



Minutes

Scheduled Council Meeting

Tuesday 14 October 2025 at 6pm

Council Chamber,
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang



**City of
Whittlesea**

Councillors

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

Executive Leadership Team

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

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1 Opening

1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions

The Chair, Cr Martin Taylor opened the meeting and introduced the Councillors and Chief Executive Officer:

“Welcome to this Scheduled Council Meeting of 14 October 2025 which is being held in person in the Council Chamber at Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang and also being livestreamed.

I am Cr Martin Taylor, Mayor of the City of Whittlesea and I would like to introduce our Councillors in attendance tonight.

Cr Daniela Zinni, Deputy Mayor, Cr Nic Brooks, Cr Blair Colwell, Cr Michael Labrador, Cr Jarrod Lappin, Cr David Lenberg, Cr Christine Stow. We also have attending virtually Cr Deb Gunn.

I would also like to introduce our Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd and ask that members of the Executive Leadership Team be introduced.

The Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd introduced members of the Executive Leadership Team:

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

1.2 Apology

Cr Lawrie Cox

1.3 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement

The Chair read the following statement:

“On behalf of Council, I recognise the rich Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledge the Wurundjeri Willum Clan and Taungurung People as the Traditional Owners of lands within the City of Whittlesea.

I would also like to acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging.”

1.4 Diversity and Good Governance Statement

The Chair read the following statement:

“At the City of Whittlesea we are proud of our diversity and the many cultures, faiths and beliefs that make up our community. We strive to be an inclusive welcoming City that fosters active participation, wellbeing and connection to each other and this land. We commit as a Council to making informed decisions to benefit the people of the City of Whittlesea now and into the future, to support our community’s vision of A Place For All.”

Suspension of Standing Orders

The Chair, Cr Taylor sought a procedural motion to suspend standing orders to enable Cr Labrador to undertake the ceremonial signing of the Oath of Office.

PROCEDURAL MOTION	
Moved:	Cr Stow
Seconded:	Cr Colwell

THAT standing orders be suspended to enable Cr Labrador to undertake a ceremonial signing of the Oath of Office.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Standing orders were suspended at 6:03pm.

The Chair, Cr Taylor sought a procedural motion to resume standing orders.

PROCEDURAL MOTION	
Moved:	Cr Zinni
Seconded:	Cr Stow

THAT standing orders be resumed

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Standing orders resumed at 6:05pm.

1.5 Acknowledgements

The following acknowledgements were made:

Biodiversity Month 2025

Last month, we celebrated Biodiversity Month and a major milestone for the ReLeaf Project at bunjil nganga Parkland, Quarry Hills.

Together, we have planted more than 25,000 indigenous plants across 44 hectares of parkland. These new plantings will help restore and strengthen local ecosystems by providing vital food and shelter for endangered species.

A huge thank you to everyone involved, from local schools, community groups, dedicated volunteers and partners who rolled up their sleeves to make this possible.

Bringing up Kids Expo

Last week on 2 October was the Bringing Up Kids Expo; a fantastic event that brought together local families, community agencies and early years providers. This Expo offers parents and carers access to valuable information, resources and programs available across our municipality, while giving children a fun and engaging day of activities. Events like this play an important role in strengthening family connections and ensuring every child in the City of Whittlesea has the best possible start in life.

Seniors Festival

Last Thursday myself and fellow councillors joined 400 older residents who came together for the launch of the Seniors Festival at Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre. Guests enjoyed a performance of Elvis Forever by Damian Mullin, and a chance to reconnect with friends. It was a great morning, and I thank all Council teams involved in the event.

The annual Victoria Seniors Festival is a month-long celebration of our senior community running throughout October with a range of activities available to join. The festival is more than just a program of events though, it's about connection, celebration and ensuring our older residents feel valued, included and supported.

Emergency Services Expo and 29th Annual Blessing of the Emergency Services Fleet

On Saturday 4 October Council hosted the Emergency Services Expo and 29th Annual Blessing of the Emergency Services Fleet at Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre here at Civic. It was great to see so many community members come together for this free community event.

