includes social and affordable housing options as a priority for people vulnerable to housing insecurity.

**At level 3,** this plan will implement Council's vision and priority actions relating to increasing the supply of affordable housing to meet the needs of our growing and diverse community

## Our long-standing commitment

City of Whittlesea has a long-standing commitment to increasing the supply of affordable housing in the municipality, having adopted its first Social and Affordable Housing Policy and Strategy in 2012.

#### Achievements

- Amending the Whittlesea Planning
   Scheme to include 5% social housing and
   10% affordable housing in the structure
   planning of any established or greenfield
   housing development.
- Negotiation of over 600 new affordable housing dwellings
- Leasing Council land in Wollert and partnering with a registered community housing provider to deliver 27 new affordable dwellings
- Partnering to facilitate the Hope
   Street youth crises accommodation to support 100 young people experiencing homelessness each year

## Patnering with Council to Deliver Affordable Housing

City of Whittlesea welcomes collaboration with Community Housing Organisation's and developers to help deliver more affordable housing in our municipality. There are several ways to get involved:

**Planning Process:** Developers can work with Council during the planning permit process to incorporate affordable housing into private developments, includin through negotiated planning outcomes under Section 173 agreements.

**Funding Opportunities:** Council supports proposals that making use of innovative designm funding models of Federal and State funding programs. We encourage early engagement to explore how Council can support or facilitate these opportunities.

**Use of Council Land:** Council is exploring opportunities to make suitable land available for affordable housing projects. CHO's and developers interested in partnering on these sites are encouraged to register their interest through future expressions of interest (EOI) processes.

## How the Affordable housing plan aligns with our other strategies?



## What we have heard about affordable housing when developing this plan?

Insights from the Community Insights survey shows that the community believe housing affordability is an issue and that we need affordable housing in our new neighborhoods.



Over 60% of people think affordable housing is an issue in the City of Whittlesea



More than 74% of respondents believe affordable housing should be part of future neighbourhoods



63% of respondents believe Council should advocate for more State and Federal government funding. (Respondents could choose more than one choice)



80% of respondents were homeowners or lived in a home with a mortgage



Young people were more likely to believe affordable housing is a priority than older age groups

# Affordable Housing and Good Design

Good Design enhances the functionality, efficiency, sustainability and overall liveability of neighborhood, street and home.

Good Design ensures that buildings are well-integrated into their surroundings, creating spaces that are not only better connected to their context but also more enjoyable for users. Everyone has the right to feel safe, comfortable, and private in their home. Therefore, it makes both economic and sustainable sense to ensure that affordable housing is designed with the same attention to quality, capitalizing on the community benefits that this essential infrastructure provides

## Key characteristics of a well-designed affordable home:

- Responds to the site context and surrounding urban fabric
- Maximises solar access for natural light and warmth
- Optimises natural ventilation to improve air quality
- Energy-efficient to reduce consumption and
- Reduces the user's carbon footprint through features like solar panels and rainwater tanks
- Utilises locally sourced materials to minimise environmental impact
- Uses durable materials to stand the test of time
- Seamlessly connects indoor and outdoor spaces



- Encourages social connections within the community
- Fit for its intended purpose
- Adaptable floor plans to respond to different needs of residents
- Easy to maintain, operate, and navigate
- Private and quiet
- Creates a pleasurable and comfortable living environment
- Visually appealing and enhances the aesthetic of the area
- Tenure blind where affordable housing is visually indistinguishable from private housing

Research has shown that well-lit spaces contribute to better mental health, with users of such spaces reporting lower instances of depression and anxiety. A well-designed, naturally lit home feels more spacious and promotes comfort.<sup>1</sup> Thermal comfort is equally important, helping to reduce illness and even prevent fatalities, particularly among vulnerable populations.<sup>2</sup> It also cuts down on energy costs associated with heating and cooling. Additionally, accessible, and usable outdoor spaces encourage movement and recreation, supporting the well-being of residents, especially children. Ultimately, good design elevates the entire neighbourhood. It enhances community amenity, fosters civic pride, and nurtures a sense of belonging, which contributes to greater social cohesion. Well-designed affordable housing can improve street safety by increasing natural surveillance. It even has the potential to set a high design standard for surrounding developments to aspire to.

