



**City of  
Whittlesea**

# Minutes

Youth Council Meeting  
Monday 7 July 2025 at 6pm

Council Chamber at Civic Centre,  
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

Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Bobbie-Lea Bright

Unit Manager Compliance & Governance

## Order of Business

1 Opening .....	4
1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions.....	4
1.2 Apologies/Absent .....	4
1.3 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement .....	4
1.4 Youth Council Charter .....	4
1.5 Acknowledgements .....	5
2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest.....	6
3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s .....	6
4 Officers' Reports .....	7
4.1 Draft Affordable Housing Plan .....	7
4.2 Raising Children & Young People 2026 Program Development .....	9
4.3 Child Friendly Cities & Communities Upcoming Forum Opportunity .....	11
5 Notices of Motion .....	13
6 General / Urgent Business .....	13
7 Closure .....	13

## **1 Opening**

### **1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions**

The Youth Mayor opened the meeting at 6pm.

Welcome to this Youth Council Meeting of 7 July 2025 which is being held in person in the Council Chamber at Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang.

I am Kaynat Virk, Youth Mayor and I would like to introduce the Youth Councillors in attendance tonight:

Emily Tricarico, Deputy Youth Mayor  
Angelica Banquil  
Mustafa Khraim  
Zachary Melvaine  
Angela Rolevska  
Tanya Sharma  
Sandy Tran  
Elly Watson  
Osama Akkad  
Sophie Winter

We also have in attendance Jacinta Stevens, Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

### **1.2 Apologies/Absent**

#### **Apology:**

Youth Cr Bavleen Kaur

### **1.3 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement**

The Youth Mayor 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 Youth Council Charter**

The Youth Mayor read the following Youth Council Charter:

*"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**

The Youth Mayor made the following acknowledgements:

### **Welcome Osama Akkad**

I'd like to formally welcome Osama Akkad to the City of Whittlesea Youth Council. Osama is a strong believer in young people deserving a say in the decisions that affect our lives and futures. He is passionate about social justice, inclusion and ensuring that all voices, especially those from underrepresented backgrounds are heard and valued. We look forward to having you on Youth Council Osama. I'd like to also thank outgoing Youth Council member Esha Serai for her contribution.

### **Olivine Community Group**

On 5 June, the Deputy Youth Mayor Emily Tricarico and I, attended a meeting hosted by the Olivine Community Group in Donnybrook.

We spoke about the Youth Council, its structure, purpose and the work we do within the Council and the wider community.

The group expressed strong interest in our model, as they are exploring the possibility of establishing a similar initiative, such as a youth advisory committee, in their area. It was encouraging to see their enthusiasm and commitment to youth engagement.

We were also invited to stay for the rest of the meeting and were incredibly impressed by the work being done by the Olivine Community Group.

In a growing and developing area, they are leading the way in fostering inclusion, connection and local pride through a range of community events and support services.

It was fantastic to witness their dedication to creating a place for all.

### **Regional Sports Precinct**

On 26 June, Youth Councillor Sophie Winter and I attended a ceremony to mark the start of the second stage of the regional sports precinct at Mernda.

The \$42.14 million second stage of the regional sports precinct will deliver an indoor stadium with multipurpose courts and outdoor netball courts with lighting.

It will also feature a range of supporting infrastructure for players and staff, including changerooms, an outdoor pavilion and car park.

The regional sports precinct will help to meet the rapidly rising demand for quality sporting facilities in the City of Whittlesea's booming northern suburbs.

Both the Federal and State governments have contributed substantial funds towards the project.

**Youth Expo**

On 29 June, Youth Councillor Mustafa Khraim and I hosted a table at the Youth Expo held at the Kirrip Community Centre.

We engaged with community members to promote the Youth Council and gather insights by asking, “What’s impacting your mental health?”

The responses will help guide future campaigns that address key issues affecting our local youth.

While the expo was a small and quiet event, it provided a valuable opportunity to connect with the community and hear their perspectives.

**2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

No declarations.

**3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s****COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Youth Cr Angela Rolevska</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Youth Cr Elly Watson</i>

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

**CARRIED**

## 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.

*Youth Cr Mustafa Khraim moved the Officer's recommendation as the motion:*

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Youth Cr Mustafa Khraim</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Youth Cr Angela Rolevska</i>

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.

**CARRIED**

### YOUTH COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

*Youth Cr Angela Rolevska*

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
<i>Youth Cr Emily Tricarico</i> <i>Youth Cr Angelica Banquil</i> <i>Youth Cr Mustafa Khraim</i> <i>Youth Cr Zachary Melvaine</i> <i>Youth Cr Angela Rolevska</i> <i>Youth Cr Tanya Sharma</i> <i>Youth Cr Sandy Tran</i> <i>Youth Cr Elly Watson</i> <i>Youth Cr Osama Akkad</i> <i>Youth Cr Sophie Winter</i> <i>Youth Cr Kaynat Virk</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>



## 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.

*Youth Cr Mustafa Khraim moved the Officer's recommendation as the motion:*

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Youth Cr Mustafa Khraim</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Youth Cr Tanya Sharma</i>

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.

**CARRIED****YOUTH COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION***Youth Cr Mustafa Khraim*

<b>VOTING</b>		
<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>ABSTAINED</b>
<i>Youth Cr Emily Tricarico</i> <i>Youth Cr Angelica Banquil</i> <i>Youth Cr Mustafa Khraim</i> <i>Youth Cr Zachary Melvaine</i> <i>Youth Cr Angela Rolevska</i> <i>Youth Cr Tanya Sharma</i> <i>Youth Cr Sandy Tran</i> <i>Youth Cr Elly Watson</i> <i>Youth Cr Osama Akkad</i> <i>Youth Cr Sophie Winter</i> <i>Youth Cr Kaynat Virk</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

### 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.

*Youth Cr Mustafa Khraim moved the Officer's recommendation as the motion:*

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
<b>Moved:</b>	<i>Youth Cr Mustafa Khraim</i>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<i>Youth Cr Emily Tricarico</i>

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.

**CARRIED**

**YOUTH COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION**

*Nil*

**VOTING**

<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>ABSTAINED</b>
<i>Youth Cr Emily Tricarico</i> <i>Youth Cr Angelica Banquil</i> <i>Youth Cr Mustafa Khraim</i> <i>Youth Cr Zachary Melvaine</i> <i>Youth Cr Angela Rolevska</i> <i>Youth Cr Tanya Sharma</i> <i>Youth Cr Sandy Tran</i> <i>Youth Cr Elly Watson</i> <i>Youth Cr Osama Akkad</i> <i>Youth Cr Sophie Winter</i> <i>Youth Cr Kaynat Virk</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

**5 Notices of Motion**

No Notices of Motion

**6 General / Urgent Business**

No Urgent Business

**7 Closure**

There being no further business the Youth Mayor formally closed the meeting at 7:07pm.

Confirmed this on 4th day of August 2025.

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Youth Cr Kaynat Virk  
Youth Mayor