The Mernda Park and Epping Primary School Choir performed, and a special multi-faith ceremony brought together emergency services personnel, faith leaders and the community to bless the vehicles and equipment used to respond to emergencies in the season ahead.

Biketober

Council is also proud to support Biketober. Which is timely for me to mention as tomorrow is National Ride to Work Day.

Hosted by Love to Ride, Biketober is a friendly, fun and free challenge designed to get more people riding and reaping the environmental, health and wellbeing benefits.

2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No declarations.

3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s**Recommendation**

THAT Council confirm the minutes of the Scheduled Council Meeting held on 23 September 2025, as circulated.

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

THAT Council confirm the minutes of the Scheduled Council Meeting held on 23 September 2025, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4 Public Questions, Petitions and Joint Letters

4.1 Public Question Time

Nick Brain of Epping

What is Council doing to ensure Findon Road is safe to use and fit for purpose for road users now and into the future?

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

Thank you for your question.

Findon Road is a key east–west link within our road network, connecting the Hume Freeway to Plenty Road. Given its strategic importance, Council considers that Findon Road meets the definition of an arterial road and continues to advocate for its formal declaration and management by the State Government. Council is also seeking its duplication by 2030 to ensure sufficient capacity and safety for future traffic demands.

In the meantime, Council will continue to fulfil its role as road manager, undertaking maintenance and safety improvements in accordance with Council’s adopted Road Management Plan.

Design work is currently underway for the installation of traffic signals at the intersection of Findon Road and Great Eastern Way, which has been identified as a priority due to increased traffic movements following the extension of Findon Road to Plenty Road.

Council will also review the operation of intersections along the corridor once the Epping Road duplication project is completed, as it is expected to significantly influence traffic patterns and the performance of local streets and intersections along Findon Road.

4.2 Petitions

No Petitions

4.3 Joint Letters

No Joint Letters

5 Officers' Reports

5.1 Planning Permit Application PLN-43641 to Allow for the Use of the Land as a Place of Worship at 330 Grants Road, Woodstock

Director/Executive Manager: Director Planning & Development

Report Author: Planning Officer

In Attendance: Manager Building & Planning
Planning Officer

Extension of Speaking Time

The Mayor, Cr Taylor exercised his discretion to extend the speaking time for officers to present their report for up to five minutes in accordance with Governance Rule 35.5.

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to present Council with an officer recommendation for refusal of planning permit application no. PLN-43641 for the use of the land as a place of worship and associated works at 330 Grants Road, Woodstock. The application is being reported to Council for a decision due to substantial public interest.

The application proposes to use the land for a place of worship located within the existing dwelling on the site, which will be internally modified. Up to 20 patrons are proposed to be on the site at any given time, with up to 30 patrons, three times a year. Prayer worship services are from 8:00am to 10:30am and 3:00pm to 7:00pm on weekends only. The prayer services are hourly, with a 30-minute gap between sessions. In total, up to 100 patrons are proposed to be on site each Saturday and Sunday during the prayer worship services. New works consist of an extended accessway and 10 space car park (Attachment 1). No native trees or other native vegetation are proposed to be removed as part of this application.

The subject site, 330 Grants Road, Woodstock, is located on the southern side of Grants Road. The vehicle access and crossover is at the north-east corner of the lot. There is an existing dwelling on the site situated toward the eastern side. There are a number of outbuildings on the land. The site is a rectangular shape with a frontage to Grants Road of 254 metres and side boundaries of 376 metres. The overall site area is 12.05 hectares.

As a result of the public notice of the application, a total of 753 submissions were received, consisting of 366 objections and 385 letters of support. One objection petition with 56 signatures and a supporter petition with 2,631 signatures were lodged to Council.

This report details the Council officer's assessment of the proposal against the planning policy of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme, as well as a response to submissions received from public notice of the application.