Good Design | ovga.vic.gov.au

<sup>2</sup> The case for good design: Housing | ovga.vic.gov.au

## **Policy Statements**

The following policy statements define Council's role and values in addressing unmet affordable housing need. These statements help guide our priorities for action and how we will measure our progress.

#### Housing is a human right

The City of Whittlesea affirms that housing is a fundamental human need that contributes to individual and community safety and wellbeing<sup>1</sup>. Affordable housing for very low, low and moderate-income households is essential community infrastructure, important to the diversity of neighbourhoods, social cohesion and community prosperity. We are committed to working in partnership to encourage and facilitate affordable housing outcomes that meet the diverse needs of our current and future population.

This plan is underpinned by a human rights framework and local government's obligations under the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006, reflecting that the provision of adequate housing is an essential human need.

## Housing insecurity disproportionally affects some groups more than others

Every person has a right to safe, affordable and appropriate housing to enable their participation in community life. People across all life stages can find themselves in need of affordable housing at any time. While there are many households within the City of Whittlesea that need affordable housing, there are some people who are particularly vulnerable to housing insecurity or may find it more difficult to find stable, affordable and appropriate housing. These groups include younger and older people, women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, people living with disability and LGBTQI+1 communities. Young adults aged 25 to 34 was the group with the greatest number of people experiencing homelessness overall (25,504 people). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing homelessness saw an increase of more than 6% with the majority living in severely crowded dwellings. Rates of homelessness for young women aged 12-24 increased from 68 out of every 10,000 in 2016 up to 70 out of every 10,000 in 2021<sup>2</sup>.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Article 11, United Nations: Human Rights

<sup>1</sup> LGBTQI+ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, asexual and other sexually or gender diverse people 2 2021 Census data - www.ahuri.edu.au

Across Australia, 11.2% of people with disability live in unaffordable housing compared to 7.6% of people without a disability and 7.9% rely on social housing compared to just 1.5% of people without disability<sup>1,2</sup> Youth homelessness providers commonly estimate that at least 25 per cent of all homelessness clients are LGBTIQ+, with an increasing number of trans clients in recent years<sup>2</sup>.

## State and Federal Governments have primary responsibility for addressing housing affordability

Council is committed to increasing supply of affordable housing in the municipality, however the primary responsibility for this rests with the State and Federal governments as defined in the *Victorian Housing Act 1983* and the *Commonwealth Housing Australia Act 2018*. State and Federal governments have the authority for coordinated and larger scale market interventions than local government.

## Whittlesea will model best practice affordable housing delivery on its own projects

We are committed to demonstrating best practice housing development in the municipality. We will apply standardised guidelines that balance social, commercial, environmental, and design outcomes in all our residential projects. This will include maximising affordable housing outcomes by examining the inclusion of a minimum provision of 5% social and 10% affordable housing on every project that includes housing on Council land.

#### **Council will partner with Community Housing**

## Organisations to deliver new affordable housing

CHOs have become the key delivery agents of affordable housing in Victoria. CHOs are a diverse group of not-for-profit companies that have been providing affordable rental homes for over 30-years. The sector now manages some 20,000 affordable homes across the State. In any project on its own land, Council will partner with CHOs to deliver and manage affordable housing. Council will continue to build on its previous commitment of offering CHOs discounts of 15-20% on market price (on a case by case basis) for the sale of land and access to long-term discounted leases.

## Everyone has a role to play in increasing supply of affordable housing

It is not just government and the not-for-profit sector that is responsible for delivering new affordable housing. The private sector and the community both must play their key roles to increase supply of affordable housing in the long term.

The private sector must deliver new development that is diverse, inclusive, and affordable so that our municipality is a place for everyone. Council will work with developers to encourage 15% of all new housing to be affordable housing to meet future demand. Communities play a vital role in creating sustainable neighbourhoods and must become advocates for affordable housing to help meet this growing need.

<sup>1</sup> https://credh.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/HOUS-ING-AFFORDABILITY-FACTSHEET.pdf

<sup>2</sup> https://homelessnessaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uloads/2023/10/LGBTIQ-people-notes.pdf

### **Our Priorities**

To respond to the increasing demand for affordable housing in the municipality, City of Whittlesea will focus its work within three key directions



#### 1. Research and Advocacy

- Continue to research current and future housing need and affordability trends to inform future need
- Advocate for increased public and private investment in affordable housing.
- Advocate to State Government for stronger mandatory Affordable Housing provisions within the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.
- Advocate to utilise State Government owned land for Affordable Housing Projects

#### • Why is this important?

High quality and up-to-date research can help Council understand current and future housing demand and trends, allowing it to tailor its work program and advocacy for the highest need.



#### 2. Partner and incentivise

- Work with the community, developers, and relevant stakeholders to foster a greater understanding of the essential role affordable housing plays in building cohesive communities and great neighbourhood.
- Collaborate with registered Community
   Housing Organisations to support their efforts in delivering affordable housing.
- Partner with neighbouring and interface Local Governments, including Hume City Council and Mitchell Shire Council, and through the Inter-Council Affordable Housing Forum, to address housing challenges regionally.
- Explore cost reduction avenues to support
   Community Housing Organisations to provide
   more affordable housing and to encourage
   more developments to include an affordable
   housing component.

#### • Why is this important?

Partnering with key stakeholders across the industry enables us to combine resources, knowledge and skillsets within the local area to tackle the availability and affordability of housing. This can include:

- Being part of, or leading, a local or regional housing working group
- Sharing ideas, research and resources with other local stakeholders like developers, CHOs and other councils
- Connecting local stakeholders like developers, CHOs and potential funding partners

#### 3. Facilitate and deliver

- Proactively pursue Federal and State funding opportunities to deliver affordable housing in our municipality.
- Encourage affordable housing to be located in proximity of a network of metropolitan, major and neighbourhood activity centres.
- Review Council's property portfolio to identify a pipeline of priority sites that are suitable for affordable housing.
- Investigate long-term ownership and operating models for Council led delivery of affordable housing.

#### • Why is this important?

Both as a landowner and Responsible Authority, Council plays an influential role in the quantity and quality of homes that get built across our municipality. Council can encourage the development of social and affordable housing both within its own land through the private sector and not for profit sector.





## **Action plan**

The tables below highlight the strategic actions Council will take to achieve our goal to increase the supply of affordable housing. In delivering the action plan, Council's role may vary depending on the type of action. Council's role may include:

- Influence To positively impact change by inspiring or guiding others through advocacy, relationship-building, and the fostering of trust, without directly driving the change.
- Partner To collaborate seamlessly with other organisations or agencies, pooling resources and expertise to achieve a shared objective.
- Deliver To take responsibility for an action, ensuring its successful completion on time, within scope, and on budget.

Some actions are already part of Council's everyday operations. These will be categorised as 'Business As Usual (BAU)' and new actions will be categorised as 'New'.

#### **Priority 1: Research and Advocacy**

Actions	Category	Role	0-12 months	1-3 years	3 Years+
Continue to commission and regularly update data projections to understand future need of affordable housing across the municipality.	BAU	Deliver		<b>/</b>	
Advocate to Commonwealth and State governments for additional funding for affordable housing in City of Whittlesea, including specific funding for projects on Council land	BAU	Influence	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<b>/</b>
Advocate for changes to the planning system to better facilitate new affordable housing development, including inclusionary zoning and Local Government exemptions to the Windfall Gains Tax.	BAU	Influence	/	/	/
Advocate to the State Government to use underutilised State land in the municipality for affordable housing.	BAU	Influence	<u> </u>	<b>/</b>	/

## **Priority 2: Partner and Incentivise**

Actions	Category	Role	0-12 months	1-3 years	3 Years+
Design and implement a comprehensive community education campaign to enhance public understanding of affordable housing, foster greater acceptance, and strengthen social licence	New	Partner	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<b>/</b>
Conduct tailored engagement with the community housing industry to seek insight on how to ensure Council's work program is accessible to all players (big and small) within the industry. This will include investigation into the establishment of a panel of CHO's that can deliver housing in the City of Whittlesea	New	Partner Deliver	<b>/</b>	<b>/</b>	
Build partnerships with community housing organisations that enable choice for at risk communities including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Young people, LBTQIA+, Women over 55 and People living with a disability.	BAU	Partner Deliver	<b>/</b>	<u> </u>	
Work collaboratively with neighbouring Councils and share information and knowledge through advocacy, research and projects to increase the supply of affordable housing in Melbourne's North	BAU	Partner Influence	<b>/</b>	<u> </u>	<b>/</b>
Conduct a fair and transparent process with Community Housing Organization's to address Affordable Housing needs on Council owned land, inviting them to propose solutions through a Request for Proposal process	New	Partner Deliver	<b>/</b>	<u> </u>	
Actively engage with peak bodies to build and share knowledge of affordable housing advocacy, research, and delivery models.	BAU	Partner	<b>/</b>	<u></u>	<b>/</b>
Investigate the feasibility of Council rates reduction and rebate options for Community Housing Organisations	New	Partner	<u></u>		