The application has been assessed against the relevant Planning Policy of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme. It is considered that the proposed use of the land for a place of worship is not consistent with Clause 02.03-1 Settlement, Clause 11.01-1R Green wedges - Metropolitan Melbourne, Clause 11.01-1L Green Wedge Areas, Clause 14.01-1S Protection of agricultural land, the purpose of the Green Wedge Zone at Clause 35.04, the decision guidelines of the Green Wedge Zone at Clause 35.04-6, the purpose of the Green Wedge Zone: Core Planning Provisions at Clause 51.02 and the Decision Guidelines at Clause 65 of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme. A summary of the Planning Policy seeks to preserve green wedge land, ensure agricultural integrity and ensure development within green wedge land is appropriate for the area. Furthermore, the Planning Policy also considers the potential for future expansion of the use of development of the site and the impact of the proposal on adjoining and nearby agriculture and other land uses.

The proposed use of the land for a Place of Worship represents a departure from the existing agricultural and rural residential character of the Woodstock and Eden Park area. The proposal is inconsistent with the established pattern of land use and development and offers no identifiable economic or social benefit for the immediate locality that aligns with the existing rural community or agricultural activities. Furthermore, the proposal has potential for future expansion that would adversely impact adjoining and nearby land uses. Accordingly, the proposal is considered to undermine the integrity and strategic intent of the green wedge land.

Therefore, it is recommended to refuse to grant Planning Permit No. PLN-43641 for the use of the land for a place of worship.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Refuse to grant Planning Permit No. PLN-43641 for the use of the land for a place of worship and associated works at 330 Grants Road Woodstock, on the following grounds:
 - a. The proposal is not consistent with Clause 02.03-1 Settlement of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.
 - b. The proposal is not consistent with Clause 11.01-1R Green wedges - Metropolitan Melbourne of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.
 - c. The proposal is not consistent with Clause 11.01-1L Green Wedge Areas of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.
 - d. The proposal is not consistent with Clause 14.01-1S Protection of agricultural land of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.

- e. The proposal is not consistent with the purpose of the Green Wedge Zone at Clause 35.04 of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.
 - f. The proposal is not consistent with the decision guidelines of the Green Wedge Zone at Clause 35.04-6 of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.
 - g. The proposal is not consistent with the purpose of the Green Wedge Zone: Core Planning Provisions at Clause 51.02 of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.
 - h. The proposal is not consistent with the Decision Guidelines at Clause 65 of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.
2. Note the Council Officers assessment of submissions and response to submissions in Attachment 3.
 3. Note that Council Officers will notify the applicant and submitters to the application of Council's decision and provide a copy of the Notice of Refusal to Grant a Planning Permit.

Cr Stow moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

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

THAT Council:

1. Refuse to grant Planning Permit No. PLN-43641 for the use of the land for a place of worship and associated works at 330 Grants Road Woodstock, on the following grounds:
 - a. The proposal is not consistent with Clause 02.03-1 Settlement of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.
 - b. The proposal is not consistent with Clause 11.01-1R Green wedges - Metropolitan Melbourne of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.
 - c. The proposal is not consistent with Clause 11.01-1L Green Wedge Areas of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.
 - d. The proposal is not consistent with Clause 14.01-1S Protection of agricultural land of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.
 - e. The proposal is not consistent with the purpose of the Green Wedge Zone at Clause 35.04 of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.
 - f. The proposal is not consistent with the decision guidelines of the Green Wedge Zone at Clause 35.04-6 of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.
 - g. The proposal is not consistent with the purpose of the Green Wedge Zone: Core Planning Provisions at Clause 51.02 of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.
 - h. The proposal is not consistent with the Decision Guidelines at Clause 65 of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.
2. Note the Council Officers assessment of submissions and response to submissions in Attachment 3.