Actions	Category	Role	0-12 months	1-3 years	3 Years+
Investigate funding mechanisms to enable a sustainable source of funding to facilitate and deliver affordable housing. Investigation will include establishment of a trust and/or reserve for affordable housing.	BAU	Deliver		/	
Consider the sale of suitable underutilised or surplus Council land on a case-by-case basis at a discount to market price to a Community Housing Organisations for the development of affordable housing	BAU	Deliver	/	/	<b>\</b>

# **Priority 3: facilitate and deliver**

Actions	Category	Role	0-12 months	1-3 years	3 Years+
Proactively pursue commonwealth and state funding opportunities to deliver affordable housing. Including but not limited to: Social Housing Growth Fund Housing Australia Future Fund Housing Support Program	New	Partner Deliver	<b>/</b>	<u> </u>	<b>/</b>
Investigate options to strengthen policy in the City of Whittlesea's planning scheme to better negotiate affordable housing contributions early in the planning process	New	Influence Deliver	/	/	/
Undertake strategic assessments of Council land to identify a pipeline of priority sites for affordable housing projects.	New	Deliver Partner	<b>/</b>		
Where appropriate, ensure that when divesting council owned land, Council encourages affordable housing contributions (via section 173 agreements or otherwise)	New	Deliver	/	/	<b>/</b>
Conduct feasibility investigations or innovative affordable housing delivery methods including use of air rights above council owned buildings and car parks	New	Deliver		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Develop criteria relating to housing type, location and tenancy management to support the prioritisation of at-risk groups on affordable housing projects, including on Council owned land	New	Deliver Partner	/	/	<b>/</b>
Investigate long-term ownership and operating models for Council led delivery of affordable housing	New	Deliver Partner		<b>/</b>	<b>/</b>
Consult with owners and/or developers of suitable vacant land regarding how to promote the development of these sites to include 10% affordable and/or 5% social housing	BAU	Influence	<b>/</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>/</b>

ACTION PLAN 31

#### **Measuring our Progress**

#### **Key direction 1: Research and Advocacy**

- Updated advocacy narrative based on new research
- Improved understanding of need by suburb and household type
- Improved strategic development project business cases with better targeted outcomes and objectives
- Utilise updated research data in all relevant business cases and advocacy work
- Development of a standard narrative to be used across advocacy platforms
- Secure funding from State and Federal government for an Affordable Housing initiative
- Develop best practice guide for Affordable Housing projects that are easily scalable and replicable

#### Key direction 2: Partner and incentivise

- Increased knowledge of the community housing industry and its needs
- Improved community awareness and understanding of affordable housing and for the need in the community
- Strengthened partnerships with Community Housing Organisations and other local governments

- Conduct Community Housing Organisations Market Sounding Sessions
- Conduct educational community engagement through pop up sessions/flyers or Council's bimonthly newsletter Local Scoop

#### Key Direction 3: Facilitate and delivery

- Delivery of affordable housing on Council land
- Application of standardised criteria to investigate social and affordable housing on council owned sites
- Develop a pipeline of projects suitable for inclusion of social and affordable housing
- Increase in successful developer negotiation outcomes
- Delivery of Wollert Project
- Facilitate affordable housing outcome at Mernda residential project
- Develop standardised criteria for the investigation of social and affordable housing on council owned sites
- Prioritise affordable housing pre-application enquiries to accelerate statutory advice timeframes.