3. Note that Council Officers will notify the applicant and submitters to the application of Council's decision and provide a copy of the Notice of Refusal to Grant a Planning Permit.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Stow, Cr Zinni, Cr Colwell, Cr Lappin, Cr Taylor

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

5.2 Planning Scheme Amendment C283 - Rezoning of Conservation Reserves - Request for Authorisation

Director/Executive Manager: Director Planning & Development

Report Author: Senior Strategic Planner

In Attendance: Manager Strategic Futures
Manager Sustainable Environment
Coordinator Planning Policy & Implementation

Executive Summary

This report presents proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C283 – Rezoning of conservation reserves (Amendment C283wsea), which proposes to rezone 35 local conservation reserves in Council ownership from a variety of current zones to the Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ) to ensure their ongoing protection for conservation purposes. *Attachment 1* provides a map of the local conservation reserve locations.

These Council reserves have predominantly been created over the past 20 years through strategic planning processes which have required land to be set aside as reserves in new subdivisions to protect areas of high conservation value. The reserves were subsequently vested in Council ownership through the subdivision process. These reserves provide valuable habitat for flora and fauna species within the urban area, as well as opportunities for the community to connect with nature, close to where they live.

Rezoning to the PCRZ will secure the long-term protection of these reserves in the planning scheme. *Attachment 2* provides a summary of the environmental values and photographs for each of the local conservation reserves included in this Amendment.

The proposed rezoning will ensure the Whittlesea Planning Scheme more accurately reflects the current use of conservation reserves and ensure consistency with the zoning of similar reserves across the municipality. Applying a ‘public use zone’ through this amendment will also facilitate Council’s ongoing management responsibilities for these sites. Importantly, the amendment does not propose or support any change in the existing use of any of the reserves. *Attachment 3*, the Explanatory Report, provides further detail on the proposed changes to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme. The area to which the rezoning is proposed to be applied is identified on the maps included in *Attachment 4*.

Given the Amendment corrects an anomaly in zoning provisions and that all the conservation reserves are in Council ownership, it is considered appropriate that the Chief Executive Officer write to the Minister for Planning, requesting an exemption from the public notice requirements of the Act pursuant to Section 20(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act).

A Section 20(4) planning scheme amendment is commonly referred to as a 'Ministerial' amendment. In this case of Ministerial amendments, the Minister takes on the role of the planning authority – the body that is responsible for the Amendment – in place of Council.

In the case that the Minister does not agree to exempt the Amendment from notice requirements as described above, authorisation can be requested from the Minister to prepare and exhibit the Amendment. In this case the Amendment would be subject to the usual notice and consultation process in accordance with section 19 of the Act.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to commence Planning Scheme Amendment C283wsea – Rezoning of Conservation Reserves to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme to ensure the future protection of 35 local conservation reserves in Council ownership for conservation purposes.
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer, or their delegate, to:
 - a. Request the Minister for Planning to prepare, adopt and approve Amendment C283wsea, as outlined at *Attachment 5*, and exempt themselves from the usual public notification requirements pursuant to section 20(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.
 - b. Seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning, for Council to prepare and exhibit the proposed Amendment C283wsea, as outlined at *Attachment 5*, in accordance with section 8A of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, should the Minister for Planning not agree to prepare, adopt and approve the proposed Amendment C283wsea as per point 2a above.
 - c. Make any further changes to the amendment to comply with the Minister for Planning's conditions of authorisation and to make administrative changes to correct errors and grammatical changes.

Cr Lappin moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

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

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to commence Planning Scheme Amendment C283wsea – Rezoning of Conservation Reserves to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme to ensure the future protection of 35 local conservation reserves in Council ownership for conservation purposes.
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer, or their delegate, to:
 - a. Request the Minister for Planning to prepare, adopt and approve Amendment C283wsea, as outlined at *Attachment 5*, and exempt themselves from the usual public notification requirements pursuant to section 20(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.
 - b. Seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning, for Council to prepare and exhibit the proposed Amendment C283wsea, as outlined at *Attachment 5*, in accordance with section 8A of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, should the Minister for Planning not agree to prepare, adopt and approve the proposed Amendment C283wsea as per point 2a above.
 - c. Make any further changes to the amendment to comply with the Minister for Planning's conditions of authorisation and to make administrative changes to correct errors and grammatical changes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Lappin, Cr Stow

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

5.3 Proposed Lease at 52W Main Street, Thomastown - Decision

Director/Executive Manager: Director Planning & Development

Report Author: Property Advisor

In Attendance: Manager Strategic Property & Portfolio Development

Executive Summary

At its ordinary meeting on 21 November 2022, Council considered a planning application proposing the construction of a telecommunication facility within the Main Street Recreation Reserve at 52W Main Street, Thomastown (see *Attachment 1*). The proposal consisted of a 30-metre-tall monopole providing both 4G and 5G telecommunications services and a four bay equipment cabinet.