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Website whittlesea.vic.gov.au
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City of Whittlesea Locked Bag

Bundoora MDC VIC 3083

Phone: 9217 2170

National Relay Service: 133 677
(ask for 9217 2170)

For help with this strategy in your preferred language contact

Free telephone interpreter service 131 450 \$\frac{1}{2}\$



# **Affordable Housing Plan**

**Youth Councillor Briefing Presentation**7 July 2025



# Agenda





- Affordable housing context
- Whittlesea snapshot
- Affordable Housing Plan
  - Policy context
  - Our goal
  - Engagement
  - Our role
  - Short-term actions
- Next steps

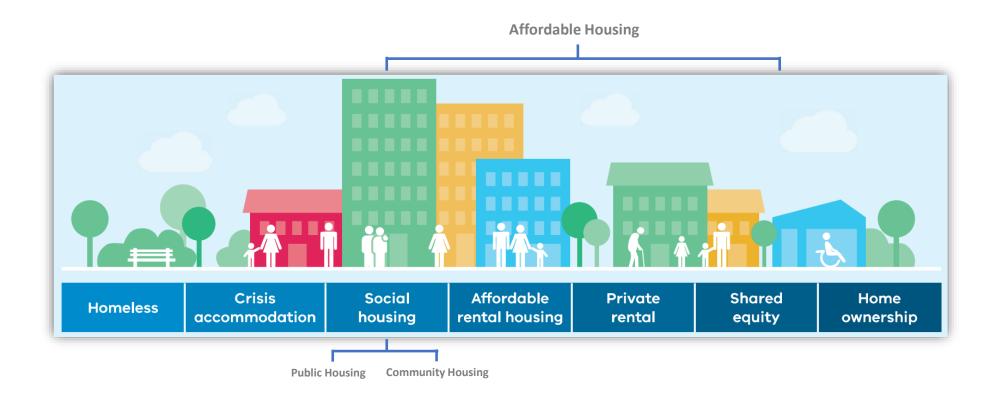


New Epping – 151 Affordable Homes

# Affordable housing context - definitions







# High level issues







The lack of affordable housing is a national economic and social issue.



By 2041 the number of households in the City of Whittlesea with an unmet need is projected to rise from 5,418 (6.1%) to 8,942 (8.1%).



Demand is growing faster than supply.



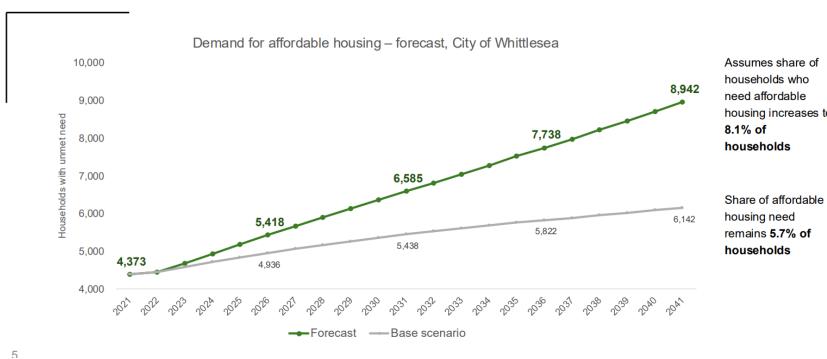
City of Whittlesea has a role to play in delivering affordable housing to its community.

# Whittlesea snapshot – affordable housing demand





## There is a significant unmet need for affordable housing in the City of Whittlesea:



housing increases to

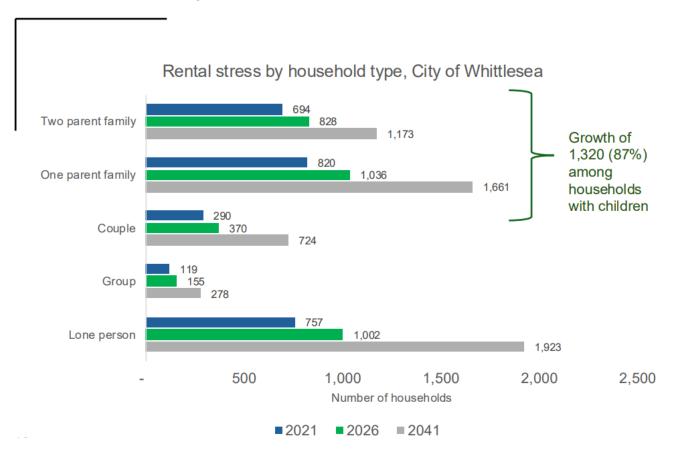
Rental stress is calculated by halving the total number of very low-, low- and moderate-income households spending 30% or more of household income on rent.