Notification of the planning application was undertaken, and two objections were received, one of which included a petition with 146 signatures.

Council resolved to grant the permit for use and development of a telecommunication facility noting the proposal was deemed consistent with the objectives of the relevant Planning Policy and decision guidelines of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.

The planning permit was granted on 9 March 2023.

A lease agreement is required with the telecommunication provider, being Optus, to formalise the parties' agreement to the proposal.

As per Council's statutory obligations under section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, notice of intention to lease was given on 14 May 2024 in the Whittlesea Review newspaper and on Council's website for a 28-day submission period. Submissions were invited from the community, and three submissions were received with one submitter requesting to be heard at a Hearing of Submission Committee meeting to be held at Council Offices.

Due to the extended timing of lease negotiations, including the need to reaffirm commitment from Optus to proceed, the planning permit was subsequently extended on 9 March 2025 in accordance with the endorsed plan as shown in *Attachment 2*.

A further notice period regarding the lease was given from 29 July to 13 August 2025 in the Whittlesea Review newspaper and on Council's website. Previous submitters were notified by email. One submission has been received, being the same submitter from the previous notice period.

A Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting was held on 9 September 2025 at Council offices and the submitter presented their submission verbally.

This report provides background context, the process undertaken and the submissions received to date. The recommendation is for Council to grant the lease to Optus for the telecommunication facility.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. In accordance with section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*:
 - a. by giving public notice in the Whittlesea Review newspaper on 14 May 2024 and again on 29 July 2025;
 - b. having received and considered three submissions in response to the public notice; and
 - c. by hearing submitters that requested to be heard at a Hearing of Submissions Committee held on 9 September 2025;resolve to grant Optus a lease subject to the proposed terms and conditions for the establishment of a telecommunication facility within the Main Street Recreation Reserve located at 52W Main Street, Thomastown.
2. Note officers will notify all submitters who have made written submissions of Council's decision and reasons for the decision.
3. Approve the Manager Strategic Property & Portfolio Development to formalise and execute the lease between Council and Optus for the establishment of a telecommunication facility within the Main Street Recreation Reserve located at 52W Main Street, Thomastown.

Cr Colwell moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

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

THAT Council:

1. In accordance with section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*:
 - a. by giving public notice in the Whittlesea Review newspaper on 14 May 2024 and again on 29 July 2025;
 - b. having received and considered three submissions in response to the public notice; and
 - c. by hearing submitters that requested to be heard at a Hearing of Submissions Committee held on 9 September 2025;

resolve to grant Optus a lease subject to the proposed terms and conditions for the establishment of a telecommunication facility within the Main Street Recreation Reserve located at 52W Main Street, Thomastown.

2. Note officers will notify all submitters who have made written submissions of Council's decision and reasons for the decision.
3. Approve the Manager Strategic Property & Portfolio Development to formalise and execute the lease between Council and Optus for the establishment of a telecommunication facility within the Main Street Recreation Reserve located at 52W Main Street, Thomastown.

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

IN FAVOUR

Cr Colwell, Cr Lappin

IN OPPOSITION

Cr Lenberg, Cr Stow,

RIGHT OF REPLY

Cr Colwell

VOTING

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

5.4 Road Management Plan

Director/Executive Manager: Director Infrastructure & Environment

Report Author: Manager Maintenance & Operations

In Attendance: Manager Maintenance & Operations

Executive Summary

Under section 37 of the *Road Management Act 2004* (the “Act”), municipal Councils are recognised as road authorities and are delegated the responsibility of maintaining municipal public road networks. The Act recommends road authorities create and publish a Road Management Plan (the “Plan”) to outline the methods and service level interventions that will be utilised to maintain the standard of Council’s municipal road network.