# Whittlesea snapshot – affordable housing demand





## Families make up half of households in rental stress



#### **Assumptions:**

- By 2041 over 2,800 one and two parent families (~49%) are expected to be in long term rental stress.
- Lone person households will see the fastest growth in rental stress, makin gup one third of affected households.
- This increase is driven by factors such as an ageing population, more people living alone, and a shortage of affordable rental properties for single income households.

# Affordable Housing Plan

2025 - 2030





## We have been here before...





- We have several policy documents that influence the delivery of affordable housing
- The 2012-2016 plan was incredibly forward thinking and has continued to guide our work
- Our key achievements since 2016:
  - Updating our planning scheme
  - 151 affordable housing at New Epping
  - Ashline Street



# **Current Policy context**





## **Federal Policy**

- Taxation setting
- Funding States' investment in affordable housing
- Implementing the Housing Accord
- National Housing and Homelessness Plan (in development)

# **State Policy**

- Public Housing construction and management, through Homes Vic
- Planning schemes and decisions on some developments
- Implementing the Housing Statement, which aims to greatly increase supply in priority areas including Epping



# **Current Policy context**





#### Level 1, Whittlesea 2040:

A place for all, includes the need for more affordable housing in the municipality

Level 2, Liveable Neighbourhood Strategy Council's strategic direction across public space and infrastructure; activity centres; integrated transport; and housing.

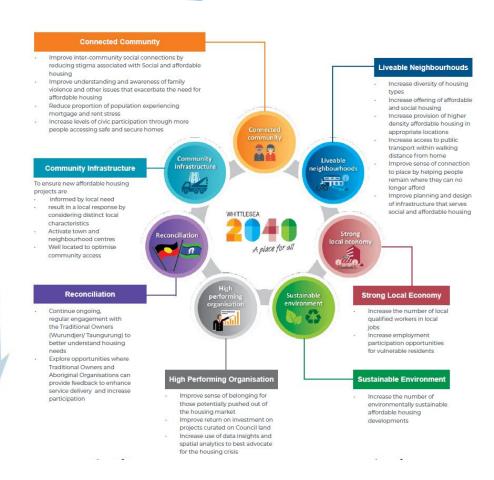


Key Direction 3: Housing for diverse needs includes social and affordable housing options as a priority

**Level 3,** this plan will implement Council's vision and priority actions relating to increasing the supply of affordable housing to meet the needs of our growing and diverse community







# Why do we need an Affordable Housing Plan?





Bring our workstreams together

Build on past success and adapt our workstream to the contemporary context

More people in housing that is affordable

Grow the affordable housing stock, enhance community connections and resilience

Funding opportunities

Pipeline of projects ready for funding opportunities

Debunk myths on affordable housing

Work with community to educate and build understanding of affordable housing

#### You may hear...

"Affordable Housing lowers property prices"

"Affordable Housing increases crime"

"Council should make property prices lower"

"Council should build more public housing"

# **Affordable Housing - Myth Busting**







"The social stigma of community housing is not the reality. We just want somewhere safe to live and flourish"

- Jasmine, Community Housing Renter



Homes in Preston - HCA



29 Homes in Relmont - HC

# **Our Goal**





# "To increase supply of affordable housing in the City of Whittlesea so that more people can access the housing they need"



"I love the fact that there is all ages in this building...My new apartment is not just a roof over my head, it's home and I love it" Cathy, New Epping Resident Image and Story supplied by Riverlee



"I was surprised to see that it is so modern...
One of my favourite things is the community spirit we got here"
Rex, New Epping Resident
Image and story supplied by Riverlee

# **Community Insights Survey**

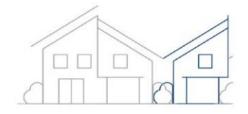




### This is what we heard...



Over 60% of people think affordable housing is an issue in the City of Whittlesea



74% believe affordable housing should be part of future neighbourhoods



63% believe Council should advocate for more state and federal government funding



Young people were more likely to believe affordable housing is a priority



80% of respondents were homeowners or lived in a home with a mortgage

# **Our Role**







#### **Research and Advocacy**

- Advocacy is essential as Federal and State Government bear the primary responsibilities.
- High quality data and research will help tailor our advocacy program.