Although the Road Management Plan is voluntary, the City of Whittlesea has published and revised a Plan every four years since 2004, in accordance with Road Management (General) Regulations 2016.

Within the plan, Council establishes clear service intervention levels against the likely faults it will experience among road and road-related infrastructure. Those faults include common issues like overgrown vegetation, debris and dumped rubbish impacting roads and footpaths, potholes, wheel ruts, depressions, cracks in concrete and asphalt, and many more.

Once established, Councils are held to the standard of the service level interventions outlined within their Road Management Plan.

The City of Whittlesea’s current Road Management Plan was last revised in June 2021. In the revised 2025 edition, the following changes are proposed:

- A reclassification of all access roads into access major and access minor categories, in accordance with the new State Government requirements
- An alignment of service intervention levels to MAV Insurance’s recommendations
- The inclusion of kerbs and channels within the scope of the Road Management Plan’s service portfolio; and
- An alignment to Council’s proposed Asset plan

Upon approval, Council is legally required to notify the public that the Road Management Plan has been amended.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Approve the Road Management Plan 2025 at Attachment 1.
2. Note officers, on behalf of Council, will give the necessary notice to the community advising of the amendments to the Road Management Plan.

Cr Zinni moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

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

THAT Council:

1. Approve the Road Management Plan 2025 at Attachment 1.
2. Note officers, on behalf of Council, will give the necessary notice to the community advising of the amendments to the Road Management Plan.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Zinni, Cr Stow, Cr Taylor

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

5.5 Governance Report

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

Report Author: Unit Manager Council Governance

Executive Summary

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

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

- Australian Local Government Women's Association and Victorian Local Governance Association memberships; and
- CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee (CEMAC) and Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board (YPRL) appointments.

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

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the Governance Report.
2. Resolve to discontinue annual memberships with the Australian Local Government Women's Association and the Victorian Local Governance Association effective from the 2026-27 financial year and note officers will formally advise both associations of Council's decision.
3. Note at its Scheduled Council meeting of 20 May 2025, Council resolved to appoint Cr Gunn to the CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee (CEMAC), and Cr Taylor to the Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board (YPRL) until 18 November 2025.
4. Resolve to extend Cr Gunn on CEMAC and Cr Taylor on YPRL until the Scheduled Council meeting on 16 December 2025 when all Councillor appointments to committees and the YPRL will be considered and resolved for the next 12 months.

Cr Stow moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

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

THAT Council:

- 1. Note the Governance Report.**
- 2. Resolve to discontinue annual memberships with the Australian Local Government Women's Association and the Victorian Local Governance Association effective from the 2026-27 financial year and note officers will formally advise both associations of Council's decision.**
- 3. Note at its Scheduled Council meeting of 20 May 2025, Council resolved to appoint Cr Gunn to the CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee (CEMAC), and Cr Taylor to the Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board (YPRL) until 18 November 2025.**
- 4. Resolve to extend Cr Gunn on CEMAC and Cr Taylor on YPRL until the Scheduled Council meeting on 16 December 2025 when all Councillor appointments to committees and the YPRL will be considered and resolved for the next 12 months.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Nil

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

6 Notices of Motion

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

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

6.1 Proposed Whittlesea Community Safety Expo

Mayor, Cr Taylor has given notice that it is their intention to move the following Motion at the Scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 14 October at 6pm.

Motion

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to receive a report at a future council briefing outlining options available for the potential of Council hosting a Community Safety Expo (Expo) in the City of Whittlesea. The report may include, but is not limited to:
 - a. Suggested events and exhibitors including council initiatives and programs, community organisations, personal security, domestic security, business security, education & awareness, community engagement keynote speakers, expert panels, interactive Q&A sessions, etc.
 - b. Estimated total costs for delivery of an Expo.
 - c. Cost recovery initiatives including budget allocation, exhibitor fees, partnership agreements, grants, and external funding etc.
 - d. Required resource allocation; and
 - e. Any potential partnership opportunities with other councils, agencies, and business organisations.
2. Resolves to receive an options report at a future Council meeting for Council consideration and formal decision on whether to hold an Expo.
3. Note, should Council resolve to hold an Expo, the timing will be determined as part of future budget deliberations.

Cr Taylor moved the motion:

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

THAT Council:

1. **Resolve to receive a report at a future council briefing outlining options available for the potential of Council hosting a Community Safety Expo (Expo) in the City of Whittlesea. The report may include, but is not limited to:**

- a. Suggested events and exhibitors including council initiatives and programs, community organisations, personal security, domestic security, business security, education & awareness, community engagement keynote speakers, expert panels, interactive Q&A sessions, etc.
 - b. Estimated total costs for delivery of an Expo.
 - c. Cost recovery initiatives including budget allocation, exhibitor fees, partnership agreements, grants, and external funding etc.
 - d. Required resource allocation; and
 - e. Any potential partnership opportunities with other councils, agencies, and business organisations.
2. Resolves to receive an options report at a future Council meeting for Council consideration and formal decision on whether to hold an Expo.
 3. Note, should Council resolve to hold an Expo, the timing will be determined as part of future budget deliberations.

MOTION LOST

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION
IN FAVOUR*Cr Taylor, Cr Colwell***IN OPPOSITION***Cr Lappin, Cr Stow, Cr Lenberg***RIGHT OF REPLY***Cr Taylor*
VOTING

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

The Mayor, Cr Taylor resumed the Chair.

7 Urgent Business

No Urgent Business

8 Reports from Councillors and CEO Update

8.1 Reports from Councillors

Cr Zinni

- Attended launch of Seniors Week at the Plenty Ranges Arts & Convention Centre, Cr Zinni noted an incredible performance.
- Attended Annual Blessing of the Emergency Services Fleet.
- Italian Seniors weekly bingo event at Thomastown library.
- Visited Jana at Encompass Care, and noted they do an extraordinary job at helping disadvantaged residents across the City of Whittlesea to access food. Cr Zinni encouraged donations to the organisation and noted the organisation is close to her heart.
- Attended World Mental Health Day event in collaboration with Male Hug which is an organisation that addresses the importance of men accessing mental health.
- Undertook Sacred Trees Heritage Walk with Seniors group at RMIT Bundoora.
- Met with Minister Colin Brooks alongside Cr Colwell to advocate for homeless outreach and affordable housing needs.

Cr Lenberg

- Spent more time out in the community meeting with residents and understanding their issues.
- Cr Lenberg noted a large volume of calls that come from the north of Epping regarding Findon Road, noting parking and access dominate the concern of residents as well as the safety of school children crossing the road. Cr Lenberg is aware of the challenges and thanks the residents and hears their frustrations. Cr Lenberg assured that he has escalated concerns to Council officers and spoken to Council colleagues on how they can advocate for the duplication of Findon Road to be completed by the State Government.
- LGBTI+ Seniors Festival, a joint initiative between Darebin Council and the City of Whittlesea.

Cr Gunn

- Attended CEMAC meetings.
- Attended Basant Festival with the Mayor.
- Durga Puja event with Cr Cox, noted the spectacular dance performance which portrayed the triumph of good over evil.
- Looking forward to Coffee with Council event in a few weeks' time.

Cr Colwell

- Attended regular Council Briefings.
- Attended various sub-committee meetings.
- Attended the Citizenship Ceremony on 30 September.
- Met with Minister Colin Brooks alongside Cr Zinni.
- Attended Annual Blessing of the Emergency Services Fleet. Cr Colwell noted a great opportunity to connect with the community.
- Will attend the Diwali Festival held at 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang.