#### **Partner and Incentivise**

 Partnering with key stakeholders enables us to combine resources, and expertise to address housing availability and affordability.



#### **Facilitate and Deliver**

 As a landowner and Responsible Authority, Council influences housing outcomes and can promote social and affordable housing development through the private sector and the notfor-profit sector.

## **Short-term Actions**







#### Research & Advocacy

- Advocate for additional funding, including specific funding for projects on Council land.
- Advocate for changes to the planning system including inclusionary zoning and exemptions to Windfall Gains Tax.
- Advocate to use underutilised State land in the municipality for affordable housing.



#### **Partner & Incentivise**

- Run a community education campaign to enhance understanding and acceptance of affordable housing.
- · Explore the feasibility of Council rates reduction for CHOs to deliver more housing.
- Build partnerships with CHOs and service providers that enable choice for at risk communities.



#### **Facilitate & Deliver**

- Assess Council land to identify priority sites for affordable housing projects.
- Invite CHOs to propose partnership housing solutions through a formal process.
- Strengthen Whittlesea's planning scheme to better negotiate affordable housing contributions.

# **Next steps**





#### **Timeline**

- Council Meeting 19 August 2025
- Community feedback
- Future Council Meeting for adoption



Artist Impression: Ashline Street – Affordable housing on Council owned land



#### 4.2 Raising Children & Young People 2026 Program Development

**Director/Executive Manager:** Director Community Wellbeing

**Report Author:** Unit Manager Early Years Services & Inclusion

In Attendance: Manager Children & Families

Unit Manager Early Years Services & Inclusion

Coordinator Access & Engagement Education & Engagement Facilitator

#### **Key Highlights**

City of Whittlesea's Raising Children and Young People program is developed annually by the Children & Families Department, and provides a 12-month calendar of events, and programs aimed at supporting capacity of parents of children and young people aged 0-19.

Officers are currently developing the 2026 program and are in the consultation phase with various stakeholders. As part of this process, we are seeking to engage with Youth Council to help inform the program

#### Officers' Recommendation

#### **THAT the Youth Council:**

- 1. Provide feedback on the workshop questions and content ideas to inform the development of the 2026 Raising Children and Young People program.
- 2. Provide feedback on the current trends of where parents may benefit from support in parenting.
- 3. Provide ideas on local services who can support parents and carers and work in partnership with our Children and Families Department.

#### **Attachments**

1. Raising Children and Young People Youth Council Presentation [4.2.1 - 10 pages]

# **Children and Families**

Training and Education presentation to Youth Council June 2025





# You of the future







# Agenda





- •★ What we do Supporting families and community
- Why we are here Your expertise and voice matters





# **Planning for our presentation**





Below is the link to the current program, we will also bring hard copies on the night raising-children-and-young-people2025\_web.pdf



The workshop questions on **slide 10** are where we would like to hear from you



Please look through program before we meet on Monday 7 July and consider the questions we have put to you



We will workshop these questions on the evening



# Raising Children and Young People program





Program has been running for over 14 years

All sessions and events in the program are FREE

Aim is to supports parenting capacity and foster positive parent child relationships

Our target audience is families with children and young people ages 0 – 19 years

Between 2021 – 2025 we offered 50 sessions targeting parents of young people aged 12 – 18 years (average of 10 per year)



# **Previous programs**





Free Drug and Alcohol information session years

Parenting teens in creative ways

Supporting your LGBTIQA+ and nonbinary young person

Tuning in to teens



# **Previous programs**









# The Youth Development Team Community Youth Services Expo



Tuesday 5 March, 2pm – 6pm EDGE Youth Facility, Westfield Plenty Valley (between The Pancake Parlour and Hearing Australia)

9217 2170 (ask for Youth Development)

■ Baseline@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Meet the Youth Development Team in a fun Community
Expo full of activities and opportunities to learn about how the
City of Whittlesea Youth Service supports local young people.

#### Young people

Try out our DJ decks and learn about how you can get involved in our FReeZA youth music and creative arts program. Hear from Youth Council representatives about how young people can get involved in having an active role in Council programs and decisions.

#### Families, Carers and Services

Connect with Youth Development staff, learn about our work to provide services and activities for local young people.