Cr Brooks

- Attended regular Council Briefings.
- Attended Standard Metropolitan Transport sub-committee.
- Time spent with residents.
- Attended a walk with a long-term resident Sam of Thomastown, noting an extensive two hour long walk around the suburb. Cr Brooks noted an informative walk to help promote community feedback from the area.

Cr Labrador

- Cr Labrador gave thanks to Council and the Executive Leadership Team over the past two months and thanked the Lalor ward for electing him.
- Thanks was given to former Councillor Stevan Kozmevski and Cr Labrador hopes to continue the good work for the Lalor Ward and the City of Whittlesea.
- Attended mandatory induction sessions.
- Attended Council Briefings.
- Attended Annual Blessing of the Emergency Services Fleet with family.

Cr Lappin

- Attended CFA and SES open day in Mernda with family.
- Attended Annual Blessing of the Emergency Services Fleet.
- Attended Dussehra Mela event on Schotters Road. Commended organisers on the event.
- Spoke to Doreen Seniors Group on behalf of Cr Gunn.

Cr Stow

- Received several questions regarding safety concerns on Donnybrook Road.
- Attended Seniors Festival at Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre.
- Four Yarra Plenty Regional Library (YPRL) meetings.
- Attended 60th anniversary of the Ivanhoe library.
- Met with Evan Mulholland MP.
- Attended the inaugural Federal Carers Forum at Southbank, noting this is an issue close to her heart. The event was run by Holstep Community Services formally Nillumbik Community Services and Merri Community Health.

- Attended Kalkallo CFA open day, with Cr Ally Watson of Hume City Council.
- Met with a number of residents regarding concerns pertaining to building issues.
- Met with several services regarding homelessness.

Mayor Cr Taylor

- Since September Council Meeting, has attended 32 events.
- Cr Taylor noted he will provide a full detailed report at next weeks Scheduled Council Meeting on 21 October 2025.
- On 23 September, attended the Northern Council's Alliance where he met with the Minister for Local Government, speaking about several issues pertaining to roads.
- Attended Salvation Army store event in South Morang.
- Two Citizenship ceremonies.
- Whittlesea Chinese Association Mid-Autumn Mooncake festival.
- Community Leadership Program with the City of Whittlesea.
- World Mental Health Day 2025 celebration.
- Kalkallo CFA open day.
- Seniors Festival celebration.

8.2 Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd Update

Gorge Road Streetscape Revitalisation - Award Finalist

I am pleased to say that last month the Gorge Road Streetscape Revitalisation project was recognised as a finalist in the Best Main Street Streetscape and Design category at the 2025 Mainstreet Australia Award.

The award highlights the quality and impact of the revitalisation in making the space more attractive and accessible for the community.

Playground Renewals

Work is set to begin later this month on playground renewals for Ashbrook Park in Bundoora and Centenary Park in Mill Park.

The playgrounds at both locations will be replaced with modern and engaging place spaces, we'll add in new landscaping and park furniture as well as tree planting to maximise shade.

Footpath Renewals

Our team has recently started work on renewing some 2.8 kilometres of footpath around the municipality as part of our annual Footpath Renewal Program.

This financial year we'll be spending \$2.9 million on our footpaths to ensure our community can use our footpath network safely.

Environmental Grants

I would like to remind our community that rural landowners can apply for the Environmental Works Grant Program for projects of up to \$6000 that protect and enhance native vegetation on their land.

There is more information available on Council's website and applications are open until 30 November 2025.

9 Tabled Reports

No reports

10 Confidential Business

Under section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* a meeting considering confidential information may be closed to the public. Pursuant to sections 3(1) and 66(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Recommendation

THAT the meeting be closed to the public for the purpose of considering details relating to confidential matters in accordance with Section 66(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* as detailed.

10.1 CEO Annual Performance Review

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	Cr Zinni
Seconded:	Cr Stow

THAT Council adopt the recommendation to close the meeting to the public.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Chair closed the open meeting to the public at 7:19pm.

11 Closure

There being no further business the Mayor formally closed the meeting at 7:59pm.

Confirmed this 21st day of October 2025.

Cr Martin Taylor
Mayor