Bookings not required

Facilitated by the Youth Development Team

# **Innovative engagement**







Bringing up kids

# 2026 Over to you







"If parents went to a parenting group to learn and grow, what kinds of topics do you think they should talk about or learn to better support young people in their lives?"

"How else can our program align with your key actions to support parents caring for children and young people?"

"Can you suggest any local youth-focused services or programs we could partner with to also reach and support parents or carers?"









#### 4.3 Child Friendly Cities & Communities Upcoming Forum Opportunity

**Director/Executive Manager:** Director Community Wellbeing

**Report Author:** Unit Manager Early Years Services & Inclusion

In Attendance: Manager Children & Families

Unit Manager Early Years Services & Inclusion

Coordinator Access & Engagement Education & Engagement Facilitator

#### **Key Highlights**

The City of Whittlesea is a signatory to the Child Friendly Cities and Communities (CFCC) Charter and sit on the CFCC advisory group as a representative.

The CFCC are holding their annual forum on Thursday 4 September 2025, and the theme of the 2025 forum is Shared Futures: Communities that Listen to Children.

An invitation to attend and be part of an expert panel of guest speakers is being extended for two Youth Council representatives.

#### Officers' Recommendation

#### **THAT the Youth Council:**

- 1. Identify two members that have capacity to attend the Child Friendly Cities and Communities forum and participate as expert panel members.
- 2. Advise the Councillor Support Officer by Friday 11 July 2025 who has been selected to attend and participate in the forum.

#### **Attachments**

1. Youth Council Presentation Child Friendly Cities and Community (2) [4.3.1 - 9 pages]

# **Child Friendly Cities and Community Forum**

Request for Youth Council attendance and participation





# Why we are here







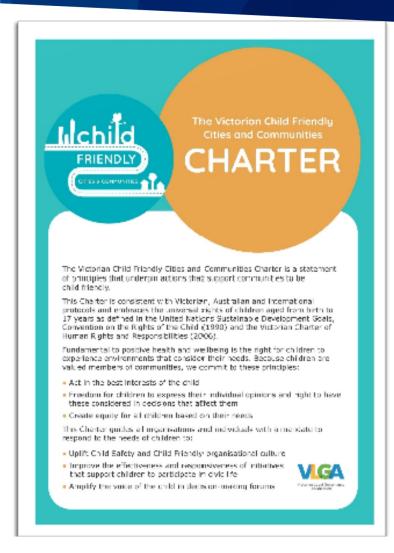
To let you know about the Child Friendly Cities and Communities Forum and the opportunity for a Youth Council member to attend and be part of a panel discussion



# What is Child Friendly Cities and Communities (CFCC)?







- Amplifies the rights of children (0-17YO), in legislation, engagement, planning/built environment, decision making.
- City of Whittlesea is a signatory to the CFCC.
- Supported by the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA)
- <u>Child Friendly Cities and Communities</u> (<u>CFCC</u>) | <u>VLGA</u> | <u>Victorian Local</u> Governance Association
- <u>Victorian child-friendly cities and communities charter</u> | <u>City of Whittlesea</u>

# **VLGA Child Friendly Cities and Communities Forum**







#### **Child Friendly Cities and Communities Forum**

- Bringing together individuals, organisations and communities to empower children as active and engaged citizens, ensuring their voices are heard and valued
- Keynote speakers
- A space to raise children's voices and strengthen our collective commitment to fostering child-friendly communities
- Shared Futures: Communities that listen to children. Thursday 4th September







# **VLGA Child Friendly Cities and Communities Forum**









#### When?

- > Thursday 4 September 2025
- Approximately 9am-2pm



#### Where?

Boutique Hotels Melbourne CBD | View Melbourne



#### What?

Your expert voice on the panel of discussion with:

- Meena Singh Acting Principal Commissioner and Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People
- > Dr Wendy Bunston Lecturer Latrobe University

# Is this Forum worth your time?









# On the day

















Attend the Forum

Listen to Speakers

Be expert panel members to answer both:

- > Set questions
- > Audience member questions

Enjoy a yummy, free lunch







Are you interested to attend with your expertise as citizens of Victoria?

Can you commit to the day and times?









- Notices of MotionNo Notices of Motion
- 6 General / Urgent Business
- 7 Closure